

2018 *Annual Report*



COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Proudly Serving
Vernon Hills, Long Grove,
Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer, Indian Creek &
Unincorporated Areas of Lake County since 1959





2018 *Annual Report*



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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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

It is my honor and privilege to present the 2018 Countryside Fire Protection District Annual Report to the community we so proudly serve.

The report represents only a snapshot of the hard work, dedication and commitment of our Board of Trustees, Commissioners, Officers, Firemedics, Inspectors, 911 Telecommunicators and Administrative Staff.

At every level of our organization, we strive to meet our mission, vision and values to provide you excellent service. We are driven to continually improve that service, be efficient and fiscally minded, meeting all the standards, rules and laws that guide us.

Please visit our website at www.countrysidefire.com for latest information about CFPD operations and important safety information.

Yours in Safety & Service,



Jeff Steingart, CFO
Fire Chief



SERVING SINCE 1982



2018 HIGHLIGHTS

96.5

Emergency Call
Response Time within
8 Minutes

**4:18
mins.**

Average Response
Time

**11:00
a.m.**

Busiest Hour of the
Day

13.5

Average Number of
Incidents Per Day

Tuesday

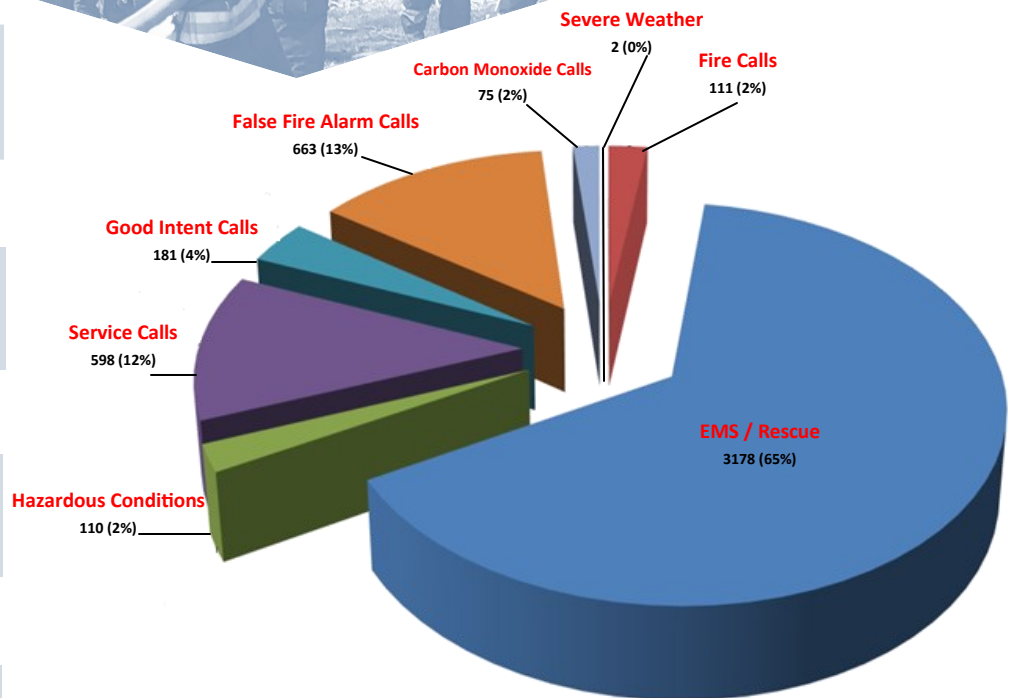
Busiest Day of the
Week

January

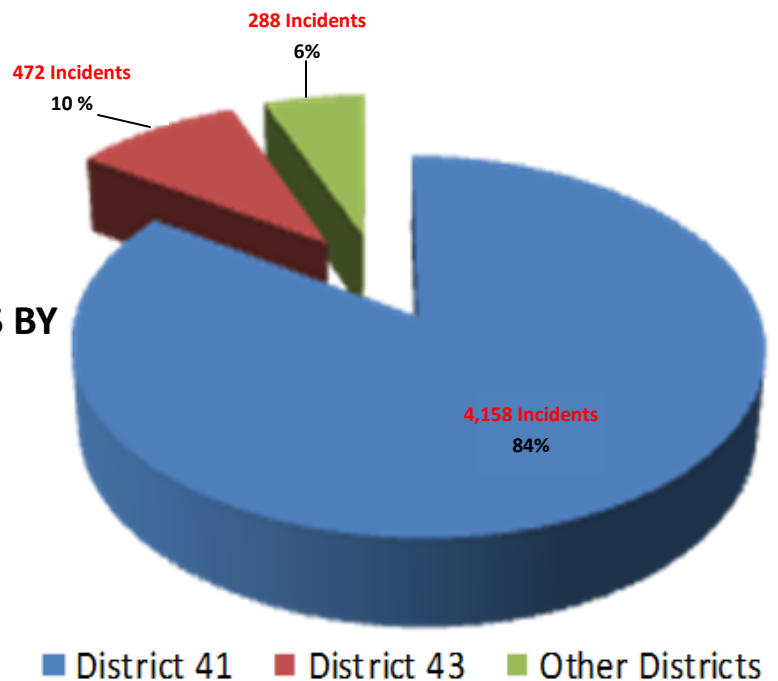
Busiest Month
of the Year

4,918

**TOTAL
INCIDENTS**



**INCIDENTS BY
DISTRICT**





FIRE STATIONS



STATION NO. 1
801 S. MIDLOTHIAN RD.
MUNDELEIN, IL 60060



STATION NO. 2
801 S. MIDLOTHIAN RD.
VERNON HILLS, IL 60061

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Ladder Tower 412	Ambulance 412	Brush 412	Chief 4100	ATV 412
Ambulance 412R	Ambulance 414	Fire Prevention 4194	Deputy Chief 4101	Battalion
Engine 412	Utility 4198	Fire Marshal 4180	Deputy Chief 4102	
Engine	Boat	Training Officer 4106	Utility	

Engine 411	Hose Tender 411	Ambulance 411	Utility 4198
Water Tender 411	Engine 415	Boat 411	Fire Prevention 4195



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.

In addition, 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.



Countryside Firefighters work with Mundelein to free a man that was stuck up to his waist in a hole filled with wet sand.



OPERATIONS continued

SWORN PERSONNEL

Fire Chief	1
Deputy Fire Chiefs	2
Division Chiefs	1
Battalion Chiefs.....	3
Fire Marshal	1
Lieutenants	6
Paramedics	52
EMT-Basic.....	4
Fire Investigators.....	5

SPECIALIZED RESPONSE TEAMS

Technical Rescue Technicians	5
Public Safety Divers	5
Sonar Technicians	2
Swiftwater Rescue Technicians.....	2
Hazardous Materials Technicians....	4
Wildland Firefighters.....	6

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

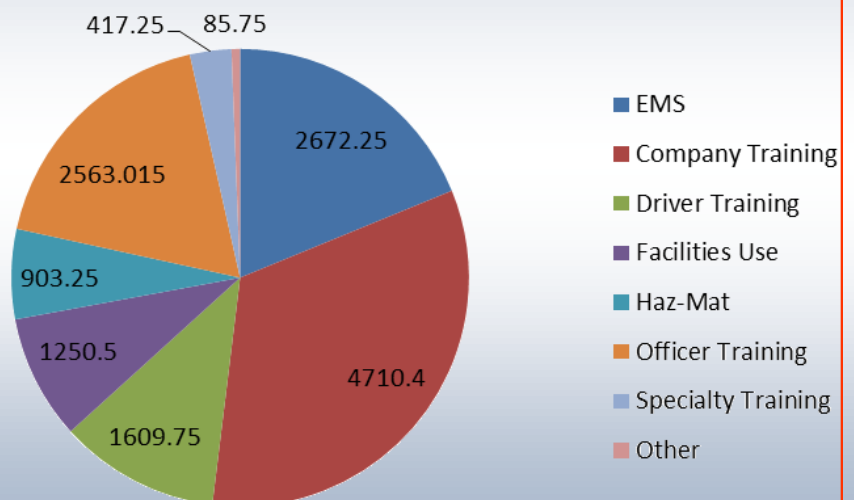




The Training Division is led by Division Chief Ron Echtenacher and takes an all-hazards approach to provide training to all Countryside firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs. In 2018, a total of **14,212** training hours was recorded. The training provided a balance of hands-on, classroom, simulation and self-study all geared towards preparing Countryside firefighters, paramedics and EMTs for the potential hazards and emergencies they will encounter during the course of their shifts.



Training Hours by Type





TRAINING continued

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 2018, members received 37 state certifications and Firemedic Sam Haras received his Associate Degree in Fire Science.

Specialized Response Training

Countryside is a member of the Division 4 Specialized Response Teams (SRT) and has members on the Dive, Haz-Mat, Wildland, Technical Rescue, Mechanics, Swift Water, and Side Scan Sonar Teams. Each team member is required to complete certain number or hours of training sessions, and in 2018, all Countryside SRT members met their required hours totaling more than 450 hours.

Automatic Aid/Mutual Aid Training.

A focus in 2018 was to increase the amount of training we do with the departments that we respond with to emergencies. A total of 500 hours of training with our automatic aid and mutual aid departments was documented. Countryside members trained with members from Mundelein, Libertyville, Lincolnshire/Riverwoods, Deerfield, Lake Forest, Grayslake, Buffalo Grove, Abbott, Lake Zurich, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood. Trainings included water supply, pump operator and live fire evolutions.

Photo: Multi-Company Water Supply Operations drill hosted by Countryside. Summer 2018



Photo: Firemedic Sosnoski receiving her Vehicle Machinery Operations and Advanced Fire Technician Certificates

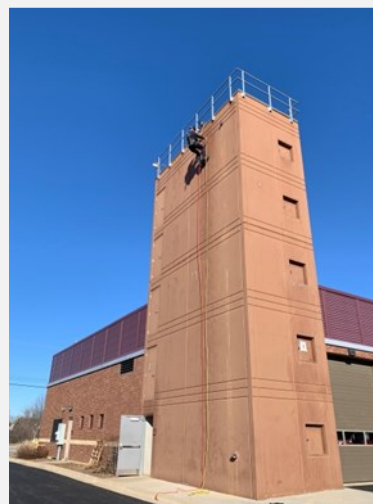
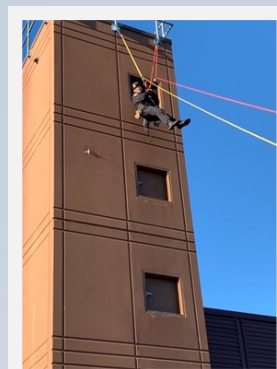


Photo: Technical Rescue Team members training on high angle rescue operations.





EMS

Countryside's Firemedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) 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 following are some of the District's EMS highlights in 2018.

The 33rd Working Together EMS Conference put on by the Wisconsin EMS Association was held in Milwaukee in January of 2018, and Countryside had three members in attendance. Personnel participated in numerous classes throughout four days of training, and they learned about new techniques and protocols.

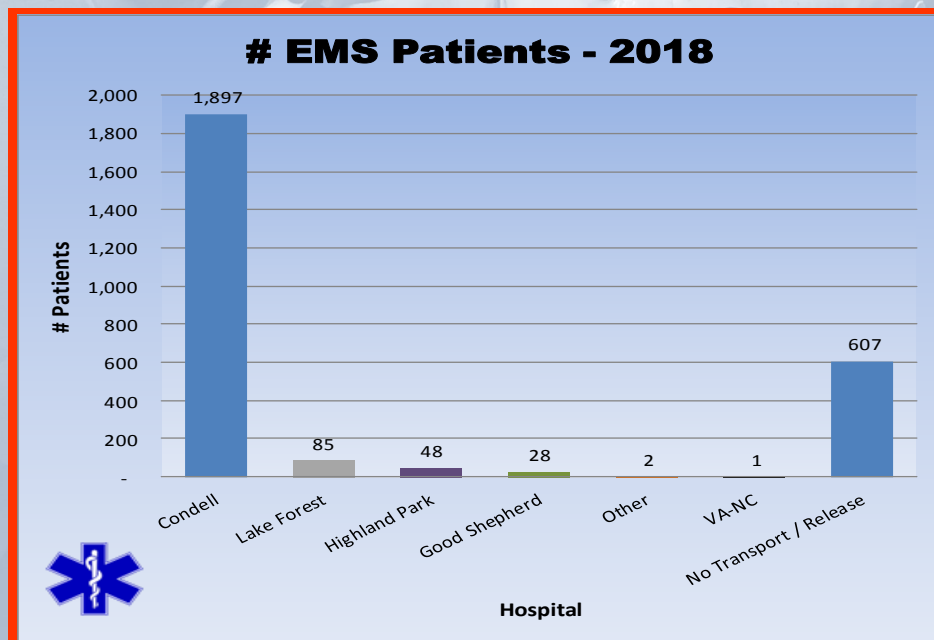
As Countryside continues to be the model department in using the "pit crew" technique in cardiac resuscitation, the Countryside Firemedics successfully resuscitated four patients prior to arrival to the emergency room in 2018. This equates to a 20% pre-hospital save rate. The national average is 12% through the AHA Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest and 6% through EMS1.com.



EMS continued



In June of 2018, Countryside Fire Protection District congratulated Tyler Amidei, Avery Cielek, Dan Loeschen and Brian Yamamoto for completing the 2017 Advocate Condell Medical Center's Paramedic Program. They are the newest paramedics on the department. The District currently has two members enrolled in Advocate Condell Medical Center's 2018 Paramedic Program slated for graduation in June of 2019.



Countryside Fire Protection District cared for **2,668** patients in 2018. 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 2018.

Administration & Staffing

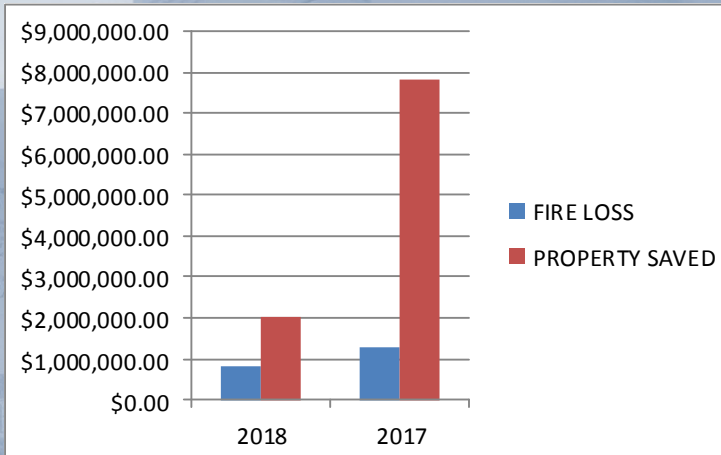
In 2018, the FPB continued to maintain full-time and part-time staffing. The part-time inspector program assisted our full-time inspectors with meeting our goal of inspecting all occupancies at least once a year. The part-time inspection program continues to be valuable experience for our shift personnel to be able to become familiar with each of the buildings. We currently have eight part-time inspectors working alongside Fire Marshal Ron Cielek, Inspector Bill Wolff and Inspector/Public Educator Tony Rodkey. The FPB is also supported by Lina Diaz, the District's Administrative Assistant.



FIRE PREVENTION continued

Fire Investigations Origin & Cause

- Total estimated 2018 fire losses **\$825,150**.
- Total estimated property saved was **\$2,033,450** (71.1%).
- Thirteen fire investigations were completed by bureau fire investigators, and the number one fire incident type investigated was building structure fires (5 in total).
- The FPB reported fires with preventable causes to OSFM, NFPA, and the United States Consumer Products Safety Commission.



There were **0** civilian fire related injuries, **5** firefighter injuries and no fatalities.

We were also able to **“Keep the Wreath Red”** over the holidays again with

0 fire incidents related to holiday decorations.

Plan Reviews & Pre-Plans

Bureau personnel continued to promote the installation of sprinkler coverage for single homes. In 2018, **38** new residences were built with NFPA 13D sprinkler systems, which brings the total of homes protected by sprinkler systems in CFPD’s District to **966**.

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 shut-offs, and other important items are identified on these documents and are readily available in our incident command post.





FIRE PREVENTION continued

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.

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 2018, the FPB had a very busy year with the addition of a new three-story 260 unit apartment building, and the new Melody Farm outdoor shopping center consisting of 38 new commercial occupancies.



MELLODY FARM

851-1101 MILWAUKEE AVENUE,
VERNON HILLS, IL 60061



THE ATWORTH

1111 N MILWAUKEE AVENUE,
VERNON HILLS, IL 60061

BUREAU INSPECTIONS

A TOTAL OF **3,317**

BUREAU INSPECTIONS ACTIVITIES
WERE RECORDED IN 2018



FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

The 2018 Public Education Division annual report provides a summary of the Fire and Life Safety Education programs provided in Countryside Fire Protection District. CFPD has five public school districts which include 15 schools, 9 elementary, 5 middle and Vernon Hills High School, as well as 6 private pre-school and daycare facilities that receive a least one visit per grade level annually. In addition, CFPD provides programs to our community businesses and maintains a positive relationship with the villages and various government entities requesting fire and life safety programs to strengthen our partnerships. The following community programs are offered throughout the District.

Adopt A Fire Hydrant Program

Residents agree to keep fire hydrant clear of debris, weeds and snow and report any damage. A certificate is issued to the resident. The Facebook page was instrumental and timely to help promote this program, as well as the Channel 4 Vernon Hills Update monthly television broadcast.

Block Party Requests

Five events were attended in 2018, and CFPD reached approximately 400 residents with various safety messages.

Countryside Fire Website

CFPD's website is regularly updated with information and programs according to the time of the year and a profile of the fire district.





FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

EDUCATION continued

Child Car Seat Installations/Safety Checks

Seventeen (17) installations/inspections were completed in 2017.

Facebook Page

Regularly posted safety messages, summaries and events of the fire district.

First Aid, CPR & AED Courses

Thirty-nine (39) classes held in total, certifying 629 participants, including students from two district middle schools



ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS SAFE

*You are the key to
protecting your family
&
we are here to help!*

Fire Extinguisher Training

Three-hundred ten (310) participants were provided fire extinguisher training in area businesses and including 8th grade science students in middle and high schools.

Firefighter for a Day

Two (2) individuals had the opportunity to receive this incredible experience.

Monthly Fire Safety Video Clip with Channel 4 News

Fireman Tony appeared on the Vernon Hills Update Monthly Television Show six (6) times with information and safety tips to village residents for the year. There is no real quantitative way of knowing how many residents we reach from these public broadcasts. Although the positive anecdotal and testimonials we receive from our customers demonstrates the importance maintaining this connection.





Open House

The 58th OPEN HOUSE held again demonstrated the positive connection with our community as approximately 1,500 residents attended. The NFPA annual theme was, **“Look. Listen. Learn.”** The Fremont Township Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was on hand for recruitment and assisted with traffic control. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops provided assistance in the pancake breakfast area to free up firemedics for public education activities. Chiro One provided spinal checks for attendees. Record-A-Hit provided an inflatable fire engine crawl through apparatus at 50% off. Mariano’s Pharmacy provided flu shots. The Countryside Fire District static display, handouts and giveaways were provided by FEMA, IDOT, and OSFM. Everyone did a great job to make the Open House an annual “must attend” community event.

Parade—4th of July Handouts

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.

Remembering When

The Fire and Fall Prevention Program for residents 65 years and older continues for this high risk population. Home inspections, free smoke alarms, night lights, oven mitts and recommendations to help prevent our senior residents from accidentally starting a fire or accidental falls were performed. CFPD provided quarterly visits to Hawthorn Lakes, The Park of Vernon Hills and the Victory Centre.

Special Events

CFPD participated in thirty-five various events in the Fire District reaching 10,786 participants. CFPD also maintained a close working relationship with the Lake County Fire Chief’s Association, and the Northern Illinois Public Education Team (NIPET).

Station Tours

Five station tours were conducted for 80 participants combined at both fire stations.

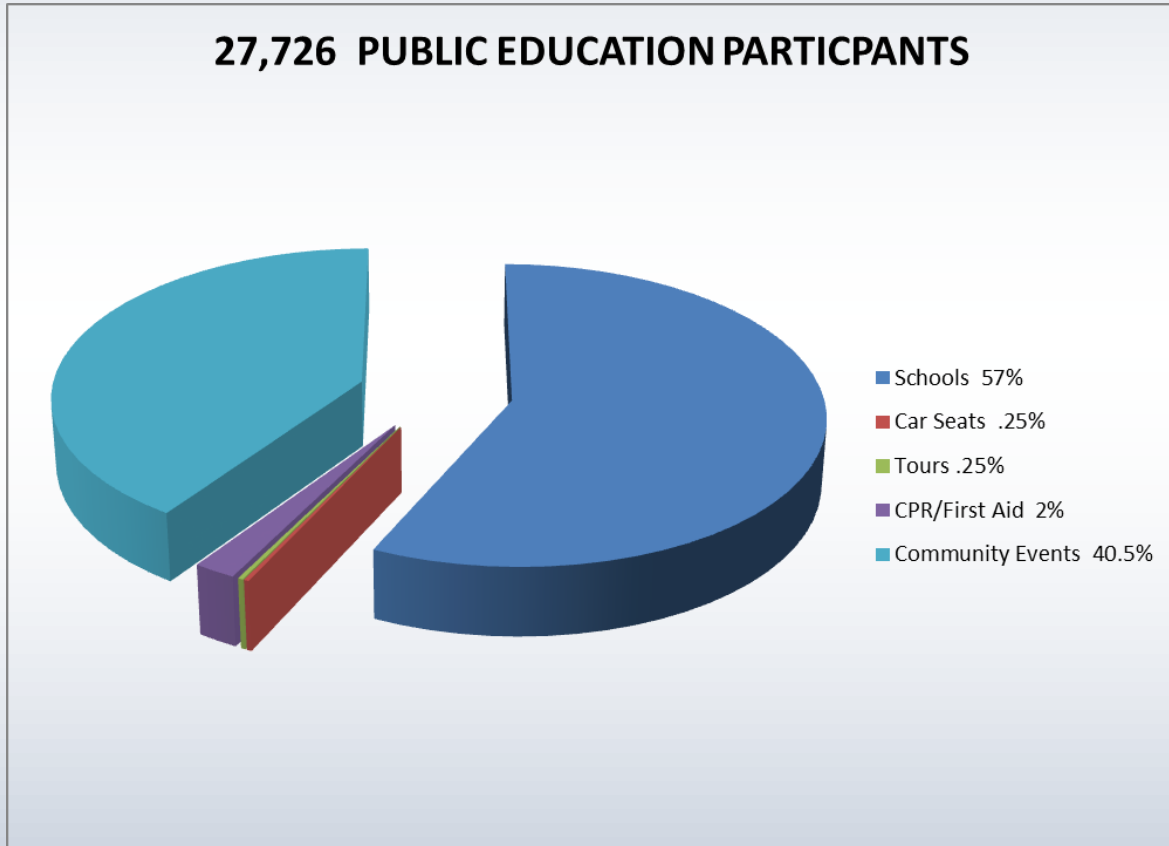




FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION continued

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW

The Countryside Fire Protection District Fire & Life Education Programs in 2018 have made contact with 27,726 participants. Fifty-five percent of the participants we contact are within the five school districts aligned within the fire district. Community events are where CFPD participates and makes contact with 40.5% of all our participants. By participating in various community events, we not only have the opportunity for positive public relations, but we take the time to provide fire and life safety education to improve the overall community risk reduction. In keeping with the mission of the Fire District, a breakdown of these activities, and the percentage of where program participants are contacted is demonstrated in the following chart.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

In 2018, a total of 15,790 students in the schools had contact from a CFPD member. This increase is due to our Public Education Division dedicating to double the visits in grades K-8, and in the high school. The more visits our fire district is permitted to provide in the schools, coupled with attending community events and reinforcing the safety messages will continue to show a decrease in fires and injuries within the fire district.

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

EDUCATION continued

The following is a list of age appropriate programs for the school grade levels:

Pre-School	Firefighter Friendly
Kindergarten	Firefighter Friendly and Tool vs. Toy
1st Grade	Join My Fire Safety Club and What's Hot What's Not
2nd Grade	Where There's Smoke There's Science and intro to Hazard House
3rd Grade	Be Cool About Fire Safety and the Hazard House Inspection
4th Grade	The Great Escape Challenge and the Smoke Trailer
5th Grad	The Smoke Alarm Show and Fire's Fury
6th Grade	Sprinklers Save Lives (Live Demonstration) and Kitchen Fire Safety
7th Grade	Safety Smart with Bill Nye and Severe Weather Safety
8th Grade	CPR in the Schools, Chemistry of Fire and Fire Extinguisher Lesson
High School	CPR in the Schools, Get out Stay Alive/College Fire Safety, Fire Service Career, Holiday Fire Safety, Kitchen Fire Safety, Chemistry of Fire, Health Fair, Drivers Education and the Graduation Life Safety Kit. D128 Adult Education Program Fire Behavior.



Graduation Life Safety Kit

The Graduation Life Safety Kit was delivered for the 11th consecutive year to 334 Class of 2018 Vernon Hills High School graduating seniors. The concept is to send the graduates with fire and life safety information, supplies and equipment they could use to be safe beyond high school. Tony Rodkey, Director Fire & Life Safety Education secured partnerships with area businesses to help fund this awesome gift project valued at \$11,000.00 (\$35 per kit X 315 students).



Boulevard Banner Project

Under the direction of Tony Rodkey, the boulevard project continues through a partnership with Vernon Hills Public Works Department. The district is up to twenty banners placed in strategic high traffic areas that potentially reach 11 million drivers per year. The project has been initiated with grant funds from ten years ago with the National Gasoline Project and has been maintained with grant funds from IDOT and local partnerships such as MB Financial.



The Dangers of Ice & Hypothermia

The Vernon Hills High School Outdoor Education classes have provided lessons in the wintry season on ice and in cold water. For the past five years, this unique program is making our community safer and promoting the dangers of ice and hypothermia. Moreover, three years ago we started to give students the opportunity to make real scenario rescues on the ice and enter these elements in cold water immersion suits.





TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The eight plus year partnership with Vernon Hills Police Department continues to be a win/win for both agencies. The assistance in answering overflow calls, making notifications, sharing pertinent information and knowledge, and the general comradery is of benefit and passed along to our customers.

Dispatch was part and parcel to the ISO and reaccreditation processes in 2018. The gathering of information for ISO began in 2017, but the results were not received until March of 2018. Dispatch scored 10/10 in their category, and the department as a whole moved from an ISO rating of 3 to a 2. Reaccreditation was once again successful with some suggestions for improvement in Category IX, which dispatch is a part of.

One of those areas needing improvement was clear documentation of call processing and turnout times. The solution seems to be station alerting, which CFPD began implementing in November of 2018. Station alerting takes the information entered into the CAD (location and call type) and notifies the specific stations and units due automatically. It is also being utilized by other agencies on our CAD system (Antioch, Barrington, Lake Zurich, Libertyville and Mundelein), which has helped to improve response times. It is a work in progress. Additional agencies are looking at station alerting as well.

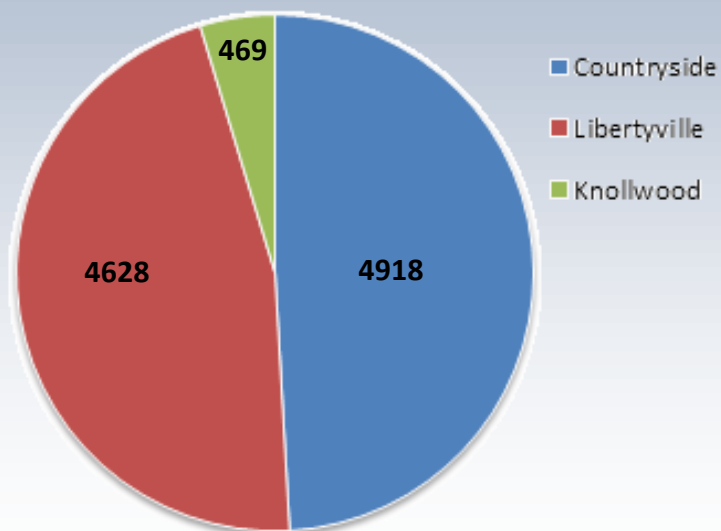
In 2018, Countryside Telecommunicators (TCs) answered **46,412** telephone calls and processed emergency calls in an average of 28 seconds. They dispatched approximately 10,000 calls for service for Countryside, Libertyville and Knollwood. Knollwood Fire also closed its doors at the end of September, and its jurisdiction was divided between Libertyville and Lake Forest.

The 2018 year continued to be a year spent programming and training for a new, updated and state-of-the-art Computer Aided Dispatch software program. This new version will help telecommunicators process calls faster, dispatch emergency vehicles to incidents more accurately and share information with other agencies on calls.

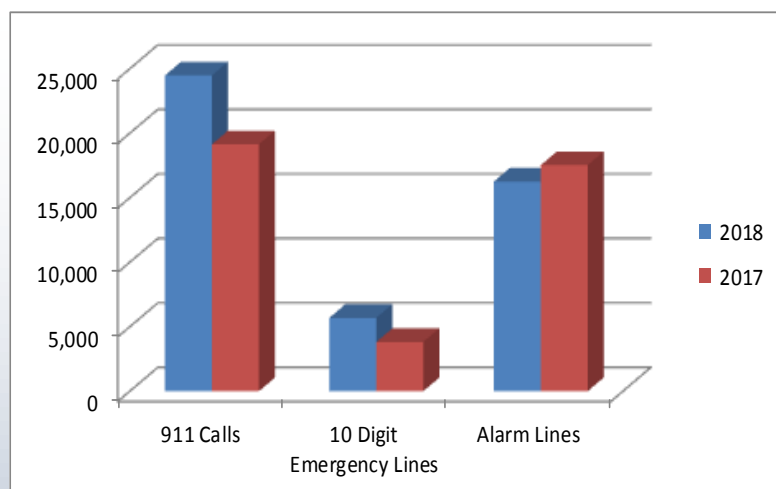


TELECOMMUNICATIONS continued

DISPATCHED NO. OF CALLS FOR EACH AGENCY



NUMBER OF PHONE CALLS



2018
• 911 calls – 24,482
• 10 digit emergency lines – 5,687
• Alarm lines – 16,243
2017
• 911 calls – 19,139
• 10 digit emergency lines – 3,818
• Alarm lines – 17,516

ALARM STATS

- Total Alarm Signals Processed—**1,639,429** (1,221,514 by operator)
- Fire Alarms Processed—**488,660**
- Trouble Alarms Processed—**217,313**



COUNTRYSIDE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

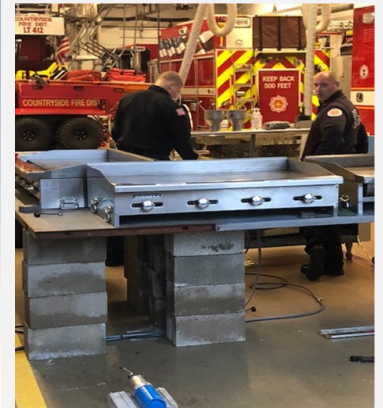
The mission of the Countryside Firefighter's Association (CFFA) is to provide for the welfare of its members, to support the mission of the Countryside Fire Protection District, and to serve the residents of CFPD. 2018 was no less exciting, as many thrilling events and activities occurred. Some of 2018's highlights included the following:

Open House/Pancake Breakfast

Crews worked diligently to shine up the rigs and prepare for what would be another successful pancake breakfast! Pancakes were flying and residents enjoyed climbing on the trucks and getting an inside look at what we do every day.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Not only do we respond on calls for fires, EMS, and other services, we go further than that. The CFFA strives to help out those who are needy and less fortunate. We supported four townships this year (Ela, Vernon, Libertyville, and Fremont) during Thanksgiving. With the help of fundraising throughout the year, these families received full Thanksgiving meals to share with those they love. No one should be without joy during the holiday season.



COUNTRYSIDE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

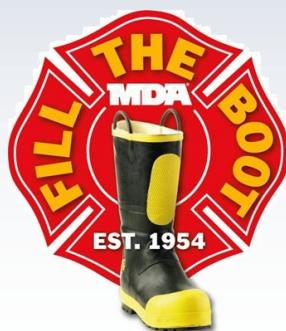
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Adopt-A-Family

During the holiday season, we reached out to those in need. With the assistance of the townships, each member purchased gifts for local families that have fallen on hard times. These were delivered to the specific townships in time for the holidays. The families sent us thank you cards that expressed how appreciative they were!



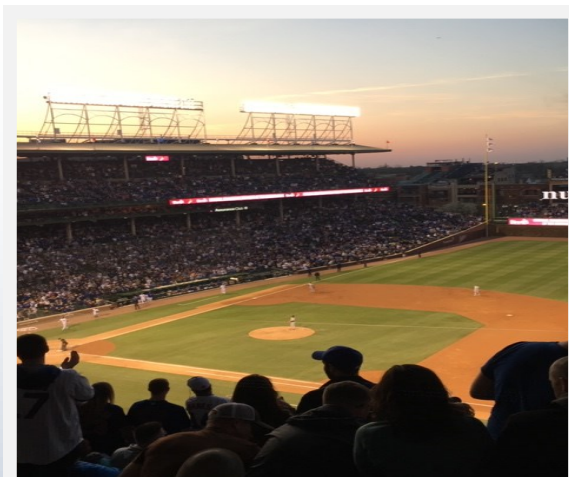
MDA Fill-the-Boot



CFFA members participated in Fill-The-Boot in conjunction with the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Over **\$2500.00** was raised at the intersections of Gilmer/Midlothian, and Lakeview/Rt. 60 this year!

Firefighters have traditionally supported MDA and continue to do so every summer. If you ever see a firefighter on the side of the road participating in Fill-The-Boot, rest assured that the money is going to a great cause!

Cubs Game/First Responders Night



CFFA members let loose and attended a Chicago Cubs game on First Responders night. Proceeds from the ticket prices went towards the 100 Club of Chicago. This organization aids families of Firefighters/Police Officers who have died in the line of duty.

Holiday Party

At the end of the year, all of our families get together to celebrate the holiday. We hosted the event at Dave & Busters and had a fantastic time. Our families are growing faster year after year, and it is always great to spend some time together.





RESPONSE AREA MAP

Square Miles: 24

Population: 36,400

VERNON HILLS

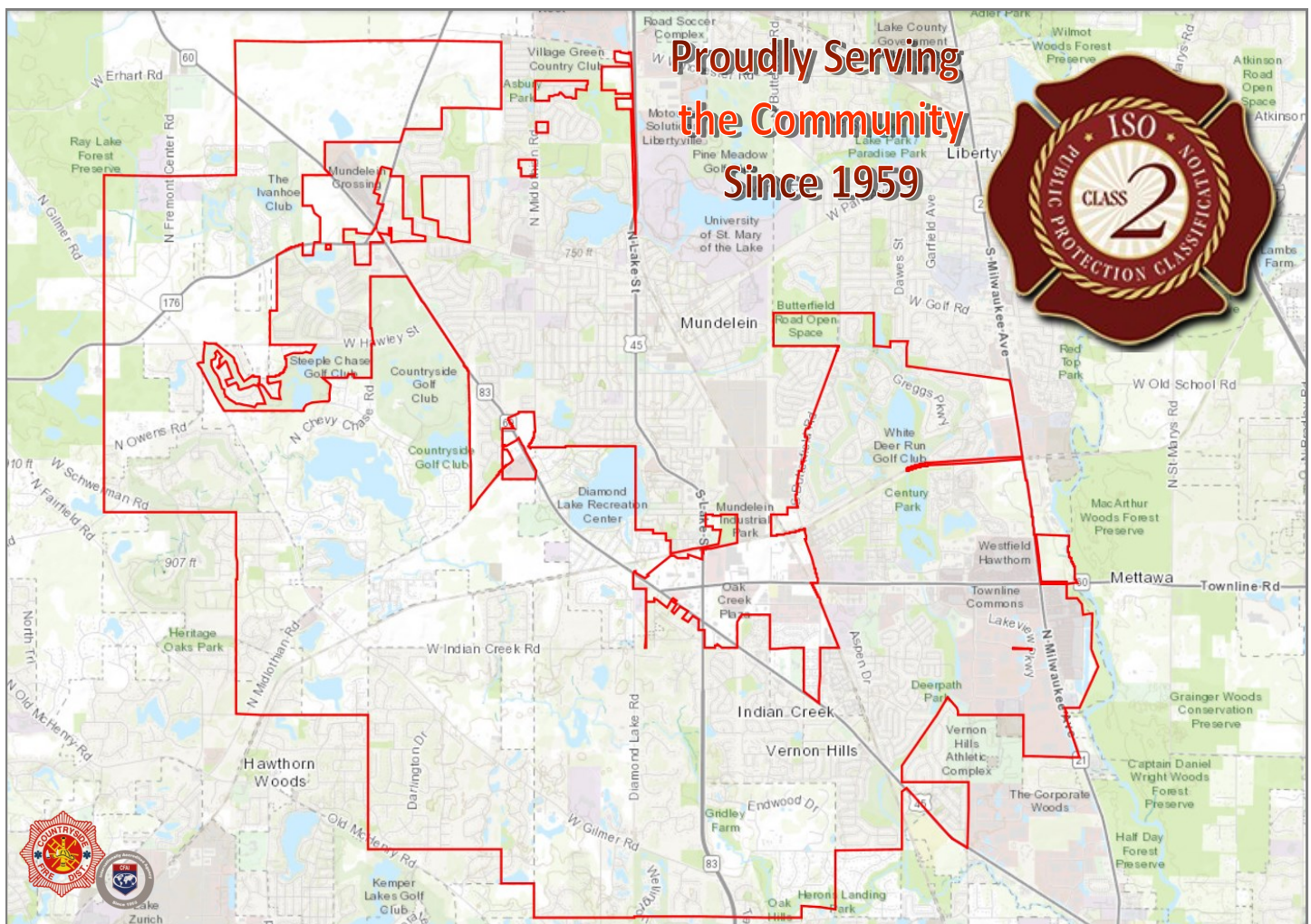
LONG GROVE

HAWTHORN WOODS

KILDEER

INDIAN CREEK

UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LAKE COUNTY





2018



ANNUAL REPORT

Proudly Serving
Vernon Hills, Long Grove,
Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer, Indian Creek &
Unincorporated Areas of Lake County since 1959

