



# 2020 REPORT

RED WING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Established 1857

Adapted by Resolution in 1885

# Mission Statement

Red Wing Fire Department is committed to helping anyone in need, providing exceptional fire suppression, advanced medical care, technical rescue, disaster management, fire prevention and public education. We are focused on operational readiness, department unity, professionalism and community engagement.

# Value Statement

Red Wing Fire Department is committed to serving with Pride and Professionalism in all we do and will hold ourselves accountable to these values.

- We value having pride in our organization, the level of service we provide and our community.
- We value the public's trust and are committed to honest and ethical behavior.
- We value the role each member plays in our organization. We respect those that came before us and will strive to make the organization better for those who follow.
- We value our commitment to excellence in everything we do.
- We value leadership, teamwork, innovation, labor-management collaboration, and respect in our organization.
- We value the social good in what we do as an organization and as individuals.
- We value our commitment to providing effective and responsive means of communication throughout the organization and community.

# FIRE CHIEF MIKE WARNER

The year 2020 started as a normal year. The Fire Department was dealing with some staffing changes, being we were short one administrator. Due to the increased workload, all of the officers stepped up and helped pick up extra assignments to ensure we continued to provide a high level of service. With winter being in full swing, the emergency call volume was normal for the time of the year. Sources started talking about a strange virus that has never really been seen before. As with everyone, we took the normal precautions and went on with our day. In Early March, I got word, through some networking, that there would soon be a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment that was needed to ensure the safety of both the patients and our staff. After multiple days of securing PPE, we were able to get ahead of the problem. At this time, we were in a full pandemic. Paramedics deal with infectious diseases every time they respond to a call, but this was different. The speed at which COVID-19 was spreading was unprecedented. As with the entire world, the Red Wing Fire Department was reacting to the new changes. We stopped all in person training. We required full PPE on all calls. We separated the Paid on Calls and Career Firefighters as much as possible to ensure we had backups in place. We appeared to be in survival mode. There was a fear that was hanging over all of our heads. What happens if we contract COVID-19? What happens if we expose our families to COVID-19? What happens if an entire shift of firefighters/paramedics contracts COVID-19 all at the same time? All of these questions and more kept coming into play. We continued to search for answers. We reached out to our friends, colleagues, partners, or anyone who could offer assistance. The time seemed to move ever so slowly. The days all blended together.



As time went on, we were able to get a grip on what we were dealing with. We were able to extend the life time of our PPE. We were able to keep our distance while staying open for business. The weather was getting warmer, which meant we were able to get outside and we were able to resume training with restrictions. We were all getting used to the new “normal”. We faced set backs but we dealt with them and continued to provide exceptional services to our citizens who needed us. As the days started to get shorter, we were now experienced with COVID-19. We were able to fill our open internal positions. We were all settling in to our new normal. While we were dealing with a global pandemic, we still had to perform our normal jobs.

We ended the year with some positive notes. Our Crews had an exceptionally high amount of training hours for the year. Early on, I identified some specific areas where we wanted to expand our training. Rope Rescue was one of these areas. We were able to send one of the Captains to an advanced training class. He was able to evaluate our equipment and training. We have increased our equipment and he started training with all of the shifts. We are able to become a host class location for a rope rescue class in 2021.



Another project that was very successful was fire inspections. The Fire Prevention Office spent a lot of time and effort ensuring our local businesses were safe for their employees and visitors. We identified multiple violations that were missed from the past but the business owners were able to make the repairs. The next major challenge was public education. While we all know everything had to change with the times, we did not know exactly how to deliver the message. With the help of the Communications Team from the City, we were still able to deliver our message. The 2020 public education message was "Safety in the Kitchen." We were able to deliver our message and multiple other messages via social media as well as links that were sent to the school for all children to watch.

I want to acknowledge all of the hard working Firefighters at Red Wing Fire. I never once watched anyone give up, complain, or not respond when we were called upon for service. This truly exemplifies the type of people we have working for Red Wing Fire Department. After seeing the strength and courage that was used this past year, I am sure 2021 will be a great year. I also want to acknowledge all of the other City Departments that provide assistance to the Fire Department. We rely on all of the City Employees to be able to provide the highest level of service to the citizens of Red Wing and the surrounding community.

Continue to stay safe, we will get through this together!

Mike Warner | Fire Chief

Red Wing Fire Department

420 Plum Street | Red Wing, MN 55066

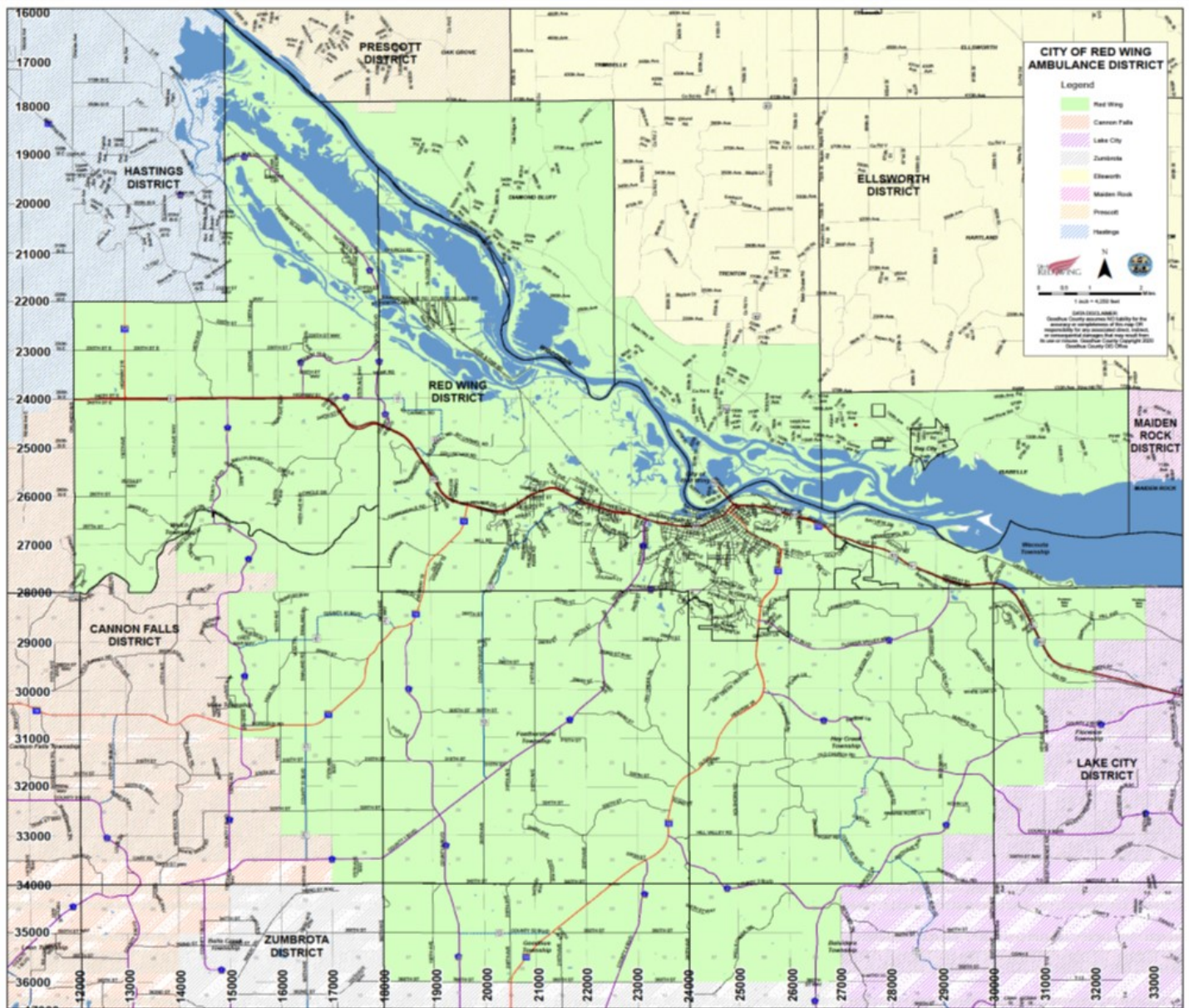
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# RESPONSE AREA



Fire Coverage 64.5 square Miles

Ambulance Coverage 262 square miles

City of Red Wing  
Wacouta Township  
Prairie Island Indian Community

Minnesota  
Wisconsin





# EMERGENCY CALLS

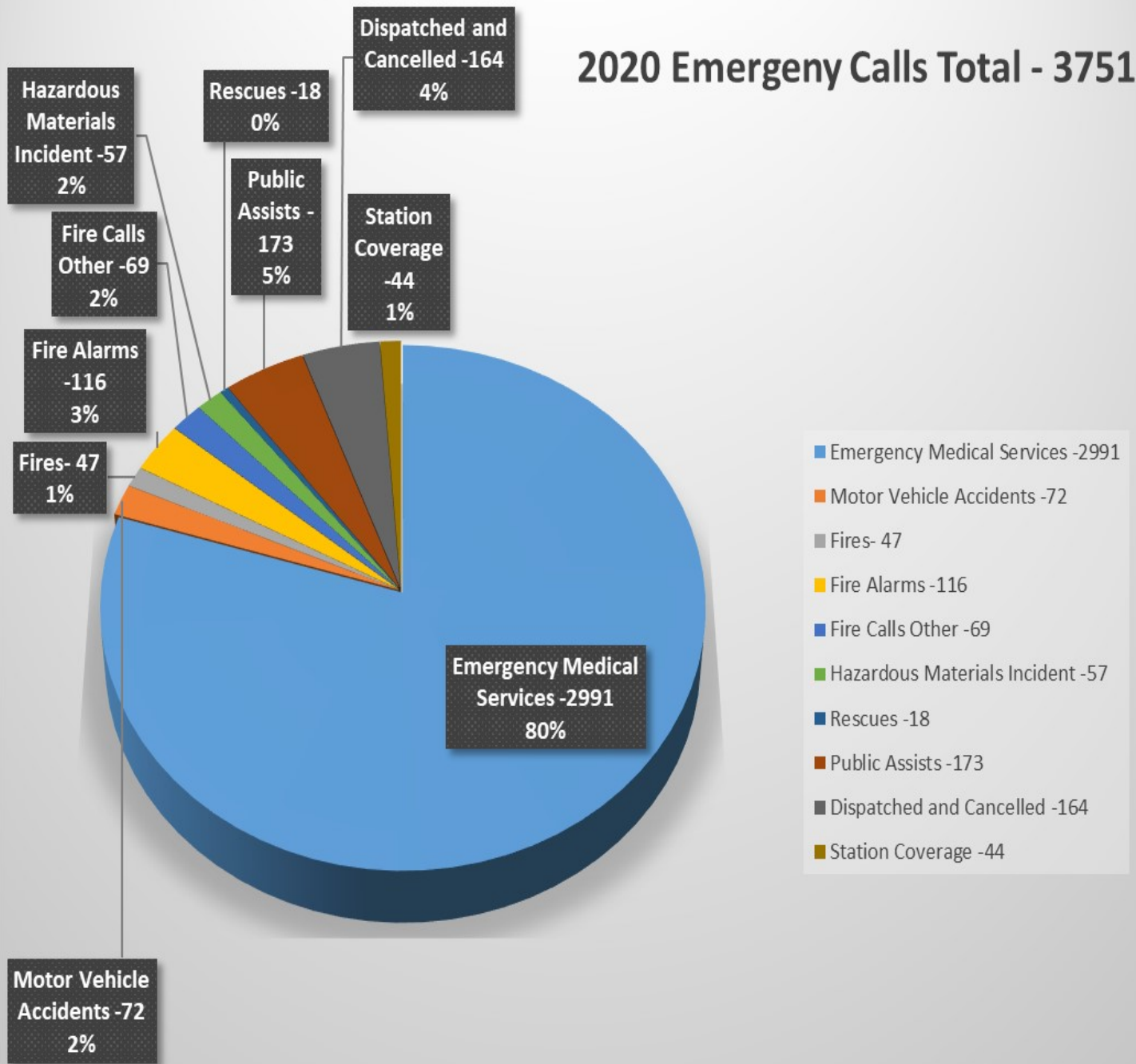
**2020 — 3,751**

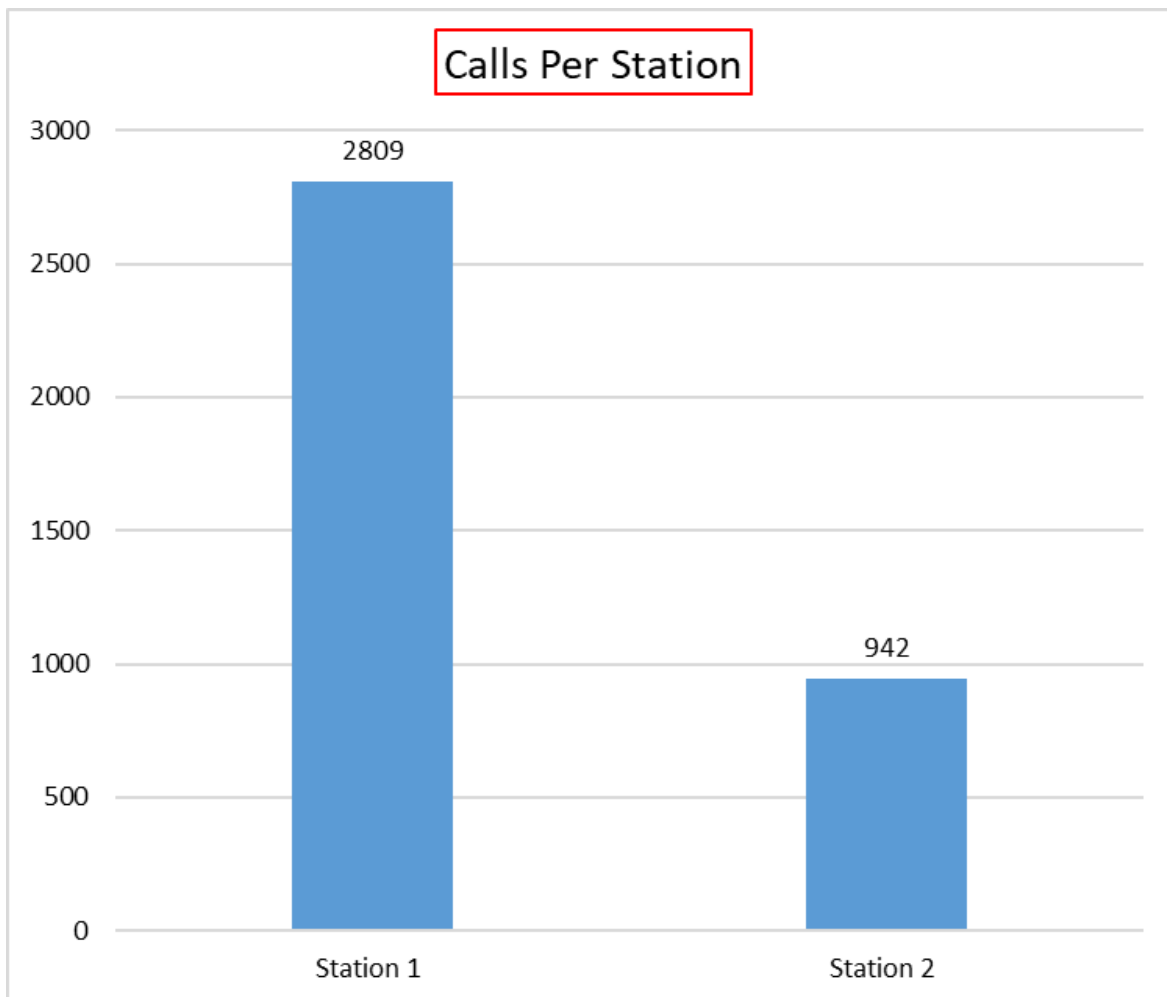
**2019 — 3,832**

**2018 — 3,779**



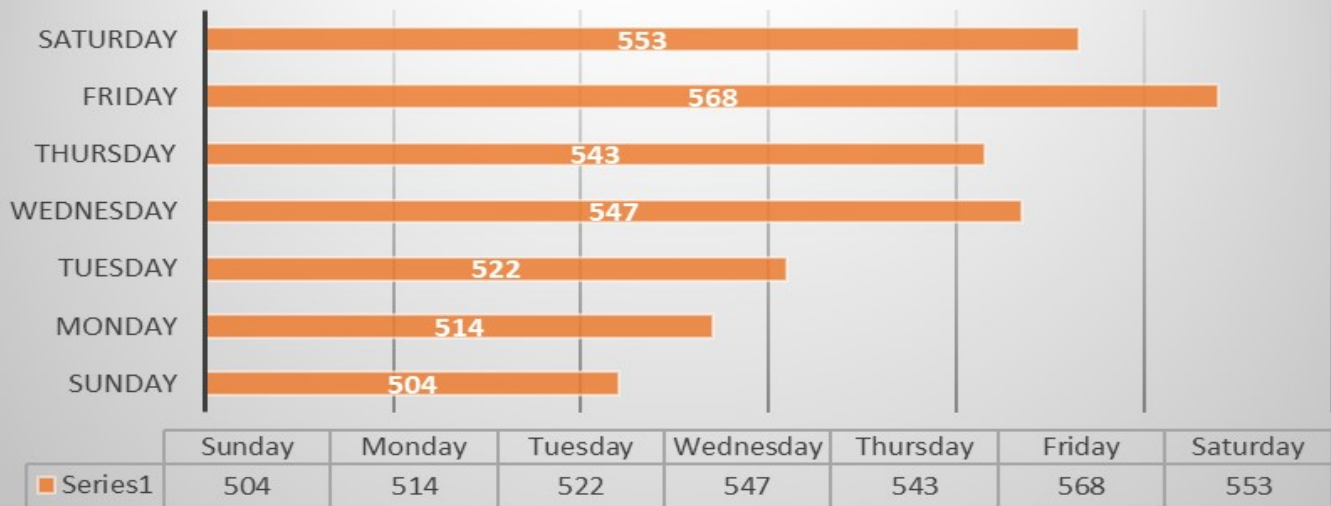
## 2020 Emergency Calls Total - 3751



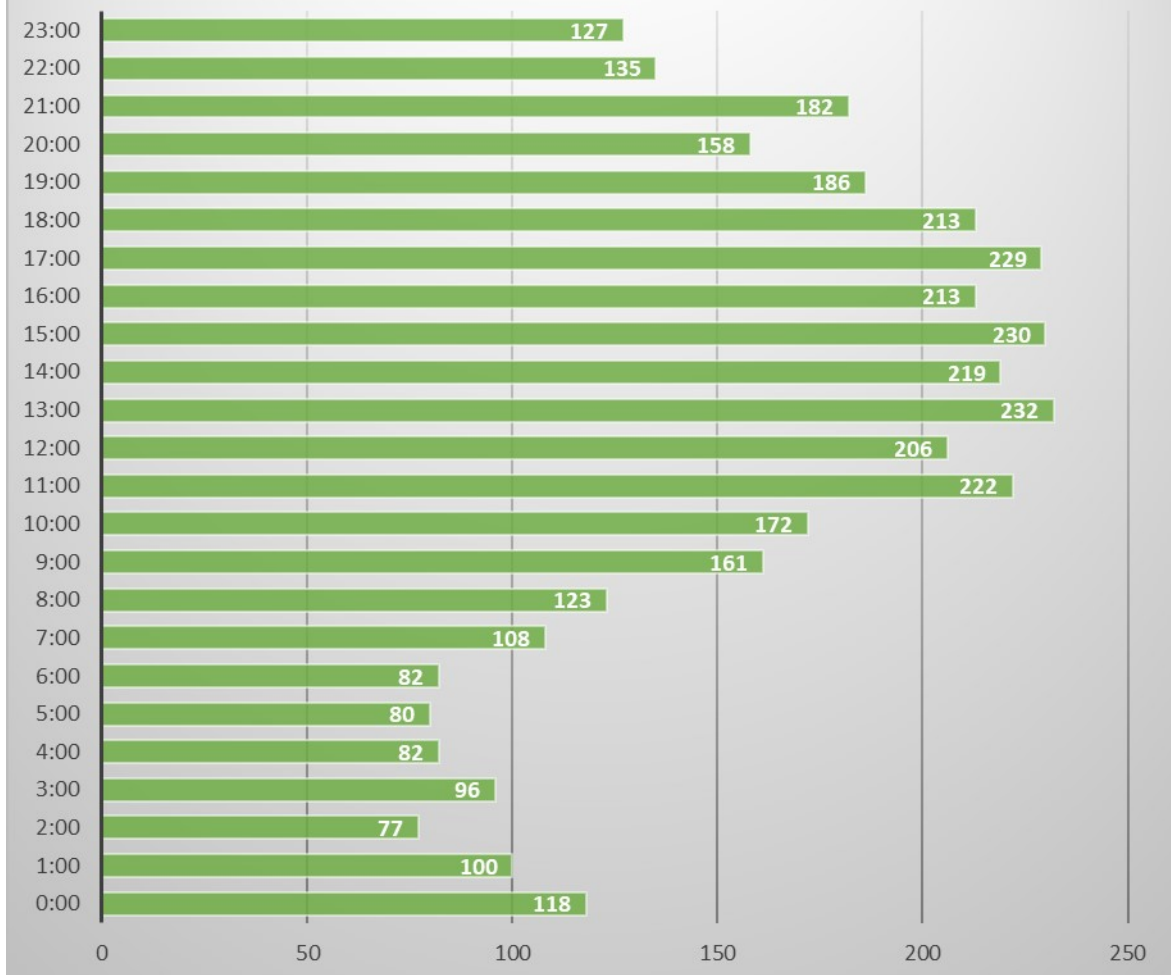


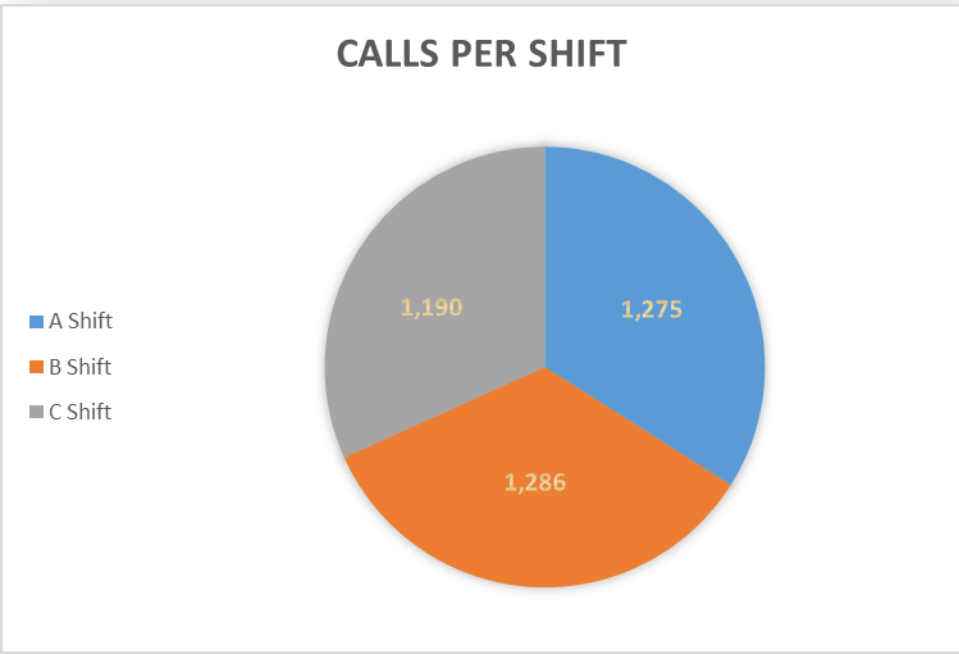
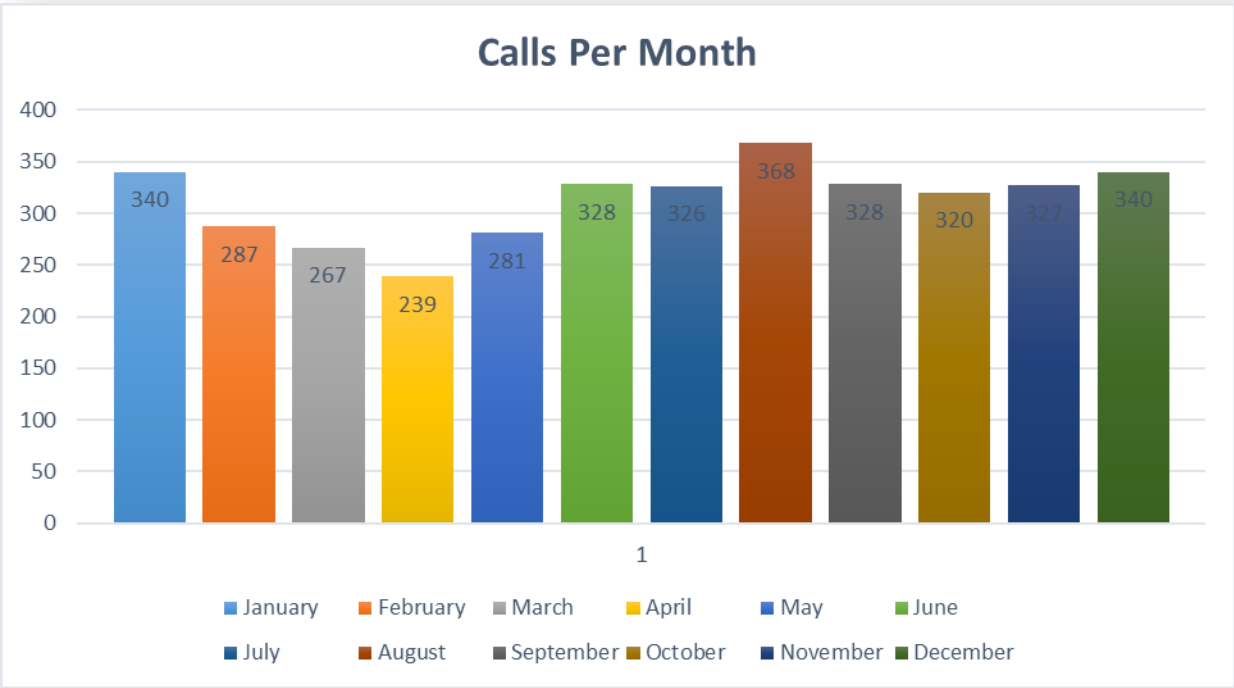


## Calls by Day of the Week

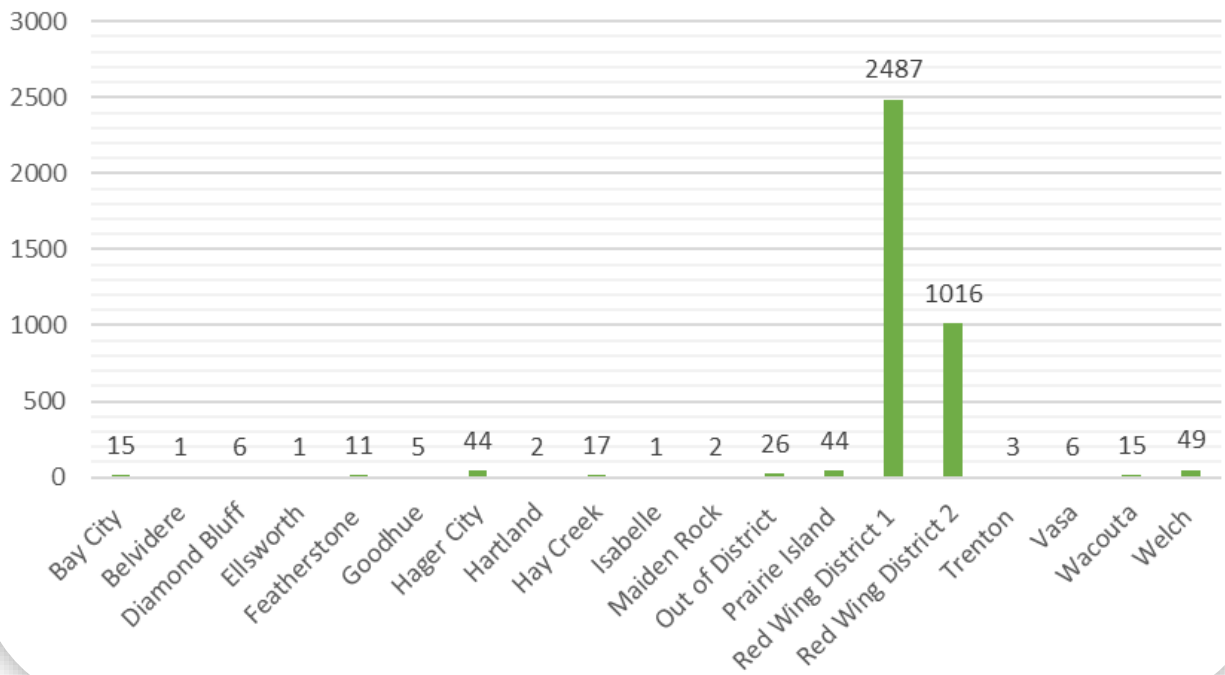


## Calls per Hour of the Day

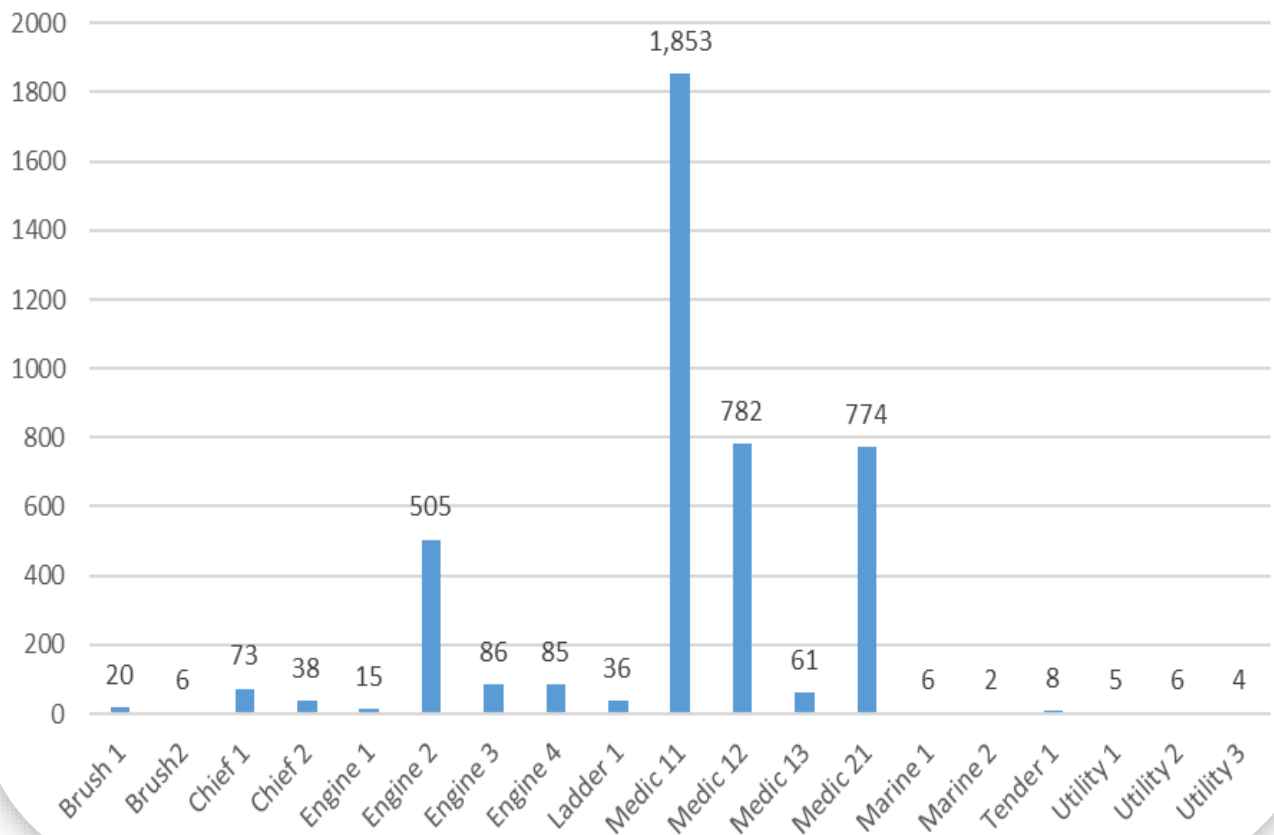




### Response Area

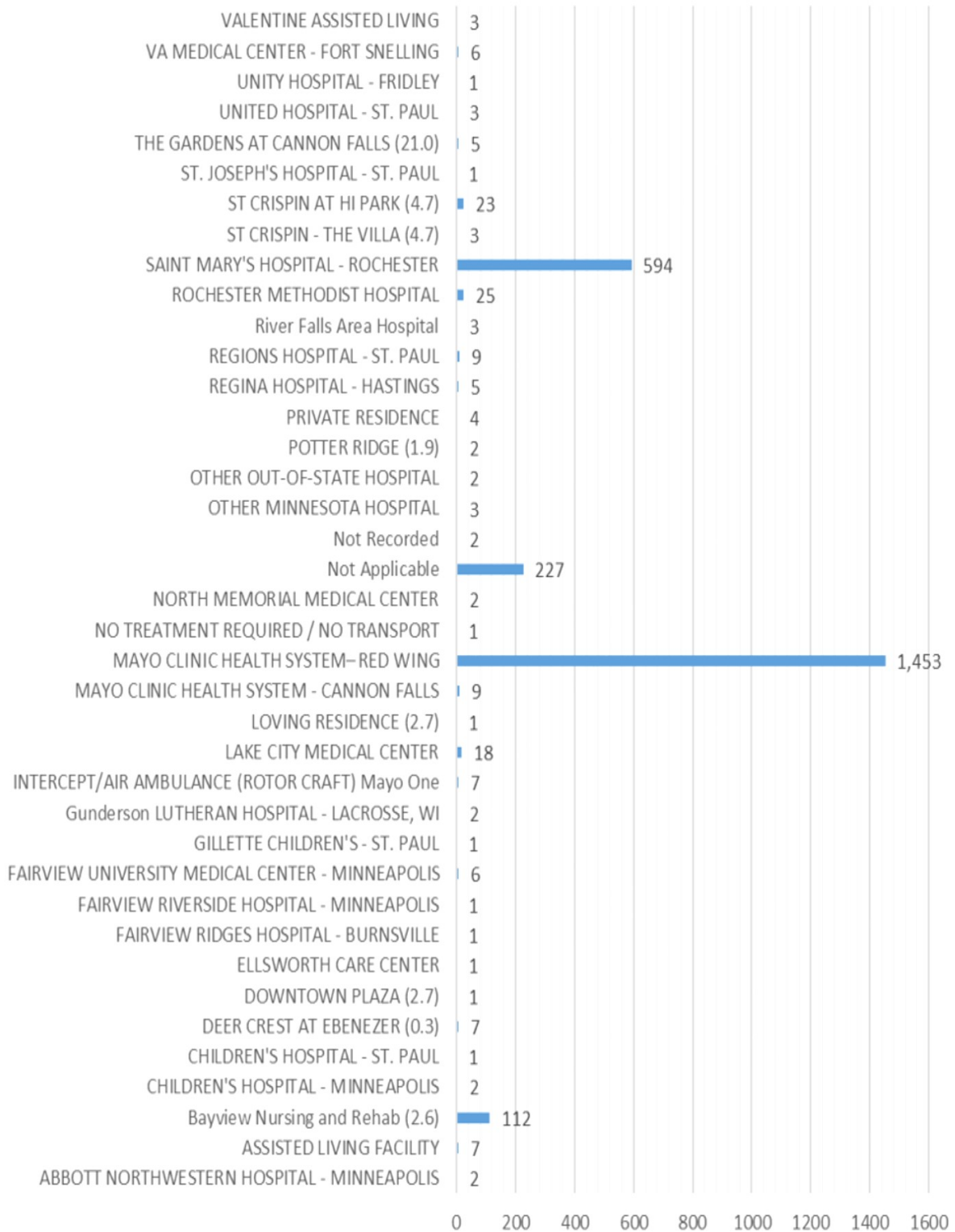


### Calls Per Vehicle

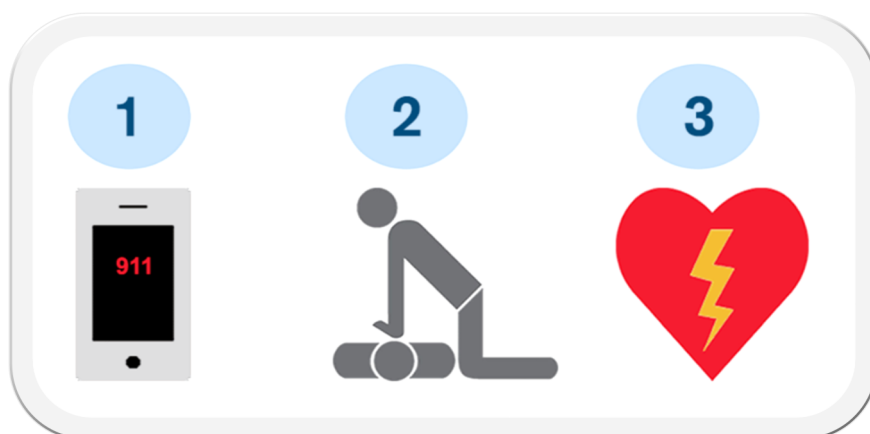
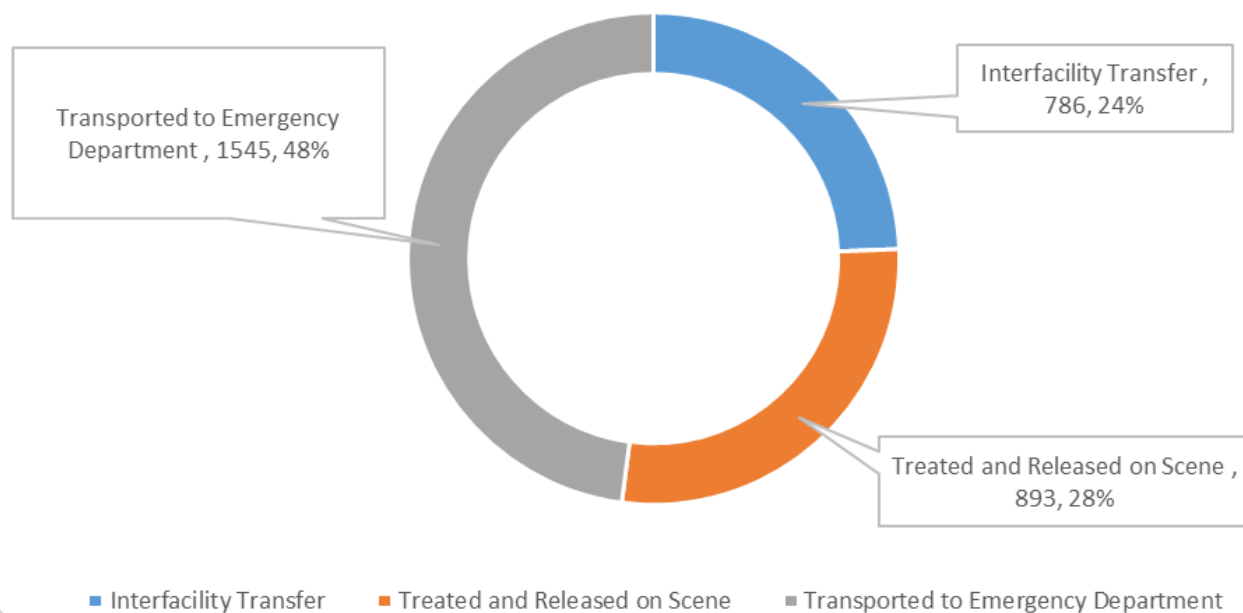




## Ambulance Transport Destination



## Emergency Medical Calls



# APPARATUS



**Engine 1 – 1996 Custom Fire Apparatus**

800 Gallon Tanks

1500 GPM Pump

**Engine 2 – 2017 Rosenbauer**

750 Gallon Water Tank -1500 GPM Pump

Primary Engine Station 1



**Engine 3 – 2018 Pierce**

1000 Gallon Water Tank -

1500 GPM Pump

Primary Engine Station 2



**Engine 4 – 2009 Rosenbauer**

750 Gallon Water Tank

1500 GPM Pump







**Ladder 1 – 2003 Pierce**  
100' Aerial Ladder  
300 Gallons Water Tank  
2000 GPM Pump

**Tender 1 – 2014 Danko**  
3500 Gallon Water Tank  
400 GPM Pump





## **Marine 1—2014 Lake Assault**

500 GPM Pump



## **Marine 2 – 2019**

Flat Bottom John Boat



## **Brush 1 – F-450**

300 Gallons of Water

250 GPM Pump



## **Brush 2 – 2017 Polarix 4x4**

75 gallons of Water - 75 GPM pump & EMS Skid





**Medic 151 – F-450 – 2017**

**Medic 152 - F-450 - 2015**



**Medic 153 – F-550 – 2019**

**Medic 154 – F-550 - 2018**



**Chief 1 Ford Explorer - 2017**

**Chief 2 Ford Explorer - 2016**



**Utility 2**

**Chevy 2500 Suburban – 2006**

**Apparatus not pictured**

**Utility 3 (Red Car) Chevy Impala - 2013**

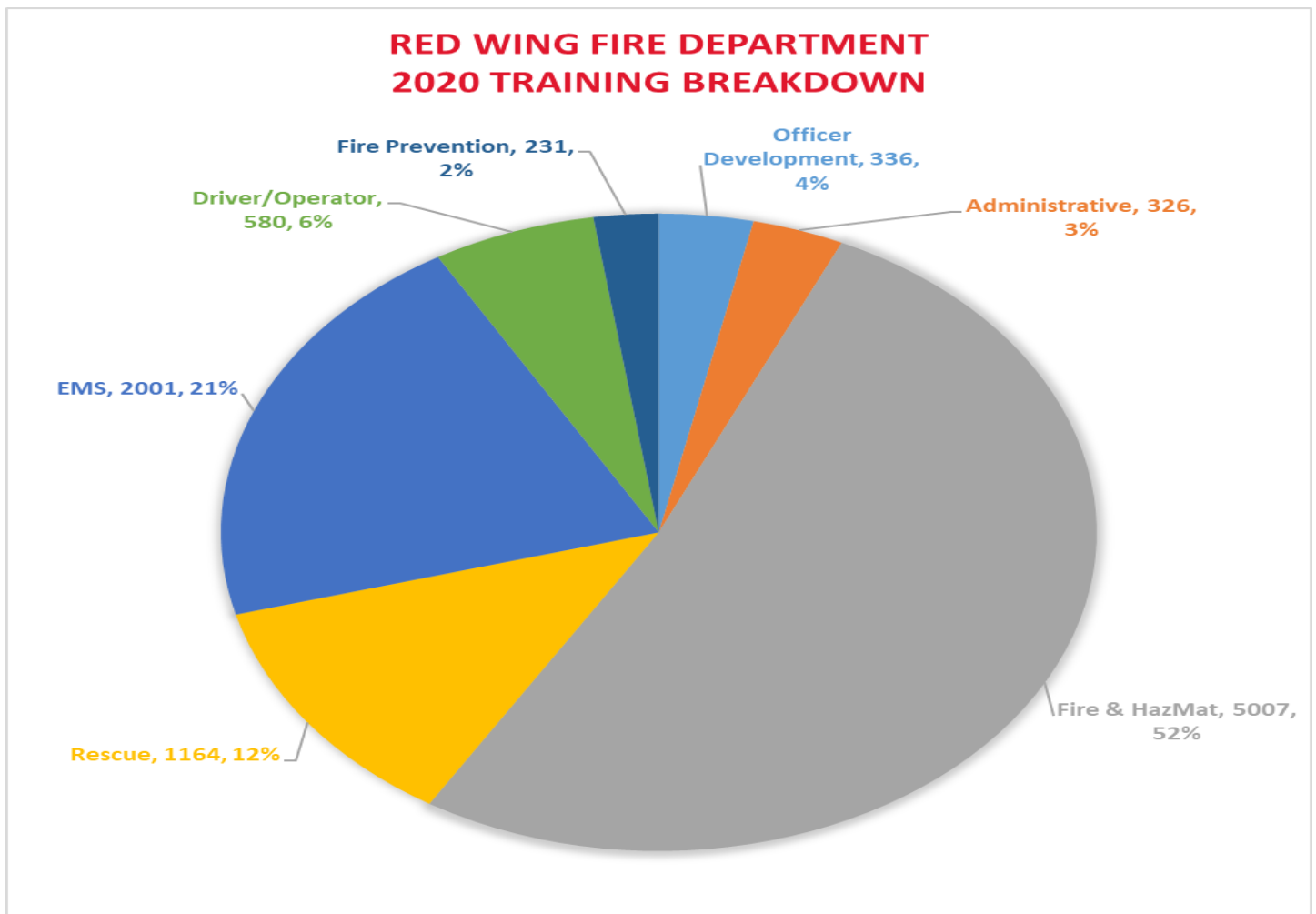
**Utility 1 (Pick Up) Chevy 2500 Silverado - 2018**

**Public Education Trailer**



# TRAINING

In 2020, Red Wing firefighters completed 9,646 hours of training which averages to over 200 hours of training per person. The department provides training to maintain certifications for Firefighter, Fire Officer, Fire Instructor, Fire Investigator, Fire Inspector, Fire Apparatus Operator, Hazardous Materials Operations, EMT-Basic and Paramedic. Additionally, the department trains to maintain proficiency in numerous technical rescue disciplines including high and low angle rope rescue, confined space rescue, marine operations and water rescue. The department also provides three firefighters trained as tactical paramedics to Goodhue County's Emergency Response Team which requires monthly training and an annual week long training camp.









# **FIRE PREVENTION**

The Red Wing Fire Department's Fire Prevention division is based upon the importance of public relations. Our primary objectives continue to emphasize prevention of fire through fire inspections and code enforcement, plan review, public education, and fire investigation. It is through these objectives that enhanced attitudes and safer buildings are produced and maintained. Thus, the occurrence and severity of fires are greatly reduced. The fire prevention division is headed by Fire Marshal Andy Speltz. Fire Inspector Jake Littfin works under the direction of the Fire Marshal and focuses on fire inspections and public education. In November, Jake accepted a Firefighter Paramedic position which brought him to C Shift. We appreciate his service in the prevention division. The Fire Inspector position is currently vacant. We anticipate posting for the position in early 2021 with a hire as soon as reasonably possible.

Like many other businesses, COVID has affected the fire prevention division as well. Many of our programs were put on hold temporarily and new policies were implemented so we could resume some programs. For example, this year we were forced to go virtual with our educational programs at the local schools.

Despite all of the COVID turmoil, we were able to add some new programs to the division. The Fire Department Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) program is now being administered within the prevention division. This will allow us to properly market the program and track the number of classes we hold and the number of students that receive initial and refresher training in CPR.

We were also accepted to participate in a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) pilot program dealing with Community Risk Assessment (CRA). A CRA is the first step in the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) plan. We are excited to participate in this program and it will most certainly allow us to develop some new programs in regards to CRR.

In 2020, we were able to build an interactive live fire kitchen display to be used for virtual demonstration purposes to fifth grade students.

## **Fire Investigation**

The Red Wing Fire Department is required to investigate the cause and origin of all fires. The Fire Marshal is contacted to perform the fire investigation, especially in cases of fatal fires, large loss fires, suspected arson fires, and fires involving other crimes. A total of 8 structure fires took place in 2020, with two requiring a formal fire investigation. Of those 8 fires, 6 were accidental, 1 was intentional, and 1 was an act of nature. Five fires were in single family homes, 2 fires were in residential garages, and 1 fire was within a multi family home.

## Fire Inspections and Code Enforcement

An important aspect of fire prevention is that of conducting fire inspections of public buildings. The Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector conduct scheduled inspections in existing public and commercial buildings to ensure ongoing compliance with Minnesota State Fire Code requirements. Special inspections are also conducted upon request or upon being notified of a possible fire code violation. During fire inspections, the entire building is thoroughly inspected to evaluate code compliance. If violations are noted, a follow-up inspection is conducted to verify the violations identified have been corrected satisfactorily.

<b>Inspections</b>	<b>#</b>
Fire Safety Inspections	160
Reinspections	73
Day Care / Adult Foster Care Inspections	2
Fire Sprinkler Inspections	19
Fire Alarm Inspections	9
Fire Code Consultations	24
<b>Total Inspections Conducted</b>	<b>287</b>

## Plan Review and Permit Issuance

The Red Wing Fire Department performs plan review and issues permits to prevent loss of life and preserve property from fire. In 2020, the fire prevention division performed 16 plan reviews. Types of reviews and permits consisted of:

<b>Plan Reviews and Permits</b>	<b>#</b>
Fire Suppression Plan Reviews and Permits	6
Fire Alarm / Detection Plan Reviews and Permits	5
Kitchen Suppression System Plan Reviews and Permits	5
<b>Total Plan Reviews Conducted and Permits Issued</b>	<b>16</b>

## Public Education

Education continues to be an important part of the Fire Prevention program. Last year, many of our programs were put on hold due to COVID-19. Fortunately, we were still able to deliver many of our programs virtually. We could not visit schools in October to talk about fire safety but we recorded our age appropriate presentations and videos at the Fire Station. Links were then sent to all teachers who were able to assign the program on Google Classroom, a platform they already use to assign student's normal coursework. Every student had access to our fire safety program whether they attended school in person, hybrid, or via distance learning. Also, station tours were not conducted during Fire Prevention Month and we did not hold an Open House. However, we provided video tours of Fire Station #1 and Fire Station #2. These videos are available on our website and social media platforms.

### 3rd Grade Virtual Classroom



# 2020 PROMOTIONS



**Peter Hanlin**  
Assistant Chief



**When did you start with the RWFD?** I was hired as a firefighter paramedic in July of 2011. I was promoted to lieutenant in late 2017 and then to captain in the summer of 2018.

**Did you always want to be a firefighter?** No, hadn't really even considered it until about 2005 when I saw a sign outside of a Maple Grove fire station looking for paid-on-call firefighters and decided to apply. I quickly realized that I loved being in the fire station, going on calls, and training with the other firefighters and decided to continue my training to get more experience so I could move to a full-time position. That path took me through Roseville and Brooklyn Park fire departments while I went through paramedic school and shortly after finishing that I was hired in Red Wing.

**What's your favorite part?** Even after 15 years in the fire service I still wake up every day looking forward to going to the station and working with my coworkers, running calls, training, and enjoying the banter that takes place around the station. Every day is a little different and you never really know what you could end up doing each day.

**When you're off-duty, what are your hobbies?** I typically spend time at home working in the yard, taking care of home projects or dabbling in some very-amateurish woodworking.

**What special skill do you bring to the job?** I feel that I excel at working with and managing people and at developing and improving processes. Luckily, those are significant aspects of my new position.



**Matt Lenz**  
Captain



**What's your hometown?** Austin, MN

**When did you start with the RWFD?** November of 2009.

**Did you always want to be a firefighter?** Always. I am a second-generation full-time firefighter. My father is a retired Shift Commander with the Austin Fire Department. There really wasn't a question of what I was going to do.

**What's your favorite part?** First, I love helping people and serving the community. Second, I love the day to day variety of challenges that the job presents.

**When you're off-duty, what are your hobbies?** Hunting, archery, and spending time with my family.

**What special skill do you bring to the job?** I started in emergency services at a young age (2003), so I can take all those years of experience and apply them to my job with the RWFD.







## Captain Trent Wentlandt



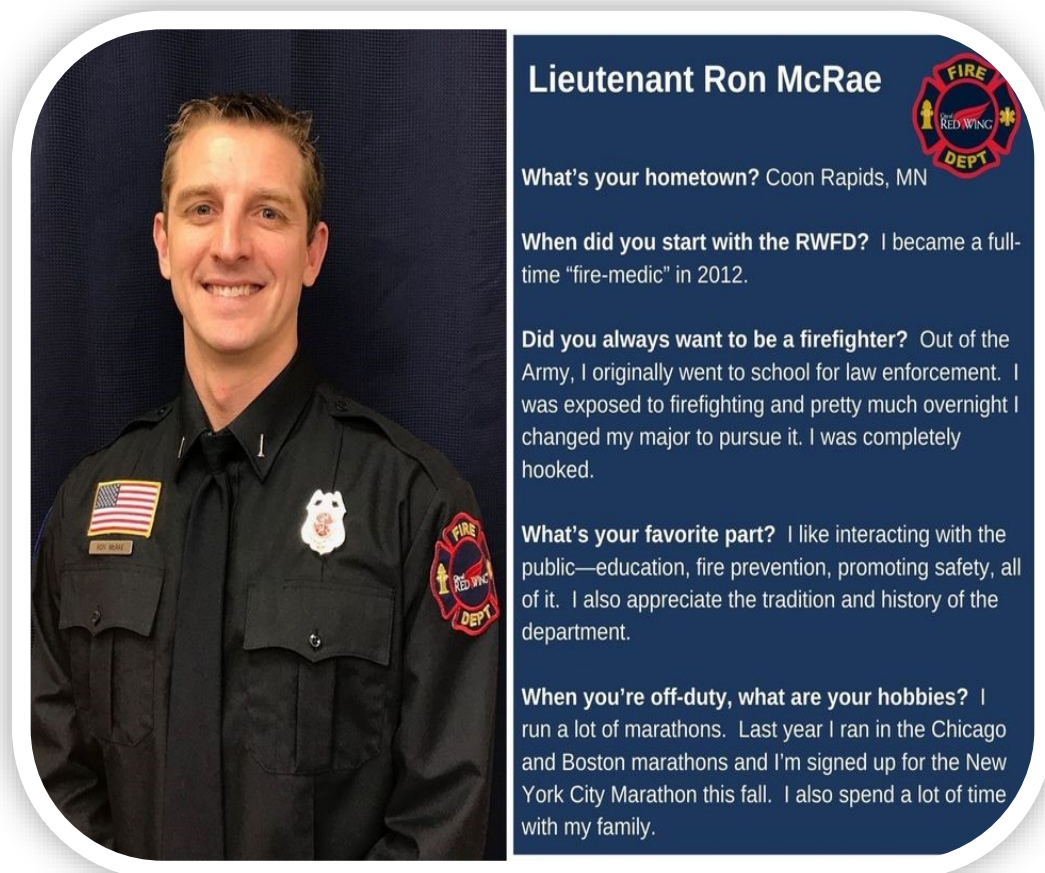
**What's your hometown?** Spring Valley, Wisconsin

**When did you start with the RWFD?** I started in 2010 as a firefighter paramedic.

**Did you always want to be a firefighter?** Since I can remember, this is what I've wanted to do.

**What's your favorite part?** Being able to make a difference in the community. We often see people during what could be the worst time of their life and being able to reverse some of that, even just a little, is incredibly rewarding.

**When you're off-duty, what are your hobbies?** It might sound cliché, but I love hunting and fishing.



## Lieutenant Ron McRae



**What's your hometown?** Coon Rapids, MN

**When did you start with the RWFD?** I became a full-time "fire-medical" in 2012.

**Did you always want to be a firefighter?** Out of the Army, I originally went to school for law enforcement. I was exposed to firefighting and pretty much overnight I changed my major to pursue it. I was completely hooked.

**What's your favorite part?** I like interacting with the public—education, fire prevention, promoting safety, all of it. I also appreciate the tradition and history of the department.

**When you're off-duty, what are your hobbies?** I run a lot of marathons. Last year I ran in the Chicago and Boston marathons and I'm signed up for the New York City Marathon this fall. I also spend a lot of time with my family.





**Corey Ahern**  
Lieutenant



**What's your hometown?** I was born and raised in Red Wing.

**When did you start with the RWFD?** I started in August of 2008.

**Did you always want to be a firefighter?** I spent four years in the US Army after high school and then fell into a flooring career for the next 15 years. I realized I missed the camaraderie, bonding, and feeling of giving back that the Army had fulfilled in my life so I decided it was time for a change which brought me to my career here.

**What's your favorite part?** I enjoy the brotherhood with my co-workers and the ability to feel like I'm making a difference in other people's lives.

**When you're off-duty, what are your hobbies?** I enjoy snowmobiling, golfing, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

**What special skill do you bring to the job?** I feel like I am able to make good connections with people and I can put them at ease through conversation and empathy.



**Luke O'Reilly**  
Engineer



**When did you start with the RWFD?** I started as a paid on call with RWFD in 2015 and became full-time in early 2018.

**Did you always want to be a firefighter?** I had no plans of being a firefighter until I joined Goodhue Fire as a volunteer when I was 21 and loved it.

**What's your favorite part?** Being able to help people in need, and the camaraderie of the firehouse.

**When you're off-duty, what are your hobbies?** Spending time with family, farming, and fishing in Canada.

**What special skill do you bring to the job?** I think I have the ability to talk to and get along with anybody I meet.





## Engineer Jamey Ahlgrim



**What's your hometown?** Fridley, MN

**When did you start with the RWFD?** This is actually my second time with the RWFD. I was a full-time firefighter paramedic from 2001-2007, then returned as paid-on-call in 2015. I returned to full-time service in 2016.

**Did you always want to be a firefighter?** Always. I started as an Explorer with the Fridley Fire Department and then worked as paid on-call there for five years. So I've been in the industry since I was fifteen.

**What's your favorite part?** There aren't many jobs where you can directly make a difference in someone's life, or help make someone's worst day better.

**When you're off-duty, what are your hobbies?** I'm a storm chaser. Last year I drove over 3,000 miles following storms around the Midwest.





Fire Department

