



# ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

2016  
2017

Report to the Community



# Mayor Ethan Berkowitz



Every hour of every day, the Anchorage Fire Department is at the ready to respond to emergencies and provide care to our community. Ours is a Department characterized by high standards and a commitment to training and best practices. The everyday achievements make all of Anchorage proud and keep all of Anchorage safe.

The versatility of skills is impressive. Whether it is a wildfire or a structure fire, an automobile accident or a hazardous substance spill, the Department is there. Whether the medical need is a cardiac incident or a stroke, a childbirth, a trauma or an overdose, our Department is there. Every hour of every day.

That's why it's important to make certain we train new recruits and ensure continual education for our experienced hands. It's why we need to make sure our equipment gives the Department every possibility of success.

As Mayor, I am mindful that every hour of every day, the men and women of the Anchorage Fire Department take risks and make sacrifices to protect our community. I am grateful to the members of the Department and their families. I also know that the camaraderie, work ethic, and spirit of public service inspires all of Anchorage, every hour of every day.

Ethan Berkowitz  
Mayor



# Fire Chief Denis LeBlanc

Welcome to the Anchorage Fire Department where the *Team AFD* mission is “to serve our community before, during and after an emergency”. Every day – 24 hours a day – fire department personnel are on the job to serve the citizens and visitors of the Municipality of Anchorage. We stand ready to arrive on scene and mitigate any incident regardless of type - structure fires, wild fires, medical emergencies, water and swift water rescues, hazardous material responses, vehicle extrication, or other public assists. *Team AFD* personnel are expertly trained and equipped, and work steadfastly to ensure the best methods and technologies are incorporated into our operations. In recognition of this ongoing commitment, after an exhaustive analysis of Anchorage’s fire suppression capabilities, effective January 2016 Anchorage joined an elite group of fire districts throughout the United States having earned the highest Insurance Service Organization’s (ISO) - Public Protection Classification (PPC) Class 1 rating.

Concurrently, our *Team AFD medical care* under the leadership of our Medical Director, Dr. Michael Levy, is in the top tier of resuscitation outcomes in the United States and likely in the world. While many factors influence outcomes, residents and visitors alike are routinely and successfully resuscitated from clinical death and most with excellent neurological outcomes. Our Criteria Based Dispatch procedures empower AFD Dispatchers to rapidly determine the nature of any medical emergency and launch first responders rapidly and effectively to the patient.

The pages that follow will introduce you to the men and women of *Team AFD* and highlight just some of their many notable accomplishments in the course of serving this community. Your support of our collective efforts is heartwarming and greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can help.

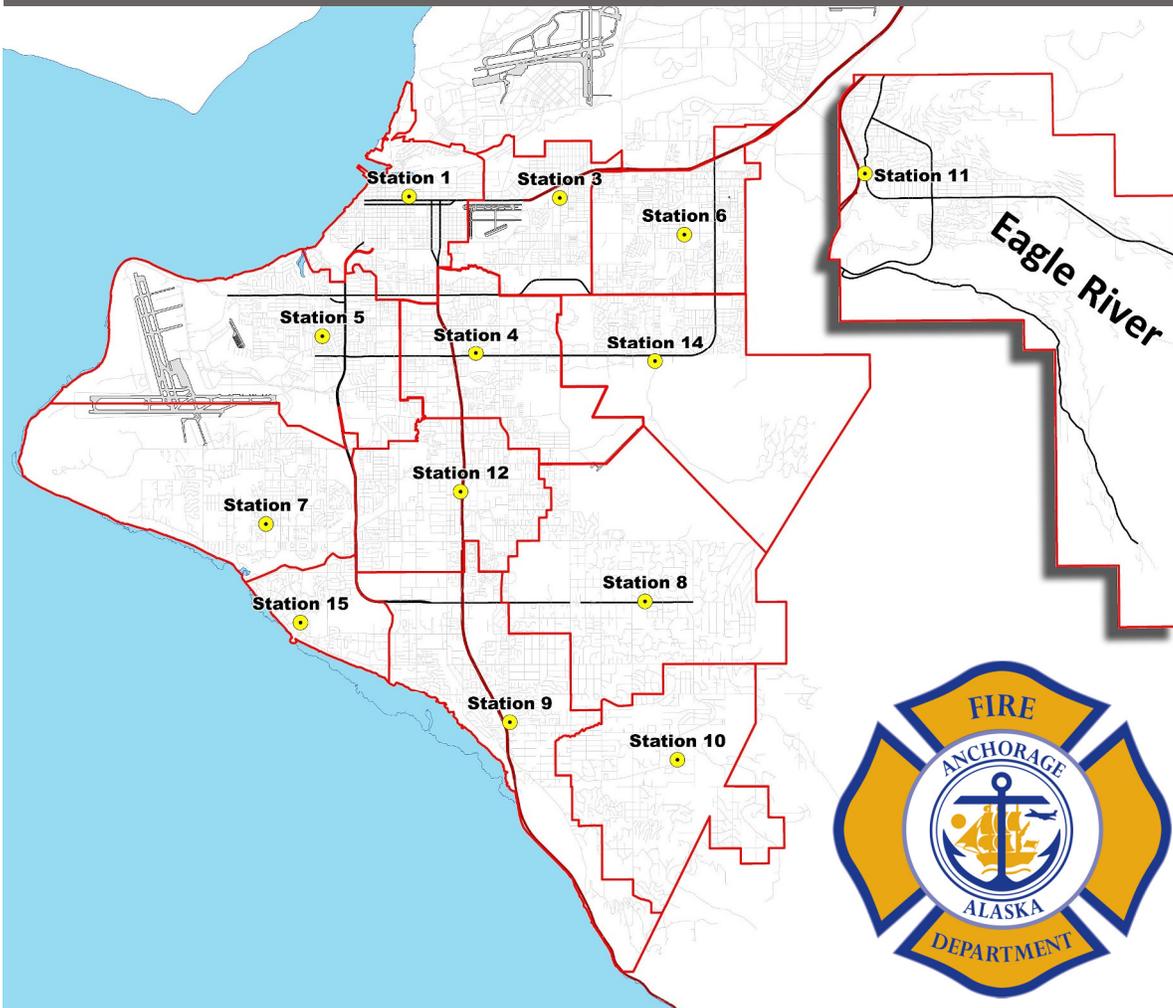
Warmest regards,  
Denis LeBlanc



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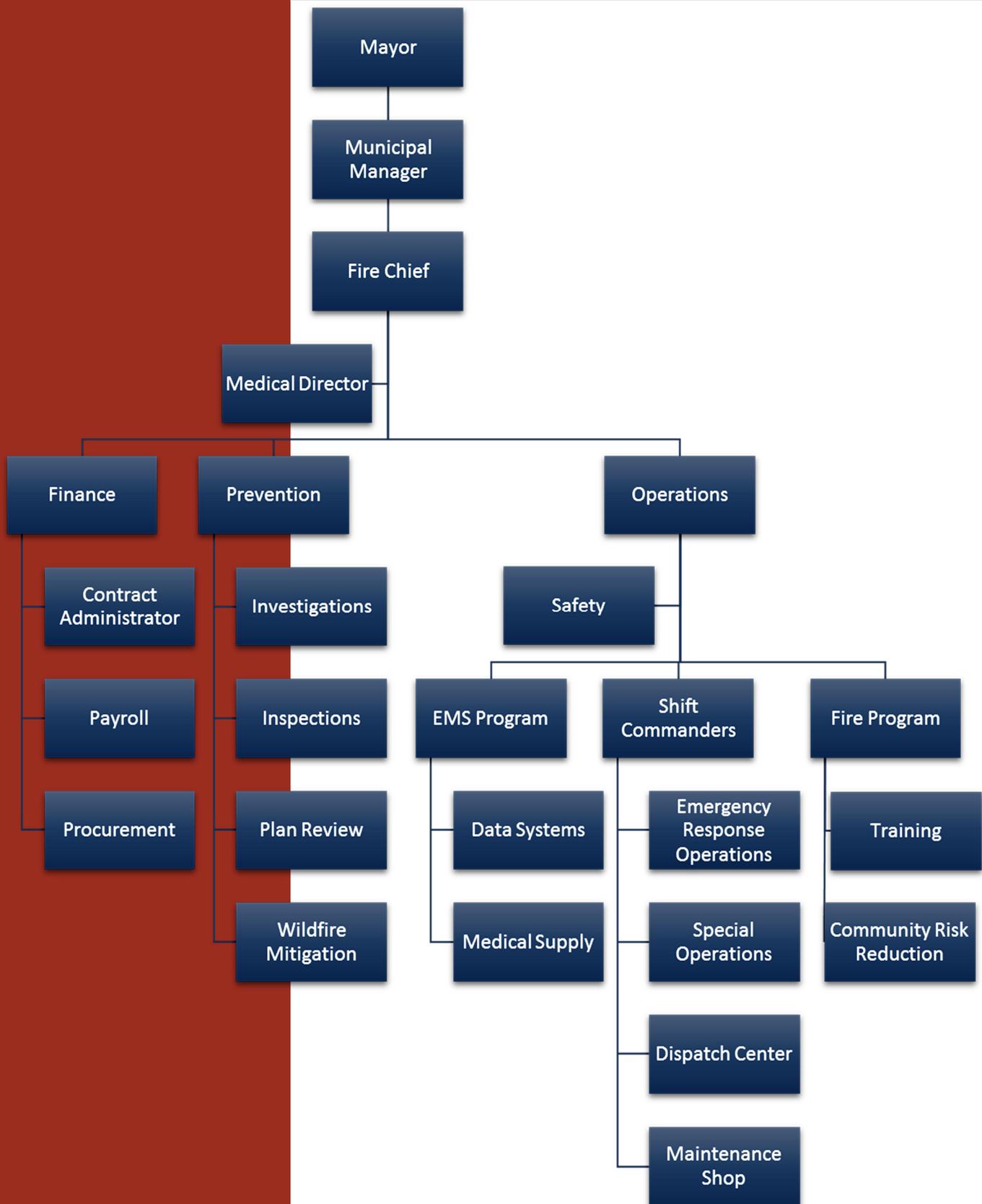
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# Station Info



St	Address	Senior Captain	Personnel per shift	Engine	Medic	Truck	Tender / Special	Specialty
1	122 E 4th Ave	Sr Capt Urbano	19-23	2	3	1	1	HazMat
3	430 Bragaw St	Sr Capt Fussell	9-10	1	1	1	0	Urban Search & Rescue
4	4350 MacInnes St	Sr Capt Fredenhagen	10-12	1	1	0	2	Rescue & Dive / Water
5	2207 McRae Rd	Sr Capt Staten	9-10	1	1	1	0	Ladder Maintenance / Rapid Intervention Team
6	1301 Patterson St	Sr Capt Lively	6-8	1	1	0	0	Community Risk Reduction
7	8735 Jewel Lake Rd	Sr Capt Briggs	6	1	1	0	0	Sewing / Turnout Repairs
8	6151 O'Malley Rd	Sr Capt Partch	4	1	0	0	1	Air Resources
9	13915 Lake Otis Pkwy	Sr Capt Schwamm	7	1	1	0	1 / 1	Front Country / Rope Rescue
10	14861 Mountain Air Dr	Sr Capt Johnson	4	1	0	0	1	Chains / Fire Protection Systems
11	16630 Eagle River Rd	Sr Capt Murphy	10	1	1	1	1	Swift Water Rescue
12	7920 Homer Dr	Sr Capt Stumbaugh	10-12	1	1	1	0	Small Tools / Equipment
14	4501 Campbell Airstrip Rd	Sr Capt Ascone	5-6	1	0	0	1	Wildland Ops / Radios
15	11301 Southport Dr	Sr Capt Wallace	3	1	0	0	0	Hose Testing / Uniforms

# Organizational Chart



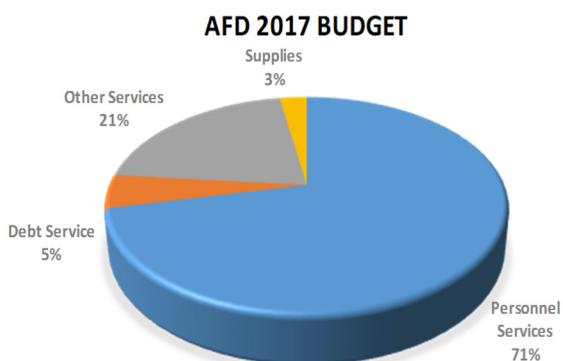
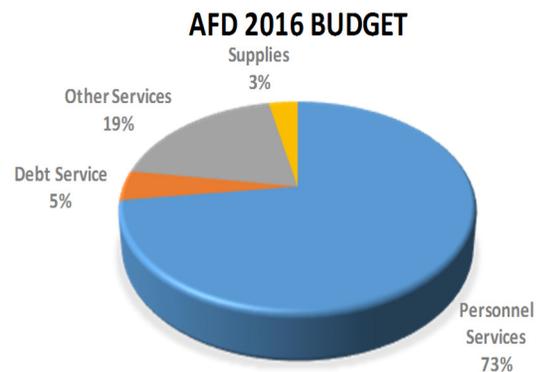
# Finance

**The Finance Division** is comprised of six personnel responsible for the following areas:

- Tracking, reporting, and projecting Annual Budget Expenses
- Projecting anticipated Annual Revenue
- Preparing and submitting appropriation documents for Assembly approval
- Establishing and maintaining Contracts for products and services
- Creating Purchase Orders for timely delivery of equipment and services
- Submitting invoices for vendor payment of equipment and services
- Processing payroll for 382 Fire Department personnel
- Preparing and submitting EMS transport documentation for billing (20,110 transports in 2017)
- Retrieving fire and medical reports as requested or subpoenaed
- Providing backup support for the Medical Supply Logistics Technician

The fall of 2017 brought a change to the Municipality's Enterprise System. Finance staff members spent a significant amount of time in 2016 & 2017 in preparation for SAP go live by participating as department support, developing and creating training videos, training employees, and testing and evaluating the system. SAP involved changes in payroll, purchasing, invoicing, accounts payable, billing and budgeting processes for the Fire Department.

<u>2016 Budget</u>	Amount	Percent
Personnel Services	\$68,398,928	73%
Debt Service	\$4,307,060	5%
Other Services *	\$18,189,171	19%
Supplies	\$2,976,698	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$93,871,863</b>	



<u>2017 Budget</u>	Amount	Percent
Personnel Services	\$70,424,981	72%
Debt Service	\$4,881,486	5%
Other Services *	\$20,585,409	21%
Supplies	\$2,571,698	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$98,463,574</b>	

\* 2016 & 2017 "Other Services" includes contracted services for volunteer departments, employee retirement contributions, insurance, AWWU tariff, apparatus repair and maintenance, fuel, other costs

# Prevention

## Community Right-to-Know (CRTK)

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 was created to help communities plan for chemical emergencies. It also requires industry to report on the storage, use and releases of hazardous substances to federal, state and local governments. All facilities within the geographic boundaries of the Municipality of Anchorage are required to evaluate the hazard of the chemicals and any substances or materials used, stored or sold on their site and file a Tier II form annually.

In 2017, 699 CRTK reports were processed generating \$202,365.



**Fire Prevention** consists of 4 sections: Engineering (Plan Review), Enforcement (Fire Inspections), Investigations and Public Education. Prevention staff make sure the buildings you occupy are safe places to be, from the planning stage, to construction, to grand opening and beyond. All four sections of Fire Prevention work together to provide the fire and life safety net you expect to keep you safe in your home, workplace, commercial buildings and all the places you visit.

Fire Prevention educates citizens on the latest safety and prevention measures, and through investigation of each fire determines where more education is needed. By taking this proactive approach, we strive to help reduce fires and the damage caused by them.



2017 FIRE PREVENTION STAFF

Inspection Totals	2016	2017
CRTK Inspections	654	699
General Building	2,323	3,892
Complaint investigations	321	415
Daycares	407	380
New Construction Permits	549	374
Operational Permits	253	289
After Hours	39	49
Business Inspections	855	1,147
Mercantile Inspections	190	432
Educational Occupancies	516	596
Assembly Occupancies	510	872
Residential Occupancies	1,018	1,048
Hotels (R1)	286	217

**AFD's Fire Investigation Unit** was involved in 109 fire incidents and responded to investigate 45 fire scenes; sadly these statistics involve 5 fire fatalities. Of the 45 fires investigated, 13 were determined to be accidental, 15 were determined to be incendiary and 17 remain undetermined.

AFD's Fire Investigation Unit also responded to a notable major fire incident at the Royal Suites Lodge in February 2017. The magnitude of this incident necessitated activation of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives National Response Team to conduct an origin and cause investigation. During this extensive scene examination, AFD's Fire Investigation Unit worked alongside of and provided logistical support to the 19 National Response Team members. This fire is still under investigation.



# Wildfire Mitigation



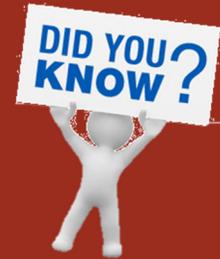
**AFD's Wildfire Mitigation Office** (WMO) coordinates hazardous fuel mitigation on both public and private property and provides Firewise education to homeowners throughout the Municipality of Anchorage. This grant funded program has been pivotal in helping homeowners that live in densely wooded areas protect their home and property by identifying

potential fire hazards and helping defray the cost of mitigation efforts by the owner.

WMO staff and crews from Stations 8, 9, 10, 11 and 14 provide Firewise assessments to homeowners. 2017 saw the inclusion of two workers through the Americorp program in the Mayor's Office.

Due to the dry weather in 2016 AFD's WMO was very busy. Anchorage experienced three fires of concern; a 2 acre fire near Martin Luther King Drive and Elmore Road, a 25 acre fire adjacent to Eagle River and the McHugh Creek Fire. Those fires as well as the significant national attention due to large fires in populated areas in Canada and the Western US encouraged homeowners in Anchorage to take advantage of our mitigation program.

Fortunately weather during the summer of 2017 was much cooler and wetter. This allowed the WMO to catch up on left over requests from the previous year and complete all of the scheduled assessments and perform other mitigation work around the community.



Aerial lanterns, sometimes referred to as "Wish Lanterns" are prohibited in the Municipality of Anchorage. These devices are typically ignited and rise into the air as heat increases inside the paper lantern. Occasionally, they are caught in the wind and ignite structures, trees, shrubs, grass or other combustible material. Their flight path is unpredictable, and they have been known to cause structure fires when they land on structures before the internal fuel source is expended.



For more information:  
[www.muni.org/Prevention](http://www.muni.org/Prevention)

# Community Risk Reduction



AWWU allows you to adopt a hydrant?

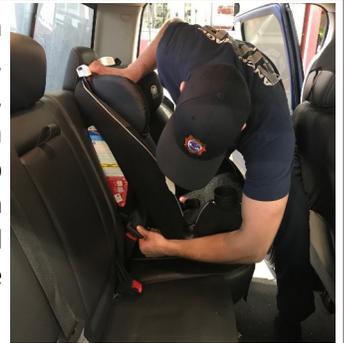
Contact the Utility's Operations & Maintenance Foreman, Earl Stewman at 550-5914 for information.

Hydrants can be painted creatively, no all black, all white or blending in with the surrounding area though. Firefighters **MUST** be able to quickly locate and use each hydrant!

Keep your hydrant shoveled clear of snow and don't let vegetation hide it from firefighters.



The AFD Child Passenger Safety Seat Program partnership began with Safe Kids Alaska in 2004. Currently AFD has 66 certified CPS Technicians, including 4 instructors on staff. AFD has hosted a minimum of three Safe Kids Alaska CPS checkup events annually at fire stations or the AFD Open House, and has reported more than 1,361 individual car seat inspections at AFD fire stations alone in the past nine years (2008-2016).



The Anchorage Bike Helmet Project partnership with Safe Kids Alaska began in 2006. AFD fire stations serve as the primary helmet fitting, education, and distribution point to children and teens for families without the financial means to provide helmets to their children. The Anchorage Bike Helmet Project has fit and distributed more than 30,000 bike helmets since 2006.

The [American Red Cross Alaska](#) Chapter helps the AFD meet our mission to serve our community before, during, and after an emergency in many ways. The volunteers and staff of the Red Cross respond to and support operations at incidents both directly through assistance to effected residents as well as by assisting with responder support. The Red Cross also provides education and training in citizen risk reduction and disaster preparedness. Without these programs and the support from the Red Cross, meeting our goals would be far more difficult.



American Red Cross



as that is not associated with a fixed address. Answering the dispatcher's questions will not delay the arrival of help.

Most people who experience cardiac arrest at home, work or in a public location die because they don't receive immediate CPR from someone on the scene. As a bystander, don't be afraid. Your actions can only help. When calling 911, you will be asked for your location. Be specific, especially if you're calling from a mobile phone

### Hands Only CPR



Anchorage Fire Department

### Two steps to save a life:



- Call 9-1-1
- Put Hands on Center of Chest
- Push Hard! Push Fast!

# Community Risk Reduction

With Governor Walker's opioid disaster declaration on February 15, 2017, AFD stood up to assist the community in the statewide response to the opioid epidemic. In conjunction with the Alaska Department of Public Health's Project HOPE program, all AFD fire stations, ambulances and fire apparatus began to carry medication disposal bags the public can request to safely dispose of their prescription opioid medications no longer needed or expired. In a parallel Project HOPE program, all AFD ambulances and fire apparatus carry a Narcan Nasal Spray overdose response kit to replace those kits used by civilians prior to AFD's arrival. The AFD carries naloxone, the generic form of Narcan, to administer to patients as part of its EMS standing medical orders, and has administered naloxone for over forty years.



In 2016 and 2017, AFD responded to 499 residential fires. While you can't always predict or prevent a fire in your home, you can help your chances of survival by having operating smoke alarms around your home.

Of the 499 residential fires, the status of the home's smoke alarms were:

No alarms present = 92

Alarm alerted occupants = 203

Did not alert occupants = 146  
(present but non-operational)

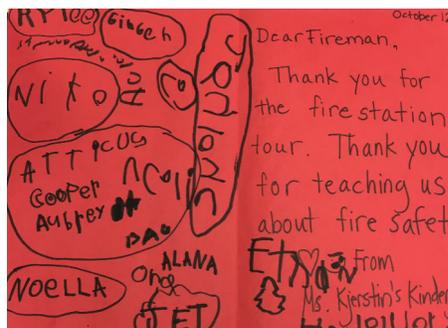
Building unoccupied = 58



As a part of our commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of our community, AFD is focused on initiatives that encourage early cancer detection, healthy life styles and preventing exposures to carcinogens. Cancer prevention and early detection can help people stay well and save lives.

AFD conducts fire safety presentations for all age groups. We provide information on how to prevent a fire in your home or business by practicing fire safe behaviors. Simple actions such as never cooking while you are tired or under the influence of medication or other impairing substances, keeping lighters and other fire starting materials locked away from young children, keeping combustibles away from heat sources, not putting cigarette butts out in potted soil, and maintaining heating appliances, can prevent a fire from occurring.

We also discuss tools and methods to prevent a fire from getting larger or causing injury, for example: ensuring that you have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms throughout your home, knowing how to use a fire extinguisher, practicing home and business fire drills, and practicing Stop, Drop and Roll.



# Training

AFD's Video Production unit produces original material for department training programs. The Video Center is also responsible for the Muni Channel #9 and the video broadcast of the MOA Assembly and Anchorage School District Board Meeting.



In 2016, the Video Center was awarded the prestigious Telly Award for their video

“Firewise Neighborhoods Team Up”.

The Telly Awards honor excellence in video and television production from around the world including nominations from 50 states and 5 continents.



The Anchorage Fire Department Training Division consists of three staff including an Assistant Chief of Fire Programs, a Training Administrator, and a Training Specialist. During 2016 and 2017, department training was also augmented by Platoon Training Officers and shift personnel on special assignment.



The Training Division is housed in the Anchorage Fire Department Training Center at 1140 Airport Heights and extends to the entire campus adjacent to Merrill Field. The campus has two fire rescue training towers including fire simulators and burn rooms, 10 training classrooms, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) training area, training field and driver's training areas. The campus is co-located with the fleet maintenance building and its associated campus.

During 2016 and 2017, the Training Division provided and supported over 75,000 hours of new and continuing education in the department to include but not limited to:

- **New hire training for 41 recruited firefighters**
- **Fire Apparatus Engineer Driver training**
- **Tractor-Drawn Aerial (Tiller) Truck Deployment**
- **Fire Instructor Training**
- **Fire Officer Development Training**
- **Over 20,000 hours of Emergency Medical Training**
  - High Performance CPR
  - Basic Life Support
  - Advanced Life Support
  - Trauma Management
- **Wildland Training**
- **Technical Rescue Training certification and continuing education**
  - Dive Team
  - Water Rescue Boat
  - Urban Search and Rescue
  - High Angle Rescue
  - Haz-Mat Team
- **Annual Operations and Administrative Training**
  - OSHA required training
  - Administrative updates
  - Workplace behavior
  - Principles of Modern Fire Attack
  - Fire Rescue Operations (Vent—Enter—Isolate—Search; VEIS)

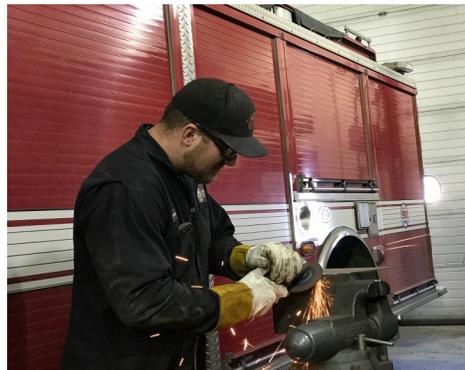
# Maintenance Shop



The Maintenance Shop is made up of one Logistics / Office Associate, one Lead Mechanic and seven Mechanics. It is open for operation seven days a week. The shop inspects, diagnoses, maintains and repairs almost 200 emergency response vehicles and equipment in the Anchorage Fire Department, as well as the neighboring Chugiak and Girdwood volunteer departments.

The Shop manages 186 apparatus and 6 station compressors. This is broken down as follows:

- 66—Light Vehicles (Suburbans, Explorers, Pick-up trucks, etc)
- 26—Medic units (19 frontline operational and 7 in extended repair or cold storage)
- 43—Specialty Apparatus (Trailer, Boats, ATVs, Mobile Command, etc)
- 51—Heavy Apparatus (Engines, Trucks, Tiller, Tenders and Rescue)
- 6—Station Breathing apparatus fill station compressors



In 2017, two of our mechanics were formally trained by Stryker, positioning them to provide in house repairs of the gurneys.



The Shop:

- Instituted a 7 day staffing model in 2016 to ensure mechanics are on duty every day
- Processed 1,069 work orders in 2017; 128 were breakdowns and unplanned repairs
- Old and obsolete equipment was auctioned off in 2017 and the funds were returned to the Municipality.



Fire Engines carry hose, ladders, water, pumps, and firefighters who focus on controlling the spread of fires and extinguishment.



Fire Trucks are larger apparatus that carry ladders, tools, and specialized equipment to help search for and rescue fire victims and aid in fire attack and suppression.



All Fire Engines, Trucks, and Ambulances carry medical equipment with dedicated professional Firefighter/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics prepared to respond to medical emergencies throughout the city.

# Dispatch

  
**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
LISTEN TO THE  
DISPATCHER**

On average, the AFD Dispatch Center answers **200,000** calls annually. These calls include 9-1-1, ASP, LifeMed, non-emergency calls and chaplain requests.

Of these calls:

- 38% of calls are from 9-1-1
- 25% of calls are for ASP
- 31% of calls are non-emergency calls
- 5% are for medivac patients



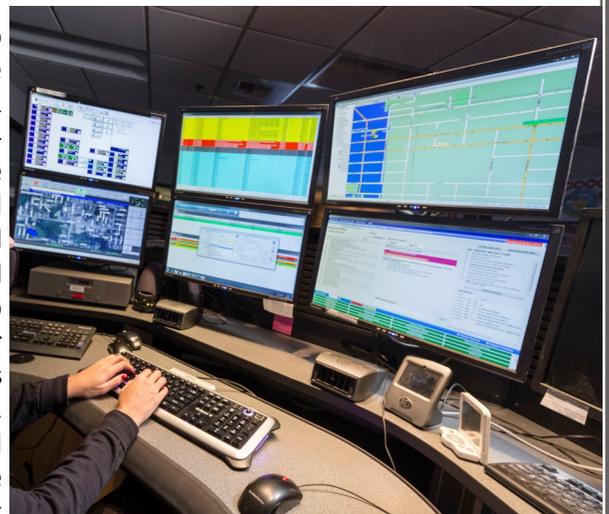
The Anchorage Fire Department Communications Center handles all 911 fire, rescue and emergency medical calls and radio communications within the Municipality. The center is staffed with twenty highly trained professional public safety dispatchers who work 12-hour shifts. Minimum staffing is three dispatchers and one lead dispatcher on duty at all times. All AFD dispatchers are trained and certified in

Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD) and some are certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

AFD Dispatchers use a Criteria Based Dispatch (CBD) medical triaging system. This is a highly effective process to quickly determine if patients are in need of CPR or other immediate care. Our dispatchers are recognized as an integral part in early recognition of cardiac arrests and provide Dispatch-Assisted CPR instructions to bystanders and/or family members. It is without doubt dispatchers contribute to the AFD's success in cardiac arrest survival.

A multi-year project to integrate the department's Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system with APD is nearing completion and expected to go live in 2018. Currently, AFD and APD operate on separate CAD systems creating delays for citizens calling 911. Integrated CAD uses an industry proven platform built by Tri-Tech Software Solutions, which removes duplication and enhances the speed and accuracy of shared information between the agencies. Additional improvements are gained in data collection and information technology use of single server needs.

The Municipality is also upgrading the dispatch phone systems to Next Generation 911 (NG911). This is a state-of-the-art platform that will be integrated between AFD and APD. NG911 provides enhanced answering capabilities combined with a mapping system to pin-point caller's locations or geo-fencing. Additional features will provide methods for 911 texting and 911 video calls and system redundancy to minimize dropping 911 calls. This project is also slated to come on-line in early 2018.



# Data Systems

The Data Systems division provides technological solutions to support the Anchorage Fire Department's daily and long-term information needs, with emphasis on Fire Incident Reports, GIS-based computer-aided dispatch and records management systems, and Web-based information sharing across an enterprise-wide topology of



hardware and software systems. The Data Systems team provides oversight to over 50 separate programs and applications while providing IT support to multiple ancillary public safety agencies including Chugiak and Girdwood Volunteer Fire and Rescue departments, Anchorage Safety Patrol and the Safety Center.

In late 2016, the division was fully staffed again after a period of changes both internally and with central MOA IT. With the division whole again, it allowed the division to better maintain the aging systems and create detailed and organized documentation of the complex AFD software applications. This documentation provides guidelines for troubleshooting problems as they arise and reduces time to resolution.

Status boards were created, implemented and maintained entirely in-house by Data Systems staff. These boards hang in each station and show each active incident location, assigned apparatus, and current status in a concise and easy to read manner. Responders are able to use this tool quickly to assess the status of current incidents and locations of apparatus around town.

Current Incidents		
15:06:50 Sta14	4501 Campbell Airstrip Rd	E14 - Pt Contact M04 - Transporting M06 - Pt Contact
	<b>Motor Vehicle Accident</b>	
15:04:04 Sta08	6151 O'malley Rd	M09 - On Location E08 - Pt Contact
	<b>Traumatic Injury</b>	
14:38:54 Sta05	2207 Mc Rae Rd	E05 - On Location E04 - Responding E01 - Responding
4 - Tac4	<b>Structure Fire</b>	T05 - On Location R04 - Staged M05 - On Location S01 - Responding B1 - On Location EMS1 - Responding B2 - Responding
14:33:52 Sta12	7960 Homer Dr	M12 - Transporting E12 - On Location
	<b>Stroke</b>	
14:31:06 Sta03	430 Bragaw St	E03 - On Location
	<b>Car Seat Inspection</b>	
14:01:36 Sta01	100 E 4th Ave	M23 - On Location E02 - On Location T01 - On Location
3 - Tac3	<b>Cardiac Arrest</b>	

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## What happens when you call 911?



# Operations



The Anchorage Fire Department is considered an “All-Hazards” public safety agency as we are trained and equipped to protect the community from a variety of life-safety threats. The most common responses, by far, are calls for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). At minimum, 69% of the response volume of the Fire Department are actually requests for EMS. This is why all Operations personnel are trained at the EMT or paramedic levels. The EMS providers operate under medical protocols and standing orders that are provided by the Office of the Medical Director of the Anchorage Fire Department and Area Wide EMS. All personnel are trained, tested and held accountable to these standards.

Patient transportation is provided by our relatively small fleet of ambulances (9 Advanced Life Support and 2 Basic Life Support) while the “street medicine” is delivered by the team of trained providers that can arrive on any of the closest available fire apparatus to initiate care and mitigate the emergency. Since AFD provides all 911 medical and fire responses for the MOA, the personnel arriving at these calls operate under the same protocols and medical leadership to deliver consistent and integrated care in the field even as the patient transitions from one level of provider to another. Our providers train, work and live together and we have very low turnover so we share a method and culture as well as an intense commitment to providing the best care for our patients.

While the most visible aspects of our EMS system are our ambulances and fire apparatus, the *SYSTEM* has many more components. Every emergency response starts with a citizen’s 911 call for help. These calls are answered by highly skilled Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs), now sometimes referred to as “telecommunicators” because of their expanding roles in prehospital care. EMDs are quite literally our *First* first responders. The EMDs typically work as a team, one sending the crews out while the call taker works with the caller to obtain more history and often to provide advice on initial treatment of the problem. AFD dispatch uses a system called Criteria Based Dispatch® (CBD) that allows the EMD to triage a caller’s medical complaint into one of a number of categories and, based upon the problem category, the EMD is able to draw upon medically sound information to advise the caller.

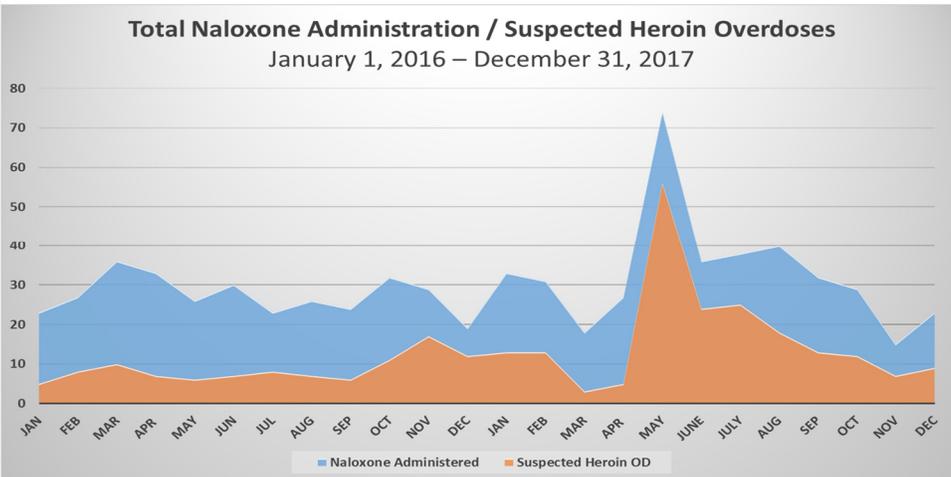
When one looks at what it takes to be able to provide immediate responses to life threatening calls day in and day out, without fail, it is important to realize that this can only happen because of an even larger behind the scenes AFD team. We rely on our training staff to make sure that we are fielding providers with the proper knowledge and skills. Our Information Technology team makes sure that the devices and software that have become ever-more important to us are reliable. Safety officers respond to minimize work environment threats to well-being and assist navigating our staff through the system when injury or illness does occur. When we are responding to a cardiac arrest, the last thing on our minds is any worry about whether the apparatus will get us there and for that we thank our team of mechanics at the AFD shop. They say it takes a village and with regard to being able to reliably respond to time-critical incidents night or day, that saying could not be truer for the AFD.

The residents and visitors of the Municipality of Anchorage should be very reassured that if illness or injury befall them or their loved ones, the AFD will provide timely, state of the art care that is unsurpassed nationwide.

Michael Levy, M.D., FAEMS, FACEP, FACP  
AFD Medical Director  
Anchorage Area Wide Medical Director

# Operations

May 2017 brought an unprecedented surge of suspected heroin overdoses within the Anchorage community. Seventy-four (74) patients were administered naloxone by AFD paramedics, fifty-six of those patients (56) were suspected of using heroin.



It was surmised this surge occurred with addition of the synthetic opioid fentanyl being mixed with the heroin. Naloxone administration and suspected heroin use declined after May. AFD requested Expanded Scope approval to train all EMT-1's in the use of nasal naloxone administration from the State of Alaska as part of statutory changes that have yet to be approved.



2017  
**EMS ADMINISTRATOR AWARD**  
Presented by the  
Governor's Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services  
to  
**MARK MONFORE**  
In recognition of your many years of outstanding leadership and commitment to excellence to improve dispatch, EMS quality assurance and CARES reporting within the Anchorage Fire Department

AFD EMS Battalion Chief Mark Monfore was the recipient of the 2017 Governors EMS Administrator of the Year award.

Mark is a dedicated public servant. His thoughtful leadership and attention to detail have been crucial in changing our Emergency Medical Dispatch protocol system and implementing the new Criteria Based Dispatching. This new system allows AFD dispatchers to provide patient care before responders arrive on scene.



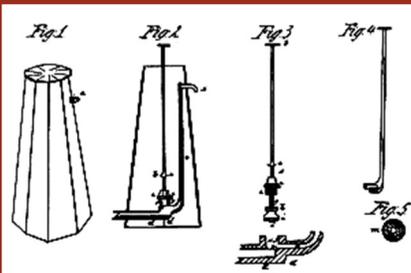
A strong Chain of Survival can improve chances of survival and recovery for victims of cardiac arrest. The 5 links in the adult out-of-hospital Chain of Survival are:

- **Recognition** of cardiac arrest and **activation** of the emergency response system
- Early **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)** with an emphasis on chest compressions
- Rapid **defibrillation**
- Basic and advanced emergency medical services
- Advanced life support and post-cardiac arrest care

# Operations



Chief Engineer of the Philadelphia Water Works, Frederick Graff Sr., is credited with the first patent for a fire hydrant system resembling what we have today. Ironically, there is no official record of this patent because the US Patent Office was destroyed in 1836...in a fire.



Employees who work a 40 hour work week put in 2,080 hours each year of straight time. Due to an exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Firefighters work a 56 hour work week for a total of 2,912 hours of straight time each year. Each firefighter is assigned a shift (A, B, or C). Their schedule works in cycles—each cycle consists of three 24-hour shifts worked with one day off in between. There is a 4-day off duty period between cycles.

MAY 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 C	2 A	3 B	4 A	5 B	6 C
7 B	8 C	9 A	10 C	11 A	12 B	13 A
14 B	15 C	16 B	17 C	18 A	19 C	20 A
21 B	22 A	23 B	24 C	25 B	26 C	27 A
28 C	29 A	30 B	31 A	JUNE 2017		

## Operations: Staffing/Role Assignments

**2 Assistant Chiefs** – policy development, research and development of new programs, oversight of major initiatives, Public Information Officer, mitigation of hazardous incidents, command and control of medium to large incidents, delivery of emergency medical care, personnel management, and special projects. **Respond as necessary on evenings or weekends**

**9 Battalion Chiefs** – mitigation of hazardous incidents, command and control of medium to large incidents, delivery of emergency medical care, personnel management, and special projects. **Minimum daily staffing requires 3 Battalion Chiefs**

**3 EMS Battalion Chiefs** – mitigation of hazardous incidents, command and control of medium to large incidents, delivery of emergency medical care, oversight of emergency medical operations, and special projects. **Minimum daily staffing requires 1 EMS Battalion Chief**

**3 Safety Officers** – mitigation of hazardous incidents, command and control of small and medium incidents, delivery of emergency medical care, oversight and management of our employee safety program. **Minimum daily staffing requires 1 Safety Officer**

**13 Senior Captains** – mitigation of hazardous incidents, command and control of small and medium incidents, delivery of emergency medical care, oversight and delivery of fire and life safety education programs, and the oversight and management of 13 fire stations and their assigned crew. **Minimum daily staffing requires 4 Senior Captains**

**4 Lead Dispatchers** – oversight of the Dispatch Center and assigned crew, intake of emergency information, dispatching of response crews and instruction and coaching of callers to deliver immediate care prior to arrival of response crews. **Minimum shift staffing requires 1 Lead Dispatcher**

**47 Captains** – mitigation of hazardous incidents, command and control of small and medium incidents, delivery of emergency medical care, oversight and delivery of fire and life safety education programs, and oversight and management of their assigned crew. **Minimum daily staffing requires 16 Captains**

**78 Engineers** – mitigation of hazardous incidents, operating the fire apparatus and delivery of emergency medical care, and delivery of fire and life safety education programs. **Minimum daily staffing requires 26 Engineers**

**16 Dispatchers** – intake of emergency information, dispatching of response crews and instruction and coaching of callers to deliver immediate care prior to arrival of response crews. **Minimum shift staffing requires 3 Dispatchers**

**57 Firefighter Paramedics** – mitigation of hazardous conditions, delivery of Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical care, and delivery of fire and life safety education programs.

**107 Firefighter EMTs** – mitigation of hazardous incidents, delivery of Basic Life Support (BLS) emergency medical care, and delivery of fire and life safety education programs. **Minimum daily staffing requires 50 Firefighters, a minimum of 9 must be Firefighter Paramedics**

# Response Stats

**BE AWARE  
KNOW WHERE**



## A Few Significant Responses

**March 4, 2016**, AFD responded to over 28 motor vehicle crashes, resulting in 18 patients being transported to local hospitals.

**February 15, 2017**, crews responded to the Royal Suites fire. Three civilians lost their lives as a result of this fire. This fire was one of the most deadly and costly fires in recent history of the community.

**February 20, 2017**, a young man succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning after a heating system boiler in the garage malfunctioned. Seven other family members were treated for CO poisoning and recovered.



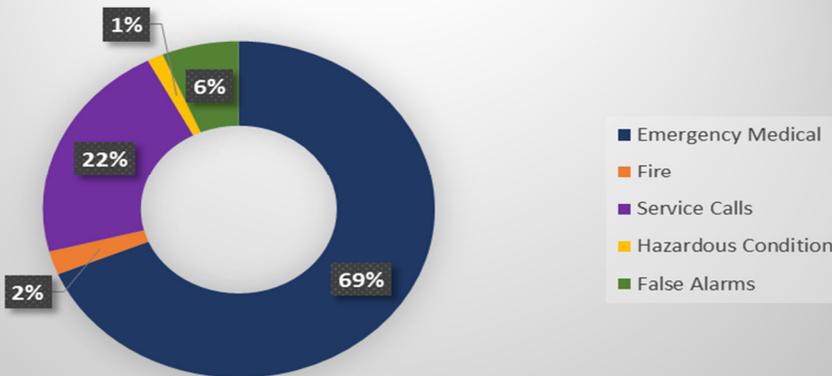
Operation Crews responded to a total of 36,270 calls for service in 2017. That is an increase of 8% over the 33,477 calls in 2015.



In 2016 and 2017, AFD responded to 2,020 cardiac arrest and structure fire calls. The average time from dispatch to arriving on scene was about 4 minutes.



## 2016/2017 Incidents by Type



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Emergency Medical	19,511	21,372	21,619	20,998	22,640	24,187	24,952
Fire	814	735	743	777	797	829	785
Service Calls	7,054	7,371	8,155	7,115	7,447	7,489	7,799
Hazardous Condition	559	787	465	391	418	425	518
False Alarms	2,396	2,350	2,257	2,141	2,175	2,331	2,216
	<b>30,334</b>	<b>32,615</b>	<b>33,239</b>	<b>31,422</b>	<b>33,477</b>	<b>35,261</b>	<b>36,270</b>

Sometimes, no matter how much effort we put towards prevention activities, emergencies still happen. The Anchorage Fire Department responds daily to a diverse call volume. These calls for service are handled by our 911 dispatchers and 13 fire stations with approximately 100 firefighters per shift.

# Health and Safety



In June of 2017, AFD Firefighter Ben Schultz fell from an aerial apparatus while training, suffering significant injuries. FF Schultz is recovering in a facility out of state; we are all encouraged and impressed with his remarkable recovery.

A sincere "Thank you" to the Anchorage community for the heartfelt support shown to Ben's family and the department during this time.

**#Brotherhood for Ben**

**Annual Physical** Responding to emergency can be physically, mentally and emotionally taxing. During the last two-year period, AFD has continued to work to improve the health and wellness of our employees.

Firefighters at all ranks are now required to complete an annual physical performance assessment. This is to ensure they have the physical capacity to safely perform the high hazard work of emergency response.

**Safety Officers** AFD is fortunate to have three dedicated Safety Officers. The Safety Officers work a 24 hour shift and respond to all major emergencies to provide on scene safety oversight; they are responsible for development and oversight of programs to reduce the injury rate and improve the health of all of our

**Lifting Assistance** Patient moving and lifting incidents are a leading cause of injury to our responders. Over the last three years AFD has implemented several strategies to reduce those injuries including new equipment to assist with lifting and moving patients, training on smart lifting techniques, and fitness programs to improve strength and physical abilities. These strategies have resulted in a reduction of lifting related injuries however we will continue these efforts until those types of injuries are eliminated.



The Alaska Police and Fire Chaplain Ministries: These volunteers are specifically trained to work during traumatic events with the primary support focus on the officers, fire personnel and emergency services staff. They also provide emotional support and crisis intervention to victims of traumatic incidents.

For more information, visit their website: [www.apfcm.org](http://www.apfcm.org)

**Cancer Prevention and Detection** Recent research has demonstrated that firefighters have an increased rate of certain types of cancers. This has been attributed to exposures to carcinogenic products found in burning buildings and hazardous materials responses. The department is working hard to reduce the exposure by providing training on reducing contact with carcinogens, constant cleaning of our apparatus and equipment, and ensuring responders are provided with the best personal protective gear. We have also included cancer screening in our mandatory annual physicals.

**Peer Support** We have implemented a Firefighter Peer Support program to assist our employees who experience stressful situations. Improving the ability of emergency responders to work through traumatic events has the potential to reduce absences and turnover.

# Resource List

External	Contact	Internal	Contact
Alaska Police and Fire Chaplain Ministries	<a href="http://www.apfcm.org">www.apfcm.org</a>	AFD—Headquarters	(907) 267-4900 www.muni.org/fire
American Heart Association	<a href="http://www.heart.org/Anchorage">www.heart.org/Anchorage</a>	Car Seat Inspections	(907) 267-5045
Anchorage Fire Explorers	<a href="http://www.anchoragefireexplorers.com">www.anchoragefireexplorers.com</a>	Firewise Program	(907) 267-4935
Anchorage Safety Patrol	<a href="http://www.muni.org/departments/health">www.muni.org/departments/health</a>	Prevention	(907) 267-4901
Chugiak Volunteer Fire & Rescue	<a href="http://www.cvfrd.com">www.cvfrd.com</a>	Public Affairs	(907) 267-4966
Girdwood Fire & Rescue	<a href="http://www.girdwoodfire.com">www.girdwoodfire.com</a>	Station dinners	(907) 267-4936
IAFF Local 1264	<a href="http://www.iaff1264.com">www.iaff1264.com</a>	Station tours	(907) 267-4900
Red Cross Alaska Chapter	<a href="http://www.redcross.org/local/Alaska">www.redcross.org/local/Alaska</a>		
Safe Kids	<a href="http://www.safekids.org/coalition.safe-kids-alaska">www.safekids.org/coalition.safe-kids-alaska</a>		

## Honor Guard



The Anchorage Firefighter Honor Guard was created in 2001 as the first civilian Honor Guard in Alaska. The Honor Guard consists of 22 volunteer men and women from all aspects of the Anchorage Fire Department; The Guard's primary focus is to provide ceremonial honors to those members that make the ultimate sacrifice of a Line Of

Duty Death. We also provide honor and burial services for retired AFD members, and assist multiple agencies throughout the State of Alaska when requested. The Honor Guard also provides flag presentation services at a variety of community events, sporting events, and local parades. Funding for the Honor Guard is provided by the Anchorage Firefighters Union, IAFF Local 1264.

For more information you may visit the Honor Guard at:  
<https://m.facebook.com/AnchorageFirefightersHonorGuard/>  
 or by contacting AFD Headquarters at (907) 267-4936



# New Apparatus

You may have noticed that newer apparatus have a different paint scheme. In 2015 our apparatus specification work group recommended changing to a new color pattern. With approval from Chief LeBlanc we surveyed all members of the department to weigh in on the options. A darker red body with a charcoal grey stripe was selected. We are very happy with the result. We think our new apparatus are beautiful! What do you think?



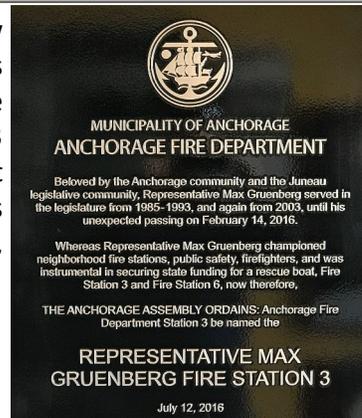
In 2017, we put the first Tractor-Drawn Aerial, otherwise known as a Tiller into service. The Tiller provides better maneuverability for downtown operations. It can turn around in very tight spaces and improves our ability to access the tight road and alleyways in the downtown areas much more easily than our other apparatus.

## FLEET REPLACEMENT PURCHASES

Year Bond Approved	Bond Total Amount	Apparatus Type	Quantity	In Service Year
2014	\$800,000	Tenders	3	2016
2014	\$1,150,000	Ladder Truck	1	2017
2014 & 2015	\$1,040,000	Ambulances	4	2016
2015	\$1,800,000	Engines	3	2016
2016	\$900,000	Ambulances	3	2017
2016	\$900,000	Heavy Rescue	1	Coming 2018
2017	\$1,800,000	Engines	3	Coming 2018

# New Stations

On October 15, 2016 Station 3 was relocated to 430 Bragaw Street. Prior to that, it had been located at 1100 Airport Heights Drive since 1967. This move enabled the station to provide faster responses to the North-East part of Anchorage. Station 3 has 27 people assigned with a daily staffing level of 9 people. It houses a Truck, Engine and Ambulance. Their specialty team is the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), which covers trench, confined space and structural collapse rescues.



This station was dedicated to the late Alaska State Representative Max Gruenberg. Representative Gruenberg was key in securing the site and funding for the new station; he has a long history of supporting public safety.



On October 22, 2016 Station 9 was relocated to 13915 Lake Otis Parkway. Prior to that it had been located at 1148 Huffman since 1977. This move enabled the station to better serve the growing community of South Anchorage and allow for faster responses down the highway toward Girdwood. Station 9 has 21 people assigned with a daily staffing level of 7 people. It houses an Engine, Ambulance, Tender and a back country rescue rig. The station also has a hose tower, where they maintain and service fire hoses for the south half of the city.

Their specialty team is the Front Country / Rope Rescue. This team responds to incidents on the many costal trails around Anchorage and to calls on the mud flats south of town.



# Community Partnerships



## International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 1264

The [IAFF Local 1264](#) represents the firefighters and other members of the Anchorage Fire Department. The IAFF and AFD work together to expand their service beyond simply responding to emergencies during their work hours. Members of the IAFF Local 1264 continue to serve the community and support programs such as Operation Warm, Shop with a Cop/Shop with a Firefighter, Fill the Boot and many other programs that bring added value and service to our community. The IAFF Local 1264 works tirelessly to help protect the health and safety of our department members and provide support to those who serve our community every day.



## Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Police and Fire

The members of the TSAIA Police and Fire Department protect the [Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport \(TSAIA\)](#) complex positioned on the west side of Anchorage. TSAIA houses one of the busiest cargo airports in the world and the busiest seaplane base in the world. The men and women serving in TSAIA Police and Fire provide police protection, aircraft fire rescue services and first response to medical emergencies within the airport complex. The specialized skills and equipment provided by the TSAIA ensure Anchorage's visitors and citizens are well protected and served whenever they find themselves in and around the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. The AFD also participates in cooperative training opportunities and responds with TSAIA Fire Rescue.



## Department of Health and Human Services Anchorage Safety Patrol

The Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services manages the contract for the [Anchorage Safety Patrol \(ASP\)](#) & Anchorage Safety Center (ASC). ASP vans and staff are dispatched by the Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) Call Center to persons that appear to be incapacitated by alcohol or drugs in a public place. When not on a dispatch call, the ASP Van actively patrols the Anchorage Downtown and Midtown areas in search of persons that may be in need of assistance. The Safety Center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week to monitor clients during the sobering process. The services provided by ASP ensure that AFD responders and local emergency departments are available to treat critical patients rather than a patient who is not in need of such specialized emergency care.



## Anchorage Police Department

The Officers and staff at the [Anchorage Police Department](#) are committed to protect and serve with dignity and professionalism. Countless times per day our brother and sister officers take action to improve the safety of our community and citizens, and help those with whom they interact. We are very proud to serve alongside such a tremendous group of professionals and want to acknowledge the under recognized role these officers play in our success – we couldn't be as successful without this team's support.

# Community Partnerships

## Chugiak Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department

The [Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department](#) is located at the north end of the municipality. CVFRD provides high quality fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services in north Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood and Eklutna. CVFRD provides response through the service of nearly 100 volunteer responders and support members. CVFRD answered nearly 1,000 calls for service in 2017 including several requests for mutual aid to Anchorage Fire Department Eagle River fires and medical responses. The members at CVFRD truly embody “neighbors helping neighbors” through their professional services; we are proud to have them as part of the AFD team serving from their 5 stations.



## Girdwood Fire and Rescue

[Girdwood Fire and Rescue](#) is located in the Girdwood Valley at the south end of the municipality. Girdwood Fire and Rescue works with the Anchorage Fire Department to provide fire suppression, rescue operations, and emergency medical services to residents in the Girdwood Valley and to communities along Turnagain Arm. Girdwood Fire Rescue responds to approximately 400 calls per year including several joint fire response incidents on the Seward Highway. The communities and residents along the Turnagain Arm should be as proud of these responders as we are to have them working with us.



## Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) / JBER Fire

[Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson](#) and their fire department occupy the space north of Government Hill and extend along the north edge of the city to the Glenn Highway. JBER also occupies space along the Chugach foothills in northeast Anchorage with the installation occupying over 79,000 acres. Over 13,000 Arctic Warriors, their families, and associated civilian support contractors occupy the installation. These people are all part of our community and we are encouraged that such a great group of firefighters and responders are supporting them. The AFD also benefits from partnerships in civil support, training and cooperative responses on the base property. For several years the AFD has participated in firefighter mentorship programs sponsored by both agencies.



## Anchorage Fire Explorers

The [Anchorage Fire Department Explorers](#) program is a youth program for high school aged boys and girls with an interest in the emergency services. The program is managed by off-duty firefighter advisors who volunteer their time to lead the participants in training exercises and courses that are beneficial in their path to become firefighters or just in everyday life. The program is managed under an agreement with [Learning for Life](#) which is an extension of the Boy Scouts of America. AFD is extremely proud of the members and advisors of this program and are honored to have a large number of former Explorers working in positions from Assistant Chief all the way down to our newest firefighters.



Email: [post264@icloud.com](mailto:post264@icloud.com)

Website: [www.anchoragefireexplorers.com](http://www.anchoragefireexplorers.com)

# Retirements/Promotions

## Retirements

2016

Captain Paul Bezilla  
Safety Officer Stephen Brown  
Engineer Eric Harvey  
Engineer Larry Garner  
Firefighter Rick Erickson  
Captain Lan Hecimovich  
Senior Captain Tom Oxnam  
Firefighter Craig Johnston  
EMS Supply Manager Marilyn McNamara  
Mechanic Ken McMillan  
Investigator Brian Balega  
Inspector Yvette Jaegge  
Fire Training Administrator Ginger Susman  
Payroll Specialist Karen Marquis

2017

Engineer Rodger Sullivan  
Firefighter Dave Denslow  
Captain Delbert Simineo  
Engineer Bill Burgh  
Senior Captain Barry Clark  
Safety Officer Robert St. Clair



## Promotions

Battalion Chief Nate Paulson – January 2016

Safety Officer Robert St. Clair – August 2016

Safety Officer Clinton Powell – September 2017

Senior Captain Ryan Staten – September 2016

Senior Captain Mike Stumbaugh – January 2016

Senior Captain Brian Partch – January 2016

Senior Captain Kevin Wallace – August 2017

Senior Captain Casey Johnson – August 2017

Captain Matt Herman – January 2016

Captain Jay Bird – August 2016

Captain John Booher – October 2016

Engineer Gary Wright – January 2016

Engineer Shawn O'Donnell – May 2016

Engineer Jae Lee – May 2016

Engineer Brian Willmon – June 2016

Engineer Scott Paschall – August 2016

Engineer Dan Otis – October 2016

Engineer David Barbeau – June 2017

Engineer Adam Farrell – June 2017

Engineer John Borland – June 2017

Engineer Josh Foster – June 2017

Inspector Jen Tulare – June 2017



# Recruitment



Anchorage Fire Department is a great place to work! The Department employs a wide range of professionals including Firefighters, Dispatchers, Mechanics, Fire Inspectors, IT Specialists, Investigators, Finance professionals, Logistics Specialists, Administrative professionals, Training Specialists and Community Risk Reduction Specialists.

If you are interested in learning more about employment opportunities, please follow the Anchorage Fire Department Recruitment on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AFDRecruiter>

For more information about each of our positions and the requirements necessary to apply, and/or to be notified when a job is available, please visit :

[www.muni.org/jobs](http://www.muni.org/jobs)



# Bringing History to Life

## 1921 La France Pumper – *Charley 1*

First purchased by the Anchorage City Council on October 24, 1922, this 1921 La France Pumper was AFD's first motorized vehicle. Until recently, it has been on display in the AFD museum located at 4<sup>th</sup> and A, but because of its age and our desire to showcase it to the community for many years to come, it is being completely overhauled and rebuilt.



The little pumper “that did a lot” needs work and we’ve created a Repair & Restoration team of volunteers...mostly retired AFD’ers who are working to make it parade-worthy so we can use it in an educational setting by visiting schools and of course, in parades and at community events.

Using all volunteer labor, and working with local suppliers / manufacturers to restore the time aged corroded frame, wiring, engine, lights, hoses and bell, we could use your financial support as no AFD taxpayer monies are being used for this project.

Do you want to help with the *Charley 1* restoration effort and also honor and preserve the history of the Anchorage Fire Department? If so, please contact us at (907) 267-4936.

Charley Schneider was hired as a Fire Engineer on January 1, 1956, and retired as a Senior Fire Captain on July 31, 1984. Charley passed away January 20, 2018 but left his love and passion for the AFD Museum and the 1921 La France Pumper for all of us to share and preserve.

*In his honor, we’ve named the pumper  
**Charley 1***



On November 23rd, 1922, there was a fire at the Jonesville, Alaska coal mine and the pumper was dispatched to fight the fire for thirteen days. The engine pumped continuously (except for brief stops to change oil and replace broken hoses) which set a pumping record at a fire that has (to our knowledge) never been broken.

