

Aurora Fire Department

2015 Annual  
Report



## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide essential fire suppression, special operations, and emergency medical services to the citizens of the City of Aurora with an elevated level of expertise.



To provide a unified professional response to life and property incidents affecting the City of Aurora and its citizens.

To maintain and enforce an updated and continuing inspections program to enforce adopted codes and to supply quality fire prevention and education programs to the citizens of Aurora. To provide the greatest quality of service to the public through a comprehensive training program that seeks to sharpen existing skills and develop new technologies to meet future demands and to provide a safe and healthy work environment for our employees.



# AURORA FIRE STATIONS



Central Fire Station &  
Administration Offices  
75 N Broadway  
Engine Co#1, Medic 1, Truck Co # 2

Station 3  
600 New Indian Trail  
Engine Co #3, Medic #3  
Battalion II Headquarters

Station 4  
800 Michels Ave  
Engine Co #4, Medic #4

Station 5  
730 Hill Ave  
Engine Co #5, Medic #5,  
Battalion I Headquarters

Station 7  
824 Kenilworth Ave  
Engine Co # 7



Station 8 & City of Aurora  
Customer Service Center  
3770 McCoy Drive  
Engine Co #8, Medic # 8,  
Truck Co # 6

Station 9  
2339 Diehl Road  
Engine Co # 9

Station 10  
2390 W. Illinois Ave  
Engine Co #10, Medic # 10  
Truck Co # 11

Station 12  
2424 Haffenrichter Road  
Engine Co #12



## Department Statistics

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### Vehicle Response per Station

Station #	# of Vehicles Responding	Calls
Station 1	3	5,489
Station 3	2	3,769
Station 4	2	3,761
Station 5	2	3,893
Station 7	1	1,580
Station 8	3	3,649
Station 9	1	1,552
Station 10	3	3,252
Station 12	1	1,114

Total Calls 28,059

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total Fire Calls	4,066	3,782
Total EMS Calls	<u>13,309</u>	<u>13,800</u>
Total Calls	17,375	17,582

Fire Related Injuries 3  
 Fire Related Deaths 1

Total Fire Dollar Loss \$ 2,707,237.00

Total Dollar Loss \$ 2,726,687.00





# Fire Department Administration



Fire Chief  
John Lehman



Deputy Chief  
Tom Greiner



Fire Marshal  
Gary Krienitz



Asst. Chief – Operations  
Mark Lockwood



Asst. Chief – Support Services  
Don Davids



Battalion Chief  
Training Director  
Dave McCabe



Battalion Chief - EMS  
Cletus Rettenmeier



## Sworn Personnel

Fire Chief	1
Deputy Fire Chief	1
Asst. Fire Chief	2
Fire Marshal	1
Battalion Chief	6
Captains	13
Lieutenants	31
Firefighters	135
<b>Total Sworn Personnel</b>	<b>189</b>



## Civilian Employees

Emergency Management Director	1
Fire Inspectors	2
Administrative Secretary	3.5

**Total Fire Department Personnel** **195.50**



The City of Aurora is the second most populous city in the state of Illinois, the 19<sup>th</sup> largest city in the Midwest. With a population of 199,932 at the 2012 census.

Once a mid-sized manufacturing city, Aurora has grown tremendously over the past 50 years. Originally founded within Kane County, Aurora's city limits and population have since expanded into DuPage, Will and Kendall counties. Our nine stations located throughout the community are staffed 24/7 basis by 185 sworn full-time career firefighters.

Currently, the Aurora Fire Department consists of 9 Engine Companies, 3 Truck (Ladder) Companies and 6 fully-staffed and equipped Paramedic units, all of which are manned 24 hours a day. Three of the Engine Companies operate as ARV (Alternate Response Vehicles), which support the department's EMS (Emergency Medical Services) by providing immediate advanced life support to victims in need of emergency medical care. The Department maintains an adequate supply of reserve and backup vehicles to support these front line vehicles. These vehicles, personnel, and related equipment are housed in 9 stations strategically located throughout the City.

The physical fitness of each firefighter is of utmost importance, and each station is equipped with physical fitness equipment that is available to all members for their individual use.

The Fire Service is a service which, in order to be successful, depends a great deal upon teamwork among its members and the sharing of knowledge among those members. Dependence of those working together as a team is vital to the accomplishment of our goals and to the safety and wellbeing of the citizens we are sworn to protect, as well as to our fellow Firefighters.

The department responded to over 17, 582 emergency calls in 2015.

In 2015, eleven new firefighters were hired and nine veteran firefighters retired, with over 213 years of combined experience.



## Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for the reviewing of certain plans and issuing of permits for various fire related activities. The Bureau also inspects sites for fire lanes, responds to fire related complaints, inspects target occupancies for compliance with adopted fire codes and enforces the False Fire Alarm Ordinance.

The City of Aurora has an ISO rating of Two (2).

Aurora Fire Prevention Bureau Enforces The Following Codes:

- ❖ City of Aurora Code of Ordinances, Chapter 17 International Fire Code/2009 NFPA Life Safety 101/2000
- ❖ International Building Code/2009
- ❖ Referenced NFPA STANDARDS

**A total of 4,119 inspections were conducted in 2015**

### ***Fire Prevention Bureau***

Routine Inspections	226
Re- Inspections	80
School Crisis Mtg	121
Special Inspections	361
Construction Sites	<u>21</u>

### **Total Inspections by**

**Fire Prevention Bureau: 809**

### ***Fire Companies***

Routine Inspections	3,025
Re-Inspections	<u>285</u>
<b>Total Inspections by</b>	
<b>Fire Companies:</b>	<b>3,310</b>

### **2015 Permits Issued: 239**

Installation of Above-and Below Ground Fuel Tanks	1
Building Fire Suppression Systems	3
Building Fire Alarm Systems	3
Building Hood Suppression Systems	3
Operational Permits	81
Fireworks	11
Open Burning	69
Outdoor Fireplace	68





## Training

The Members of the Aurora Fire Department spent 75,152 hours on firefighting and related training. In addition, another 3388 hours of specialized training was completed. These hours include fire officer classes, fire investigations, dive rescue, technical rescue, hazardous materials, and many others.

July saw a recruit class of eleven new personnel begin their careers with the Aurora Fire Department. After nine weeks of intense training, the recruits graduated and began working 24-hour shifts on the response vehicles.

Approximately twenty members of the department attended five weeks of Fire Officer I training. A disaster class and drill at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmittsburg, MD, was attended by management members of the department.

A number of claims for education reimbursement from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, Division of Personnel Standards and Education were submitted in 2015. These included areas such as Fire Apparatus Engineer, Hazardous Materials Technician, and Fire Instructor.



## Aurora Emergency Management Agency

The City of Aurora Emergency Management Agency is responsible for providing an integrated and comprehensive emergency management system that coordinates city and community resources to protect life, property, and the environment through preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery from all natural and man-made hazards that may impact our city. The agency coordinator serves as the Emergency Operations Center Manager during disasters and large scale incidents.

The agency is part of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and is available to provide mutual aid to county agencies and the state itself. The Aurora Emergency Management Agency participates on several county and state teams and committees; the Kane County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee, Kane County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF), ITTF Emergency Planning Committee, Illinois Incident Management Team, National Fire Protection Technical Committee 1616 on Mass Evacuation, Sheltering and Re-Entry and the Illinois Emergency Management Services Association.

The Emergency Management Agency has four volunteer divisions that perform functions at various incidents and other events. These responders provide incident scene lighting, traffic control, and severe weather monitoring. On weekends, EMA volunteers conduct neighborhood patrols in order to provide extra eyes and ears for the police.

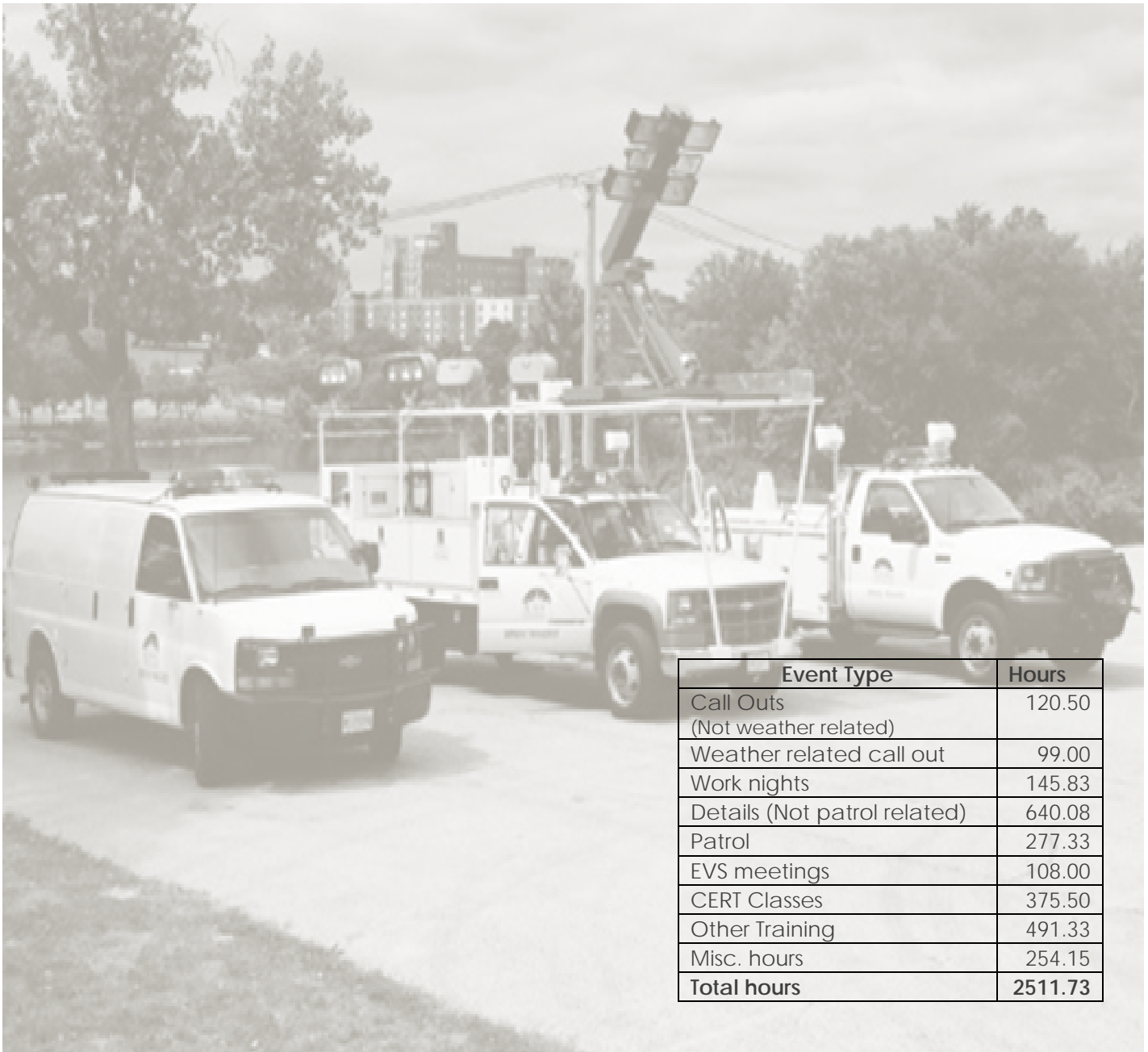
In addition, the City of Aurora's Emergency Management Agency provides Community Response Team (CERT) training to the citizens of Aurora and surrounding communities.

In 2015 the addition of the Community Emergency Response Team was added to the functions of the Emergency Volunteer Services. This team supports the mission of scene lighting, traffic control and severe weather monitoring, in addition it will assist in supporting city events, shelter operations, and ground search and rescue.



The agency is host to a vehicle and equipment fleet that supports its mission.

- 32 foot Field Operations Support Trailer equipped with generators, satellite communications, radios and monitors.
- Lighting truck with elevating boom lighting that provides 4,000 watts of scene light.
- Pickup truck with scene lighting capabilities and traffic control capabilities.
- Utility truck use for transportation and traffic control assignments.
- 20 foot shelter supply trailer that has a supply capacity to support 100 people.
- 16 foot Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trailer.
- Four 60K State of Illinois generators and one 30K State of Illinois generator.
- One 42,000 BTU portable heating and air conditioning unit.
- A cache of variable size portable generators to support operations.



Event Type	Hours
Call Outs (Not weather related)	120.50
Weather related call out	99.00
Work nights	145.83
Details (Not patrol related)	640.08
Patrol	277.33
EVS meetings	108.00
CERT Classes	375.50
Other Training	491.33
Misc. hours	254.15
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>2511.73</b>



## Specialty Teams

The Aurora Fire Department provides Specialized Teams, with specific training and equipment, which are qualified to respond to a variety of unique situations or events.

### **Dive Rescue Team**

Our Dive Rescue Team responds to any and all situations involving water related references. (e.g. car in pond, drownings in retention ponds or river, evidence recovery, water searches).

Water related incidents are dispatched as "Rescue" or "Recovery" responses. A rescue response is initiated when there is an immediate or perceived threat to life. These include occupied cars in canals, possible drownings, etc. Recovery mode is enacted when there is no emergency. These include evidence recovery, cars that appear to have been submerged for some time, or body recovery.

All divers are certified through Dive Right In & Scuba Diving International as Public Safety Divers or Rescue Divers.

The Aurora Fire Water Rescue Team responded to ten calls in 2015.

### **Hazardous Materials**

Aurora supports a Hazardous Materials (Haz-mat) team. The team is specially trained to mitigate small to moderate sized hazards such as gas leaks, fuel spills or small amounts of spilled chemicals.

During larger hazardous materials incidents, involving specialized protective suits or complicated situations (Level A), the team provides support to any of the four, level A teams responding from across -Kane County (MABAS Division 13). Members of MABAS Division 13, include department members from Batavia, Geneva Montgomery, North Aurora, St. Charles, Big Rock and Sugar Grove.

The team conducts monthly training drills, including suit training, use of monitors, table top drills and department -wide decontamination drill.

The Aurora Fire Department Truck Companies handled 308 calls for possible elevated levels of carbon monoxide.

### **Fire Investigations**

The Aurora Fire Investigations investigated 30 fires during 2015 resulting in a total estimated property dollar loss of \$1,837,000. Ten of these fires were determined to be accidental in nature, eleven were the result of arson, and nine were undetermined in cause. Many of these undetermined fires remain open cases pending more information and lab results. Two arrests were made in connection with fires during 2015.



### **Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program**

Juveniles who have a history of setting fires, or believed at risk of playing with fire, are referred to the program for a risk assessment and education. If needed, they are referred to proper agencies for further intervention and counseling. Juveniles are entered into the program by concerned relatives, outside agencies, the juvenile legal system or fire officers at the scene of an incident believed to be caused by a youth.

Members of the Juvenile Fire Setters Intervention Team worked with eight youths during 2015. No significant property loss or injuries were attributed to any of these juveniles. 2015 saw a marked decrease in the number of youths the fire department dealt with who were identified as having played with fire. Large part of this is believed to be associated with effective fire prevention education the Aurora Fire Department delivers to children through schools, scouts, and other community groups.

### **Technical Rescue Team**

The Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue team is comprised of highly trained individuals, dedicated to responding to disasters and serving the citizens of Aurora and the United States. Members receive extensive training in tactics, techniques and specialized equipment dealing with vertical rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, and structural collapse rescue.

### **Child Passenger Safety Technicians Team**

Each team member completed a four day class designed on proper seat installation by Safe Kids Worldwide and the National Highway Traffic Safety. Each member also takes a refresher class every two years to stay apprised of changes in car seat laws, as well as new car seat designs.

The Child Passenger Safety Team instructed parents, grandparents, and other caregivers on the proper installation of over 300 car seats during 2015. These installations can take up an hour apiece, depending on the seat and the vehicle it is being installed in.

### **Honor Guard**

The Aurora Fire Department's Honor Guard, under the direction of Pvt. David Heinke, is present at most public events requiring flag ceremonies or special honors. The honor guard leads the Fire Department at annual parades, as well as presenting the colors at funerals, memorial services and greeting dignitaries.





**TRADITION  
HONOR**



**EXCELLENCE**

**DISCIPLINE**



*Proudly serving our community the City of Aurora since 1856*

