

Portage Fire Department

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Chad Bogue, Division Chief

Mayor Snyder

CC: Council, Clerk Treasurer

Reference: 2016 Fire Department Year End Report

February 7, 2017

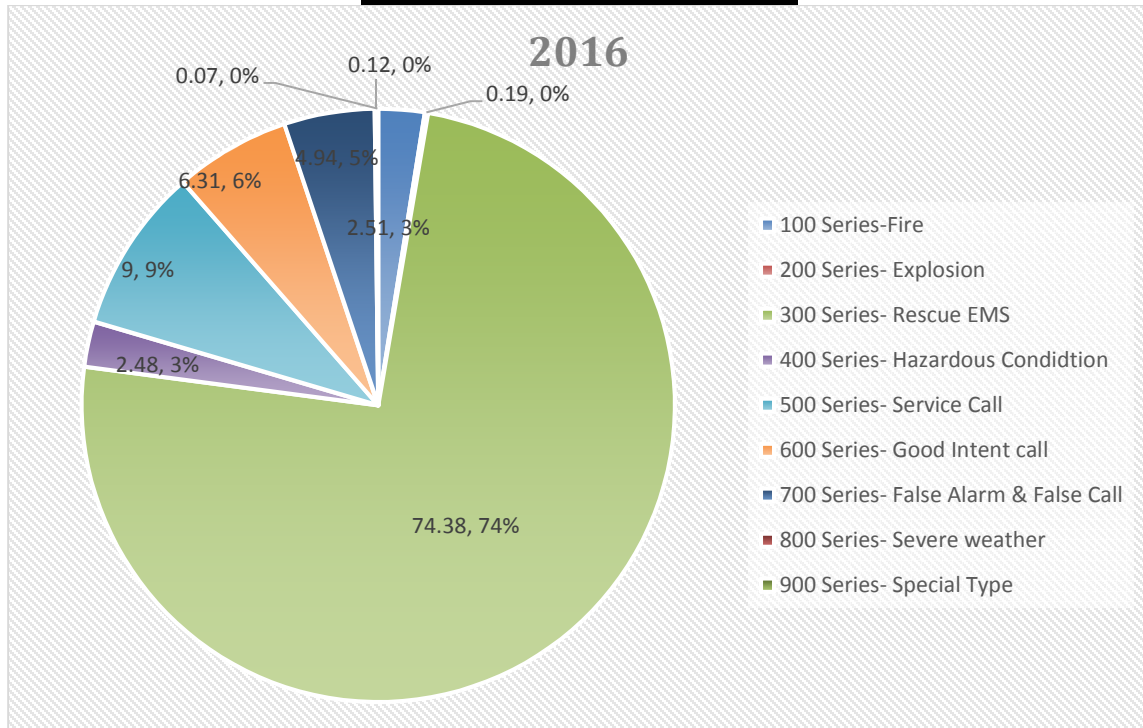
Mayor

The Fire Department made many changes in 2016. We added the best looking building in the city as awarded to us by the Chamber of Commerce. The little over a year building process was smooth and has already made an impact on our downtown. The city has had many great events in the downtown showcasing the building as a highlight of what we are and how we expect our downtown to be established. Station 3 was not the only building project of 2016, we also remodeled Station 1 removing construction issues from years past. Station 1 is now more energy efficient than it's ever been. Station 2 also saw improvements to reduce wear and tear on the building. We polished the concrete floors, which should last for years to come reducing the need to replace tile and carpet. As 2016 came to a close we were wrapping up a several year project to get our county on the States SAFE-T network. This will ensure that our communications systems will be up to date and functional for the next two decades. We will oversee the installment of the system and assist in its implementation. As we move forward in 2017 we will be updating apparatus to keep us at the cutting edge of equipment so we can continue to provide a quick and professional response to the cities emergencies. We are also planning on continuing our education programs to educate the citizens in reducing their emergencies.

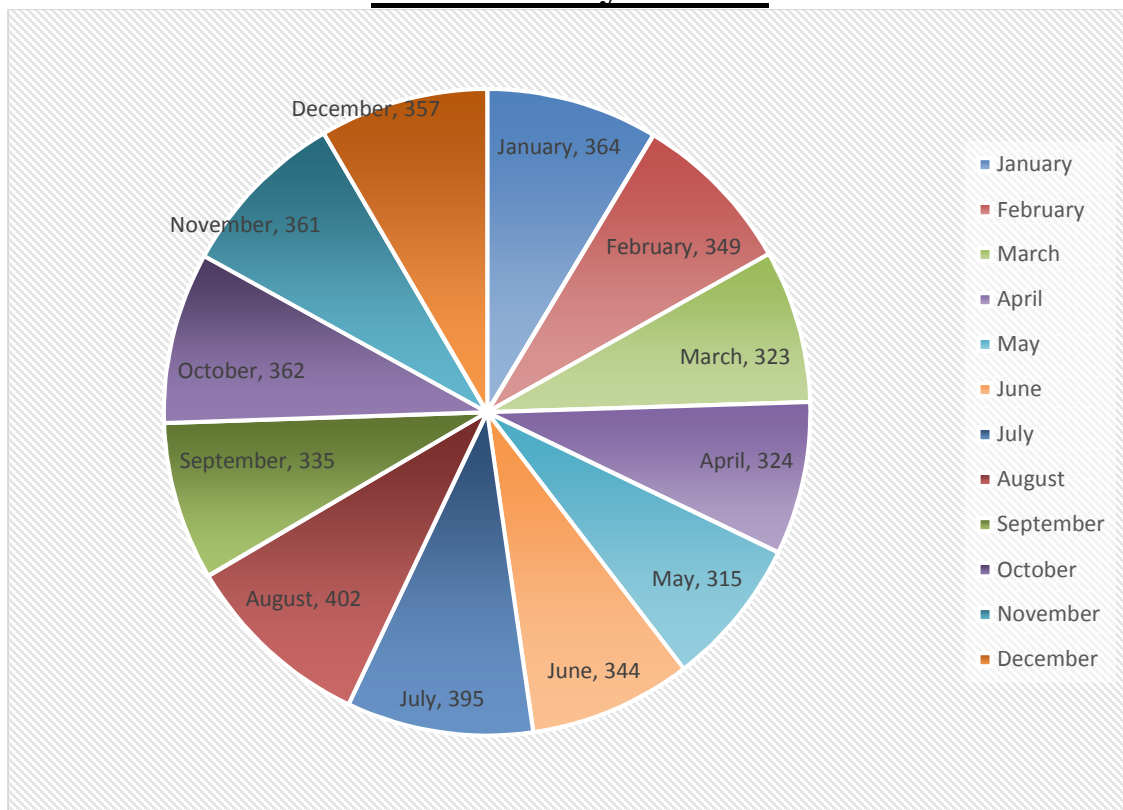
Fire

The Portage Fire Department had a total of 4231 runs for the year 2016. There were 106 fires, 8 explosion, 3147 responses to EMS calls, 105 hazardous conditions (No Fire) consisting of electrical issues, carbon monoxide, and fuel spills, 381 calls of service for smoke or odor removal, water leaks, lock outs and lift assists, 267 good intent calls where the call was unfound or we were cancelled before arrival to the scene, 209 false alarm & or false call, 5 severe weather & natural disaster, and 3 special type, which include citizen complaints. We had a total fire loss of \$2,841,850.00 in 2016. It is important to note that fire loss is estimated and may not reflect the true cost of repair or replacement of our customers' property.

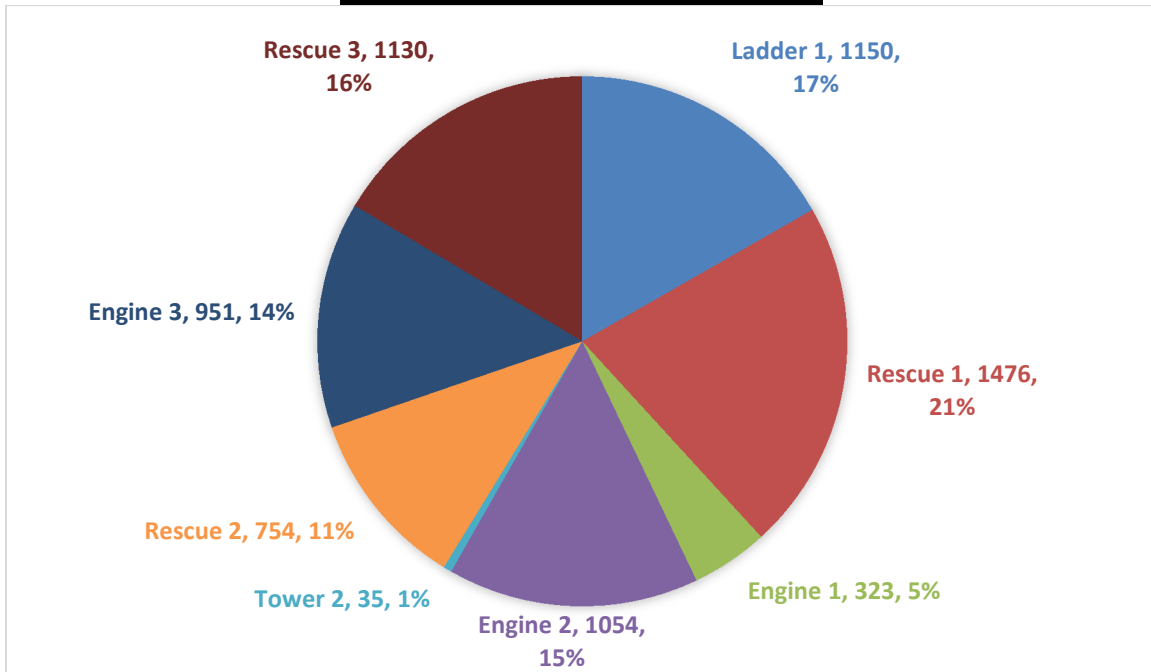
Incidents by call type



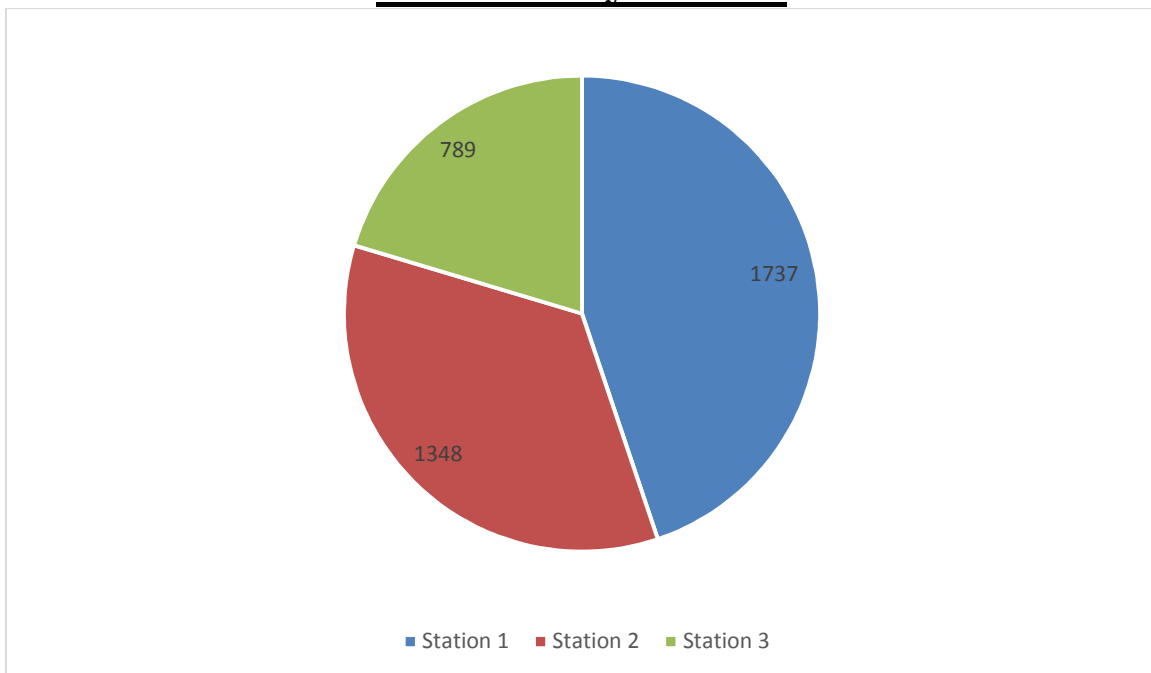
Incidents by month



Incidents by Apparatus



Incidents by Station



Firefighter Health & Wellness

In 2016 the fire department concentrated much of its efforts on promoting firefighter safety, survival and health and wellness. With the addition of the vacant house that was generously loaned to the fire department for training, the fire department was able to conduct numerous

firefighter mayday, self-rescue, and rapid intervention team drills aimed at improving a firefighter's chance of survival during a catastrophic event while firefighting.

We have also focused some of our training on general health and wellness particularly in the area of firefighter stress and cancer prevention. Both cancer and firefighter stress (suicides) are becoming leading causes of death in firefighters, surpassing the number of firefighter deaths from actually performing fire suppression activities. In 2016 we implemented an aggressive Cancer Prevention Guideline aimed at reducing the exposure of firefighters to carcinogens thereby lowering their risk at developing cancer either during their career or when retired. Portage is one of just a few departments in the area that has implemented such a cutting edge policy.

EMS

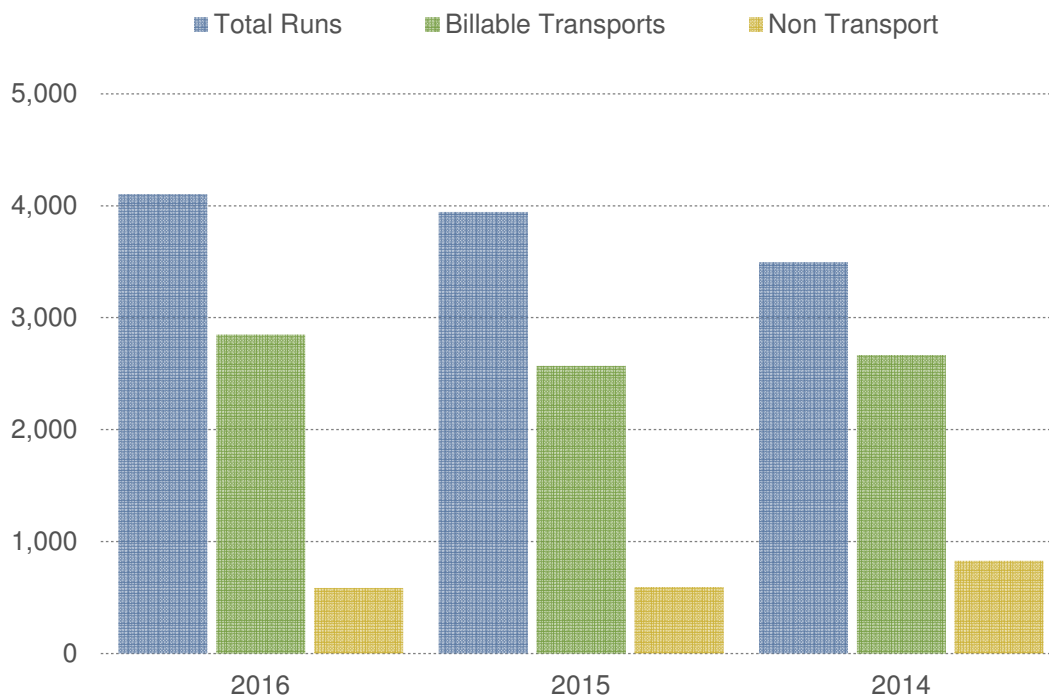
Governmental Ambulance Reimbursement

<u>Medicaid Ambulance Federal and State of Indiana Reimbursement Program</u>		
2011 Federal Portion	Received January 2014	\$229,090.84
2012 Federal Portion	Received January 2014	\$251,132.66
2013 Federal Portion	Received December 2015	\$260,996.85
2014 Federal Portion	Received December 2016	\$285,158.94
<u>Newly Add State of Indiana Portion</u>		
2013 Indiana Portion	Received August 2016	\$116,404.99
Total Collected		<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> \$1,142,784.28

The \$285,158.94 received above in 2016 represents the 2014 federal portion of Medicaid program reimbursement. Subsequently the \$116,404.99 received in August of 2016 is the 2013 State of Indiana portion newly added program. Prior to 2016 we only were receiving 66% of the amount allowed. As of 2016 the State of Indiana allowed with a match for the city to recover the 33% state Medicaid portion to be recovered. The total amount we have recovered to the city is now \$1,142,784.28

EMS Runs vs Billable Transports to ER

The fire departments ambulances received over 4,000 calls for service. Represented in the chart below is how many billable transports the ambulances totaled each year looking back to 2014. The billable transports have increased by 183 runs in the last three years. Non Transports have reduced in trending from 2014 to last year.



Training

PFD personnel received 7,825 man-hours of training in 2016. That translates to an average of over 126 hours of training per firefighter. These training hours included basic and advanced firefighter training, EMS education, engineer and driver's training and company officer and leadership training. We have been working very diligently to not only provide numerous training hours but specifically more focused, quality training.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Firefighter Training System District 1 held its area wide career firefighter academy in 2015. This academy, paid for by the State of Indiana and included several veteran PFD instructors, provided over 1100 man-hours of

training for 2 PFD rookie firefighters. This training would have cost us nearly \$4000 to perform in-house and nearly \$10,000.00 to send the 2 out to another fire academy; both having been done in the past.

We take pride in the CPR training we do in the community. We are an AHA community training center. Here is the breakdown of the classes taught in 2016.

Class	Number of classes	Students
HCP Initial Course	21	86
HCP Renewal Course	68	289
Heartsaver CPR / AED (all disciplines)	138	1167
Heartsaver First Aid with CPR	34	170
Heartsaver First Aid	4	12
Bloodborne Pathogens	2	21
Instructor Course	1	4

PFD has a total of 83 Instructors affiliated from Portage FD, Chesterton FD, Porter FD, PC EMA, Merrillville Schools, YMCA, Mittal, South Haven FD, PC Dispatch, Ritten House NH, Washington TWP FD, Northshore Healthcare, Portage PD, Ogden Dunes FD, Lake Station FD, Wheatfield EMS, Ivy Tech and several private businesses. Total CPR classes taught; 354 for a total of 2,292 students. There were a total of 268 classes taught and a total of 1,749 students instructed in CPR or First Aid.

Inspections and Prevention

Fire Code Inspection efforts were made to minimize fire risk and 224 buildings inspections were conducted. Fire inspections were completed for 8 hotels, 3 assisted living centers, 2 nursing care facilities, 1 hospital, 78 apartment buildings, 6 factories/assembly plants, 12 schools, 64 office, 11 mercantile, 17 restaurants, 22 storage/warehouse.

The Fire Prevention theme for 2016 was “Don’t Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years!” The fire prevention theme is chosen each year by The National Fire Protection Association. This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign represented the final year of NFPA’s three-year effort to educate the public about basic but essential elements of smoke alarm safety. Why did NFPA focus on smoke alarms three years in a row? Because NFPA’s survey data shows that the public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms, which may put them at increased risk in the event of a home fire. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced.

As a result of those and related findings, in 2016, NFPA’s campaign addressed smoke alarm replacement with a focus on these key messages:

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home.
- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

Prevention efforts were concentrated to fire prevention education in the schools. A fire prevention program was given at all elementary schools for grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. The program for each grade level, teaches the student what to do in case they are in a building that catches on fire. The Kindergarten student is introduced to a fire fighter who shows them what a fire fighter looks like dressed in all of the protective firefighting gear. The fire fighter puts the gear on and explains its purpose. This helps to get a relationship of trust started with the child and helps reduce fear if a fire fighter ever has to respond to their house for an emergency. 1st grade is taught fire safety basics: Stop drop and roll, call 911 in an emergency, and to “go outside” if the building is on fire. 2nd grade is shown a cartoon video that shows what happens when a fire occurs at Trina’s house. 3rd grade learns the importance of having and practicing a home escape plan. They are shown how to make one by drawing a picture of their own house. 4th grade learns how fires can be prevented and is given a home safety checklist so they can seek out dangers that may be present in their own home. 5th grade is a review of all the past lessons with a “Jeopardy” type game, where students get to give a question to the fire answer.

The fire department hosted its annual Fire Prevention Open House October 1, 2016 and combined it with the grand opening of the new Fire Station 3. The fire trucks and ambulances were available to get in. Children could dress up in fire gear and spray a fire hose. Home fire safety was demonstrated in the Edith Trailer. Food and drinks were served. We also invited the National Park fire Department to teach wild land fire safety with a visit from Smokey Bear.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Th Fieffer', written in a cursive style.

Thomas Fieffer
Fire Chief