

# FIRE PREVENTION 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

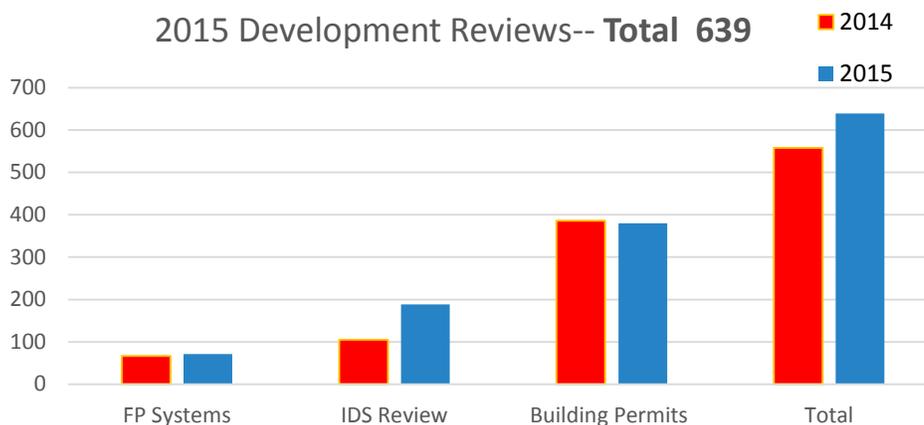
## OVERVIEW

The Flagstaff Fire Department Prevention Section works to provide a safe community for the citizens and visitors of Flagstaff by applying the principles of engineering, enforcement, and education. The Department utilizes the 2006 International Fire Code (IFC) and Wildland Urban Interface Code. These codes help to protect property from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings and ensure firefighter and emergency responder safety during emergency operations. Because of its importance to both residents and businesses, Prevention is currently in the process of updating our present code to the 2012 IFC, with the goal of a July 2016 adoption. We also coordinate fire and life safety development review of potential incoming projects, periodic commercial occupancies inspections, education and outreach to at-risk populations in our community as well as public information and fire investigations.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REVIEW (ENGINEERING)

The Fire Prevention Section ensures that the requirements of the IFC and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards are engineered into future projects in our community. The prevention staff conducts plans review and approval as well as providing technical expertise to developers, architects, contractors, the internal community development team and our operational personnel. The section saw a large increase in the number of submittals this past year and anticipates further increases in 2016. In 2015, the prevention staff reviewed 639 plans for conformance with adopted standards.

- 71 Fire protection systems
- 188 Inter-departmental staff (IDS) reviews
- 380 Building permits



## **OCCUPANCY FIRE INSPECTIONS (ENFORCEMENT)**

### **Annual Inspections**

Code enforcement activities focus on ensuring that existing buildings and facilities are operated and maintained to governing codes providing a safe environment for the employee, citizens, and visitors of Flagstaff and for emergency response personnel. The primary tool for this initiative is annual fire inspections. Inspections are conducted in all medium and high risk businesses through an annual inspection program. This program is performed by all personnel. Every inspection affords us an opportunity to educate and inform our customers by identifying fire hazards. Fire department personnel conducted a total of 2217 annual fire inspections in 2015.

- **Fire Prevention**

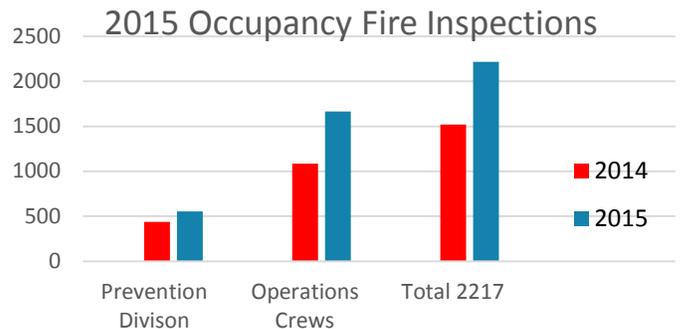
Fire Inspectors are responsible for all inspections related to new construction such as site inspections as well as proper installation and final acceptance tests of fire protection systems. Prevention staff also conducted inspections related to state licensing of certain occupancies, kitchen hoods, special events, and inspections requiring technical expertise. In 2015 the prevention section did 553 Inspections.

- 35 State licenses
- 100 Fire Marshal/Inspector-technical consulting-Special Hazard Inspections
- 165 Kitchen Hood
- 253 Construction related inspections



- **Operations Personnel**

The Operations section of the department is also very engaged in fire prevention and code enforcement. All buildings and occupancies other than one and two family dwellings are inspected on a regular and systematic basis by the local fire companies. In 2015, Operations companies conducted 1664 inspections resulting in approximately 700 correction notices representing approximately 835 identified fire code violations. Operations companies completed 63% of all our occupancy fire inspections and approximately 90% of the inspections of high and medium hazard buildings in their districts.



### **Special Events**

Flagstaff sees a large use of its outdoor municipal facilities for temporary special events during the summer months. Prevention staff coordinates life safety reviews and inspections of these events to ensure public safety at large public gatherings including fairs, concerts, sporting events, and festivals. They also inspect and issue permits related to outdoor cooking, trade shows and other high profile events where tents are in place. Special events generated approximately 400 inspections and issued 65 special events permits in 2015.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION- COMMUNITY OUTREACH (Education )**

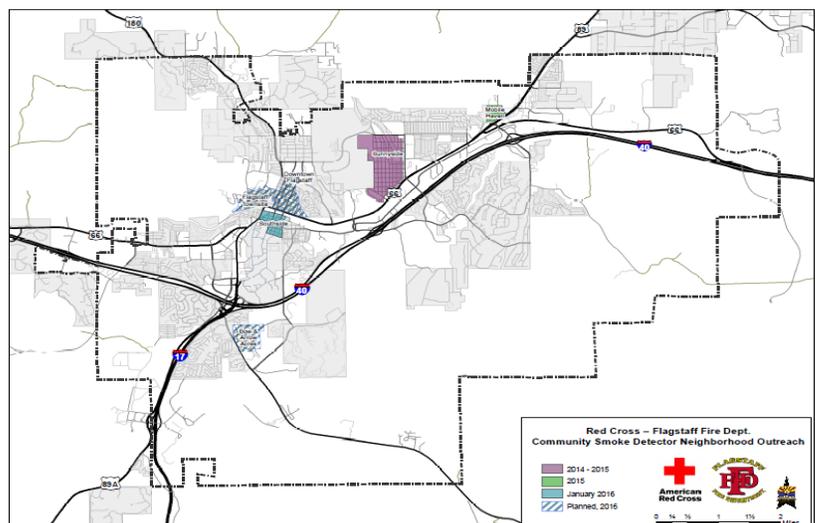
The goal of public education and community outreach is to keep all of Flagstaff's temporary and full time residents fire safe. Public education programs, while striving to provide accessible fire safety information to all Flagstaff, focused primarily on vulnerable and historically underserved populations over the past year.

Last year FFD conducted station tours, school presentations, fire extinguisher classes, fire safety talks, evacuation drills and participated in 15 major special events including parades, health fairs, summer camps, and outreach campaigns. Through these educational opportunities, our staff was able to educate approximately 3000 children and adults.

### **Partnerships**

The Flagstaff Fire Department teamed up with the American Red Cross and Northern Arizona University to provide our community with a Smoke Alarm Installation Program. This past year the partnership installed (at no charge) 165 smoke alarms, and replaced 140 batteries to homes of low-income, senior, disabled and deaf/hard of hearing residents in 2015. Three "Smoke Detector Saturday" outreaches were conducted in 2015; two in Sunnyside and one in the Mobile Haven area. (See attached map) In addition, all of our apparatus including the CART, Summit FD, and Highlands FD were outfitted with detector bags in order to provide free installation of detectors as needed. This community outreach was in response to the 3 fatalities this past year involving senior citizens. The fire investigations found no operational detectors in each occurrence.

In 2015, the FFD established another partnership with Coconino County Community Services. Each agency sent one members to a national "NFPA Remembering When Campaign" training in Florida. This training went through home safety assessments for the elderly, and the partnership will include completing 50 home assessments annually to seniors in our region.



## Operational Personnel Public Education

We received 79 public education requests this past year, mostly from our public and private schools in the community. Crews provided public education talks, fire extinguisher demos, and station tours to all groups.

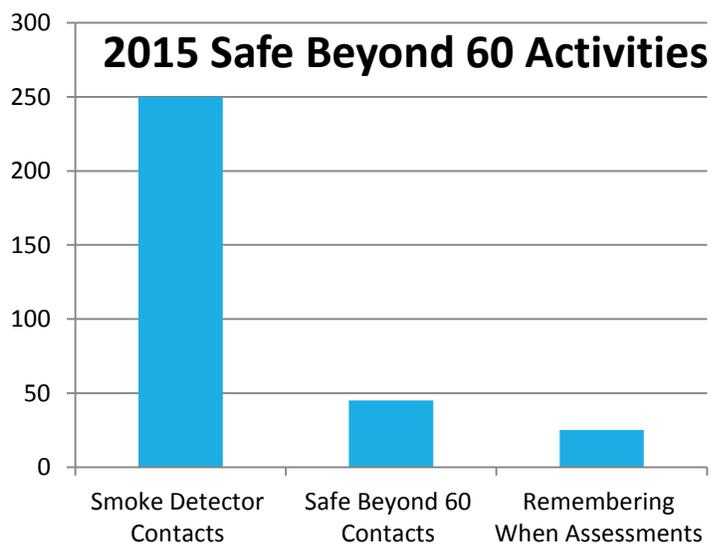


## CPR

Flagstaff Fire Department provided 14 CPR classes in 2015 to our internal customers here at the City of Flagstaff. These classes were provide to the police department, water department, library and solid waste for a total of 122 members of the city staff receiving training.

## “Safe Beyond 60” Campaign

Based on this trend the Flagstaff Fire Department planned a community outreach campaign in conjunction with fire prevention month in October. The target group was senior citizens, and activities included public education activities at local senior facilities, larger apartment complexes in the community, as well as local churches.



## **PUBLIC INFORMATION (Education)**

Media coverage for the Flagstaff Fire Department included not only major emergency incidents but public education projects and subjects that are pertinent to our community. Events such as our “Safe Beyond 60” campaign, community smoke detector outreach and wildfire safety tips are a few of the subjects covered by our PIOs this past year. Flagstaff Fire Department presently has 6 PIOs internally that send out press releases and social media posts periodically throughout the year. Our organization has been actively involved in social media for the past 2 years.

- **Social Media**

Our organization has been actively involved in social media for the past 2 years.

- Total number of Facebook posts for 2015: 89
- Average posts per month: 7.4
- Total number of views for all posts combined: 253,807
- Average views per post: 2,851.76
- Some post-heavy months- December, August
- Some post-lean months-January, March

Our most viewed posts are those involving serious MVA accidents, fires, and calls with pets.

- **Public Service Announcements**

This past year the department has been a community partner with a local radio station, KAFF Country. One of our PIOs will engage in a monthly public service announcement that includes a live interview. The PSA includes public education and safety messages that are pertinent to our community for that time of year.

- **Press Releases /Web Page**

Flagstaff Fire Department continues to use and update its webpage to distribute public information. There is an opportunity for the public to offer feedback on services provided. The Prevention section has two sites within the web page. One that offers information to the public on our self-inspection program and the second that offers information on community life safety programs such as local fireworks ordinances, and other public education opportunities.

## **FIRE INVESTIGATIONS**

The Flagstaff Fire Department has 11 certified Fire Investigators. These personnel investigated 40 of our more complex fires this year to determine the origin and cause and to classify the fires as to accidental, intentional, or of natural causes. In the course of these investigations, staff works closely with the Flagstaff Police Department when criminal activity is involved. Total fire loss for the year 2015 is recorded at approximately \$1.8 million.



## **2016 Prevention Goals**

- The division will be changing its name at the start of the new fiscal year to more accurately capture its mission of community risk reduction
- Adoption of the 2012 International Fire Code
- Hire and Train a New Fire Inspector
- Train our company officers and Implement electronic fire inspection and reporting and documentation
- Send 2 of our inspectors to Fire Investigator IV training to complete their State Fire Investigator training
- Host a state Fire Inspector I and II course for our personnel
- Continue to work with our Finance Division to implement a new User Fee Schedule for our customers
- Evaluate our current inspection workload based on a new Community Risk analysis of local businesses