2021 ANNUAL REPORT



FARMINGTON HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



It is my pleasure to present the Farmington Hills Fire Department's Annual Report for 2021. This comprehensive report provides history, activities, and the resulting statistical data that is continuously examined throughout the year and is utilized to enhance the service that we provide to our community. The men and women of this department responded to a historical high of 11,354 calls for service during 2021. This represents an increase of nearly 20% since 2018. We are privileged to serve each citizen and visitor in our community, and we are exceptionally proud to provide the highest level of Fire and EMS services possible.

On July 7, 2021, a severe weather event impacted the City for 17 minutes, and the Fire Department responded to a historical high of 216 incidents during a 24-hour period. The area sustained

wind gusts that were in excess of 60 mph, accompanied by a tremendous amount of rainfall. The storm resulted in numerous downed trees and powerlines, roadway flooding, structural damage, fires, and both directions of I-275 closed for several hours due to powerlines and utility poles falling onto the freeway. Our Emergency Management Division worked tirelessly in the following days conducting damage assessments, providing shelter for displaced residents, and assisting our DPW with mitigation and cleanup. Finally, a local disaster declaration was requested and processed, allowing for financial assistance from the State of Michigan.

COVID-19 continued to present challenges for the Department, we encountered two separate spikes, having one in the spring and one in the fall. COVID drastically altered our standard operating procedures in not only our delivery of EMS care, but also the extensive measures used to protect our staff. Our staff continues to work effectively and efficiently to sanitize City owned buildings and vehicles while providing a high level of protection to our first responders.

Our community outreach efforts continued to take on a different look. We were unable to host our annual Open House and elementary school fall fire prevention programs. Our in person public education events turned into extra Fire Prevention messages that were delivered to the community via print and video. We concluded the year with our annual holiday message "Water your tree so we don't have to."



I'm proud to share that we have one of the most comprehensive training programs in the State of Michigan. Our motto is that "every day is a training day" and as such, our members can be found training daily on topics such as EMS, hazardous materials, fire sciences, and other specialized training.

With the support of the citizens, Mayor, City Council, our City Manager and his staff, as well as the other City departments and supporting governmental agencies, we continue to be a model department that remains unyielding in being progressive, innovative and an energetic organization that enhances opportunities to serve you. Most of all, none of this would be possible without the talented members of this fine department and their continued hard work, leadership, and commitment.

Jon Unruh, Fire Chief

FIRE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE STAFF



DEPUTY CHIEF JASON OLSZEWSKI, CHIEF JON UNRUH, AND FIRE MARSHAL JASON BALOGA

FIRE DEPARTMENT







EMERGENCY ACTIVITY

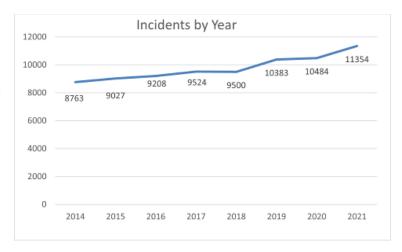


Since 2018, the Fire Department has experienced an increase of nearly 20% in run volume. In 2021, Farmington Hills Firefighters responded to the highest number of incidents in Department history.

These incidents include the extinguishment of fires, treatment and extrication at vehicular accidents, hazardous materials responses, fire alarms, weather-related incidents, and providing Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) services, and hospital transport for medical emergencies. The Department also provides mutual aid response to neighboring communities in accordance with agreements throughout Oakland, Livingston, and Western Wayne Counties.

Our five strategically located fire stations utilize a combination of career and Paid-on-Call Firefighters. Stations 1, 2, 4, and 5 provide 24-hour Firefighter/ Paramedic staffing. Station 3 is staffed seven days per week from 7:30 AM until midnight. Including headquarters staff, there are 60 sworn career personnel, four civilian positions, and 49 Paid-on-Call Firefighters.

10 YEAR COMPARISON OF TOTAL DOLLAR LOSS DUE TO FIRE	
2021	\$2,298,561
2020	\$2,304,951
2019	\$3,229,451
2018	\$3,888,500
2017	\$8,577,000
2016	\$2,830,913
2015	\$2,719,603
2014	\$4,200,900
2013	\$3,901,700
2012	\$10,994,335
10 YEAR AVERAGE — \$4,283,456	

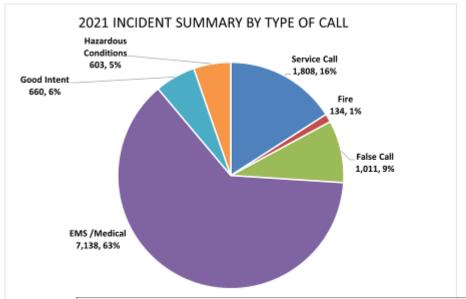


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Jason Olszewski, Deputy Fire Chief



EMERGENCY ACTIVITY



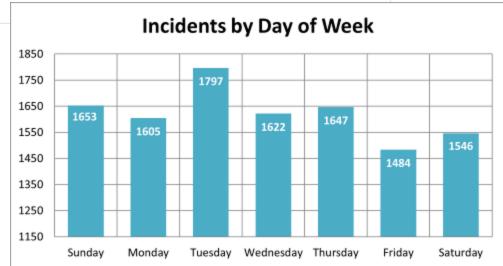
Some examples of call types are listed below:

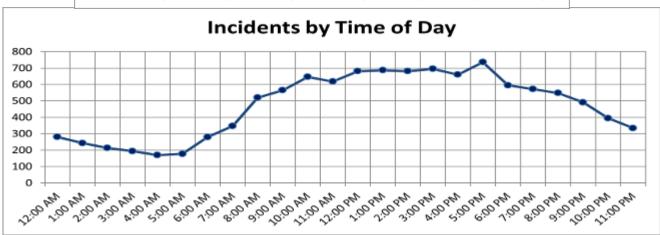
Hazardous Conditions—Wires down, hazardous materials

False Call—Fire alarms, medical alarms

Citizen Assist– CO Investigation, water flow, electrical issues, etc.

Good Intent—Vehicular accident without injuries, smoke investigations





FIRE PREVENTION



In its day-to-day business operation, the Fire Prevention Division conducted 980 building inspections in 2021. As it relates to new construction and development, 35 site plans were reviewed with input provided to the Planning Commission. An additional 35 reviews were completed with input to the Engineering Division, and 104 building plan reviews were conducted by the Fire Department's Plan Review Officer.

Records requests, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests, and Subpoenas are also processed by the Fire Marshal's Office. Throughout the year, there were 171 EMS record requests, 136 Fire Department FOIA requests, and 11 Subpoenas

that were reviewed and prepared.

The Farmington Hills Fire Department (FHFD) responded to 135 fires in 2021, accounting for approximately \$2,298,561 in fire loss, and there were zero Firefighter sustained injuries. There were two civilian fire injuries which required the Fire Department to transport those patients to Detroit Receiving Hospital for burn injuries. FHFD's Youth Fire Setter Program did not need to intervene with any youth fire setters in 2021, which is a testament to its success from the previous year's interventions.

Some of the fire causes noted in 2021 were improperly discarded ashes and coals, smoking materials, fireworks, and unattended cooking. The Fire Prevention messages of 2022 will address the causes noted from 2021.

Public outreach programs continue to be a large focus of the Fire Department. COVID-19 continues to restrict and challenge in-person instruction. The highly successful Fall Assembly Program and the annual City-Wide Open House were cancelled due to concerns related to health and safety. Despite the challenges that 2021 provided, the Fire Department presented over 52 public education events in which 2,404 children and 2,659 adults were impacted.

One of the most important safety messages given is that working smoke alarms have been determined to be one of the best defenses against fire related deaths. The State of Michigan reported that in 2021, a total of 107 people died in their homes as a result of fire. It was reported that many of these deaths were preventable, as 40% of the homes did not have working smoke alarms.

Through partnerships with the State of Michigan, American Red Cross, and local partners, Farmington Hills Firefighters completed smoke alarm installations in over 145 homes in the City, including two bed shakers for the hearing impaired.

FIRE PREVENTION CONTINUED

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is often overlooked as a deadly hazard. CO is referred to as the silent killer as it is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Carbon monoxide alarms were installed in 32 homes by Farmington Hills Firefighters in 2021. These smoke and carbon monoxide alarms installed by Firefighters are provided free of charge to residents who need them. This is only made possible with grant funding and the community partners who have supplied alarms to the Fire Department. A working smoke alarm is a vital piece of equipment to have in the event of a fire.

One of the tools utilized to help determine where resources are best utilized in the community is the CRAIG 1300 Dashboard. CRAIG stands for Community Risk Assessment Insight Generator. The Fire Prevention Division supported the CRAIG Dashboard as an all-encompassing tool used to reduce risk within the City. The CRAIG Dashboard assisted the Fire Department in performing a Community Risk Reduction Assessment. The assessment assisted the Fire Department in presenting to two outside agencies demonstrating where donated resources would be utilized. Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union and the Commission on Community Health provided donations that were used to acquire smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. These donations went even further due to the reduced pricing received from community partners while maintaining relationships with Senior Services, Home Depot, and MI Prevention.

Remembering When A FIRE AND FALL PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Seniors are prioritized through the NFPA Remembering When Fire and Fall Prevention Program. This program directly impacts the senior population, which is ever increasing within our city. Falls are the most common type of injury for trauma patients that are presented to our local trauma/ER department. During the past year, FHFD has teamed up with Farmington Hills Special Services and Beaumont Hospital (Farmington Hills Campus) to acquire training from NFPA, which has allowed us to develop and institute their Remembering When Fall and Fire Prevention Program for the citizens of Farmington Hills. To date, Team Farmington Hills has spoken to hundreds of seniors and has scheduled additional programs to continue in the efforts to further educate the senior population within our community. The program has been met with much success and is very well received among the participants.

Jason Baloga, Fire Marshal

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Medical emergencies represent many of the calls for service that the Farmington Hills Fire Department responds to. Last year, 7,726 residents and visitors required such assistance. Our Department provides advanced life support (ALS), the highest level of emergency medicine available within the out-of-hospital environment. This includes electrical therapy (such as cardioversion, defibrillation, and external pacing) airway management (such as intubation and surgical airways), obtaining intravenous or intraosseous access, needle decompression of chest injuries, and the administration of 30 different types of medication.

Utilizing a cost-effective yet highly efficient staffing model, aggressive medical protocols, some of the finest equipment currently available, and a fleet of seven ALS ambulances, three ALS engines, and two basic life support ambulances, the Department's 66 paramedics and 40 emergency medical technicians (EMT) routinely provide compassionate and exceptional patient care to those they encounter. When necessary, patients are transported to one of 10 area hospitals, with the two most common destinations being Beaumont Hospital - Farmington Hills (65%) and Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital (26%).

Although Farmington Hills continues to be nationally renowned as a wonderful place to start and raise a family, most patients our Department encountered in 2021 fall under the "better than 55" age group. Specifically, 12.1% were 55-64, 18.6% were 65-74, 19.6% were 75-84, and 24.7% were over 85. Much of this can be attributed to the numerous assisted living and extended care facilities located throughout the community as well as the outstanding quality of life our city is known for. Given the aforementioned 75% of our emergency medical responses, the Farmington Hills Fire Department continues to be heavily invested in serving "our greatest generations." Examples include partnerships with the Farmington Hills Senior Division and Beaumont Hospital - Farmington Hills on two impactful initiatives, File of Life and Remembering When.

⇒ The File of Life program provides a resident with a form that can be completed by either themselves, their family, or primary care physician. It provides essential medical information (such as pre-existing conditions, current medication, allergies, and points of contact), and can be placed within a magnetic sleeve on the outside of their refrigerator for emergency responders to later access.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



One of the other ways we serve this specific population is that our EMTs and paramedics responding to routine calls for service have the ability to recognize when residents may require special assistance (such as Meals on Wheels, medication refills, social services, transportation to medical appointments, or visiting nurses), and then making the Senior Division aware of such situations. Helping "connect the dots" between those in need and those able to help is something our Firefighters take great pride in.

Last but certainly not least, members of the Fire Department continued to distinguish themselves with the outstanding emergency medical care they provided in 2021. Consequently, members have received numerous Life Saving and Chain of Survival Awards from the Fire Department and Oakland County Medical Control Authority for victims of cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, heart attacks, strokes, and life-threatening traumatic injuries ultimately discharged from the hospital.

Should you have questions regarding the Emergency Medical Services capabilities of the Farmington Hills Fire Department, please contact Sergeant Eric Alonzo at 248-871-2804.

Sergeant Eric Alonzo, EMS Coordinator

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TRAINING









The mission of the Farmington Hills Fire Department's Training Division is to provide the education and training necessary for the Department's emergency responders to provide the most compassionate and outstanding customer service possible to everyone they encounter. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to more calls for service than ever before in the Department's history, 25,924 hours of training took place either in-person or virtually.

Supervised by Staff Lieutenant James Etzin, the Farmington Hills Fire Department's Training Division includes Lieutenant Daniel Wecker overseeing our recruit training programs (Emergency Medical Technician, Firefighter I, and Firefighter II), Sergeant

Enrique Alonzo serving as our agency's Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, Department Coordinator Dennis Hubbard overseeing transitional training for recruits, Department Technician Sara West handling administrative aspects, as well as a multitude of full-time and part-time personnel functioning as ancillary instructors.

As members of an "all hazards department," our Firefighter / EMTs and Firefighter / Paramedics respond to a wide variety of emergencies, many of which occur in dangerous and sometimes austere environments. These include residential and commercial structure fires, hazardous material releases, technical rescues, motor vehicle accidents, and medical emergencies. For our personnel to function efficiently and safely during any situation, they require a great deal of knowledge, skill, and most importantly, the ability to make critical decisions under duress. In response to these needs, our instructors provide fundamental, advanced, and sometimes innovative training on a frequent basis that is consistent with current science, industry standards, and regulatory requirements.

FIRE AND RESCUE

Ropes, Knots, and Tools

Trench Rescue

Water Supply

Vehicle Extrication

Aerial Operations (Ladder Trucks) Electrical and Natural Gas Emergencies Search and Rescue Fire Behavior Forcible Entry **Ground Ladders Hazardous Materials**

Ice Rescue

Multi-Company Operations (Multiple Station Response)

MEDICAL

Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support Basic Life Support Communicable Disease and COVID Updates Environmental Emergencies (Heat and Cold) **Mass Casualty Situations** Hose Deployment and Fire Attack Patient Assessment **Respiratory Emergencies** Traumatic Injuries

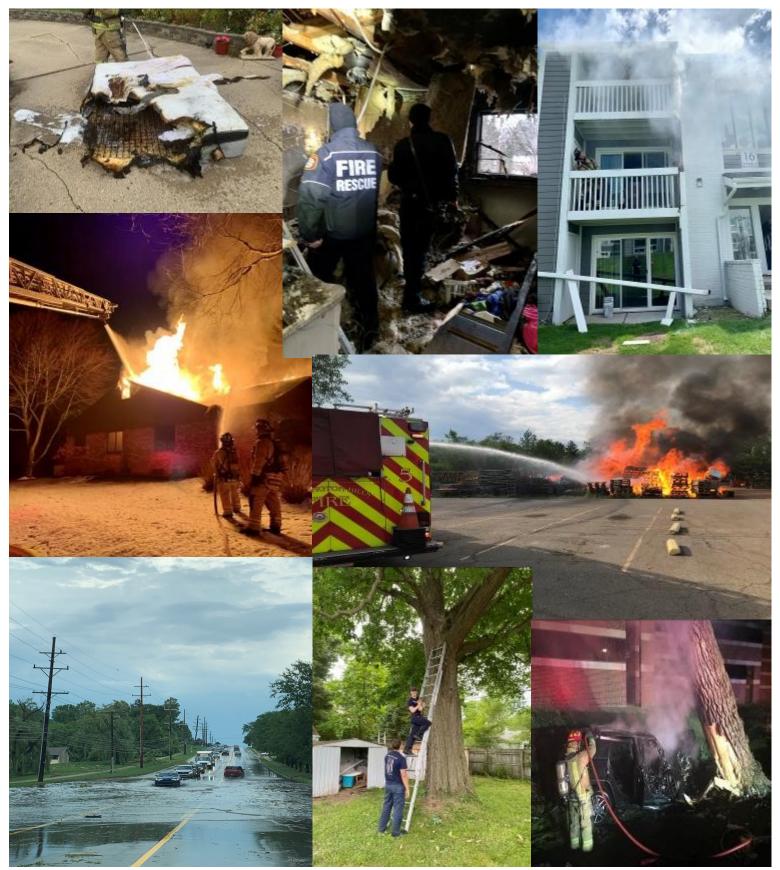
Airway Management Burns County and State Protocol Review Geriatrics

Medical Legal Pediatric Advanced Life Support **Special Needs Patients**

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FIRE DEPARTMENT





EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Staff Lieutenant and Emergency Manager Jamie Neufeld coordinates all Emergency Management activities with the assistance of Fire Chief Jon Unruh, who is also a professional Emergency Manager, for the City of Farmington Hills. This includes frequent work with the local Emergency Management Team consisting of managers from each City department, and the Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security of both Oakland County and the Michigan State Police. Emergency Management involves recurrent work on Community Risk Reduction from all hazards, natural and/or human-made. In 2021, severe weather overshadowed the COVID-19 Global Pandemic followed by human made issues:

- The Emergency Management staff redoubled its efforts this year to maintain the continuity of operations for the citizens of Farmington Hills. While COVID-19 continued to hinder the reopening of our society, Mother Nature decided to thrust weather into the spotlight. Early drought changed to six straight weeks of heavy rain, punctuated by a severe weather event that hammered the City and the region. On Halloween, a large regional watermain break heavily damaged several homes due to flooding and closed 14 Mile Road. The Emergency Management Plan was enacted and upgraded throughout the entire year. Relationships with our regional partners were strengthened, which resulted in the City safely maintaining all essential operations for its citizens during this challenging year.
- The City of Farmington Hills was struck by an intense line of thunderstorms in the late afternoon of July 7, 2021. The high wind microburst, combined with soaked soil, destroyed a huge swath of trees throughout the City. Downed power lines affected 60,000 residents, shut down I-275 for hours, and triggered numerous fires. Gravel roads were washed out or heavily damaged, downed trees and power lines made many neighborhoods impassable. It took four weeks to clear the City's "right of way." The Emergency Dispatch Center answered over 1,100 calls for service. The Fire Department responded to 216 calls for service. The EOC was activated and stayed activated for the remainder of the summer as heavy rains continued through early August.
- The Mayor and City Council declared a Local State of Emergency based upon damage resulting from the July 7 severe weather event. This was followed in August by a Declaration of a State of Emergency by the Governor. Although the City sustained heavy damage from consecutive weather events, the threshold for FEMA Federal Disaster funds eligibility was not reached. Working with our State and County partners, the Emergency Management Team was able to apply for Section 19 Funds from the State of Michigan for Public Assistance. The Governor approved \$834,665 for the City of Farmington Hills on October 25 from the Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund. This Public Assistance is capped at one million dollars and as road and culvert repairs continue into early 2022 so do the associated costs. We continue to work with our State Police Emergency Management partners to vet these expenditures and to gain the maximum allowable sum of grant money for the taxpayers as allowed under Section 19.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONT.

- Our Team continued logistics operations between State, County, and Local entities to maintain the supply chain of personal protective equipment and sanitizing products. This ensured the safety of all staff and citizens, allowing for continuity of operations city-wide. The city-wide sanitizing program was adjusted accordingly for all City buildings and vehicles to maintain everyone's health and safety.
- On October 31 at 5:00 PM, the Great Lakes Water Authority 48-inch watermain running under 14 Mile Road ruptured violently, destroying one home and heavily damaging two more, while directly affecting 17 other homes as flood waters trapped them inside. Thankfully nobody was injured by this disaster. We worked closely with our regional partners with a much-improved response as we had this same scenario in October of 2017. The subsequent pipeline shutdown and rerouting of water triggered a dozen watermain leaks and some short-term boil water advisories for a portion of City residents. The closure, the damage assessment, and repairs continued into late January of 2022. It was determined that two miles of pipeline needed immediate repairs and two new valves were installed for future mitigation. The Engineering Department has worked hard to maintain safety along 14 Mile Road which has been shut down and or obstructed along the repair route. We appreciate the patience of our citizens.
- The Emergency Management Team enhances our regional networks by participating on special teams and committees. Lt. Neufeld deployed with the Oakland County Incident Management Team (OCIMT) to the following:
 - Assist Livingston County to manage a search for a missing senior.
 - Damage Assessment and State of Emergency Assistance for White Lake Township following a tornado.
 - In support of the State of Emergency in Flat Rock in tandem with Chief Unruh who is the Chief of the Western Wayne County Hazardous Materials Response Team (WWHMRT).
 - Recovery Operations for the Incident in Oxford.

Staff Lieutenant Jamie Neufeld

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2021 RETIREMENTS



Retirement of Senior Firefighter Shelly Gilbert after 25 years of service.



Retirement of Firefighter George Baker after 25 years of service.



Retirement of Battalion Chief Gary Delp after 30 years of service



PROMOTIONS



Shift Lieutenant Steve Hatch Promoted to Battalion Chief



Sergeant Bryan Hewitt Promoted to Shift Lieutenant



Senior Firefighter Colin Brennan Promoted to Sergeant



PROMOTIONS



Jacob Anderson POC Firefighter to Career Firefighter



Ryan L. Smith POC Firefighter to Career Firefighter

2021 RECOGNITION



Lieutenant Bryan Hewitt Farmington Hills Fire Department 2021 Eastern Michigan University School of Staff and Command Graduate



2021 RECOGNITION



Lieutenant Bryan Hewitt FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



Battalion Chief Steven Hatch AMERICAN LEGION FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



Firefighter Kayla Geffert OPTIMIST CLUB FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



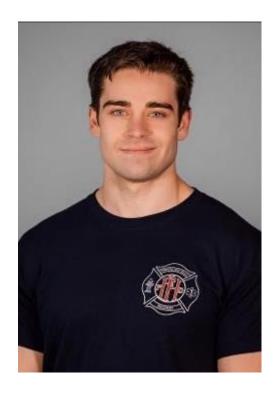
Battalion Chief Stephen Biebel CAREER FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



2021 RECOGNITION



Sergeant Pat Palise PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



Probationary Firefighter Brad Seegert RECRUIT FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

FIRE DEPARTMENT



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jon Unruh, Fire Chief
Jason J. Olszewski, Deputy Chief
Jason Baloga, Fire Marshal
James N. Neufeld, Administrative Staff Lieutenant
Dennis Firment, Fire Prevention Staff Lieutenant
James Etzin, Training Staff Lieutenant
Enrique Alonzo, Sergeant/EMS Coordinator
Donald F. Alati, Inspector/Plan Review
Stanley E. Barnes, Inspector/Hazardous Materials Specialist
Jason L. Gilbert, Senior Firefighter/Apparatus Coordinator
Kelly Lane, Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief
Amira R. Lewis, Fire Prevention Assistant
Sara West, Department Technician
Sergeant Gerard Antoniotti, Special Assignment
Dennis Hubbard, Department Coordinator

STATION 1

CAREER

Sergeant Nicholas Hippler Sergeant Daniel Rickard Sergeant Jarod Foshag Sergeant Matthew Migliore Sr. Firefighter Kevin Steen Sr. Firefighter Stan Bailey Sr. Firefighter Alexander Bradford Sr. Firefighter Samuel Morelli FF James Chesney

PAID-0N-CALL

FF Nate Lochrie

PFF Ryan L. Smith

FF Christopher Inglese

District Chief David Moriarty
Captain John Vesey
Lieutenant Raymond Pudlik
FF Chris Kozlowski
FF Chad Seigle
FF Phillippe Landry
FF Matthew Green
FF Nathaniel Jenks
FF Bradford Lowell
FF Luke Dushaj

FF Samuel Carvalho-Ruehle

FF Dominic Cherenzia

STATION 2

CAREER

Sergeant Nicholas Newcomb
Sergeant Stephen Vierk
Sergeant Ron Perian
Sergeant Colin Brennan
Sr. Firefighter Gregory Orlowski
Sr. Firefighter Timothy Cyrus
Sr. Firefighter Timothy Persichino
FF Isaac Corbier
FF Dave Caloia
FF Jen Chesney

PFF Phil Moser PAID-0N-CALL

FF Matthew Jones

District Chief Matthew Schiffman Lieutenant Gary Reid Sergeant Timothy Persichino FF Kevin Palombit FF Logan Phillips

STATION 3

<u>CAREER</u> Acting Sergeant Andrew Lucki

PAID-0N-CALL

District Chief Matthew Schiffman
Captain Edward Heidelbach
FF Phillip Wolfe
FF Patrick Palise
FF Eric Forge
FF Mark Kuzera
FF Aaron Travers
FF Dennis Hubbard
FF MacDonald Goode
FF Jeffrey Beeler

FF Patrick Gregory FF Kadan Barnes FF Tyrus Miller FF Kacey Noseworthy FF George Pajor, II

FF Bradley Seegert

FF Aaron Walton

CAREER
Sergeant Derick Smith
Sr. Firefighter Mike Rucinski
FF Sean Beacome

STATION 4

PAID-0N-CALL

District Chief David Chrisco Captain Ronald Tejero Lieutenant John Schertel FF John Gaynett FF Stuart Agranove FF Ryan Sharp FF Todd Kolchinsky FF Ryan L. Smith FF Geoffrey Gabriel FF Madison Gardenhire FF Ryan W. Smith FF Christopher Twigg FF Rory Cowley FF Ryan Delp FF Thomas Koval FF Brett Mills

STATION 5

CAREER

Battalion Chief Stephen Biebel Battalion Chief Brian Gallison Battalion Chief Jeremy Dougherty Battalion Chief Steve Hatch Shift Lieutenant Donald Schinske Shift Lieutenant Andre Gardenhire Shift Lieutenant Daniel Przeworski Shift Lieutenant Bryan Hewitt Sr. Firefighter Justin Perkey Sr. Firefighter Robin Chevrette Sr. Firefighter Manndez Blanch Sr. Firefighter Brian Pankow Sr. Firefighter John Harshbarger Sr. Firefighter Scott Bailey Sr. Firefighter Aaron Berwick FF Kayla Geffert FF Adam Grunkemeyer FF Todd Maki FF Ryan Wood PFF Jacob Anderson

RETIREMENTS:

Senior Firefighter Richelle Gilbert, Firefighter George Baker, and Battalion Chief Gary Delp

CURRENT POC RECRUIT CLASS MEMBERS:

Recruit Class Coordinator: Lt. Dan Wecker Training Division: Capt. James Donovan and Capt. Timothy Siegrist

Zachary Duff, Daniel Hanus, Blake Heavener, Andrew Lepiarz, Christopher McCormick, Lamontae Jackson, and Charles Moir

POC MEMBER RESIGNATIONS:

FF Matthew Jones – Promoted to Career, FF Jacob Anderson– Promoted to Career, FF Benjamin Moe, FF Jeff Zarb, FF Bradford Lowell, FF Kayla Russell, and FF Matthew Taylor