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NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque Fire Chief Announces Retirement

Dubuque, Iowa — Dubuque Fire Chief E. Daniel Brown has announced he will retire in late August 2014. Brown has served as fire chief since 1996.

Brown joined the Dubuque Fire Department as a firefighter in January 1982. He was promoted to fire equipment operator in May 1986, lieutenant in January 1987, captain in July 1993, and named chief in June 1996. He is a 1974 graduate of Dubuque Senior High School, a certified paramedic, and a hazardous materials technician motorcarrier specialist.

As fire chief for the last 18 years, Brown has been involved in a number of major projects and changes in the Dubuque Fire Department, including: the transition to a county-wide public safety radio system, implementation of the paramedic certification hiring requirement, development of an outdoor warning system, the funding and construction of the Dubuque County Emergency Responder Regional Training Center, updating/modernizing the fire department fleet, a major addition to the fire department headquarters, the addition of thermal imaging technology, and updating and creating emergency plans.

Brown said that, in addition to fire suppression and emergency medical services (EMS) response, enhanced training and equipment improvements have been a major focus including: confined-space rescue, high-angle rescue, ice rescue, trench/collapse rescue, hazardous materials response, weapons of mass destruction (statewide response), and the tactical medical program. He also noted the department's installation of smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in residences.

The department's approach to EMS has evolved over the years and in 2013, ALS (advance life support) engine response capability was added to each of the six fire districts within the city. This change and others have resulted in improved care and results for patients. For example, Brown cites the survival rate for cardiac arrest ambulance calls.

Over the last three years, the Dubuque survival rate has ranged from 12.7% to 16.7%, more than double the national average of 6.3%.

Recruitment for Brown's replacement will begin in early February. The position of fire chief for the City of Dubuque is a civil service position. As such, all applicants must apply to take a civil service examination. The civil service commission will set the actual dates at their next meeting, but the deadline to apply to take the examination for fire chief is anticipated to be in mid-February and the examination is expected to be administered during the first week of March. Screening and interviews will be conducted in April and May with the goal of making a final selection in June. For additional information on the search and application process, please contact the City of Dubuque Personnel Office at 563-589-4125.

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