



2015 Annual Report

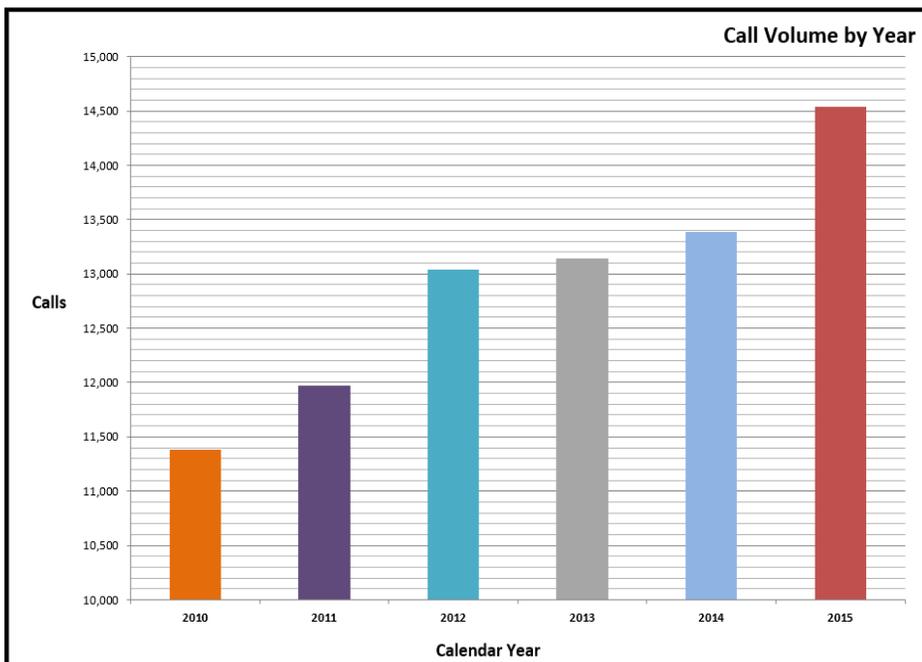
Escondido Fire Department

The Escondido Fire Department has a proud history of serving our community for over 100 years. Of those 100 years, I have had the privilege to serve as the Fire Chief for more than 8 years. As I complete my final full year of service as the Fire Chief, I want to say what an honor and privilege it has been to work alongside the dedicated men and women who have committed themselves to providing the highest level of service to the citizens of Escondido and Rincon del Diablo Fire Protection District. As I reflect back over the tradition of this great department, which once had dedicated volunteers who compassionately gave of themselves to serve their community to now employing over 130 men and women who still commit themselves to providing this same level of service to the public. I am confident that the next Fire Chief will continue to move the Escondido Fire Department forward and into the future with the same dedication.



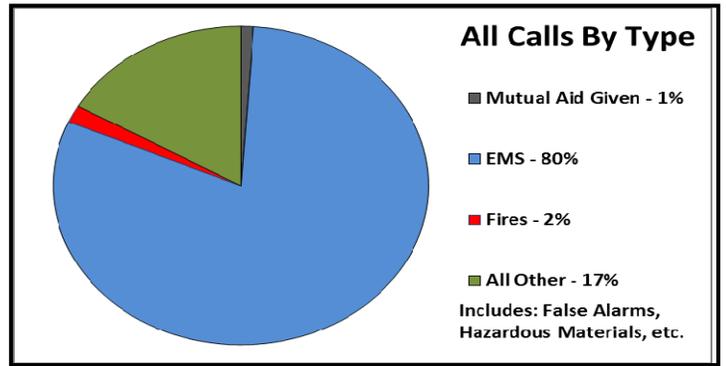
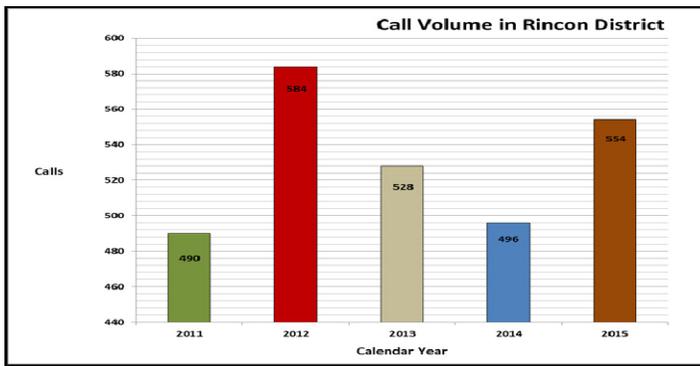
Michael Lowry
Fire Chief
33.9 Years of Service

The Escondido Fire Department's "Mission Statement" and "Core Values" are a reflection of the compassion, professionalism, respect and dignity that we collectively embrace as we strive to make a difference in our community. As I begin my last few months serving as the Escondido Fire Chief, I am privileged to lead this organization, filled with skilled personnel whose commitment is to exceed the public's expectations. With the strong support of the City Council, the board members of the Rincon del Diablo Fire Protection District, and other city departments, the Escondido Fire Department will continue to monitor our service levels for efficiency, effectiveness and overall quality in order to ensure that the service we provide matches the needs of the community.



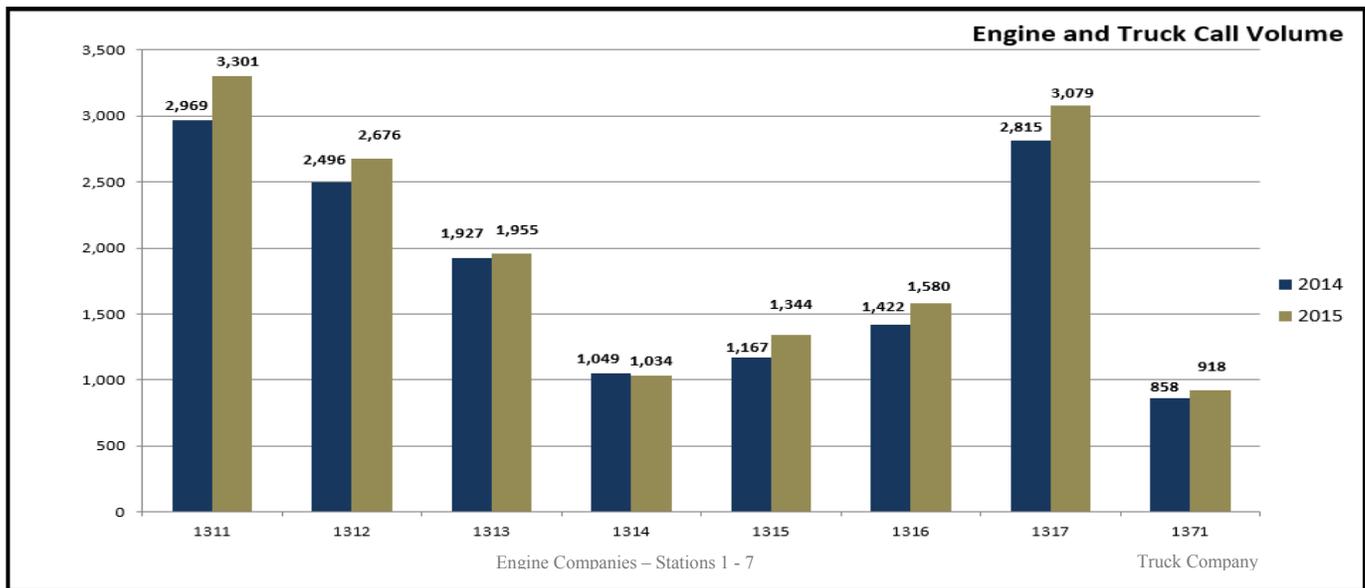
Our 2015 Annual Report is an analytical perspective of how the fire and emergency medical services (EMS) were delivered to our community. The demand for Fire/EMS services continues to climb yearly. In 2015, we responded to 14,536 calls for service, which is our highest year ever recorded.

As with most fire departments, the majority of our calls are EMS related. Our department was able to meet these increased demands due to our current operational platform that allows us flexibility and adaptation to the changing needs of our community.



The Escondido Fire Department serves the citizens in the Rincon del Diablo Fire Protection District and during 2015 responded to 554 calls, which increased by 58 calls from 2014.

The Escondido Fire Department serves the community with seven Fire Stations, which are divided into Service Area Districts. As our call for service increases, there is a correlation to an increase in the call volume for our Engine Companies and Truck Company.

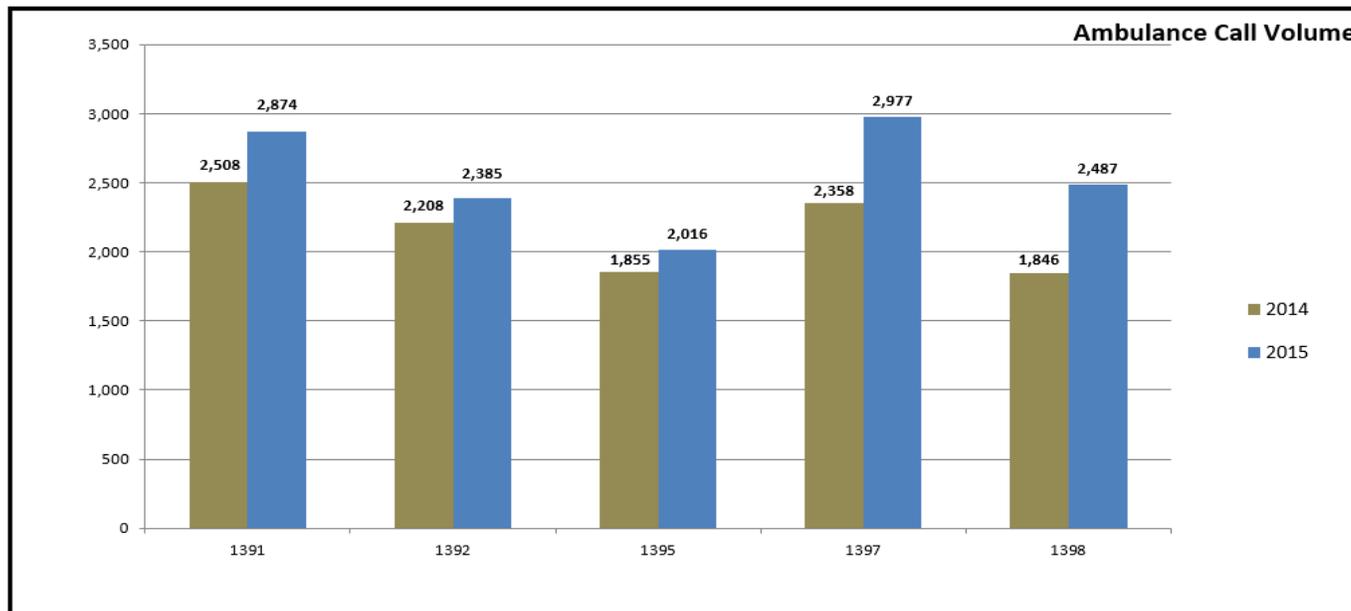


The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division accomplished several objectives in 2015 that allowed us to continue to enhance medical service delivery to the residents and visitors in Escondido. In addition to ensuring the quality of medical care through case review and field observations, the EMS division facilitated continuing education (CE) classes throughout the year including Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) and the Pediatric Education for Pre-Hospital Professional (PEPP) courses.

Trauma injuries account for a large number of our emergency calls. Enhanced education and hands on training improve the quality of care and decreases mortality. The program stresses the treatment of the multi-system trauma as well as cases with specific needs, at times this may require an approach to the trauma patient that varies from traditional treatment modalities. PHTLS promotes critical thinking as the foundation for providing quality care. The PHTLS course is continuously revised in order to keep up with advancement.

Over the last couple of years, the Escondido Fire Department has been modifying our delivery service to match the needs of the community with available resources. Our four (4) Rescue Ambulances are staffed with (1) Firefighter Paramedic and (1) Non-Safety Paramedic, located at Stations, 1, 2, 5, and 7. We have one (1) Medic Ambulance located also at Station 1, which is staffed with (2) Non-Safety Paramedics. With our call volume continuing to increase, we have been meeting with Palomar Hospital, County EMS, and other local fire departments to identify the needs of the community and to develop a plan to mitigate off-load delays.

The graph below shows we have experienced a significant increase in our call volume for our ambulances. In 2014, our ambulance call volume totaled 10,775. In 2015, our ambulance call volume was the highest ever with 12,739; this reflects an increase of 1,964 calls.

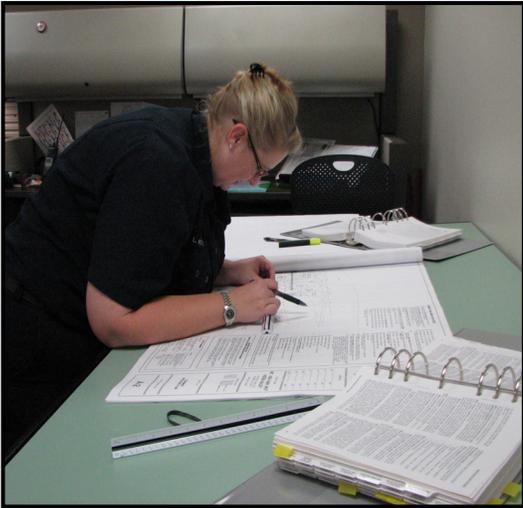


Our Training Division is tasked with developing topics that employ a variety of methods and techniques to achieve our mission. New employees complete an “in-house” academy and participate in a paramedic mentorship program before becoming part of an emergency response crew. Crews perform manipulative training at our modern training facility located at Fire Station 1. Personnel train with other crews refreshing current skills as well as learning new skills.

A significant accomplishment for our Training Division is the implementation of the Blue Card Command Certification Program. Blue Card is a state of the art training and certification program that teaches Company and Command Officers how to standardize local incident operations across the organization.

Escondido Fire Department possesses a rich tradition of dedication to training. This division is also responsible for ensuring the professional competence of all emergency responders. By leveraging technology, combining classroom and realistic live training, this vital division prepares our department for a wide range of emergencies.



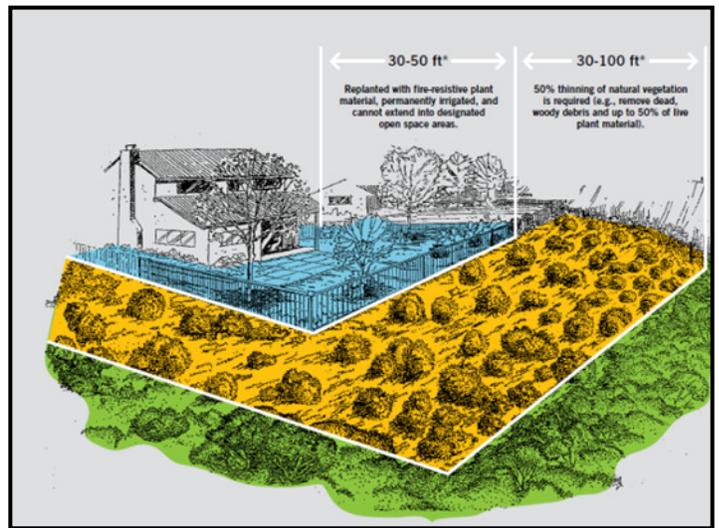


The Escondido Fire Department plays a key role in the community with our Fire Prevention Division. Prevention supports the mission of this department, to serve the public and to safeguard the community from the impact of fire, medical, and environmental emergencies through education, emergency services, and enforcement.

The Prevention Division works alongside our business owners, builders, and others to maximize safety and evacuation elements throughout the design and construction process. The Prevention Division conducted a total of 1,160 plan checks and 1,371 inspections, while our suppression Engine Companies conducted over 900 inspections. These inspections ensure that buildings are safe for the business owners, employees, and the public.

During my time serving this community, Escondido has experienced some significant catastrophic wildfires. In an effort to reach out and educate property owners whose property resides in a dangerous high fire zone area, the Prevention Division mailed over 2,500 letters to homeowners reminding them about maintaining defensible space.

The Prevention Division works closely with other City departments to ensure safe regulation of solar-panel installation on homes and businesses, who directly contribute to a beautiful, desirable and environmentally responsible City where the citizens want to live, work, shop, eat, and enjoy.



This 2015 Annual Report reflects just a small aspect of the time and effort collectively given by this department. If space was unlimited, I could highlight our working relationship with the Burn Institute, the number of hours our volunteers tirelessly give to this organization, the public education program where we go into schools to talk to children about fire safety, etc. but unfortunately, I do not have this kind of space.

In closing, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all the personnel of the Escondido Fire Department. It has been a privilege to watch you provide the “Legendary Service” to the citizens and visitors of my hometown, Escondido.

From the Escondido Fire Department, we want to thank everyone who helped make 2015 a safe and successful year.

Michael Lowry
Fire Chief