

# BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## OVERVIEW

2019 was a very busy year for the Biloxi Fire Department. There is a saying that growth is healthy, and if that is so, then the Biloxi Fire Department is very healthy. Growth within the department has continued at what sometimes seems like a feverish pace. For example, at the time of this report, we will have successfully completed the opening of two new stations, a roughly \$6 million dollar project that started over a year ago. Though the public may marvel at the brick and mortar of these new buildings, what they cannot see is how these facilities will change the whole dynamics of the department, and how we serve the city. With the addition of these buildings we have also been able to hire 11 additional firefighters, and for the first time in our 130 year history we have a designated training facility that will include a state of the art classroom and training tower; both of which will be used daily to ensure that all members are trained on the latest techniques and best practices of firefighting and emergency medical procedures. The Department's response time, city wide, will also be reduced because we now have crews strategically placed to respond more efficiently. In addition, the department now has a dedicated emergency operations center for use in the event of future hurricanes or other disasters.

In November of last year, the City approved the purchase two new E-One Typhoon pumpers to be delivered in November of this coming year (see attached illustration). With a price tag of just under one million dollars, these units will be smaller and more compact than our current trucks. Because they are built on the new green truck design, this means that they are designed not only for fire protection, but also for the protection of our firefighters from harmful carcinogens as they travel to and from emergencies. The design is also more ergonomically suited to prevent slips, trips, and falls--the most common cause of injuries in the fire department.

Last year we reported that the Fire Department received a \$1,705,914.00 *Assistance to Firefighter* grant that would allow us to hire nine new firefighters for the new fire station #10. I am happy to report that due to an adjusted construction schedule that allowed us to delay the grant activation, we were able to hire 11 new firefighters for the same cost. This is a three year grant that pays 75% of the 11 firefighter's salaries for two years and 35% the third year.

While we are speaking of grants, in 2019, the Department also received a \$32,000.00 grant from FEMA to pay for a study called "Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Coverage Planning". To put it simply, this will be a study performed by an

independent third party company which will establish a community profile, identify and prioritize risk, analyze strengths and weaknesses, and identify service delivery performances within the Biloxi Fire Department. Biloxi is the first department in the state to receive this grant opportunity, but more importantly, the results of the study will provide a report with recommendations that will assist us to upgrade our standard of service delivery.

In the early part of last year, the Department experienced its first documented occupational cancer death when we lost our brother, Firefighter III Darrin Endris. His loss has strengthened our resolve to battle this silent killer at every opportunity, and to that end, we are currently evaluating everything we do, how we do it, and why we do it; all in an effort to adjust our various job descriptions going forward to protect our members.

Going into the next year, in early summer the Biloxi Fire Department is scheduled to again be rated by the Mississippi State Rating Bureau. The rating inspection occurs every five years, allowing us a change to lower our fire insurance rating which is currently at a Class-3 rating. The Department has been diligently working during the last five years to put us in the best possible position to lower the current rating even more. We feel confident that with what we have achieved, along with the added assistance of the City's Administration, Engineering, Public Works, and Community Development departments, we feel confident in the upcoming rating evaluation. It is our sincere hope that we will have good news to report.

As you can see, we have been busy; however, we would have it no other way because we love a challenge. I can assure you that your Biloxi Fire Department stands ever-ready to meet any challenge with the most professional, caring members you will encounter anywhere in the world!



# BLOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT

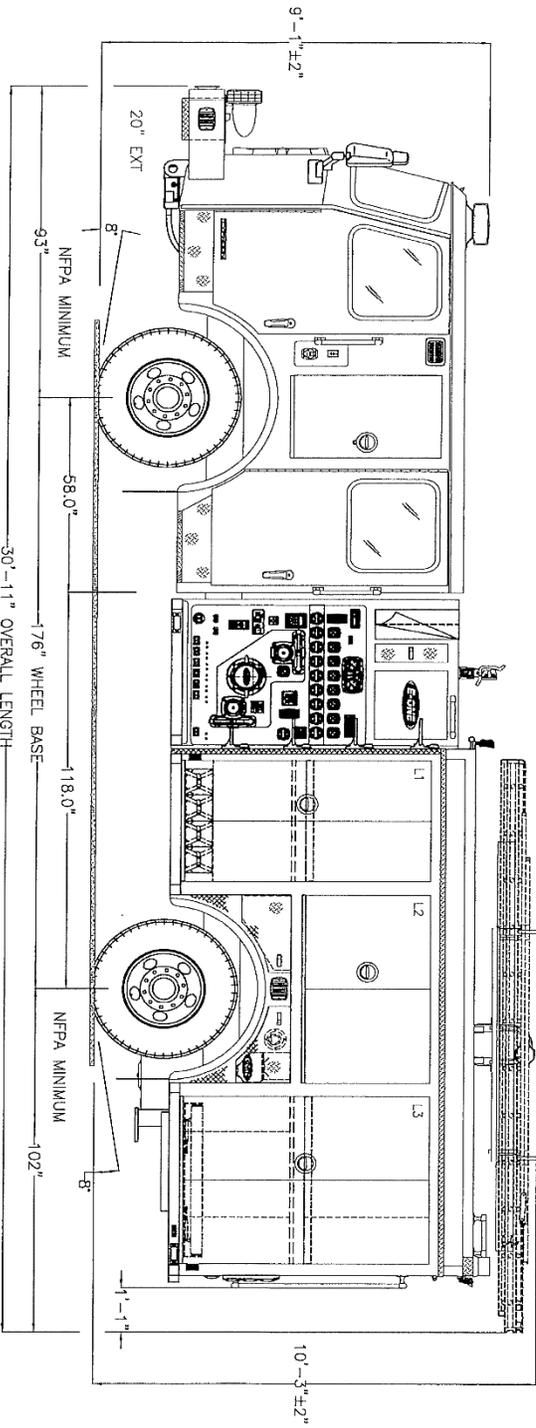
## BLOXI MS

S.O. 143684-685 / 095481  
 CUSTOM 36 PUMPER  
 TYPHOON 4X2 CHASSIS

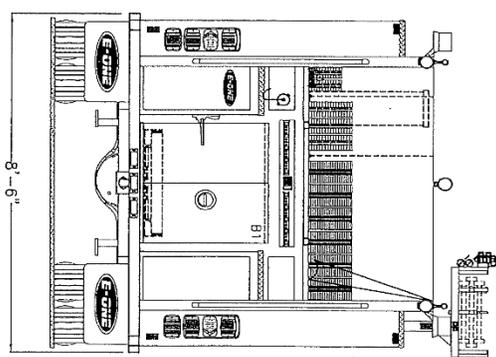
HOSE LOAD:	250' OF 1.5" DJ
1250 GPM HALE ORLO PUMP	400' OF 2.5" DJ
500 GALLON WATER TANK	1000' OF 4.0" I.D.
50 GALLON INTERNAL CLASS "A" FOAM	
CONCEPT	INTERIOR DIMENSION
L1 36W 68H	36W 70D UPPER
R1 36W 68H	36W 70D UPPER
L2 36W 34H	36W 34H 180
R2 33W 34H	33W 34H 120
L3 50W 68H	50W 70D UPPER
R3 50W 68H	50W 70D UPPER
E1 36W 35H	36W 35H 280 LOWER

THIS DRAWING IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO MANUFACTURING VARIATIONS DUE TO MANUFACTURING PROGRESS.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE IS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHAIR REVISIONS: \_\_\_\_\_



HOSEBED HEIGHT:  
 (FOR REFERENCE ONLY)  
 TO TAILBOARD: 47"  
 TO GROUND: 51"



NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	10/11/12
2	REVISED PER COMMENTS	10/11/12
3	REVISED PER COMMENTS	10/11/12

**BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Biloxi Fire Department responded to 7,454 emergency calls during this past year compared to 7,705 calls in 2018. Of the 7,454 emergency calls 4,964 were rescue and medical incidents which represents 68.5% of our overall calls. There was a significant decrease over the past year in the amount of good intent or service calls that were non-emergency related, as well as hazardous condition and false alarm calls. The number of fire-related calls, including structures, vehicles, boats, motorhomes, and wood fires remained relatively equal; with an overall total of 225 compared to 224 in 2018. The dollar value of properties involving fire incidents totaled \$21,047,635 over the past year. Of that amount, losses totaled \$1,969,810 while value saved totaled \$19,077,825. In other words, 9.36% was the total dollar value lost while 90.64% was saved.

In 2019 we provided fire, rescue, and medical protection for several major events in the City, including Mardi Gras, Spring Break, the Thunder over the Sound Air Show, Scraping the Coast, Cruisin' the Coast, and a Presidential Visit. Specialty teams were designated for each event and placed in strategic locations to ensure safety needs of our citizens and visitors were met. Police, Fire, and EMS were again staged in the same Command Post, working seamlessly together and strengthening our overall performance. With the assistance of other emergency response agencies and hospitals, we have evolved into working as one large but very effective team. Consequently, our combined efforts provided a highly resourceful stratagem for the safety and well-being of our personnel, citizens, and visitors.

In addition to working these events, the Fire Department also opened a brand new, 6,920 square foot fire station on November 22, 2019. The Anthony Rousseau Fire Station #10, located on Old Hwy 67 in Woolmarket, is now fully operational with four personnel per shift. These 4 personnel respond with an engine and a tanker, providing fire, rescue and medical protection to the surrounding residents. Incidentally, as this is being reported, the newly constructed Phil McCabe Fire Station #7 is set to open as well.

Within the last year, twenty one (21) firefighters became national registry certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), with 12 new recruits currently in class. The Department also promoted several personnel in 2019, including one Deputy Chief, one Battalion Chief, six Captains, and seven Firefighter IIIs (Driver/Operators). Fifteen new recruits were hired in October and will enhance our staffing needs.

Operations personnel also had the opportunity to participate on promotional assessment boards for the cities of Pascagoula, Hattiesburg, Ocean Springs, and Gulfport Fire Departments. Chief Officers from the Department also attended two conferences last year, including the 82<sup>nd</sup> Fire Chiefs Conference in Vicksburg, MS and the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Murfreesboro, TN.

In an ongoing commitment to maintain a beneficial relationship in the community where we live and serve, the Biloxi Fire Department hosted and participated in numerous community outreach programs such as the Fire Academy for Kids, Elks Lodge Christmas Parade for children with disabilities, the American Heart Association Boot Drive, the Muscular Dystrophy Association “Fill the Boot” drive, Salvation Army’s “Ring the Bell”, and the Mississippi Burn Camp. We are proud to boast that our Department placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state for the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s “Fill the Boot” drive, and that departmental personnel raised \$5,000.00 to purchase 60 new bikes, with helmets for each bike, for the annual Asgard Christmas toy run sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

In this coming year, the Biloxi Fire Department is looking towards the future in implementation of both continued and new goals. We soon plan on holding a “hands on” refresher on high rise fire responses that will include Scene Accountability, Rapid Intervention Team Deployment, and our Mayday Procedures. We will further continue to plan, train, and implement definitive emergency response for Active Shooter Incidents and Lost Person Incidents with our Police Department so both departments can work seamlessly together on low-frequency, high-risk emergency incidents as well as huge potential media events.

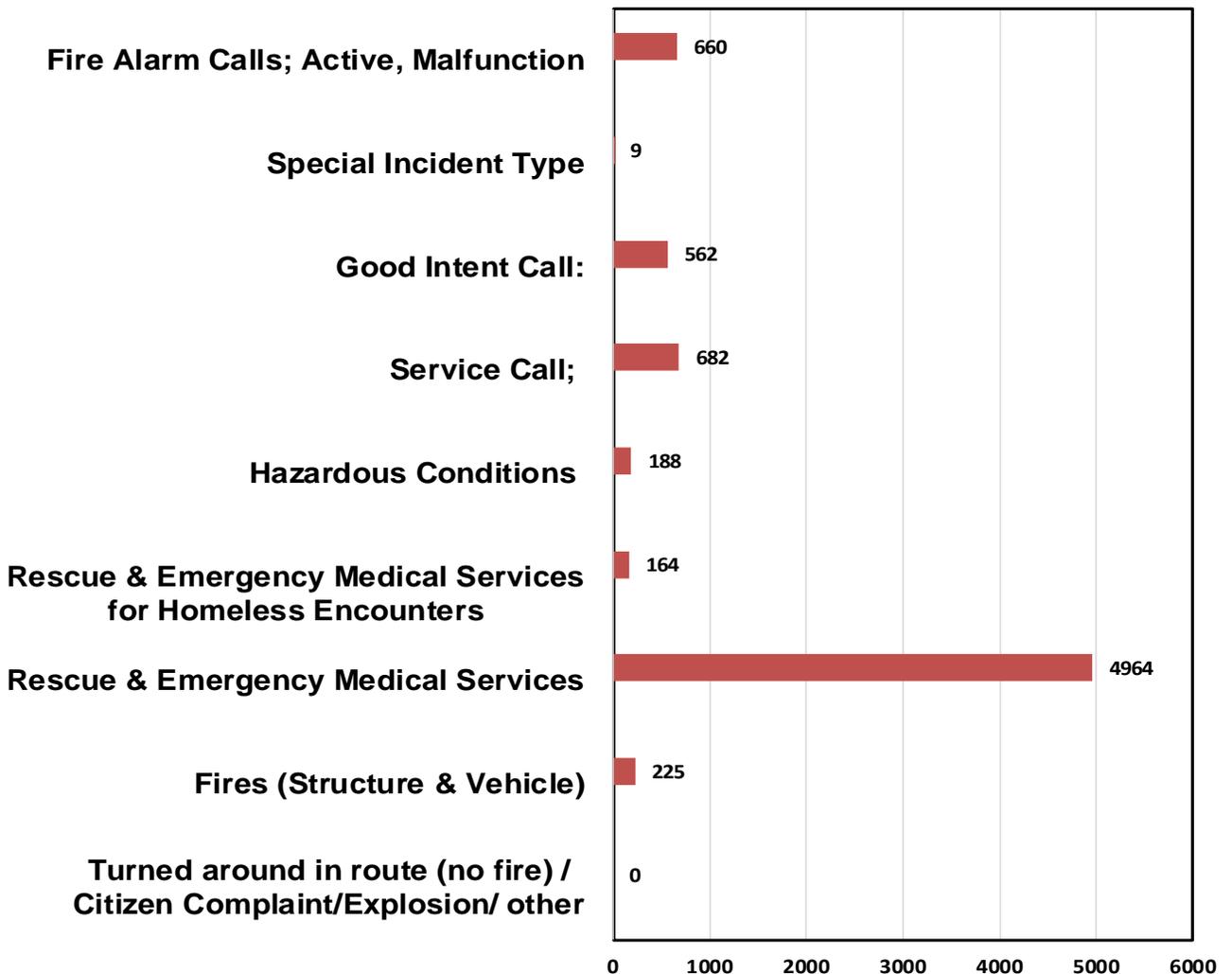
The below graph details the Fire Department’s incident type averages over the past year:



## BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT SUMMARY REPORT FOR January - December 2019

<i>Turned around in route (no fire) / Citizen Complaint/Explosion/ other</i>	0
<i>Fires (Structure &amp; Vehicle)</i>	225
<i>Rescue &amp; Emergency Medical Services</i>	4964
<i>Rescue &amp; Emergency Medical Services for Homeless Encounters</i>	164
<i>Hazardous Conditions</i>	188
<i>Service Call;</i>	682
<i>Good Intent Call:</i>	562
<i>Special Incident Type</i>	9
<i>Fire Alarm Calls; Active, Malfunction</i>	660
<b>Total</b>	<b>7454</b>

**Weekly Count of Incident Type**



**Biloxi Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Division  
2019 Annual Report**

In 2019 the Fire Prevention Division conducted 4,729 fire inspections--an increase of 339 inspections from the previous year. Of the yearly total, 1,865 inspections were performed by truck company firefighters while 2,864 inspections were performed by the Fire Prevention personnel. Additionally, 563 certificates of occupancy inspections were conducted and of that total, 280 were short-term rentals.

Daycare facilities, after school, and summer day camps are all required by Mississippi to have a Uniform Fire Safety Survey Form completed by local agencies. This form is basically a detailed fire inspection which is conducted yearly in conjunction with the department's certified fire prevention personnel. There were a total of 30 of these inspections performed (20 daycares and 10 after school/summer day camp programs).

The Biloxi Fire Department had 7,454 calls in 2019. The majority of these calls were related to some type of rescue/medical incident while the other calls were either some type of fire or hazmat incident. The Department's Fire Inspectors are tasked with being on-call 24/7 to investigate and determine the cause and origin of any fire requested by the on-scene Battalion Chief if the apparent cause is unknown. Fire Prevention investigated a total of 17 of these types of fires with one reported fire death in 2019.

Once again, the number of development plans reviewed by Fire Prevention has continued to increase from 2018 and include commercial construction and fire protection system plans. There were 85 commercial plans and 123 residential single family dwelling home plans reviewed in 2019. In addition, 19 automatic hood extinguishing systems, 23 automatic sprinkler systems, and 27 fire alarm systems plans were reviewed. All together this equaled 277 blue prints reviewed by Fire Prevention for approval. Once the projects are permitted and built, the inspection/testing process then takes over. Some of the pre-existing fire protection systems that are tested are also required to be recertified each year and such testing is conducted by Fire Prevention personnel.

The Fire Prevention Division is also responsible for issuing burn permits within the City of Biloxi. These permits, which are free to the community, require our Inspectors to check the initial burn site and explain the rules of fire safety practices before one is issued. A total of 60 permits were issued this year, including both new and renewed permits; and no fire incidents were reported for anyone having a burn permit.

In addition to burn permits, Fire Prevention also manages the permit process for pyrotechnic shows displayed within the city limits. In 2019 14 outdoor fireworks displays and three indoor pyrotechnic shows were successfully permitted.

Public education remains the number one goal of the Fire Prevention Division. The first defense against fighting a fire or surviving a fire incident is education. In 2019, Fire Prevention personnel were able to reach out to over 45,000 people through our public education programs. We connect with the community in many ways, such as providing station tours, conducting fire safety presentation classes to children and senior citizens, and giving fire extinguisher classes to businesses, high school students, and teachers. On numerous occasions we offer the fireman's kid challenge—a fun and educational obstacle course for each child to participate in--sometimes more than once. Fire Pup, our mascot also makes many appearances at events and has become a tremendous hit with the children. As an important part of our ongoing educational programs, Fire Prevention conducts fire drill training to all schools (public and private), daycare facilities, senior citizen facilities, and private businesses. We also participate in a number of career day events, not only for adults, but for school age kids also.

In June 2019, the Biloxi Fire Department continued its annual two-week fire safety summer camp--the "Fire Academy for Kids Camp". The popularity of this program has ensured its success. The camp is free to children of the community, funded by donations from local individuals and businesses with one parent again donating \$250. This was our ninth year to conduct the Fire Academy for Kids Workshop, continuing the additional advanced class as well. We are eagerly looking forward to having the camp again in 2020!

Last, but not least, Fire Prevention continued its successful smoke detector installation program. Again, this is a free service offered to citizens of the community who need new detectors installed or to have their existing ones tested for operational efficiency. This program is funded through different grants applied for by our department, and all smoke detectors are donated free of charge. This is the fifth year we teamed up with the American Red Cross, installing 447 smoke detectors in 117 residential dwellings. We also have a smoke detector program in place for the hearing and visually impaired that includes vibrating pillow/mattress and strobe devices, and we installed 5 of these devices this past year. The Biloxi Fire Department believes strongly in the importance of this program. Not only does it provide fire safety education, it also is an effective measure in preventing a needless fire fatality.

## **TRAINING DIVISION 2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

Over the course of the past year, the Training Division has had the opportunity to implement programs and goals designed to advance firefighting recruitment and skills. One of the biggest assets to the department has been the implementation of the Workforce Development Training Agreement with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) which allows reimbursement for all training conducted in the department. At year's end, we have already received approximately \$26,000.00 through this program.

In regards to recruitment, a departmental Ride-Along Program was also created this past year which provides firsthand observations of a firefighter's job to those considering making the fire service a career. We have received a lot of positive response and several participants so far. Additionally a recruitment video was produced in August to increase the number of firefighter applicants. The Training Division has set a goal to hold two firefighter candidate tests each year to allow the department to maintain staffing requirements throughout the year.

The Training Division led refresher classes in CPR, EMT, Inspections, Helicopter Landing Zones, and Blood Borne Pathogens during this past year. Night burns were conducted as part of our annual firefighter training. Live fire burns were also conducted on vacant structures to not only provide realistic training, but also to save the City demolition fees due to the creation of a new Keesler Gate. The Department also hosted its first National Fire Academy certified class-- *Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking*--with 11 personnel attending the class. Additionally, three of the recruits previously hired in 2018 became certified firefighters.

In October 2019, fifteen new firefighters were hired--11 recruits and 4 laterals. The Training Division directed more than 5,000 hours of training to get each of them ready to complete the required Basic FF 1001 I-II course and for shift work.

The Training Division completed 2,736 hours of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training by providing an EMT class to our recruits and personnel using our own Paramedics to teach the class. Three of the laterals who were already EMT certified were able to go on shift duty to help with staffing requirements. In the past year, the department had 21 more firefighters become EMT certified.

Additionally, we completed 432 hours of Professional Development training with our Officers and over 789 hours of training in conjunction with the State Task Force Team. Our personnel completed over 15,934 hours of "station" training conducted at the fire stations by the crews themselves, while 38 firefighters

completed 3,592 hours of training through the Mississippi State Fire Academy and 15 firefighters completed over 564 hours of training through the National Fire Academy. The graph below details training areas and hours:

**2019 SUMMARY OF TRAINING HOURS**

TRAINING TYPE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
INHOUSE TRAINING	48	273	135	98	133		17	15			15		<b>734</b>
RECRUIT INHOUSE	438	344								1440	1728	1920	<b>5,870</b>
STATION TRAINING	1243	1331	1293	1435	1604	1240	1294	1266	1164	1293	1087	1684	<b>15,934</b>
STATE FIRE ACADEMY	320	696	680	416	80	160		40	40	40	160	960	<b>3,592</b>
NAT'L FIRE ACADEMY					172	40	176	96	80				<b>564</b>
TASK FORCE		40	4	16	128	96	48		396	53	8		<b>789</b>
MISC. TRAINING	88		1244	13	16	10	24	20		7	20	64	<b>1,506</b>
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	141				36		46	84				125	<b>432</b>
EMS TRAINING	345	32		17	337	3	6	517	56	1599	1287	968	<b>5,167</b>
<b>TOTAL TRAINING HRS.</b>	<b>2,623</b>	<b>2,716</b>	<b>3,356</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>2,506</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>1,736</b>	<b>4,432</b>	<b>4,305</b>	<b>5,721</b>	<b>34,588</b>