

2010

Mount Prospect
Fire Department
**Annual
Report**



Mission Statement

To eliminate injury and the loss of life due to the causes of fire.

To reduce and control fire losses to property in the Village through comprehensive programs of fire prevention, public education, fire suppression, and training.

To provide emergency medical services and training to the citizens of the community.

To maintain adequate emergency preparedness to control and handle a variety of potential life or property threatening situations.

To engage in fire prevention planning efforts, to ensure the most cost-effective system of community fire protection, both now and in the foreseeable future.

To establish and maintain a relationship with other Village departments and outside agencies, so as to be able to give or receive reciprocal support to accomplish an assigned mission.



Many of the photos are courtesy of CERT Member & Resident Mike Zarnek

Message from the Chief

Mayor Wilks, Trustees, Village Manager Janonis, and the entire community; on behalf of all members of the Mount Prospect Fire Department, I present to you the 2010 Annual Report.

The year 2010 was filled with many accomplishments. One of the most significant was the completion of Fire Station 14 and the Emergency Operations Center. These buildings will serve the community for many years to come. Fire Station 14 received a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council in 2010. The building was designed to be almost 30 percent more energy efficient than the Illinois Energy Code and includes many "green" features such as native landscaping, efficient plumbing fixtures, and even a green roof. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a facility that will be used not only for storm related events, but also for major police and fire incidents as well as large planned events such as the 4th of July Celebration. The EOC also received the 2009 American Public Works Association (Chicago Metropolitan Chapter) Project of the Year Award for structures costing less than \$5 million.

The Mount Prospect Citizen Corps program continues to grow and most importantly gets citizens involved. Over the past several months this new program has been in the



development stage with train-the-trainer education and funding established. One hundred and twenty individuals have been trained so far.

The current economic climate made it necessary for the department to reduce its staffing from 72 to 66 sworn members at the close of 2010. Fortunately, the department was able to reduce its staffing through early retirements rather than layoffs. I remain hopeful that these positions will be filled again in the future as the economy improves.

Finally, I want to thank you Mayor Wilks, members of the Village Board, and the Village Manager for your continued support, encouragement, and assistance throughout the year. It is this support that is so greatly appreciated and necessary to continue providing high quality services to the community.

John J. Malcolm



Fire Station 14 Dedication Ceremony - May 29, 2010

Fire Chief Mike Figolah retires after 26 years with the Mount Prospect Fire Department

Fire Chief Mike Figolah retired from the Mount Prospect Fire Department in November 2010 after serving the organization for over 26 years. During his time in Mount Prospect, Chief Figolah held the positions of Firefighter/Paramedic, Lieutenant/Paramedic, Captain, Deputy Fire Chief, and finally Fire Chief. He was named the department's fourth full-time Fire Chief in 1998, a position he held for 12 years.

During his time as Fire Chief, Figolah was an avid supporter of advancements in fire suppression, emergency medical services, and fire prevention activities. Chief Figolah oversaw the construction of the new Fire Station 14, sat on the advisory board for the Northwest Community Hospital EMS System, and worked with the Village Board to pass a residential sprinkler ordinance. He was also instrumental in the development and growth of the Standardized School Crisis Plan which started



in Mount Prospect's 16 schools and has now spread to over 100 schools throughout the Chicago suburbs. In his capacity as Fire Chief, Figolah was also tasked with overseeing the Village's emergency management program including the establishment of a Citizen Corps program and construction of a dedicated Emergency Operations Center.

Chief Figolah's commitment to the Fire Department and community at large will be remembered for years to come.



Accomplishments and Statistics



Accomplishments for 2010

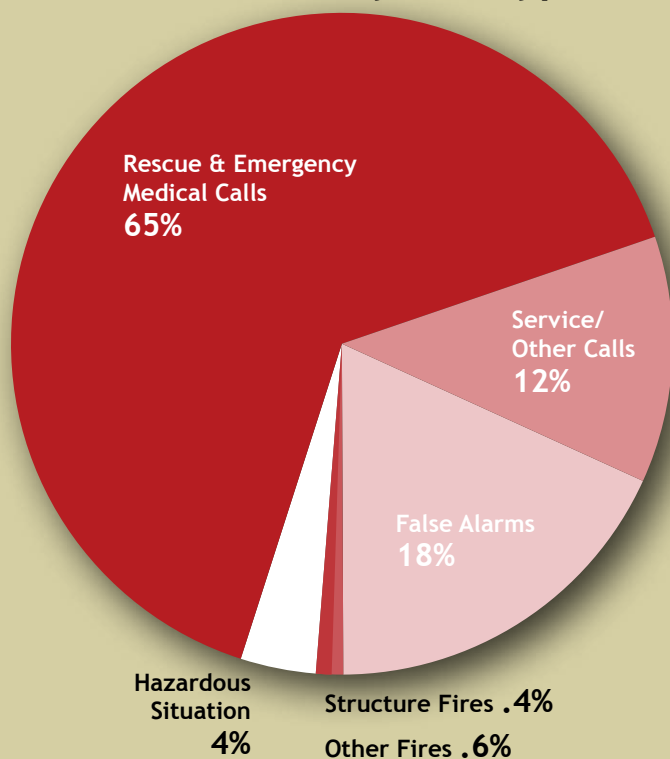
- Completed construction of the new Fire Station 14, Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and Public Works expansion.
- Conducted a Lieutenant promotional process.
- Revised the Board of Fire and Police Commission (BOFPC) hiring procedures.
- Took delivery of two new ambulances.
- Conducted the 31st Annual Children's Fire Safety Festival.

Goals for 2011

- Update the Fire Department Strategic Plan.
- Complete an evaluation of the Village's fire alarm monitoring capabilities.
- Incorporate the new computer aided dispatch system into the department's daily operations.
- Update the emergency response plans for the Mount Prospect petroleum storage facilities.

Call Statistics

Calls for Service by Call Type



Calls for Service by Station & Vehicle

Station 12

Ambulance 12 **1,477**

Engine 12 **2,004**

Station 13

Ambulance 13 **1,733**

Tower 13 **641**

Engine 13 **2,185**

Battalion 3 **630**

Station 14

Ambulance 14 **1,019**

Engine 14 **1,193**

Total Incident Responses **5,346** Total Vehicle Responses **10,882**

Stations and Staffing

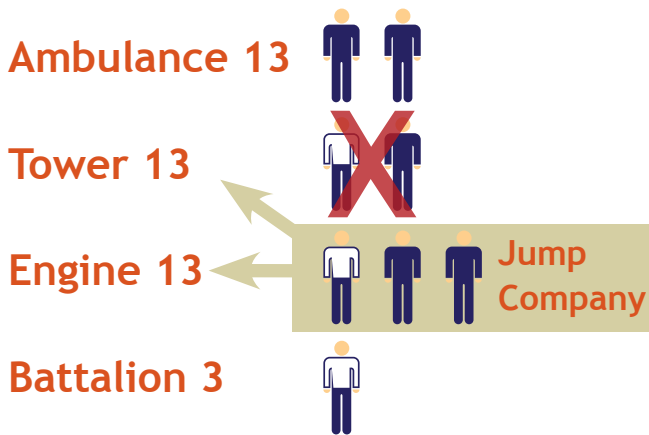
Minimum Daily Staffing = 16

Station 13 (HQ)

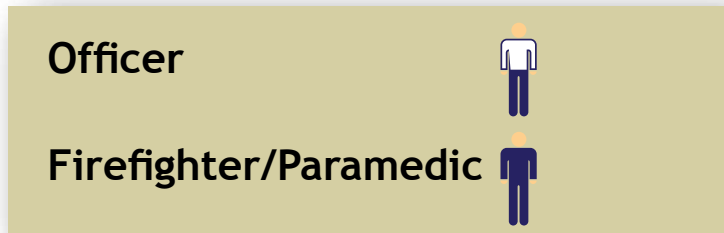
112 E. Northwest Highway



Apparatus and Staffing



On December 1, 2010, a modified response strategy known as a “jump company” was implemented at Fire Station 13. This change came as a result of the loss of six firefighter/paramedic positions as part of the budget cuts for 2010, which reduced the minimum daily staffing from 18 to 16. Whereas prior to this date each vehicle had a dedicated crew assigned to it, a jump company is a crew that is no longer dedicated to one vehicle. Depending on the type of call being dispatched the crew “jumps” to the vehicle that is needed for that specific call. Jump companies are used when a fire station houses multiple types of vehicles that could be dispatched to a call, but there is insufficient staffing to dedicate personnel to each vehicle.



Station 14

2000 E. Kensington Road



Apparatus and Staffing



Station 12

1601 W. Golf Road



Apparatus and Staffing





Special Teams

The Mount Prospect Fire Department has three special teams that respond to unique incidents within the Village and its surrounding communities. Each team is comprised of six to ten members who are specially trained to deal with incidents involving hazardous materials, specialized rescues such as confined spaces or structural collapses, as well as water rescue and recovery.

The Hazardous Materials Team specializes in leaks, spills, fires, and other unusual incidents involving explosives, corrosives, fuels, poisons, radiation, etc.

The Technical Rescue Team responds to rescue incidents where people are trapped in confined spaces, below-grade, collapsed structures, and difficult above ground situations.

The Water Rescue Team specializes in extended rescues/recoveries that take place in the water.

The Mount Prospect special teams are also part of a larger, regional group of similar response teams from other fire departments that train and respond together for incidents in the northwest suburbs.

New Training Tower

One of the many benefits of the new Fire Station 14 is the construction of a state-of-the-art training tower. While other area fire departments already have training towers, this tower is unique in its combining of a three story training facility with hose drying capabilities - as well as its being attached to the main fire station building.

Fire Department training towers are a resource that Mount Prospect has historically had to leave town to use. Due to environmental regulations no “live” burning will be conducted in the training tower; however, plenty of other opportunities abound for firefighter training. Some of the training opportunities that now exist include:

- High-rise firefighting tactics simulation,
- Technical rescue simulations,
- Active sprinkler system practice,
- Ability to simulate building layouts.

The new training tower is a resource that will be of great benefit to the department for years to come.



Advancements in Emergency Medical Services (2005 - 2010)

Since the inception of the paramedic program in Mount Prospect in 1972, all new employees of the Fire Department have been required to be both Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic certified. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) have become a vital part of what we do every day here at the Fire Department as approximately 70 percent of our calls for service are EMS related. Paramedic certification, however, is no small feat given today's requirements. In 2000, the Federal Department of Transportation and National Highway Safety Administration increased the paramedic education requirements from 250 to 1,500 hours - and after certification paramedics are required to complete 36 hours of continuing education every year. Paramedics today are performing tasks and using equipment not even imagined in 1972. Take a look at highlights of some of the major changes from the past six years.

2005 Full time nurse hired as EMS Coordinator to complete all paramedic continuing education and quality improvement for the paramedic program.

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) equipment rolled out which helps maintain open airways for asthma and heart failure patients.

2006 All paramedics trained in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) to better understand how to treat cardiac and stroke patients.

2007 New cardiac monitors purchased that can measure electrocardiogram (ECG)/12-Lead (electrical activity of the heart), capnography (carbon dioxide in the blood), blood pressure, and can defibrillate and/or pace the heart – all tools to help paramedics determine what the problem is and how to best treat patients.

All paramedics trained in Pediatric Education for Pre-Hospital Providers (PEPP) to learn how to provide advanced life support for pediatric patients.

2008 ResQPods® rolled out for use with cardiac arrest patients. Mount Prospect Fire Department's successful resuscitation rate is at approximately 50 percent with the new device and updated CPR guidelines.

All paramedics trained in "Smart Triage" - teaches how to sort, care for, and transport patients based on their injuries during mass casualty incidents.

2009 New computer program used for writing EMS reports – new reports allow for better documentation and quality control.

2010 Two new ambulances put into service. An internal Fire Department committee helped to design the vehicles to make them easier to use when treating patients.

Tower 13 becomes an Advanced Life Support non-transport vehicle.

Department participates in new CPAP mask pilot program through the Northwest Community Hospital EMS System. New masks are easier to use than older versions.

Coming in 2011...

Paramedics to train on new American Heart Association CPR guidelines which emphasize compressions for cardiac arrest patients.

Department to participate in a hypothermia protocol pilot program for cardiac arrest patients (cool heart attack patients to improve survival).





Emergency Management

Accomplishments for 2010

- Completed construction of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- Redesigned/created a new emergency management website: www.mountprospect.org/ema
- Updated the indoor Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) distribution plan.
- Replaced N95 masks for disaster preparedness with a \$5,500 Illinois Emergency Management Agency grant.
- Conducted a 20-hour Citizens Emergency Preparedness Training class.

Goals for 2011

- Conduct a Village wide tabletop disaster drill in April 2011.
- Practice the indoor Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) distribution plan.
- Develop an outdoor Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) distribution plan.
- Conduct an emergency preparedness seminar for the business community.
- Purchase and train staff on Incident Command software for use in the new Emergency Operations Center.
- Update the Village's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

Emergency Operations Center

In 2010, the Village completed construction of a dedicated Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This approximately 4,500 square foot building is a safe and secure operational facility for Village staff and elected officials in the event of an emergency. The EOC offers the Village a central command and communications center where staff can monitor and coordinate its local response to a variety of crises. The most important feature of the building is that it is always in “ready mode” – able to be activated anytime with little advanced warning.

The Emergency Operations Center's largest space is a centrally located Command Room, where various departments can meet and discuss an overall response plan. Raised ceilings and clerestory windows will allow staff to maintain a visual connection with outdoor weather given that the most prevalent types of emergencies are natural ones. A multitude of audio-visual systems will allow staff to have continued access to a variety of information and track everything that's occurring. Other spaces in the facility include a multi-purpose room, break-out room, radio room, and telephone answering



room. Similar to the new Fire Station 14, the EOC is also “hardened” to withstand 160 mph winds, and includes a back-up generator, so that Village staff can continue to provide essential services even in the worst of conditions.

In addition to its role during an emergency, the EOC is used most every week for a variety of meetings and training sessions. The facility can also serve as the meeting place for local officials during large-scale, Village events such as the 4th of July celebration and various downtown festivals.

2010 Fire Prevention Bureau

2010 was another busy year for the Fire Prevention Bureau - with some exciting programs. The first week in May was the 31st Annual Children's Fire Safety Festival. Over 1,700 children preschool through second grade attended the event, which teaches important fire safety lessons. On July 20th, the Fire and Police Departments then hosted a group of eight year olds for Children's Safety Day. These kids had the opportunity to spend a day learning about what firefighters and police officers do every day – including how to spray a fire hose!

On September 25th we held our annual Open House at the downtown headquarters fire station. Thanks to a grant from the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition we were able to make some changes to our usual demonstrations. One of the significant changes was to the Fire Sprinkler Demonstration set-up, which depicted a kitchen fire this year that began because of unattended cooking. According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking equipment is the leading cause of home structure fires and the third leading cause of home fire deaths. Approximately 41 percent of all home fires are started by cooking equipment and unattended cooking is by far the leading contributing factor in these fires. Demonstrating just how easy a kitchen fire can start and spread, as well as how effective sprinkler systems are at extinguishing fires, was a powerful message.

This year's Open House also featured a new simulated "Critical Emergency Medical Call" where residents had the opportunity to see how the 9-1-1 dispatchers and Fire Department respond to a heart attack patient. One lesson of this demonstration was the importance of knowing CPR so you can immediately help someone while the Fire



Department is one their way. The Mount Prospect Fire Department offers regular CPR classes – contact Lieutenant John Dolan at jdolan@mountprospect.org or (847) 870-5646 ext. 5048 for more information.

The department had two fire sprinkler system saves in 2010 – one each in both November and December. In both cases, the sprinkler system controlled the spread of the fire until firefighters arrived. Fire and smoke damage to the buildings was minimized as a result of the sprinkler systems.

In mid-December, in conjunction with the Village's annual toy drive for under privileged families, the Fire Department also started a new smoke detector program. Fire Department personnel installed 39 smoke detectors and changed 56 smoke detector batteries in residences where toys were delivered.

Fire Prevention Bureau Activities

- Fire Inspections – **3,790**
- Fire Investigations - **10**
- Plan Reviews – **355**
- Public Education Activities - **315**
- Smoke Detector Installations - **16**

Residential & Multi-Unit Knox Box® Program

The Knox-Box Rapid Entry System, or "Knox Box" for short, is a small safe mounted to the outside of the building that holds building keys which the Fire Department can access during an emergency. The Fire Department has a master key which opens all of the boxes in Mount Prospect so they can quickly gain access into a building without damaging any property. While Knox Boxes have historically been used for public and commercial buildings, Mount Prospect also offers these boxes for individual homes and multi-unit condominium buildings. There are 46 single-family homes and 20 condominium buildings in Mount Prospect already using Knox Boxes.



Contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (847) 818-5253 to learn more about the Knox Box program.

2010 Open House - September 25, 2010





New Fire Station 14

The Village of Mount Prospect annexed the area currently served by Fire Station 14 in 1971. Prior to this annexation, the Forest River Fire Protection District (FRFPD) was providing fire protection to these homes and businesses. The original station was built for the FRFPD in the 1960s, for what was then a volunteer fire department. Mount Prospect continued to operate out of that facility until April 2010.

The new Fire Station 14 is approximately 23,000 square feet and was designed to meet the needs of a modern fire department. It is constructed of building materials that will withstand the wear and tear of the facility used 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with minimal maintenance. The building is also “green” and “hardened” – the first of its kind in this area. Fire Station 14 received a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) “Gold” certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. It is also a “hardened” facility, constructed to withstand 128 mph winds – the equivalent of an F3 tornado – to ensure that the fire station can continue to operate even under the worst conditions. A tremendous amount of planning went into the design of the facility to ensure it will meet the needs of the department, and the community, for decades to come.

Fire Station 14 Earns LEED® “Gold” Certification!



Fire Station 14 is a LEED Gold building as certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, provides a set of standards for environmentally sustainable design, construction, and operation of buildings. Some of the fire station’s “green” features include:

- Native landscaping that is drought resistant,
- High percentage of construction materials extracted, processed, and manufactured regionally (over 31 percent within 500 miles of the site),
- High efficiency heating and air conditioning systems (almost 30 percent more efficient than required by the Illinois Energy Code), and
- Light colored roof, large roof overhangs, and concrete pavement to reduce building cooling requirements and the heat island effect.

If you would like to take a tour of the new fire station to learn more about its “green” features contact the Fire Department at (847) 870-5660.

Take a closer look at the construction process for Fire Station 14.



Community Supported Groups

Paid-On-Call Firefighters

The Mount Prospect Fire Department began as a volunteer organization in 1913. Unlike many area fire departments, Mount Prospect still maintains this volunteer group, now called Paid-On-Call (POC) since they receive a nominal amount for their service. The department currently has 20 residents serving as Paid-On-Call members who meet every week to train and run drills. The POC firefighters support the department during major incidents and volunteer their time at public education events such as the Children's Fire Safety Festival and Fire Department Open House.

Board of Fire and Police Commissioners

In Mount Prospect, as in many communities across the nation, hiring firefighters is the responsibility of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners (BOFPC), not the Fire Department. Commissioners are residents of Mount Prospect who volunteer their time to oversee the testing process and interview potential candidates. In 2009 and 2010, the BOFPC members tested and interviewed 628 and 46 individuals respectively for positions in the Fire Department. The current Commission members are George Busse (Chairman), Hank Friedrichs, Michael Skowron, James Powers, and Charles Bennett.

Community Emergency Response Team

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a group of resident volunteers trained to "aid and assist [Mount Prospect] Village departments when professional emergency resources become overwhelmed." CERT members have gone through a 20-hour training course, learning about disaster preparedness, fire safety/suppression, disaster medical operations, search and rescue, and victim extrication and support – and continue to train on a monthly basis. CERT members also participate in Village events and assist the Fire Department in educating the public about emergency preparedness.

The Community Emergency Response Team currently has 25 members, but is looking to expand and offer more specialized training on a variety of topics. If you have attended the CERT/Citizens Emergency Preparedness Training (20-hour training course) and would like to join CERT please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (847) 818-5253.



Frequently Asked Questions



Q: Why does the engine follow the ambulance?

A: Mount Prospect has three frontline ambulances, each staffed with two firefighter/paramedics, and three frontline engines, staffed with three firefighters (at least one being a firefighter/paramedic). Many of the emergency medical calls we respond to require the assistance of more than two firefighter/paramedics, which means we need the additional hands from those working on the engine. Having both the ambulance and engine respond ensures the best possible care for patients on every call.

Q: Who answers when you dial 9-1-1?

A: 9-1-1 calls in Mount Prospect are answered by a multi-jurisdictional agency called Northwest Central Dispatch (NWCD). NWCD answers 9-1-1 calls for, and is overseen by eleven communities in the northwest suburbs including Mount Prospect. The NWCD communications center receives the 9-1-1 calls and then dispatches the appropriate fire and police units for these municipalities. By having this joint center, communication between surrounding communities, which occurs frequently, is streamlined and much more efficient. NWCD also eliminates significant costs for each of its member communities as they are not required to have their own communications center.

Q: Why do other area departments sometimes respond into Mount Prospect?

A: Mount Prospect has agreements in place with neighboring fire departments to assist one another, when necessary, in responding to emergency calls. These agreements are called automatic aid and mutual aid. Mount Prospect may utilize automatic or mutual aid agreements when our local resources are exhausted or we are unable to handle an emergency situation alone. Examples of incidents where automatic and mutual aid are used include large structure fires, local disasters, and even emergency medical calls when another department has a closer available ambulance. At the end of the day, our goal is provide the quickest response to an emergency regardless of where it comes from.

Quotes from EMS Survey Cards

The following are some of the responses we received in 2010 on EMS survey cards sent to Mount Prospect residents following emergency medical calls. We appreciate your feedback, which ultimately helps us to improve our services.

“We certainly have the best 9-1-1 responders in the world! We are very lucky.”

“I had to request 9-1-1 services for my 92 year old mother and the sensitivity and care was outstanding!”

“The paramedics were kind, efficient and quite capable. They made a bad experience OK and provided welcome support.”



Fire Station 12
1601 W. Golf Road



Fire Station 13 (HQ)
112 E. Northwest Highway



Fire Station 14
2000 E. Kensington Road

Services

Emergency Services (9-1-1)

- Fire Suppression
- Emergency Medical Service

Non-Emergency Services (847-870-5660)

- Paramedic Service Questions
- Incident Reports
- Community CPR and First Aid Training

Fire Prevention (847-818-5253)

- Fire Code and Fire Protection System Questions
- Fire Code Enforcement
- Fire Inspections
- Fire Investigations
- Fire & Life Safety Education Programs
- Fire Station Tours
- Juvenile Fire Setter Counseling
- Building Evacuation Planning
- Citizen Emergency Response Training
- Knox Box Program
- Smoke Detector Installation and Battery Replacement

2011 Calendar of Events

- May 2 – 5, 2011 - Children's Fire Safety Festival at Fire Station 14
- September 24, 2011 - Fire Department Open House
- September/October: Exact Dates TBD - Citizen Emergency Preparedness Training
- October 9 – 15, 2011 - Fire Prevention Week
- October: Exact Dates TBD - Fire Prevention Poster/Essay Contest (K-8th grade)