The background of the entire page is a stylized, wavy American flag. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is oriented vertically, with the stars in the upper left and stripes extending downwards.

Findlay Fire Department

2015

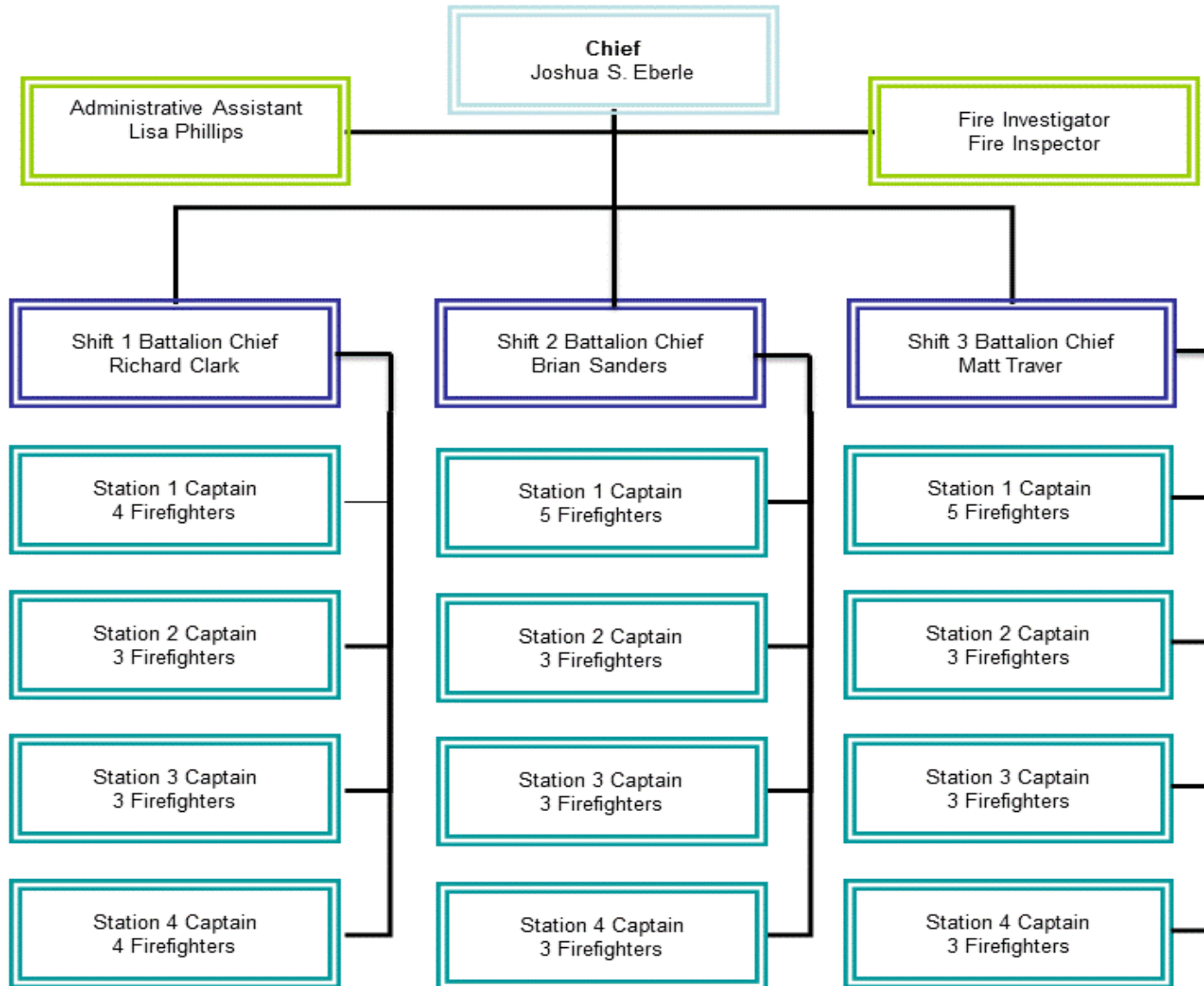
Annual Report

Submitted by: Joshua S. Eberle
Chief

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FINDLAY FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Findlay Fire Department provides professional response to all types of emergency situations. These include fires, explosions, rescues, medical calls, hazardous conditions (including hazmat response), vehicle accidents, and requests for special services.

The fire department has two missions: to respond to emergencies and to do everything we can to prevent emergencies from happening. The latter is done through a number of means, primarily through the Fire Prevention Bureau. Personnel assigned to this branch of the fire department focus on building plan review, fire safety inspections, code enforcement, fire investigation, and public fire education. The primary coverage area of the Fire Departments is the 20 square miles within the Findlay City limits. There are also mutual aid contracts with all county fire departments, as well as some departments outside Hancock County. The Findlay Fire Department achieved a Class 3 Public Protection Classification at the most recent rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO).

ORGANIZATION

The current staffing of the Findlay Fire Department is 60, which includes line firefighters, officers, fire prevention personnel, and the Fire Chief. The authorized strength of the fire department is 74.

The department began 2015 with 61 personnel, and lost one due to an unanticipated resignation. A civil service test and physical agility test were administered to establish a “new hire” list in which to bring on new employees in 2016.

The fire department line personnel are broken up into 3 shifts, with each shift working a 24-hour duty day. Currently the shifts sit at 19, 19, and 18 personnel each. These employees primarily have the responsibility for emergency response.

Each shift is supervised by a Battalion Chief, who is responsible for day-to-day supervision of the line personnel. Each shift staffs 4 fire stations throughout the city, with minimum staffing at 14 personnel per day. Station 1 houses the Battalion Chief, Station Captain, and 3 firefighters at a minimum. Fire Stations 2, 3, & 4 house one Station Captain & 2 firefighters each. The employees of the fire department, minus the Chief and Administrative Assistant, voluntarily belong to the International Association of Firefighters, Local 381.

ADMINISTRATION

Administration of the fire department is the responsibility of the Fire Chief and the Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Lisa Phillips, who acts as Office Manager for the department’s 4 fire stations. The Chief’s office compiles data including gross run numbers, fire loss, injury records, and property loss which are recorded annually. Personnel functions, policy development, human resources, hiring & promotion are all key aspects of the Chief’s office along with resources provided by the City of Findlay Administration. Financial Administration of the fire department is another responsibility of the Chief’s Office. These costs are planned, budgeted and tracked throughout the year, and a two-year budget is prepared in the fall of each year. The fire department administration also coordinates and tracks training and certification of personnel, implements and maintains an OJT program for new hires, and develops and revises employee job descriptions based on rank and responsibility.

Personnel



The department began the year with a staffing level of 61 sworn full-time firefighting personnel. With the unanticipated resignation of 1 firefighter late in 2015, the department ended up with 60 by December 31st.

2015 was a year of transition for the Findlay Fire Department. Former Fire Chief Thomas Lonyo officially resigned from the department on 1/11/15, although his tenure actually ended near the end of 2014. Battalion Chief Matt Traver was appointed Acting Fire Chief in his place while a promotional test was administered for officers qualified and interested in the position. Captain Josh Eberle was selected and sworn in as Fire Chief in July of 2015.

Furthermore, Eric Habegger—who served the department in the Fire Prevention “FM-2” position—announced his intention to retire in the first half of 2016. This created the need to select someone to fill his vacancy prior to Eric’s departure to gain experience. Firefighter Kevin Shenise was selected and transferred into fire preven-

tion at the beginning of 2016.

The daily minimum staffing level remains at 14 suppression personnel, which staffs 4 apparatus. When staffing permits, 15 remain on duty, in which case 2 firefighters staff a dedicated Ladder Truck, bringing the total staffed apparatus to 4 Fire Engines and 1 Ladder. When only 14 are on duty, the personnel at Station 1 or 4 will decide based on the call whether to respond in an Engine or Ladder truck. It is anticipated in 2016 that more shifts will have 15 on duty with the addition of some new hires. Currently the department remains 14 firefighters below its authorized full strength.

Training

Responding to a wide variety of emergencies requires expertise in a similarly wide variety of disciplines. Fire suppression, emergency medical care, equipment operation, hazmat, and technical rescue are all topics that are trained upon throughout the year by Findlay firefighters. On the non-emergent side of the department, Fire Prevention personnel conduct public fire safety education, building inspection, and fire investigation, all which require specific and continuing education training to maintain certification.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety requires that firefighters complete 54 hours of continuing education in fire related topics. Firefighters are also required to complete 40 hours of EMS training every three years in order to maintain State certification. Fire inspectors must secure an additional 30

hours of training in the related field.

To meet the requirements of the Insurance Services Office (ISO), the department must have a combination of 14 single/multiple company drills of at least 3 hours each and two night drills of 3 hours each. Each member of the Department must also complete 3 hours of hazardous material training and 20 hours per month of monthly in-service training.

Each new recruit is also required to complete 40 hours of emergency driver / operator course and at least four, three hour training sessions on safe driving. FFD Officers are also required to complete 12 hours of officer training. In addition, ISO requires that each commercial structure is entered by FFD personnel and a pre-plan inspection completed twice annually.

In 2015, the department continued the practice of conducting as much hands-on training as possible in structures slated for demolition. This has been a cooperative effort between the fire department and the City of Findlay and Hancock County. Some of the tactics practiced in these structures are as follows:

- Hoseline Advancement
- Search & Rescue
- Forcible Entry
- Mayday Drills
- Wall Breaching
- Cellular Nozzle Use
- Rapid Intervention Tactics
- Positive-Pressure Ventilation

2015 saw the continuation of a lease agreement between the Findlay Fire Department and the Ohio Fire Academy, where the de-

Training (cont.)

partment's Fireblast live-fire simulator trailer was used by the Fire Academy for training throughout the state. In return, the Findlay Fire Department receives a credit at the Fire Academy to be used at our discretion. This credit can be used for tuition, lodging, and meals at the Academy's Reynoldsburg, Ohio location or for direct-delivery courses here in Findlay.

The fire department also hosted two leadership courses as called for by the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 381.

Emergency Operations

The Findlay Fire Department's key objectives include fire suppression, providing basic EMS response, Hazardous Material Response and Domestic Disaster Planning. The department utilizes the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as a standard response to all threats and emergencies the community faces. The department attempts to match the community's risks through the deployment of personnel and apparatus located in four fire stations.

Apparatus

The compliment of firefighting apparatus and other vehicles assigned to the Fire Department consists of four 1500 gallon per minute pumping engines and one 2000 gallon per minute engine with a 75ft elevated ladder. The department has 2 aerial trucks. One 1500 gallon per minute aerial truck with an 85 ft. platform and a 2000 gallon per minute 100 foot aerial. A rescue truck, a hazardous materials trailer, three water rescue units, 3 utility pick-up trucks, and 4 staff cars are utilized by the department.

The department replaced one fire engine in 2015. A 1500-gpm Rescue Pumper was purchased from the Ferrara Fire Apparatus Company in Louisiana, which replaced a 1984-model open cab engine. This new fire engine has additional capabilities that our current fleet does not, and the design is used extensively in other communities as an "all-purpose" type of firefighting/rescue vehicle. It has additional compartment space to carry additional rescue tools such as lifting air-bags, rescue jacks, and some rope rescue equipment. Also included are pre-plumbed hose reels to facilitate quick and easy deployment of hydraulic rescue tools for vehicle extrication.

The fire department's fleet maintenance continues to be handled by firefighter Steve Rupe, who is a certified Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT). Several large items were accomplished in 2015 on fire department apparatus. A complete transmission rebuild was completed on Ladder 4, as well as new suspension on Engine 3. Additional larger-ticket items are slated for 2016.

Currently the fleet's oldest apparatus are two 1997-model Custom Fire Engines. These are Engine 4 and Engine 5. The latter engine is currently our reserve engine, which is used when other apparatus are out-of-service for maintenance or repair. It is also used for call-in purposes during major emergencies. One of these 1997 fire engines is due for replacement in the 2017 Capital budget.

Facilities

Fire Department operations are conducted out of four fire stations located within the City limits:

Station 1, 720 South Main Street, serves as Department Headquarters, as well as housing an engine and a ladder company, a rescue truck, and the Battalion Chief's vehicle. Station 1 provides first due response for the area south of Howard Street and west of the CSX Railroad. Station 1 was built in 1958.

Station 2, 2610 North Main Street, was built in 1976. It houses an engine company and is first due in the area north of Howard Street and West of Crystal Avenue. The station also houses a water rescue unit and the Hancock County Hazardous Materials Response trailer and equipment.

Station 3, 1001 Tiffin Avenue, was located at the eastern edge of the City when constructed in 1958. Since then, the station sits in approximately the geographical center of the City. The station houses an engine company and the Department's water rescue equipment. It provides back-up to the other three response districts as well as primary coverage to the area east of the CSX Railroad, north of Blanchard Avenue, south of Crystal Avenue, and west of the Findlay Village Mall.

Station 4, 7047 County Road 236, is the newest station, built in 1997. The facility houses a staffed engine company, an unstaffed ladder company, a reserve engine and water rescue equipment. The Department's apparatus repair shop and training facilities are also located at station #4. Station 4 provides primary coverage for the rapidly growing eastern edge of the City.

Incident Profiles

Call volume amounted to 2178 calls in 2015, an increase 162 calls from 2014. The amount of total fire loss experienced in the City of Findlay in 2015, totaled \$923,436.00. The estimated value of properties that experienced fires in 2015 totaled \$49,234,454.00 for a property save value totaling \$48,311,018.00 or 98%.

One of the four fire stations is assigned primary responsibility, depending upon location, for each emergency call. Below are listed the primary responses made by each of the four stations:

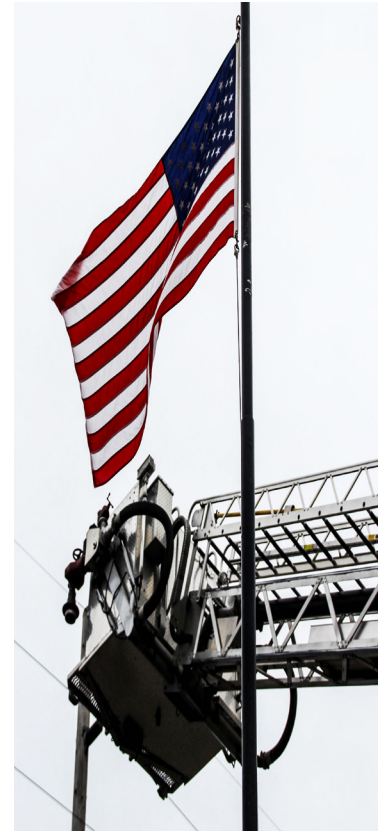
Station 1:	727
Station 2:	562
Station 3:	437
Station 4:	452

The three largest fires the department responded to in 2015 was a paint booth fire at 2000 Production Drive on March 19, 2015. Damage from the paint booth fire was valued at \$250,000.00. A condo fire at 29 Windstone Drive with an estimated loss of \$148,000 and a house fire at 1457 Inglewood Ave for a loss of \$50,000.

Incident Profiles (cont.)

The following information details the general categories of emergency calls and their percentages in relation to the total number of calls handled in 2015.

# Of Calls	Type of Calls	Percentage
106	Fires	4.88
19	Assist Other Agency	.87
1223	Medical Assists	56.28
218	Car Accidents	10.03
23	Rescues (Extrication, Water, Etc.)	1.06
136	Hazmat	6.26
56	Good Intent	2.58
109	Burning Complaints	5.02
283	False Alarms	13.02
2173	TOTALS	100%



External Relationships

The Fire Department continues to foster quality relationships with other strategic agencies within the city, Hancock County and State of Ohio. Examples of our external relationships include but are not limited to:

- Hanco Ambulance
- Hancock County Fire Chiefs
- Findlay/Hancock County Red Cross
- Hancock County EMA Advisory Board
- Hancock County LEPC
- City of Findlay EMS Committee
- Ohio Fire Chiefs Association

The department continues to work with other Hancock County Fire Departments in an attempt to share and reduce costs. In 2015 a regional grant application was submitted to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), which is administered through FEMA. This application is to replace all outdated Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Findlay Fire Department, Liberty Township Fire Department, Washington Township Fire Department, and the Jenera Fire Department. This is the first attempt at a regional grant among the various emergency response agencies, and hopefully a template for more collaboration in the future. Also coordination between the Findlay Fire Department and various county departments continued in 2015 with annual pump testing, in order to reduce costs for each agency.



Specialized Team Response

Technical Rescue – The Technical Rescue Team (TRT) is a group of 8 officers & firefighters who have sought out training in technical disciplines such as high-angle rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, commercial vehicle extrication, structural collapse, and swift water. This team is also in transition with the loss of two key members and the addition of 3 new members. This type of emergency response is a low-frequency/high-risk operation. This team is in need of continual training, which is often budget-driven. Efforts are underway to establish new team leadership and an ongoing training schedule, as Chief Eberle was the team leader prior to his promotion.

Tactical EMS – The Tactical EMS team (TEMS) was created in 2010 at the request of the police department. Fire department firefighter/EMTs are specially-trained in tactical medicine and assist the police department when serving high-risk warrants and hostage situations. Captain Greer leads this team of 8 firefighters and they participate in training scenarios beside the PD's Emergency Response Team (ERT).

Hazmat Team – Another collaboration with the Hancock County fire departments is the county-wide Hazmat Team. This Type III team is called for hazardous material spills and releases and is trained to the technician level. Firefighter Troy Stoner is the team leader for the team, and 5 other members of the Findlay Fire Department are team members. The county-owned hazmat trailer is housed at Findlay fire station 2.

Fire Prevention

Traditionally, three members of the fire department were permanently assigned to the fire prevention bureau. Since 2009, one position was left unfilled after a retirement, and since then the department has operated with two firefighters assigned to prevention. Eric Habegger and Matt Pickett are certified through the State of Ohio as Fire Safety Inspectors. These employees are very valuable to the department, as they are the representatives to business owners and developers regarding code enforcement and plan review.

With Eric Habegger’s retirement due in the first half of 2016, Kevin Shenise was selected as a replacement. All fire prevention personnel perform safety inspections within the city limits, but each inspector focuses on a specific aspect of the operation. The fire prevention bureau works closely with internal and external partners in accomplishing their duties.

Inspector Matt Pickett assumes the duties of lead fire investigator for the department. In addition, Matt focuses on code enforcement and plan reviews. He is also an active member of the Planning commission and attends all regular meetings. Eric’s primary tasks are building inspections, live fire extinguisher training, life safety education, and code enforcement.

Kevin Shenise will primarily be assigned duties similar to Eric Habegger’s, but will also be cross-trained and work closely with Pickett on fire investigations and plan reviews.

The fire prevention bureau’s comprehensive breakdown of significant activities is summarized below:

Construction	403	Prevention	483
Existing Structures	445	Re-Inspects	285
Fire Investigations	65	Public Presentations	78
Inspections	463		

High Hazard Occupancies (Preplans)



In an effort to further identify known risks to the community, the department spent a considerable amount of time in 2013 identifying High Hazard Occupancies. NFPA defines high-hazard occupancy as a structure which poses a risk to the community due to a large amount of occupants, a structure of multiple heights, a structures size, complexity and chemical storage. Examples of a high hazard structure would include a school, hospital, nursing home, warehouse and manufacturing facility.

Each company officer is charged with completing a pre-incident plan site visit, an update of the pre-plan, or a training evolution. Annually a site visit, update, or training evolution is completed on each facility. In the training evolution the company officer will formulate a pre-plan review, operational plan, and fire ground tactical worksheet. These plans identify means of egress, locate utilities, list chemicals, identify structural weaknesses and provide contact information of key holders.

This information is key component in fire suppression activities. Once a pre-incident plan is completed the information and site drawing is entered into a database and is easily accessible on a laptop carried in fire apparatus. The list of High-Hazard occupancies can be a key tool in matching fire suppression resources to identified risks to the community.

Project S.A.F.E. - Smoke Alarms for Everyone

The Smoke Alarms For Everyone—Project SAFE—has been an ongoing initiative between the Findlay Fire Department and the Hancock County Red Cross chapter for a number of years. 2015 was no exception, and after several years of labor-intensive school visits and assemblies, the project was scaled back to a more manageable level. After two years of involving every elementary school student, in 2015 Project SAFE was directed toward kindergarten students only. This was the recommendation of Captain Greer, who has spearheaded this project from its inception. By focusing on “new” students this year, the program is more manageable and less time-consuming, while at the same time directing the educational efforts toward students who haven’t been exposed to the program already.

Project S.A.F.E continues to be a tremendous success. The project was able to provide 950 students in 2015 with a smoke detector or battery. They were given to the students during a safety presentation put on by the Fire Department and Hancock County American Red Cross. Each student was given a homework assignment which included installing a smoke detector and returning a form signed by the parent or guardian attesting the detector was installed. The Elementary School which had the highest installation rate was rewarded with a pizza party and a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog. The results from the Findlay City Schools are:

Whitter School - 106 Students
North View School - 91 Students
Jefferson School - 115 Students
Jacobs School - 81 Students

Another change for 2015 regarding Project SAFE is that Captain Greer focused more on the Findlay City Schools, while at the same time coordinating with other county fire departments who delivered the program to kindergarten classes in their jurisdiction. Greer, Wal-Mart and the local Red Cross worked with county fire departments to deliver the necessary number of smoke detectors, and allowed those departments to actually deliver the educational material and distribute the alarms themselves.



Public Relations

The department continues to promote positive public relations with the residents of not only Findlay, but Hancock County as well. The department participated in numerous events such as parades, public safety sponsored events, National First Night Out at Riverside Park, the Flag City Balloon Fest, and other various public gatherings.

Additionally in 2015, IAFF Local 381 continued the long standing tradition of handing out teddy bears to children who unfortunately had to spend Christmas Eve in the Blanchard Valley Hospital. The Local 381 also collaborated with Walmart and hosted a Shop-with-a-Firefighter. Ten children selected from Hope House and Job and Family services. Each child was paired up with a firefighter and was given the opportunity to purchase gifts for their families. Money for this event was provided by Wal-Mart.

Public relations and community outreach will continue to be an important aspect of the Findlay Fire Department’s efforts going forward.

Station Tours (# of People)	
Station 1	247
Station 2	100
Station 3	0
Station 4	84
Truck Visits (# of People Served)	
Station 1	171
Station 2	522
Station 3	770
Station 4	76
Extinguisher Training (# of People)	
Fire Prevention	858
Project Safe	
5 Schools	440
Firefighter Phil Program	
5 Schools	1133
Project Safe	
13 Presentations	1689
Parades	
5 Parades	10,850



EMS Committee

The department has taken an active role of participating on the EMS committee which is comprised of Findlay Police, Findlay Police Dispatchers, Hanco EMS, Blanchard Valley Health Systems and the Findlay Fire Department. Regular meetings are conducted to identify deficiencies in the EMS system and to recommend and implement changes to enhance the overall quality of patient care.

Establishment of direct communications between FFD and Hanco, collaborative training sessions, and command personnel interaction/crew familiarity, have helped improve the EMS service that is provided to the citizens of Findlay.

The department and Hanco EMS also continue to share facilities during natural disasters such as flooding and winter storms. This reduces response times and increases patient care during disasters.

Outlook

The Findlay Fire Department outlook for 2016 is one of optimism. With the addition of new hires anticipated in the first part of the year the staffing levels will be more in line with the city's goals. Changes in fire department policy will result in better command & control on emergency scenes and more responsibility and authority for our company officers.

Capital Improvements planned for 2016 are also much needed and are being addressed by the fire department and city administration. New Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) are planned for, which will allow the useful data such as preplans and hydrant locations to be accessed by the firefighters in the field. Replacing all exterior lighting at the fire stations with economical LED lighting will improve our stations security and aesthetics while at the same time reducing utility and maintenance costs. One rescue boat is scheduled for replacement as well, which will improve our water-rescue capabilities. Finally, the replacement of the leaking roof and planned station upgrades at fire station 1 are long overdue.

Training will have a renewed focus in 2016. Collaborations with the University of Findlay and Hanco Ambulance will hopefully increase our productive training hours, and a new format for monthly in-house training has the goal of making our own training program more verifiable and legitimate.

The Findlay Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level of service to our community in our response to all types of emergencies. This is accomplished by the dedication and preparedness of professional firefighters through fire suppression, rescue response, emergency medical service, fire prevention, life safety education, and disaster mitigation. Like any business or organization the Findlay Fire Department's greatest asset is its people!

The department would like to thank the Mayor, Safety Service Director, local business, organizations and the citizens of Findlay for their support and commitment to the Findlay Fire Department.



FINDLAY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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