

CITY OF MILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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2015 was another busy year for the City of Milton Fire Department. Overall emergency response activity was well above the prior year, challenging the department's capacity to meet all calls for service. Members continued to work to complete many ongoing projects, while also accomplishing several long-term goals. All of this activity has placed us in an excellent position to accomplish our primary mission of providing emergency services to the citizens of Milton.

EMERGENCY ACTIVITY

Along with a marked increase in the overall number of emergency responses, 2015 presented several challenging incidents, requiring more than the response of the initial alarm assignment. The total number of emergency calls increased by 2.73%, up to 1,620 calls, from 1,577 the previous year.

Rescue calls increased this year, now totaling 1,388 calls, and constitute the vast majority of our emergency calls, now nearly 86% of our annual emergency activity. Rescue calls include: medical emergencies such as strokes, heart attacks, traumatic injuries, falls, etc.; all vehicle accidents including those that involve entrapment, requiring forcible extrication with specialized hydraulic tools such as the "Jaws of Life"; and, rescue calls like a child locked in a vehicle, elderly who have fallen and need help back into bed (lift assist), and even the occasional animal rescue. In 2015 we responded to 1,212 medical rescues, 148 vehicle accidents, and 28 other rescue calls.

Fire responses, while always a relatively small portion of our total emergency activity, remain our primary responsibility, and actually are the segment of our responsibility that requires the greatest resources, in terms of equipment, training and personnel. Although the vast majority of fire related incidents are quickly handled by the on-duty crew, we must always respond with the capacity to bring the full capabilities of the department to bear rapidly to effect rescue, protect exposures, and quickly bring a well-developed working structure fire under control. As we can never know when the next "big one" will occur, we must constantly maintain the readiness necessary to manage that incident. This includes continuous training of personnel and maintenance of vehicles and equipment to ensure that all is ready at a moment's notice. The number of fire related calls was down roughly 7% from 179 in 2014. This year we responded to 167 fire related calls, now amounting to just over 10% of our total responses. These included 17 structure fires, 10 vehicle fires, 6 brush or wildland fires, 109 false alarms or good intent calls, and 25 other fire related calls, such as illegal burning.

Our smallest category of emergency response, hazardous condition calls this year made up 4% of our emergency activity, but represents potentially the most dangerous aspect of our operations to both our members and the public. These include: natural and liquefied petroleum (LP) gas incidents; electrical problems such as downed power lines, arcing lines, and transformer fires; fuel leaks and spills; and, all other hazardous conditions such as chemical releases, train derailments, building collapse, and terrorist acts. These incidents potentially involve very dangerous agents, present almost endless complexity, and often require responders to begin operations with very little information in a very dynamic environment. The number of hazardous condition calls was nearly flat this year, from 64 in 2014. In 2015 the department responded to 65 hazardous condition calls, including 18 gas incidents, 20 electrical incidents, 7 fuel leaks or spills, and 20 other hazardous condition calls.

On 124 occasions last year, we were dispatched to an emergency call while one or more units were already assigned to a previous call (concurrent calls). This means that nearly 8% of our emergency calls were received while we were already responding to, or on the scene of a prior emergency call. On at least 5 occasions we were dispatched to three or more simultaneous calls during the same period of time. On 10 occasions one or more of the concurrent calls occurred in conjunction with mutual aid provided to another jurisdiction. On 3 occasions a subsequent call was handled by a mutual aid agency providing temporary standby coverage to our district.

In almost every case an appropriate response was made without undue delay, and no calls have gone unanswered. On three occasions our department was unavailable to respond to a subsequent medical emergency call, but each of these calls was handled by the responding ambulance without assistance from our department. On 46 occasions Engine 23 was required to respond to a medical emergency in place of Rescue 23, which was managing a previous call. Each of these incidences of concurrent calls results in a situation in which Engine 23 is not adequately staffed to respond to fire calls with its normal crew complement of four firefighters, creating extreme operational difficulties in addressing the immediate needs on the fireground should a fire occur.

Although a very busy year, very few noteworthy incidents occurred in 2015. During the year, among the 17 structure fires to which we responded, only three had extended beyond the incipient stage to become a working fire, and each of these three were located outside of the city limits, to which we responded as part of a mutual aid agreement. The first of these occurred in June within a single family residence on Camille Garden Circle during a strong thunderstorm. The occupants were not home at the time of the fire, and the fire was brought under control shortly after burning through the roof above the kitchen. The second occurred in September on Old Bagdad Highway. This mid-day fire involved multiple rooms of a single family residence. The owner of the home escaped prior to our arrival, and the fire was brought under control after an aggressive combination attack with the support of five fire departments. The third occurred two days later on Happy Hollow Drive. This early morning fire had burned through the roof prior to the arrival of the responsible department, and we responded to the second alarm. Due to the advanced stage of the fire and limited water supply this lengthy firefighting operation resulted in a total loss of the rather large home, but no one was injured. It was later found that this fire had been the result of an arson.

The majority of other structure fires were limited in size, handled through a rapid response and quick, aggressive action to result in minimal fire damage where a major loss could have otherwise occurred. These included: a recreational vehicle fire on Raymond Hobbs Street on February 9; a fire in the landscape area at the County Health Department on May 23 resulting in minimal damage to the building exterior; a fire on the rear porch balcony on the apartment buildings on Munson Highway on August 31 that resulted in structural damage to the building and could have easily spread to involve the entire 4-unit building had it not been for the rapid efforts of the building manager to control the fire with a garden hose prior to our arrival; and, a flash fire in the filter material of the paint booth of a local paint and body shop that could have quickly grown to involve large quantities of volatile paint products had it not been for the quick thinking of staff of this facility and an adjacent welding shop, who gathered multiple fire extinguishers and brought this fire quickly under control prior to the arrival of the fire department, thereby saving this business from an otherwise tragic loss.

MUTUAL AID

The maintenance of effective mutual aid agreements is a crucial element in our overall ability to meet the needs of our citizens. While we are able to manage the vast majority of emergency calls with on-duty personnel, supplemented when necessary by the recall of off-duty personnel, incidents do arise wherein the resources of the City of Milton Fire Department alone are not sufficient to manage the situation. In these situations we must call on the support of surrounding fire departments to develop a coordinated response structure. During calendar year 2015 our department provided mutual aid to other departments on 15 occasions, and received mutual aid on 13 occasions, amounting to .93% and 0.8% of total calls, respectively. The number of incidents in which mutual aid was provided decreased by one from 16 in 2014. Several of these calls involved working structure fires where department personnel and resources were involved in active firefighting operations, including working structure fires on Camille Garden Circle, Old Bagdad Highway, and Happy Hollow Drive. The number of incidents in which mutual aid was requested and received remained the same as the previous year.

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

With one major exception, our fleet of firefighting apparatus is in very good shape and has continued to serve us well throughout the year. Rescue 23, our 15-year old rescue vehicle, is the busiest vehicle in the fleet, and continues to experience frequent mechanical issues. We have prepared specifications for a replacement vehicle and hope to go out to bid to replace this unit this year.

Marine 23's 26-year-old Johnson outboard motor was replaced, with a new 4-cycle 90hp Yamaha outboard motor that will be more reliable and operate with less noise and exhaust fumes. All breathing air cylinders were hydro-tested, maintaining them in compliance for the next five years. Three more sets of turnout gear were replaced, maintaining compliance with all sets of gear being ten or fewer years old.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year our department marked the retirement of a veteran officer. On December 29, Lieutenant/EMT Randy Hendrix retired after 15 years of service to the City of Milton Fire Department. During his tenure with the department, Lieutenant Hendrix established our First Aid/CPR training program and our in-house EMT recertification program. He was a consistently mature, stable officer who will be truly missed.

In anticipation of his departure, applications were received and candidates interviewed to establish an employee roster. After an extensive process, Firefighter/EMT Stephen Mark Rampersad, of Orlando, was selected to fill the upcoming vacancy, with a scheduled starting date of January 5, 2016. He will be assigned to fill the resulting vacancy on C-Shift and promises to have a productive career with the department. To fill the vacant Lieutenant spot, promotional exams were conducted in November. Four candidates applied to compete for the upcoming position. After an extensive examination process, all four candidates successfully qualified for placement on the promotional roster. Firefighter/EMT Steve Maddox attained the highest ranking, and was promoted to fill the vacant Lieutenant's position on C-Shift on December 31.

TRAINING

As always, training remains a vital part of the fire department's normal activity. With the wide array of situations to which the department is called to respond, it is imperative that all members of the department remain current and proficient in all areas of firefighting, basic life support, technical rescue, hazardous materials, etc. In accordance with the department's annual training calendar, each member undergoes a minimum of 20 hours of in-service training each month. In addition to this company training, many members have participated in additional specialized training.

Hands-on extrication training was conducted on March 31 at the Milton Iron and Metal Company yard in East Milton, allowing members to enhance their skills at performing complicated techniques in using hydraulic extrication equipment to remove an entrapped victim from a vehicle. In January, the department conducted a Fire Service Hydraulics course taught by Lieutenant Geoffrey Freeman through the Florida State Fire College. Firefighters Daryl Auerbach, Peyton Blackledge, Jesse Floyd, Paul Gillard, Steve Maddox, Gerrill O'Steen, and Scott Snowden attended this course.

Firefighter Jesse Floyd completed the *Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)* course offered by the Pensacola State College and obtained EMT Certification. Firefighter Scott Snowden obtained his Fire Officer I and II and Pump Operator certifications. Firefighter/EMTs Daryl Auerbach, Steve Maddox, Ben Stockdale, and Jesse Floyd all obtained Pump Operator certification. Captain Jim Custred renewed his Fire Inspector and Fire Service Instructor Certifications. Captain Jim Custred, Lieutenant Randy Hendrix and Firefighter Steve Maddox attended a Violence Against Responders Course in September.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

While internal training is a crucial element of department operations, external public education remains a very important element of the department's overall fire prevention program. The department operates with a stated goal to, "Put ourselves out of business through fire prevention and public education." While a lofty goal indeed, the department does consistently see a positive impact from our efforts toward educating the public. We would like to think that the reduced number of fire calls over time is at least partly attributable to our success through public education. The department attempts to offer a diversified public education program in an effort to reach all age groups throughout the community. Fire Prevention is taught through school programs, station tours, fire drills, fire extinguisher demonstrations, fire prevention classes, informational displays, and our Fire Safety Puppet Show. During 2015 the fire department conducted 4 school programs, reaching 490 students, 2 fire extinguisher classes, reaching 70 persons and 16 other programs, including station tours, reaching 2,302 people, for a total of 22 programs reaching 2,862 people.

Our department also provides Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid Classes to target groups and the general public. With our outstanding classroom facility, we have been able to increase this program to offer a regular schedule of public classes, and again offer the program to all city employees. We generally offer CPR and First Aid to the public on the first Saturday of each month, and will gladly arrange special classes for groups that desire such training. Through the department's Training Center, headed by Firefighter/EMT Steve Maddox, 60 individuals were certified in CPR, and 46 in First Aid. Of these, 46 were City Employees certified or recertified in both areas.

This year again, during National Fire Prevention Week, on October 10, we held our fifth annual Fire Prevention Week Open House. This annual event has grown each year and is always a big hit with the community. This 3-hour program features equipment displays and demonstrations, station tours, displays and demonstrations by our community partners, our *Fire Safety Puppet Show*, fire safety demonstrations, and fun for the entire family. This event was attended by nearly 1,500 people this year and was again deemed a great success.



FIRE PREVENTION AND LIFE SAFETY

The City of Milton Fire Department is also responsible for enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code and Life Safety Code. Chief Reble serves as Life Safety Officer and Fire Official for the City of Milton. With the continued slow economy, development, and the resulting demand for inspections of new construction and new business has remained relatively slow. Last year Chief Reble conducted 31 Life Safety Inspections, 19 Follow-up Inspections, 24 Construction related Inspections, and 28 plan reviews, totaling 102 inspections and reviews.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The City of Milton Fire Department continued its long tradition of community involvement throughout 2015. Fire trucks were displayed at Pen Air Open House, Santa Rosa Christian School, Milton Library Summer Reading Program, Capstone Academy and the Family First Network's Fall Festival also in October. Members of the department read to children at Capstone Academy in January. On August 15 the department played an active role in the annual Thomas Cameron Rockin' Super Soaker Fun Run, providing water spray elements through which the participants ran to cool them during the race. The finish line was soaked by master streams from Engine 23, providing a unique and entertaining finish to this important fundraising event. Engine 23 was prominently included in all promotional material for this event. The department also participated in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in January and participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Block Party, carried the Milton High Panther in the Homecoming Parade in October, participated in the Veterans Day Parade in November, and again delivered Santa Claus at the end of the annual Milton Christmas Parade in December.

INTO THE FUTURE

The work of the past several years has put our department in a very strong position, confident of our ability to meet the demands of serving and protecting the residents of Milton. We will continue to examine department staffing needs in order to insure that we will remain always ready to provide the high level of service our citizens have come to consistently expect from our agency. Our new fire station facility provides us with the resources that will be needed to sustain our high level of service for many years to come. The addition of our newest fire engine, with the associated realignment of our fleet, puts us in a very strong position from a firefighting point of view. While the department must soon look to replace Rescue 23, our 15-year old first-due rescue vehicle, we find ourselves well equipped to meet the continued demands of protecting the lives and property of our citizens well into the future. We look forward to providing another century of service to our community.

City of Milton Fire Department
Always Ready ... Always There

CITY OF MILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

CALENDAR YEAR 2015

ACTIVITY REPORT

ALARM RESPONSES

FIRE CALLS

TYPE:	Vehicle Fire	Structure Fire	Brush Fire	Alarm*	Other**	Total
NUMBER:	10	17	6	109	25	167

* Includes false and unintentional alarms, smoke scares, good intent, etc.

** Includes fire investigations, unauthorized burns, etc.

RESCUE CALLS

TYPE:	Medical Response	Vehicle Accident / Extrication	Other	Total
NUMBER:	1212	148	28	1388

HAZARDOUS CONDITION CALLS

TYPE:	Natural Gas*	Electrical Problems**	Fuel Leak/Spill	Other	Total
NUMBER:	18	20	7	20	65

* Includes gas leaks, smell of gas, etc.

** Includes downed power lines, transformer fires, arcing wires, etc.

MUTUAL AID:

GIVEN:	15	0.93%	RECEIVED:	13	0.80%
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TOTAL CALLS FOR	CALENDAR YEAR 2015	<u>1620</u>	TOTAL CALLS IN
2014:	<u>1620</u>	2013:	<u>1577</u>
PERCENTAGE INCREASE:		2.73%	

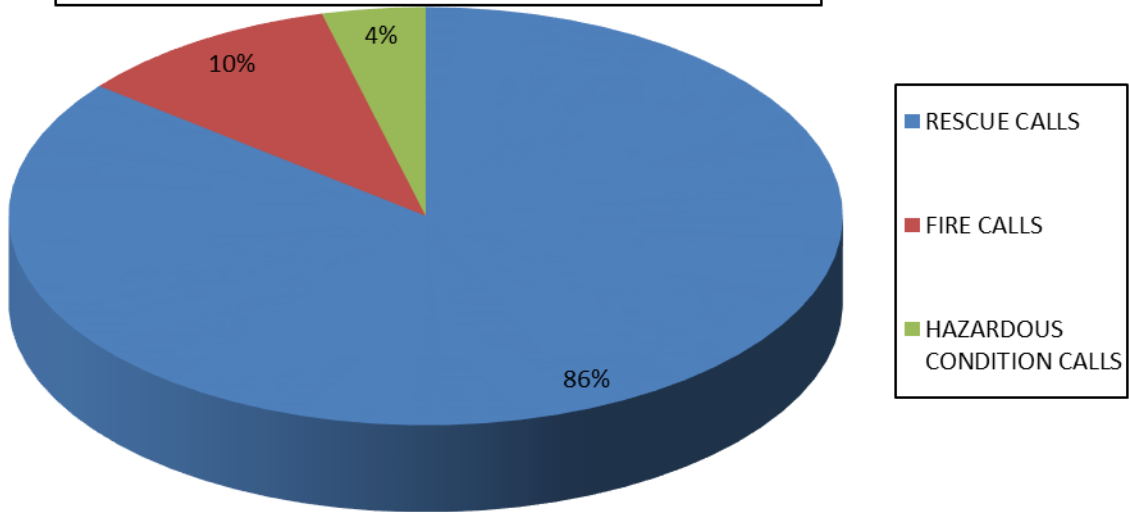
PUBLIC EDUCATION

TYPE OF PROGRAM:	School Class	Extinguisher Demo	Fire Drill	Other	Total
Number Conducted:	4	2	2	14	22
Number Attending:	490	70	70	2232	2862

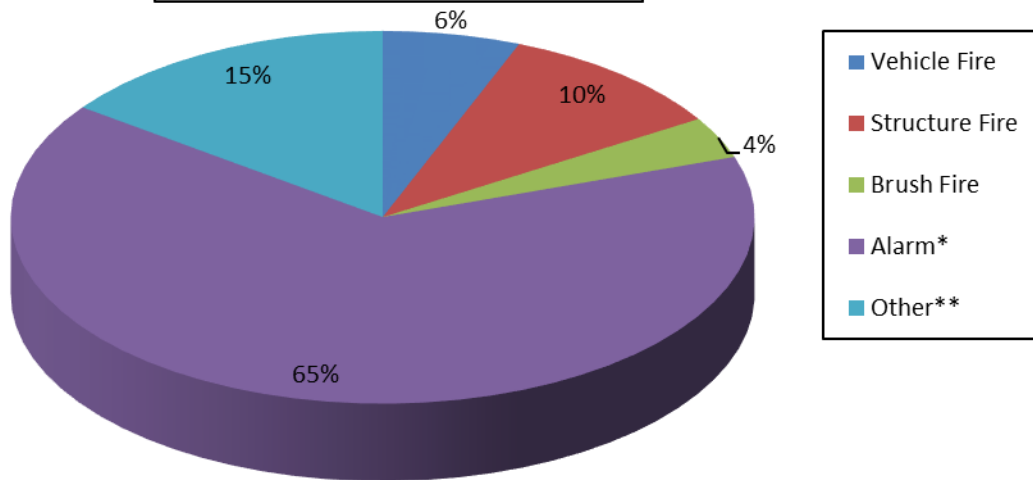
LIFE SAFETY

TYPE:	Life Safety Insp	Follow-up	Construction	Pre-plan	Plan Review	Total
Number:	31	19	24	2	26	102

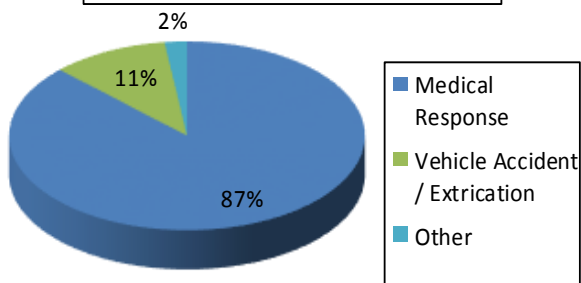
EMERGENCY RESPONSES CALENDAR YEAR 2015



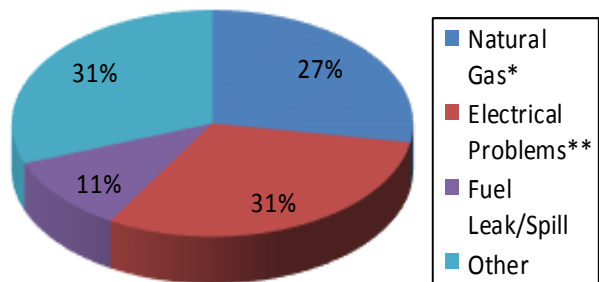
FIRE CALLS



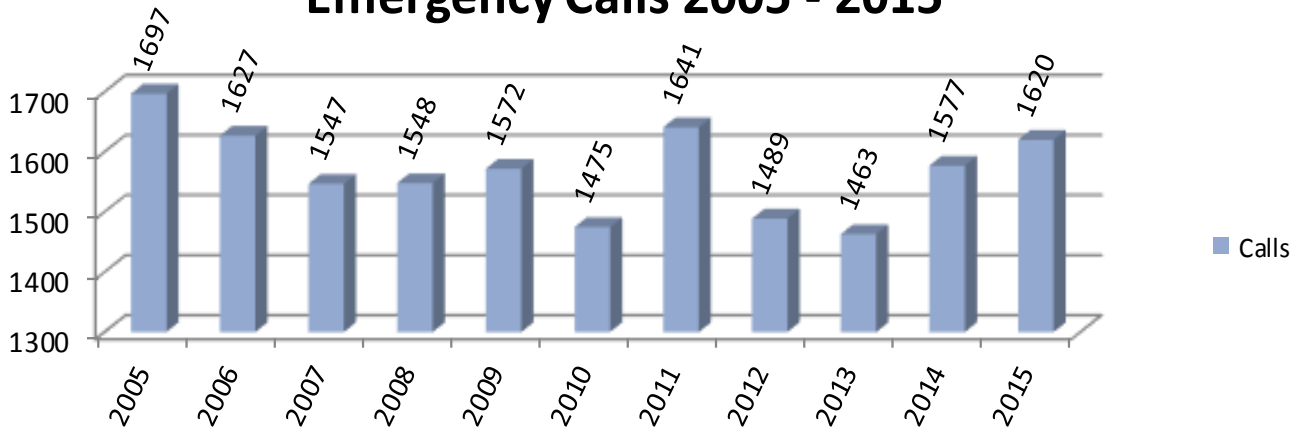
RESCUE CALLS



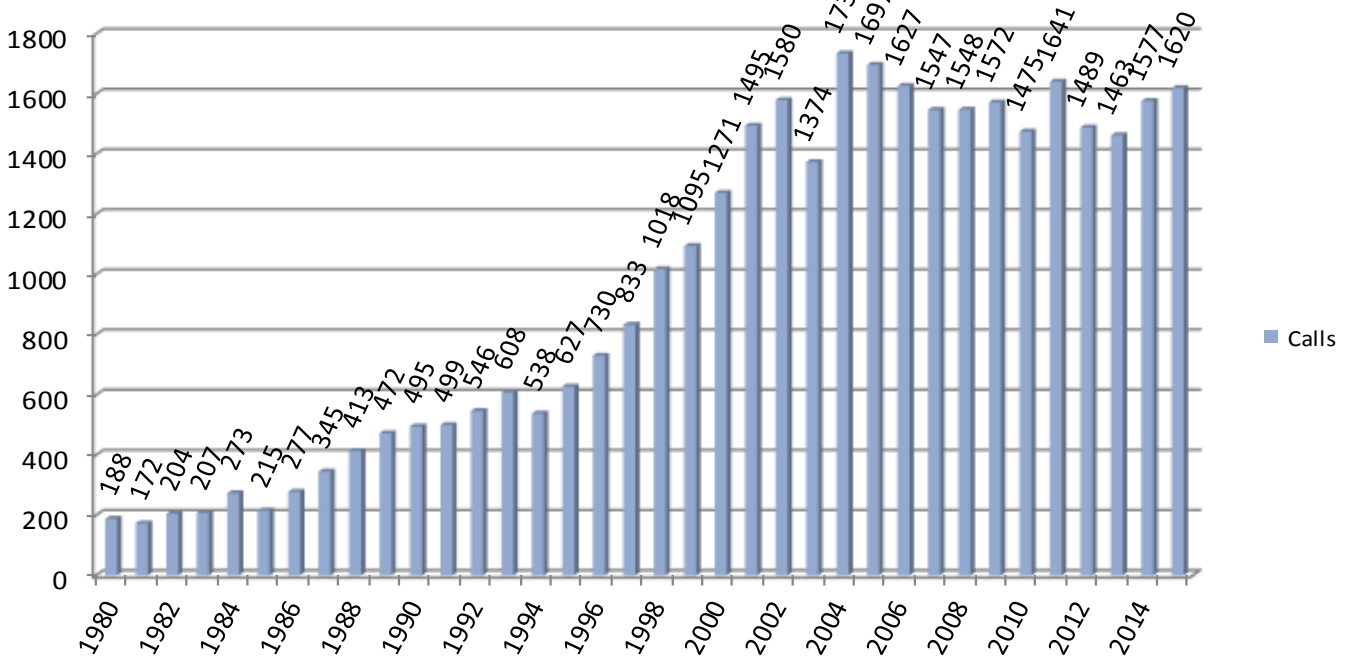
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS



Emergency Calls 2005 - 2015



Emergency Calls 1980 - 2015



Annual Budget Comparison

