

**Tucson Fire Department
1880—2009 Time Line**



1880 Southern Pacific Railroad joins Tucson to the rest of the nation

Chief Jack Boylen – 1881-1886 1890-1898

1881 Population: 10,000
Service Area:
Fire Calls:
Tucson Hook and Ladder Co. established
Gas street lights
First bell purchased \$462.00, 1,447 lbs.
Placed in bell tower in church plaza

1882 Bell was moved to the adobe fire station on Church Street
First fire alarm boxes

1883 Tucson officially creates a fire department and establishes fire regulations

Chief Joe Encinas – 1886-1890

1890 Population:
Service Area:
Fire Calls:

1893 Henry Ford builds his first car

1894 Sino-Japanese war begins

1896 Tucson purchased new chemical engine for \$1,700
First modern Olympics in Athens, Greece

1898 Spanish-American war begins

Chief Frank Russell – 1898-1903

1899 First salaried fire fighter, \$10.00 per month

1900 Population:
Service Area:
Fire Calls:
City purchased four horses for horse drawn equipment
2 horses pulled a chemical engine
2 horses pulled the hook and ladder
Paid fire fighters work 21-hour days 365 days a year

Chief G.K. Smith – 1903-1904

1903 Wright brothers fly 1st motorized bicycle airplane

Chief Henry Mellowish – 1904-1905

Chief George Scholfield – 1905-1909

- 1906 Paid fire fighters began keeping a record book on all fires
- 1908 Bond issue passed to move old fire bell to new brick central fire station

Chief Sam Barkley – 1909-1911

- 1909 City builds brick central fire station on south Sixth Ave.
- 1910 **Population:**
Service Area:
Fire Calls:
7 paid fire fighters start getting time off – 12 hours every seventh day
Nott steamer purchased

Chief Frank Ganz – 1911-1915

- 1912 Arizona becomes a state
- 1913 Fire department becomes mechanized with the purchase of four cylinder hand cranked velie combination chemical engines and hose truck
Federal income tax law passes
- 1914 World War One begins

Chief Harry Parker – 1915-1921

- 1915 Fire department purchases 2 seagraves 900 gal. 6 cylinder, self starting, triple combination rotary pumpers and a 75 foot areal ladder ending the era of horse drawn equipment
- 1920 **Population:** 21,000
Service Area: 5 sq. miles
Fire Calls: 98
Separation to day and night shifts
- 1921 Prohibition in America

Chief A. Roberts – 1921-1937

- 1928 Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin
- 1929 Stock market crashes beginning the Great Depression
- 1930 **Population:**
Service Area:
Fire Calls:

1934 Congress hotel fire, firemen recognized faces of guests. Two days later John Dillinger and gang was arrested

1936 First fire union in the state

Chief Henry L. Hilles – 1937-1946

1940 Population: 36,818
Service Area: 8,350 sq. miles
Fire Calls: 234

1941 Japanese attack Pearl Harbor

1942 First rescue unit, all fire fighters a qualified first aid personnel

1944 D-Day invasion of Normandy

1945 Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Chief J.C. Sievert – 1946-1953

1946 Fire prevention bureau was established
First fire fighter training program

1949 All fire vehicles equipped with three-way radios

1950 Population:
Service Area:
Fire personnel:
Fire Calls:
Fire Stations:

1951 First rescue unit placed in service
All fire fighters first aid qualified

Chief John H. Freeman – 1953-1966

1954 Segregation made illegal in schools

1960 Population: 210,000
Service Area: 70.87 sq. miles
Fire personnel: 251
Fire Calls: 2,674
Fire Stations: 10

1961 Vietnam war begins

1963 President Kennedy assassinated

Chief L.F. Peterson – 1966-1976

1969 Fire Training Center at Ajo Way and Park Ave. goes into full operation
Birth of the internet
Neil Armstrong walks on the moon

1970 **Population:**
Service Area:
Fire Personnel:
Fire Calls:
Fire Stations:
Pioneer hotel fire
28 people died
35 fire fighters injured

1972 New fire headquarters opens
265 South Church
Old fire central used for 63 years

1974 First paramedics put into service

Chief E. Dean Holland – 1976-1982

1980 Population: 336,089
Service Area: 99.9 sq. miles
Uniform personnel: 358
Fire Calls: 3,327
Medical Calls: 6,308
Fire Stations: 14

Chief Richard Moreno – 1982-1992

1982 Officer haz-mat training began

1984 First female fire fighter hired

1986 Space shuttle Challenger explosion

1988 Technical rescue team and heavy rescue vehicle put into service

1989 Fall of the Berlin wall

1990 Population: 336,089
Service Area: 99.9 sq. miles
Uniform personnel: 358
Fire Calls: 3,327

Medical Calls: 6,308
Fire Stations: 14

Chief Fred Shipman – 1993-2001

- 1994 Nelson Mandela is elected the 1st black president of South Africa
- 1995 Fire accelerant detection dog
- 1997 Regional public safety academy is opened on south Wilmont Rd.
- 2000 The department structure is reorganized to better reflect the increase in medical calls
Human genome is mapped
- 2001 U.S. attacked on September 11th

Chief Dan Newburn – 2001-2008

- 2002 Automated staffing
- 2004 Eastside haz-mat team put into service
Rapid response team concept put in place
- 2007 Chief Dan Newburn receives funding for fire central

Chief Patrick Kelley - 2009

- 2009 New fire station one and fire administration building completed
Original 1881 bell placed in new bell tower
Barack Obama is elected the 1st black president of the United States

Greater Tucson Fire Foundation

Thanks you for taking an interest in Tucson Fire Department history —

This is one of many sections that contain information, documents, letters, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. They have been collected and arranged in chronological order or by a subject. These items were collected, organized and entered into a computerized database by Dave Ridings Assistant Chief Tucson Fire Department, Al Ring friend of the department, Greater Tucson Fire Foundation and with the help of many friends and fellow firefighters.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles. This also applies to other items such as documents, letters, etc.

Credit to the source of the documents, photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. The *Arizona Daily Star*, The *Tucson Citizen* and the *Tucson Daily Citizen*, for which we want to give a special thanks.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they should get permission from the source.

Should the reader have additional information on the above subject we would appreciate you sharing it with us. Please see the names and contact information on the 1st. TFD Archives page right below this paragraph.

