

Annual Report of the Quincy Fire Department



Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Introduction

To the Citizens of Quincy:

This past fiscal year was one of great change for the department. On May 1st, 2015 Station #6 was closed. This was a direct result of the department no longer having the manpower levels necessary to keep the station operating on a 24-hour basis. This presented challenges as the department had to adapt its response model to one that required the remaining stations to provide coverage to larger areas. This modified response caused response times to lengthen in practically every area of town. If you direct your attention to page 8 of this report you will see a side-by-side comparison of response times during times when station #6 was operational, and when it was not. Fortunately, at the budget vote for fiscal year 2016-2017 the Council voted to reinstate the necessary funds to allow Station #6 to re-open which should bring response times back to an acceptable level.

The wind storm of July 2015 challenged the Department and its members to provide service in the midst of chaos. Your firefighters stepped up and worked tirelessly for days to provide fire protection and medical response while navigating a maze of blocked roads and hazardous conditions. Additionally, members of the Department worked side-by-side with citizens to aid in the clean-up and recovery efforts. As Chief, I can say I was extremely proud of the members of the Department and their response in the face of adversity.

In October of 2015 the Department had the opportunity to wrap up its celebration of 175 years of service to the City of Quincy. This department has a long and proud history of supporting the citizens of Quincy in their greatest times of need. From its humble beginnings as a volunteer department, to the career department of today that responded to 4,227 requests for assistance, the Quincy Fire Department has existed to serve and we remain committed to doing so for the next 175 years.

Sincerely,



Joe Henning
Fire Chief

The Quincy Fire Department
Committed to the protection of lives, homes and properties

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175th Anniversary Celebration



Fire Department Response

The Quincy Fire Department responded to 585 more incidents in this fiscal year compared to the last. Generally speaking, the department is up in all but one area in response numbers. The greatest areas of growth were in EMS/Rescue, Dangerous Conditions and Miscellaneous calls. This is due to the ever increasing demands for medical service as our population ages, as well as, the spike in responses specifically related to the 2015 wind storms.

Response Totals

Situation Found	Last Fiscal Year	This Fiscal Year	% of Total Response
Structure Fires	67	73	1.70%
Vehicle Fires	17	27	0.60%
Other Fires	102	101	2.40%
EMS/Rescue	2,169	2457	58.10%
Hazardous Materials	65	67	1.60%
Dangerous Conditions	131	253	6.00%
Miscellaneous	1,093	1249	29.60%
Totals	3,644	4,227	100.00%

Engine Company #2 continues to see the largest number of responses of the five engine companies. This is due to two reasons. One, District #2 encompasses one of the oldest sections of town (more prone to fires) and two, Engine Company #2 responds to general alarm assignments on a city-wide basis. Overall numbers per company increased this year with the closure of Station #6 and the requirement that other companies respond to that particular district. Also, on the occasional days where there was sufficient manpower to do so, the Rescue truck was placed into front line service and responded in lieu of Engine #2 to any request for service that did not specifically require a pumper.

**Engine Company
Locations**

E2—9th & Vermont

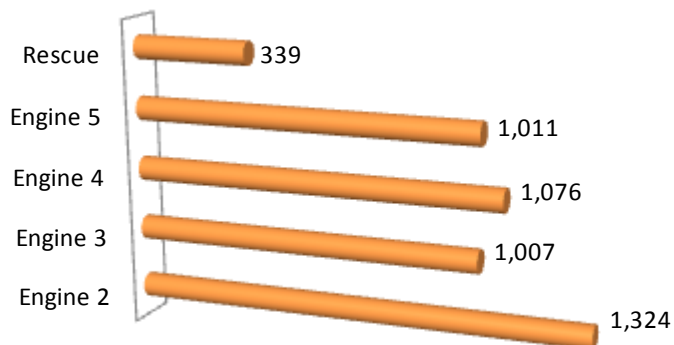
E3—36th & Maine

E4—11th & Locust

E5—12th & Jackson

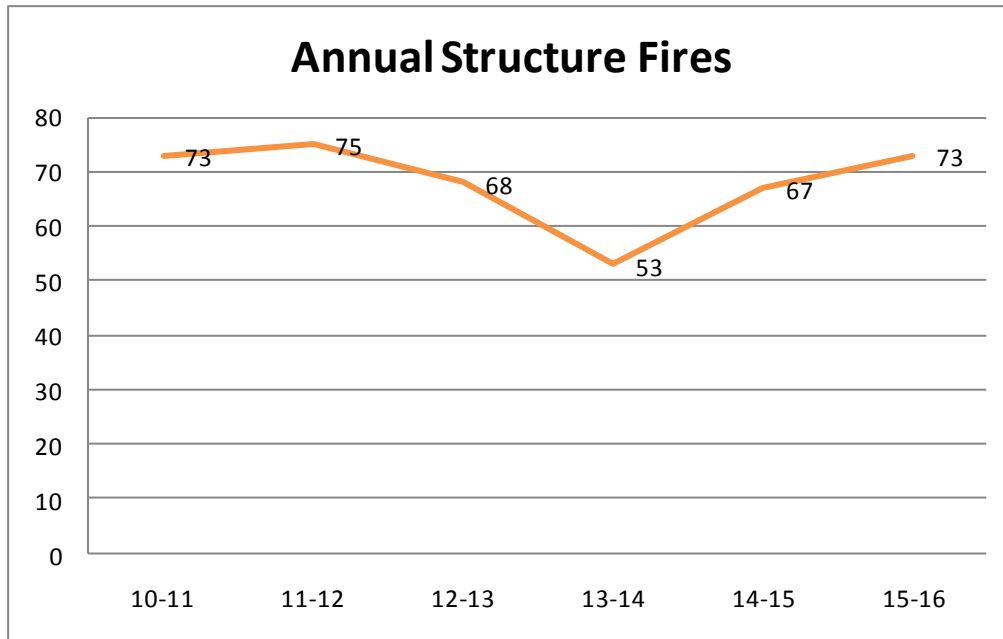
Rescue—9th & Vermont

Responses per Engine Company

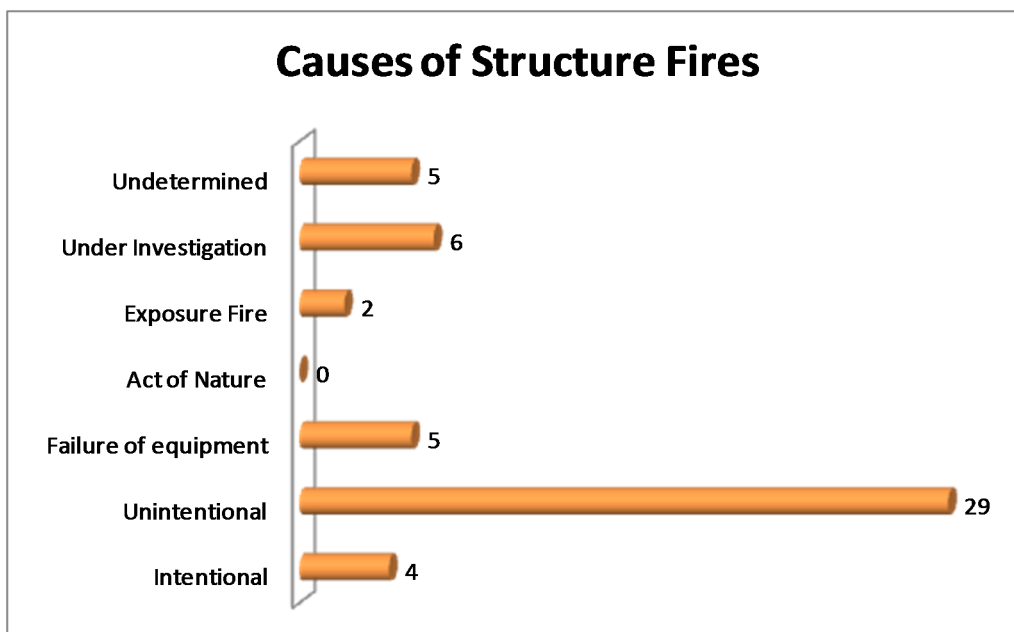


Structure Fires

This year saw a continuation of the trend of an increasing number of structure fires. This is directly related to an increase in unintentional fires. Most other areas of fire causes remained steady. This is an area of focus for our public education team as we try to reverse this trend of unintentional fires.

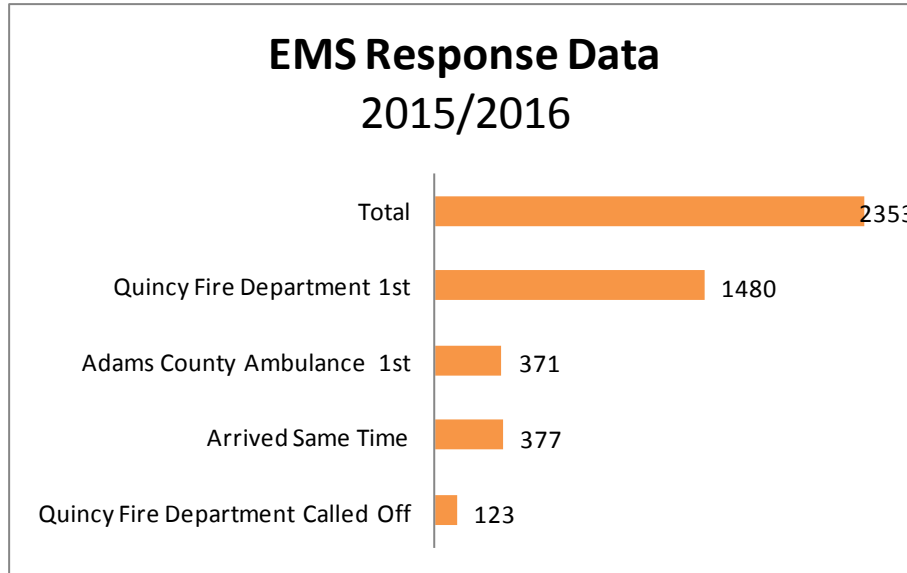


The chart below provides the causes for the structure fires that occurred within the fiscal year. As in past years, the majority of the fires were unintentional in nature.

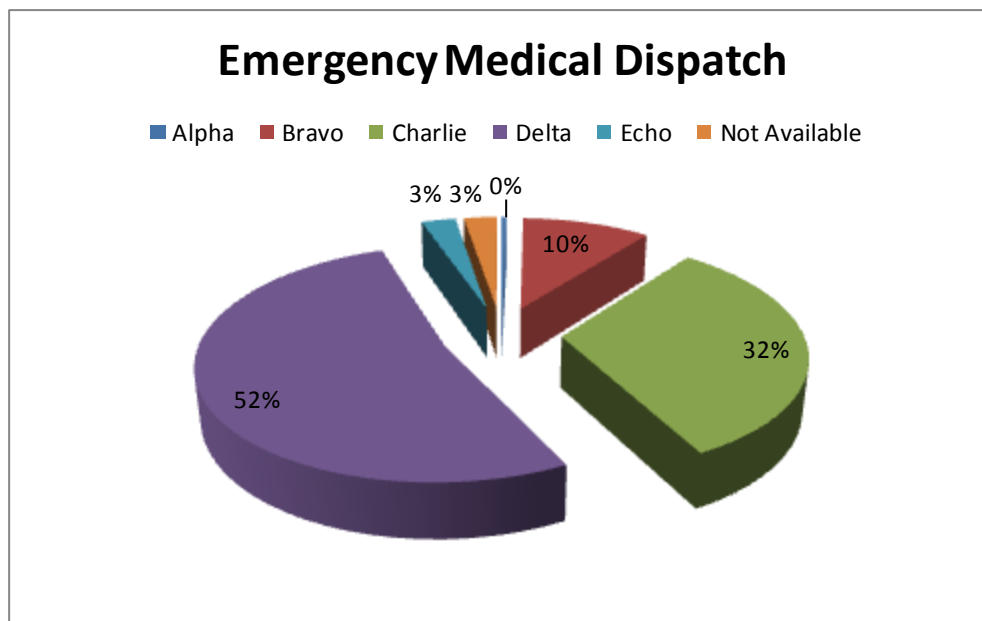


Emergency Medical Services

Emergency medical responses are again our highest percentage of responses. 58.1% of all QFD responses are to incidents which are medical in nature. EMS responses were up by 288 over last year's figure. The EMS Dual Response program continues to prove it's worth in terms of value added service for the citizens of Quincy. In 78.9% of all emergency medical calls the department responds to, crews arrive either ahead of, or at the same time as, the ambulance crews. This allows for citizens to receive timely, professional care in their times of greatest need.



The following chart details how the responses for the past year were broken down. By policy, the department is typically only dispatched on any incident that is deemed to be a "Charlie" level of response or greater. Through a policy change this year, we have decided to respond to some "Bravo" level calls in very specific circumstances such as extreme weather conditions and head wounds. However, the impact of this policy change on response figures has been minimal.



Incident Related Casualties

This past year saw the loss of one life in a fire related event. An individual lost his life in an incident involving the transfer of fuel and a subsequent fire event. While all fire deaths are tragic, the City of Quincy is fortunate that the trend of increasing fire fatalities was reversed this year.

The Quincy Fire Department's public education team continues to work toward combating this trend through education.

Fire Casualty Report

Injury Type	2014-2015	2015-2016
Civilian Fire Deaths	3	1
Civilian Fire Injuries	2 (1 minor, 1 moderate)	3 (3 minor)
Firefighter Injuries (incident related)	20 (13 minor, 6 moderate, 1 severe)	10 (8 minor, 2 moderate)

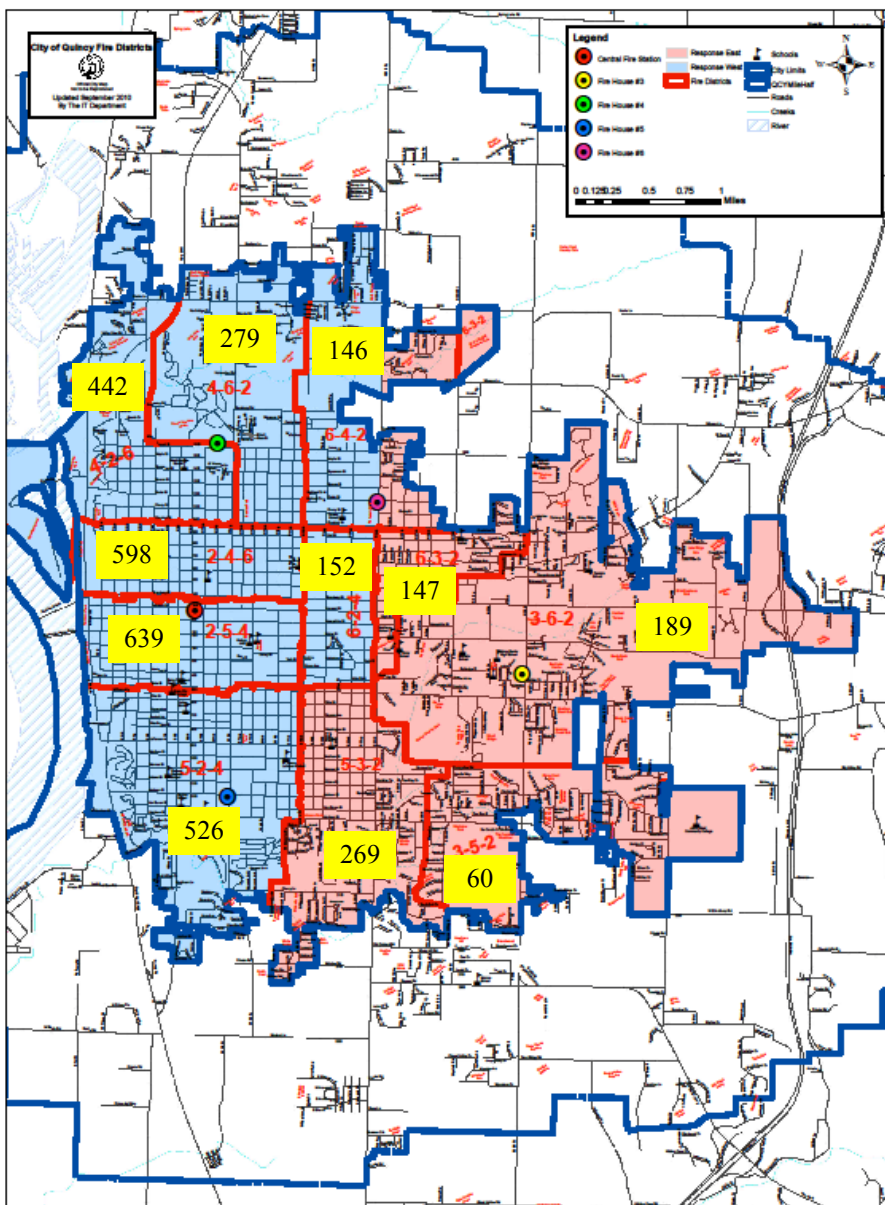
Dollars Responded To, Saved and Lost

The chart below details how the dollars that are spent on fire protection and suppression translate into dollars saved or lost. This past year saw a positive trend. While the value of property responded to increased greatly, the amount of property lost to fire actually decreased. This is a testament to the quick response and professionalism of fire crews. Some high-value buildings with structure fires, where we were able to quickly contain the fire and limit fire loss were:

611 Country Club Heights
200 Gardner Expressway (Eagles Nest Hotel)
2407 Maine (apartment building)
1707 North 12th (Illinois Veterans Home, Andrew Infirmary)
101 North 4th (Lincoln-Douglas Apts.)
205 S. 24th (Chaddock, Leathers Hall)
732 Hampshire (Former St. Boniface School)
2304 N 24th (Marlboro Wire)

	2014-2015	2015-2016	Change
Value of Property Responded To	\$ 25,116,505	\$ 81,584,117	\$ 56,467,612
Property Lost	\$ 2,030,350	\$ 1,524,439	\$ (505,911)
Property Saved	\$ 23,086,155	\$ 80,059,678	\$ 56,973,523

Responses by District



**Response Times
by District**

District	2014-15	2015-16
2-4-6	3:51	3:46
2-5-4	3:34	3:55
3-5-2	4:58	5:21
3-6-2	3:56	4:15
4-2-6	3:31	3:40
4-6-2	3:55	3:58
5-2-4	3:30	3:42
5-3-2	4:09	4:12
6-2-4	3:25	4:54
6-3-2	3:38	4:41
6-4-2	3:19	4:15

On this page are the response totals and average response times by district. The City of Quincy is divided into eleven response districts. These are separated by the red lines on the map and the district number is indicated in red lettering. The first digit of the district number indicates the primary engine company to respond. The succeeding two digits represent the additional engine companies that would respond on general alarm assignments. The numbers in the yellow boxes represent the total number of alarms responded to within each response district.

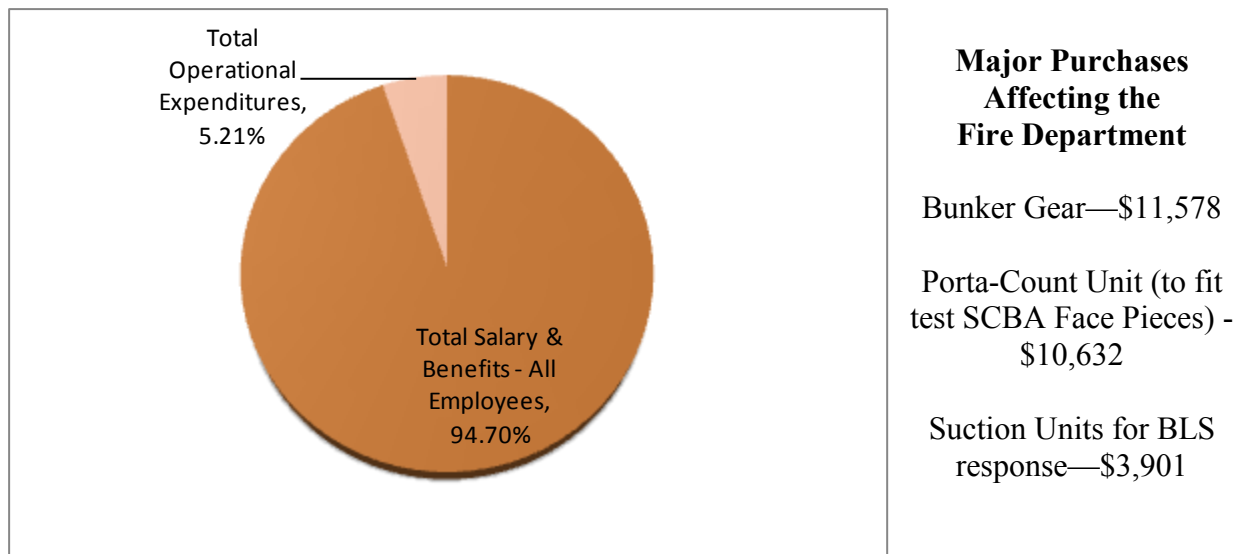
This year saw the closure of Station #6. A look at the average response times shows that response times increased in all but one response district (shaded in red). As resources were pulled from one part of town to cover another a domino effect was created that caused units to have to respond from less than ideal locations thereby increasing average response times. Response times in Engine #6's district increased the most, an average of about 1 minute.

2015-2016 Budget

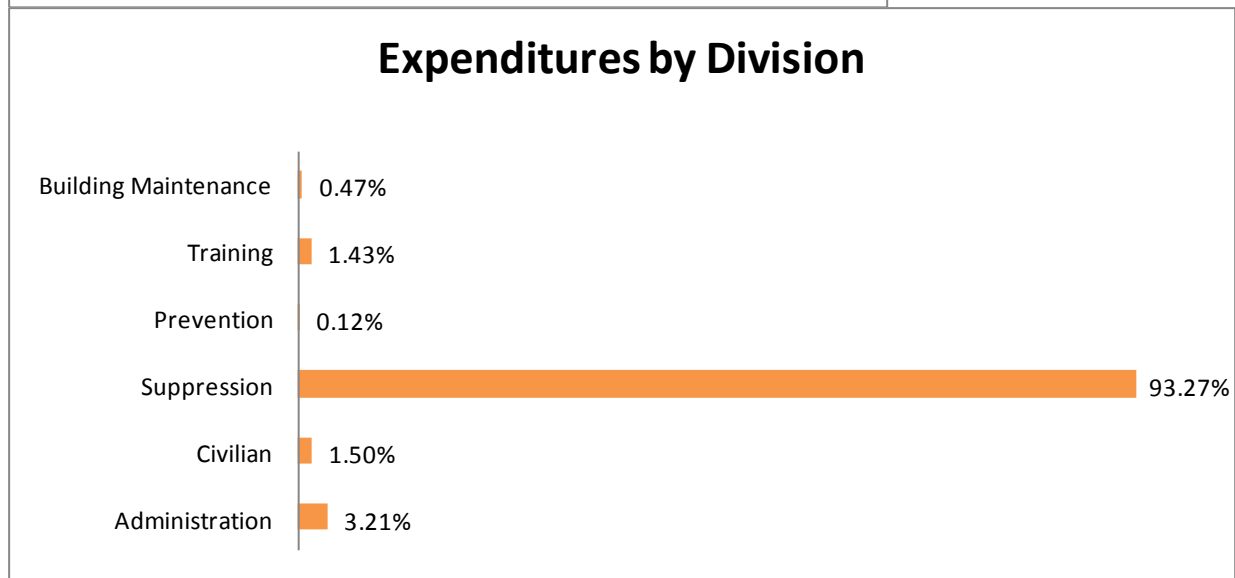
Last year the Quincy Fire Department ended up spending \$8,820,850 out of the approved 2015-2016 budget of \$9,005,192. This represents the use of 98.02% of the funds allocated for the year and a decrease in spending of \$246,373. This decrease is attributed mostly to the reduction of manpower that ultimately resulted in the closure of Station #6.

The department staffing level dropped to 58 sworn personnel. The department requires 60 personnel to maintain a five station delivery model and with the manpower reduction this year, Station #6 was closed on May 1st, 2016. This is the first time in recent history that the department ran on a permanent 4 -station model. While overtime costs were reduced significantly, response times were increased almost City-wide.

2015-2016 Labor Costs



Expenditures by Division



The Quincy Fire Department
Committed to the protection of lives, homes and properties

Public Education

The Quincy Fire Department continues to provide multiple opportunities for public education both within the classroom, and in the public. The chart below details the various events that the fire department participated in over the last year in an effort to take the message of fire safety to the residents it protects.

Activity	# of Events	# of Adults	# of Children
Block Party	1	15	20
Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations	9	243	1
Fire Safety Presentation	9	50	95
Fire Truck Visit	24	343	941
Health/Safety Fair	8	190	395
Station tour	33	180	696
Other	8	554	2675
Totals	92	1575	4823

Other Programs

CPR in Schools

This year our team of CPR instructors began to assist with the teaching of CPR skills at Quincy Notre Dame. The program has been well received and our students are now better prepared to deal with emergencies involving cardiac arrest.

Child Safety Seat Installation

The Quincy Fire Department participated in a total of 11 scheduled child safety seat installation events. Additionally, we continue to provide “drop-in” service to parents that do not have the opportunity to attend our scheduled events. We assisted in the installation of a total of 122 car seats this past year.

Citizen’s Fire Academy

The Quincy Fire Department’s Citizen’s Fire Academy educated 11 new citizen’s in areas such as the use of self-contained breathing apparatus, auto-extrication, rappelling and fire behavior.



Inspection and Code Enforcement

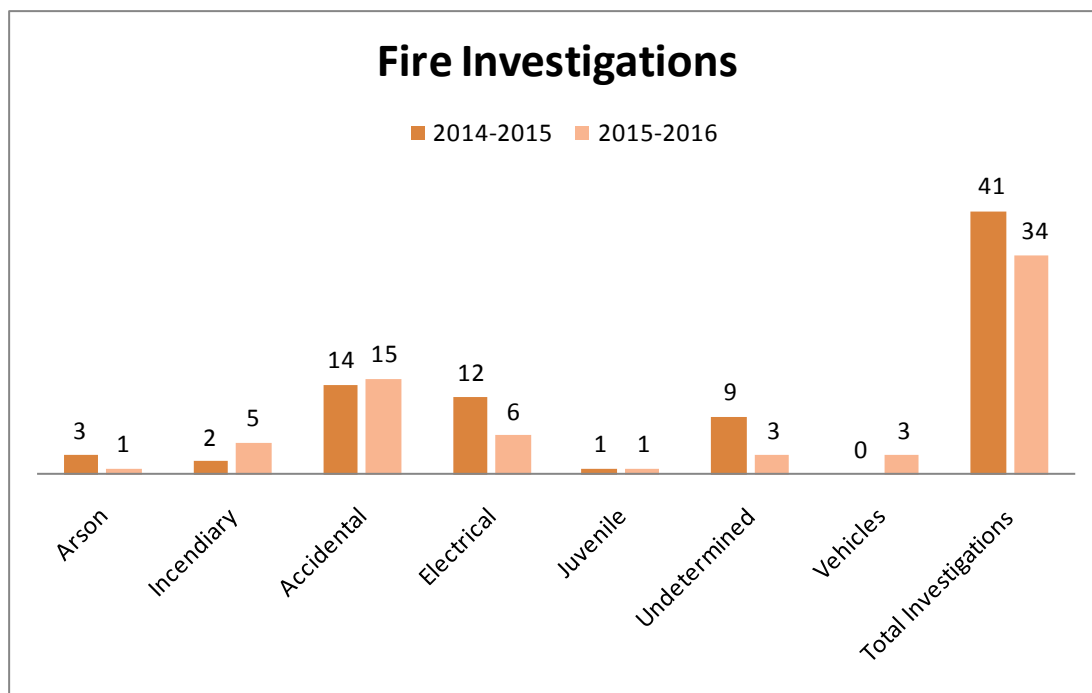
The Quincy Fire Department remains committed to the belief that the most efficient way to fight a fire is to prevent it from happening to begin with. The in-service inspection program allows on-duty firefighters to perform walk-through inspections of businesses in an effort to keep the businesses more safe. An added benefit is that the inspections allow firefighters to become more familiar with the properties which is beneficial should they have to respond for an emergency in the future.

Activities	2014-2015	2015-2016
Number of Inspections	1113	1092
Number of Violations	873	759
Burn Permits Issued	30	41
Demolition Site Inspected	20	19
Liquor License Inspections	145	114
Live Entertainment Licenses	36	25
Special Inspections	0	49

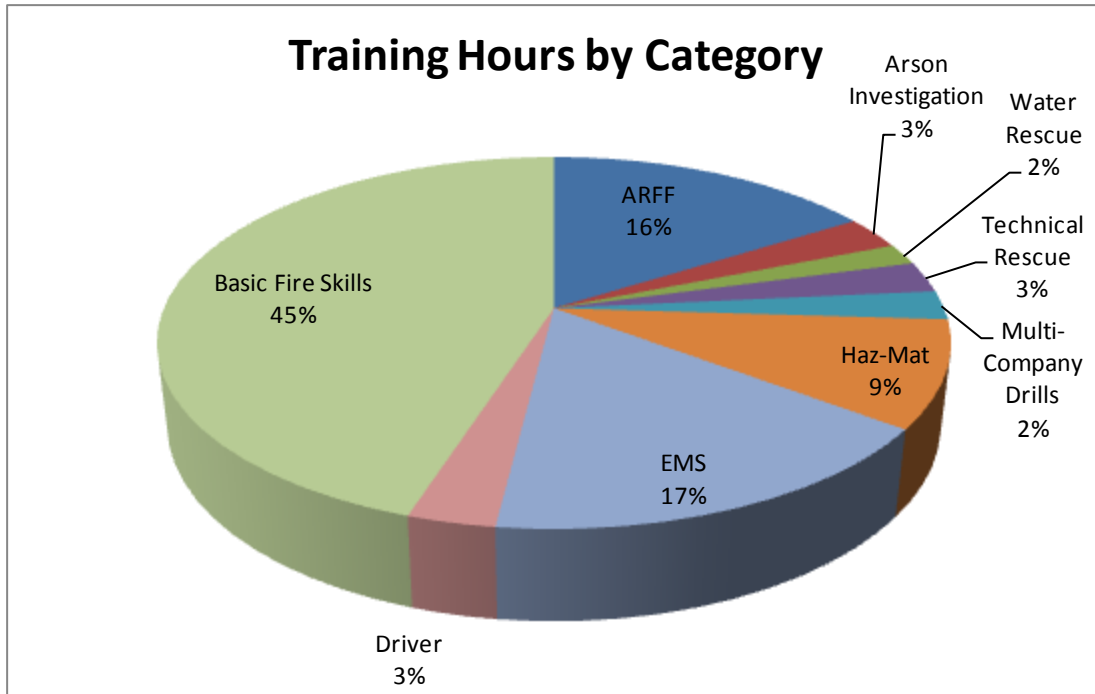
Fire Investigation

In the past year the department investigated 34 fires that were not of obvious origin. These investigations require firefighters with special skills sets and training. Additionally, if it looks as though there is some type of malicious intent, our personnel work with investigators from the Quincy Police Department to complete investigations.

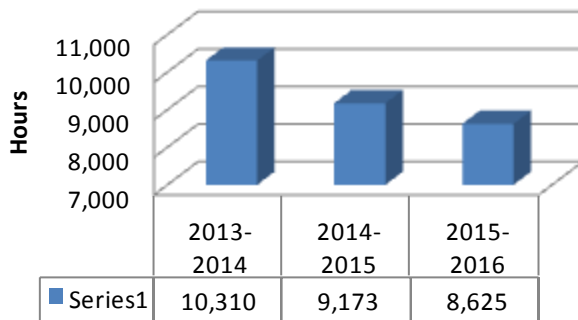
There are times when it is simply impossible to determine an absolute cause for a fire due to the evidence being completely destroyed. However, our personnel work diligently to determine fire cause whenever it is possible.



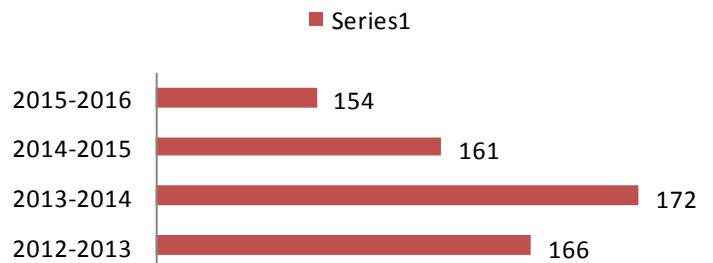
Training Division



Total Hours Trained by Year



Average Hours Trained by Firefighter



Training Division Continued

Educational Achievements

Fire Service Vehicle Operator

Ryan Willingham

Basic Operations Firefighter

Ryan Willingham

Instructor I

Zelton Crose

Trench Rescue - Technician

Justin Twaddle

Technical Rescue Awareness

Ryan Willingham

Fire Officer I

Demond Dade

Structural Collapse - Technician

Shawn Henson

Justin Twaddle

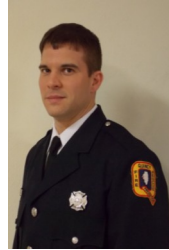
Hazardous Materials - Operations

Cole Miller

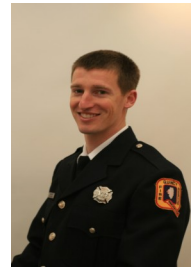
Ryan Willingham

Fire Ground Command Officer School

Bernie Vahlkamp



Firefighter
Ryan Willingham



Firefighter
Zelton Crose



Firefighter
Justin Twaddle



Lieutenant
Demond Dade



Lieutenant
Shawn Henson



Firefighter
Cole Miller



Assistant Chief
Bernie Vahlkamp

Awards and Achievements Special Recognitions



*Lieutenant Dennis Behl
Quincy Fire Department
2016 Leadership Award*



*Firefighter Dave Horman
Quincy Fire Department
2016 Firefighter of the Year*

Employee of the Month Recipients



May 2015
Firefighter
Steve Pezzella



July 2015
Lieutenant
Chris Bichsel



July 2015
Firefighter
Matt Hinkamper



July 2015
Firefighter
Jerry Smith



August 2015
Lieutenant
Dennis Behl



September 2015
Firefighter
Mike Dade



December 2015
Firefighter
Dave Horman



December 2015
Lieutenant
Alan Munger



April 2016
Lieutenant
Demond Dade