SERVICE THROUGH EXCELLENCE

In 2015 the City of Franklin received the top rating for fire protection services, earning a Class 1 Public Protection Classification from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This makes Franklin one of only 132 cities out of 48,754 rated in the U.S. that have been awarded this classification.

In my time as Franklin Fire Chief since 2004, I’m proud that working with all of our stakeholders, including four water utility districts, we’ve improved our fire protection rating three times. In 2005 we improved from Class 4 to Class 3. In 2009 we improved to Class 2. We’re so proud that as a team we’ve finally achieved a Class 1 rating, which went into effect on December 1, 2015.

Improving fire protection not only makes our community a safer place to live, but from a business standpoint it helps create opportunities and supports growth due to lower property insurance costs.

Also in 2015, our department went through a Foundation Development process. All of the members of our department played a role in establishing and committing to our Vision, Core Values, Mission Statement and Communication Behavior Agreement. You can read more about this on pages 4 and 5.

As you review our report and learn about our accomplishments, we hope you’ll agree that they truly reflect our Vision, “Service Through Excellence,” and our Core Values, “Professionalism, Integrity and Compassion.”

Thank you for your support of the Franklin Fire Department!

Sincerely,

Rocky Garzarek
Fire Chief

A press conference to announce the City of Franklin’s new ISO Class 1 Fire Protection Rating took place at Station 6 on October 13, 2015. The rating took effect December 1, 2015.
INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO) RATING

- Class 1

CITY INFORMATION

- Land area protected—41.67 square miles
- Resident population protected—66,370 (2013—2014 Special Census)
- Estimated value of property protected—$11.59 billion* (taxable property)

FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

- Firefighters—154
- Administrative personnel—13
- Civilian personnel—4
- Firefighters per shift—51 (minimum staffing is 40 per shift)
- Number of paramedics—42

FIRE OPERATIONS

- Total incident responses—6,914
- Medical and rescue responses—4,670 (68%)
- Average response time—5:37 minutes

BUDGET

- $15,103,045* (includes capital)

*Based on 2015—2016 fiscal year
FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT

In November we completed a Foundation Development process, which was the result of several months of work. It included establishing our department’s Vision, Core Values, Mission and Communication Behavior agreement (see the next page for details.)

In ceremonies for each shift, our members committed to abide by these principles, by signing several poster-size documents that contained them. The documents were then framed and displayed prominently at every station, the Training Center and Fire Administration.

At the ceremonies, personnel were presented with a card containing the foundational principles to carry with them. They were also given a challenge coin. The front of the coin features the department’s patch and Vision statement. The back features the department’s Core Values, as well as an engraved image of a historic Franklin Fire Department photo.
The mission of the City of Franklin Fire Department is to provide the highest level of service and protection through:

- **Prevention**—our proactive approach to eliminate the loss of life and property through code enforcement, public education and plan review.
- **Training**—our commitment to continuous improvement through organization, team and individual development.
- **Response**—our efficient, coordinated and timely mitigation of all emergency and non-emergency calls for service.
- **Communication**—our vital tool that enhances, builds and strengthens our internal and external relationships.
- **Preparedness**—our community-wide emergency management process that includes preparation for major events and incidents.
Facilities & Apparatus

APPARATUS & OTHER RESOURCES

Engines—4
Ladders—3
Towers—3
Rescue, light—3
Rescue, medium—1
Air truck—1
Brush truck—1
Boats—7
Reserve ladder—1
Reserve engine—1
Hazmat response vehicle—1
Polaris utility task vehicle—1

FACILITIES

Seven fire stations, including temporary Station 7 at Williamson County Ag Expo Park
Training Center with classroom building, and two burn buildings, including a 5-story burn tower
Administrative offices in Franklin City Hall
Command Staff

Rocky Garzarek
Fire Chief

Todd Horton
Deputy Chief
Administration and Emergency Management

Glenn Johnson
Deputy Chief
Operations

Andy King
Deputy Chief
Fire Prevention and Strategic Initiatives

Joe Polenzani
Battalion Chief
A Shift

Eddie House
Battalion Chief
B Shift

Greg Baltimore
Battalion Chief
C Shift

Jimmy Jennings
Battalion Chief
Training
January 8, 2015—9th Avenue house fire, $40,000 loss.

January 14, 2015—Avalon house fire, $55,000 loss.

February 16, 2015—Interstate fatalities. Kristi Clark, 34, and her 10-year-old son, Carter Oakley, were on I-65 South just past Murfreesboro Road, when they came upon an overturned SUV with injured occupants inside. Clark stopped and got out of her vehicle to provide help, and Oakley followed. Tragically, they both lost their lives when two oncoming semis slid out of control and struck them.

Feb. 19, 2015—Franklin Estates mobile home fire, $50,000 loss.

April 12, 2015—Franklin Park Apartments fire, $20 million loss.

April 14, 2015—Bomb threat at Centennial High School. Three Williamson County high schools and one middle school received threats this week.

May 7, 2015—Vehicle crash into West Main Street business.
NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS, continued

May 28, 2015—Franklin teen killed by train strike near the Liberty Pike crossing.

June 26, 2015—Lightning strikes caused two house fires – one at 7:08 p.m. on Strathmore Dr. ($11,000 loss) and another at 7:23 p.m. one mile away on Gallagher Dr. ($23,000 loss).

July 8, 2015—Dog rescue, Harpeth River/Pinkerton Park. “Scratch,” a 13-year old Border Collie, was on a walk at Pinkerton Park with his owner, when he slid down a muddy, 15-foot embankment into the river. The area of the river where he fell in had steep embankments on both sides and he was unable to make it out on his own. The Swift Water Rescue Team used a boat to rescue Scratch.

September 21, 2015 – Sussex Downs Apartments fire, $400,000 loss. Five families were displaced after fire heavily damaged their apartment building on Magnolia Drive. None of the occupants of the 20-unit, two-story building were injured. The building did not have fire sprinklers.

October 4—12, 2015—South Carolina flooding deployment. Two teams of Franklin Firefighters traveled to South Carolina along with personnel from Brentwood Fire & Rescue and the Williamson County Sheriff’s Department to assist with search and rescue efforts there due to catastrophic flooding. Team 1 included Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson, Captain Greg Wild and Engineer Kirk McGee, who were deployed from October 4—10, 2015. Team 2 included Engineer Paul Seltz, Firefighter-Paramedic Daniel Donegan and Firefighter Rob Thomas. They were deployed from October 9—12, 2015.

November 22, 2015 – Pebblecreek Road house fire, $250,000 total loss.
EMS HIGHLIGHTS

Critical Incident Stress Management—In January EMS Officer Sarah Glenn prepared and presented an in-service Critical Incident Stress Management class. The training included two videos that Sarah produced, featuring members of our department who were involved in the Westhaven house fire on October 3, 2010. They shared their experiences of that incident where four firefighters were injured, including Firefighter Wylie Jones, who had to be rescued. Another video featured Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital RN and Paramedic Eric Clauss, who shared his experience overcoming Post Traumatic Stress Disorder associated with working in the EMS field.

Electronic Patient Care Medical Reporting—The department transitioned to Electronic Patient Care Medical Reporting in April.

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

New Training Captain—Captain Michael Pardue became the Training Captain in March. He previously was a Captain at Station 4-A Shift.

Two recruit classes—In 2015 the Training Division trained two recruit classes, with a total of 16 recruit firefighters from Franklin and one from Brentwood Fire & Rescue. The first class was 10 weeks; the second was expanded to 12.


L-R: Paramedic Stephen Astalos, Jayce Pickle, Paramedics Daniel Smotherman, and Tyler Chatham, Justin Powers, Paramedic John Carolan, and Dustin Sinclair. An eighth firefighter, James Ruffin, was hired in August. James had previously completed the Franklin Fire Department’s recruit training program while a member of the Dickson Fire Department in 2008.
PERSONNEL NEWS

New Administrative Captain—Captain Clay Mackey became the Administrative Captain in August. He previously was a Captain at Station 2-C Shift.

New Administrative Assistant—Marlena DeSantis joined the department in June. With more than 20 years of human resources management experience, she was an immediate asset to Deputy Chief Todd Horton and his team.

STATIONS 7 AND 8

Station 7—In March, temporary Station 7 moved from the green room inside the Williamson County Ag Expo Park event center to a new mobile home on the grounds of that property. A metal pole barn was erected beside it for the fire truck. The temporary station is staffed with four firefighters, 24-hours per day. Construction of a permanent station is expected to begin in fiscal year 2017. Station 7 was established on August 15, 2014 immediately following the fatal I-65 tanker accident that led to the destruction of the Goosecreek Bypass – Peytonsville Rd. bridge. The loss of the bridge left responders without a way to easily access southeastern Franklin.

Station 8—Construction continued on Station 8 in the Westhaven subdivision. It is expected to be completed in early 2016.

TORNOADO SIRENS

Three new tornado sirens were installed in 2015, at a total cost of $77,802. This brings the total number of tornado sirens in our system to 22.
LADDER 5 AND LADDER 8

Ladder 5 and Ladder 8 arrived in 2015! Here are some of the features of our new trucks:

- 2015 Sutphen SA75 Quint Aerial ladder
- Cost $790,576.55 per truck
- Camera mounted at the top of the 75’ ladder.
- Digital, wireless intercom system which allows firefighters on the ground to talk to a firefighter at the top of the ladder. Features hands-free operation for the firefighter on the ladder.
- SmartDock SCBA air pack holder built into the seats. The inertia-controlled brackets securely retain the SCBA while in motion and allow the SCBA to be removed when stationary.
- Medical glove holders built into door pockets.
- Rear cab mounted transverse compartment – allows firefighters to easily access a shelf containing tools (spine boards, stokes baskets, pike poles, hooligan tools and more) they use on a daily basis from both sides of the truck.
- Rear and side back-up cameras.
- High-intensity LED emergency and scene lighting.
- Increased storage, including a larger inside storage cabinet for Advanced Life Support medical equipment and medications.
- Built-in firefighting foam system for fighting most fires.
- Carries 500 gallons of water.
- Firefighting pump can flow 2,000 gallons of water per minute.
- Traditional bell mounted on the front bumper.

ABOUT OLD LADDER 5:

- New Ladder 5 replaced a 1998 Sutphen SA75. The old Ladder 5 became Reserve Ladder 11.
SPRINKLER SAVES

March 3, 2015—Lasko, 300 Confederate Drive – A single fire sprinkler head extinguished a factory fire, protecting the 300,000 square foot facility and more than 150 workers. The fire appeared to have started after a high-pressure paint line ruptured near an ignition source. It activated a single fire sprinkler head, which triggered the fire alarm system, prompting evacuation of the plant and shutting down production. Work resumed in less than two hours. Damage was estimated at $5,000.

June 15, 2015 – Chopstix, 1441 New Highway 96 West – Automatic fire sprinklers protected a $3 million commercial strip mall and 11 businesses, limiting damage to around $50,000. Employees discovered the fire in an indoor commercial smokehouse, and tried to fight it unsuccessfully with a fire extinguisher. The fire continued to grow, activating four fire sprinkler heads.

PERSONNEL NEWS

Assistant Fire Marshal Geoff Woolard completed the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program in 2015. During the four-year program based in the Emmitsburg, Maryland, participants obtain the equivalent of a Master’s Degree. Students must travel to Emmitsburg annually. They also must also complete an Applied Research Project that relates to their organization. Every year, more than 500 senior fire officers apply, only 200 are accepted, and 50 percent of those drop out and never complete the program. Geoff is the first member of the Franklin Fire Department to graduate from this program.

Fire and Life Safety Educator Jamie Melton was presented with the 2015 Fire Educator of the Year Award by the Tennessee State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Firefighter-Paramedic David Hickel moved from Operations to the fire prevention team as a Research and Development Technician. David is assisting with policy writing and strategic planning.
Lilian Grace Keen, a 15-year old Centennial High School student, was the Grand Prize winner of the Franklin Fire Department’s Youth Video Challenge contest. The contest, which began in February, invited entrants to create videos illustrating the theme, “Where there is love, there are smoke alarms.” It was open to young people ages 11 – 18 who live in Williamson County.

Lilian’s award was a GoPro camera prize package valued at $500. It included a GoPro Hero4 silver camera and accessories. Her winning video was titled, “Second Chance,” and starred her twin sister, Sophie Keen. It showed what could have happened if the leading lady had not let a friend install a smoke alarm for her. Others winners include the following:

Best Age Bracket Video, Ages 15 – 18: Juan Lopez, a 17-year old Independence High School student. Lopez’s prize was a $200 GoPro camera.

Best Age Bracket Video, Ages 11 – 14: Emily Arnholt, a 14-year old Brentwood Middle School student. Arnholt’s prize was also a $200 GoPro camera.

People’s Choice Award: Elijah Haney, a 14-year old Fairview Middle School student. Haney’s video received the most “likes” – more than 500 – on the City of Franklin’s Facebook page. His award was a $130 GoPro camera.

Pictured top photo: Chief Rocky Garzarek with Grand Prize Winner Lilian Keen.
Pictured bottom photo: Fire Marshal Andy King with People’s Choice Award Winner Elijah Haney a.k.a. “Wonder Boy.”
Public Education

- Child Passenger Safety
- Women's Safety Bootcamp
- 8th Grade Career Fair
- Citizens' Fire Academy
- Spanish Language Outreach
- Media Appearance—94.1 FM
- Spanish Language Outreach
- Fire Citizens' Academy
- Child Passenger Safety
PHOENIX AWARDS

Firefighters who helped to save the life of a patient who was in cardiac arrest are presented with a Phoenix Award. There were five such instances in 2015:

**Phoenix Award: January 23, 2015** – Engineer Doug Bowman, Firefighter-Paramedic Scottie Chambers, Firefighter-Paramedic David Darnell and Firefighter Tony Moore.

**Phoenix Award: February 6, 2015** – Captain David Currie, Lieutenant Jeff Moss, Engineer David Edge, Engineer Jon Krawcyk, Engineer Dennis Nealy and Firefighter-Paramedic Seth Frost.


**Phoenix Award: April 28, 2015** – Battalion Chief Joe Polenzani, Captain David Currie, Lieutenant Jeff Moss, Engineer David Edge, Engineer Jon Krawcyk and Engineer Dennis Nealy.


FIRE CHIEF’S AWARDS

**Fire Chief’s Award: Swift Water Rescue Team South Carolina Deployment**

Six members of the Franklin Fire Department’s swift water rescue team were deployed to South Carolina after a record-setting rainfall in early October 2015 resulted in catastrophic and deadly flooding across much of the southeastern part of the state. Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson, Captain Greg Wild, Lieutenant Kirk McGee, Engineer Paul Seltz, Firefighter-Paramedic Daniel Donegan and Firefighter Rob Thomas were commended for their actions and honored for assisting with rescue operations, evacuations and protection of the public.
FIRE CHIEF’S AWARDS, continued

Fire Chief’s Award: Citizens’ Fire Academy
In celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Franklin Fire Department’s annual Citizens’ Fire Academy, Captain Ben Marler was honored for founding and coordinating this program from 2007 to 2012. Lieutenant Jonathan Gill and Engineer Richard Hasley were recognized for coordinating the Citizens’ Fire Academy for the past three years. The Citizens’ Fire Academy provides citizens with insight into how firefighters perform their duties and how the fire department serves the community. Since the inaugural class, more than 100 participants have graduated from the program.

EXCELLENCE AWARD

Deputy Chief Andy King, Lieutenant William J. Almon, Lieutenant Geoff Woolard and Engineer David Edge were recognized for their role in helping to conduct a successful fire investigation that led to a conviction of aggravated arson. In September of 2014, Luther Cleveland Still, Jr. was sentenced to 15 years in prison for intentionally setting a house on fire while he and three others were inside. Still started the fire the night of April 24, 2013 during a domestic dispute at a residence in the Rogersshire subdivision.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Several firefighters were honored for their contributions to Williamson County Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA). They were part of a team that designed and built a 60-square foot playhouse to benefit CASA. The state-of-the-art playhouse was raffled off and raised $40,000 for the charity. The following firefighters received the Community Service Award for their efforts: Lieutenant-Paramedic Michael Henderson, Engineer-Paramedic Kris Bull, Engineer Jeff Boggs, Retired Engineer Mike Burns, Engineer Wylie Jones, Firefighter-Paramedic Wes Bryant, Firefighter-Paramedic Brandy Demastus, Firefighter-Paramedic Chris Shadowens, Firefighter-Paramedic Aaron Sherwood, Firefighter Johnny Balitsky, Firefighter Brian Slanaker and Firefighter Greg Tucker.

2015 PERSONNEL OF THE YEAR

Officer of the Year – Captain Greg Wild
Administrative Staff Member of the Year – Fire Inspector Wayne Mobley
Engineer of the Year – Engineer Billy Lampley
Firefighter of the Year – Firefighter Jeremiah Rogers
Rookie of the Year – Firefighter Kyle McMahon
Support Employee of the Year – Administrative Assistant Joanne Finn
RETIREMENTS

- Captain Anthony Pasley
- Lieutenant Bill Fitzgerald
- Lieutenant Wes Oakley
- Engineer Mike Burns

PROMOTIONS

- Lieutenant Kyle Bess
- Lieutenant Shawn Donovan
- Lieutenant Jonathan Gill
- Lieutenant Michael Henderson
- Lieutenant Andrew Ivey
- Lieutenant Jeremy Martin
- Lieutenant Kirk McGee
- Lieutenant David Metcalf
- Engineer Doug Bowman
- Engineer Kris Bull
- Engineer Steve Denny
- Engineer Jason Morgan
- Engineer Jeremiah Rogers
- Engineer Richey Schatz
- Engineer Josh Thomas

RESIGNATIONS

- Captain Al Black
- Firefighter-Paramedic Andy Hackford
- Firefighter-Paramedic Pete Jones
- Firefighter-Paramedic Joe Posey
- Firefighter Rondell Clark
- Firefighter Adam Vernon