



# *Westmont Fire Department*

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Commission on  
Fire Accreditation  
International

## **FISCAL YEAR 2017 ANNUAL REPORT**



***Insurance Services  
Organization Rating of 1***

# Mission Statement

*The Westmont Fire Department exists to meet the needs created by a wide variety of crisis situations that demand a quick, efficient and professional emergency response. We strive to provide the highest quality service to the citizens within our jurisdiction, while maximizing the productivity and safety of our personnel and reducing costs whenever possible.*

*We will do as much as we can, within the limitations of our resources, to protect lives and property and limit the degree of human suffering when called to emergencies, including:*

- Fires and Explosions*
- Acts of Terrorism*
- Medical Emergencies*
- Vehicle Accident Extrications*
- Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Activations*
- Confined Space, High Angle, and Other Technical Rescues*
- Hazardous Materials Incidents*
- Water Rescues*
- Tactical Emergency Medical Services*

*It is through our prevention, education, and training efforts that we strive to prevent, prepare for, or otherwise limit the extent of any fire or other emergency through:*

- Fire Prevention/Public Education Programs*
- Origin and Cause Investigations*
- CPR, First Aid, and Automated External Defibrillator Training*
- Emergency Management Agency*
- Disaster Planning and Emergency Weather Warning*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Fiscal Year 2017 Key Events and Accomplishments

- The Fire Department received its 4<sup>th</sup> Re-Accreditation award in July in Charlotte, North Carolina. This accomplishment was led by Accreditation Manager Deputy Chief Steve Riley and the men and women of the Westmont Fire Department.
- The Fire Department received its first ISO Class 1 rating from the Insurance Services Organization. This accomplishment was led by Deputy Chief James Connolly.
- The Department took delivery of a new 2017 Ford Utility vehicle for the Deputy Fire Chief.
- A Truck Committee was formed in 2016 to develop specifications for a new ladder truck that was approved by the Village. The Fire Department took delivery of a 2017 Pierce Ladder Truck in April 2017. This vehicle was placed into service in July.
- The Police and Fire Departments moved dispatch centers from Downers Grove to Addison Consolidated Dispatch Center (ACDC) in February 2017.

## Personnel

In the 2017 Fiscal Year, we have had to hire numerous members due to retirements, full-time employment and departments that no longer allow secondary employment of the same type.

## Achievements

- EMS Director Lynn M. Dralle was recognized as the recipient of the 2017 Earl J. Field Leadership Award. The Field Award is given annually to a member of the Good Samaritan EMS system who has exhibited dedication during their career to the promotion of EMS excellence.

## Administrative Goals

- Build Village-wide communications including Public Works and Emergency Management Agency
- Update part-time payroll policies to improve shift coverage and member retention
- Implement new payroll system
- Implement Support Service position
- Succession Plan for Fire Prevention Bureau
- Succession Plan for Emergency Management Agency

## **OPERATIONS**

For the Fiscal Year 2017, total calls reported by the Department were 4128; this represents a 1% decrease in call volume from 2017. Of those calls, 2590 were Emergency Medical Service requests.

Mutual Aid/Mutual Response continued to be a significant benefit to our Village in controlling fire loss. The typical response to a reported structure fire in the Village includes an initial response of 6 Westmont Fire Department vehicles and 4 mutual aid vehicles responding within 4 to 8 minutes. This provides 24-30 personnel responding to the scene, allowing for an aggressive fire attack and rescue operations with sufficient personnel available for safety and incident command. This also played a large part in achieving our ISO Class 1 rating.

Within the Village of Westmont and various fire districts protected by the Westmont Fire Department, the Fire Department was dispatched for 154 requests for service to the three fire districts:

- North Westmont Fire District: 67 EMS Calls and 27 Fire Calls for total of 94 Calls
- South Westmont Fire District: 18 EMS Calls and 8 Fire Calls for total of 26 Calls
- Golfview Hills Fire District: 26 EMS calls and 8 Fire Calls for total of 34 Calls

## **LARGE SCALE INCIDENT- SPEEDWAY GAS STATION**

A significant release of thousands of gallons of gasoline from Speedway was discovered on October 20th. The release migrated into the Flagg Creek sanitary sewer system causing several fires and explosions along the sewer line in Willowbrook. This resulted in one of the largest multi-agency responses to ever occur in DuPage County. Approximately 100 federal, state, and local agencies assisted including ATF, FBI, ILEPA, State Fire Marshal, DuPage OEM, as well as multiple police, fire, public works, emergency management and others. There were more than 250 emergency responders involved in the initial response. While the release was stopped within a few hours after being discovered, emergency responses for residual gasoline in the sewer system and odors in homes and businesses continued for several days.

Speedway and Marathon Oil Company, their parent company, responded quickly, bringing more than 100 employees and contractors to assist in mitigation and recovery. A Unified Command Center was operational at Westmont Fire Department Headquarters for a week. During this time, Speedway assisted with manpower and supplies to help mitigate gasoline vapors, removed residual product and contaminated groundwater, established a claim center for affected businesses and residents, and many other efforts to mitigate the situation.

Amazingly there was only one serious injury to an elderly woman in the Knolls apartment complex. She has been released from the hospital and is recovering. Effective planning, training and exercising by

first responders and Speedway helped to minimize the potential risk to people, property and the environment.

## **WESTMONT FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Below, please find a summary of activities and accomplishments for the 2017 calendar year along with on-going projects and objectives moving forward into 2018.

- The FD acquired ISO rating 1. The FPB was involved in this team effort to obtain such an excellent rating. Documentation and additional record keeping protocols have been implemented to ensure that FPB helps the Westmont FD maintain the ISO 1 rating.
- The FD acquired its Accreditation. As with the ISO 1 rating, FPB provided administrative support in achieving the accreditation. As with ISO 1, record keeping and protocols are being maintained to help with future Accreditations.
- Noted In February, 2017;
  - Westmont Dispatch center was changed from Downers Grove to ACDC. As a result of this changeover, a significantly greater number of 'trouble" fire alarms have been discovered, or at least acknowledged. As a result, the FPB has needed to dedicate significant effort to resolving open trouble alarms. The additional efforts required to follow-up on these alarms caused a significant decrease in the number of annual fire inspections conducted.
  - Update for 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2017; FPB worked with AC/DC and NORCOMM to ensure that the Portal was current in respect to fire alarm system responsible parties. As a result, the number of trouble alarms has diminished compared to the first half of 2017 but the matter still has been a drain of FPB staff functions
- After getting the 2012 I-codes adopted in 2015, 2017 represented the second full year that residential sprinklers are required on all new single-family construction. As of December 31, 2017, 22 homes are protected by automatic sprinkler systems, with an additional 19 homes that have submitted plans to sprinkle. It is estimated that by the end of 2018, over 60 homes will be protected by automatic sprinkler systems.
- Noted in 2017 bi-annual report;
- The existing ordinance which requires certain occupancies to install NFPA 13 sprinkler systems retroactively has been triggered by a number of unsprinkled properties. 5 properties have triggered the ordinance and will now be protected by automatic sprinkler systems which they were not in the past. To present, at least 12 properties have now retroactively installed sprinkler systems.

- 3 members of the FD attend Child Safety Seat Technician certification at the end of 2017. This is an excellent add-on service the FD and FPB can offer the community. In 2017 10 seats were installed. This number only represents offering this service during the last quarter of 2017. With the additional CSS Techs and making the community aware of this service it is anticipated that 4-6 seats a month will be checked or installed.
- The FPB actively sought to retake control of elevator certification within the Village. This is a result of poor assistance from the State which was administering the program for the Village. Benefits of taking control of this program include easier processing for end-users and hopefully cost savings.
- Inspector Bresnahan has announced his retirement from the Westmont FPB effective January 31, 2018. With the assistance of Deputy Chief Riley and the Human Resources Department, a fire inspector/pub ed specialist was sought. 20 applications were received with 3 interviewees. A final selection was made with an anticipated start sate of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January.
- The FPB has always been actively involved in the plan review and new construction process within the Village, 2017 proved to be a very busy in terms of new construction. The FPB conducted 259 plan reviews 2017. Of equal importance is construction inspections conducted by the FPB to ensure that new buildings are compliant and safe. In 2017, the FPB conducted 316 construction inspections.
- Fees collected to offset FPB expenses. Although not intended to produce a profit, the FPB charges fees for inspections and plan reviews in an effort to offset some of the department expenses. For 2017, the FPB invoiced \$42,250 in plan review and inspection fees.

## **Westmont FPB Highlights 2017**

### **Inspections**

- Conducted 523 annual fire inspections. *This number is significantly lower than previous years as a result of the added time being spent investigating trouble alarms.*
- Conducted 194 re-inspections
- Conducted 316 construction inspections

### **Plan Reviews**

- Conducted 259 plan reviews

### **Alarm Investigations**

- Over 400 alarm investigations conducted

## **Westmont Public Education**

Keeping aligned with the Westmont Fire Department's mission statement, public education and community involvement remain a primary objective for the Fire Prevention Bureau. As in previous years, the Fire Department conducts and takes part in various educational and community events in order to promote a fire safety messages to a multitude of groups and age demographics.

On-going educational opportunities are always available to the community upon request;

- Fire extinguisher trainings - 3 conducted in 2017
- Station tours by students and outside groups - 4+ conducted in 2017
- Safety presentations to businesses - 2 conducted in 2017

Spreading a safety message can be accomplished in other formats than simply classroom type settings;

Community events;

- Kid's safety camps in June and August.
  - Over 30 participants each in conjunction with Westmont Police Department
- Cruisin' Nights
  - The FPB attempts to have a presence at each one of these events by either having "Sparky" present, or the "bouncy" house open. On some nights, a fire safety table is also made available.
- Open House
  - This continues to be a popular community event

## **FPB and Education Division Objectives, 2018**

- Convince the Village to start administering its own elevator program. Approximately 4 years ago, the Village decided to allow the OSFM to administer conveyance certification within the Village. This has proven to be unsatisfactory in respect to timely certification of conveyances.
- Conduct a child safety seat distribution event.
- Continue to educate inspector staff to ensure consistency when conducting inspections.
- Pursue hiring an additional inspector to assist with the increased work load.
- Continue to pursue the annual inspection of all commercial properties within the jurisdiction.
- Continue existing public education events and classes and attempt to come up with new information or classes.
- Attempt to streamline the procedures dealing with trouble alarms and dealing with these types of alarms.

## **EMS DIVISION**

EMS Director Lt. Lynn M. Dralle coordinates Emergency Medical Services. Emergency medical calls decreased for the Westmont Fire Department. In 2017, we responded to a total of 2590 emergency medical calls.

Westmont paramedics treated 1169 patients with Advanced Life Support procedures and 890 patients were treated with Basic Life Support. The total number of transports was 2059 which is an 18% increase over last year's transports. We administered care and transported 1405 Westmont residents in 2017.

Westmont Fire Department paramedics responded Mutual Aid to surrounding communities 123 times in 2017 and had to receive Mutual Aid into Westmont 10 times from surrounding communities for additional aid for our own EMS calls.

249 people received CPR training from classes given this year, and 137 people took the First Aid Class and were certified.

### **Events 2017**

January 19, 2017 - Aspire Living of Westmont hosted a breakfast for the on-duty crew and staff as a meet and greet. The management team wanted to talk to the fire department about the facility before opening. Questions were answered about who their residents will be and the Memory Care Center. Tours were arranged with fire personal before residents moved in.

May 23, 2017 - A Senior safety lecture for residents at I-CARE located at 501 North Cass Avenue in Westmont was presented to approximately 40 Chinese residents. An interpreter was present to make sure every resident could understand what was being presented. The lecture included fire and fall prevention for the home.

May 22-26, 2017 - Emergency Medical Services Week is celebrated. BBQ's at each Hospital are hosted for the EMT's and Paramedics.

May 25, 2017 - EMS Director Dralle was recognized as the recipient of the 2017 Earl J. Field Leadership Award. The Field Award is given annually to a member of the Good Samaritan EMS System who has exhibited dedication during their career to the promotion of EMS excellence.

May 26-28, 2017 - Westmont EMS was present for the Red, White, and BBQ festivities. Both EMS tent and Bike medics were present throughout the event.



June 1, 2017 - Bike medics are utilized every Thursday night starting the first Cruisin Nights through the end of August.

July 4, 2017 - Westmont EMS was present for the Fourth of July festivities at Ty Warner Park. Both EMS cart and Bike medics were present this day.

July 13-16, 2017 - Taste of Westmont, Westmont Fire was represented at the fest with an EMS tent, EMS cart, and the Bike medics.

August 17, 2017 - Cordia Senior Residence hosted a BBQ for fire department members thanking them for their service. Members of the department joined residents at Cordia for a sit down BBQ lunch.

September 19, 2017 - The Fire Department was present to observe a disaster drill at Burgess Square Nursing Home. After the drill, a presentation was given to staff members on how to move patients safely out of rooms as well as up and down stairwells. This drill is done by nursing homes to be compliant with the Illinois Department of Public Health regulations.

September 23, 2017 - Westmont hosted the fourth annual Senior Car Care Clinic. Along with surrounding communities represented by the Downers Grove Township SALT Committee, a total of 52 cars were inspected for safety concerns for local senior citizens at no charge.

October and November 2017 - The Westmont Fire Department along with the Westmont Police Department throughout the month participated and oversaw Armed Intruder Drills and Lockdown Drills at all our schools.

December 7, 2017 - A Life Saving Award was presented to the following Fire Department crew members:

- Lt. Tom Bills
- Ryan Ferry
- Marco Montaini
- John Moll
- Martin Dwar

In addition, Citizen Citations were awarded to Kevin Siewak from the Park District and Austin Gorman, a student nurse. Detective Schneider and Officer Broda also were presented with Life Saving Awards from Police Chief Gunther.

The awards were presented to these individuals for their life saving efforts on May 12, 2017, when a 49 year old male patient collapsed in cardiac arrest on the basketball court at the Park District.



Westmont Fire Department's First All Women Engine Company 1831 assigned on Thursday, November 2, 2017.

(L to R) Firemedic Kim Ayers, Firemedic Stephanie Grimm, Firefighter Shannon Sullivan, and Lieutenant Lynn Dralle

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (EMA)**

The Westmont Emergency Management Agency provides its services to the Village with a staff that includes a Director, two Deputy Coordinators, a Captain, three Lieutenants, and 32 additional volunteer members. In total, EMA volunteers provided over 1908 hours of service to the Village in 2017 which is an increase of 58 hours from 2016.

EMA responded to several types of emergencies in 2016/2017, assisting the Fire and Police Departments with such tasks as traffic and crowd control, emergency lighting, wire watches, manpower assistance and emergency planning. EMA also responded mutual aid to Itasca this year due to a major storm that tore through Itasca causing major power outages and flooding emergencies.

Emergency Management continues to assist at Village functions such as: Village-wide emergency preparedness plans and exercises; Independence Day celebration; Taste of Westmont; Cruisin' Nights; Trick or Treat Trail; Holly Days events; Village, Park District and High School parades; 5-K runs/walks; and other events as requested by Village agencies.

Members have provided information and presentations on preparing for and responding to community-wide emergencies, including severe weather, other natural disasters, and terrorism. As a part of this responsibility, EMA oversees our siren alerting system.

All EMA members attend mandatory Village training sessions and the Citizens Police and Fire Academy Alumni groups to provide volunteer training classes. In addition, many members have completed specialized training courses, including first aid and CPR refreshers, severe weather spotting, homeland security, emergency response team preparation, technical rescue awareness, NIMS (National Incident Management System). Without required NIMS training, federal funding for emergency preparedness is not available.

Emergency Management maintains and is responsible for a satellite computer system for early warnings from County, State and Federal governments, for all major emergencies including terrorism, homeland security and the Amber Alert program. EMA also maintains the Village-owned Amateur Radio repeater, which provides back-up communications capabilities for Westmont.

Westmont participates in an Emergency Management Mutual Aid agreement with DuPage County and the Director or Deputy Coordinator attends quarterly meetings of local EMA Directors / Coordinators hosted by the DuPage Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. We also participate in monthly meetings and training sessions of EMCAD (Emergency Management Coordinators' Association of DuPage) and quarterly meetings of DuPage County emergency managers.

## **WESTMONT ORIGIN & CAUSE TEAM**

The mission of the Westmont Fire Department's Origin & Cause Team is to insure that the Origin and Cause determinations of fires in the Village of Westmont and other agencies are done in an efficient and timely manner.

The Origin & Cause Team shall investigate these types of incidents:

- Explosions.
- All structure fires.
- Significant loss fires involving vehicles, RV's, mobile property.
- Fires where an injury or death occurred.
- Fires which appear to be unusual or suspicious in origin.
- Situations which potentially represent high risk behavior. (Incendiary acts which threaten people or property.)

In order to remain an active member of the WFD Origin & Cause Team, an individual must meet the following requirements:

- Must attend 50% of the monthly MABAS 10 Team Meetings.
- Must attend 50% of the Westmont Specialty Teams training drills.
- Every member must meet all State of Illinois and Division 10 training requirements.

The WFD Origin & Cause Team is comprised of 6 active members. All members of the team are also members of the MABAS Division 10 Origin & Cause Team.

- Duty Chief James Fitzgerald - Team Coordinator - Technician
- Deputy Chief Steve Riley - Technician
- Deputy Chief Jim Connolly - Technician
- Duty Chief Carl Lite - Technician
- Lieutenant Darren Boyce - Technician
- Firefighter/Paramedic Darrell Parrish - Technician

The WFD Origin & Cause Team maintains basic investigation tools and equipment that are kept on three vehicles in the WFD fleet. Some of the tools and equipment include cameras, electronic and manual measuring devices, digging and cutting hand tools, and decontamination equipment.

The WFD Origin & Cause Team investigated nine structure fires in 2017 and also assisted MABAS 10 team 8 other times. 7 of Westmont's fires were in residential structures and two were in commercial structures.

17-517 on 2/20/17, Residential structure fire at 52 West 60<sup>th</sup>, Apt. 206, and the area of origin was inside along the east wall in the living room near a baseboard heater and the cause was undetermined.

17-1246 on 04/23/17, Residential structure fire at 6708 Tudor Lane Apt.3 in Westmont. The area of origin was on the balcony and the cause was from careless use of smoking materials. The estimated fire loss is \$2,000.

17-1266 on 04/25/17, Commercial structure fire at 827 North Blackhawk in Westmont. The alarm came in as an automatic fire alarm. The area of origin was in a bailer and the cause was accidental from poor maintenance/careless use of electrical equipment. The property and contents damaged by fire had a pre-fire value of \$1,100,000 with fire loss estimated at \$100,000.

17-1268 on 04/25/17, Residential structure fire at 59 West 64<sup>th</sup> St. Apt 104 in Westmont. The area of origin was in the living room. This fire was handled by mutual aid fire companies as all of the Westmont companies were tied up on the call above in this report. The property loss and contents was \$50,000.

17-1612 on 05/27/2017, Residential structure fire at 110 East Richmond in Westmont. The fire caught the garage and house of fire. The area of origin was on the south side of the garage and was caused due to careless use of smoking materials. The estimated fire loss was \$25,000.

17-1868 on 06/03/2017, Residential structure fire at 130 North Roslyn Rd in Westmont. This fire caught the garage on fire and communicated to a neighbor garage. This fire was caused by an electrical failure from the pole to the house. The estimated loss for both of these garage fires was \$25,000.

## **TRAINING DIVISION**

Training/ Safety Division is led Lt. Kevin O'Hare with the assistance of Lt. Kevin Hencinski. The Westmont Fire Department considers training an important part of its daily activities. With the implementation of Target Solutions we were able to record nearly 29,500 hours of; crew, EMS, and officer development training, averaging approximately 315 hours of training per firefighter. In addition to our monthly crew training Westmont firefighters obtained 18 new certifications from the Office of the State Fire Marshal and attended over 55 emergency response classes. All of this training helps to prepare them for the wide array of emergencies they will respond to and grow into future leaders and officers.

Below are some of the training highlights from 2017:

- The launching of Target Solutions. TS is a web based training platform that allows us to; develop, deliver and record our training in a more comprehensive and efficient way. TS is also set up to record and match training objectives in line with OSFM, NFPA, IFSI, ISO and OSHA/IDOL.

- 11 new hires went through an eight week training orientation. The eight weeks of training covered topics from Village/Department policies to a wide variety of hands on skills. The training concluded with a written test and live fire training and the Darien-Woodridge burn tower.
- Hosted OSFM certified Fire Apparatus Engineer class, 13 of our members received state certifications
- All members trained to drive/operate our new 2017 Pierce ladder truck. Members attended a 4 hour manufacture presentation, hands on training with aerial ladder set up and operations, and extensive drivers training.
- Live Fire training at 412 N. Warwick. Meaningful training and teambuilding was achieved for 40 members both on and off duty attending an 8-hour live fire training. Crews worked all month to prepare a safe and beneficial training for the membership.

## **QUARTERMASTER**

The Quartermaster program continues to find ways of improving and providing our members with needed station wear and fire gear in a timely manner. This year we were able to replace many sets of older gear for our members in need and replaced 14 new sets of gear to stay within the compliance standard. Our main goal this year was to be able to have a tracking system in place on issued items and we have worked with our current vendor that has assisted in our current program tracking needs. Members use our online ordering system for needed uniform items which tracks all items for us.

