

2015 FIRE / RESCUE DEPARTMENT REPORT

During 2015 Holden Fire/Rescue responded to 490 calls for assistance. 294 of the calls (60%) were requests for some type of medical assistance, while 196 (40%) were fire related. 2015 was not a record breaking year, but still came in as the second busiest. This year Holden Fire/Rescue experienced a huge increase in emergency medical calls (EMS). In the past we respond to around 200 calls per year. This year represents over a 30% increase in EMS call outs.

Fortunately, there were no fire related deaths in Holden for the year. However, this year we did respond to one fatal motor vehicle accident. Accidents for the year as a whole were down for fire and rescue response. Normally, we respond to over 30 motor vehicle accidents each year. This year we only responded to twenty-two. Motor vehicle accidents continue to be one of the most dangerous things our public safety personnel can respond to. The dangers of distracted driving continues to get worse which increases the chances of accident or injury to our personnel while working on or near the roadways.

Of course the winter weather played a huge factor into our responses for the year. The bitter cold for several months stressed heating equipment and caused several fires. In the month of February, Holden Fire/Rescue responded to ten building fires in and out of town. These fires came in a two week stretch and were very close to being back to back calls. Fire/Rescue also responded to a variety of building related calls such as, chimney fires, boiler fires, stove malfunctions, and carbon monoxide calls.

As the weather turned warmer in 2015 and the snow melted, we had a very quick wildfire season. One accidental wildfire spread to around 5 acres very quickly on the Levenseller Road. Only a couple days later we responded to an out of control wildfire on Lakeshore Drive. All fires were quickly brought under control with no buildings damaged or injuries reported. Also, during spring as the ice began to melt several water rescue calls were reported. Most of them were good intent calls or pets through the ice that owners were trying to rescue. In the end of March a dog fell through the ice off Dole Hill. The on duty firefighter and live in students responded and the crew was successful at rescuing the dog safely returning it to the owner with out any injury to either the dog or our firefighters.

Other than the busy year of emergency responses, the department was very busy in the station. Our entire year consisted of planning preparation and moving into our new fire station office and living quarters. After years of ideas, thoughts and planning the new Holden Fire/Rescue was ready to move into and work out of. Summer of 2015 we had a grand opening and ribbon cutting and the station is now in full operation and seems to be working out great. There are some minor details that are being finished up this winter and into the spring, but the crew has been working hard and seems to be settle in well.

Finally, I want to thank our entire crew for everything that you have been through this last year. From the move and many hard days of organizing, planning and sorting things out. To the impressive amount of time you all put in to help this place operate. If it were not for our entire crew of twenty-three members we would not be where we are today. Thank you for your hard work and dedication not only to this department but to the entire town. I also want to thank the town residents for your continued support with everything you do. This building and our department would not be possible without the residents of the Town of Holden. Thank you for letting us serve you and provide the best service that we possibly can.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Davis, Fire Chief

During 2015 the Fire/Rescue Department responded to the following calls for assistance:

Emergency Medical services / Rescues = 294
(Sick, injured, ice or water rescues, wilderness rescue, elevator rescue)

Building Fire Related = 41
(Building fire, chimney fire, cooking fire, furnace/boiler fire)

Woods Fire = 5
(Fields, grass, woods)

Vehicle Fire= 3
(Passenger car, truck, off-road vehicle)

Hazardous Materials = 3
(Propane leak, fuel spills)

Severe Weather = 16
(Trees in roadway, wires down, transformer fires)

Alarms = 39
(Fire alarm, carbon monoxide alarm, sprinkler alarm)

Service calls = 51
(Lock outs, animal problem, assist invalid, assist police)

Good Intent = 38
(Wrong location, no incident on arrival, smoke scare, cancelled enroute)