



City of Marion
301 South Branson Street
Marion, IN 46952

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Marion Fire Chief Paul David's Leadership Remembered

MARION, IN: (December 21, 2015) – Marion Fire Chief Paul David will be remembered for implementing major improvements to the Marion Fire Department during his 3 ½ year tenure as Chief.

Chief David says the department has seen training commitments go up from 2,500 hours annually to 10,000 hours, and putting Eddie Overmyer in a position as Training Officer was a great decision.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating has improved for the first time since its inception in 1971 to help develop insurance programs. "Marion's rating this past year dropped from a 5 to a 4, and should improve every Marion citizen's insurance rates, thanks particularly to the hard work of Asst. Chief Tony Fox in administering the paperwork to ensure this change."

Under Chief Paul David's leadership, the Fire Department received much needed equipment through outside funding sources.

The largest asset received was a brand new, equipped HME Fire Engine donated by Marion General Hospital, valued at approximately \$600,000.

Through various other outside funding sources, the MFD was able to acquire Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs), narrow band radios, boat motors for the water rescue team, a state-of-the-art sonar device for the safety of the divers, carbon monoxide detectors, medical equipment for CPR training, a new investigator van, technology upgrades for investigators, Haz-Mat equipment including A & B Haz-Mat suits, as well as new hoses and nozzles for the trucks.

The MFD, earlier this year, received a grant through State Farm Insurance to receive Marion's first ever accelerant detection K-9, "Jersey."

Chief David says, in reflection of his time serving as Chief, "my motto was always to serve and protect our most valuable asset...our citizens and its visitors. I want to thank the Mayor for having faith in me to lead the department, and the firefighters for what I believe was a successful 3 ½ years. I'd like to wish the new chief the best of luck and I'm looking forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Marion."

Development Services Director Jonathan Perez served as Chief of Staff during Chief David's tenure. "Paul David epitomizes the virtues you want in a leader. Chief David signed up to do a job during a trying time in the department's history and rose to the occasion to lay the groundwork for years to come, despite continual challenges that were outside his purview."

Mayor Seybold reflected on Chief David's service and the history of the MFD. "When I came into office, I was told by the State Fire Marshall's Office that Marion had a horrible arson problem and conviction rate. Once Paul was put into that position, that problem changed immediately. Under Paul's leadership, we are now known as a place you better not commit arson or you will be caught. Paul brought that same leadership into the Chief's office. On his watch, the Fire Department is stronger than it has ever been and is recognized as one of the best run in the State of Indiana."