

Clinton Fire Department

2019 Annual Report

Chief Jeff Blackledge

The Clinton Fire Department has had another eventful year in 2019. Some of the calls that we responded to included rescuing a homeowner in a house fire and experiencing the loss of life in another house fire. In the late-night hours of February 4, 2019, the fire department crews were tested as to their knowledge and strength when they responded to a house fire with an occupant unaccounted for, they searched the building and found the occupant and pulled him to safety. In the course of the rescue two of our firefighters got burned along with the occupant. The two firefighters will receive the Medal of Valor for their successful efforts in saving the occupant on January 22, 2020 at the Mississippi Fire Chief's Mid-Winter Conference being held in Ridgeland, MS.

Fire Inspections

The Fire Prevention Division has inspected over 280 business and rental properties. The cycle for regular business inspections is every other year. Restaurants, Day-Cares and high hazards occupancy are inspected every year. The fire department's belief is these inspections are vital in keeping our structure fires at a minimum. The Fire Prevention Division is also responsible for reviewing building plans for new buildings, remodeling plans, walk-thru tours of new businesses for firefighter familiarity, pre-planning and fire safety education programs. Of the businesses inspected, we had numerous violations that had to be corrected such as, exit lights not illuminated, sprinkler systems not checked by an authorized sprinkler company, blocked exits, and blocked sprinkler heads. The blocked exits and sprinkler heads had to be taken care of immediately while the other violations were resolved in a timely manner.

Fire Prevention Training

In 2019, we have taught over 1000 students in programs such as "Stop, Drop and Roll", "E.D.I.T.H." (Exit Drills in the Home) and Stay Low and Go, to pre-kindergarten, elementary, middle, and secondary students. We also teach fire extinguisher training to businesses, civic organization or church groups, and high school students in specific classes in the Career Complex. We have participated in several health fairs for senior adults and talked with them

about the importance of smoke alarms and general safety in their homes. We have installed over 300 smoke alarms that we were able to obtain from the State Fire Marshal's office in the homes of the elderly within our city limits.

Firefighter Training/Combat Division

CFD has logged over 3500 hours of firefighter training at the Mississippi State Fire Academy, another 1200+ hours of in-house training and over 2000 hours of EMS training in 2019. Classes that we have had are: Haz-Mat Tech, Chemistry of Haz-Mat, Rope Rescue Technician, Trench Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Specialized Search and Rescue courses taught in Rankin County and Meridian and Basic Firefighting courses. We have 15 personnel that are trained in Overland Search and Rescue. The CFD has joined forces with the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security Task Force and have participated in several searches for lost individuals in the State.

Clinton firefighters participate in annual physical agility tests, which include an annual medical examination per NFPA regulations, a physical agility assessment, and an annual respirator fit-test to ensure proper fitting of their SCBA mask.

We received a grant in 2018 from Blue Cross/Healthy Heroes in the amount of \$41,185 to help purchase work-out equipment for the Fire and Police Departments which is used every day to help achieve our goals and requirements of staying physically fit for the job.

Emergency Response

For the 2019-year, CFD has had a record number of calls, we have responded to a total of 2830 alarms. That is an average of 7.75 calls per day. This is an increase of 33 calls for service over 2018. The breakdown of calls is as follows:

- Fires **104-** this includes building fires, vehicle fires, trash fires, cooking fires, unauthorized burning, grass fires and woods fires.
- EMS **1940-** this includes any major or minor medical call needing an EMT or Paramedic
- MVC **178-** motor vehicle accidents
- Haz-Mat **98-** this includes Carbon Monoxide detectors sounding, fuel spills and natural gas leaks.
- Weather **4-** this includes storms, downed trees, flooding etc.
- False Alarms **211-** this includes false alarms, honest mistakes, cancelled calls, and accidental medical alarms

- Assistance **292**-this includes ring removals, stuck elevators and falls
- Rescue **3**- this includes 2 water rescues and 1 elevator rescue

To respond to these calls, the Clinton Fire Department must be prepared 24/7 to execute their services, and they have to keep their equipment in top shape by performing daily, weekly, and monthly maintenance on their equipment.

Maintenance of equipment includes:

- Daily inspections and maintenance of equipment and apparatus
- Bi-annual servicing of all fire apparatus
- Annual ground ladder and aerial ladder testing
- Annual pump test according to NFPA standards
- Annual hose testing according to NFPA standards
- Annual air pack testing according to NFPA standards
- Monthly Outdoor Weather Siren test

Also, we had 4 of our personnel retire in 2019, and that left a big gap in the fire department in regards to experience. We currently have 61 personnel out of the 64 slots we are allotted.

Jeff Blackledge

Fire Chief