



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

“The Mission of the Burlington Fire Department is to provide for the fire and life safety needs of the community in the most professional, courteous, and efficient manner possible.”



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Citizens, Mayor, and Council,

I am pleased to present the Burlington Fire Department's 2015 Annual Report. This report contains some of the activities and accomplishments from 2015, as well as measurements of our performance. I am hoping that this report demonstrates the value, importance, and dedication of the members of the Burlington Fire Department.

Although the fires and car accidents receive the attention and headlines in the media, those are but the tip of the iceberg compared to what our crews do on a daily basis. On any given day, in addition to responding to emergency calls for service, crews are responsible for training, public education, pre-planning, report writing, vehicle and station maintenance, committee meetings, and various other non-emergency calls for service including smoke alarm installs, home inspections, standbys, and others.

Our ambulance crews responded to over 3600 calls last year. All said our Department responded to 4585 calls for service in 2015, the most calls ever in a year. Total calls are up over 75% compared to 1997 when we had a total call volume of 2,594 calls. With an aging population base there is no reason to believe the numbers will go down anytime soon.

We thank you for your continued support of our Department and our mission. We are proud to serve the citizens of Burlington and the surrounding areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Trexel

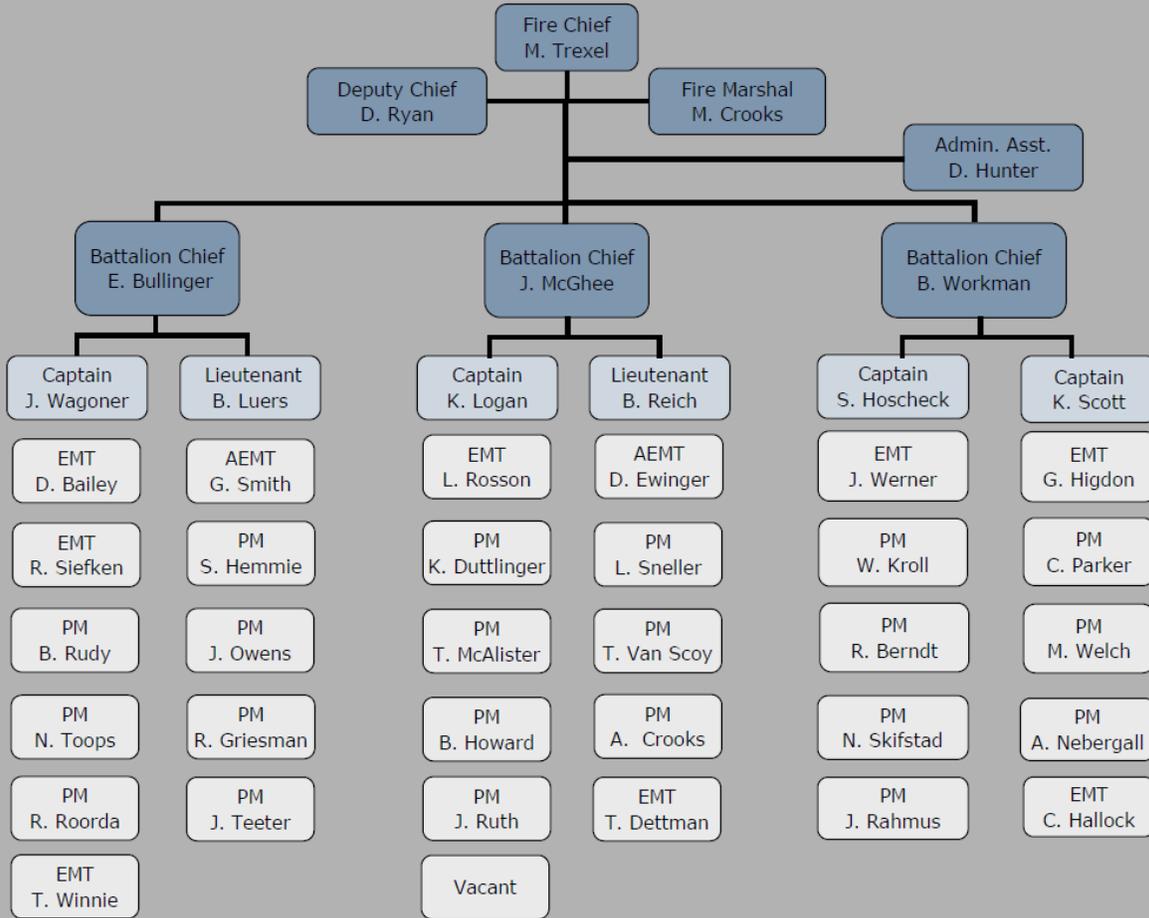
Fire Chief



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Burlington Fire Department (Jan. 1, 2016)





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2015 Fire Prevention

- Updated preplans, online format **(2014 Goal)**
- Completion of all required inspections (201) and reported 465 Fire Code violations **(2014 Goal)**
- Installed 690 smoke alarms
- Community-wide one day smoke alarm installation and fire education event (500 homes) with the Red Cross, Elks, and others.
- Fire Marshal Crooks spent 80 hours on 39 structure fire scenes in addition to several hundred hours completing investigations
- Plan reviews, sprinkler and fire alarm tests
- Numerous public education events
 - Landlord training
 - Fire Prevention Week
 - Presentations to Rotary Club, Neighborhood Associations, and others





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2015 Operations

- Review and updated all policies **(2014 Goal)**
- Promotional exams and promotions of Deputy Chief, Battalion Chief, and two Lieutenants **(2014 Goal)**
- Applied for and received numerous grants **(2014 Goal)**
 - Assistance to Firefighters Grant- \$22,000 for vehicle extrication equipment
 - ADM Grant- \$3400 for IPADS
 - Homeland Security Grants- \$20,000 for hazmat equipment, thermal imagers, and several classes
- Bird flu response- largest response from any one hazmat team in the state (6 members)
- Establishment of Engine and Ambulance Committees
- County-wide renumbering of fire and EMS vehicles
- 276 12-Lead EKG transmissions to GRMC
- 42 CPR/PALS/ACLS classes for providers outside our department
- Members are active on many boards and committees
 - Des Moines County Firefighters Association
 - Des Moines County EMS Association
 - MABAS (Division 62 and other committees)
 - DESCOM Advisory Board
 - SCC Advisory Boards for EMS and Fire
 - GRMC Stroke Task Force
 - Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators



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- **State Board of the International Association of Firefighters**
- **Iowa Professional Fire Chiefs Association**
- **Joint Safety Committee**
- **Iowa Fire Marshal's Association**
- **Iowa Hazmat Task Force**
- **Southeast Iowa Critical Incident Stress Management Team**
- **Henderson County EMS Association**
- **Quad Cities Area Fire Marshal Association**





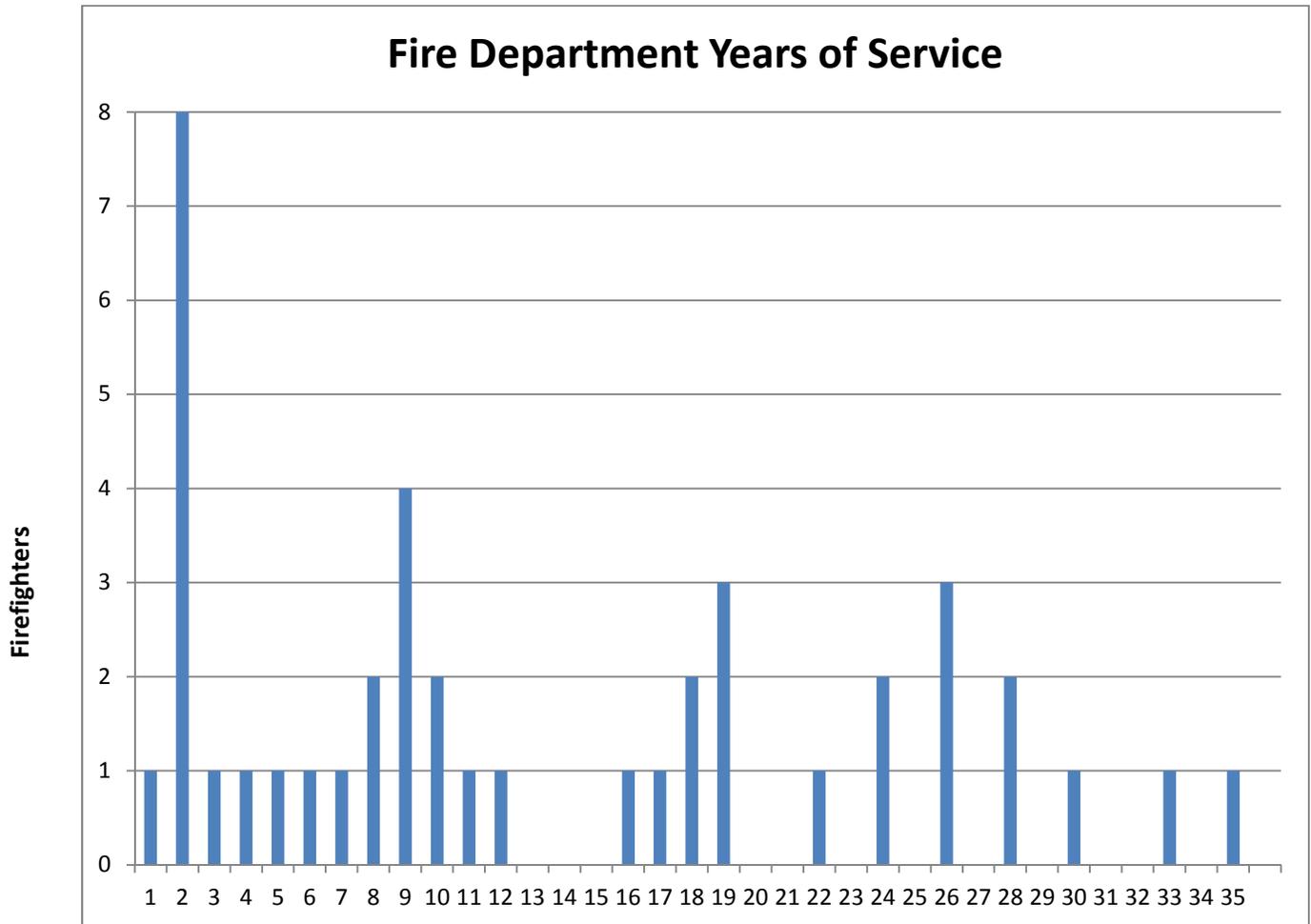
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2015 Training Highlights

- 7008 hours of training (160 hours per person)
- ARFF Simulator
- Live fire training at SCC
- Various Topics
 - EMS
 - Fire
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Specialized Rescue (ropes, extrication, confined space)
 - Recruit Training (new 40 hour option)
- 3 people went to the National Fire Academy
- NFPA 1410 Drills





This chart indicates the number of years of firefighters have worked for the Burlington Fire Department as of May 1, 2016. The average number of years of service to the Burlington Fire Department by firefighters is 13.2 years.

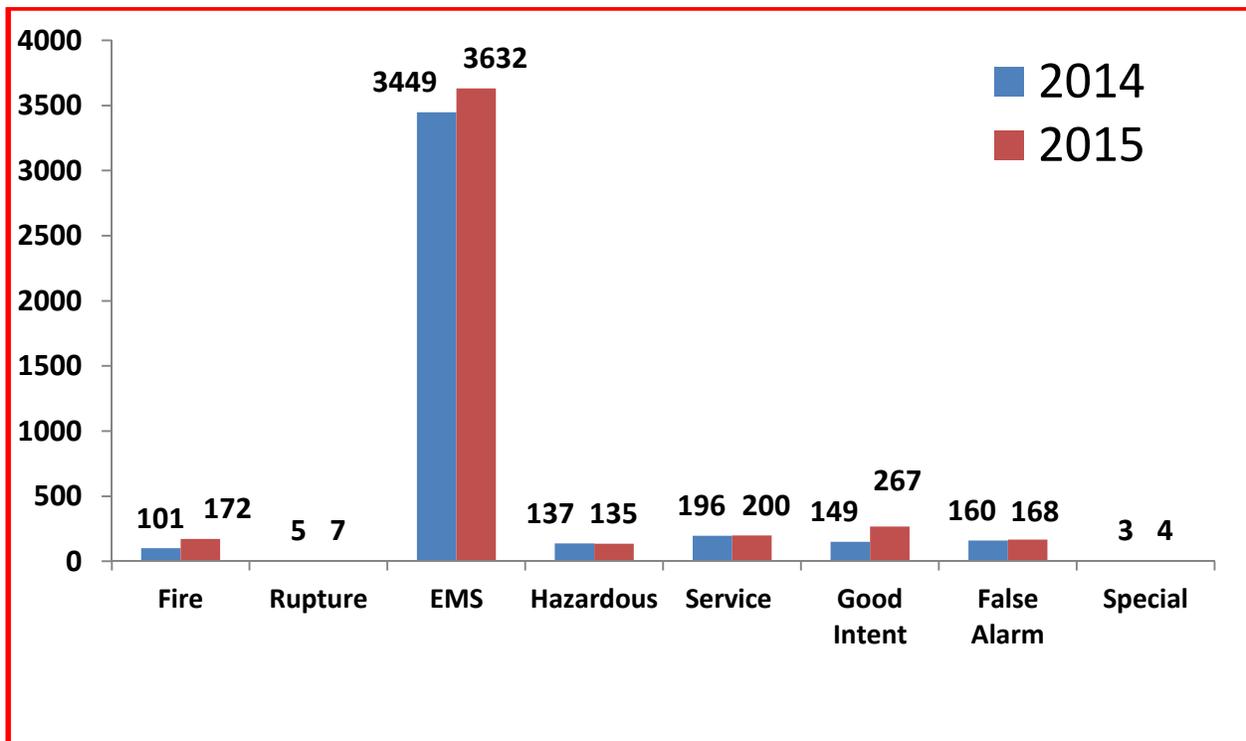


FIRE DEPARTMENT CALL STATISTICS

2015 total call volume = 4585

2014 total call volume = 4201

CALL TYPE COMPARISON 2014/2015





2015

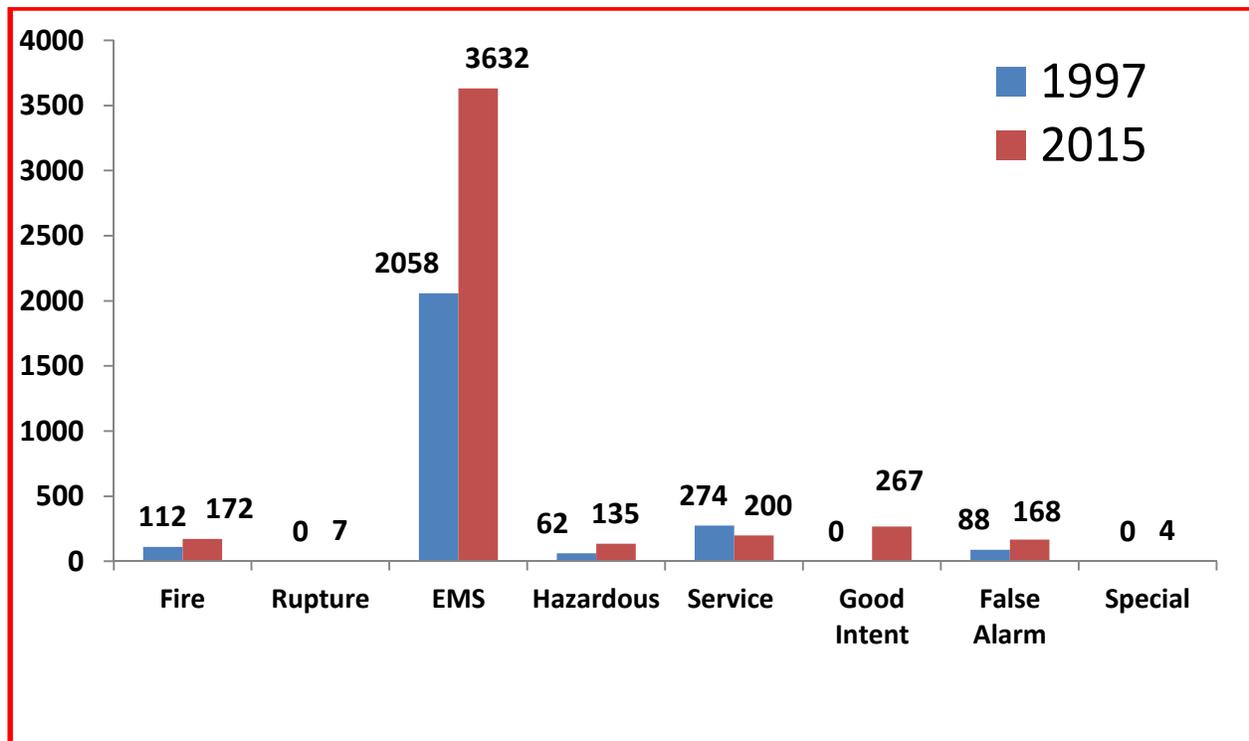
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FIRE DEPARTMENT CALL STATISTICS

2015 total call volume = 4585

1997 total call volume = 2594

CALL TYPE COMPARISON 1997/2015



Fire Department Staffing Levels

2015 = 44 (2016= 42)

1997 = 49



Why the large increase in call volumes in 2015 versus 1997?

1. Population and geographic areas covered by the Burlington Fire Department have grown.
 - a. Added Quad Townships for fire response
 - i. Increase of 5068 people and 96 square miles
 - b. Added Illinois for EMS response/fire mutual aid
2. Increased calls to provide mutual aid (40 in 2015).
3. Population groups that use public services are growing.
 - a. Elderly (65 and over)
 - i. 2000= 16.9% of population or 5201 people
 - ii. 2014= 26.6% of population or 7928 people
 - b. Residents living in poverty
 - i. 2000= 11.8% of population or 3576 people
 - ii. 2014= 17.8% of population or 5230 people

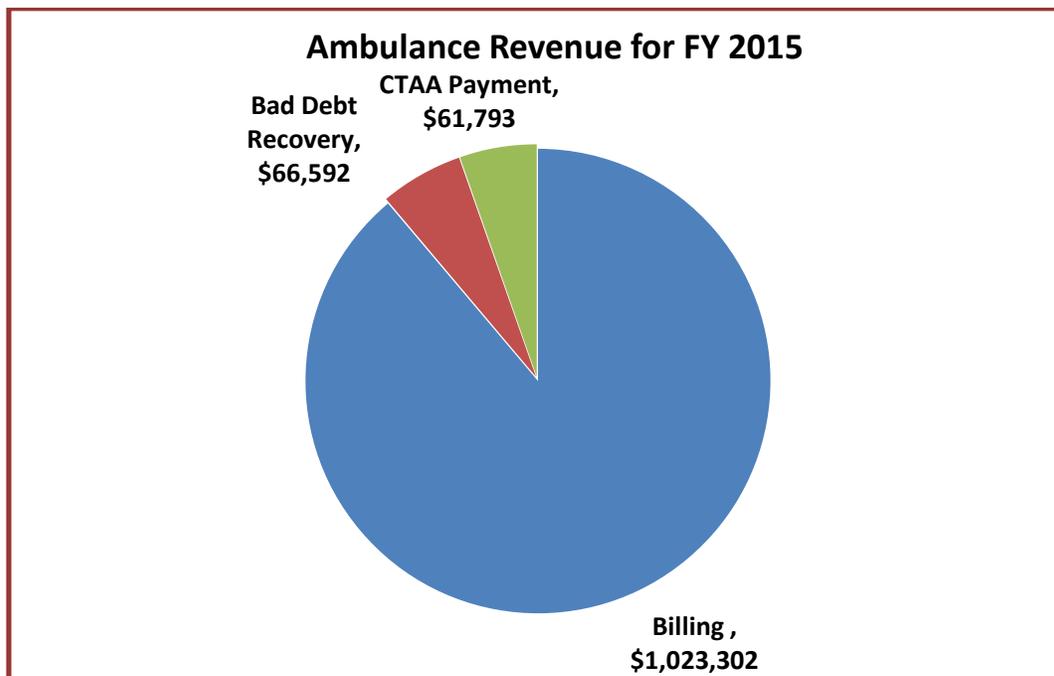
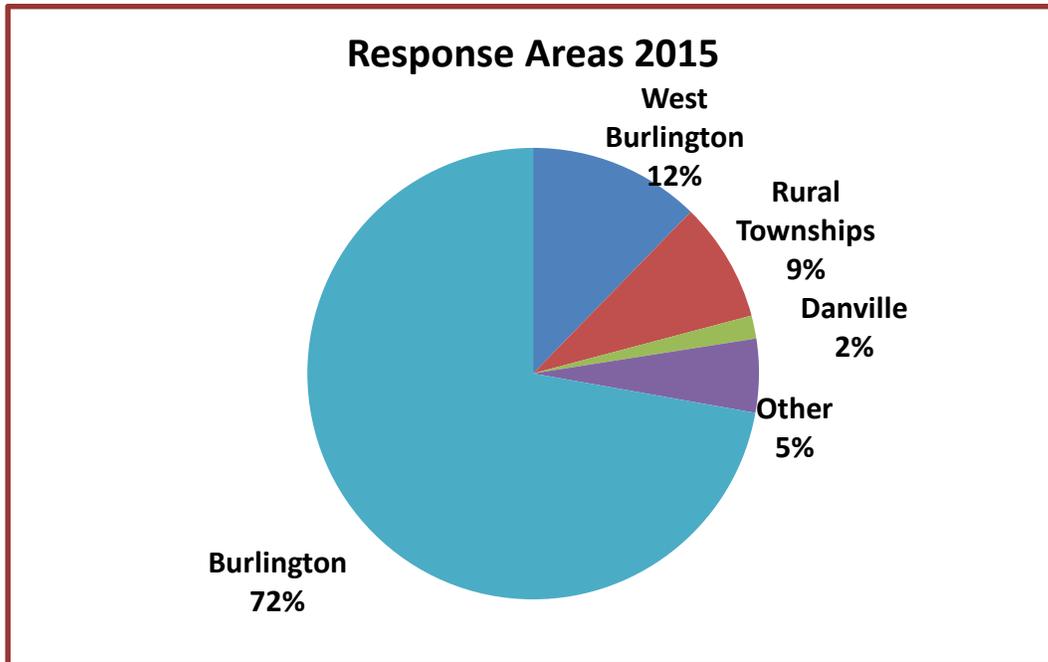
(All data from US Census Bureau, 52601 zip code)

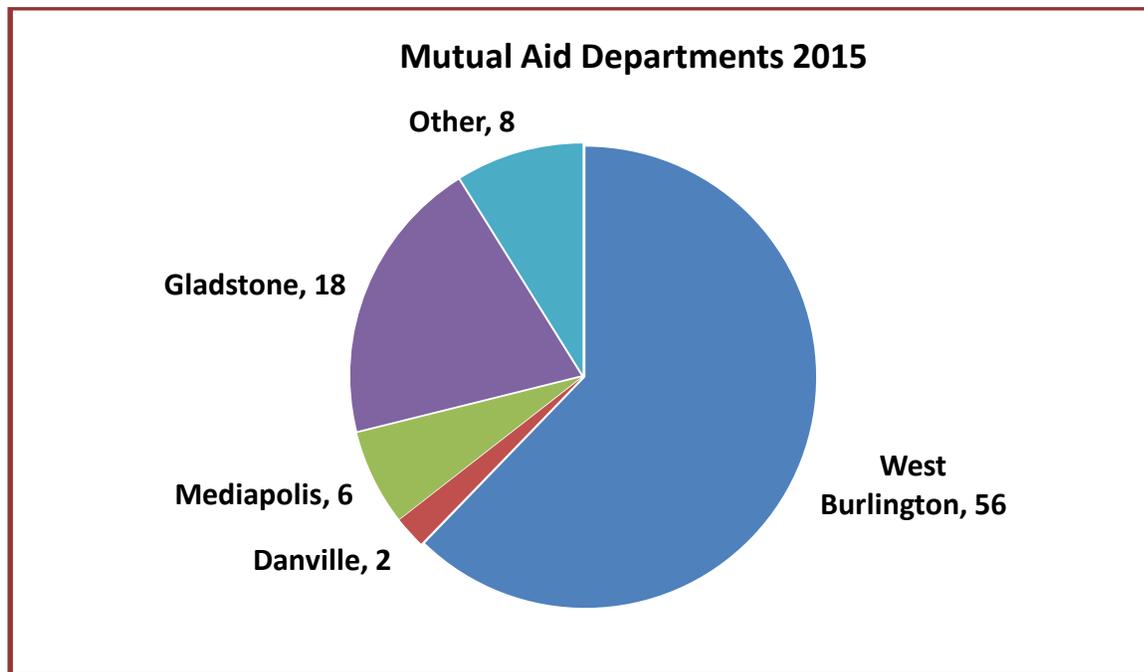
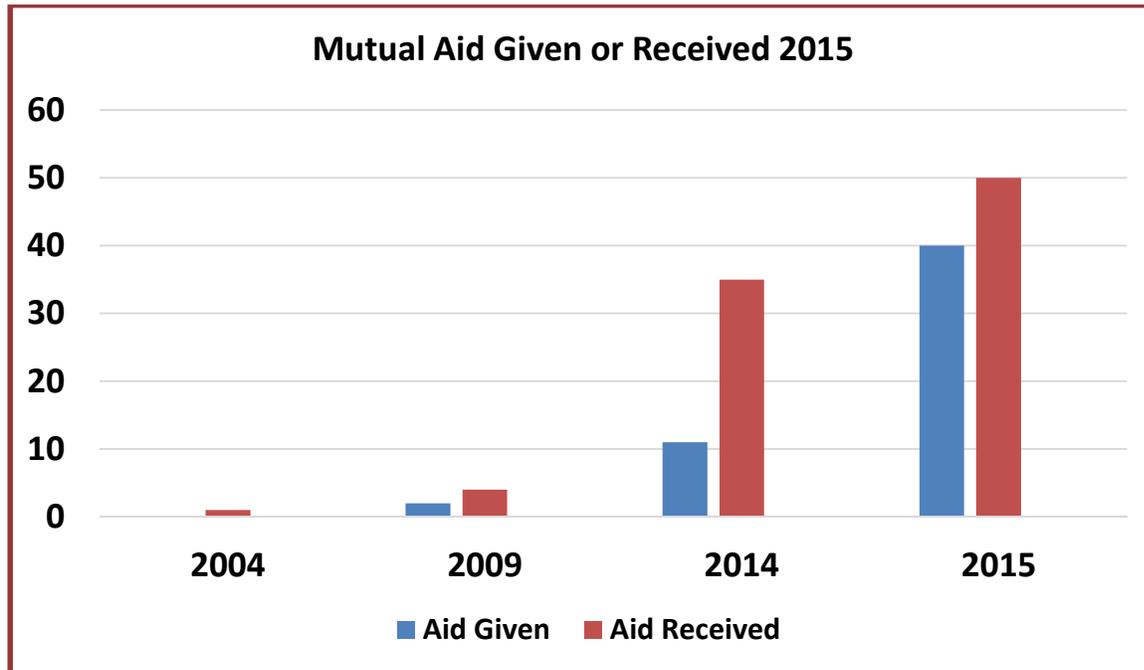
Based on the above trends it is highly likely that our calls for service, both EMS and Fire, will continue to rise each year.



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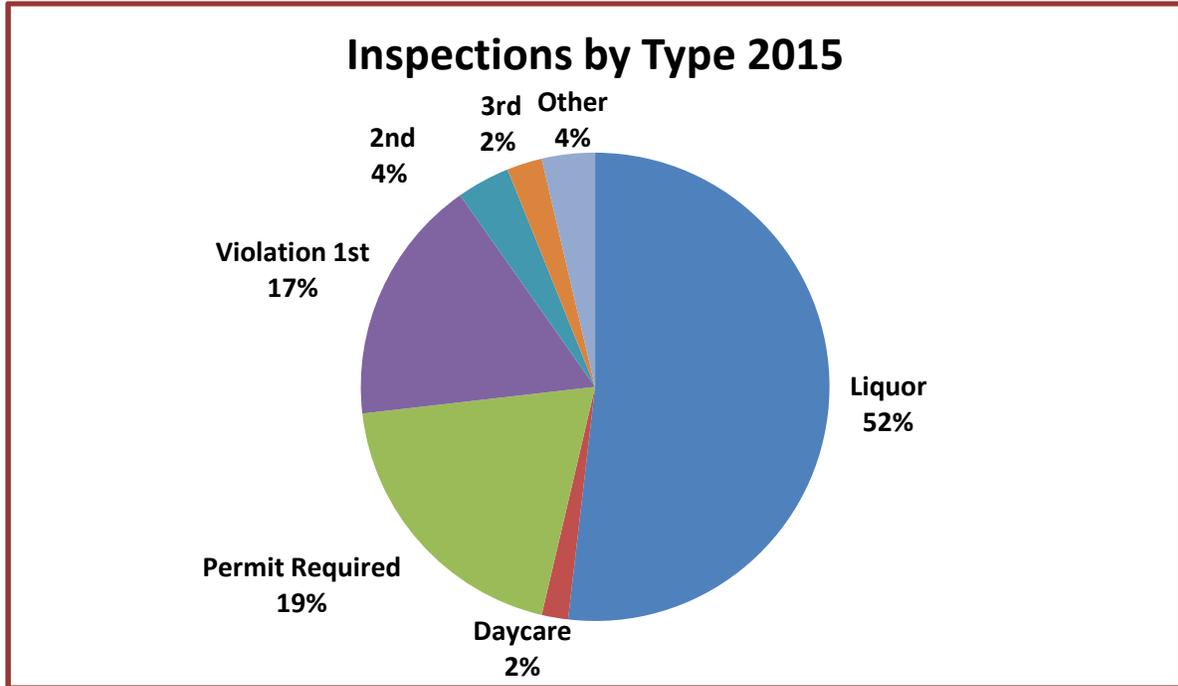






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NFPA 1710 Report (2015)

Objective	1710 Standard	BFD Performance
Turnout Time	80 Seconds	91 Seconds
1st Due Engine Company	5 minutes or less	*Met 45% of the time
Remainder of 1st Alarm	9 minutes or less	*Met 74% of the time
Total number on scene (Building Fires)	15 firefighters on scene	Average of 11 firefighters on scene
Ambulance Arrival Time	5 minutes or less	Average 5 minutes 30 seconds**

*Time standard met, not necessarily personnel standard

**Includes both emergency and non-emergency calls



Challenges

- **Increased calls with fewer personnel**
 - **Less time for training/interrupted training**
 - **Increased OT**
 - **More reliance on mutual aid**
 - **Greater likelihood of simultaneous calls**
 - **Greater stress on crews (physically and mentally)**
 - **Lack of rest**
 - **Greater wear and tear on equipment**
- **Lack of dedicated EMS coordinator**
 - **EMS duties spread out over several individuals**
 - **Continuous Quality Improvement/Audits**
 - **Training**
 - **HIPAA compliance**
 - **Supply officer**
 - **Required skills maintenance**
 - **Certification tracking**
 - **Inconsistencies with training**
 - **Difficulty lining up instructors**
 - **Lack of a consistent EMS contact for outside agencies**
 - **Difficulty keeping up on advances in technology and skills**
- **No fire training facility**
 - **Lost ISO points**
 - **Fire training suffers**



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Looking Ahead to 2016

- **Change EMS software/hardware**
- **Continue to look for ways to improve our ISO score**
- **Continue to apply for grants**
- **Explore and utilize new technologies**
- **Continue to advance our training program**
- **Finalize recruit training process**
- **Focus on prevention-preplans, inspections, public education, smoke alarm installation**

BURLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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<http://ia-burlington.civicplus.com/2155/Fire>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Burlington-Fire-Department/1430508677163672>