



CITY OF ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



[A2GOV.ORG/FIRE](https://a2gov.org/fire)

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

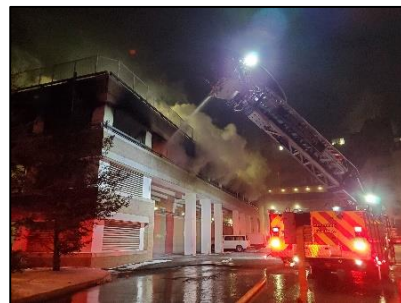
MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF MIKE KENNEDY



It is my pleasure to present our 2021 Annual Report. Calendar year 2021 was another challenging year. It started off tough with the passing of Training Officer Craig Sidelinger, and the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented many pre-pandemic activities. Despite the obstacles, we made several notable achievements. We are grateful for the support from Mayor Taylor, City Council, Interim City Administrator Milton Dohoney, Jr., Assistant City Administrator John Fournier, City Service Area Administrators, and staff. The Ann Arbor Fire Department is comprised of outstanding fire officers, firefighters, and staff who work continuously to deliver outstanding service to the residents and visitors of the City of Ann Arbor. I am honored to be your fire chief and look forward to continued progress in 2022.

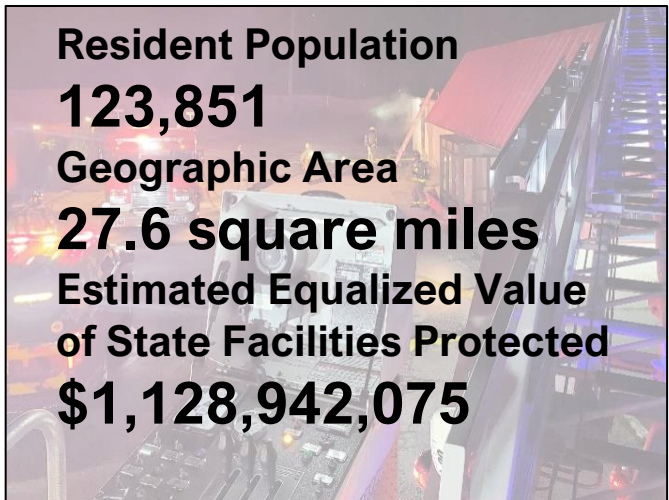
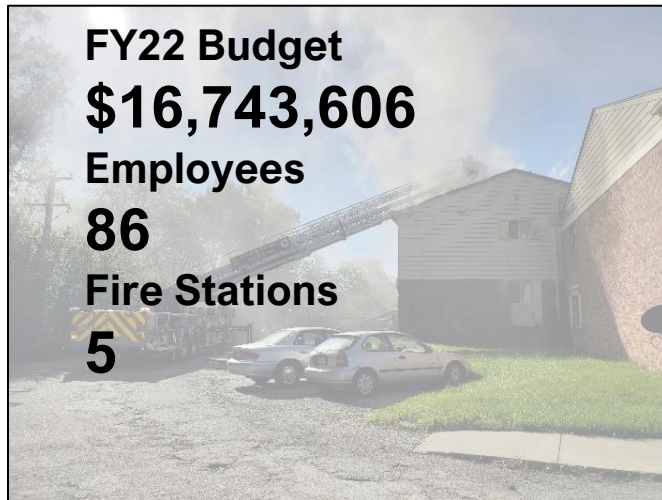
2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Implementation of all new high-rise operations including training, equipment, and policies. All of these were applied at a 3rd alarm fire at University Hospital in October.
- New 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe placed in-service as new battalion chief vehicle.
- A3C / TCA has made substantive work on the site plan, design, and engineering of new Fire Station 4.
- NSA has completed the scope of work and architectural plans for the renovation of the second floor at Fire Station 1.
- Six department-owned LUCAS devices (mechanical CPR device) placed in-service.
- New SCBA fill station installed.
- New Rescue 1-1 ordered from Spencer Manufacturing.
- Remembrance ceremony held for 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001.
- Stantec selected as vendor for 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan update.
- Memorandum of Agreement signed with the IAFF on fire recruit program.
- Hiring process completed for two fire recruits who started in January 2022.
- Memorandum of Agreement with IAFF to update job descriptions and physical requirements for all non-suppression, union positions.
- Upgrades to Class A training trailers with numerous live fire evolutions completed.
- Response to August straight-line wind incident and support of emergency shelter.

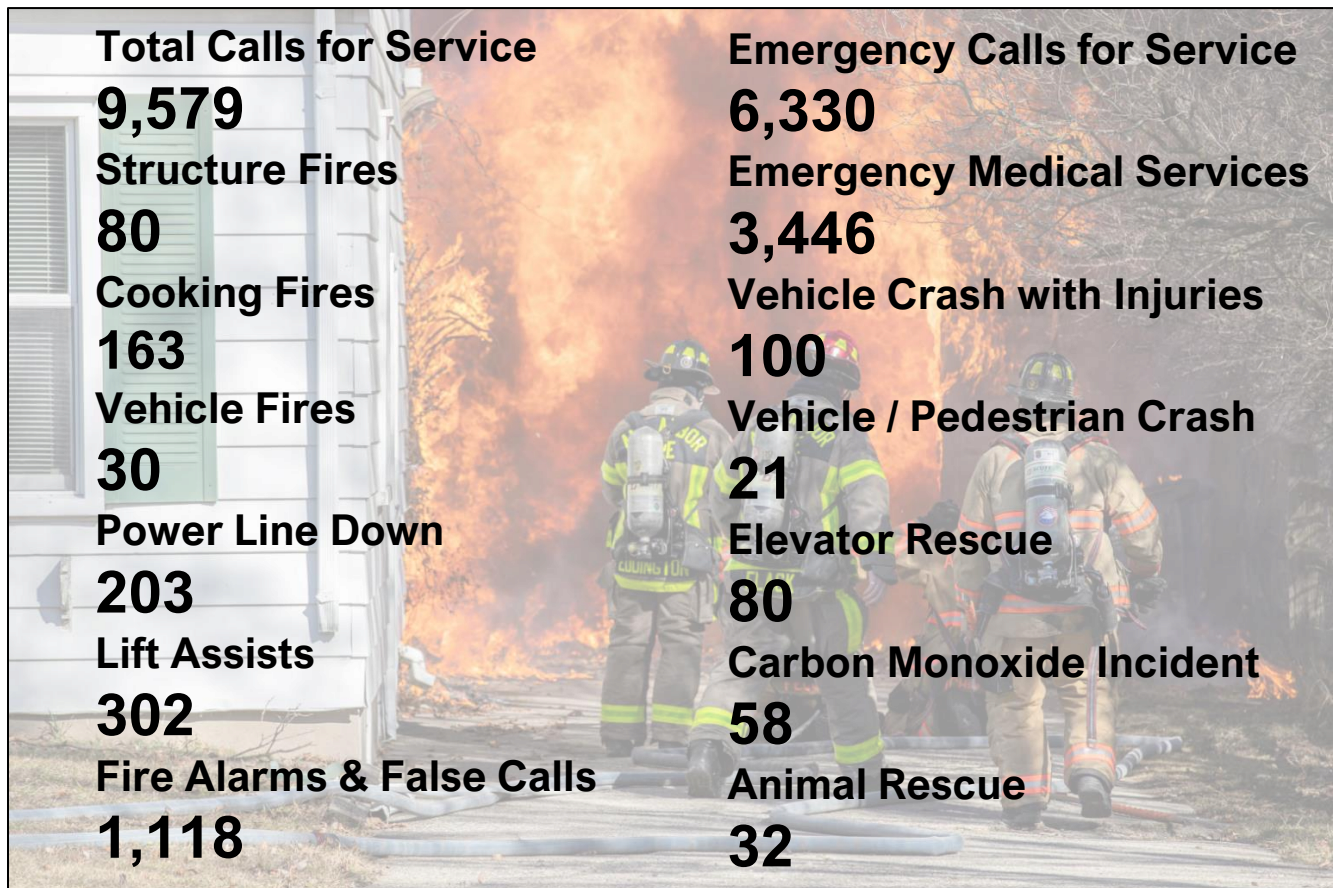


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BY THE NUMBERS

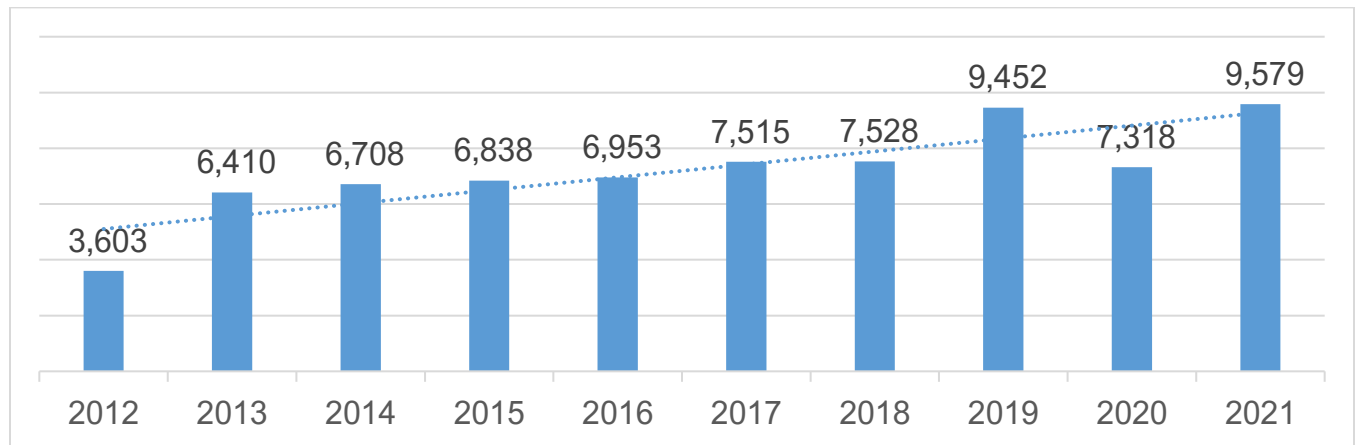


CALLS FOR SERVICE

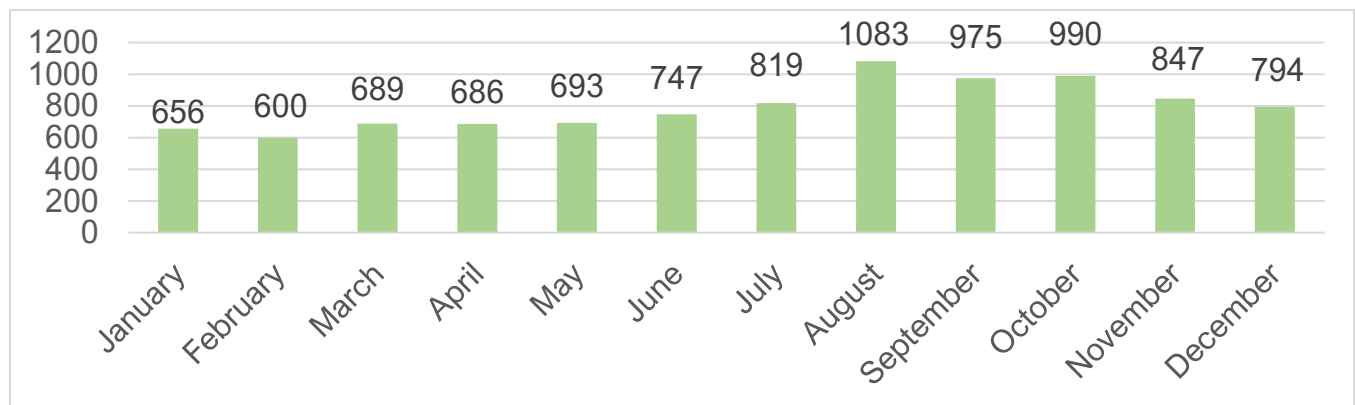


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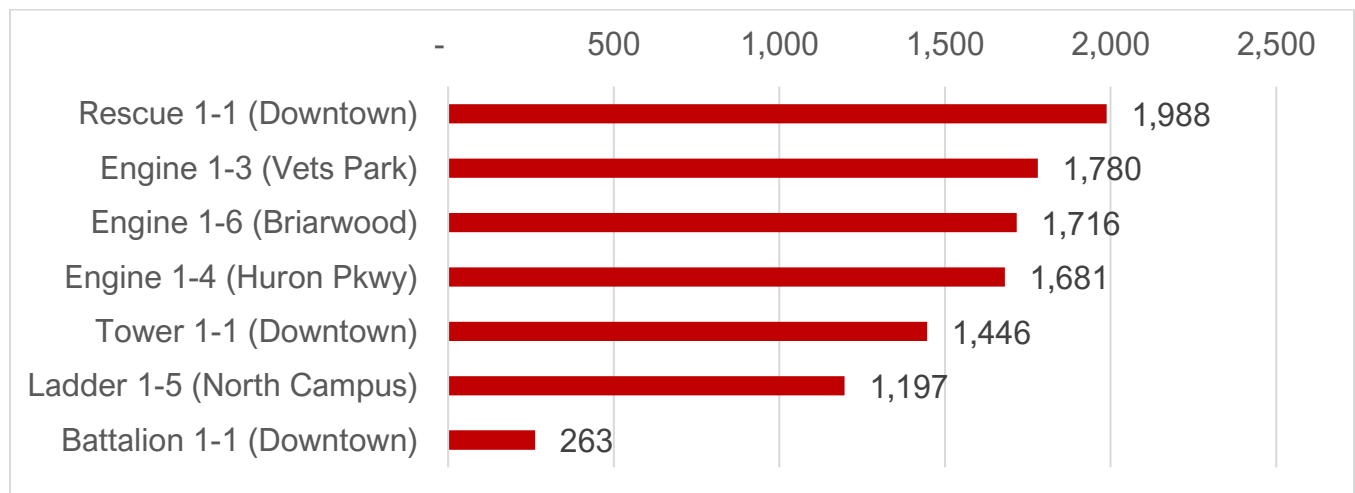
ANNUAL INCIDENTS



INCIDENTS BY MONTH

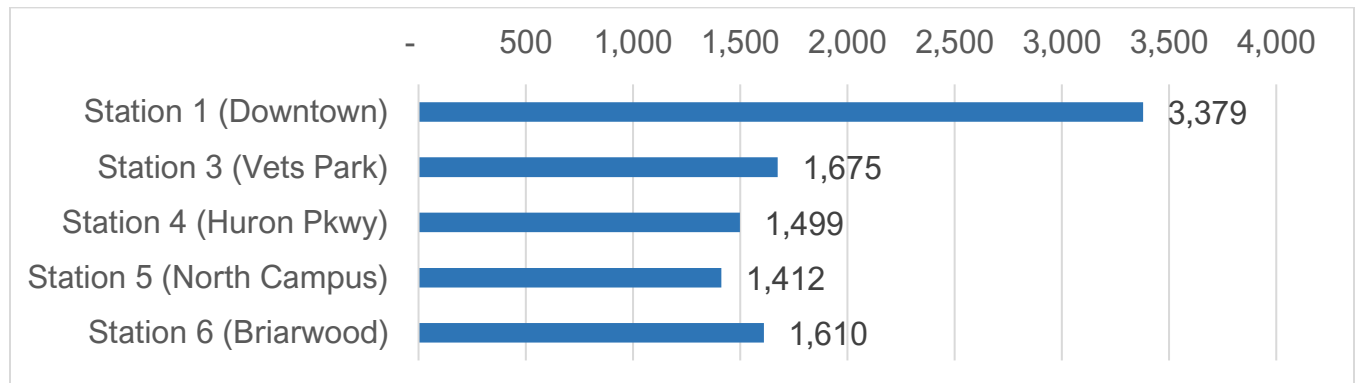


INCIDENTS BY UNIT

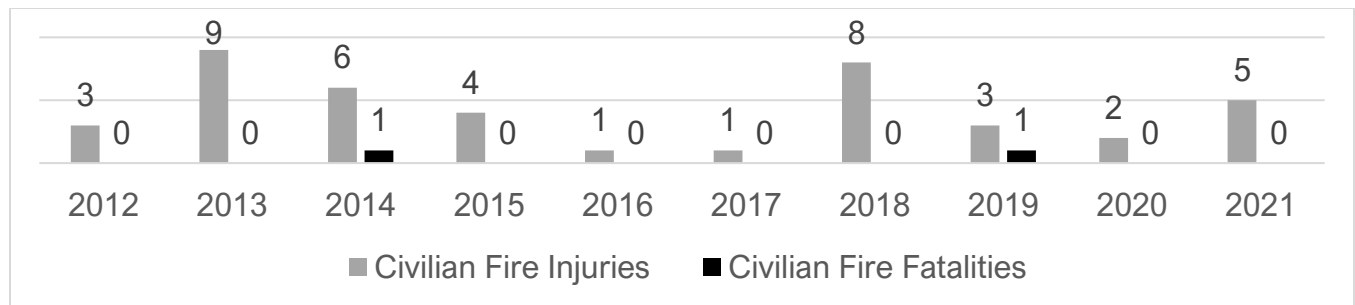


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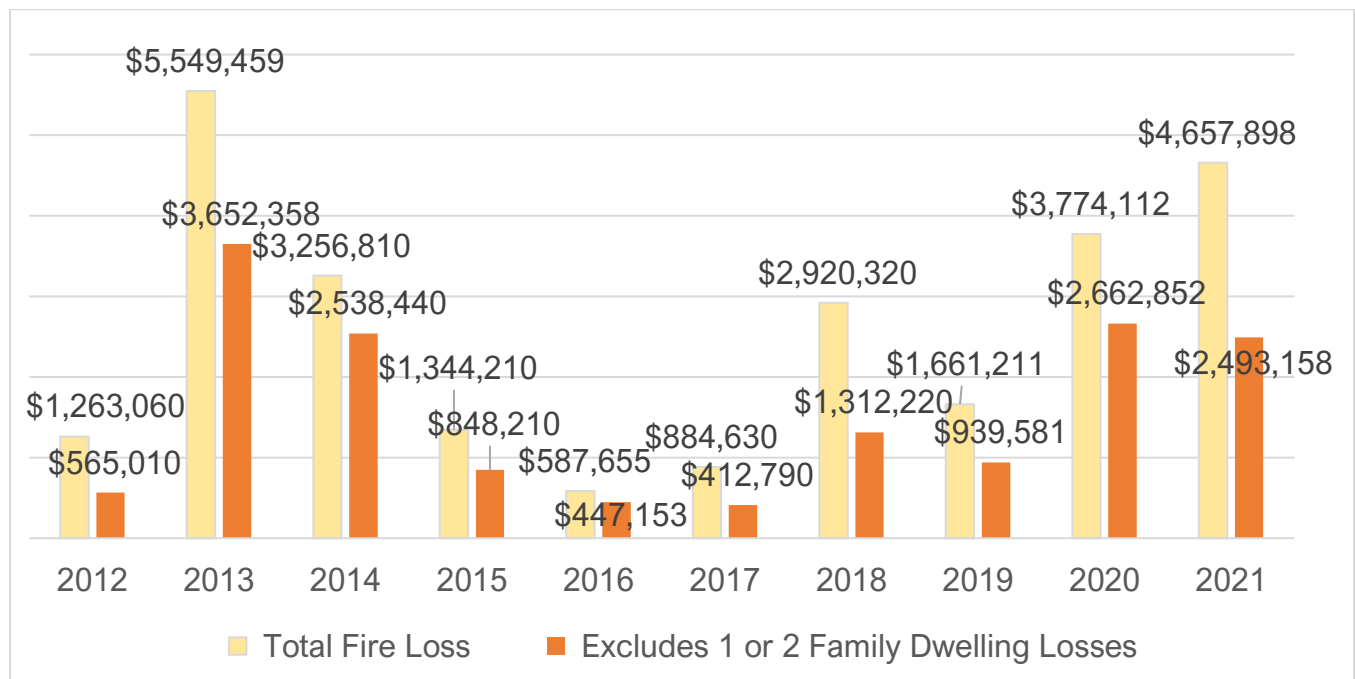
INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT



CIVILIAN FIRE INJURIES AND FATALITIES



FIRE LOSS (PROPERTY AND CONTENTS)



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CITYWIDE INCIDENT RESPONSE: TURN OUT TIME¹

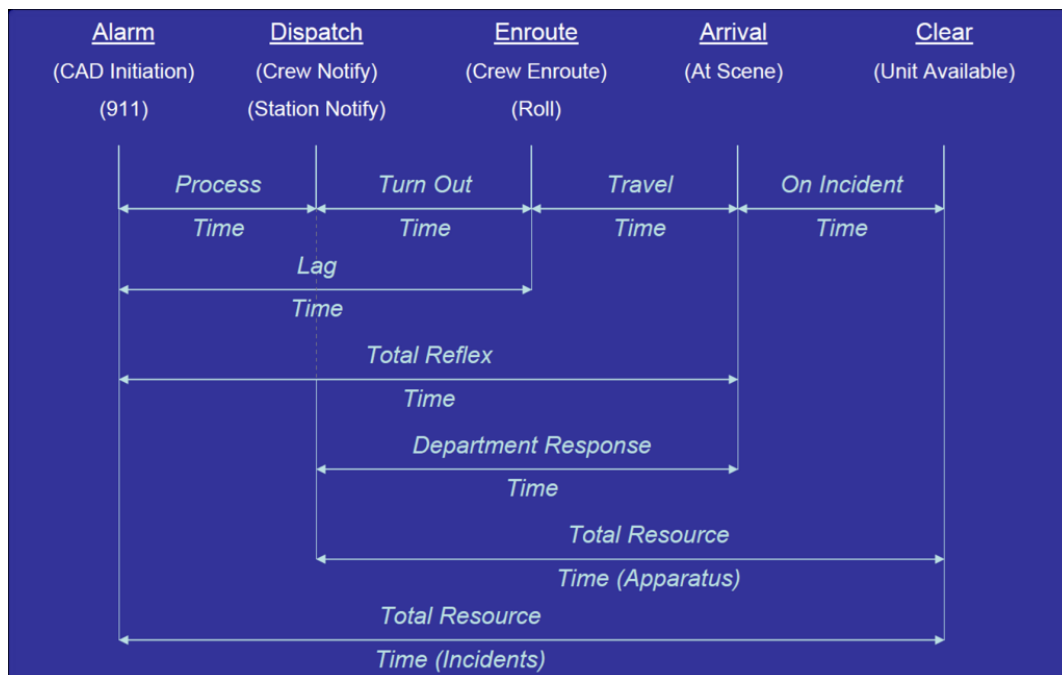
Number of Incidents	Average Time (MM:SS)	Median Time (MM:SS)	90th Percentile (MM:SS)
4,431	1:54	1:54	3:00

CITYWIDE INCIDENT RESPONSE: TRAVEL TIME²

Number of Incidents	Average Time (MM:SS)	Median Time (MM:SS)	90th Percentile (MM:SS)
4,366	3:44	3:22	6:14

CITYWIDE INCIDENT RESPONSE: DEPARTMENT RESPONSE³

Number of Incidents	Average Time (MM:SS)	Median Time (MM:SS)	90th Percentile (MM:SS)
4,417	5:40	5:16	8:19



¹ Filtered for emergency incidents, non-mutual aid, first apparatus arrival.

² Filtered for emergency incidents, non-mutual aid, first apparatus arrival.

³ Filtered for emergency incidents, non-mutual aid, first apparatus arrival.

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MAJOR INCIDENTS

SECOND ALARM – 727 Miller, February 7 at 11:36 PM, shift 2, Tower 1-1 arrived to find heavy smoke conditions on the second floor with fire blowing out windows of one apartment. The assignment was quickly upgraded to first box alarm and shortly thereafter a second alarm due to the high life hazard of the building.



SECOND ALARM – 500 East William, June 17 at 12:53 PM, shift 3 responded on a commercial kitchen fire at 500 East William. There was fire running in the three-story ductwork for the kitchen equipment, which set the roof of the courtyard on fire. This was one of the higher dollar-loss fires of 2021.

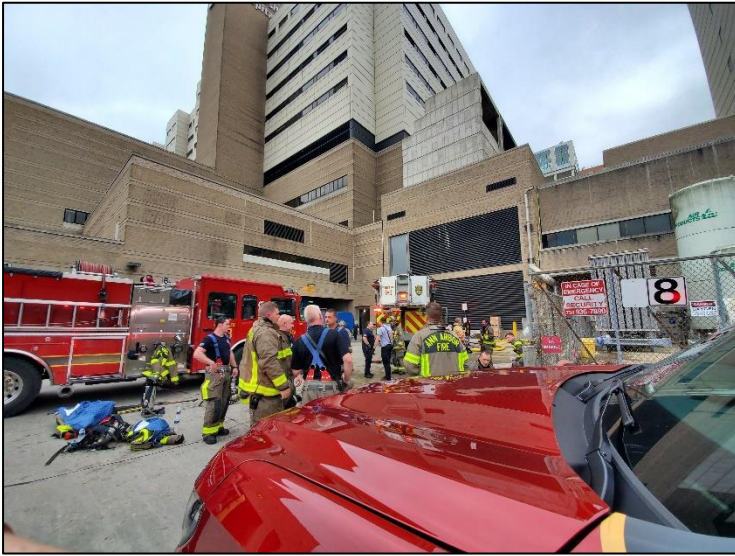
SECOND ALARM – 1006 South Main, September 18 at 8:02 PM, shift 3, responded to a fire in a two-story, 1,872 sq ft house built in 1880 with significant fire throughout.



FIRST ALARM – 2333 Jackson Avenue, July 5 at 6:12 AM, shift 2, Engine 1-3 was alerted for an automatic fire alarm at Ann Arbor Muffler. Engine 1-3 arrived to find a commercial structure fire with heavy fire showing from one of the service bays. This was one of the higher dollar-loss fires of 2021.

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MAJOR INCIDENTS



THIRD ALARM – 1500 East Medical Center Drive, October 12 at 3:28 PM, shift 3, Tower 1-1 was dispatched to the University of Michigan Hospital for a reported odor of smoke and fire alarm. Upon Tower 1-1's arrival, U-M Hospital Facilities advised of a fire on the third floor (mechanical floor with no patients). The incident was upgraded to a first alarm followed shortly to a second and third alarm. Firefighters found heavy smoke on the third floor with active fire in a very large air handling unit. Sprinklers were activating but unable to extinguish the fire. Firefighters stretched

250' of high-rise hoseline from a standpipe to extinguish the fire. Additional fire crews worked to check the upper floors of the hospital for smoke and fire spread.

SECOND ALARM – 2700 Packard Street, October 18 at 10:37 AM, shift 3 citywide was dispatched for kitchen fire in the Mulberry Row Apartments. The fire made its way into a void space between the first and second floors, then spread into the attic, when the incident was upgraded to a second alarm. There were four units in the building. Three suffered fire damage with the fourth suffering water and smoke damage.



SECOND ALARM – 3100 Homestead Commons, December 16 at 5:13 PM, shift 2, citywide responded on a second alarm structure. Engine 1-4 arrived to find significant fire on the second floor that was being intensified by the wind.

A first alarm response includes all on-duty City of Ann Arbor FD units. A second alarm includes a ladder from Ann Arbor Twp FD, engine from Scio Twp FD, and engine from Pittsfield Twp FD. City coverage is provided by Saline Area FD, Superior Twp FD, and Northfield Twp FD. A third alarm includes the coverage units moving to the scene.

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PERSONNEL

Fire Chief

Mike Kennedy

Assistant Chief

Marc Tyler

Andrew Box

Emergency Mgmt. Coord.

Sydney Parmenter

Office Manager

Chantel Jackson

Battalion Chief

Chris Buscemi – Shift 1

Mark Luick – Shift 2

Derek Wiseley – Shift 3

Fire Marshal

Michael Reddmann

Training Officer

Brian Schotthoefer

Logistics Officer

Allen Bruck

EMS Coordinator

Jeremy Torres (acting)

Fire Inspector

Gianna Bommarito

Ryan Newkirk

Management Assistant

Leslie Herter

Budget & Finance Spr.

Kim Buselmeier

HR Service Partner

Heather Koch

Senior IT Specialist

Jason McKinley

Captain

Brent Kostanko – Shift 1

Scott Peterson – Shift 2

Matthew Hughes – Shift 3

Lieutenant

Robert Tudor

Danielle Lalonde

Kirk Hedding

Jake Corrado

Jim Tiernan

Timothy Karolak

Kristopher Lussenden

Benjamin Zahn

David Cue

Stephen Potbury

Jeremy Flack

Mark Hanselman

Robert Porter

Ernie Close

John Maguire

Driver / Operator

Daniel Campbell

Andrew Boonstra

Christopher Nielsen

Matt Francis

Bryce McAllister

Ronald Robbins

Christopher Taylor

Matthew Gaken

Clifford Blackford

Jason Gravelle

Shane Doyon

Jonathan Lukosavich

Nicholas Kaczor

Christopher McGlothin

Robert Vanderkarr

Matthew Barbarich

Leo Susick

Christopher Warden

Julian Gross

Driver / Operator

Kenway Hensley

Nicholas Foren

Johnathan Fotopoulos

Visar Gjetaj

Andrew Gignac

Firefighter

George Allard

John Crowell

Chris Brown

Neil Boes

Zane Kingsbury

Cody Eddington

Kenny Richmond

Chris Roy

Jacob Wing

Tracy Youell

Michael Rudolph

Brittany Hoak

Jared Zygmuntowicz

Taylor Buchanan

Marc Bandy

Jason Miller

Probationary**Firefighter**

Christian Cousar

Blake Vershum

Michael Updyke

Taylor Hansen

Tyler Wagner

Matthew Brown

Blake Wingler

Dallas Torres

Eric Harms

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PERSONNEL ADVANCEMENT

New Hires

Emergency Mgmt. Coord.

Sydney Parmenter

Office Manager

Chantel Jackson

Probationary Firefighter

Christian Cousar

Blake Vershum

Michael Updyke

Taylor Hansen

Tyler Wagner

Matthew Brown

Blake Wingler

Dallas Torres

Eric Harms

Promotions

Lieutenant

Ernie Close

Driver / Operator

Nicholas Kaczor

Kenway Hensley

Matt Barbarich

Leo Susick

Christopher Warden

Nicholas Foren

John Fotopoulos

Visar Gjetaj

Andrew Gignac

Firefighter

Taylor Buchanan

Marc Bandy

Jason Miller

Retirements

Office Manager

Lynda Rathburn

Deputy Fire Marshal

Jeff Pelzel

Driver / Operator

Chris Leadbetter

Michael Pratt

Pablo Ramirez

Tilvis Bolen



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COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION



Assistant Chief Marc Tyler supervises fire prevention, logistics, and the fire recruit program. Additionally, he coordinates the department's Community Risk Reduction (CRR) efforts. CRR is a doorway to the renovation of the fire service culture, utilizing a data-driven process to transform the delivery of services. CRR utilizes non-traditional fire service partnerships to address community needs. This community-based approach utilizes partnerships to understand, assess, and provide inclusive solutions to community safety issues. One such partnership includes referrals to and membership on Washtenaw County Hoarding Task Force. Residents who excessively call 911 for non-life-threatening issues are referred to the Washtenaw County Mental Health CARES Team.

Recruitment along with the application period for the fire recruit program began in the summer. The hiring process was completed in late 2021 with the recruits starting in January 2022. This is the first time in nearly twenty years the fire department has hired applicants without previous firefighter and emergency medical technician training. This program is intended to provide a pathway for applicants who may not have had the opportunity to gain this training prior to employment. Following EMT training, the fire recruits will attend the fire academy.

Unfortunately, most public outreach activities were still halted this year due to COVID-19 concerns. However, personnel did participate in 33 events with an estimated 3,600 resident interactions.

OPERATIONS DIVISION



Assistant Chief Andrew Box oversees operations, training, and information technology and is the liaison to EHP Fire Dispatch. Operations is organized into three shifts comprised of twenty-four firefighters, who work a 54-hour work week. Firefighters work a one day on and two days off (24/48) schedule. The department deploys three engine companies, two ladder companies, one light-rescue company, and one battalion chief operating out of five fire stations. AAFD also provides fire service protection to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor campus. There are 72 budgeted suppression positions, with 24 on each shift. Minimum daily staffing is 18 personnel.

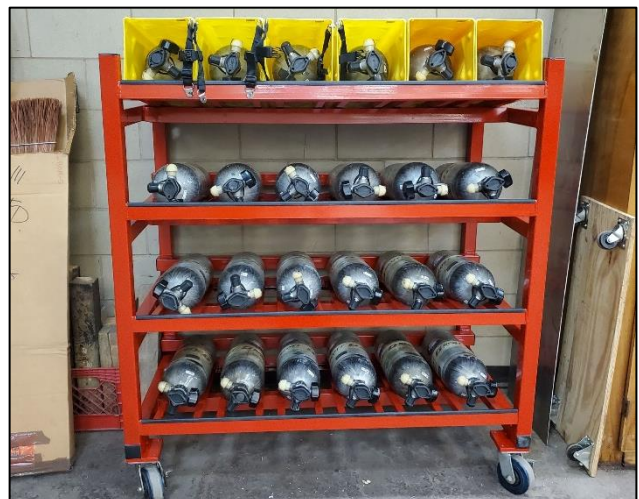
In 2021, Assistant Chief Box oversaw the complete revision of our high-rise training, procedures, and operations. This area had not been updated since the mid-1990s. Over the last 15-years, the City of Ann Arbor has seen significant vertical growth in the downtown district due to new construction. In June 2021, District Chief McGrail and Lieutenant Jeff Larsen, both with the Denver Fire Department, conducted four days of robust, hands-on training for AAFD and surrounding fire departments. Assistant Chief Box coordinated the training and was able to secure access to a parking deck and high-rise for practical evolutions.

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LOGISTICS DIVISION



The logistics division is led by Logistics Officer Allen Bruck. It is the liaison with Fleet Services to coordinate repair and maintenance of fire apparatus. This position also works with vendors for equipment maintenance and testing including: ground and aerial ladders, fire apparatus pumps, fire hose, and fire extinguishers. Some notable items were the placing in-service of a 2021 GMC Tahoe for the battalion chief, modification of compartments on Ladder 1-5 for better space utilization, building of a custom rack for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) bottles, and a new air compressor to fill SCBA bottles. Jeremy Torres was detailed to logistics for part of 2021 and assisted or led several of these projects.



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TRAINING DIVISION



The training division is led by Training Officer Brian Schotthoefer. This division facilitates ongoing training, drills, and exercises that reflect the real-life experiences encountered in the field by firefighting crews. The overall mission is to prepare employees to be successful in their careers by providing the tools and blueprint to succeed through the administration of training exercises incorporating current practices of existing policies and industry standards. Compliance is also ensured with federal, state, and city training mandates; new hire orientation; fire officer training; and driver / operator certification program.

The training division also maintains the department's basic life support, non-transport emergency medical services licensure through the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. As part of this medical licensure, the training division maintains compliance with education, quality improvement, and system requirements set forth by Washtenaw / Livingston Medical Control Authority. Additionally, this group is responsible for ordering and inventory of all medical equipment, supplies, and personnel protective equipment.

Total Training Hours

10,142 (76% over target, +190% from 2020)

Emergency Medical Services Training Hours

1,379 (44% over target, +2% from 2020)

Fire, HazMat, Tech Rescue, HR, & City Safety Hours

8,763 (83% over target, +220% from 2020)

Top Training Hours – Craig Sidelinger Award

Bryce McAllister: 242

John Maguire: 208

Kenneth Richmond: 203

Apparatus Certifications

Engine: 7

Ladder: 4

Tower: 3

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FIRE PREVENTION



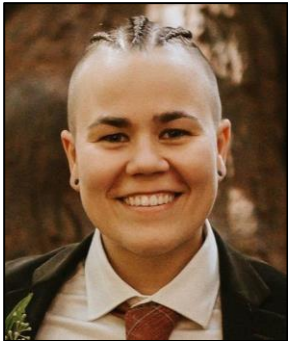
The Fire Prevention Bureau is led by Fire Marshal Michael Reddmann. This bureau maintains a robust fire prevention program that includes the elements of fire code enforcement, fire plan review, fire cause and origin investigation, and community risk reduction. Fire inspectors are responsible for conducting fire safety inspections of new and existing buildings, reviewing plans for fire code compliance, conducting fire and arson investigations, and coordinating a variety of community risk reduction education programs. The bureau also manages Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) fire-related requests.

Staffing challenges hampered productivity throughout the year. Significant resources were deployed to support the healthy streets initiative and outdoor dining. Planning support was provided to the Art Fair reconfiguration for COVID-19 precautions.

Fire Safety Inspection	Fire Inspection Cost Recovery
898	\$178,142
Fire Watch Order	False Alarms Fee
47	\$152,000
Fire Investigation	Hydrant Flow Test
20	38
Site Plan Review	Zoning Review
64 (27 revisions)	2
Sidewalk Occupancy	Knox Box Installation
92	27
Annexation Review	Land Division Review
5	12
Site Compliance Permits	
54 (18 separate locations)	
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests	
223	

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Sydney Parmenter serves as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Emergency management coordinates emergency planning for weather-related and other disasters, maintains an emergency operations center, conducts emergency preparedness training and operates a citywide outdoor warning siren system. In 2021, there were eight outdoor warning siren tests, one per month, from March through October. All parts of the system, including the redundant systems, were used to activate the monthly tests. The activation process was improved by configuring the sirens to sound automatically when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for the City of Ann Arbor.

Major Incidents

COVID-19

- Developed weekly COVID-19 briefings from February 5 to May 28

Water Main Break / Boil Water Advisory – June 22, 2021

- Issued two Everbridge alerts to a total of 1,187 residents
- Conducted a debrief and developed an After-Action Report

Severe Weather / Flooding – June 25, 2021

- Assisted with FEMA damage survey from FEMA disaster declaration

Severe Weather / Widespread Power Outage – August 11, 2021

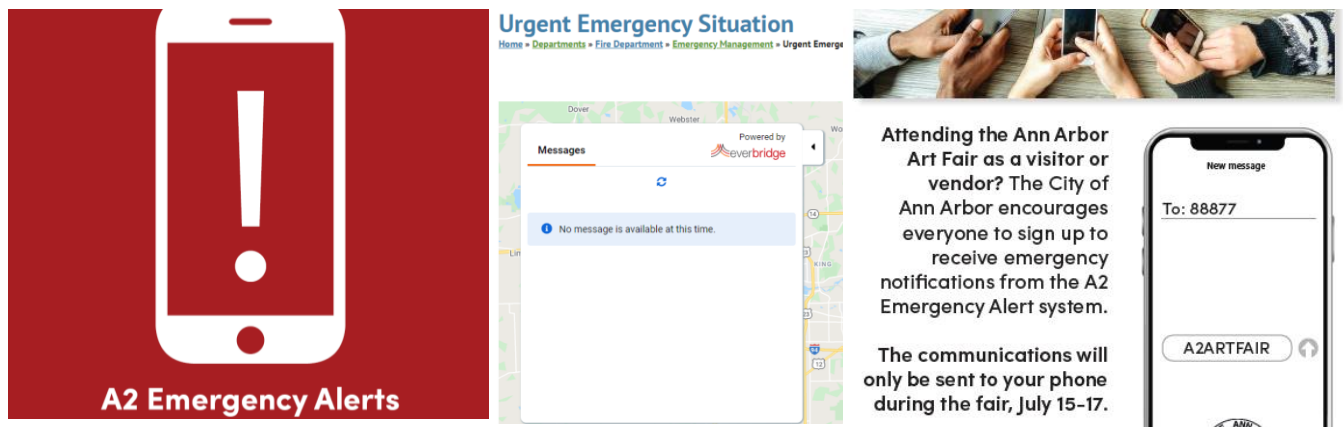
- Activated an Emergency Relief Station at Pioneer High School
- Conducted a debrief and identified new resilience hub partners

Water Main Break – December 19, 2021

- Conducted a debrief and improved public communication process

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Everbridge: A2 Emergency Alerts

- Partnered with City Communications to develop alert templates
- Partnered with City Communications and City IT to develop the www.a2gov.org/urgent webpage
 - A2 Emergency Alerts now include this weblink as a resource for more information
 - A2 Emergency Alerts are configured to appear on this webpage once they are issued
- Launched new feature for Art Fair that allowed vendors and visitors to text a code and opt-in to receive A2 Emergency Alerts

Training Exercises

Rising Waters Tabletop Exercise – March 18

Participants: City Executive Leadership Team, the National Weather Service, Washtenaw County, the University of Michigan, and the American Red Cross

EOC Activation Drill – June 17

Participants: City Executive Leadership Team

Washtenaw County Tornado Tabletop Exercise – September 16

Participants: Washtenaw County and City of Ann Arbor

Dam Failure Tabletop Exercise – November 18

Participants: Water Treatment Plant, Public Works, Ann Arbor Police Department, Ann Arbor Fire Department, and City Communications

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RECOGNITION

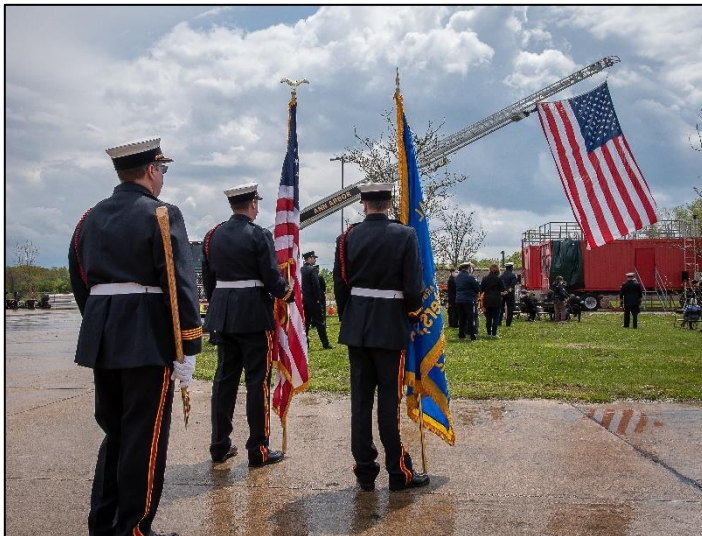


(Above) There were reunions this year with CPR survivors and the teams who provided care.



(Left) On October 24, 2021, John Rozema, Cam Peterson, Brockton Bowen, and Mike Harvey were presented civilian life saving awards for their efforts to rescue Mr. Michael Gray from a house fire on September 18, 2021. All four were also submitted by AAFD for a Carnegie Hero award.

(below) On May 7, 2021, the training trailers at the Wheeler Center were named in honor of former Training Officer Craig Sidelinger.



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SEPTEMBER 11 – 20th ANNIVERSARY



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SEPTEMBER 11 – 20th ANNIVERSARY



The names of the police officers and firefighters lost on September 11, 2001 were read during the ceremony. Some of the name readers are shown here. Starting at the top right and going clockwise on the page: Assistant Chief Andrew Box, Lieutenant Danielle Lalonde, Probationary Firefighter Christian Cousar, Driver / Operator Visar Gjetaj, Probationary Firefighter Taylor Hansen, and Driver / Operator Andrew Gignac.