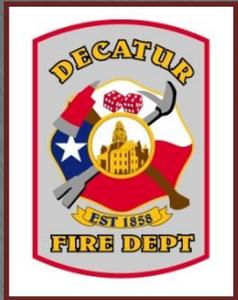




2015
Annual Report

2015 Annual Report



Chief's Message

I'm proud to present the Annual Report of the Decatur Fire Department for 2015.

This past year has had its challenges, but with the high caliber of employees and volunteers in our organization, we have continued to succeed and exceed expectations in delivering quality emergency services to those who live, work, and visit in the City of Decatur.

Our members do excellent work in emergency services delivery operations, but I'm even more proud of the prevention and public education efforts they put forth to curtail emergencies before they happen. Prevention efforts are often the least visible and least measurable of our services, yet our members realize the importance of these programs and continue to step forward to make them successful.

As we look forward to potential growth in our community, our efforts will pay dividends in keeping us well-prepared to meet the needs of our customers. We will continue to strive to accomplish our mission daily and live up to our mission...



"To Help People"

DFD MISSION

“To Help People”

The Mission of the Decatur Fire Department is simple. By holding to such a simple mission statement, we refuse to limit ourselves in our service to our customers and we express our desire to seek solutions to whatever problems we are called upon to address.

DFD VISION

The Decatur Fire Department strives to provide emergency fire and rescue services that meet and exceed regional, state and national standards. We envision our organization as one which solves emergency problems in our community without fail and with a palpable commitment to making Decatur a safe and secure place to live, work, and visit.

DFD VALUES

The values that make the Decatur Fire Department a unique and successful organization include:

- Quick and Skillful Service
- Considerate, Caring and Professional Attitudes
- Resourceful Performance
- Family
- Commitment to Community
- Courteous and Respectful Treatment Internally and Externally
- Committed to Safety, Health and Fitness
- Lifetime Membership
- A Pleasant and Fun Atmosphere



FIRE DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE



The Decatur Fire Department is divided into three functions, or divisions.

Fire Administration

Fire Administration ensures the effective operation of the fire department. This function is managed by the Fire Chief, the Deputy Fire Chief, and the Administrative Assistant.

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention is tasked with developing methods to reduce fire experiences in the community. This function is managed by the Deputy Fire Chief.

Fire Operations

Fire Operations provides for the physical and technical deployment of personnel and equipment to mitigate emergencies in the response area. This function is managed by the Fire Chief and Fire Captains.

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

- Responsibilities of the division include: Leadership, Planning, Budget Management and Development, Financial Management of the Department, Personnel and Payroll, Grant Administration, Acquisition, Recruiting and Motivation, and Customer Service.
- Responsibilities are achieved through Fire Chief Mike Richardson, Deputy Chief Deroy Bennett, Administrative Assistant Sherry Wilson, and six volunteer assistants.
- Mostly rely on Volunteer Firefighters....in effect providing the equivalent of two paid personnel per shift, a total of six on an annual basis, This can be further calculated as to provide the City of Decatur with an additional \$336,000.00 of value per year.
- Focus on maintaining and developing our volunteer corps for continued service. On an annual basis, we lose approximately 10 volunteer firefighters. Fortunately, we have a program to replace those firefighters on a regular basis.
- Expand the program slightly in the coming year and strive to maintain a roster of 36 operational volunteers.
- Better our overall response times on an annual basis.
- Priorities for the future include increasing our staffing, both career and volunteer so as to provide 24 hour capability to respond to overlapping incidents; to develop a plan to implement a Fire Training facility in our city. This will allow us to conduct needed training without excessive travel; and to begin assessment and planning for additional response points within the city. At present we estimate a need for a satellite fire station in the south section of the city within the next five years. We further expect that another satellite station may be needed in the north within the next eight years.



FIRE PREVENTION

The Decatur FD Fire Prevention Division is led by Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Deroy Bennett. The mission of this division is to effectively employ preventative strategies in our community to reduce and eliminate fire damage and life losses.

Responsibilities include:

Fire and Safety Inspections
Plan Reviews
Permits for Fire Protection and
Detection Systems
Fire Code Enforcement
Fire Cause Investigations
Administrative Investigations
Fire Department Community relations
Public Fire Safety Education



FIRE PREVENTION



CITY FIRE PROTECTION

The DFD Fire Prevention Division is responsible for overseeing all protection system and fire alarm maintenance issues with all City owned properties. This includes 6 alarm systems, 3 sprinkler systems, 2 kitchen hood systems, 147 portable fire extinguishers, and 9 AED's...all located in 17 different buildings in our city..

PLAN REVIEWS

The DFD Fire Prevention Division provides formal Plan Review for construction, CO, and site permits.

Construction:	112
Site:	110
CO:	92

INSPECTIONS

The DFD Fire Prevention Division is tasked to provide fire safety and fire code enforcement inspections for all commercial buildings in the City. We also inspect residential properties upon request by homeowners. In 2015, we conducted over 182 annual fire inspections for businesses in our community.

PUBLIC FIRE EDUCATION

EDUCATION THROUGH “CLOWNING AROUND”

The Decatur Fire Department's Fire Safety Education Clown Group works to teach children the importance of fire prevention and home and life safety. The program is based on a national standard and is recognized by the standards authority.

In the month of October (Fire Prevention Month) our clowns go to schools throughout Wise County to deliver their Fire Prevention and Home Safety message to children from grades Kindergarten through 6th. Each year our Clown Group develops a different theme for the presentation.

Basic knowledge of fire and home safety is important to instill in our community's young children. Studies have shown that these messages save many lives throughout the US on an annual basis. Our Fire Safety Education Clowns deliver an unforgettable demonstration that reinforces our safety message. Each year we return to the schools and the children remember the previous year's theme, and the message, the clowns delivered,



PUBLIC FIRE EDUCATION

EDUCATION THROUGH “CLOWNING AROUND”

Decatur Fire Department Fire Safety Clown Shows 2015	
Venue	Audience
Alvord Elementary	327
Boyd Elementary	400
Bridgeport Elem	509
Chico Elementary	300
Newark Elementary	565
Paradise Elementary	360
Slidell Elementary	122
Carson Elementary	470
Rann Elementary	490
Young Elementary	465
National Night Out	165
Fire Station	60
Total Contacts	4233



PUBLIC FIRE EDUCATION

The Decatur FD conducted more than 15 Fire Station Education Tours during 2015, with over 450 in attendance. These tours of the station are accompanied by a structured Public Safety Education presentation targeting numerous aspects of Home Safety Practices. Our members also attended over 43 public events to promote our Home Safety Message



PUBLIC FIRE EDUCATION

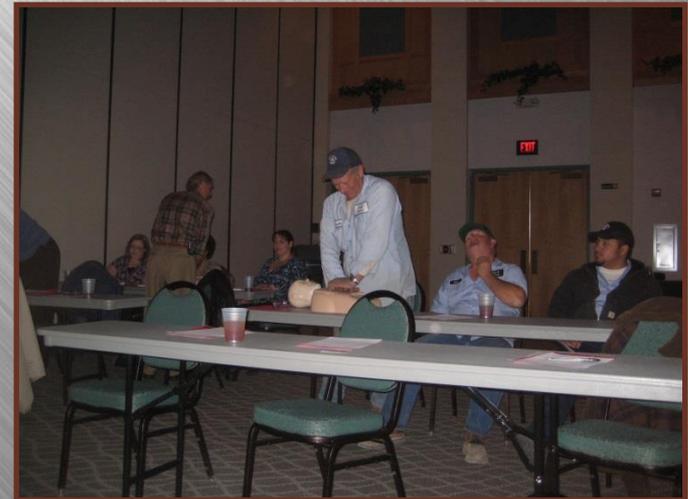
COMMUNITY CPR

The Decatur FD provides low-cost CPR/AED/First Aid training and certification to the Citizens of Decatur in an effort to increase the average survival rate for heart attack victims.

We maintain at least 2 AHA Certified CPR/AED/First Aid Instructors on each shift

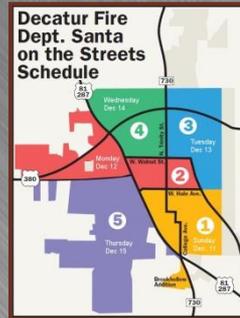
In 2015, we conducted 43 Citizen CPR/AED/First Aid Classes, training a total of 210 Citizens in our community.

We also conducted CPR/AED/First Aid classes for many of the Volunteer Fire Departments in Wise County and for all Decatur City Employees.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

Santa In The Streets



Pancakes with Santa



Relay For Life



Paint the Town Pink



Community Health Fair
National Night Out
Wise Reunion
And Many More Events

FIRE OPERATIONS

The Fire Operations Division is led by the Fire Chief and is managed by three Fire Captains and three Fire Lieutenants.

Responsibilities of this division include:

Fire Suppression

Emergency Medical First Response

Training and Continuing Education

Special Operations (Hazardous materials, Water Rescue, Auto Extrication)

Fire Company Inspections and Pre-Plans

Hydrant Maintenance and Testing

Fleet Maintenance

Facility Maintenance



FIRE OPERATIONS

2015 RUN REPORT

In 2015, the Decatur Fire Department responded to a total of 1528 calls for service. These calls can be broken down as follows:

In City:	1096 (72%)
Outside City:	432 (28%)
Fires:	95 (6%)
EMS Responses:	863 (56%)
Other:	570 (38%)

2015 RESPONSE TIMES (IN MINUTES)

In City:	4.77
Outside City:	11.60
Overall Average:	6.30

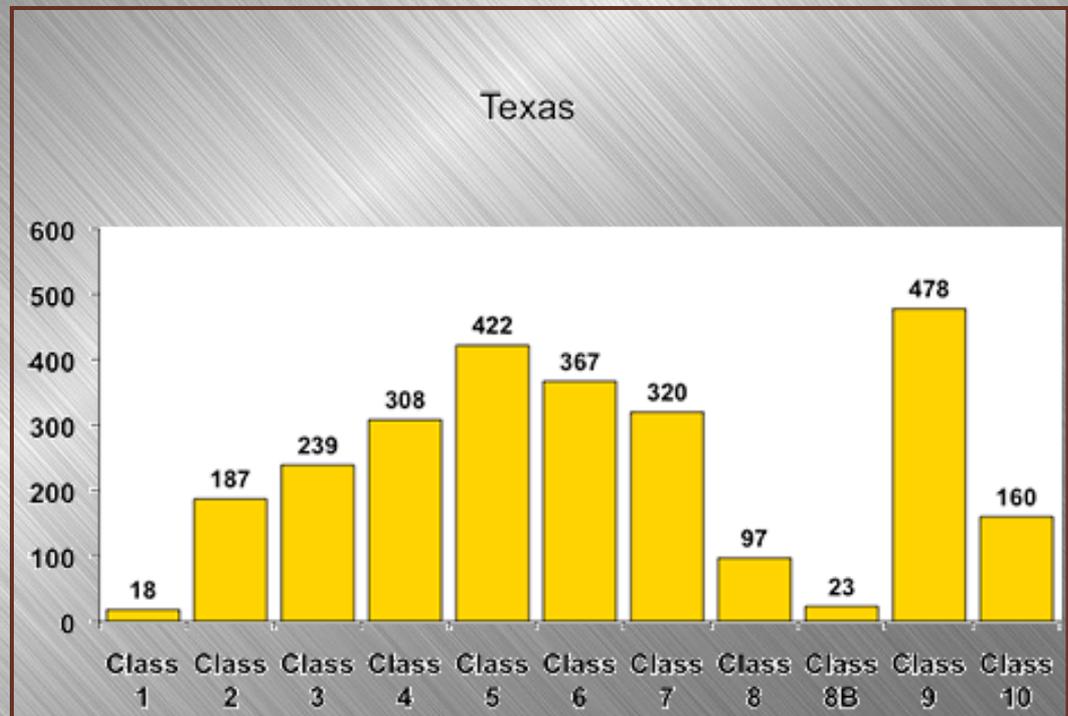


FIRE OPERATIONS

ISO RATING

The ISO PPC rating is rated on a scale of 1 to 10, with a PPC of 1 being the highest and best level of protection. Prior to 2010 Decatur had a PPC of 6, a very good rating for a rural city with an all volunteer fire department. Following the 2010 audit, the ISO rated the Decatur FD with a PPC of **3 in the City and an 8b outside of the City**.

The PPC of **3/8b** is an outstanding rating for a community our size and this reduction in the risk rating has the potential to reduce fire insurance rates by 27% from the previous PPC 6/9.



FIRE OPERATIONS

RESOURCES

FLEET

The DFD operates some expensive equipment. Fire Engines now cost an average of \$500,000 and Aerial Trucks cost over \$1,000,000. These costs have to be managed through an effective maintenance program that will give us between 10 and 20 years of life for the larger apparatus.

Each Captain in our department has an assigned divisional responsibility. One of those responsibilities is the maintenance of our fleet. Captain Oates, a certified mechanic, manages this program with a high degree of excellence, saving our department thousands of dollars per year by conducting most preventative maintenance and light repair services “in house”.

The Decatur FD is operated out of a 15,000 square foot Fire Station completed in 2011. The Station is centrally located within the city, providing rapid access throughout. Fire Operations are performed utilizing the following equipment:

E115	2008 Central	1250 GPM CAFS Engine/Pumper
E315	1999 Master	500 GPM Type 3 Wildland Engine
T115	1987 Sutphen	100 ft Aerial Platform
TK115	2005 Mack	3200 Gallon/1250 GPM Tanker
B115	2008 Brushfighter	500 GPM CAFS Brush Truck
S115	2013 Ford F150	EMS/Support Squad
P115	20 ft Enclosed Trailer	Public Ed/Clown program
P215	30 ft Custom Trailer	Public Ed/Safety program



FIRE OPERATIONS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Decatur FD is licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) as an EMS First Response Organization (FRO). As an FRO, DFD responds to all medical emergencies in our response area to provide initial EMS care until an ambulance arrives to transport the patient.

All Decatur FD members are trained in emergency medical response. Some are trained to the basic care level (EMR and EMT) and many are trained at the advanced care level (Paramedic).

Emergency Medical responses for the Decatur FD accounted for 56% of our call volume.



FIRE OPERATIONS

TRAINING



Effective and accredited training is the foundation on which we must build a modern fire protection organization. Our members train on a daily basis from the time they join our department until the day they leave us. New recruits start out attending a 10 week SFFMA Fire Academy in which they will achieve their NFPA Firefighter 1 certification. It's at this point where they can now be a full-fledged part of our public safety team.

After Firefighter 1 and 2, EMT, and a few other basic certifications are done, our members continue to attend formal certification courses throughout the year. They also attend regular operational drills to hone their emergency response skills. We also provide officer development and leadership training and certifications for those members who will one day lead others in our organization.

Our Firefighters also attain certifications in some specialty areas. Most are certified as Wildland Firefighter, Extrication Technicians 1 and 2, Fire Officer 1 and 2, and Instructor 1 and 2.

An aggressive training program assures that our members will perform in a highly effective and professional manner when our community needs them most. With our program, a firm foundation is provided for our customers with a safe, healthy, and economically viable community in which they can live, work, and visit.

FIRE OPERATIONS

TRAINING

CERTIFICATIONS

Decatur Firefighters are certified through the State Firefighter's and Fire Marshal's Association of Texas (SFFMA) and/or through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. Both organizations have accredited our training program as having met the national standards as found in NFPA 1001.

All of our members are certified to the NFPA Firefighter 1 level before they are allowed to operate at an emergency scene. They follow that certification with NFPA Firefighter 2 and an Emergency Medical certification.

In 2015, we certified:

Firefighter 1:	5
Firefighter 2:	10
EMT/EMTP:	9

During 2015, our members completed a total of **4,777** hours of formal training.



FIRE OPERATIONS

WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

Most areas of our community have a significant interface with wildland fire risk. Our Fire Department provides contractual fire protection services to nearly 200 square miles of unincorporated county land, including a significant portion of the USFS LBJ National Grasslands properties to the north of our town. With this being an important part of our overall risk planning, our Department allots substantial resources in equipment, training, and planning to the wildland fire risk.

The Decatur FD trains all of our personnel to meet the federal standards for Wildland Firefighter 1 and 2. We also have several members who hold certifications in leadership elements of Wildfire Protection. Our Department works closely and in conjunction with the Texas Forest Service and the US Forest Service to plan for and mitigate these threats.

Our Department, in a partnership with the Texas Forest Service, has developed a CWPP for our community. In the coming months, we will begin to implement the projects identified in this plan.



FIRE OPERATIONS

WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Planning for wildfires must take place long before a community is threatened. Once a wildfire starts, the only option available to firefighters is to attempt to suppress the fire before it reaches a community. In 2015, the Decatur FD completed our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to aid our community in reducing the risk wildfires pose to our homes, businesses and natural resources. A CWPP is unique in that it empowers communities to share the responsibility of determining the best strategies for protecting a community and allows communities to make informed choices to decrease the hazards around them.



SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Evelyn Lily
 Navaeh Cyndee
 Ashleigh Brooklynn
 Josephine Cierra
 Estelle Wiltonza
 danny me. Co.

C.D. Middle Tennessee
 Swank
Thank You
 Firefighter Joe, Firefighter Bailey
 and Fire Chief Richardson!
 From: Girl Scout Troop 4423 in Boyd

"The things you do thanklessly
 for our community are such a
 blessing. You're our heroes!"
 Kim Bradley



Dear Decatur FD,
**Thank you,
 thank you,
 and once again,
 thank you.**
 Thank you
 for letting us
 tour your station
 and for ALL that
 you do!
 Sincerely,
 The Eagle Mountain
 Assoc. of Christian Home
 Educators

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 P.O. BOX 302
 DECATUR, TEXAS 76234-0302
 neopost®
 021102015
 US POSTAGE \$00.48⁹²
 ZIP 76234
 041L10239985
 Chief Mike Richardson
 Decatur Fire Department
 1705 S. State St.
 Decatur, Tx 76234
 Dear Chief Richardson,
 I want to express both our gratitude
 for our recent CPR Training and to let
 you and your staff know how proud we
 are to have such professionals watching
 over us! Special thanks to Asst. Chief
 Bennett, Capt. Nate Mara, and B-Shirt
 Firefighters for coordinating, training, and
 tolerating us during CPR Training on Feb. 8, 2015.
 Thanks again and please let us know
 if we can ever serve you all!
 Brian Roseworth

"Thank you Decatur
 firefighters for
 keeping our
 community safe."
 Dee Ann Archer

"Thank you from Girl Scout
 troop 2749 Springtown , Tx.
 For your time helping our
 Girls earn their First Aid
 patch."
 Nolia Jeannette Thomason

"We look forward to our new
 home in Decatur. Happy new
 year."