



GALESBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

RANDY HOVIND, FIRE CHIEF

INTRODUCTION

In this report, you will find the numbers behind all that the Galesburg Fire Department (GFD) personnel were involved in for 2019. With Chief Simkin’s retirement in October, this is my 1st Annual Report as Fire Chief, I hope to shed some light on what it is GFD does, from rescuing treed cats, to training, to medical response and fires. Yet again, you will see that the 2019 call volume continued the increasing response trend.

Capt. Brock Schmitt did an excellent job as the Training Captain. A huge thanks to our Administrative Assistant, Jenni Moser. Not only does she handle a wide variety of department business but she also deals with our personnel on a daily basis. She has been an invaluable asset and an integral part to this transition and the day to day operations. A thanks to all department members for the focus, input, and patience for the transition the last several months of 2019.

Randy Hovind, Fire Chief

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Emergency Activity Reporting

GFD continues to utilize Firehouse software to create response reports that are transmitted monthly with our emergency activity information to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This figures are included in state and national fire incident statistics. FEMA allows access to Illinois statistics by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. GFD has participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for over 30 years and has submitted Galesburg’s information electronically since 1995.

Firehouse categorizes all response activities (Fire/EMS/Rescue) into nine primary categories that are broken down into 97 sub-categories. Figure 1 shows a 10-year view of total responses.

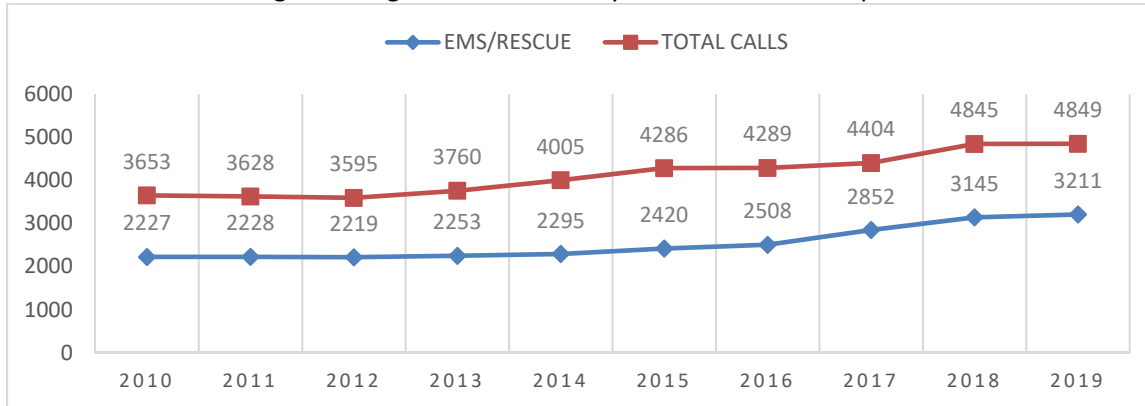


Figure 1
GFD Comparison of EMS and Total Call Volume

Total Calls / EMS

The chart in Figure 1 reflects a 10-year analysis of response trends in EMS/Rescue and Total Emergency Calls. The largest share of the department’s emergency response volume (66.22%) continues to be in EMS/Rescue.

In 2019, the department experienced its 7th year in a row of record call volume responding to 4,849 incidents. After a one-year dip in the number of EMS/Rescue calls in 2012, GFD responded to 3,211 EMS/Rescue alarms, up 359 alarms in the lasts two years.

Fires

The total number of fires in Galesburg has decreased steady over the last 10 years at an average of 97; with 63 fires in 2019. The number of false alarms was down slightly in 2019 to 315. Figure 2 shows a comparison of fires to false alarms.

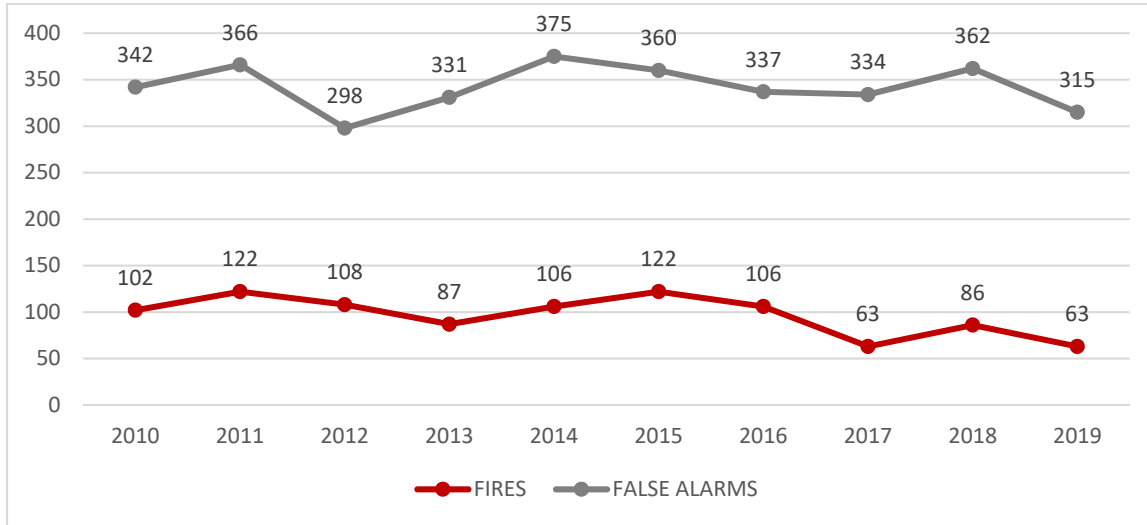


Figure 2
GFD Comparison of Fires and False Alarm Response Numbers 2010-2019

The Fire Department responded to 63 fires (1.3% of total calls) in 2019. This included 27 structure fires, which is down 9 from the previous year. Of this number, 24 were in residential occupancies including 17 in private dwellings and 7 in multifamily dwellings. One fire was in a dry cleaners, one is an Ameren substation and the other was in a downtown restaurant. Eight fires were caused by cooking but limited to the container in which they started. There were 7 vehicle fires, 10 rubbish or dumpster fires, and 8 other outside fires including those involving brush or grass.

Of the 63, 16 (25.3%) originated in Central Station's territory. Central Station covers a smaller area with less residential occupancies, which may account for this figure. 19 fires (30.4%) occurred in Brooks Street Station's first-in area, and 25 fires (39.6%) originated in the area protected by Fremont Street Station. Three fire calls were outside the city limits.

For the 27 structure fires, the kitchen was found to be the area of origin of the highest number of fires with 8 fires (29.63%). Twenty of the structure fires (74.07%) were caused by unintentional actions of humans, 2 fires (7.41%) whose cause is still undetermined after investigation, and 5 (18.52%) that were still being investigated at the time of this report.

Dollar Loss

The total dollar loss for all fires was \$851,925. Unintentional fires accounted for \$170,300 of the total dollar loss. There were no major fires in Galesburg, but GFD responded to a request for mutual aid to the Henderson Fire Protection District for a fire on Angling Road (loss of \$350,000 or 41.1% of the total dollar loss).

2012	2013	2104	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
\$2,755,930	\$1,222,963	\$1,126,021	\$1,716,276	\$1,000,755	\$735,410	\$431,625	\$851,925

Based on federally established incident reporting guidelines the following costs cannot be included in the NFIRS reported dollar loss figure: overtime, clean-up costs, emergency lodging/food for fire victims, business interruption coverage, and other costs associated with a fire incident. Our dollar loss figures are actual dollar amounts paid out by insurance companies for structure and contents loss or actual uninsured structure repair figures. In the case of uninsured property, the assessed structure valuation may be used.

Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, and Overheat (no fire)

In 2019, there were no reports of overpressure rupture.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
2	0	3	3	3	2	1	2	0	0

Medical Emergencies

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
2,277	2,228	2,219	2,253	2,516	2,685	2,731	2,852	3,145	3,211

Galesburg firefighters are Licensed Emergency Medical Technicians trained in the use of cardiac defibrillators. Firefighters respond to emergency medical calls to initiate medical care or assist Galesburg Hospital’s Ambulance Service (GHAS) paramedic units. Galesburg Hospitals’ Ambulance Service paramedic units do all emergency and non-emergency ambulance transports in Galesburg. If a GHAS ambulance is not available or the ambulance crew needs our assistance at a non-emergency scene, we will respond at their request. The Emergency Medical System Director, who is a Galesburg emergency room physician, reviews and approves GFD medical response policies. The Galesburg Area EMS System annual reviews GFD members’ credentials to ensure compliance with all Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines. In 2016, the department expanded its mission and service by carrying and administering basic life support medications. This included Narcan for overdose situations, nitroglycerine for chest pains and heart attacks, and epinephrine for anaphylaxis and allergic emergencies.

GFD responded to 3,211 medical and rescue emergencies. There were 2,991 calls for emergency medical assistance unrelated to vehicle accidents. Of these, GFD was the first medical response agency on-scene on 2,259 responses. GFD personnel assisted Galesburg Hospital Ambulance System's personnel who arrived first or simultaneously with GFD on 723 alarms; provided medical care at 79 vehicle accidents with injuries and 8 vehicle/pedestrian accidents while performing extrication of trapped victims at 3 incidents. Citizens were removed from stalled elevators on 5 occasions. GFD responded to 130 calls to vehicle accidents where there were no injuries, but where other hazards such as fuel spills were present.

Hazardous Condition – No Fire

There were 120 responses in the Hazardous Conditions - No Fire category. The top sub-categories included 26 Arcing, shorted electrical equipment; 24 natural gas or LP gas leaks; 17 power lines down; 12 carbon monoxide incidents; 10 gasoline spills; and 8 overheated motors. The department was requested for clean-up only at 12 vehicle accidents.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
138	123	119	147	131	130	125	142	143	120

Service Calls

A total of 506 responses were classified as Service Calls. Following a one-year decrease in service calls in 2017, this total is significantly higher than any previous years. Reasons for this increase may be an ever-wider array of services by the department and the expanding use of cell phones by the public. Once again, the significant sub-category of this field was 316 invalid assists. The department also responded to 46 calls for unauthorized burning.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
197	208	234	241	282	369	402	370	479	506

Good Intent

The department responded to 628 calls classified as Good Intent Calls. The sub-categories: dispatched or canceled enroute (270 calls), no incident found on arrival (247 calls), smoke scare/odor of smoke/steam (22 calls), and Haz Mat release investigation with no Haz Mat found (56 calls which include carbon monoxide checks in buildings with no CO detector). There were 17 calls reported for burning that were authorized by the fire department.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
589	574	608	601	590	606	577	598	628	628

False Alarm/False Call

In 2019, the number of false alarms fell slightly after the increase seen in 2018. The largest volumes of calls in the sub-categories were: unintentional alarm system or detector activation with no fire (154), alarm system sounded due to malfunction (55), and malicious false alarms (20).

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
342	366	298	331	375	360	337	334	362	315

Severe Weather/Natural Disaster

There were two alarms related to lightning strikes in 2019.

Alarm Time Analysis

Statistics in this category change very little year to year. Statistics on time of day can be useful in determining manpower needs. However, the numbers do not show an overwhelming need to target any specific block of time; emergency calls can and do happen throughout the 24-hour window of opportunity as witnessed in Figure 3. Experience has shown that the human element is active in some form or another as a cause in most all calls and hence the higher volume of calls during the most active times of the day. Structure fires, in particular, occurred throughout the 24-hour day in 2019.

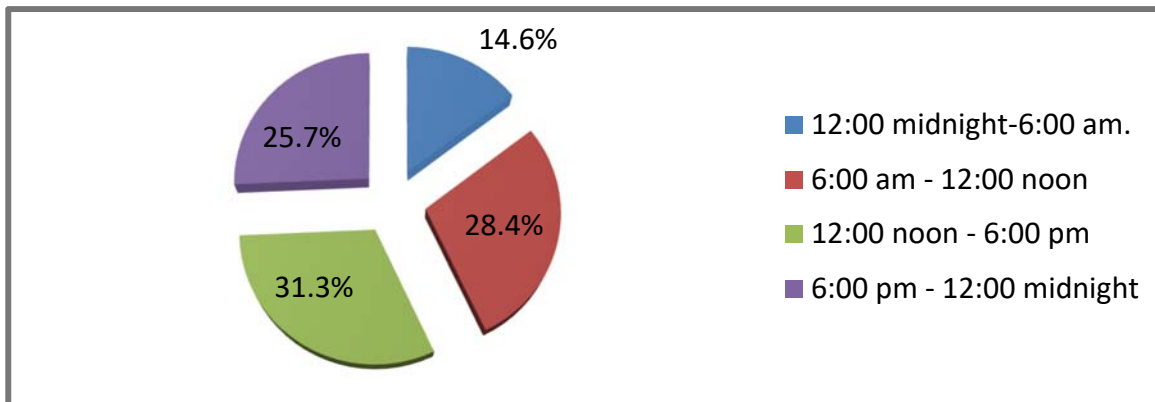


Figure 3
GFD Emergency Responses by Time of Day

Alarm Volume Relevant to Time of Year

As depicted in Figure 4, there was not a month or season of 2019 when the department was significantly busier with alarms. February had the lowest call volume at 322 (11.5 call per day). The high month was May with 488 calls (15.7 calls per day).

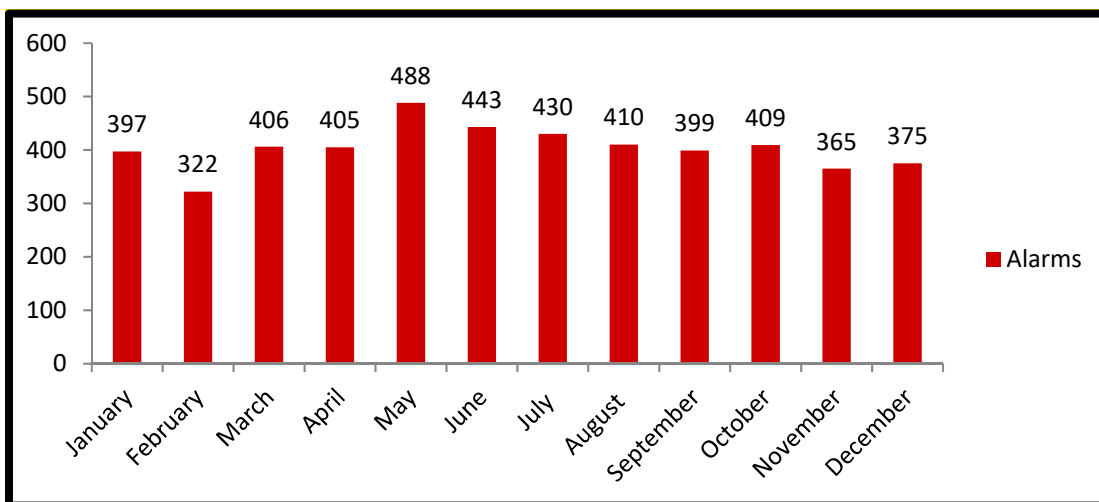


Figure 4
GFD Emergency Responses by Month

Response by District

Responses are broken down into station districts or territories. The statistics in this category represent fire company territories and not EMS response territories, which are significantly different. When apparatus become busy with other calls, training, inspections, and various other duties, other units respond to calls not normally assigned to the territory where the call is originating. Therefore, these statistics are of geographical significance only, unit response breakdowns are more reflective of which stations and vehicles were actually doing the work. As depicted in figure 5, Central Station's first due response territory had 30.72% / 1,490 calls. This covers part of Ward 5 and primarily all of Ward 4; 28.65% / 1,389 calls originated in Brooks Street station's first-in response territory (part of Ward 1 and primarily all of Wards 2 and 3) and 40.24% / 1,951 calls originated in Fremont Street station's first-in response territory (part of Ward 1 and primarily all of Wards 5, 6, and 7). Less than 0.39% / 19 calls were for mutual aid outside the city.

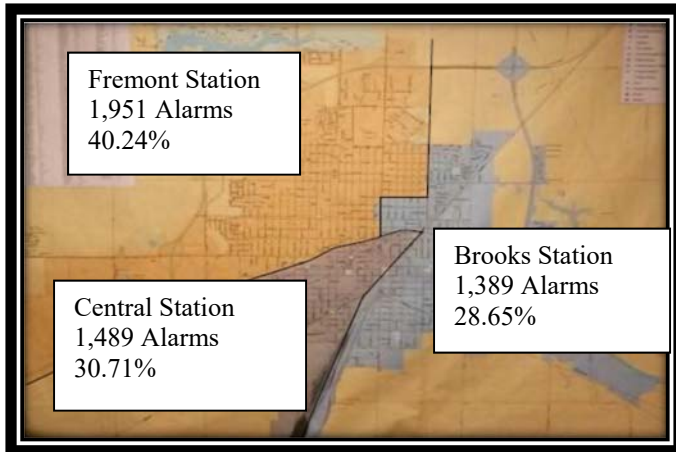


Figure 5
GFD Emergency Responses/Loss by Engine Company Response District

Response Time

Average response time for the first unit on scene at all calls (excluding calls where the department was canceled prior to arriving on scene) in 2019 was 4 minutes 11 seconds. This is an increase of 2 seconds over the previous year. 75.4% of all calls were responded to in less than 6 minutes from the time of alarm. These figures are somewhat skewed to the high side in that not all responses require a “lights and siren” emergency response. Longer response times for non-emergency calls such as carbon monoxide investigations, invalid assists, and odor investigations represent a significant number of the call volume. The reporting software does not include seconds into the calculations, so this number may be skewed. In addition, members often forget to punch the “on-scene” button in a timely fashion, so the time logging could be delayed.

The average response time for the first due Engine Company at structure fires was 4 minutes 16 seconds. This is 11 seconds longer than 2018. Generally, as the total call volume has increased over the years, this time has incrementally increased. The first engine was on-scene within 5 minutes at 85.1% of all structure fires. This is a negative trend given the department’s goal and NFPA Standard of having the first engine on-scene in 5 minutes (includes a 1 minute reaction time) for 90% of structure fires. We will be looking at this closer this year to see what impact the increasing number of concurrent calls have on response times.

Response Calls by Unit

The statistics shown in Figure 6 represent the response activity of the individual fire apparatus. In 2019, there were a total of 5,982 emergency vehicle responses. Engines 51, 52, and 53 are the front line engines. Engine 54 is the back-up or reserve engine. A new #54 was put in service at the start of 2019. Unit 55 is the rescue squad at Central Station. When the department is at less than 13 personnel, rescue calls must be handled by Unit 54 in Fremont’s district. Unit #58 serves mainly as the Duty Officer’s Vehicle at Central Station and as the back-up when #55 is out of commission.

Rescue 55 was by far the busiest piece of response equipment due to its function as a rescue squad for EMS calls and a command vehicle for fire alarms. Engine 52 and Engine 54 at the outside stations were again relied on heavily for fire and EMS response in their districts. These pumpers continue to be the department workhorses and their ability to make the projected service life is questionable. To answer part of this issue we did move the newer Engine 54 to Fremont and moved Engine 53 to reserve status. Engine 51, a quint-type apparatus with an aerial platform responded on 634 alarms. Unit #54 (when it was still the reserve) responded to 329 alarms, most of these when a front-line apparatus was down or when call-back crews responded to a 2nd alarm during a fire in progress. The smaller staff vehicles including units 50, 56, 57, and 59 also responded to many alarms at times when first-line equipment was down or when 40-hour personnel were on duty

responding to fire and other alarms. After a response time study with the new bridge at N. Kellogg St. we did expand Rescue 55 territory to encompass a portion of Fremont Stations territory. This improved EMS response times to these areas while furthering the life of Engine 54.

In terms of unit activity per response territory, the area in Fremont Street Station has the most calls with 2,397 responses. This includes multiple unit responses. This is geographically the largest response area so it would follow that there is more activity in total.

District	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	Total
Central	1	355	143	56	28	1241	11	8	67	3	1913
Brooks	1	78	1021	117	46	320	30	5	26	0	1644
Fremont	2	152	52	1057	253	757	23	23	78	0	2397
Outside City	0	1	5	5	2	7	2	3	3	0	28
Total	4	586	1221	1235	329	2325	66	39	174	3	5982

Figure 6
GFD Annual Unit Emergency Response Totals vs Response Territories

Mutual Aid

The department responded to 20 mutual aid calls outside the city in 2019. Of these, 7 were requests by Henderson Fire Protection District. There was 1 request from Oneida-Wataga FPD and one from Knoxville FPD. Three of the total calls were for assistance at fires, two calls were for power lines down. On 7 mutual aid calls, our crews were cancelled prior to arriving at the scene.

Deaths and Injuries

There were two fire related civilian deaths in 2019. There were eleven minor injuries to firefighters during the year.

NON-EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES

- Currently at 42 sworn firefighters with average daily manning at 11.03 personnel
- Completed annual testing and maintenance of 3 fire pumps, 1 aerial ladder platform, 16 ground ladders, 48 air paks, 82 air cylinders (20 hydrostatic tests), 98 air masks, numerous hazardous materials monitors, 3 SCBA compressor systems, 3 building sprinkler systems, 155 lock boxes in the city, and 12 fully-encapsulated hazardous materials suits.
- The GFD was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for \$125,980.00. This grant will be used to purchase complete SCBAS, Spare harnesses and face pieces.
- Completed daily testing of all fire apparatus and associated equipment.
- Performed codes studies and plan reviews for 39 projects, conducted 219 original inspections of commercial occupancies, numerous re-inspections and 188 commercial self-inspections. The department is seeing a trend for fewer violations in recent years.
- The Fire Prevention Bureau issued 288 occupancy and 24 use permits while overseeing 2 prairie burns.
- GFD maintained 8 fire personnel certified in juvenile fire setter interventions. The department held interventions on one youth in 2019.
- During Fire Prevention Week and at other times, suppression personnel visited and conducted fire drills at all elementary schools and all Knox College residence facilities.

- In conjunction with the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office, the Fire Marshal inspected all 8 of the public schools in Galesburg. With the promotion of BC Hovind to Fire Chief, FF Ben Johnson was trained and now will conduct the yearly OSFM school inspections.
- The Fire Marshal's office continued to work with administrators from School District #205, Regional Superintendent's Office, and GPD concerning 13 recommendations from the Illinois Terrorism Task Force School Safety Working Group.
- In its 7th year, the Fire Protection System Records program continues to grow in a positive direction. In 2019, the system insured annual maintenance and testing of 215 sprinkler systems, 27 standpipes, 253 fire alarm systems, 7 fire doors, and 104 hood systems. The Bureau notifies building owners to provide documentation of annual testing to the department.
- Working with the 9-1-1 Coordinator, the Administrative Assistant and members of the department examined software systems for fire reporting, inspections, training, and various records. This included demonstration from Tyler and ESO. The Firehouse system that has been in place for many years was bought out and long-term support is questionable. This system is not meeting the city's needs.
- The department maintained a supportive community presence for many events and parades, GAVC Fire Science program, and area-wide firefighter training.
- Personnel were offered 82 hours of formal training per firefighter (34 hours in EMS and 48 hours in fire/rescue), maintained EMT certifications on all personnel (11 license renewals) and requirements for state haz mat and tech rescue teams.
- Conducted annual physicals including optional stress tests according to NFPA standards on all 42 members at Cottage Medical Plaza.
- Completed fitness evaluations via department's Firefighter Challenge course on all union members.
- The Training Division completed extinguisher training for over 350 citizens in 2019.
- Continued to see favorable outcomes using Basic Life Support drugs in our EMS responses. Started in 2016, this has greatly expanded our capabilities to serve the public in life-threatening situations. The use of Narcan was successful on several opioid emergencies, and we see regular use of baby aspirin, breathing treatments, oral glucose, and nitroglycerine. In particular, the frequent use of CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) has alleviated breathing distress for COPD and CHF patients.
- The department generated \$17,300 in false alarm fees (2019).
- Continued to manage and use the fire-recall notification system, FireQRVS, to shorten response time and provide a more efficient method of contacting off-duty members during emergencies.
- All facilities were maintained on a daily basis.
- Galesburg Firefighters continued their annual support of the Salvation Army by ringing bells for three days at Wal-Mart.
- GFD and Local #555 for the first time in a long time came in second for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Golden Boot Award for Central Illinois in 2019, collecting \$25,599 through the "Fill the Boot" campaign during the Labor Day weekend. It is worthy to note that we came in fourth place in the entire state. This is a testament to the graciousness of the people of Galesburg and the surrounding area.
- We were asked to delay hydrant testing until September of 2019 due to the lead and copper testing. Hydrant testing was eventually abandoned for 2019 due to record flooding on the river.
- The department continued inspection of turnout gear as per NFPA 1851. A goal was set in 2018 to equip every firefighter with a front-line and back-up set of turnout gear in 5 years. A new, 5-year turnout gear contract was bid out and awarded to MES in 2018. GFD purchased 8 new sets of turnout gear and other protective equipment as-needed in 2019.
- 15,950 ft. of department-owned fire hose of various sizes were tested. There was 750 ft. that failed and was removed from service. The department did not purchase hose during the year. Hose testing occurs from April 15th until approximately April 24th.

- The Prevention Bureau continued the smoke detector campaign with area agencies led by the Red Cross by installing 123 detectors in 44 city residences.
- The Fire Marshal worked with FF Johnson and other City Staff to continue I-Pad format inspections in 2019.
- The GFD fire investigation team, consisting of Captain Brock Schmitt, Captain John Seitz, Captain Donald Bracket, and FF Darrin Clayton conducted sixteen Origin and Cause investigations. In 2019 the team conducted fifteen full fire investigations. One hundred and eighty total hours were spent working on fire investigations.



Ninety-two of those total hours were completed while on duty. Of those sixteen fires, twelve were determined to be accidental in nature, zero were incendiary (or intentionally set), one was of natural causes (lightning), and three fires were undetermined. The estimated dollar loss from these fire is approximately three-hundred fifty thousand dollars. That figure is slightly up from 2018. The fire investigation unit worked in conjunction with GPD Special Operations

personnel and the Illinois State Fire Marshal’s Office. There were two fire fatalities in 2019 resulting from a residential structure fire. There were forty-four hours of overtime investigating this fire. The fire investigation team completed three hundred plus hours of Continuing Education Training.

- Several individuals attended outside classes, mostly in fire prevention, at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.
- Facilitated monthly regional firefighter testing at the Hawthorne Training Site in cooperation with the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute and State Fire Marshal’s Office.
- Engine 54 was received and put into service in early January of 2019.



New Engine #54, a 78’ Ladder Truck, was put into service in January of 2019

- GFD and 15 area fire departments submitted a joint \$1.1 million Assistance to Firefighters Grant for communications equipment in early 2019. The grant was turned down.

- The MABAS Region #31 Hazardous Materials team maintained its roster and training through 2019. Two all-day training exercises involved haz-mat team members. The first exercise involved rescue of a downed responder in a fully encapsulated suit. The second was mitigation of a simulated leak in a class A chlorine tank. Firefighters maintained and tested including approximately 16 haz-mat monitors and detectors valued at over \$100,000.
- The Haz Mat Team planned and participated in training exercises with BNSF Railroad and Henry Hill Correctional Center.
- The department took over administration of the Region #9 Technical Rescue Team previously managed by Canton. Galesburg has the bulk of the team members and equipment.
- The department continued to build relationships with other City Departments through common training with GPD and Galesburg Hospitals Ambulance Service. GFD Inspections continued to meet periodically with the inspectors in Community Development.
- Firefighters completed the countless daily and weekly checking of apparatus and equipment, cleaning of stations, upkeep on all refrigerators, washers, dryers, and heating systems while attending to public calls for non-emergency service.
- The number of properties in the Contract Fire Protection Program remained relatively steady at 24 representing annual revenue of about \$10,493.77 to the City.
- Department members remodeled the area that once housed the Public Safety Building emergency generator. The generator was moved to an outside location in 2017. This area now is a cardio-workout room.
- The Galesburg Area Vocational Center Fire Science Program enrolled 8 junior and senior level students (7 boys and 1 girl) from area high schools in 2018-2019. Six of the students went a regional Skills USA challenge that allowed them to compete in different fire fighter skill such as hose advancement, knots and ladders.
- KCEMA submitted annual and quarterly documentation for the Emergency Management Performance Grant. The city received approximately \$28,250 through a county pass-through from FEMA to offset the Fire Chief's salary.
- The Fire Chief or one of the management staff attended most of the meetings of the Emergency Telephone Systems Board, Fire and Police Commissioners Board, Development Review Committee, Traffic Advisory Commission, City Council, Knox County Board, Western Illinois Firefighters Association, and MABAS Division #31 among others.
- KCEMA completed 4 classes in emergency management and participated in 4 exercises to satisfy requirements for EMA accreditation.
- Knox County EMA developed training based on a tornado scenario at Knox College. The KCEMA hosted a table top training with Knox College staff and security.



Happy Hallow sink hole

- The KCEMA was actively involved in helping Knox County entities obtain Public Assistance Grants from FEMA as part of the spring and summer flooding that occurred in 2019. The entities assisted included the City of Galesburg for the flooding at the pumps in Oqwauka and the Galesburg Sanitary District.
- The Fire Department continued its annual participation and played a key role in most all parades on Main Street including another successful rescue of Santa off a rooftop

in Downtown Galesburg.

- Firefighters erected the Tent City shelter that was used as Headquarters and the Santa House in coordination with the Chamber of Commerce Galesburg Express event in December.
- GFD Chaplain Glen Bocox and Photographer Bill Dickerson continue to be valuable assets to the department and our customers, the citizens of Galesburg. Glen takes care of victims at fire and other emergency scenes by providing insight into what we are doing, information about post-fire details, and a willing ear for comfort. When requested, his work extends to surrounding fire departments. Bill's photography helps us document our history and work while also playing a key role in fire investigations.
- The Galesburg Fire Department said goodbye to its long-time Fire Chief Tom Simkins who completed over 34 years of service to the community when he retired on October 25th. We will miss his leadership and abilities, but most of all, his camaraderie and brotherhood.



Chief Simkins' retirement party

- GFD swore in Randy Hovind as the new Fire Chief in on November 22, 2019. Chief Hovind has worked for GFD for the last 20 years, holding the ranks of Firefighter, Fire Captain, and most recently Fire Marshall at the rank of Battalion Chief. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Western Illinois University in Fire

Science Administration and Management, as well as many professional certifications related to fire, safety, and emergency management.

