The Franklin Fire Department’s call volume continued its upward trend in 2017. We responded to 8,411 calls for assistance throughout the year, a fourteen percent increase over 2016. Of those calls, 65 percent were emergency medical or rescue-related.

Preparing for and responding to large-scale disasters, both man-made and natural, continued to be a focus in 2017. In late summer, we deployed nine firefighters to Texas following Hurricane Harvey and, three days later, deployed five firefighters to Florida following Hurricane Irma.

We prepared for an active shooter event with Tactical Emergency Casualty Care training (tourniquets) and the distribution of ballistic vests and helmets to all eight fire stations.

Most importantly, we created our department’s first strategic plan in 2017. As an ambitious five-year plan, it sets the goals and strategies for our department's focus and improvement. Proudly, it was developed after an extensive self-assessment conducted by nineteen intra-departmental committees. It serves as a valuable template and reference tool for improvement and helping us manage growth and change. It embraces our vision of “Service Through Excellence” and corresponds with our core values of “Professionalism, Integrity, and Compassion.”

We hope as you read through our 2017 Annual Report to learn more, you will agree it showcases our dedication and commitment to our citizens and visitors.

Yours in service,

Rocky Garzarek
Fire Chief

FFD VISION
“Service Through Excellence”

FFD VALUES
Professionalism
Integrity
Compassion
2017 QUICK FACTS

INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO) RATING
• Class 1

CITY INFORMATION
• Land area protected—42.15 square miles
• Resident population protected—70,908*
• Estimated value of property protected—$15.69 billion** (taxable property)
• Firefighters—154
• Administrative personnel—13
• Civilian personnel—5
• Firefighters per shift – 51 (40 minimum on-duty personnel)
• Number of Paramedics (Advanced Life Support personnel) – 50

FIRE OPERATIONS
• Total incident responses – 8,411
• Medical and rescue responses – 5,534 (65 percent)
• Average response time – 4:57 minutes (alarm to arrival)
• 133 fires, 55 structure fires

FIRE PREVENTION
• 624 planning projects reviewed
• 284 fire sprinkler plans reviewed
• 1,253 Inspections of new construction projects
• 537 Inspections of existing buildings
• Educated 1,084 1st grade students
• Educated 980 5th grade students
• Conducted 23 fire drills with 14,026 participants
• Taught 85 people CPR
• Installed 363 child passenger safety seats
• Conducted 119 apparatus demonstrations and station tours, reaching more than 10,000 citizens

BUDGET
• 2017-2018 Fiscal year budget, including capital—$17,780,506

*2016-2017 Special Census
** 2017 Tax Aggregate Report of Tennessee, page 12, Franklin (Outside and Inside SSD)

The City of Franklin has the top rating for fire protection services, with a Class 1 Public Protection Classification from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This makes Franklin one of less than 350 municipalities out of more than 48,000 rated in the U.S. that have been awarded this classification.
FACILITIES & APPARATUS

- Fire stations—8 (including temporary Station 7 at the Williamson County Ag Expo Park).
- Training Center with classroom building and two burn buildings, including a 5-story training tower.
- Administrative offices in Franklin City Hall.
- Number of Advanced Life Support (Paramedic-staffed) Apparatus—11 (minimum daily number)
- Engines—4
- Ladders—3
- Towers—3
- Fast Response Rescues—2
- Medium Rescue—1
- Air Truck—1
- Brush Truck—1
- Boats—7
- Reserve Ladder—1
- Reserve Engine—1
- Hazmat Response Vehicle—1
- Polaris Utility Vehicle—1

Increase in calls from 2008 to 2017: 53 percent
Average increase in calls each year from 2008-2017: 4 percent
COMMAND STAFF

Rocky Garzarek
Fire Chief

Todd Horton
Deputy Chief
Administration & Emergency Management

Glenn Johnson
Deputy Chief
Operations

Andy King
Deputy Chief
Fire Prevention & 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
March 20, 2017 Mapco – This building fire started on the exterior of the Mapco convenience store on Murfreesboro Road at North Royal Oaks Boulevard, closing it for months.

April 17, 2017 I-65 vehicle extrication – Captain David Kolak, Lieutenant Matthew Stout, Engineer Jeff Boggs, Firefighter-Paramedics Kevin Hunt and Michael Radom, and Firefighter Austin Cooper received a Meritorious Service Award for their response to this incident. They successfully extricated a patient from a vehicle after it had veered off I-65, down a steep embankment and overturned in a creek, during heavy rain and rising water.

April 21, 2017 House fire in Berry Farms—This new home on General Martin Lane had only been occupied for nine months at the time of the fire, which started in the attic. The cause was undetermined.

April 23, 2017 West Main Street vehicle arson – This vehicle fire on West Main Street ended with an arson arrest and conviction.

May 5, 2017 Fatal pedestrian motor vehicle crash – A woman was struck and killed by a vehicle after she stopped to help an injured dog in the roadway on Hillsboro Road just before 9 p.m.

June 15, 2017 House fire – A mother, child and two pets escaped a house fire on Windcrest Court in Fieldstone Farms that was caused by a lightning strike. Another home was struck by lightning during this storm but did not catch fire.
June 16, 2017 Meadowview
Apartments building fire — A fire in this 16-unit apartment building on Del Rio Pike started in an unoccupied unit that was undergoing renovation. Firefighters prevented it from spreading to other units, however three families were temporarily displaced due to water damage.

June 21, 2017 Commercial building fire at Alexander Auto—It was caused by a lithium battery jump starter left on a desk in an office.

July 24, 2017 Brevet Drive house fire — This fire caused more than $150,000 in damage to the Cadet subdivision home.

August 30 – September 5, 2017
Hurricane Harvey deployment — Deputy Chiefs Todd Horton and Glenn Johnson, Captain Greg Wild, Lieutenants Kirk McGee and Matt Stout, Firefighter-Paramedics Dustin Anderson and Joe Burwell, and Firefighter Rob Thomas received the Fire Chief’s Award for their deployment to Texas to assist with post-hurricane relief efforts.

September 5, 2017 Ladder 3 struck on I-65 — Ladder 3 was dispatched to a crash on I-65 South between Cool Springs Boulevard and McEwen Drive. While blocking traffic for EMS to check the occupants of the involved semi-truck, a vehicle struck the rear of Ladder 3. Fortunately, no firefighters were injured. Ladder 3 sustained more than $30,000 in damage and was out of service for three months. The driver of the vehicle that struck the truck was injured and transported to the hospital. Firefighters train to use their apparatus to protect patients and themselves while working on the interstate.
**September 8 – 15, 2017** Hurricane Irma deployment – Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson, Captain Michael Pardue, Lieutenant Jonathan Gill, and Firefighters Rob Thomas and Terry Storey received the Fire Chief’s Award for their deployment to Florida to assist with post – hurricane relief efforts.

**9-11-2017** Battle Avenue garage fire—This accidental fire started in the garage and extended into the home on the day the sale of the house was scheduled to close.

**October 16, 2017** Commercial building fire at the Villages at Carter’s Court – this fire started on the exterior of the building and quickly raced up to the roof. Firefighters controlled the fire in 10 minutes.

**October 17, 2017** Wrennewood Lane house fire – Firefighters responded to a residential fire alarm activation at this address. Upon arrival they observed heavy smoke and made entry. They found an elderly man in a wheelchair inside, who they removed to safety. The cause of the smoke was a cooking fire, which was confined to the container.

**October 23, 2017** Triple fatality I-65 vehicle crash – A fiery, single vehicle crash sadly claimed the lives of a woman and her two young children. The incident took place on I-65 North near 840. Engine 7 was first on the scene and the fire was already so intense they were unable to save them.

**December 13, 2017** Vehicle crash into commercial building – A vehicle crashed into Gina’s Stonefired Italian Pizzeria on Columbia Avenue. No one was injured.
PHOENIX AWARDS

A Phoenix Award is presented to firefighters who save the life of a person who is in cardiac arrest. These firefighters received 2017 Phoenix Awards:

March 8, 2017 – Lieutenant Sean Smith, Engineer-Paramedic David Dodd, Engineer Billy Lampley, Firefighter-Paramedic Seth Frost, and Firefighters Gregory Lestarjette and Jerry Thomas.


April 12, 2017 – Lieutenant Steve Raymer, Firefighter-Paramedic Tyler Chatham, and Firefighter Jason Morgan.


September 6, 2017 – Captain Jonathan Jenkins, Engineer-Paramedic Dustin Anderson, Engineer William Edward Proctor, Firefighter-Paramedics Blake Lobel and Adam Miller, and Firefighter Jayce Pickle.

NOTEWORTHY CALL

On June 18, 2017, Station 8 Lieutenant Charlene Forehand and Firefighter-Paramedics James Gambill and Shane Wyatt successfully treated a patient who had a severe traumatic head injury in a golf cart accident in Westhaven. The patient’s injury was so severe that Reader’s Digest recently featured her in an article titled, “The Most Miraculous Medical Recoveries of 2017.”

RECOGNITION

Lieutenant-Paramedic Brian Brandon and Firefighter-Paramedics Alan Fulwood, Kevin Hunt, and Jason Webb received the Education Service Award from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians at the EMS World Expo on October 18th, 2017. They were honored for the Tactical Emergency Casualty Care training they implemented in 2016 to prepare responders for civilian tactical emergencies such as active shooter events. The award was presented two weeks following the tragic Route 91 Harvest music festival shooting in Las Vegas.
SWAT TRAINING
On May 24th, the Franklin Fire Department coordinated and taught a nine hour forcible entry in-service class for eleven members of the Franklin Police SWAT team.

FIREHOUSE EXPO
Several Franklin Firefighters helped with hands-on and live burn training activities that took place in Murfreesboro as part of the Firehouse Expo national conference in October. Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson and Assistant Fire Marshal Geoff Woolard served on the Incident Management Team for the conference. Deputy Chief Andy King hosted a fire protection systems field trip in the 32-story Bridgestone Americas Tower. Captain Greg Wild and Lt. Kirk McGee both served as instructors for live fire training that was conducted. Working with teams of instructors from across the country, Captain Wild helped present, “First Due Operations: Are you prepared?” and Lt. McGee helped present “Fire Flows and Paths.” Engineers Jeff Boggs and Richard Hasley helped teach extrication. Additionally, Battalion Chief Joe Polenzani, Captain Tyler Crews, Lt. Jonathan Gill, Firefighter-Paramedic Blake Lobel and Firefighter Dustin Sinclair helped conduct 35 live fire evolutions throughout the day at an acquired structure in Murfreesboro.

Firefighter Alex Shriner (center) completed his firefighter recruit training at the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy in 2017. Alex was a Franklin Fire Explorer from the age of 14-18, prior to being hired as a firefighter.
FISCAL MANAGER
Joanne Finn completed her first full year as Fiscal Manager, after being promoted in November of 2016. Joanne has a B.S. in Accounting from Stonehill College, and an extensive accounting background. She previously served as the Administrative Assistant for the Fire Prevention Division.

BALLISTIC VESTS AND HELMETS
In June we distributed ballistic vests and helmets to all eight fire stations. The distribution was accompanied by additional training and checkoffs at the stations.

STATION 8 AWARDS
Station 8 in Westhaven received a 2017 Station Design Award for stations under 15,000 square feet from Firehouse Magazine. Forty-three stations were submitted by 28 architecture firms with experience in designing public safety facilities. Station 8 received one of six honorable mentions.

Additionally, Station 8 received LEED Silver certification for new construction. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), which was established by the non-profit U.S. Green Building Council, is one of the most popular sustainable/“green building programs used worldwide. The LEED program includes a set of rating systems for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of green buildings, homes, and neighborhoods that aims to help building owners and operators be environmentally responsible and use resources efficiently. The City’s score for Fire Station 8 was six points shy of a Gold certification.
FIRE PREVENTION TEAM AWARDS

Deputy Chief Andy King was recognized for receiving the 2017 H.D. Crossnine Award from the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs. The award was presented in recognition of Deputy Chief King’s significant contributions to the development and promotion of fire and life safety codes at the national, state, and local levels.

Lieutenant Geoff Woolard was recognized for being named an Honorary Lifetime Member of the International Association of Arson Investigators Tennessee Chapter, in recognition of his significant commitment and contributions to the organization.

Franklin Fire Lieutenant Bill Almon received the Fire Investigator of the Year award from the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Arson (TACA).

The Franklin Fire Department’s Child Passenger Safety Program was honored as the 2017 Fitting Station of the Year by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office. We started our Child Passenger Safety Program in 2011 with 10 technicians and the installation of 119 seats. In 2017 our 21 technicians installed 363 seats.

There were 2,477 total vehicle crashes in the City of Franklin (with or without injury, according to Franklin Police) this year. The FFD responded to 543 of those crashes. With these numbers, it’s easy to see the importance of ensuring children are properly restrained in their safety seats.
NEW ADDITION
Beth Reeser joined the Fire Prevention team in April as Administrative Assistant, and has proven to be an invaluable asset to our team. She relocated here from Iowa, where she worked for the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences at Drake University in Des Moines. She served as the College’s Liaison to the Office of Student Records, Event Planner, and Academic Support Specialist. She was also the College’s Compliance Coordinator, overseeing criminal background checks, drug screenings, and board certification compliance.

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT
August 14, 2017 KFC – The hood exhaust fire suppression system at KFC Murfreesboro Road activated and extinguished a grease fire.

FRANKLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT SONG CONTEST
The Franklin Fire Department’s Song Contest winners performed their winning songs from the stage of Pucketts Franklin, which sponsored the contest. The show was also broadcast on Facebook Live. The contest, which began in October 2016, invited entrants to write and record songs that supported the department’s Fire Prevention Month message, “Don’t wait, check the date! Replace your smoke alarms every 10 years.”
**Promotions**

- Lieutenant-Paramedic Richey Schatz
- Engineer-Paramedic Dustin Anderson
- Engineer-Paramedic Brian Brandon
- Engineer Chris McElvain

**Retirements**

- Lieutenant Jerrol Coats—30 years
- Lieutenant Ricky Cotton—30 years
- Engineer Jefferey Standifer—20 years

**Departures**

- Engineer Jason Morgan
- Firefighter-Paramedic David Hickel
- Firefighter-Paramedic Daniel Kelly
- Firefighter-Paramedic Joshua Sanders

*Chris McElvain (right) receives his new Engineer badge from Chief Rocky Garzarek*

*Lt. Jerrol Coats 30 years of service*

*Lt. Ricky Cotton 30 years of service*

*Eng. Jefferey Standifer 20 years of service*