

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, March 18, 2019

Regular Meeting

Item Reports4

Council to receive a presentation on the Annual Fire Report.

Staff Contact: Thomas Schingle, Fire Chief



Scottsbluff Fire Department

2018 Annual Fire Report

Thomas Schingle, Fire Chief

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Message from the Chief

Scottsbluff Fire Department

Organized in 1900

Protecting 6.27 square
miles

Population 15,039 (2010
census)

12 Firefighters

3 Captains

1 Fire Prevention
Officer

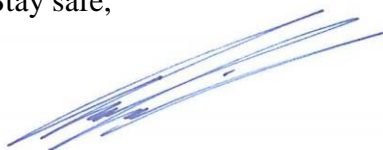
1 Fire Chief

The Scottsbluff Fire Department continues to proudly serve the community and provide public safety services of fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous materials mitigation, public education, and fire prevention/code enforcement. At the conclusion of our 118th year, we answered 2,026 calls for service (CFS); a decrease of 6.76 percent from 2017. The largest reduction in calls for service was fire responses; a change of -16.83 percent. This can be attributed to public education and fire prevention efforts. Emergency medical and rescue responses remained steady with only a slight decrease from 2017. Overall, the trend shows a steady increase in calls for service over the past five years.

The members of the Scottsbluff Fire Department experienced a few changes in 2018. The volunteer firefighter program was ended, due to declining numbers. The Central Communication Center purchased a new Computer-Aided Dispatching (CAD) program to better track resources and to provide a live-feed of information into emergency vehicles. Finally, Engine 5 (the brush truck) was reallocated to the Cemetery and Unit 7 (the chief vehicle) was repurposed as the brush truck. This allows for more storage of equipment and the ability to carry two additional firefighters.

It is my privilege to submit the Scottsbluff Fire Department's 2018 Annual Report. As we move into 2019, we are excited to seek new opportunities to provide the public safety services the community deserves. We are committed to doing our job, treating people right, having an all-in attitude and giving an all-out effort in the performance of our duties.

Stay safe,



Tom Schingle

Mission Statement and Core Values

“The Scottsbluff Fire Department is committed to doing our job, treating people right, having an all-in attitude, and giving an all-out effort in the performance of our duties.”

Excellence- We will achieve professional excellence in all aspects of our duties.

Compassion- We believe in empathy and kindness towards the needs of those we serve.

Courage- We will display the mental strength and moral character to do what is right for the protection of our coworkers and community.

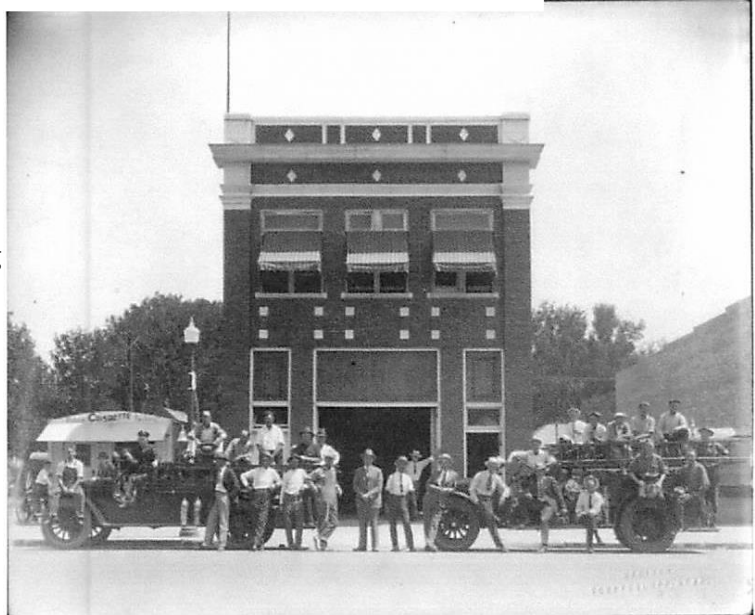
Respect- We will serve our community and each other with dignity, integrity, appreciation, and kindness.

Department History

The Scottsbluff Fire Department has a long and proud past. During the late 1840s and 1850s, thousands of people migrated west through the Scottsbluff area. By 1874, the Mormon Trail was established along the north side of the North Platte River. The City of Scottsbluff was founded in 1900. At this time, the City was protected by volunteer firefighters.

In 1916, the City hired its first firefighter. This individual maintained and drove the City's first motorized fire truck. This one individual assisted the volunteer contingent by responding during the business week. At other times, the volunteers were responsible for responding with the fire truck.

This approach met the needs of the community until early 1926, at which time three fire department shifts were created with one paid apparatus driver/operator per shift. It appears that the department was adversely impacted by the Great Depression and became all-volunteer. The department returned to paid firefighters in the late 1930s and evolved into 24-hour, paid coverage in the early 1940s. This coverage was complete with several paid officers.



The City of Scottsbluff and the Scottsbluff Rural Fire Protection District entered into an automatic-aid agreement by the late 1940s. This agreement was necessary due to a severe human resource shortage caused by World War II. In 1953, the City and the Scottsbluff Rural Fire Protection District entered into a formal agreement for joint operations. The contract called for the City to pay all necessary workers' compensation insurance fees for volunteer members, but no other money would be exchanged. This agreement continued until 1995, when the two separated.

The department continued to grow in the early to mid-1950s. However, in the late 1950s, the City experienced an economic downturn and the department experienced a substantial reduction in the department's paid-coverage. The department, again, increased its dependence on volunteer staffing to meet its needs.

In 1965, the community suffered a tragic event; a structure fire took the lives of two young children. The initial apparatus had been delayed in responding by a train. Following the fire, the City Council rapidly approved the purchase of a new fire apparatus and fire station, located on the south side of the railroad tracks. The City also approved paid staffing of the new station. By the late 1960s, paid staffing was seven personnel per shift.

In the 1970s, staffing levels continued to fluctuate. The station south of the tracks was no longer maintained and Station 1 was staffed with six personnel. The administrative staff included a fire chief, assistant fire chief, fire marshal, training chief, and a secretary.

Escalation of costs forced the deletion of the training officer position in 1995; the same year the City and Rural departments ceased joint operations. The secretary position was eliminated in 1996 and the fire marshal was transferred to Developmental Services. The lieutenant rank was also deleted in 1996. During this same time, the department was experiencing an increase in call volume. The department experimented with part-time, paid firefighters in an attempt to maintain staffing. An attempt to maintain volunteer ranks was also tried, yet several left to continue with Scottsbluff Rural after the split.

In 2003, the part-time firefighter program ended and the fire marshal was moved back to the fire department. This brought the total career force to 17; a fire chief, a fire marshal, three captains, and twelve firefighters. However, in 2006, one career position was cut, bringing the total number of firefighters to eleven.

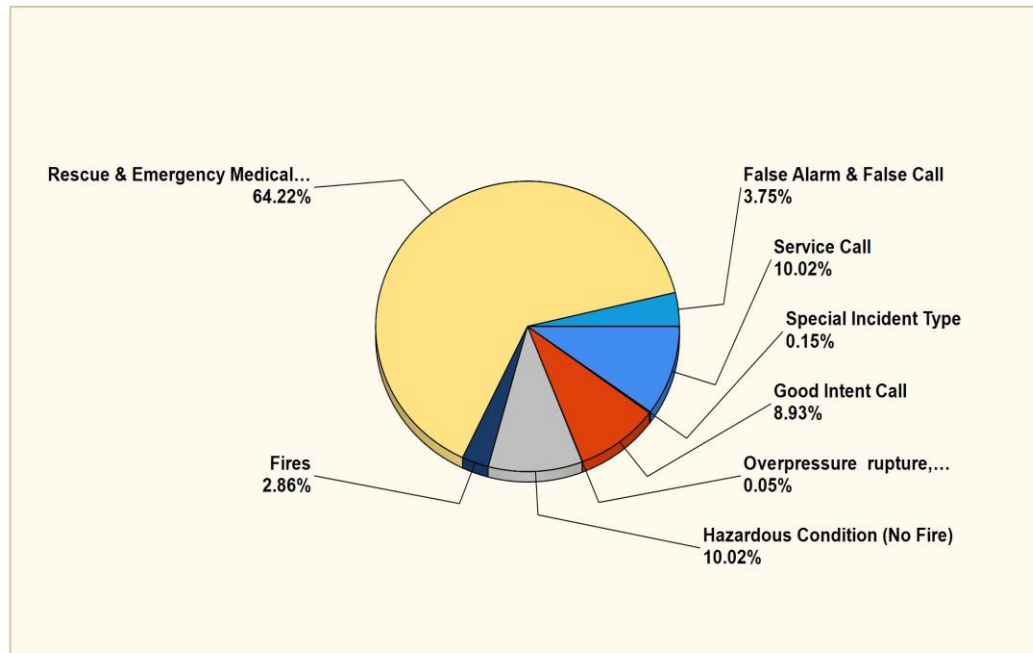
In 2012, the need to change the volunteer-side of the department was evident. Nationally, there was a trend of far fewer volunteers than in years past. Locally, the number of active volunteers in the department had declined to four personnel. In January of 2013, shift-work began for volunteers where they would work a 12- or 24-hour shift with the paid firefighters.

Unfortunately, the volunteer ranks continued to dwindle and in 2018, the volunteer program was cancelled.



Today, the department is all-career, one of seven in the State of Nebraska (Bellevue, Grand Island, Lincoln, Omaha, Omaha Airport, and Scottsbluff). Staffing levels remain at 17, with a fire chief, fire prevention officer, three captains and twelve firefighters. Through an automatic-aid agreement established in 2009, the Gering Fire Department and the City respond to all structure fires in each of the respective response districts.

Calls for Service: Response Category



MAJOR CATEGORIES	2018 # CFS	2018 % of TOTAL	2017 # CFS	2017 % of TOTAL
Fires	58	2.86%	64	2.96%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	1	0.05%	0	0.00%
Rescue & Emergency	1301	64.22%	1316	60.84%
Hazardous Condition (No	203	10.02%	303	14.01%
Service Call	203	10.02%	166	7.67%
Good Intent Call	181	8.93%	202	9.34%
False Alarm & False Call	76	3.75%	108	4.99%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0	0.00%	1	0.05%
Special Incident Type	3	0.15%	3	0.14%
TOTAL	2026	100.00%	2163	100.00%

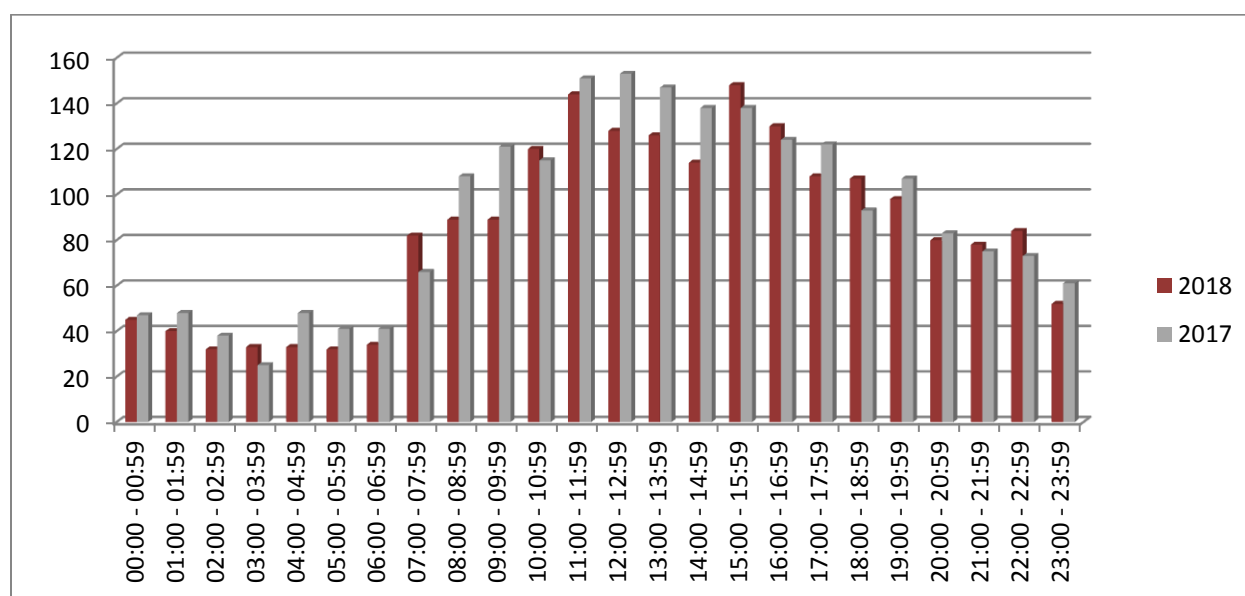
The nine major categories are established by the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), which are further broken down into sub-categories. The following page shows the CFS for each sub-category for each month of 2018.

Calls for Service: Category (cont.)

INCIDENT TYPE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Accident, potential accident	19	28	15	16	9	14	13	15	14	11	5	
Animal problem or rescue								1				
Bomb scare					1							
Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition	1			2	1	2		2			1	3
Citizen complaint							1			2		
Combustible/flammable spills & leaks	3		1			2	2		1	2		
Controlled burning						1						
Dispatched and canceled en route	8	11	13	10	17	13	12	9	7	7	9	12
Electrical wiring/equipment problem	2	3	2	1		3	1	1	1	5		
Emergency medical service (EMS) Incident	98	102	99	83	106	106	133	110	95	123	125	110
Explosive, bomb removal								2				
Extrication, rescue	1	3	1		1	1	1			1		
False alarm and false call, other							1					
Fire in mobile property used as a fixed structure										1		
Good intent call, other									1			2
Malicious, mischievous false alarm			1			1	1				1	
Medical assist								1				
Mobile property (vehicle) fire				1	1	2	2		1			
Natural vegetation fire						1	4	4				
Outside rubbish fire		1	1	1	2	3	2		1	1		4
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating, other									1			
Person in distress			1	1	1						1	
Public service assistance	22	10	10	18	27	20	21	22	11	8	11	9
Smoke, odor problem	1											
Special outside fire									1		1	
Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke		1	4	1	1			2	2	1	4	
Structure Fire	2	1		2	3	1	2	1	2	2	5	3
System or detector malfunction	1		1		2	1	4	3		2	2	1
Unauthorized burning				1	1	1		1		1		
Unintentional system/detector operation (no fire)	8	2	4	4	4	6	7	3	4	2	5	4
Water or ice-related rescue	1											
Water problem	3											
Wrong location, no emergency found	1		4		3	5	4	3	5		7	1

There were twenty-four (24) structure fires in both 2018 and 2017.

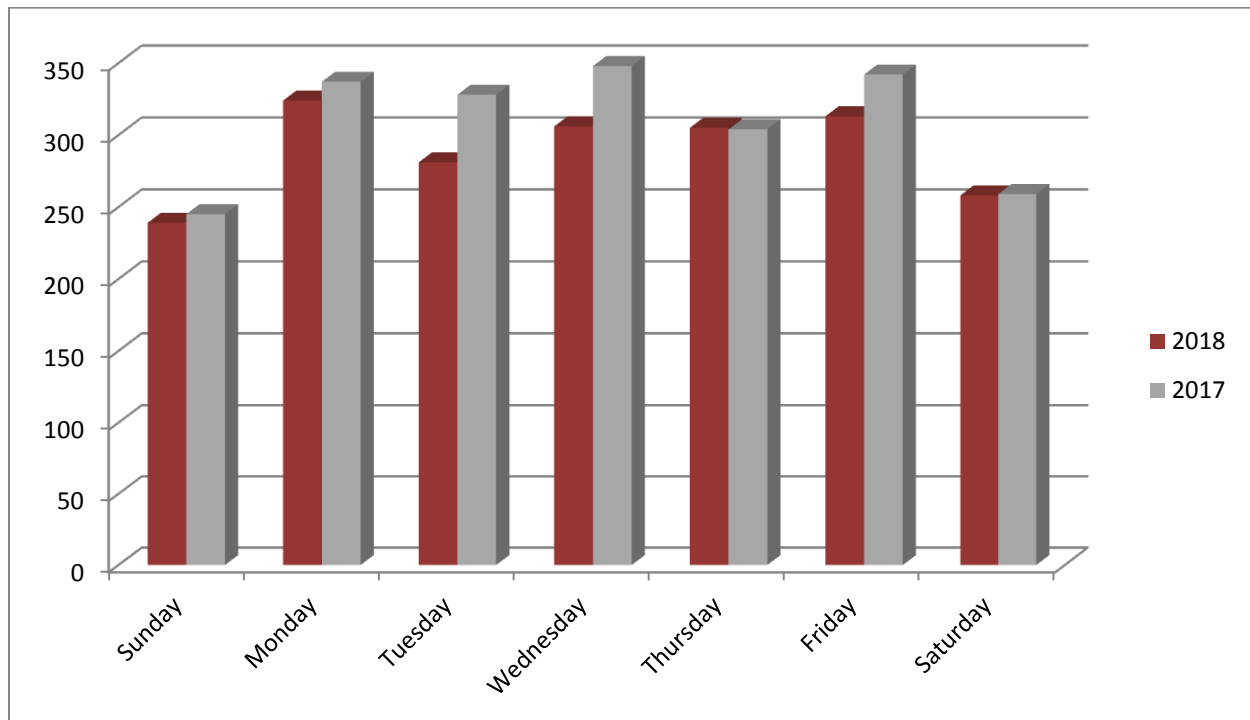
Calls for Service: Time of Day



2018				2017			
HOUR (A.M.)	#CFS	HOUR (P.M.)	#CFS	HOUR (A.M.)	#CFS	HOUR (P.M.)	#CFS
12:00 a.m.	45	12:00 p.m.	128	12:00 a.m.	47	12:00 p.m.	153
1:00 a.m.	40	1:00 p.m.	126	1:00 a.m.	48	1:00 p.m.	147
2:00 a.m.	32	2:00 p.m.	114	2:00 a.m.	38	2:00 p.m.	138
3:00 a.m.	33	3:00 p.m.	148	3:00 a.m.	25	3:00 p.m.	138
4:00 a.m.	33	4:00 p.m.	130	4:00 a.m.	48	4:00 p.m.	124
5:00 a.m.	32	5:00 p.m.	108	5:00 a.m.	41	5:00 p.m.	122
6:00 a.m.	34	6:00 p.m.	107	6:00 a.m.	41	6:00 p.m.	93
7:00 a.m.	82	7:00 p.m.	98	7:00 a.m.	66	7:00 p.m.	107
8:00 a.m.	89	8:00 p.m.	80	8:00 a.m.	108	8:00 p.m.	83
9:00 a.m.	89	9:00 p.m.	78	9:00 a.m.	121	9:00 p.m.	75
10:00 a.m.	120	10:00 p.m.	84	10:00 a.m.	115	10:00 p.m.	73
11:00 a.m.	144	11:00 p.m.	52	11:00 a.m.	151	11:00 p.m.	61

Scottsbluff Fire was busiest at 11:00 a.m. (same as 2017) and 3:00 p.m. (compared to 1:00 p.m. in 2017), and busier in the afternoon/evening hours compared to the morning hours. Our numbers are similar to the national statistics reported to NFIRS.

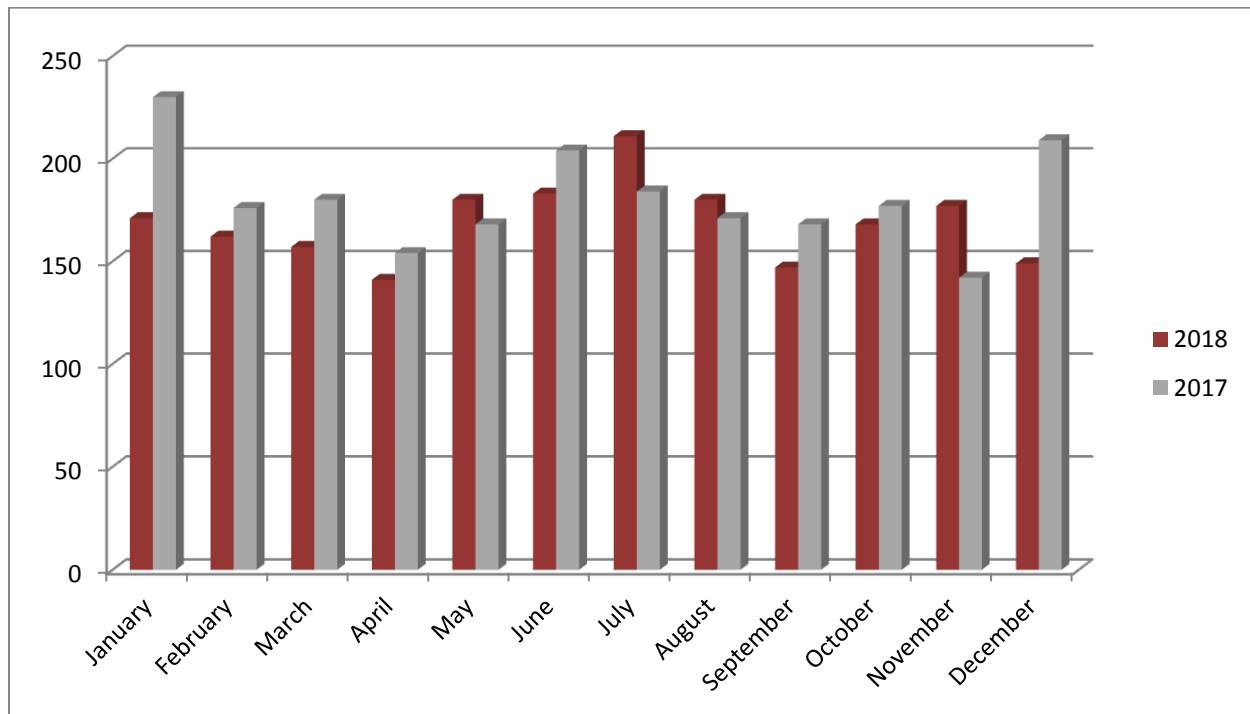
Calls for Service: Day of Week



DAY OF THE WEEK	2018 # CFS	2017 # CFS
Sunday	239	245
Monday	324	337
Tuesday	281	328
Wednesday	306	348
Thursday	305	304
Friday	313	342
Saturday	258	259

Scottsbluff Fire responded to more calls for service on Monday, followed by Friday and Wednesday, respectively, in 2018, compared to Wednesday, Friday, and Monday in 2017. Sunday was the least busy day in the past two-years.

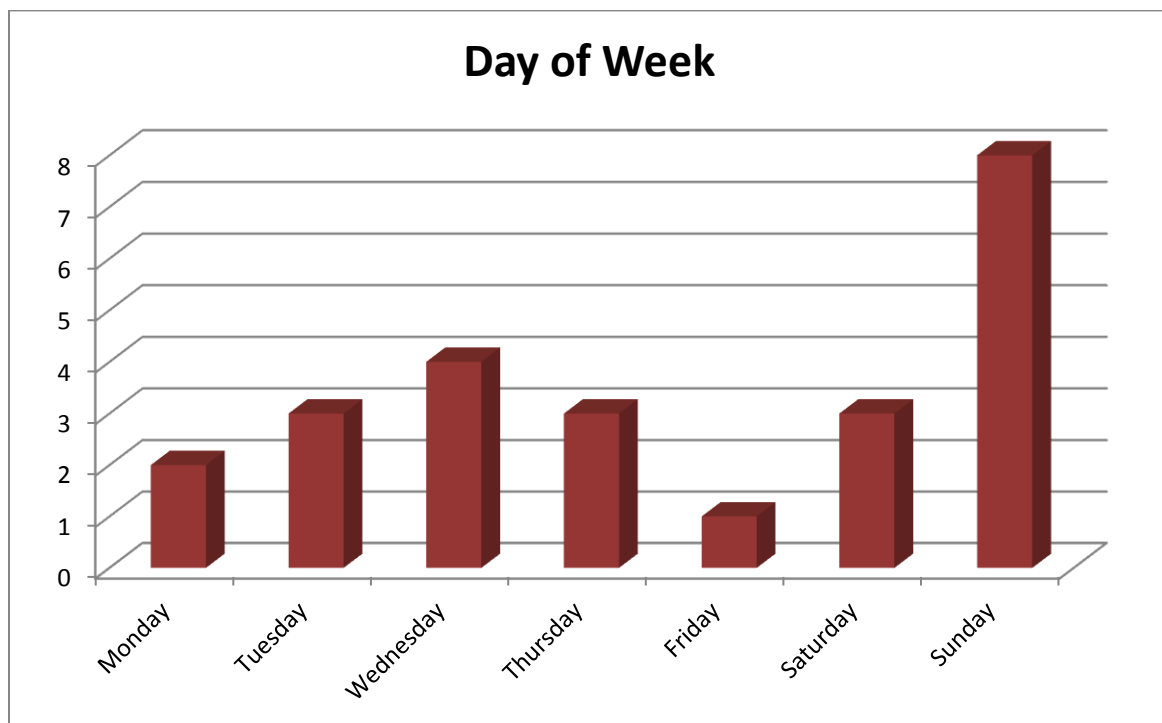
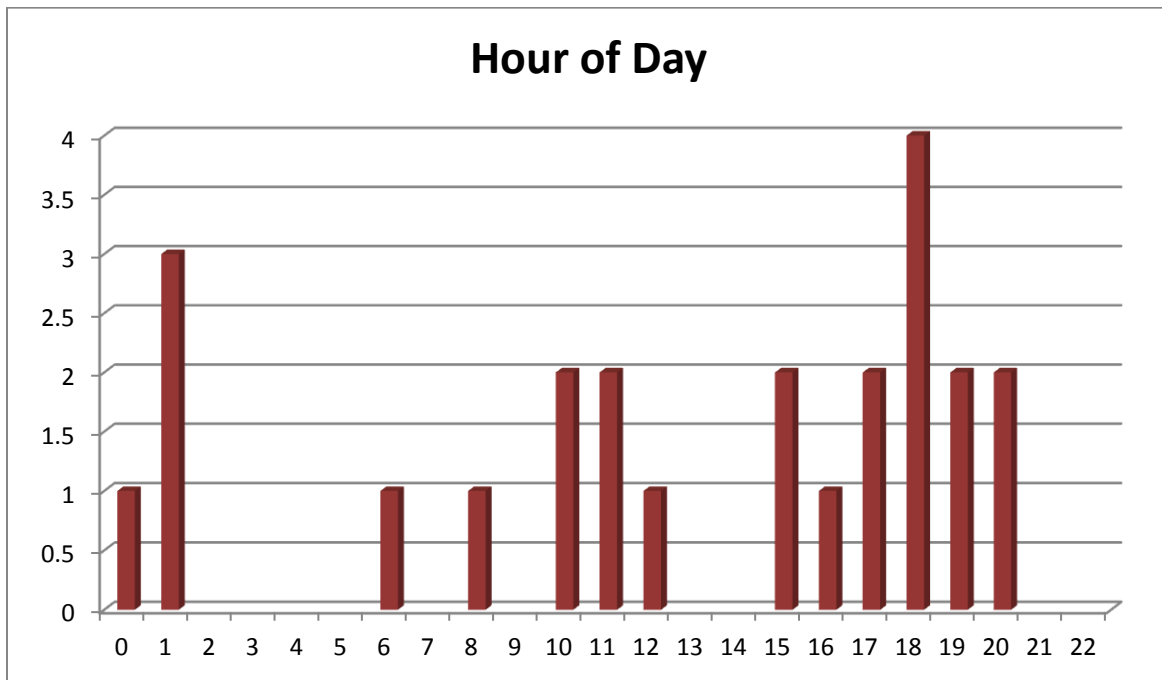
Calls for Service: Month



MONTH	2018 #CFS	2017 #CFS
January	171	230
February	162	176
March	157	180
April	141	154
May	180	168
June	183	204
July	211	184
August	180	171
September	147	168
October	168	177
November	177	142
December	149	209

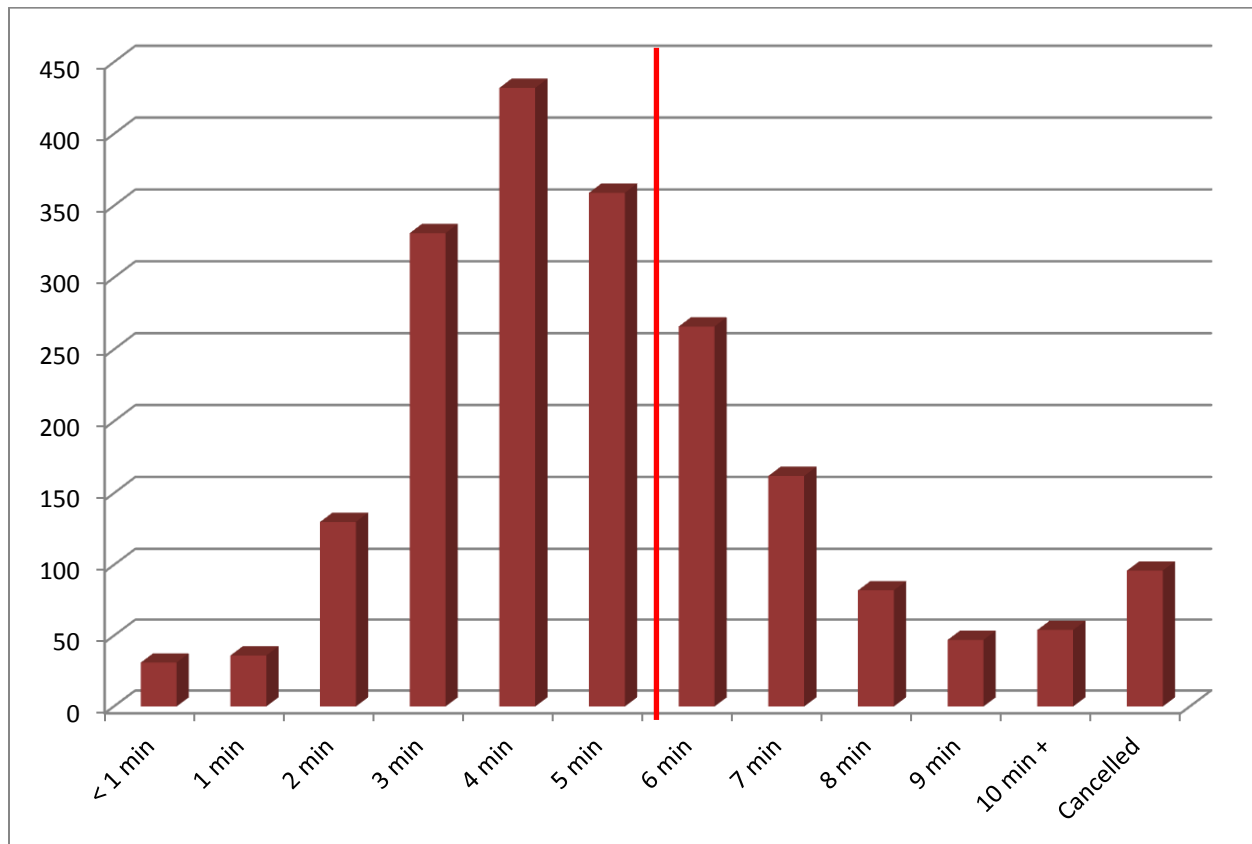
The busiest month in 2018 was July, compared to January in 2017. Looking at the CFS numbers, July 2018 had an increase in medical emergencies; the same reason for the higher responses in January 2017. On average, there are 2 structure fires per month with the majority in November (5 in 2018) and December (4 in 2017).

Calls for Service: When Fires Occur



In 2018, one-third of all fires occurred on Sunday and nearly one-third occurred during the 1 a.m. hour or the 6 p.m. hour.

Calls for Service: Response Times



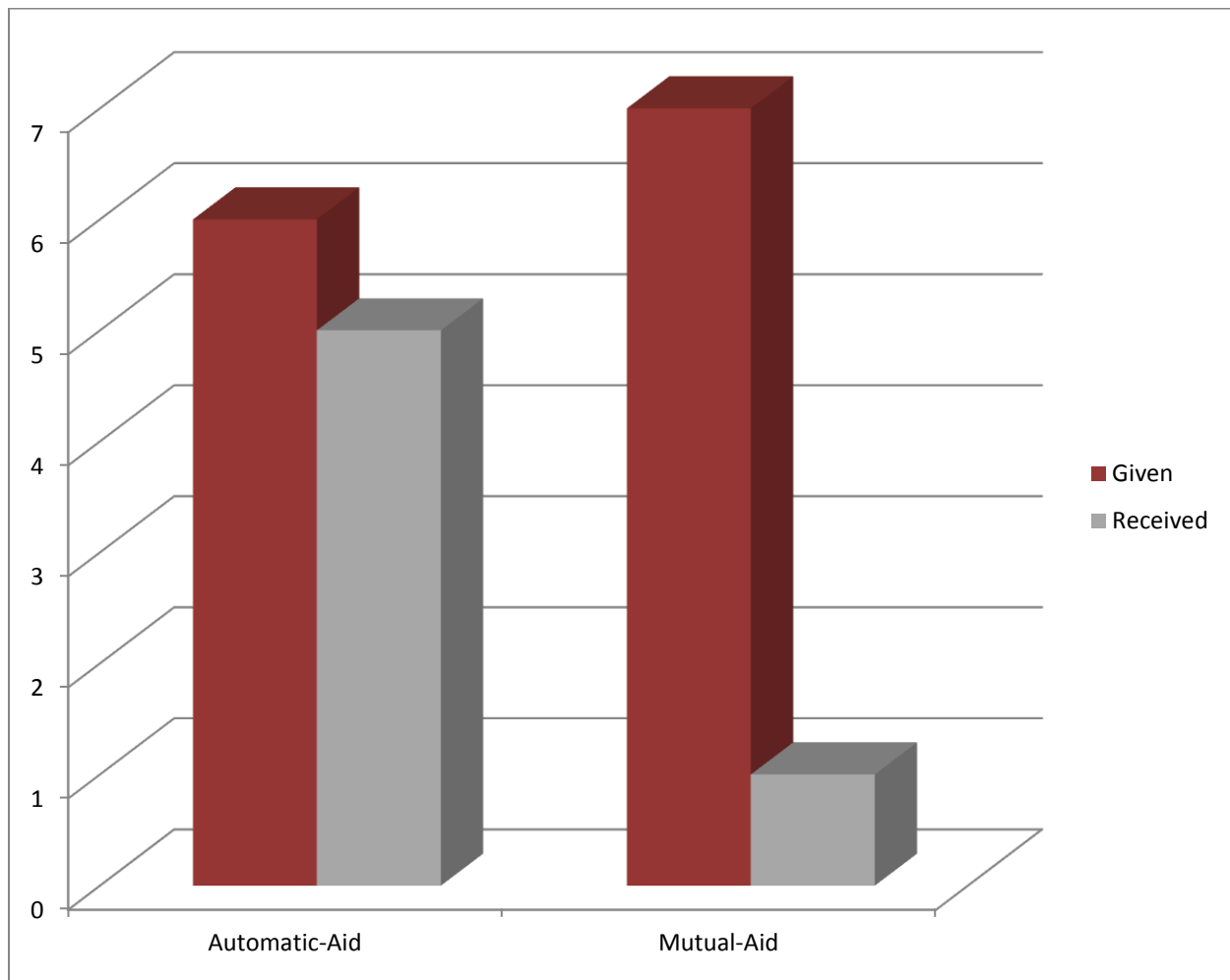
The Scottsbluff Fire Department is able to respond to the majority of calls for service (68%) within five minutes or less with an average response time* of four minutes, eleven seconds (4:11). The average response time to medical incidents is three minutes, forty seconds (3:40), where the average response time to fire incidents is five minutes, forty seconds (5:40).

There are a few conditions that prevent meeting the five minute response goal such as overlapping incidents, in which we could not respond due to being engaged with another incident. Overlap occurred 13.52 percent of the time which accounts for nearly half of all calls for service over the five minute response time. Other factors include distance (outside of city limits) and inclement weather.

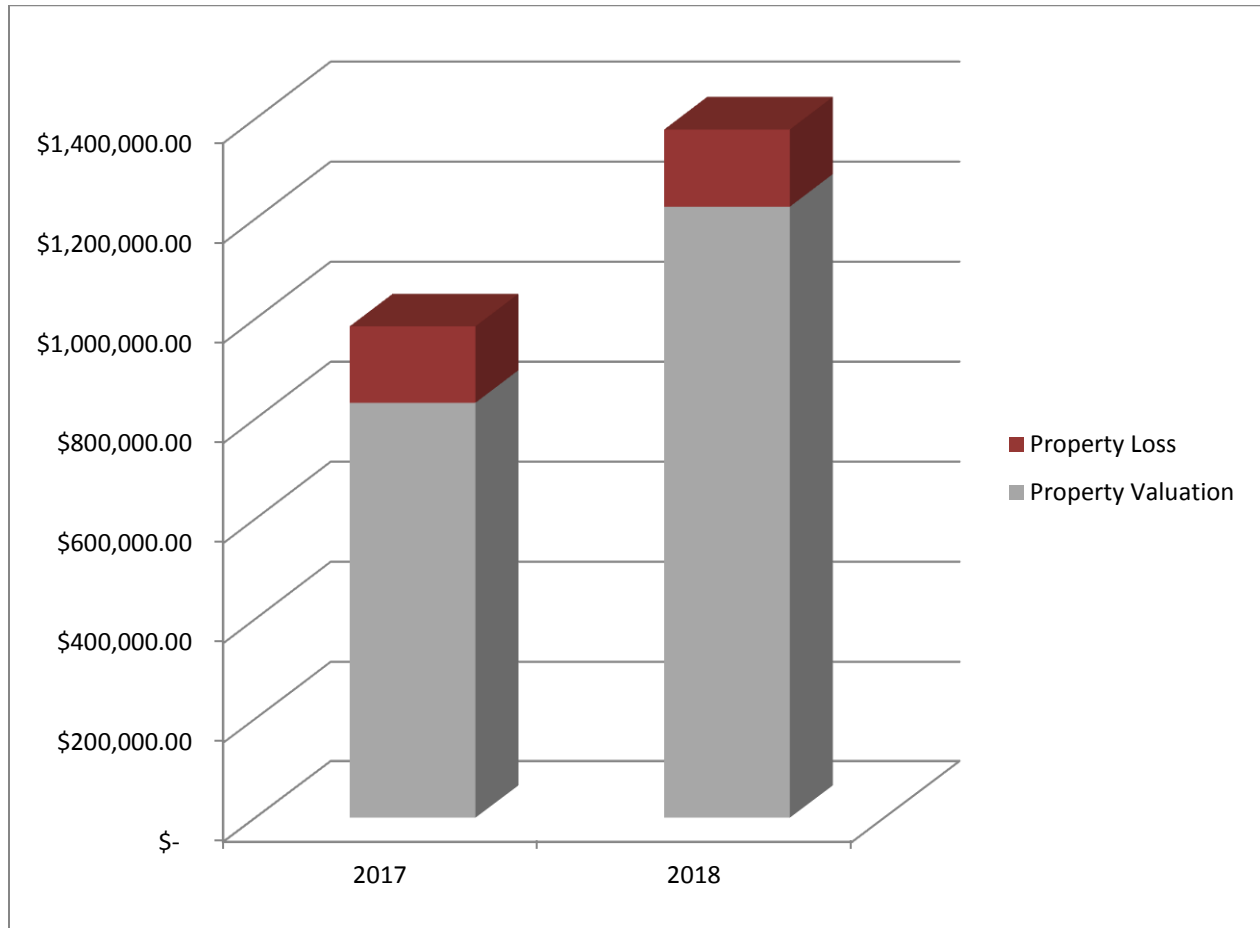
*Response time is calculated from time of alarm (when the fire department is notified) to time of arrival.

Calls for Service: Aid Given and Received

Scottsbluff Fire Department has an automatic-aid agreement with Gering Fire Department in which both agencies are simultaneously dispatched (automatically) for all structure fires. All public safety agencies in Scotts Bluff County have a mutual-aid agreement in which resources may be requested and sent, if available. We thank our fellow agencies for the assistance we provide each other and our great working relationship.

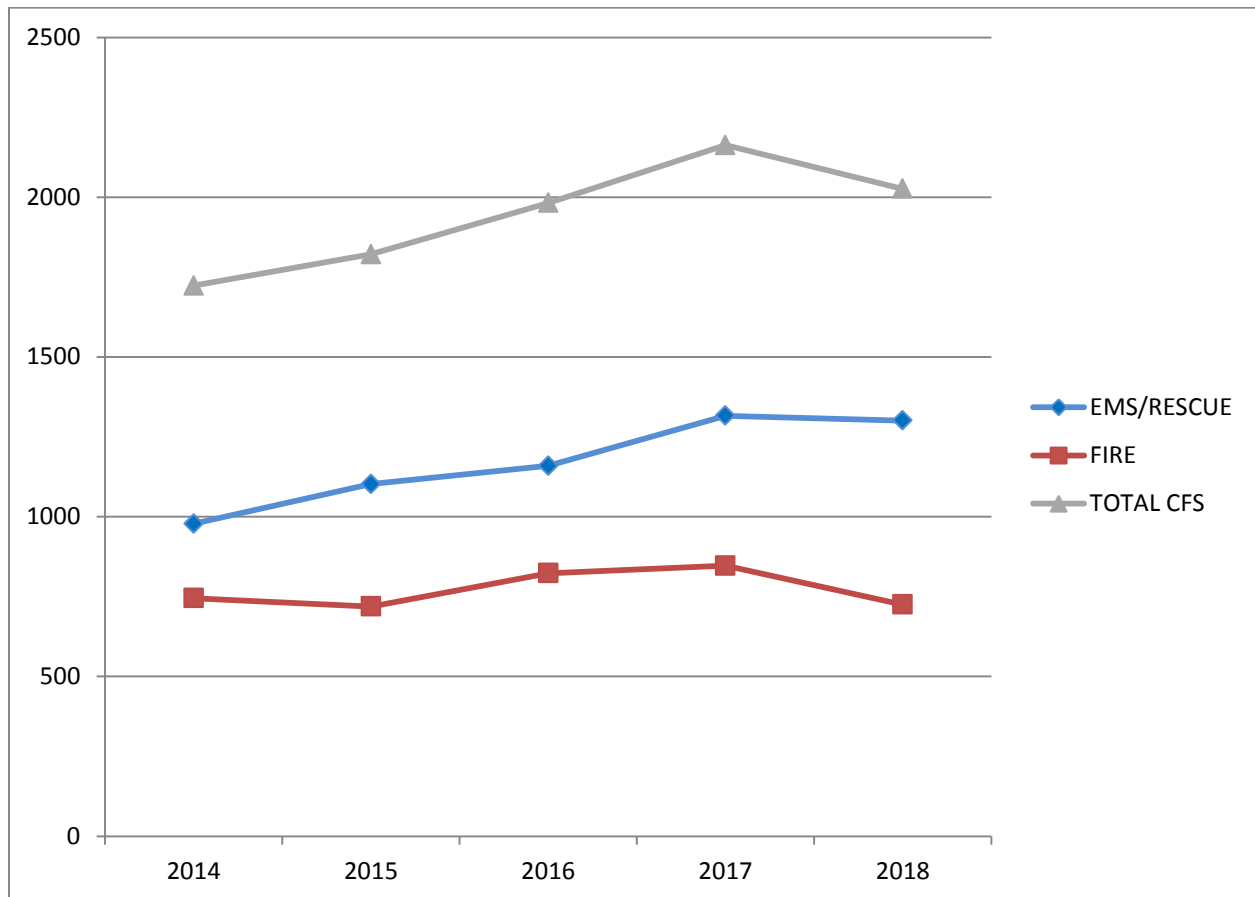


Calls for Service: Estimated Fire Loss



In 2018, it is estimated that there were \$154,160 in property loss as a result of fire in Scottsbluff. The estimated property valuation of those fires was \$1,378,432, indicating 89 percent of property was saved. Comparing to 2017, the property loss as a result of fire was an estimated \$152,725 of an estimated \$984,865 property valuation. This equates to 84.5 percent of property value being saved.

Calls for Service: Five Year Comparison



A comparison of the past five years indicates a steady increase in emergency medical services (EMS) and rescue calls for service. Fires, fire alarms and other hazardous situations are relatively steady with an average of 771 calls for service over the past five years.

Apparatus

Apparatus	Year/Make/Model	Features/Use
Engine 1	2016 KME Pumper	Primary pumper, 1500 GPM pump, 750 gallons of water, extrication equipment
Engine 2	1996 Becker/Freightliner Pumper	Reserve pumper, 1500 GPM pump, 750 gallons of water
Rescue 1	2017 SVI/Freightliner	Basic Life Support, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, extrication equipment
Tower 1	2010 Pierce Arrow XT	Aerial platform (100 foot), 1500 GPM pump, 300 gallons of water
Brush 1	2008 Dodge 3500	Type 6 engine, 300 gallons of water, forestry hose, 250 GPM pump,
Unit 1	2017 Ford F150	Chief's vehicle/utility vehicle
Unit 10	2000 Ford Explorer	Fire Investigation/Inspection vehicle
Unit 11	2000 Chevrolet G30	Passenger Van/Personnel Carrier
Dive Bus	2000 Bluebird	Dive Rescue equipment, breathing air cascade
Zodiac	1998 Zodiac Rubber Inflatable Boat	
SeaDoo	2002 Sea Doo, personal watercraft	
Hazmat Trailer	1998 Pace, 28 foot enclosed trailer	Hazmat response, decontamination equipment, breathing air cascade
UTV	2005 Polaris UTV	Utility vehicle with snow plow



Personnel Hours

Activity	Total Hours	Average Hours
Calls For Service	1492 hours 55 minutes	78 hours 34 minutes
Training	1698 hours 45 minutes	113 hours 15 minutes
Public Education	359 hours	22 hours 25 minutes
Fire Prevention	135 hours	135 hours
Maintenance	1036 hours	69 hours
Fitness	1825 hours	121 hours 40 minutes

Department Statistics

Average Years of Service: 9.6 years

Average age of members: 38.4 years

Average time on-scene of incident: 27 minutes

Average CFS per person: 236.21

Average number of responding personnel to structure fires: 5.25

Average number of responding personnel to all CFS: 3.54



Personnel Hired, Promoted and Retired

The Scottsbluff Fire Department hired two new personnel, in 2018, to replace two personnel that left to pursue other opportunities. We welcome our newest members Andrew Kelley and Tyrell Gill. Andrew started on October 15, 2018, and was assigned to Shift B, while Tyrell started on October 27, 2018, and was assigned to Shift A. There were no promotions and no official retirements in 2018.



Tyrell Gill
Shift A
October 27, 2018



Andrew Kelley
Shift B
October 15, 2018

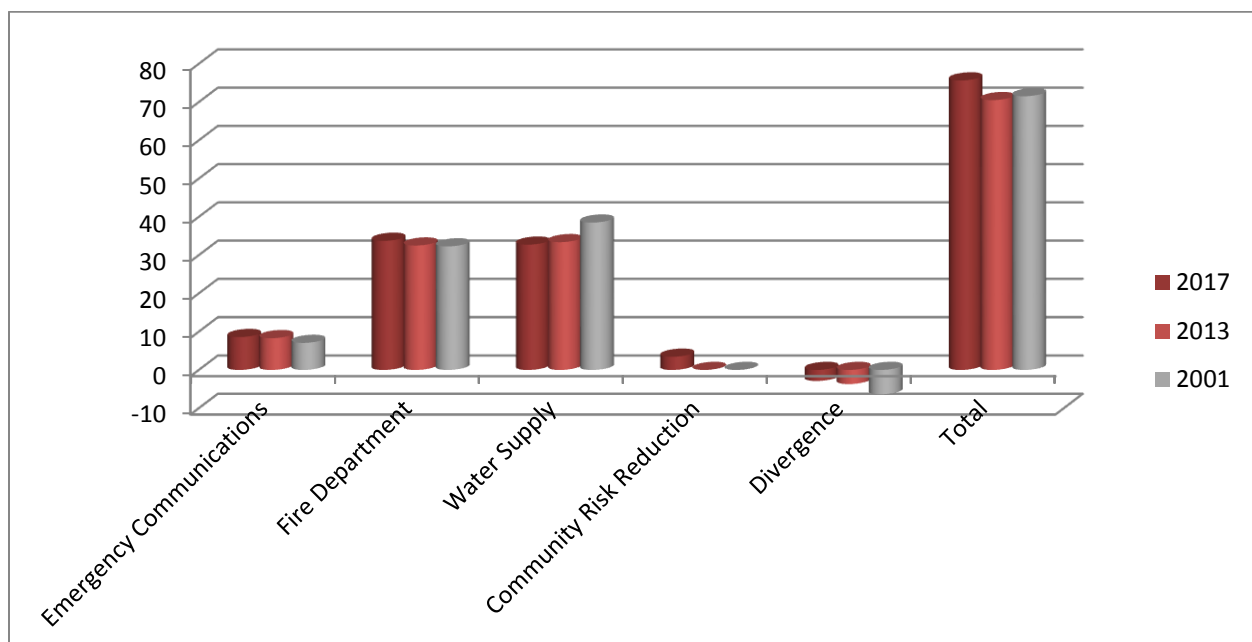
Hazardous Materials MOU Team



In 1988, Scottsbluff Fire Department put the Hazardous Waste Disposal Unit into service. Around 1996, personnel began obtaining technician-level training. The National WMD survey, in 1999, prompted the team to push for more technicians. The State of Nebraska began working on developing State Emergency Response Teams (SERTs) around the same time. Through a memorandum of understanding, Scottsbluff Fire became one of the 10 SERTs for hazardous materials response in the State of Nebraska. The Scottsbluff Fire Department, when requested and authorized, covers the 11 counties of the Panhandle to mitigate hazardous materials releases.

Public Protection Classification

The City of Scottsbluff has a Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating of 3; a rating maintained since 2001. This rating is established through an assessment performed by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO), who determines the level of fire protection services in a community. The last assessment was performed in 2017. The Scottsbluff Fire Department will continue to seek opportunities to maintain and improve the rating. A lower rating potentially lowers insurance rates for the community. The following is the historical trend of the PPC rating for the City of Scottsbluff (Community Risk Reduction was not part of the assessment in 2013 and 2001; it only became an assessment in recent years).



	2017	2013	2001	Total Possible	PPC	Points
Emergency Communications	8.59	8.3	7.07	10	1	90.00 +
Fire Department	33.74	32.52	32.29	50	2	80.00 to 89.99
Water Supply	32.75	33.39	38.51	40	3	70.00 to 79.99
Community Risk Reduction	3.45	-	-	5.5	4	60.00 to 69.99
Divergence	-2.88	-3.69	-6.34	-	5	50.00 to 59.99
Total	75.65	70.52	71.53	105.5	6	40.00 to 49.99
					7	30.00 to 39.99
					8	20.00 to 29.99
					9	10.00 to 19.99
					10	0.00 to 9.99