Alexandria Fire Department
2017 Annual Report

Dedicated to Our Community, Our Profession, and Each Other

Table of Contents

Mission and Core Values.....3
Letter from the Fire Chief.....4
Organizational Chart..... 5
Administration Section.....6
Fiscal Office
Fire Department Personnel Costs
Non-Personnel Spending
Looking Ahead: 2019 Budget Expectations
Human Resources
Department Positions
Logistics
Fire Department Facilities
Operations..... 11
East Battalion
West Battalion
2017 Total Responses by Unit
2017 EMS Call Volume by Location
2017 EMS Hospital Transports
2017 EMS Call Types by Provider Impression
Training Division..... 18
2017 Operations Staff Training Hours
2017 Specialty Team Training
Health, Safety & Risk Management..... 20
Changes & Improvements to Procedures
Departmental Accomplishments
Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security..... 23
EOC Activations
Emergency Declarations
Exercises
After Action Reports (AAR)
Participated in Exercises
Exercise Evaluator Support
Training/Public Outreach
Planning
Other Division Accomplishments
Fire Investigations Division.....26
2017 Plan Review & Inspection Activity
Building Fire Loss and Saved
Significant Building Fire Loss
Community Outreach Unit.....27

Mission, Vision Statement, and Core Values

Our Mission

The mission of the Alexandria Fire Department is to plan for and deliver responsive and caring emergency service, mitigate emergencies and disasters, prevent the loss of life, protect property, and enforce applicable construction, fire, and building maintenance codes for the City residents and the general public in order to maintain and enhance public safety.

Vision Statement

Dedicated to our Community, our Profession and Each Other

Core Values

Unity – Community – Dedication – Professionalism – Preparedness

City of Alexandria

Fire Department

Dedication to Our Community, Our Profession, and Each Other

Robert Dubé

Fire Chief

December 31, 2018

Dear Mayor, City Councilmembers, City Manager and Citizens,

On behalf of our dedicated, trained, and professional career and volunteer members of the City of Alexandria Fire Department, it is a pleasure to present our 2017 Annual Report for your review.

It's an honor to serve the citizens of this City as fire chief and lead the amazing members of this organization. Thank you to our men and women in uniform for their hard work and dedication and our administrative and support staff who work diligently behind the scenes. Every one of you contributed to 2017 being a successful year for the Alexandria Fire Department. I'm always amazed and impressed with the work of the members of this great department who serve the City with such dedication, professionalism, selflessness, and compassion.

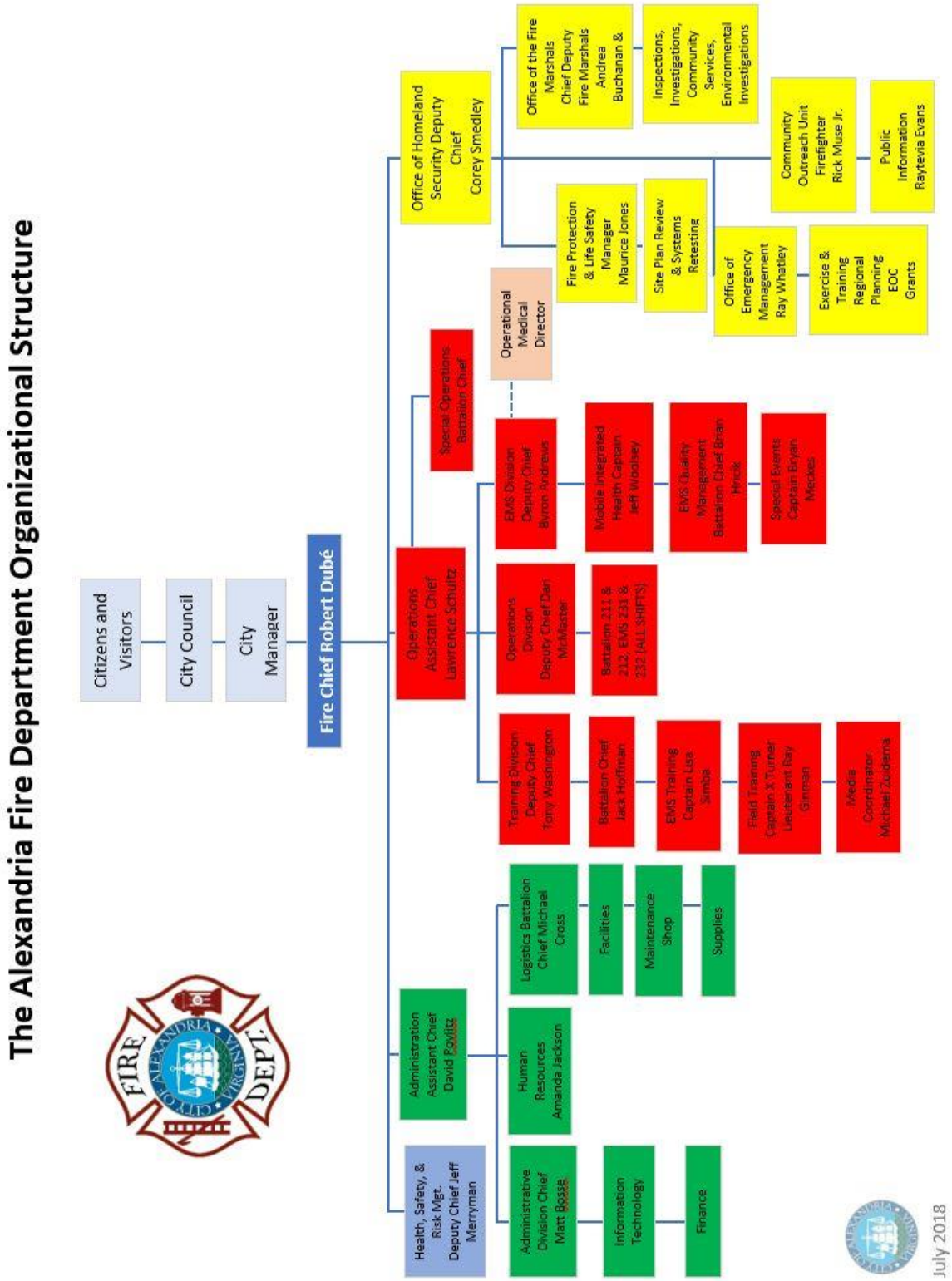
Some of our greatest accomplishments in 2017 included implementing the Mobile Integrated Health/Community Paramedic (MIH/CP) program (pg. 14); our quarter award winners who are recognized for their emergency response while facing difficult challenges or unique situations (pg. 14); the 21 percent decrease in vehicle accidents and employee injury/illness (pg. 22); and starting the Alexandria Smoke Alarm Safety Installation Support Taskforce (ASSIST) program, which installs smoke detectors in homes throughout the City each month (pg. 27).

Like many organizations, the Alexandria Fire Department experienced some turn over from retirements and resignations. However, we were lucky enough to welcome new personnel into our departmental family and promote some incumbent personnel who are all eager to provide the best service to the residents and businesses of the City.

It's really an exciting and progressive time for the Alexandria Fire Department and as we move forward, we will continue to improve and grow to better serve the great citizens of the City of Alexandria.

Best,

Fire Chief Robert Dubé


The Alexandria Fire Department Organizational Structure
Citizens and Visitors
City Council
City Manager
Fire Chief Robert Dubé
Operations Assistant Chief Lawrence Schultz
Special Operations Battalion Chief
Operational Medical Director
Office of Homeland Security Deputy Chief Corey Smedley
Office of the Fire Marshals Chief Deputy Fire Marshals Andrea Buchanan &
Inspections, Investigations, Community Services, Environmental Investigations
Fire Protection & Life Safety Manager Maurice Jones
Site Plan Review & Systems Retesting
Office of Emergency Management Ray Whatley
Exercise & Training Regional Planning EOC Grants
Community Outreach Unit Firefighter Rick Muse Jr.
Public Information Raytevia Evans
EMS Division Deputy Chief Byron Andrews
Mobile Integrated Health Captain Jeff Woolley
EMS Quality Management Battalion Chief Brian Hinck
Special Events Captain Bryan Meckes
Operations Division Deputy Chief Dan McMaster
Battalion 211 & 212, EMS 231 & 232 (ALL SHIFTS)
Training Division Deputy Chief Tony Washington
Battalion Chief Jack Hoffman
EMS Training Captain Lisa Simba
Field Training Captain X Turner Lieutenant Ray Ginman
Media Coordinator Michael Zuderna
Administration Assistant Chief David Poylitz
Logistics Battalion Chief Michael Cross
Facilities
Maintenance Shop
Supplies
Human Resources Amanda Jackson
Health, Safety, & Risk Mgt. Deputy Chief Jeff Merryman
Administrative Division Chief Matt Bosse
Information Technology
Finance
FIRE DEPT
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA
July 2018

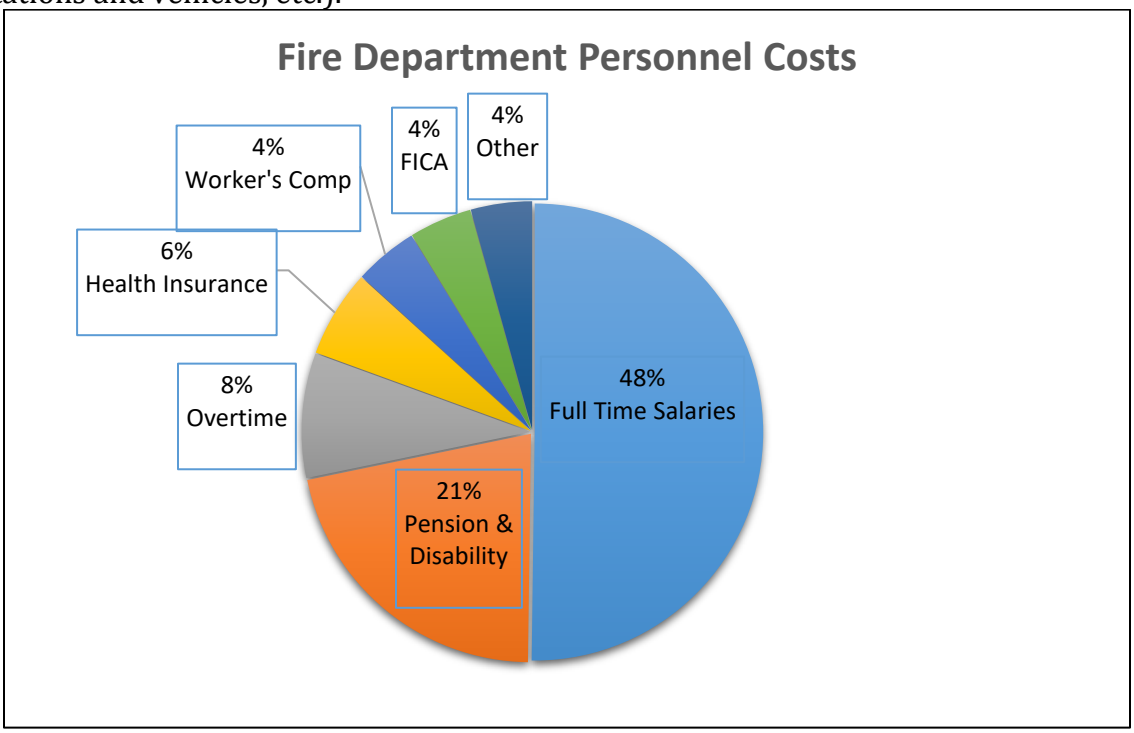
Administration Section

The **Administration** Section provides management, logistical, technical, and professional support to the fire department. The Administrative Section oversees fiscal management, human resources, information technology support, and fleet and facilities maintenance for sworn and civilian personnel. The Administration Section is commanded by Assistant Chief Dave Povlitz.

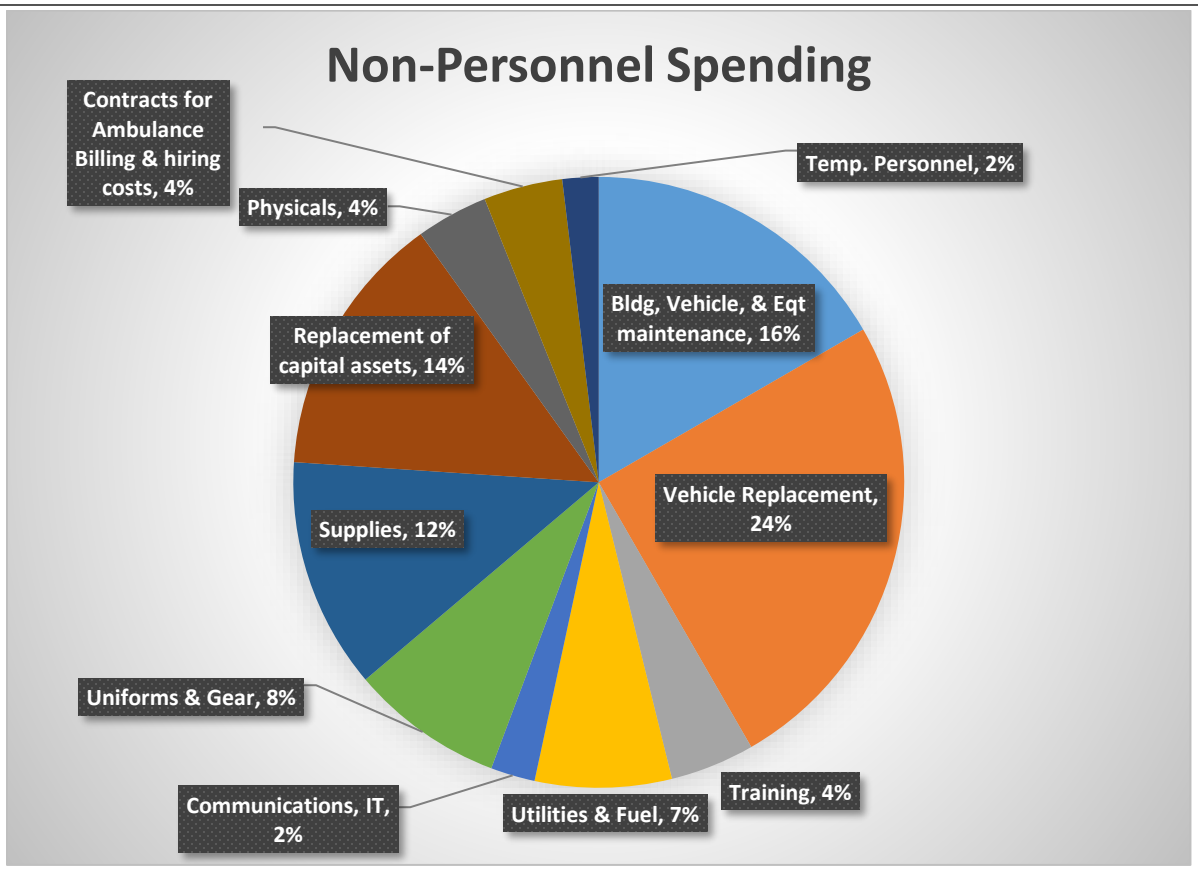
Fiscal Office

The Fire Department's budget is referred to as the City's general fund operating budget. The fiscal year started on July 1, 2017 and ended on June 20, 2018. The general fund is the portion of the budget that is funded by City of Alexandria tax dollars. The operating budget refers to the day-to-day operations of the department consisting of salaries, supplies, equipment and does not include the capital budget which deals with the replacement of fire stations and other fixed facilities. Local City of Alexandria tax dollars provide 97% of the department's overall operating budget.

The Alexandria Fire Department has an overall general fund operating budget of $52.6M. Of this, $46M is related to personnel costs (salaries, benefits, overtime) while $6.5M is non-personnel related (supplies, hose, ladders, personal protective gear, uniforms, maintenance of stations and vehicles, etc.).



*Numbers do not add to 100% due to rounding



*Numbers do not add to 100% due to rounding

Looking Ahead: 2019 Budget Expectations

There are two issues the Fire Department continues to watch from a budget perspective as we move into Fiscal Year 2019:

1. The Alexandria Fire Department and all City departments are expected to operate within authorized fiscal resources. As revenue projects are variable and consistently low, the fire department and all City departments are asked to examine budget requests for potential reduction options.

2. The Fire Department is constantly working to acquire additional grants as outside funding to increase capabilities while supporting the budget. The department applied for several major grants in fiscal year 2018. For example, one grant would provide courses for new paramedics and technical rescue and hazardous materials training. Another grant would partially fund nine new positions that would increase minimum staffing on all three ladder trucks.

The **Fiscal Office** also manages the Fire Department Information Technology unit. Fire I.T. supports radio, telephone, and mobile communications in addition to geographic information services.

Human Resources

The department has an integrated **Human Resources** Office. The office supports recruitment, hiring, promotions, benefit management, employee relations, and personnel development for more than 280 employees. During Fiscal year 2018, the office hired more than 20 new employees and interns.

Position	Count
Fire Chief	1
Assistant Fire Chief	2
Deputy Chief	5
Battalion Chief	9
Captain	30
EMS Operations Manager	1
EMS Captain	7
Lieutenant	21
Firefighter	141
Medic	28
Chief Deputy Fire Marshal	2
Deputy Fire Marshal	5
Fire Protection Engineer	1
Code Inspector III	6
Fiscal Officer III	1
Fiscal Officer I	2
Public Information Officer	1
Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	2
Human Resources Manager	1
Human Resources Recruiter	1
Human Resources Technician	1
Information Technology Specialists	5
Administrative Support V	2
Project Superintendent	1
Supervisor Fire Maintenance	1
Mechanic	3
Supply Clerk	1
	281

Logistics

Logistics provides support through specification, selection, acquisition, maintenance, repair and replacement of the department's vehicle fleet, facilities, equipment, personal protective gear, uniforms, and supplies. The work of Logistics is performed by various units.

- Apparatus Committee: Provides selection of apparatus manufacturers, detailed specifications for apparatus design and build and acceptance inspections in compliance with National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1901 – *Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus* for fire emergency response vehicle and Federal GSA, KKK-A-1822, *Star-of-Life Ambulance* for patient transport vehicles. Three apparatus committees provided recommendations for new fire engines, heavy rescue squad, hazardous materials unit, and command vehicles during Fiscal Year 2018.

- Facilities Unit: Provides maintenance and repairs in compliance with codes, regulations, and NFPA 1500 – *Standard for Fire Department Occupational Safety* for 10 fire stations, 2 training facilities, a burn building, and the administrative offices. The unit also coordinates capital replacements of facility systems and building with the City's Department of General Services (DGS) through the Capital Facilities Maintenance Projects (CFMP) and Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Facility	Street Address	Area (sq. ft.)	Age
Fire Administration	900 Second St.	20,833	21
Fire Maintenance	3552 Wheeler Ave.	3,800	42
Fire Station 201	317 Prince St.	5,690	103
Fire Station 202	213 E Windsor Ave.	7,247	91
Fire Station 203	2801 Cameron Mills Rd.	3,588	70
Fire Station 204	900 Second St.	20,838	56
Fire Station 205	1210 Cameron St.	7,854	69
Fire Station 206	4609 Seminary Rd.	5,248	42
Fire Station 207	3301 Duke St.	8,103	47
Fire Station 208	175 N Paxton St.	1,180	42
Fire Station 209	2800 Main Line Blvd.	21,541	9
Fire Station 210	5255 Eisenhower Ave.	38,917	4
Friendship Fire House	107 S Alfred St.	2,288	162
PDC East	1108 Jefferson St.	69,668	59
PDC West	5255 Eisenhower Ave.	38,917	4

- Fleet Maintenance: Provides inspections, certification, maintenance, and repairs in compliance with manufacturer's recommendations, Virginia Department of Transportation safety requirements, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality emissions standards, and NFPA 1911 – *Standard for Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles* for 53 heavy emergency response vehicles and 57 light duty trucks, sedans, trailers and other specialized vehicles. In addition, the Fleet Maintenance Unit provides annual certifications in compliance with NFPA 1932 – *Standard for Use, Maintenance, and Service Testing of In-Service Fire Department Ground Ladders* for 135 ground ladders that are used for search and rescue.

- Personal Protective Equipment Unit: Provides inspection, cleaning, and repair in compliance with manufacturer's specifications and NFPA 1981 – *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting* for more than 600 sets of firefighting personal protective coats, bunker pants, gloves, hoods, helmets and boots.

- Research and Development Taskforce: Provides research, field studies, and recommendations using numerous NFPA standards and industry practices on the best available firefighting tools, equipment and personal protective ensembles for use in training and during mitigation of emergency incidents.

- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Unit: Provides maintenance and repairs in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and NFPA 1982 – *Standard for Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus* for more than 300 self-contained breathing apparatus packs and regulators, 600 air cylinders, 500 facepieces, 6 supplied air breathing apparatus systems, 2 station based air compressors, and 1 mobile air unit. In addition, the unit performs annual OSHA 1910.134 – *Respiratory Protection* respirator fit testing for the department's 270 emergency responders.

- Supply Unit: Provides maintenance, repairs, and replacement using manufacturer's recommendations and numerous NFPA standards for firefighting appliance, tools, equipment, and hose; provides uniforms and personal protective equipment for 270 emergency responders; provides office and cleaning supplies for more than 15 fixed facilities; and performs annual certification in compliance with NFPA 1962 – *Standard for the Care, Use, Inspection, Service Testing and Replacement of Fire Hose, Couplings, Nozzles, and Fire Hose Appliances* for more than 55,000 feet of firefighting attack and supply hose.

Operations Section

The **Operations** Section, commanded by Assistant Chief Lawrence Schultz, consists of the Operations Division, EMS Division, Training Division, and Special Operations Battalion.

The Operations Division, commanded by Deputy Chief Dan McMaster, provides emergency and non-emergency services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The all-hazards response model includes fire suppression, advanced life support medical treatment, technical rescue, hazardous materials mitigation, and marine rescue.

Emergency services are delivered to the City and surrounding areas from 10 strategically located fire stations, separated geographically in to two battalion, and comprised of 270 uniformed men and women. Service is delivered using (9) Engines, (3) Ladder Trucks, (1) Heavy Rescue Squad, (6) ALS Transport Units, and the fire boat.

Battalion Management Teams (1 Battalion Chief and 1 EMS Supervisor), assigned to each battalion on each of the three shifts, supervise all personnel, stations, and incidents within their geographical area of responsibility.

East Battalion
Station 201 – 317 Prince St.
Station 202 – 213 E. Windsor Ave.
Station 204 – 900 Second St.
Station 205 – 1210 Cameron St.
Station 209 – 2800 Main Line Blvd.

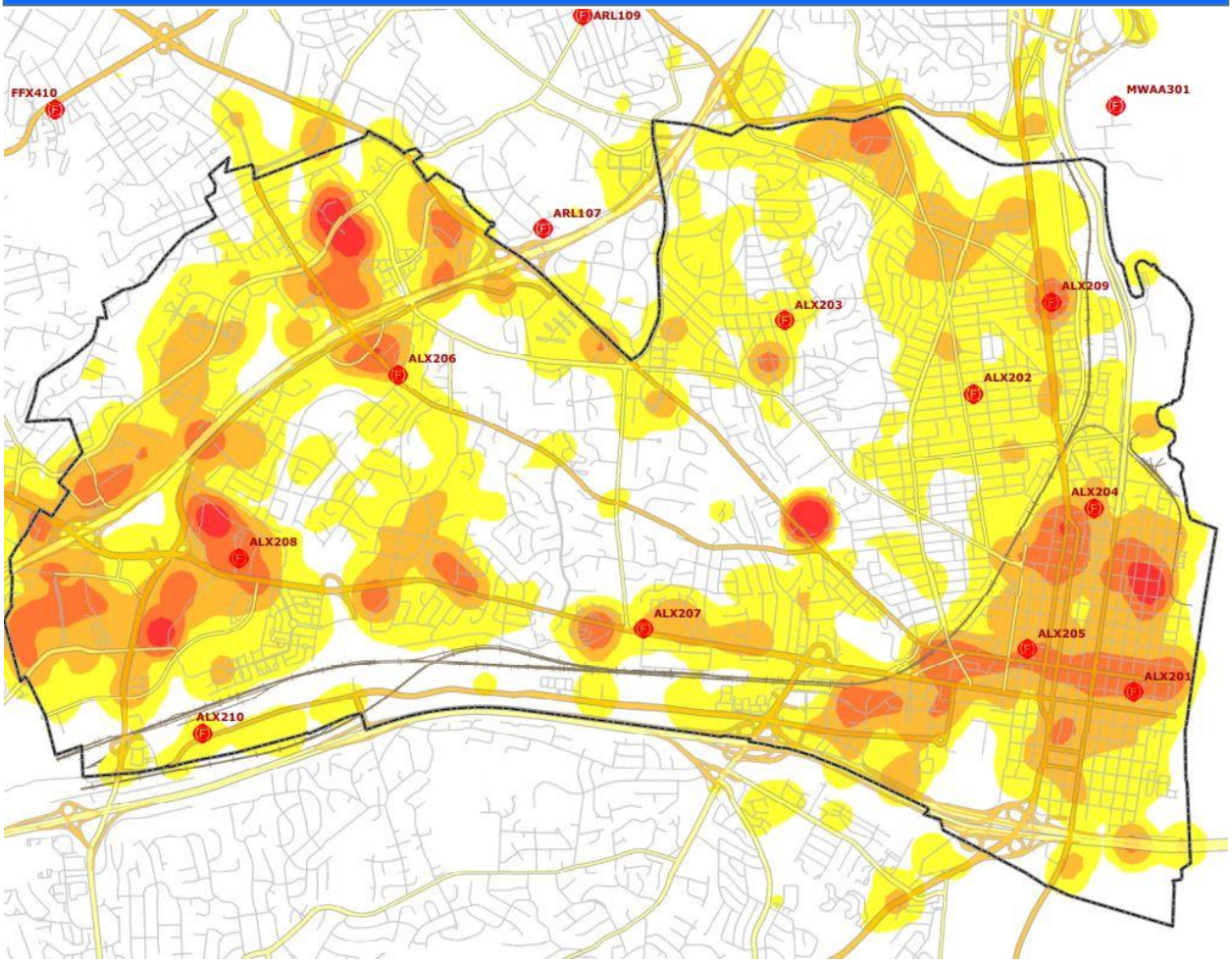
West Battalion
Station 203 – 2801 Cameron Mills Rd.
Station 206 – 4609 Seminary Rd.
Station 207 – 3301 Duke St.
Station 208 – 175 N. Paxton St.
Station 210 – 5255 Eisenhower Ave.

Service is provided using ALS-staffed ambulances strategically placed at six of the 10 stations in the City.

Alexandria Fire Department 2017 Total Response by Unit

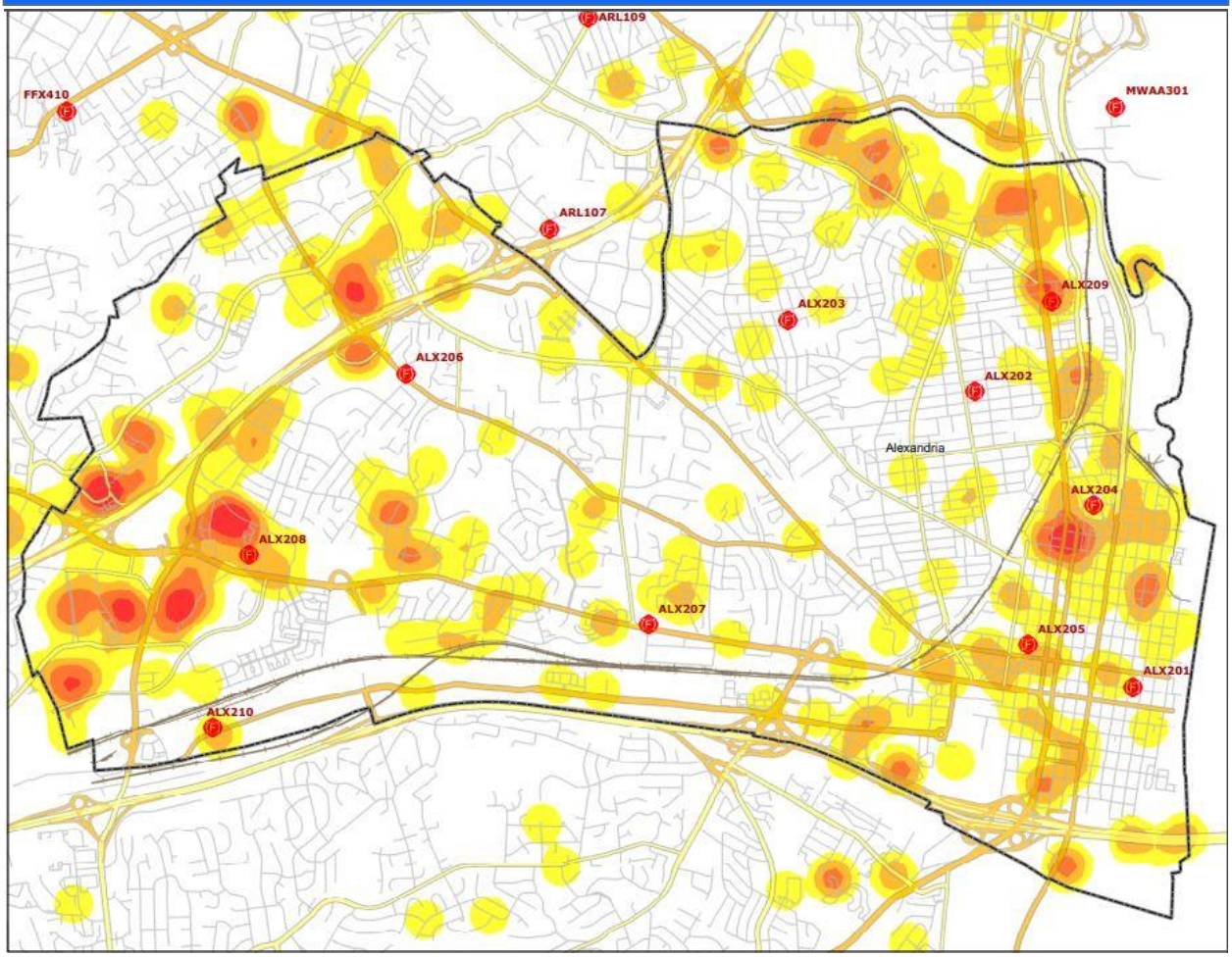
Medic Units			Engines			Truck/Rescue			Command	
M202	1,995	-	**E201**	1,375	-	**T205**	1,740	-	**BC211**	744
M203	1,467	-	**E203**	1,001	-	**T208**	1,635	-	**BC212**	1,059
M205	2,744	-	**E204**	1,332	-	**T209**	1,126	-	**EMS231**	1,633
M206	2,717	-	**E205**	2,399	-	**R206**	892	-	**EMS232**	1,613
M207	2,123	-	**E206**	1,826	-	**-**		-	**BA215**	606
M208	2,496	-	**E207**	1,800	-	**-**		-	**SO201**	518
-	-	-	**E208**	2,743	-	**-**		-	**-**	
-	-	-	**E209**	1,631	-	**-**		-	**-**	
-	-	-	**E210**	970	-	**-**		-	**-**	

Hotspots of 2017 All Calls by Location



Represents data from 19,625 incidents based on all National Fire Incident Reporting System.

Hotspots of 2017 Fire Incidents by Location



Represents data from 387 incidents from the 100 Series of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) codes. Fire data include structure, automobiles, grass/brush and trash.

The **EMS** Division, commanded by Deputy Chief Byron Andrews, in conjunction with the Training Division (pg.19), provides initial medical training and continuing education for all uniformed personnel; ensures the department's compliancy with state and federal regulations and mandates for the provision of Emergency Medical Services; procures and maintains emergency medical care supplies and equipment, medical records management, preparation for response to a multi-patient event; and maintains partnerships with INOVA Alexandria Hospital, the City and regional EMS Council, the Virginia Office of EMS, the Alexandria Health Department, Community Services Board and other local and regional allied health care partners and hospitals.

In coordination with the Operational Medical Director (OMD), Dr. Benjamin Marfori, the EMS Division oversees the Fire Department's commitment to high-quality emergency medical care system through sound medical protocols, participation in EMS training, the

Quality Management process, and the final say on those Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians released to practice in the field.

Beginning in 2017, the fire department introduced our Mobile Integrated Health/Community Paramedic (MIH/CP) program. Community paramedicine is a new and evolving model of community-based health care where paramedics function outside their customary emergency response and transport roles. They facilitate more appropriate use of emergency care resources (medical transport units or the emergency department) and/or enhance access to primary care, other allied health professionals, mental health, social services, or community risk reduction.

During in-home visits, the community paramedic uses his/her expertise and knowledge of health care access, assessment of the home environment, and the patient's medical history to ensure that the patient is compliant with medications or treatment plan as prescribed by a physician. The goal is to improve the patient's outcome and promote living a healthy lifestyle, prevent medical emergencies, and reduce the utilization of critical resources for non-critical circumstances.

The Fire Department is excited about what the future and the impact this program will have on improving our response capacity, but moreover, how it will improve the health and wellness of those we serve by preventing that trip to the emergency room.

The EMS Division, along with the City's EMS Council, recognizes the call of the quarter. These calls represent where providers or the team of responders were faced with difficult challenges, unique situations, demonstrated excellent judgement in managing a critical patient having a significant impact on the patient's care. Calls are nominated to the committee by peers, supervisors, command staff, the community, or the medical staff from the receiving hospital. Our 2017 call of the quarter award winners were:

- Jan. 31 – Cardiac arrest at a metro station with return of spontaneous circulation (M205B, E205B, EMS 232B)
- May 21 – Cardiac arrest under difficult conditions (M205A, E204B, EMS 231A)
- Aug. 6 – Bicycle accident on George Washington Parkway – M202C, SO 201C, EMS 231C
- Oct. 22 – Multiple patient stabbing incident – M208A, M206A, M207A, E208A, E207A, BC212A, EMS 232A, EMS 231A, SO 201A

The department is committed to a high-quality EMS system. This commitment is support by both a robust Quality Management System approach and the collection of data. All high acuity calls (cardiac arrest, intubations and other special procedures, severe traumas, heart attacks, strokes, patient refusals, DOAs) are reviewed either for procedural or protocol compliancy and patient outcomes through a standardized set of performance measures. This allows us to determine what areas we should be focusing our efforts to either improve training, skill area, system enhancements, or protocol revisions.

An example of the performance measures for cardiac emergencies are as follows:

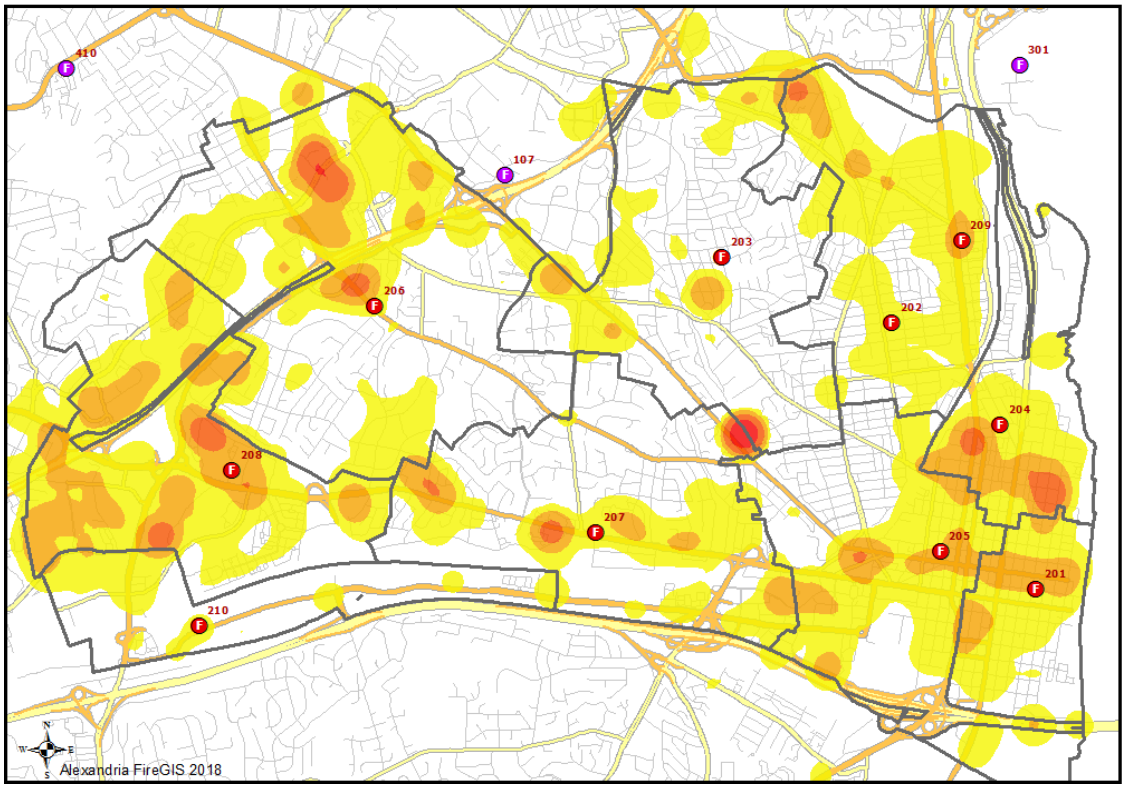
- Arriving at patient to performing a 12-Lead ECG in less than 5 minutes
- Determining a ST segment Myocardial Infarction (STEMI), as a heart attack to notifying the hospital in less than 5 minutes
- On scene time of less than 10 minutes
- Arriving at patient to arriving at hospital in less than 30 minutes
- Monitoring oxygen and cardiac rhythm
- Administering Aspirin
- Administering Nitroglycerin when appropriate

Working collaboratively with our first responders, paramedics, the emergency department staff, and cardiac catheterization lab staff at the INOVA Alexandria Hospital, the Alexandria Fire Department received the Mission Lifeline Gold Plus award for 2017. The purpose of the award is to recognize those organizations that meet the established national criteria as established by the American Heart Association (AHA) for cardiac emergencies. This is the fourth consecutive year that the department has been recognized in the four (4) years the program has existed. This award requires reporting performance measures in categories for the calendar year.

Mission Lifeline Performance Measures

2017 AHA Mission Lifeline Gold Awardee			
Measure 1		**Measure 3**	
Percentage of patients with non-trauma chest pain, 35 years and older that received a 12 Lead ECG		**Percentage of patients with non-trauma chest pain, 35 years and older who get a 12 Lead ECG within 10 minutes**	
Quarter 1	94.70%	Quarter 1	100%
Quarter 2	91.50%	Quarter 2	100%
Quarter 3	93.40%	Quarter 3	99.60%
Quarter 4	95.80%	Quarter 4	98.80%
Annual	93.80%	Annual	99.60%
Measure 2		**Measure 4**	
Percentage of patients experiencing STEMI, transported to a STEMI center with FMC to device in < 90 minutes		**Percentage of patients experiencing STEMI, where hospital was notified within 10 minutes of the STEMI**	
Quarter 1	100%	Quarter 1	75%
Quarter 2	100%	Quarter 2	100%
Quarter 3	100%	Quarter 3	100%
Quarter 4	100%	Quarter 4	100%
Annual	100%	Annual	95%

Hotspot of EMS Calls 2017



2017 EMS Call Types by Provider Impression

EMS Call Types - 2017	Number of Calls	Percentage
Injury	1602	16.12%
Unconscious/Altered Mental Status	1063	10.70%
Pain - Not traumatic	1027	10.33%
Abdominal/GI/GU	958	9.64%
Respiratory Emergencies	893	8.99%
Cardiac Emergencies	738	7.43%
Behavioral/Emotional	706	7.10%
General Weakness	563	5.67%
Substance Abuse	503	5.06%
Seizure	317	3.19%
Diabetic Emergencies	261	2.63%
Stroke/CVA	165	1.66%
Neuro Not Listed	134	1.35%
Headache	129	1.30%
Fever	126	1.27%
Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest	127	1.28%
Environmental Emergencies	113	1.14%
Allergic Reaction	86	0.87%
OB/GYN Newborn Care	86	0.87%
DOA	84	0.85%
Dehydration	59	0.59%
Not Listed	53	0.53%
Bleeding from medical device	45	0.45%
Ears, Nose, Throat	45	0.45%
Metabolic Disorder	24	0.24%
Cancer	16	0.16%
Dental/Tooth Pain	8	0.08%
Abuse/Neglect	7	0.07%

Training Division

The **Training** Division, under the command of Deputy Chief Tony Washington, is responsible for developing and delivering all-hazards training programs to new firefighters and incumbent responders. Training types include classroom instruction, field training, battalion-level drills, hands-on training utilizing simulators and training props, and a host of online courses. Topics include core basic firefighting skills, EMS recertification, company-level competencies, driver operator, safety and survival, officer development, and incident command.

AFD's EMS Training Program has made a significant impact on both the local community and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Its many responsibilities include EMS license renewal for all members, and delivery of annual EMS Continuing Education.

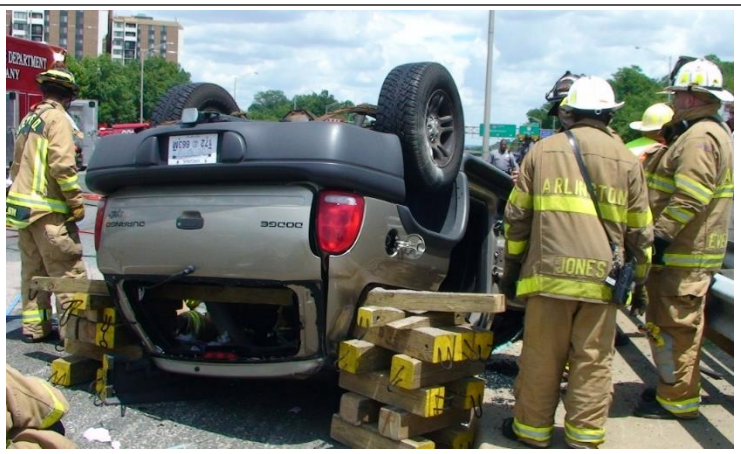
The EMS teaching lab includes classroom space for didactic training and a simulator for hands-on exercise, designed to simulate common response scenarios. The sim lab helps ensure hands-on delivery of the practical exercise of both basic and advanced life support techniques, and serves to simulate actual calls, and duplicates all the stressors on the responding crews and crew dynamics.

2017 Operations Staff Training Hours

Shift	Driver Training	Facility Training	HAZMAT Training	Officer Training	Company Training	Total
A	108	568	182	88	5,123	6,069
B	110	601	191	58	3,932	4,892
C	152	479	187	115	4,792	10,961
Total	**370**	**1,648**	**560**	**261**	**13,847**	**21,922**

* The above statistics were recorded based on Insurance Service Office (ISO) tracked training. Company training includes off-site training. Specialty team training listed below also includes some off-site training sessions.

2017 Specialty Team Training (Target Solutions)
Technical Rescue Team (TRT) training: 1,017 hours
HAZMAT: 1,182 hours



The **Special Operations** program, under the direction of Battalion Chief Chris Kunkle, provides a wide array of specialized services to the community including: technical rescue, hazardous materials response, inland water rescue, and marine operations. In addition to serving a critical role at fire suppression and EMS incidents, members of Special Operations are specially trained for, and charged with, responding to those events involving dangerous goods or physical conditions that pose potential harm to people, property, or the environment.

Technical Rescue involves incidents such as auto accidents requiring vehicle extrication, building collapses, confined space rescue, high and low angle rescue, rope rescues, and inland water rescues. Members of Special Operations receive extensive training in an array of special equipment such as extrication tools, wooden cribbing, generators and power units, winches, hi-lift shoring jacks, pneumatic air bags, cutting torches, saws, mechanical advantage systems, confined space equipment (tripods, hardware, and ropes), communications equipment, and patient packaging capabilities.

HAZMAT squads are specially trained for, and charge with, responding to those events involving dangerous goods or physical conditions that pose potential harm to people, property, or the environment. In addition, the HAZMAT squads are charged with maintaining a working knowledge of specialized chemical protective equipment; scientific air monitoring equipment; safe methods for the containment of chemical spills; appropriate techniques for the “off-loading” of chemicals from damaged containers and the efficient use of reference material to determine chemical hazards.

Marine operations involve members who are professionally trained at response to maritime emergencies on the Potomac River. Fire Boat 201 is crossed staffed by Engine Company 201 with a minimum crew of four trained maritime personnel.

Health, Safety & Risk Management Section

The **Health, Safety & Risk Management** (HSRM) Section is commanded by Deputy Chief Jeffrey Merryman. HSRM provides 24-hour health, safety, and risk management support with the dedicated position of a Shift Safety Officer. While our members are caring for and ensuring the safety of civilians during emergent situations, HSRM is ensuring the safety and protection of our members. HSRM administers and manages AFD's occupational safety and health program and ensures health and safety compliance for components under the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

HSRM provides input into all fire department emergent and non-emergent operations to ensure that safety of all personnel is a primary objective inclusive of practical training events. The HSRM section provides oversight and direction for:

- The Accident and Injury Review Board, which is comprised of a cross section of members who provide recommendations for corrective actions regarding accident and injuries.
- The departments Health and Wellness Workgroup (HWWG), which provides and works with members on health, wellness, and fitness initiatives.
- The Traumatic Exposure Recovery Program (TERP) team, which has been developed to provide behavioral health peer support for members struggling with job-related traumatic exposures.

The HSRM section develops and implements operating guidelines pertaining to health, safety, wellness and high-risk activities, administers the annual medical physicals, and administers the annual work performance evaluations.

Changes & Improvements to Procedures

In 2017, the department shifted vendors and the procedure by which comprehensive annual medical physicals were completed for all fire and EMS operational employees. *NFPA 1582 – Standard Occupational Medical Program* annual medical physicals were completed by Professional Health Services, Inc of Havertown, PA. The department provided space for the physicals as well as PHS utilizing their medial trailer.

The physicals for all department members were completed in a two-week period as compared to a portion of employees completing their physicals over a 12-month period. By completing the physicals in the two-week period, HSRM experienced greater efficiency with needed follow ups and processes. This business change in physicals also resulted in an overall cost savings for the department.

In addition to the cost savings, and within the cost of the physicals provided by PHS, the department also increased cancer screening for operational employees to include cervical cancer screening for females and thyroid cancer screening for all employees.

In 2017, the Fire Department also initiated the human performance program, O2X. Members of the Health and Wellness Workgroup completed this four-day program that addresses human performance specifically designed for the fire service. Components of the program include cardiac health, injury prevention and reduction, mental readiness, integrated recovery, tactical performance, and cancer reduction. The O2X program provides comprehensive human performance training and education. The O2X program will be increased and offered department-wide in the coming years.

Departmental Accomplishments

In 2017, the Fire Department experienced a 35 percent reduction in total incidents as compared to 2016. An incident is inclusive of a vehicle accident, employee injury or illness, property damage, found damage, or an exposure. The biggest decrease came both in vehicle accidents and employee injury/illness, which were reduced by 21 percent.

The HSRM section was requested to speak and complete a presentation on "Fire Service Health and Safety Best Practice" at a national meeting of OSHA State Plan states in Portsmouth, VA, and the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry annual conference in 2017. There are only 28 states including Virginia – which is in Federal-OSHA Region III – that have their own state OSHA plans. Representatives from these 28 states were on hand to learn about our best practices in fire service health and safety. Speaking at these events was both a state and national honor for our department.

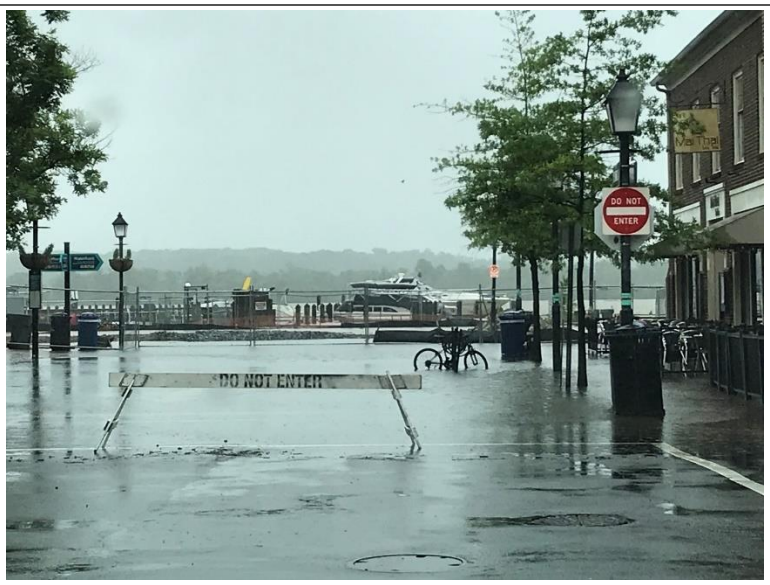
In July 2017, Deputy Chief Merryman received the Alan Brunacini Fire Service Executive Officer Safety Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

The mission of the **Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security** is to save lives, protect property, and speed recovery from major emergencies by developing citywide programs and emergency operational capabilities that prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from any emergency regardless of cause – whether in peacetime or a situation of national security. This is accomplished with the full support of the elected and appointed officials of the City, and requires the active participation of a range of participants from all departments and agencies of government, citizens, and the private and non-profit sectors to be fully successful.

OEM aligns itself with the City of Alexandria's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) – a multi-discipline, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of major emergencies and disasters within the City – as well as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP) and the Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security consists of OEM staff members, the Fire Prevention and Life Safety (FPLS) Section, Fire Investigations Division, Public Information, and the Community Outreach Unit. The Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security is commanded by Deputy Chief Corey Smedley.



EOC Activations
Presidential Inauguration – Partial Activation
Congressional Shooting – OEM supported multiday event
City Birthday Celebration – OEM supported
Election – Virtual Partial Activation

Emergency Declarations
No City Declarations

Exercises
Inova Alexandria Hospital Table Top Exercise TTX
Alexandria Training, Exercise and Planning Workshop
Alexandria Active Threat TTX
Statewide Tornado Drill
Conducted 4 Active Shooter trainings for Alexandria Health Department
Web EOC quarterly exercise
EOC activation exercise

After Action Reports (AAR)
Completed U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Active Shooter AAR
City Birthday AAR
Consolidated (AFD) comments report for WMATA Full Scale Exercise AAR

Participated in the following Exercises
Presidential Inauguration Rehearsal Operations Concept drill
NVERS Long-term Care TTXs (attended 2)
Harmful Algal Bloom Risk Communications Workshop
NCR Geospatial Data Exchange Functional Exercise
Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant TTX
NCR Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Mass Fatality TTX
Operation Marble DECON Exercise Inova Alexandria Hospital

Exercises Evaluator Support
Operation Marble DECON Exercise IAH
Alexandria Health Department Point of Distribution (POD) Flu Clinic
WMATA full scale exercise

Training/Public Outreach

TECC train the trainer for NOVA Law Enforcement Officers
Outreach provided to Cub Scouts on Emergency Preparedness
EP outreach provided to Virginia Tech Resident Advisor
Senior Emergency Preparedness presentation for the St. Martin seniors
USPTO Wellness Fair
2 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes completed (29 students total)
Incident Action Plan (IAP) training given to APD
OEM participated in WMATA EREP training
WebEOC basic User Training provided to key city officials

Planning

CERT SOP updated
NOVA Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by CMO and Council
Flood Response Plan approved by T&ES
NOVA Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (Alexandria portion)
Administrative Regulation-8-2 Emergency Management

Other Division Accomplishments

Regional Planner Teresa Scott Hoggard received her Certified Emergency Manager designation.
May all nonuniformed OEM staff completed Heartsaver CPR training
Provided SME and PEER evaluator for VDEM grant proposals
Contrail/OneRain flood gauge system implemented
Multiyear Training and Exercise Plan (MYTEP) completed
*James Podlucky resigned in March and Brent Ruggles was hired in September in resulting in a 7-month position vacancy.

Fire Investigations Division

The **Fire Investigations** Division is a part of the **Fire Prevention and Life Safety** (FPLS) Section of the Fire Department. The primary purpose of this division is to determine the origin and cause of fires. The data collected during a fire investigation is of great significance since it can expose a serious crime, such as arson. The data also provides valuable statistics on fire trends and formation essential in developing programs to reduce fire risk in the future.

The Fire Investigations Division is responsible for investigating the origin and cause of all fires and explosions within the City of Alexandria. They also investigate fire related deaths, burn injuries, suspected explosive devices, and bomb threats.

The division consists of seven Law Enforcement Fire Marshals who have completed extensive fire investigation, forensic, and law enforcement training. All Alexandria Fire Marshals are sworn law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Building Fire Loss: $2,674,931

Building Fire Saved: $217,322,946

Fiscal Year 2017 Significant Building Fire Loss:

- Shell Gas Station (46700 Duke St.) – Working fire inside garage portion of the gas station causing $600,000 damage to the structure.
- Garden Apartment (4736 Kenmore Ave.) – Working fire inside apartment which extended through the roof causing $400,000 damage and displacement of several families.

Community Outreach Unit

The Alexandria Fire Department is dedicated to fire prevention and life safety and offers a variety of fire safety programs and resources throughout the year. Through its **Community Outreach Unit**, AFD proudly participates in various community events to inform, educate, and prepare the citizens of the City of Alexandria for emergency situations. Some of AFD's community outreach programs include Read Across Alexandria, ASSIST smoke alarm installations, and the Community Fire Academy.

The Community Outreach Unit of the Alexandria Fire Department is a part of the Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security.

Community Outreach	Total
Event Requests	180
Events Completed	173
Smoke Alarms (ASSIST)	282
Individual Smoke Alarms Requested	N/A
Smoke Alarms Installed	N/A
School Visitation (Read Across Alexandria)	21
Ride Along Requests (through OEM)	6
Ride Alongs Completed	6