Fully Involved

SOUTH AREA FIRE DISTRICT
EST. 2014

Annual Report-2020



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From the Desk of Chief Savage

It is with great honor that I submit to you the South Area Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) District's 2020 Annual Report.

2020 was a very memorable year for everyone and SAFER was no exception to that. Covid-19 changed the way our crews responded and continue to respond. Several firefighters were on precautionary isolation but thankfully only a handful of firefighters tested positive. They were all able to return to work once able. We continue to remain steadfast in protection of our firefighters with PPE and decontamination of equipment.

SAFER continued to finetune operations while making strong fiscal decisions for the future of the organization. Our organization was tested in several different ways and became a better fire district once everything was settled.

This report will show to you that our call volume has increased again over the year prior. Each call has someone associated with it that called us in their time of need. Our crews provide the best care there is and our response times continue to be impressive. We have had several firefighters leave for full time jobs in the fire service. While it can be discouraging to lose trained firefighters, SAFER's level of training is a testament to these individuals getting hired in a full-time capacity.

SAFER has continued to do what we do best: to deliver the highest quality of emergency services with state-of-the-art equipment and the top-notch training to use it. Most of all, our firefighters make a difference whenever they go out on calls. I am surrounded by highly skilled and compassionate firefighters at SAFER. I am truly privileged to work as the Fire Chief for SAFER. Everyone in the communities that we serve should be extremely proud.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Savage

Matthew J Savage, Fire Chief

Training Report

In the following pages you will find a breakdown of the training that was conducted by South Area Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) District employees over the last 12 months. The training committee continues to work diligently to identify the District's needs and offer a comprehensive training program that encompasses the expectation of the public we serve and meets that training requirements as set forth by the State of Wisconsin.

Training this year was impacted by the spread of the Covid-19 virus early in the year. This resulted a lower number of Fire/Rescue training hours as certain training/events (i.e., elementary school fire prevention presentations, fire conference education, etc..) were canceled due to social distancing limitations.

Training continues to be held on a daily basis as we changed from weekly drills to daily trainings in 2017. In a commitment to keep the training fresh for employees, the format is reviewed every two years and updated as needed. In 2019 we moved away from rotating weeks of training (i.e., week 1 EMS, week 2 fire, week 3 rescue, week 1 EMS, etc.) to rotating months of training (i.e., January EMS, February Fire, March EMS, etc.). At the end of 2020, the format was again reviewed and significant changes will be made for the 2021 training year.

The training board continues to assure that every member is attending minimal hours of training, track that training, and give recommendations to the Chief and Deputy Chief when minimum standards are not being met. We continue to provide you with semi-annual reports to help assure all staff are ready to meet the everyday challenges this job poses.

The remainder of this document is the breakdown of the topics and hours of training that was conducted throughout the year. I am pleased to say that in 2020, we completed a combined total of 3633.5+ combined hours of training. Of that, 1895.75+ hours were EMS training, 1638+ hours were Fire/Rescue training, and 101.75+ hours were leadership and other training topics. As you go through this report, please feel free to contact me with any questions that may arise.

Please read this report and respond with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Eric A. Lang

Eric A. Lang

Battalion Chief – South Area Fire (SAFER) District

President – MABAS Division 130

Chair - Training Committee/Training Board

Total combined training hours:

EMS: 131+ combined trainings for 1895.75 + hours

Fire/Rescue: 195+ combined trainings for 1638 + Hours

Leadership: 71+ combined trainings for 101.75+ hours

Total: combined trainings for 3633.5 + combined hours

EMS Training: Topics and Hours, 1898+ Combined hours

Topic	Combined Hours	Topic	Combined Hours
Patient Assessment	11	ALS Pharmacology	2
Pain Management	5	Patient Overdose	23
Paramedic Refresher (multiple topics)	529.5	Covid-19 Training	26
Critical Care Paramedic Refresher (multiple topics)	240	Cardiac Arrest	48.5
Behavioral Emergencies	14.5	Pediatric Trauma	15.5
Medication Review	6	Cardiac Pacing	3
EMT-Basic Refresher (multiple topics)	392	Burn Injuries	2.25
Stroke & Seizure Management	25	New Devices in EMS	5
RTAC Case Study	0.5	Pediatric Patient Assessment	9.5
Sepsis Management	15	Pediatric Pharmacology	1
Fluid Management	9.5	Pediatric Airway	21
CPR - Friends & Family	18	OB & Deliveries	10.5
BLS skills	11.75	Pediatric Cardiac Arrest	31.5
EMS Safety	19.25	Trauma Assessment/Triage	7.5
CPR - Healthcare Provider	47.5	Environmental Emergencies	16.5

Advanced Airway	18	Rescue Task Force	18
EMT - Advanced Refresher (multiple topics)	84	Cardiac Assessment	6
Case Review	13	Cardiac Pharmacology	11
First Aid	4.5	IV Pump Infusions	26
ACLS - EP	18	LVAD (Left Ventricular Assist Device)	5.5
Ventilator Procedures	103.5	CHF (Congestive Heart Failure)	4.5
Endocrine Emergencies	16.5		

Fire Training: Topics and Hours, 1638+ Combined Hours

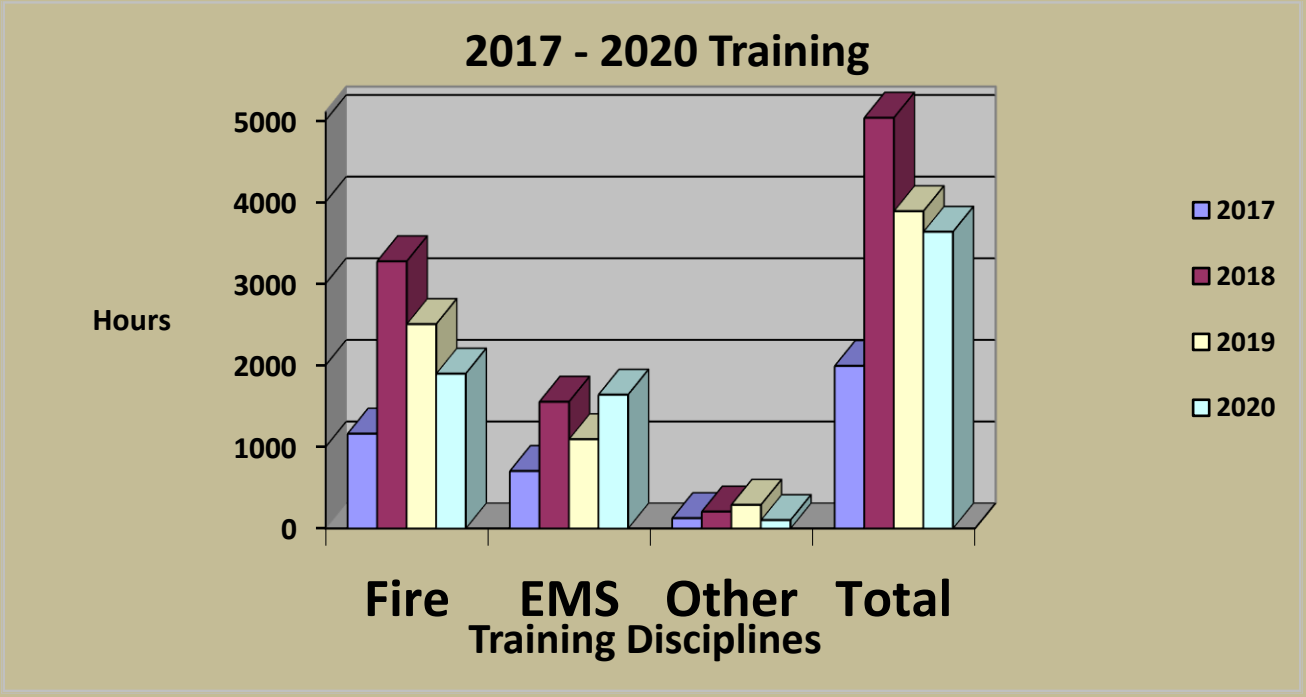
Topic	Combined Hours	Topic	Combined Hours
Hose Deployment	3	Apparatus Driving - EVOC	37.5
NFPA - Flammable Refrigerant Safety	1	Driver Operator - Pumper (Certification class)	132
NFA Fire Investigation (multiple topics)	43	Water Mapping in Residential Structures	0.75
Engine Operations	98.5	Air Entrapment by Fire Service Hose streams	0.75
Incident Command (Blue Card)	66.5	Suppression Tactics in Single Family Homes	1.25
Downed Firefighter CPR	7	Introduction to Heat Transfer & Fire Measurements	1.25
PPE & SCBA	15	Development of Effective Tactics	2
Elevator Rescue	4.5	Probationary Training	4
Search & Rescue	10	FEMA M0576 Training Course Design (Inst. 2 Certification)	111
Mayday & RIT Operations	12.5	Boat Operations/Water Rescue	63
Standpipe Operations	4	Confined Space Rescue Operations	38.5
Rope Rescue Operations	126.25	Incident Safety Officer (Certification Class)	80
Fire Academy Recruit Training (multiple topics)	50	Company Fire Inspections	23.5
Wildland Fire Operations	31.5	Grain Bin Rescue Operations	9

Aerial Operations	36	Tree Stand Rescue Operations	10.5
Vehicle Extrication	75	Driver Operator - Pumper (Entry Level Class)	60
Tender Operations	4.5	Ground Ladders	6
Fireground Safety	15	Driver Operator - Aerial (Certification Course)	36
Fire Officer 1 (Certification Class)	40	ICS 300 (Certification class)	48
Apparatus Driving - Over the Road	4	Chimney Fire Operations	10.5
Forcible Entry	20.5	Building Construction	8.75
Vehicle Fires	1.5	Emergency Services Instructor 1 (Certification Class)	40
Hazardous Materials Operations	29.5	Ice Rescue Operations	16.5
Swift Water Rescue (Awareness level Class)	78	TIMS (Traffic Incident Management)	10
Hose Testing	110.5	Apparatus Driving - EVOC	37.5

Leadership Training: Topics and Hours, 101.75+ Combined Hours

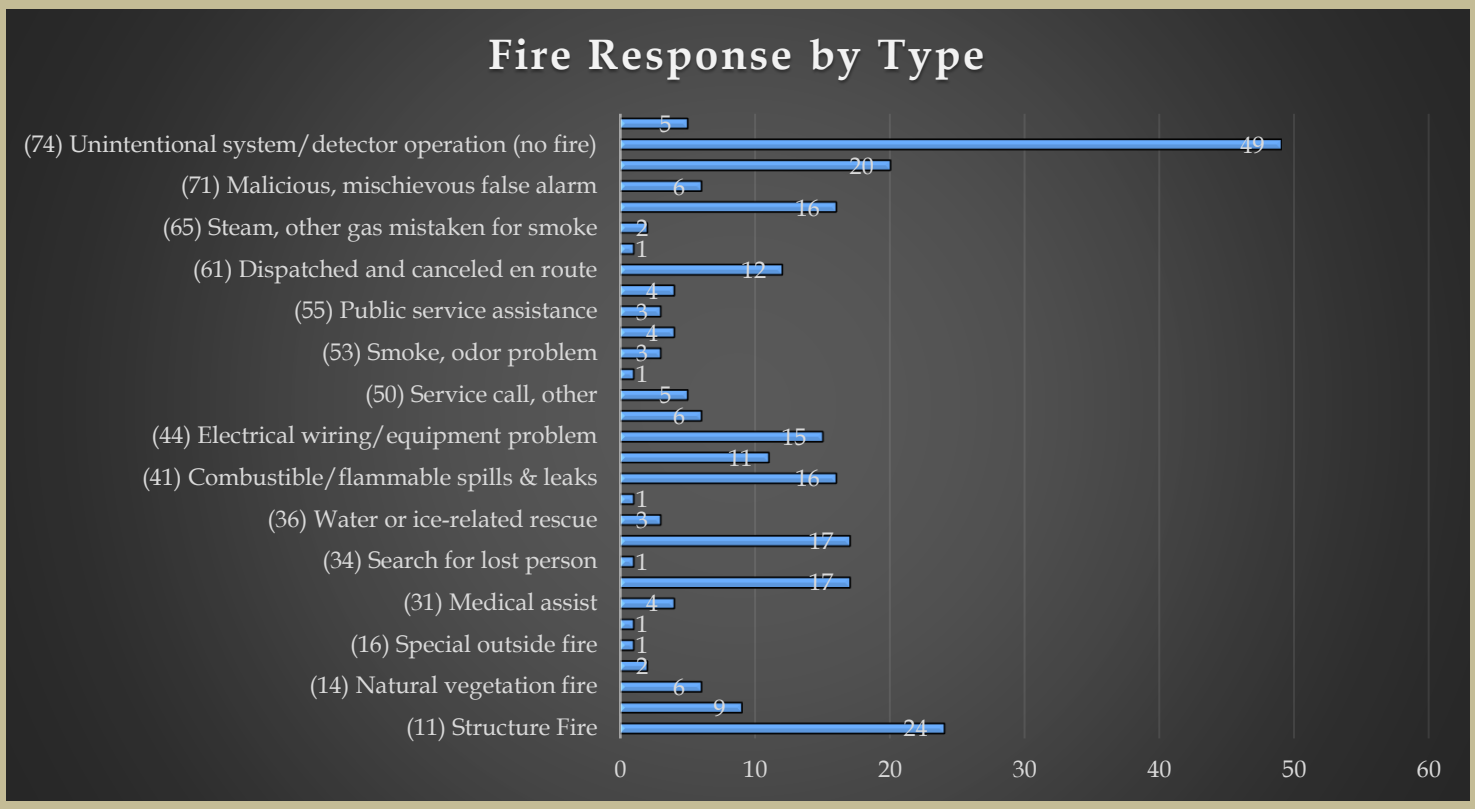
Topic	Combined Hours	Topic	Combined Hours
SOP/HB Review	77.75	Yearly Competencies (Avoiding Back Injuries)	7
FEMA Q0427 Applied Research & Design	6	Yearly Competencies (Blood Borne Pathogens)	7
ESO Software Training	0.5	Yearly Competencies (Anti-Kickback Laws)	3.5
FEMA 240 - Leadership & Influence	3	Yearly Competencies (HIPPA)	7
		Yearly Competencies (Sexual Harassment)	7

The following graph shows the trend in training hours since 2017 when organized daily training began in the district. You can see specific trends such as: an increase in EMS training in 2018 and 2020 due to the EMS refresher cycles, an increase in fire training in 2018 due to Blue Card training and implementation, and a down trend in fire training in 2020 due to Covid-19.



Fire Response

	Total
(11) Structure Fire	24
(13) Mobile property (vehicle) fire	9
(14) Natural vegetation fire	6
(15) Outside rubbish fire	2
(16) Special outside fire	1
(30) Rescue, emergency medical call (EMS), other	1
(31) Medical assist	4
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	17
(34) Search for lost person	1
(35) Extrication, rescue	17
(36) Water or ice-related rescue	3
(38) Rescue or EMS standby	1
(41) Combustible/flammable spills & leaks	16
(42) Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition	11
(44) Electrical wiring/equipment problem	15
(46) Accident, potential accident	6
(50) Service call, other	5
(52) Water problem	1
(53) Smoke, odor problem	3
(54) Animal problem or rescue	4
(55) Public service assistance	3
(56) Unauthorized burning	4
(61) Dispatched and canceled en route	12
(62) Wrong location, no emergency found	1
(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke	2
(70) False alarm and false call, other	16
(71) Malicious, mischievous false alarm	6
(73) System or detector malfunction	20
(74) Unintentional system/detector operation (no fire)	49
(90) Special type of incident, other	5
Total	265


Fire Response by Type
(74) Unintentional system/detector operation (no fire)
(71) Malicious, mischievous false alarm
(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke
(61) Dispatched and canceled en route
(55) Public service assistance
(53) Smoke, odor problem
(50) Service call, other
(44) Electrical wiring/equipment problem
(41) Combustible/flammable spills & leaks
(36) Water or ice-related rescue
(34) Search for lost person
(31) Medical assist
(16) Special outside fire
(14) Natural vegetation fire
(11) Structure Fire
5
49
20
6
16
2
1
12
4
3
4
3
1
5
6
15
11
16
1
3
17
1
17
4
1
1
2
6
9
24
0
10
20
30
40
50
60


Call Volume
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
236
221
219
259
273
265
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020

Significant Fires

January 8th Duplex Fire (Village of Weston) fire contained to room of origin approximately $30,000 in damage

April 20th Residential Structure (Town of Rib Mountain) Fire contained to the basement, approximately $50,000 in damage

June 3rd-Residental Structure (Town of Stettin) structure was a complete loss

September 9th Commercial Structure (Village of Weston) fire contained to single room approximately $75,000 in damage



Fire Inspections Report

In 2020 we started doing in-person fire inspections until about March when the COVID 19 lockdowns and restrictions started. We were given the option to do inspections with Emergency Rule EmR2015. In that rule, the Fire Chief in each jurisdiction has the authority to postpone fire inspections if “the Fire Chief determines the inspection will cause the inspector or any individual at the location where the inspection is to take place to be at risk for exposure to COVID-19”.

Each jurisdiction had the ability to conduct inspections while taking appropriate precautions in the best interest of the fire inspectors, business owners, occupants, and/or residents of a facility. Any inspection “postponed” under this subdivision were to be prioritized and conducted as soon as possible after the period of postponement under this subdivision ends. With that being stated by the state, scheduled inspections for the 2020 calendar year will be considered during future audits with the understanding that the COVID-19 Pandemic affected the ability to complete all of the required inspections in accordance with SPS 314.01 (13) (b) 3.

Using these new guidelines, I set up a program to allow low hazard occupancies like business offices, doctor offices, banks,
salons to do their own self inspections that we mailed or e-mailed to them to complete and return to us for inspection. Each occupancy was sent a letter detailing what was expected. They were given a choice of in-person inspection or they could fill out the form and return it. Many of the occupants were very happy to have the choice and a few requested we still show up for the in-person inspection. This was all completed with the help of Cher Latimer, our Administrative Assistant, who sent them out, tracked them and forwarded them to me for inspection and inputting them into the computer system. All of our higher hazard occupancies were inspected at least once this year with a majority of them still being inspected twice.

Not having a second inspector to do re-inspections was a challenge this year. We relied on the on-duty crews to do the re-inspections. Due to COVID-19 and an increased call volume it was hard to get the crews out consistently to complete the inspections. Some of the crews were able to do phone calls to check up on the re-inspections with the added comment that we may show up to ensure the violations were corrected.

Inspections

In 2020, we did 14 inspections for new, expanding or moving occupancies for the Town of Rib Mountain and 32 for the Village of Weston. Each required several pre-construction meetings and inspections during the buildout process.

The SAFER District now has 1019 occupancies to inspect; 291 in Tow of Rib Mountain, 700 in the Village of Weston, 32 in Stettin, 14 in the Town of Marathon and one in the Town of Weston.

This year we did 1,203 inspections in the district. The Town of Rib Mountain had 368, the Village of Weston had 772, Stettin had 64, Marathon had 28 and the Town of Weston had 1; 593 re-inspections came from that number.

Training

This year we continued with two weeks of company inspections. We went out to some of the larger industrial facilities and did inspections with the duty crews. This will further familiarize crews with some of the facilities in our district and what they might encounter there on a call.

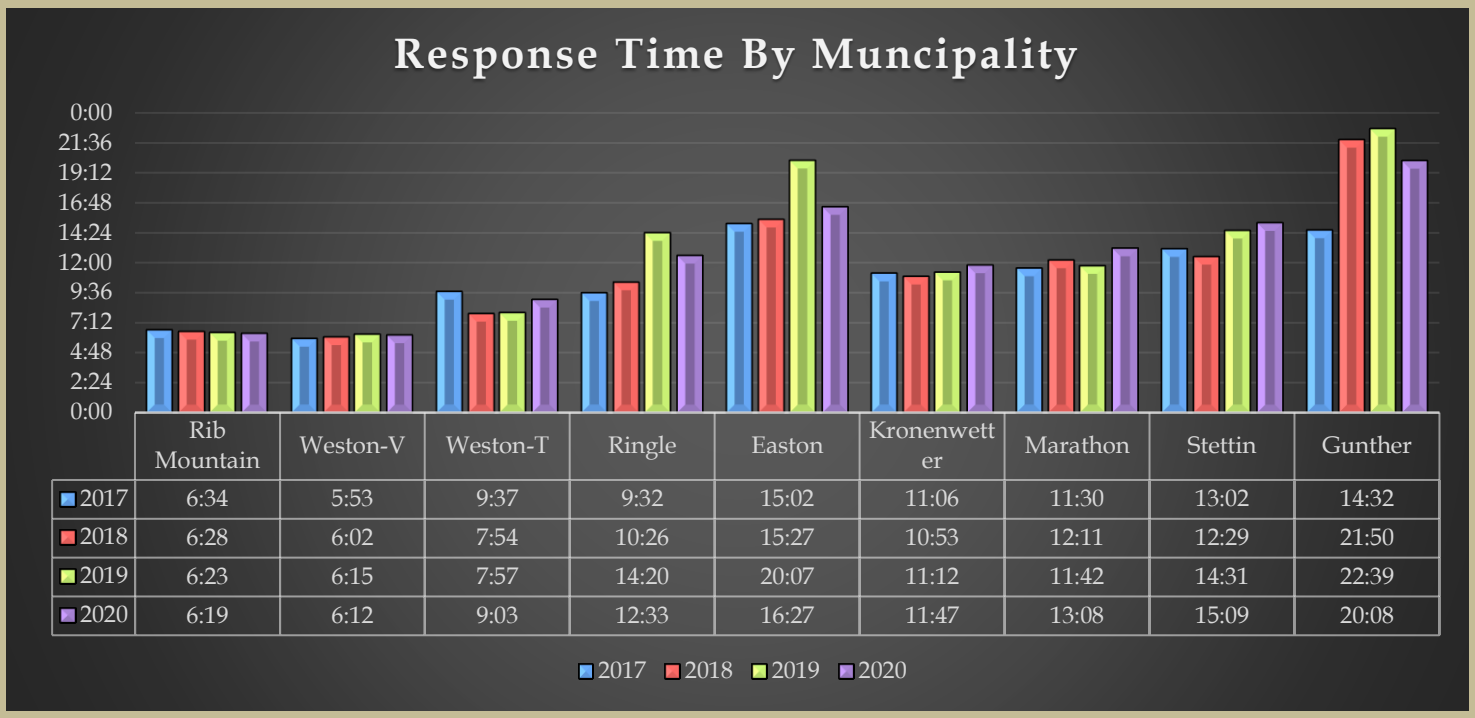
I continued my involvement in the Area 3 Fire Prevention Group. We meet quarterly for inspector training topics and networking. I also joined Area 9 Group this year to expand into an area with bigger cities and more networking. In 2020 most of these meetings were held by zoom meetings. The 2020 Inspectors Conference was canceled this year.

Martin Christiansen

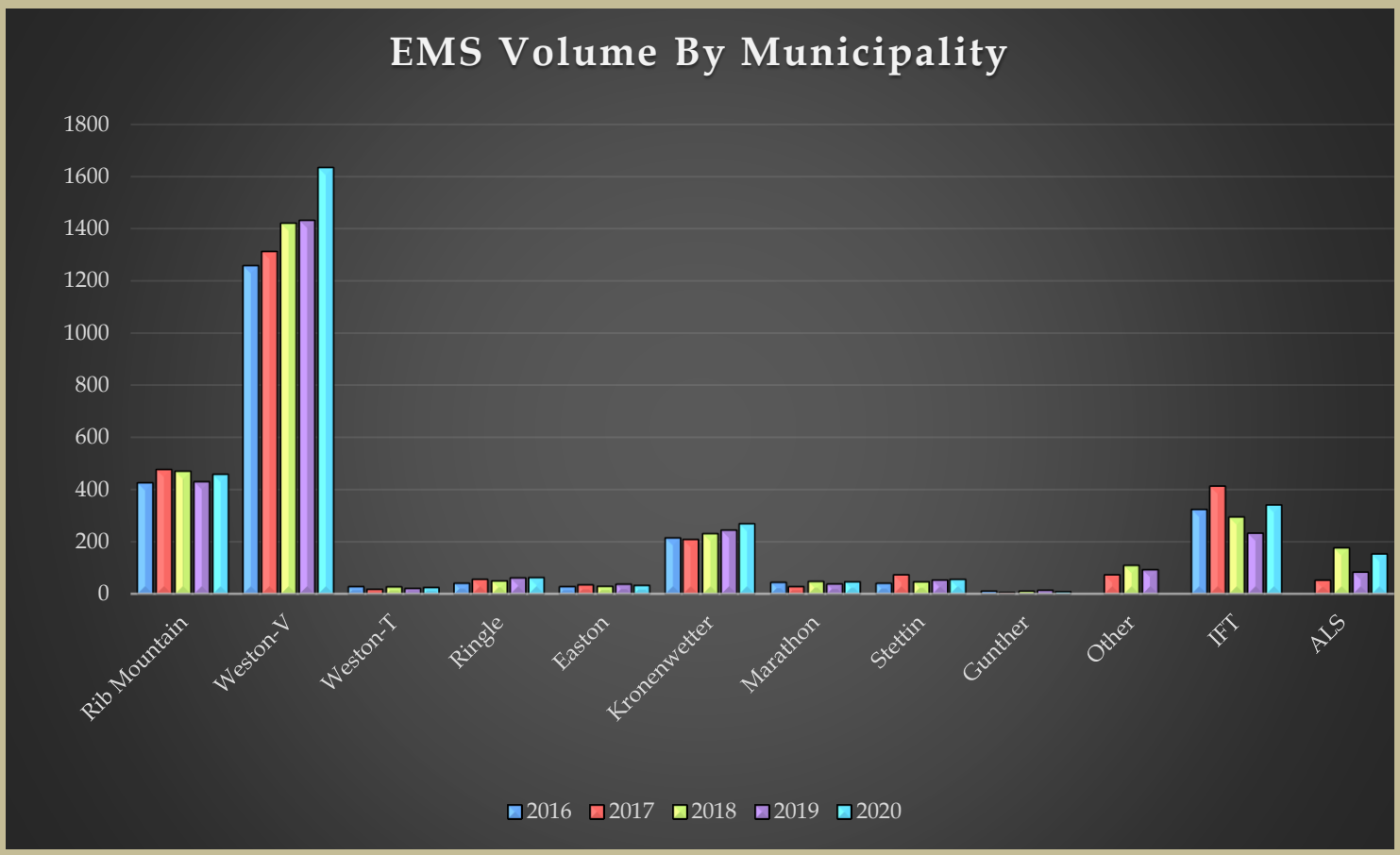
Martin Christiansen

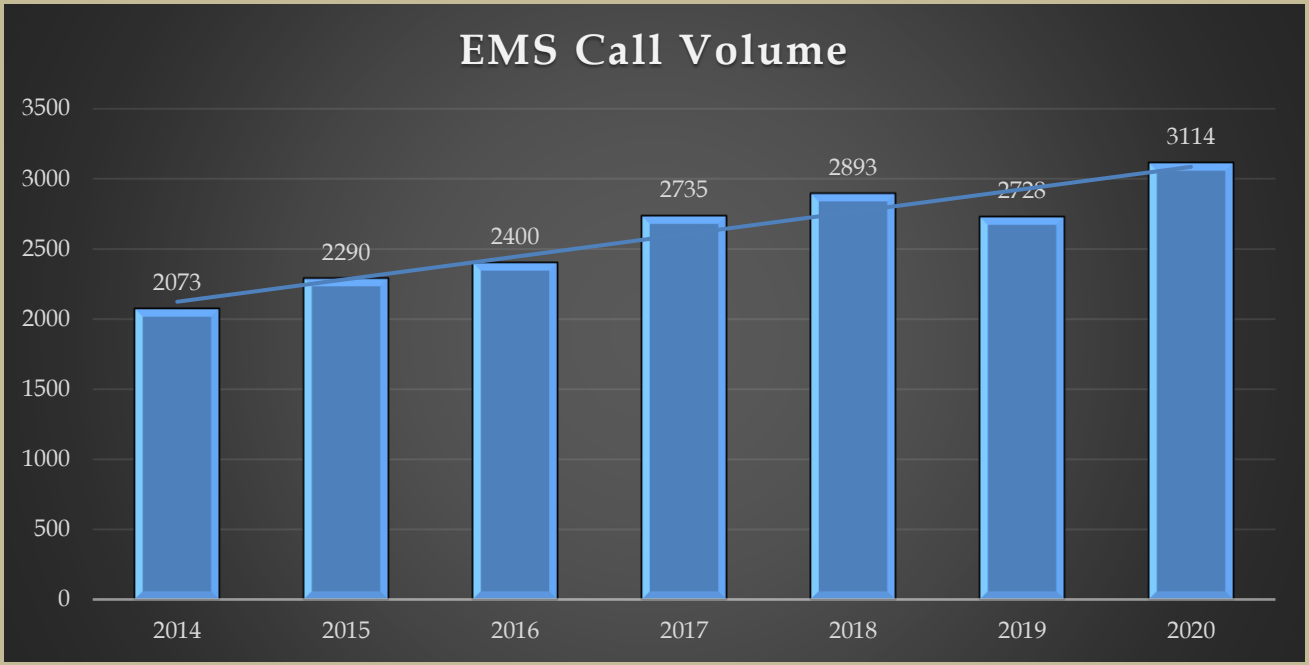


EMS Response



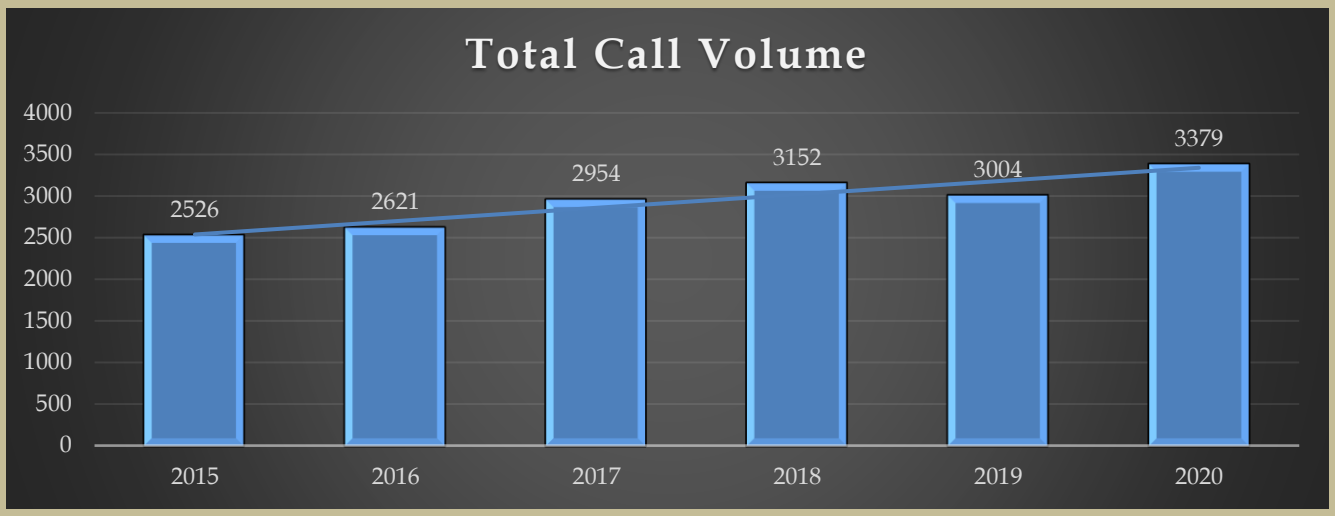
	Rib Mountain	Weston-V	Weston-T	Ringle	Easton	Kronenwetter	Marathon	Stettin	Gunther
2017	6:34	5:53	9:37	9:32	15:02	11:06	11:30	13:02	14:32
2018	6:28	6:02	7:54	10:26	15:27	10:53	12:11	12:29	21:50
2019	6:23	6:15	7:57	14:20	20:07	11:12	11:42	14:31	22:39
2020	6:19	6:12	9:03	12:33	16:27	11:47	13:08	15:09	20:08

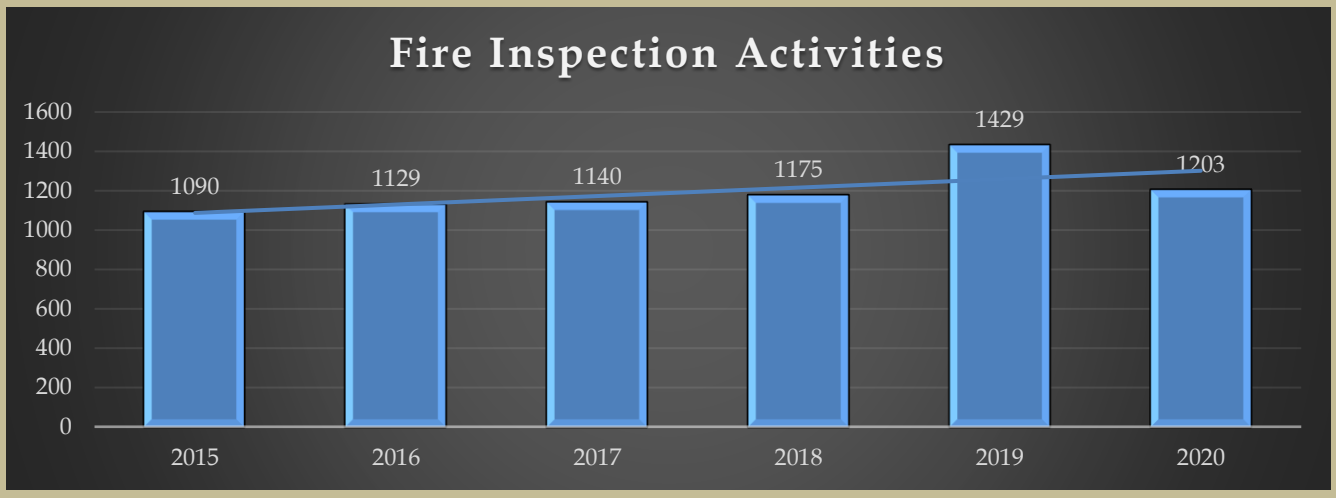


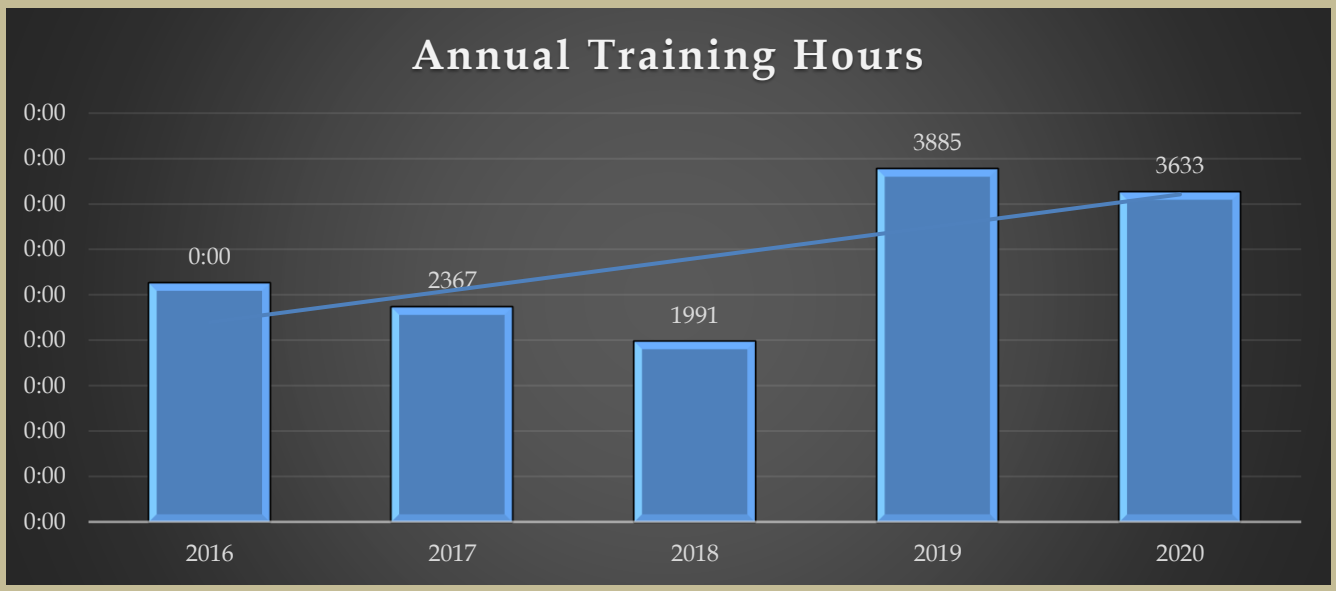

EMS Call Volume
3500
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
2073
2290
2400
2735
2893
2728
3114
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020


X Series

Total Activity Data







Fleet Information

Station 1

Engine 11-2020 Custom Fire

Truck 11-1999 Pierce

Rescue 12-2010 Marion

Tender 11-2006 Pierce

Med 11-2011 Lifeline

Med 12-2010 MedTec

Med 13-2016 Braun

Brush 11-2010 Dodge

Car 11-2013 Explorer

Boat 11-2005 Zodiac

Deputy Chief-2016 Canyon

Chief-2017 Expedition

UTV-2001 Polaris

Station 2

Engine 21-2020 Custom Fire

Ladder 21-2010 Pierce

Rescue 21-2016 Custom Fire

Med 21-2019 Braun

Med 22-2014 PL Custom

Brush 21-2020 Dodge

Car 21-2016 Ford Explorer

Car 22-2016 Ford F-150

UTV-1996 Polaris

Average age of fire apparatus (Engines, Tenders, Rescues, Ladders): 9 years

Oldest fire apparatus: 22 years

Average age of ambulances: 7 years

Oldest ambulance 11 years

Average age of support vehicles (Cars, Brush Trucks): 7.6 years

Oldest support vehicle: 11 years



Public Relations

2020 Started off strong for public relations for the South Area Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) District. In the beginning of the year we reached out to Rib Mountain businesses and offered hands only CPR. These classes helped prepare 15 different local businesses. Then the pandemic of Covid-19 spread and we adapted, turning to social platforms for most of our public relations to get our message out despite the challenges of lockdowns and social distancing.

We increased our social media activity on Facebook and added Instagram and Twitter to our social media presence. This enabled us to keep our residents informed and up to date. As a result, our Facebook following increased 10.4% (gaining 266 followers, up to 2600 total) while our Instagram and Twitter followings grew to 127 and 113 followers respectively. Across the social media platforms, we saw our several large outreaches. On Facebook we reached 10,289 people with a post on June 21st, a day we engaged in several swift water rescues and sent an alert via Facebook of a dangerous area on the Eau Claire River. We also saw a post from June 2 about a duck rescue not only reach 4,969 people, but the story was picked up by national news outlets and traveled across the country. Our Instagram post saw its biggest activity on April 14th with 509 people reached when we thanked Ropa's Pizza for a generous donation. That particular post was also significant as 77% of the people reached were not specific followers of SAFER's Instagram page. Lastly, twitter saw its largest followed tweets on August 24th; a tweet about a truck that rolled over on the I39 North offramp in Rib Mountain that attracted (with the DOT) 86 people and 16 retweets, and a Sept 20th, a post about a MABS activation fire in the town of Weston that attracted 55 people and 6 retweets. Our Instagram account has only US followers with 25% of them being right here in Wausau, WI. Facebook and Twitter have reached worldwide with followers from several different countries encompassing almost every continent around the world.

As COVID continued we embraced virtual platforms allowing us to hold story times and station tours. Our Fire and EMS themed stories reached 20 classrooms (approximately 480 students), while we held 4 virtual tours reaching 8 classrooms (approximately 180 students). All the tours were done on various meeting platforms.

In 2020 SAFER started a YouTube channel dedicated to fire prevention and safety. This channel, geared towards children, includes read-a-long books and fire prevention messages. Our YouTube channel is in its early days; however, we expect to see this enhance our presence through-out the school districts.

Fire Prevention week for the schools was also done virtual this year. The SAFER district covers two school districts including 6 elementary schools with approximately 2,351 students. By reaching out to the principals of all the local schools we were able to get fire prevention materials to ALL the elementary students.

This year we partnered with two new agencies to help us reach out to our communities for potential donations to our Public Safety fund, managed by the NFSC. The National Fire Safety Council, Inc. (NFSC) raised $2,890 from local businesses for us. This allowed us to purchase fire prevention materials that will be utilized for fire safety and prevention pamphlets, reach-a-child bags, and fire prevention presentations once we return to doing that outreach after the Covid-19 pandemic. Our second partner is Reach-A-Child. Their vision is to comfort a child-in-crisis. They provided us with books and bags for children who are involved in the calls we go on. In addition to the books, we added a stuffed animal, crayons, and fire prevention and safety materials each bag. Reach-A-Child bags are in each of our ambulances, battalion cars, the Fire Chief's car, Deputy Fire Chief's car, and the Fire Marshal's car in an effort to reach as many children as possible with this program. Through our fundraising efforts, we had a

total of 37 total donors that contributed to the $2890.00 and donated books, stuffed animals, crayons, and other materials.

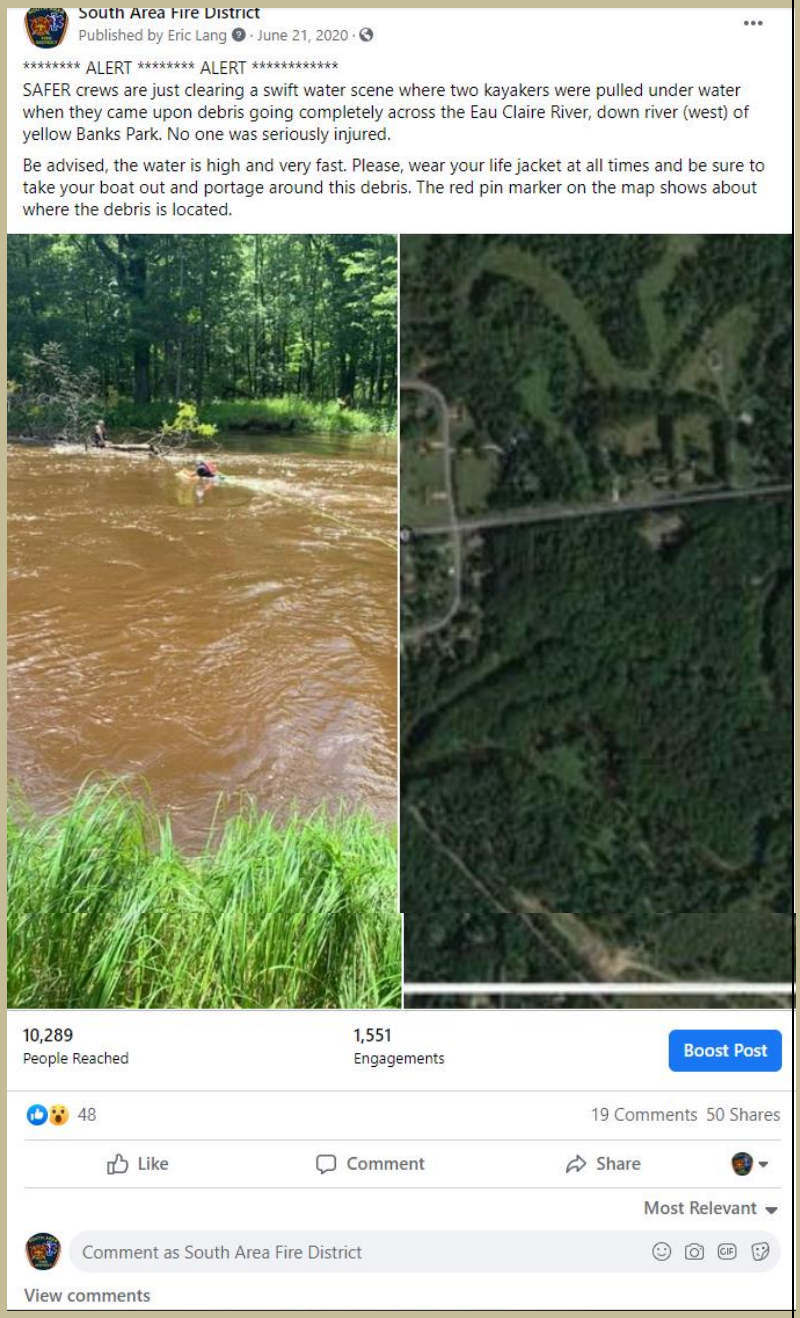
Finally, this year we equipped our primary ambulances with pamphlets covering fire prevention and safety, what to do after a fire, what to do after a loved one passes, and emergency utilities information to hand out to individuals involved in incidents. Additionally, our primary engines also carry pamphlets for carbon monoxide detector safety, smoke detector safety and detector battery replacement information. All of this is free to the public and was purchased with a donation from Service Master Recovery by Restoration.

Thank You,

Kristy Chula
FF/Paramedic
Chair - Public Relations Committee



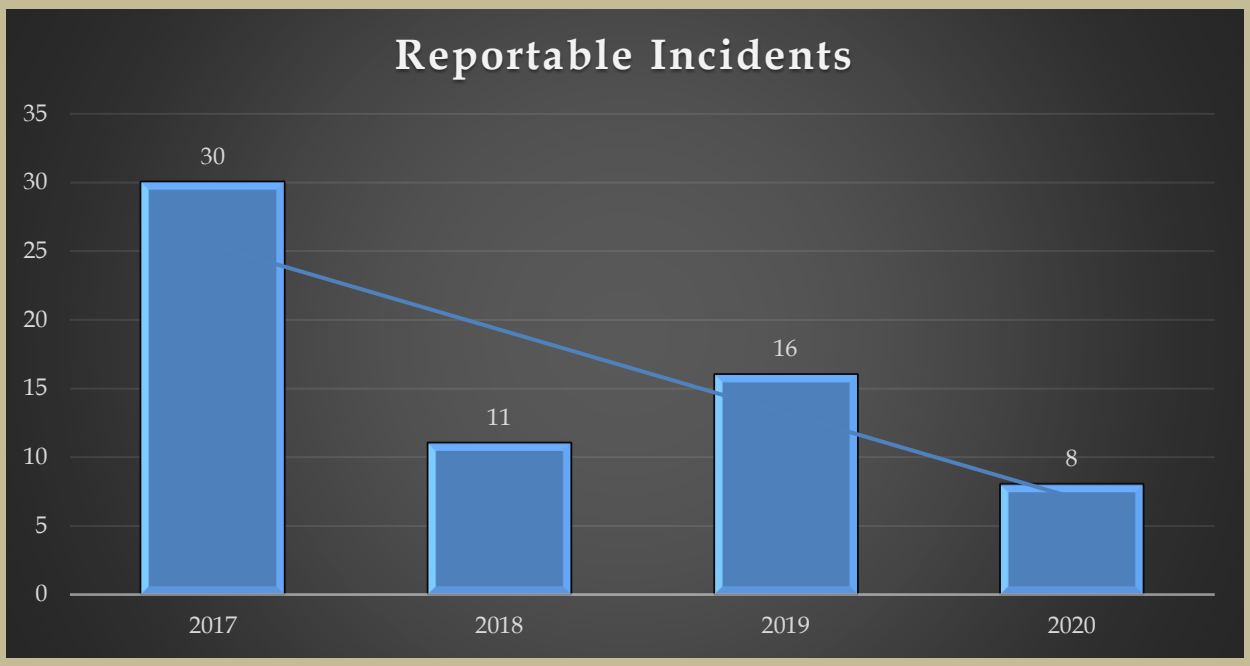


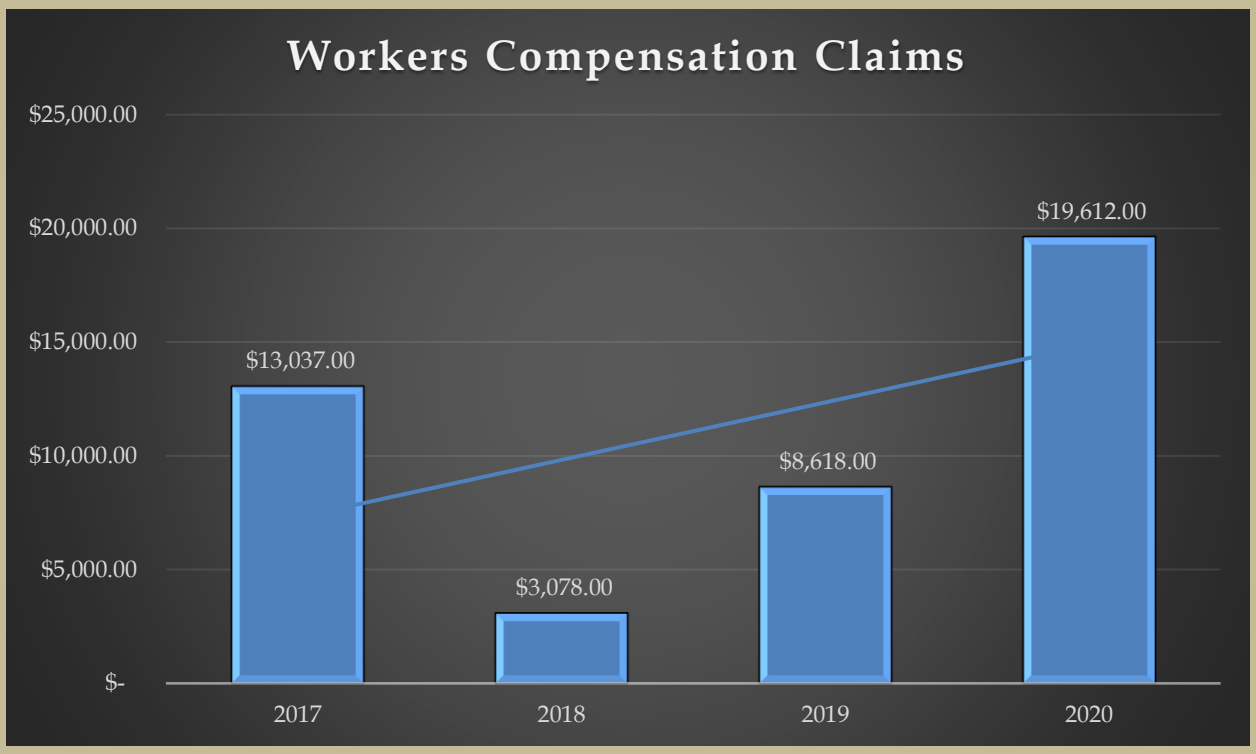






Employee Health and Safety



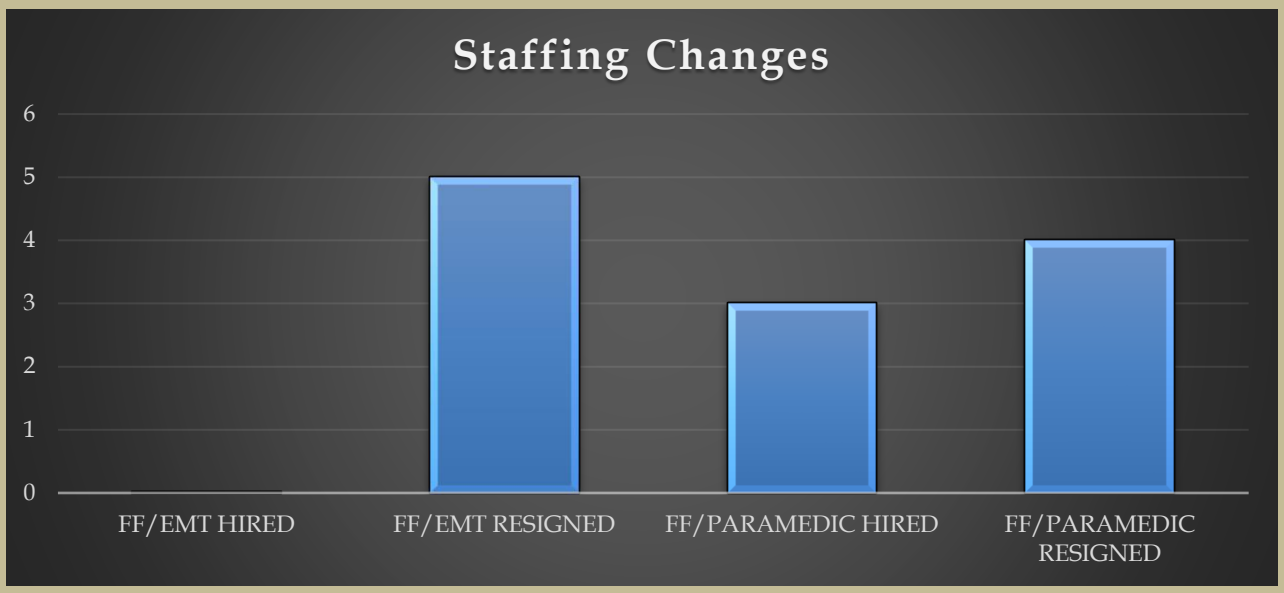



FIRE•RESCUE
South Area Fire Dist



Staffing

In 2020 SAFER lost 9 staff members 2 of these employees were retirements after many years of service. 3 others took positions with full time departments, the remaining 4 are employees that resigned for other reasons or were unable to complete the probationary year of their employment. We were also able to hire 3 firefighter paramedics, one that had previously resigned but returned to work with SAFER, a new full-time battalion chief and a full time Engineer/Paramedic.



Summary

This past year has been one for the record books in more ways that one. SAFER responded to nearly 3,400 calls for service, nearly 10 calls per day. Between those calls crews were able to complete training as well as public relations activities. SAFER continues to be heavily involved in MABAS Division 130 and responded to many MABAS calls for service in 2020. The COVID pandemic was something that none of us had experienced before and brought a significant set of barriers for us. We updated multiple polices several times for exposure control, safety and cleaning. We purchased more personal protective equipment to assure the safety of our crews as well as looked at multiple different ideas to limit exposure in our ambulances. We added 2 new engines to our fleet early in the year that were identical making fireground operations standardized. Our operations continue to become more streamlined as we still continue to evolve into one district following the merger 6 years ago.

Respectfully Submitted

Joshua J Finke

Joshua J. Finke

Deputy Chief