

LINCOLN FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARCH REPORT

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General Information: Well my last monthly report to the City of Lincoln as Fire Chief. Well in September of 1990 on the 15th this journey began with the Fire Department in Lincoln. What a ride it has been, I came to Lincoln Fire as a 21 y.o. young man in search of a career in the most honorable of professions to serve a community. As a firefighter I came with a little experience from my hometown Fire Department in Sherman. I attended the IFSI fire academy and completed with flying colors and was chosen as the class member to give a speech at our graduation, I remember this day well as it started out responding to the alarm and challenges to look forward to. As a firefighter I had been involved in many responses involving the good and bad. I recall EMS calls and delivering a baby in a car on Woodlawn and responding to a horrible airplane crash with multiple fatalities. Learning from the old guys the rich history of LFD, our traditions and how to teach kids fire safety. I love talking with the kids and pursued the opportunity to become a Fire Inspector. In this role prevention with businesses and building owners had developed. Learning and understanding building codes has been a passion. I still to this day am certified as a Fire Prevention Officer and certified as a State of Illinois School Safety Inspector. During the position as Fire Inspector I worked as a Fire Investigator and worked many fires such as Karen's Floral, Motor Coach Restoration, fatal fires on Monroe Street and Friendship Manor. The explosion at Super America was one of the first cases we used to video cameras to tape the scene. I was involved in the build of the first ever handicap accessible Stay Alive House which traveled all over Illinois to teach kids about fire safety. As a Company Officer I served as a Lieutenant and Captain fighting many fires and rescuing many people in need. Fires such as Doolin's building on Kickapoo and Pekin, Downtown clothing store Shick's, IGA incinerator fire, Jefferson Street School Fire and I did CPR on a small child found in a 9th street home fire that I helped find and could not save. I have completed rescues on families in burning homes on South Chicago St. rescued citizens trapped in crashed vehicles, heavy machinery and building collapses. As an Assistant Chief I have led some great fire officers and firefighters that will have just as long of careers as I have had. Working with great

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700 Broadway

Lincoln Illinois 62656



Chief Miller returning from a alarm in 5106.

guys I have received a Medal of Honor for fire rescues of the Baker Family, Life Saving Medal for conducting CPR in a tornado outside to a disable man who survived, while I was off duty with my family at the Circus. As an Assistant Chief my goal was to train the best group of firefighters for the City of Lincoln, and many times it showed working challenging fires at Simonson's Floor store Downtown crews made big line interior attack and did ladder rescues from adjacent buildings. Automotive rescues of a man who was pinned under a running car in just minutes doing it by the book. What great times at the fire station. Finally promotions to Fire Chief, talk about being scared as hell. I loved the challenge, the responsibility. It has been hard, the stress is out of this world responding to large fires at the Oasis, multiple homes and places where people lose everything and LFD tries to help ease the burden. Working with other leaders in the community regularly and attending the meetings all the meetings. Council meetings, budget meetings, pension board, Logan County Fire Association, MABAS, Illinois Fire Chiefs, Central Illinois Fire Chiefs, Logan County Heroin Task Force, it just keeps going and they are all important to moving the Lincoln Fire Department forward. Now comes time to pass the bugle to the next Chief WOW.

This has been the best job ever, and it has been the people. I love serving the people young and old in all capacities. The people I will really miss are the firefighters and lifelong friends that I walked into burning buildings with these are the people I put my life in their hands, the brothers from different mothers that I helped teach, that I learned this profession from, some I cried with and all I have laughed with. My brothers are my family they are the late Austin Bahn, Jake Lessen, Ken Ebelherr, Orvil Lolling, Dallas Millard, Ken Molt, Don Buss and Larry Fulk. I remember the fun in the fire station as well jokers all of us, thanks for scaring the <u>*&^%\$</u> out of me many times Jim Davis, Larry Spurling, Rick O'Hara, Buckey Washam, Don Fulk and Roger Adams. The guys I came on with and worked with taught me so much thanks Richard Montcalm, Terry Lessen, Mark Visintine, Tom Martin, Lyle Ruff, Jeff Singleton, Bill Haak, Steve Dahm, Tom Cecil and Don Cecil. Thanks again to my brothers you will all be missed.

The Future is full of my younger brothers; I hope that my mentoring makes you love the job as much as me. Those I worked with but they left to pursue other fire departments or police departments, Clint Warnisher, Phil Uphoff, Beau Friday, AJ Weakly and, Zac Camille. Keep up the future work fellas don't leave any untouched embers, Chief Dunovsky, Assistant Chiefs Roland, Coffey, Johnson. Captains train your crews Harding, Koehler, VanWinkle. Lieutenants be the best first line supervisor you can be Tripplett, Dexter, Williams. As for you grunts the firefighters, work hard be safe and enjoy the best job ever Aper, Reed, Wood, N. Davis, C. Davis, Maxheimer, Kern, Bosie, and Cosby.

All the others that I have gotten to work with in the City of Lincoln It has been a ride see you all around.

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March runs for 2019, 212 calls for service 7 fire related calls, 139 rescue alarms, 4 Hazardous conditions, 27 service calls 22 good intent alarms and 13 alarms.