



# Annual Report 2015

*To provide the resources necessary to prepare, prevent, and protect against the unexpected.*

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*“Relationships with the communities we serve are vital and we have worked very hard to engage our villages, schools, and other taxing bodies in promoting safety and risk management to all of our residents.” – John R. Christian, Fire Chief*

## From the Chief

I am proud to present the Annual Report for 2015 on behalf of the Grayslake Fire Protection District's Board of Trustees, Board of Fire Commissioners, full and part time staff as well as our shareholders, the residents of the District. Consistent with most public safety agencies, the Fire District routinely encounters challenges on both operational and fiscal fronts. Our current mission reads "To provide the resources necessary to prepare prevent, and protect against the unexpected." The operations of the District continue to be facilitated by an exceptional staff that is focused on this mission.

This report is only a snapshot of accomplishments of the Grayslake Fire Protection District over the last twelve months. Every day our dedicated staff provides exemplary service to our residents and visitors. They truly make a positive impact each time they respond. The ultimate goal of the administration staff is to ensure this interaction is supported by equipping all personnel with the necessary skills, tools, and training to provide these services safely and effectively. We are thankful that this is possible due to the support and dedication of all shareholders.

In January, 2015, Administrative Assistant Ingrid Skidmore retired from the Fire District. During Ingrid's tenure, many changes took place in the organization both positive and negative. Many thanks for her dedication and service to the organization. Donna Van Steenhuyse was hired as Administrative Secretary to fill the vacancy. In July, Deputy Chief Greg Formica retired with over 30 years of dedicated service. Deputy Chief Formica saw firsthand the significant growth the District experienced over those 30 years. He was involved in the many successes of the District. Congratulations again and we wish him the best of luck as he starts a new career with the neighboring Round Lake Fire District. Finally, we saw the retirement of the Fire District Board President Lester Stang who had over 38 years of service on the Board. Les was instrumental in all of the successes since the inception of the District and it was truly an honor and a privilege to serve under him as Fire Chief. With this vacancy, Board Trustee Ellen Dimock was appointed as President and a new Trustee, Karen Wojciechowski was appointed by the Lake County Board to fill the vacancy.

Relationships with the communities we serve are vital and we have worked very hard to engage our villages, schools, and other taxing bodies in promoting safety and risk management to all of our



residents. As part of our core mission, we also partner with civic organizations to grow community awareness of the danger of fire, injuries and illnesses, and technical rescue. Our staff is committed to these endeavors and work hard to share their knowledge and expertise. Our public education efforts continue to expand to meet the needs and goals of our organization and communities.

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees of the Grayslake Fire Protection District, the Board of Fire Commissioners and our entire staff for all of their continued hard work and dedication. The successes we continue to experience within the District would not be possible without the combined efforts of all.

## Operations Report

*Deputy Chief Dan Pierre*

During 2015, The Grayslake Fire Protection District continued to meet the demands of an increasing call volume while maintaining the same staffing levels of previous years. The Fire District operates from three fire stations located in downtown Grayslake (Headquarters), on the campus of College of Lake County in the eastern portion of Grayslake, and the southwestern parts of Grayslake at Rt. 60 and Peterson Roads.

At Station 1 headquarters and Station 2, we typically staff one engine with a Lieutenant / Paramedic and two (2) Firefighter / Paramedics. One ambulance with two (2) Firefighter / Paramedics responds from these stations also. A Battalion Chief, whom is the shift commander, responds from headquarters. The Shift Commander will monitor, direct and command the emergency response and daily activities from all three stations. The Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief as well as two (2) Fire Inspectors in the Fire Prevention Bureau are also available for emergency responses to the communities from headquarters. We staff three personnel at Station 3 comprised of a Lieutenant / Paramedic and two (2) Firefighter / Paramedics. At Station 3, the "jump company" will respond with an ambulance or an engine when the type emergency necessitates. Station 2 responds with the aerial ladder in place of an engine.

### Notable 2015 Incidents...

- On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the fire department received a report of a structure fire in the 200 block of Big Horn Drive in Hainesville. Fire Department units responded and a box alarm was requested for assistance. The building fire caused approximately \$100,000 in damage.
- On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 an EF-1 Tornado was spotted on the western edge of Grayslake and traveled through Grayslake creating a damage path all the way through to the Wildwood and

*"The Shift Commander will monitor, direct and command the emergency response and daily activities from all three stations." – Dan Pierre, Deputy Fire Chief*

Gages Lake communities. Grayslake crews responded to incidents through the night with assistance from several other neighboring fire departments. The Lake County Wildland response team was called in with their power saws to help remove fallen trees in Wildwood that made roadways impassible to emergency vehicle traffic. In the following days crews walked all the damaged areas conducting and documenting damage assessments of all buildings involved.

- On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 the fire department responded to a business that sustained roof damage the evening before in the 300 block of North Barron Boulevard in Grayslake. After several employees complained of illness, a life safety box was requested to the 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm and concurrently a hazardous materials box alarm for investigating the unknown source. Six patients were transported to local area hospitals. The hazardous materials team investigated the building but found no unusual readings or hazardous material release / spill.
- On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the fire department was notified of a structure fire in the 800 block of Catherine Court in Grayslake. Fire Department units responded and a box alarm was requested for assistance. The building fire caused approximately \$200,000 in damage.
- On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the fire department was notified of a structure fire in the 600 block of North Barron Boulevard in Grayslake. Fire Department units responded and a box alarm was requested for assistance. The building fire caused approximately \$230,000 in damage.
- On December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the fire department was notified of a structure fire in the 900 block of Dunhill Road in Grayslake. Fire Department units responded and a box alarm was requested for assistance. The building fire caused approximately \$400,000 in damage.

### **Enhancements to the Operation in 2015**

- Added two (2) new AEV Trauma Hawk Ambulances in service to replace ambulances with terminal mechanical issues in January and March.
- Added two (2) new full time Firefighter / Paramedics in March and April to replace vacancies.
- Reached an agreement with the labor union in April.
- Added seven (7) new part time Firefighter / Paramedics in October.
- Placed a new response vehicle in service for the Fire Chief.

## **Apparatus Report**

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*Deputy Chief Dan Pierre*

It is with pride that we present the Apparatus Report for the emergency response vehicles that serve Grayslake Fire Protection District communities. During 2015, the fire department placed 2 new ambulances in service to replace a 2006 and a 2008 ambulance with chronic mechanical problems. A pair of 2014 Ford F450 4X4 AEV Trauma Hawk Ambulances were placed in service in late January and mid-March respectively positioned at Stations 1 and 2. A 2016 Ford Explorer was added to the fleet as the Fire Chief's response vehicle. The Ford Explorer was delivered in early December and was placed in service on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Another vehicle was ordered during 2015 but not delivered until after the first of the year was a 2016 Ford Expedition. The new Ford Expedition replaces the Battalion Chief's response vehicle or command unit. The 2008 Ford Expedition that was the command unit was placed into reserve status as a back-up command unit.

Two vehicles were declared surplus and sold during the year included a 2008 Ford Explorer and 2002 Ford Expedition.

In 2016, we will begin work on developing a specification for a new engine / pumper with delivery expected in late 2017. The 1991 Pierce Arrow (2715) will be re-assigned as a training engine to keep hours and use of frontline apparatus to a minimum. All ground ladders and our 105 foot aerial ladder passed stringent safety inspections performed by Underwriters Laboratory in compliance with NFPA 1911 and 1932.

All fire pumps were again tested in accordance with NFPA 1901; each of which passed the tests safely and successfully.

As we look forward, we are committed to the highest level of safety and maintenance standards that allow us to provide excellent service to our customers utilizing our equipment and apparatus to the best of their capabilities.

# Grayslake Fire Protection District

## 2015 Grayslake Fire Protection District Fleet

<i>Vehicle #</i>	<i>Year of Vehicle</i>	<i>Type of Vehicle</i>	<i>Located at</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
2715	1991	Engine / Pumper	1	Reserve	79,350
2717	2009	Engine / Pumper	1	Front line	43,193
2722	2005	Engine / Pumper	3	Front line	56,480
2737	1999	Quint	2	Front line	46,162
2740	2012	ALS Ambulance	3	Front line	46,288
<i>Vehicle #</i>	<i>Year of Vehicle</i>	<i>Type of Vehicle</i>	<i>Located at</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
2742	2002	ALS Ambulance	1	Reserve	140,019
2745	2014	ALS Ambulance	1	Front line	16,277
2746	2014	ALS Ambulance	2	Front line	11,331
2756	2008	Zodiac Boat	2	Front line	
2757	2010	Rescue Boat	1	Front line	
2761	1988	Tender	1	Front line	16,779
2790	2013	Deputy Chief Vehicle	1	Front line	16,447
2791	2009	Fire Prevention Bureau	1	Pool	34,158
2792	2010	Fire Prevention Bureau	1	Pool	18,909
2793	2016	Command Unit	1	Front line	1,303
2794	2009	Utility Vehicle	1	Pool	19,287
2795	1995	Brush Fire Truck	1	Front line	35,976
2796	2016	Fire Chief Vehicle	1	Front line	6,122
2797	2006	Reserve Command Unit	2	Reserve	84,034
2798	2009	Utility Vehicle	1	Pool	90,603

## Training Report

*Battalion Chief Joris Lillge*

2015 was the year of change in the training division with myself taking over as the newest training officer in January. Lieutenant Greg Quentin, Lieutenant Rodney Buckley, and Lieutenant Dave Torkilsen were appointed to assist in the development and delivery of trainings to personnel and to offer their expertise. In April we implemented the Target Solutions training software which was a substantial upgrade to our recording and tracking of all training. In addition the program also tracks certifications and expiration dates which can be challenging for all personnel. This year the members completed 7,786 items for over 12,020 hours of training. This was an average of just over 190 hours per person and an increase from 2014 of over 36%. This was a substantial increase as crews did a tremendous job of making sure they got their daily trainings completed as well as properly recorded.



In April the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) conducted a surprise visit to check the compliance of all training records. We passed with flying colors and although it's never a comfortable feeling when your records are audited, it was a welcome check validating the hard work put into keeping accurate records. This year we had two individuals complete the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Chief Fire Officer Program; Deputy Chief Dan Pierre and Battalion Chief Mike Rutkowski. Both Chiefs achieved the highest certification offered by the State of Illinois, something they should be proud of. Also receiving an officer certification was Firefighter Frank Demasi who completed his Fire Officer 1. Five firefighters certified as fire apparatus engineers and are in the process of completing the rigorous Grayslake portion of their training. We also had three new personnel complete the fire academy. We look forward to 2016 and will continue to prepare ourselves to handle any emergency safely and professionally.

## **Fire Prevention Bureau**

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*Inspector Deane Walker*

The Fire Prevention Bureau (Bureau) was supervised by Deputy Chief Formica up through his retirement in July. Since then, Chief Christian implemented weekly Bureau meetings and provided overall direction regarding the day-to-day operations of the Bureau and its two full-time personnel, Fire Inspectors Walker and Heyer.

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS are conducted on all new developments, buildings and business tenant improvements within the Fire Protection District. Fire Safety Inspections are also conducted on existing businesses as part of an Annual Inspection Program. During 2015, the Bureau maintained an aggressive inspection campaign that involved more than 1580 separate inspections, including Annual Fire Inspections/Re-Inspections and over 200 "Special" or "Other-type" Inspections.

FIRE PREVENTION PLANNING - The Bureau reviews plans for all new developments, commercial and industrial buildings within the Fire Protection District. Requirements are established in cooperation with the local municipality utilizing its adopted codes along with the State and nationally recognized standards to provide a high degree of life safety and property protection. The entire Village of Grayslake plus portions of six other municipalities including unincorporated Lake County, Round Lake, Round Lake Beach, Round Lake Park, Hainesville, and Third Lake are provided with our plan review services and fire prevention/live safety expertise. Illinois School Code and various Building/Fire Prevention Codes as adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education/OSFM and additional requirements per Ordinances as adopted by the Fire District's Board of Trustees are also applied where applicable. During 2015, over 130 plan reviews were completed.

OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS / ACTIVITIES - Continuing Education was also a high priority in 2015 for Bureau personnel who completed many hours of training. Fire Inspectors Walker and Heyer both maintained licensed paramedic, firefighter, and fire investigator certifications plus actively participated in the Northern Illinois Fire Inspectors' Association along with the Fire Investigators' Strike Force Organization. Fire Inspector Walker again served as Training Committee Chairperson for the Northern Illinois Fire Inspectors' Association and maintains his Certified Safety Professional plus NFPA-Certified Fire Plan Examiner (CFPE) credentials along with his memberships in the NFPA, International Fire

Marshals' Association Section, and International Code Council while remaining active on the District's Health & Safety Committee. Fire Inspector Heyer actively participated on the Northern Illinois Public Education Team, maintained his membership in the National Fire Sprinkler Association, and continued to serve as the Northern Illinois Liaison to the OSFM for its Senior Citizen Fire and Fall Prevention ("Remembering When") Program. During 2015, the Bureau was involved with numerous other activities which deserve mention as follows:

- When needed, Bureau personnel supplemented duty crews by responding to emergency calls and other non-emergency responses plus special detail projects including building fire/life safety issue resolution following the August 2nd Tornado
- Provided oversight of fire alarm monitoring activities including extensive time/effort required in the first half of the year to facilitate the acceptance of various third-party monitoring stations throughout the Fire District & witness new fire alarm monitoring radio installation/testing
- Assisted the Fairground's Director of Safety/Security during the Fair plus other large events
- Researched & responded to numerous F.O.I.A. requests for properties throughout the District
- Developed and distributed several Firefighter Building/Safety Alerts to members
- Coordinated maintenance of various systems/equipment plus rigs at all three Fire Stations
- In June, Inspector Walker represented the District and N.I.F.I.A. at the NFPA's Annual Conference/Meeting where he made public comments ahead of an important vote on NFPA 72
- The Bureau witnessed fire drills at the District's more than 20 public and private schools plus daycare facilities per state requirements along with additional drills at commercial buildings
- Assisted with scene safety/traffic control during dedication ceremony of a portion of Illinois Route 120 in honor of U.S. Army Spc. Joseph Dimock II

## Fire Investigations/Juvenile Fire setter Intervention Program

*Inspector Deane Walker*

The Fire Department is required and authorized per the Fire Investigation ACT (425 ILCS 25) to promptly



investigate the cause, origin and circumstances of each fire occurring in the Fire Protection District involving loss of life or injury to a person or destruction of property. The Department

currently has six trained, State-certified Fire Investigators. Fire Inspector Walker was assigned in April to facilitate a committee of lead Investigators developing a "Quad 2 Fire Investigator All Call" procedure. Grayslake Fire Investigators have responded to several "All Calls" while we have activated the procedure on two occasions, including an early-



morning house fire on Christmas Eve. During

2015, the Department responded to more than 54 fire-related incidents (this number includes 18 Building Fires, most of which required full origin and cause investigations). Our "Juvenile Fire setter Intervention Program" provides assistance to children involved with the inappropriate use of fire. Our four trained/certified Juvenile Fire setter Intervention Specialists provide this fire safety awareness and prevention education program for juveniles and their parents/guardians. It also includes a referral mechanism, when appropriate, to counseling professionals.

## **Public Education**

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*Inspector Jeff Heyer*

2015 was another busy year for Public Education in our community. The bulk of our Public Education activities took place during Fire Prevention "Month" (mid-September through early November) with an aggressive Public Education campaign launched in our schools, pre-schools and daycares, along with our annual Fire Station Open House during the Grayslake Exchange Club's pancake breakfast. Our Public Education activities continued on throughout the entire year including: numerous fire station tours; visits to and from various schools, pre-schools, daycares and scouting groups; participation in the annual Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital's Kids Safety Fair, Lake County Fire Chief's Fire Safety Expo, Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Burn Camp ("Camp I Am Me") and "Taste of Grayslake/Fireworks" event. We continued to present the "Remembering When Fire & Fall Prevention" Program to our senior citizens, and distributed FREE "My Medical Information" kits & Illinois "Yellow Dot" materials to them. We attended numerous neighborhood block parties and special community events. Fire truck ride certificates to various local school & civic fundraisers were also donated. Finally, we participated in the spring and fall "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" campaign as well as the annual "Keep the Wreath Red" holiday safety program.

## **Specialized Response Teams**

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*Battalion Chief Mike Rutkowski*

The Grayslake Fire protection District's Specialized Response Team consists of department members that are trained in dive, hazardous materials and technical rescue operations. We did not add any new members, however Battalion Chief Jim Weidman was appointed to the Division 4 Hazardous Materials Team Leader position. With this responsibility, Jim will manage all team activities and respond to hazardous material incidents in both Lake and McHenry Counties. In 2015, Grayslake SRT responded to one dive, five hazardous materials, one technical rescue and one Wildland MABAS incident.

## Summary of Incidents

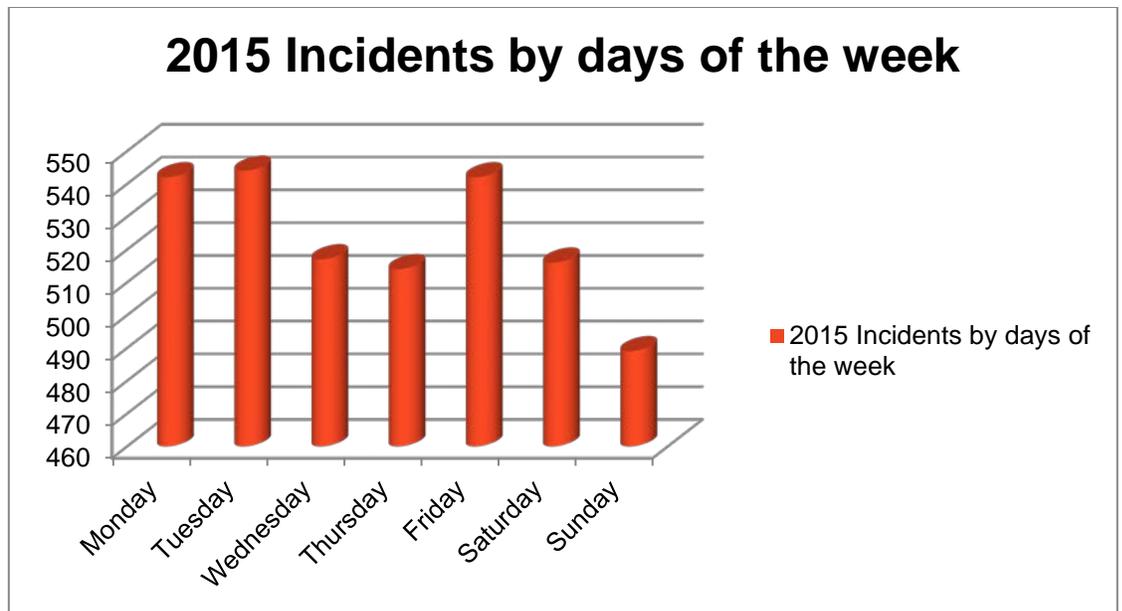
*Deputy Chief Dan Pierre*

Grayslake Fire Protection District responded to a total of 3659 incidents in 2015 and we also had 1269 incidents occur overlapping other incidents (35%).

54 of the 3659 incidents were a response with some type of fire involvement. The losses from these fire-related incidents were approximately \$1,131,060.

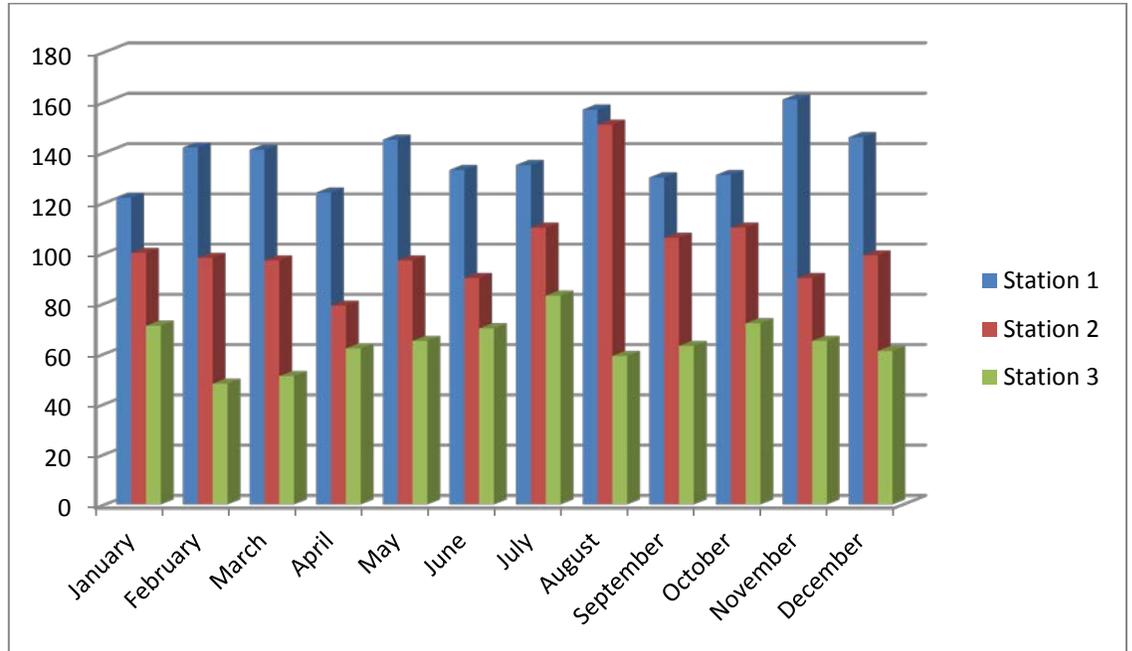
In 2015, there was 1 reported civilian injury but there were sixteen (16) fire service injuries reported while operating / responding to emergency incidents or training ranging in severity from minor to serious injury and lost time.

2530 responses were a rescue or Emergency Medical Services (EMS) type of incident. 69% of all 2015 incidents were EMS related. 1776 EMS related incidents were transported to local area hospitals.



Average of 523 incidents per day of the week. Our busiest day of the week is Tuesday followed closely by Monday and Friday. Our least busy day of the week is Sunday.

## Monthly Fire Station Responses



Station 1: 45% or 139 responses per month average

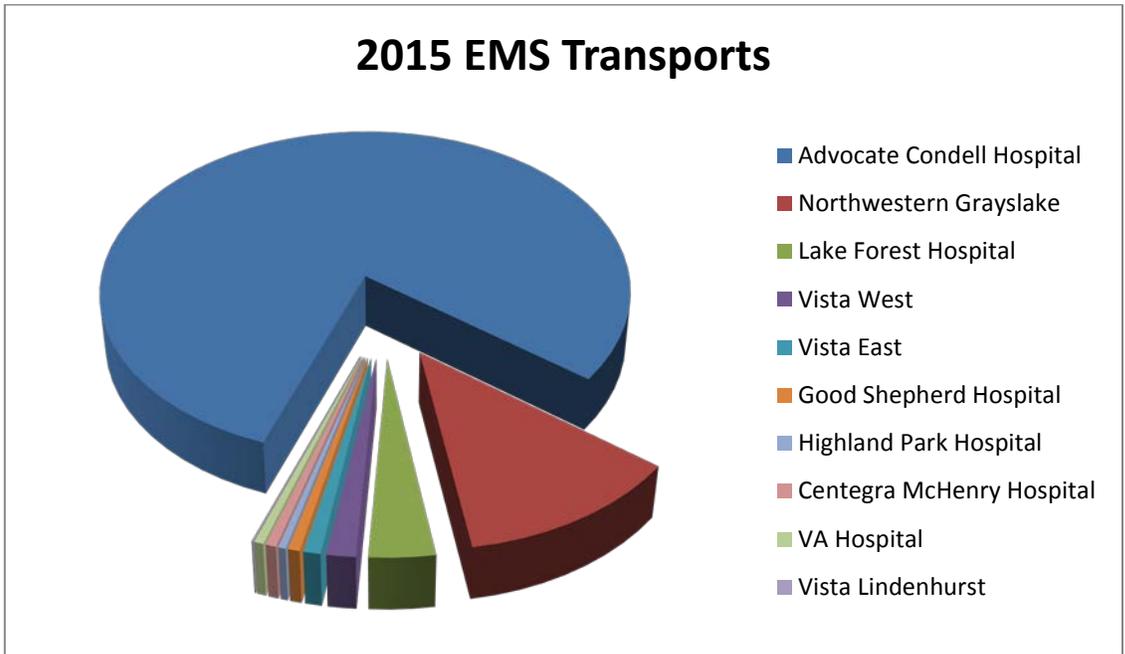
Station 2: 34% or 102 responses per month average

Station 3: 21% or 64 responses per month average

Station 1: High 161 (Nov.) Low 122 (Jan.)

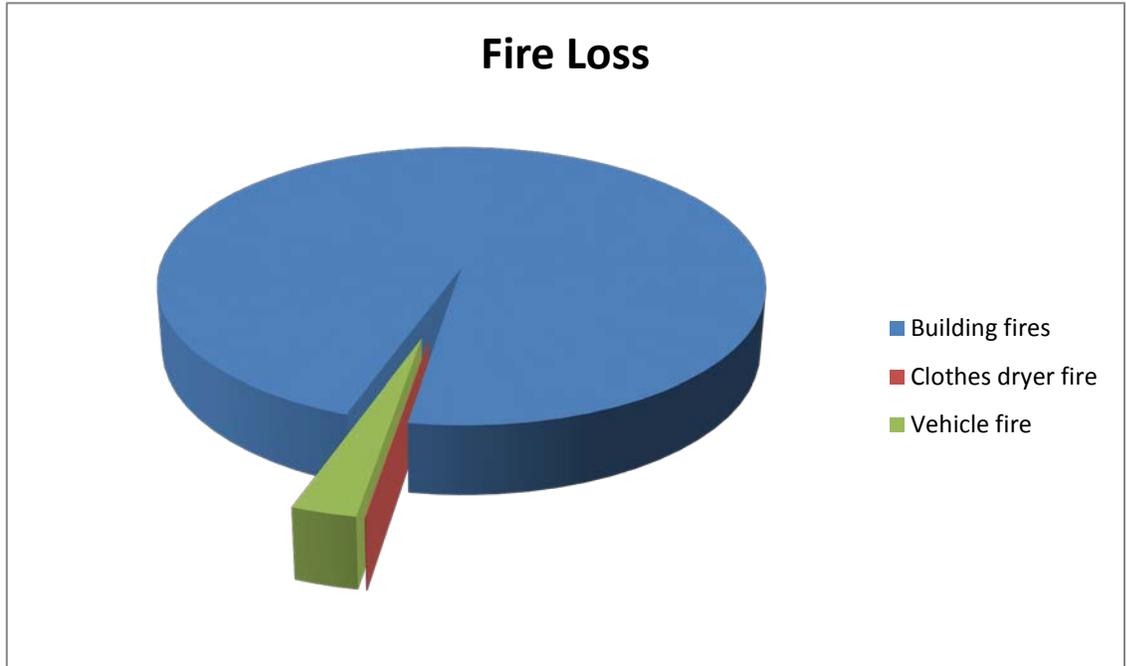
Station 2: High 151 (Aug.) Low 79 (April)

Station 3: High 83 (July) Low 48 (Feb)



Total transports to local area hospitals: **1776**

Advocate Condell Hospital:	1417	(80%)
Northwestern Grayslake:	216	(11%)
Lake Forest Hospital:	62	(3%)
Vista West Hospital:	27	(2%)
Vista East Hospital:	16	(1%)
Good Shepherd Hospital:	11	(3/4%)
Highland Park Hospital:	7	(1/2%)
Centegra Hospital McHenry:	10	(3/4%)
Veterans Adm. Hospital:	9	(3/4%)
Vista Emergency (Lindenhurst):	1	(1/4%)



Building Fires in 2015: 18

Total value of the property:	\$3,531,485		
Total losses:	<u>\$1,095,585</u>		
Total saved property:	\$2,435,900	(31% loss)	(69% saved)

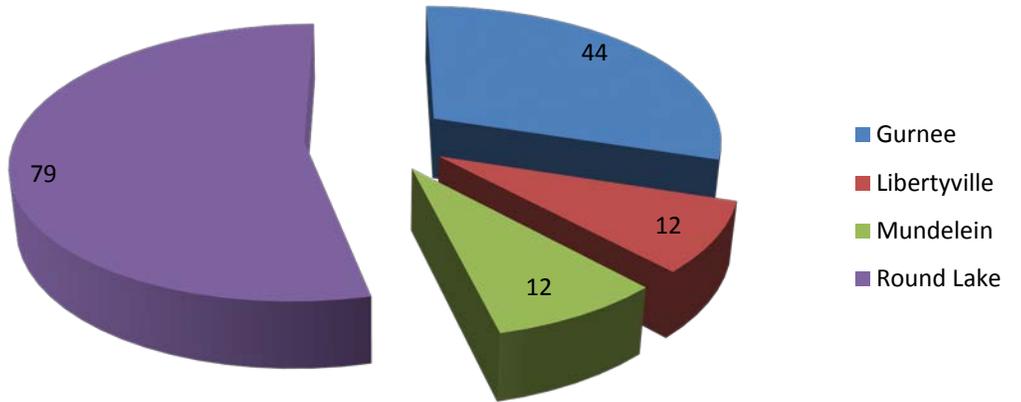
Clothes Dryer Fires in 2015: 1

Total value of the property:	\$1,800,000		
Total losses:	<u>\$500</u>		
Total saved property:	\$1,799,500	(1% loss)	(99 % saved)

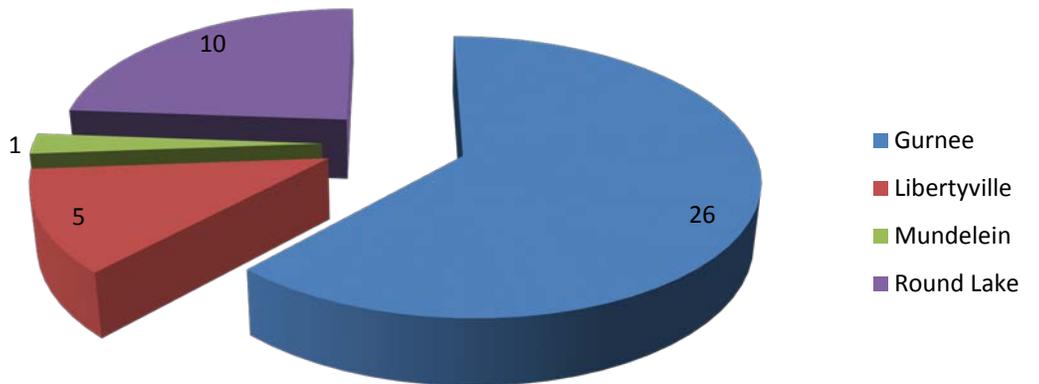
Vehicle Fires in 2015: 5

Total value of property:	\$35,400		
Total losses:	<u>\$32,700</u>		
Total saved property:	\$2,700	(92% loss)	(8% saved)

## Received Aid From:



## Given Aid to:



## Grayslake Fire Protection District

### Station 1

*Headquarters*

160 Hawley Street

Grayslake, IL 60030

Tel 847-223-8960

Fax 847-223-8964

### Station 2

1200 Brae Loch Road

Grayslake, IL 60030

### Station 3

22405 W. Behm Lane

Grayslake, IL 60030



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