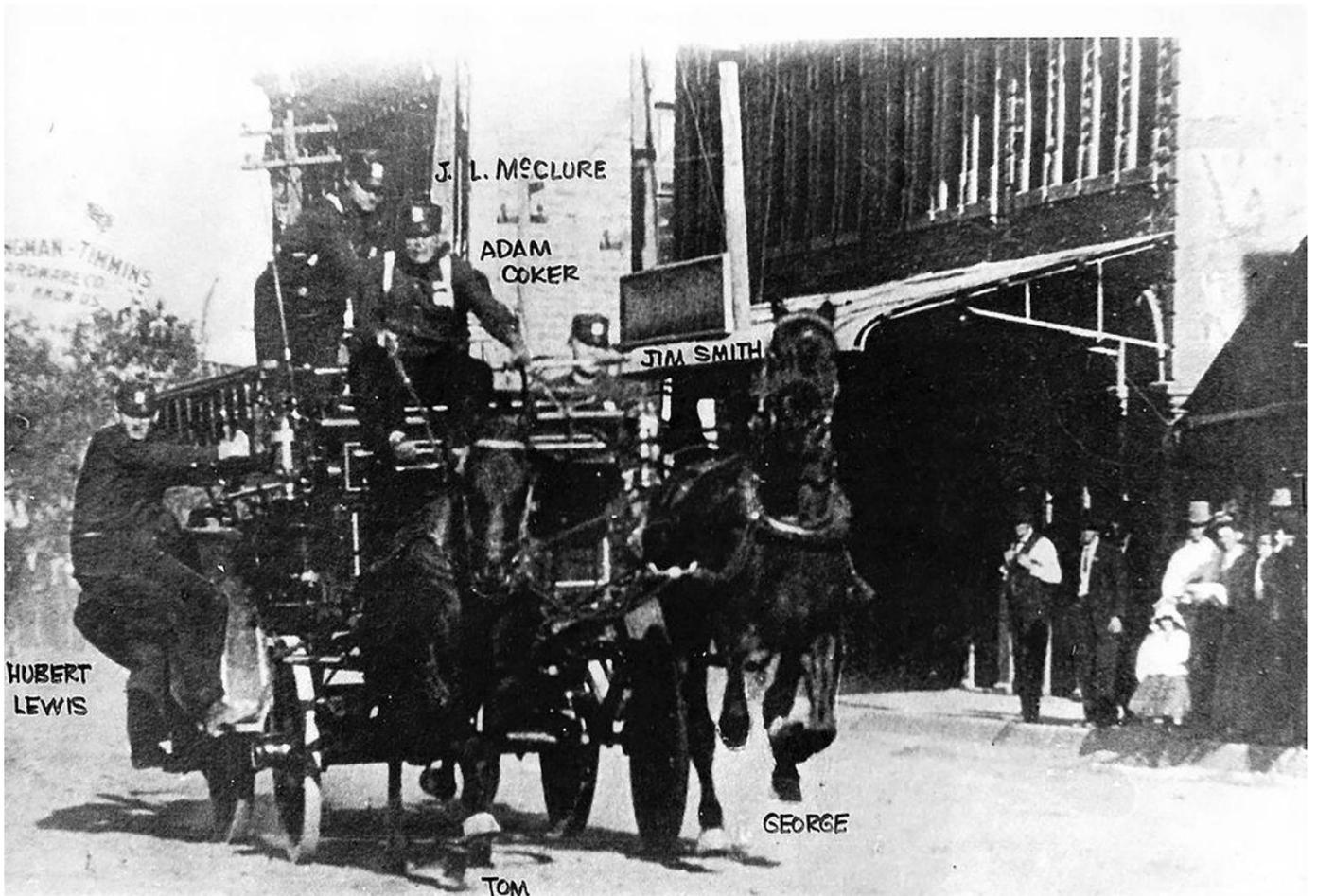


# FIRE DEPARTMENT CY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



The Wichita Falls Fire Department has a long, proud history of providing emergency services to the citizens of our city. Founded in December 1891, our department responds to and provides service at fire emergencies, rescue emergencies, medical emergencies, hazardous materials emergencies, and salvage emergencies. In addition, we provide Fire Prevention and Education Services, Criminal Arson Investigation, and Fire Investigation Services. The department also provides Emergency & Disaster Management, Mitigation, and Education services to our citizens. The department operates out of eight strategically located fire stations and has a total force of 162 Members.

The Wichita Falls Fire Department is the only fully paid civilian department in a sixty-mile radius. The Fire Department is staffed by one hundred fifty-seven Operations Personnel, and Administrative Personnel including the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Safety Officer, and Training Officer. The Department has one Fire Marshal and three Assistant Fire Marshals, and One Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. The Wichita Falls Fire Department provides regional mutual aid to an area 9,460 square miles with a population of 204,336. This regional area encompasses eleven counties and thirty-three cities which were established by the Councils of Government as set forth by the Governor's Office for the State of Texas. The Wichita Falls Fire Department and Sheppard Air Force Base Fire Department have a direct mutual aid agreement and work closely on a daily basis.

In addition, the Wichita Falls Fire Department is part of the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) with an All-Hazard Task Force that is an organized rapid response team that provides emergency state-wide and interstate response through the Emergency Mutual Aid Compact.

Also, Wichita Falls Fire Department is the AHJ for the Wichita Falls Area Type 3 All-Hazard Incident Management Team (WFA IMT). This is a regional and state Type 3 Incident Management Team providing incident management personnel and resources to large-scale incidents.

## OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division is commanded by Assistant Chief Donald Hughes who oversees three Battalions of Fire Officers, Fire Equipment Operators and Firefighters. Each shift is commanded by a Battalion Chief, and has 52 members assigned to the eight stations per shift.

During FY 2017, The Wichita Falls Fire Department responded to **9,718** incidents for a total loss from fires of **\$4,200,741**, with a total value of property saved of **\$27,804,672**.



A breakdown of the total incidents in 2017:

- **515 Fires (Structure, Vehicle, Brush, etc.)**
- **6,346 Emergency Medical/Rescue Calls**
- **324 Hazardous Material Calls**
- **1,058 Public Assist Calls**
- **1,032 Good Intent Calls**
- **443 False Alarms**

**9,178 TOTAL**

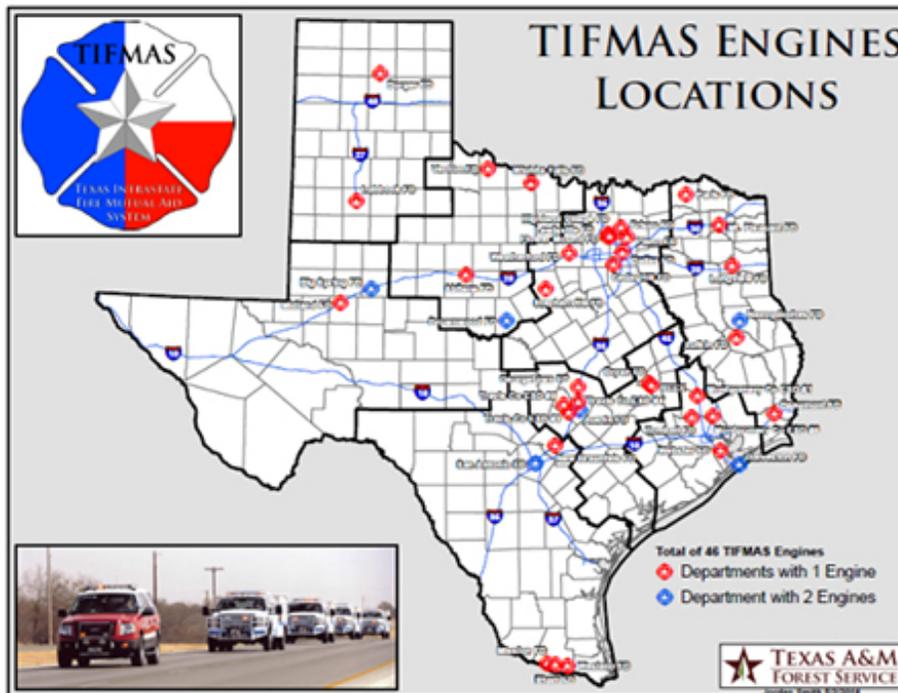
Average Response Time to Structure Fire calls was **3:33**  
**(3 minutes, 33 seconds)**



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Special Operations Division is commanded by Fire Chief Jon Reese, and consists of several specialized teams that include the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) All-Hazards Strike Team, the Texas Dept. of Emergency Management (TDEM) Type 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (IMT), and the newly created Air Operations Division which has two unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

The TIFMAS Strike Team is a force for response to catastrophic emergency incidents of state significance involving fire and incidents to which the fire service would normally be involved such as for fire suppression, search and rescue, hazardous materials, and EMS.



The Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) was created to provide for the systematic mobilization, deployment, organization, and management of Texas local fire related resources, by working with the Texas Department of Emergency Management, the Texas Forest Service, Local Emergency Management, and local fire departments and in order to provide assistance in mitigating the effects of emergencies and disasters throughout Texas and the nation, when so requested.

In 2017, the Wichita Falls Fire Department's TIFMAS Strike Team responded to three major wildfires in the Panhandle area of the State that consumed over one million acres. The team from Wichita Falls, Abilene, and Brownwood were credited with saving most of the town of Tulia during a large wind-driven wildfire that ultimately burned about 30,000 acres. Below is a picture of a homeowner thanking the Wichita Falls crew for saving their home in Tulia.



Also in 2017, the nation's worst natural disaster in modern times, Hurricane Harvey, struck Texas causing "historic" flooding in and along the majority of the coastal cities. The TIFMAS Strike Team from Wichita Falls deployed multiple teams and provided Search & Rescue Operations, Firefighting, and EMS to the cities of Vidor, Bridge City, Houston, Montgomery County, Beaumont, and Port Aransas.



The Wichita Falls Area Type 3 Incident Management Team made up of Wichita Falls Fire, Burkburnett Fire, and Wichita Falls Police Department, rapidly deployed at the time of landfall to support the Emergency Operation Centers in Corpus Christi and the Regional Staging Area at Ford Park in Beaumont.

## **SAFETY & TRAINING DIVISION**

The Safety and Training Division is commanded by Battalion Chief Chancellor with three Captains assigned to the three Operations Shifts. Captain's Sheppard, Grassi, and Short serve as both shift Training Officers and Safety Officers. In addition, the Training Division coordinates the Fire Recruit Academies, In-Service Training, Special Op's Training, and EMS Training, as well as serving as the Incident Safety Officer for all Structure Fires, Wildland Fires, and Hazardous Materials Incidents.

### **In CY 2017:**

**17,160** hours of FIRE Training completed by the members

**2,925** hours of EMS/RESCUE Training completed by the members

**3,728** hours of ADVANCED EMT (AEMT) Training completed

**1,200** hours of Basic EMT (EMT-B) Training Completed

**5,666** hours of HAZARDOUS MATERIAL Training completed by the members

**576** hours of SAFETY Training completed by the members

**1,423** hours of DISTRICT Training completed by the members

**32,687 TOTAL TRAINING HOURS**



## **FIRE PREVENTION, EDUCATION, AND INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

The Fire Prevention, Education, and Investigation Division is commanded by Fire Marshal David Collins, with three Assistant Fire Marshals who are assigned to each of the three Operations Shifts. This Division is responsible for Fire Education and Prevention, Investigation of both Arson and Accidental Fires, and Life Safety Construction Plans Review. In 2017 we worked with Sheppard Air Force Base Fire Department Prevention Division to present the school-age program jointly using their state-of-the-art Fire Safety House.

In FY 2017:

- **1,197** Technical Fire Inspections Completed.
- **2,122** Commercial Fire Inspections completed by Operations Division.
- **227** Construction Plans Review by the Fire Marshal.
- Fire Education Programs delivered to over **10,428** participants.
- **20** Arson Fires that were investigated by the Fire Marshal's Office.
- **491** Fire Response Investigations



## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DIVISION**

The Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) is staffed by John Henderson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Dave Goodrich, Volunteer Emergency Preparedness Aide. The primary function of the Emergency Preparedness Office is planning for response to a disaster or large event. The OEP works on mitigation projects and recovery efforts after a disaster or major event. This division spends a great deal of time in educational and public outreach. The OEP coordinates and maintains relationships with local response agencies and local jurisdictions in the NORTEX region. The OEP applies for and justifies Homeland Security Grant Funding for Wichita Falls. Since 2002, the City of Wichita Falls, through the Emergency Preparedness Office, has received approximately \$2.7 million dollars in Homeland Security Grant Funding. The OEP oversees the maintenance, upkeep and record keeping of all assets purchased with funding from the Department of Homeland Security

### Duties Include:

- Maintains the CWF FEMA Mitigation Action Plan
- Maintains the CWF Emergency Operations Plan
- Responsible for Mitigation Projects throughout the City
- Coordinates Education and Outreach Programs
- Maintains City EOC and MCP
- Liaison to NORTEX and Regional EMC's
- Liaison to LEPC

## FIREFIGHTER PHILANTHROPY

The proud tradition of firefighting in America goes back to colonial days, and a big part of this tradition is that of giving. Giving back to our community has been a part of every firefighter's career from the beginning of our department. We are proud of our achievements in helping those in need and some of our ongoing charity work including the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Fill the Boot, Operation Santa Claus, Pink T-Shirt Campaign, and the annual Guns & Hoses.

The MDA **"Fill the Boot"** raises millions of dollars each year across America through its spirited Fill the Boot campaign, in which fire fighters greet motorists, shoppers and others, on the street and outside stores, and ask them to donate money to MDA. The Fill the Boot concept was inspired by a door-to-door campaign firefighters held for MDA support in 1953. Locally, your firefighters have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in the last half century with 2017 totals reaching \$51,906! Each year, there are approximately 600 on and off-duty man-hours committed to this fundraiser.



**“Operation Santa Claus”** was originally called “Toys for Tots” when it started in 1968 here locally in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corp. Over the years, the firefighters have raised over a half million dollars that stayed right here in our community to make a child’s Christmas wishes come true. We provide toys and bicycles to almost 800 children each year. In cooperation with the MSU Dillard College of Business, Operation Santa Claus collected money to purchase over 800 bicycles! The project takes approximately 1,600 man-hours each season.



**“Pink T-Shirt Campaign”** was a local project started in 2009 to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Firefighters sell the signature pink shirts in October to members in our community with all proceeds benefitting the Komen

Foundation and American Cancer Society. Firefighters have raised over \$120,000 since 2009 that goes towards cancer research and treatment. This project is done mainly on-duty, but organizers will spend approximately 500 man-hours off-duty.



**“Guns & Hoses”** Started in 2015 and is an annual BBQ Competition hosted by the Wichita Falls Fire Fighters Association and the Wichita Falls Police Officers Association to raise money for their Charities. Since 2015 the Fire and Police have raised \$60,000.00. Competitors come from all over the U.S. to enter into the competition. All proceeds benefit children’s charities in our community.

## **FIRE STATION LOCATIONS**

Fire Administration Office

1005 Bluff Street  
940-761-7901

Fire Station #1  
1001 Bluff Street  
Equipment: Engine 1, Truck 1, Battalion 1, Brush 1, Engine 21, Brush 21

Fire Station #2  
425 Bonner Street  
Equipment: Engine 2, Squad 2, Boat 2

Fire Station #3  
3800 Brewster Street  
Equipment: Engine 3, Engine 23, Brush 23

Fire Station #4  
5512 Castle Drive  
Equipment: Engine 4, Brush 4

Fire Station #5  
506 Beverly Drive  
Equipment: Engine 5, Squad 5, Rescue 5

Fire Station #6  
4912 Johnson Road  
Equipment: Engine 6, Brush 6

Fire Station #7  
2800 City View Drive  
Equipment: Engine 7, Brush 7, Engine 27

Fire Station #8  
2000 Southwest Parkway  
Equipment: Engine 8, Truck 8, Brush 8, Boat 8

Public Safety Training Center  
710 Flood Street  
Equipment: Mobile Command Post, Air & Light 1, IMT Support, Truck 23

WFFD Drill Field  
1300 Harding Street

## **COMPARISON BENCHMARKS**

## **STAFFING BENCHMARKS**

*(Firefighters Per 1,000 Population)*

Longview	2.14
Beaumont	2.05
Temple	1.83
San Angelo	1.83
Midland	1.78
Odessa	1.68
Denton	1.55
<b>Wichita Falls</b>	<b>1.53</b>
Abilene	1.51

FIRE DEPARTMENT COST PER RESIDENT

• Longview	\$242
• Beaumont	\$240
• Denton	\$215
• Odessa	\$193
• Midland	\$163
• Temple	\$161
• San Angelo	\$168
• Abilene	\$160
• <b>Wichita Falls</b>	<b>\$153</b>

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARK GOALS

- Turnout Time of  $\leq$  80 Seconds for Fire Calls – 90% of Time
- Turnout Time of  $\leq$  60 Seconds for EMS Calls – 90% of Time
- Response Time of  $\leq$  4 Minutes for Priority Emergency Calls– 90% of Time
- Full Alarm Response to Structure Fires  $\leq$  9 Minutes – 90% of Time
- Response Time of  $\leq$  4 Minutes, for the arrival of the 1st Unit capable of delivering BLS Care – 90% of Time
- Confine Fires to the Room of Origin at Incipient Level Fires – 90% of Time

SPECIAL PROJECTS

In 2017, the Fire Department was fortunate to be involved in, or have completed several major projects that were part of our overall strategic vision for our department. Some of these projects include –

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Project: The Fire Department applied for, and received in 2017, grant funding to replace two Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) refill stations. This \$90,000 project replaces an in-operable, non-funded unit at the Training Center and the out-of-compliance unit at Station 5, and will ensure long-term NFPA compliance and will place the most advanced technology and new equipment in the hands of our firefighters.



Off-Road Ambulance/Rescue UTV: The department received a grant from the 100 Club of Wichita Falls to purchase a golf-cart ambulance that was specially designed to be used off-road for the rescue of patients in areas inaccessible by larger vehicles. This is housed at Fire Station 8 and is used primarily for the trail system as well as special events.



Vernon College/WFFD Firefighter Academy:

In late 2016 we embarked on a new process to train our firefighters to prepare them for a career with our department. In collaboration with Vernon College, we developed a Firefighter Academy that would be taught through Vernon College utilizing our Instructors. The same hiring process (tests, panel interviews, background, etc.) was used, but the students were required to attend the academy on their own time in the evenings and some Saturdays. The cost for the training (tuition) was paid for by the City. This resulted in approximately \$250,000 savings. The first “Beta” Academy graduated in September and are now assigned as Probationary Firefighters. This training system will be adopted for the next Firefighter Academy which will be held in the Fall of 2018.

