



# 2020 Chippewa Fire District Annual Report

# Purpose, Mission, Vision, & Goals

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Chippewa Fire District is to protect and enhance the safety and well-being within our community.

## **Mission**

The Chippewa Fire District is committed to creating a safe community through prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency responses.

## **Vision**

We strive to be the best.

## **Goals**

- Chippewa Fire District will deliver comprehensive safety services of the highest quality.
- Chippewa Fire District will support and maintain a safe, healthy, well-trained, and high-performing workforce.
- Chippewa Fire District will provide high-quality first responder service as part of an integrated emergency medical care system.
- Chippewa Fire District Firefighters will be a community resources for life safety knowledge and information about the Department's services.
- Chippewa Fire District will attract and retain a qualified diverse workforce.

# CHIPPEWA FIRE DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

## Command Staff

Fire Chief Scott Bernette (EMT-B)

Assistant Chief Dan Dienger

Assistant Chief Mark Roshell (CC/EMT-P)

Deputy Chief of Fire Investigator/Inspector John Andersen (EMT-B)

## Station 1

Chief 1 DC Chuck Smith

D-11 Capt Mike Nowak (EMT-A)

D-12 Capt Clayton McTaggart

D-13 Capt Jim Campbell (MFR)

D-14 TO Mitch Bias (EMT-B)

D-15 Capt Ron Wolf (CC/EMT-P)

D-16 Jim Bevans

## Station 2

Chief 2 DC Robert Kaspar

D-21 Capt Andrew Wood (MFR)

D-22 Capt Mark Blaskowski

D-23 Capt Bob Hayden

D-24 TO Brian Gerrits (MFR)

## Station 3

Chief 3 DC Cory Jeffers (EMT-A)

D-31 Capt Josh Rihn

D-32 Capt Bob Bauer (EMT-B)

D-33 Capt Jeff Frederick (EMT-B)

D-34 TO Dan Enestvedt (EMT-B)

D-35 TO Eric Hennlich

## Station 6

Chief 6 DC Duane Wallsch

D-61 Capt Lloyd Bowe

D-62 Capt Joseph Schindler

D-63 Capt Ron Dreger

D-64 (open)

## On Duty Crews

### **A-Shift**

Nick Sprague (FF & CC/EMT-P) \*

Josh Bodette (FF & CC/EMT-P)

### **C-Shift**

Ron Wolf (FF & CC/EMT-P) \*

Dan Brzeskiewicz (FF & CC/EMT-P)

### **B-Shift**

Jacob Grothaus (FF & CC/EMT-P) \*

Shaylee Dechow (FF & CC/EMT-P)

### **Part-Time**

Jenn Struensee (FF & EMT-P)

## Inspection Division

### **Lead Tank Inspector**

Rebecca Shervey (FF/EMT-B)

### **Lead Fire Investigator**

DC John Andersen (EMT-B)

### **Lead Fire Investigator**

Doug Matthews (FF/ EMT-B)

### **Administrative Staff**

Rita Erickson

\* = Lead Medic

## **Calls for Service**

The District responded to a total of 2474 calls for service in 2019. Below is a total of the request for service calls over the past three years:

1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020 = 2570

1/1/2019 to 12/31/2019 = 2474

1/1/2018 to 12/31/2018 = 2435

## **DISTRICT APPARATUS/EQUIPMENT INFORMATION**

### **Apparatus Testing**

ENGINES: All engines passed NFPA annual pump tests.

AERIAL: Truck 1 passed NFPA service testing & pump test.

### **Equipment Testing**

SCBA: All SCBA in service passed NFPA annual testing.

Ladders: All ladders in service passed NFPA annual testing.

## **Apparatus Location/Roster**

### **District Staff Vehicles**

CV1 2014 Ford Edge (Fire Chief)  
CV2 2020 Ford F150 4X4 (Assistant Chief of EMS) (funded by sale of ambulances)  
Tank 1 2017 Subaru (funded by Tank Program)  
Tank 2 2018 Subaru (funded by Tank Program)

### **Station One**

Engine 1 2013 Darley 1500/1000  
Engine 11 1992 Ford/Pierce 1500/1000  
Truck 1 2013 Smeal 105 Aerial 2000/500  
Tanker 1 2016 Freightliner/UST 1000/4000  
Brush 1 2002 F-350 Ford Pickup 200/250 class A foam (funded by Tank Program)  
CAR 10 2005 Chev 4x4 2500 HD 4dr. Pickup (funded by Tank Program)  
Boat 2017 John Boat with Mercury motor  
Medic 1 2020 Ford F550/Lifeline Ambulance  
Medic 2 2017 Ford F550/Lifeline Ambulance  
Medic 4 2017 Ford F550/ Lifeline Ambulance

## Station Two

Engine 2	1997 Freightliner/Pierce 1500/1000
Engine 22	1992 Ford/Pierce 1500/1000
Tanker 2	2000 Freightliner/Danko 300/4000
Brush 2	1994 Ford 4X4 150/250 (funded by Tank Program)
Brush 22	1993 Ford 4X4 150/300 (funded by Tank Program)
Rescue 2	2013 Dodge Van
Snowmobile	1996 Snowmobile/Rescue Sled & Trailer
ATV	Argo ATV and Trailer

## Station Three

Engine 3	2016 Freightliner/UST 1500/1000
Engine 33	2016 Freightliner/UST 1500/1000
Squad 3	2016 Pierce Rescue Squad & Air Cascade
Tanker 3	2000 Freightliner-Danko 300/4000
Brush 3	2012 Chev 4x4 3500 (Funded by Tank Program)
Boat	1978 Boston Whaler Rescue Boat /100HP Mercury & Trailer
Dive Van	1996 Chevy Van with dive equipment & 4 bottle cascade
Medic 3	2020 Ford F550/Lifeline Ambulance
Snowmobile	1992 Snowmobile/Rescue Sled
ATV	2015 ATV Rescue

## Station Six

Engine 6	2008 Pierce/Dash 1750/1500
Squad 6	2016 Pierce Rescue Squad & Air Cascade
Tanker 6	2000 Freightliner-Danko 300/4000
Brush 6	2007 Ford 4X4 250/350 (funded by Tank Program)
Portable 6	Sykes 3000 GPM trailer mounted pump

## Vehicles Sold/Retired

2009 Freightliner/MedTech (sold)  
2010 Ford F550/Lifeline Ambulance (sold)  
2014 Ford F550/Lifeline Ambulance (sold)  
1990 IHC/Luverne 500/2000 (sold)  
1992 Ford/Pierce 1500/1000 (sold)  
1963 Kaiser 5-ton 6X6 (retired and returned to WI DNR)

## **FIRE TRAINING/INFORMATION**

Station Officers and Training Officers conducted and coordinated training outlined in the 2020 District Training Schedule. Training had to be modified to follow the recommendations the Center for Disease and Control and Chippewa County Health Department based on the recommend restrictions for COVID-19 pandemic. The District held in-person training for January and February. In March, all in-person training was canceled and training was made available online for all members. Monthly in person training resumed in June and virtual online training continued for members wishing not to gather because of concerns with COVID-19. In October, all in person training, again, was canceled and training was moved to online for the remainder of 2020.

The Fire District Officers met 6 times in 2020. The Officers met in person for 2 of the 6 meetings. The other 4 meetings where held virtually based on recommended restrictions by the Center for Disease and Control and Chippewa County Health Department. The Officers discussed and updated many of the Fire District Standard Operating Procedures with the input of the members. Also, there were 5 online training sessions for the Officers in 2020.

The Fire District Health and Safety Committee met 6 times in 2020. The Committee met in person for 2 of the 6 meetings to review, revise, and update District training based on COVID-19. At these meetings, any health-related, close calls, or safety concerns were review. Also, there were several Minimum Operating Guideline (MOG) for training updated in 2020.

## **EMS REPORT**

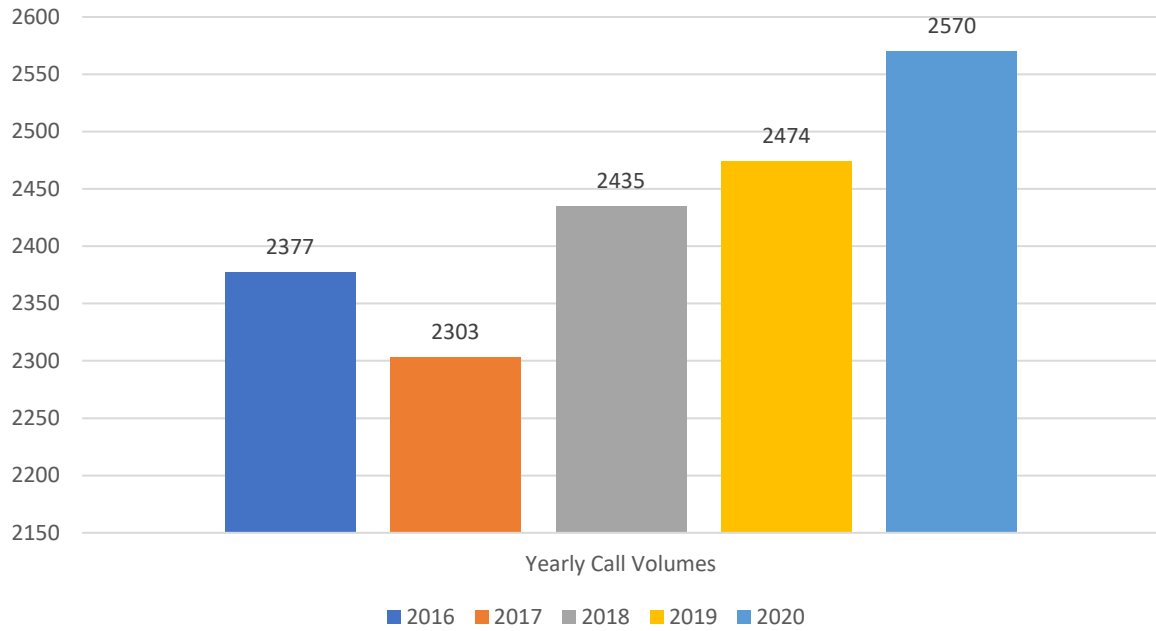
Prepared by Assistant Chief Roshell

2020 was a very exciting year for the Chippewa Fire District EMS section. The Chippewa Fire District continues to evolve to meet the service needs of our great communities and neighboring communities. We are constantly reminded of the delicate balance of service delivery and organizational wellness. Below is a brief highlight of the happenings within Chippewa Fire District EMS section for 2020.

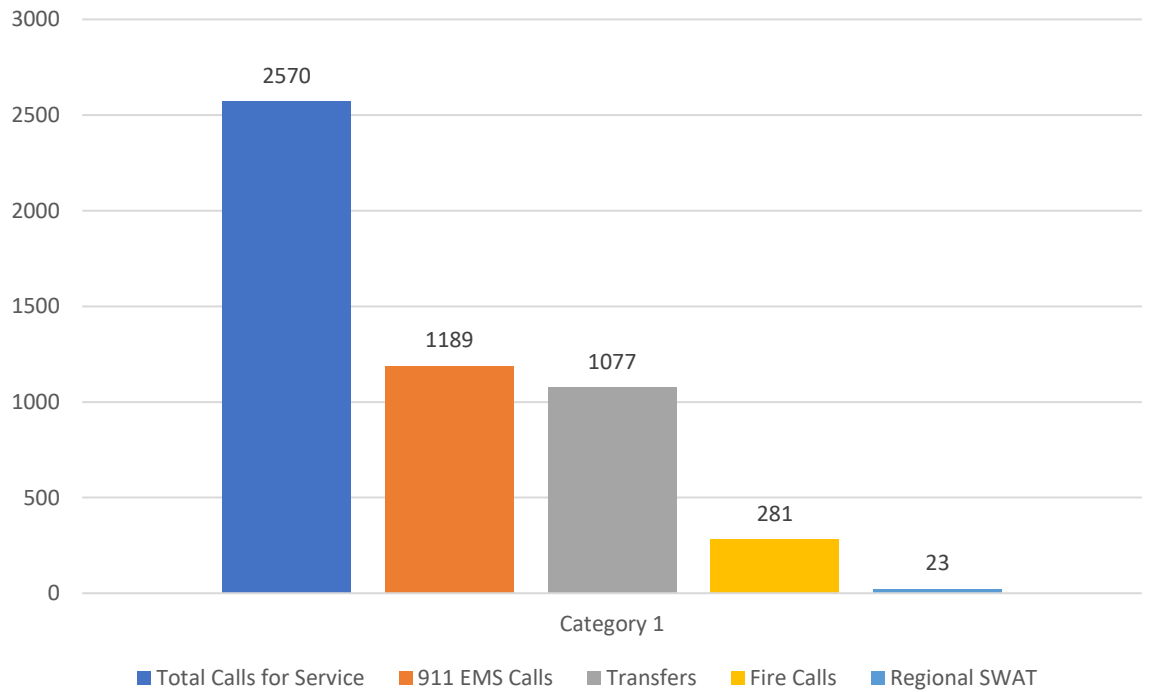
- Chippewa Fire District had 10 Paramedics take a 48-hour refresher course, ACLS, CPR & PALS at CVTC Chippewa Falls.
- Chippewa Fire District took delivery of two Lifeline ambulances with Power load cots along with traded in two ambulances to Lifeline.
- EMS crews did numerous station tours and attended community events representing the Fire District.
- Due to COVID-19 we put daily shift training on hold but still allowed for duty station crews to train together.
- Switched EMS Medical Directors from Dr. Haselow MD to Dr. Young MD

- Throughout the year there was numerous meetings with EMS section employees to adjust operational plans as needed to continue our dedicated service to the communities served.
- Continued our EMS educational partnership with HSHS Eau Claire and entered a partnership with Marshfield Medical Centers for educational needs of the District.
- Worked with Chippewa County Health Department to direct the Chippewa Fire District on how to meet CDC & Chippewa County Health Department COVID-19 requirements.
- We had 3 applications for the 2020 career Firefighter/Paramedic eligibility list which was not conducted in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Bought 2 Lucas devices for doing mechanical compressions on patients in cardiac arrest for the 2 first out rigs along with trading in 2 Zoll Auto pulse units.
- Bought 2 Magrath video laryngoscopes for the 2 first out rigs then put the King vision scopes on the 2 backup rigs.
- EMS section worked with Town of Wheaton Fire & EMS Research Committee to answer questions on EMS operations.
- Received a Ferno COVID-19 Shield from Marshfield Medical Center Eau Claire for the cots
- Attended Healthy Kids public education event at Chippewa Falls YMCA.
- EMS crews had their fire inspections put on hold due to COVID-19 per Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention.
- Monthly EMS trainings were held via ZOOM with our medical direction team.
- Worked with vendors along with communities we serve to get a limited supply of COVID-19 supplies for crews to use on calls.
- Worked on updating District SOP & SOG's that relate to EMS.
- Taught several CPR classes until Sacred Heart Education Department closed, then we partnered with CVTC to get our members CPR certifications done.
- Replaced the District van with a Ford F-150 that is used for EMS duties by Assistant Chief assigned EMS Duties.
- Met with area medical centers & hospitals to sign transfer agreements for patient transports with reimbursements.

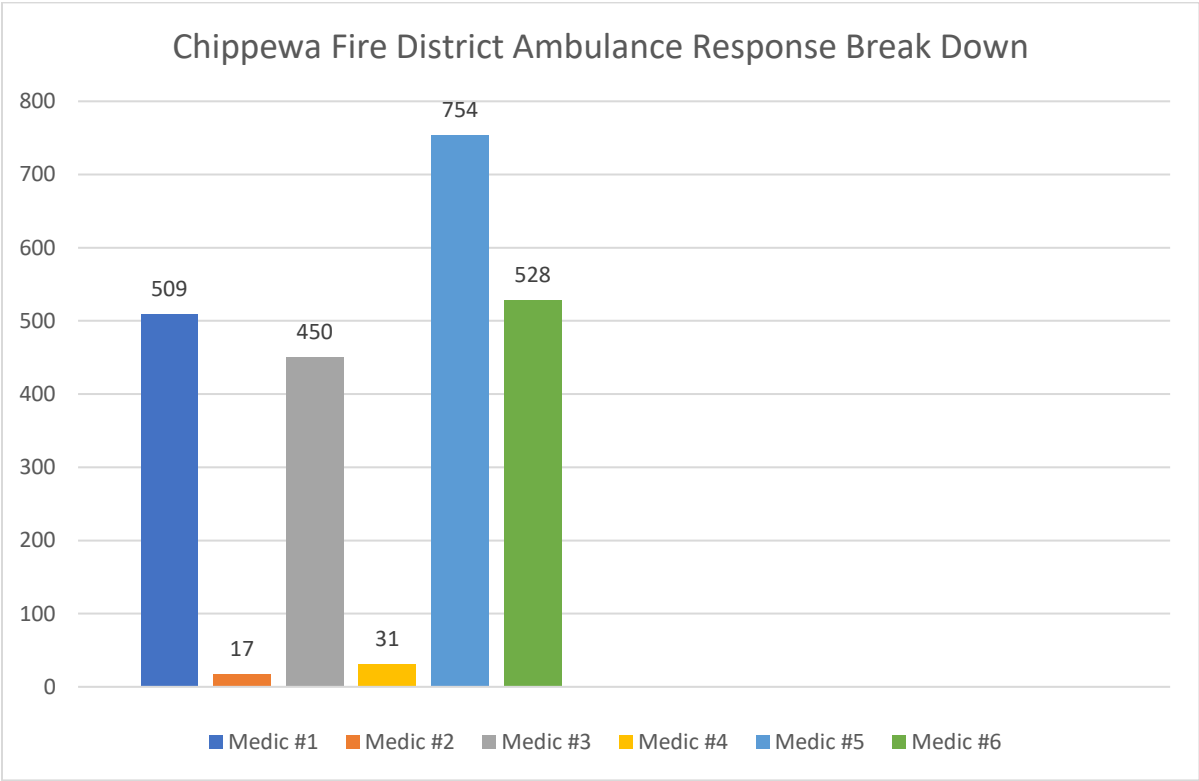
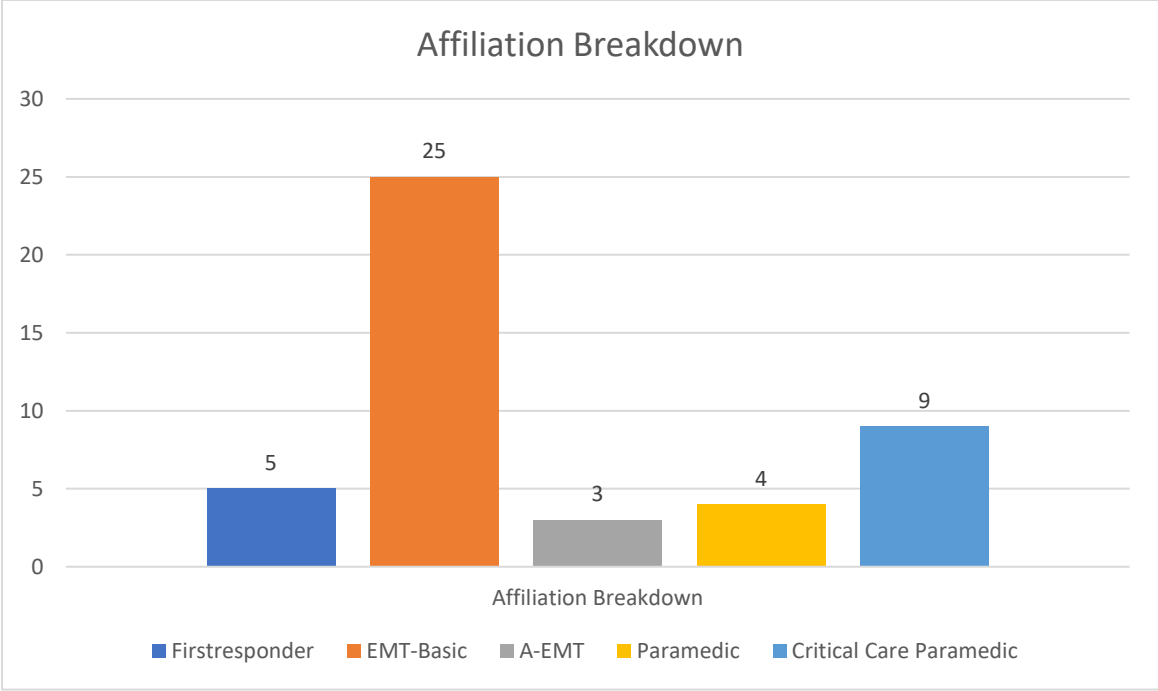
### Last Five Years Call Volumes



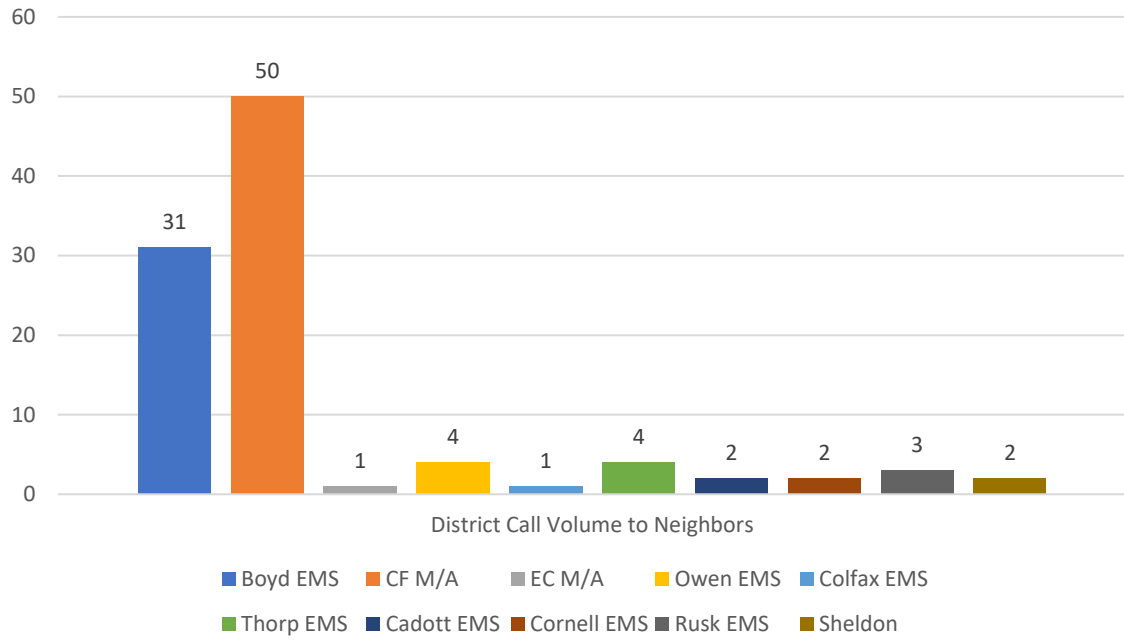
### Chippewa Fire District 2020 Service Calls



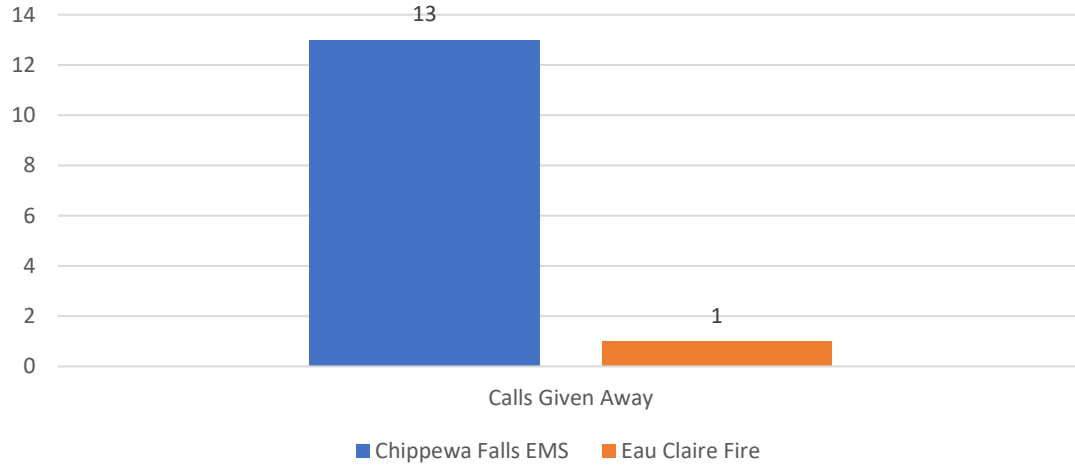


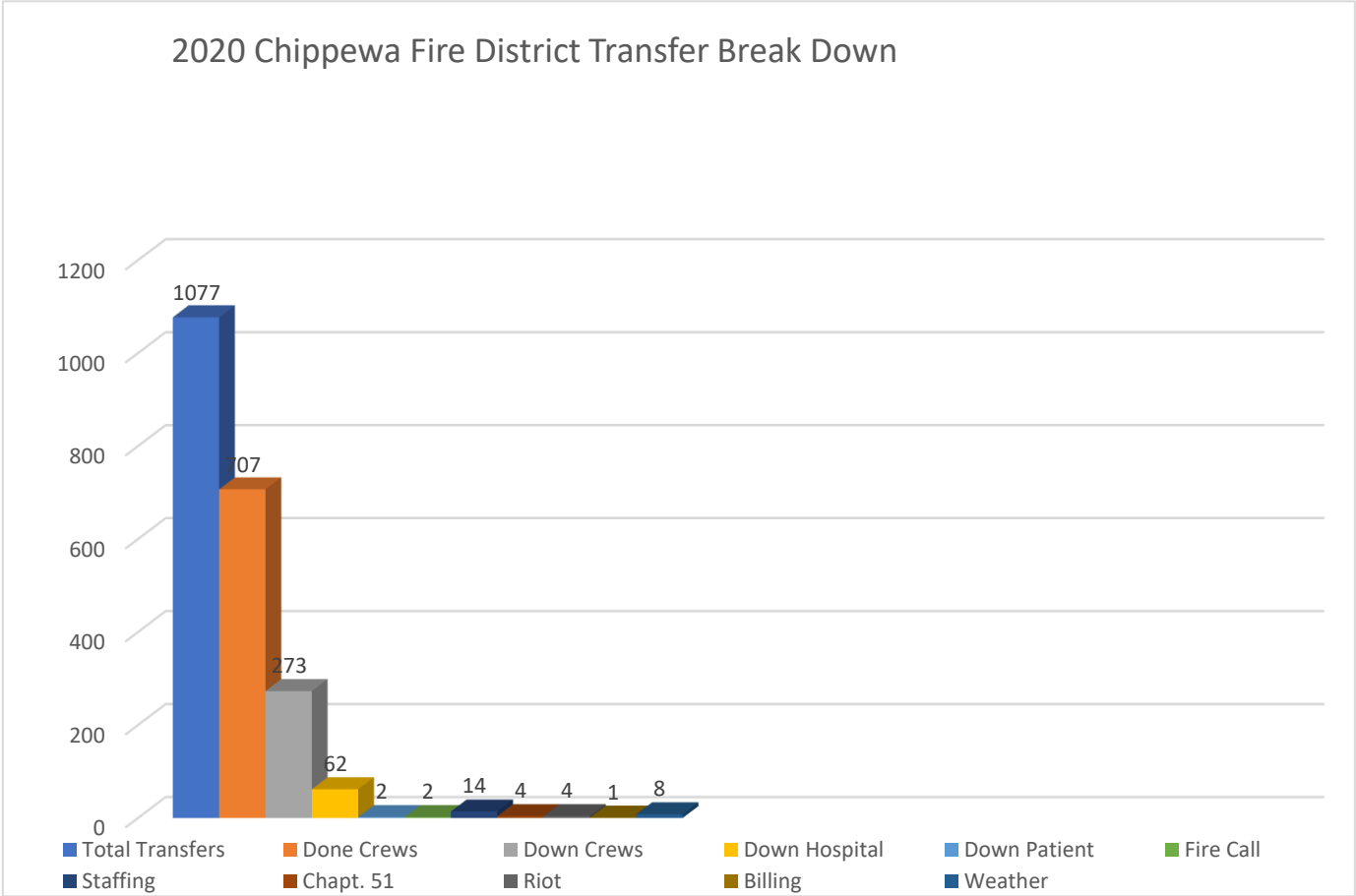
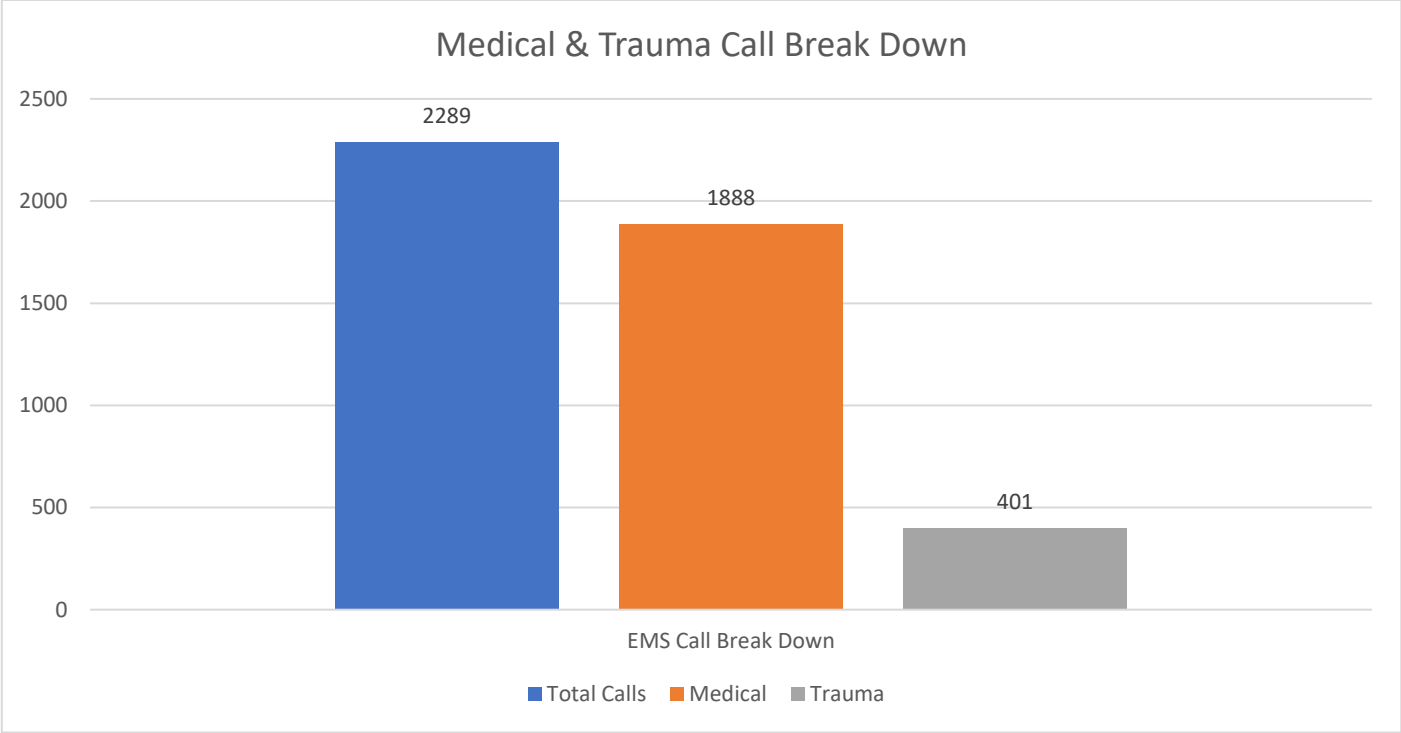


### M/A & Intercept Break Down



### District EMS Calls Given to Other Agencies





## **Chippewa Fire District TEMS Review**

- Chippewa Fire District Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) section within the Chippewa Fire District EMS section had the command taken over by Assistant Chief Mark Roshell. Long time Critical Care/Firefighter with TEMS endorsement Paramedic Nick Sprague stepped down from the team as of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2020.
- The TEMS unit went with a unified command structure on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2020 with Assistant Chief Roshell as the lead contact person for the District TEMS team.
- The TEMS unit put on 4 new Medics in 2020. They were sent to the TEMS training at CVTC Eau Claire which they completed the end of May 2020. With the addition of these 4, along with the 4 that were on the team, we have a total of 8 TEMS trained Medics to respond with the Eau Claire County Regional response team. We responded to a total of 23 calls for service which was 13 calls less than 2019. (8 Callouts & 15 Training)
- Our dedicated TEMS Medics have been busy staying up to date with the ever change environment we live in the past year. Our onsite training has been limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Two TEMS medics were fitted for new protective gear which was acquired from Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office budget. We expect to receive the gear early 2021.
- Our TEMS group has been training with the regional quick response team to bring them up on medical training while they are deployed in a hazard zone during civil unrest.
- Chippewa Fire District command staff continues to meet with our regional response partners yearly to discuss improvements in delivery of our services to the communities we serve for Fire, EMS & SWAT.

## FIRE PREVENTION, INVESTIGATIONS, AND INSPECTIONS

Prepared by Deputy Chief John Andersen

The Chippewa Fire District conducts Fire Inspection and Prevention activities under the scope of Wisconsin State Statutes 101.14, 101.575 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Comm 14. Fire Inspection and Prevention activities are funded out of the Wisconsin Fire Insurance Fund of 2% of fire insurance premiums paid to the State of Wisconsin. The 2% fire dues fund, as it is called, has been a part of the State of Wisconsin Fire Insurance Commissioner's Office since before Wisconsin became a state in 1848. Each municipality of the Fire District receives a 2% Fire Dues payment prior to August 1 each year. Totals for 2020 are based on 2018 evaluation are:

Town of Hallie	\$2,253
Town of Howard	\$2,817
Town of Lafayette	\$24,922
Town of Wheaton	\$12,620
Village of Lake Hallie	\$27,862
Elk Mound FD.	\$1,527
Ridgeland	<u>\$510</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$72,511</b>

Fire Inspections conducted by municipality in a normal year; this year was limited due to State of Wisconsin DSPS emergency rule suspending fire inspections.

Town of Hallie	1
Town of Howard	9
Town of Lafayette	92
Town of Wheaton	43
Village of Lake Hallie	275
Twice per year	52
Elk Mound	74
Ridgeland	<u>41</u>
Total	592

Wisconsin Administrative Code also requires other activities to qualify for 2% Fire Dues. Those activities include:

1. Keeping a map of the territory served by the Chippewa Fire District.
2. A current roster of members of the department.
3. The date and location of fire prevention inspections performed, violations found, and corrective action taken.
4. Time, date and location of structure fires, and the number of fire department members responding.
5. Number, duration of, and attendance for fire department meetings.
6. Number, duration of, topic of, and attendance at fire department training sessions.
7. Number, duration of, topic of, and attendance at public fire education related activities.
8. Copy of the fire department budget and or a summary of fire dues expenditures.

9. Record of public building and places of employment located within the territory of the fire department.

The Chippewa Fire District is currently in compliance with ss 101.14, ss 101.575, and Wisconsin Administrative Code DSPS 314 and is eligible for Wisconsin 2% Fire Dues for the year 2020.

The Chippewa Fire District also performs the following inspections and services for the community:

1. CBRF (Home Health Care Facilities).
2. Fireworks Permit Inspections.
3. Fire Prevention Education Stillson School, individual and group tours at Stations.
4. Halloween Fire prevention activities for Lake Hallie and Lafayette.
5. Participates in supporting the Chippewa Valley Fire Safety House.
6. New Construction Inspections for Fire Suppression, Fire Alarm Systems, Fire Safety Systems and Construction.
7. Enforces Fire Burning Regulations in the Towns of Hallie, Lafayette, Howard and the Village of Lake Hallie. Assists with fire regulations in Town of Wheaton.
8. Responds to Fire Safety request for services and provides information on Wisconsin Fire Safety Rules and Regulations from its residents.
9. Approves requests for Knox Box installations.
10. Responds to complaints and requests from other local governmental agencies for assistance in enforcement and code interpretation.

### **Inspectors for the Chippewa Fire District for 2020**

Deputy Chief/EMT/UST-AST/FI II John Andersen  
Chief/EMT/UST-AST/FI II Scott Bernette  
FF/EMT/UST-AST/FI Rebecca Shervey (Tank Program Lead)  
UST-AST/FI Chuck Goettl  
UST-AST Timothy Walker  
FF/EMT/ Janet Segelken (Associate Member)  
FF/EMT/UST-AST Dan Enestvedt  
FF/ Paramedic Shay Dechow  
FF/Paramedic Nick Sprague  
FF/Paramedic Jake Grotthus  
FF/ Paramedic Dann Brzeskiewicz  
FF/Paramedic Ron Wolf  
FF/Paramedic Josh Bodette  
FF/Paramedic Jennifer Struensee

### **Fire Investigation 2020 Calendar Year**

The Chippewa Fire District is in compliance with: ss 165.55 Arson investigation (1) The Chief of the fire department or company of every City, Village, or Town in which a fire department or company exists, and where no fire department or company exists, the Mayor, Village President or Town Clerk shall investigate or cause to be investigated the cause, origin and circumstances or every fire occurring in his City, Village, or Town when the damage exceeds \$500. Where any investigation discloses that the fire may be of incendiary origin, the entity shall report the same to the State Fire Marshal. Fires in the Chippewa Fire District are investigated per the above statutory mandate.

### **Fire Investigators for the Chippewa Fire District 2019**

Deputy Chief/EMT John Andersen  
FF/EMT Douglas Matthews  
FF/EMT Janet Segelken (Associate member)  
FF/Paramedic Nick Sprague  
FF/LHPD Adam Meyers

### **2021 Fire Prevention Goals**

- Completed all inspections by November 15.
- Adopt State Administrative Fire Code in each municipality.
- Begin transition to paperless inspections.
- Research hardware/software for using computer based wireless hotspots for inspections and preplans.
- Educate car repair and body shop owners to place fire suppression systems in spray booths and continue enforcement actions.
- Work to expand Fire Safety Public Education at Stillson School from Kindergarten to include grades 1-3.
- Expand 4 year old fire education programs at Day Care Centers.

### **Enforcement Action in 2020 enforcement was down due to DSPS Emergency COVID 19 Order**

- 2 referrals to Wisconsin DNR.
- 5 notices of violation issued.
- 4 warning citations issued.
- 1 secure building order issued.
- 8 citations issued for burning related issues.
- Continued billing for unattended fires and improper burning per state statutes.

### **Plans reviewed and Conditional Approvals Letters generated**

- Stillson Elementary School, Lafayette
- The View Tavern, Lafayette
- Elete Extra, Wheaton
- Riverview Veterinary Clinic, Lake Hallie

- Huffcut Concrete Addition, Lake Hallie
- Town of Lafayette Garage Addition, Lafayette
- Loopy's Bar Kitchen Addition, Wheaton
- Elite Extra, Wheaton
- Northern Building Distribution Center, Wheaton
- Jiffy Lube, Lake Hallie
- WAL-MART, Lake Hallie
- Swoboda Mini warehouses, Wheaton
- Schroeder Mini Warehouses, Wheaton
- Wissota Lodge and Conference Center, Lafayette

**Permits issued:**

- Fireworks tents (3)
- Fireworks display (2)
- Temporary membrane structure (1)
- Adult family homes (8)
- Wedding Barn (1)
- Foster Care (2)

**2020 Public Education activities per DSPS 314.01 (13) 11 (c)** : Public fire education services. Each fire department shall provide public fire education services within the territory served by the fire department. Locations and numbers were less in 2020 due to COVID 19.

- Schools 1
- FPW 1
- Public Service 2
- Fire Stations 2

**Analysis of Fire Incidents for 2020 in Chippewa Fire District**

- 281 Fire calls in 2020
- Fire loss was \$841,005 which is down from 2019
- 32 structure fires in 2020 which is up from 2019
- 17 of the 32 structure fires were in 1 and 2 family dwellings
- July had the largest number of fire calls (35) August the least (13)
- Saturday had the largest number of fire calls (46)
- Time of day most calls occurred was between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm

**Average Response Time District in minutes**

Village of Lake Hallie/Town of Hallie 7.5 minutes  
 Wheaton 11 minutes  
 Lafayette 9 minutes  
 Howard 10 minutes



**Fire Calls by community**

Town of Hallie	7
Village of Lake Hallie	120
Wheaton	53
Lafayette	90
Howard	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>

**Fire Calls by month:**

January	28
February	15
March	23
April	26
May	22
June	20
July	35
August	13
September	25
October	28
November	26
<u>December</u>	<u>20</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>

**Fire Calls by day:**

Sunday	30
Monday	42
Tuesday	40
Wednesday	38
Thursday	44
Friday	41
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>46</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>

**Calls by type:**

Fire	80
Explosion/Overheat	2
Rescue/EMS	71
Hazardous Condition	25
Service Call	12
Good Intent	57
False Alarm	21
Severe weather	1
<u>Special Incident</u>	<u>12</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>

## **TANK PROGRAM**

Prepared by Storage Tank System Inspector Rebecca Shervey.

### **2020/2021 Underground/Aboveground Storage Tank Program Flammable/Combustible/Hazardous Tanks July 1, 2020 to present**

Plans reviewed for new installs	8
Tank installation inspections	93
Tank removal inspections	114
Annual permit inspections	557 sites
Orders for non-compliance	28

Inspectors: (8) Rebecca Shervey, John Andersen, Shaylee Dechow, Chuck Goettl, Dan Enestvedt, Chief Scott Bernette, and Tim Walker.

We serve 249 Fire Departments in 28 counties for the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). To date, annual inspections are only about 35% completed due to COVID-19. With the stay-at-home orders annual inspections were put on hold, although the installs and removals were continued. Many businesses have also been inaccessible or not allowing visitors for inspections. My goal is trying to make up for most of the lost time after vaccinations.

The Tank Programs biggest issue right now is the <5k ASTs being removed from payable inspections list starting Oct 2019. This was due to an audit of the statute language and was found to not match that of ATCP 93 codes. The statute states no enforcement authority for ASTs <5k. Although, the tanks are still supposed to follow codes including NFPA, but we are not paid nor able to enforce under the tank side. If needed, it can be enforced by local FD level.

This change caused CFD to lose 872 of the 1408 tanks we had. In addition, almost all plan reviews since we only did the reviews for tanks <5k. We urged DATCP to allow CFD to take on more territory to recoup some of the lost revenue. CFD did take on 81 more FD areas which added 536 inspectable tanks. If it were not for the pandemic, this extra area would have helped keep the program closer to being self-sustainable.

There was effort put in for the return the regulatory enforcement back to ATCP 93 early 2020, this did not get addressed due to the COVID pandemic taking priority. The Tank Division has been trying to move this back along in hopes to get the small tanks back. Losing these tanks not only hurts our budget, but it also makes it more conducive to fire and life safety issues in addition to more environmental contamination.

## Dive Team

Prepared by Team Leader Michelle Fisher

### Calls:

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Description</b>
2-20-20	Dive Training/Meeting
3-5-20	178th St Chippewa river man in water, cancelled
3-15-20	Mutual aid Lake Holcombe UTV through ice 2 occupants 26191 275th St (2 recovered)
5-29-20	Mutual aid City Chippewa Pumphouse road boat landing search (no person found)
6-29-20	Chippewa river near Loopy's FATFAR, female tuber screaming for help (recovered and transported to hospital)
7-23-20	Mutual aid, Cornell juvenal boys missing near water, cancelled found at a friend's house
9-7-20	Dive training/ boat landing clean up
10-7-20	Sportsmans unoccupied boat floating occupant found on shore cancelled
12-9-20	Ice training Officers only Wissota boat landing, banana boat, ice rescue
12-12-20	Ice training Wissota boat landing, banana boat, ice rescue
12-16-20	Ice training Wissota boat landing, banana boat, ice rescue

### Personnel:

- 17 active dive team members
- 3 open water divers
- 1 open water and advanced diver
- 2 ice divers
- 4 rescue divers
- 1 dive master
- 6 support staff

### Equipment upgrades:

New harnesses were purchased to replace missing/damaged harnesses, an additional 250 feet of river rescue rope, 2 throw bags with 50ft of rope, and an Aqua-Vu 7i underwater camera. Several carabiners and spare O-rings.