

DISTRICT PROFILE



Plainfield Fire Protection District

The Plainfield Fire Protection District located in Plainfield, Illinois was founded in 1935 located approximately 35 miles southwest of the City of Chicago in Will County. The District services 56 square miles which is made up of industrial, residential, commercial, and agricultural properties. The District covers two counties, the entire Village of Plainfield, a portion of the City of Crest Hill, and a large portion of unincorporated areas of Plainfield, Naperville, and Joliet Townships with a population of approximately 45,000 residents.

The District began a transition from a Volunteer Department to a Combination Department in 2006. The total force includes 64 full-time, 38 part-time, and 10 volunteer members. The current administration staff consists of a full time Chief, Deputy Chief, EMS Coordinator, Fire Inspector, Emergency Vehicle Technician, and a part-time Assistant Chief. The line staff is comprised of full time District lieutenants, single role paramedics, firefighter paramedics, contract firefighter paramedics, and part-time firefighters.

The District has experienced an increase in call volume of 185 percent in the last ten years. There were a total of 3,526 emergency calls in 2007. Emergency Medical incidents accounted for 1,967 of the calls and 35 structure fires occurred in the District. This is due in part to the Village of Plainfield being one the fastest growing communities in the State of Illinois.

The District is addressing the growth by building and relocating stations. There are

currently four stations. Station 3 was built in 2006, Station 4 was just opened in 2008, and Station 1 is currently being relocated and expected to open in the spring of 2009. Property has also been purchased for a Station 5 and Station 6 in anticipation of the continued expansion.

The fleet is comprised of four front line engines and two reserve engines, one tower ladder, two heavy rescues, two tankers, one brush truck, four front line ambulances, and one reserve ambulance. Also, one dive truck, one specialized rescue vehicle and trailer along with five staff cars.

The personnel are dedicated to the mission of saving lives and protecting property. Besides providing the EMS and fire suppression activities previously listed, they also have specialized skills. There are certified divers which make up the dive team, which can handle regular, ice and swift water rescues. There are certified technicians that make up the specialized rescue team that handle all confined space, trench rescue, high angle, and below grade rescues. There also are members that are part of the MABAS 15 Cause and Origin Team.

The members of the Plainfield Fire Protection District are very community oriented. They have many activities and programs that promote fire and health safety. The District sends personnel to safety fairs and community events with fire and safety information demonstrations. Members visit each pre-school and elementary school and give fire safety presentations and fire safety

coloring books to all students. During Fire Prevention Week an open house is held at Fire Station One where safety displays from outside organizations such as utility companies and local police as well as our own displays and numerous handouts from the National Fire Safety Council are presented. Our members participate with the local police as part of the Triad program for senior citizens. Fire safety presentations are included in their meetings with the following programs: NFPA Remembering, Home Safety Council Safe Steps, and the United States Fire Administration's safety information for older adults, as well as general fire and life safety information. Fire extinguisher training is provided to our business community.

The Plainfield Fire Protection District is proud of its heritage and accomplishments. The Board of Trustees led by President Bill Barnes, Trustee Denny Bennett, Trustee Mike Collins, Trustee Dave Hubert, and Trustee Charlie Robinson work very closely with Chief John Eichelberger, Deputy Chief Jon Stratton, Assistant Chief Larry Mores, and District Administrator Cheree Lewis. The common goal is to look for ways to enhance the districts ability to provide life safety and protection of property for the residents that they serve.

Editor's Note: If you would like to have your district featured in *The Fire Call*, please contact us at 800-524-6620 for more information or visit www.iafpd.org.