



Sierra Madre Fire Department 2015 Annual Report



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Message from the Fire Chief	3
Mission Statement	4
Organizational Chart	5
Statistical Summary	6
Responses by Major Incident Type	7
Fire Prevention.....	8
Fire Prevention Activities	8
Emergency Medical Services.....	9
Training	10
2015 Year in Review.....	12



Message from the Fire Chief

Chief's Message

Let me begin by thanking the men and women of the Sierra Madre Fire Department for their dedication and professionalism throughout 2015. Service to our community has been the central value of the Sierra Madre Fire Department since our founding in 1921. Our members all demonstrate professionalism, integrity and commitment to protecting the citizens of Sierra Madre.

Our combination department, with both career members and volunteer members, is made up of a diverse and talented group of individuals. Through excellent training, strong camaraderie, and dedication to serving our neighbors, the men and women of the Sierra Madre Fire Department stand ready in preparedness to meet the needs of our neighbors. As part of a larger emergency response community, we serve alongside the neighboring communities and the fire service throughout the state of California through the mutual aid system.

As Fire Chief, I would encourage our residents to drop by the fire station and take the time to meet the men and women of our Fire Department. Many of these numbers are "neighbors helping neighbors". In addition, I would encourage everyone in Sierra Madre to find out ways to be part of our program to help make Sierra Madre a safer community.

The members of the Sierra Madre Fire Department are proud of our traditions and those of the fire service. We take pride in the delivery of fire prevention, fire control, emergency medical care and public education services with an unconditional commitment to those we serve.

Stephen F. Heydorff

Fire Chief



Mission Statement



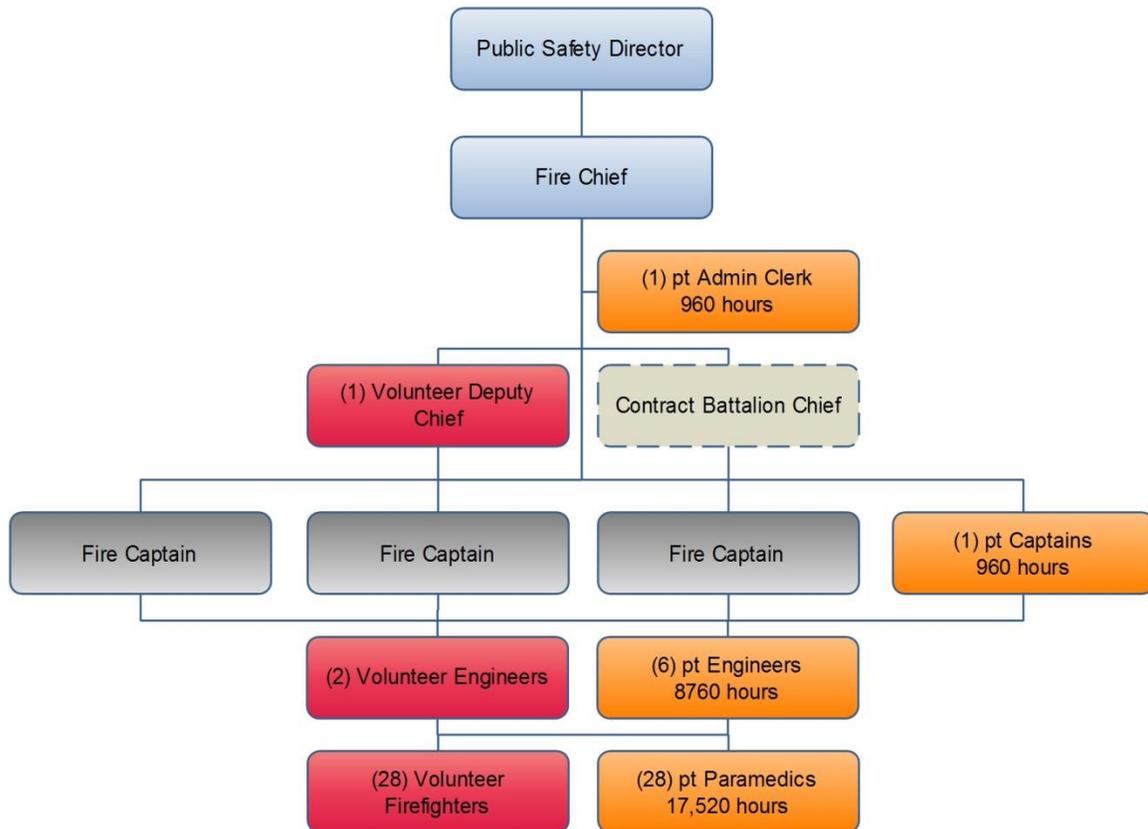
“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

The mission of the Sierra Madre Fire Department is to provide superior community service through the delivery of fire prevention, fire control, and emergency medical and public education services.

We will support our mission with an absolute commitment to community service, customer support, cost effective operation, training, and education.



Organizational Chart



Volunteer Firefighters on the Sierra Madre Fire Department are required to work one 24-hour shift per week. On average, Firefighters volunteer 1.5 years with the Department before being hired by a full-time career department.

In addition to each Captain's duties as a Fire Suppression shift Captain, each Captain is responsible for the oversight of a Division within the Fire Department: Emergency Medical Services, Fire Prevention, and Training.

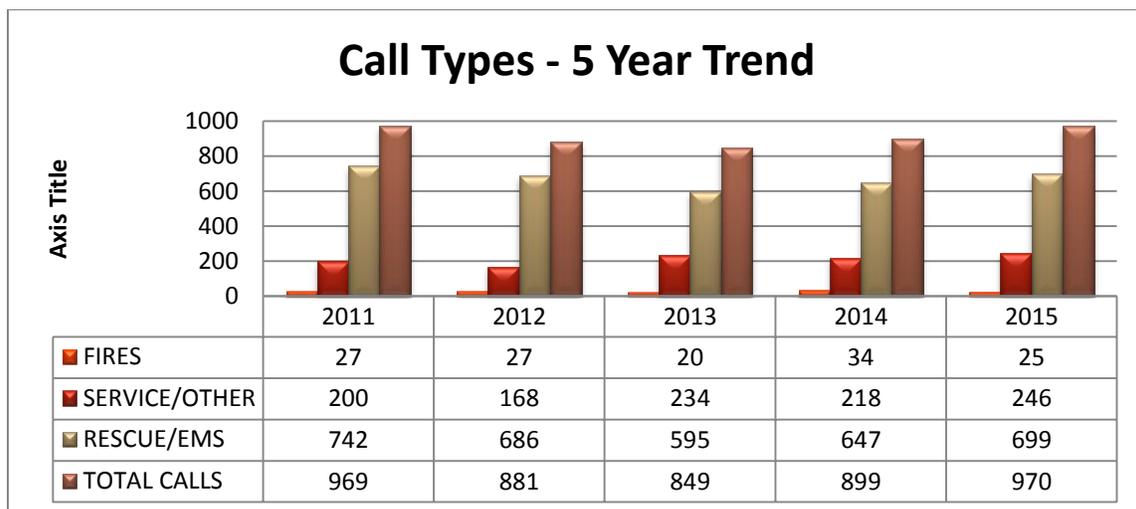
The Fire Department has encountered several structural changes over the past two years. In 2014, the Chief of Police was promoted to the position of Public Safety Director, to oversee both the Police and Fire Departments. The position of Battalion Chief was contracted out to the cities of Arcadia and Monrovia. The number of part-time engineers was increased to fill vacancies filled by volunteers departing for career departments.



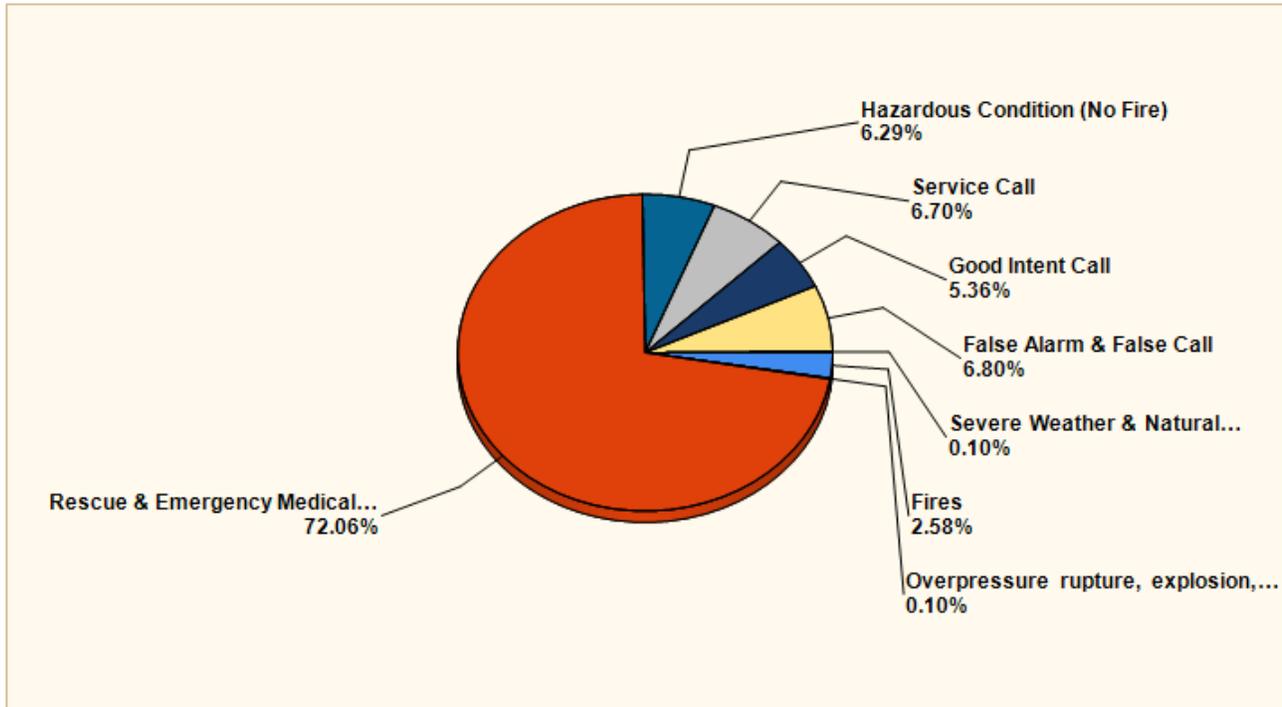
Statistical Summary

Population:	11,165
Area:	3.2 sq. miles
Assessed Property Valuation:	\$1.98 billion
Fire Personnel – Full Time	4
Fire Personnel - Part Time (Average):	7
Fire Personnel – Volunteer (Average):	27
Paramedic Personnel - Part Time (Average):	23
Fire/EMS Budget 2015-2016:	\$1,940,720
Emergency Responses 2015:	970
Fires in 2015:	25
Fire Loss:	\$22,075
Fire Loss per Capita:	\$1.98
Fire Budget per Capita:	\$173.82
Average Response Time Fire:	4:56
Average Response Time EMS:	4:05

Call Types - 5 Year Trend



Responses by Major Incident Type



Major Incident Type	# of Incidents	% of Total
Fires	25	2.58%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	1	0.10%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	699	72.06%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	61	6.29%
Service Call	65	6.70%
Good Intent Call	52	5.36%
False Alarm & False Call	66	6.80%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	0.10%
TOTAL	970	100.00%



Fire Prevention

The safest and most cost effective method in minimizing losses from fire is to prevent them from occurring in the first place. The Fire Prevention Division takes a proactive approach to fire safety by reviewing building construction plans, fire sprinkler and fire alarm installations, as well as pre-fire and disaster planning. Through fire and life safety inspections of commercial, public and multi-residential properties, hazardous brush mitigation in the wild land interface, and fire safety education programs, the Fire Prevention Division strives to prevent the development of conditions that could lead to large fire losses.

Fire Prevention Activities

In 2015, the Fire Department conducted a total of 1,620 inspections to ensure proper adherence to State and Local Fire Codes. Due to Sierra Madre's geographical location, one of the most important inspections is the annual Brush Abatement program for properties bordering the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Hazardous and dry vegetation is the greatest fire risk for hillside and canyon homes, especially in years of drought. As part of the Brush Abatement program, the Fire Department inspected 1,444 WUI properties and issued 176 violation notices for brush clearance.

Activity	2013	2014	2015
Initial Inspections	1,983	1,757	1,620
Violation Notices	320	126	217
Fire Sprinkler Inspections	62	40	87
Fire Permits	27	17	17
Public Education	27	17	26
Plan Checks	167	226	203
Movie Details	16	0	7
Fire Drills	0	3	0



Emergency Medical Services

In 2015 the Sierra Madre Fire Department Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division / Paramedic Program responded to 699 calls for service, accounting for 72% of the total calls for service for the Department. In 2015, the Sierra Madre Fire Department had on its roster an average of 38 fire suppression personnel and 23 Paramedics; all 38 fire suppression personnel are trained and certified as Emergency Medical Technicians. The department employs 23 State of California licensed Paramedics, who are accredited with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. All Sierra Madre Fire Department personnel, both EMT and Paramedic, must maintain current accreditation and licensure throughout their tenure with the Sierra Madre Fire Department. Training to maintain this accreditation and licensure requires each EMT to attend a minimum of 24 hours, and each Paramedic to attend a minimum of 48 hours of continuing education every 2 years. Paramedics who maintain National Registry are required to maintain a minimum of 72 hours every 2 years.

In June 2015, the Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedic Program completed its eighth annual Paramedic Program review / audit with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. The Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedic Program completed and passed the audit with 100% compliance in all review areas, and with no additional follow-up required from the Department of Health Services.

The Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedic Program maintains the “full scope of practice” authorized by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Our department meets all of the State of California requirements for Paramedic Service; as well as provides all of the Los Angeles County Scope of Practice; to include “non-required” equipment and skills. These additional items include CPAP (continuous positive air pressure) device and training and I/O (intraosseous infusion systems). The CPAP device can be crucial in the emergency treatment of certain airway related problems, such as asthma, or cardiac problems related to congestive heart failure. I/O devices are used to assist with the critical infusion of fluids and drugs when using an intravenous catheter is not possible. The I/O system is extremely effective and fast in obtaining vascular access during resuscitation.

In addition to the CPAP and I/O devices, the Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedics carry on board a defibrillator capable of providing transcutaneous pacing, wave-form capnography, and defibrillation. The transcutaneous pacing allows a paramedic to attach external “pace-maker” pads to a patient in the event of certain heart related problems necessary for the use of a cardiac pacemaker. The wave-form capnography device allows the paramedics to monitor a patient's CO2 expiration during major resuscitation while the patient is intubated (tube placed into the trachea of a patient to facilitate breathing and protect the airway). This device allows the paramedics to maintain a protected airway throughout the resuscitation attempt; as well as monitor patients CO2 levels simultaneously.

The Fire Department’s EMS Division continues to maintain to the highest level of service and standards to better serve the community of Sierra Madre.



Training

A fire department cannot maintain a “state of readiness” without all of the members of the fire department being equipped to handle any potential call for service. The best way for a fire department to make sure all of its members are ready for any specific call for service is through constant and routine training. All of the members of the Sierra Madre Fire Department are required to attend regular training sessions in a variety of subjects related to the fire service. In addition, each member of the Fire Department is also encouraged to maintain a healthy mind and body through routine physical exercise.

In 2015, the members of the Sierra Madre Fire Department participated in a total of 6,130 hours of training. A further breakdown of this statistic shows the fire department as a group averaged 511 hours of training per month; and 8.5 hours of training per month, per individual. Fire suppression personnel (excluding single-role paramedics) averaged 120 hours of training each for the year, and averaged 10 hours per month of individual training.

Sierra Madre Fire Department personnel are required to complete yearly refresher courses in Wildland Fire Safety and FRO (First Responder Operations) training. FRO is an 8 hour class designed for personnel who respond to the release (or potential release) of hazardous materials. The course describes the potential types of hazardous materials and wastes that may be encountered, how hazardous properties are communicated, and initial response steps.



The Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs’ Association opened a training site in Monrovia as part of their Regional Training Group (RTG) in the early months of 2015. The facility includes a three story tower with two propane-fueled burn rooms. Through the use of the RTG facility, Sierra Madre Fire personnel have had



the indispensable opportunity to participate in live training exercises that includes ladder drills, hose lays, and a mask confidence course.

The Fire Department develops and adheres to a detailed training calendar that is updated annually. The training calendar is a guideline for each individual member of the Sierra Madre Fire Department to follow in order to maintain minimum training hours and standards. Each individual member of the fire department must try to obtain the NPFA (National Fire Protection Agency) recommended annual training hours of 240 hours, and may not drop below 120 hours of annual individual training. Each member of the Sierra Madre Fire Department is responsible to attend a monthly fire suppression drill; as well as a monthly emergency medical training class. Daily training exercises take place at the engine company level 365 days per year.



2015 Year in Review

The Fire Department received a total of 970 calls for emergency service in 2015. Since 2013, there has been a 14% increase in total calls and a 17% increase in Emergency Medical Service calls. At the current rate of incidents, the Fire Department expects to respond to over 1,050 calls by the end of 2015. The below chart shows a comparison between neighboring agencies call numbers and budget for the 2015 calendar year. The Sierra Madre Fire Department continues to remain the most cost-efficient Department in terms of cost per capita, call, and total parcels.

City	Department Budget (FY 15-16)	Number of Calls (2015)	Population	Total Parcels	Cost per Capita	Cost per Call	Cost per Parcel
Alhambra	\$16,490,663.00	5,571	85,569	19,041	\$192.72	\$2,960.09	\$866.06
Arcadia	\$13,676,700.00	4,673	58,232	16,424	\$234.87	\$2,926.75	\$832.73
La Habra Heights	\$ 1,290,998.00	453	5,466	2,155	\$236.19	\$2,849.89	\$599.07
Monrovia	\$9,673,231.00	3,488	37,415	10,392	\$258.54	\$2,773.29	\$930.83
Pasadena	\$42,689,000.00	18,373	140,881	38,435	\$303.01	\$2,232.46	\$1,110.68
San Marino	\$6,112,716.00	991	13,423	4,712	\$455.39	\$6,168.23	\$1,297.27
Sierra Madre	\$1,940,720.00	970	11,165	4,102	\$173.82	\$2,000.74	\$473.12
South Pasadena	\$4,563,570.00	1,775	26,156	7,011	\$174.48	\$2,571.03	\$650.92
Average	\$12,054,699.75	4,315	47,288	12,784	\$253.63	\$3,071.68	\$845.08
Populations < 100,000	\$7,678,371.14	2,450	33,918	9,120	\$246.57	\$3,178.57	\$807.14
Populations < 50,000	\$4,716,247.00	1,517	18,725	5,674	\$259.68	\$3,272.63	\$790.24
Populations < 30,000	\$3,477,001.00	1,024	14,053	4,495	\$259.97	\$3,397.47	\$755.09
Populations < 20,000	\$3,114,811.33	800	10,018	3,656	\$288.47	\$3,672.95	\$789.82

As of April 2015, the Fire Department entered a contractual agreement with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department for automatic response to calls in the vicinity of Chantry Flat Recreation Area, in exchange for automatic aid to first alarm incidents within the city limits of Sierra Madre. Between April and December of 2015, Los Angeles County Fire personnel aided the Sierra Madre Fire Department in response to 3 first alarm incidents within Sierra Madre. Sierra Madre Fire personnel, in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, responded to 45 calls in the Chantry Flat Recreation Area.

Due to the retirement of several volunteer personnel at the Battalion Chief level, the Sierra Madre Fire Department contracted services for the position of Battalion Chief to the Arcadia and Monrovia Fire Departments beginning in June 2015. Prior to contracting services, four volunteers donated a minimum of 6,680 total hours and 1,670 individual hours (70 24-hour shifts) per year toward the safety of the community.





A new Frazer Rescue Ambulance replaced the Road Rescue Ambulance as RA-41. The Road Rescue has been designated as a reserve ambulance should the current RA-41 require maintenance. In 2014, the previous reserve ambulance was placed out of service and surplus due to mechanical failures.

The Sierra Madre Fire Department is proud to serve the community with highly trained and qualified personnel at a cost-effective rate. The volunteers and part-time personnel that make up the majority of personnel dedicate their time and expertise to the Department in addition to full-time careers within the public safety and medical services. Many volunteers and part-time employees are employed full-time as ER Technicians, Police Officers, Deputy Sheriffs, Fire Engineers, and Paramedics from private ambulance companies and career departments.

The Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters' Association continues to play an active role in the community through the sponsoring of community events throughout the year such as the Annual Pancake Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, and Christmas Eve Visit from Santa Claus.

In 2015 the Fire Department continued to participate in and show support for the many City and Community lead events that make Sierra Madre great. The Fire Department lead the Little League and Halloween Parades, provided EMT services for the Wistaria Festival and Mount Wilson Trail Race, and delivered Santa Claus to Kersting Court for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting. The Fire Department's continued appreciation of the support of Sierra Madre residents, City Council and management staff cannot be overstated. We would also like to thank the men and women of the Sierra Madre Fire Department for their dedication and hard work in 2015.

