



ANNUAL REPORT



2017

MERIDIAN  
IDAHO



# MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to present to you the Meridian Fire Department annual report for 2017; a year that saw great success in the area of collaboration- both within our Department and with our public safety partners. The information contained in this report is a reflection of the combined efforts of the outstanding men and women who proudly serve the Meridian Fire Department and the community at large. Simply put, they are the best of the best. We are proud of the services we provide and want to share with you how we performed last year by providing some vital statistics and major accomplishments within the City of Meridian and the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District. We humbly want to thank our Mayor and City Council, Fire District Commissioners, and you, the citizens of Meridian, for your unwavering support of all the members of the Meridian Fire Department. As the City that CARES, Meridian constantly strives to maintain its high levels of service and to ensure the best quality of life for all citizens. The Fire Department is a key component in the City's efforts to provide a safe community for its residents, visitors, and businesses. Our members accept and embrace their roles, and we continue to prepare for not only the day-to-day challenges, but the ones on the horizon that we may be faced with in the future. It is my distinct honor and privilege to lead a progressive, customer-driven fire department that constantly works hard to meet the fire and rescue needs of its community.



I encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or if you have suggestions to improve our services to you. I also invite you to visit the Fire Department website ([www.meridiacity.org/fire](http://www.meridiacity.org/fire)) to find more information about your Meridian Fire Department. Learn how we help contribute to this vibrant and safe community that is a destination for families and businesses.

Mark Niemeyer, Fire Chief



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# MERIDIAN FIRE, 2017

## DEPLOYMENT TO CALIFORNIA

Meridian Fire received a call from the Idaho Office of Emergency Management on December 6, 2017 requesting assistance from the State of California. Captain Lance Smith, Engineer Chad Coltrin and Firefighter Dan Krenz from Meridian Fire answered the call and headed to California on December 7 along with crews from Boise, Kuna and Star. Another task force from Canyon County followed the next day. Crews started on the Lilac Fire then quickly relocated to the massive Thomas Fire located in Ventura County further north in California. Working alongside CalFire they spent time in active fire areas cutting down trees/brush and participated in back-burns to prevent further spread of the fires. They focused on structure protection and fruit farms working 24 hour shifts. The crews were demobilized on December 22, 2017.



## COLLABORATION LEADS TO TAXPAYER SAVINGS

In October of 2017, the Fire Department began the process of planning and designing Fire Station #6- the first new fire station to be built in the past 9 years. As you can imagine, times have changed and so has the cost since the last station was built! In an effort to maximize all efforts, the Meridian Fire Department partnered with the Caldwell Fire Department who was similarly pursuing the same type of project. Through this collaborative effort, the citizens of Meridian saved approximately \$55,000 in just phase 1 of the architectural design process. The new station will be located on Overland Road, between Meridian and Linder.

## PULSEPOINT APP

Local Ada County public safety agencies launched the use of PulsePoint in 2017. Meridian Fire encouraged the public, who are trained in CPR, to download and use the free PulsePoint App. This mobile phone app not only tells where emergency responses are occurring in your area, but it can be activated to notify you if CPR is needed nearby. When a 911 call comes in about a sudden cardiac arrest in a public place, the dispatch center will send out an alert to PulsePoint app users. The app will also show users where to find the nearest automated external defibrillator (AED). The goal is to increase the chances of cardiac arrest survival by partnering with our community "First Responders".

**PulsePoint**

## TEAMWORK PAYS OFF IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

The Fire Department took another great step in its growth evolution. This time in the area of firefighter health and safety. Over the past few years, there has been great discussion about firefighter fitness, health, and working towards solutions to reduce injury. This year everyone partnered together- the administration, the firefighters, and the mayor and city council- to adopt, fund, and implement a comprehensive and progressive firefighter fitness program. This program works for all ages and all fitness levels, with education and benchmarks as a foundation for success. There is also strong hope this program will help reduce future injuries on the fire ground and around the fire-house.



# PLANNING DIVISION, DIVISION CHIEF CHARLIE BUTTERFIELD



*Charlie Butterfield,  
Division Chief of Planning*

The Meridian Fire Department’s Planning Division responsibilities include the management of the community risk reduction plan, communications plan, standards of cover plan, fire department emergency preparedness plan and evaluation of response service levels. The Division Chief of Planning also manages information technologies, records management systems (RMS) and geographic information systems (GIS) with strategic partners.

The Meridian Fire Department is excited to be moving forward on the construction of Fire Station #6. The Meridian Rural Fire Protection District purchased 2 acres of land located at 1435 W. Overland Rd in 2012 for this new station. The location will be the second fire station south of Interstate 84 allowing for faster response times to emergencies in the southwest area of the City and the District.

In 2017, the Department launched the request for qualification (RFQ) process for an architectural firm resulting in the choosing of combined architectural firms Rice/Fergus/Miller and Pivot North to design the new station.

Construction of the new fire station is anticipated to begin in mid-2018.



**Fire Station 6 future location, 1435 W. Overland Road**

# FISCAL YEAR 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT



*Judy Gerhart  
Administrative Div. Manager*

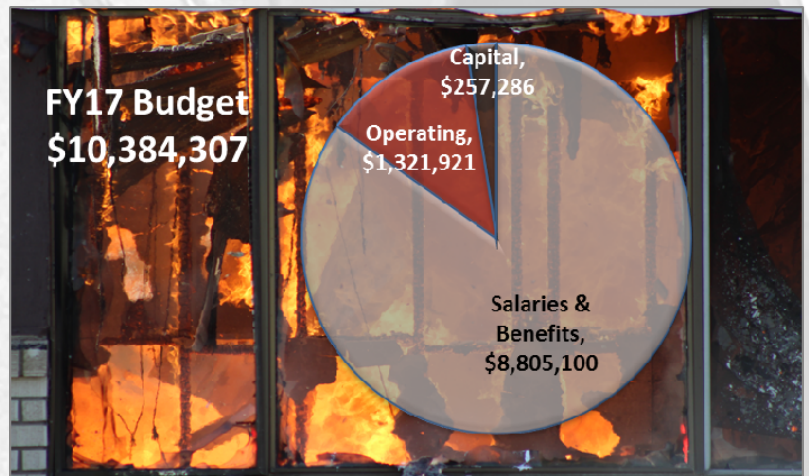
Meridian Fire currently employs 89 employees, staffs 5 fire stations, and in 2017, responded to 6,839 calls for service.

The Department operated on a \$10.3 million dollar budget for fiscal year 2017. This is an overall 5% decrease from fiscal year 2016 due mainly to the decrease in the amount spent on capital purchases compared to the previous year. Wages and benefits increased slightly due to added personnel and an increase in salaries.

Capital purchases for 2017 included two staff vehicles, and 11 thermal imaging cameras. These “cameras” render infrared radiation as visible light, and allow firefighters to see the heat signature of victims or quickly find areas of heat through smoke, darkness, or dust.

Donations in 2017 included \$8,196 from the Light My Fire, Inc. organization along with \$269 in public donations. A grant from the Idaho Transportation Department in the amount of \$2,900 allowed us to provide training for our child car seat technicians.

Meridian Fire’s continued focus is to provide the highest level of service for the citizens of Meridian while keeping costs as low as possible. We would like to thank all members of the Department that contributed to the preparation of the 2017 budget including the City’s Finance Department, the Mayor, our City Council and the Rural Fire District Commissioners.





# 2016—2017 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS



*2017 Fire Officer of the Year  
Scotty Kiesig*



*2017 Firefighter of the Year  
Randy Platt*



*2016 Distinguished  
Service Award  
Joe Bongiorno*



*Tony Chance  
Promoted to Captain  
in 2017*



*2016 Non Suppression  
Employee of the Year  
Judy Gerhart*



*John Overton Transitioned to  
Fire Inspector/ Captain  
in 2017*



*Scott Warren Promoted to  
Captain in 2017*



*Jerin Jones Promoted to  
Engineer in 2017*



*Joe Bongiorno Promoted to  
Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention in 2017*



# FROM OUR CUSTOMERS

**“They were so comforting. I was very scared and they told me what to do to relax and I thank God for them each time I see or hear emergency responders, and pray for their safety and wisdom. Thank you again.”**

Wonderful guys: so helpful and generous. I am proud to be a part of a community of people of this caliber. They went above and beyond. THANK YOU!

**“Fantastic and professional response and care. Very comforting to know Meridian is in good hands!”**

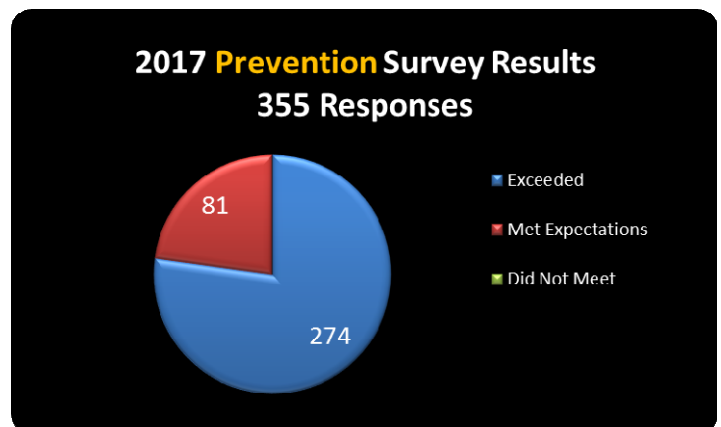
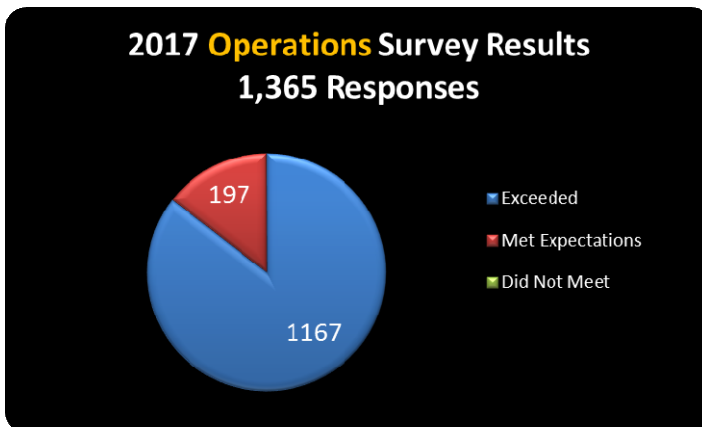
**“We really appreciate the service the Fire Dept provides our 55+ community. It is so good to keep us seniors off of ladders!! It was quite a sight seeing the firemen at our door ready to help us. Love them!”**

They were very kind and took great care of me and my pets!

*“You saved my life! Thank you!”*

**“The Meridian Fire Department is exceptional in both helpfulness and prompt response. One of the main reasons I chose Meridian...”**

**“They were excellent and we appreciate it SO very much. God bless you!!”**



*“Everyone was professional and caring and spent the time to educate us!”*

**They were all very attentive and seemed genuinely concerned, making me relaxed and not so scared!!**

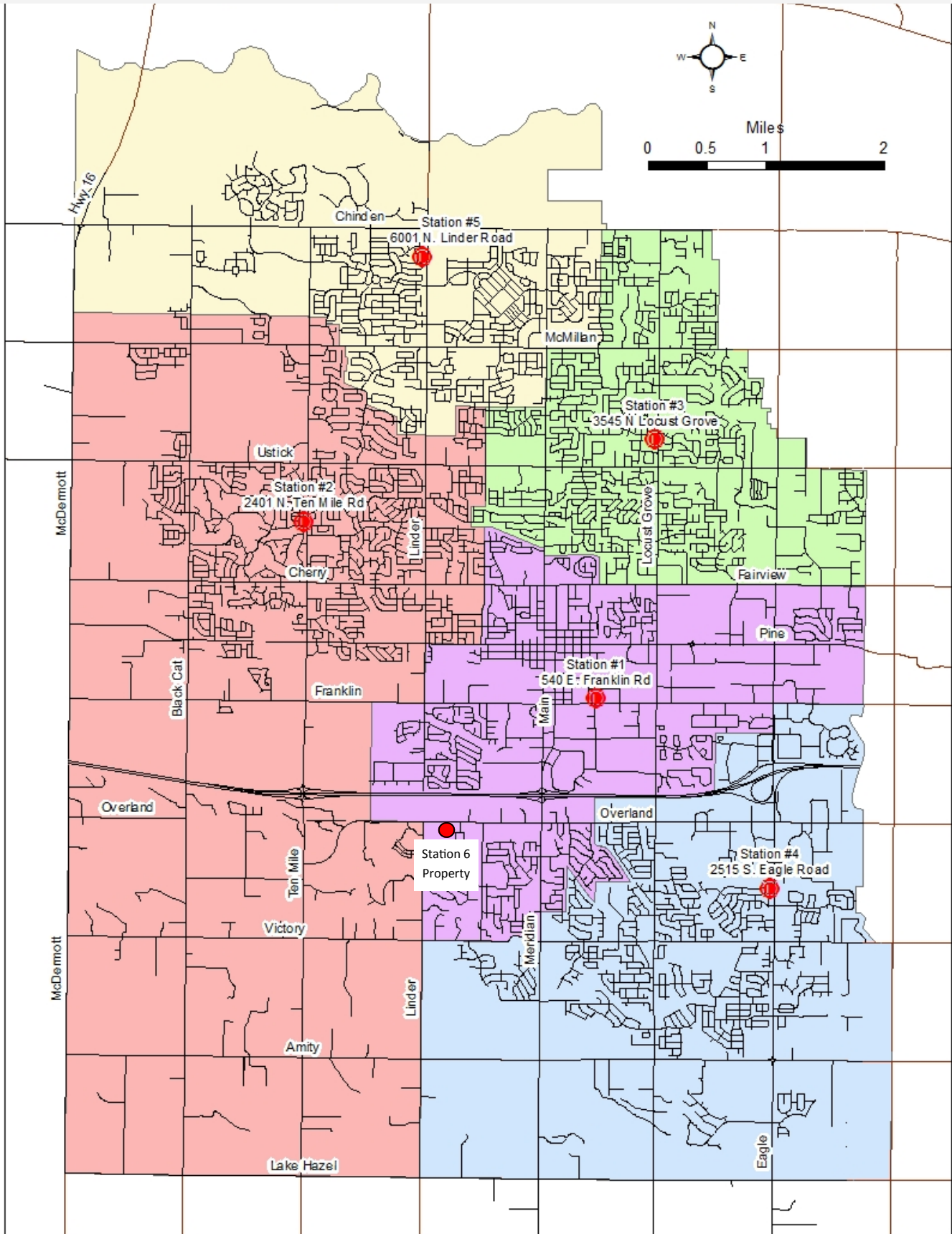
They were all very courteous and helpful and I appreciate their prompt attention. Made me feel proud of the service we get in Meridian.

**“The fire department came within 5 minutes. My carbon monoxide monitor was ringing and they knew immediately the problem and replaced the battery. Outstanding on promptness.”**

*“My neighbor fell on the sidewalk injuring her face and left arm. I called 911 and the fire department staff could not have been more responsive. Their timeliness and professionalism was outstanding. I’m very proud of Meridian’s Fire and Police Departments. Thanks for all you do to serve our community.”*

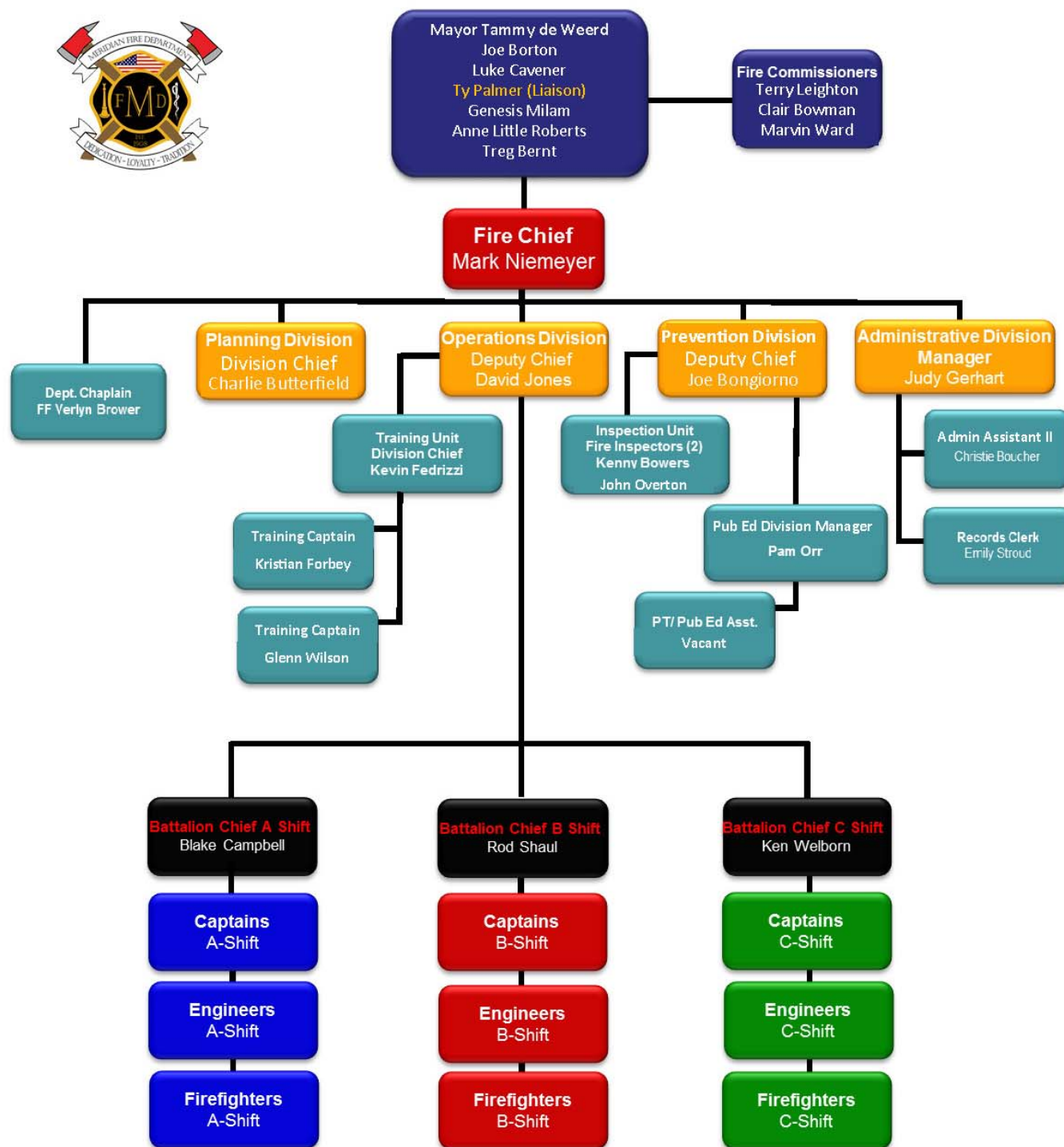


# MERIDIAN FIRE SERVICE AREA





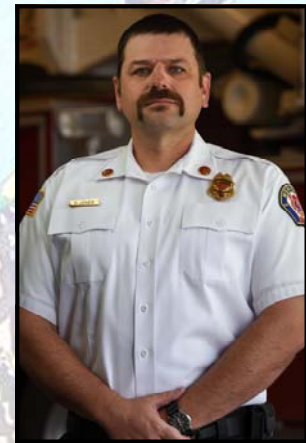
# 2017 MERIDIAN FIRE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





# OPERATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF DAVID JONES

The Operations Division of the Meridian Fire Department is responsible for the day-to-day emergency services delivery to the public. The division is staffed by 75 full time personnel operating out of 5 fire stations on three rotating shifts. Services are delivered from 4 fire engines, 1 ladder truck, and 1 command unit staffed daily. (All 4 engines and the ladder truck are capable of providing advanced life support). In addition the Division also maintains two brush firefighting units and a 2500 gallon water tender. These specialized units are “cross staffed” meaning that if those resources are needed the crews assigned to that station leave their fire engine and respond in those specialty resources.



Deputy Chief David Jones



In 2017, the Operations Division responded to 6,839 total incidents which represents a 9% overall increase in total call volume from 2016. The continued growth trend in the Treasure Valley and specifically in the City of Meridian and the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District is an indication that we will continue to experience an increasing volume of calls. To meet this challenge, our firefighters spend countless hours training for emergencies and ensuring that they are physically and

mentally prepared to meet the needs of our community. Additionally we continue to support our citizens in other ways by conducting fire safety classes and friendly firefighter visits at schools, as well as performing car seat installations, installing smoke detectors, replacing smoke detector batteries and a variety of other activities.

The Operations Division also includes the **Department’s Training Unit**. It is a priority of our Department to ensure that our firefighters are properly trained and equipped to deal with the dangerous, unpredictable, and often unforgiving situations that they encounter on a regular basis. The Training Unit is overseen by the Division Chief of Training and utilizes two 40-hour Training Captains and two Field Training Officers (1 fire and 1 EMS) on each 48 hour shift to develop, coordinate, and deliver training to our crews.



Division Chief  
Kevin Fedrizzi



Training Capt  
Kristian Forbey



Training Capt  
Glenn Wilson





# OPERATIONS, CONTINUED

In December 2017, 11 new firefighters graduated from the Treasure Valley Joint Fire Academy. This 12-week academy is designed to provide newly hired recruits with the basic skills and knowledge needed to be firefighters. Topics included basic firefighting skills such as an introduction to personal protective equipment, basic operation of fire hoses, using ladders and hand tools in firefighting operations, basic rescue techniques, responding to hazardous materials incidents, vehicle rescue, and many other foundational skills. We would like to congratulate the following firefighters on their successful completion of the recruit academy and welcome them to the Meridian Fire Department family.



“Brotherhood means I will be there for you, in your best and darkest moments, no matter the cost.”

Firefighter/Paramedic Jermaine Smith  
Firefighter/EMT Brycyn Campbell  
Firefighter/AEMT Andrew Taghdiri  
Firefighter/EMT Jared Carlisle  
Firefighter/EMT Benjamin Paradis

Firefighter/Paramedic Christopher Goodnight  
Firefighter/EMT Travis Krahn  
Firefighter/EMT Ryan Baker  
Firefighter/EMT Chase Christopher  
Firefighter/EMT Ryan Wallace

Firefighter/EMT Talin Wardein

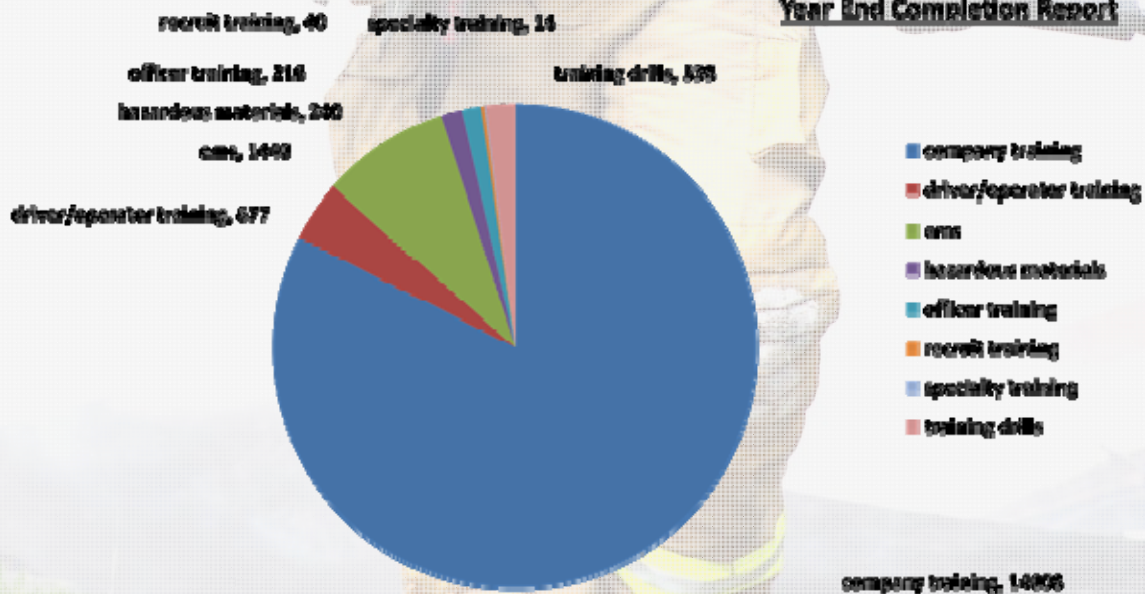




# MFD TRAINING DIVISION



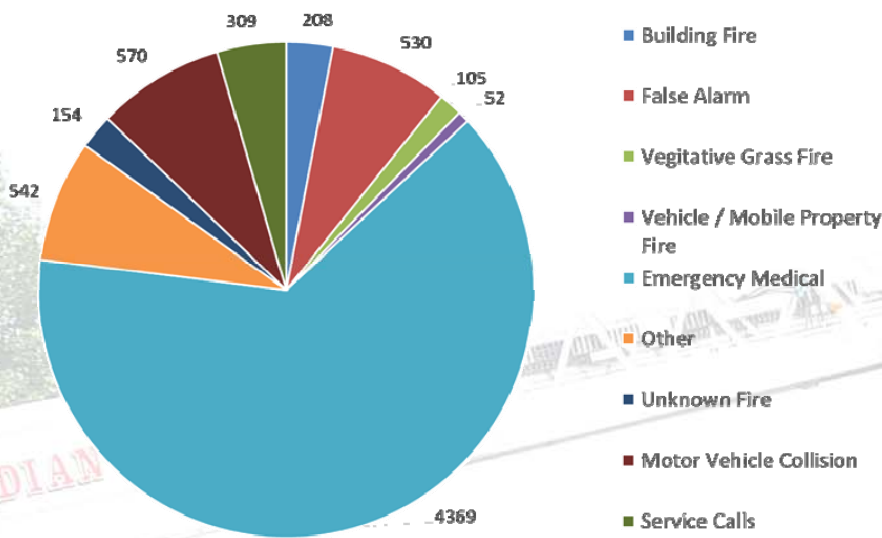
**MFD - Total Training Hours for 2017 = 16,973  
Year End Completion Report**





# 2017 DEPARTMENT STATS

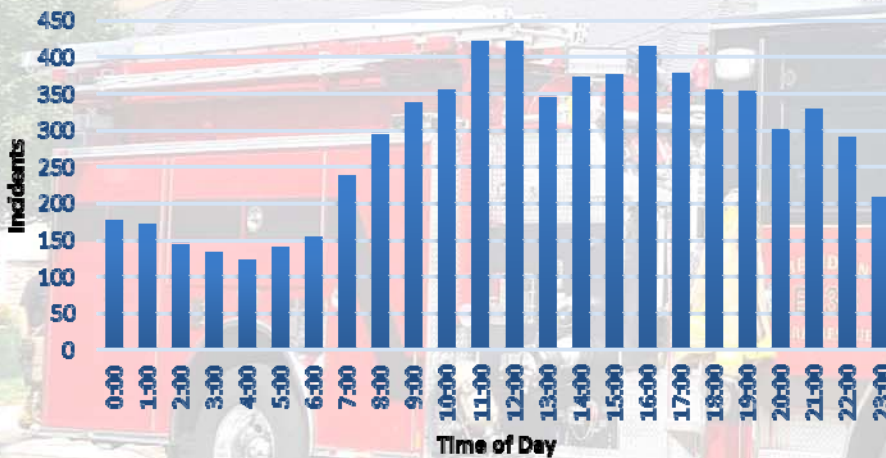
### 2017 Types of Incidents



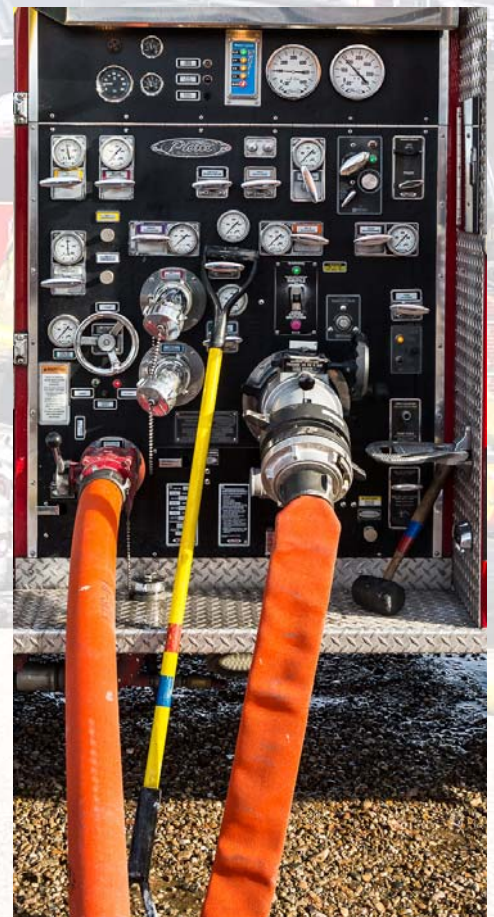
YEAR	2017
Average Turnout Time	0:01:35
Average Travel Time	0:05:13
Average Response Time for First Arriving Fire / EMS Unit	0:06:15
Number of Calls Requiring Multiple Apparatus Response	933
Number of Total Apparatus Responses	9075
Number of Incidents	6839

Incident Locations	2017
Meridian City	5628
Meridian Rural Fire Protection District	455
Outside of City and District	756

### Time of Day Calls for Service 2017



### Incidents by Day of the Week 2017



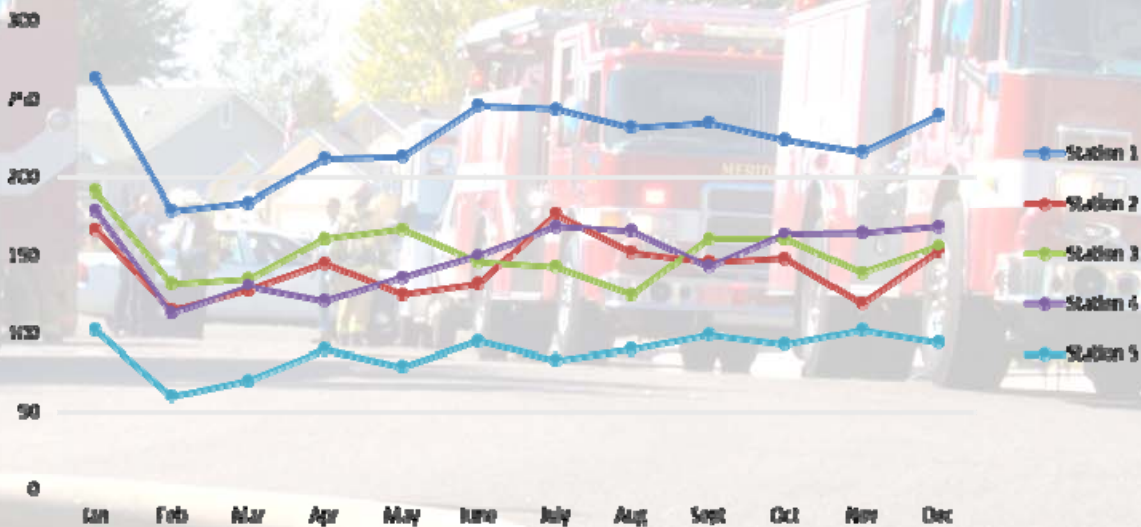


# DEPARTMENT STATS, CONTINUED

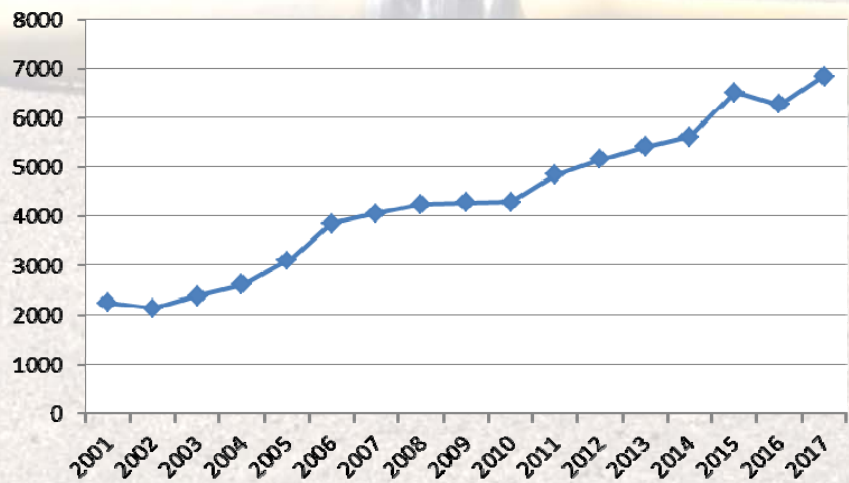
Incidents by Property Type	
Assembly	229
Educational	113
Health Care, Detention & Correction	821
Industrial, Utility, Defense, Agriculture, Mining	16
Manufacturing, Processing	90
Mercantile, Business	415
Outside or Special Property	976
Property Use, other	611
Residential	3547
Storage	21



### Fire Apparatus Response Per Station Comparison 2017



### Incidents Per Year Comparison





# FIRE PREVENTION, DEPUTY CHIEF JOE BONGIORNO



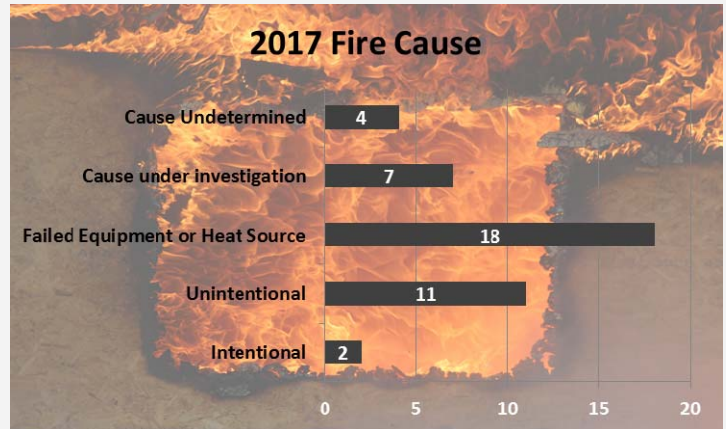
The Fire Prevention Division's main focus is to prevent fires from occurring and minimize the impact of fires that do occur through inspections, plan review, and education. The Division also determines the cause and origin of those fires whenever possible

though investigations. Much of the work we do is dependent on our connection with the public, residents and business owners alike. Meridian Fire's Prevention Division consists of the Fire Marshal, two Fire Inspectors and a Public Education Division with two Public Educators.

In May of 2017, Perry Palmer resigned his position as Fire Marshal for the Meridian Fire Department to take a Fire Chief position with a neighboring department. Fire Inspector Captain Joe Bongiorno was then promoted to Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention and the Fire Marshal for Meridian Fire. The subsequent fire inspector position was filled by Meridian Fire Captain John Overton. Captain Overton moved into this position with 19 years' experience with Meridian Fire.

The Prevention staff conducts fire and life safety development review of potential new projects. Being actively involved at the pre-application process level allows for us to be pro-active in identifying access issues, determining water flow needs for firefighting, and identifying potential life safety issues in the design of facilities. This involvement provides for a greater level of safety for the public

and firefighters. 2017 resulted in a steady influx of pre-application meetings on new developments and commercial construction, with much work to be done.



Deputy Chief Bongiorno acts as lead for our Fire Investigations and has earned his Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator certification from the National Association of Fire Investigators. Fire Inspector Captain Overton is also certified as a Fire Investigation Technician. This past year the Prevention Division helped investigate fires in Middleton, Star and Kuna along with investigating 42 fires in our fire district alone. Our fire investigators examine the scene to find the ignition source and determine the cause.

This year, the division, completed 2,500 inspections with 1,880 violations noted and 1,682 violations cleared. This is an increase of 66% over the number of inspections done in 2016. All of these inspections make our city safer for the employees and the citizens frequenting these locations. This year, 2018, we are entering

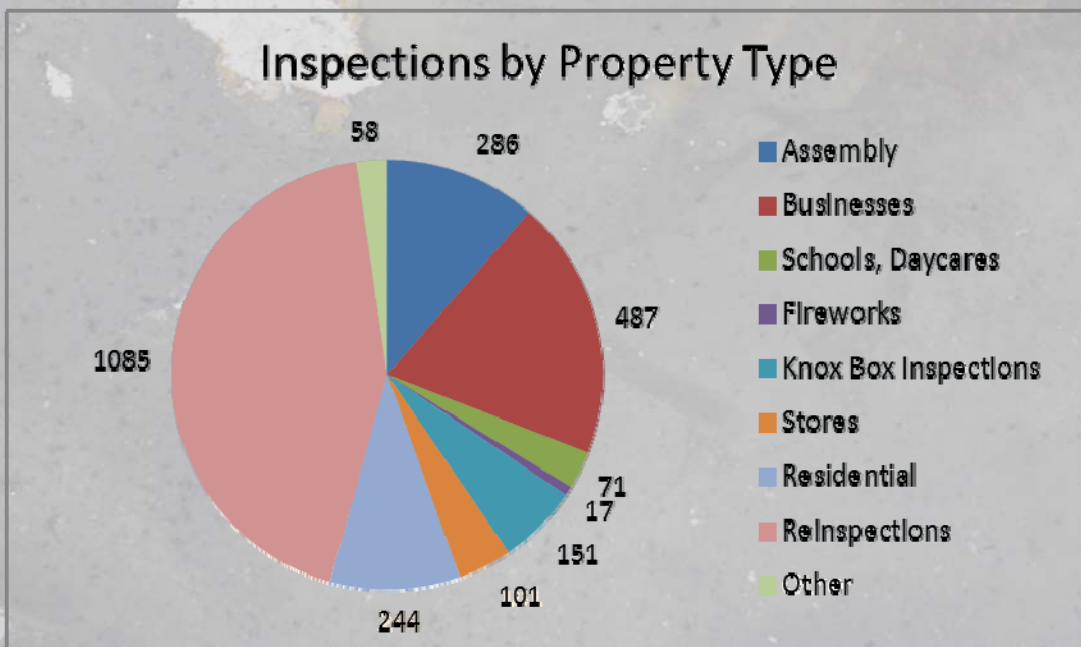
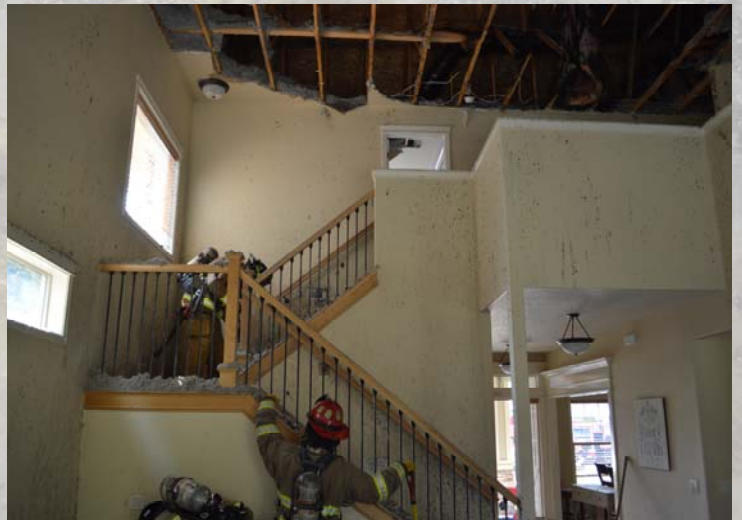




# FIRE PREVENTION, CONTINUED

our second year utilizing The Compliance Engine (TCE). TCE is a third party company that helps us monitor and track occupancies that have fire alarms, fire sprinklers or cooking hoods with extinguishing systems. All of these systems are required, by code, to be tested and maintained on an annual or semiannual basis. TCE sends out notices for when the system(s) are due for inspection, reminder notices for re-inspections, and tracks when repairs are completed. In 2017, 1,875 notices were sent to property owners and managers. By the end of the year, we had 202 deficiencies listed in the system, down from 317 in May of 2017.

In 2017, the City of Meridian adopted the 2015 International Fire Code. Our collective efforts in the Treasure Valley have been, and will continue to be focused on working towards common language and application of new and future code editions. All the departments in the area are striving to work together for the safety of all of our communities!





# PUBLIC EDUCATION, PAM ORR

## 2017 Public Education Quick Facts

- 1,217 Safety presentations delivered to more than 55,405 men, women & children
- 189 People certified in CPR
- 274 People were taught Hands-Only CPR
- 625 People participated in our annual open house
- 250 People attended Smokey Bear's Birthday Celebration
- 76 People participated in a Fire Station Ride-Along
- 234 Car seat checks were performed
- 256 Meridian homes visited for smoke alarm assistance and/or fire safety surveys



Pam Orr, Public Education Division Manager & Sparky

*“The most effective method of fire prevention is Public Education. It is a vital part of how we best serve the community.”*





# MERIDIAN FIREFIGHTER LOCAL 4627 BENEVOLENT FUND

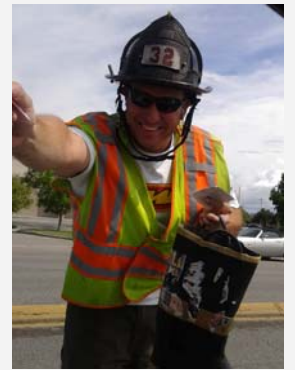


The **Meridian Firefighter Local 4627 Benevolent Fund** would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support this past year! In 2017, we were able to provide burnout checks and store gift cards to citizens who had experienced fire damage to their homes. This past year we supported many local charities and events that have had



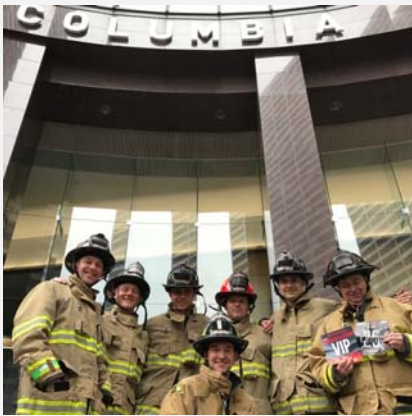
a direct impact on the residents of Meridian. These included the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Coats for Kids, the Meridian Optimists, the Idaho Fallen Firefighters Association and many others. In addition, we have helped our Public Education Division Manager Pam Orr with her public education programs.

2018 will be the fifth year of the **Brandon Erickson Memorial Scholarship Fund**. We want to remember Brandon and all that he did for the fire and EMS fields. This scholarship fund will help those who are pursuing degrees in fire and/or EMS fields at local colleges.



Our annual **Salmon BBQ** was held on the first Friday of August in Kleiner Park. The Salmon BBQ is our only money raising event for the year other than local gifts and donations. The BBQ could not have happened without all the support from Meridian Fire Local 4627 union members and the various volunteers who gave their time. Much gratitude goes out to our numerous sponsors who donated raffle prizes for the event; we couldn't do it without you!

Thank you again to all of you who support the Meridian Firefighter Local 4627 Benevolent Fund!





# HONOR GUARD

In 2017 the Meridian Fire Department started their first official Honor Guard consisting of 10 charter members. The National Honor Guard Academy sent instructors from Florida, Virginia, and Connecticut to instruct a week long academy in mid-November. The academy instruction was for Fire and Police Departments from around the Northwest, including Meridian Fire and Meridian Police. The academy consisted of everything from basic marching, all the way to a mock line-of-duty death (LODD) funeral at Meridian cemetery.

Honor Guards provide one of the most visible and positive images for their departments. Whether at a parade, graduation, retirement or funeral, the presence alone of the Honor Guard immediately draws attention and raises the formality of the event.

The Honor Guard is built on honor, dignity and respect, with the utmost concern for the needs and wishes of the affected family and department. The Meridian Fire charter members share an overwhelming pride in their country and the traditions of public safety agencies.





# MISSION, VISION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## MISSION

To *protect* and enhance our community through *professionalism* and *compassion*.



## VISION

A premier organization recognized for providing a *safe community* through professionalism, innovative actions, and community involvement.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

*Compassion* – We will provide friendly and compassionate service to each other and the public we serve.

*Professionalism* – We will dedicate ourselves to be an educated workforce striving to meet the community's and our employees' changing needs.

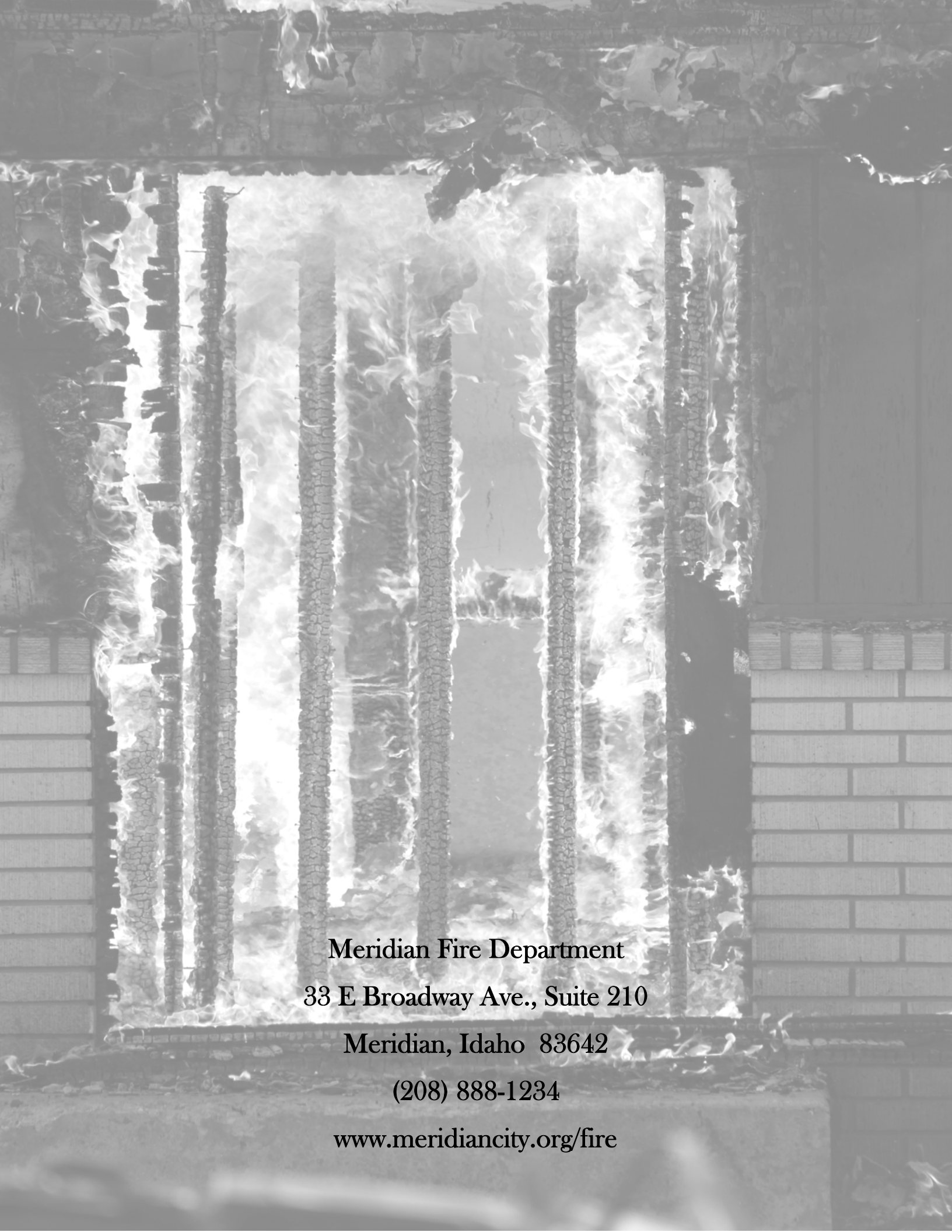
*Honesty* – We will conduct ourselves in an honest manner and be transparent in our interactions.

*Ownership* – Ownership of our department will be expressed through tradition, loyalty, and dedication.

*Trust* – We will earn and maintain trust through integrity, our actions, and holding to commitments.







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[www.meridiancity.org/fire](http://www.meridiancity.org/fire)