

# CITY OF YAKIMA FIRE DEPARTMENT

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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Public Education



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May 25, 2016

Honorable Mayor and members of Yakima City Council,

It is my privilege to serve this community in the capacity of fire chief, and to provide you with this 2015 annual report – representing a digest of the changes, activities and accomplishments of the Yakima Fire Department (YFD).

The sheer number of undertakings and changes that have taken place within the City of Yakima during 2015 belies the swift passage of yet another entire year. Working more collaboratively than ever before, members of YFD in conjunction with employees in other City divisions, have together functioned as force-multipliers to further enhance our customer service capabilities. Of the many successes and accomplishments during 2015, two are clear stand-outs, and are worthy of mention:

#### Fire Service Agreement with Union Gap

On January 1, 2015, the City of Union Gap contracted with Yakima to provide Fire and EMS services to their community. Benefits are an increased depth of response capability for both cities, elimination of redundancies, and borderless responses that characterize the best interests of the residents and businesses in both cities.

#### Emergency Management Program

In its simplest form, the function of Emergency Management (EM) is preparedness and support for the efforts of responders during major incidents. Striving to better meet the needs of Yakima, the City withdrew from the Yakima Valley Office of Emergency Management effective January 1, 2015 to begin our own program. Yakima's EM program serves the entire city and falls under the direction of YFD. The greatest benefit of having the program in-house is the ability to engage the talents, skills and abilities of many members of the City's workforce to address those hazard potentials specific to our community's residents, businesses and industries.

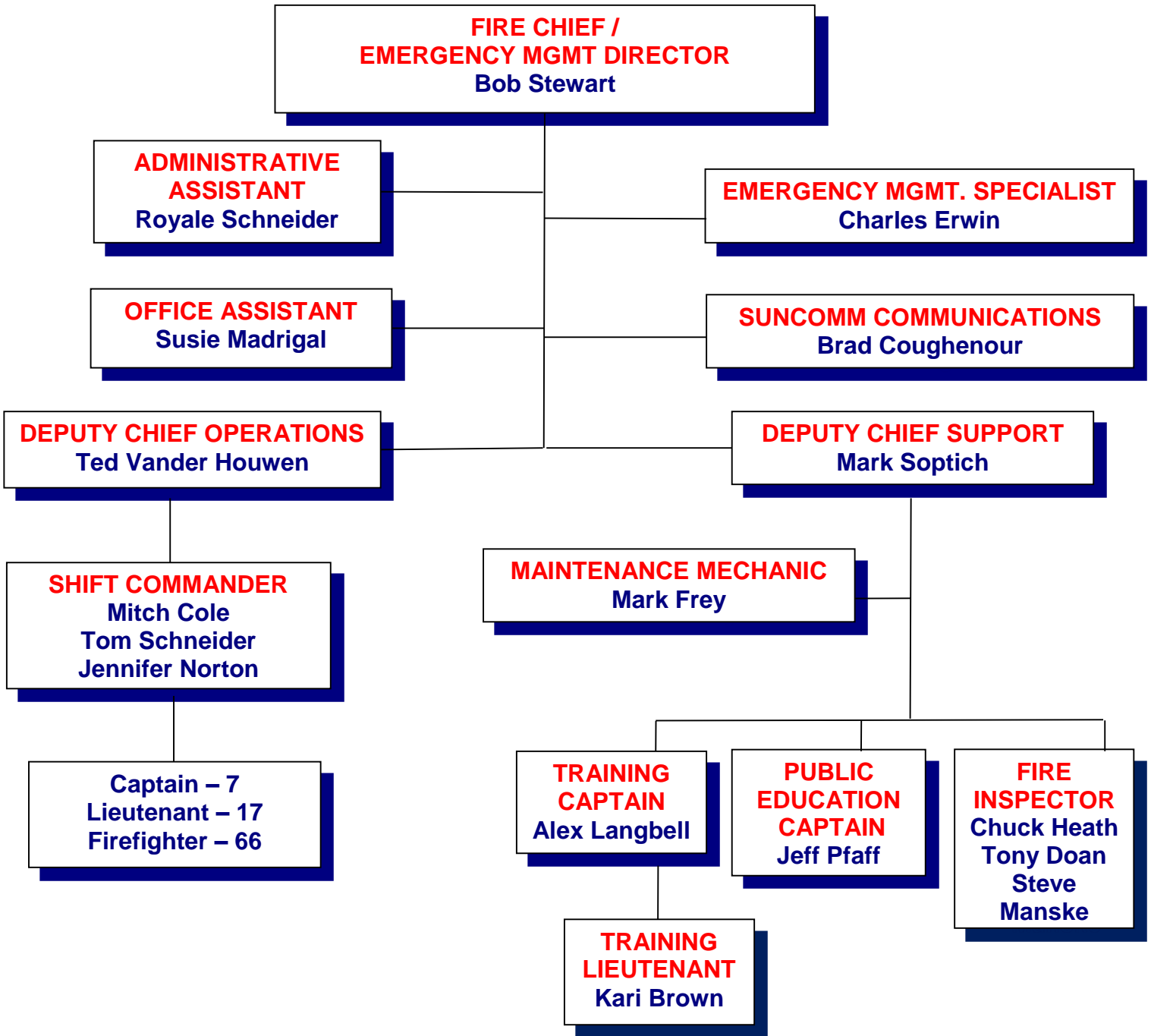
Each day, the talented group of men and women that comprise YFD and our internal partnerships are making a positive difference in our community. And on behalf of our entire workforce, I offer thanks to each of you for your continued support – which in turn facilitates a strong, well-trained, well-equipped emergency response capability.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Stewart".

Bob Stewart  
Fire Chief

***"The Yakima Fire Department is dedicated to providing  
quality public safety services to our community."***



# City of Yakima Fire Department Organizational Chart – 2015

YFD Positions = 103  
SunComm Postions = 35



# Fire Services Agreements



Agreements were executed January 1, 2015 for the City of Yakima to provide Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the City of Union Gap and Yakima County Fire Protection District 11 – which is universally known as Broadway.

Previously, Union Gap operated a full-service fire department, but pragmatic discussions between the city managers and staff of both cities recognized the benefits of such a partnership, to include a reduction in redundancies, increased efficiencies, economic benefits, and a greater depth of capability. Ultimately, the residents and businesses in both cities benefit. In addition to Fire and EMS, Yakima provides Fire & Life Safety Inspections and fire apparatus maintenance services. Upon execution of the agreement, fire department employees of Union Gap became City of Yakima employees. A retrospective evaluation following one full year of the agreement being in effect revealed successes beyond expectations in virtually all areas.

Broadway is a small fire district that adjoins Yakima on its northern boundary, Union Gap on its east boundary, and consistently has 50+/- calls for service annually. Annexations over the years had diminished the area of the district to less than 1 square mile, so it had become unfeasible for the district to sustain a response capability with firefighters and fire apparatus. Consequently, Broadway contracted with Union Gap to provide those services. During the timeframe when Union Gap and Yakima were drafting an agreement, Broadway evaluated other fire agencies in the area to provide services, and determined that Yakima was best suited to provide for their needs.



# CITY OF YAKIMA FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

## Administration

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Chief of the Department .....	Bob Stewart
Deputy Chief – Operations.....	Mark Soptich
Deputy Chief – Support Services.....	Ted Vander Houwen
Administrative Assistant to the Chief.....	Royale Schneider
Fire Office Assistant.....	Susan Madrigal

## Day Positions

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Public Education/Information Captain.....	Jeff Pfaff
Training Captain.....	Alex Langbell
Training Lieutenant.....	Kari Brown
Mechanic.....	Mark Frey
Fire Inspector.....	Charles Heath
Fire Inspector.....	Tony Doan
Fire Inspector.....	Steve Manske
Emergency Management Specialist.....	Charles Erwin

## Suppression

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Gregory Ahmann	Gary Gefre	Kai Nishida
Joanna Albrecht	Tim Gese	Jennifer Norton
Mark Ancira	Peter Gresham	Harlan Petersen
Daniel Apodaca	Ryan Hatfield	Tyler Quantrille
Joseph Armstrong	Justin Heilman	Randy Raschko
Brent Bauer	Travis Hellewell	Peter Rasmussen
Bryan Bauer	Jonathan Hood	Jason Ray
Andrey Belza	Brad Hopkins	Patrick Riffie
Robert Benner	Jason Horton	Brian Robertson
Larry Bird	Marcus Hudson	Jeremy Rodriguez
Andrew Blake	Dan Jensen	John Ryan
Ty Brown	Kenneth Johnston	Michael Sandman
Joseph Burbank	Jeff Jones	Tom Schneider
Cody Burton	Tim Kerns	John Shahan
Mark Buskas	Brian Kneisler	Kory Simmons
Christopher Casey	Bill Kotzin	Nick Sloan
Jeff Charters	Bil Lealos	Brian Smillie
Travis Christopher	Patch Lewis	Hans Solie
Mitchell Cole	Steve Lockwood	Kristine Stark
Ryan Croffut	Jonathan Low	David Stark
Kyle Davis	Shane Macias	Jeremiah Stilley
Pete Day	Chris Manion	Michael Trujillo
Adrian de Mestre	Dan Mansfield	Mike Wagner
Charles Derrick	Kelley Melcher	Tim Whitehurst
Donald Dexter	Ed Moore	Rocky Willette
Travis Dexter	Andrew Morales	Brian Williams
Brandon Dorenbush	Ronnie Morton	Chad Williams
Bruce Drollinger	Shannon Needham	Robert Williams
Peter Duthie	Bruce Newell	Don Wolterstorff
Jay Elmo	Adam Nichols	Casey Yeager

## Reserve Members

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Eferon Betancourt	Jack Henderson	Stephanie Razey
Jacob Brown	Lloyd Jensen	Francis Razey
Levi Buttrey	Robert Kransberger	Christopher Romero
Jay Cruz	Scott Lagerquist	Matt Strunk
Scott Eier	Brenda Martinez	Cody Tusler
John Fernandez	Cindy Parsons	Susan Whitman

# PERSONNEL CHANGES

## New hires in 2015:

Bryan Bauer  
Larry Bird  
Andrew Blake  
Mark Buskas  
Jeff Charters  
Travis Christopher  
Charles Erwin

Peter Gresham  
Jacob Heilman  
Patch Lewis  
Shane Macias  
Susan Madrigal  
Steve Manske  
Ronnie Morton

Kelley Melcher  
Tyler Quantrille  
Patrick Riffie  
John Ryan  
Tim Whitehurst  
Casey Yeager

## Promotions in 2015:

Joseph Burbank  
Cody Burton  
Jonathan Hood

Alex Langbell  
Kai Nishida  
Tom Schneider

Mike Trujillo  
Ted Vander Houwen

## Retirements in 2015:

Rita Mantey  
Bruce Newell

Harlan Petersen  
Joe Riel

## Separation from Service in 2015:

Jonathan Low

Casey Yeager



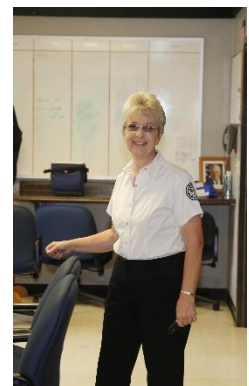
Shane Macias



From Left: Casey Yeager, Kelley Melcher, Alex Langbell, Peter Gresham and Travis Christopher



From Left: Ronnie Morton, Tim Whitehurst and Dan Jensen



Rita Mantey

# Rusty Hauber Memorial Outstanding Achievement Award



The Rusty Hauber Memorial Outstanding Achievement Award, formerly Firefighter of the Year, is given out every year at the City of Yakima Fire Department Annual Meeting. The nominations for this award are made by department members themselves; receiving an award where you have been nominated by your peers can be one of the highest honors.

The 2015 Award was given to firefighter Joanna Albrecht. Firefighter Albrecht joined Yakima Fire Department in June of 1992. She is currently part of the SCBA team, but has been instrumental in many areas throughout the department in the 24 years that she has been a member. In one of her nomination letters it was said that “She has been an inspiration for all those who have worked with her. She is exceptional in all that she does at work from the mundane daily duties to her performance on the fire ground and her interaction with the public. FF Albrecht has never complained about an assignment or any change that occurs. She always arrives at work with a smile and a wonderful positive attitude that is envious to those around her.” Another one of her nomination letters said, “When one describes firefighter Albrecht’s work ethic, pride and dedication are some of the first things noticed.” Congratulations to firefighter Albrecht, from the entire City of Yakima Fire Department.

Thank you for all that you do!



# OPERATIONS

The Operations Section of the Fire Department is responsible for the response portion of the Fire Department's primary missions: life safety, property conservation and protecting the environment. This is the action portion of the Fire Department, which we see in the news and on the internet; the part where we perform emergency response. Our business however, is all about prevention, preparedness, and then response when all else has failed.

A great deal of time is spent educating the public, preparing ourselves for a safe and efficient response and the handling of the varied emergencies a crew may be asked to attend to each day. The first fire prevention activity that most people are introduced to is the school exit drill and EDITH House education in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. These lessons last a lifetime and are where a sound foundation is developed and practiced for all to benefit from. We as adults do not have to question what we should do when a fire alarm sounds, that is a lesson learned from the fire department early in our education.

In preparation for emergency response, firefighters are developed through extremely thorough training. They are taught to be able to handle all calls for assistance whether it be a simple lifting of a fallen grandparent or a complex hazardous materials release. The extent of the knowledge that a firefighter needs to master is remarkable. Firefighters need expert level abilities in disciplines not limited to: emergency medicine, building construction, fire behavior, technical rescue, water rescue response, confined space and high angle rope work to list a few. Preparedness training through all levels of personnel from the first year firefighter to the seasoned fire ground commander is required. All personnel need practice from knots to leadership to command and control in order to be successful in today's emergency environment. Every day equipment is checked, cleaned and maintained in emergency ready condition. Having the knowledge and practicing with varied crews makes our personnel strong and capable (prepared) for handling complex, rapidly changing emergencies.

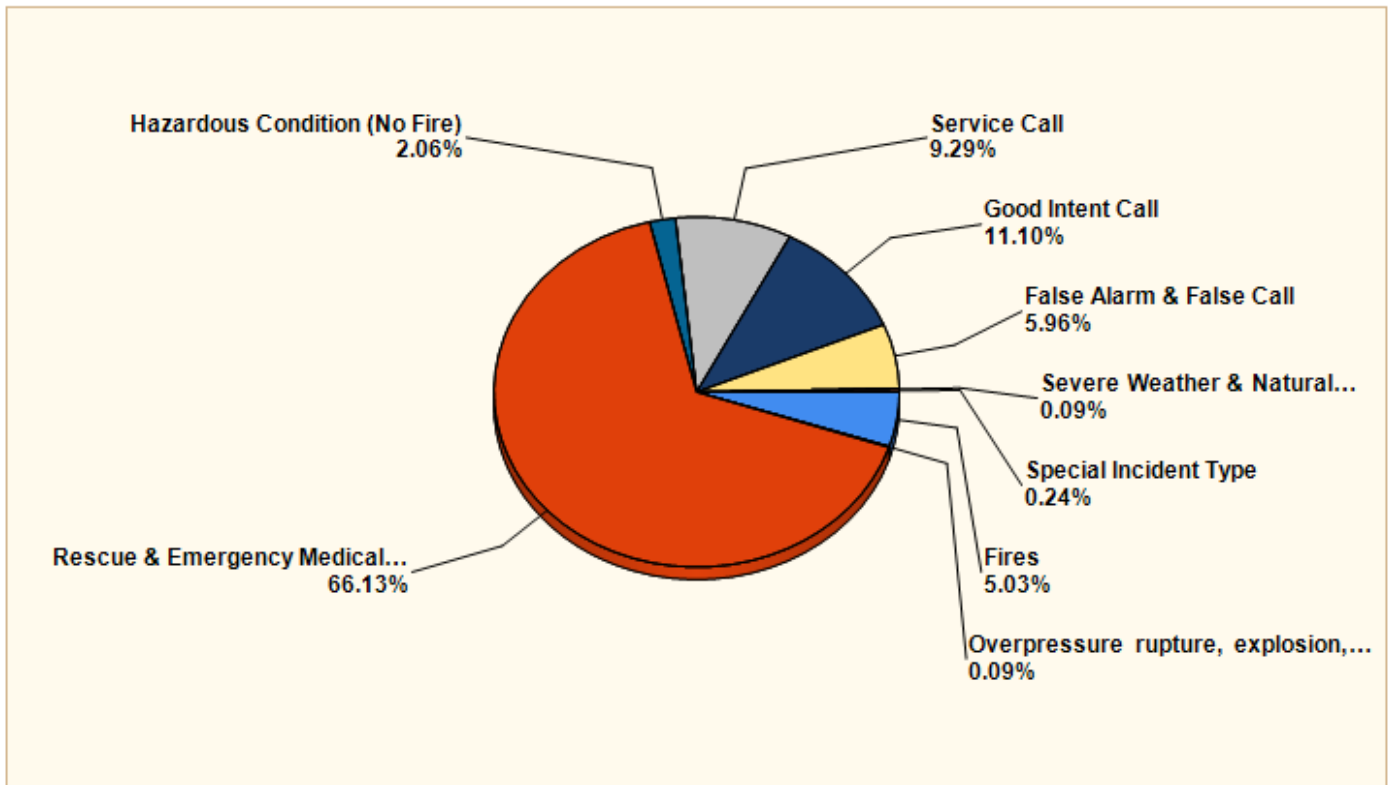


Emergency response success is dependent on matching the equipment and manpower needs with the emergency presented. In 2015 Union Gap contracted with Yakima to provide fire protection for their city; adding an additional engine company and a combat reserve force to support responses. The Fire Department's normal staffing became 6 stations with 7 response units. In fighting, a typical residential fire requires 5 engines and a Commander; leaving 2 engines to cover the City for all other emergencies. Complex fires require additional resources, all available apparatus. Exhausting available resources activates mutual aid support from our neighbors as well as calling in additional crews from our department. 2015 also saw the changing of safety regulations requiring personnel to use breathing masks when assuring fires are out and during investigations of the hazard area. This additional requirement made firefighting more fatiguing and increased the on scene times.

Through prevention, preparation and responses; the Yakima Fire Department provides services to the community in a dynamic and varied work day. Having personnel prepared for educating, fire and life safety, non-emergency or high hazard emergency responses is the core of our service. The Yakima Fire Department is dedicated to our residents' safety and security.

# Total Alarms 2015

This includes incidents in the City of Yakima, the City of Union Gap, Fire District #11 and mutual aid responses



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	452	5.03%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	8	0.09%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	5943	66.13%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	185	2.06%
Service Call	835	9.29%
Good Intent Call	998	11.10%
False Alarm & False Call	536	5.96%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	8	0.09%
Special Incident Type	22	0.24%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8987</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# Response Time Standards

## Fire Suppression

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Turnout Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds for a fire suppression incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2015 Average- 107 seconds  
Met standard- 70%

Travel Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds for the arrival of the first engine company to a fire suppression incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2015 Average- 244 seconds  
Met standard- 61%

Full First Alarm Assignment: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a response time standard of 480 seconds for the arrival of the full complement of a first alarm response to a fire suppression incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2015 Average- 493 seconds  
Met standard- 64%

## Emergency Medical Service (EMS)

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Turnout Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 90 seconds for an EMS incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2015 Average- 84 seconds  
Met standard- 63%

Travel Time: The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds for an EMS incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2015 Average- 233 seconds  
Met standard- 73%



## Special Operations (Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue)

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**Turnout Time:** The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds for a technical rescue incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2015 Average- 103 seconds  
Met standard- 73%

**Travel Time:** The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds for a special operations incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2015 Average- 284 seconds  
Met standard- 51%

## Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF)

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**Turnout Time:** The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds for an ARFF incident. This standard should be met 90% of the time.

2015 Average- 69 seconds  
Met standard- 100%

**Travel Time:** The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds for an ARFF incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2015 Average- 174 seconds  
Met standard- 100%

## Wildland Fire

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**Turnout Time:** The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds for a wildland fire incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2015 Average- 127 seconds  
Met standard- 66%

**Travel Time:** The City of Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds for a wildland fire incident. The department should meet this standard 90% of the time.

2015 Average- 351 seconds  
Met standard- 45%



# Training Division

Captain Alex Langbell, who has 20 years with the department, leads our Training Division and Lieutenant Kari Brown, who has 21 years with the department, assists him. Both started as firefighters and have worked hard to get their current positions. Their skills and abilities are exceeded only by their passion for what they do, this is evidenced by the division's accomplishments in 2015.

They are responsible for the training of over 110 personnel from career to reserve personnel.

We are fortunate to have them in these positions at this time. Training has made many improvements in a short period of time.

The Training Division plays many roles in the department. It provides instruction on all new programs brought into the department, which can range from a new method of providing Emergency Medical Services to the operation of a new extrication tool.

All new recruits receive an intense 8 week course on the basics of firefighting followed by an additional 10 months on more advanced skills. Our training division provides the curriculum and guidance throughout this time.

Our personnel spend many hours each year training at our facility in Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention (EVIP), EMS, fire suppression, technical rescue, and many other areas to maintain certifications as well as a high level of readiness. Training is also accomplished through classes offered outside the department. This is an opportunity for our personnel to receive specialized training.

Our training facility, located at Station 95 on East Nob Hill Blvd., is utilized by other city departments and several outside agencies at the local, regional, and state levels.

The following is a summary of the training accomplished in 2015 and the division's goals identified for 2016:

## Department Training

- Total training hours logged by the department – 17,246
- 9 Recruits participated in the 8-week basic academy
- 3 Probationary firefighters completed YFD year-long probation
- Certified personnel on a new Brush Truck
- Trained personnel on new Genesis Combi-cutter
- Certified all personnel on MSA G1 SCBA
- Organized a multi-company/multi-department drill in a commercial building

## Classroom/Drill Ground Use

- YPD Motorcycle Division
- YPD Swat Division
- East Valley Fire Department
- West Valley Fire Department
- Naches Fire Department
- Yakima County Department of Corrections
- Department of Natural Resources

- Yakima Training Center Fire Department
- Tri-County Hazardous Material Team
- Yakima County Training Officers Association
- Washington State Training and Safety Officers Association
- Washington State Nurses Association

### Improvements

- Created training task sheets to support training evolutions
- Painted tower doors
- Cleaned up drill grounds eliminating unnecessary training props
- Outfitted tower with furniture creating a more realistic environment
- Re-organized 12-month training curriculum

### 2016 Goals

- Train new recruits and probationary firefighters
- Continued training to improve the task level functions of the department
- Host a Rescue System 1 class for our technical rescue team
- Improve our high rise firefighting capabilities by hosting a High Rise Operations/Tactics class
- Conduct multi-company drills working with neighboring districts
- Improve parking for training division side of station
- Train on projected new equipment which includes Defibrillation units, water tender, 6x6 units, Avaya communications system, and Tech Rescue unit
- Build additional training videos to add to our training video library
- Develop and implement officer led monthly training



# 2015 Public Education, Fire Prevention and Public Information

The Public Education and Fire Prevention Division saw a change in early 2015 when Captain Jeff Pfaff came from the Training Division to lead the Public Education and Fire Prevention Division. Other changes in 2015 included a new Social Media presence and a greater focus on youth fire prevention in the City of Yakima and Union Gap. The main focus of this division is to educate the public about all hazards you can be faced with, with the greater emphasis on Fire Safety and preventing loss of life from fire.

## Public Education

Our Education program starts with EDITH (**Exit Drills In The Home**) house, for second grade classes in Yakima, West Valley, and Union Gap School Districts; all of which are within our response area.



EDITH house is the first organized and focused educational experience where kids watch a video on Fire Safety, and then practice what they saw on video. Our EDITH presentation covers kitchen fires; teaching them not to play with matches or lighters; Stop, Drop and Roll; how to check a door to see if there is heat or fire on the other side; knowing two ways out of their home; and each student gets to climb out of a window in the trailer, call 911 and report the emergency to an actual 911 Dispatcher.

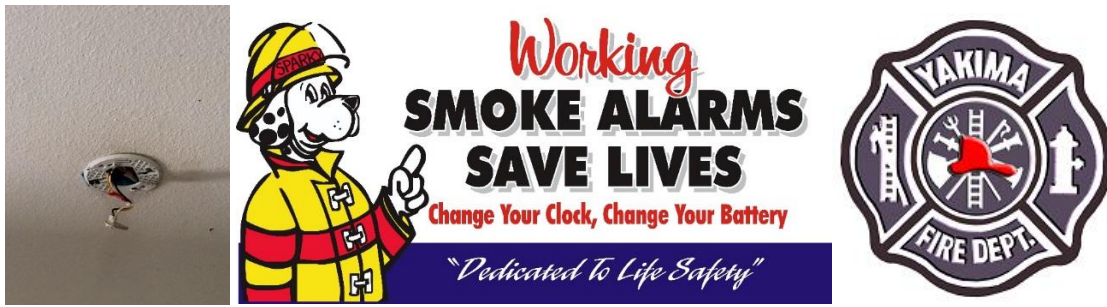
In 2015, through EDITH house, we educated nearly 1,500 second grade students from over 65 classrooms, in only 21 days.

Another large part of our Fire Education program is to go to businesses to teach Fire Safety, Fire Extinguisher Training, and what to do when a disaster strikes. Throughout 2015 we provided fire extinguisher training to nearly 400 residents and had fire safety presentations at 20 different business groups.

You may also see us at public events providing information, fire coverage and first aid services. We attended many public events in 2015 and estimate that we reached 20,000 people at those events.

## Fire Prevention

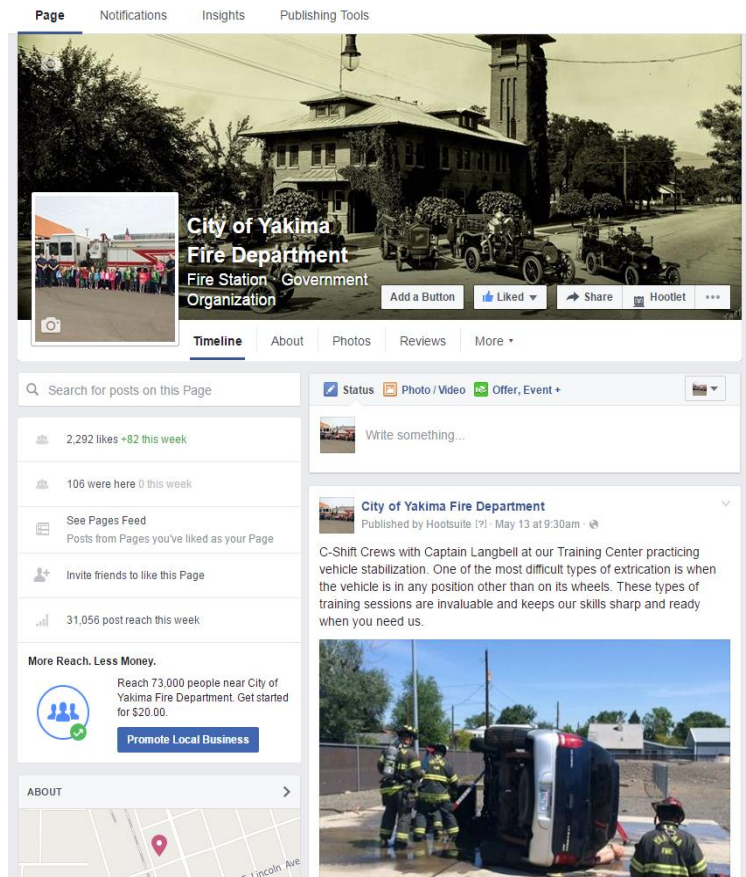
Fire Education and Fire Prevention really do go hand-in-hand. Part of our role in Fire Prevention is to educate our residents about hazards and dangers that they could encounter. Fire Prevention looks at identified risks and attempts to reduce the frequency, or even eliminate the risks to you and your family. One way of doing this is by helping our low and fixed income population with making sure they have functioning smoke alarms in their home. Either by requesting assistance on our website, or when you call 911, crews may ask to check your smoke alarm. In 2015 we installed 334 Smoke Alarms, and replaced 68 batteries, in homes in our response area, all at no cost to the occupants.



Another large component of Fire Prevention comes from the information gathered when crews complete a Pre-Incident Analysis of a business, in identifying wildland hazard areas, locating other hazard areas, and even areas that have a high risk for injury, like the Yakima River. Knowing what to expect when we need to respond to an emergency at a particular location is key to getting you out safely. Your safety is our priority!

## Public Information

Interaction with the Media and Social Media is also a component of this division. Through the use of local media outlets, our Facebook and Twitter pages, and our Webpage, we keep you informed about what we are doing to help keep you safe. Statistics show that nearly 22% of the US population doesn't use, or have access to the internet, so we continue to educate and inform our residents through all available modes of media with the hope that no one is left out.





# Fire & Life Safety Division

The City of Yakima Fire Department began the process of providing fire and life safety inspections for the City of Yakima in 2013. In 2015 the program evolved into providing those services for the City of Union Gap as well. Inspections are conducted on 3 unit apartment complexes and larger, commercial and industrial operations, schools, government facilities, and places of public assembly. This division of the Fire Department has 3 full time inspectors who complete thousands of inspections annually. The division uses the 2012 International Fire Code and municipal codes adopted by the city as their handbook for enforcement. *Although the enforcement of these codes is our practice, as they are proven methods that save lives and minimize property loss, our goal is to enforce them through education.* Our inspectors work hard to educate all that they come in contact with, explaining the goal of the codes and answering questions to achieve compliance.

Chuck Heath, Tony Doan, and Steve Manske were our 3 inspectors in 2015. Their combined number of years in the fire service exceeds 55 years. They are certified Fire & Life Safety Inspectors and must successfully complete annual recertification requirements. They have a passion for their work and understand that they play a large role in creating safe working environments for businesses and firefighters as well as a large part in reducing fire loss.

A goal of the department is to achieve a Class 3 rating from the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau, an organization that evaluates and rates fire departments on their ability to provide essential services to communities. Currently our department enjoys a Class 4 rating on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being the highest rating. Every division in the department is rated and our fire and safety division is an important part of that rating.

During 2015 the inspection division conducted 4,082 inspections within the City of Yakima and 1,019 in the City of Union Gap, for a combined total of 5,101. These are a compilation of initial inspections and re-inspections, but does not reflect the number of occupancies inspected. The top 3 Violations Found were: fire extinguishers required annual inspections, exit lighting required illumination or battery backup, and extension cords were being used in place of permanent power.

The City of Yakima has privately owned hydrants and like city owned hydrants, these hydrants require annual inspections to insure they are operating properly. There were a total of 85 private fire hydrants tested in 2015. This was the first time, in many years, that they were tested for proper operation and water delivery; several were not operational.



The Knox Box system is used by the Yakima Fire Department to gain immediate access into select occupancies during emergency operations. This system is set up so that every jurisdiction that utilizes it has their own unique key. With Yakima contracting with Union Gap for fire services, we were faced with a two key system. A decision was made to convert the cores of Union Gap's 178 occupancies that utilized the Knox Box system, therefore standardizing our response to emergencies. The fire and life safety division completed this conversion.

This division does not suppress fires by using tradition methods, but they do have a goal of preventing fires from ever starting.

# Emergency Management



Effective January 1, 2015, the City of Yakima separated from the Yakima Valley Office of Emergency Management (YVOEM) consortium to establish a greater, more focused role in community preparedness and support for residents, business and emergency responders. This change represents engaging the skills and expertise of the City’s workforce as a force-multiplier to more effectively accomplish the mission. Though the City is no longer a part of the consortium, we continue to work cooperatively with YVOEM and maintain strong mutual and automatic aid agreements with area agencies.

This citywide program was best suited to fall under the organizational direction of the fire department. One FTE Emergency Management Specialist facilitates the main functions of the program, and reports directly the fire chief – who has the co-title of Emergency Manager. In addition, key staff members from law enforcement, public works and communications (among others), play a significant role in the overall strengths of the program.

During 2015 – the first year of a 3-year strategic plan, the Emergency Management (EM) program accomplished the following:

- Ensured conformity to applicable WAC and RCW titles
- Reviewed and revised the City’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
- Revised the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) standard Operating Procedures
- Exercised the plan through a full-scale airport disaster exercise
- Submitted an EM ordinance to be adopted by Council
- Implemented a Mass Notification System to alert residents in the event of an emergency, and to facilitate critical communications to key staff members



# 2015 Maintenance

For the vast majority of Yakima's residents, their fire department's function consists of a shiny fire engine responding to a fire or first aid call with its red lights and siren activated. Although that response certainly is YFD's core mission, it represents only a small segment of the department's activities. What is not so obvious to the casual observer is the tremendous amount of support activity that takes place behind the scenes to assure a state of readiness in order to successfully accomplish that core mission.

Of the many supporting activities, the maintenance component is arguably one of the most essential functions. Illustrated below are just a few examples of the maintenance intensity required to facilitate the emergency response capability.

## Fire Stations/Facilities

The City owns and operates 5 strategically-located fire stations and one maintenance facility, which serves as home to a vehicle mechanic and radio technicians. Each of these facilities represents a significant investment as part of the City's emergency response infrastructure. Not unlike a home, these facilities require constant routine maintenance as well as periodic maintenance of a more substantial nature, such as re-roofing, heating and air conditioning, plumbing, electrical, etc.



## Fire Apparatus and Vehicles

Currently, YFD operates 10 fire engines, 2 aerial ladder trucks, 3 brush trucks, 1 water tender and other supporting vehicles totaling 44. Fire apparatus are some of the most technologically advanced vehicles on the road today, and combined with their intended use as being a rough-service tool, they require constant, focused maintenance attention.

## Tools and Equipment

To achieve this level of readiness, YFD maintains nearly 6 miles of fire hose, 1,000 feet of ground ladders (extension ladders) and 64 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). All of these are required to be tested on an annual basis and that testing is accomplished in-house. Additionally, power saws, generators, gas monitors and a myriad of other equipment requires regular attention so that it is ready to be placed into service at a moment's notice.

The population and geographical growth of the City over the past few decades has correspondingly increased the number (and type) of calls for service, and in several ways the scope of service for YFD. Given that growth and evolution, it is crucial that a solid commitment be made for these and other support functions as YFD meets the emergency services needs of the community.

