

REDDING FIRE DEPARTMENT

2017 Annual Report

Ready, Focused, Dedicated to Serving our Community



www.reddingfire.org

Photo credit: Firefighter Grayson Hartman

From our Fire Chief...



The past year brought our Department another round of extraordinary challenges and extraordinary accomplishments. Despite our chronic staffing shortages, in both the Fire Suppression and Fire Prevention Divisions, our Redding fire personnel delivered the exceptional services that we are well-known for in Shasta County and beyond.

Our call volume continued its annual 6% increase trend — producing a new record-high number of 14,277 responses

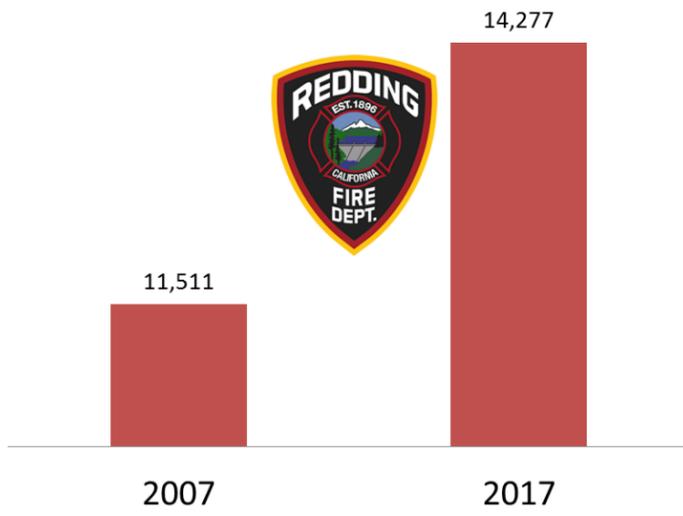
With every single alarm, our Redding firefighters continue to amaze me and our community with their effort, dedication, and professionalism. We truly have the ‘best of the best firefighters’ right here in Redding.

My appreciation also goes out to our automatic and mutual aid fire partners in Shasta County who diligently continue to respond to our request for assistance throughout the year. Their contribution is essential and always appreciated.

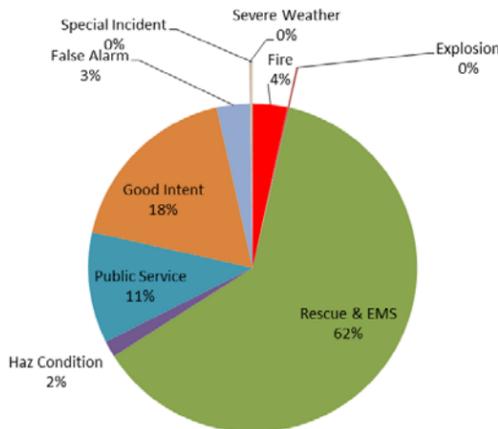
We are looking forward to another year of dedicated public service. We are honored to serve and protect each of you.

— Gerry Gray, Fire Chief

REDDING FIRE DEPARTMENT CALL VOLUME COMPARISON 2007 - 2017 (24% Increase)



2017 CALL VOLUME (14,277 TOTAL)



From our Firefighters...



I am honored to represent our Firefighters Association in this Annual Report while touching on just a few of the many events your Redding Firefighters have been involved with over the past year.

While our on-duty fire crews responded tirelessly to our community’s needs, our off-duty personnel remained equally active: Wings of Angels, Haven Humane, Salvation Army Red Kettle Christmas Campaign and Stuff the Bus, Special Olympics Basketball Tournament, Redding Elks Lodge, Bikes for Kids, Nor Cal Think Pink, Youth Violence Prevention Council, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Make-A-Wish, Relay for Life, Redding Soccer Park and Halloween Safety event all received our support this past year. Our members donated hundreds of hours of volunteer work and thousands of dollars to support local groups and charities.

The members of the Redding Professional Firefighters Association extend a sincere thank you for all your support and gratitude over the years as we look forward to serving you into the future.

—Matthew Oliphant, President, Redding Firefighters Association



Firefighter staffing challenges of the past...and the present...

1984: 54 firefighters; 3,426 calls; 47,000 pop; 1.14 FFs per 1,000

2017: 69 firefighters; 14,277 calls; 90,000 pop; 0.77 FFs per 1,000

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1896



Dedicated public service...The RFD Way!

A Day in the life of a Redding Firefighter...

When not responding to emergencies, the daily shift starts with a detailed inspection of all the apparatus and equipment at each of our eight fire stations. This is a significant task considering a fleet of over 20 fire engines, each loaded with a large inventory of specialized equipment. There is no room for non-operable equipment in our business—everything must work, as expected, on every emergency call.

Company fire inspections will typically draw another hour or two each day, as our crews visit assigned businesses in their respective districts.

Training in the fire service is continuous. We work hard to ensure that our personnel are ready and able to meet the challenges of our community. To this end, every firefighter in our Department is expected to document a minimum of 20 hours per month of training in a wide variety of subjects: firefighting, rescue, EMS, hazardous materials, to name just a few.

Emergency responses remains our highest priority of the day, for obvious reasons. Although it varies, all of our Redding fire stations can expect a healthy number of responses in a 24-hour period. We are a busy Department that responded to 14,277 calls in 2017—expecting to top 15K calls in 2018.

Report-writing and documentation is an ever-demanding task. Nearly every activity in the Department is documented for accountability and reference. For example, a significant structure fire incident may require many hours of report-writing from both the engine Captain and the Fire Inspector before it is deemed complete. Every single incident report is then reviewed by the shift supervisor (Battalion Chief) for accuracy—all of these demand a great deal of time and attention to detail.

At great savings to our budget, nearly every member in the Department is tasked with some specialty assignment. This saves us from outsourcing such projects. For some it involves hose-testing, or fire pump testing, or ordering firefighting gear, or updating our station maps. This list goes on and on; critical tasks that need continuous attention to ensure that our services and all of our equipment remains fully operational. During their daily shifts, many of these specialized projects are addressed by our assigned personnel.

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In the AM, about an hour or two before the 24-hour shift ends, personnel are busy cleaning the fire station and the grounds—ensuring that it is ready before the next crew arrives.

Then the cycle repeats itself again...365 times a year...

"Why does a fire engine and an ambulance respond to medical calls?"

Since the 1970s, the fire service has trained their personnel to the level of "Emergency Medical Responder" and higher. The Redding Fire Department is no exception. Our fire personnel typically arrive at scene before an ambulance and can provide critical life support to those in need. Once the ambulance arrives, our crews are often available to respond to the next call.

During their daily shifts, many of these specialized projects are addressed by our assigned personnel.



Our Many Thanks...

Time and time again we call upon our Shasta County fire agencies for assistance—to all of these organizations, our deepest thanks! We stand ready when you need us.

Also, we extend our deep appreciation to all of our law enforcement agencies, EMS providers, and disaster response groups—"In the trenches" together with all of you.

Lastly, but surely not least, we thank all of our allied City and County departments and our City Council who support us each and every day.

Contact us...

We welcome and appreciate all public input on any matter of our Department. Please contact or visit us at:

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