



HARLEM-ROSCOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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To the Residents of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District,

As the Fire Chief of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department, it is with great pride I write this annual letter that highlights the accomplishments of 2018 and looks ahead to our future. I am again honored to say that your fire department continues to meet the demands for service, face the challenges of the economy, and stays in the forefront with education, tools and equipment. Daily, the men and women of the fire department demonstrate supreme dedication to the district and its citizens, as well as to the fire and emergency services. It is because of this dedication, and that of all who have served the organization through the years, that the Harlem Roscoe Fire Protection District is so highly recognized and regarded. In 2018 we responded to 3078 calls. Our average response time was 2.2 minutes with an average on scene time of 6.3 minutes. I am very proud of the personnel for obtaining these benchmarks.

We are an all hazards fire department. In addition to fighting fires, rescue responses, the organization and our paramedic program is at the pinnacle of Emergency Medical Services as a member of the Swedish American Emergency Medical Services System. Also, in keeping with new challenges of the 21st century, and in partnership with our neighboring fire departments, the department trains for hazardous materials response, technical rescue response (structural collapses, trench rescues, confined space rescues, and above / below grade rescues), Water Rescue Response and a Fire Investigation Team. We are a 24/7 operation, responding out of three stations. We also have dispatchers, who work 12 hour shifts. To accommodate the filling of these positions, HRFD employs 15 contracted full-time paramedic/EMT/firefighters who work 24 hour shifts along with 44 part-time personnel. Every month our members will volunteer and sign up to fill the shifts for daily/nightly positions. Most of our members have full time jobs outside of HRFD. We also still rely on paid on call volunteers who respond from home. Training takes place on a weekly basis, including nights and weekends and ensures all firefighters can continue to properly respond to any type of emergency that is received. Our goal is to constantly find ways to become more efficient with our response, equipment replacement, community involvement and facility upkeep as our fire district continues to grow. We are always looking for those who may be interested in joining our department.

We thank the board of trustees of the fire district for their continued support which allows us to provide the best services. Most of all, we thank you – the members of the public. All of our accomplishments and growth would not be possible without your continued support. Your support and positive feedback are most welcome, as you are the reason we serve. It is our intent to continue to exceed your expectations and provide our fire district the best service possible and upholding our core values of courage, compassion integrity diversity teamwork and community.

As we move forward, I pledge we will stay abreast of new technologies and techniques to further improve services, to seek-out creative solutions to issues that arise, to communicate to the public regarding our activities and how citizens may protect themselves and maintain safety in their daily lives, and to continue to meet our mission of providing the highest standard of service to the district through prevention, training, education and emergency services. It is our vision to be a progressive fire department providing a professional level of service.

I assure you, that as I do my job I will always remain proactive for your protection and our continued growth. To maintain that our vision and planning doesn't only address the near future, but long term as well. And lastly, to see that the mission statement of our fire district board of trustee's is carried out to its fullest. As always I invite you to tour our facilities, see the equipment, and meet the personnel who serve you.

And lastly please remember we do not solicit donations by telephone. Please do not be confused by organizations claiming to represent firefighters.

Chief Donald Shoewlin

"A Progressive Fire Department providing a Professional level of service."