

Monmouth Fire Department September Monthly Report

***October 17th, 2016
City Council Meeting***



Emergency Responses:

The Monmouth Fire Department utilizes fire reporting software approved by the United States Fire Administration and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. This software records fire department responses in over 90 categories to track fire department emergency response statistics. This information is used by the department to support decision-making for fire response planning. Tracking response data with approved software is also required for fire departments receiving Federal and State grant dollars.

The chart on the following page includes a brief summary for each of the nine main categories of incident types and the number of calls that were responded to in each category.

Responses	Monthly	YTD
<u>Fires</u>	13	35
Includes structure fires, fire in mobile property used as a fixed structure (mobile homes and campers), vehicle fires, vegetation fires, rubbish fires, and field fires. There may also be other types of fires that do not necessarily meet the definition of one of the subcategories in this category.		
<u>Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (without ensuing fire)</u>	02	05
Includes overpressure rupture of a steam pipe or pipeline, overpressure or rupture from air or gas pipe or pipeline, overpressure rupture from chemical reaction, explosion without resulting in fire, and overheat or scorching with no ignition.		
<u>Rescue and Emergency Medical Services</u>	81	512
Includes medical assists (majority of MFD calls in this category), vehicle accidents with injuries, vehicle/pedestrian accidents, lock-in (gaining access to a vehicle or other area where a patient is locked inside), search for a lost person, extrication (victims trapped in vehicle, elevator, trench, confined space, machinery), water and ice rescue, and electrocutions.		
<u>Hazardous Conditions (no fire)</u>	12	119
Includes combustible/flammable spills and leaks, chemical releases or toxic conditions, carbon monoxide incidents, power line down, electrical equipment problems, vehicle accidents with no injuries, incidents involving explosives and attempted arson.		
<u>Service Calls</u>	19	103
Includes people in distress (locked out of vehicle), water in basements or leaky hydrant, smoke or odor removal, animal rescue, provide police with assistance, smoke detector checks, and unauthorized burning.		
<u>Good Intent Calls</u>	07	50
Incidents where the fire department was dispatched and then cancelled while en-route to the call. Also includes calls where no emergency was found upon arrival. Incidents where steam was mistaken for smoke or smoke from a barbecue or other controlled fire was mistaken for an uncontrolled fire. Includes emergency medical calls when the patient had been transported prior to the arrival of emergency responders.		
<u>False Alarms and False Calls</u>	18	130
Includes false alarms that were malicious or mischievous in nature, bomb scares, alarm activation due to the system malfunctioning, and the accidental activation of the alarm system (example -burnt food).		
<u>Severe Weather and Natural Disaster</u>	00	00
Includes responses to severe weather and natural disasters to stand by, investigate, or to assess the damage to determine if any additional assistance is needed.		
<u>Other Type Incidents</u>	00	02
Includes citizen complaints concerning code or ordinance violations and any other incidents that may not fit any of the above categories.		
Total	152	956

Staff Training:

During the month of September, firefighters completed “saving our own” training at the department. At the fire department we always train to rescue victims of a fire but there is always the possibility of something happening to a firefighter while inside of a structure fighting a fire where he/she may need to be rescued and that is what the “saving our own” training is for. Rescuing a firefighter can be different and a little more challenging because often when the rescue is needed it is because of some type of collapse or the firefighter is lost or injured and cannot escape on their own. All of the firefighters practiced techniques for locating injured firefighters and taking them to safety.

Firefighters also completed a review of communicable diseases as part of the monthly emergency medical service (EMS) training. Firefighters always have to be vigilant of the possibility that they may be infected with a disease by someone that they are trying to help. Firefighters reviewed the types of communicable diseases and what protective clothing/equipment that they should utilize in order to keep themselves from contracting a disease.

Mitchell Scoggins and Josh Hinton both attended classes at the Illinois Fire Service Institute in September. Scoggins attended a class called Vehicle Machinery Operations which is a class designed to teach firefighters how to rescue people who are trapped or entangled in a vehicle or other piece of equipment. Scoggins was trained on the use of the hydraulic tools used to cut or push the equipment away from a victim so that they may be safely removed. Hinton attended a class called Management III which is designed to teach firefighters management skills that will enhance their abilities as an officer at the fire department. Both were forty hour classes covered over five days.

Non-Emergency Activities:

All of the firefighters at the department started testing all of the fire hose at the department in September. Each year, every piece of hose that is used at the fire department is required to be tested to check for issues that may cause the hose to fail. During the test, all of the hose is filled with water and pressurized to a set limit at which time it is checked for problems. The fire department has thousands of feet of hose to check and this process is usually completed in about a month.

MFD provided a standby for at all of the Prime Beef Festival events including the Demolition Derby, Oval Track Race, and the Figure 8 Race. No problems or injuries were reported.

Apparatus and Equipment Related Items:

Ken Helms has been assisting the fire department in the installation of computers that will be carried on two of the department’s apparatus. The computers will be equipped with internet and the fire department will utilize them for many things such as pre-plans, chemical information, maps, hydrant locations, and have access to reports. This will allow the fire department to have access to a searchable database of the information that ordinarily would have to be kept in binders or books and will be very beneficial to the officers at a scene.

Tower 22 returned to service earlier in September after being out of service for about a month because of issues with the aerial ladder. The truck was repaired at Alexis Fire Equipment and the repairs took an extended amount of time because the parts were not readily available for the repairs.

Brush 25 had a minor issue with a water leak on the pump which was repaired by the firefighters at the department.

Other:

Chief Rexroat attended a meeting with Monmouth College and representatives from the National Weather Service and IEMA to discuss Monmouth College's application to be "Storm Ready" certified. Storm Ready is a certification issued by the National Weather Service who basically audits all of the area's capabilities concerning a large scale natural disaster and how the college is equipped to handle it. The National Weather Service looks at communications, notifications, command structure, and infrastructure to determine where improvements can be made to ensure that the college is "Storm Ready".

Chief Rexroat attended a workshop put on by FEMA who provide guidance to fire departments when applying for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant is a federally funded grant that occurs annually and any fire department can apply. The grant is very competitive having an average of triple the amount of funds requested than is available. Projects that are funded by the grant are not funded at 100%. Communities that receive an award are required to pay a match to the award which is based on a sliding scale according to the population. If awarded a grant, Monmouth would be required to pay a 5% of the total project cost. We are currently in the process of writing a grant to request funding to replace the department's ladder truck and install an emergency generator for the South Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted,
Casey Rexroat, Fire Chief