



City of Rochelle
Fire Department
2016
Annual Report

Submitted by
David W Sawlsville,
Fire Chief
March 2017



JANUARY 2016

No One Hurt Following House Fire in Hillcrest



The fire was reported at around 8:30p at 226 Jeffrey Avenue in a 1-story home in Hillcrest. There was heavy smoke coming from the front and back doors of the home when crews arrived on the scene. The fire started in the basement and the flames were contained to the area. The cause of the fire was determined to be electrical in nature. It took Rochelle firefighters along with firefighters from Hillcrest and Flagg Center approximately 90 minutes to extinguish the fire and clear the smoke out of the house. Total damage is estimated to be around \$12,000. There were no injuries reported.

Sawlsville Named Fire Chief

The City of Rochelle named David W. Sawlsville as the new Fire Chief. Sawlsville has been with the Rochelle Fire Department since he was hired a Paid-on-Call Firefighter in the summer of 1980. In August of 1987 Sawlsville was hires as a Fulltime Firefighter and in 2002 Chief Sawlsville was promoted to Lieutenant. In September, 2015 he was named Interim Chief. In addition to his experience as a Firefighter and Lieutenant, he also served for 10 years a Flight Medic and 15 years as a Paramedic Instructor Chief Sawlsville holds an A.S Degree in Fire Science and a B.S. Degree in Behavioral Science. He is a Graduate of two National Fire Academy programs.



Fire

Two Hurt In Car Crash on I-39 MM 95 Near Rochelle

A couple suffered injuries following a single vehicle crash on I-39. Reports indicate that a short time before noon, the car was traveling southbound when it left the highway and came to rest in the median. A woman was flown by helicopter to a Rockford hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Her husband was taken by ambulance to Rochelle Community Hospital and treated for his injuries and then released.

Firefighter Zach Prewett Promoted to Lieutenant

During the city council meeting at the end of January, Zach Prewett was sworn in as the department's newest Lieutenant. Zach has been with the department since 2006 as a Fulltime Firefighter/Paramedic. Lt. Prewett grew up in Steward and then joined the department as a Paid-on-Call Firefighter in 2003. Lt. Prewett holds a B.A. degree in public administration from NIU. Lt. Prewett also holds licenses and certificates including EMT-Paramedic, along with Hazmat Tech A, Fire Officer 1, Rope Ops, and Rescue Diver. Lt. Prewett will be responsible for the day to day operations of Black Shift and will manage the department's public education and inspection programs.



Pictured above (Lt. Prewett on left & Chief Sawlsville on right)

FEBRUARY 2016



Ken Dougherty Hired To Full-Time Position

Ken has served the community as a paid on call department member for 6 years. On February 7th, Ken started his first official day as a fulltime firefighter. Ken has been a lifelong Rochelle resident. He is a 2002 graduate of Rochelle Township High School. After high school, Firefighter Dougherty went on to take firefighting classes and earned his EMT-Paramedic license in 2014. Ken holds certificates in Vehicle Machinery Ops, Fire Apparatus Operations, Grain Bin Rescue, and Haz-Mat Awareness. He also holds an A.A.S. Degree from Kishwaukee Community College.

Fire Department Called For a MVC on February 3, 2016 on IL Route 38

Rochelle Fire Department was called for a 2 vehicle accident with injuries. The first ambulance arrived on scene shortly after Flagg Center First Responders. At that time a second ambulance was requested for patient care. There were multiple minor injuries.

RFD Takes Delivery of New Engine 3



In the final weeks of the build, the finishing touches were put on the fire pump and the side compartment's electrical systems.

The new engine was required to go through a series of pump operation test to ensure safety and that all aspects of the truck are functioning properly before delivery. Upon completion of the engine, Chief Sawlsville and a few other firefighters went to do a final inspection of the engine. The inspection was successful and it was then taken to get lettered.



Following delivery of the new engine, extensive training was conducted for all department members. Fire suppression equipment was installed on the engine and it was placed in service in late March.

Butterfly Restaurant Small Fire

On 2/17/16, Rochelle Fire was dispatched to the Butterfly Restaurant for a report of smoke coming from the ceiling. Chief Sawlsville took command and called for a Full Still Alarm. Rochelle Engine 3 arrived shortly . The restaurant was evacuated. Crews found light grey smoke coming from the ceiling. After a quick investigation, crews were ordered to the roof where they quickly found one of the HVAC units to be malfunctioning. Power to the unit was disconnected and a further investigation was done to insure that there was no fire spread. Smoke was extracted from the building using fans.

101 7th Ave. Apartment Kitchen Fire

On Feb. 19, 2016 at 0330, the Rochelle Fire Department was called for a kitchen fire. Initially heavy smoke was coming from the affected apartment. The first arriving fire company advised of a kitchen fire. The building was evacuated. The fire was quickly knocked down with minimal water applied. One occupant was transported by RFD ambulance to Rochelle Hospital for smoke inhalation. It appeared that the fire started from cooking. The apartment sustained heavy smoke damage throughout.

MARCH 2016

Hayes Rd. Structure Fire

On March 1, 2016, Rochelle Fire Department along with Steward and Creston Fire Departments responded to a house fire in rural Steward just before 6:30pm. Upon arrival, the first due engine companies reported heavy fire seen thru first floor window. Shortly after arrival the second floor partially collapsed into first floor. The aerial ladder was set up to help extinguish the fire from above. The home was a total loss. One person was treated at a local hospital.



Smoke in an Apartment

On 3/21/16 a 911 call was received for smoke inside an apartment at 615 Lincoln Highway. The incident took place a short time after 10pm at Lincoln Manor. The cause of the smoke was burnt food in a microwave on the second floor. No one suffered any injuries. Firefighters used smoke ejection fans to help clear the building.

**96TH ANNUAL
FIREMEN'S BALL**

**ROCHELLE
FIRE
Est. 1877**

When Sat. March 5th 2016

Where The Hanger at Flight Deck Bar & Grill
1207 W Gurler Rd, Rochelle, IL 61068

Time 7pm till 12am Doors open at 6:45pm

Cost \$10.00 per person
The Rochelle Firefighter's Social Organization awards one \$2,500 scholarship to a graduating RTHS senior attending Kishwaukee college.

Hors d'oeuvres **Firefighter Bartenders** **Silent Auction 9:30 pm** **50/50** **Pictures With Gertie**

Photo Booth

The Prime Time Live Band 7:00pm - 9:15pm

THE VODKA BOYS 9:45pm-12am

Flies Provided by J.B. PRINTING INC.

96th Annual Firemen's Ball

The Rochelle Fire Department Social Organization continued a long tradition by holding its Annual Fireman's Ball on March 5th at the Flight Deck. At 7pm the first of two different bands took the stage, followed by a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle.

Though not truly "annual", as it was not held for two years during wartime, it can be traced back to the 1800's and may be the longest running event in the community. Funds raised by the ball support the service efforts of Rochelle Firefighters including an annual Kishwaukee College scholarship, sponsoring the Fireman Little League team, and the Firefighters' Hall among others. Local churches use the Firefighter's Hall on Monday to provide meals to nearly 150 community members in need.

April 2016

203 S. Main St. Structure Fire

At 7:03 am on April 2, 2016, a call for a structure fire was received with fire reportedly burning in the walls. This was the first working structure fire that the new Engine 3 responded to. Initial reports indicated that fire was in the wall, behind the fireplace. Light smoke could be seen coming from eaves and roof vents. There were no flames visible from the exterior. The owner attempted to extinguish the fire before calling 9-1-1. There were no injuries reported. The crews on scene used foam to help extinguish the smoldering fire. There was moderate fire damage to the structure and smoke damage to the remainder of the dwelling. Damage was estimated at \$12,000.

Close Call Truck Fire

On April 25, 2016, a semi-tractor fire was reported at the Blue Beacon Truck Wash. When crews arrived, the semi had been pulled out of the wash bay after employees noticed smoke and flames under the hood. By quickly removing the truck from the bay, employees prevented a fire in the building. Employees at the Blue Beacon extinguished the fire prior to our arrival with an extinguisher. We verified the fire out was out and returned. The trailer appeared to receive no damage.

MAY 2016

During the month of May, a new lieutenant eligibility list was established in conjunction with the Police and Fire Board of Commissioners. Components of the process include an oral interview, a written cognitive exam, and an appraisal of experience, training, and education. At the completion of the exam process, two firefighters were placed on the final eligibility list. The list expires after three years. The list is publicly posted at the Rochelle Fire Department and City Hall.

JUNE 2016



Firefighters Conduct Technical Rescue Drill

On April 2, 2016, a confined space rescue drill was conducted for city employees at the Water Treatment Plant. The Technical Rescue Team assembled a pulley system and hoisted a training mannequin from 30 feet below ground. Of all the rescues the TRT does confined space and trench rescues are the most

challenging.

Small Kitchen Fire at Local Restaurant

On June 16th at 12:07pm Rochelle Fire Department was dispatched for a small grease fire at Culver's Restaurant. The fire was contained to the grill area. Smoke damage was minimal as the fire was quickly extinguished using an ABC extinguisher. Culver's was closed for the remainder of the day due to clean-up of the chemical powder. There was no physical damage to the business. Fire crews verified there was no further risk of fire after the dry chemical extinguisher was used.

Several Department Members Complete Paramedic Training

Firefighter Brandan Sanders and Firefighter Dylan Fisher completed Paramedic School through OSF St Anthony Hospital's Paramedic Education Program. The students completed hundreds of hours of didactic training and are in the process of completing their



clinical rotations and internship time with the Rochelle Fire Department. The internship places students in a leadership role, allowing them to apply their cognitive knowledge and medical skills to real emergencies under the guidance of experienced paramedics. After the internship is completed, they are eligible to take the Illinois Department of Public Health Paramedic exam to attain their EMT-Paramedic licensure.

RFD Responds to a 5 Vehicle MVA on 1-39

On April 2, 2016, a 5-vehicle collision with injuries occurred at 2:49pm on I-39 Two ambulances from Rochelle responded. A medical helicopter was placed on standby but was not required. Multiple vehicles were damaged by the collision. Four vehicles were parked along the northbound shoulder and one was in the median. The vehicle in the median was a small passenger vehicle and sustained the most damage. One person was transported to a local hospital. All other people involved in the collision refused medical treatment.

JULY 2016

Annual Fireworks Display

Rochelle Firefighters continued the tradition of a Fourth of July fireworks display. The show was about 35 minutes in length and witnessed by a large crowd under clear skies with temperatures in the 70s. Thanks to a generous donation by the Flagg-Rochelle Park District, this was the largest show in Rochelle history. The annual fireworks display requires many hours of work planning the show, preparing equipment, and training in safety. This year's show required nearly 100 man hours of work on July 4th alone. Rochelle Firefighters were assisted by a crew from DCV Imports.



Dive Practice at Hickory Grove



Each shift performs weekly shift training. This month's topic was Dive Rescue practice. By completing dive practice at Hickory Grove, each dive team member completed multiple refresher drills in full dive gear. It is important for each diver to remain proficient with all the equipment and all emergency procedures. The department has 9 members that are fully certified to perform dive rescues and recoveries.

A Two Vehicle Accident Injures Three

Three people were injured following a two vehicle accident at the intersection of Rt. 38 and Caron Road at approximately 3pm on July 25th. All three ambulances responded to the accident. It appeared that one vehicle was northbound on Caron Road and while turning left, struck a vehicle that was traveling southbound. The patients were transported to Rochelle Community Hospital.

Two Incidents on I-39 & I-88 in Two Hours

On July 27th at 1:06pm Rochelle Fire receives a call for a semi-trailer with brakes on fire on I-88 Eastbound on the Route 251 off-ramp. The middle axle and brakes had locked up on the empty low-boy trailer. No flames were found but the brakes were hot. Water was applied to the wheels and hubs to cool them.

A short time later at 2:18PM there was a 911 call for a 2 vehicle accident at I39 northbound milepost 101. The incident was located approximately 1/4 mile south of Ivy Rd on I39 NB, in the Lynn-Scott-Rock fire protection district. Triage was established and treatment began on 1 injured patient. L-S-R arrived 4-5 minutes following F20. L-S-R assumed care of the 3 “green” or minor injury patients, while RFD continued treatment and transported the injured patient. No extrication was needed.

August 2016



Flagg Center Extrication Practice

Many Rochelle Fire Department members along with Ogle-Lee Fire Fighters conducted a joint training at the Flagg Center Station to practice emergency scenarios of car extrications. Multiple scenarios were conducted simultaneously to simulate multiple cars that were involved in an accident. The practical exercises also earned several firefighters credit towards their Vehicle Machinery Operations certifications.

Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival

Firefighters were busy during the LHHF, selling over 2000 pork chop sandwiches for the social organization and participating in the parade. The American flag was flown from atop Ladder 1 over the Hub City Cruiser's annual downtown car show. "Gertie" was also on display at the car show, displayed here in front of Quin's Jewelry Store.



Early Saturday Morning Fire

Smoke was reported in a residence around 2:30AM in the 1000 block of North 8th St. . Engine 3 responded and additional engines were also requested. When crews arrived they found a 2-story residence with no exterior fire visible. Smoke was heaviest in the basement. The fire was extinguished and exhaust fans were used to clear smoke from the residence. The fire was believed to be electrical in nature. Damage was estimated at \$60,000

Industrial Fire On At Lagrou

On 8/26/17, a fire was reported at around 6:45am at LaGrou Distribution at 1025 South Main Street by employees. It appeared the fire began in the ceiling area of the plant which may have been caused by an electrical problem with a light fixture. First crews in the building found low-heat and light, white smoke conditions. Material involved appeared to be paper/plastic rolls on pallets. Multiple sprinkler heads were activated above the fire area. It took an extended period of time to remove the smoke from the large building. There were no injuries reported. The estimated cost of damage was around \$30,000.

Cleveland Avenue Vehicle Fire: Minor Damage to Home

On 8/26/16, a call was received for a motorcycle on fire next to the garage of a home. The cause of the fire is unknown. The crews arrived on scene and saw flames that were roof level coming from the motorcycle. The fire was rapidly extinguished and crews checked the garage to make sure there was no further spread of fire. There was nobody home when the fire started and no injuries were reported.

SEPTEMBER 2016

South 2nd Street Structure Fire



Engine 3 responded to smoke inside a home a short time after 8am

The incident took place in the 600 Block of South 2nd Street. No one suffered any injuries.

When emergency crews arrived on the scene, there was heavy smoke inside the two-story home. The problem appeared to of started in the upstairs bathroom with an electrical short with the exhaust fan.

The family woke up Sunday morning when they heard their smoke detectors going off. Damage is estimated to be at about \$2,000.

Fortunately the residence had working smoke detectors that alerted the family.

Early Morning House Fire

On the morning of September 18th at about 3:21am a fire destroyed a 2 car garage and the residence received smoke damage in the 1000 Block of N. 3rd St. Upon arrival fire crews found heavy smoke and flames coming from the garage with two cars sitting in front of the garage. The garage was a total loss. Estimated damage to the residence was around \$80,000. For the second time in the past week, a Rochelle family escaped serious injuries due to their smoke detectors working. The cause of the flames in the garage remains under investigation.



1 person is injured in roll over crash in rural Rochelle

On 10/6/16, emergency personnel were on the scene of a single vehicle roll over crash that took place about 5:55am. The accident occurred at Skare and Cottonwood Roads in rural Rochelle. Extrication was needed to remove one of the occupants. An emergency helicopter landed near the scene and transported one person to a Rockford hospital for treatment. The other person in the car refused medical treatment at the scene.

OCTOBER 2016

On 10/6/16, a semi-truck fire occurred on Intermodal Drive east of Jack Dame Rd. The truck cab was on fire. Engine 3, and Truck 101 responded. The trailer contained food products. Approximately 150 gallons of water were used to extinguish the fire and cool the fuel tanks and operating equipment. Initial indications suggested that electrical wiring exposed to the exhaust caused the event. The approximate damages to the semi were \$5,500.

New firefighter eligibility list established

During the month of October the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners established a new eligibility list. Applications were available in September, and turned in a couple weeks later. Applicants were given the written test on October 1st. Following the written exam applicants were scheduled for oral interviews with the Commissioners. Prior to being eligible to test applicants must present a valid CPAT card which certifies the applicant's physical ability. Once the oral interviews were conducted and all points were calculated for each applicant the final eligibility list was established.

New Tornado Sirens Installed

To keep the city safe from dangerous weather the fire department maintains the city's tornado siren system. Once a month on the first Tuesday the sirens are tested to make sure each siren is operational. Recently multiple sirens were upgraded and a new siren was installed at the fire station to help protect the downtown area. The purpose of emergency sirens is to provide warning to anyone outdoors in the event of an approaching dangerous storm.



NOVEMBER 2016

Small Shed Fire

On 11/17/16 at 3:49pm E3 was dispatched for the report of a leaf pile on fire that was growing out of control at 311 Phyllis Ave. While enroute to the address dispatch advised that a shed had started to catch on fire. When Engine 3 arrived there were no visible flames or smoke showing from the street. While investigating they found the shed that had caught on fire. Firefighters were able to use a water pressure extinguisher to extinguish the shed that was on fire. The leaf fire was under control upon arrival as well.

Garage Fire

On 11/20/16 at 4:30pm, RFD was dispatched to the area of 3rd St and 7th Ave for a garage fire. Engine 3 arrived on scene to find light smoke. There was no visible fire on the outside of the structure. There was an exterior fire going that appeared to of started the garage on fire. The resident had extinguished the fire with a garden hose. A small amount of flame was found on the interior roof which was extinguished quickly. The remaining smoke was removed with a ventilation fan. Firefighters remind residents that it is important to never leave any kind of fire unattended.

House Fire

A call was received for a residence that was fully involved at 10:16pm on 11/27/16. Heavy winds rapidly spread the fire and the heavy smoke impairing visibility. Multiple Ogle Lee stations were requested to assist in fighting the fire. The house was searched and no occupants were found. Mutual aid companies arrived and helped with extensive overhaul. The residence took heavy fire damage. The cause of the fire is under investigation. The approximate damage to the dwelling and contents was \$65,000.

DECEMBER 2016



Christmas Walk

Firefighters participated in the Old Fashion Christmas walk on Friday December the 2nd. They sold pork chops out of the station as a fund raiser for scholarships. The fire trucks were decorated and entered in the parade. Shown in the picture "Ol Gertie", a 1924 American LaFrance Engine and the second fire engine purchased by the city.

2 Vehicle Fires in 2 Days

On 12/21/16 at 12:55pm 911 received a call for a fully involved car fire at the Dement road McDonald's parking lot. There were no passengers in the vehicle. Engine 3 arrived on scene and found a fully involved pickup truck, which was just starting to radiate heat to a nearby car. Fire crews rapidly extinguished fire with foam. The fire appeared to have originated in the passenger compartment. The truck appeared to be a total loss and damages estimated at \$20,000. No injuries reported.

Car Fire at Culver's

At 10:01pm on 12/22/16, the fire department was requested for a vehicle fire in Culver's parking lot. Upon arrival, Engine 8 found the car's engine compartment fully involved. Approximately 600 gallons of water was used to extinguish the fire. The owner of the vehicle reported that she heard a loud noise followed by smoke then fire. No injuries were reported.

Emergency Responses for 2016

Ambulance Responses	
January	111
February	137
March	124
April	123
May	127
June	170
July	133
August	141
September	121
October	114
November	120
December	143
Total	1564

Fire/Rescue Responses	
January	15
February	13
March	17
April	16
May	22
June	16
July	35
August	30
September	24
October	23
November	21
December	27
Total	259

Total Incidents: 1823

Total property and contents loss to structure fires this year was \$289,800. Total property and contents saved was \$3,187,750. Due to the work of the fire department, over 92% of properties affected by structure fires were saved. Total ambulance calls saw an increase from 2015 to 2016 by 7%. Fire/Rescue Responses saw a 5% decrease from 2015. Rochelle firefighters have compiled over 1700 hours of training in 2016. These hours consist of EMS continuing education, training in all aspects of firefighting, firefighter safety, Haz-Mat, and water and dive rescue training.

Rochelle Fire Department Roster



Chief Dave Sawlsville



Lieutenant Jason Underwood



Lieutenant Dan Miller



Lieutenant Zach Prewett



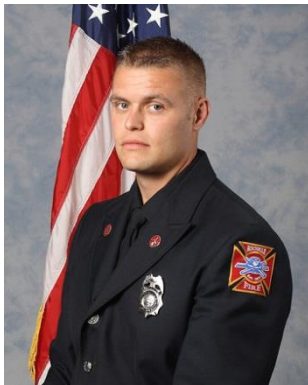
***Firefighter/Paramedic
Brian Edwards***



***Firefighter/Paramedic
Robert Workman***



***Firefighter/Paramedic
Jeremy Good***



***Firefighter/Paramedic
Josh Lewis***



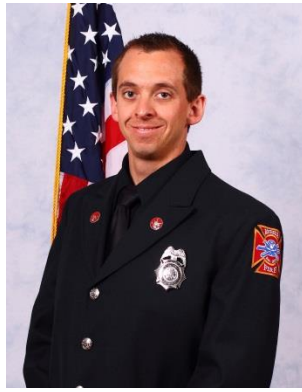
***Firefighter/Paramedic
Jody Willis***



***Firefighter/Paramedic
Ben Johnson***



***Firefighter/Paramedic
Tyler Carls***



***Firefighter/Paramedic
Ryan Baylor***



***Firefighter/Paramedic
Ken Dougherty***



FF Tim Leahey



***FF/ EMT Lanet
Erickson***



FF/EMT Curt Ward



FF/EMT Josh Valdivieso



FF/ EMT Ryan Brown



FF Brian Baker



FF/ EMT Jason Shull



EMT Jordan Miller



Maria Perusquia

Paid-On-Call personnel not pictured:

FF David Simmons

FF/PM Curt Helgren

FF/EMT Matt Bolhous

FF/PM Angela Gillis

FF K. Nay

FF/ PM L. Harmon

FF/ PM Brandan Sanders

FF Amanda Ungar

FF/ EMT Nicholas Rhoads

FF Austin Gillis

FF/PM Tyler Christopherson

FF/PM Dustin Champlain

FF/PM Dylan Fisher

FF Beth Smith