

# Neosho Fire Department 2019 Annual Report



*It is the design of the department to serve the public to the best of  
Our ability.*

*The mission of the department it to assist people through  
Prevention, Planning, Education, and Action.  
We pursue this mission with determination and resolve with  
emphasis on  
Dedication, Compassion, and Constant Improvement.*

## Introduction

The Neosho Fire Department started the year out busy and remained that way throughout the year. We responded to **2,311** calls for service.

I would like to say “Thank You” to the citizens that have continued to support the fire department. We have worked very hard to maintain the high standard that you have come to expect, and we wouldn’t want it any other way. To the members of the fire department, their families, fellow City employees, first responders from around the area, a big thank you for your time helping make Neosho a safer place. In times of need, this community comes together making Neosho a better place.

## Departmental Facts

Fire Station 1  
125 N. College St.  
Neosho, Missouri 64850  
Phone: 417-451-8021  
Fax: 417-451-8027

Fire Station 2  
501 Industrial Drive  
Neosho Missouri 64850  
Phone: 417-451-8030  
Fax: 417-451-8047

District Fire Station (3)  
13002 Ireland Lane  
Neosho MO 64850  
(Unmanned District built station)

Department Fire Chief, Jim Ledford,  
Assistant Fire Chief, Unfunded Position  
Administrative Assistant Shelby Pringle,  
Fire Inspector, Scott Maness

### Staffing-40 hour

Fire Chief  
Administrative Assistant  
Fire Inspector

### Staffing-24 hour Shift

3 Battalion Chiefs  
3 Captains  
12 Engineers  
6 Firefighters

### Staffing-Paid-per-call

1 Firefighter

**City ISO rating is: 4/4X**  
**District ISO rating is: 5/10**  
**Fire Department Personnel Current staff**  
**End of year 2019**

**Administrative Staffing [40 hr]**

Fire Chief Jim Ledford (97)  
Administrative Assistant Shelby Pringle (17)  
Fire Inspector/Firefighter Scott Maness (11)

**Shift personnel [24/48 hr]**

**A-Shift (24)**

Bat. Chief Roy Haskett (02)  
Capt. Capt. Kyle Rogers (03)  
Eng Mark Solomon (02)  
Eng. Jacob Pim (11)  
Eng. Dustin Wright (18)  
Eng. Danny Naugle (17)  
FF CJ Hutchens (17)  
FF Shawn Nance (19)

**B-Shift (24)**

Bat. Chief Adrian Hitchcock (02)  
Capt. Derek Williams (16)  
Eng. Beau Davis (05)  
Eng. Lance Parsons (15)  
Eng. Phillip Doke (17)  
Eng. Steven Hendrix (17)  
FF Brandon Burns (16)  
FF Caleb Ridenour (19)

**C-Shift (24)**

Bat. Chief Bret Smith (91)  
Capt. Tim Duncan (02)  
Eng. Luke Powell (11)  
Eng. Travis Bracht (11)  
Eng. Heath Crowder (17)  
Eng. Jeremy Clogston (17)  
FF Colton Tuten (18)  
FF Zachary Chapman (19)

**Paid-per-Call**

Firefighter Steffen Wiest (11)



### Assessment of Personnel

An assessment of the Neosho Fire Department and personnel requirements as required for the City of Neosho.

Determining the number of needed fire personnel can be difficult as personnel numbers are not based off call volume or area covered. Personnel requirements are based on call type. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sets forth guidelines for staffing requirements. In an ideal world these staffing guidelines would be met and followed. In the real-world funding plays a major role in staffing. The Neosho Fire Department (NFD) works daily to maintain adequate staffing to comply with NFPA while also remaining fiscally responsible for the City of Neosho.

## NFPA Guidelines:

NFPA 1710 Chapter 5 lays out the guidelines for staffing.

5.2.2 The number of on-duty fire suppression members shall be sufficient to perform the necessary firefighting operations given the expected firefighting conditions.

NFPA continues to say that the number is based on task analysis based on 5 criteria:

1. Life hazard to populace protected
2. Safe and effective Fire Fighting Performance Conditions for Fire Fighters
3. Potential Property Loss
4. Nature, Configuration, Hazards, and Internal Protections of the properties involved
5. Fireground tactics and evolutions employed as Standard Operating Procedure, Type of apparatus used, and results expected to be obtained at the fire scene.

When we apply these criteria to the Neosho Fire Department, we find the requirement for personnel to be the highest within the City limits. The highest life hazard, potential for property loss, Nature, Configuration, and Hazards are found within the city limits. The City of Neosho has a higher number of multi-family living units (apartments), Manufacturing, and Warehousing. NFPA goes on to further break down the number of personnel by apparatus assignments:

5.2.3.1.1 Engine companies shall be staffed with a minimum of 4 on duty members.

5.2.3.2.1 Ladder companies shall be staffed with a minimum of 4 on duty members

NFD responds 2 engines and a ladder to all structure fires within the city limits. When fully staffed, 8 personnel, 4 responds in an engine from Station 1, 3 respond in an engine from Station 2, and 1 responds in the Ladder from Station 2. As we can see when fully staffed the station 1 apparatus meets NFPA while station 2 does not. When we take into consideration Vacation, FLSA days, Earned Leave and Sick Leave often shifts run at minimum staffing levels which is 6 per shift. When this occurs, there are 3 people in an engine from station 1, 2 in an engine from station 2 and 1 in the ladder from station 2.

NFPA also sets guidelines for personnel on scenes by assigning tasks:

### Single Family Dwellings:

1. Incident Commander
2. Pump Operator
3. 2 Handline Crews consisting of 2 personnel each
4. 1 Member for assistance
5. 2 Members for Search and Rescue
6. 2 Members for Ladders and Ventilation
7. If an Aerial is used 1 aerial operator
8. Rapid Intervention Crew of 2 members

To fill all the positions required by NFPA a daily staffing of 14 personnel would be required, fully staffed NFD has 8 per day. As the size of the structures increase so do the number of personnel required to safely and effectively mitigate the situation. Apartment Fires call for 22 personnel while high rise fires/commercial fires call for 33 members not accounting for EMS personnel.

In summary the Neosho Fire Department is far below the recommended staffing levels of NFPA. The NFD also understands that given the size of the City of Neosho and revenue that full NFPA staffing is not a feasible solution. The current number of 24 on duty fire fighters, 8 per shift, allows us to come close to meeting some of the requirements. Any cut to staffing would hamper the department's ability and increase the safety risk to its member's.

Currently the break down on responses from January 1, 2019 to November 31, 2019 is as follows:

City calls for service **1,654**

District Calls for service **595**

Mutual Aid calls for service **62**

In order to better serve the community and our firefighters, funding is needed for a Full time Assistant Fire Chief, Full time Training Chief and 3 additional personnel. As mentioned above we operate below the recommended NFPA staffing level. Our personnel work very hard to maintain the level of service our citizens expect.

Sometimes it is very difficult to maintain our service level when there are multiple calls for service going on at the same time, when personnel and resources are stretched thin. Although we may not be a large city, we still face the same hazards that larger cities do. The difference being our personnel are performing multiple job tasks and working with far fewer personnel.

Personnel Numbers by years

**2004 Personnel Levels** (28 Full time FF's, 8 PPC FF's)  
2 Chief Officers, 1 Admin. Assist, 1 sec., 1 Building Inspector, 1 Training Officer,  
3 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 12 Engineers, 6 Firefighters, 8 Paid Per Call firefighters

**2010 Personnel Levels** (20 Full time FF's, 3 PPC FF's)  
1 Chief Officer, 1 Admin. Assist., 3 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 12 Engineers,  
1 Firefighter, 3 Paid Per Call Firefighters

**2015 Personnel Levels** (26 Full time FF's, 5 PPC FF's)  
1 Chief Officer, 1 Admin. Assist, 1 Inspector, 3 Bat. Chiefs, 3 Captains,  
12 Engineers, 6 Firefighters, 5 Paid Per Call Firefighters

**2018 Personnel Levels** (27 Full time FF's, 2 PPC FF's)  
2 Chief Officers, 1 Admin. Assist, 1 Inspector, 3 Bat. Chiefs, 3 Captains,  
12 Engineers, 6 Firefighters, 2 Paid Per Call Firefighters

**2019 Personnel Levels** (26 Full Time FF's, 1 PPC FF)  
1 Chief Officer, 1 Administrative Assistant, 1 Fire Inspector, 3 Battalion Chiefs, 3 Captains  
12 Engineers, 6 Firefighters, 1 Paid Per Call Firefighter

**Response area of the department is approximately 93 square miles, which includes:**

**City of Neosho (15.75 Sq. Miles)**  
**District A**-Inside City limit, north of South Street  
**District B**-Inside City limit, south of South Street

**Neosho Area Fire Protection District**  
**District C**-Area outside City of Neosho (77.25 Sq. Miles)  
Limits: Iris Road on the north, Goldfinch on the west, AA Highway on the south, Panda Road on the east. District lines follow section lines where no roads are located.

**Mutual Aid (M/A)**  
Assistance requested from and provided to all local fire or other agencies that request personnel, equipment, or special assistance from the fire department. Department also participates in the State Wide Mutual Aid assistance program when requested if resources and personnel are available.

**Equipment Operated by the Fire Department: (year of vehicle)**

**City:**  
2 Engines (2013 & 1999)  
1 Aerial 111' (2019)  
1 Light rescue (2008)  
1 Command vehicle 2016  
3 Service units-pickup trucks, & Air Unit (2005, 2005, 2016)  
1 Inspector vehicle-Staff (2006)  
1 Educational trailer (CARE)  
1 Radio/Rehab vehicle (MDC-1992) (MDC surplus property)

**District:**  
2 Engines (2017, 2009)  
1 Reserve engine (1995)  
3 Tankers (2016, 2000, 2000)  
1 Reserve tanker (MDC-2009)  
3 Brush trucks (2001, 2006, 2017)  
1 Light rescue (2009)  
1 Command vehicle (Chief) (2009)  
1 Flatbed trailer  
Station 3 (13002 Ireland Lane) (District owned)

**Homeland Security Equipment operated by fire department-** In September 2008, the City of Neosho opted out of this program due to funding available to support the program. In January 2010, we closed out funding from Missouri's Homeland Security Regional Response System (HSRRS) program funds. Teams retained all equipment received through the program. Unencumbered funds were reallocated to the Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee.

Team was comprised of members of the Neosho Police (Law Enforcement), Neosho Fire (Hazmat), and Newton County Ambulance District (Medical). Equipment has been used to support local and mutual aid operations when requested or Regional or State Responses when called for. Primary mission of the Neosho Haz-Mat Team was to support other Regional and State teams during times of emergency.

Equipment listed consists of Hazardous materials and Decontamination Equipment used by the Neosho Fire Department HSRRS.

3-Prime equipment Movers (F250, F-550, and Bobcat loader)

1-28 foot Cargo Trailer-Hazardous Materials Equipment

1-20 foot Cargo Trailer-Equipment Mover

1-16 foot Flatbed Trailer-Equipment Mover

4-ATV's with Trailers and Carts-Equipment Movers

Assorted logistical support equipment (Sheltering tents, generators, heating system, etc).

Neosho Police and Newton County Ambulance District also received specialized equipment through the program.

Equipment issued to and purchased for the team through the Homeland Security Program was in excess of \$410,000.

### **Vehicle Maintenance and Service**

The task of proper operation and maintenance of all equipment is of the utmost importance. The maintenance program for the department consists of daily, weekly, monthly, six-month and annual services. Records are maintained on all apparatus and motorized equipment. Minor service and repairs, such as, adjustments to vehicles, and equipment are performed by duty personnel. Individuals within the department that have been factory trained in maintenance procedures on specific equipment. Those repairs would include, Apparatus pumps, Building Maintenance, Air Sampling and Service of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and their Air Cylinders. Our annual ISO testing of pumpers, SCBA's, aerial, and ground ladders are performed by an outside vendor since the department does not have proper equipment for these types of testing. NFPA recommends an outside testing source as well. We do attempt to schedule and offer these testing requirements to other departments within our area to help with reducing the cost to all departments for these services.

We also rely heavily on City of Neosho public works mechanics, Mike Watts and John McNorton. They have performed many hours of maintenance on our apparatus as well as providing support in areas where assistance was needed with repairs to our apparatus.



## Fire Department Response Information

Shown below is the total number of calls received by district and a breakdown of calls received, between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. Along with a comparison of the last 4 years.

### Calls by District

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
District A (1,014) =	43.87%	43.21%	42.72%	43.04%	42.83%
District B (640) =	27.69%	24.66%	29.06%	27.85%	26.73%
District C (595) =	25.74%	27.53%	25.11%	24.86%	26.39%
Mutual Aid (62) =	2.68%	4.58%	3.09%	4.22%	4.03%

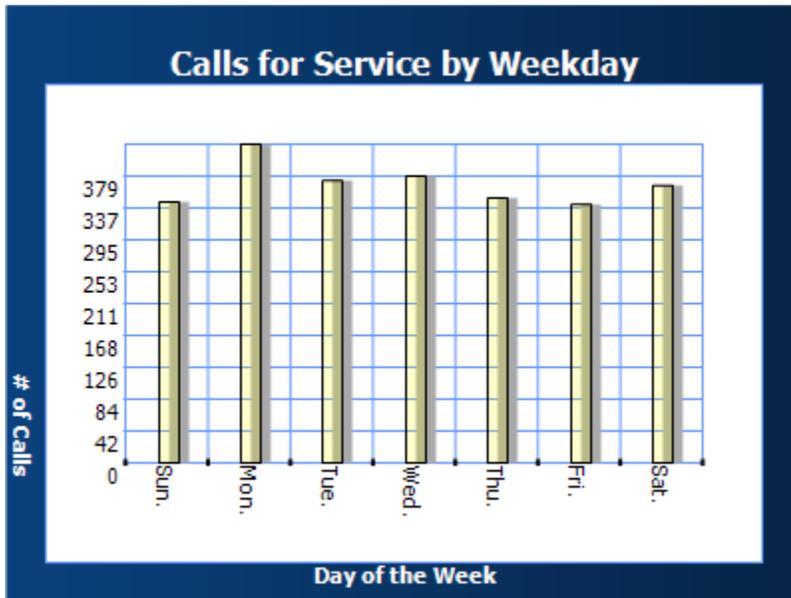
### Yearly Average Response Time for the First Arriving Unit (from receiving alarm to arrival) (Fire calls only) (In minutes)

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
District A	6.22	6.06	4:35	5:04	5:05
District B	7.00	6.08	6:32	5:48	5:48
District C:	11.23	10.43	9:32	9:33	9:37

**Yearly Average Response Time for the Second Arriving Unit (from receiving alarm to arrival) (Fire calls only)**

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
District A	7.55	9.40	6:36	7:59	7:20
District B	7.51	6.08	7:20	7:00	5:45
District C:	11.10	11.43	10:31	9:44	10:27

Factors that can effect response times are location of call, travel routes, traffic, overlapping or multiple calls, calls outside the district areas (Example: Dist. Apparatus responding to Dist. B area or Dist. B responding to Dist. A area) and Dispatching of call.



**Major structure incidents, with over \$5,000-dollar, fire department estimated loss:**

January	City- 613 Hamilton St	\$8,300.00
April	City- 805 Riverside Dr	\$50,000.00
June	City- 601 Spring St	\$9,000.00
July	City- 4301 Howard Bush Dr	\$50,000.00
November	City- 215 W Hickory St	\$55,000.00
December	District-12190 Oak Road	\$7,500.00
	District- 2531 N Wood St	\$48,000.00
	District- 9972 Janis Ln	\$100,000.00
	City- 1204 Peterson Rd	\$32,500.00

We responded to 111 calls for service that were logged as a fire (structure, vehicle, grass, etc.) **(Estimates for dollar loss are just an estimate from fire personnel on scene and do not reflect the actual dollar loss by the Insurance Company or Home Owner)**

**Fire related injuries or deaths (Civilian or Fire Personnel)**

- 0**-Civilian deaths in the City or District
- 0**-Civilian injury in the City or District
  
- 0**-Fire personnel deaths in the City or District
- 0**-Fire personnel injury in the City or District



**Firefighter Training**-Personnel participated in **4,743.6** hours of in-house and outside department training. That breaks down to **175.68** hours of training per individual.

**Firefighter Training**-We continue to train all Firefighters to be Engineers, so we have the flexibility to have enough operators of the apparatus to respond to structure fires. These changes will give us more flexibility in our operations and what we can offer. We continue to provide our firefighters with the needed training and work to bring in as much outside training as possible.

**Community Training**-**89** hours of public education was performed during the year. **213** adults and **660** children participated in activities that consisted of extinguisher training, school fire prevention programs, fire safety talks for businesses, industry and the public.

**Inspections**-**782** total inspections were done. **597** inspections were Pre-Plans, Business, Company, Industry, new construction, remodels, tent, fireworks, and burn permits. 185 where re-inspections preformed to follow up on questions and or concerns brought up from the first inspection.

## **2019 in Review:**

March of 2019 brought on several personnel changes for the fire department with the retirement of Chief Eads and the resignation of 2 Engineers. Personnel were promoted to fill vacant positions and personnel were added to our department. New hires for 2019 were Caleb Ridenour, Zachary Chapman and Shawn Nance.

On March 12, 2019 our Fire Station 1 was struck by lightning causing over \$9,000.00 dollars in damages. Several computers sustained damage, Fax machine, Bay Door Open/Close motors, Storm siren encoder box, along with 1 City Apparatus and 1 District Apparatus. Our phone system was damaged and was not able to be repaired, we operated on a loaner phone system until the new system was installed a few months later.

June 23, 2019 brought on yet another challenge not only for the Fire Department but for our City as a whole when we received another flooding event. The Neosho Fire Department with assistance from the Reddings Mill Fire Protection District, Stella Fire Protection District, East Newton Fire Protection District, Missouri Department of Conservation, 4 State Search and Rescue and Newton County Rescue and Recovery responded to 31 water rescues in a six-hour period.

The heat and air units at Fire Station 1 started failing. After making repairs to the units they failed to operate and were not able to be repaired. Bids were received for replacement and approved by council and a new heat and air unit was installed.

After several months of planning bids were sent out to purchase a new aerial ladder truck. These bids were sent out to replace an aging 1996 Pierce 75' foot aerial ladder. We took delivery of a 2019 HME Ahrens Fox 111' aerial ladder in July. Fire crews trained for several months on operations of this truck and it went in service in October.

We discovered that mold had begun to grow in our bunker gear storage room due to a leak from upstairs plumbing and rainwater that was entering the room from under a window. The room was sealed off. The room and contents were cleaned, dehumidifiers were placed in the room and they ran 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The upstairs leak was located and repaired by fire personnel. Contact was made with a company to perform a mold sample test in the room. When the test results returned it showed the room had over 62,000.00 mold particles present. We then contacted several cleaning companies to obtain estimates to remove the mold. Angel clean arrived at the station to remediate the mold. After remediation fire personnel removed and reinstalled a new wall and windows in the room. This project is about 85% complete at the time of this report. The siding and sealant arrived on 1-8-2020. Personnel will be working to finish this project.

Currently there are several building repair projects going on at Fire Station 1. Some of these projects will be completed in 2020 but others will be long term repairs and will only be possible if funding becomes available.

**Annual Pump Testing**-Annual testing of all apparatus pumps. All city apparatus passed the annual pump testing.

**Annual Ladder Testing**-Annual testing of all ladders. All ground ladders passed the inspection testing.

**Community Events**-Personnel assisted with several organizations for fund raising and community assistance programs. Newton County Fire Chiefs Christmas for Kids, Shop with a Hero, Neosho Christmas Parade, Neosho School System events, Fourth of July activities, numerous other city and chamber events.

**Chili Cook Off**-Our chili cook off was again a great success. This was our eighth year to hold the event during the City Fall Festival. The Chili cook-off went over very well again this year. The competition was between the Fire Department and the Neosho Police Department. The Fire Department won the chili cook off this year. The event raised \$150.00 dollars for shop with a hero program.

**Dodge Ball Tournament**- The Neosho Fire Department and Neosho Police Department organized a dodge ball tournament to raise money for shop with a hero. The event was held in the gymnasium at the Neosho Middle School. Participants included NFD, NPD, Carthage Police, Newton County Probation and Parole, Newton County Sherriff's. This event raised \$350.00 dollars. NFD won the trophy and are looking forward to defending the trophy in the years to come.

**Children's Miracle Network**- The Neosho Fire Department actively boot blocked, at the intersection of Hwy 60 and Business 49 to raise money and awareness for Children's Miracle Network. The boot Block lasted 6 hours and raised \$2,700 dollars.