



SANDY SPRINGS
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Pierce

**Sandy Springs
Fire Department**
2017 Annual Report

FROM THE **CHIEF'S DESK**



It is a pleasure to present the 2017 Sandy Springs Fire Department Annual Report. With the Support of Mayor Paul, City Manager McDonough, and members of City Council, the Fire Department continues to grow and meet the emergency needs of the citizens and visitors of Sandy Springs. This Report provides a compilation of the daily workload, perseverance, and successes of our members with the overall goal to ensure citizens and visitors receive First Class Customer Service in emergency response!

I want to recognize the outstanding men and women of Sandy Springs Fire Rescue. Daily, under the best and worst of circumstances, you demonstrate professionalism and care with great pride and sacrifice, and I so appreciate your commitment to protecting property and saving lives! Sadly, on September 21, 2017, Firefighter Jacob Hammond lost his life in a single-vehicle accident. Jacob was a great firefighter, but most of all, he was and will always be our brother! We value the contribution he made to the Sandy Springs Fire Department and he will not be forgotten.

Keith Sanders
Fire Chief

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MISSION STATEMENT

We provide the highest level of fire and emergency services to our citizens and visitors with highly trained, caring personnel. We provide excellent customer service in response, education, prevention and professional services.

VISION

Our vision is to show respect, value, pride, compassion and commitment to our members and the citizens of Sandy Springs.

CITY GOVERNMENT



JOHN PAULSON
District 1



STEVE SOTERIS
District 2



CHRIS BURNETT
District 3



RUSTY PAUL
Mayor



JOHN MCDONOUGH
City Manager



JODY REICHEL
District 4



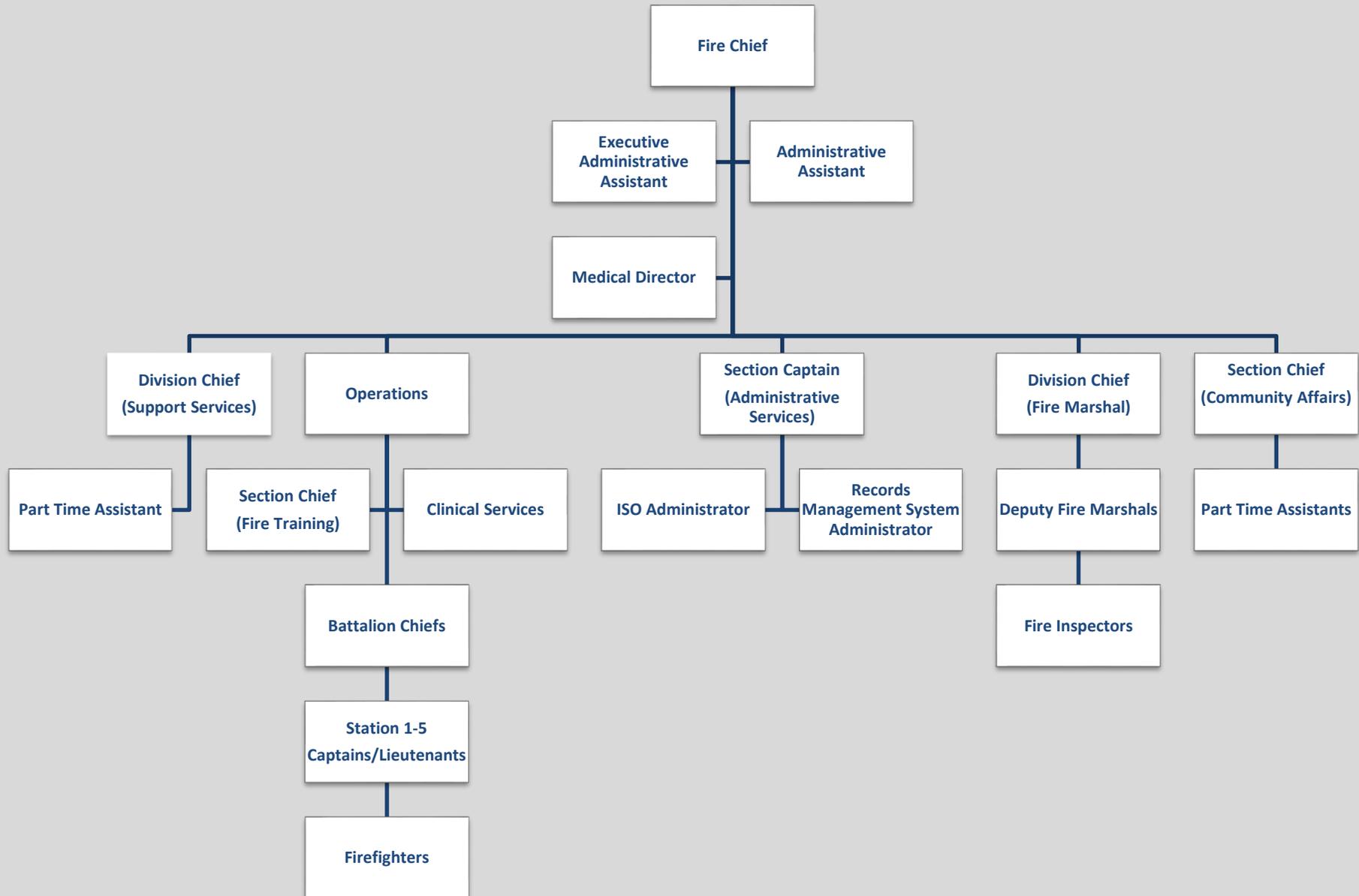
TIBBY DEJULIO
District 5



ANDY BAUMAN
District 6

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Sandy Springs Fire Department



DEPARTMENT HISTORY



1851

- Atlanta Fire Company 1 began service

1931

- Fulton County Fire formed

1968

- Opened (Currently Station 51)

1969

- AFD Station 32 opened (Currently Station 52)

1975

- AFD Station 39 opened (Currently Station 54)

2002

- Fulton County Station opened (Currently Station 53)

2005

- Sandy Springs Incorporated
- Jack McElfish named Fire Chief

2006

- Sandy Springs Fire Rescue takes over from Fulton County

2014

- Keith Sanders named new Fire Chief



PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION

The Insurance Service Office, Inc. rates the City as a Class 2 rating for the City's fire suppression delivery system. Sandy Springs is among the top 2 percent of the fire departments graded by ISO.



FIRE DEPARTMENT PATCH

The American flag along with the King and Queen buildings in the center of the patch represent the patriotism and the pride department members show as public servants for the City of Sandy Springs.

The Maltese Cross incorporates the tradition of the fire service along with tools and symbols of public safety services that the department provides.



FIRE DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

SSFD provides fire, medical emergency and other services to approximately 105,703* residents in 37 square miles of North Fulton County.

*2016 Estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau

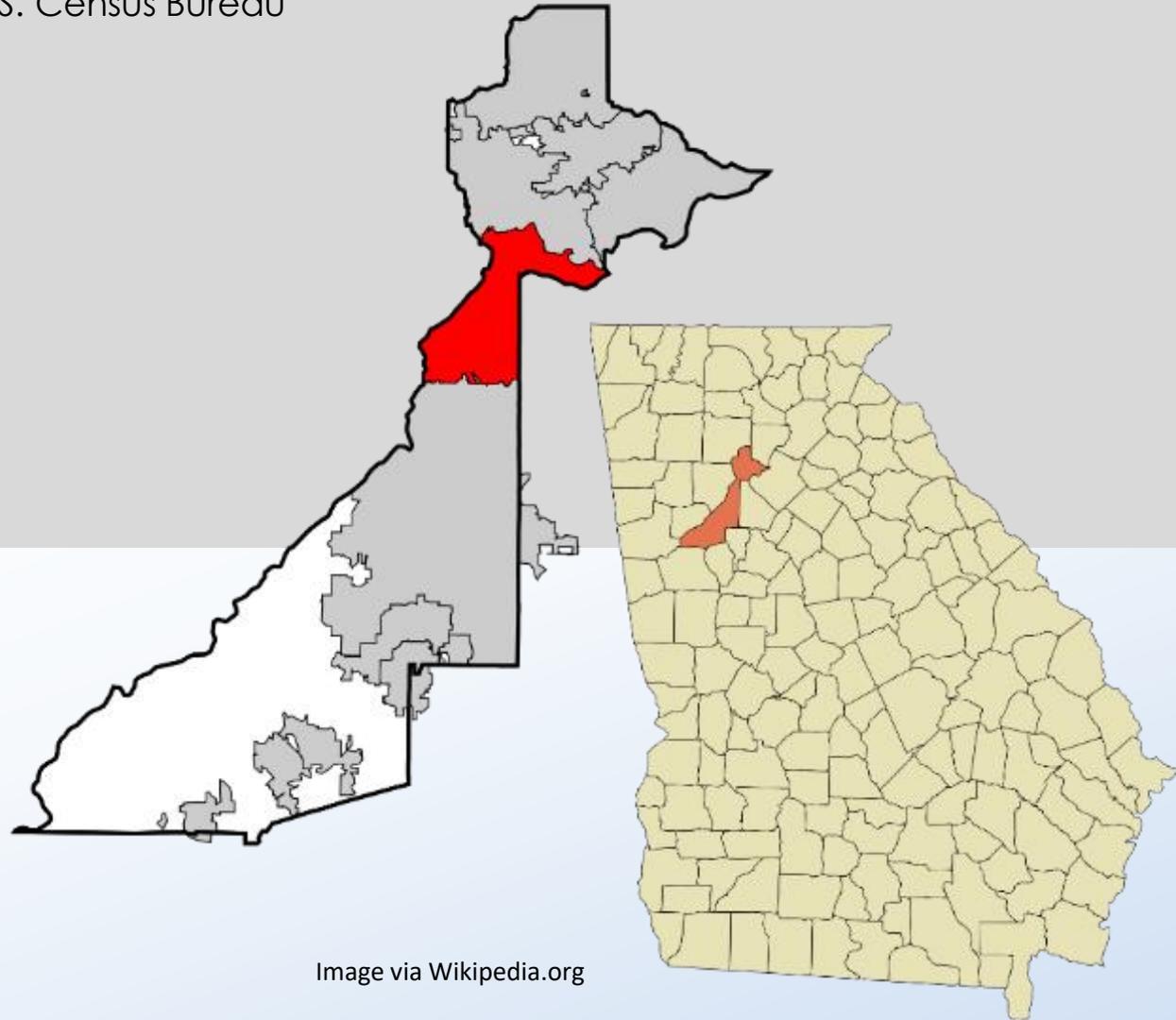
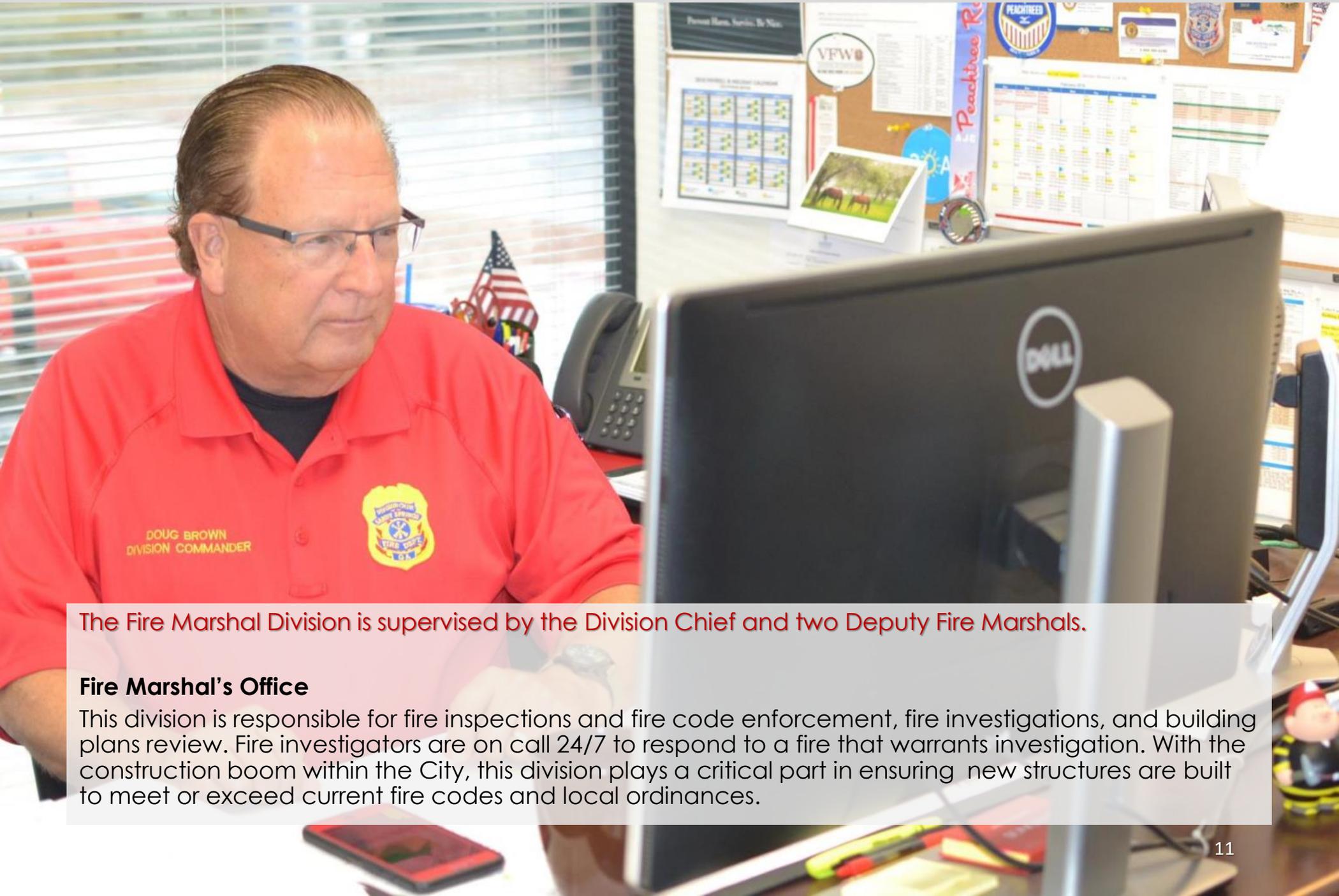


Image via Wikipedia.org

DIVISION – FIRE MARSHAL



The Fire Marshal Division is supervised by the Division Chief and two Deputy Fire Marshals.

Fire Marshal's Office

This division is responsible for fire inspections and fire code enforcement, fire investigations, and building plans review. Fire investigators are on call 24/7 to respond to a fire that warrants investigation. With the construction boom within the City, this division plays a critical part in ensuring new structures are built to meet or exceed current fire codes and local ordinances.

DIVISION – SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Division is supervised by the Division Chief of Support Services and supported by one additional staff member.

Vehicle Maintenance

Vehicle Maintenance is the crucial part of keep the department mission ready. Contracted service technicians ensure all department vehicles receive regular maintenance and are repaired properly. Preventative maintenance is also performed on small tools and equipment.

Quartermaster

The quartermaster is responsible for supplying the field with tools and uniforms. Station supply inventory and restocking is also managed by this office. This office is held by one part time staff member serving as the Fire Department supply officer and logistics coordinator.

DIVISION – OPERATIONS

THE OPERATIONS DIVISION MANAGES ALL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S 5 STATIONS

Suppression

The department operates out of five fire stations staffed with firefighters working a three shift rotation of 24 hours on and 48 hours off duty. Each station has at least one Company Officer and one paramedic. Station two houses the Battalion Chief.

Medical Services

This office contains one coordinator who oversees all medical training and emergency medical services (EMS) quality control. The coordinator ensures all EMS practices meet, County and State of Georgia requirements. Additionally, the coordinator is the liaison with the private ambulance contractor in Sandy Springs.

Training

This office trains personnel in all matters of field suppression and rescue functions. This office consists of one full-time officer and one part-time employee. This office maintains training records and ensures appropriate personnel are up-to-date with technology, methodology and receiving the required number of training hours for their level of expertise.

DIVISION – OPERATIONS



Tactical EMS

Tactical EMS team to support North Metro SWAT operations. Specialized Tactics for Operational and Rescue Medicine (STORM) is the medical component to the North Metro SWAT Team and is dispatched in tandem for emergency situations.

Special Events Unit

This unit is a specially trained and equipped team designed for large crowds and events where there is very little room for vehicle access. The primary mission is to arrive quickly on the scene of a medical emergency and render aid well before a fire apparatus or ambulance can make access to the patient. The unit consists of an ATV with basic life support medical gear.

Swift Water Rescue Unit

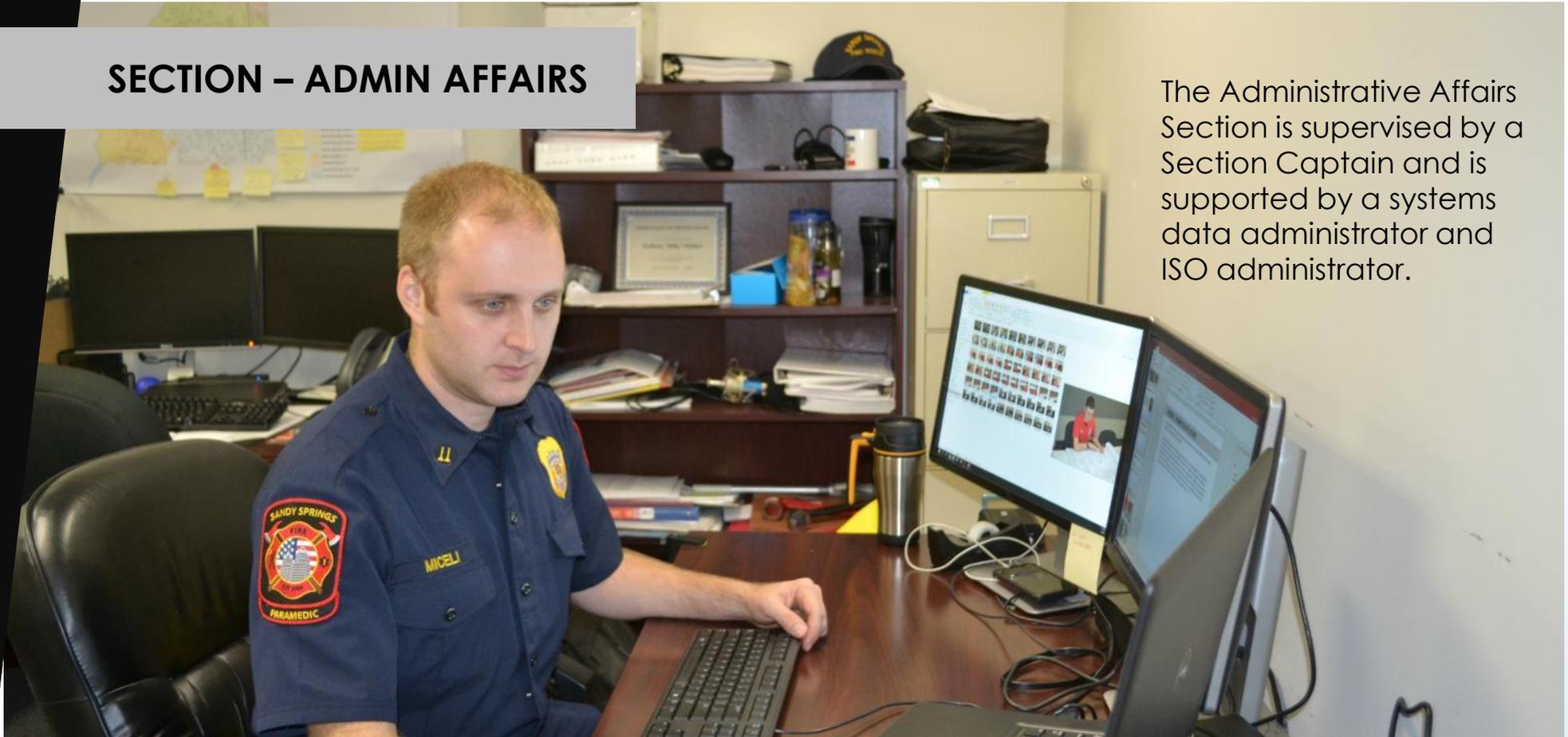
This unit responds out of Fire Station 52 and is responsible for rescues involving victims trapped in swiftly moving waters. Primary responses of this unit involve the Chattahoochee River south of Morgan Falls Dam and fishermen or boaters stranded in the quickly rising waters. This unit responds with a shallow water running swift water rescue boat.



Honor Guard

This unit is responsible for honoring fallen public safety professionals and military veterans. Training and services provided are done on a voluntary basis by members of the Fire Department. The Honor Guard responds to many service requests for funerals, flag presentations and parades each year. It is also selected annually to participate in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

SECTION – ADMIN AFFAIRS



The Administrative Affairs Section is supervised by a Section Captain and is supported by a systems data administrator and ISO administrator.

Administrative Affairs is responsible for information technology, statistical analysis, records management, department recruiting, and emergency management. The Sandy Springs emergency planning committee is the local lead agency for coordination of emergency and disaster response with Fulton County EMA. The City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated in times of severe weather or significant incidents to provide emergency support to field operations.



SECTION – COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

In 2017, the Sandy Springs Fire Department conducted over 176 community events and more than 40,540 people participated.

The Community Affairs Section is supervised by a Section Chief and is supported by two additional employees.

Public Safety Education

The Community Affairs Section educates the public about fire prevention. This section works routinely in local schools and businesses. Additionally, this section operates the department's Fire Safety House.

The Community Affairs Section also manages the department's child safety seat inspection program. The members of the Community Affairs Section are nationally certified Child Safety Seat Technicians and offer free car seat inspections and installation.

FIRE HEADQUARTERS

- Located in City Headquarters at 7840 Roswell Road (New Location in 2018)
- The Fire Chief and all department division administrators are based in this building



STATION 51



1425 Spalding Drive
Sandy Springs, Georgia 30350

Fire Station One was built in 1968. The daily minimum staffing includes a three person engine company, a three person truck company and a two person Paramedic Rescue Company.

Sandy Springs uses quints for truck companies. The name quint refers to the five functions that a quint provides: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device, and ground ladders.

STATION 52



135 Johnson Ferry Road
Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328

Fire Station Two was built in 1969. The daily minimum staffing includes a three person engine company, a three person tower truck company, a two person paramedic rescue company and the on duty Battalion Chief.

STATION 53



6025 Raider Drive
Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328

Fire Station Three was built in 2002. The daily minimum staffing includes a three person paramedic truck company. Also available at this station is a wagon truck.

STATION 54



4697 Wieuca Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30342

Fire Station Four was built in 1975. The daily minimum staffing includes a four person truck company and a two person paramedic rescue company. Also available at this station is a brush truck and the Fire Corps response vehicle.

STATION 55 / ROSWELL STATION 27 (Automatic Aid)



8025 Holcomb Bridge Road
Alpharetta, GA 30022

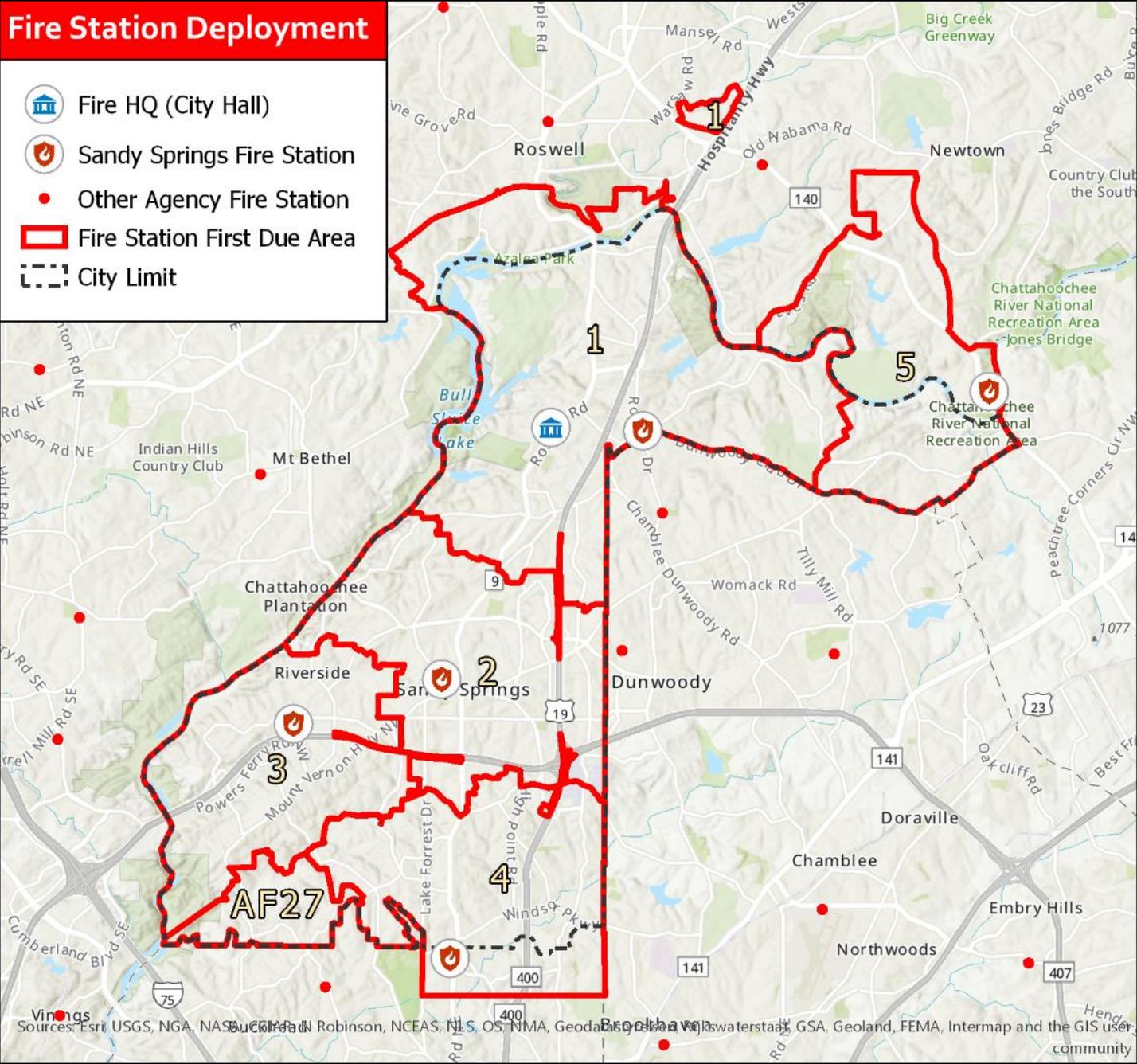
The daily minimum staffing at Fire Station 7 includes a three person Truck company and Sandy Springs Engine 55.

ATLANTA STATION 27 (Automatic Aid)



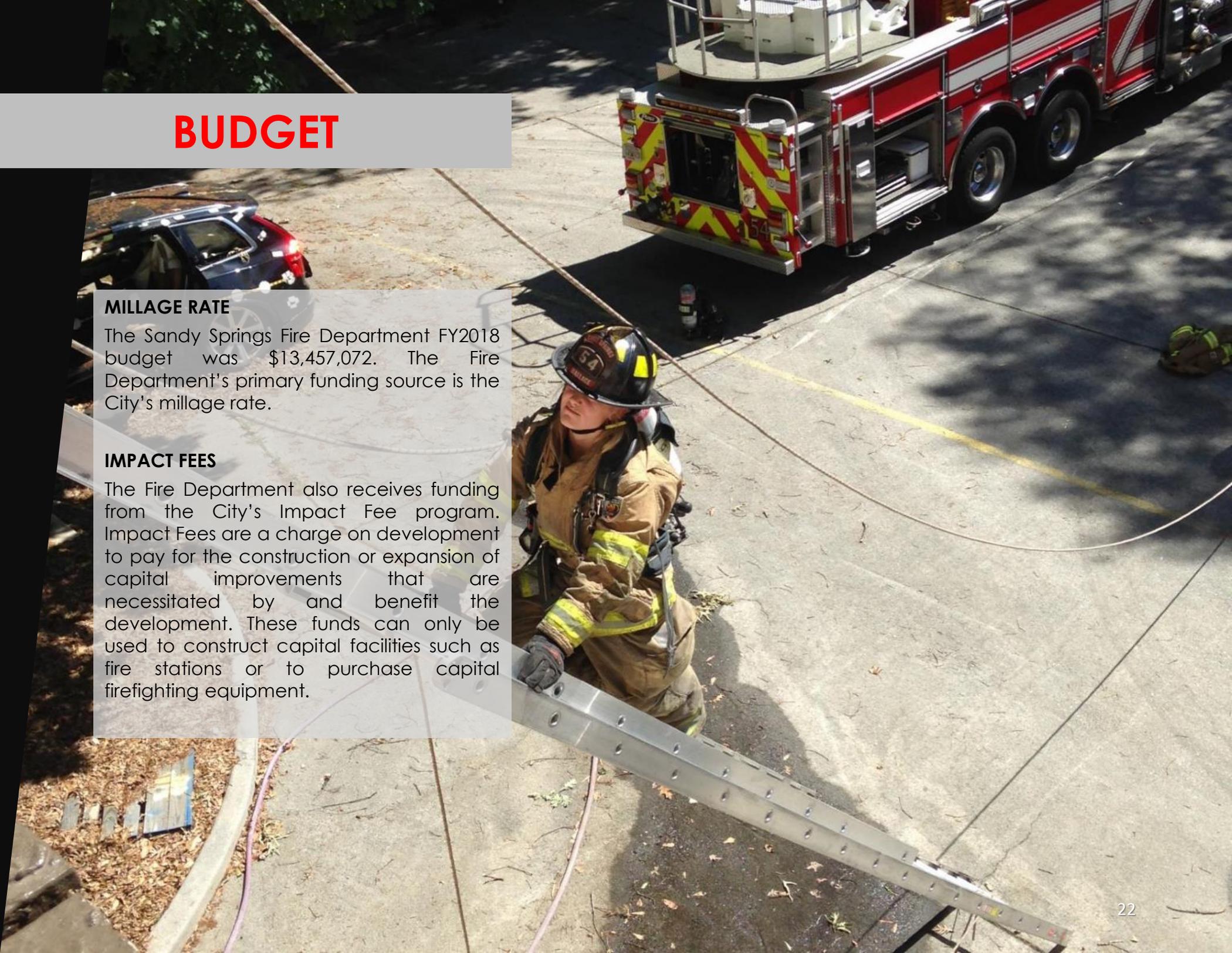
4260 Northside Dr. NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30342

The daily minimum staffing at Fire Station 27 includes a three person engine. Also available at this station is a hose wagon.



* First Station Due areas include automatic aid from Roswell Station 07 (shown as Sandy Springs 05) and Atlanta Fire 27.

BUDGET



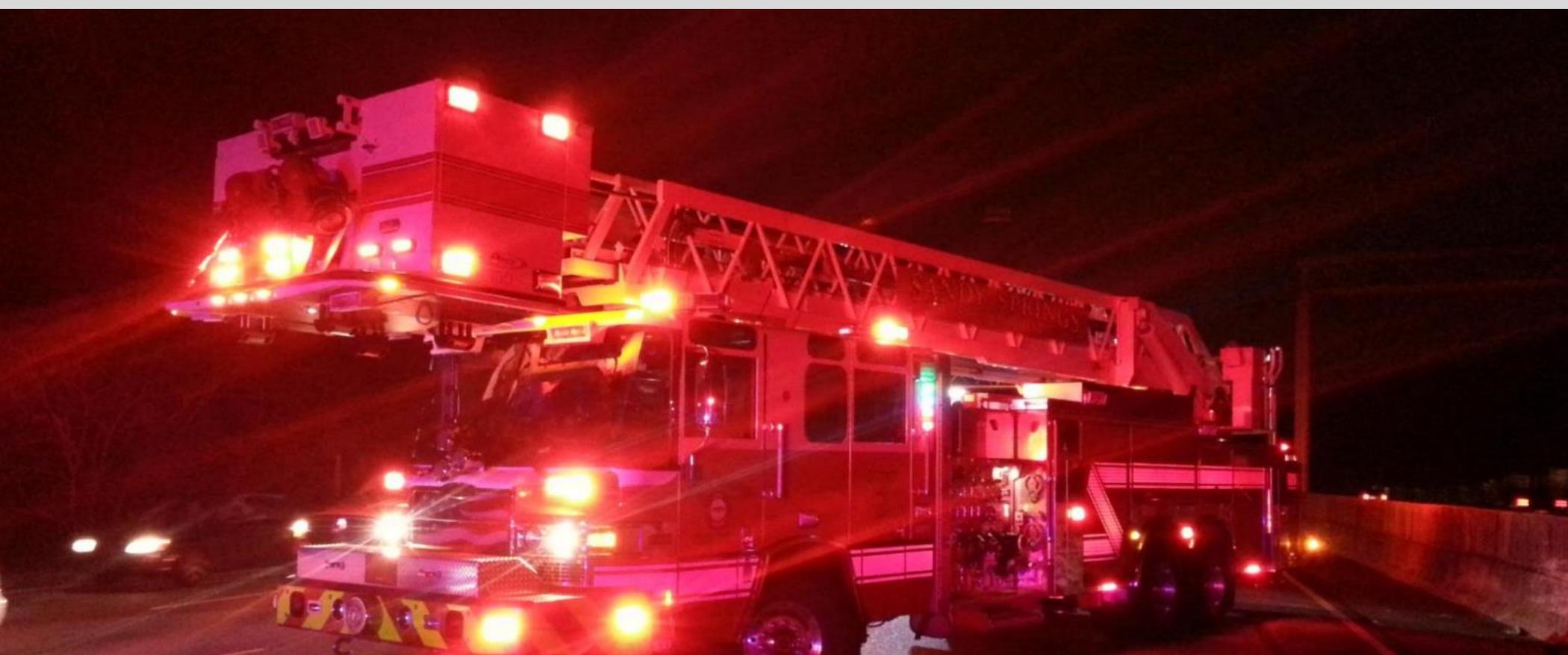
MILLAGE RATE

The Sandy Springs Fire Department FY2018 budget was \$13,457,072. The Fire Department's primary funding source is the City's millage rate.

IMPACT FEES

The Fire Department also receives funding from the City's Impact Fee program. Impact Fees are a charge on development to pay for the construction or expansion of capital improvements that are necessitated by and benefit the development. These funds can only be used to construct capital facilities such as fire stations or to purchase capital firefighting equipment.

HOW WE RESPOND TO CALLS



The closest available unit will be dispatched to your emergency call.

Engines and trucks manage fire calls; additional resources are sent if needed.

All SSFD emergency response vehicles are licensed as first responder units with the state. An engine, truck and/or rescue unit may respond to your emergency in addition to police and an ambulance.

First responder units operate with two to four firefighters with EMS certification up to the paramedic level.

A basic life support medical call (BLS) will usually have a rescue unit with two people and an AMR ambulance; more crews are called if needed.

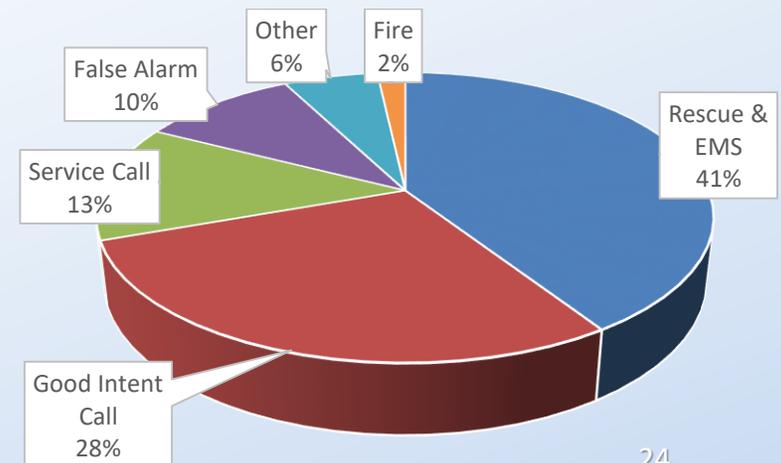
An advanced life support (ALS) call may have two fire units with five-six people total and an AMR ambulance; more crews are called if needed.



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPES

In 2017, Sandy Springs Fire Department responded to 11,957 requests for emergency and non-emergency assistance.

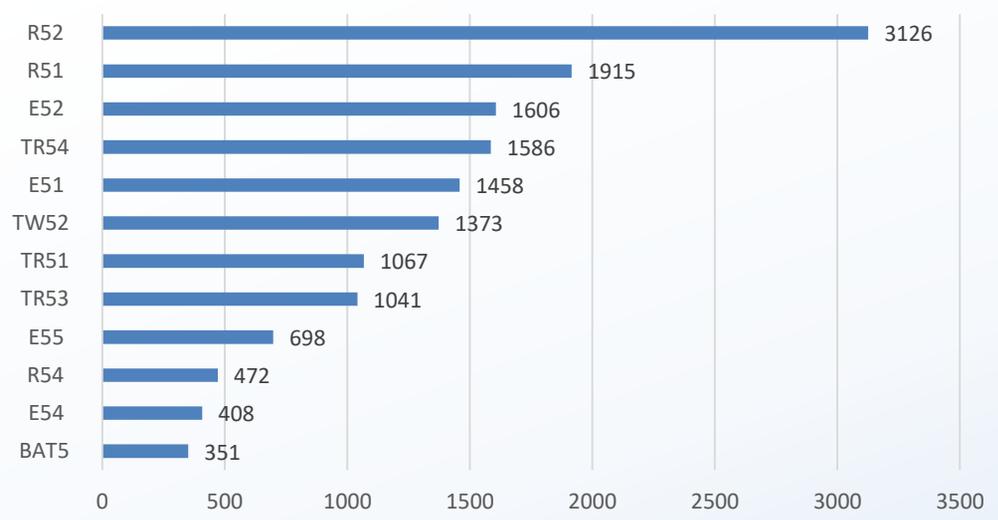
Rescue & EMS	4879
Good Intent Call	3437
Service Call	1553
False Alarm	1176
Other	702
Fire	210



BY THE NUMBERS

"The Busiest" 2017	
Busiest Truck	Truck 54 (1,586)
Busiest Engine	Engine 52 (1,606)
Busiest Rescue	Rescue 52 (3,126)
Busiest Unit	Rescue 52
Busiest Day of Week	Tuesday (2,061)
Busiest Shift	C Shift (4,099)

Enroute Responses by Unit



* Apparatus calculations are figured on en-route responses. Day of Week and Shift calculations are figured on incidents and exclude pre-alerts.

Annual Call Volume

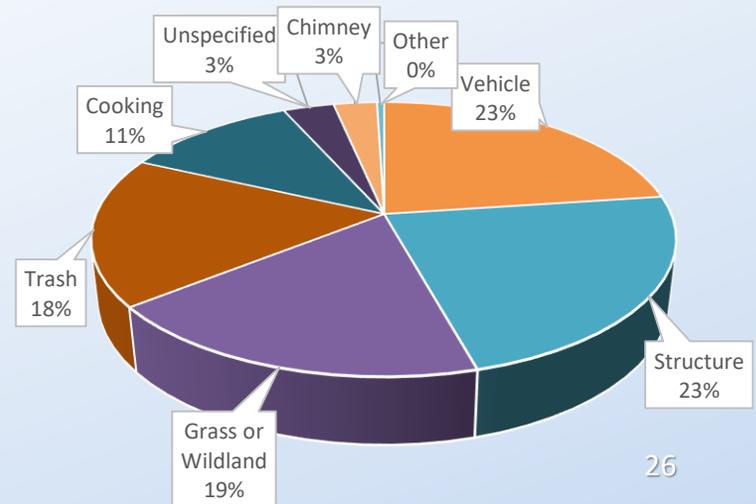




FIRE RESPONSES

SSFD responded to 210 calls for fire suppression in 2017. The specific breakdown includes:

- 48 structure fires.** Calls involved a house or business with the structural members on fire, not just a pot on the stove, for example.
- 48 vehicle fires.** Calls include cars, RVs and commercial trucks.
- 39 grass or wild land fires.** Calls range from grassy or stubble fields, to trees, shrubs and brush.
- 37 trash fires.** Calls include rubbish fires or fires in some kind of trash receptacle.
- 24 cooking fires.** Calls where "pot on the stove" fires do not get out of control.
- 7 unspecified fires.** Calls were not further categorized.
- 6 chimney fires.** Fires in this category are confined to the chimney and did not extend to the structure.



RESCUE AND EMS RESPONSES

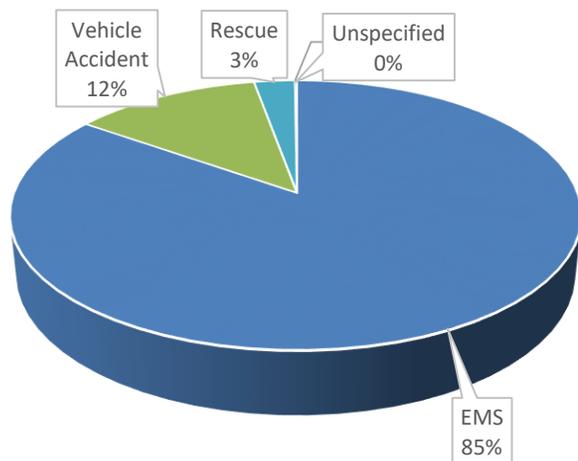
SSFD responded to 4,879 calls for emergency medical services and rescues in 2017. The specific breakdown includes:

4,136 EMS calls. These include both Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS).

605 motor vehicle crashes. Calls include incidents where cars collide with each other, struck objects or hit pedestrians.

131 rescues. Calls include search for persons, water rescue, lock-ins, extrication or elevator rescues.

7 unspecified rescue or EMS calls. Calls were not further categorized.



SERVICE CALLS

SSFD responded to 1,553 calls for services of various types in 2017. The specific breakdown includes:

556 invalid assists. Although anyone may need to be assisted, a high percentage of these calls are requests to assist elderly residents.

384 tree problem calls. These involve a tree fall onto a roadway or utility line.

309 public service assistance calls. These include calls where law enforcement is calling for a service that they cannot provide or for which they need specialized resources.

142 water problem calls. These include broken pipe flooding-the-basement problems.

67 smoke or odor problem calls. Many times the call is for an investigation or removal of smoke or a strange odor.

41 person in distress calls. These calls often involve lock-outs of vehicles.

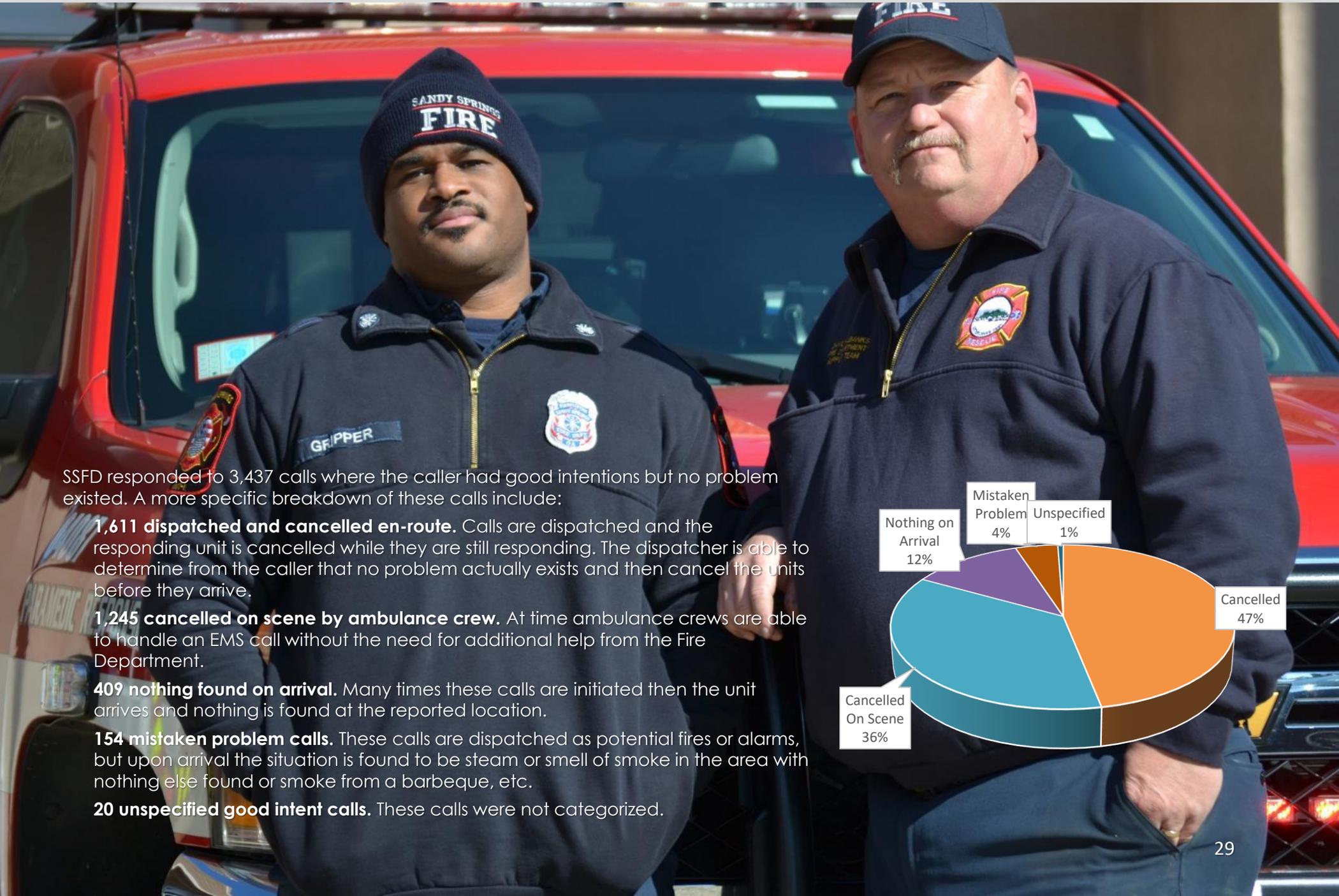
25 unauthorized burning calls. The department gets called when residents have a complaint about something burning; if it is outside of the established rules it is classified as an unauthorized burning.

22 animal rescue or problem calls. The animal encountered varies.

7 unspecified service calls. These calls were not categorized.



GOOD INTENT CALLS



SSFD responded to 3,437 calls where the caller had good intentions but no problem existed. A more specific breakdown of these calls include:

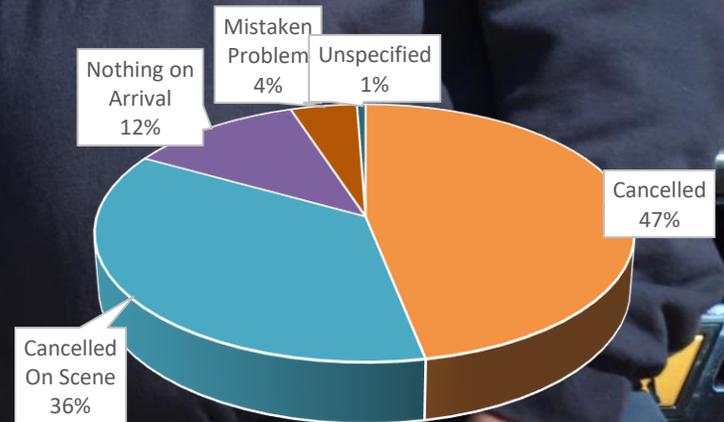
1,611 dispatched and cancelled en-route. Calls are dispatched and the responding unit is cancelled while they are still responding. The dispatcher is able to determine from the caller that no problem actually exists and then cancel the units before they arrive.

1,245 cancelled on scene by ambulance crew. At time ambulance crews are able to handle an EMS call without the need for additional help from the Fire Department.

409 nothing found on arrival. Many times these calls are initiated then the unit arrives and nothing is found at the reported location.

154 mistaken problem calls. These calls are dispatched as potential fires or alarms, but upon arrival the situation is found to be steam or smell of smoke in the area with nothing else found or smoke from a barbeque, etc.

20 unspecified good intent calls. These calls were not categorized.



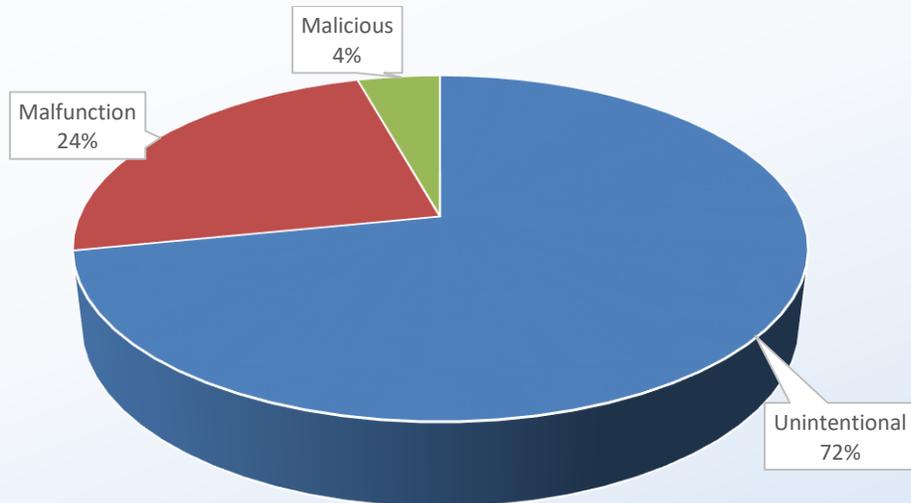
ALARM SYSTEM ACTIVATIONS AND FALSE CALLS

SSFD responded to 1,167 calls for alarm system activations where there was no fire. This category also includes dispatch errors, where the dispatch center mistakenly assigns an incident number where there has been no call. A more specific breakdown of these types of calls include:

845 alarm activations due to unintentional causes. Most often, these calls arise when a system is having work done and the alarm company forgets to notify the city; the work causes the alarm to activate and it must be investigated.

280 system activations due to malfunctions. Sometimes a system problem will activate the system and an alarm is transmitted that must be investigated.

51 malicious or mischievous alarm activations. These alarm system activations were found on arrival to have been deliberately activated although there had been no emergency.



FIRE INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS

Some of the common violations found included: improper exit lighting or signage, fire extinguishers out of service, unsafe electrical cords, fire alarm systems lacking maintenance, and blocked exits.

Inspected all high risk occupancies including; day cares, schools, nursing homes, hotels, night clubs, restaurants and high rises annually since 2007.

4,121 Inspections conducted (annual, re-inspections, and new construction inspections)

3,015 Violations noted and corrected

10 Non-compliance citations issued and processed through court

837 Plans reviewed (new construction, remodels, fire protection systems)

41 Fires investigated for origin and cause

12 Arson cases investigated – 10 closed and 3 pending – 1 arrest and conviction

272 FOIA open record requests were received and processed

119 Permit requests received and processed (tents, blasting, fireworks displays, liquor, etc.)

128 Knox Rapid Entry systems approved / installed (key boxes, key switches and/or padlocks)



2017 YEAR IN REVIEW



The Community Affairs Division inspected 100 child safety seats and provided comprehensive instruction. Sandy Springs uses certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians to complete the inspections.

The Sandy Springs CERT program has trained a total of 277 members since inception. CERT is designed to act as a liaison with the fire department during emergencies and its members are responsible for specific geographical territories.



Two Citizen Fire Academies were held this year. Fire Corps members are required to take 16 hours of training. The Fire Corps is designed for integration into the fire department and performs tasks including: CPR/First Aid, emergency communications, firefighter rehab, lock-out calls, non-hazardous scene control, fire safety programs, station tours and birthday parties.



American Heart Association®

Learn and Live

COMMUNITY CPR AND AED TRAINING

The Fire Department provides community CPR and AED training to businesses, schools and other residents of Sandy Springs. 390 Residents trained in CPR in 2017. Our bystander CPR rate exceeds the national average.

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

Each year Sandy Springs Fire Department provides fire safety education to the community with the goal of saving lives and property by preventing fires. Events include:

- National night out
- Fire safety week
- Friendly firefighter presentations
- Firefighter story time
- Fire safety lessons
- Fire truck tours
- Fire station tours
- Fire station birthday parties
- Fire safety house
- Career Days (Middle/High School)
- Boy/Girl Scout fire education
- Fire extinguisher simulator
- Fire warden training
- Distracted driving education



The poster features the NFPA logo in the top left corner. The main slogan 'EVERY SECOND COUNTS' is written in large, bold, blue letters with a white outline on a teal background. Below this, a dark blue banner contains the text 'PLAN 2 WAYS OUT!' in white, with a red circle around the number '2'. Two red arrows point outwards from the banner. To the right, Sparky the dog, wearing a yellow fire helmet with 'SPARKY' written on it, is holding a tablet that displays a floor plan with red dashed lines indicating escape routes. Below the banner, the text 'FIRE PREVENTION WEEK' is written in large, bold, white letters on a dark blue background, followed by 'OCTOBER 8-14, 2017' in the same style. At the bottom, a red banner contains the website 'firepreventionweek.org' in white. The footer text '©NFPA 2017. Sparky® is a trademark of the NFPA®' is located at the bottom right.

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

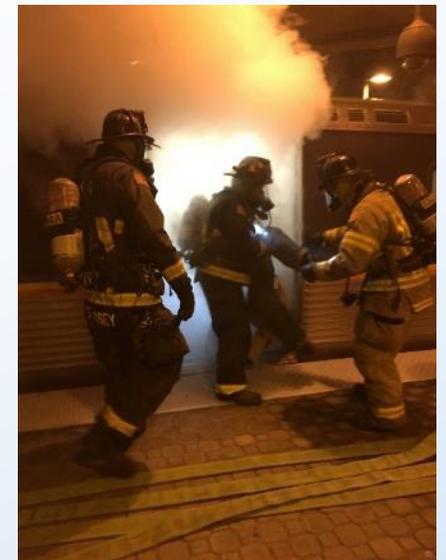
FIRE TRAINING

27,832 personnel hours of fire service related training was taken in 2017. This accounted for 5,895 class hours and 3,274 classes. Most of the training categories involved Company level, Driver/Operator, Hazardous Materials, Officer, and Drill Facility training.



MARTA TRAINING

In 2017, SSFD employees participated in a railyard familiarization class and annual mock incident drill.



HIGHER EDUCATION

The Department also stays up to date with the latest trends in the fire service and safety practices by sending Fire Department members to attend conferences and seminars which this year included:

- High Rise Conference
- Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs (GAFC)
- Georgia Fire Safety Symposium
- Georgia Fire Service Conference
- Metro Atlanta Firefighters Conference (MAFFC)
- Fire Department International (FRI)
- Firehouse Expo
- Georgia Emergency Management

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

EMS TRAINING

EMS personnel participated in 6,014 hours of dedicated EMS training. In addition seven paramedics and seven EMT's were credentialed to practice. Three employees from graduated from Advanced - EMT School.

The Department stays up to date with the latest patient care trends and safety practices by sending select EMT/Paramedics to attend conferences which this year included:

- Georgia Association of EMS (GAEMS) Educator Conference
- Metro Atlanta EMS Conference
- Special Operations Medical Scientific Assembly
- Counter Narcotics and Terrorism Operational Support Course

NEW LIFE SAVING DEVICES

This year the King Vision and i-Gel devices were added to ALS response vehicles to increase the success rates for advanced airway management.



ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

In 2017, Sandy Springs Fire Department conducted a large scale active shooter drill at Sandy Springs Police Department's training center to practice hemorrhage control techniques and triage.



RESCUE EQUIPMENT

This year included new equipment purchased: Hurst "Jaw's of Life" Extrication Equipment, new Turnout gear, 4 gas monitors, Body Armor for TEMS team, and Physical Agility Test Equipment.



2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

ROTARY AWARDS

The Rotary Club of Sandy Springs paid tribute to the City's public safety employees during its annual Public Safety Awards event. This year's award recipients were Derek Ubertis (Paramedic of the Year) and Jacob Hammond (Fire Fighter of the Year - Posthumously).



Photo Credit: Patch.com

VFW AWARDS

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10822 honored two fire department employees. Derek Ubertis was awarded Paramedic of the Year and Jesse Bernard Fire Inspector of the Year.



PROMOTIONS AND NEW HIRES

This year, Sandy Springs Fire Department hired 13 Firefighters to cover vacancies.

One part time Fire Training Officer was added to the Fire Training Section

Three Firefighters promoted to the rank of Firefighter II

Four Firefighters promoted to the rank of Fire Apparatus Engineer

Two Fire Apparatus Engineers were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant



IN MEMORIAM

JACOB HAMMOND, a Sandy Springs firefighter, 21, died in a single-vehicle accident on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017 in Cumming, GA.

Hammond joined the fire department at age 18.

Firefighters from across metro Atlanta attended the funeral.



"...He loved helping people. He was not afraid to put his life on the line for his community, and that's how people should remember him." - Ryan McMullen



THANK YOU AND HAVE A SAFE 2018!



SANDY SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Sandy Springs Fire Department

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Sandy Springs, GA 30350

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