Fully Involved



Annual Report-2021

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Chiefs Report

On behalf of the men and women of the SAFER District I am happy to submit the following annual report for 2021. The past year has given yet more obstacles than the fire service has faced in its long and storied history. In 2021 the COVID-19 pandemic continued resulting in multiple challenges including shortages of supplies and increasing prices late in the year. The fire service is also facing historical staffing shortages which has resulted in increased overtime costs for the district.

The district continues to see increases in call volume year after year, in 2021 we ended the year close to 4,000 total calls for service, more than a 50% increase from when the district formed in 2014. Traditionally the fire service has witnessed some what of a decrease in fire response, the district has actually had an uptick in fire calls over the past several years. Our fire marshal has continued to work to make the district a safe place to live, work and visit by working with area businesses to reduce the risk of incidents.

I encourage you to review the entire report as it will give you a clear picture of what our district continues to accomplish on an annual basis. I both appreciate and am proud of the work that our firefighters do on a daily basis to serve the Town, Village and the surrounding areas. I would also like that thank those same communities for their continued support.

Respectfully,

Joshua J Finke

Joshua J. Finke
Fire Chief

Training Report

Over the next several pages you will find the details of the 2021 training report. The training committee, in an effort to assure that training remains relevant, changed the training format this past year as we continue to evaluate and make needed changes to our training on a biannual basis.

In 2021, crews were given six training topics per month and allowed to conduct the training as they saw fit. This was a change from the previous two years where crews were given four training topics per month, assigned on a week-by-week basis. These six topics were determined after reviewing past years trainings and polling the employees. The training consisted of; three EMS topics, two fire topics, and one Engine/pumping specific topic each month. Additionally, an effort was made for both stations to train together (EMS topics trained at station one and Fire/Rescue topics trained at station two) and the EMS Division Chief delivered the vast majority of the EMS training, resulting in consistency to our EMS training program.

The training board continues to assure that every member is attending minimal hours of training, tracks that training, and gives recommendations to the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief when minimum standards are not being met. As you can see by the final page of this report, our training hours have been trending down over the last four years. This trend can be directly related to our trending increase in call volume over that same period of time.

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 2021, we completed a combined total of 3,183.25 + combined hours of training. Of that, 1,302 + hours were EMS training, 1,608.25 + hours were Fire/Rescue training, and 273 + 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.

I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to lead the training committee over the last 5 years. I have a great sense of pride seeing all that we've accomplished since 2017 as a committee, building our training program from the ground up. In 2022 Battalion Chief Stephen Genrich has become the chair of the training committee. I am confident that under his leadership our training division will continue to thrive and assure that all our employees are ready, no matter what they may be faced with.

Thank you,

Eric A. Lang

Eric A. Lang
Battalion Chief –SAFER District
President – MABAS Division 130
Chair - Training Committee/Training Board

Total combined training hours:

EMS: 1302+ combined training hours
Fire/Rescue: 1608.25+ combined training hours
Leadership: 273+ combined training hours

3183.25 + total combined training hours

EMS Training: Topic and hours, 1302+ combined hours

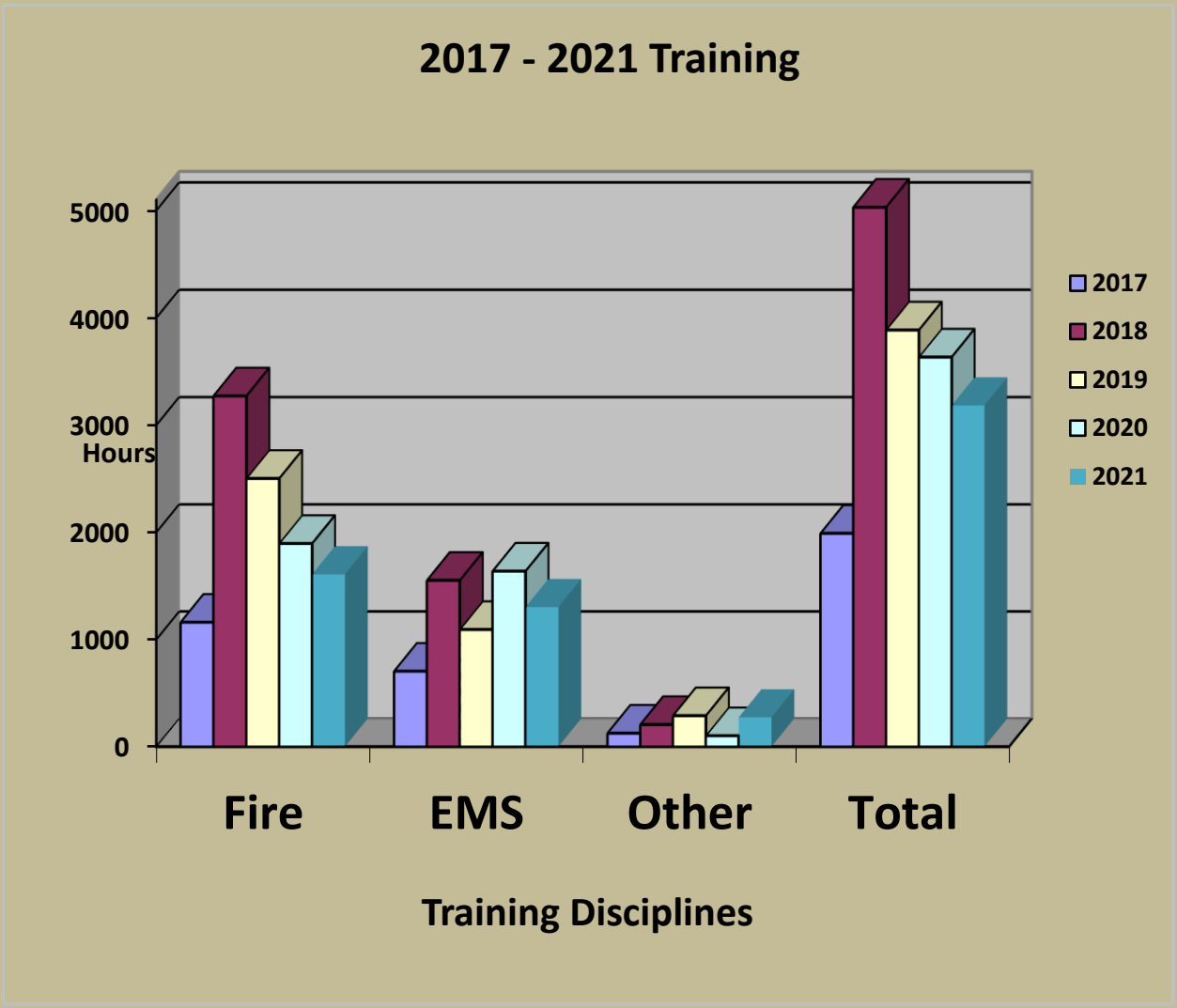
Topic	Combined Hours	Topic	Combined Hours
EMS Documentation	30.25	Basic EMS Skills	8
Pain Management	6	Cardiology	22
Instructor Updates	2	RTF – Rescue Task Force	80
PALS Refresher	56	Sepsis Assessment & Treatment	33
Behavioral Emergencies	23.5	OB Emergencies	7
Endocrine Emergencies	5.25	Surgical Airway Lab	36
CPR Refresher	32	EMS Protocol Review	20
Trauma Assessment & Treatment	7.75	Case Studies	18
Cardiac Arrest (ALS, CPR, CCR)	49	Pediatric Airway Assessment & Treatment	24
TEMS – Tactical EMS	129	Environmental Emergencies	14
Patient Lifting	12	ALS for BLS Providers	25
Pediatric Abuse	20.25	CEVO – Coaching Emergency Vehicle Operations (ambulance)	76
Ventilator Procedures	181.5	EMS Team Dynamics	92
Intravenous Access	12.5	Spinal Immobilization	4.5
Mandated Reporter Training	58.5	Pediatric Pharmacology	44
Airway Assessment & Treatments	47	Medication Administration	69
Alzheimer's Patient Management	32	EMS Safety	11
CNS Brain injuries	14		

Fire Training: Topics and hours, 1608.25+ combined hours

Topic	Combined Hours	Topic	Combined Hours
Engine Operations (pumping, driving, Vehicle Inspection)	179	Wildland Firefighting Operations	23
Positive Pressure Fire Attack	1	SCBA Air Management	13.5
Incident Command	22	Live Structure Fire Operations	80
Fire Academy	400	Electrical Safety	51
Driver Operator Aerial (Certified)	36	Natural Gas Pipeline Safety	63
Fireground Scene Assessment	18	Fireground Safety	21
Search and Rescue	16.5	Aerial Truck Operations	38
Hose Testing & Hose-line Operations	75.5	Vehicle Extrication	61
Mayday Operations	18	Water Rescue Operations	30
RIT – Rapid Intervention Team	6	Rope Rescue Operations	142
Company Fire Inspections	70.5	Vertical Ventilation	15
Hazardous Materials Operations	38.5	Confined Space Operations	35
Brush Truck Operations	4	Ground Ladder Operations	26
Firefighter CPR	28.5	Chimney Fire Operations	11.25
Incident Safety Officer	18	Ice Rescue Operations	28
After Action Review	9	Arson Investigation	30

Leadership/Other Training: Topic and hours, 273+ combined hours

Topic	Combined Hours	Topic	Combined Hours
SOP/Handbook Review	64.5	ESO Software	4
Disaster Life Support	52.0	FEMA – Public Information Officer	40
FEMA – Command & General Staff Functions	120	FEMA – Fire Investigator for First Responders	32



Significant Fires

February 16th Residential Structure- (Town of Marathon) structure was a complete loss.

May 1st Commercial Structure- (Town of Marathon) several buildings burned in a wind driven fire that also sparked several small grass fires.

September 18th Commercial Structure- (Village of Weston) Fire in a large recycling facility fire was contained to area of origin resulting in minimal damage to the structure.

December 16th Residential Structure- (Town of Stettin) structure was a complete loss



Fire Inspections Report

In 2021 we were still dealing with COVID 19 lockdowns and restrictions which challenged our ability to do inspections as usual. In a more limited fashion than 2019, we utilized the option to do a self-inspection given to us by the state (Emergency Rule EmR2015). In that rule the Fire Chief in each jurisdiction had 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. If an occupancy asked us to not come in at that time, we sent them the required check list to do themselves allowing them the ability to conduct inspections while taking appropriate precautions in the best interest of the fire inspectors, business, occupants, and/or residents of a facility. We even expanded this to include a facility that was dealing with a case of bedbugs this year.

This year we also started using the new inspection software to do fire inspections as well as pre-plans for each occupancy in the Fire District. We now have the ability to add details of each occupancy to our pre-plan so SAFER employees can access information about the call and the occupancy enroute to the emergency. Knowing the location of fire hydrants, utility shutoffs, chemicals at the facility and where they are located in the occupancy speeds up our response and makes it much safer for our responders. The system allows pictures to be added and updated with a click of a button. A picture of the occupancy the interior or special features such as chemical and fuel tanks that may be on site, or where access to confined spaces, attics and basements can be found without searching an entire building. This can be done on our I-Pads and phones from anywhere in the district with cell service. Information on paper pre-plans from the past were hard to update and to take on emergency calls. Now this information is updated each time a fire inspection is completed. Completing and updating the pre-plan software does increase the time spent at each inspection but it is very important to have this information current and not having a second inspector slows this process. With all the new construction meetings, new occupancy inspections and the growing amount of sprinkler and alarm system upgrade inspections, time for daily inspections grows ever shorter. (Sometimes multiple inspections are required during the construction process) We are also regularly updating our codes with the municipalities and making sure all of this is updated in our inspection software.

Early this year we will be updating our Fireworks and Tent and Dining Dome Ordinances with all our coverage areas. We had an incident with sales of fireworks with a business in the Town of Rib Mountain that required a lot of work to make sure the occupancies in the area and the public were safe and the risk was limited. Also, the new Dining Dome craze came to our area. We had to work with the State of Wisconsin and other area inspectors to come up with a way to deal with the domes to make sure they were safe to use after they were already here. Working with each municipality to update the ordinances will make this much clearer as to what is allowed in the state of Wisconsin and the SAFER district and share the updated ordinances with anyone wanting to do fireworks, tents and domes in the SAFER District.

Inspections
Not having a second inspector to do re-inspections was a challenge again this year. We relied on the duty crews to do most of 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 in a timely manner.

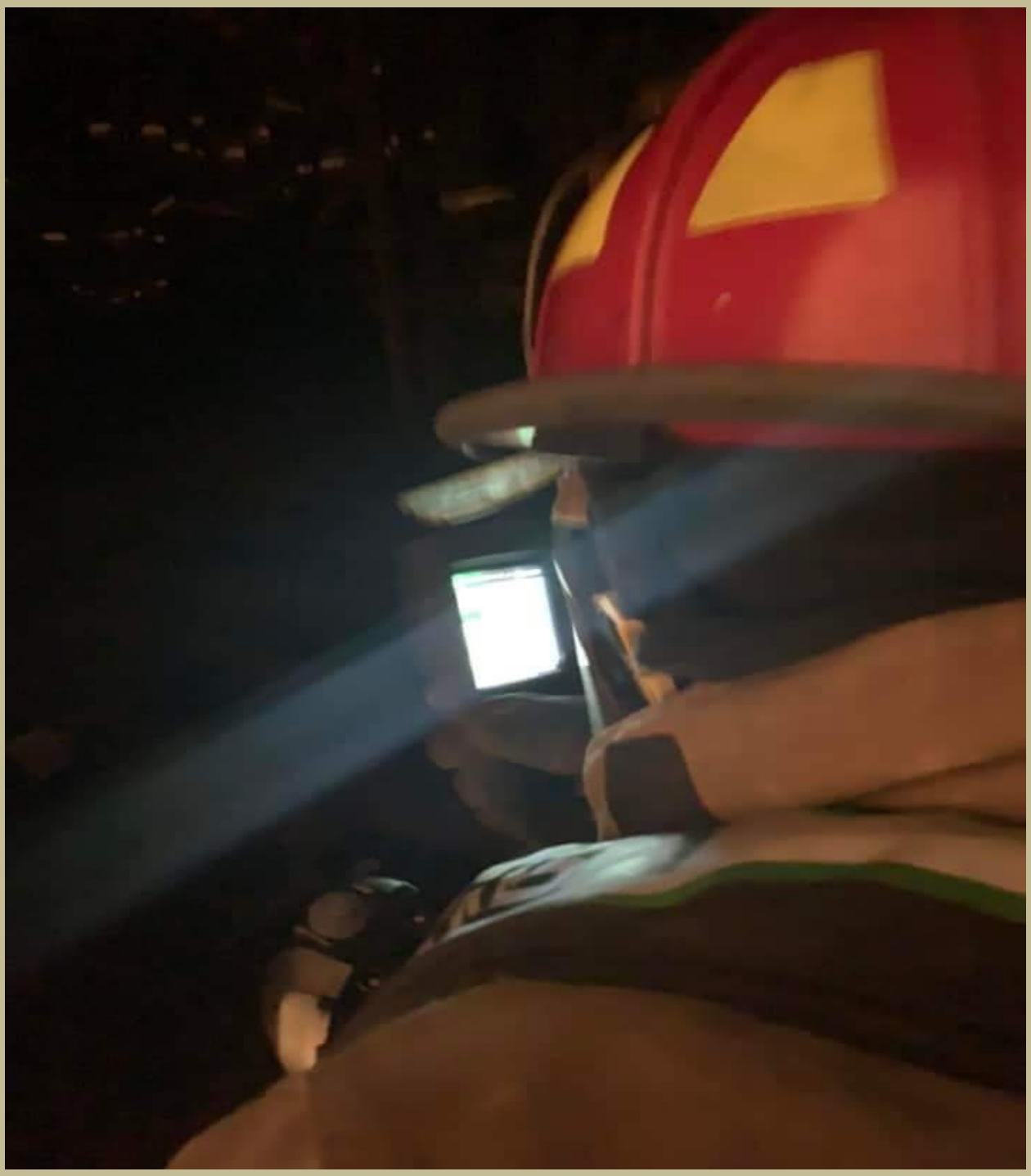
In 2021 we did 70 inspections for new, expanding or moving occupancies for the Town of Rib Mountain and Village of Weston. Each required several pre-construction meetings and several site inspections during the buildout process. Sprinkler system testing, alarm testing, kitchen hood suppression systems and elevators all require a test to be witnessed by the Fire Department before going into service and may require multiple trips to accomplish the job. Knox boxes, FDC and related sprinkler equipment need multiple inspections to make sure they are placed in the correct place before the job gets too far or finished. Rib Mountain had 14 new businesses and Weston had 25, 1 expansion for Rib Mountain and 11 for Weston. Weston had 6 businesses move within the Village and Rib Mountain had 1. Weston added 4 subdivision/apartment complex developments and Rib Mountain had 2. Town of Rib Mountain added a large garage at the Town Hall and Weston remolded the Safety building and started the new Municipal Building on Camp Phillips Rd.

The SAFER District now has 1,042 occupancies to inspect; 279 in Rib Mountain, 720 in Weston, 28 in Stettin, 14 in the Town of Marathon and one in the Town of Weston.

Training
This year we continued with two weeks in the Spring and two weeks in the Fall, Company inspections where 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 also continued my involvement in the Area 3 Fire Prevention Group, we meet quarterly for inspector training topics and networking. The 2020 Inspectors Conference was held in Green Bay. I attended classes in sprinkler systems, alarm systems and paint booths as well as question and answer seminars that were offered this year.

Martin Christiansen
Martin Christiansen
Fire Marshal/FF/EMT-I



EMS Response

In 2021 the SAFER Fire District provided emergency medical services (EMS) to nine different communities, including The Village of Weston, the Town of Rib Mountain, and seven contract areas. The District responded to 3618 EMS calls throughout the year. The breakdown of these calls is noted in the tables below. In addition to running 911 and interfacility calls, SAFER also provided standby at events such as State Park Speedway, the 525 track, Balloon Fest, Country Fest, and Rock Fest. In 2021 SAFER averaged a chute time (from time of the page by county dispatch until ambulance en-route to the call) of 81 seconds, beating our District goal of 90 seconds.

SAFER maintains staffing at both locations at a Paramedic level with the ability to staff three ambulances as needed. In July, we took ownership of a new ambulance, allowing us to retire one of our older ones and continue the process of having consistency among all the ambulances. SAFER ambulances are stocked with state-of-the-art equipment assisting our EMTs and Paramedics in caring for their patients in the best manner possible.

2021 challenged the SAFER EMS providers with the continuation of COVID-19. Call volume increased, supply shortages were extensive, and crews had to ensure they were protecting themselves. SAFER EMS providers rose to the challenge and overcame these obstacles.

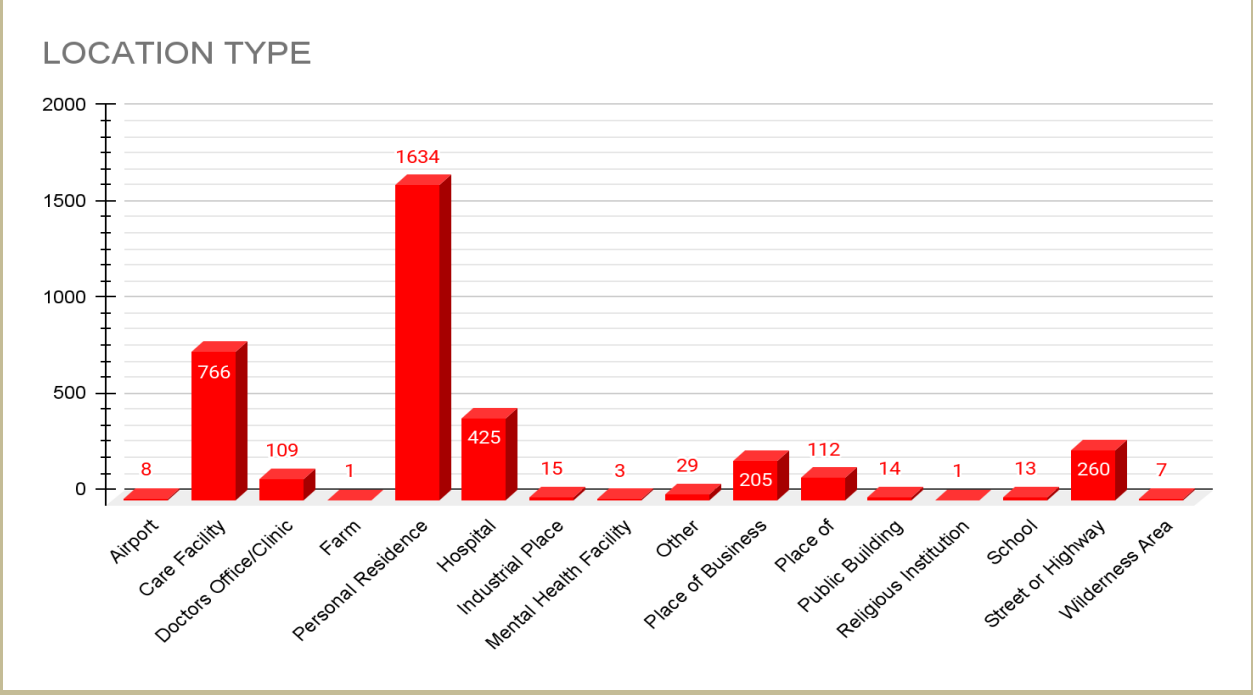
Sincerely,

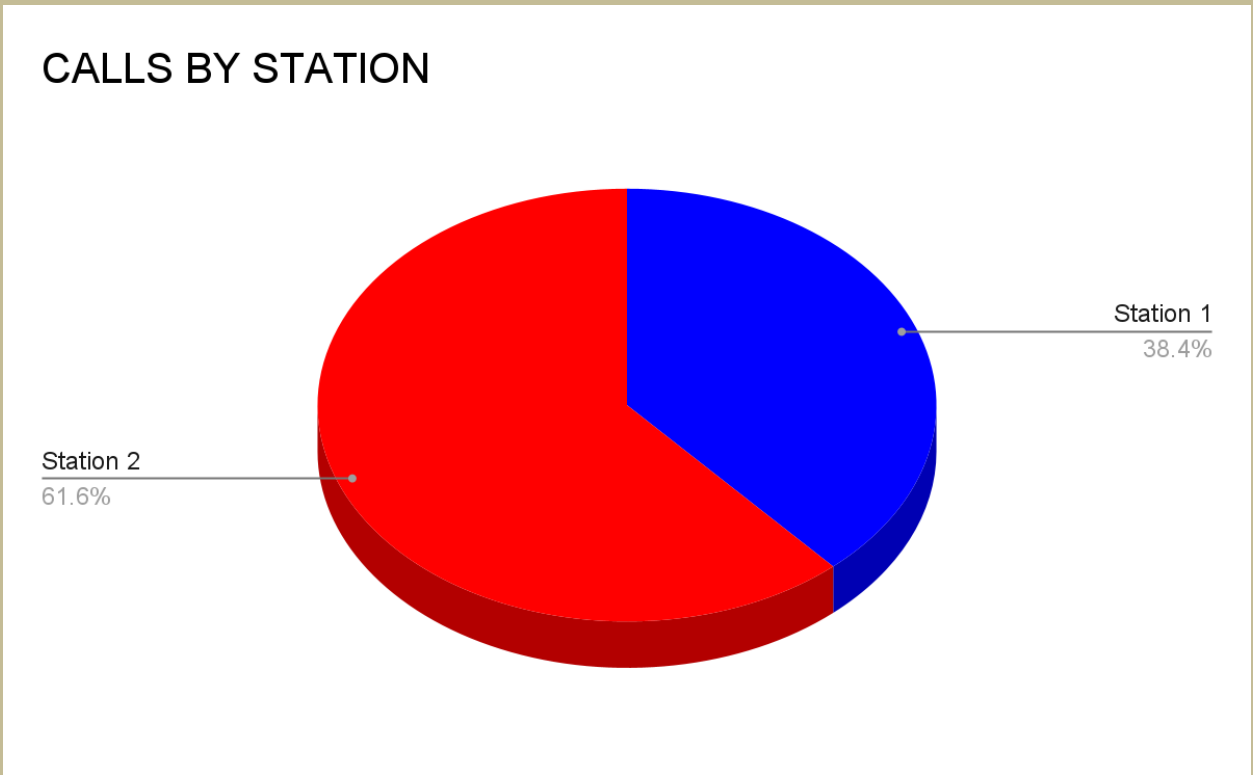
Kelly Bechel

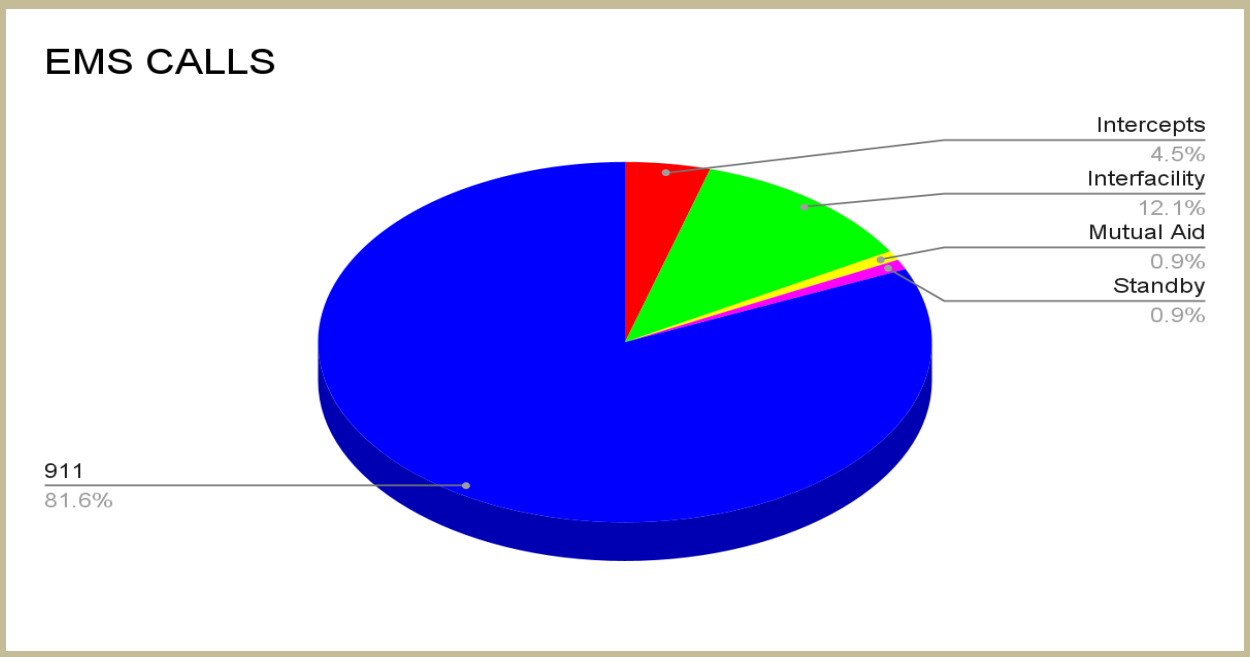
Kelly Bechel

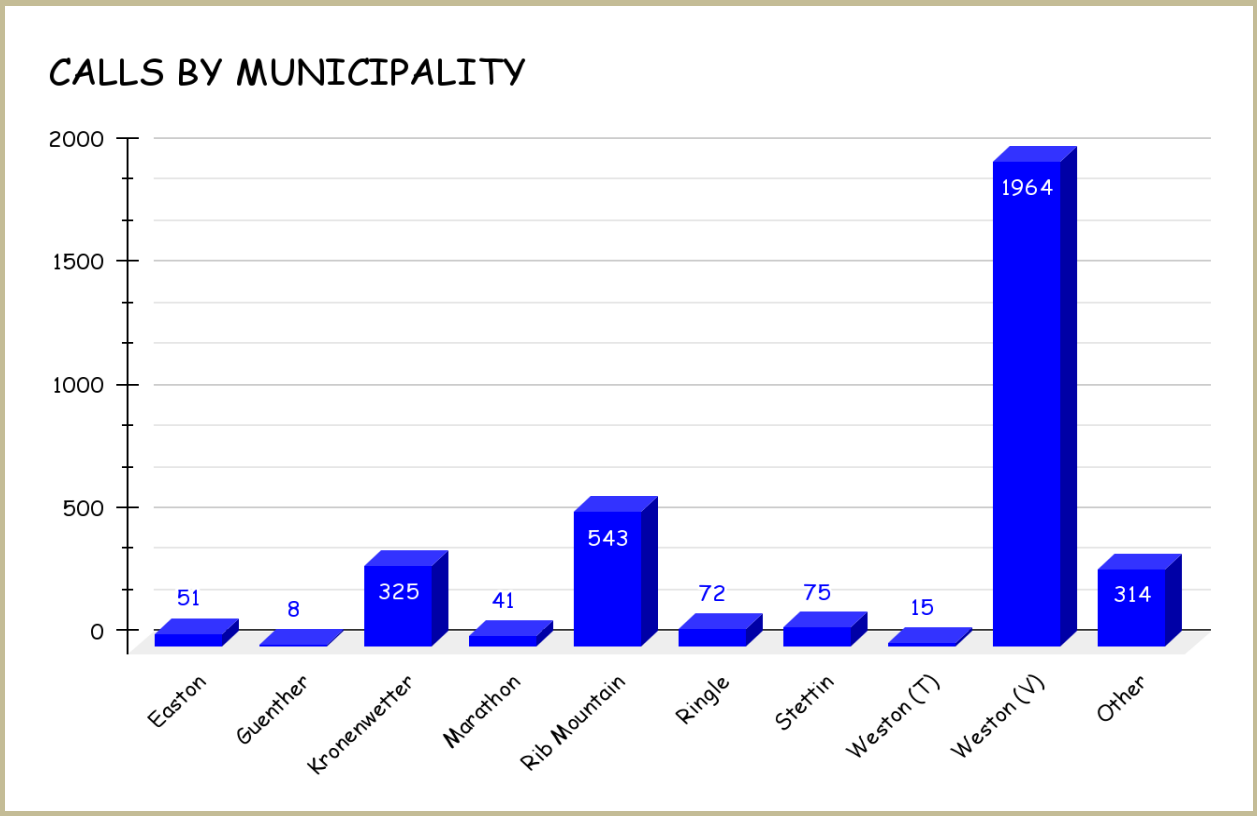
EMS Division Chief

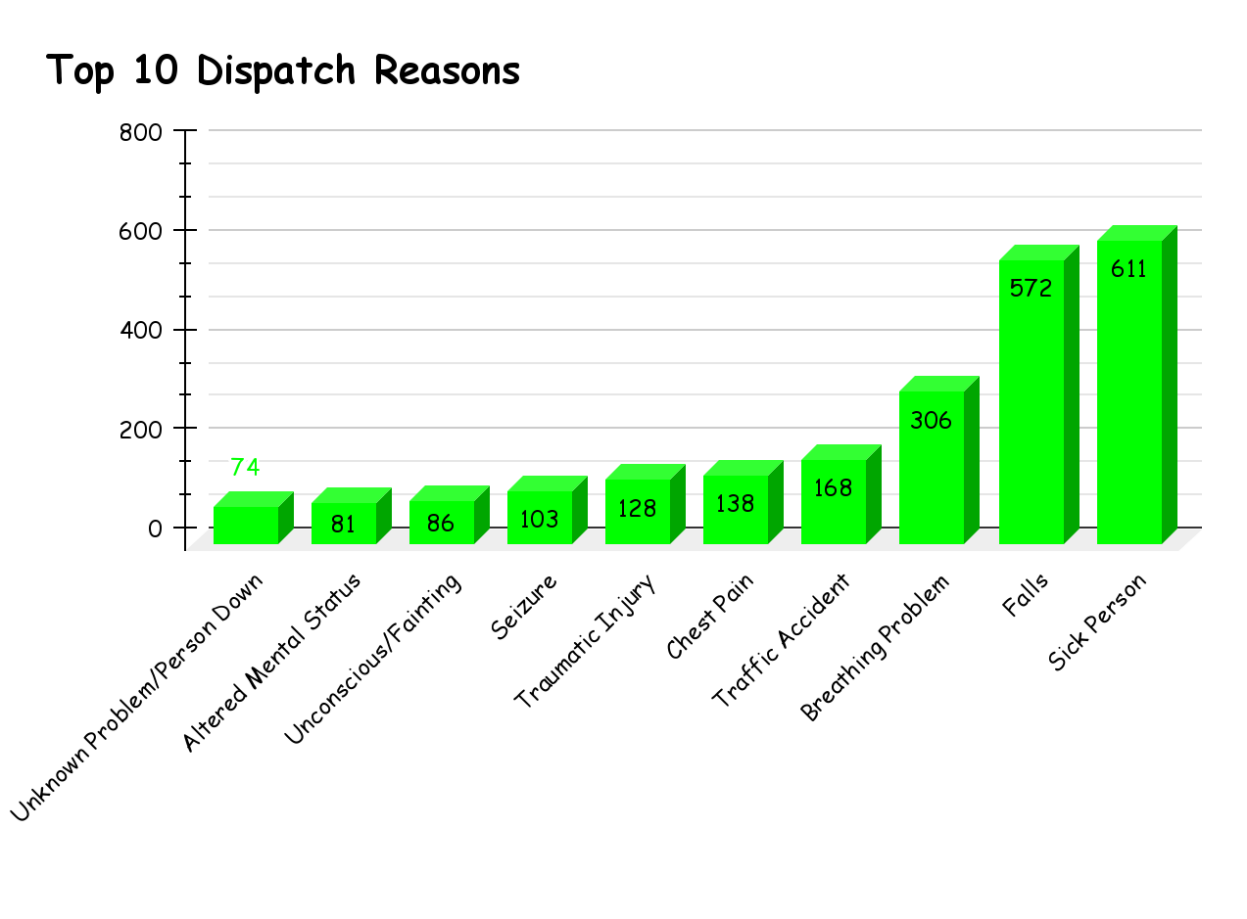



LOCATION TYPE
2000
1500
1000
500
0
8
766
109
1
1634
425
15
3
29
205
112
14
1
13
260
7
Airport
Care Facility
Doctors Office/Clinic
Farm
Personal Residence
Hospital
Industrial Place
Mental Health Facility
Other
Place of Business
Place of
Public Building
Religious Institution
School
Street or Highway
Wilderness Area

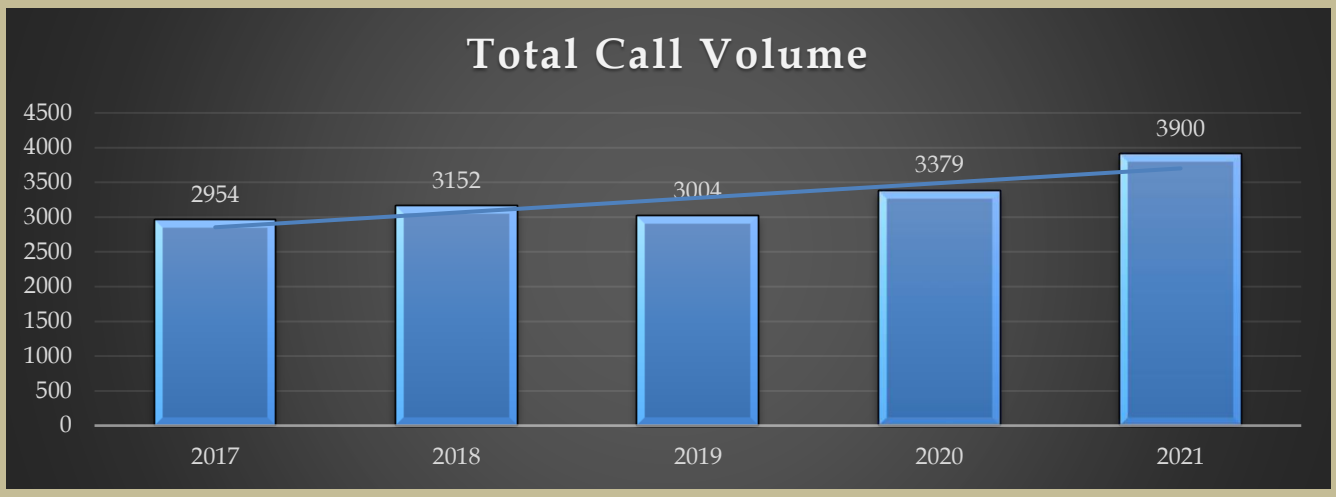

CALLS BY STATION
Station 1
38.4%
Station 2
61.6%


EMS CALLS
Intercepts
4.5%
Interfacility
12.1%
Mutual Aid
0.9%
Standby
0.9%
911
81.6%


CALLS BY MUNICIPALITY
2000
1500
1000
500
0
51
8
325
41
543
72
75
15
1964
314
Easton
Guenther
Kronenwetter
Marathon
Rib Mountain
Ringle
Stettin
Weston (T)
Weston (V)
Other


Top 10 Dispatch Reasons
800
600
400
200
0
74
81
86
103
128
138
168
306
572
611
Unknown Problem/Person Down
Altered Mental Status
Unconscious/Fainting
Seizure
Traumatic Injury
Chest Pain
Traffic Accident
Breathing Problem
Falls
Sick Person

Total Activity Snapshots





Fleet Information

Station 1

Engine 11-2020 Custom Fire

Truck 11-1999 Pierce

Rescue 12-2010 Marion

Tender 11-2006 Pierce

Med 11-2021 Braun

Med 12-2014 PL Custom

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 21-2020 Braun

Med 22-2019 Braun

Brush 21-2020 Dodge

Car 21-2016 Ford F-150

Car 22-2022 Ford Bronco Sport

Public Relations

2021 started with COVID still restricting our in-person activities, so our Public Relations committee started to develop a Community Rick Analysis, allowing a better understanding of our community's needs. The committee also pushed our social media to new highs. Once we could get out into the public, our committee partnered with local groups and surpassed many of our goals.



2021 offered some wonderful opportunities to partner with local agencies. SAFER was able to work with Everest Metro Police Department throughout the year. Everest Metro's annual bike rodeo had Freddie the Firetruck and Fire pup. Working with Everest Metro allowed us to teach fire safety along with bike safety. We also helped them with *Cop on a Rooftop* and their Halloween party. GiGi's Playhouse of Weston offered SAFER an opportunity to learn how to better care for those with down syndrome while giving those individuals a chance to interact with our crews.





This was a great learning experience for everyone involved. SAFER also provided the flag for GiGi's 5K run and entered a team in the race.

The biggest success in terms of partners was between ACE Hardware of Weston, SAFER, and Reach-A-Child. ACE raised money to be used for the Reach-A-Child program. When SAFER encounters a child-in-crisis, we offer the child a book that the child gets to keep. They also get a drawstring backpack to put the book in to. SAFER fills the bag with a stuffed animal, coloring book, crayons, age-appropriate safety material, and a toy. The Reach-A-Child program has been a huge success for the department, and with the help of ACE, we can provide this service at no cost to the department or family





This year SAFER offered in-person and virtual station tours. Station 1 had twice as many in-person tours as station 2. However, station 2 was closed to the public for renovations for part of the year. Tours ranged from induvial to groups of 50+. Stations tours appealed to all ages; our youngest guest was 2 years old while our oldest was 97. We had the biggest group from daycare and included 50 kids from ages 2-8. SAFER held its annual open house at station 1 this year. Our open house partnered with local food trucks to help support local businesses. SAFER had the pleasure of being more involved with D.C. Everest High School. This year we were able to host the first pasta dinner for the girl's swim team. We also welcomed back many of the teams that made it to state.

SAFER uses social media to educate the public on health and safety matters. We also post our training and department updates allowing transparency for our public. This year we also used these platforms to relay emergency information like flooding in the area and air quality issues caused by wildfires. We were pleased to introduce Quint the Elf in the Fire station. Quint posted safety messages for families during the holidays.

In 2021, SAFER's social media reached new highs. Throughout the 356 days, the SAFER Facebook page had 90,981 reaches. This is the number of people who saw any content from our Page or about our Page, including posts, stories, ads, social information from people who interact with our Page. This was a 54% increase over 2020. SAFER's Instagram reach was up 1456% over 2020. There was also an increase in followers across all platforms. Instagram is up 5%; Facebook is up 25%; Twitter had a staggering 93% increase over the last year. The May 1st fire in Rib Mountain had more views on Facebook for the year, reaching 36,947people.



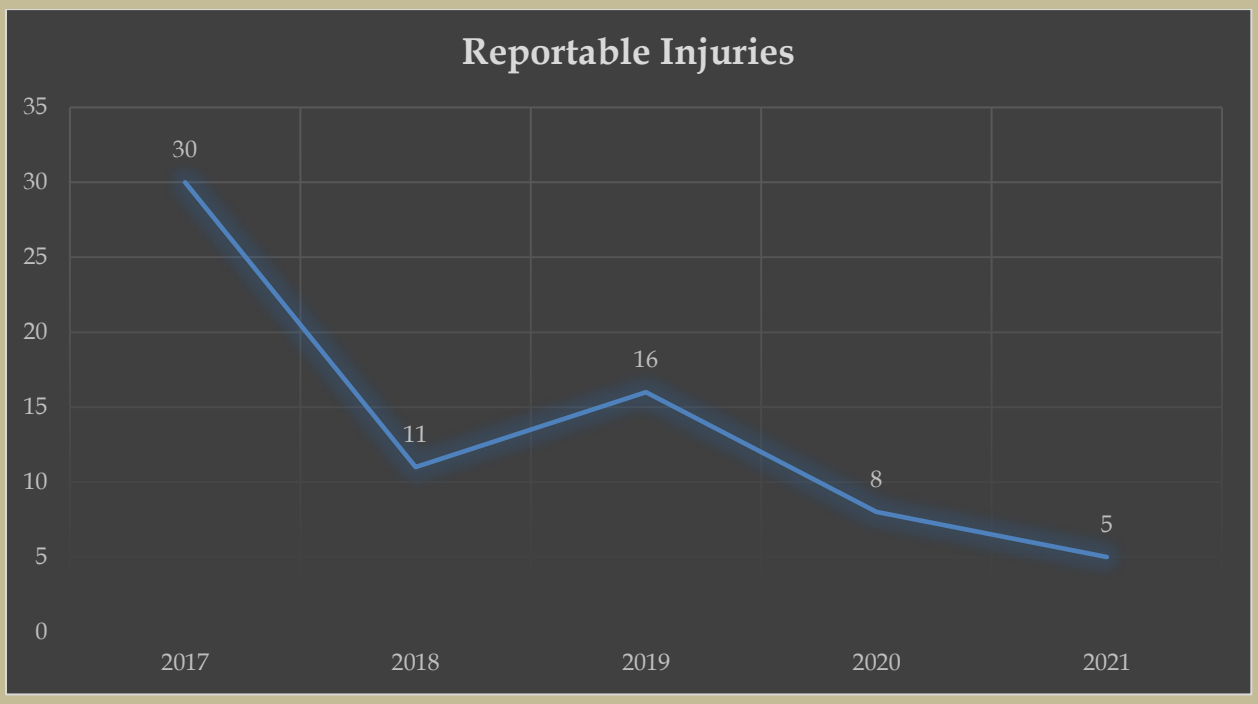


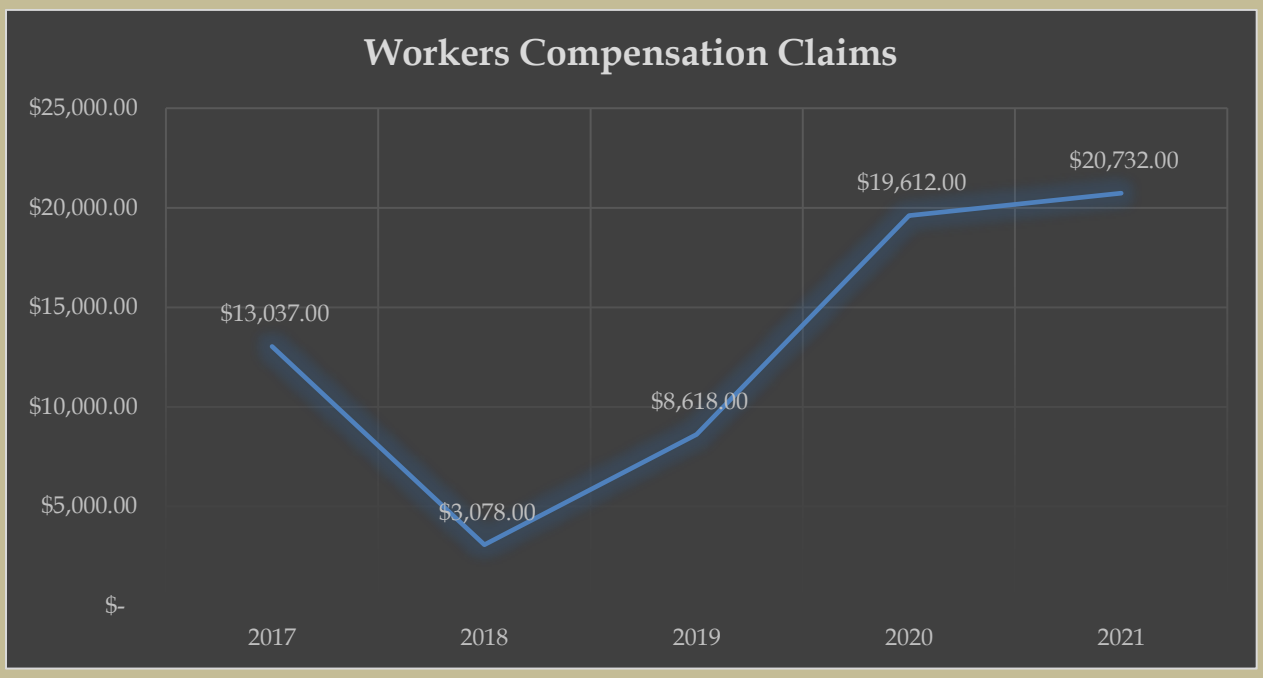
Thank You,

Kristy Chula

Kristy Chula
Public Relations
FF/EMT-P

Employee Health and Safety





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.

