



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Mountain Vista Fire District



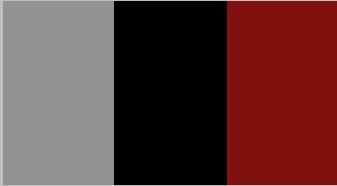


Table of Contents

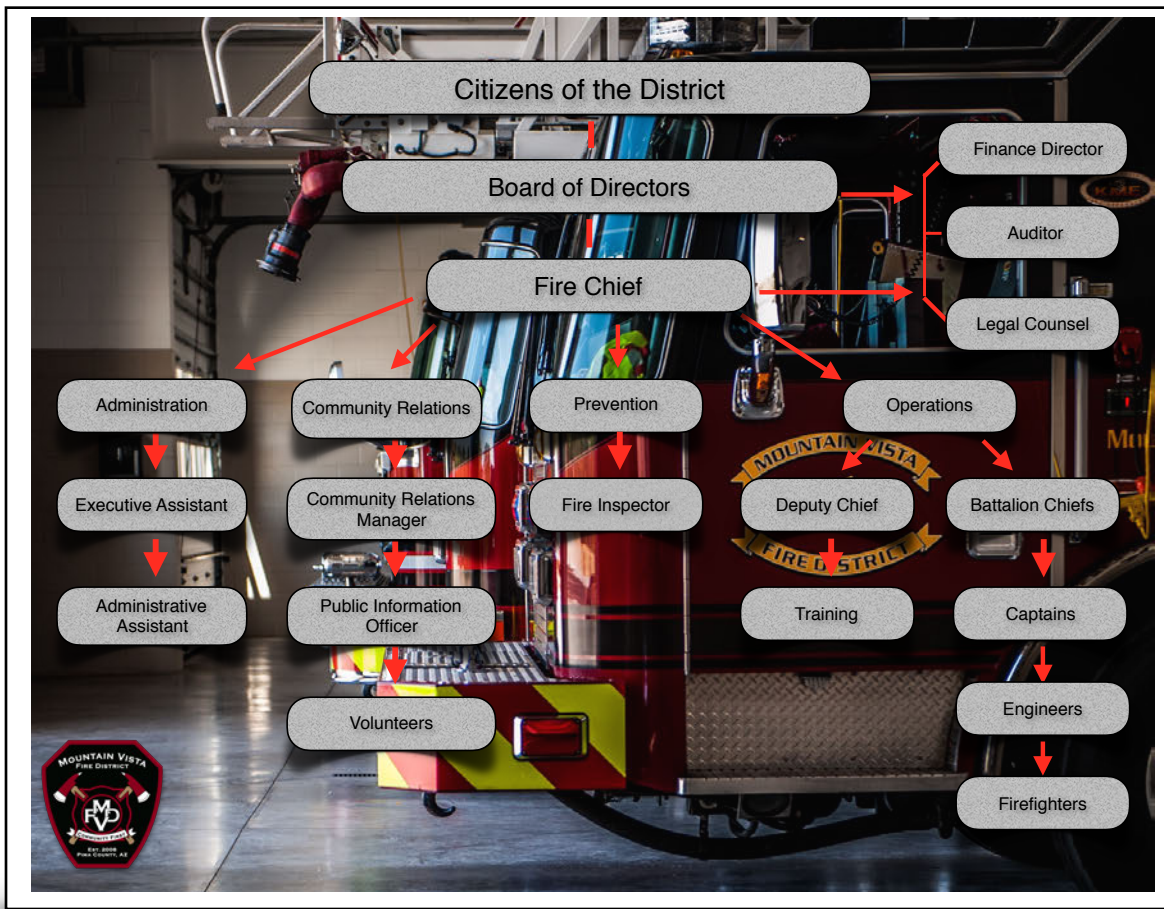
	<i>Page</i>
<i>Mission and Values/Organizational Chart</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Message from the Chief</i>	<i>4-5</i>
<i>The District</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Governing Boards</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Operations</i>	<i>8-9</i>
<i>Risk Management and Wellness</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>The Mountain Vista Firefighters Association</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Fleet & Equipment</i>	<i>12-13</i>
<i>Employee Recognitions</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Training and Education</i>	<i>15-17</i>
<i>Fire Prevention</i>	<i>18-19</i>
<i>Public Information /Education</i>	<i>20-21</i>

Administration, Training, Community Resources
1175 W. Magee Rd
Tucson, AZ 85704

Station 610
1175 W. Magee Rd
Tucson, AZ 85704

Station 620
9310 N. Shannon Rd
Tucson, AZ 85742

Business phone: (520) 575-4087
Website: www.mountainvistafire.org



Mission & Values

MISSION STATEMENT

“Community First” – The Mountain Vista Fire District is dedicated to placing the needs of our community first.

VISION STATEMENT

“To be the accepted standard of excellence in the delivery of fire and rescue services.”

CORE VALUES

The Mountain Vista Fire District is driven by:

- Integrity – “We will do the right thing by being honest, trustworthy and reliable”
- Partnership – “We will achieve success by working together”
- Innovation – “We will offer and adapt to new ideas”
- Service – “We will provide the best professional customer service”

Message from the Fire Chief:



**2016 was a big year
for Mountain Vista
Fire District! Our staff
and programs ex-
panded and our
emergency operations
continued on a busy
pace of taking care of
our community.**

There were a number of exciting developments in 2016 including:

- A grant award from the Governor's Office on Highway Safety for new extrication equipment for Ladder 610. This award enables all of our suppression units (2 engines and one ladder) to address motor vehicle accidents with full extrication capability. Since MVFD covers a portion of Oracle Road, LaCanada, and LaCholla, this provides an enhanced level of service to our community.
- A grant award from Firehouse Subs for rope rescue equipment. MVFD is now able to join with other area technical rescue teams involving low and high angle emergency rescue (i.e. incapacitated hikers), water rescue (i.e. cars stuck in washes), and confined space (i.e. medical emergencies in underground utility vaults).
- Expansion of the emergency response staff by 10 to include a training officer and nine firefighters. This expansion allowed for 24/7 deployment of Ladder 610 and enabled MVFD to add

an additional suppression unit. We are now able to respond consistently with 15 personnel to a working structure fire, which meets the recommended standard by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for fire responses. More importantly, we are decreasing response times for all emergencies by adding these additional units.



- More program offerings to the public in CPR/First Aid and Compression-Only CPR programs. This important addition to our community education program has resulted in more residents within Mountain Vista Fire District who are trained in CPR. Bystander CPR is the number #1 most effective way to increase a

person's chances of surviving a cardiac arrest.

There is so much more that occurred in 2016 so I invite you to review the entirety of this report. Please reach out with any questions you may have as well as to attend our fire board meetings which are held the 3rd Monday of every month (except holidays) at our Magee complex.

We encourage you to visit our website which contains information on our monthly board meetings, programs and CPR courses.

I am very proud of the commitment, empathy and professionalism demonstrated by our team every day. Our mission is to serve the residents of MVFD with integrity, partnership, innovation, and service. We will continue to do so in 2017 and we look forward to working with you to fulfill our mission.

- Fire Chief
Cheryl Horvath
chorvath@mountainvistafire.org

The District

The Mountain Vista Fire District operates under Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) § Title 48, Chapter 5. The District is a special purpose entity funded primarily through secondary assessed value property taxes. It is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors comprised of a Board Chairman, a Board Clerk, a Board Treasurer and two Directors.

The District was formed in late 2008 as the result of the merger of three smaller fire districts (La Canada, North

Ranch/Linda Vista and Heritage Hills). Since that time, the governing Board of Directors has worked to expand the District in a progressive and responsible manner.

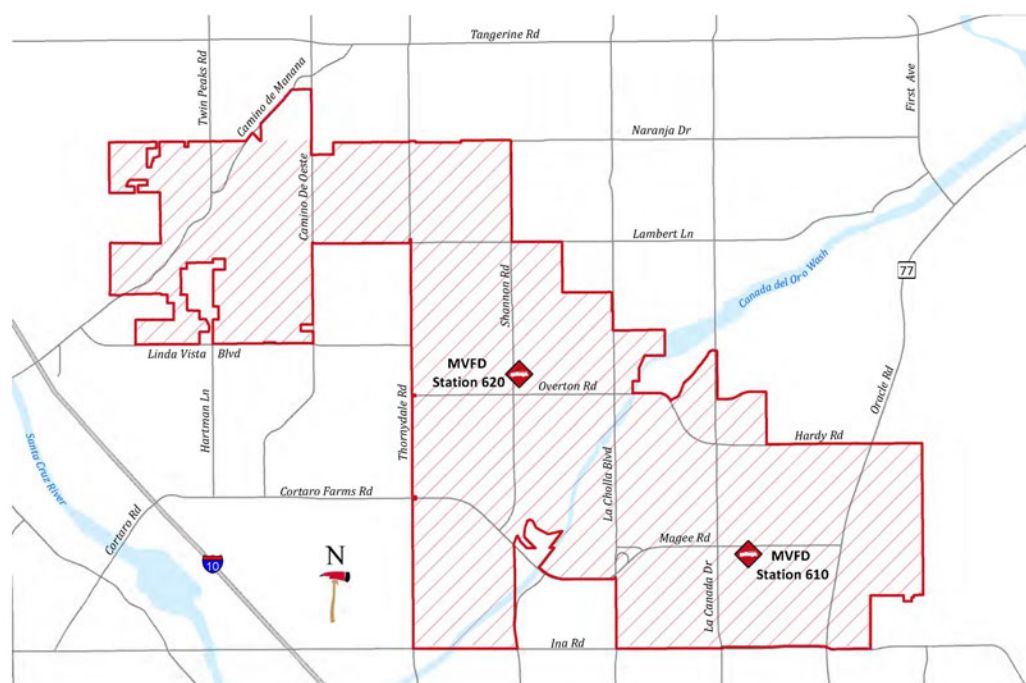
In 2009, the District completed two annexations, the Lambert Lane area and the Suffolk Hills area. These two annexations added approximately five addi-

tional square miles to the District response area and a significant amount of commercial property to the District boundaries.

Currently, the District owns and operates two fire stations that are strategically located to provide optimal response to most of the areas of the District. While it is extremely difficult to site fire stations within a jurisdiction's boundary to accomplish a perfect response time for each and every call, our station locations have allowed us to meet an eight-minute response time goal, from receipt of call to arrival at the call location, over ninety percent of the time.

The District has always had a philosophy of meeting the emergency response needs of the community by providing high quality and cost effective service. We have accomplished this by maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in the State of Arizona for comparable size fire districts.

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Mountain Vista Fire District
Current District Boundary Map - October 2013

Map created by TerraSystems Southwest, Inc. using Pima County GIS datasets. Initial Fire District data also provided by Pima County (1/2013 update) and updated in September 2013 by TSSW. All data shown is approximate and suitable for general reference or planning purposes only.

Governing Boards

2016 Fire Board

- Peter Archuleta, Chairman
- Albert Pesqueira, Treasurer
- Donna Heidinger, Clerk
- Jeffrey Sargent, Director
- Louis Parrish, Director

The Mountain Vista Fire District Board conducts public meetings on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room located at 1175 W. Magee Rd. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and, with 10 days' written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired.

Pension Board

In 2016 Mountain Vista Fire District suppression employees joined the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System of the State of Arizona (PSPRS), a defined benefit program. The PSPRS pension board meets quarterly. The purpose of the pension board is to oversee the district's pension fund. Members of that board are:

- Albert Pesqueira, Chairman
- Firefighter/CEP Adam Hastings, Co-Chair
- Firefighter/EMT Peter Kintner
- Amanda Tobak
- Earle Ruhnke



Battalion Chief Rutherford Badge Pinning during a Board Meeting

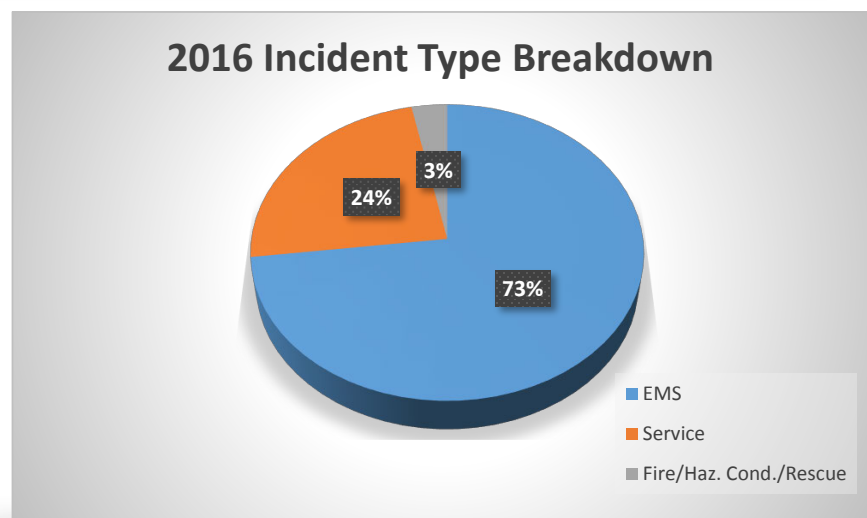
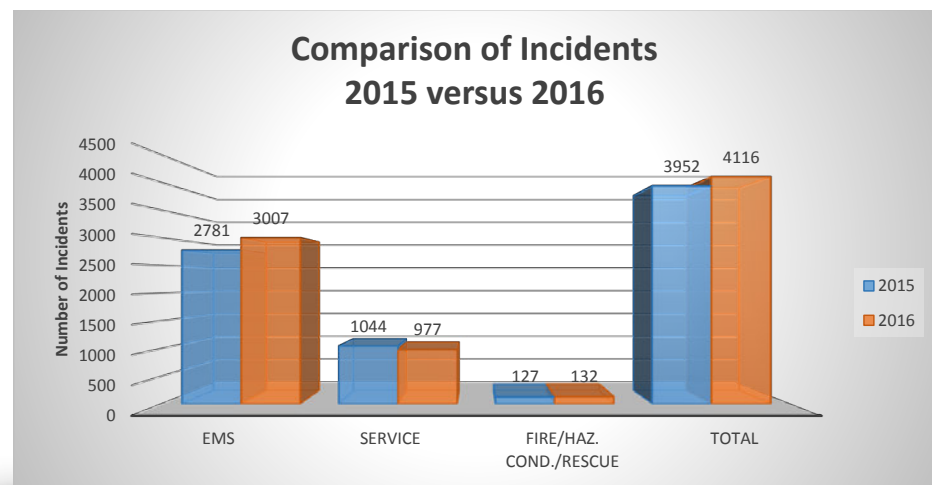
***The Mountain Vista
Fire District Board
conducts public
meetings on the third
Monday of each
month.***



FF/CEP Michael Crain

Operations

2016 was a very eventful year for the Mountain Vista Fire District. In the first year under the direction and leadership of Chief Horvath, the district saw substantial forward progress and growth in the amount of personnel and the addition of a full time ladder company. Overall call volume totaled 4,116 incidents. This represents 3,007 EMS incidents, 132 fire/rescue or hazardous condition incidents, and 977 service calls. The total amount of incidents increased by 4.15% over 2015; EMS and fire incidents increased 8.13% and 3.94% respectively, and service type incidents decreased by 6.42%.



In addition to a rise in EMS incidents, there were several changes in the EMS division itself. The district transitioned its medical control from UAMC Banner Health to Northwest Hospital, with Dr. Sean Malley becoming the new medical director. Along with the transition of medical control, our new medical director instituted a new set of administrative orders allowing the districts paramedics a very progressive set of guidelines within which to exercise their skills. This translates into better care for our community.

The district was able to sponsor four firefighters to participate in a paramedic class through the Pima Community College Public Safety and Emergency Services Institute. The successful graduation of these students increased our paramedic staffing to a total of 17 full-time responders. The district also hired an additional five part-time firefighter paramedics to lessen our overtime costs.

Special Operations is another area that has undergone significant growth and involvement. With the addition of the Ladder to our operations, we are able to focus on cross training personnel in both Technical Rescue disciplines and Hazardous Ma-

As the districts capabilities in the areas have increased, we have become involved with both the regional hazardous materials response team and TRT team.

terials response. Two firefighters received Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) training to the Technician level, bringing us up to six Hazmat Technicians. Four personnel completed rope rescue training to the Technician level. In 2017 we will continue to focus on training in the areas of Confined Space



Technical Ropes and Rescue Class, FF/CEP Wenzel

Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Rope Rescue and Wilderness Search and Rescue. As the district's capabilities have grown, we have become involved with both the regional hazardous materials response team and TRT team, and in December MVFD participated in a regional Hazmat drill. In 2017, we look forward to continuing our training and capabilities in order to become members of the county special operations teams.



Graduated Paramedics Sicurello, Melen, Kassulke and Glover

Risk Management & Wellness

Safety is paramount in any organization, Staff and suppression personnel continue to reflect a “Safety First” mentality that is evident in all aspects and levels of our profession.

Mountain Vista Fire District maintains a multi-faceted safety program. A safety committee and the leadership team developed a comprehensive annual safety plan. The annual safety plan acts as a platform and a resource for the District’s safety obligations, such as training and safety protocols.

The Safety Committee, composed of officers and firefighters representing each shift, met quarterly in 2016 to review safety measures and policy implementation. Assessing accidents, injury reviews or best practices from a risk management position is beneficial to the well-being and safety of our personnel and Fire District. During quarterly meetings, safety procedure changes were discussed and developed, resulting in improved policy procedures.

All suppression personnel are required to complete annual physicals, compliant with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) through an occupational medical physician. In addition, our hiring process

MVFD has a philosophy of meeting the emergency response needs of the community by providing high quality and cost effective service.

requires the passing of a physical agility test (P.A.T.), along with meeting annual fitness standards. Each one of our District’s suppression staff met the requirements in this area for operational readiness.

Testing occurs annually in July/August.

Three MVFD firefighters obtained their America Council on Exercise (ACE) certifications and act as Peer Fitness Trainers. This group of individuals supports and advocates work out regimens and nutrition guidance for our firefighters. They were also very involved with the first MVFD Fire Academy’s daily physical training program and instruction.



MVFD's first fire academy class 2016-1, held at Golder Ranch Fire District's Training Facility



The Mountain Vista Firefighters Association

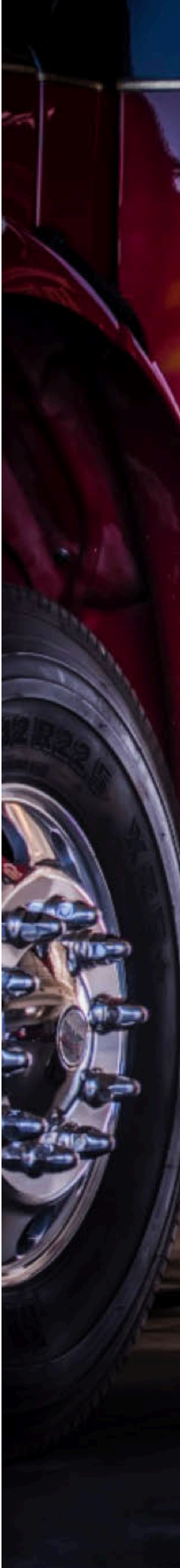
The Mountain Vista Firefighters Association is a chapter of the Northwest Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 3572. In 2016, we increased our membership from 36 members to 46.

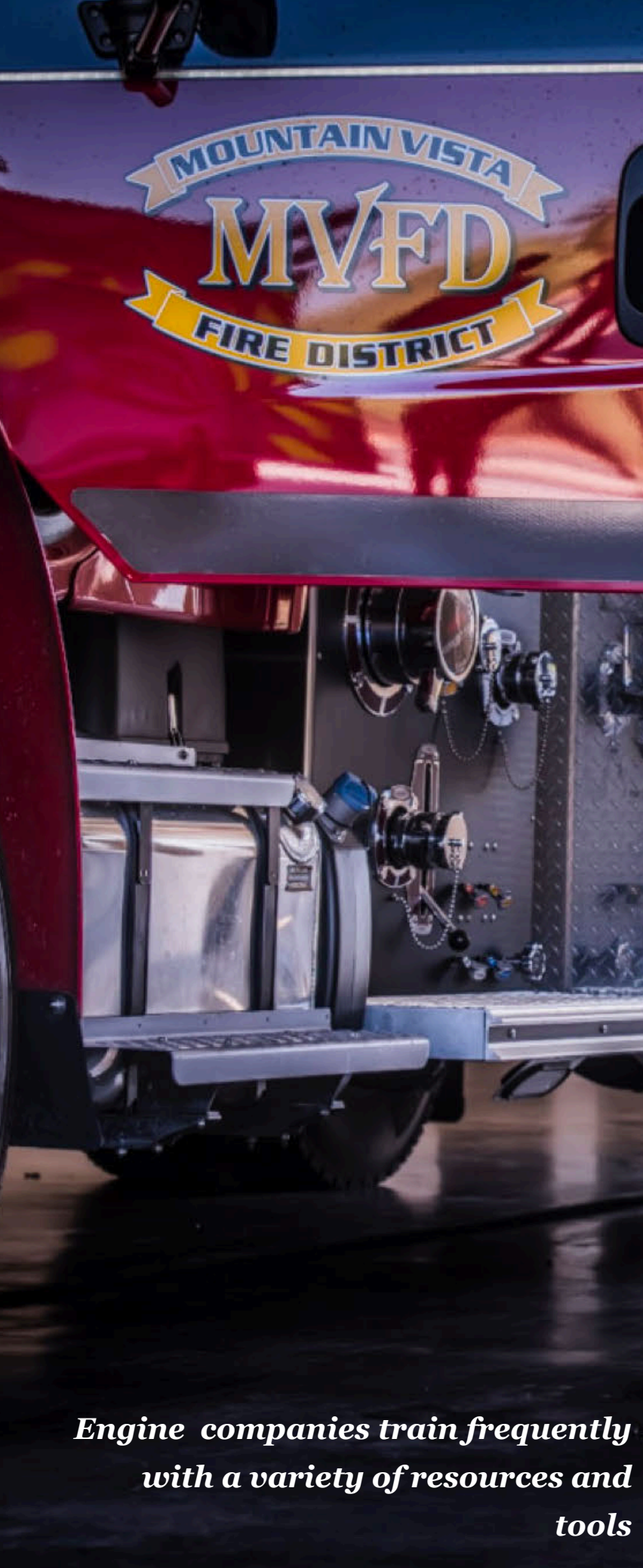
Some of the events our members participated in last year were the Northwest Firefighters' Brew Fest, the Tucson Firefighters' Chili Cook-Off, and the Northwest Firefighters' Shop with a Firefighter event. In addition to this, we participated in the MVFD Adopt-a-Family program sponsoring two families in need during the holiday season.



Fleet and Equipment

The Mountain Vista Fire District emergency apparatus receive fleet preventative and emergency maintenance through an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Golder Ranch Fire District. This new cooperative agreement ensures our apparatus are maintained by trained Emergency Vehicle Technicians (EVT) who are available to respond 24/7. MVFD personnel utilize a software program to track maintenance records and compliance with NFPA standards for all emergency apparatus.

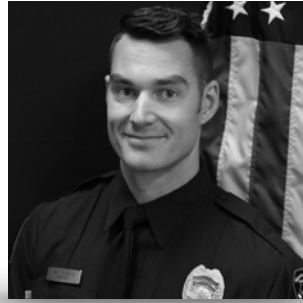




*Engine companies train frequently
with a variety of resources and
tools*

Engine companies train frequently with a variety of resources and tools. This past year a portion of capital expenses were allocated for Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs). This hi-tech equipment gives our firefighters a tool that elevates tactical advantages, efficiency and safety by enabling the firefighters to find victims of fire in dense smoke conditions. TICs assist our firefighters in detecting fire hidden in walls and ceilings resulting in rapid suppression and reduced property damage.



*Awards Celebration**Firefighter of the Year**New Hire Badge**Chief's Coin Presentations*

Employee Recognitions

January

New Hires: Chief

Cheryl Horvath
Community
Relations Manager
Shawn Benjamin
Firefighter
Andrew Pacheco
Firefighter
Anthony Citro
Administrative
Assistant Nancy Ramos

February

New Hire:

Firefighter
Mitch Young

March

New Hire:

Firefighter
Keith Lushbaugh

May

Chief's Coin Presentation:

Firefighter
Andrew Smith

June

Promoted Captain
Lucas Giampa
Promoted Engineer
Glenn "Shan" Pettit

August

Promoted Captain
Adam Hastings

September

Promoted Engineer
Chad Buda
Promoted Engineer
Eric Melen
Promoted Engineer
Sean Sicurello
Promoted Engineer
Francis Gerl
Promoted Captain
Felipe Torres
Promoted Captain
Christopher Charnoki
Promoted Captain
Peter Kintner
Promoted Captain
Jose Ahumada
Promoted
Battalion Chief
Tony Rutherford

New Hires:
Firefighter

Jacob Carr
Firefighter
Candace Foster
Firefighter
Samuel Garcia
Firefighter
Chad Graham
Firefighter
Graham Ludewig
Firefighter
Jacob McAdams
Firefighter
Ryan Sather
Firefighter
Benjamin Seeger
Firefighter
Michelle Starkey

October

New Hire:
Training Deputy Chief
Eric Perry

*Chief's Coin
Presentation:*
Engineer
Dan Gordon

December

New Director:
Leon Van Holsbeke
New Hires:
Battalion Chief
Peter Zick

Fire-

fighter
Zack Lominac

Awards of Service:

Engineer
Andrew Hatfield
Captain
Jose Ahumada
Captain
Steve White
Captain
Christopher Charnoki
Engineer
Justin McMurrich
Firefighter
James Glover
Firefighter
Sheri Wenzel
Captain
Benjamin Jones
Captain
Adam Hastings

Unit Citations:

Engine 620, Rescue
620, Battalion 600, En-
gine 610, Rescue 610,
Ladder 610,
Inspector 609

Firefighter of the Year:

Sean Sicurello





Training & Education

Hiring & Promotional Processes

In 2016, the Mountain Vista Fire District (MVFD) conducted its first ever transitional firefighter academy. The academy was held at the Golder Ranch Fire District's training facility, for three weeks. From this training, ten new firefighter recruits were welcomed into the MVFD team and are currently working through their probationary training. The addition of these new firefighter recruits increased our constant staffing from 13 per shift to 15 per shift.

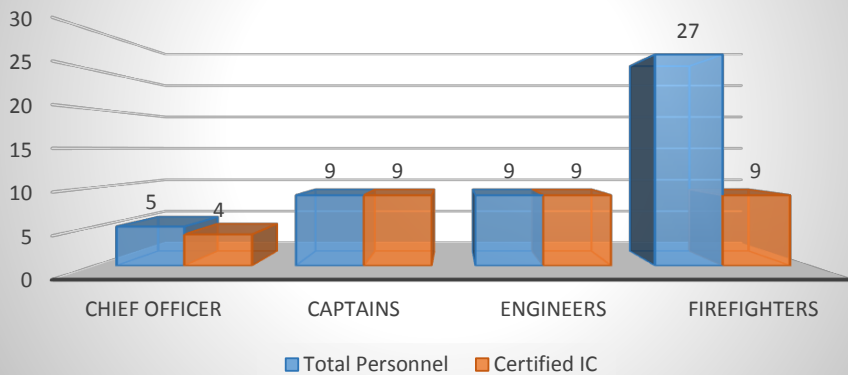
In addition to recruit training, three promotional processes were conducted throughout the year. Processes for the ranks of Engineer and Captain were completed in order to provide personnel of each rank to staff Ladder 610 full-time. Also, a competitive testing process was held for the positions of Battalion Chief/Deputy Chief. From this process, MVFD was able to internally promote one Battalion Chief, and hire a Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief from outside the agency.

Shift/Personnel Training

Training for shift personnel was conducted throughout the year, with monthly assignments online via Target Solutions. Dr. Brian Crandell presented "Building Grit and Vigilance for Fire Service Leaders" for our annual Officers continuing education (CE). Additionally, MVFD hosted a class for all employees by Page Valdiserri on Mental Health and Stress Awareness, and held a Fire Officer I certification program. Many hands on-training opportunities were provided such as advanced automobile extrication, flashover training, and emergency vehicle operations training. The total training hours for the year amounted to 19,970 encompassing both classroom as well as hands on-training. This averages to 416 training hours per firefighter.

Blue Card

Numbers of Certified Blue Card Incident Commanders per rank

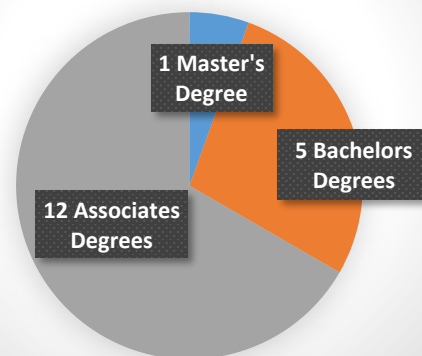


MVFD continues to support the Blue Card Incident Management System with all front line officers certified as Type IV and V Incident Commanders, as well as many of its remaining line personnel. Blue Card is a command training and certification system that trains Fire Officers in standardized methods of handling emergency situations. The district has its own simulation lab, and conducts in house training courses and emergency simulations in order to maintain and improve the incident command abilities of our personnel.

Higher Education

The Mountain Vista Fire District also supports and encourages pursuing higher education for all employees by offering tuition reimbursement. Candidates testing for a Captain position must have an Associate's degree in Fire Science or related field. Battalion Chiefs are required to attain a Bachelor's degree. These requirements are consistent with recommendations from the US Fire Administration and the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) model curriculum for fire officers. In 2016, twelve employees utilized our tuition reimbursement program in the pursuit of higher education. Currently, 18 personnel, over 33% of the district, hold college degrees (one Master's, five Bachelor's, and twelve Associates).

Breakdown of College Degrees held by Personnel

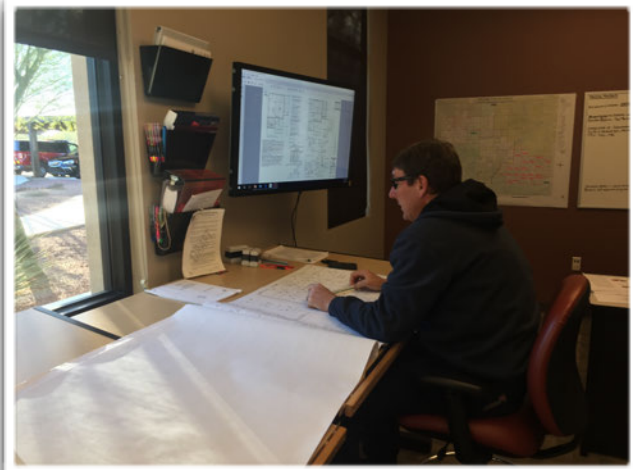


Along with higher education, the District supports and encourages professional credentialing by the Center for Public Safety Excellence. The credentialing process requires each officer to complete a variety of courses and practical skills in order to demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for competency. Eight Officers at the Mountain Vista Fire District are credentialed in either the Fire Officer designation or the Chief Fire Officer designation. To put this in perspective, in 2016, 1,204 Chief Fire Officer designations were awarded nationally, along with 373 Fire Officer designations.

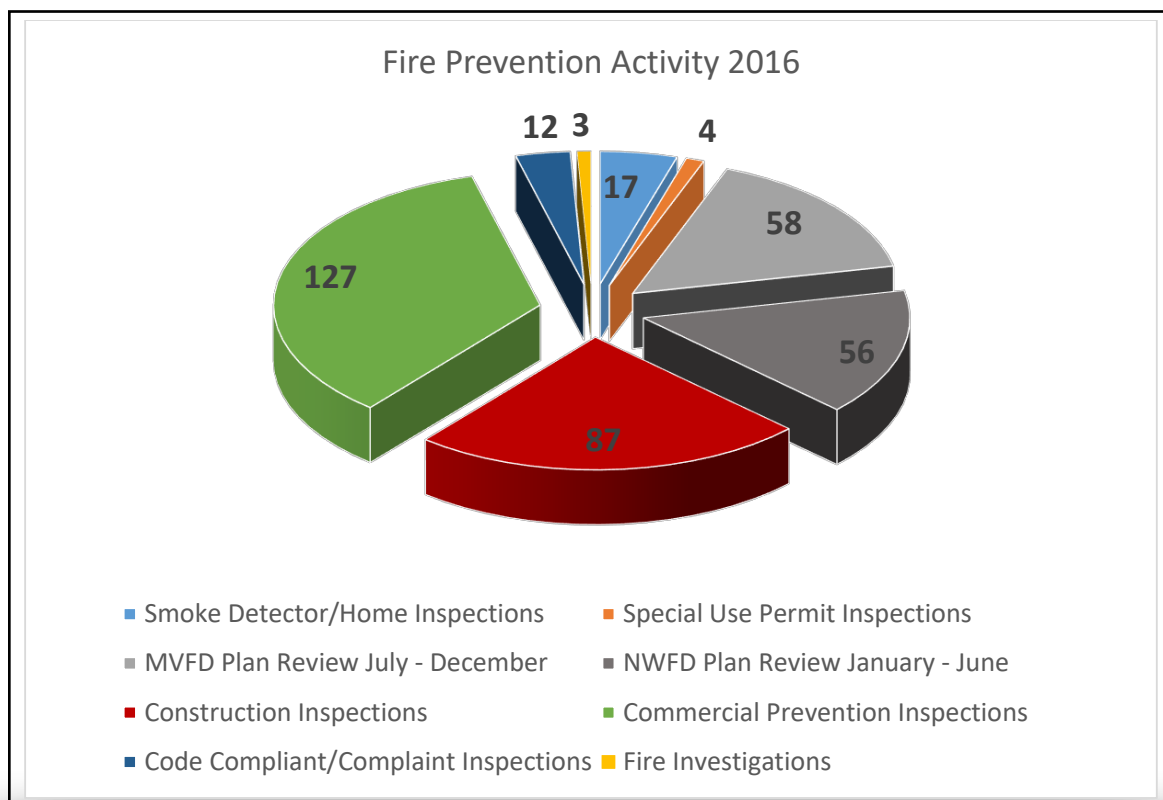
Fire Prevention

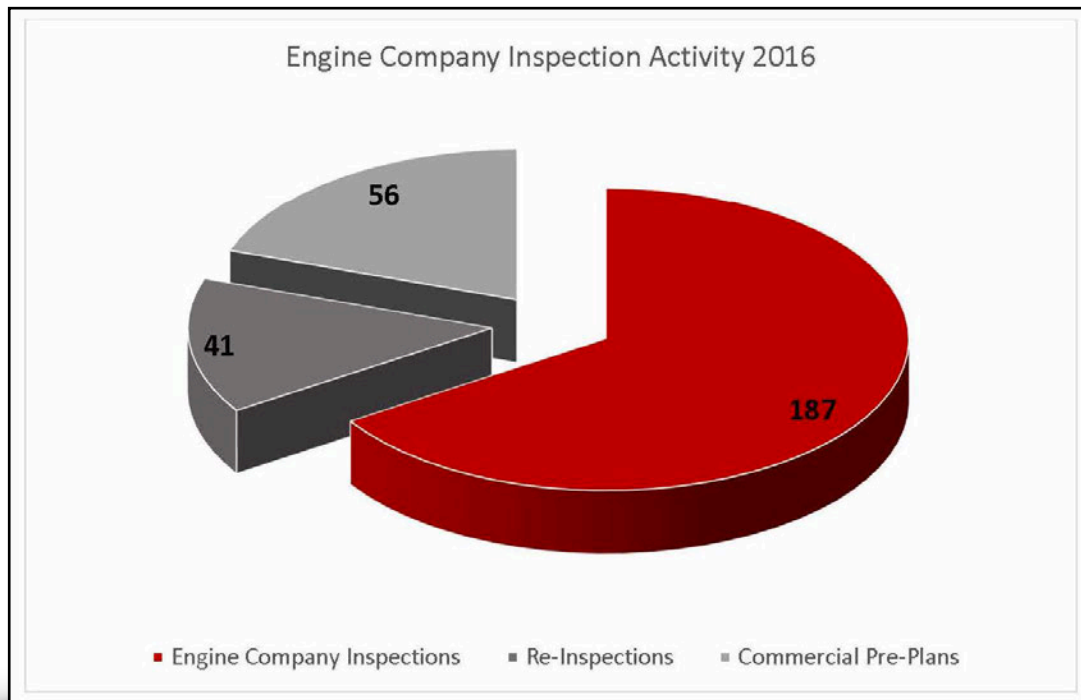
Home inspections and smoke detector replacement continued into 2016 with MVFD acquiring smoke and CO alarms through a grant from Sonoran Environmental Research Institute (SERI). MVFD installed approximately 250 smoke alarms and numerous CO alarms in 2016 benefiting many residences within the district.

Fire Prevention provided plan review for construction projects within district boundaries including portions of unincorporated Pima County, Town of Marana, and worked collaboratively with Golder Ranch Fire District within Oro Valley. Fire Investigations were handled on an on-call basis utilizing the Fire Investigator within Fire Prevention and certified members of suppression personnel.



Fire Inspector Brad White reviewing plans

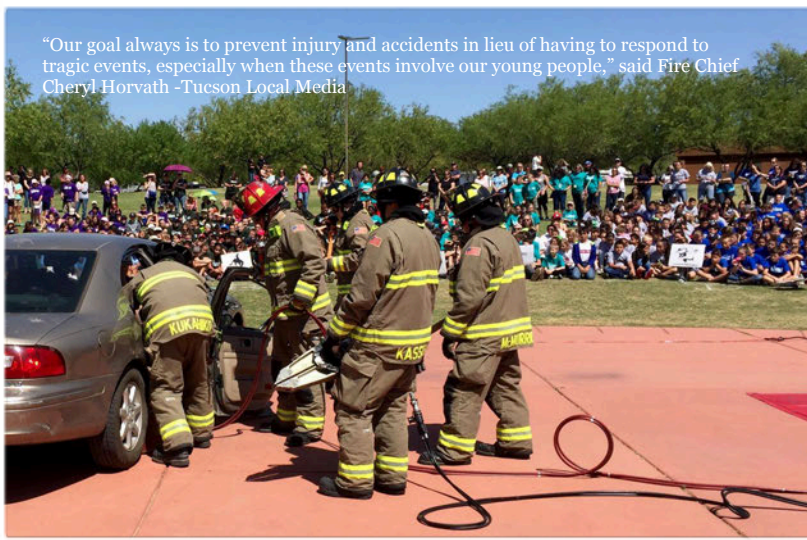




An Engine Company Inspection Program was initiated in March 2016. The goals of the program are to identify and reduce fire and life safety issues, increase image and exposure, and become familiar with the businesses within the district. The program established a database of all commercial businesses within the district which was then uploaded into the Fire Records Management System (FireRMS) currently utilized by MVFD. Engine Companies are assigned 5 – 6 occupancy inspections per month, reporting the findings on mobile computers. Reports are then emailed directly to the business owner to correct any identified code violations. Engine companies also complete pre-plans for each business providing information intended to assist in mitigating emergencies.

The 2016 Fire Hydrant Inspection Program was completed electronically through a geographic information system (GIS) App on unit cell phones. Hydrants and Fire Department Connections (FDCs) were located to within 25 feet of the exact location, inspected for defects and water flow was verified. The information collected was instantly available and will be used to update maps on apparatus Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) when responding to emergencies .

Fire Prevention provided plan review for construction projects within district boundaries , including portions of unincorporated Pima County, Town of Marana, and worked collaboratively with Golder Ranch Fire District within Oro Valley.



"Our goal always is to prevent injury and accidents in lieu of having to respond to tragic events, especially when these events involve our young people," said Fire Chief Cheryl Horvath -Tucson Local Media



Public Information & Education



The district provides monthly safety tips, public service announcements (PSAs), public event information and educational videos through social media, electronic newsletters, direct email marketing, print news media, PSA campaigns and educational classes.

In 2016, the district collaborated with multiple community partners on a variety of community events.

During the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety Child Passenger Safety week, MVFD partnered with Golder Ranch Fire District and Oro Valley Police Department to host a child safety seat inspection event at the Oro Valley Police Department.

This past summer the district created a PSA during Drowning Impact Awareness Month, "The ABC&D's of Water Safety". This aired multiple times daily for 8 weeks, on 15 screens

at the Foothills AMC theaters where the monthly attendance was 47,361 people. The projected viewings were 109,000.

Facebook

Month	Likes	People Reached	Post Engagements
January	439		
February	1151	9587	13091
March	1240	7011	10208
April	1288	5823	5539
May	1385	10381	10856
June			
July	1487	18652	5014
August	1601	26287	16848
September	1642	27006	24695
October	1689	15678	6571
November	1708	18277	6900
December	1746	19269	7665

MVFD fostered a community partnership with Southern Arizona Ben's Bells through the Kind Colleagues program.

Ben's Bells' Kind Colleagues program is a unique approach to creating a kind and engaged workplace by strengthening the culture from within.

MVFD participated in the eighth annual Drug Awareness Day at Riverfront Park to help guide more than

600 fifth grade students from nine different schools in the Northwest region. We teamed up with representatives from local law enforcement agencies, fire districts, SWAT teams, the Arizona Department of Public Safety and US Customs and Border Protection to promote messages of healthy lifestyles, safety, and mindfulness in the student's life choices.



In 2016 Mountain Vista Fire District

Hosted:

- 10 station tours
- 10 educational classes
- 23 School Visits
- 5 Mini Musters
- Blood Drive



- Holiday Pancake Breakfast
- Greater Tucson Fire Foundation Poker Run
- Swearing in Ceremony
- Employee Awards Celebration
- Academy Graduation
- Health Fair



Attended:

- 92 community events and/or meetings
- 30 Marana and Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce events

Participated in:

- Child Safety Seat campaign and event
- National Night Out



● Camp Fury

- Aspire Academy
- First Responder Block Party
- National Information Officers Conference

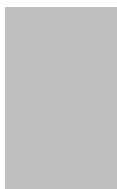
Formed:

- Explorer Post

Twitter

Month	Followers	Tweets	Profile Visits	Tweet Impressions	Mentions
January	0	29	752	2,640	10
February	68	52	502	4,302	1
March	84	53	711	6,656	3
April	105	16	264	6,683	6
May	131	35	606	9,230	7
June		55	924	16,400	15
July	156	44	665	11,800	15
August	191	58	1,036	16,200	23
September	212	71	1,398	40,500	11
October	234	61	1,202	23,200	10
November	234	47	953	66,800	17
December	264	47	780	21,600	11
Year End Totals	1,679	568	9,793	219,328	129





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