

Yakima Fire Department



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Yakima Fire Department 2017

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Message from the Fire Chief



September 5, 2018

Honorable Mayor and members of the Yakima City Council:

I am honored to have been selected to serve this community in the capacity of Fire Chief. The Yakima Fire Department administration has experienced a lot of changes since the close of the 2017 year. As your new Fire Chief, I want you to know we are continuously evaluating the ways we provide the essential services to the residents of Yakima in an effort to be as effective and efficient as possible. The most valuable asset to our department is our members. The men and women responders and support personnel responded to thousands of emergency incidents throughout 2017. As a department that responds to all hazards, countless hours of training is required to maintain our operational readiness and provide for the safety of our teams and the residents. The purpose of this annual report is to highlight the activities of each division within our department and acknowledge achievement awards in 2017.

On behalf of the entire department, I want to thank you for continued support. It is an honor and privilege to serve you as the Chief of the Yakima Fire Department and I look forward to many years to come.

Respectfully,

Aaron J. Markham

Fire Chief, Yakima Fire Department



Operations Division

The Operations Division of Yakima Fire is comprised of the equipment and personnel that the community is most familiar with. The Operations Division answers the resident's requests for assistance, assesses situations and mitigates the emergency and non-emergency service calls.

Yakima Fire Department (YFD) personnel are trained as Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's), yet what they do on a daily basis goes well beyond suppressing fires and helping the sick and injured. As a part of being an all-hazard response agency, the crews also respond to hazardous materials emergencies, technical rescue incidents, water rescues, airport incidents and service calls such as checking on a carbon monoxide detector or assisting a resident who has fallen.

YFD firefighters continually train to hone their capability to mitigate a wide range of possible events. Perhaps the best way to describe YFD personnel is compassionate professionals who function as members of a highly trained team. They develop and execute appropriate courses of action to mitigate the problems they encounter. When the residents see a fire engine or ladder truck out in their community, that crew is comprised of a 3-person team which possess the knowledge, skills and ability to effectively solve a vast array of emergency problems in order to keep our community safe.

Non-Combat and Combat Reserve Program

The Non-Combat Reserve program is comprised of paid volunteers that assist at fires by providing rehabilitation for crews on scene. They respond to incidents with Rehab 90 which is supplied with water, snacks and air tanks as well as provides shelter to our firefighters during emergency and non-emergency situations.

The Combat Reserve program, which is part of the Inter Local Agreement with Union Gap, includes a paid volunteer staff that is capable of responding to fire and EMS calls during a large scale emergency.



Fire Maintenance Division

The Yakima Fire Department has two mechanics that maintain the fleet of our fire emergency vehicles. According to state law, repairs to the firefighting components of emergency vehicles must be done by an emergency vehicle technician, National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence certified technician or factory-qualified individual. One of our mechanics is an “EVT Master”, meaning he has the highest level of certification.

Under the supervision of the Deputy Fire Chief, the mechanics are responsible for maintaining 47 fire vehicles (e.g.: fire engines, fire ladder trucks, support vehicles, brush trucks, rescue vehicles, a rescue boat and staff cars), air systems that allow firefighters to breathe in burning buildings, air compressors for fire engines and ladder trucks, station generators, vehicle exhaust systems as well as other equipment used by the department.

The mechanics also maintain tools used by firefighters which include 25 saws (chain and circular), 12 portable and vehicle mounted generators, four rescue jaws and 12 positive pressure fans. In 2017, the mechanics completed 6,215 orders for repair submitted by on duty fire crews.



Training Division



In 2017, Yakima Fire Department's Training Division was led by Training Captain Alex Langbell and Training Lieutenant Joe Burbank and was overseen by the Deputy Chief. The Training Division, located adjacent to Station 95, utilizes its five story drill tower/burn room, training grounds, classrooms as well as other means to ensure that the department has the latest training in emergency response delivery.

Throughout the year 17,993 training hours were logged, which included structural, wildland, and Aircraft Rescue (ARFF) firefighting operations. Additional training that occurred includes hazardous materials, technical rescue, emergency medical, driver operator and administrative training.



The Training Division also conducted one 8 week recruit academy, with a total of five recruit participants. A total of twelve firefighters were on probation during the course of the year, four of which completed the 12 month probationary period in 2017.



Fire Prevention & Education Division

The Fire Prevention & Education Division plays a large role in the education of the public, local schools and the business community. Our department identifies risk factors and then we focus on reducing those risks to our residents. Our efforts strive to educate you about the risks of fire, disaster preparedness, escape planning, improving health and business safety education through safety messages, social media, local media, training classes and events within the community.

Education

Youth - In 2017, Fire Prevention Captain Jeff Pfaff was busy teaching over 2,200 2nd grade students about fire safety, how to escape a fire, escape planning and the importance of smoke alarms in their home. Our crew's days are filled with mandatory training and education, which includes tours of our stations. There were 27 station tours where over 300 adults and children learned about the day of a firefighter.

Adults – Part of our education program is to teach and train employees of local businesses in the use of a fire extinguisher. A major component of this training is to identify when to use an extinguisher and how to activate first responders. One thing that can be overlooked in an emergency is calling 911, which delays the response. We would rather have a few calls reporting the same incident vs. none or just one and the sooner you call, the quicker we respond.

In 2017, a total of 18 Fire extinguisher training classes were conducted in local businesses; educating over 161 staff members from small businesses to large corporations.

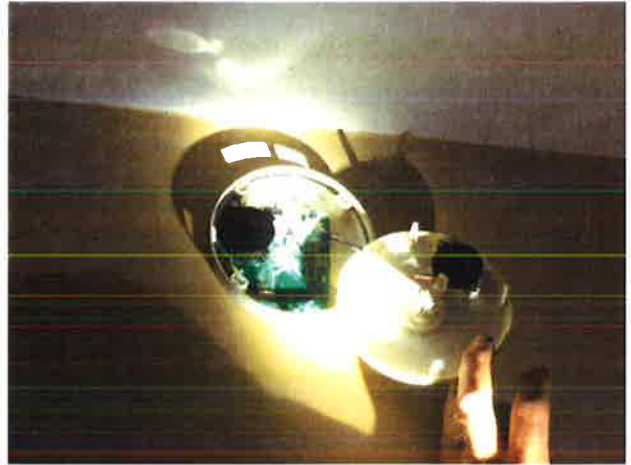
Dozer Days, Yakima Playdate, 3 on 3, The Cinco de Mayo Festival, 4th of July at the Fairgrounds and The Central Washington State Fair are some of the 40 events that Yakima offered in 2017 and Yakima Fire attended.



Prevention

Fire Prevention begins at the basic level of education and engaging our residents to make a change in an unsafe behavior, habit or routine. Part of our commitment to Fire Life and Loss Prevention is our Smoke Alarm Program.

Since 2014, our program has been funded solely through a grant from Legends Casino. With the assistance of the American Red Cross, our crews installed 30 batteries and inspected/replaced 170 smoke alarms in over 160 homes in Yakima and Union Gap for those who could not afford to do so on their own.



Media Relations and Events

Captain Pfaff, the department's Public Information Officer (PIO), works with our local media and uses multiple social media outlets to relay critical information, good news and most important information that can affect you and your family. When not interfacing with the public, Captain Pfaff communicates safety messages on Facebook, Twitter and schedules stories with our radio, television and newspaper affiliates. Statistics tell us that just over 20% of the population does not have access to the internet or social media sites; our goal is to utilize all means of media to notify you when there is a fire or medical impact to the community.

As a part of Prevention, Captain Pfaff not only spends his time educating our community but also teaches Media Relations to others in the industry at the Washington State Fire Chief's Conference and at the Washington State Fire Marshal's Fire Prevention Institute.



Fire & Life Safety Division

In 2017 Yakima Fire Department's Fire & Life Safety Division, comprised of three Fire Code Inspectors, completed a total of 5,516 inspections. Steve Manske, Tony Doan and Jay DeLoza are all certified through the International Code Council as Fire Code Inspectors.



Inspector DeLoza started working for the department in May of 2017, providing a third inspector for the second half of the calendar year. In the months of October and November the Inspection Division completed all of Union Gap's Annual Fire Code Inspections for a 3rd straight year. Union Gap's Inspections totaled 1,045, while Yakima totaled 4,471.

The Fire & Life Safety Division was able to complete initial inspections on 43% (1,997) of the 4,617 occupancies located in Yakima.



Type of Inspections	Total Inspections in 2017
Annual Fire Code Inspections Commercial	2264
Annual Fire Code Inspections Residential	213
Compliance Re-Inspections	2556
Daycare Inspections	10
Fire Inspection Reports	329
Quarterly Inspections	32
Complaint Follow Up	26
Events	86
Total	5516

Response Statistics



2017

Average Turnout Time – All Alarms **01:54**

Average Response Time – All Alarms **06:08**

Service Delivery Standards– RCW 52.33.030

Priority EMS Turnout Time

(Time unit assigned to en route)

Yakima Fire Department turnout time standard is 90 seconds 90% of the time

2017 percent met 61%



Priority EMS Travel Time

(Time unit dispatched to arrive)

Yakima Fire Department response time standard is 240 seconds 90% of the time

2017 percent met 74%

Priority Fire Turnout Time

(Time unit assigned to en route)

Yakima Fire Department turnout time Standard is 120 seconds 90% of the time

2017 percent met 48%

First Arriving Engine At Fire

(Time unit dispatched to arrive)

Yakima Fire Department travel time Standard is 240 seconds 90% of the time

2017 percent met 47%

Full First Alarm Assignment

(Time unit dispatched to arrive)

Yakima Fire Department travel time Standard is 240 seconds 90% of the time

2017 percent met 88%



Technical Rescue / Haz-Mat
(Special Operations)
Turnout Time

(Time unit assigned to en route)

Yakima Fire Department turnout time
Standard is 120 seconds 90% of the time

2017 percent met 56%

Airport Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF)
Turnout Time

(Time unit assigned to en route)

Yakima Fire Department turnout time
Standard is 120 seconds 90% of the time

2017 percent met 100%

Wildland / Brush Fire
Turnout Time

(Time unit assigned to en route)

Yakima Fire Department turnout time
Standard is 120 seconds 90% of the time

2017 percent met 42%

Technical Rescue / Haz-
Mat (Special Operations)
Travel Time

(Time unit dispatch to arrive)

Yakima Fire Department travel time
Standard is 240 seconds 90% of the time

2017 percent met 57%

Airport Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF)
Travel Time

(Time unit dispatch to arrive)

Yakima Fire Department turnout time
Standard is 120 seconds 90% of the time

2017 percent met 69%

Wildland / Brush
Travel Time

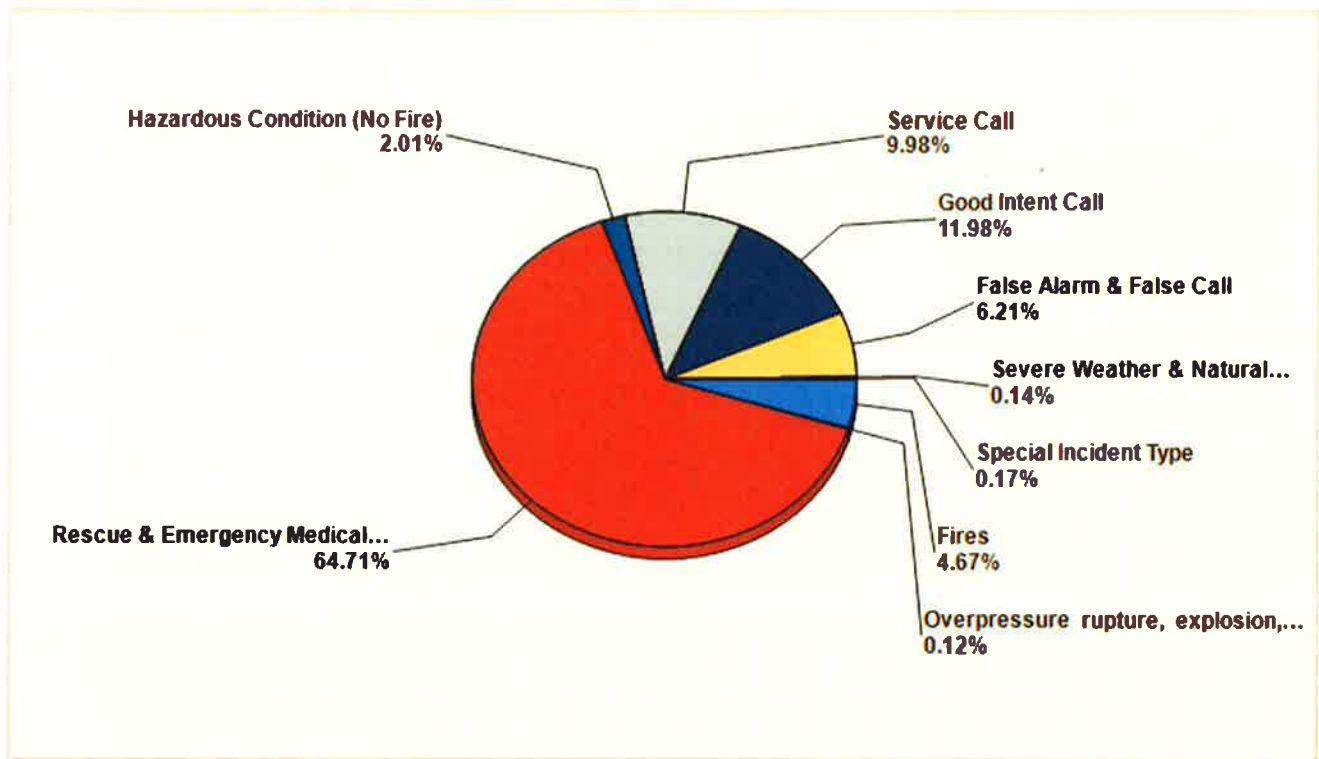
(Time unit dispatch to arrive)

Yakima Fire Department turnout time
Standard is 120 seconds 90% of the time

2017 percent met 41%



Response Overview



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	453	4.67%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	12	0.12%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	6270	64.71%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	195	2.01%
Service Call	967	9.98%
Good Intent Call	1161	11.98%
False Alarm & False Call	602	6.21%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	14	0.14%
Special Incident Type	16	0.17%
TOTAL	9690	100.00%

