

MERIDIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

EST. 1908



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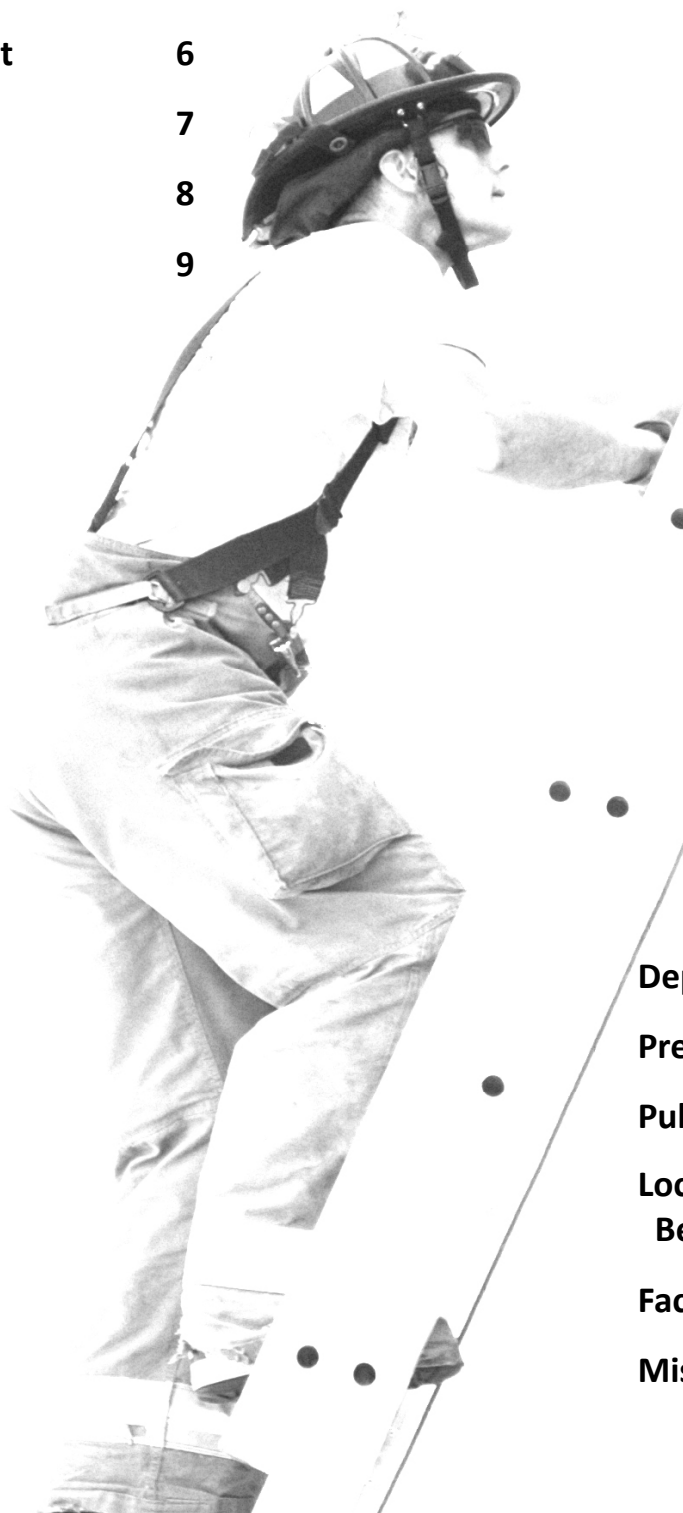
ANNUAL REPORT



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CHIEF'S MESSAGE

The Meridian Fire Department (MFD) continues to play an important role in what makes our City a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Our mission to protect and enhance our community through professionalism and compassion is seen every day in the men and women who protect our city. It is our members, uniformed and civilian, committed to service and dedicated to improvement that advance our department into the future. 2015 has been a great year for this advancement.

The Meridian Fire Department completed a number of initiatives that align with the City of Meridian's objectives and priorities: align programs to maximize efficiencies, pursue strategic partnerships, expand community involvement, and maintain a responsible and transparent budget.

- The Meridian Fire Department manages an 9.5 million dollar budget, and we do it well. This is done through proper long-term planning, on-going analysis of programs and their effectiveness, as well as continually pursuing partnerships for cost-sharing initiatives. In 2015, through cost sharing partnerships, the Department was able to reduce our operating expenses by over \$220,000. We look forward to continuing the pursuit of partnerships to help maintain a budget that is supported throughout our community.*
- In 2015, the Department greatly expanded the interaction with our community. Our annual events such as the Salmon Barbeque were again a great success, our firefighters have continued to be community partners, and our social media outreach has reached new heights. Keep an eye on our Facebook page as content is updated often. Our focus remains on Service- you are not our customers but rather our friends, neighbors, and family.*
- Deciding if and when a program is implemented requires a good deal of research, and should always be aimed at improving service to our City. The Meridian Fire Department's "Heartsafe Meridian" is such a program. Teaching CPR to community members is the most effective way to ensure the best outcome for a person in cardiac arrest.*
- We feel the Fire Department's long term success will hinge on forming strategic partnerships with other Emergency Service agencies. Finding and reducing areas of redundancy, capitalizing on collective expertise and experience, and long-term planning together will only help to ensure we are operating in a transparent and responsible manner. Currently the Meridian Fire Department is participating in a five agency Master Plan process, and we are anticipating some very exciting outcomes to help propel us into future years.*

It is an honor to serve as the Fire Chief of this great community. We thank you for your support, and look forward to continuing to serve you.

Mark Niemeyer, Fire Chief

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS

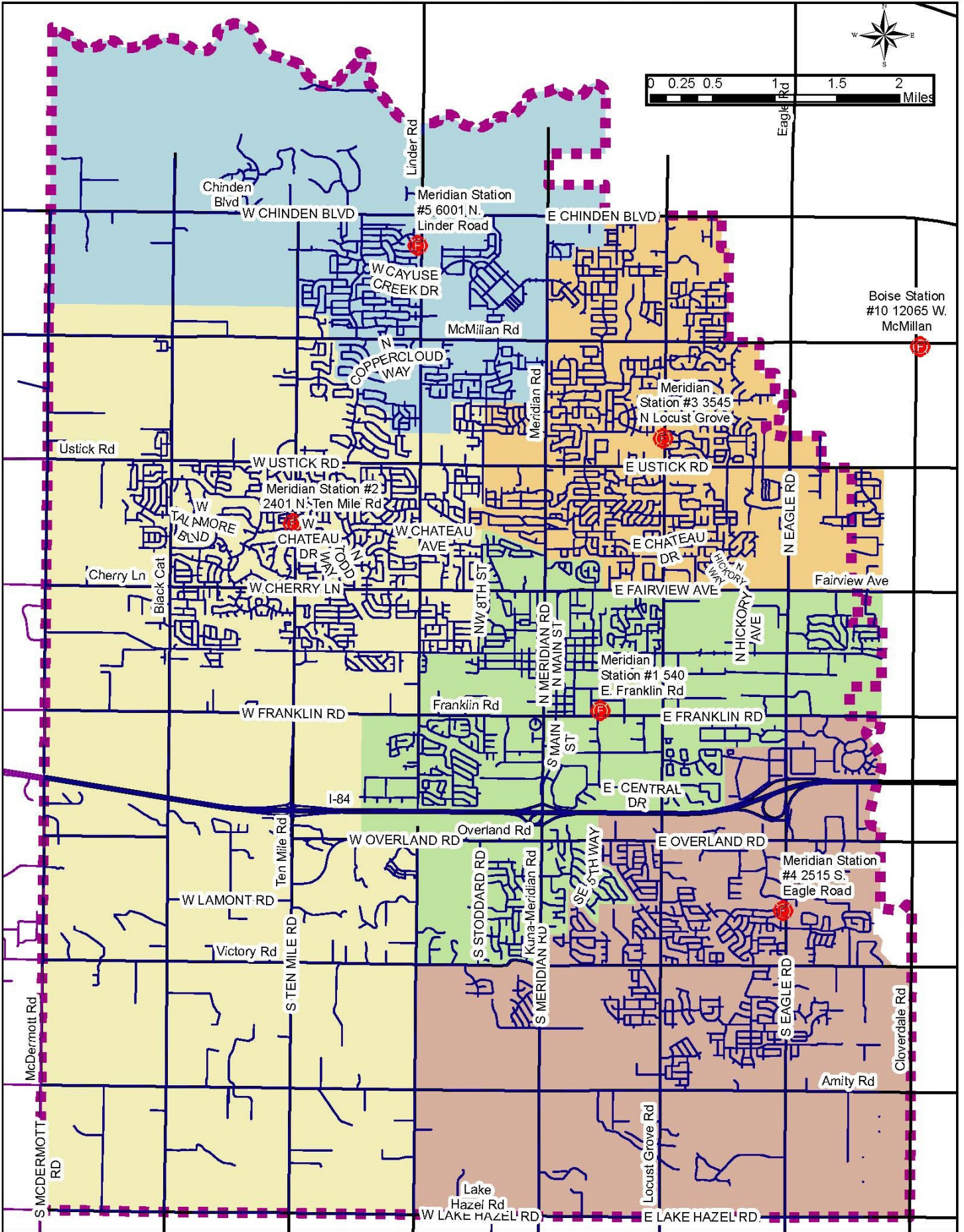
- Public Citizens Academy
- Heartsafe Meridian
- Participant in the Heartwalk, Hands only CPR event
- Purchase of new fire engine, Engine 33
- Development of new Emergency Operations Guidelines
- Compliance Engine initiated
- Start of West Regional Emergency Services Master Plan
- Formation of the Bike/Medic Program

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Project Safe Program, Smoke Alarms for Everyone
- Car Seat check program
- Fill the Boot Campaign, Local 4627, Muscular Dystrophy
- Ronald McDonald House volunteers
- Chili Feed Community Event, Meridian Pipes & Drums Corps
- Casino Night with the Optimist Club
- National Night Out
- Salmon BBQ , Local 4627, supports the burnout fund
- Walk to School Day
- Operation Warm Coats for Kids, Local 4627
- Seattle Stair Climb
- Domino's Pizza / Smoke Alarm Program
- Public Safety Day
- Smokey Bear Birthday Celebration
- Refurbishment of MFD Parade Truck, Local 4627
- Meridian Food Bank and Toys for Tots Collections

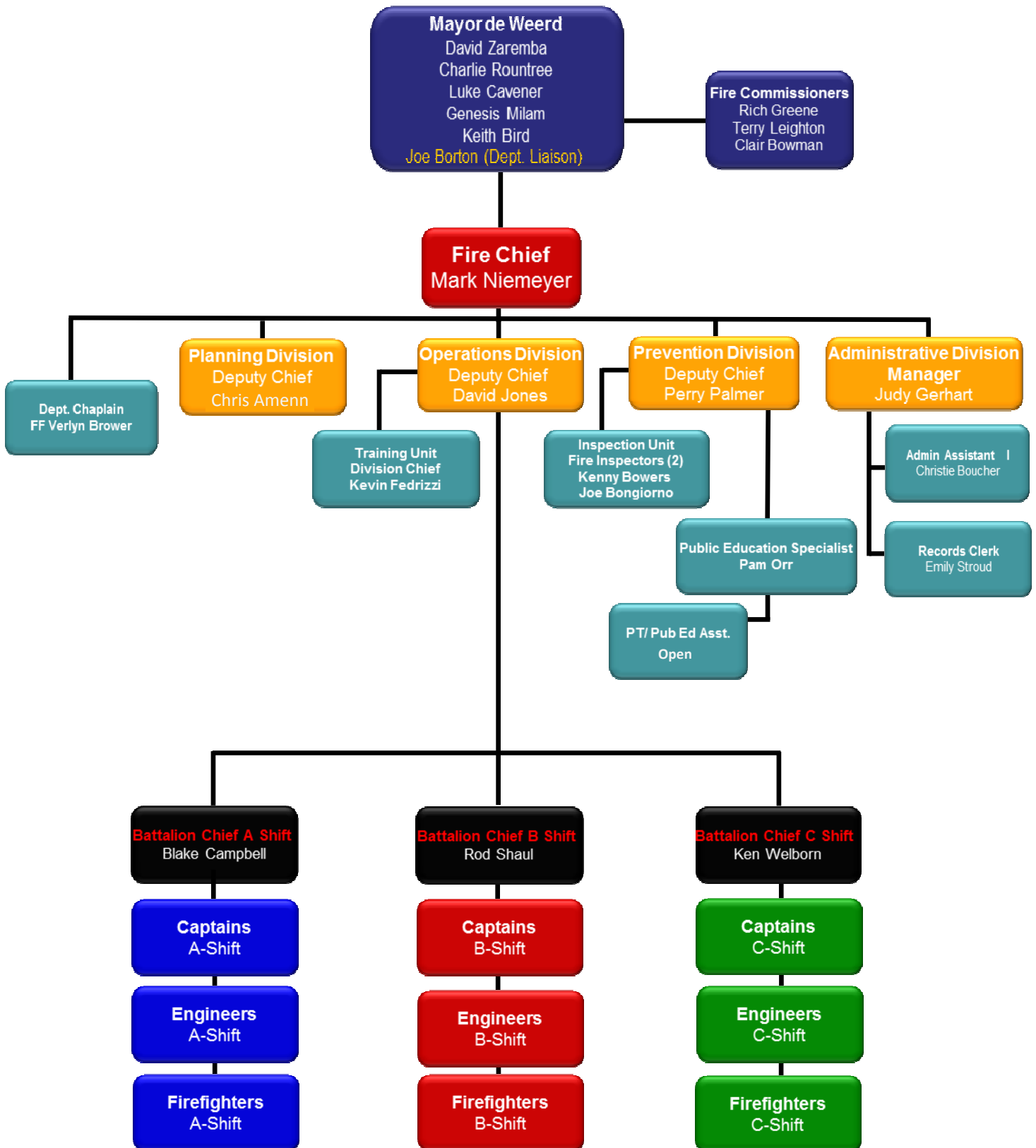


Meridian Fire Service Area



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

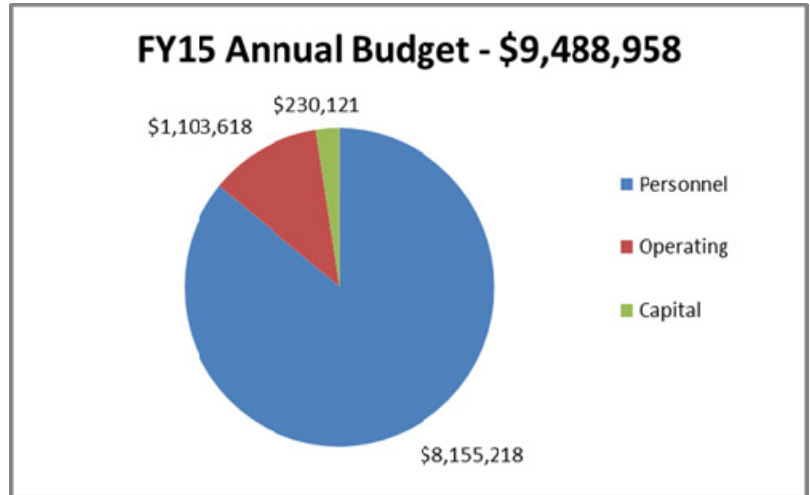
2015



FY15 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Meridian Fire Department protects a near 60 square mile area consisting of City and Rural properties. Additionally, the Department provides automatic and mutual aid to five surrounding cities, maintains 5 career fire stations, a fire safety center, fire training tower and property that has been acquired for our 6th station. Meridian Fire employs 71 employees. The Department operated on a total annual budget of \$9,488,958.00 for fiscal year 2015.

The Meridian Fire Department’s annual operating budget is a detailed public plan of the expected revenues and intended expenditures of the Department. The process is dynamic and constantly changing to match public interest and needs. The development and ultimate adoption of the budget requires considerable effort by the entire Fire Department’s management team, the City’s Finance Department, the Mayor, our City Council and the Rural Fire District Commissioners. We utilize long-range financial planning tools to help guide the budget process such as our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and our Department Strategic Plan. The budget fiscal year runs from October 1st to the following September 30th.



Capital purchases for FY15 included a self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) fit testing machine, Lenel card reader system at the fire stations for increased security and 55 replacement SCBA units. Original cost for the replacement of the SCBA units were \$380,000 but by partnering with Parma Fire, we were able to receive a partial grant saving the Department and citizens of Meridian over \$258,700.00.



In addition to the SCBA grant with Parma Fire, Meridian Fire received other direct grants in the amount of \$11,492 and donations in the amount of \$27,938.00.

The Meridian Fire Department remains committed to seeking additional cost savings and other revenue sources such as grants and donations to remain fiscally responsible.

DONATIONS	
WalMart	\$3,750
Light My Fire, Inc.	\$7,860
Citizen Donations	\$110
FireHouse Subs	\$16,218

GRANTS	
Idaho Fire Chief’s License Plate Grant	\$1,000
IAAP Car Seat Grant	\$10,492



OPERATIONS - Deputy Chief Jones

In 2015 The Operations Division of the Meridian Fire Department experienced a marked rise in total call volume as compared to previous years. We responded to 6511 total incidents, this represents a 16% increase in total call volume for the year as compared to the 3% to 4% increases we have seen over the past several years. The sharp rise in emergency incidents can be easily understood by taking a short drive through our community and witnessing the explosive growth that continues to take place in and around Meridian. Our administrative staff and emergency responders are working hard to stay prepared for the rising demand for emergency services by our citizens.

To effectively respond to emergencies in our community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week our Firefighters work 48 hours on duty followed by 96 hours off duty. During these 48 hours, our crews are required to be dressed in their protective gear, safely seated on the fire engines, and on the way to emergency calls within 90 seconds of receiving the call day or night. To accomplish this they must live, sleep, cook, eat, and perform all of the tasks they are required to accomplish each day within close proximity of the Fire Engines.

In addition to the time that our firefighters spend responding to emergency calls, they spend countless hours enhancing the safety of our community by training for emergencies, conducting fire safety classes and friendly firefighter visits at schools, performing car seat installations, installing smoke detectors, replacing smoke detector batteries and a variety of other activities.

Here are some of the Operations Division's major accomplishments from 2015:

We received and placed into service our first new fire engine since 2008. **Engine 33** is a 2016 Pierce Arrow XT pumper that carries 750 gallons of water and is capable of pumping 1500 gallons per minute. The new engine was also designed with roll over protection, front and side curtain airbags, and various other features to keep our Firefighters safe. Engine 33 is located at Fire Station #3 on Locust Grove Rd.



MF037, a 2016 Pierce Arrow Fire Engine, was dedicated and assigned to Station #3 on November 3rd, 2015



We worked in collaboration with the Eagle, Kuna, and Star Fire Districts to develop and implement a set of standardized Emergency Operations Guidelines. These guidelines ensure that firefighting operations are conducted safely, effectively, efficiently, and consistently on every fire scene throughout western Ada County.



Signing of the West Ada E.O.G.'s

OPERATIONS - Continued

Through a regional grant we have upgraded our self-contained breathing apparatus to a version that is compliant with the 2013 NFPA standards for respiratory protection.

Through a grant from the Firehouse Subs Foundation we were able to develop and implement an EMS bike team program. This program allows our Paramedics and EMT's to rapidly access emergencies that occur during special events such as parades and festivals. Due to large crowds and road restrictions, responding to emergencies with fire engines is often difficult and sometimes impossible. The use of specially equipped mountain bikes provides an effective and environmentally friendly solution to those situations.

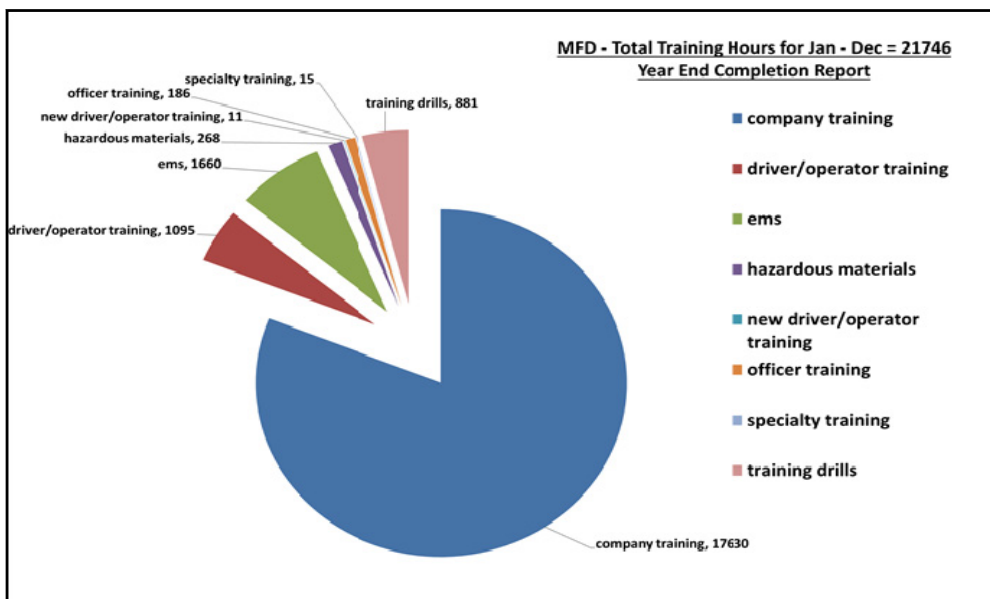


TRAINING



The Operations Division also includes the Departments Training Unit. It is a priority of our department to ensure that our firefighters are properly trained and equipped to deal with the dangerous, unpredictable, and often unforgiving situations that they encounter on a regular basis. The Training Unit is overseen by the Division Chief of Training and utilizes two Field Training Officers on each shift to develop, coordinate, and deliver training to our crews.

Training Unit's notable accomplishments for 2015:



In 2015 our Firefighters completed a combined total of 21,746 hours of fire and emergency medical training. This training included topics such as fire suppression tactics, search and rescue, command and control of emergency incidents, emergency medical treatment, CPR, advanced cardiac life support, pediatric emergencies, truck company operations, vehicle rescue, hazardous materials incident operations, and many others.

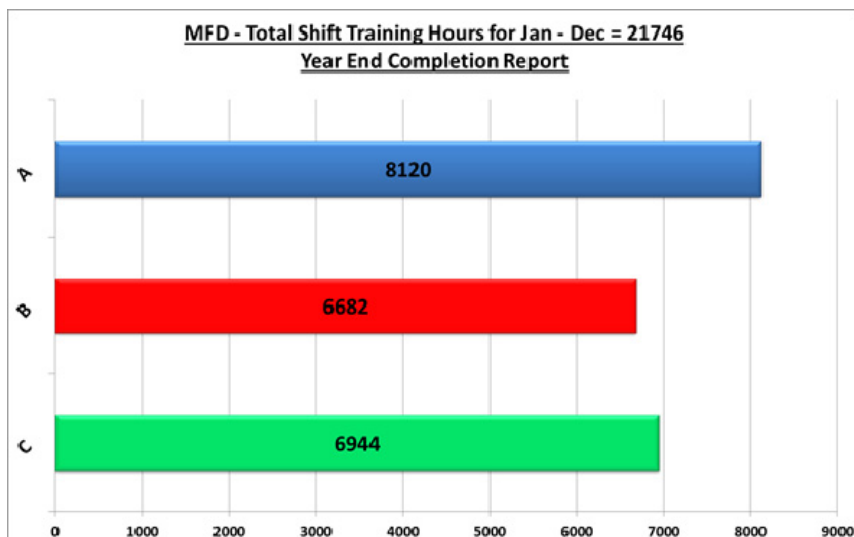
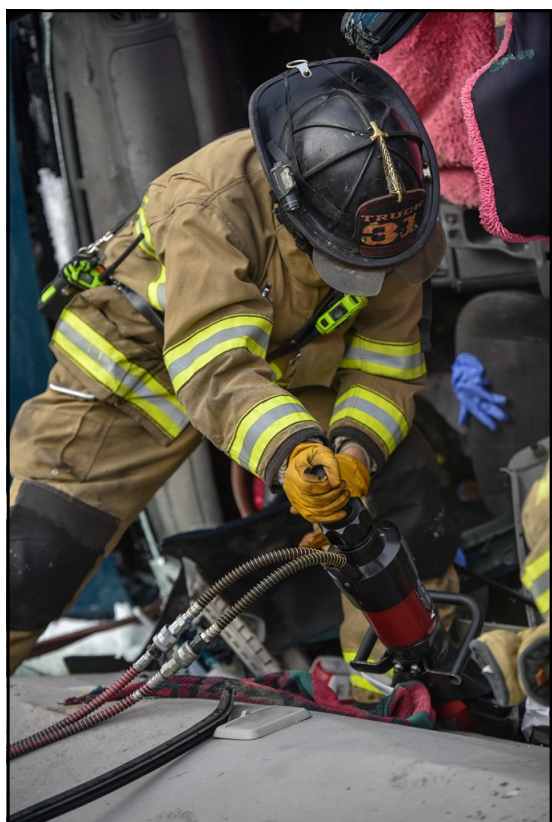
OPERATIONS - Continued

Phase one of *The Meridian Public Safety Training Center* was completed and began operation. This facility was jointly developed with our public safety partners, the Meridian Police Department and contains an auditorium, computer simulation lab, multiple classrooms, and mat room. Additional phases will include a scenario village to conduct emergency response simulations, a two story building fire simulator, and an indoor firing range for the Police Department.



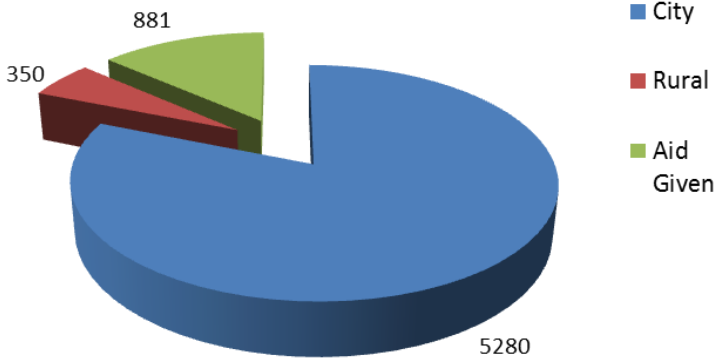
Public Safety Training Center, Opened in 2015
This facility was a joint effort between Meridian Police and Meridian Fire.

We have continued to build on the success of the Ada City-County Emergency Services System JPA to collaboratively deliver outstanding Emergency Medical training to our EMT's and Paramedics under the direction of our system Medical Directors.



DEPARTMENT STATS

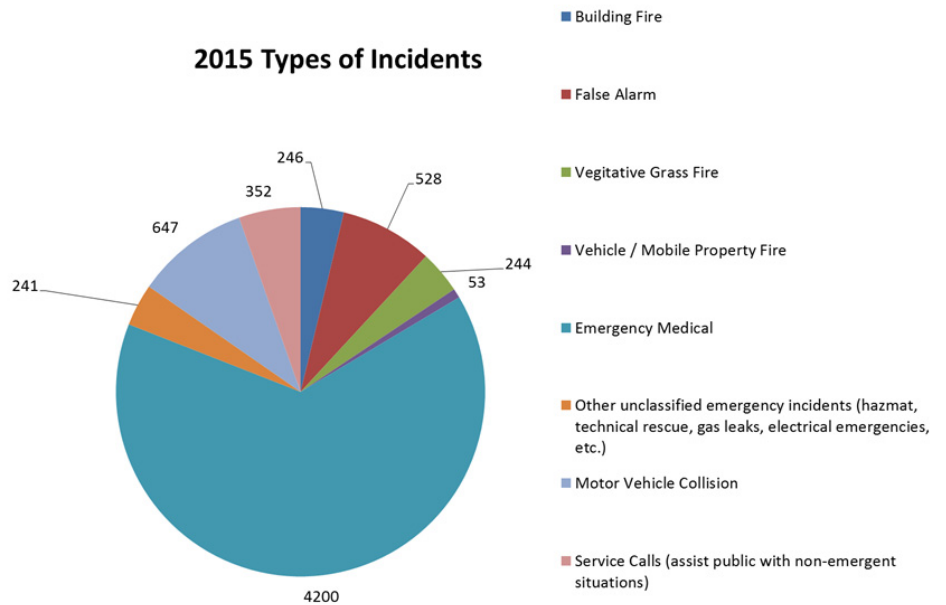
City, Rural & Mutual Aid Calls for 2015



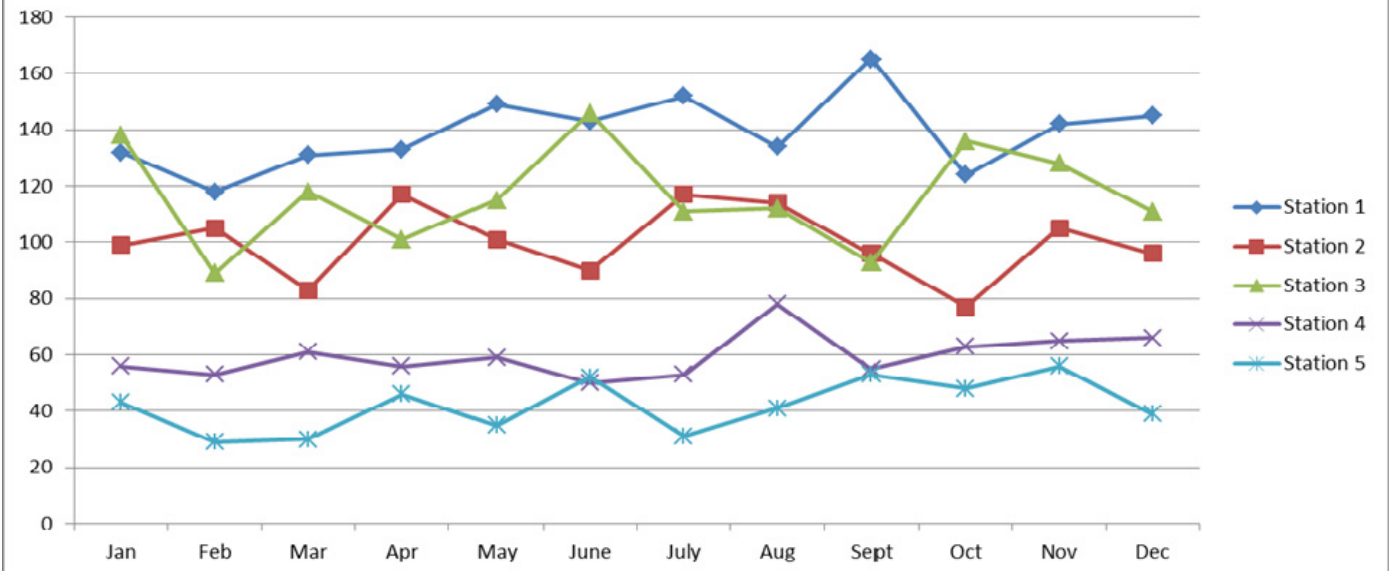
YEAR	2015
Average Turnout Time	0:00:52
Average Travel Time	0:04:59
Average Response Time for first arriving Fire / EMS Unit	0:05:36
Number of Incidents	6511



2015 Types of Incidents



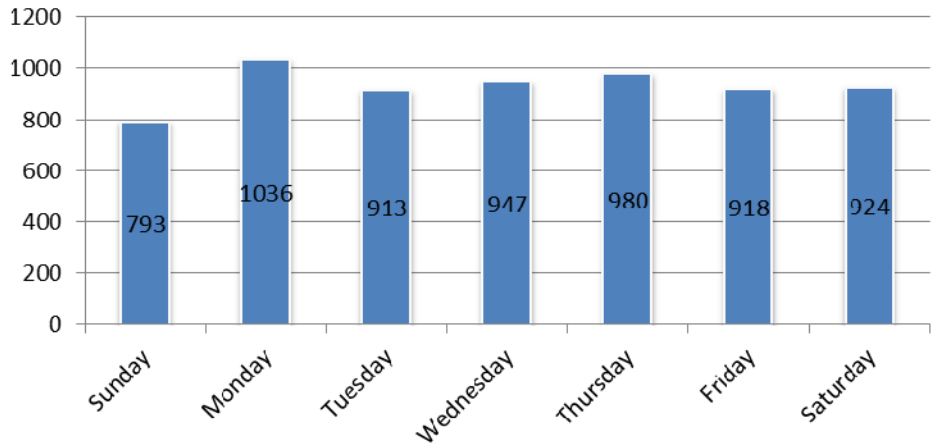
Station Call Comparison 2015



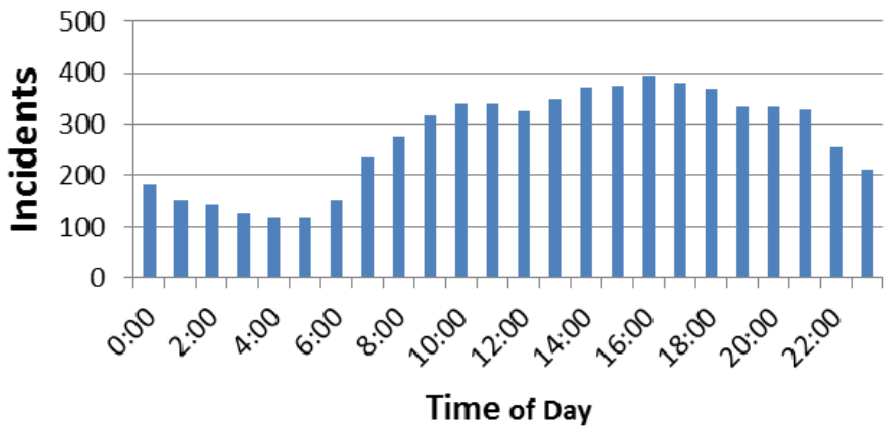
STATS

- Continued

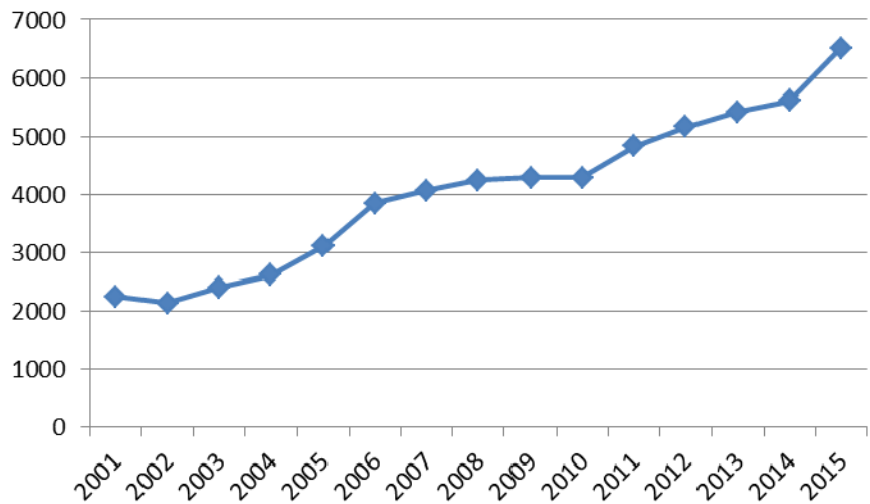
Incidents by Day of the Week 2015



Time of Day Analysis 2015



Incidents Per Year Comparison



PREVENTION - Deputy Chief Palmer

The Meridian Fire Department's Prevention Division responsibilities include conducting fire investigations, plan reviews, fire code permit inspections, existing business inspections, and public fire and life safety education.

The inspection of businesses is done by the Fire Marshal and two fire inspectors. Inspections increased significantly in 2015 with the addition of the second fire inspector at the end of 2014. Over 2,000 businesses that had not received an inspection within the last 3 years were placed on top priority to have a fire and life safety inspection. These inspections ensure that the buildings are maintained in accordance with the applicable codes and standards. These time-consuming inspections will continue into 2016, and when completed, will provide a more accurate count of businesses requiring inspections in our community.

We are in the first full year of using MobileEyes inspection software to assist us in our inspections. The program identifies inspections due, when to return to a business for a re-inspection, any repairs needed and the code section that relates to any violations found. We are able to access the reports in the field and immediately capture any information needed. Our reports are more accurate and better reflect the work that is actually being done. The program permits customization allowing us to tailor the program for our specific needs giving us and the customer more accurate information and reports.

The Compliance Engine, (TCE) was put into place in July of 2015. This program allows companies that do annual inspections on Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems, Fire Alarm Systems and Cooking Hoods, to report the results and deficiencies to TCE. We are then able to look at these reports and follow up on any needed repairs to gain code compliance. Notices are sent to building owners 30 days in advance of their system(s) needing to receive their annual inspection as well as alerting us when systems are past due for testing or repairs. The compliance rate for annual inspections and the number of required repairs being made since this program went into effect continues to rise at a substantial rate.

We continue to enjoy a very cooperative working relationship with the other valley fire department prevention divisions. In 2016, numerous agencies will be working towards adopting the latest version of the International Fire Code along with any amendments that apply specifically to our area.

The Prevention Division made great strides in 2015 in the number of inspections completed, and the way inspections are documented and tracked. We will continue in 2016 to improve processes and streamline our procedures.

For additional information about the City of Meridian Fire Department Prevention Division, please contact Deputy Chief Perry Palmer, 208-888-1234 or meridianfire@meridiancity.org



2015 Inspections	
Number of Inspections	2074
Violations Cited	1716
Violations Cleared	1554

Inspections by Personnel	
Fire Marshal Perry Palmer	94
Inspector Bowers	548
Inspector Bongiorno	1432
2015 Total Inspections	2074

PUBLIC EDUCATION -Pam Orr

While it is a core mission of the Meridian Fire Department to respond to and mitigate incidents in our response area, it is also the department's mission to reduce the number and severity of those incidents by proper code development and enforcement, effective and efficient response, and ongoing public education. It is through this continuous and comprehensive program of education that the department maintains a culture of safety in the community. Every day you will find the members of the Meridian Fire Department out in the community. Yes, many days consist of responding to emergencies, but you may also find us conducting fire inspections, installing smoke alarms, teaching safety classes, assisting the community and educating the public about fire safety. Public education is vital to the success of the fire department mission. From infant car seat safety to school programs to our senior safety programs, the department is serious about doing all it can do to help the community to be a safer place to live, work, and raise a family.

Meridian Fire works closely with a number of groups, businesses and individuals in the community. By working together with Meridian Police and other Meridian City departments, Idaho Transportation Department, Wal-Mart, Lowes, Domino's, churches, schools, probation service, hospitals, charities, individuals and community groups we can tackle the needs of the community together.

Partnerships allow us to join our resources together so that we can achieve results in a more cost effective way. It also allows us to access extra resources. Working with our partners allows us to reach all areas of our community with vital safety information and resources. With much work by all in 2015, we were very active in getting our safety messages out. This annual report is dedicated to our partnerships, because we know that the power to succeed in many of our fire prevention and safety programs is through the direct help of these partnerships.

The most effective method of fire prevention is public education. Public Education is a vital part of how we best serve the community.

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK/MONTH

A full week was established years ago by the National Fire Protection Association to focus all education efforts on the current fire safety issues facing the country. Meridian found out long ago that it takes more than a week to get our life saving messages out to the community, so we plan maximum educational activities throughout the entire month of October. The educational area of focus for 2015 was smoke alarms with the theme being **"Hear the Beep Where You Sleep; every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm"**. During the month, we presented educational skits via assembly style to elementary school students in the first through fifth grade and our crews delivered Friendly Firefighter visits to students in preschool through first grade. We also visited many day-care and preschool programs and opened our doors to many visitors from home school groups to scouting groups. We also made presentations to many businesses and senior groups. Elementary school children participated in a poster contest showcasing the national theme and the winners of the poster contest were treated to an awards ceremony at City Hall with the Fire Chiefs and Firefighters. One lucky class received a pizza party with the firemen just for participating in the contest. This was a great way for students to help us get the fire prevention message home to their families.



We once again partnered with Domino's Pizza for a week to get the fire safety message out in a very unique and tasty way! Customers who ordered pizza during the week were randomly selected to have their delivery arrive from our Engine 32 crew. Once the crew arrived, they explained our partnership and if the smoke alarms in the home were working, the pizza was free. If they were not working, the firefighters were available to troubleshoot the problem and replace batteries or install fully-functioning alarms.

PUBLIC EDUCATION, CONT.

PUBLIC SAFETY DAY

On Public Safety Day we gave the community an opportunity to get a close and personal view of what we do by hosting an educational open house at our main station. We hosted a full day of fun activities and educational booths for the community! We had over 600 visitors at Station #1 and taught them about smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, home escape plans, getting low under smoke, stop-drop-and roll, hands-only CPR, emergency planning, along with lots more. We had many community partners come out for this event which also included many demonstrations such as a vehicle extrication, live fire and ladder truck demonstration. We had a great time as Sparky the Fire Dog and Pluggie our fire hydrant robot came out to join the festivities which served up good old fashioned hot-dogs, face-painting, and interactive educational games.

HAPPY 71ST BIRTHDAY SMOKEY BEAR!

We celebrated Smokey's birthday with an invitation to the community to join us at Kleiner Park for a fun day of activities! Sprinky the Clown and her clown and puppet friends joined in the fun and performed clown/puppet shows for the community. We had over 300 people in attendance and they enjoyed cookies and ice cream with the Birthday Bear along with informational booths, the fire safety educational house, Engine 33 crew and all their gear and the local wildland firefighters. It was a fun day filled with education!



PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY



In the Spring of each year we hold a class for 25 citizens teaching them about the inner workings of both the Meridian Fire Department and the Meridian Police Department. Community members invest in ten-weeks of classes coupled with four exciting hands-on super Saturdays! The group learned a lot about both departments but were also equipped with many tools to keep their families safe and informed. The graduates from the academy are great community advocates who generally after graduation invest in the community through volunteer work with one of the agencies.

PROJECT S.A.F.E. SMOKE ALARMS FOR EVERYONE

2015 continued to be an effective year in getting our smoke alarm message out. Our Project SAFE Program had 246 calls for service; we replaced batteries, installed alarms in homes that were not covered with smoke alarms, changed out expired alarms and helped determine and correct smoke alarm problems. For those homes that have electrical inter-connected smoke alarms that are over the 10 year manufacture recommended replacement time frame, we spent a good portion of our efforts in assisting residents in updating and changing those alarms out. Smoke alarm education will continue to be one of our top priorities in the upcoming year.

Project S.A.F.E. is a program that will be with Meridian for years to come as we do everything to educate our community to the danger of fire and to go one step further in equipping their homes with these life saving devices.

“A smoke alarm is critical for the early detection of a fire in your home and could mean the difference between life and death. Fires can occur in a variety of ways and in any room of your home. But no matter where or how, having a smoke alarm is the first key step towards your family’s safety.”

***Consumer Product Safety
Commission***

PUBLIC EDUCATION, CONT.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

The Meridian Fire Department continued to be a leader in the community in their commitment to Child Passenger Seat Safety. For a second year we were awarded with a grant from the Office of Traffic and Highway Safety and the Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to be able to purchase child passenger seats for our community in need. Meridian Wal-Mart once again sold us those seats at significantly reduced prices. With this grant we provided 242 seats to families in need. Many little ones in the community are now riding in a safe and appropriate seat for their age and size. Additionally this grant allowed for an educational component. Meridian Fire Department sponsored two Child Passenger Technician classes certifying 25 new technicians throughout Idaho along with a technical update class for technicians to stay current on their skills and new technology and an advanced week long class that certified technicians to be able to assist families with children who have special needs. Meridian Fire currently has 16 certified technicians and together they performed 344 car seat inspections/installations in 2015 through scheduled monthly check-up events and drive-ups, or appointments. Parents and other caregivers can become easily confused by the recommendations of the seat instructions or the vehicle owner's manual when trying to install a child passenger seat. Further, the different models and types of seats, different vehicles that have different configurations, the use of LATCH versus using the vehicle seat belts to secure the seat, and where the child seat can be installed in the vehicle can become a nightmare for these people who only want the best for their children. Motor vehicle crashes remain the number one cause of injury and death for our nation's children and MFD certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians are on the front lines preventing such tragedies.

“We can begin by doing small things at the local level, like planting community gardens or looking out for our neighbors. That is how change takes place in living systems, not from above but from within, from many local actions occurring simultaneously.” – Grace Lee Boggs



Public Education Facts	2015
Fire Safety Classes	163
Fire Station Tours	111
Car Seats Inspected	344
Juvenile Firesetters Screened	9
Safety/Informational Events	108
Ride Alongs	110
Smoke Alarm Assist	246





MERIDIAN FIREFIGHTER

LOCAL 4627

BENEVOLENT FUND

The *Meridian Firefighter Local 4627 Benevolent Fund* would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support this year! In 2015, we were able to provide over \$8,000 in burn-out checks to victims of fires. On one particular fire, we had several people burned out of their apartment complex. The Benevolent Fund along with the Red Cross helped all of the victims of that fire. This past year we supported many local charities and events that have had a direct impact on the residents of Meridian. In addition, we have helped our Public Education Specialist, Pam Orr and her public education programs.

This is the second year of the *Brandon Erickson Memorial Scholarship Fund*. We want to remember Brandon and all that he did for the fire and EMS fields. This scholarship fund will help those that are pursuing degrees in fire and/or EMS fields at local colleges.



I would like to thank everyone for coming out again this year and supporting **Cable One movie night**. The blow up educational house we bought for the Department is a big hit. There was a line almost the whole night. I would also like to thank the others that volunteered at the tables handing out literature and operating the 911 simulator. We appreciate all of our volunteers and the many hours spent helping us out!

The **Salmon BBQ** held on the first Friday of August, was again a huge success. The Salmon BBQ is our only money raising event for the year other than local gifts and donations from others in the city. The fish was fantastic (as always) and everyone had a good time. The BBQ could not have happened without all the support from Meridian Fire Local 4627 union members and the various volunteers who gave their time. We would also like to thank all the sponsors who donated raffle prizes for the event!



We would like to remind everyone the importance of changing your smoke detector batteries every year. Also, smoke detectors have a life span of 10 years. If your house is over 10 years old, we recommend you purchase new smoke detectors. We also recommend purchasing a carbon monoxide detector as well. Use a permanent marker and write the date on the back of it when you purchase it. Carbon monoxide detectors should be replaced every 7 years. Please give the fire department a call if you need any assistance!

Thank you again to all of you that support the Meridian Firefighter Local 4627 Benevolent Fund.



Joseph Bongiorno - Treasurer

The Meridian Firefighter Local 4627 Benevolent Fund has also been working to restore our 1943 GMC Parade Fire Truck which was purchased by the Meridian Fire Department back in 1947 and used for several years. Over \$14,000 was invested in the restoration which included new paint, door seals and interior. Look for this piece of history in the City of Meridian parades throughout the year!

FACILITIES, & APPARATUS

TRAINING TOWER



<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>BUILT</u>	<u>APPARATUS</u>
Station #1	540 E. Franklin Rd.	2000	E-31, T-31
Station #2	2401 N. Ten Mile Rd.	2001	E-32, WT-32
Station #3	3545 N. Locust Grove	2003	E-33, E-38
Station #4	2515 S. Eagle Rd.	2006	E-34, BR-34
Station #5	6001 N. Linder Rd.	2008	E-35, BR-35,
Training Tower	540 E. Franklin Rd.	2007	
Public Safety Training Center	1223 E. Watertower	2015	Command Trailer
Fire Safety Center	1901 E. Leighfield	2005	
Meridian City Hall (Admin	33 E. Broadway Ave.	2008	

STATION 1



STATION 2



STATION 3



STATION 4



STATION 5



FIRE SAFETY CENTER



THE MFD MISSION

To protect and enhance our community through professionalism and compassion.

MFD VISION STATEMENT

A premier organization recognized for providing a safe community through professionalism, innovative actions, and community involvement.

MFD GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Compassion – We will provide friendly and compassionate service to each other and the public we serve.

Professionalism – We will dedicate ourselves to be an educated workforce striving to meet the community's and our employees' changing needs.

Honesty – We will conduct ourselves in an honest manner and be transparent in our interactions.

Ownership – Ownership of our department will be expressed through tradition, loyalty, and dedication.

Trust – We will earn and maintain trust through integrity, our actions, and holding to commitments.

