

Romulus Fire Department 2016
Annual Report

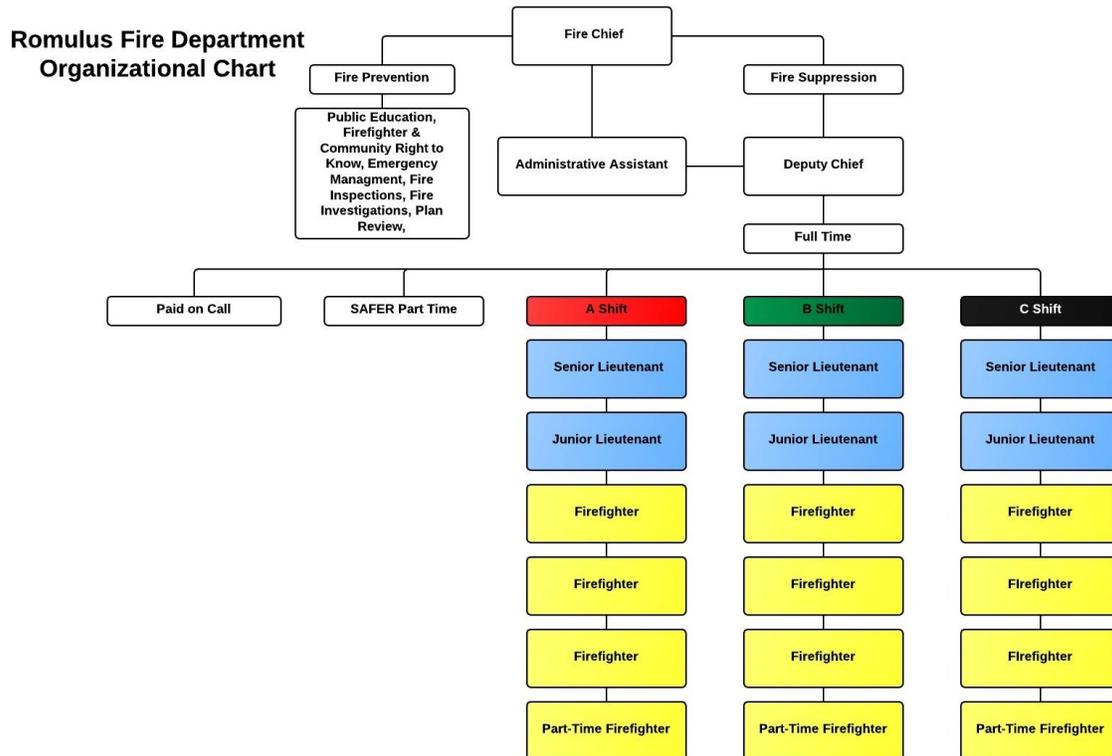


Introduction: As 2016 drew to a close, the Romulus Fire Department prepared to transition from a staffing model supported by the 2013 SAFER Grant to a self-sustaining model that would uphold the department’s mission and core values.

A key element to this sustainability was the record number of transports (986) by the department. Successful enforcement of cost recovery ordinances, along with full implementation of a new Fire Safety Inspection Program has aided in the delivery of a more efficient and safe operation for both firefighters and the community.

The fire department staffed one primary station with 4-6 personnel throughout 2016, 24 hrs. a day/7 days a week. At the close of 2016, the number of fire department personnel by assignment were as follows:

- Administration: 2 Full Time/1 Part Time Chief Officers, 1 Civilian Support Assistant
- Suppression/Prevention: 13 Full Time, 4 Part Time



Published Date 06/26/2014
Replaces all previous versions

ROMULUS FIRE DEPARTMENT
2016 ANNUAL REPORT
Emergency Activity

The Romulus Fire Department responded to 4732 emergency calls for assistance during the 2016 calendar year. This is an increase of 477 calls compared to 2015 totals. The demand for emergency services by the public has increased 16% over the last three years.

For the year 2016, medical emergency calls accounted for over 72% of all responses.

Total Calls by Incident Grouping were as follows:

- **Fire** **119**
- **Rescue and EMS Incidents** **3436**
- **Hazardous Conditions, No Fire** **106**
- **Service Calls** **315**
- **Good Intent Calls** **497**
- **False Alarm and False Call** **251**
- **Other** **9.4**

Average number of calls per day – 13
EMS calls – 8.4

Average emergency response time for the first arriving unit for the calendar year 2016 was 7 minutes and 11 seconds.

In 2016, the Romulus Fire Department and Wayne County Airport Authority (Fire Department) entered into a conditional automatic aid agreement for response.

Automatic/Mutual Aid was received by Romulus Fire Department 30 times in 2016 compared in 4 times in 2015. These figures represent the safest, most prepared, coordinated fire suppression assembly in the department's history. This compliment of additional resources, including personnel, was at no additional cost to the city. The Romulus Fire Department provided Automatic or Mutual Aid to area departments 9 times in 2016 as compared to 11 times in 2015.

ROMULUS FIRE DEPARTMENT
2016 ANNUAL REPORT
Fire Activity

The department responded to 119 fire calls in 2016; 43 of the calls were reported as building or cooking fires, and 31 as passenger/freight vehicle fires.

The total fire loss reported was \$1,337,133 for the 2016 year. The following provides a brief summary of the largest loss fires in 2016 (sustaining =/+ \$100,000 damages).

1. 01/15/2016 (Incident 16-0000189) \$ 90,000
30258 Spain (Residential Single Family)
2. 02/20/2016 (Incident 16-0000630) \$130,000
16904 Aberdeen (Residential Single Family)
3. 02/27/2016 (Incident 16-0000716) \$155,000
9000 Wickham (Commerical - Hotel)
4. 03/11/2016 (Incident 16-0000866) \$175,000
6653 Niagra (Residential Single Family)
5. 04/14/2016 (Incident 16-0001267) \$180,000
7288 Canterbury (Residential)

Other Fire Incident Responses:

Dumpster Fire:	6
Outside Rubbish/Trash	14
Grass/Brush Fire	12

ROMULUS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Hazardous Materials

In total, the Department responded to a reported 106 hazardous conditions in 2016. Down power lines and arcing wires accounted for 44 of these calls. The most common over the road spills involved gasoline, antifreeze and diesel fuel leaks from motor vehicles. Most of the natural gas leaks were at resident's homes as were many of the down power lines.

The most significant hazardous material incident occurred on January 20, 2016 at Middlebelt and I-94 ramp. The vehicle accident/roadway spill required extensive utilization of resources to include activation of the Western Wayne County Hazardous Materials Response Team. The incident which exceeded 12 hours in duration resulted in \$27,000 in local cost recovery fees to be assessed in addition to nearly \$20,000 assessed by the Western Wayne County Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid Association for utilization of the regional Hazmat team.

Firefighter Right to Know

As hazardous materials become an increasing part of our daily lives, our awareness in the proper handling these hazards must be a priority. The Fire Department is tasked with keeping current and continually updating the "Fire Fighter Right to Know" and "Community Right to Know" information. This includes facility listings that identify businesses having reportable quantities of specific chemicals, maps of where the chemicals are stored within the facility, and other valuable information for personnel responding to a threat of a hazardous materials incident.

This information requires updating every five years at minimum, and in 2016, the project was assigned a new project leader. With improved technology available to firefighters in their emergency response vehicles, this vital information will be available to first responders at the scene upon their arrival.

Special Teams

Currently, the Department has one member that serves on the Western Wayne County Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team, one lieutenant on the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team and another lieutenant on the Downriver Fire Investigation Team. Being an active participant in these mutual aid emergency response teams provides assurances that when Romulus needs the assistance of these highly trained, specially equipped teams, they will respond.

ROMULUS FIRE DEPARTMENT
2016 ANNUAL REPORT
Fire & EMS Training

All members of the Romulus Fire Department must maintain minimum training/licensure requirements which include: Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic, Fire Fighter II, Hazardous Materials Operations Level, Emergency Vehicle Operation, CPR and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) certifications.

A major investment in training hours for all department members occurred in the delivery of Blue Card Training. This training and certification system defines the best Standard Command Practices for common, local, everyday strategic and tactical emergency operations. It consists of 40-50 online hours of cognitive skill learning/testing and a 3 day simulation certification lab.

The department also offered external training and increased the number of State of Michigan/NFPA Certified Fire Inspectors to four. They each are required to attend regular trainings and conferences as are the firefighters who are assigned to special teams.

In continuing the department's succession planning strategies, the department sent one of the senior lieutenants to Eastern Michigan University's Fire Staff & Command School. This is a nationally recognized 10 month school that prepares students to effectively manage their agency in areas of operation to conceptual thinking and problem solving. This training qualified for reimbursement through Wayne County Training funds at did not cost the city any tuition/registration fees.

The EMS Coordinator is required to attend monthly HEMS meetings, where they receive EMS updates, and then pass the updates to the personnel. Quality Control Indicators (CQI) reports are also presented to the HEMS quality board which highlight some strengths and weaknesses of the department on medical subjects. The department will continue to make strides to establish fire industry/EMS benchmarks that supersede those of current area fire departments and to train its personnel to that level.

**ROMULUS FIRE DEPARTMENT
2016 ANNUAL REPORT
Capital Expenses**

The Romulus Fire Department capital purchases included a new vehicle for the Fire Chief and a replacement vehicle for the 1986 mini-pumper as outlined in the “Certified Fleet Master Plan.”

The current fleet consists of;

2000	PIERCE ARROW	AERIAL LADDER
1989	PIERCE ARROW	BACK UP ENGINE
2015	FORD F450 CHASIS	AMBULANCE
2015	FORD F450 CHASIS	AMBULANCE
2003	CHEVY	TAHOE
2004	PIERCE ARROW	PUMPER
2004	PIERCE ARROW	PUMPER
2004	CHEVY	TAHOE
2016	F350 PICK UP TRUCK	W/SKID MOUNT TANK/PUMP
2016	FORD	EXPLORER

The Romulus Fire Department is a State of Michigan licensed transporting agency. Both of its rescues are utilized to transport patients to the hospital basic level. Both of the front line engines are licensed at Medical First Responding vehicles and as such, have the required equipment and supplies to respond in that capacity if one of the rescue units is not available.

Other capital improvements in the 2016 calendar year included a digital welcome fire prevention sign at fire headquarters. A portion of the costs of the sign were covered from funds raised by the Fire Prevention and Public Education campaign of 2015.

The HVAC system at fire headquarters required major capital upgrades as did the entire structural integrity of the steel bay door frames and concrete approaches.

ROMULUS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Fire Prevention Activities

In a two year study, the Romulus Fire Department diligently evaluated the community in relationship to the department's mission and its values. It investigated opportunities to expand its role of protecting the community – the business and the residents. It identified avenues to expand the scope of response and continued in 2016 to develop its focus in the direction of risk-reduction as a primary value to the community.

The Romulus Fire Prevention Bureau is charged with the duty and responsibility of enforcing the fire codes. The Division conducts fire inspections in commercial buildings for city and state licenses, certificate of occupancy permits, general fire safety inspections, and acceptance testing of fire protection and alarm systems. Other duties include the handling citizen complaints against properties, plan review for compliance with the International Fire Code, coordination of lock box installations, and issuance of false/nuisance alarm (as defined by City Ordinance) citations. In 2016, the department logged the following:

- **Reviews**

Building	65
Site	65
Fire Alarm/Suppression	32

- **Inspections/System Tests**

Fire Alarm/Suppression	22
Inspections	582

Public Safety Education

The department implemented a more comprehensive solution to address these risks beyond traditional fire prevention and education programs. Each member is asked to take an active part in this initiative through participation in at least one of the many opportunities to educate the community. The following are a few examples of the type of program opportunities.

- Romulus Pumpkin Festival and Parade of Lights
- Romulus Fire Department Open House
- Romulus Independence Day Fireworks Celebration
- Fire Prevention in the schools
- Company Picnics
- Halecreek Spring Fair and Halloween Parade
- Sounds of Downtown
- Delivery of Santa and Progressive Hall Gathering
- Library Reading Week

A second component of the community risk reduction initiative includes an aggressive Fire Safety Inspection program aimed at reaching all of the city's businesses. Certified inspectors conduct a fire safety inspection of each facility operating in Romulus, with emphasis on compliance with the International Fire Code, proper function and operation of fire suppression and notification/alarm systems, and employee training if requested.

In 2016, the department provided fire extinguisher training, participated in fire evacuation drills, and conducted First Aid CPR Classes for a number of businesses and facilities within the community as an innovative way to provide exceptional customer service to the community.

Fire Prevention and Education Campaign Partners

Again this year, the Romulus Fire Department received a donation of Smoke Detectors from the Detroit Red Wings outreach. With the lack of adequate working smoke detectors, a factor in a number of residential structure fires in 2016, the department will continue to make this an area of great concern and will continue to invest additional money collected through its campaign to purchase both smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to be installed in residents' homes throughout the year.

In support of the department's commitment to making firefighter safety a priority, AAA Insurance Company awarded the Romulus Fire Department a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for the purchase of vehicle extrication/rescue equipment.

The community – businesses, organizations and the residents, continue to show their support for the Romulus Fire Department at every opportunity. The department and its members value this external commitment as much as the internal support received from the city administration and look forward to continuing to provide innovative, professional service to the City of Romulus.