



2016 • MODESTO FIRE DEPARTMENT • *Annual Report*

YOUR MFD...

Our Mission

Proudly serving, protecting and partnering with our community for a safer Modesto.

Units

Engine Companies	9
Truck Companies	2
Brush Rigs	1
Grass Rigs	2
HazMat Units	1
Heavy Rescue Units	1

Personnel

Sworn	140
Minimum Daily Staffing	36
Non-Sworn/Civilian	12

Incidents

Fires	1,400
EMS	16,298
Vehicle Accidents	1,119
Rescues	39
HazMat	443
Public Service	6,495
TOTAL	25,794



"On December 13 you were dispatched to my home to attend to my husband who was suffering a heart attack. Although the outcome was sad, I appreciate so much that you came quickly and tried so hard and for so long to save him. Words cannot express how thankful I am to you and your dedicated service."

Our Motto: *We Care*

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Modesto Fire Departments 2016 Annual Report. We take tremendous pride in providing high quality services to our community and 2016 was no exception.

Some of our highlights for 2016 include: Our partnership with Modesto City Schools and AMR continued as we provided free CPR classes to over 2000 junior high school students in Modesto. Our Public Education Team taught fire and life safety lessons to over 5,000 Elementary students. We also partnered with American Red Cross to install smoke alarms to our "at risk" populations.

In addition to our public education involvement we were very successful in our efforts to improve emergency service. We were awarded a FEMA grant that funds nine new firefighters and will help us restore Engine 11 which had been eliminated several years ago due to budget reductions. With our city councils unanimous support we also took great strides in replacing our aging fire engines, with the lease of five new fire engines and two new ladder trucks.

These are just a few of the highlights that are contained in this report. I am extremely proud of our firefighters and the services they provide to our citizens. Our motto is "We Care" and our firefighters deliver on that every single day!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Slamon".

Sean Slamon
Fire Chief

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PROTECTING YOU... operations/suppression

The Operations Division is responsible for providing an "all-risk" emergency response to the citizens we serve. Calls for service included a wide spectrum of medical aids, technical rescues, public assists, hazardous materials, structure fires, vehicle accidents, and many other call types. 2016 proved to be the busiest year on record for the Modesto Fire Department for calls of service.



In addition to responding to emergencies, crews completed hundreds of hours of training, numerous community presentations, station tours, public education presentations, and a tremendous amount of community service.

The department is proud of the 8 firefighter paramedics who completed their probation in 2016. An additional 13 firefighters were hired to fill current vacancies and grant funded positions to reinstate Engine 11. Engine 11 was eliminated due to budget cuts during the economic downturn and will be a great addition back to our operational platform.

In the fall we were able to bring on a full-time dedicated Emergency Medical Services Coordinator. This position had been vacant for approximately 4 years and the responsibilities had fallen on a special assignment

Engineer. The hiring of this position enables greater administrative oversight related to the emergency medical services the department provides including certifications, treatment protocols, skill sets, appropriate protective gear and medical examinations of our personnel.

Through a strong partnership with Modesto City Schools and American Medical Response, crews trained more than 2,000 junior high school students in the city in "hands only CPR". The program will be expanding in the future through a collaborative effort with the Stanislaus Office of Education to include all middle and junior high schools in our County, giving thousands of young people in our community the ability to save a life!



The Modesto Fire Department was honored to assist numerous communities throughout the state during the wildland fires of 2016. Modesto Fire crews responded to 12 different fires through the State Wide Mutual Aid System, where they provided fire suppression and filled leadership positions. The department was reimbursed for all expenses associated with the deployments and members gained a tremendous amount of experience.



Every member of MFD is required to achieve 240 hours of training annually; this equates to 4 hours of training each 48 hour shift. Training varies and encompasses all aspects of the firefighting profession from fire suppression to water and technical rescues to EMS skills to HIPPA refreshers. In 2016 during a water rescue training with Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District, crews rescued a drowning calf and were able to return it to a grateful rancher.

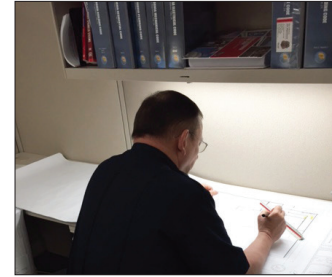


The priorities each day are as follows: 1) emergency response; 2) training and operational readiness; 3) public education and outreach. The average volume for 24 hours can range from 70 to 100 calls for service. Sometimes we even rescue animals - and thanks to a generous donation from Monte Vista Small Animal Hospital all of our engines and trucks are equipped with pet oxygen masks.

PREVENTION/EDUCATION... fire & life safety

The MFD Fire Prevention Division strives to improve the lives of Modesto residents by preventing fires and reducing the impact in the event a fire does occur. How do we typically accomplish this?

- Inspections
- Permits
- New Development Plan Review
- Public Education
- Fire & Life Safety Training
- Responding to complaints regarding fire and life safety code violations.



Performance Measures:

Goal: 100% of plan checks completed within 2 weeks of submittal.

2016 Performance: 100% of plans were reviewed within 2 weeks of submittal. We attribute this success to having a fully-staffed Fire Prevention Division for the first time in several years.

Activity:

Annual Inspections: 440

Construction Inspections: 657

Other Inspections: 303

Plan Checks: 557

Special Events/Public Education: 1,489

Public Education: The Fire Prevention Division engages the public many times throughout the year during special events, safety fairs and school programs. Many such contacts took place during 2016, here is just a sampling of the ways we were able to share important fire and life safety information and answer questions: Stanislaus County Occupational Olympics, Earth Day, Modesto Family Cycling Festival, Modesto Comic Con, Career Day at Davis High and Safe Kids Stanislaus.

One of the best ways we reach many children in Modesto is through our Public Education Program which coincides each year with Fire Prevention Week in October. This educational characterization program featured 20 shows over two weeks reaching 6,200 students! This program is popular due to the upbeat, funny and music-filled experience in which students (teachers get involved too!) learn through interaction about fire and life safety.

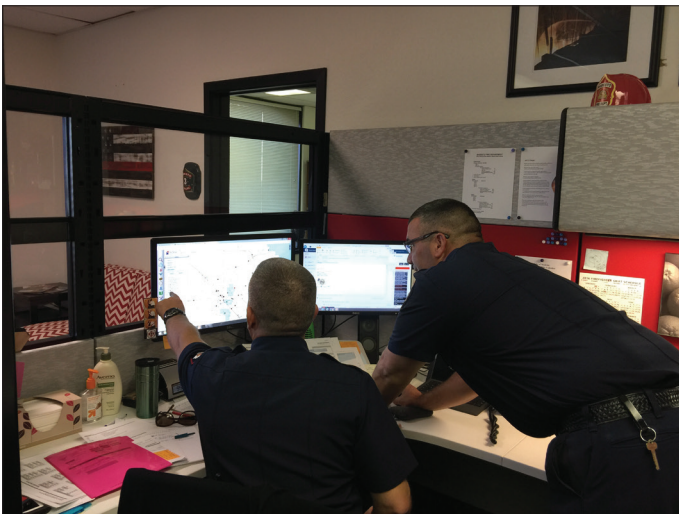


New Smoke Alarm Program: In late 2016 MFD teamed up with the American Red Cross to provide and install smoke alarms in one and two-family dwellings. This program is intended to target the "at risk" population in Modesto – the elderly and persons of a low socioeconomic status. To kick-off the program, Engines 5 and 9 and Fire Marshal Mike Payton installed smoke alarms at a mobile home park alongside American Red Cross members. This program will continue through 2017 with the American Red Cross providing the smoke alarms and MFD installing them.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION... administration/support

The Office of the Fire Chief supports the overall mission of the MFD by working behind-the-scenes to accomplish the administrative and logistical needs of the organization. Accomplishments in 2016 included:

- **Technology Advances:** As technological capabilities improve, more and more applications become available to help improve the services the fire department is able to provide. MFD always makes efforts to keep up with advances in technology within the constraints of our budget. This past year we were able to equip each of our apparatus with the equipment needed to make them Wi-Fi hotspots. These are private hot spots that enable some of our life-saving equipment to connect and transmit information to hospitals and records management systems. They also enable the crews to employ iPads that help them develop complete situational awareness on larger fires where our partner agencies respond – tracking resources and deploying coverage to the rest of the system in the event of a large incident.
- **SAFER Grant:** The department applied for and was awarded a 2016 FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. This grant enabled us to hire 9 firefighters and reinstating Engine 11 which was closed in July of 2011 due to budget reductions. The staffing of Engine 11 will bring back fire suppression capabilities (water on the engine and ability to pump water from hydrants) to North Modesto, which is currently served by a “dry” (meaning no water capabilities) truck company.
- **New Apparatus Purchased:** At the end of 2016, an order was placed for five engines and two ladder trucks. During the recession, fire apparatus purchases were placed on hold – this has caused an increase in our maintenance costs and the fact that we are operating apparatus up to 27 years old on the front line. When the apparatus arrive in 2018 it will provide much needed replacement of the oldest apparatus in our fleet. It is important to give credit to the City Fleet Division as they have provided an incredible level of support and service to the MFD. The maintenance and repair that they perform is a big reason why we have been able to operate with 27 year old engines on the front line.





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