

# Annual Report 2018



### **Vision**

To serve our community with integrity and be the standard by which fire service organizations are measured.

### **Mission**

The City of Dalton Fire Department is dedicated to providing our community with the highest standard of service through prevention, public education, training, and emergency response.

### **Organizational Values**

**Integrity** - firm adherence to honesty and our code of ethics

**Accountability** – our obligation and willingness to accept responsibility and account for our actions

**Discipline** – behavior and order maintained by training, self-control, and adherence to our rules of conduct

**Responsibility** – our obligation to serve with reliability, trustworthiness, and professionalism

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# DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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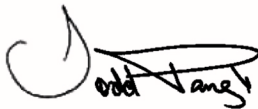


PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
Bill Weaver  
Keith Whitworth  
Terry Mathis  
Kenneth E. Willis  
Anthony Walker



It is my pleasure to present the City of Dalton Fire Department Annual Report for 2018. The information contained in this report is a reflection of the combined efforts of the outstanding men and women who proudly serve our department and our community. We are proud of the service we provide to the citizens and visitors of the City of Dalton and we want to share some of our statistics as well as showcase our accomplishments.

We constantly strive to maintain a high level of service and continue to provide the highest level of safety to our community. We will continue to accomplish this by focusing on the mission and core values of our organization. Our agency will continue to prepare for, not only day-to-day challenges, but the ones on the horizon that we will be faced with in the future.



Todd Pangle  
Fire Chief

## **Department Overview**

The City of Dalton Fire Department is an ISO Class 2 emergency service provider consisting of 96 full-time employees. 87 personnel are assigned to the suppression division as firefighters. Additional personnel are assigned to the training division, fire prevention division, and as administrative staff. The department has 39 Emergency Medical Technicians, 4 Paramedics, 53 Emergency Medical Responders, 28 certified Georgia Smoke Divers, and 12 CPR instructors. Training hours accrued during 2018 totaled 27,091.

The department has Special Operations Teams trained in technical rescue and hazardous materials response. These teams are adept at mitigating incidents such as trench rescue, structural collapse, vehicle and machinery entrapment, surface water rescue, high and low angle rope operations, confined space rescue and hazardous materials releases.

Emergency response capabilities are achieved through the use of seven pumping apparatus, one 100-foot tower ladder, one 75-foot straight ladder, one heavy rescue apparatus, one incident command vehicle, and one mobile air & light unit, all of which are fully equipped to comply with NFPA and ISO requirements. Thermal imaging cameras, which allow for enhanced visibility in hostile environments, are carried in all 5 districts so that all the city's inhabitants may benefit from this technology.

The department has 5 stations located to provide rapid response to any part of the city's 22 square miles. Station 2, located on Abutment Road, also serves as a training facility with a water drafting pit, four story drill tower, and a three story, 1,664 sq. ft. burn building designed for the burning of Class A materials in all areas of the structure. This facility is utilized to train new recruits and maintain proficiency among incumbent personnel. All fire stations are equipped with stand-by generators to provide electrical power in the event of an outage. Stations are also equipped with a communications duplication system to ensure that the vital link between fire dispatchers and units operating in the field remains intact should the 911 center be disabled.

The City of Dalton has a total of 1,252 municipal fire hydrants. These hydrants are inspected a minimum of twice annually by suppression personnel. The department works closely with Dalton Utilities in an effort to ensure that hydrants will function properly if needed. In addition, there are over 500 private hydrants located in various parts of our jurisdiction serving a variety of private properties.

The fire prevention division works closely with the building inspector's office and Dalton Utilities in an effort to reduce the loss of life and property by requiring that all construction meets current fire codes.

## Individual Commendations

Engineer Brandon Elliott – MVA: Interstate 75	5/30/18
Battalion Chief (ret.) Steve Hollingsworth – MVA: Interstate 75	5/30/18
Lieutenant Steve Bennett – water rescue: N. Glenwood Ave.	6/1/18
Lieutenant Scott Brock – water rescue: N. Glenwood Ave.	6/1/18

## Unit Citations

### Car 4/A

Battalion Chief B. Bray

### Engine 1/A

Lt. D. Hudson  
Eng. A. Brock  
FF M. Sams

### Squad 1/A

FF3 G. Stanley  
Eng. D. Stratton  
FF2 J. Rishel  
FF A. Moran

### Ladder 3/A

Lt. S. Bennett  
Eng. D. Reed  
FF J. Cole  
FF C. Manly

### Engine 5/A

Lt. S. Brock  
Eng. B. Gilley  
FF T. Wilson

### Incident # 18-1614

Location: 1242 North Glenwood Avenue

On Friday, June 1, 2018 at 1:23 am, Dalton Fire Department units were dispatched to a person in the water in the area of 1242 North Glenwood Avenue. Upon arrival, crews heard a man yelling for help but could not locate him due to darkness, weather conditions, and dense foliage. Personnel soon discovered a male patient clinging to a branch in Mill Creek who had been swept away by flash flooding generated by heavy rain in the area. Companies promptly began a coordinated rescue effort that included clearing a path to the patient, establishing a secondary rescue team as a downstream safety, and a water entry to retrieve the victim. As a result of this coordinated effort, the patient was rapidly located and removed from the water and transferred to Hamilton EMS for treatment and transport. These actions reflect great credit upon the individuals involved, their assigned companies, and the City of Dalton Fire Department.

## Accomplishments

1. Reviewed and revised all standard operating guidelines for the department
2. Completed a three year strategic plan 2019-2021
3. Filled all applicable ranks through promotions
4. Placed in service four new staff vehicles and a station pick-up
5. Reviewed and updated all job descriptions within the department
6. Began reviewing our practices for certain services such as janitorial supplies
  - a. Conducted bid for janitorial supplies to ensure best competitive pricing
  - b. Purchased bed linens for each employee in order to cut down on cost for cleaning/delivery of rented linens
7. Began the process of reviewing and changing our rank system to eliminate rank compression within the department
  - a. Will be deleting two ranks and adjusting pay rates into the remaining ranks
  - b. Instituted acting pay when lower ranked personnel fill driver or officer positions to fill the gaps left by the absence of two ranks
  - c. Promoted the staff assistant position to administrative assistant and deleted the staff assistant position, thus providing more efficiency in administrative tasks such as entering and tracking purchase orders
8. Completed hazmat physicals for all hazardous materials technicians
9. Worked with Verizon to lower the cost of wireless services provided
10. Installed a turnout gear extractor at station two in order to comply with cancer prevention initiative for firefighters
11. Completed electrical work at the training center to eliminate hazards that existed due to the way power was being supplied

12. Hosted 2018 Georgia Police and Fire Games with assistance from DPD and DPRD
13. Hosted 2018 Georgia Fire Service Joint Conference
14. Hosted Georgia Smoke Diver Class 55 in the spring and Class 56 in the fall
15. Participated in 1<sup>st</sup> annual Citizens Government Academy
16. Restructured the fire inspection process to include inspections on all structures that apply for Occupational Tax Certificates for a more all-inclusive approach for the businesses in our community
17. Completed occupancy review of all properties in district 5
18. Updated loft/urban dwelling ordinance
19. Purchased and implemented mobile inspections for the fire prevention division, thus making our inspection process more efficient as reports are completed while on-site the day of the inspection
20. Purchased Target Solutions CheckIt, a cloud-based fleet maintenance records management platform that also aids in tracking equipment on apparatus through paperless daily checklists
21. Completed an audit conducted by Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council
22. Continued Class 5 program teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade students about home fire safety through classes delivered monthly during the school year (approx. 600 participating this year)
23. Partnered with Dalton Utilities to include fire safety material with utility bills
24. Began discussions with DPD concerning forming a joint tactical team for active shooter incidents
25. Partnered with American Red Cross to install smoke detectors in predetermined areas (installed a total of 84 detectors)
26. Raised almost \$5,000 during boot drive for MDA
27. Participated in Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign



## **2018 Statistical Data**

### **Number of incidents**

- The City of Dalton Fire Department responded to a total of 3,867 calls during 2018, an increase from the 3,719 calls answered during 2017.

### **Response time**

- Average response time for emergency calls was 3 minutes 21 seconds.
- Overall response time for all calls (emergency & non-emergency) was 3 minutes 33 seconds compared to 3 minutes 36 seconds in 2017.
- For multi-company responses, the average arrival time for the second-due unit was 6 minutes 25 seconds.

### **Dollar value saved & loss analysis**

- Total estimated property value exposed was \$133,614,951
- Total estimated property value lost was \$430,925
- Total estimated property value saved was \$133,184,026
- Total percent lost was 0.32%
- Total percent saved was 99.68%

### **Fires**

- There were 121 actual fires reported in 2018 compared to 165 reported in 2017
  - There were 27 residential fires in 2018 compared to 49 in 2017
  - There were 11 commercial fires in 2018 compared to 17 in 2017
  - Total structure fires were 38 compared to 66 in 2017
  - There were 21 vehicle fires in 2018 compared to 19 in 2017
  - There were 27 brush/grass/wild land fires in 2018 compared to 18 in 2017
  - There were 28 rubbish/dumpster fires in 2018 compared to 29 in 2017
  - The Other category accounted for 7 fires in 2018 compared to 10 in 2017
- Fires accounted for 3.12% of the total incidents responded to by the department in 2018 compared to 4.43% in 2017

### **Property damage (from actual fires)**

- Estimated property damage from fire was \$317,400 in 2018 compared to \$2,819,669 in 2017 and \$2,087,925 in 2016
- Damage from residential fires was estimated at \$241,800 in 2018 compared to \$1,525,175 in 2017 and \$1,938,275 in 2016
- Damage from commercial fires was estimated at \$15,270 in 2018 compared to \$883,142 in 2017 and \$23,150 in 2016
- Total property damage from structure fires in 2018 totaled \$257,070 compared to \$2,408,317 and \$1,961,425 in 2016
- Vehicle fires resulted in \$60,330 in losses compared to \$58,900 in 2017
- The all other fires category accounted for no losses in 2018 or 2017

### **Civilian fire deaths**

- There have been no civilian fire deaths in the City of Dalton since 2013
- There were 3 civilian fire deaths in the City of Dalton during 2013
- There were no civilian fire deaths in 2010, 2011, or 2012 and 2 each in 2009 and 2008

### **Civilian fire injuries**

- There was one civilian injury in 2018 compared to four in 2017, and one in 2016
- There were 3 civilian injuries in 2015, one in 2014, and two in 2012 and 2013
- There were six in 2011, one in 2010, eight in 2009, and five in 2008

### **Firefighter injuries**

- There were no firefighter injuries in 2018, one in 2017, and six in 2016
- There were two firefighter injuries in 2015, 2014, and 2013 compared to three in 2012 and nine in 2011

### **Rescue/Medical responses**

- There were 2,602 calls for rescue/emergency medical assistance compared to 2,469 in 2017
- Rescue/Medical incidents accounted for 67.28% of incidents versus 66.38% in 2017

### **False alarm responses**

- There were 427 false alarms in 2018 compared to 442 in 2017
- There were 17 malicious/mischievous false calls compared to 15 in 2017, 2016, and 2015
- There were 142 system malfunctions in 2018 compared to 171 in 2017
- There were 262 unintentional false alarms in 2018 compared to 246 in 2017
- There was 1 other false alarm in 2018 and 2017 compared to 2 in 2016
- The false alarm category accounted for 11.04% of all incidents

### **Intentionally set fires**

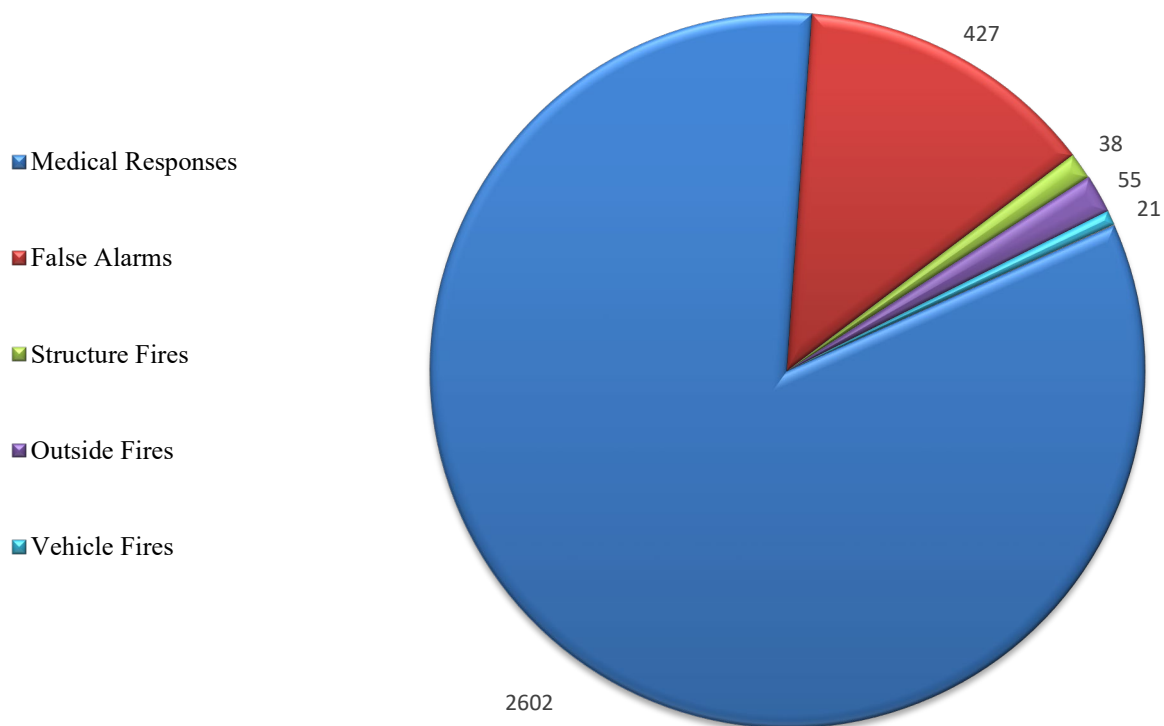
- One structure fire was listed as intentionally set in 2018 compared to none in 2017
- No vehicle fires have been listed as intentionally set since 2012

### **Other statistics for 2018**

- 81.51% of all calls occurred between 8:00am and 11:00pm
- The busiest day for calls was Thursday with 15.46% (598 calls)
- The second busiest day for calls was Monday with 15.15% (586 calls)
- Sunday was the slowest day for incidents with 12.59% or 487 calls for service
- January was the busiest month with 361 calls for service
- District 1 accounted for 1,371 calls (35.45%) and accounted for \$224,300 in estimated losses (52.05% of total loss)
- District 2 accounted for 843 calls for service (21.79%) and accounted for \$9,850 in estimated dollar loss (2.29% of total loss)
- District 3 accounted for 751 calls for service (19.42%) and accounted for \$118,020 in estimated dollar loss (27.39% of total loss)

- District 4 accounted for 428 calls for service (11.06%) and accounted for \$43,725 in estimated dollar loss (10.15% of total loss)
- District 5 accounted for 345 calls for service (8.92%) and accounted for \$20,030 in estimated dollar loss (4.65% of total loss)
- Out of district calls accounted for 3.33% or 129 calls for service

### 2018 Responses by Incident Type



## Fire Prevention Division

### Inspections

Annual Inspections	Total:	301
Apartment Inspections	Total:	39
Site Inspections	Total:	344
Fire Alarm Inspection	Total:	6
Sprinkler System Inspection	Total:	3
New Kitchen Hood Inspections	Total:	25
Knox Box Installation	Total:	59
Occupational Tax Certificate Inspections	Total:	105
Alcohol Inspections	Total:	2
50 Percent Inspections	Total:	4
80 Percent Inspections	Total:	7
100 Percent Inspections	Total:	5
Pre-Incident Surveys	Total:	524
Plan Reviews	Total:	79
Addressing	Total:	33
<b>Total Inspections</b>		<b>1536</b>

### Public Relations

#### Fire Safety Education

Events	Total:	329
Staff Members Participated	Total:	732
Staff Hours	Total:	1345
Number of Adults Reached	Total:	12840
Number of Children Reached	Total:	16178
<b>Total Residents Reached</b>		<b>29018</b>

### Smoke Detector Installation

Events	Total:	8
Staff Members Participated	Total:	28
Staff Hours	Total:	56
Total Smoke Detectors Installed	Total:	102
Total Number of Adults Reached	Total:	179
Total Number of Children Reached	Total:	127
<b>Total Residents Reached</b>		<b>306</b>

## **Training Division**

Training hours accrued during 2018 total 28,198.

Outside school attendance totaled 599 students.

### **Summary of classes delivered by the Training Division to all suppression personnel:**

- 1.) RIT Staging & Support Functions
- 2.) Engine Company Operations – Water Supply, NFPA 1410 drills
- 3.) Truck Company Operations – Oriented Search
- 4.) Forcible Entry refresher
- 5.) Thermal Imaging for Structural Firefighting Operations
- 6.) Annual Hazardous Materials/Decontamination Refresher Training
- 7.) Underwriter’s Laboratories Modern Fire Dynamics and Modeling
- 8.) Down & Dirty Firefighter Survival
- 9.) Engine Company Operations - Standpipe Drills, Stairwell Stretches, Master Streams
- 10.) Calling the Mayday
- 11.) Strategy and Tactics for Multi-company Operations
- 12.) Water Rescue Awareness
- 13.) DFD Company Officer Training Program (ranked officers and officer trainees)
- 14.) Building Construction Considerations for Size-up
- 15.) American Heart Association CPR/AED/Basic Life Support refresher

## OUTSIDE TRAINING 2018

Date	Location	Title	# Attending
1/5/2018	Dalton, GA	RIT Staging & Support Functions	71
1/25/2018	Dalton, GA	AHA BLS for Healthcare Providers	95
1/12/2018	Dalton, GA	DFD Company Officer Training Program	8
1/16/2018	GPSTC	Exercising Leadership Within Communities	2
1/21/2018	Rutledge, GA	Axioms of Leadership	3
1/21/2018	Summerville, GA	Crash Victim Extrication	1
1/31/2018	GPSTC	Structural Fire Control Instructor	2
2/1/2018	GPSTC	Practical Fireground Hydraulics	3
2/1/2018	Cherokee County, GA	Public Safety WMD Response - Sampling Technician	3
2/2/2018	GPSTC	Transitional & Interpersonal Leadership Training	2
2/6/2018	GPSTC	Preparation for Initial Company Operations	1
2/8/2018	Dalton, GA	Thermal Imaging for Structural Firefighting Operations	82
2/9/2018	GPSTC	NPQ Fire Instructor 1	1
2/13/2018	GPSTC	Handling Flammable & Combustible Liquids Incidents	1
2/21/2018	Jekyll Island, GA	2018 Georgia Statewide LEPC Summit	1
2/22/2018	Athens, GA	Strategy & Tactics for Initial Company Operations	1
2/23/2018	GPSTC	Interior Search & Rescue	2
2/27/2018	GPSTC	Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success	1
3/7/2018	Augusta, GA	Building Design: 2012 IBC with Georgia Amendments	2
3/8/2018	Dalton, GA	Oriented Search Techniques	80
3/11/2018	Chatsworth, GA	FLAMES	1
3/14/2018	GPSTC	Structural Fire Control Instructor	1
3/15/2018	Marietta, GA	Residential Range Top Fire Protection	1
3/15/2018	Dalton, GA	Alternative Tactics for Water Supply Operations	78
3/16/2018	GPSTC	Handling Flammable & Combustible Liquids Incidents	2
3/21/2018	Calhoun, GA	Top 10 Framing Violations	1
3/23/2018	Valdosta, GA	Fire Department Supervision	1
3/28/2018	Dalton, GA	MGT-418: Training Identification and Preparedness Planning	2
3/30/2018	National Fire Academy	Executive Planning	1
3/30/2018	GPSTC	Fire Department Management	4
4/2/2018	Gordon County, GA	Midland Communications tower rescue course	3
4/3/2018	GPSTC	Fire Department Executive	1
4/8/2018	Chatsworth, GA	Tactical Retrieval Assessment and Care (TRAC) course	1
4/13/2018	GPSTC	Urban Post-Blast Investigations	2
4/20/2018	GPSTC	Fire Inspector 1	1
4/20/2018	GFSTC	NPQ Fire Officer 1	1
4/25/2018	GPSTC	Structural Fire Control	6
4/27/2018	Helen, GA	GA Public Safety Fire Investigator's Assn. Annual Seminar	2
4/27/2018	National Fire Academy	Analytical Tools for Decision-Making	1
4/28/2018	Indianapolis, IN	Fire Department Instructor's Conference	2
4/30/2018	GPSTC	Acting Officer in Charge for the Fire Service	2
5/1/2018	GPSTC	Initial Fire Investigation for First Responders	1
5/2/2018	Whitfield County, GA	GBI Bomb/IED Awareness Training for First Responders	2
5/4/2018	National Fire Academy	Training & Professional Development Challenges for Fire Service Leaders	1
5/10/2018	Dalton, GA	Leadership Dalton-Whitfield, Class of 2018	1
5/11/2018	National Fire Academy	Fire Inspection Principles 1	1
5/15/2018	GPSTC	Interior Search & Rescue	3
5/21/2018	Dalton, GA	Building Construction Considerations for Size-up	80
6/1/2018	GPSTC	Handling Flammable & Combustible Liquids Incidents	2
6/15/2018	Hamilton EMS	NAEMT Geriatric Education for EMS - Instructor	1
6/15/2018	GPSTC	Fire Department Supervision	1
6/29/2018	GPSTC	Georgia Fire & Life Safety Symposium	2
7/26/2018	Savannah, GA	Southeastern Fire Investigator's Association Annual Conference	2
7/27/2018	Bartow County, GA	EMS Instructor Update	3
8/6/2018	GPSTC	Acting Officer in Charge for the Fire Service	1

## OUTSIDE TRAINING 2018

Date	Location	Title	# Attending
8/9/2018	Walker County, GA	Cave Rescue Awareness	7
8/10/2018	GPSTC	Handling Flammable & Combustible Liquids Incidents	1
8/17/2018	Dalton, GA	2018 Georgia Fire Service Joint Conference	6
8/21/2018	Dalton, GA	Principles of Building Construction: Combustible	22
8/22/2018	Dalton, GA	Principles of Building Construction: Non-combustible	22
8/24/2018	GPSTC	Leadership Forum on Active Shooter Response	3
8/24/2018	Marietta, GA	Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR) course	3
8/31/2018	GPSTC	Transitional & Interpersonal Leadership Training	2
9/13/2018	Dalton, GA	Surface Water Rescue Awareness	73
9/18/2018	GPSTC	Preparation for Initial Company Operations	3
9/20/2018	Dalton, GA	Forcible Entry Refresher	72
9/20/2018	GPSTC	Strategy & Tactics for Initial Company Operations	1
9/21/2018	GPSTC	2018 Hazardous Materials Symposium	2
9/25/2018	GPSTC	Decision Making for Initial Company Operations	1
10/11/2018	Dalton, GA	Wide Area Search	5
10/11/2018	Dalton, GA	Land Navigation Training	5
10/19/2018	Rome, GA	Rail Car Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol, & Other Flammable Liquids	2
10/20/2018	Nashville, TN	Firehouse EXPO	3
10/24/2018	Dalton, GA	HazMatIQ Tactics: Propane IQ	26
11/2/2018	Dalton, GA	NIMS 300 & 400	3
11/2/2018	GPSTC	Transitional & Interpersonal Leadership Training	1
11/2/2018	Hamilton EMS	Emergency Pediatric Care Provider course	3
11/6/2018	GPSTC	Politics and the White Helmet	1
11/8/2018	GPSTC	Chief Fire Officer Orientation - Day 3	1
11/9/2018	GPSTC	Chief Fire Officer Orientation - Day 4	1
11/9/2018	GPSTC	Rescue Systems 1 - Fundamentals of Heavy Rescue	1
11/29/2018	Dalton, GA	Pipeline Emergencies: Command Officer Strategies	15
12/4/2018	Dalton, GA	NPQ Fire Officer 2	1
12/7/2018	Dalton, GA	Aerial Apparatus Driver Operator Course	7
12/19/2018	Hamilton EMS	2018 Georgia EMS Educator Update	3
<b>Total Personnel Attending Classes</b>			<b>599</b>

Cover Photo: Firefighter Tom Gordy with horses Joe & Dan at  
Pentz Street Fire Station Circa 1900

