

Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

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I.S.O. Class One

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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History

June 6, 1905, the newly founded city of Las Vegas had its first fire when four buildings burned. Because of the fire, a small volunteer fire company was formed in 1906 and by August of 1907, a city ordinance established the Las Vegas Volunteer Fire Department. It took months for the county to provide the funding needed to purchase a hose cart and six lengths of fire hose. Prior to that, volunteer firefighters were using an old buckboard loaded with a few feet of dried and cracked hose. The first fire station was built where the Horseshoe Hotel now stands, it was constructed of old drywood boxes and was just large enough to house two wagons. The department also had two 300-foot hose reels that were strategically located behind the W.E. Hawkins Store on Fremont Street and the other behind the “Ham & Eggs” restaurant on Ogden Avenue. At the time water mains, which were made of redwood, could only carry 18 pounds of pressure, which was sufficient for a small fire.

In 1911, the Las Vegas City Commission held its first meeting and one of its first official actions was to create two fire companies. A fire chief along with 18 paid volunteer firefighters were hired, being paid one dollar a month for attending drill sessions and two dollars for each fire they responded to. But, it didn't last long. The City Commission thought that was too much money for fire protection and stopped paying the firefighters. April 12, 1912, the entire department resigned and for nearly two years there was no fire protection in Las Vegas.

In 1914, another volunteer company was organized under the direction of Harold Case. As the years went by, Las Vegas kept growing and two major projects impacted the city; the building of Hoover Dam and the construction of Nellis Air Force Base. A major industrial plant was built in Henderson and the Strip was starting to take shape. It was becoming apparent that the volunteer fire department, which was providing fire protection to the entire area, could no longer serve such a wide area properly.

In 1942, the volunteers petitioned City Hall to create a full-time professional fire department. Despite an acute shortage of city funds, Mayor Cragin and the City Commission approved the formation of the Las Vegas Fire Department **Aug. 1, 1942**. The city hired its first full-time fire chief, Harold Case, after receiving permission from the State Board of Finance to secure

a \$20,600 loan. Three months later, Nov. 1, 1942, 12 full-time firefighters were hired.

The department worked three eight-hour shifts assisted by an excellent group of 25 volunteer firefighters. At the time of its organization, the department was using a 1929 American LaFrance fire pumper and a 1935 Seagraves Suburban pumper. The department was also using some equipment on loan from the Civil Defense, which consisted of two trailers with portable pumps mounted and a pickup truck with a pump mounted on the front bumper. In 1943, a new Seagraves pumper was put into service by the city.

In 1999, city ordinance changed the name of the department from Las Vegas Fire Department to Las Vegas Fire & Rescue. Today Las Vegas Fire & Rescue (LVFR) provides an all-hazards approach in the protection of the lives and property of the residents, businesses, and visitors of our community of nearly 644,000 residents and several million visitors each year. LVFR is an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class One department. Las Vegas Fire Department also operates the region's only Combined Communications Center, which provides 9-1-1 Fire and EMS call taking and dispatch to the Clark County Fire Department, North Las Vegas Fire Department, Mt. Charleston Fire Protection District, Moapa Valley Fire Protection District, as well as Las Vegas Fire & Rescue. This center process over 500,000 emergency calls and 100,000 non-emergency calls each year.

LVFR also supports development and community risk reduction by providing a full-service Fire Prevention division. All of the personnel assigned to this unit are certified by the International Code Council (ICC), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the State of Nevada. The unit offers plan review of new properties and fire protection systems, inspection of new and existing buildings, and fire and life safety education services to the residents of the city of Las Vegas.

Today, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue consists of:

- 745 employees.
- 59 Communication Specialists
- 6 Communication Supervisors
- 21 Fire Stations
- 21 Paramedic Engine companies
- 6 Ladder Truck companies
- 24 Paramedic Rescue (ambulance) units
- 3 Battalion Chief Units
- 1 Technical Rescue unit
- 1 Hazardous Material unit
- 1 CBRNE unit (Chemical – Biological – Radiological – Nuclear – Explosives)
- 1 Mobile Command unit
- 1 3,000 gallon Water Tender
- 1 Mobile Shop unit
- 1 EMS Field Coordinator unit
- 2 EMS Educators
- 2 Community Paramedic units
- 1 Fire Safety House
- 13 Arson / Bomb Squad unit

“Engine” companies consist of a crew of four, one captain, one driver/engineer, and two firefighters (one is a certified paramedic.) Engine companies carry hoses, ladders and various tools and equipment to extinguish a fire. The units carry 300 gallons of water for quick attacks on arrival at fires; most water is used from the nearly 20,000 fire hydrants in the city. Engines also carry paramedic medical equipment and supplies to handle advance life support medical emergencies.



Ladder “Truck” companies carry more than 200 feet of ground ladders and have one 100-foot aerial device along with extra heavy tools and equipment used at fires for rescue, removing smoke and gases from buildings during a fire and controlling the utilities to a building. Crews consist of one captain, one driver/engineer, two firefighters (two ladder trucks also have a driver on the rear part of the truck.)



Paramedic “Rescue” units consist of a crew of two; both are firefighters and medical personnel. They provide advance life support at emergency incidents and provide transportation to emergency facilities for the sick and injured.



Technical Rescue Team (TRT) unit is “Heavy Rescue” which consists of a crew of four, one captain, one drive/engineer and two firefighters. This is a specialty unit that handles technical rescues including confined space rescue (cave-ins), high angle rescue (off tall buildings or mountain rescue) and vehicle extrication.



Hazardous Materials “Haz-Mat” is a specialty unit which is equipped with tools, equipment and supplies to handle hazardous materials incidents. It is based at fire station 3. All of the personnel assigned to fire station 3 are members of the department’s hazardous material team. LVFR operates the only public safety hazardous materials response team in southern Nevada and has a response area of the entire southern part of Nevada.



CBRNE is a specialty unit that responds to Chemical – Biological – Radiological – Nuclear – Explosive incidents and assists at all working fires and bomb squad responses. The unit consists of a crew of four.



LVFR operates the only FBI certified Bomb Squad in southern Nevada and has a response area of southern Nevada, northeast California and northwest Arizona. All members of the unit are assigned to Fire Station 102 and are certified firefighters, police officers in the state of Nevada, fire investigators, FBI certified bomb techs and are deputized federal agents. The team operates a number of state of the art devices and units and is also responsible for all fire investigations conducted by the department.



Fire Stations

(E-Engine T-Truck R-Rescue B-Battalion Chief HR-Heavy Rescue AR-Air/Light Unit
 HZ-HazMat Unit CB-CBRNE Unit MCU-Mobile Command Unit WT-Water Tender
 ILS-Intermediate Life Support)

- FS1 500 N. Casino Center Blvd., 89101 E1, E201, T1, R1, R201, R301, B1
- FS2 900 S. Durango Drive, 89145 E2, R2, B10
- FS3 2645 W. Washington Ave., 89106 E3, T3, R3, HAZMAT3 CBRNE3
- FS4 421 S. 15th St., 89101 E4, R4, R204 ILS4
- FS5 1020 Hinson St., 89101 E5, R5, EMS1
- FS6 1680 S. Torrey Pines Road, 89108 E6, T6, R6
- FS7 10101 Banbury Cross Drive, 89144 T7, R7
- FS8 805 N. Mojave Road, 89101 E8, T8, R8,
- FS9 4747 N. Rainbow Blvd., 89108 E9, R9, WT9
- FS10 1501 S. Martin L. King Blvd., 89102 E10, R10
- FS41 6989 N. Buffalo Drive, 89131 E41, R41
- FS42 7331 W. Cheyenne Ave., 89129 E41, R42, B4
- FS43 6420 Smoke Ranch Road, 89108 E43, T43, R43
- FS44 7701 W. Washington Ave., 89128 E44, R44, HR44
- FS45 3821 N. Fort Apache Road, 89129 E45, R45, AR1
- FS47 91 Pine Ridge St., 89138 E47, R47
- FS48 9133 W. Elkhorn Road, 89149 E48, T48, R48
- FS103 190 Upland Blvd., 89107 - E103, R103, CBRNE 3
- FS106 1888 Stella Lake St., 89106 E106, R106
- FS107 9398 Sundial Drive 89134 E107, R107
- FS108 4551 E. Bonanza Road, 89110 E108, R108

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