

Monmouth Fire Department

March Monthly Report

April 17th, 2017
City Council Meeting



Emergency Responses:

The Monmouth Fire Department utilizes fire reporting software approved by the United States Fire Administration and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. This software records fire department responses in over 90 categories to track fire department emergency response statistics. This information is used by the department to support decision-making for fire response planning. Tracking response data with approved software is also required for fire departments receiving Federal and State grant dollars.

The chart on the following page includes a brief summary for each of the nine main categories of incident types and the number of calls that were responded to in each category.

Responses	Monthly	YTD
<u>Fires</u>	06	08
Includes structure fires, fire in mobile property used as a fixed structure (mobile homes and campers), vehicle fires, vegetation fires, rubbish fires, and field fires. There may also be other types of fires that do not necessarily meet the definition of one of the subcategories in this category.		
<u>Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (without ensuing fire)</u>	00	03
Includes overpressure rupture of a steam pipe or pipeline, overpressure or rupture from air or gas pipe or pipeline, overpressure rupture from chemical reaction, explosion without resulting in fire, and overheat or scorching with no ignition.		
<u>Rescue and Emergency Medical Services</u>	59	189
Includes medical assists (majority of MFD calls in this category), vehicle accidents with injuries, vehicle/pedestrian accidents, lock-in (gaining access to a vehicle or other area where a patient is locked inside), search for a lost person, extrication (victims trapped in vehicle, elevator, trench, confined space, machinery), water and ice rescue, and electrocutions.		
<u>Hazardous Conditions (no fire)</u>	07	23
Includes combustible/flammable spills and leaks, chemical releases or toxic conditions, carbon monoxide incidents, power line down, electrical equipment problems, vehicle accidents with no injuries, incidents involving explosives and attempted arson.		
<u>Service Calls</u>	16	29
Includes people in distress (locked out of vehicle), water in basements or leaky hydrant, smoke or odor removal, animal rescue, provide police with assistance, smoke detector checks, and unauthorized burning.		
<u>Good Intent Calls</u>	10	20
Incidents where the fire department was dispatched and then cancelled while en-route to the call. Also includes calls where no emergency was found upon arrival. Incidents where steam was mistaken for smoke or smoke from a barbecue or other controlled fire was mistaken for an uncontrolled fire. Includes emergency medical calls when the patient had been transported prior to the arrival of emergency responders.		
<u>False Alarms and False Calls</u>	11	31
Includes false alarms that were malicious or mischievous in nature, bomb scares, alarm activation due to the system malfunctioning, and the accidental activation of the alarm system (example -burnt food).		
<u>Severe Weather and Natural Disaster</u>	00	00
Includes responses to severe weather and natural disasters to stand by, investigate, or to assess the damage to determine if any additional assistance is needed.		
<u>Other Type Incidents</u>	00	01
Includes citizen complaints concerning code or ordinance violations and any other incidents that may not fit any of the above categories.		
Total	109	304

The fire department had two houses catch on fire in March on the same day. On March 17th MFD was called to the first fire at 6:46 PM and found fire showing from a window on the back of the house. The fire was knocked down quickly by firefighters and one minor injury was reported by a firefighter while checking the basement for any fire extension. That firefighter was off work for a couple of days and is back to work.

The second fire that occurred on the same day was called in at 10:02 PM. When the firefighters arrived they found one side of the house on fire and fire extending into the inside of the house. The firefighters knocked down the majority of the fire quickly but spent quite a while making sure that all of the fire was extinguished on the inside of the house. Unfortunately, the firefighters had to return at 3:41 the next morning because the fire had rekindled and had to be put out again. Upon investigating, the firefighters found that there were some leftover embers in one of the air ducts that had not been fully extinguished during the first fire which likely was the cause of the rekindle. No injuries were reported at the fire but the family was displaced by the incident.

Staff Training:

During the month of March, the MFD staff trained on the subjects of Hazardous Materials Operations (Haz-Mat Ops) and Fire Service Vehicle Operator (FSVO). All of the firefighters at MFD are certified through the Office of the State Fire Marshall in both of the subjects.

Haz-Mat Ops involves responding to any incident where a substance has been spilled or leaked and has the potential to cause harm to humans, animals, or the environment. These types of incidents sometimes occur when a semi-truck or a rail car has been involved in an accident and the cargo is leaking but the incidents can be as small as gasoline leak or carbon monoxide leak.

FSVO training covers common driving hazards, vehicle maintenance and inspections, and driver's training. Since all of the firefighters at MFD may be required to drive the fire trucks, all of the firefighters are required to go through the training.

All of the MFD Staff also participated in a tour of the Wells Pet Food Plant to become more familiar with any recent changes that have occurred in the facility and also to become familiar with the layout of the building in case of any incidents.

Non-Emergency Activities:

Several of the firefighters participated in the Merit Badge University held at Monmouth College to teach first aid to Boy Scouts who are working to earn merit badges. The firefighters also provided a station tour for several of the scouts working towards a fire safety badge.

MFD Staff went to the Lutheran Church to teach kids about fire safety and talk to them about what to do in an emergency and also hosted a tour for a group of Tiger Scouts who visited the station.

Firefighters burned off some of the overgrowth around Citizen's Lake.

Apparatus and Equipment Related Items:

An apparatus committee has been formed at the fire department composed of five of the firefighters and Chief Rexroat. The purpose of the committee is to research the different options for trucks for the fire department and how they can be financed. Members of the apparatus committee are in the process of looking to see what types of trucks other fire departments are using and what options work best. The committee is also looking into financing options such as grants, loans, and leasing options. The fire department has still not been notified concerning the approval/denial of funding with the Assistance to Firefighters grant that was applied for last fall. The approval/denial letters should be sent out soon. Hopefully the fire department will be awarded a grant for the funding but if not, the apparatus committee can use the research that is being done for future apparatus purchases.

Other:

The fire department has begun using a service called "I Am Responding" to aid in the callback procedures at the department. The purpose of the service is to provide a better way to notify off duty personnel of the need to respond to an incident. In the past, the dispatch center notifies off duty personnel of a callback by paging them on their pagers and texting their phones. The "I Am Responding" works to allow firefighters to respond to a callback through an app that is downloaded to their phones to let everyone know who is able to respond and who is not. By using this service, everyone on the fire department and the dispatch center are able to tell who is on their way back to the station and is able to help at an incident and who is not available. This service will come in handy for incident commanders when they are determining when mutual aid is needed and how fast they will be able to leave the City when they are requested for mutual aid.

The fire department is partnering with the Red Cross to install free smoke detectors in Monmouth. Several years ago the Red Cross started a Home Fire Coalition in an attempt to cut down on the number of home fire injuries and deaths by offering free smoke detectors to the public. In order to reach as many people as possible, the Red Cross has partnered with local fire departments to help install the free alarms. The Red Cross will be taking most of the requests for the alarms and forwarding the information to the fire department who will call the resident to set up an appointment to install the detectors. The fire department has approval from the Red Cross to replace any smoke detector that is five years old or older or is inoperable. For any smoke alarms that are under five years old, the fire department will check the batteries and replace them if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,
Casey Rexroat, Fire Chief