

WICKLIFFE

2020

ANNUAL  
REPORT

FIRE RESCUE

SQUAD 1512

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# Administration



The City of  
**Wickliffe**  
The Gateway to Lake County



Mayor John A. Barbish



Chief James G. Powers

# Office of the Fire Chief



Challenges are nothing new to the fire service. 2020 was a challenge to everyone. The coronavirus pandemic brought about many changes in delivery of services to our residents. In 2020, we not only dealt with the dangers of the virus but still had the variable risks associated with fire and EMS service delivery.

The Wickliffe Fire Department was the lead agency in providing personnel protective equipment to all City employees throughout the pandemic. All employees were provided with the best protection available so that they could continue their jobs. While several departments changed their schedules and had personnel work on call or from home on rotating schedules, the Wickliffe Fire Department never rotated shift work or had personnel work remotely. The reason was simple, we had an increased demand for services and not enough staff to divide shift strength and still be effective. Fire Department staff also took the lead and worked with other city departments to update equipment and better practices with the use of CARES Act funding. CARES Act funding made a considerable impact on the needs of all city department by making it possible to purchase equipment that was compatible with the demands of the pandemic. With so many unknowns, keeping our personnel healthy along with providing guidance and situational awareness to other city departments and administration was a priority. Best practices were adapted in order to keep our personnel protected. Personnel had daily exposures to coronavirus patients as we were transporting many patients with the virus. While some personnel were exposed off duty and had to quarantine, it did not affect our staffing or ability to deliver services.

In 2020, we had continued success with obtaining grants along with continuing our SAFER grant which helped to pay for the salaries of three firefighters over the past three years. The past year presented increased demand not only for EMS services but several structure fires were suppressed before spreading further and potentially destroying entire homes. The department responded to 2,497 calls for service in 2020. Increasing call volume continues to be the trend, as the calls for service exceeded the previous year. The pandemic placed a considerable strain on the department but personnel rose to the challenges of providing highly complex delivery to many EMS patients that may have succumbed to their medical emergencies if it were not for fire personnel delivering superior care. Our Fire Prevention Bureau reviewed a record number of building plans. Each one of these reviews takes countless hours but is always a great sign that the community is building and improving properties. Often times architects miss critical safety factors in

# Office of the Fire Chief

buildings and those missed items could lead to safety concerns for occupants in the future. We are fortunate that we have superior personnel reviewing these plans.

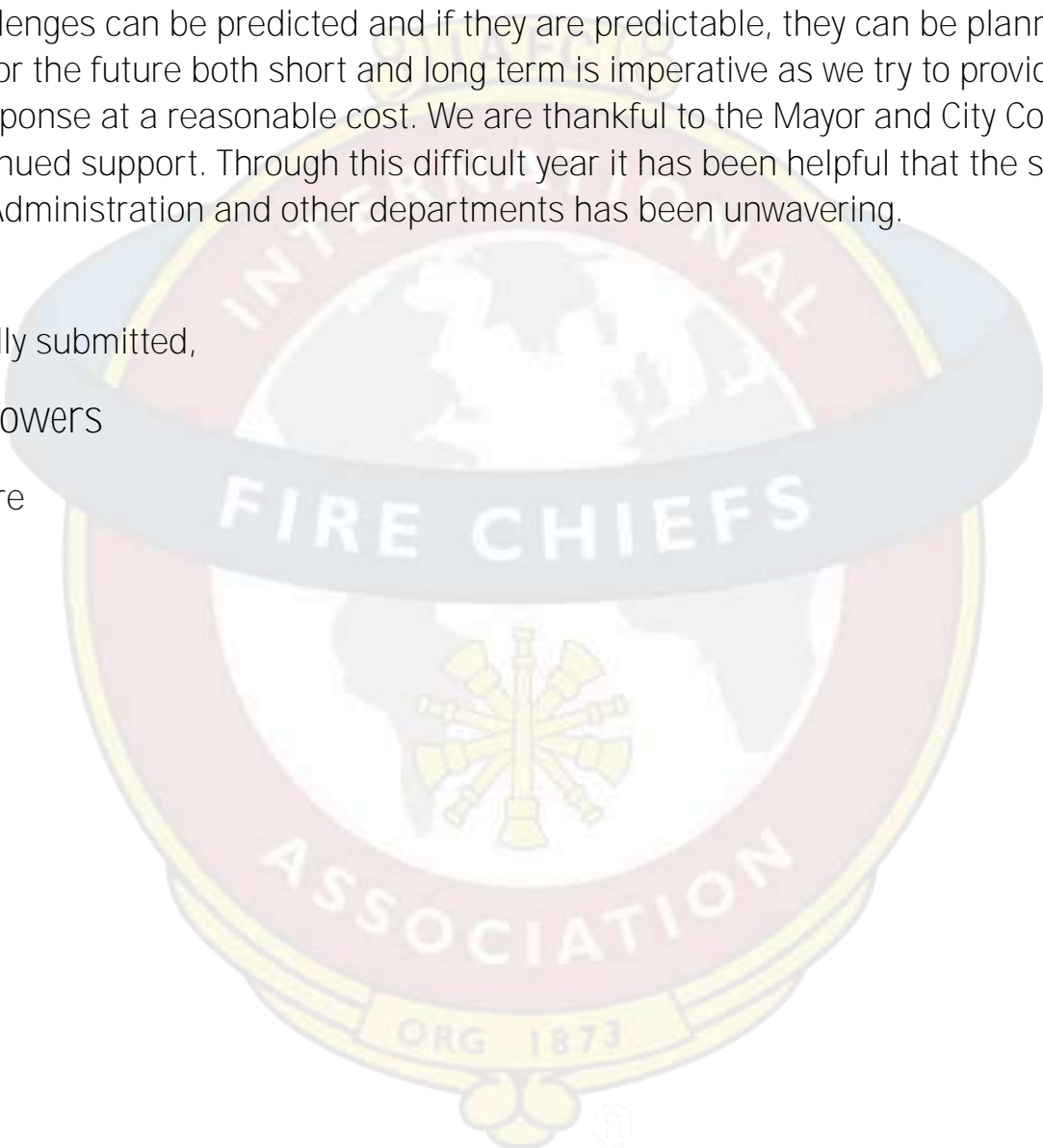
Demand for services continues to be a challenge as the requirements for training of personnel continue to increase along with other daily demands which include vehicle and equipment maintenance, station maintenance and repairs and training of newly hired personnel. Staffing is always a challenge as one third of the daily shift strength is staffed by part time personnel. The reluctance of young men and women to enter into public safety is going to place greater difficulty in the recruiting process. While some departments have reduced their entry standards, the Wickliffe Fire Department has no intentions of reducing the standard of employee that is expected by this community.

Many challenges can be predicted and if they are predictable, they can be planned for. Planning for the future both short and long term is imperative as we try to provide high quality response at a reasonable cost. We are thankful to the Mayor and City Council for their continued support. Through this difficult year it has been helpful that the support from City Administration and other departments has been unwavering.

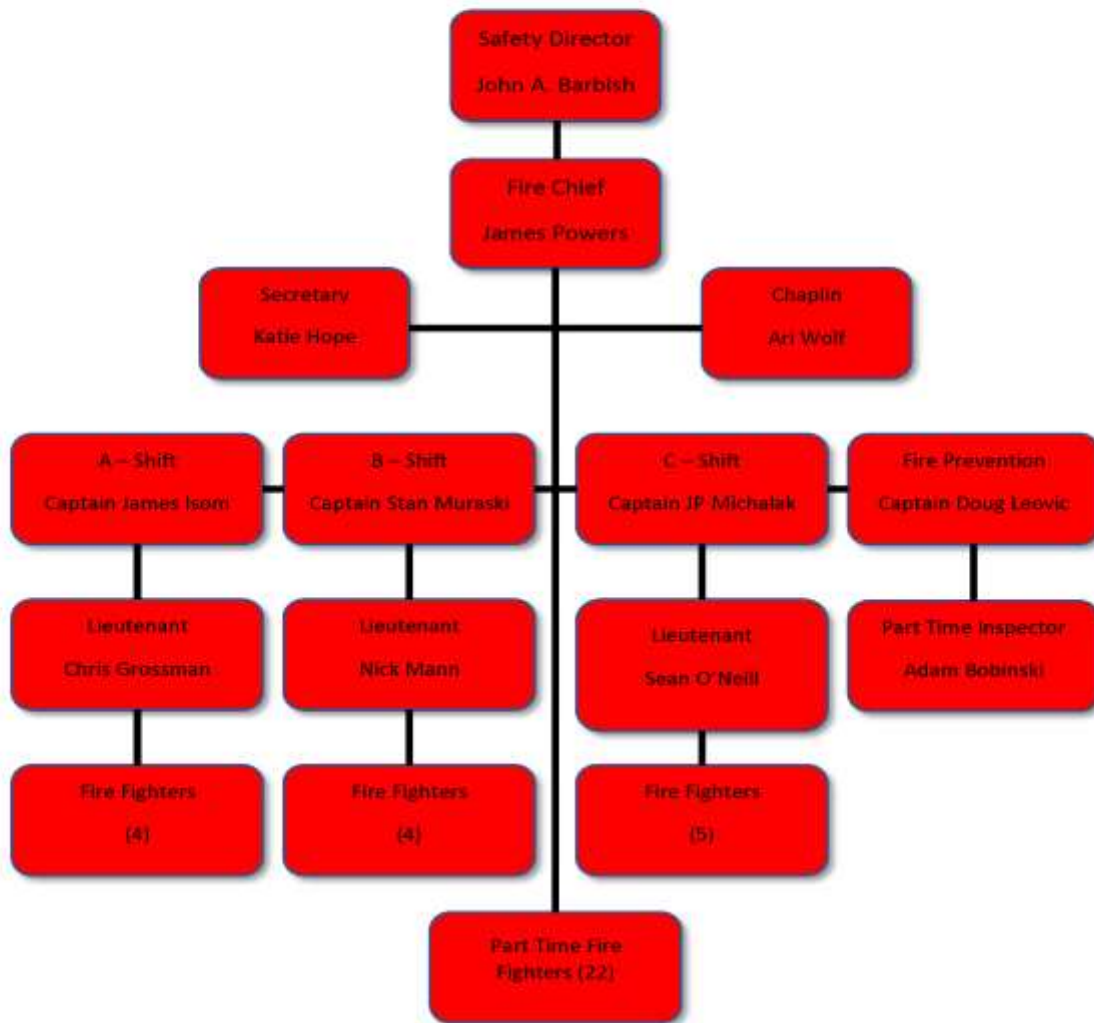
Respectfully submitted,

James Powers

Chief of Fire



# Organization



# Captains



Douglas Leovic  
Fire Marshal



James Isom  
A Shift



Stanley Muraski  
B Shift



John Paul Michalak  
C Shift



## Lieutenants



Chris Grossman

A Shift



Nick Mann

B Shift



Sean O'Neill

C Shift

## Administrative Assistant



Katie Hope



# Career Fire Fighters



Dan Bauer



Ken Stout



Denis Paus



Mark Toth



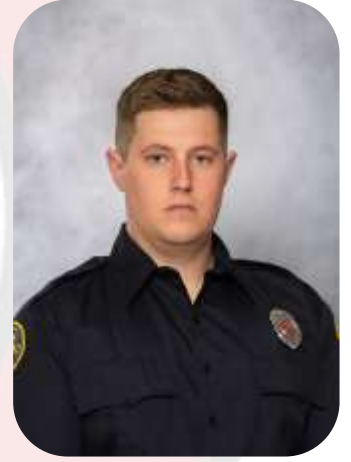
Tony Zorko



Paul Baptie



Allen Intihar



Joe Ihlenfield



Joe Pavilonis



Kevin Igarashi



Eric Elchesen



Nathan Mlkar

## Career Fire Fighters



Dominic Monastra



## Retirees



FF John Crow

28 Years

## New Career Hires



FF Dominic Monastra



## Part Time Fire Fighters



Dave Lawrence



Adam Bobinski



Tim Walsh



Stephen Bowser



Kevin Crow



Brandon Shrewsbury



Austin Leovic



Joshua Maslocha



Aaron Omlor



Joe Murray



Nick Ciancibello



Wayne Grant

## Part Time Fire Fighters



Nathan Galicz



Jack Dorsky



Eric Harb



Donald Contento



Jose Colon

# Years of Service Completed

## CHIEF

James Powers 33

## CAPTAINS

Doug Leovic 30

Stan Muraski 28

JP Michalak 26

James Isom 18

## LIEUTENANTS

Nick Mann 20

Chris Grossman 19

Sean O'Neill 17

## CAREER FIRE FIGHTERS

Dan Bauer 29

Ken Stout 28

John Crow 28 - Retired

Denis Paus 26

Mark Toth 26

Tony Zorko 16

Paul Baptie 13

Allen Intihar 2

Joe Ihlenfield 2

Joe Pavilonis 2

Kevin Igarashi 1

Eric Elchesen 1

Dominic Monastra <1

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Katie Hope 18

## PART TIME FIRE FIGHTERS

Dave Lawrence 24

Adam Bobinski 22

Tim Walsh 14

Steve Bowser 11

Brian Gamble 9 - Resigned

Matt Tezak 7 - Resigned

Brandon Shrewsbury 7

Nick Nicolosi 6 - Resigned

Kevin Crow 5

Austin Leovic 5

Joshua Maslocha 5

Aaron Omlor 3

Joseph Murray 2

Nick Ciancibello 2

Wayne Grant 1

Nathan Galicz 1

Dominic Monastra 1 - Hired full time WFD

Jack Dorsky 1

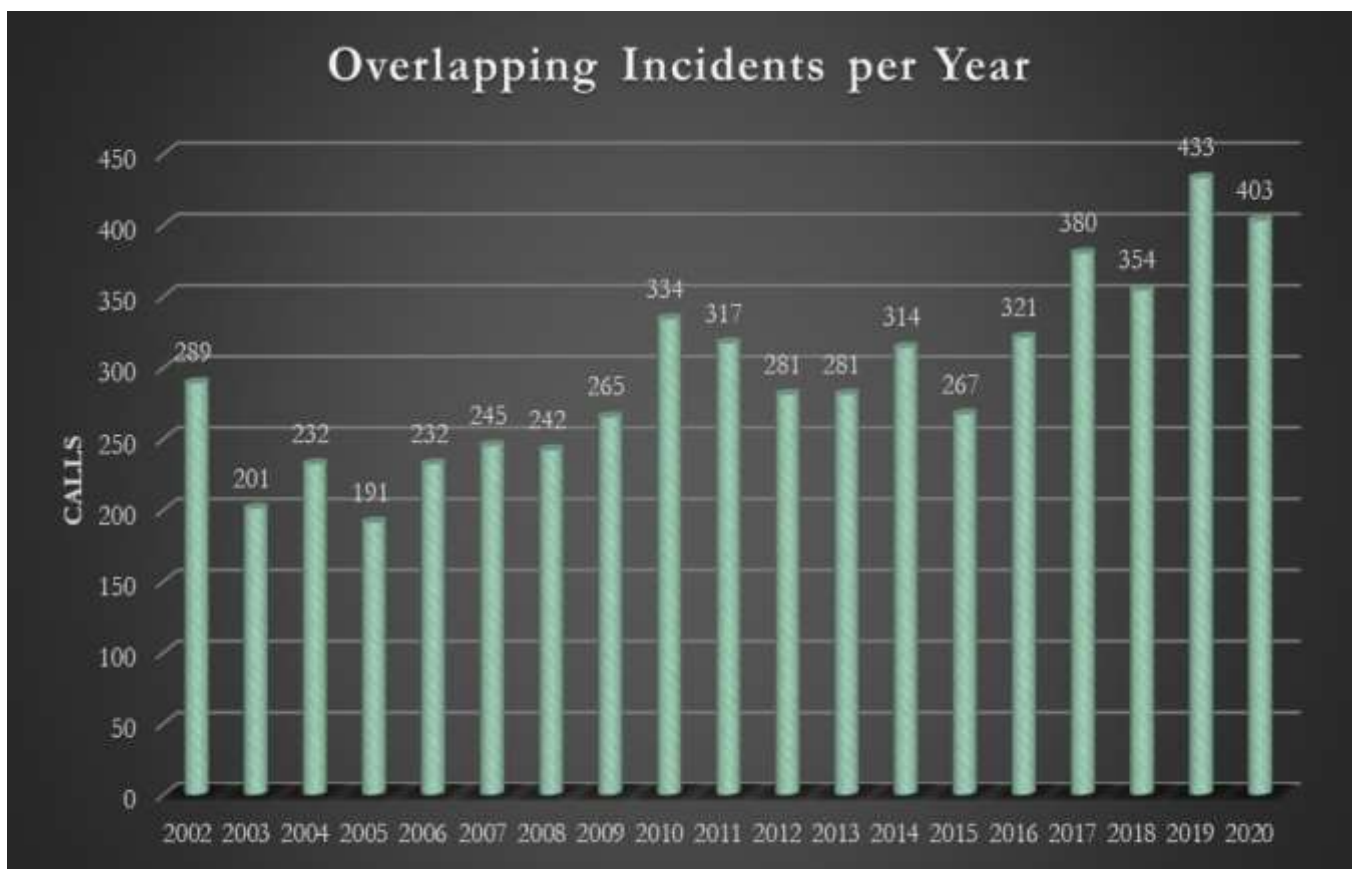
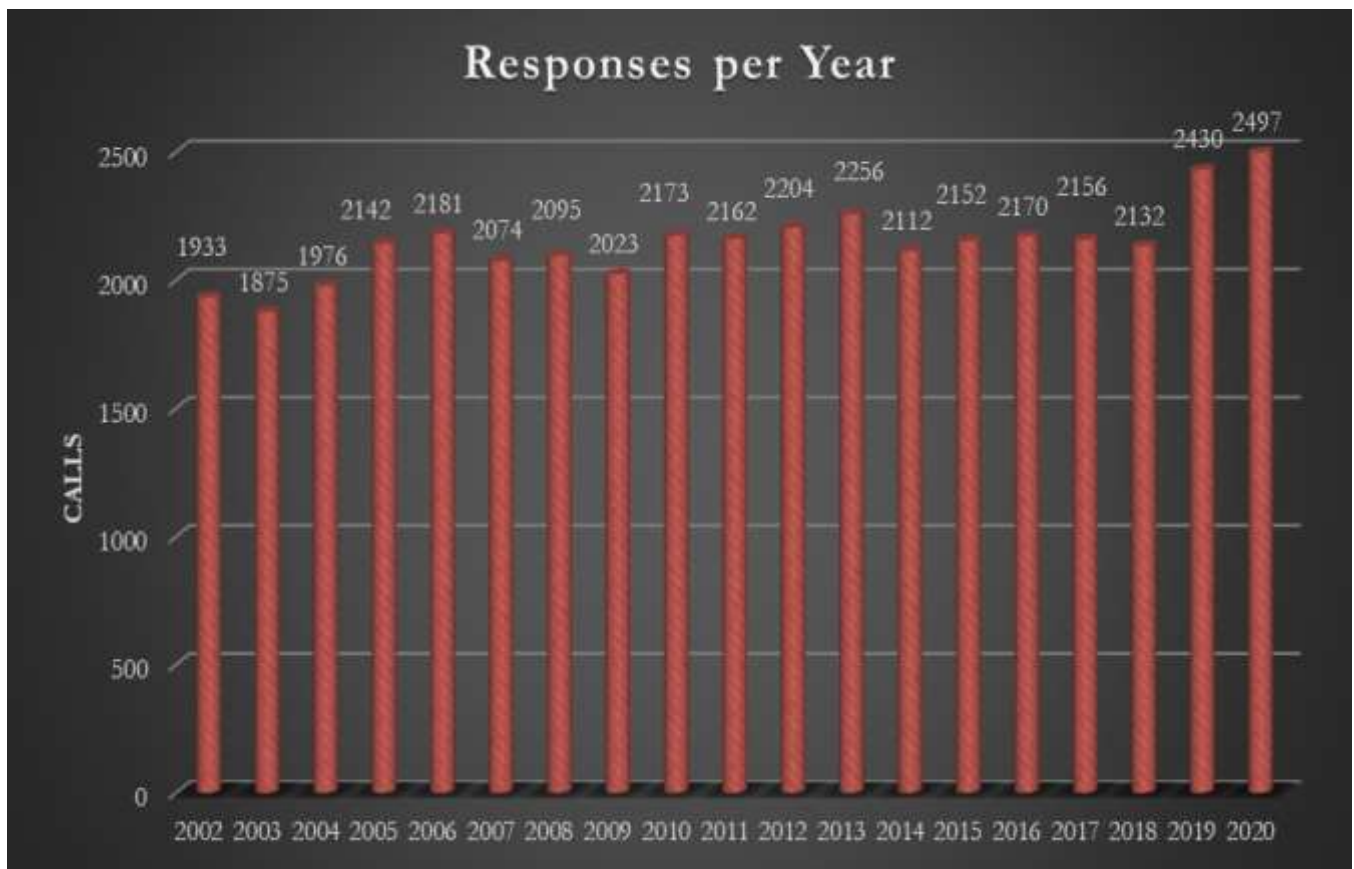
Eric Harb <1

Donald Contento <1

Jose Colon-Nogueras <1

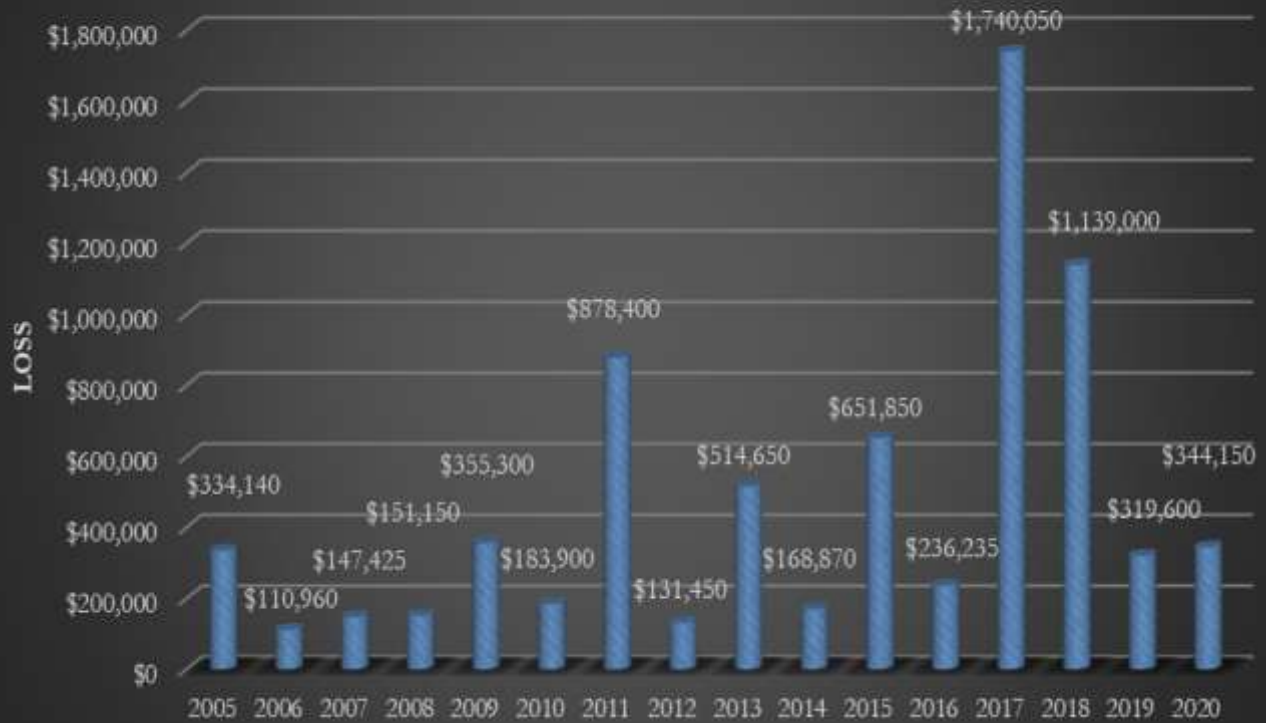


# Statistics

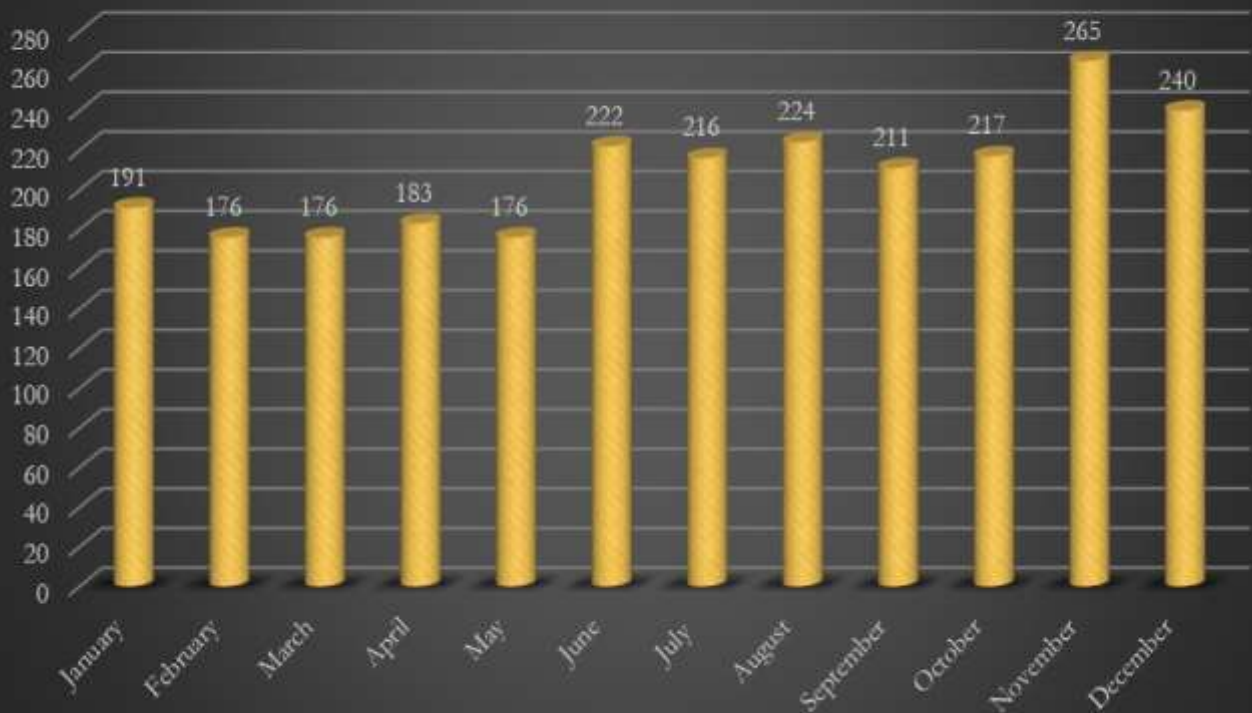


# Statistics

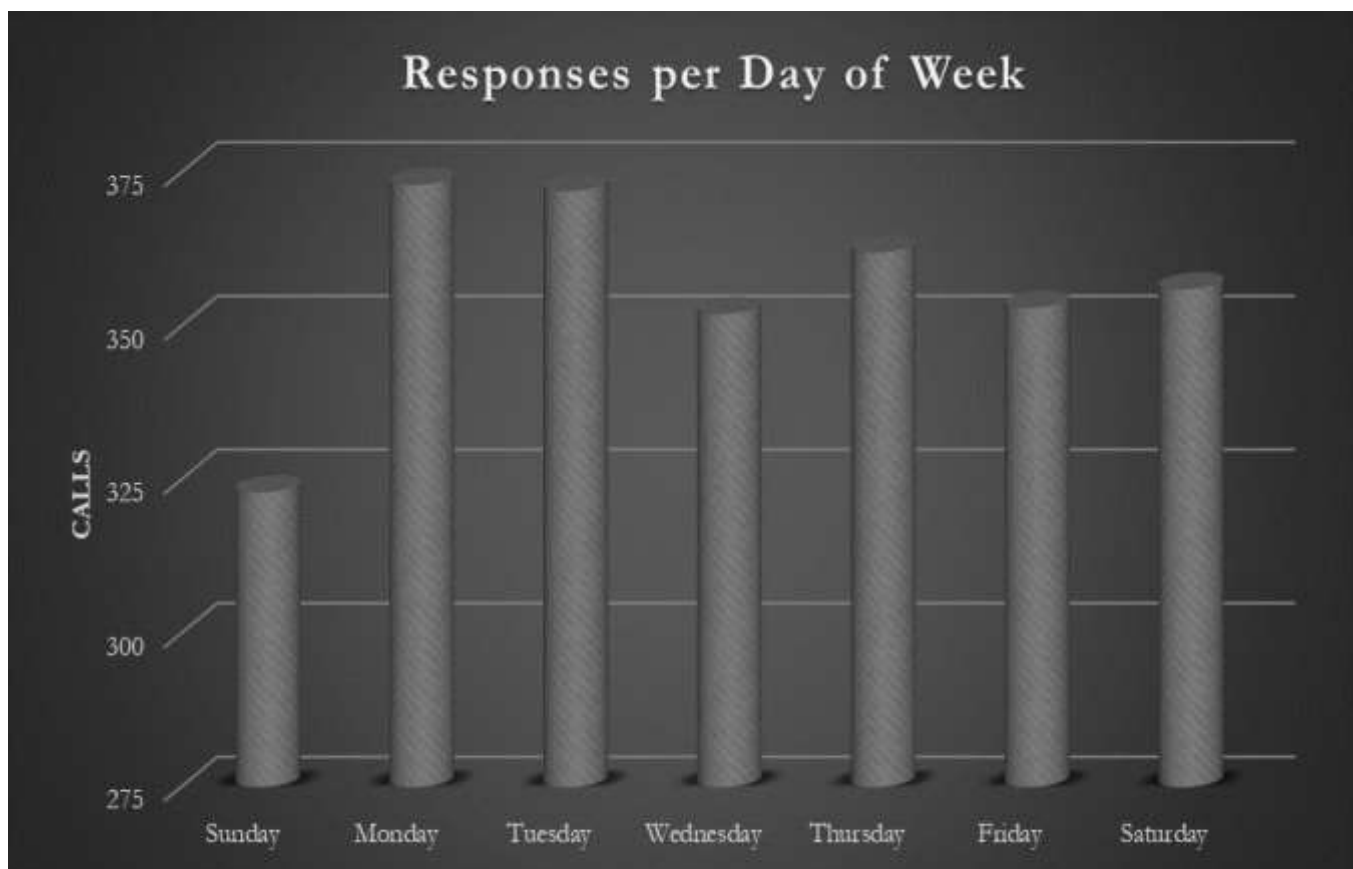
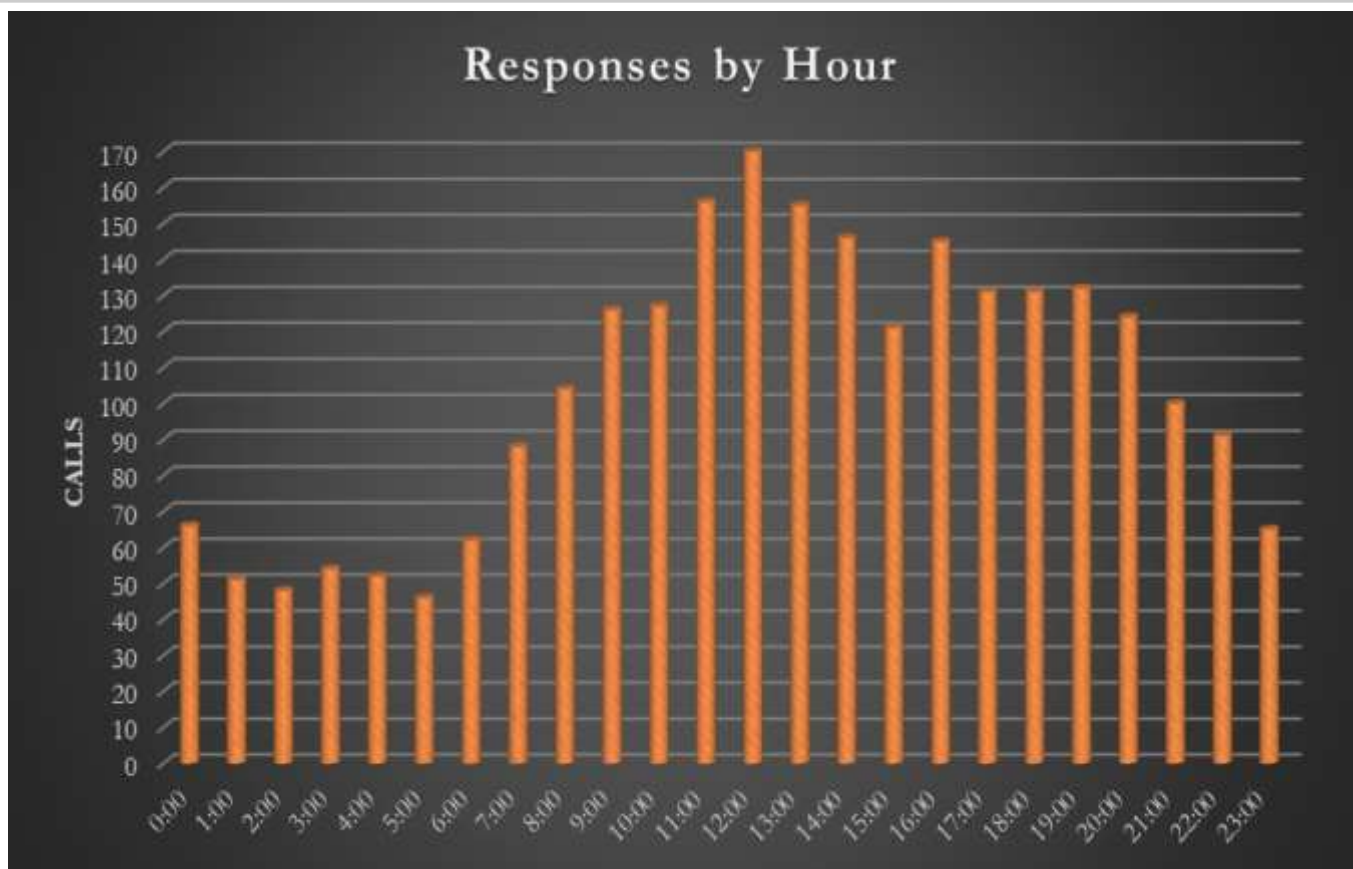
## Fire Loss per Year



## Responses per Month

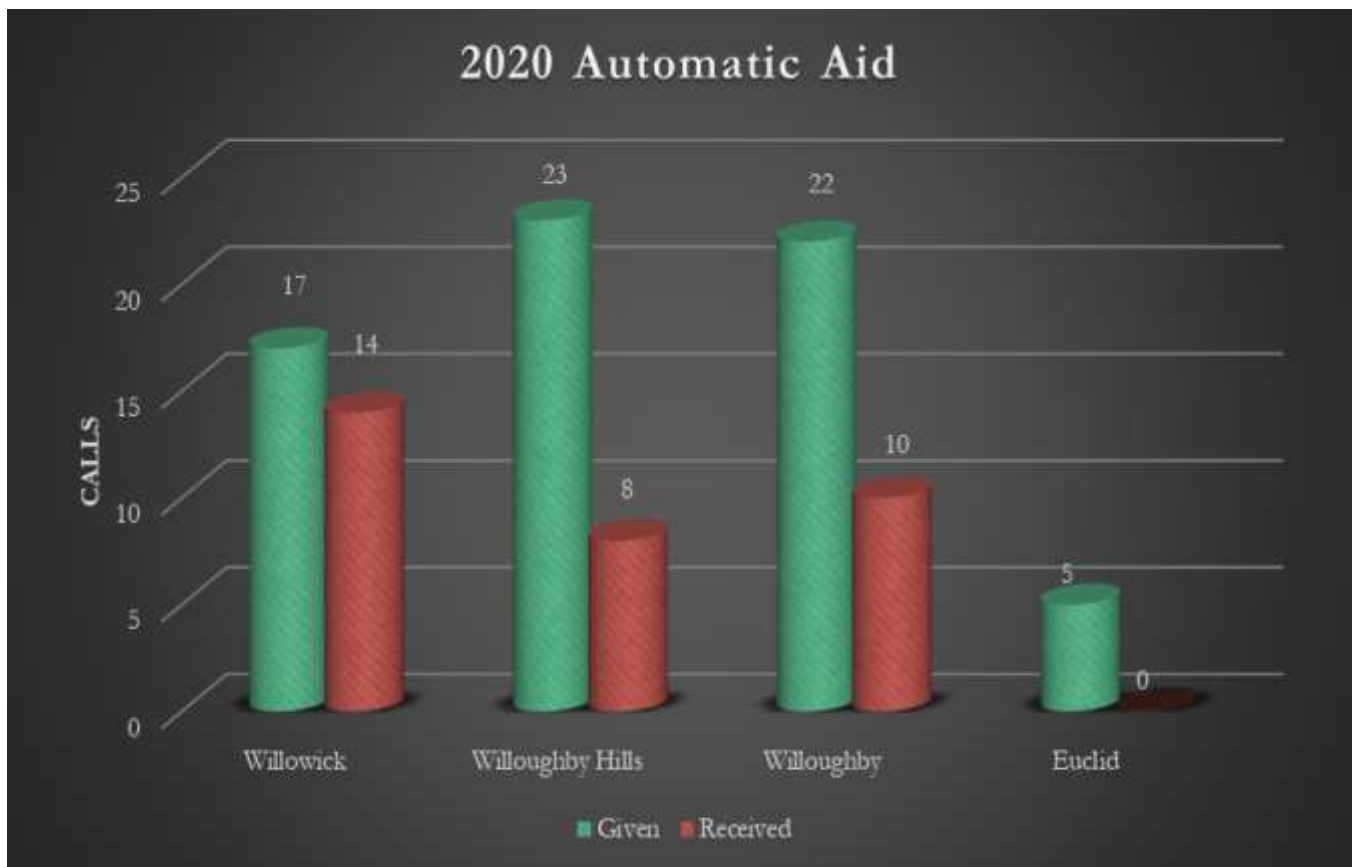
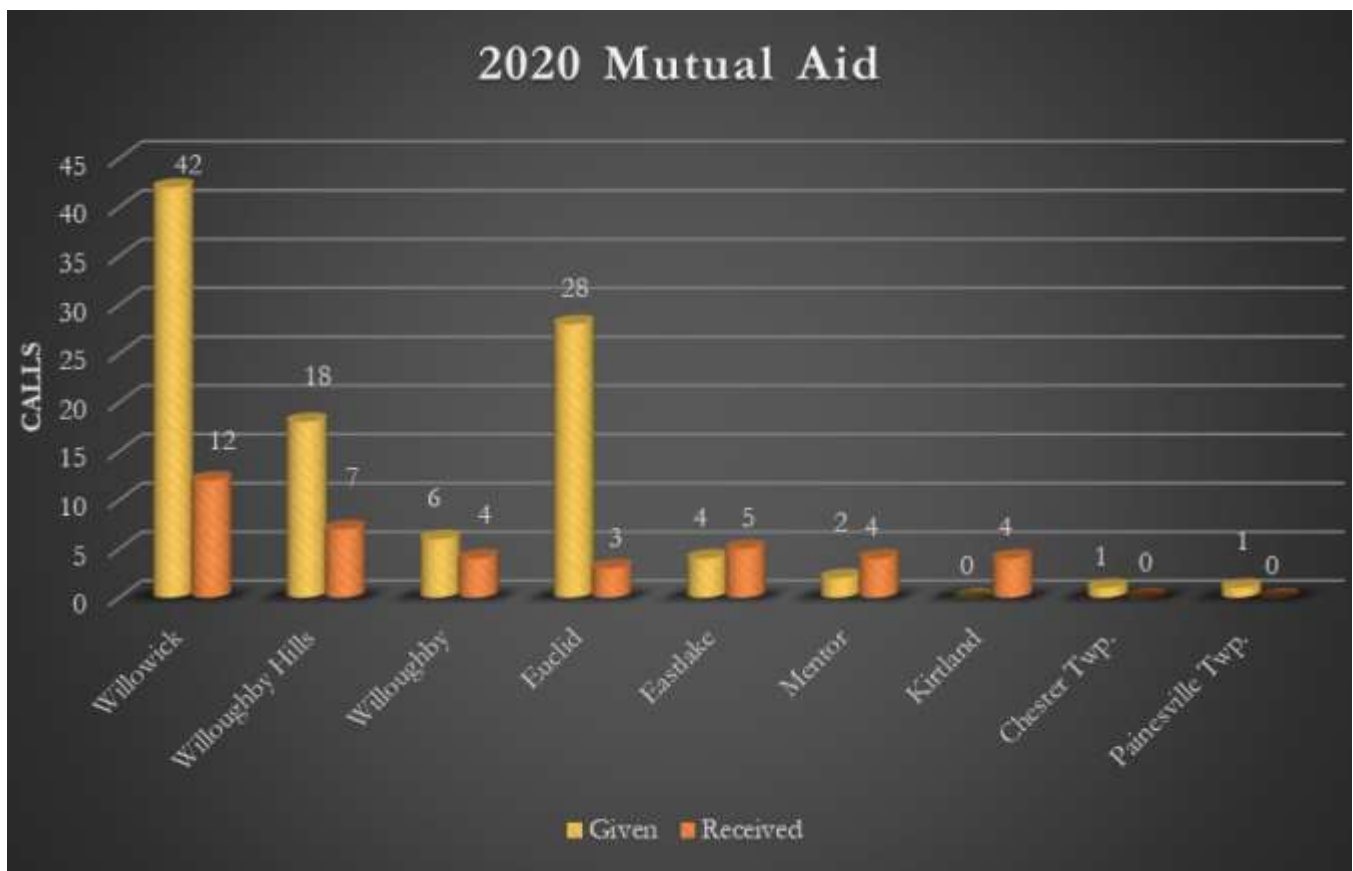


# Statistics

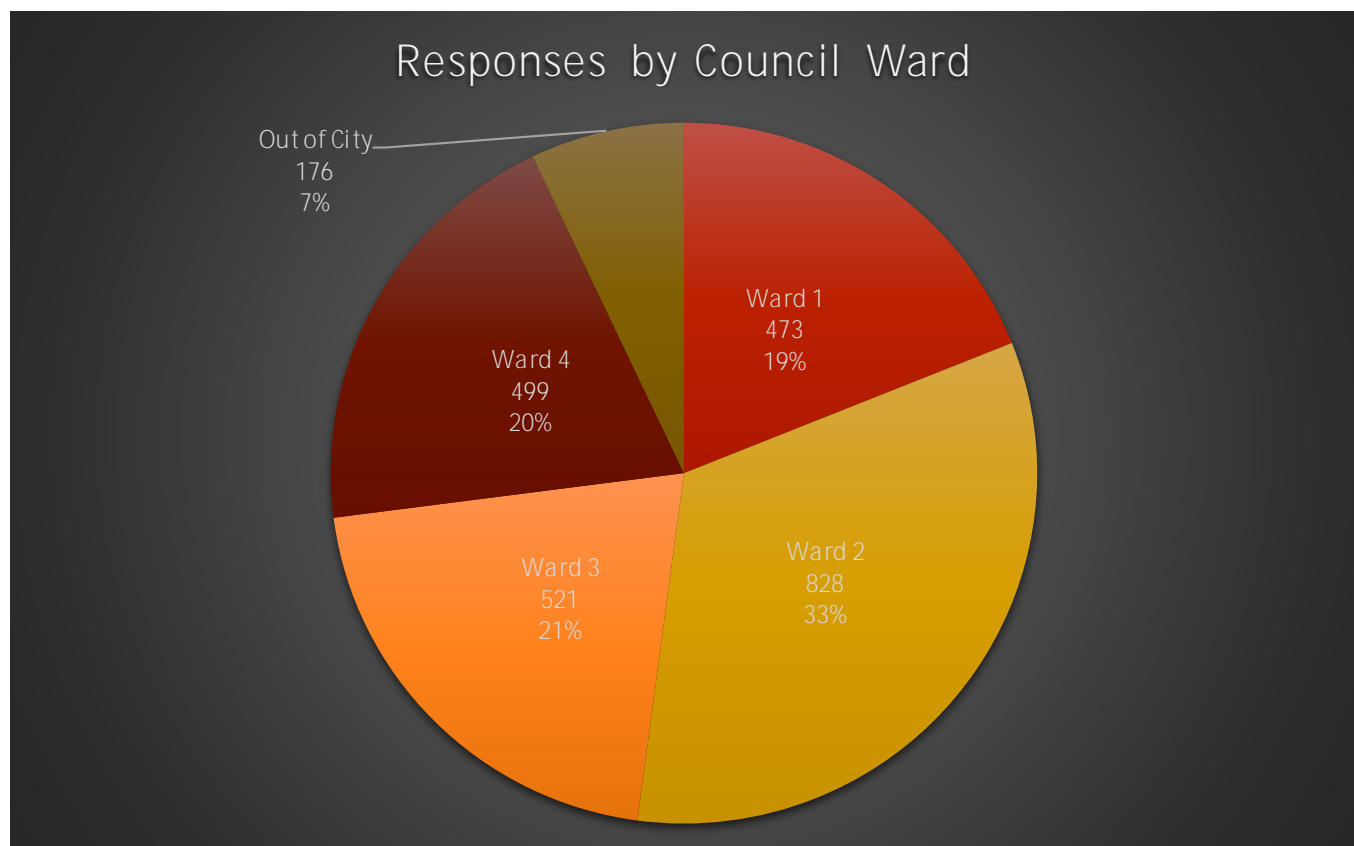
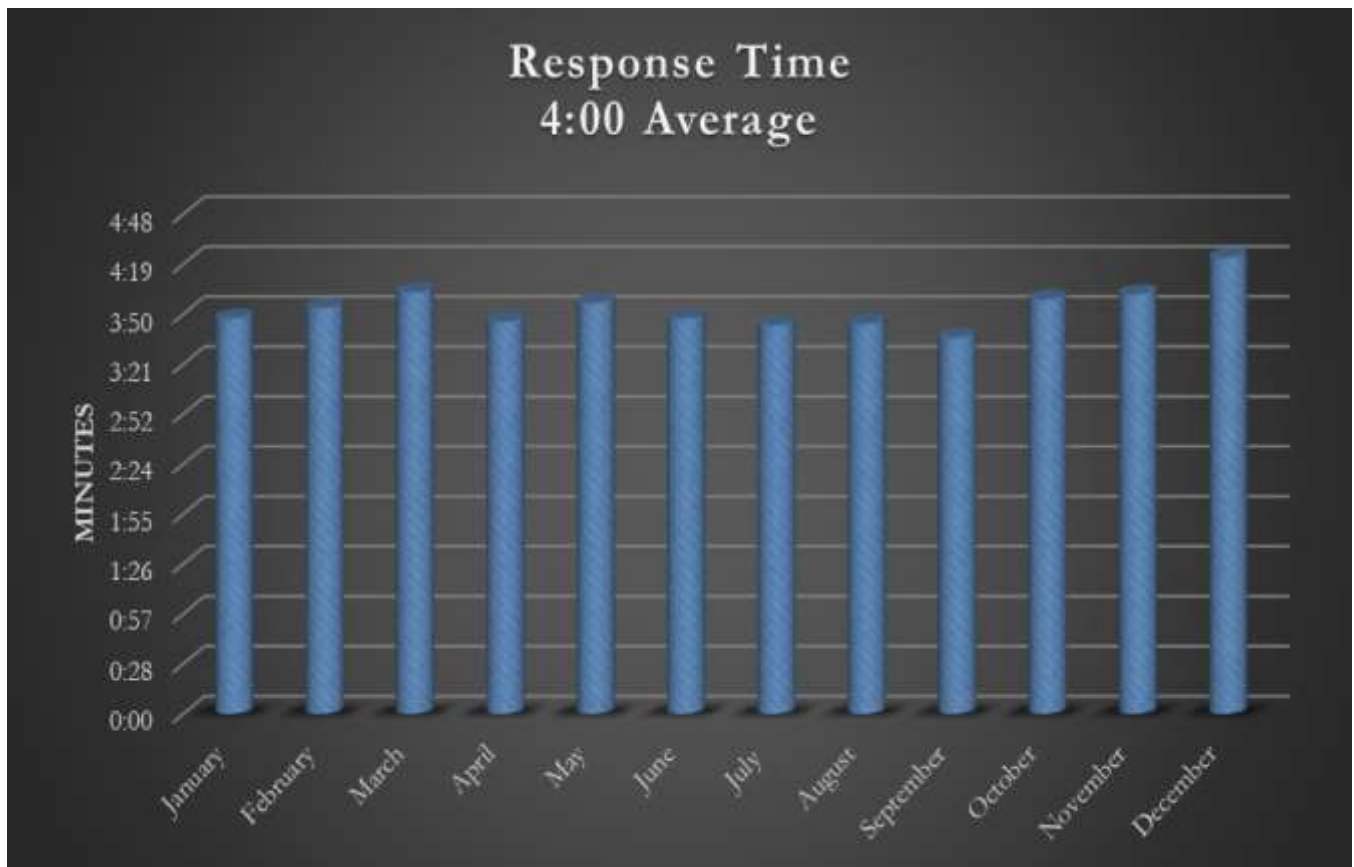




# Statistics

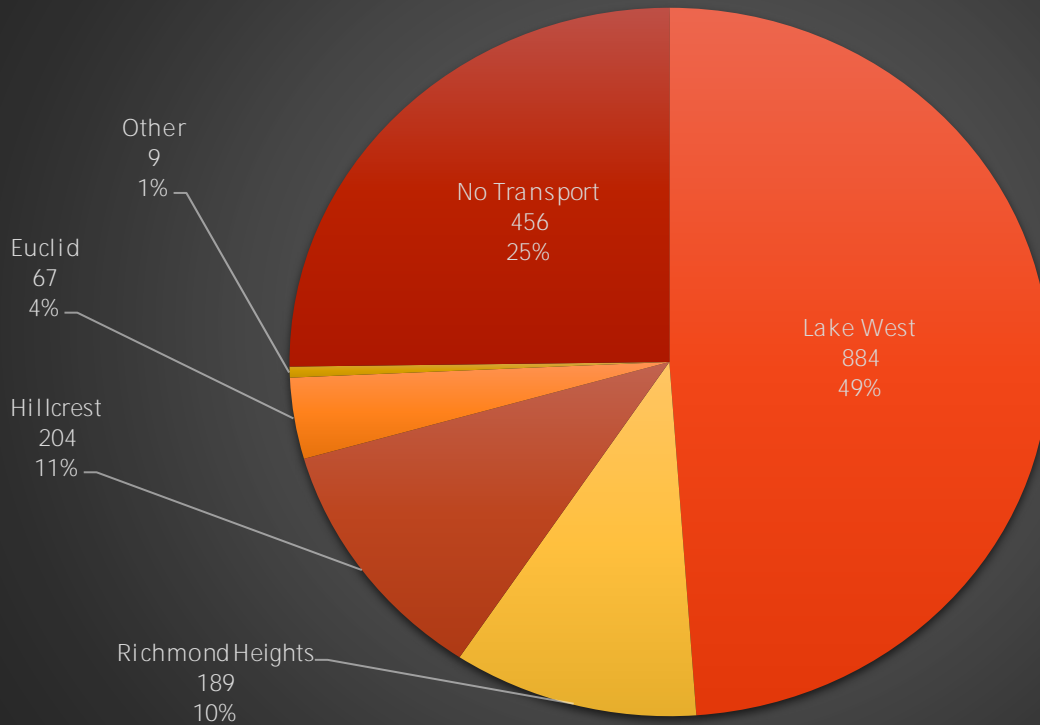


# Statistics

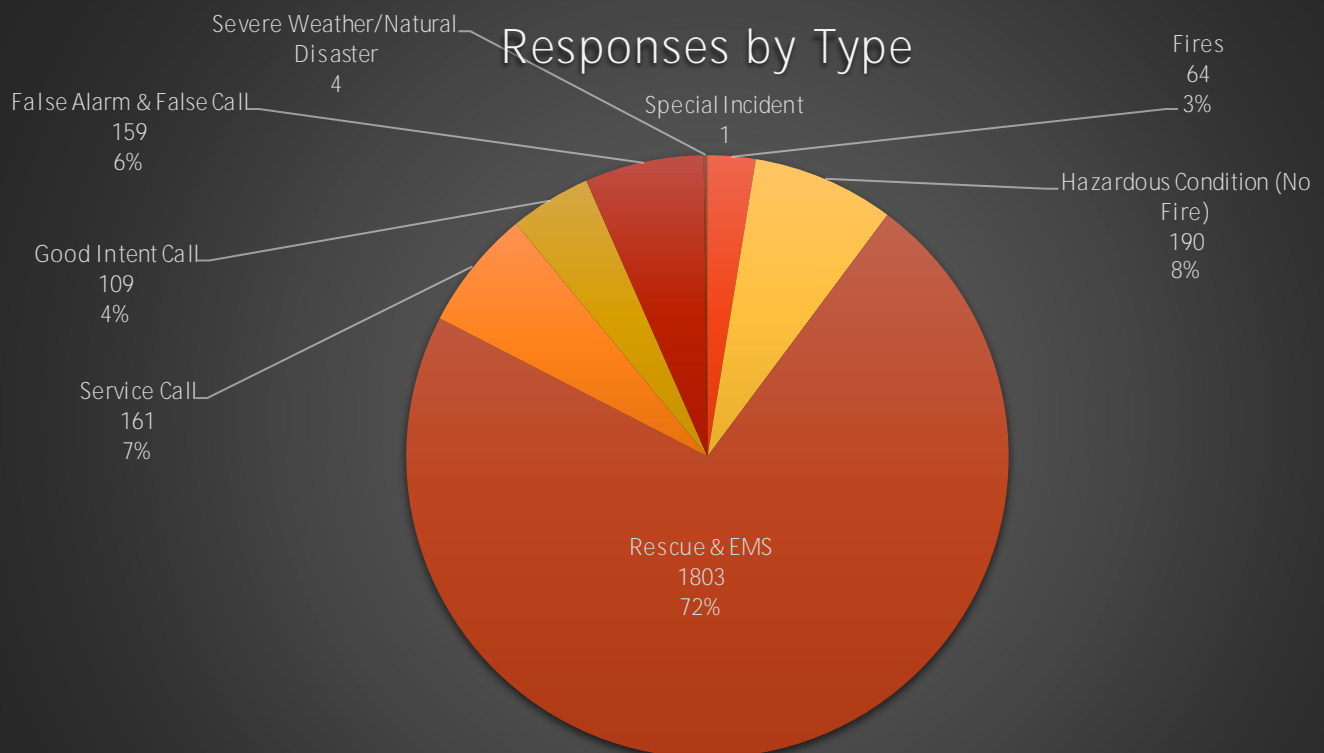


# Statistics

## EMS Transport Destination



## Responses by Type





# Fire Prevention Bureau



The Fire Prevention Bureau has the distinct mission of making the City of Wickliffe a safer place for those who live, work, or visit our community. We accomplish our mission through education, fair and consistent enforcement of the Ohio Fire Code, Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe and applicable portions of the Ohio Building Code and by taking a proactive approach in determining, reducing and/or eliminating the broad scope of hazards that could potentially threaten our community.

## Administration

The Fire Prevention Bureau is administered by the Fire Marshal and staffed with one part-time fire inspector. Members of the suppression force provide inspection support, conduct public education events, investigate fires and administer specialty programs such as our Juvenile Fire Setter Program. The Fire Prevention Bureau provides the overall management for fire prevention public education programs, fire safety inspections, code enforcement, permit issuance and plan reviews.

## Public Education

A vital part of any effective fire prevention program is an active effort. The most cost-effective way to combat the fire problem is to prevent fires before they start, and the most cost-effective way to prevent fires from starting is to educate the public about fires. Our belief is that fire safety education should start **at an early age and continue throughout one's life. Content and delivery will change as the audience** grows older and matures. Fire safety education is also interjected into our fire inspection program. One of the ways we reach our older audience is by interjecting fire safety into our inspections.

## Fire Inspections

Fire inspection and code enforcement is an important public safety function because unwanted fires kill and injure thousands annually. There is also a monetary impact when a business experiences an unwanted fire and is removed from the tax rolls while the damaged building is rebuilt or reconstructed. Inspections not only serve as an important part of the overall fire prevention effort, they provide an opportunity for the inspector to make the importance of the inspection clear to the owners and occupants, secure proper maintenance of the building and its fire and life safety systems, and to identify areas where additional protection may be needed.

## Plan Reviews

The review of building plans and specifications provides the fire department with its best opportunity to make sure that the fire protection standards are met before construction is completed and the building is occupied. Whenever possible, the Bureau of Fire Prevention participates in pre-construction meetings with other code officials, project architects, engineers and contractors. The Bureau addresses questions relating to fire protection features in the planned building(s), the building code, and fire prevention code requirements. Discussing the effect of construction on fire and life safety at these meetings can prevent misunderstandings and conflicts that may arise during construction or the final phase of construction.

# Fire Prevention Bureau

The Bureau can emphasize fire safety code requirements and coordinate responsibilities with other code enforcement officials. We believe design professionals and contractors benefit from this procedure as well since problems that would otherwise cost them time and money are eliminated prior to construction.

## Permitting

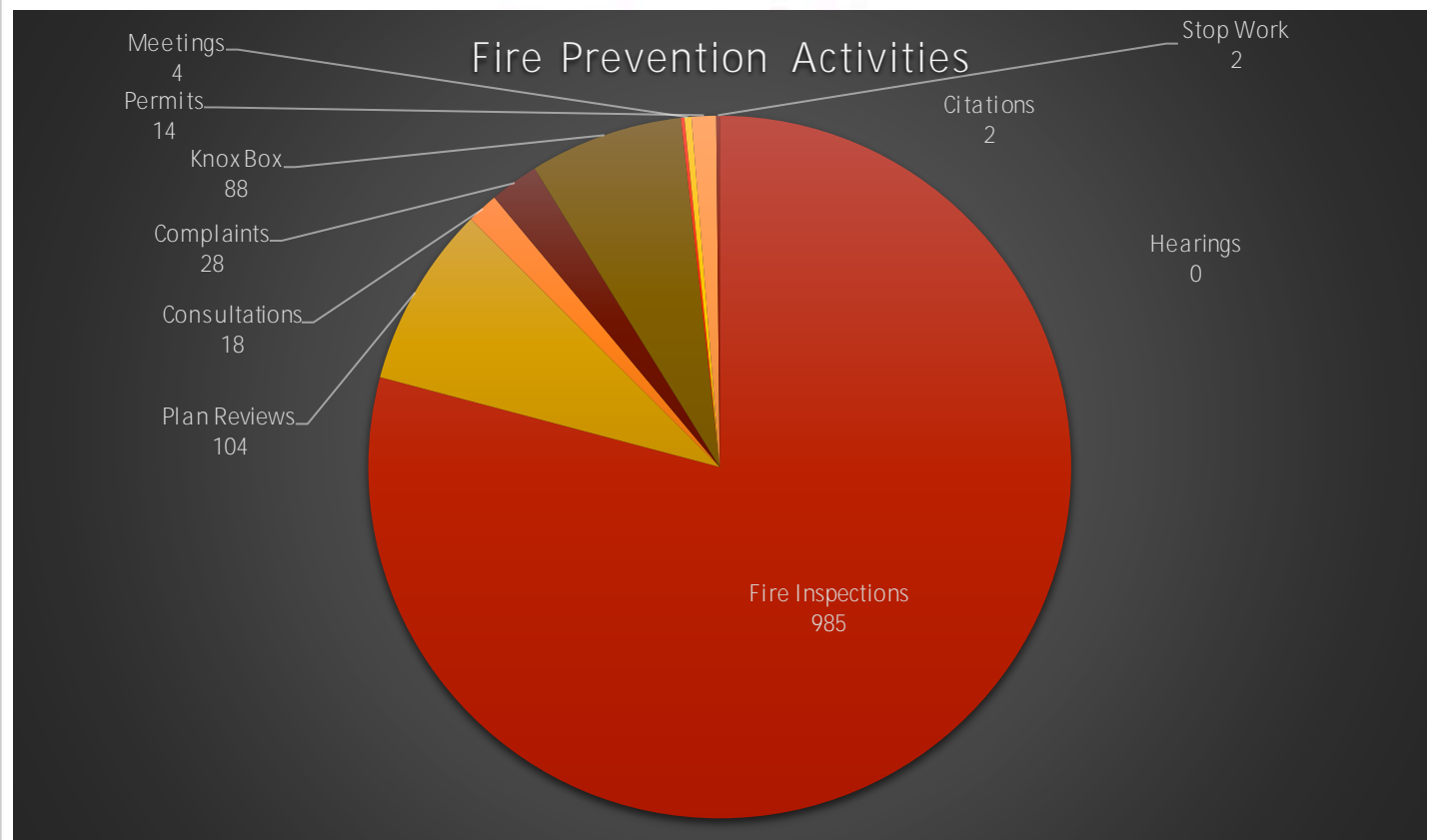
The purpose of the permitting process is twofold. First by requiring occupants and/or property owners to obtain permits, the Fire Prevention Bureau is afforded the opportunity to ensure that the activities and/or installations being proposed will meet the applicable code requirements. Secondly, and perhaps an even more basic reason for a permit, is to ensure that no hazardous situations develop within the jurisdiction of which the fire department is unaware.

## Future

As we look forward to 2020, the Fire Prevention Bureau will continue to strive to be a leader in our efforts and a model of a successful organization. Fire prevention works and has an important place in the overall mission of our Fire Department and our community.

Douglas Leovic

Fire Marshal



# Emergency Medical Services



**The City of Wickliffe's Emergency Medical Services were very busy** in 2020, responding to more than 1800 calls for EMS service. These calls range from assistance after a fall with no injuries all the way to persons not breathing. Regardless of the nature of a call for help, all persons are afforded the same level of skill and professionalism. Our residents and guests are well cared for by highly skilled Paramedics, using top of the line equipment, under the direction of Lake Hospital Systems, through standardized written Protocols.

The number one cause of death in the US continues to be heart disease. EMS respond to a great deal of emergencies related to this health crisis. Issues with high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, cardiac dysrhythmias, heart attack, and even sudden cardiac arrest. When treating patients experiencing an acute cardiac event, **EMS plays a crucial role in the "system of care."** This system of care often starts with EMS as the first givers of care. Wickliffe EMS units are equipped with cardiac monitors capable of recognizing certain types of cardiac events and transmitting that information to the receiving hospital. This has greatly increased favorable outcomes for cardiac patients due to earlier notification of catheterization (CATH) labs. EMS will often bypass the Emergency room, under the physician's guidance, and go directly to the CATH lab for immediate intervention.

Although EMS is no stranger to the dangers of communicable diseases, 2020 was especially challenging dealing with COVID-19. Additional precautions were taken while **responding to emergencies as well as changes to our "way of life" here at the fire station.** Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) was worn while on calls and masks were worn around the fire station. Chief Powers, through his leadership and quick actions, was able to keep transmission at the fire station to a minimum, allowing us to remain healthy and able to respond to calls for help.

To our Mayor and City council, thank you for supporting our mission to deliver high quality fire and EMS care for our residents. To our Chief, thank you for your leadership and guidance, keeping us on the cutting edge of EMS care. To our residents, thank you for allowing us to serve you!

Nick Mann

Lieutenant

# Infectious Control



The Wickliffe Fire Department has for decades maintained a robust infection control program that over time has adjusted to fit the current need. Our comprehensive program has four pillars. They are: prevention, personal protection, training, and follow-up. As required by Ohio Law and state and federal standards, members receive vaccinations and blood tests to make sure they have maintained their immunity and are protected as they do their jobs. Every member is provided with their own infection control personal protective equipment (PPE). A few of these items are: uniform glove pouches and gloves, eye protection, and air purifying respirators (APRs). Cleaning and disinfecting with the proper chemical agents is a part of daily life at the Wickliffe Fire Department. The ambulance and ems equipment are disinfected using industry standard supplies, the fire station is cleaned and sanitized daily, and our uniforms are cleaned with commercial equipment. All of these practices help keep the members of the Wickliffe Fire Department and those they care for on a daily basis healthy and safe.

Our system and practices were tested like never before beginning in late January of 2020. We were receiving and tracking our first notifications and guidance of the Novel Coronavirus (formerly known as 2019-nCoV and now known as COVID-19) from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Ohio Department of Health (ODH). We immediately inventoried our PPE and found ourselves well prepared for what we now know of as the worst pandemic in the last century. Additional preparations were made as early as the first week in February where we replaced all thermometers on the ambulances with the newer technology non-contact thermometers. Today, this equipment is still used to help screen every patient we care for. Throughout February, we researched all of our cleaning and disinfecting supplies double checking efficacy and adding to our cache where needed. By the end of February, we were comfortable with our current stock of supplies and rapidly adopted policies as suggested by the ODH and CDC. For instance, we disinfected high contact areas throughout the fire station twice daily, designated one specific ambulance for known COVID-19 patients, and updated standardized PPE requirements for our personnel. It was not uncommon to see our paramedics wearing plastic gowns with N-95 respirators. Our dispatchers in our police department, adapted quickly to new standards and performed admirably assisting with screening patients for symptoms. **Governor DeWine declared a "State of Emergency" in Ohio on March 9, 2020 and by that point, the Wickliffe Fire Department was poised to deal with the pandemic thru the long haul.**

To date, we have cared for and transported hundreds of known COVID-19 patients and have likely cared for hundreds more which although not diagnosed, had COVID-19. The Wickliffe Fire Department has remained healthy throughout the pandemic, maintaining its services to our residents, visitors, and those commuting thru our city limits. Our personnel were offered vaccinations in January of 2021 and have and will continue to aid in the vaccination of the public. As you know, COVID-19 has been a public health crisis of enormous proportions. I am very proud to state that the Wickliffe Fire Department has been a public health service that has been profoundly effective by providing immeasurable assistance to partnering agencies and the public. It is a true testament to our personnel, their knowledge and diligence, and most importantly their continued selfless acts.

JP Michalak

Captain



# Infectious Control



# Fire and EMS Training



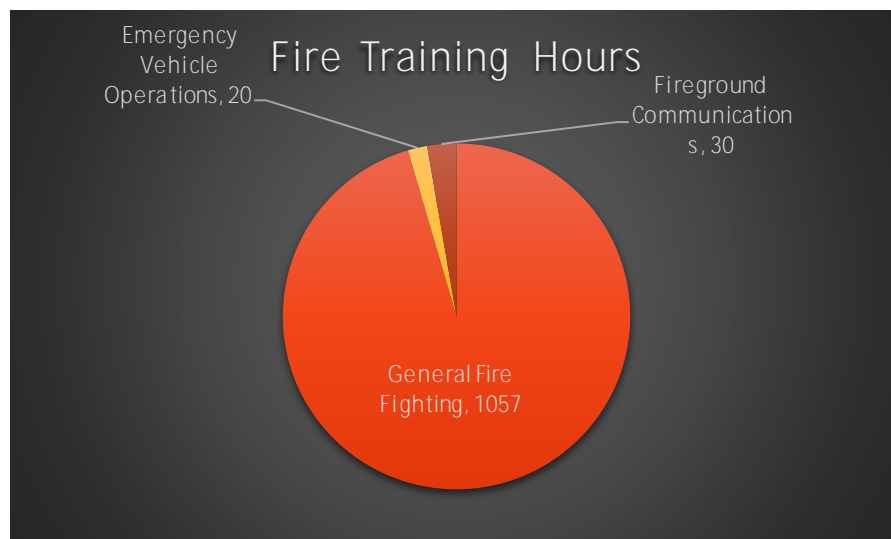
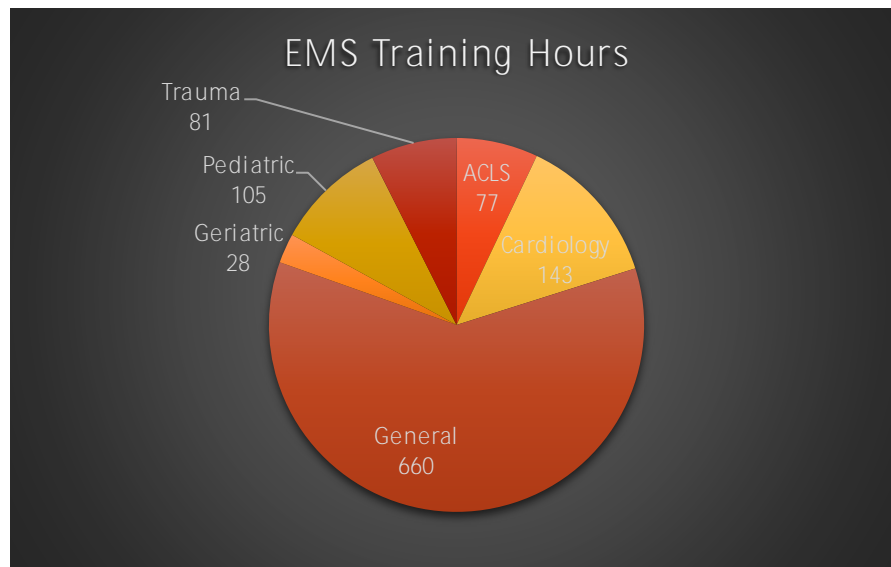
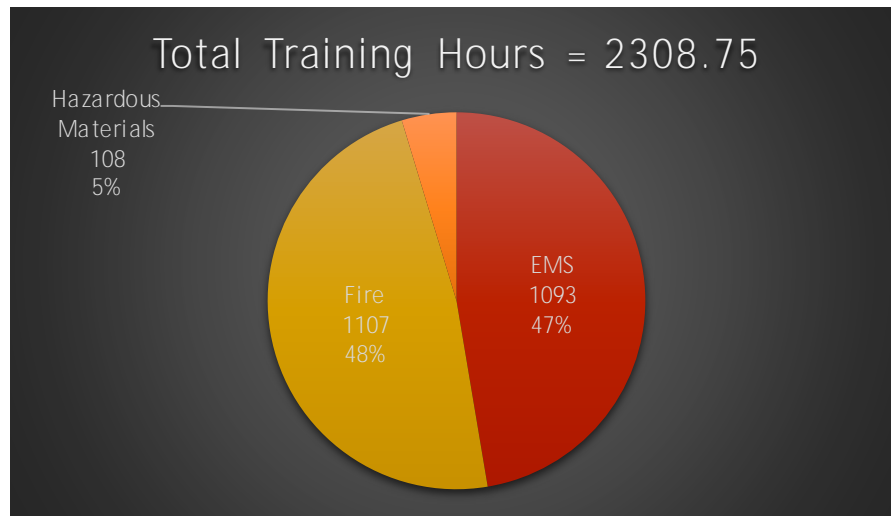
No 2020 year in review would be complete without mentioning Covid-19's impact. **Most aspects of Department training** had to be significantly altered or suspended as a result of the pandemic. However, just as emergency calls give our members opportunities to innovate and develop solutions to complex problems, the pandemic forced us to get creative with regard to training.

When social distancing made it difficult to impossible to train in person, we adapted to Zoom training sessions for EMS continuing education. Online fire training for Officer development and fire continuing education also helped members stay current with hours requirements. Hypothetical building fires using Google Streetview and GIS imagery took the place of facility tours, and pandemic training, which seemed to be updated almost daily became a mainstay of our daily training.

**Although opportunities to train "hands on" were greatly limited in 2020, we** were able to make the most of the situation. Warmer temperatures allowed members to complete a limited number company evolutions like simulated fire attack, and ventilation. The good news is that as of this writing, things have started to improve greatly, and a sense of normalcy has returned to some aspects of Department training. I am hopeful that this trend will continue so that the members of the Wickliffe Fire Department can resume regular training activities as soon as possible.

James I som  
Captain

# Fire and EMS Training Stats



# Pre Incident Planning



*Pre-planning has been termed by some as “Knowing in advance what you are up against.” “If you know in advance what you are up against, it’s easier to defeat the enemy.” The enemy may not be a fire. It may be a chemical release, a winter storm, or a terrorist attack. To Plan is to be forewarned. To be forewarned is to be prepared. We must be prepared!*

*Similar to a military officer planning for battle, the emergency services officer must plan for battle. The fire officer must plan an offensive and defensive strategy just as a football coach plans a strategy. The ultimate goal is to have the fire-fighting team perform efficiently and effectively. (Jenaway, 1992).*

Unlike fire prevention or fire safety inspections, pre-incident planning assumes that an incident will occur.

National Fire Protection Association 1620 explains how the pre-incident plan assist during the incident:

1. The pre-incident plan should be the foundation for decision making during an emergency situation and provide important data that will assist the incident commander in developing appropriate strategies and tactics for managing the incident.
2. The pre-incident plan should help responding personnel identify critical factors that will affect the ultimate outcome of the incident, including personal safety.
3. The pre-incident plan should provide for available facility personnel to advise responding personnel of current conditions upon arrival.
4. The information contained in a pre incident plan should enable the incident commander to anticipate likely scenarios. A pre-incident plan should assist the incident commander in developing tactical options. Consulting the pre-incident plan throughout the incident should keep the incident commander aware of factors that might affect the success of the operation and the need for strategic or tactical adjustment.

Gathering the information for our pre-plans is time consuming and labor intensive. The value of our pre-incident planning information system simply cannot be overstated. The tablet based Streetwise system has rapidly become the industry standard in our immediate area allowing for a regional emergency preparedness approach. The community and our firefighters are absolutely safer when our fire department administration, city council, and mayor/safety director support such initiatives. Their continued support is both welcomed and appreciated.

**Sean O'Neill**

Lieutenant





# SCBA / Respiratory Testing



Breathing in toxic environments is a common occurrence in the fire service and we have to maintain and test our equipment regularly to help keep our firefighters safe. Upon employment, each Wickliffe firefighter is issued their own personal SCBA mask and it is tested for proper fit before they can operate in hazardous conditions. Once employed, every firefighter is tested annually to ensure that their SCBA mask still fits properly. Our 25 SCBAs are tested annually by a third party as a part of our comprehensive SCBA maintenance program. Each unit is also checked daily by the individual to which it is assigned and a more detailed check of each unit is performed weekly.

As with any of our tools in the fire service, no tool is effective without proper training. All of our personnel are required to complete initial employment and annual competency training with our SCBAs. Additionally, our shift officers routinely complete shift level training to maintain a state of readiness. We train tirelessly beyond routine operations and focus on situations when things are going wrong. For instance, firefighter entrapment and SCBA malfunction are common scenarios that we run ourselves through. Frankly, our ability to maintain and use our SCBA is a life or death proposition. The equipment that Wickliffe has provided to our firefighters and the maintenance programs in place have allowed our personnel to do their jobs in the safest possible way.

**New in 2020: Our “Drop the Pack Overhaul” procedure.** Through a grant, we were able to acquire full face piece regulators with a light weight filter. This will allow the firefighter to safely work in a post-fire atmosphere without the additional weight of our SCBA packs which weigh over thirty-five pounds. We also purchased filters for the light weight regulators that allow us to enter some toxic atmospheres. These filters will enable us to enter zones in areas that contain such gasses as Chlorine, Ammonia and Tear Gas.

*Sean O'Neill*

Lieutenant



# Vehicle and Apparatus Maintenance



The theme for 2020 was “Maintain”. The focus of the fire department maintenance efforts was on preventative and corrective maintenance. Following the lead of the WSD Mechanics, the fire department was able to maintain all vehicles, apparatus, and equipment in a continual state of readiness.

Preventive maintenance is handled on two levels with fire department apparatus. An outside service facility change fluids, filters, and inspect mechanical systems. At the station, vehicles and apparatus are cleaned, waxed and fluid and air levels maintained. All preventative maintenance on small portable equipment is completed in house by the members of the fire department. This aggressive preventative maintenance program extends the life of equipment, reduces costly repairs, and ensures vehicle safety and the longest possible service life of the fleet.

Corrective maintenance is also performed in house at the WFD, at the WSD and at outside repair facilities. At the fire station light bulbs are replaced and other non mechanical problems are fixed. The city mechanics handle emergency repairs and other corrective maintenance. Other corrective maintenance of note in 2020 included tire and battery replacement, engine warrantee work, A/C system repairs, and coolant system repairs on fire department apparatus. As the age of the fire department fleet increase, so does the cost of preventative and corrective maintenance.

Chris Grossman

Lieutenant

VEHICLE	YEAR	CONDITION	MAKE/MODEL	MILEAGE	HOURS
1500	2014	Excellent	Chevy Tahoe	77,764	
1511	2019	Excellent	Dodge Ram 1500	1,520	
1512	2019	Excellent	International/Horton	990	80
1513	1996	Fair	Sutphen Engine	42,550	3265
1514	2006	Good	Sutphen Engine	40,450	4914
1517	2011	Good	Dodge RAM 2500	12,940	
1519	1999	Fair	KME Ladder	15,290	2915
1521	2019	Excellent	GMC Silverado 1500	18,240	
1542	2008	Poor	Ford F-450 Horton	56,270	6453
1531	2012	Good	Chevy Tahoe	48,511	
1532	2012	Good	International/Horton	73,457	7524
1522	2018	Excellent	International/Horton	28,774	2709
HM2	2005	Excellent	International/Hackney	9,487	

**Excellent Condition-** Low Mileage, No body corrosion/rust, Preventative maintenance needed only.

**Good Condition-** Moderate Mileage, Minor body corrosion/rust, Maintenance needed to maintain current condition.

**Fair Condition-** High Mileage, Moderate body and frame corrosion/ rust, Maintenance needed to remain in-service.

**Poor Condition-** High Mileage, Severe body and frame corrosion/rust, No longer able to be maintained as an emergency vehicle.

# Vehicles



Engine 1513  
2000 GPM Pumper  
1996 Sutphen



Engine 1514  
2000 GPM Pumper  
2006 Sutphen



Truck 1519  
**75' Ladder**  
1999 KME

# Vehicles



Squad 1512

EMS Ambulance

2019 International/Horton



Squad 1522

EMS Ambulance

2018 International/Horton



Squad 1532

EMS Ambulance

2012 International/Horton



# Vehicles



Car 1500

**Chief's Command Vehicle**

2015 Chevrolet Tahoe



Car 1511

Fire Marshal / Shift SUV

2012 Chevrolet Tahoe



Pickup 1531

Command Vehicle

Dodge Ram 1500

# Vehicles



Pickup 1521  
EMS/Utility Vehicle  
2018 GMC Sierra



Truck 1517  
Utility Vehicle  
2011 Dodge Ram 2500



Haz Mat II  
Hazardous Materials Truck  
2005 International

# Vehicles / Support Apparatus



Trailer 1527

Emergency Support Vehicle

2009 Haulmark



Trailer 1537

Emergency Support Vehicle

2011 Haulmark



ATV 1

On/Off Road Utility Vehicle

2006 John Deere Gator

# Public Education



Wickliffe Fire Department's public education efforts focus on providing safety information to our citizens and guests. The Fire Department is well-known for our emergency work. Public Education is another aspect of our service that helps to enhance safety by promoting prevention.

**"Creativity" is the word to best describe the activities of Public Education in 2020.** COVID-19 has changed our world and the way we operate. Public Education has also been affected by this global pandemic. We have had to cancel, postpone, modify, or look for alternative ways to promote our mission.

Use of the *Wickliffe Connection* helps us draw attention to public education and safety awareness. As there were no spring and summer editions, we were able to publish fewer articles than expected. Our most important article was published in the fall edition regarding Fire Prevention Week. We look forward to future submissions.

Using social Media (Facebook) we are able to promote both the Fire Department and Public Safety. With COVID-19, it was challenging to stay current with information in these uncertain times. As data and information changed almost daily, we will continued to provide links and information relevant to this health crisis to help citizens can keep up with the changes. And we used our platform to promote safety initiatives, and recommended health guidelines.

We give Fire Station tours on a sometimes scheduled, but usually impromptu basis. With COVID-19, there have been no tours of the building. However, Department members have participated in countless "Birthday Parades" and other "drive-by" events at the request of our citizens.

Cancellation of the in-person school year in the spring eliminated career day activities, Student Government Day, and safety town.

As we could not find a way to collect for MDA (Muscular Dystrophy) in-person while accounting for social distancing, masks, and the potential spread of COVID from contact to contact, our annual "Fill the Boot" drive was cancelled. We did however promote virtual donations directly to MDA through our social media page.

As Public Educators representing the Fire Department, October's National Fire Prevention Week is our highest-profile event of the year. Again, due to health guidelines and recommendations we were unable to meet with students in person.

Wickliffe Public Library, however, offered us a joint opportunity to provide our fire safety information through a library-promoted video in October. Personnel visited the library and interacted with staff while the event was video-recorded and later shared via Facebook. We hope you were able to see it.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we will continue to seek opportunities to enhance fire safety through public education. 2021 marks the Centennial for our Wickliffe Fire Department. We are hopeful that there will be opportunity to enjoy some events related to this milestone. In the meantime, we'll continue to showcase our knowledge and talents to provide for the safety needs of the community. That's what we do every day.

Anthony Zorko

Fire Fighter



# Hazardous Materials



Hazardous Materials is one of the many significant areas of the Fire Service that we handle here at the Wickliffe Fire Department. On any given day, numerous tractor-trailers, box trucks and trains will be hauling this classification of materials. In addition to this, we have numerous companies within the city that possess these materials in larger quantities. As long as these materials stay inside their designed containers, there is no issue. If these materials are accidentally released, then this can cause a significant problem where specialized personnel will be required to mitigate and resolve the incident. At Wickliffe FD, we house and maintain Haz-Mat 2, which, is a large truck that holds a high number of specialized tools used in Hazardous Materials.

In Lake County, we have the Hazardous Intervention Team (HIT). This team is one of the 11 Type I teams in Ohio comprised of approximately 65 Hazardous Material Technicians. As a Type I team with Haz-Mat Technicians, we can handle any type of Hazardous Materials incidents that may occur. To maintain our Type I status, the team has to go through a rigorous evaluation every three years. We are due for re-typing in 2021 and preparations for this evaluation have already begun. This team meets monthly and trains on different types of hazardous materials incidents that could happen. If this training does not occur then we will not be prepared enough for a possible incident.

Last year was unique with the COVID-19 pandemic. We were unable to meet as a group to complete our monthly training and we had to adapt to meet our requirements. We conducted remote trainings via zoom and completed some online training to fulfill the requirements that are mandated by the state.

This year we were able to acquire some new training equipment. Our funding is supplied by the county and that is what made it possible to obtain these new items. We now have a roll over tanker simulator and a BLEVE simulator. A roll over tanker simulator is a scaled down version of a chemical tanker. We can simulate leaks and use our specialized equipment to stop/patch leaks until a clean-up company responds to transport the liquid away. The other piece of equipment is used to simulate a BLEVE. This simulates a pressurized tank holding a flammable substance that is about to burst. Although these are rare events, continuous training and dedication is the only way these incidents can be resolved with minimal damage.

It is with the continued support from the City of Wickliffe and Lake County that we are able to remain prepared to deal with the chemical emergencies that may pose a threat to our community.

Paul Baptie

Fire Fighter

# Fire Investigation



The Wickliffe Fire Department Fire Investigation Team consists of three fire investigators, two of which are also trained in Advanced Fire Investigation and one has basic fire investigation training. Regular training and field experience are required to maintain knowledge and skill and also to maintain certification through the office of the State Fire Marshal.

All members of the Wickliffe Fire Investigation team are members of the Western Lake County Fire Investigation unit ( WLCFIU ). Wickliffe FIU serves as a formal mutual aid model allowing neighboring communities to assist each other for large-scale incidents and difficult cases.

Regardless of the cause, all fire need to be investigated. Luckily, the majority of fires in Wickliffe and the surrounding communities are accidental. Sometimes fires are set on purpose. We call these fires arson.

There are six motive classifications that are associated with firesetters:

- 1.Vandalism
- 2.Excitement
- 3.Revenge
- 4.Crime Concealment
- 5.Profit
- 6.Extremism

Arson cases are tough to prove, and even more difficult to prosecute. Evidence of arson is nearly impossible to preserve. Not only will the fire likely destroy physical proof but the water and chemical foam used to put out the blaze can also destroy potential evidence. Fingerprints are blurred by soot. The arsonist flees before passersby even notice the flames. The blaze burns so quickly that pinpointing the exact spot where it started is nearly impossible. For arson investigators, gathering evidence and identifying a suspect is difficult. For prosecutors, piecing together the puzzle to file charges and win a conviction is even harder. Because of this, an arson investigator's most important witnesses are the firefighters that first arrive on the scene.

We are lucky to have an experienced team of members on the WLCFIU who are all happy to work together. Every member has a unique background and area of expertise. It all starts with education; then gaining valuable experience. We are grateful that the Wickliffe and the surrounding cities understand the need for this team, and continue to provide funding.

Mark Toth

Fire Fighter

# Fire Hydrant Maintenance



Fire hydrant maintenance is an often overlooked, but important aspect of fire department operations. There are over 800 fire hydrants in the city of Wickliffe. Fire hydrant maintenance involves checking hydrant serviceability twice a year, in both spring and fall. Proper maintenance is labor intensive and is done by on duty personnel. Fire hydrant caps are removed and lubricated to ensure quicker removal in an emergent situation and each hydrant is flowed to help clear out sediment aiding in maintaining cleaner water.

The Wickliffe Fire Department notifies the Lake County Department of Utilities of any hydrants that are deemed malfunctioning or inoperable.

Most people take for granted that our water supply is a very large system that is inter-connected. The system contains water treatment plants, pumps, gravity tanks, storage tanks, water mains, hydrants, and ultimately, the faucets in our homes. Water mains are typically laid out in a large grid system that can be quite complex; one reason we work so closely with the Lake County Water Department.

Each year, in addition to performing maintenance and inspection of our fire hydrants, we also perform flow testing. This involves taking pressure readings and flowing water on the same water main to calculate how much water is available for firefighting operations. These calculations are recorded and presented to ISO, the Insurance Services Office. ISO is a provider of statistical, actuarial, underwriting, claims information, and analytics. Many insurance rates for business are tied to the score received by the fire department from ISO. A review of the water supply system accounts for 40% of our total ISO rating. This is why Wickliffe FD is so committed to the maintenance of the water supply system. ISO dictates that all water mains must be flow tested every 5 years, but it is our goal to accomplish this task every 4 years to stay ahead of the curve.

As with most things in the fire service, hydrants, and the system they are involved with, are much more complex than meets the eye.

Ken Stout

Fire Fighter





IN RECOGNITION OF  
DEDICATED SERVICE  
TO  
WICKLIFFE FIRE  
DEPARTMENT



CHIEF DAVID MARINELLO 1946-1963	CAPTAIN MARTIN SLATTERY 1967-1993	CAPTAIN JERRY BLACKBURN 1979-2015	
CHIEF WALTER KNAPP 1946-1978	FIRE FIGHTER LAURENCE DIVOKY 1968-1993	FIRE FIGHTER THOMAS RAPINZ 1991-2019	
FIRE FIGHTER JOSEPH BOCHENEK 1956-1980	FIRE FIGHTER WILLIAM SMILEY 1965-1994	FIRE FIGHTER JAMES MROSKO 1986-2019	
ASSISTANT CHIEF MELVIN HOUSE, SR. 1956-1987	CHIEF DAVID GEOSANO 1980-1996	LIEUTENANT JOSEPH COOPER 1989-2019	
FIRE FIGHTER DENNIS LeBLANC 1968-1987	LIEUTENANT KENNETH SAMSA 1973-1999	FIRE FIGHTER JOHN CROW 1992-2020	
LIEUTENANT ARDEN LEMPONEN 1961-1990	FIRE FIGHTER HENRY KERSMAN 1971-1999		
FIRE FIGHTER ANTHONY DiMATTIA 1963-1990	ASSISTANT CHIEF THOMAS KOCAB 1969-1999		
FIRE FIGHTER GARY OSBORNE 1965-1990	SECRETARY MARY ANN BOOS 1971-1999		
FIRE FIGHTER WALTER BOCHENEK 1967-1991	FIRE FIGHTER DUANE MARTUCCI 1970-2000		
FIRE FIGHTER EUGENE WOJCIECHOWSKI 1967-1992	FIRE FIGHTER RONALD NAGLIC 1973-2001		
LIEUTENANT GEORGE MROSKO 1965-1992	LIEUTENANT MARK NERONE 1979-2006		
CHIEF EDWARD BOCHENEK 1954-1992	CHIEF DANIEL HELSEL 1979-2009		