

# COUNTRYSIDE

## FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



PROUDLY SERVING  
Vernon Hills - Long Grove - Hawthorn Woods  
Kildeer - Indian Creek & Unincorporated  
areas of Lake County  
SINCE 1959



A black and white photograph of five firefighters in full protective gear, including helmets, jackets, and air tanks, positioned on a concrete sidewalk leading to a building entrance. The firefighters are wearing gear with "COUNTRY SIDE" and "FIRE" visible on the back. One firefighter's name tag reads "MASTANDREA". Another has "MASCA" on their gear. The scene is set outdoors with a modern building in the background.

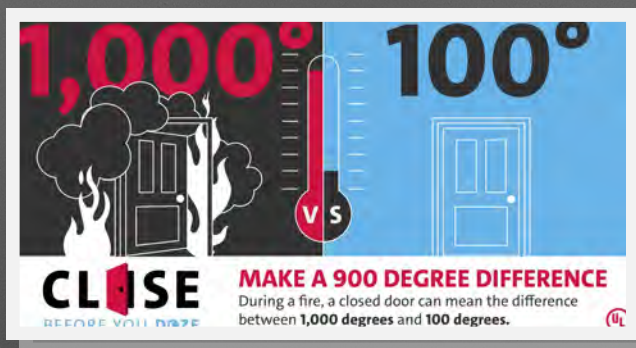
**RESPOND  
SOLVE PROBLEMS  
BE NICE**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF .....	3
CFPD STATISTICS.....	4
FIRE STATIONS .....	5
APPARATUS.....	6
MISSION, VISION & VALUES .....	7
FIRE DISTRICT OFFICERS .....	8
OPERATIONS.....	9
DISTRICT PERSONNEL.....	10
TRAINING .....	11
TRAINING EVENTS.....	12
EMS .....	13-14
FIRE PREVENTION .....	15-16
FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION.....	17-19
TELECOMMUNICATIONS .....	20
COUNTRYSIDE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION .....	21-22
AREA MAP & ISO RATING.....	23-24





# Message from the Fire Chief

It is my distinct honor and privilege to present to the Countryside Fire Protection District Community our 2017 Annual Report. The report is merely a snapshot of the preparation and hard work the men and women of CFPD do everyday to be response ready to serve you.

Growth in the various communities served by the District has been steady and we plan and prepare on many levels to provide services as these challenges present themselves.

The District takes an all-hazards, holistic approach to community risk reduction by way of effectively responding to emergencies and other calls for service; more importantly the resources that are dedicated to fire & life safety education and prevention.

In late 2017, the District was re-evaluated by the [Insurance Services Organization \(ISO\)](#). ISO evaluates information about the quality of public fire protection based on national fire service standards in the areas of fire suppression (apparatus, personnel, training) water supply, emergency communications (911 dispatch) and fire prevention/education programs. Most insurance companies use this rating to calculate home and business property insurance premiums. We'll know how we fared in early 2018.

We also started the preparation and process for Re-Accreditation by the [Commission on Fire Accreditation International](#). This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> time that CFPD will be benchmarked using this assessment model.

*Stay tuned...*

Finally, please join the Countryside Nation and [Like Us on Facebook](#) to keep up with current CFPD happenings and important safety messages.

We very much appreciate your support of the Countryside Fire Protection District. Please feel free to contact me anytime if I can answer any questions.

Yours in Safety & Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Steingart', is placed over a large, faint watermark of the CFAI (Commission on Fire Accreditation International) seal. The seal is circular with 'COMMISSION ON FIRE ACCREDITATION INTERNATIONAL' around the top and 'SINCE 1998' at the bottom. In the center is a globe with a fire hose and nozzle.

Jeff Steingart, CFO  
Fire Chief



Serving  
Since 1982





# CFPD STATISTICS

## 2017 INCIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

**92.3%**

Emergency Call  
Response Time within  
7 Minutes

**4 mins.  
15 secs.**

Average Response Time  
to Emergencies

**10 a.m.**

Busiest Hour of the Day

**13.2**

Average Number of  
Incidents Per Day

**Monday**

Busiest Day of the Week

**July**

Busiest Month  
of the Year

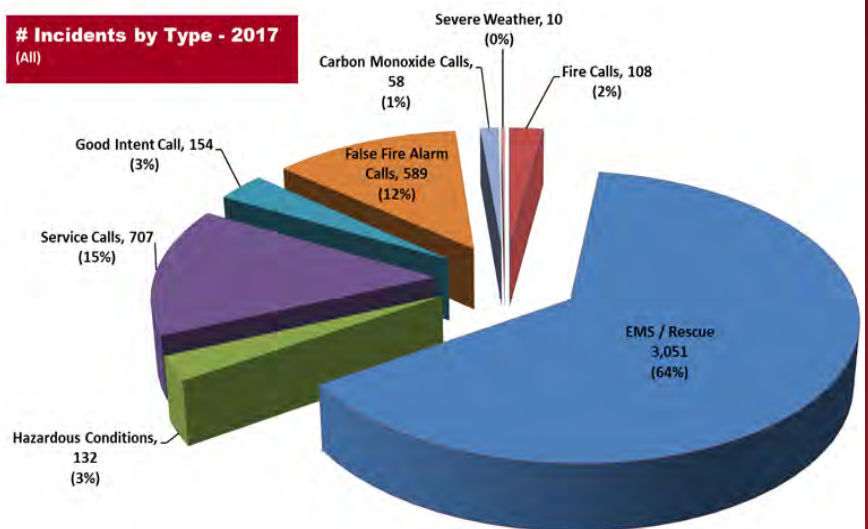
**28.2**

Percentage of Incidents  
that Overlap

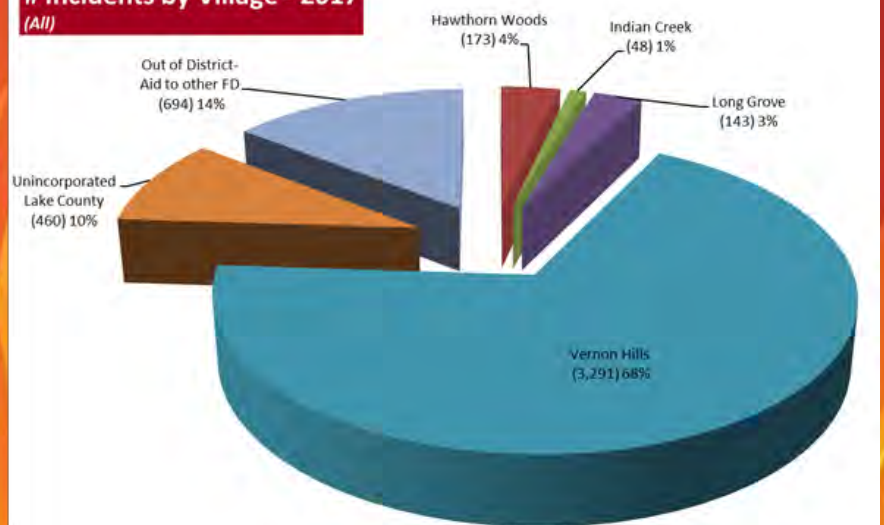
**4,809**

TOTAL INCIDENTS

**# Incidents by Type - 2017**  
(All)



**# Incidents by Village - 2017**  
(All)



# FIRE STATIONS



Station No. 1 - 801 S. Midlothian Rd., Mundelein, IL 60060



Station No. 2 (Headquarters) - 600 N. Deerpath Dr., Vernon Hills, IL 60061

**NON-EMERGENCY**  
**847.367.5511**  
**[www.countrysidefire.com](http://www.countrysidefire.com)**



# APPARATUS



## Resources Available

801 S. MIDLOTHIAN RD.  
MUNDELEIN, IL 60060

**STATION NO. 1**

600 N. DEERPATH DR.  
VERNON HILLS, IL 60061

**STATION NO. 2**

Engine 411	Hose Tender 411	Ambulance 411	Utility 4198	
Water Tender 411	Engine 415	Boat 411	Fire Prevention 4195	
Ladder Tower 412	Ambulance 412	Brush 412	Chief 4100	ATV 412
Ambulance 412R	Ambulance 414	Fire Prevention 4194	Deputy Chief 4101	Battalion 41
Engine 412	Utility 4198	Fire Marshal 4180	Deputy Chief 4102	
Engine 412R	Boat 412	Training Officer 4106	Utility 412	



# OUR MISSION

The Countryside Fire Protection District dedicates its activities to the preservation of human life and the conservation of property.

To this end the District invests its personnel in the education of its public and the maintenance of a safe environment.

# OUR VISION

The Countryside Fire Protection District will be a safe, efficient, fiscally viable, pro-active provider of the emergency services for fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical care, fire prevention and public education, within a diverse family of communities.

The District will work in concert with other providers to further enhance service delivery throughout the area.

# OUR VALUES

**RESPOND**  
**SOLVE PROBLEMS**  
**BE NICE**



# FIRE DISTRICT OFFICERS

## BLACK SHIFT



JIM WEBER  
BATTALION CHIEF



JOHN "RUSS" BACH  
LIEUTENANT



JOHN SHERWOOD  
LIEUTENANT

## STAFF CHIEFS



CHUCK SMITH  
DEPUTY CHIEF

## RED SHIFT



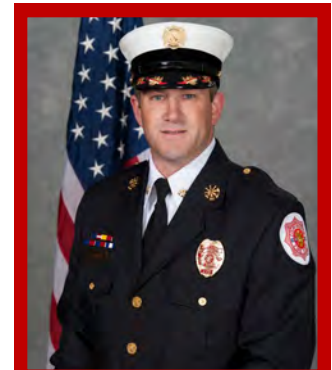
KEVIN WODRICH  
BATTALION CHIEF



JASON MASHERIS  
LIEUTENANT



MARK SKALA  
LIEUTENANT



ED HEINZ  
DEPUTY CHIEF

## GOLD SHIFT



TONY DEROSE  
BATTALION CHIEF



MIKE DOVEL  
LIEUTENANT

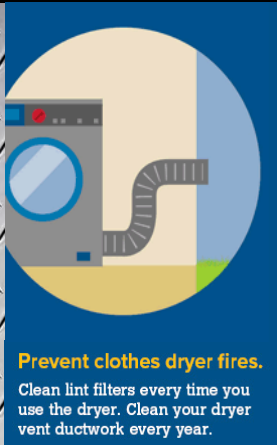


DAN OGUREK  
LIEUTENANT



RON ECHTENACHER  
DIVISION CHIEF

# OPERATIONS



The Operations Division of the Countryside Fire Protection District is led by Deputy Chief Ed Heinz. Countryside's three Battalion Chiefs and Division Chief of Training make certain that our highly trained people deliver exceptional service to our customers.

Each day we staff two engines, three advanced life support ambulances and an incident command vehicle. Daily staffing is supplemented during the week by administrative staff and Countryside's Fire Prevention Bureau, which is staffed with four firemedics.

During times of high call volume, off duty and part-time personnel are recalled to maintain response capabilities for the community.

While the majority of our responses are for emergency medical services, Countryside provides emergency response to what is referred to as "all hazards." To be effective at providing response to all hazards, many of Countryside's sixty-five firefighters specialize in an area of technical response. Technical responses consist of hazardous materials, open water/ice diving, wildland firefighting, technical rescue, swift water rescue and sonar.



*CFPD Firemedics rescue two people from a capsized canoe on Lake Charles.*





## SWORN PERSONNEL

Fire Chief .....	1
Deputy Fire Chiefs.....	2
Division Chiefs .....	1
Battalion Chiefs .....	3
Fire Marshal.....	1
Lieutenants.....	6
Paramedics .....	45
EMT-Basic .....	13
Fire Investigators .....	5

## SPECIALIZED RESPONSE TEAMS

Technical Rescue Technicians.....	7
Public Safety Divers .....	5
Sonar Technicians.....	3
Swiftwater Rescue Technicians .....	2
Hazardous Materials Technicians ...	4
Wildland Firefighters .....	9

## BOARD MEMBERS

Board of Trustees .....	3
Board of Commissioners.....	3

## CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

Finance Director .....	1
Administrative Assistant .....	1
Full-time Telecommunicators .....	7
Part-time Telecommunicators.....	4

## VOLUNTEER

Chaplain .....	1
Investigator.....	1

# TRAINING

The Training Division led by Division Chief Ron Echtenacher takes an all-hazards approach to provide training to all Countryside firefighters, paramedics and EMTs. In 2017, a total of 17,282 training hours were recorded. The training provided is a balance of hands-on, classroom, simulation and self-study all geared towards preparing CFPD's firefighters, paramedics and EMTs for the potential hazards and emergencies they will encounter during the course of their shift.

## 2017 Highlights and Accomplishments

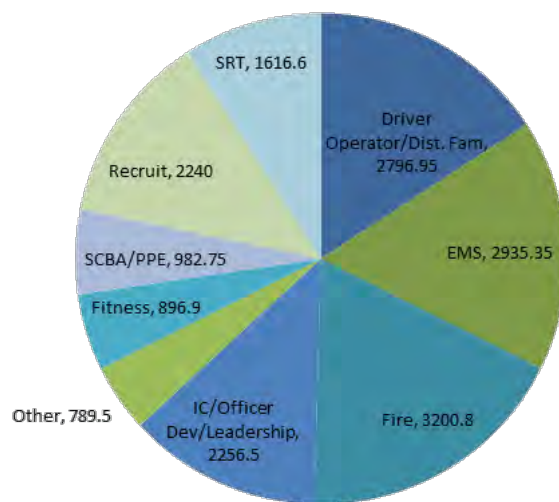
**Certifications and Degrees.** In addition to the training provided weekly, all members are encouraged to seek outside continuing education opportunities, as well as academic higher education. In 2017, members received 52 state certifications and Firemedic Andy Rubenstein received his Master's Degree in Emergency Service Management.

**Response Drill.** In June, Countryside hosted a large scale dive rescue response drill. The drill was repeated for all three shifts and was attended by the Lake and McHenry County Dive and Sonar teams, as well as our neighboring agencies that would respond on that type of emergency. The drills were very successful and much was gained.

**Traffic Incident Management.** In July, IDOT provided its Traffic Incident Management class to all shifts. The 4 hour class covered safety for emergency crews when operating on roads and highways. The class was open to all Lake County fire departments, police departments and tow companies.

**Acquired Structure.** The old bank at the corner of Deerpath and Rt. 60 was acquired for training purposes in the summer. The structure was utilized for three weeks and drills included simulated fire attack, search and rescue, and firefighter down scenarios. Fire companies from Mundelein, Libertyville and Lincolnshire-Riverwoods participated in all drills.

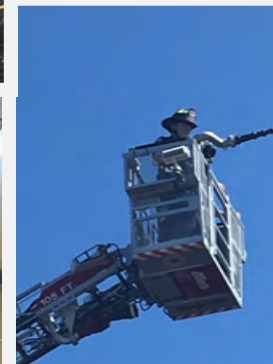
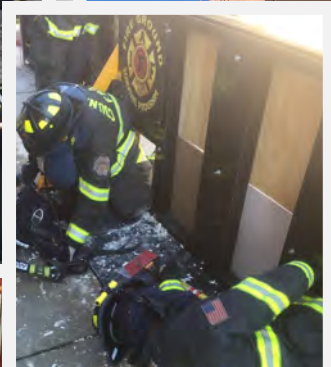
Type of Training by Hours



Diamond Lake boat launch was used for the deployment of boats, divers and sonar techs at the dive rescue response drill. Approximately 30 rescuers participated each day of the drill.



# TRAINING EVENTS





# EMS



*Emergency Medical Services (EMS) remains a core service of Countryside Fire Protection District, accounting for approximately two thirds of our total incident responses.*

## 2017 Highlights and Accomplishments

- Countryside's Firemedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) continue to receive 30 hours of continuing education provided by our resource hospital, Advocate Condell Medical Center. Personnel also receive additional EMS training monthly to learn new skills and improve on their existing ones.
- The 32<sup>nd</sup> Working Together EMS Conference put on by the Wisconsin EMS Association was held in Milwaukee in January of 2017 and CFPD had four members in attendance. Personnel participated in numerous classes throughout 4 days.
- With continued training using the "Pit Crew" model for cardiac resuscitation, Countryside Firemedics successfully resuscitated 7 patients prior to arrival to the emergency room in 2017. This equates to a 53.84% pre-hospital save rate.





# EMS

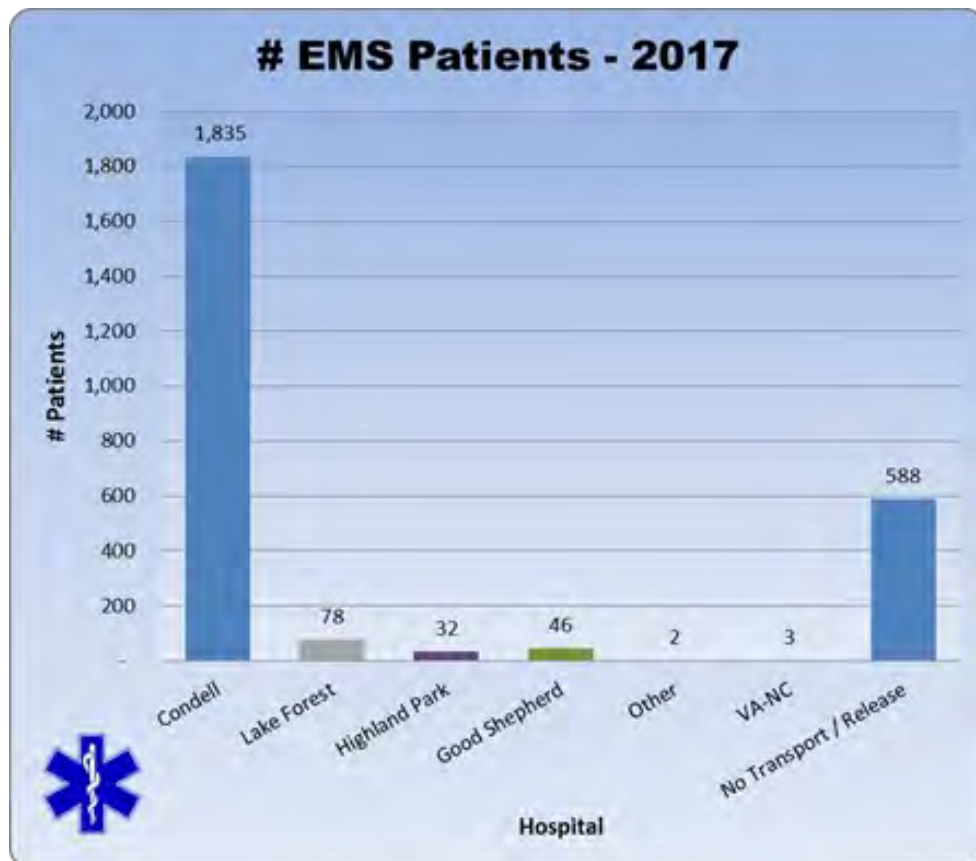
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Arrive Alive



Don't Text  
& Drive

- In June of 2017, CFPD congratulated Samuel Haras who completed the 2016 Advocate Condell Medical Center's Paramedic Program. Also in June of 2017, CFPD congratulated Jake Smith and Erich Dye for completing the 2016 North Lake County Paramedic Program. The District currently has four members enrolled in Condell's 2017 Paramedic Program slated for graduation in June of 2018.
- The Condell EMS System updated its electronic patient care reporting capabilities meeting the Nemsis 3 standard set forth by the State of Illinois.
- CFPD cared for 2,584 patients in 2017. Of the patients transported, 92% were taken to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville.



# FIRE PREVENTION



Led by Lt./Fire Marshal Ron Cielek, the Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) takes the lead in supporting CFPD's commitment to protect lives and prevent the loss of property by using efficient fire prevention practices, code enforcement, fire investigation and public education.

The FPB responsibilities consist of fire safety inspections, plan reviews, pre-plan drawings, fire investigations and code enforcement throughout the District. The constant evaluation of each water supply system is also imperative and is also tasked to the FPB. Each inspector must maintain certification through constant education on the past and current codes and standards. The following report summarizes the activities and results in 2017.

**Administration & Staffing.** In 2017, the FPB had a personnel change. After the retirement of Inspector George Tejcek, the District explored options for his replacement. It was determined that there were many certified inspectors throughout the ranks that had an interest in being a part of the FPB on their regularly scheduled days off. A part-time inspector position was created and 7 firemedics from shift have since begun to work in the FPB. This has allowed the District to save the full-time inspector salary while still providing the excellent service the FPB is known for. It also provides valuable experience for our firemedics to be able to spend time in each of the buildings they may respond to and to better understand the fire protection systems in place. These new part-time inspectors work alongside Inspector Bill Wolff and Inspector/Public Educator Tony Rodkey. The FPB is also supported by Lina Diaz, the District's Administrative Assistant.

**Water Supply.** The District's water supply system is of obvious importance to the fire protection we provide to our customers. These water supply systems consist of municipal wet hydrants, private wet hydrants, tanks, pumps, and dry hydrants. These systems require diligent testing and maintenance to be ready at a moment's notice. The results of tests conducted by the FPB are communicated to fire suppression personnel and those parties responsible for maintenance, so that the District knows the quality of flow and how much water is available to extinguish a fire at any time.



# FIRE PREVENTION

continued...



**Inspections.** CFPD's FPB is responsible for code enforcement and protecting the lives of the citizens that occupy many of structures in the District, while also providing safety for the firefighters that enter these properties during emergency situations.

In 2017, a total of 64 new construction and remodel projects were inspected to ensure all fire protection systems and life safety requirements were in compliance. In addition, 2,557 bureau inspection activities were recorded.

**Plan Reviews & Pre-Plans.** Bureau personnel continued to promote the installation of sprinkler coverage for single homes. In 2017, 12 new residences were built with NFPA 13D sprinkler systems, which brings the total of homes protected by sprinkler systems in CFPD's District to 928.

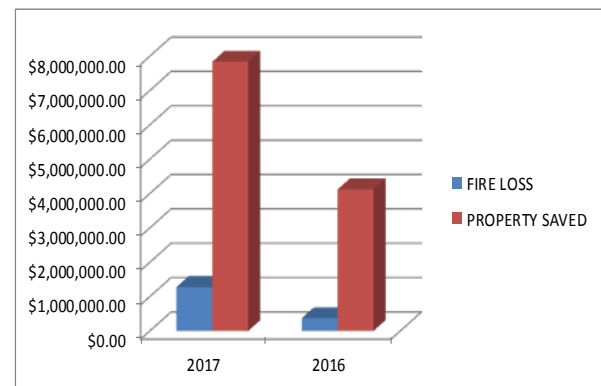
Pre-plans were also developed and updated throughout the year. Pre-plans are important documents utilized at an emergency scene by our Incident Commanders to help direct crews through a structure. A floor plan, special hazards, electric/gas/water shutoffs, and other important items are identified on these documents and readily available in our Incident Command post.



*Lt. / Fire Marshal Ron Cielek performs plan reviews from his office at Station No. 2*

## Fire Investigations Origin & Cause

- Total estimated 2017 fire losses **\$1,283,902.**
- Total estimated property saved was **\$7,841,100.**
- There were 2 civilian fire related injuries, 3 firefighter injuries and no fatalities. We were also able to "Keep the Wreath Red" over the holidays again with no fire incidents related to holiday decorations.
- Twenty-three fire investigations were completed by bureau fire investigators, and the number one fire incident type investigated was building structure fires (16 in total).
- The FPB reported fires with preventable causes to OSFM, NFPA, and the United States Consumer Products Safety Commission.



Total estimated 2017 fire losses were **\$1,283,902**

Total estimated property saved was **\$7,841,100**

# FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION



Install and test carbon monoxide (CO) alarms at least once a month.

CO is called the "invisible killer" because it's a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. Breathing in CO at high levels can be fatal.

The Public Education Division is vital to Countryside Fire Protection District's mission. It is led by our Public Education Coordinator, Firemedic Tony Rodkey, and the division is responsible for many of the community's outreach programs. CFPD maintained a positive networking relationship with the villages and various community organizations, as well as government entities to strengthen and support CFPD's many endeavors.

**Community Safety and Education.** CFPD provided safety education to five public school districts, which included 15 schools, 9 elementary, 5 middle and Vernon Hills High School, as well as 6 private pre-school and daycare facilities. These schools received at least one visit per grade level during the year. In addition, some of the programs provided to our community included:

- Block Party Requests (5 events / approx. 500 residents reached)
- Child Car Seat Installations/Safety Checks (21 installations/inspections)
- First Aid, CPR & AED Courses (46 classes held in total certifying 1,100 participants)
- Fire Extinguishing Training (500 participants in area businesses & 320 eighth grade science students in middle and high schools)
- Firefighter for a Day (2 individuals visited)
- Station Tours (9 station tours for 200 participants combined at both fire stations)
- Remembering When Program
- Adopt a Fire Hydrant Program

In 2017, CFPD also provided fire and life safety education information and lessons via:

- CFPD's Facebook page
- Channel 4 News' Monthly Video Clip
- CFPD's website [www.countrysidefire.com](http://www.countrysidefire.com)



*Lt. Ron Cielek handing out graduation life safety kits.*



*Inspector Wolff conducting a CPR class.*



*Pub Ed Coordinator T. Rodkey being recognized as the 2017 Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year by IFIA.*



# FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

continued...

**Special Events.** CFPD participated in fifty-four various events in the Fire District reaching 36,277 participants. CFPD also maintained a close working relationship with the Lake County Fire Chief's Association and the Northern Illinois Public Education Team (NIPET).

One of 2017's special events included celebrating CFPD's 57th Open House to kick off and promote NFPA's 2017 annual theme, *"Every second counts, have 2 ways out!"* The annual open house and pancake breakfast event demonstrated the positive connection with our community as approximately 1,500 residents attended along with the participating organizations who took part in this event.

Fremont Township's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was on hand for recruitment and assisted with traffic control, local Boy Scout & Girl Scout troops provided assistance in the pancake breakfast area to free up firemedics for public education activities, Batteries Plus provided free batteries to residents for smoke alarms, Chiro One provided spinal checks for attendees, and Record-A-Hit provided an inflatable fire engine crawl through. In addition, Mariano's Pharmacy provided flu shots. To say the least, everyone who participated did a great job in making CFPD's Open House an annual "must attend" community event.

While our open house was fun and exciting, our Fourth of July Parade was a big hit as well! Fireman Tony brought up the rear of the parade and passed out various fire safety trinkets with a fire safety message for an excellent public relations opportunity in the Village of Vernon Hills annual parade.

## 2017 Highlights and Accomplishments

Public Education Coordinator Tony Rodkey secured a car seat safety and boulevard banner grant in the amount of \$2,915.00 from the Illinois Department of Transportation for October 2016 through September 2017. With this grant we funded two car seat safety events and 20 new boulevard banner messages to reduce vehicle accidents and injuries caused by accidents. The boulevard banners are within the fire district in high traffic count roadways that can potentially reach 11 million drivers per year.



FF Thompson participating in car seat event.



# FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

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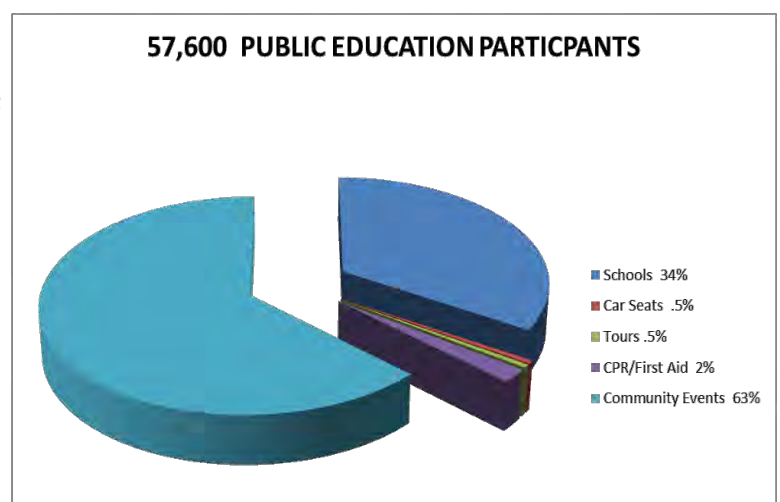


What's more, Hawthorn Elementary North and Aspen Elementary Schools participated in a pilot program. The program provides an opportunity for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students to write a paragraph of fire safety information learned in lessons and read this paragraph to senior citizens through an approved field trip to the retirement community. Additionally, senior citizens who help set up the field trip read the book, "No Tea for Dragons" (NFPA recommendation) to the students.

## Program Participant Overview

The Countryside Fire Protection District Fire & Life Education Programs in 2017 have made contact with 57,600 participants. Fifty-five percent of the participants we contact are within the five school districts aligned within the fire district. Community events are also where CFPD participates and makes contact with 39% of all our participants. By partaking in various community events, we not only have the opportunity for positive public relations, we take the time to provide fire and life safety education to improve the overall community risk reduction.

The following chart shows a percentage breakdown of the total # of people that participated in our public education activities and/or events during the 2017 year.





# TELECOMMUNICATIONS

EMERGENCY

911

In 2010, Countryside's Dispatch Center moved locations and began co-staffing a unified dispatch center at the Vernon Hills Police Department. This partnership has proven to provide better services to our customers by eliminating many 9-1-1 transfers, as well as reducing costs by sharing the overhead expenses of the center. Today, nearly 8 years later, Countryside also provides dispatching services for both Libertyville and Knollwood Fire Departments and the Village of Vernon Hills also provides services to Libertyville and Lincolnshire Police Departments.

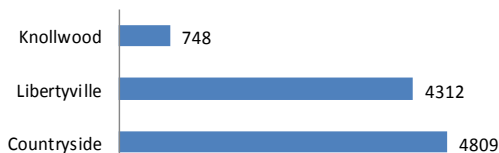
In 2017, Countryside Telecommunicators (T/Cs) answered nearly 40,000 calls for service and processed emergency calls in an average of 27 seconds. Each T/C is certified in Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD) and is able to triage each call, dispatch the appropriate responding apparatus, and begin instructions for emergency medical care to the caller. Important information is relayed to responding units utilizing computer aided dispatching (CAD) software in real time.

Countryside T/Cs, as well as Firemedics have been working hard for the release of a new CAD software that will allow T/Cs to process calls faster and dispatch emergency vehicles to incidents more accurately. This new CAD system is scheduled to be implemented in Q2 of 2018.

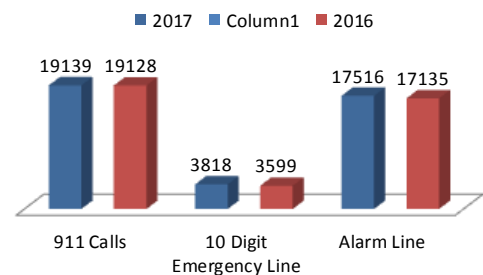
The state of the art dispatch center itself has continued to keep up with all of the latest technologies to prepare for every emergency. The ability to monitor railroad crossings, intersections, major corporate/retail buildings, and even schools by the multiple CCTV systems has been a tremendous asset to notify responding units of any dangers or obstacles they may be facing. Weather software is monitored and used in conjunction with lightning detection equipment and outdoor warning sirens positioned throughout the District.



**Dispatched Number of Calls  
by Agency**



**Number of Phone Calls**



#### Alarm Stats

- Total alarm signals processed – 1,706,294 (1,291,421 by operator)
- 170,664 fire alarms processed
- 494,780 trouble alarms processed

# COUNTRYSIDE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION



The mission of the Countryside Firefighter's Association (CFFA) is to provide for the welfare of its members, to support the mission of the Countryside Fire Protection District and to serve the residents of the Countryside Fire Protection District. With each new year, CFFA members seek measureable objectives to improve upon the following years successes and 2017 championed positive results. Along with comradery, our members are engaged in the tradition to raise awareness in life safety and education. Moreover, provide assistance to local charities and District townships programs.

## 2017 Highlights and Accomplishments

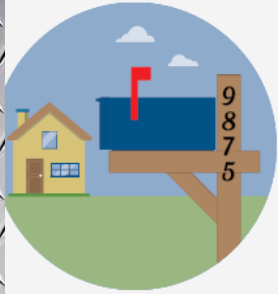
**Thanksgiving Baskets.** CFFA's key measure of success is delivering support. Taking care of those in need by redirecting nonprofit revenue received on families sponsored and recognized by four local district townships needing assistance. In 2017, CFFA provided adopt-a-families with Thanksgiving baskets of nonperishable food and delivered presents during the holiday season to these families. Four families were chosen, one from each township the district serves (Vernon, ELA, Libertyville, and Fremont) and meals were delivered to the townships to help families during hard times and be able to enjoy the holiday.





# COUNTRYSIDE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

continued...



Make sure your house number can be seen from the road.

Clearly display your house number so emergency responders can quickly find you.

**Adopt-a-Family Gift Drive.** Like the Thanksgiving baskets, CFFA adopted four families during the holiday to donate gifts to aid families that had fallen on hard times. Gifts were purchased by individual CFFA members for specific families they had been designated. Gifts were then wrapped and delivered via LT412 to the townships. As a result, CFFA received some very nice feedback from the families in the form of thank you cards from the children in the families.

In addition, CFFA contributed monetarily to purchase basic necessities to be delivered to a local PAD shelter and held charitable fund drives to contribute to the Lexi Kazian Foundation.

**Open House.** This was our day to show off all of our hard work. It was our way of inviting the community as a whole into our lives by sharing our experiences and stories, explaining the basic roles of our many resources that respond to the scenes and providing the community education and life safety materials for all ages. In 2017, over 1,500 adults and children passed through our doors in our support. Nonetheless, we cannot forget the significant contributions from district businesses that donated towards the fundraising raffle. Without our district's and community's support, CFFA's mission would be dramatically affected.

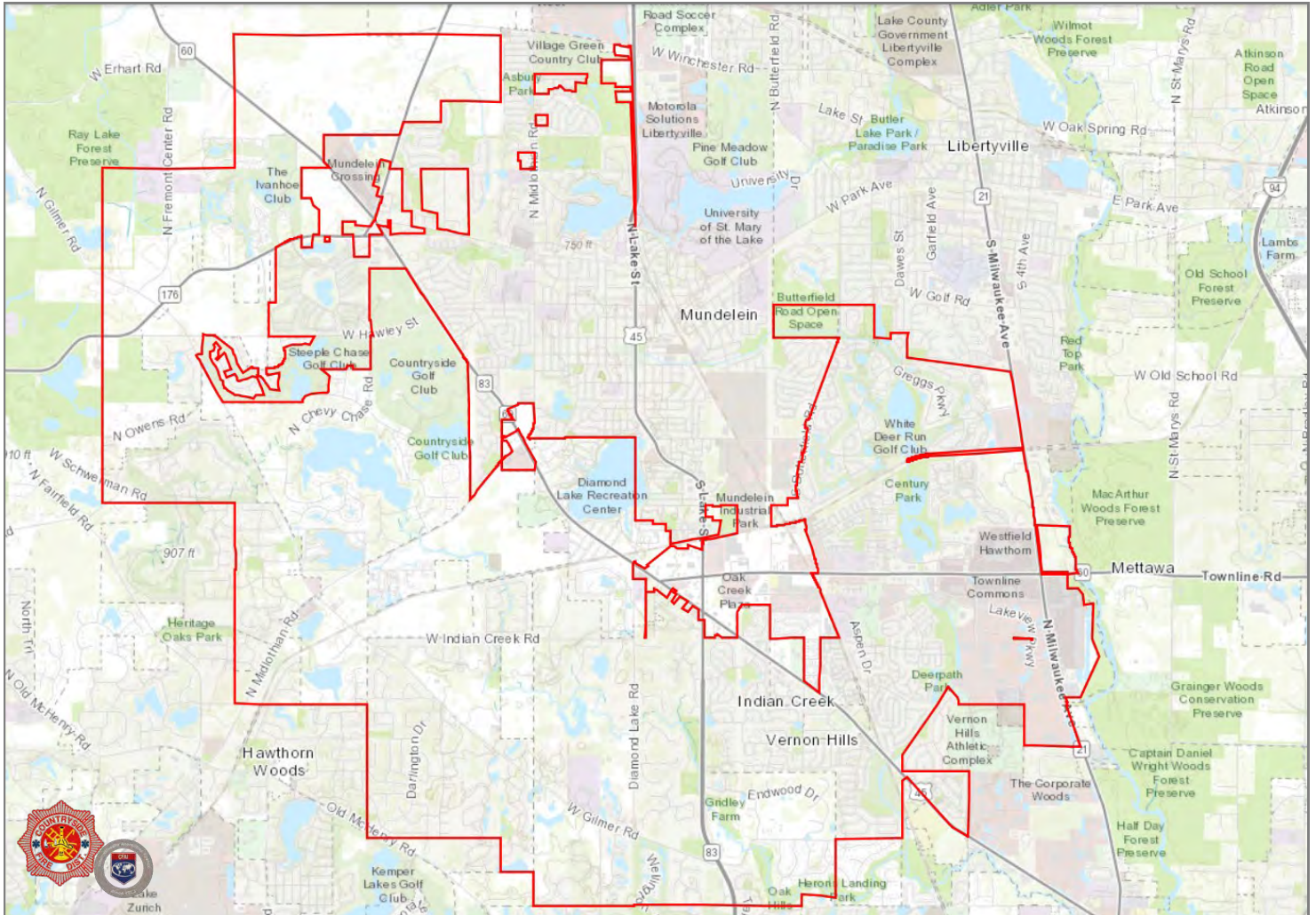
**Cubs Outing.** CFFA members and their families attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Responders night for the Cubs. The outing helped build unit cohesion, esprit de corps and comradery amongst those who were able to attend.







# MAP







**Square Miles: 24**  
**Population: 36,400**

# **Proudly Serving the Community Since 1959**

**VERNON HILLS**  
**LONG GROVE**  
**HAWTHORN WOODS**  
**KILDEER**  
**INDIAN CREEK**

**UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LAKE COUNTY**



[www.countrysidefire.com](http://www.countrysidefire.com)

# COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

600 N. Deerpath Drive

Vernon Hills, IL 60061-1804

Like us on [www.facebook.com/countrysidefiredist/](https://www.facebook.com/countrysidefiredist/)

