

# 2015 SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo by Scott Strazzante

San Francisco Firefighters Local 798



On behalf of the over 1,500 Firefighters and Paramedics of San Francisco Firefighters Local 798, I am proud to present the 2015 San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) Year in Review photo book.

In 2015, San Francisco Firefighters and Paramedics responded to more than 135,000 calls for service across our city. This book offers just a small glimpse into the lives of our first responders. We could not possibly capture every function, duty, or demand of this profession within these pages.

We are faced with many challenges on a daily basis as our population continues to grow and emergency calls for service continue to increase; yet our Firefighters and Paramedics remain vigilant and stand ready to save lives and property at a moment's notice. We love this City and are privileged to serve its residents.

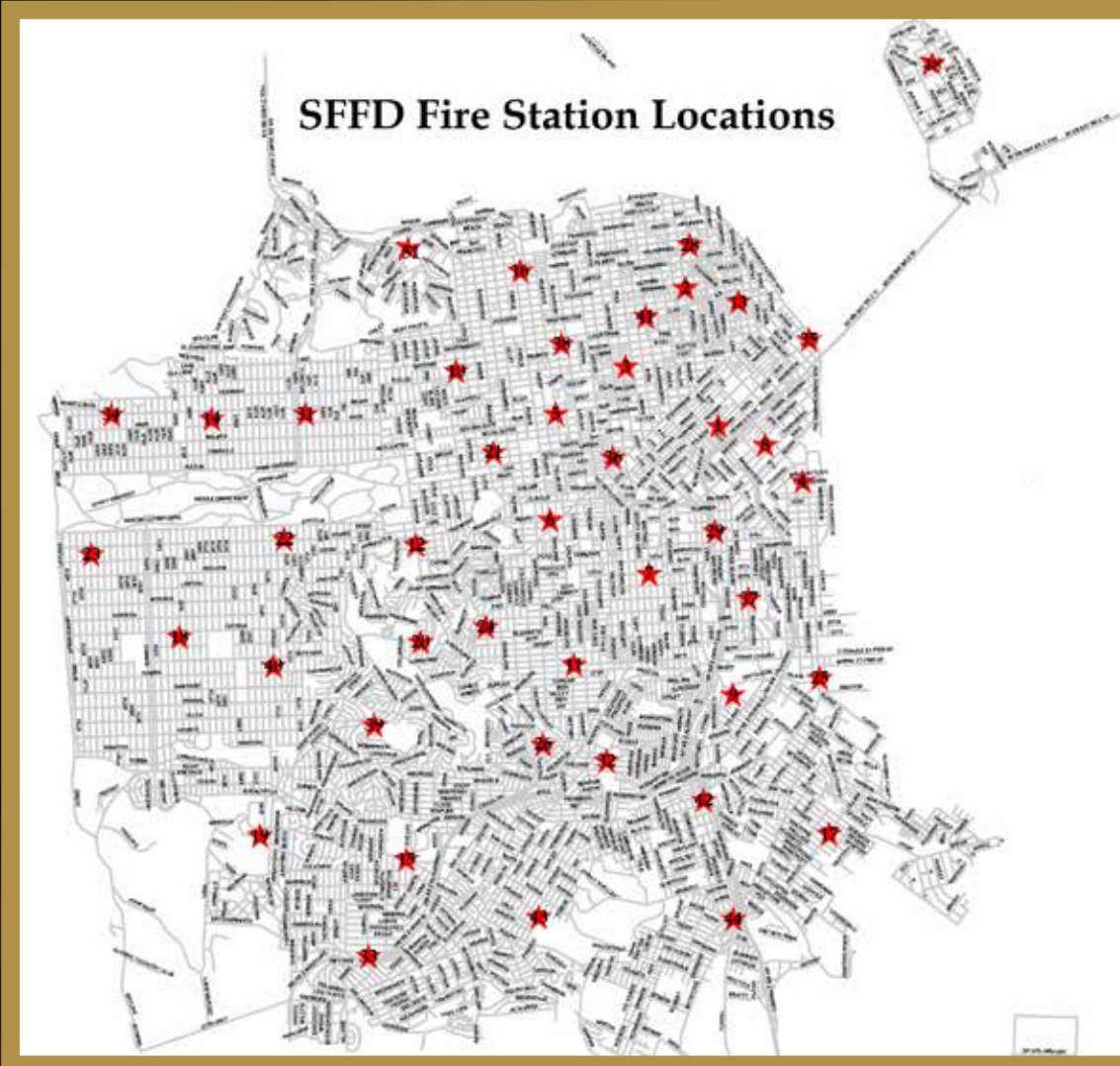
This book is dedicated to our members – the courageous men and women of the SFFD who risk their lives day in and day out to serve the people of San Francisco. Their generous spirit extends far beyond their work as emergency responders. Our Firefighters and Paramedics strongly believe in giving back to their community and volunteer their time, energy, and resources to worthy causes throughout the year such as our own San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 Toy Program and the Cancer Prevention Foundation.

I am humbled to serve alongside the greatest Firefighters and Paramedics in the country – the dedicated men and women of the San Francisco Fire Department. Local 798 recognizes the sacrifices you make and will continue to do everything possible to honor your work and protect your safety.

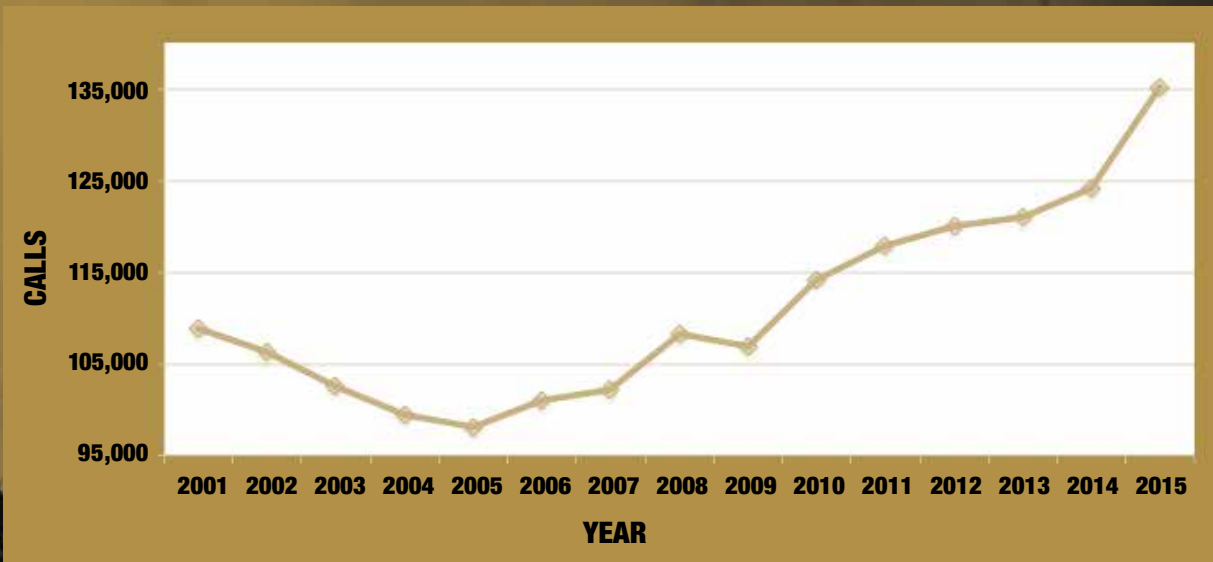
Sincerely,

Tom O'Connor  
President  
San Francisco Firefighters Local 798

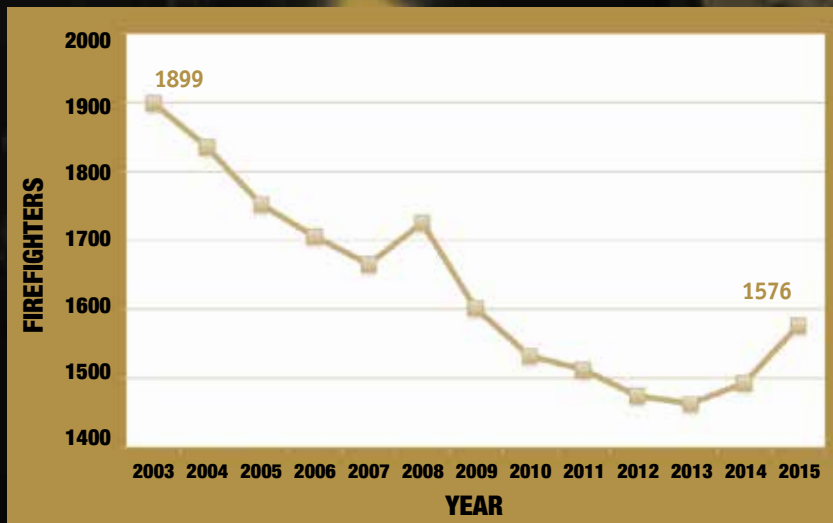
# FIRE STATION LOCATIONS



# CALLS FOR SERVICE



# STAFFING LEVELS





# DEADLY INFERNO

## January 28

**MISSION DISTRICT** - Approximately 125 Firefighters responded to a massive four-alarm blaze at 22nd and Mission Streets around 6:45pm. The fire tore through a three-story, mixed-use building that was home to many businesses and dozens of families. Unfortunately, one person died at the scene and six people were transported to the hospital. Firefighters rescued 12 people, including some who had to be saved from fire escapes and interior stairwells. The fire displaced a total of 40 people, but thankfully the Red Cross was on hand to assist those needing temporary shelter. The fire was extinguished after midnight and the building was deemed a complete loss.









Photo



Photo by Scott Strazzante



Photo by Scott Strazzante



Photo by Scott Strazzante



Photo by Vivian Ho



Photo by SF Firefighter Dwayne Newton



Photo by Jason Henry



Photo by SF Firefighter Dwayne Newton



# RESIDENTIAL BUILDING BLAZE

## January 31

**ALAMO SQUARE** - A four-alarm fire damaged four buildings in the 1500 block of McCalister Street in the Alamo Square neighborhood. Approximately 100 Firefighters responded to a blaze that started in the second floor of a residential building and then quickly spread to three adjacent buildings, affecting a total of 25 housing units. 16 fire engines, five ladder truck companies, and two heavy rescue squads responded to the scene. Unfortunately, one Firefighter was transported to the hospital with moderate injuries and the Red Cross assisted 15 people.







Photo by Robin Guido



Photo by Robin Guido



Photo by Santiago Mejia



Photo by Santiago Mejia



Engine 3 has the highest run volume in San Francisco in 2015, with 10,953 responses (or approximately 1.25 runs per hour).





## TRAINING MISSION TO NICARAGUA

In January, twelve Firefighters from San Francisco and one Oakland Firefighter headed to Nicaragua on a volunteer mission. With donated equipment in tow, the group joined Emergency Response Services for Latin America (ERSLA) in conducting essential firefighting training in Northern Nicaragua. Nine years ago, San Francisco Firefighters Lester Lesavoy, Eigel Qwist, and Mark Zhang recognized that the all-volunteer Nicaraguan Firefighters had limited firefighting and rescue equipment and were in dire need of organized training. The three men brought this information back to the San Francisco Firefighters' Bomberos group and they immediately began developing a plan.



With financial support from Local 798, San Francisco Firefighters volunteered their time during this one-week visit to train Nicaraguan Firefighters from a number of fire stations in the northern state of Estelí. They conducted vehicle extrication and trauma assessment training as well as water-well rescue techniques. This training is vital in the 'Land of Lakes and Volcanoes' where tropical storms, flooding, and other disasters occur on a regular basis, oftentimes causing fatalities and devastating injuries. The fire stations in Nicaragua have very limited resources and knowledge of life-saving rescue operations. This expert training from San Francisco Firefighters will continue to be critical for local Nicaraguan Firefighters in performing their regular duties.







Photos by Joe Aguirre

## THREE-ALARM FIRE February 21

**CASTRO DISTRICT** - A blaze reported at 4:10pm began in the second floor laundry room of a residential building on Church Street. 104 Firefighters battled the three-alarm fire that burned two residential buildings and a third building sustained water damage. Firefighters had the blaze under control by around 5:23pm. The San Francisco Department of Animal Care and Control treated a cat for smoke inhalation, but luckily no other injuries were reported. The fire displaced at least a dozen people and caused \$1.4 million in damage.



Photos by Santiago Mejia



## DEADLY TWO-ALARM FIRE March 11

**MISSION DISTRICT** - At 4:30am, Firefighters responded to a two-alarm blaze at 3046 24th Street in the Mission District. Firefighters encountered a fire in the apartment located above a liquor store with a family of five (two parents and three children) still inside the burning building. Firefighters were able to rescue two children via a second floor window, but the three remaining family members were brought out by Firefighters who had to storm into the building to complete the rescue operation. The family of five was treated at the scene and transported to the hospital with serious injuries, but sadly, a few days later, the father and his 13-year-old daughter died of their injuries.



## SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS AND AMERICAN RED CROSS PARTNER FOR LIFE- SAVING SMOKE ALARM CAMPAIGN

San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 partnered with the American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter and Supervisor David Campos to support the Home Fire Preparedness Campaign, which includes the distribution and installation of smoke alarms in neighborhoods heavily affected by fires, as well as the education of residents about what to do in case a fire breaks out in their home. In the first few months of 2015, there were three major structure fires that led to absolute devastation in the Mission and Castro Districts. Tragically, three civilians lost their lives, others were injured, and dozens were displaced from their homes. A common theme at many San Francisco fires is the lack of audible smoke alarms. Local 798 donated \$5,000 to the Red Cross' Home Fire Preparedness Campaign to assist with their outreach efforts and help prevent future tragedies in our neighborhoods.



## PETER ANTONINI FOUNDATION DONATES WETSUITS TO SFFD

The SFFD was fortunate to receive 40 hand-sewn, flexible top-of-the-line wetsuits from the Peter Antonini Foundation in memory of an aspiring Firefighter who passed away a week before he was scheduled to enter the firefighter training academy. In 2002, 21-year-old Peter Antonini collapsed and died while jogging on Ocean Beach. His parents, San Francisco Planning Commissioner Michael Antonini and his wife, Linda, have carried on Peter's commitment to service through the Foundation. The wetsuits cost approximately \$300 a piece and this generous donation will greatly assist Firefighters in their rescue operations. Last year, the Rescue Unit responded to 170 emergency calls at Ocean Beach alone. There are nearly 300 San Francisco Firefighters who work out of nine fire stations located near the water and are certified to conduct water rescues.



Photo by Brant Ward



Photo by Brant Ward





## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

San Francisco Firefighters and thousands of spectators got into the spirit of St. Patrick's Day at the 164th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade & Festival. This celebration is heralded as the West Coast's largest Irish-themed event where revelers are encouraged to learn about and experience the Irish culture, which is deeply rooted in San Francisco's history.



## AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION'S FIGHT FOR AIR CLIMB

In March, San Francisco Firefighters participated in the 9th Annual American Lung Association's signature fundraiser, the Fight for Air Climb. Fight For Air Climbs take place in prominent skyscrapers, stadiums, or arenas and involve walking, running, or racing up hundreds of steps. San Francisco's Fight for Air Climb is a race to the top of 555 California St., which is a 1,197-step climb. Local 798 Members participated in the Firefighter Challenge, where firehouses from across the Bay Area and beyond compete in the climb in full gear.



Lung Cancer is the #1 cancer killer of women and men and Firefighters are disproportionately affected by lung disease, including lung cancer. The American Lung Association is the leading organization dedicated to saving lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. The Lung Association provides support and education for those living with asthma, lung cancer, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

## TWO-STORY RESIDENTIAL FIRE

### April 2

**BAYVIEW DISTRICT** - Fire Crews arrived at the scene of the fire to find smoke billowing from the roof of a two-story residential building at 1447 Van Dyke Ave. The two-alarm fire was reported at 1:01pm and spread to a second building. Although the building was occupied at the time of the fire, no one was injured and the flames were under control by 1:24pm.



## VICTIM DIES IN NORTH BEACH FIRE

### April 2

**NORTH BEACH** - The third floor of a four-story building located at 1050 Columbus Ave. caught fire around 10pm. Firefighters arrived to the scene of the one-alarm blaze and were able to assist two elderly men out of the building. Sadly, a 67-year-old man died and another elderly man was treated for smoke inhalation.



Photo by Carlos Avila Gonzalez

## FIREFIGHTERS REMOVE BODY

### April 4

**RICHMOND DISTRICT** - An elderly woman's mummified body was removed from a home on the 100 block of Fourth Avenue. Public safety officials had trouble entering the structure because it was reportedly packed with a lot of debris, trash, and rodents. Firefighters entered the home wearing oxygen masks. It is believed that the elderly woman was 90 years old and may have died five years ago.



Photo by Jessica Christian





Photo by Eric Prenskey

## TWO-ALARM FIRE April 8

**MISSION DISTRICT** - Firefighters battled a two-alarm fire at 521 Barlett Street just before 1pm. Fortunately, the fire was contained to the rear and attic of the two-story residential building and no injuries were reported. The blaze was brought under control by 1:30pm and a total of nine people were displaced.



## NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM CITYWIDE DRILL April 18

On October 17, 1989, San Francisco experienced a 6.9-magnitude earthquake. The devastating aftermath of this event prompted the SFFD, at the urging of affected residents, to form the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) Training Program, which currently provides training in disaster and emergency response. Since 1990, the NERT Program has trained nearly 25,000 San Franciscans to assist our families and neighbors during a major disaster. NERT Drills are held throughout the year and Local 798 is proud to support this lifesaving program and all of our wonderful community volunteers.







## TWO-ALARM FIRE

### April 28

**EXCELSIOR** - Three houses were damaged after a fire broke out just before 5:00pm on Maynard Street in San Francisco's Excelsior neighborhood. The two-alarm fire ignited in the kitchen of one of the homes and quickly spread to two neighboring structures before Firefighters were able to contain the flames.



Photo by Rhiannon Charisse via Twitter



# NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT FIRE

## April 29

**PRESIDIO** - Liverpool Lil's, one of the city's long established restaurants, suffered a two-alarm accidental fire at 7:30am. It was reported that the fire broke out in the residential units above Liverpool Lil's and quickly spread to the attic above the neighboring motel behind the building. Firefighters tackled the fire from the roof and had to break windows and part of the ceiling to pour water inside. The 40-year-old restaurant sustained extensive damage.



Photos by Paul Chinn







## TOUR BUS FIRE May 3

**HAIGHT-ASHBURY DISTRICT** - Local business owners chased down a tour bus for about a block on Haight Street to alert the driver who was unaware that the bus had caught on fire. Apparently, the fire started from beneath the engine in the rear of the double-decker bus at about 10:30am. Shortly after Firefighters arrived, the flames were quickly extinguished, but the tour bus was completely burned. Approximately 35 to 40 people were on the bus at the time of the incident. Fortunately, no one was hurt and all passengers exited the bus unharmed.



## FIRE ADJACENT TO SF FIREFIGHTERS UNION HALL May 16

**SOMA** - A motorhome sitting on the vacant lot next to the Local 798 Union Hall on Mission Street was set on fire by a homeless man at around 2pm. Firefighters responded quickly and extinguished the flames before the fire could spread further into the building. The Union Hall suffered exterior damage.



Engine 1, which responded to this fire, is the second busiest rig in San Francisco with 9,461 responses in 2015 (or an average of approximately 26 calls per day).





## NOE VALLEY HOUSE FIRE May 22

**NOE VALLEY** - The first of four arson fires that took place over the Memorial Holiday weekend was reported early Friday morning around 5:30am at 4037 22nd St. The porch of the two-story home was burned, but fortunately, the 72-year-old homeowner was not injured. Neighboring homes also suffered some fire damage.



## TWO-ALARM APARTMENT FIRE June 12

**FISHERMAN'S WHARF** - Firefighters responded around 9am to a two-alarm fire in a three-story apartment building located at 812 Bay Street in the Fisherman's Wharf neighborhood. The blaze was extinguished at 9:43am, but sadly, a dog perished in the fire. The Red Cross assisted four people who were displaced.



# THREE-ALARM HOUSE FIRE

## June 29

**INGLESIDE** - Firefighters battled a three-alarm blaze just before 9am at a home in the 1100 block of Plymouth Ave. They attacked the fire from the rear of the home and made their way into the structure through a back unit where they encountered six pit bulls. Two people were transported to the hospital and one Firefighter was treated at the scene for exhaustion. Once the flames were under control at around 10:30am, Firefighters found two additional dogs deceased inside the home. Two adjacent homes also sustained damage.











## 2015 CALLS

EMS	32,713
FIRE	26,542
FIRE/EMS	75,836
TOTAL INCIDENT CALLS	135,091



## 2015 INSPECTIONS

COMPLAINT	3,681
DBI CONSTRUCTION	7,304
FIRE PERMIT APPROVAL	310
ANNUAL PERMIT	3,952
REFERRAL	2,296
NOTICE OF VIOLATION	417
ANNUAL HIGH RISE	830
SCHOOL	109
RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES/DAYCARE	1,784





## CLIFF RESCUE

### July 9

**LANDS END** - A 16-year-old girl and her 15-year-old brother got stuck on a steep cliff nicknamed "Dead Man's End" in Lands End at about 4:45pm. The brother dropped his cellphone and, in their attempt to retrieve it, the cliff started to crumble. That's when the sister used her cellphone to dial 911. When the Firefighters arrived, they used a rope harness to pull the kids up to safety and out of danger. Rescue boats were also on the scene to help the hikers off the cliff.



## TWO-ALARM

### COMMERCIAL FIRE

### August 18

**OUTER SUNSET** - Around 10:30am, a fire broke out at the Riptide Bar, a beloved San Francisco Music Venue, located at 3639 Taraval Street. The 75-year-old building was home to local surfers, musicians and artists and was completely gutted by the fire. Firefighters brought the blaze under control in about an hour and a half, but an adjacent market also suffered damages. Estimated damage to both buildings was \$1 million.

Photos by Beck Diefenbach



# SENIOR CARE FACILITY FIRE

## August 24

**MISSION DISTRICT** - A two-alarm blaze was reported at around 11:07pm at an elderly care home located at 628 Shotwell Street. When Firefighters arrived, they found that the fire had engulfed the third floor of the three-story structure. Fortunately, two care providers were able to escort 14 residents (some of whom had special needs) out of the building to safety. One of the residents was taken to the hospital and treated for smoke inhalation.



Photo by Jared Joiner/@jnjoiner



Photo by Beck Diefenbach





Photo by Amy Osborne

## TWO-ALARM FIRE DAMAGES TWO BUILDINGS August 31

**COLE VALLEY** - The fire, which was reported in the middle unit at 1053 Clayton Street, started around 8:36pm and quickly extended to the neighboring building at 1065 Clayton Street. Eight fire trucks responded to the scene and were able to extinguish the fire around 10pm. One person was transported to the hospital with burns and smoke inhalation, which were not life-threatening. A total of seven people were displaced and received assistance from the Red Cross.



Photo by Paul Chinn



Photos by Paul Chinn

## TREASURE ISLAND TRAINING FACILITY

The San Francisco Fire Department's state-of-the-art training facility is housed on 4.82-acres of land on Treasure Island. The site was originally used by the Navy, but now serves to provide new recruits and veteran San Francisco Firefighters and Paramedics with critical hands-on training. The facility includes a BART cart and MUNI tracks, a high-rise building, an elevator prop, and a live burn house. Fire personnel are able to reenact many real life scenarios since the facility includes mock-ups of the following: flat and peaked roof ventilation, a search and rescue maze, multiple forcible entry scenarios, rope and high angle rescue situations, hose leads, aerial ladder operations, steel and concrete breaching, and auto extrication. There are also four emergency medical services classrooms where fire personnel review all types of situations, including multi-casualty incidents, weapons of mass destruction scenarios, cardiac emergencies, and pediatric emergencies. Unfortunately, the future of the Treasure Island Training Facility is in limbo as the Treasure Island Development Authority currently has plans to level the facility and there is no plan to replace it. This site is too valuable to lose and Local 798 hopes there will be a solution to preserve this state-of-the-art training center.



## 9/11 TRIBUTE

Every year, San Francisco Firefighters hold a 9/11 Tribute to remember those brave Firefighters and first responders who lost their lives saving others on this tragic day. The ceremony takes place at Fire Stations throughout the City, beginning at 6:59am with the ringing of three bells, symbolizing the falling of the South World Trade Center Tower. It is followed by a moment of silence and the reading of the names of all 343 New York Firefighters that perished in the attack and rescue effort. The group pictured is San Francisco Firefighters who travelled to New York City in the wake of 9/11 to assist their fellow Firefighters.



Photos by Paul Chinn







## CAR OVER CLIFF September 21

**SUTRO HEIGHTS PARK** - An 84-year-old man drove over a cliff at Sutro Heights Park around 3:20pm. The accident happened along 48th Ave. and Anza Street over an embankment overlooking Ocean Beach. The car landed on a steep hill on top of trees and close to live power lines, making the rescue difficult for Firefighters. Firefighters used the jaws of life to extricate the elderly man who was then transported to the hospital in serious condition.



## STRIKE TEAMS

San Francisco Firefighters were part of the statewide response to two major Northern California fires that claimed life and property and displaced thousands of residents. A total of seven San Francisco fire engines responded to the devastating Butte & Valley fires. A strike team consisting of five engines and 22 Firefighters and an additional engine were dispatched to the massive Butte Fire. And four San Francisco Firefighters joined a strike team from San Mateo County to help battle the Valley Fire. Pictured are SFFD crews on Strike Team 2805A at the Humboldt Lightning Complex.



## WOMAN RESCUED NEAR CLIFF HOUSE September 28

**OCEAN BEACH**- Just after 7pm, a woman was wedged about 75 feet up a steep cliff in Sutro Heights Park. Heavy foliage and trees and dark condition made it difficult for Firefighters to locate the victim. Firefighters used an aerial ladder and spotlights to track her down and bring her to safety. Luckily, the woman did not sustain any injuries.

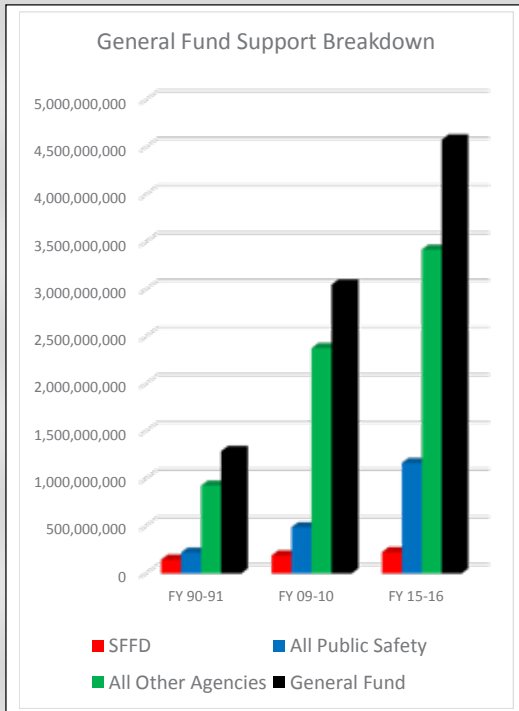
Photo by SF Firefighter Katherine Alba-Swanson



# GENERAL FUND SUPPORT

## General Fund Support for SFFD

Compared to *Public Protection (less SFFD)*, All Other Agencies, and Total General Fund Spending



Municipal Agency	FY 90-91	FY 09-10	FY 15-16
<b>SFFD:</b>	<b>\$145</b>	<b>\$189</b>	<b>\$223</b>
<b>Public Protection:</b>	<b>\$219</b>	<b>\$487</b>	<b>\$1,162</b>
<b>All Other Agencies:</b>	<b>\$926</b>	<b>\$2,377</b>	<b>\$3,419</b>
<b>Total General Fund:</b>	<b>\$1,291</b>	<b>\$3,052</b>	<b>\$4,581</b>

All Values in Millions of Dollars

Percentage Growth Since Fiscal Year 1990-91	
<b>SFFD:</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Public Protection:</b>	<b>537%</b>
<b>All Other Agencies:</b>	<b>369%</b>
<b>Total General Fund:</b>	<b>354%</b>

General Fund Support for the Fire Department has grown at a rate of **300% less** than that of the General Fund, **315% less** than that of All Other Agencies and **483% less** than other services classified as Public Protection.



## UNITED EMPLOYEES GROUP

The United Employees Group (UEG) of the San Francisco Fire Department was formed in 2014 and includes the Asian Firefighters Association, Black Firefighters Association, Los Bomberos, United Fire Service Women, SFResQ, SF EMS Officers Association, the SF Paramedic/Firefighter Association, the Fire Chiefs Association, and the San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 - every single employee group in the Department. San Francisco Firefighters of all backgrounds are working together for a common cause - to improve our Fire Department. All of the employee groups of the San Francisco Fire Department remain united to demand a Department that is more responsive and accountable to our residents. The UEG continues to work closely with the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to inform them of the needs of the Department and to move us forward in 2016. Local 798 is committed to continuing its collaboration with the UEG to insist that our First Class City maintains and supports a First Class Fire Department for the people of San Francisco.



Photos by Liz Hafalia



## THREE-ALARM APARTMENT BUILDING BLAZE October 16

**RICHMOND DISTRICT** - Two people were displaced in a three-alarm fire that damaged a three-story residential building at 425 Second Ave. The fire was reported at 1:55pm and brought under control by 2:43pm, but the abundance of overhead electrical wires made the job of extinguishing the fire difficult. Firefighters utilized wooden ladders to avoid getting shocked. All three floors suffered significant fire and water damage.





Photo by Liz Hafalia



Photo by Hiro Sama via Twitter

## THREE-STORY APARTMENT BUILDING FIRE

### October 26

**MISSION DOLORES** - Firefighters responded to an explosion and subsequent first-alarm fire at 5:47pm on the third floor of a three-story apartment building located at 35 Dolores Street. Upon arriving, Firefighters tackled heavy smoke and flames billowing from the attic. Multiple fire trucks were on scene and extinguished the fire by 6:10pm. Fortunately, the top floor was vacant at the time and all of the tenants were able to evacuate the building without injury.



# TIRE STORE FIRE

## November 8

**MISSION DISTRICT** - 110 Firefighters and 31 different pieces of fire equipment battled a three-alarm blaze that ripped through a tire shop located at 2860 16th Street. The fire was reported at 7:47am with heavy black smoke and flames that could be seen for miles. The roof collapsed early on, forcing Firefighters to tackle the fire from the exterior. The fire also damaged neighboring buildings, including a three-story, six-unit apartment building. Fortunately, no one was injured, but 17 adults, four children, and a pet were displaced by the blaze and extensive water damage. Two hours into the firefight, the blaze was under control leaving the tire shop completely destroyed and estimated damage at \$2 million.



Photo by Santiago Mejia



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Photo by David Ellingson



Photo by Santiago Mejia



Photo by Santiago Mejia



Photo by SF Firefighter Eigil Qvist



The work of San Francisco Firefighters didn't end when the flames were extinguished; they made sure that the families who were affected by the Rolling Stock fire received toys donated by the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program so they could still celebrate the holidays in the wake of this devastating blaze.





## TOUR BUS CRASH November 13

**UNION SQUARE** - A seemingly out of control open-air double-decker tour bus carrying 30 people came to a screeching halt against construction scaffolding just before hitting a bicyclist, pedestrians, and several cars around 3pm on the 300 block of Post Street. Firefighters removed seven people from the crash site, including two who were rescued from under the bus and the scaffolding, which fell to the ground on impact. A total of 75 Firefighters rushed to the scene and assisted two people in two different cars, two pedestrians, a cyclist, the bus driver, and the tour guide. Four people were treated at the scene for minor injuries and 16 were taken to the hospital, six of those people with critical injuries.



SFFD Paramedics conduct year-round training for incidents such as this. The SFFD received 108,549 EMS incident calls in 2015.

# FIREFIIGHTERS OF THE YEAR



On November 17th, the San Francisco Police-Fire Post No. 456 held their Annual Officer and Firefighter of the Year Awards Dinner at the United Irish Cultural Center. Two San Francisco Firefighters and two San Francisco Police Officers were honored for their outstanding work and service to our great city.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE RECIPIENTS!**

**Firefighter Adam Wood**

**Firefighter Gregory Collaco**

**Officer Michael Tursi**

**Officer Edie Lewis**



## LOMBARD STREET FIRE December 3

**MARINA DISTRICT** - A two-alarm fire was reported around 6:53am at a three-story residential building located at 2533 Lombard Street. A 65-year-old man and two additional people were transported to the hospital due to smoke inhalation. A total of four adults were displaced and an adjacent building also suffered some damage. It was reported that an elderly woman and her daughter lived in the house.

Photo by J. Norris Harding



## 118<sup>th</sup> RECRUIT CLASS GRADUATION

In 2015, the SFFD graduated the 118th Probationary Class from the Recruit Academy. Local 798 was proud to welcome the 45 Recruits (37 Firefighters and 8 Firefighter/Paramedics) into the ranks as they were sworn-in on December 18th. With the SFFD still experiencing serious staffing shortages, these new Firefighters are a welcome addition into our neighborhood firehouses.



## TWO FIREFIGHTERS INJURED December 23

**BAYVIEW DISTRICT** - Firefighters responded to a one-alarm blaze at a home in the 1100 block of Hollister Ave. around 1:37pm. The roof and the attic of the home were fully engulfed in flames. Two Firefighters battled the blaze from the adjacent roof, but were shocked by the rooftop solar panels. One Firefighter was taken to the hospital, while the other was treated at the scene.





# SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS CANCER PREVENTION FOUNDATION

In 2015, the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation continued their tremendous pioneering work to gather more information about this deadly disease and to provide direct support to more than 50 Firefighters and families who currently have a form of cancer.

This past year, we lost two more of our active duty Firefighters to cancer-related illnesses. Our brothers, David Amituanai and Richard Faust left behind their families, friends, and nearly 1,500 brothers and sisters in the San Francisco Fire Department who will always remember their dedication, kindness, and willingness to serve others.

We will never forget our fellow Firefighters who we have lost and we are committed to doing everything in our power to eradicate this disease in our Fire Stations and throughout our communities.



## SF FIREFIGHTERS REPLACE EQUIPMENT WITH SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO LIMIT EXPOSURE TO CARCINOGENS

According to numerous studies, Firefighters have higher rates of cancer than the general public, including twice the reported rate of mesothelioma as determined in a study by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health in 2014. When structure fires occur, electrical power to the building is shutoff for safety reasons. This requires Firefighters to rely on gasoline generator lighting systems. Firefighters are exposed to many carcinogens during the overhaul process of firefighting and the use of gasoline generators further contributes to this. The Cancer Prevention Foundation charged the SFFD Bureau of Equipment (BOE) with producing safer conditions for our Firefighters on the frontlines. As such, BOE worked collaboratively with Pelican Products to develop a light that will reduce our Firefighters exposure to carcinogens during overhaul operations and it was introduced into our stations this past year. The Pelican LED light is six times brighter than our old lights and lasts up to 18 hours on a single charge. Pelican also produced an onboard 12-volt charging system that keeps the lights charged on our Fire Trucks and ready for use at all times. The old system required multiple Firefighters to setup very hot lights for overhaul with long electrical cords, heavy exhaust fumes, and high decibel noise from the gasoline-powered generator.



## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

In October, Firefighters throughout San Francisco participated in Breast Cancer Awareness month to bring attention to this disease that will affect 1 out of 8 women during their lifetime. SF Firefighters stand together to support our friends, colleagues, and family members who have dealt with cancer and remember those we have lost to this debilitating disease.





## SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 798 TOY PROGRAM

Founded in 1949 by a handful of San Francisco Firefighters, the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program is a 501(c)(3) charity that has evolved into the City's largest and the nation's oldest year-round toy program of its kind. The Toy Program annually collects and distributes over 200,000 toys to 40,000 low-income families. The Firefighters and Paramedics of the San Francisco Fire Department witness the crippling impact of poverty in our City every single day. That is why we have dedicated our time and resources to ensuring that every child in our City has the opportunity to experience the joy that comes with receiving a new toy. In addition to helping individual families in need, the Toy Program serves community organizations, including shelters for abused women and children. The Toy Program also responds to displaced children and families who become victims of fires, floods, and other life-changing disasters.

The Toy Program is housed at an Academy of Art University facility in Bayview. The partnership with the University dates back to 2011 when the Toy Program lost its home and Academy President Elisa Stephens stepped up and offered dedicated warehouse space at the University's Jerrold Avenue facility. The Toy Program has been operating from the same location ever since and Academy students support the program by helping collect, sort, pack, and distribute toys to children year-round. We thank the University for its extraordinary partnership over the years!

### GOLF TOURNAMENT

In June, the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program hosted the annual charity golf tournament at the beautiful TPC Harding Park Golf Course. Hundreds of local supporters braved the rainy conditions to raise more than \$25,000 for the Toy Program.

### CHILI COOK-OFF

San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 hosted the 9th Annual Johnny V. Chili Cook-Off on September 19th. 2015 marked another successful event benefiting the SF Firefighter's Toy Program.

#### Winners:

- Best Booth:** Station 48 "Trailer Trash"
- Best Vegan:** Station 18 "The Sand Bar"
- Hottest Chili:** Station 48 "Trailer Trash"
- Best Chili:** Station 20 "Reservoir Dogs"
- 1st Runner-Up:** Station 48 "Trailer Trash"



## LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

San Francisco-based Airbnb made a \$25,000 donation to the San Francisco Firefighter's Annual Toy Drive, the largest single gift the program has received in its 66 years. The money went toward purchasing items like toiletries, clothes, toys, blankets and other essentials lost by families in house fires.

In December, Uber users were able to request UberSLEIGH to come pickup new, unwrapped toys at no charge. The UberSLEIGHs and SF Firefighters then delivered the toys to Toy Program Headquarters for families in need.

A huge thank you to the local business community for helping the SF Firefighters Toy Program spread some holiday cheer throughout the Bay Area!



## CITY HALL CHILDREN'S TOY & BOOK FESTIVAL

More than 1,200 children received holiday presents from Firefighters, the Mayor, and Santa Claus at the annual Children's Toy & Book Festival held at City Hall. This event was hosted by Mayor Edwin M. Lee and the San Francisco Department of Child Support Services in partnership with the San Francisco Public Library and San Francisco Firefighters Local 798. Academy of Art University student athletes, the Golden State Warriors Dance Team, and the Warriors Community Foundation all volunteered to make this event a huge success.



## JEFFERSON AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program Chairperson, Sally Casazza, was honored as a recipient of the Jefferson Award for Public Service in the Bay Area. This award is a national recognition that celebrates ordinary people who do extraordinary things for their community without the expectation of recognition. Sally was nominated for her commitment to making sure that tens of thousands of children experience the joy of toys for Christmas and all year round. Congratulations to Sally as this honor is well deserved and SF Firefighters appreciate all that you do to make the Toy Program the best of its kind!

## SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS DONATE TOYS TO VALLEY FIRE VICTIMS

San Francisco Firefighters loaded up toys and headed to the Valley Fire zone to provide evacuees with a little relief. In addition to helping individual families in need during the Holiday season, the Toy Program responds to displaced children and families who become victims of fires, floods, and other life-changing disasters, such as the raging Valley Fire.





# AQUATIC RESCUE

## SURF AND BAY RESCUE PROGRAM

The SFFD Surf and Bay Rescue Program was founded in 1986 when two Firefighters jumped into the ocean to save a pair of swimmers and put their own lives at risk in the cold, treacherous water. A group of Firefighters became experts in surf and water rescues and anticipated the need for specialized equipment to perform these particular functions. Stations 14, 16, 18, 19, 23, 34, and 51 carry water rescue equipment in their vehicles and two specially modified Ford 150 XLT pickups are tasked with coastal rescues. Six Rescue Watercraft (Jet Skis) are also used for water rescue operations, with two in service at any given time that are housed at Fire Station 16, along with 2 Rescue Boats (1 & 2).

The SFFD Surf Rescue Program is responsible for mitigating any aquatic and coastal emergency that involves water or where water lies in its inherent path within the boundaries of the City and County of San Francisco and providing emergency aquatic rescue operations in and around the Ocean, Bay, and other bodies of water that fall within the Department's jurisdiction. With 22 miles of San Francisco coastline and an average water temperature of 51-degrees Fahrenheit, the SFFD Surf and Bay Rescue Program is an essential component of the SFFD's mission to save lives and property.

In 2014, the SFFD performed 93 Bay Rescues and 31 Surf Rescues and those numbers are steadily increasing as San Francisco's population continues to rise.

Over 30 Firefighters graduated from the SFFD's 2015 Surf Rescue Class held in two sessions over two weeks in May. Students were trained to rescue swimmers in distress in the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay.

## DIVE TEAM

The SFFD provides one of the only immediate-response dive teams in the San Francisco Bay Area. Divers on the Department's two Rescue Squads respond to calls for underwater rescues and recoveries in all the bodies of water in and around San Francisco, from Lake Merced to the San Francisco Bay. The Rescue Squad dive teams also respond to calls for assistance from neighboring communities. On Saturday, December 19, 2015, a SFFD Dive Team provided mutual aid to Alameda City when a truck drove through a barricade and sunk in the Oakland-Alameda Estuary.

## FIREBOATS

The Fireboats are a critical part of the SFFD Fleet. The Phoenix and Guardian Fireboats are housed at Firehouse 35 on Pier 22½ and are operated with a crew that includes: one Fireboat Officer, one Engineer who operates the pumps and engines, and one Pilot who steers/navigates the boat. They also don't go anywhere without Engine Crew #35, which consists of one Fire Engine Company Officer and three Firefighters who man the hoses and nozzles. Lookout for a new Fireboat to join the fleet in the Summer of 2016!



# LAST ALARM

## ACTIVE MEMBERS



### DAVID ELMER AMITUANAI

Brother David Elmer Amituanai passed away on April 12th, 2015 at the age of 58. David was born in Ft. Riley, Kansas and grew up in Daly City, California. He served in the United States Army as an enlisted soldier for three years and became a San Francisco Firefighter in 1993. He was very proud to be a Firefighter and loved his job along with all of his newfound brothers and sisters. He served on the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation Board after his first bout with cancer and devoted himself to volunteering with the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program. SF Firefighter David Elmer Amituanai was honored and his name was placed on the IAFF Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Colorado on September 19th.



### RICHARD BRADLEY FAUST

Firefighter/Paramedic Richard Bradley Faust was born January 11, 1962 and passed away on October 14, 2015 at the age of 53 from brain cancer. Brother Faust was a valued member of the San Francisco Fire Department since 1994. His last assignment was at Engine 18. Richard's commitment to the service of others was exemplified in his professional life as a 23-year veteran Firefighter/Paramedic of the SFFD and as a dedicated member of the Pacifica School District Board of Trustees. Richard was also appointed to San Mateo County's newly formed LGBTQ Commission, the first of its kind in California.

## RETIRED MEMBERS

JAMES ALLAN	ROGER ELBECK	DANIEL MCCARTHY	JOSEPH SEBASTINELLI
JOHN BARCOJO	ROBERT FENNELL	JOHN MINKEL	KEVIN SHEA
GEORGE BROWN	LEWIS GLAESER	WAYNE MITCHELL	G. MICHAEL SHUEY
ROBERT BRUNO	WALTER GLYNN	JOHN MORENO	GEORGE SIMMONS
EDGAR BRYANT	JOHN HARRIS	RAYMOND O'LEARY	ROBERT SIROIS
RAYMOND CAPELLA	JAMES HAUGHEY	FRANK O'ROURKE	WILLARD SMITH
TERRY DAILEY	THOMAS HEALY	HERMANN PELZ	TERENCE WHITE
STEVEN DIEM	JOHN HOLDEN	JAMES POPOFF	RICHARD WINKLER
JOSEPH DOUGLASS	ROBERT LIVERMORE	MERV PRESTON	LEONARD ZECHLIN
	WILLIAM MAC GURN	GEORGE RICE	



# RECOGNITION

**San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 would like to give special thanks to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. This photo book would not have been possible without your support.**

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## San Francisco Firefighters Local 798



Photo by SF Firefighter Jamie McGoldrick

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