

# **KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT**



# **2020**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As the role of the fire service has changed and increased in complexity over the years, our dedication to the community has become stronger. As Kentwood continues to grow and change, the Fire Department continues to adapt and explore ways to do things better, more efficiently and effectively, while maintaining our commitment to serve with excellence.

2020 was a challenging and unusual year. The ability of the members of the Kentwood Fire Department to face the challenge of COVID-19, adapt and overcome is indicative of their commitment and dedication.

Emergency medical responses continue to account for the majority of our incidents. In addition to fires, we also handle technical rescue, hazardous material, and other emergency responses. Our personnel train daily to prepare for these responses and reduce the risk to themselves and the community. Their professionalism, passion and skill are evident on every call and make a difference in people's lives.

On behalf of the men and women of the Kentwood Fire Department, I am proud to present the 2020 annual report that provides budget, personnel, performance and equipment highlights.

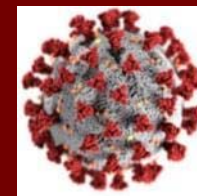
Thank you to Mayor Stephen Kepley, City Commissioners, and citizens of Kentwood for your continuing support of the Kentwood Fire Department.

Brent Looman, Fire Chief

# 2020 FAST FACTS

- 46 uniformed employees and 2 civilians
- 24x7x365 operations from 3 fire stations
- 4,435 total incidents
  - 145 fire
  - 3,050 medical
  - 329 false
  - 911 other (service, hazmat, severe weather, overpressure)
- 5:12 average emergency response time
- 456 business inspections
- 233 plan reviews
- 22 formal fire investigations
- 380 smoke alarms installed in residences
- 35 home carbon monoxide alarms installed

# COVID CHALLENGES



2020 was unique due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the exception of emergency response, nearly all activities were halted or severely curtailed.

- Procedures and operations were modified to protect staff, their families and the community from exposure.
- Personnel were separated as much as practical and civilian employees worked remotely.
- All paid on call fire fighters were laid off and not permitted to respond.
- The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) was expanded to reduce potential of contracting or spreading the disease.
- Trainings and meetings were held electronically wherever possible or in small groups.
- Routine in-person business inspections were postponed and self-inspections were implemented.

# PPE FOR MEDICAL RESPONSE

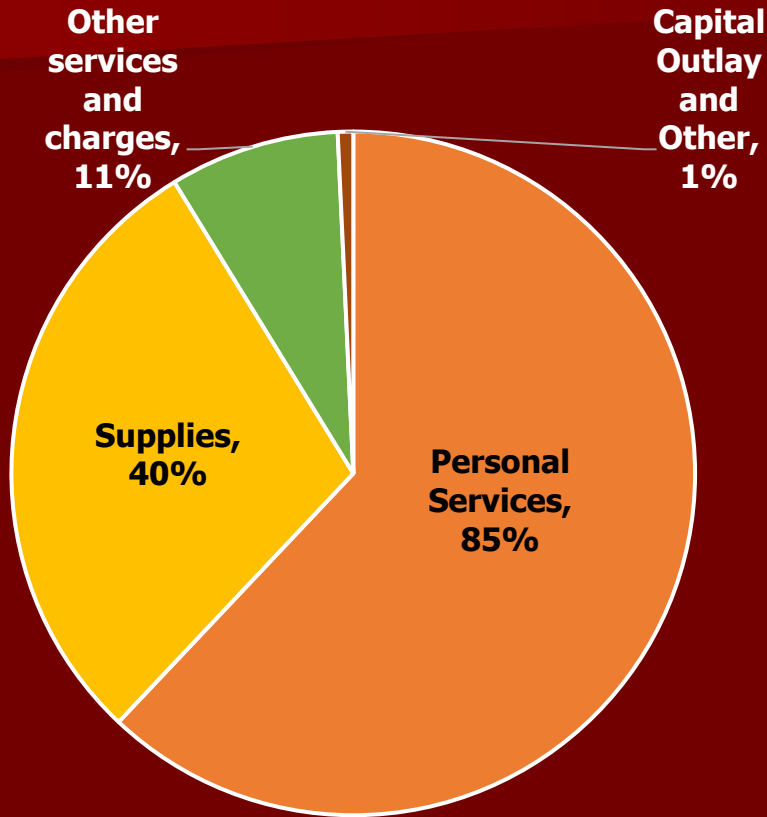
**PRE-COVID**



**DURING COVID**



# BUDGET



The Fire Department annual operating budget is \$6.7 million. It covers daily expenses for all items including employee wages and benefits, supplies, equipment and vehicles necessary to maintain three fire stations. Because the city is a service organization relying on staff, the highest cost is for personnel.

# FULL-TIME PERSONNEL

The FY20 budget included three additional full-time fire fighters to return suppression staffing to 2008 levels. This allowed assignment of three people to Engine 51 at fire station 1 (to match the number on the engines at stations 2 and 3) and the modification of emergency response procedures to improve service capacity.

The number of incidents requiring the medical unit to respond with Engine 51 to provide manpower was reduced by 63%.



# NEW HIRES

The following Fire Fighter/Emergency Medical Technicians were hired to fill the additional positions and vacancies caused by promotions and resignations.



Juan Martinez  
January 1, 2020



Bob Kamphuis  
January 2, 2020



Jared Haisma  
January 3, 2020  
Resigned July 28, 2020





Jordan Cluster  
January 5, 2020



Kasey Furgala  
January 6, 2020  
Resigned December 30, 2020



Trevor Wawiernia  
February 15, 2020



Ben Kurakazusampson  
August 15, 2020



Jacob Komm  
November 28, 2020

# PROMOTIONS

## DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



Deputy Chief Michael Hipp has been a member of the Kentwood Fire Department since 1991. He served as a Fire Fighter, Lieutenant, Captain and Battalion Chief prior to the promotion to Deputy Chief in February.

A Grand Rapids native and Air Force veteran, Hipp has been the director and education coordinator for emergency medical services within the department for over 20 years. His experience and expertise in this area has been extremely valuable this year as he has guided us through the COVID challenges.

Mike Hipp  
February 3, 2020

## CAPTAINS

The new rank of Fire Captain was implemented on January 1<sup>st</sup> to oversee fire station operations and maintenance. Three Lieutenant/Inspectors were promoted to the initial positions.



Steven Sandholm  
January 1, 2020



Clarence Patterson  
January 2, 2020



Brandon DeHaan  
January 3, 2020



Promotions in the fire department must be made from within. Mike Hipp's promotion to Deputy Chief created opportunities for movement within the ranks as each opening was filled.

## **BATTALION CHIEF**



Clarence Patterson  
June 6, 2020

## **CAPTAIN**



Michael Muller  
June 6, 2020

## **LIEUTENANT/ INSPECTOR**



Ryan Johnson  
October 3, 2020

## ENGINE OPERATORS



Marc Oliver  
January 18, 2020

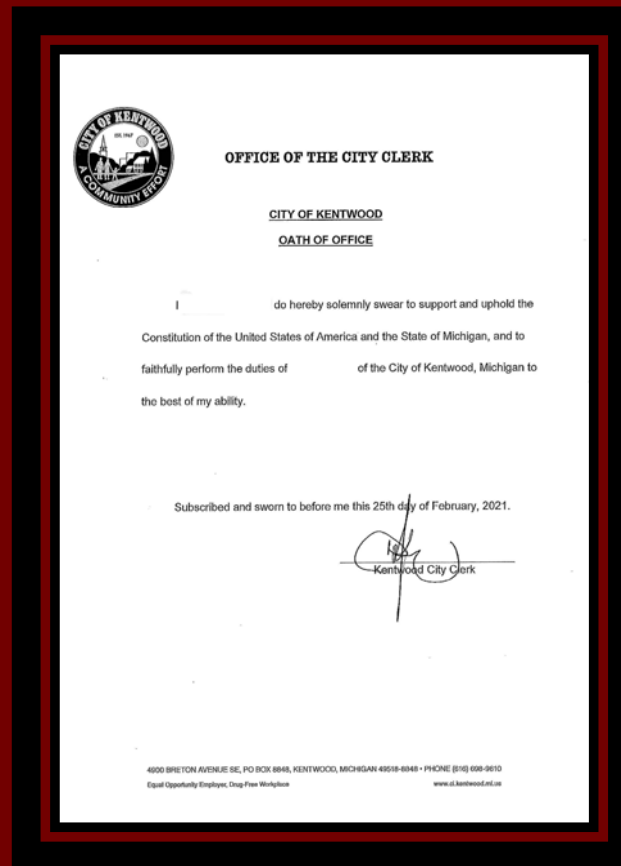


Gary Post  
January 19, 2020

Retirements and promotions in 2019 allowed for promotions to Engine Operator.



Due to COVID-19 restrictions swearing in new fire fighters and officers took place among department staff in October. City Clerk Dan Kasunic administered the oaths of office at fire station 1 over several days.



## EMPLOYMENT MILESTONES

- 30 Years  
Bill Meade
- 20 Years  
Darryl DeVries  
Jeff Hughes  
Steve Hoving  
Matt Hollinrake  
Todd Bacon
- 15 Years  
Marc Oliver  
Aaron Densborn  
Rebecca Wood  
Phil Autsema
- 5 Years  
Adam Tanis

# PAID ON CALL DIVISION

The Kentwood Fire Department has been a combination department, using paid on call (POC) fire fighters to supplement the full-time career members for emergency response. It has become increasingly difficult to recruit and retain paid on call fire fighters, and we began 2020 with only 11 POC. During the year one was hired as a full-time Kentwood Fire Fighter and two others resigned.

As a result of COVID-19 all POC fire fighters were laid off in March. In addition to funding cuts, it was impractical to screen and isolate paid on call personnel to limit exposure to and potential spread of the virus.

The future of the paid on call division is uncertain.

## POC RESIGNATIONS



**Mike DeMann**

October 23, 2012 –  
April 21, 2020



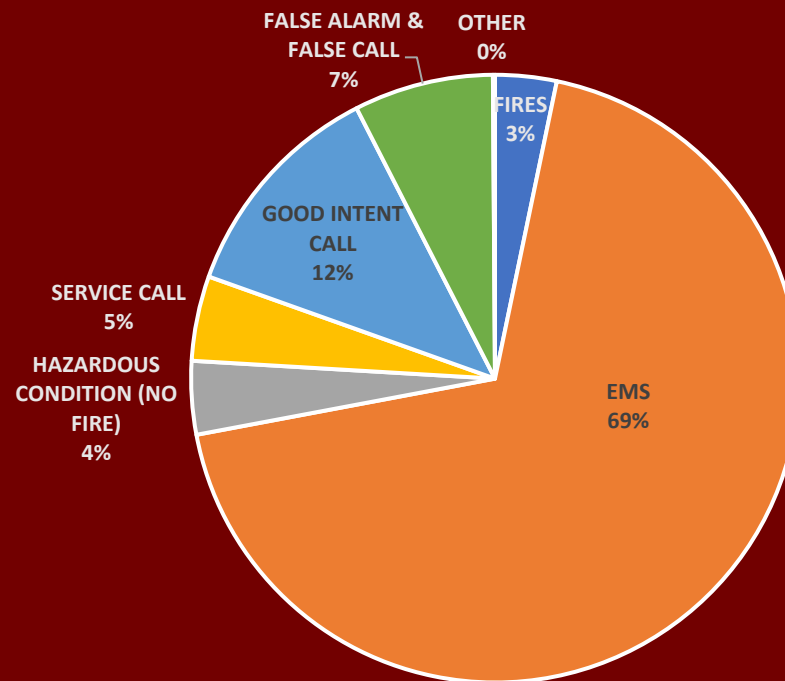
**Mike Trenshaw**

October 23, 2012 –  
September 14, 2020

# PERFORMANCE

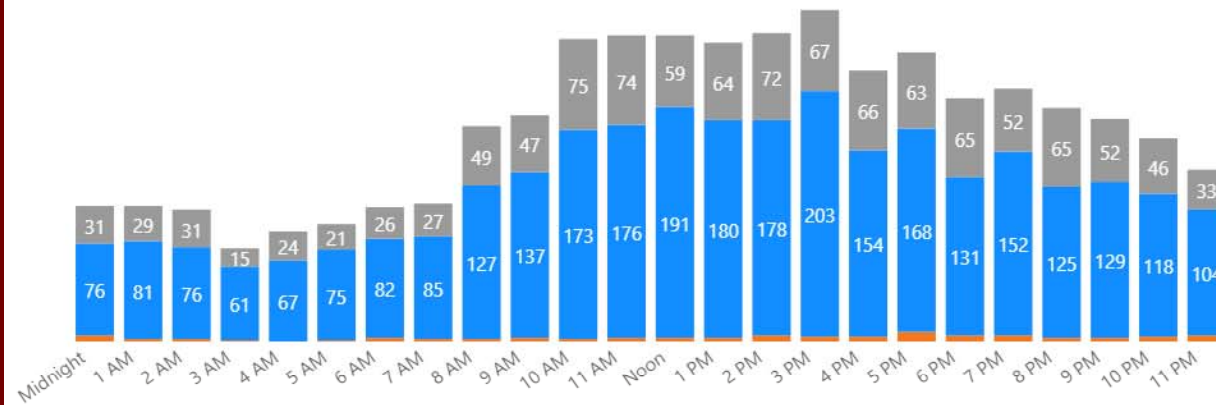
When not involved in emergency response, personnel focused on continuing education and preparedness, and prevention activities.

## INCIDENT RESPONSE



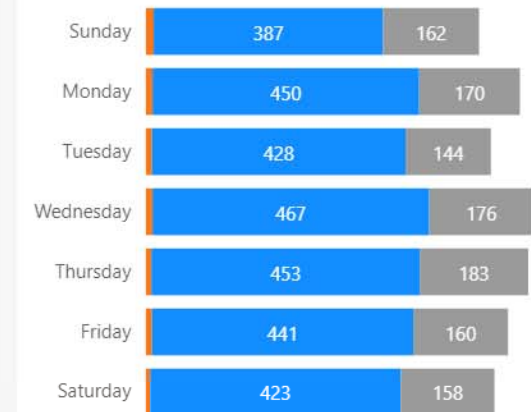
# of Incidents by Hour of the Day

Incident Category ● Fire ● EMS ● Other

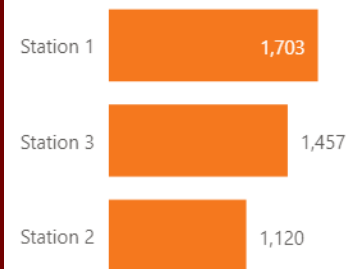


# of Incidents by Weekday and Incident Category

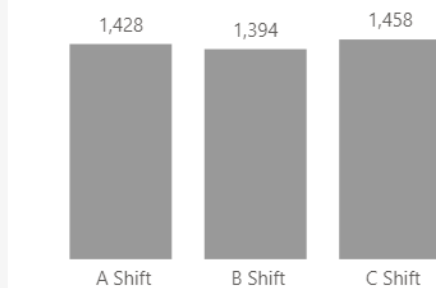
Incident Category ● Fire ● EMS ● Other



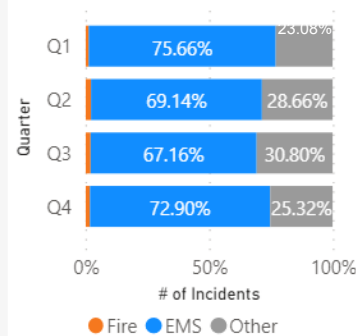
Top Stations by # of Incidents



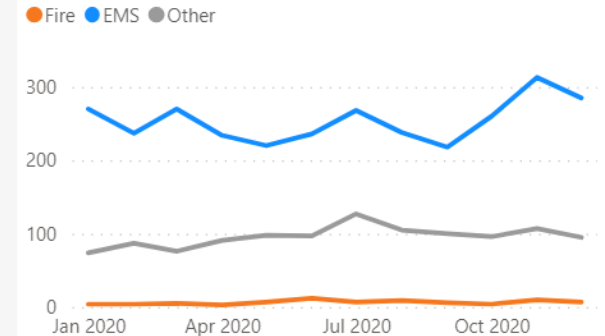
# of Incidents by Shift



# of Incidents by Category



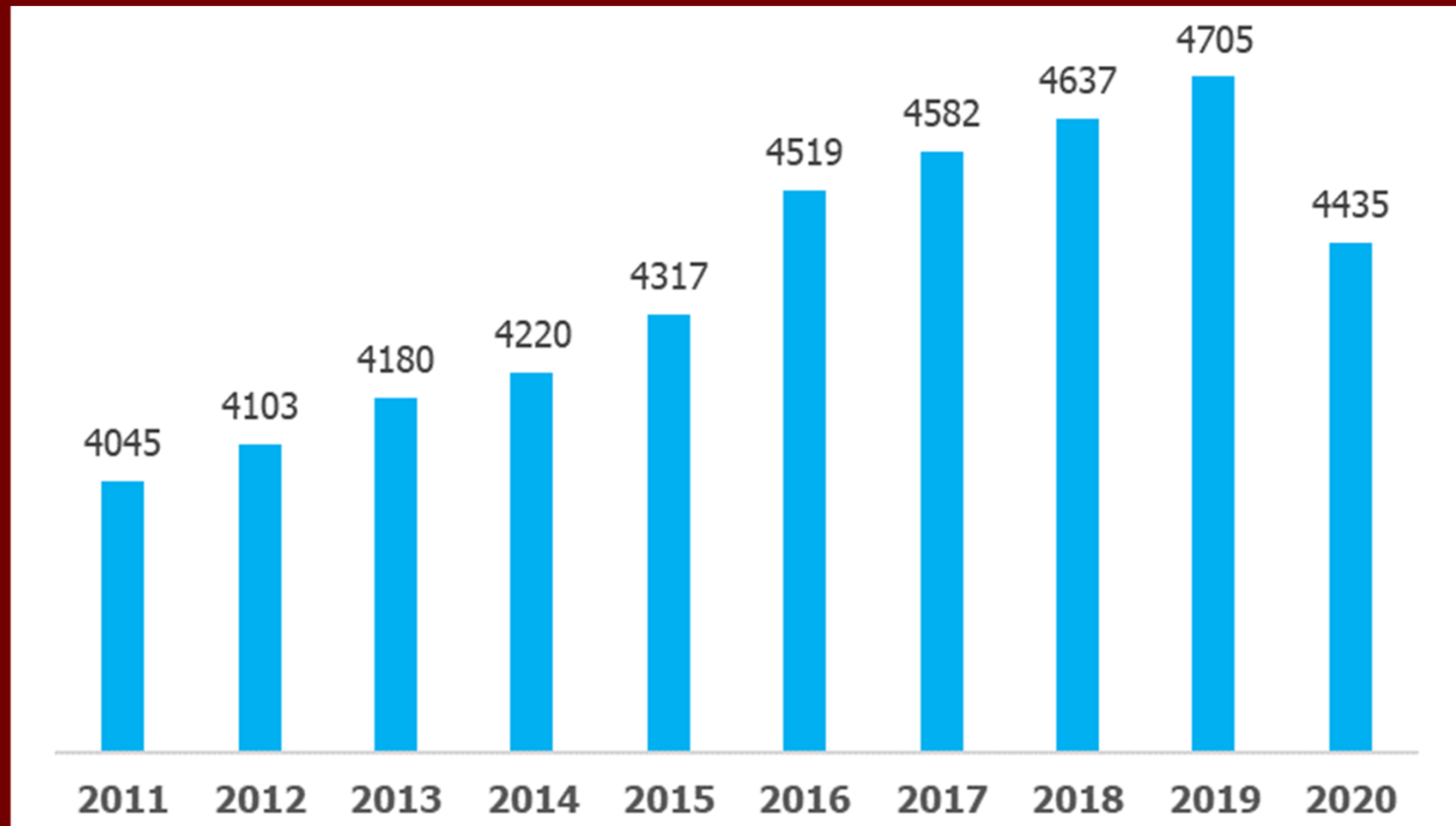
# of Incidents over Time





## 10-YEAR COMPARISON

Call volume had increased slightly every year for the past ten years—until 2020.



## NOTABLE INCIDENTS



At 9:16 P.M. neighbors reported flames coming from the house and a person screaming inside

- One fatality
- \$105,000 damage
- Cause: Undetermined
- Aid: Cutlerville and Wyoming



**347 Maplawn**

April 22, 2020





Fire units were dispatched at 7:54 P.M. to an apartment fire in a second floor bedroom. Fire had extended to the roof.

- No injuries; families displaced
- \$580,000 damage
- Cause: child playing with a lighter



**4763 S. Breton Ct.**

August 3, 2020

The City of Kentwood participates in the Michigan Fire Insurance Withholding Program. This allows the City to hold a portion of the insurance settlement in escrow to assure that the property is repaired, replaced, or demolished. If needed, the city may use withheld funds to render the property safe. Although the fire was contained to the garage, the smoke damage was so severe that the insurance company determined the home a total loss. The City requested and received \$13,058 (the maximum for 2020) in withheld insurance proceeds. The home has been demolished and rebuilding has begun. Withheld funds have been released to the insured to complete construction.



Garage



Interior

**5453 W. Heathwood**

June 16, 2020



## SUCCESSFUL RESCUES



An alert City of Kentwood Building Inspector heard a call for help and stopped work at a construction site. Fire fighters dug a contractor out of a collapsed trench. Because of quick action to find, rescue and transport him to the hospital, he recovered from traumatic injuries.

**2873 Plover**

November 4, 2020

**2394 Mapleview**

May 31, 2020

Bystanders were doing chest compressions on a person in cardiac arrest on the walking trail when fire fighters arrived. Teamwork from the public, fire fighters, ambulance and hospital personnel, with proper training and equipment, saved his life. "This is the whole reason we do this job," explained Capt. Steve Sandholm.

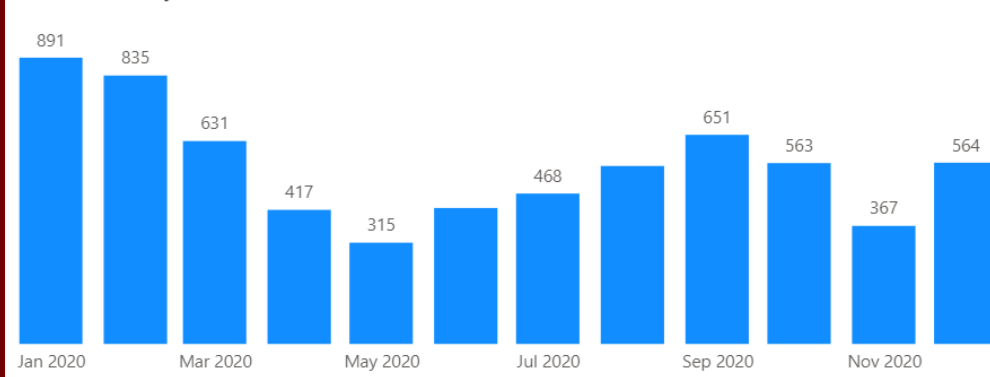


# CONTINUING EDUCATION/TRAINING

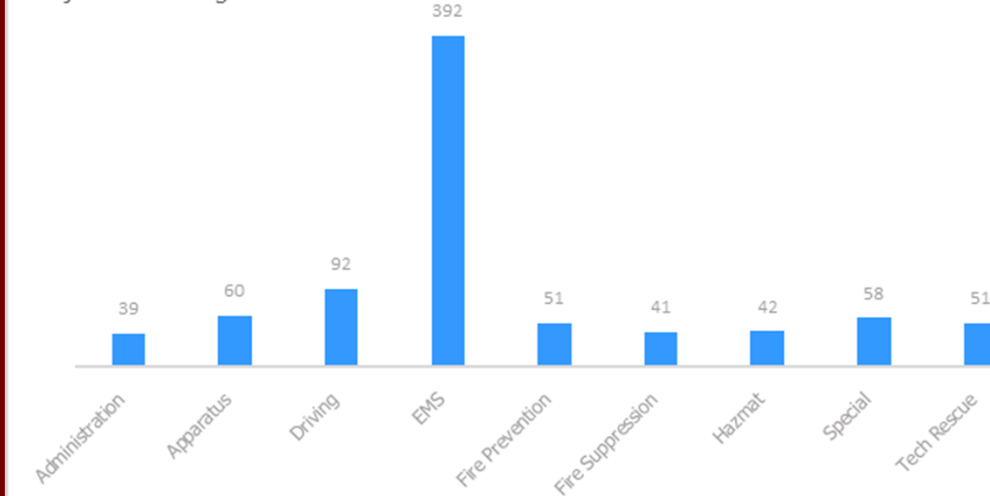
*"Every day is a training day and every event is a training event."*

-James Pritchert

Student Hours by Month



Major Class Categories



- 1,630 classes
- 1,669 class hours
- 6,677 student hours



## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS



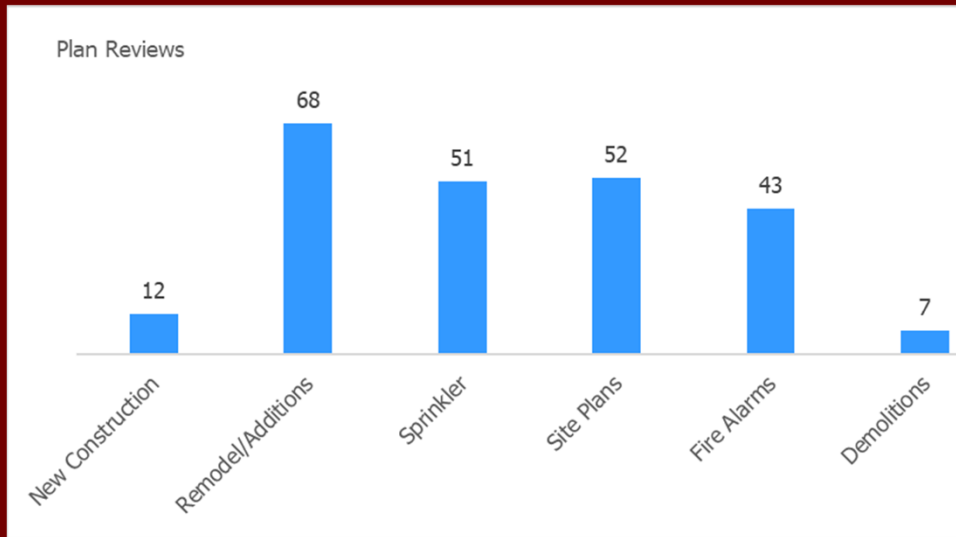
Both Fire Marshal Bryan Lynch and Fire Inspector Pat Quick were certified as Fire Inspector II by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Certification recognizes competence and ensures proficiency in the use of codes and standards. Only a limited number of inspectors successfully complete the required training and testing.

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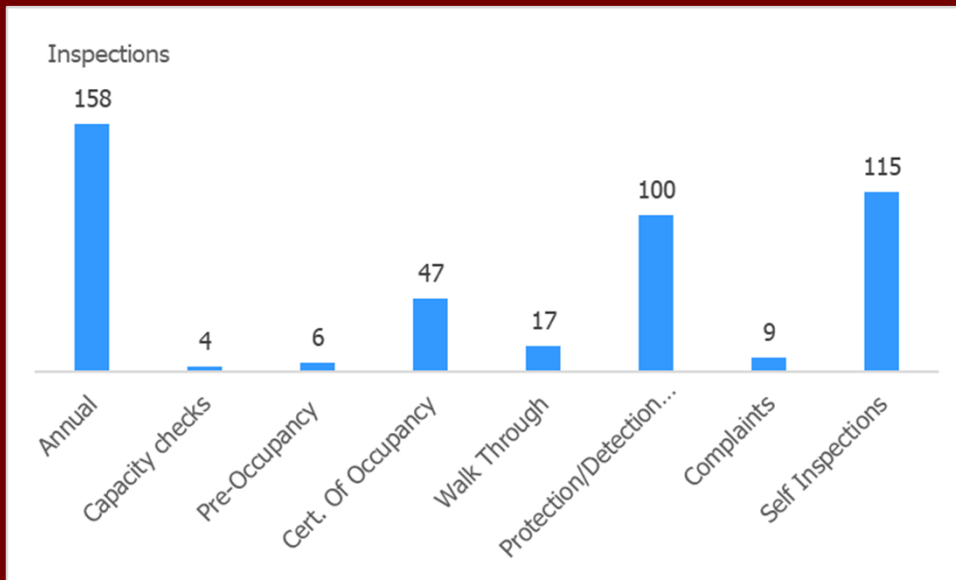
Inspector Quick also earned his credentials as an NFPA certified Plan Examiner, demonstrating knowledge, skills and experience in plan administration and plan review.



# PREVENTION ACTIVITIES



Construction plans continued to be submitted, particularly for remodels or additions to existing businesses.



In-person annual fire safety inspections were stopped to limit contact and prevent inconvenience to operating businesses already struggling during the pandemic. Instead selected businesses were asked to complete self inspections.

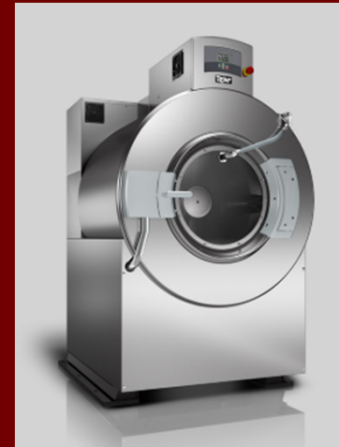
# MAJOR PURCHASES

## MEDIC 51



A new, larger medical unit to accommodate life-saving equipment was put in service at fire station 1 in the summer. Life-saving equipment is stored securely and is more rapidly accessible in properly designed storage compartments.

## EXTRACTORS



As part of the cancer prevention initiative, washers/extractors that were over 20 years old were replaced with larger capacity machines at each fire station. Now required cleaning of multiple sets of fire fighter protective clothing can be done at one time.



# THANK YOU