

# Norwood Park Fire Protection District



## 2021 Annual Report



Serving Norridge, Harwood Heights and Norwood Park Township

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## Chief's Statement

Residents of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District,  
Board of Trustees,  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
Dear Stakeholders of the District,



*Fire Chief David C. Blondell*

It is with great pride we submit the 2021 Annual Report. This report provides a detailed review of our department's activities for the past year.

Providing outstanding service to those who live, work, invest and visit our fire protection district is the shared goal of the staff, administration and elected officials of The Norwood Park Fire Department.

In 2021, crews responded to 3,956 calls. This was an 8% increase in call volume from the previous year. In just over a decade, our fire district has experienced a 33% increase in emergency responses.

As Covid-19 positivity rates declined in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2021, the fire house reopened its doors to visitors. The district once again set a record with the number of seasonal flu vaccines administered in our "drive-thru" flu shot program, made possible by our annual budget and a generous donation from Norridge resident Mary Field. In 2022, we hope to continue this service to the community and reinstate our long-standing tradition of the annual Open House to reconnect with the residents of our district.

In 2021, several new paramedics joined our ranks. These well-trained first responders graduated from Advocate Lutheran General Paramedic Program and completed their provisional "ride time" right here at Norwood Park. For over a decade, Norwood Park has been a proud sponsor and a designated training site for this successful program.

Like most industries, paramedicine is facing real challenges to maintain a robust pool of certified paramedics. Norwood Park has been fortunate enough to keep safe staffing levels and our board of trustees has instituted initiatives that will ensure we maintain our staffing levels in the future.

I want to personally thank our staff, and their families for their dedication to the Norwood Park Fire Protection District. Whether they are saving someone's life, battling a house fire, extricating a trapped victim from a car wreck, managing a hazardous material incident, or compassionately working with a patient dealing with mental health issues, they are committed to the highest level of service round-the-clock - 24/7/365.

As your Fire Chief, I pledge to continue to advocate for the resources and equipment essential to support that outstanding level of service we consistently provide to those in need.

**- Fire Chief David C. Blondell**

## Mission and Vision Statements

### **Norwood Park Fire Protection District Mission Statement**

The **primary** mission of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District is to professionally deliver emergency services with commitment and compassion, treating your family like ours.



### **Vision**

**Professional**

**Respectful**

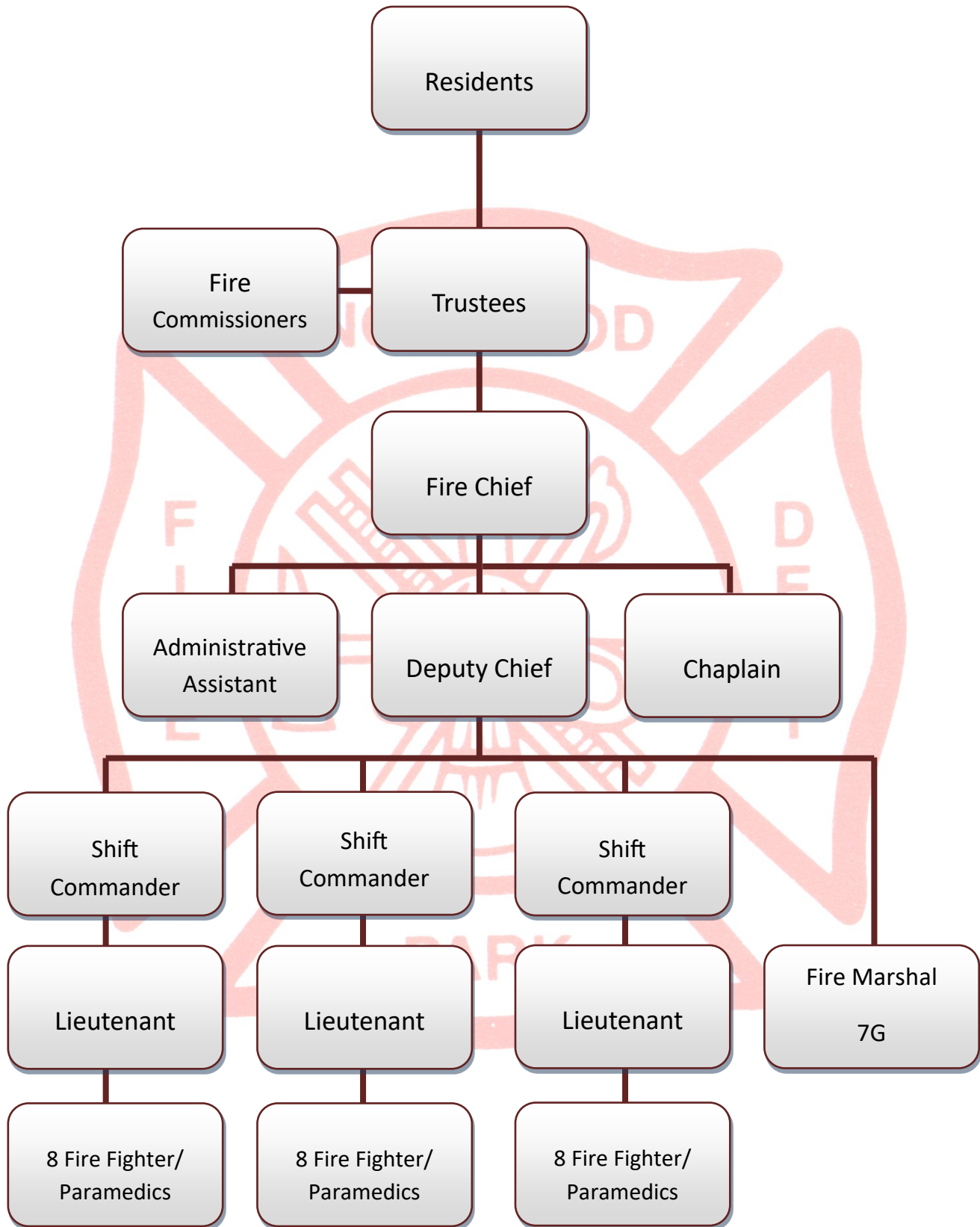
**Integrity**

**Dedication**

**Excellence**

**= P R I D E**

# Organizational Chart



## Department Familiarization

The Norwood Park Fire Protection's district comprises of a 3.5 square mile area consisting of the Village of Norridge, the Village of Harwood Heights, and the Norwood Park Township (in unincorporated Cook County). The Norwood Park Fire Protection District serves approximately 25,000 residents in a mix of residential and commercial occupancies (with a variety of light manufacturing, religious, and educational facilities).

It is the mission of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District to serve these communities and their residents with prompt and professional services such as fire suppression, emergency medical services, motor vehicle accidents, fire prevention (through fire investigation, inspections, and public education), and rescue/response to hazardous material incidents.

We provide our citizens with a well equipped and highly trained emergency response team that is capable of mitigating the effects of disasters, tragedies and other threats to life and property while ensuring the utmost safety of our members.

As of the end of 2021, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District serves our communities with a staff of 33 (21 civil service and 12 through contract services). The department is organized with 3 shifts arranged on a 24/48 hour schedule (with the exception of the Chief, Deputy Chief, and Administrative Assistant). Each of the shifts are organized with a Shift Commander, Lieutenant, and a crew of 8 Firefighters /EMT/Paramedics.



## Department Personnel– December 2021

### **Board of Trustees**

President Andrew Cichon

Treasurer Kathy Evans

Secretary Joanne Rybak

Trustee Andy Skyba

Trustee Jerome Kolaski

Trustee Gina Santoro



### **Fire Commissioners**

Andrew Golebiowski

Demetrios “Jimmy” Mougolias

Nicolas Fabian

### **Chiefs**

Fire Chief David C. Blondell

Deputy Chief Claude Erlewein

### **Administrative Assistant**

Cyndi Stec

### **Black Shift**

Commander Jeff Peistrup

Lieutenant Daniel Davila

Leigh Unger

Simon Christensen

Marty Lupo

Zachary Schullo

Brian Krueger

Aaron Sigmund

Ashley Horner

### **Red Shift**

Commander Stanley Koy

Lieutenant Larry Curran

Steven Henmueller

Mark Blondell

David Sanchez

Ryan Nieva

Mark Taubensee

Jimmy Keating

Frank Stec

### **Pension Board**

Commander Jeff Peistrup– President

Stephen Swank– Secretary

Randy Davis– Retiree

Kathy Evan– Board Treasurer

Andy Skyba– Board Member

### **Gold Shift**

Commander Arthur Koszczuk

Lieutenant Ronald Schneider

Matthew Mattio

James Cotiguala

Stephen Swank

Dominick Koss

Phil Pawlowski

Brian Fahey

Phil Goldman

## Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

### MABAS

The Norwood Park Fire Protection District is part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) in the state of Illinois. MABAS, in partnership with IEMA (Illinois Emergency Management Agency), has established a statewide, non-discriminatory mutual aid response system, for fire, EMS and specialized incident operational teams. This system provides an effective and efficient mutual aid response when the incident is beyond the capabilities of the affected communities.

The MABAS system in Illinois is split into geographical areas called divisions and Norwood Park belongs to Division 20.

Division 20 Departments include: Bellwood, Berkeley, Broadview, Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Hillside, Leyden Township Fire Protection District, Maywood, Melrose Park, Northlake Fire Protection District, River Grove, Rosemont, Schiller Park, and Westchester.

MABAS also offers specialized operations teams for hazardous materials, underwater rescue/recovery, technical rescue and incident management teams. Our agreement with Division 20 allows us to have the resources and personnel of 14 departments, if a situation calls for the need. Our Fire District benefits in that we are able to have access to resources that we would never be able to afford if we did not belong to MABAS. In return, this allows our Fire Department to be prepared and ready to handle any situation which may arise. There was a total of 57 Box Alarms for MABAS Division 20 throughout the year 2021.





## Car Safety Seat Installation

Since the year 2000, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District has maintained a Child Passenger Safety Program which allows members of the community the opportunity to have their child safety seats checked by trained technicians, as well as become educated on their proper installation and the best safety practices for their children while driving.



Certified Technicians are available two days a month to inspect child safety seats, check them for recalls, and ensure that the seat is installed correctly and that the child is properly secured.

In the year 2021, when the Department was able to be open for direct assistance to the community, the Technicians were able to check and help families with 46 child safety seat installations.

Because the Department was unable to remain open to the public during the entire year, the program's usual procedures were supplemented with phone in assistance with families, which provided additional guidance and support by linking car seat instructional videos from each manufacturer to the department website.

### ***Norwood Park's Car Seat Technicians***

Cmdr. Stanley Koy

Cmdr. Jeff Peistrup

Lt. Ron Schneider

Stephen Swank

Simon Christensen

In order to become a certified technician, department members complete a 40-hour course on Child Passenger Restraint construction, installation, and law. The techs must recertify every two years, this is done by both in and out of district continuing education courses, as well as attending Child Passenger Safety events and checks.

## Specialized Teams

### CPR and First Aid



The District serves under the Addison Fire Protection District Community Training Center. It is the districts goal to teach effective CPR to as many people as possible. The more people with the ability to perform CPR, the safer our communities are as a whole. Due to Covid-19 restrictions easing we were able to teach 14 classes in 2021 totalling 101 students. We will be continuing our regular monthly CPR classes. Updated information can be found at <https://www.norwoodparkfire.org/public-education/>. We look forward to continuing educating people in the life saving techniques of CPR. Norwood Park currently teaches the following American Heart Association courses:

- Heartsaver CPR/AED
- Heartsaver First Aid
- BLS Provider CPR



#### ***Norwood Park's CPR Instructors***

Marty Lupo– Site Coordinator

Cmdr. Art Koszczuk

Brian Fahey

Brian Krueger

Phil Pawlowski

Cyndi Stec

Mark Taubensee

*-Submitted by Marty Lupo*

## Fire Investigation Team

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) mandates the Fire Chief or his designee to determine the cause and origin of every fire. To comply with this mandate, the Norwood Park Fire Protection District, like most fire departments in Illinois, has a team of certified fire investigators in place to determine the causes of fire. These highly trained investigators have completed certification courses sanctioned by the OSFM. Ongoing education is required to maintain certification. The OSFM requires investigators to recertify every four years and must receive 100 hours of continuing education in that time period to achieve this. All members of our team belong to Fire Investigator Strike Force which meets ten months a year for training.



This year, some of the trainings included: case studies, electrical engineer guest speakers, MABAS call review,

MABAS Division 20 has a vehicle specifically used for investigations called FIU1 (Fire Investigative Unit 1). This unit carries supplies and all the tools needed to properly investigate a fire. Our investigators have access to this unit if needed.

### **Norwood Park's Fire Investigators**

Lt. Ron Schneider– Team Leader

James Cotiguala

Simon Christensen

Dominick Koss

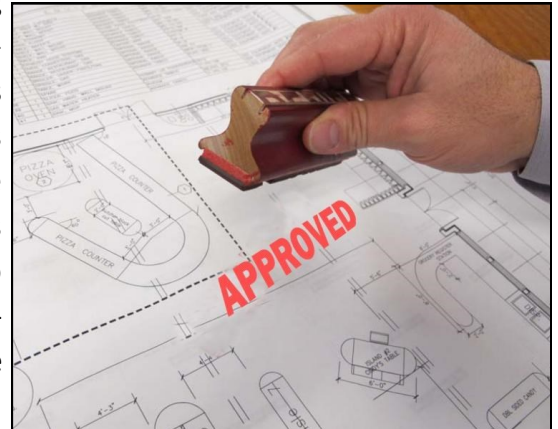
Deputy Chief Claude Erlewein

In 2021, Investigators responded to 17 Fire Investigator Box Alarms to assist in finding the cause and origin of their fires.

- *Submitted by Lieutenant Ron Schneider*

## Fire Prevention Bureau

The Norwood Park Fire Prevention Bureau, along with the rest of our community, was faced with many challenges in 2021. Access was still limited to some occupancies due to Covid protocols, and there were delays with repairs to Fire Protection Systems due to supply chain issues. We used this time to catch up on many outstanding projects and some new ventures. The first of these projects was to begin work on completing a Pre-Incident Survey for all commercial occupancies and multi-family dwellings in our Fire District. The Pre-Incident Survey is a fillable form that will aid the Fire Officers with valuable information specific to



each occupancy and/or mall area. We then copied all of these documents into our Computer Automated Dispatch (CAD) program. The CAD program can display all of this time sensitive information at the touch of a button while enroute to emergency calls. With the building plans that were loaded into the program in 2020, along with the Pre-Incident Survey, our Incident Commanders can get a sense of the actual layout and look of a building while being staged several blocks away from the scene of an emergency. It will give them the freedom to establish a Command Center, direct incoming Automatic Aid Companies, and assign tasks to incoming Sector Officers and Chiefs. The larger the incident, the more valuable this becomes to the Incident Commander. We have already begun completing these surveys during company inspections, and plan on finishing them by the end of 2023. It is a daunting task, but it will help our firefighters become more familiar with our Fire District and improve our relationship with business owners and residents. Thus far we have had good reception from the public with these surveys.



Another accomplishment of 2021 was to create an inspection template for use with multi-family dwellings. These are extremely important inspections that can be completed by our inspectors in minutes and will ensure the safety of our residents. We will be confirming that common areas of each building are properly equipped with basic life safety features and unobstructed means of exiting each structure. In 2017, Public Act 200 was passed to update the Illinois Smoke Detector Act to reflect advances in technology. By the end of 2022, multi-family homes that are still using smoke alarms with removable batteries are required to install new alarms that feature 10-year sealed battery alarms. We will begin these multi-family inspections in July of 2022 and hope to complete them by years end. With 363 multi-family dwellings in our Fire District, we see this as an aggressive but attainable goal. The Fire Prevention Bureau is extremely excited about the coming year and honored to serve the residents and business owners in the best way possible. We would like to thank all of our partners in this journey to improve the life safety of everyone in our community.

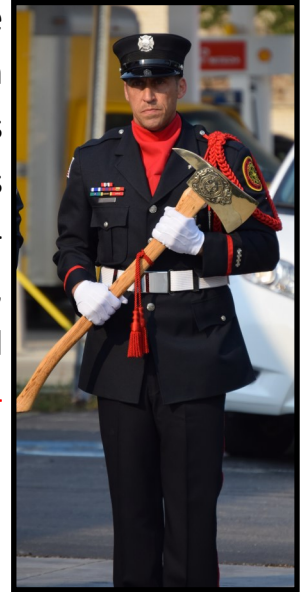
***-Submitted by Fire Marshal Leigh Unger***

## M.A.B.A.S. Division 20 Honor Guard

Leigh Unger carries the rank of Guardsman on the MABAS Division 20 Honor Guard.



The Division Honor Guard has the humbling duty of posting casket guard when there is a Line of Duty Death, but also serves in other capacities. They hold monthly drills where they practice basic/advanced marching, posting/retrieval of colors, casket carry, flag folding and presentation, bell service, retirement service, and manual of arms. In 2021, the Honor Guard had five requests for services.



**MABAS Division 20 Honor Guard Team**  
Leigh Unger

## Workers Compensation



Injury/Accident Investigation  
**TOOL KIT**

For 2021, there was one reported illnesses that required days off of work .

## MABAS Division XX EMS Box Alarm

There were 16 EMS Box Alarms throughout MABAS Division XX in 2021.



## Specialized Teams

### Trench Rescue/High Angle Team

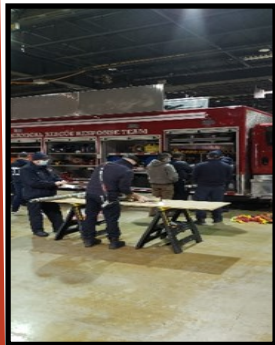
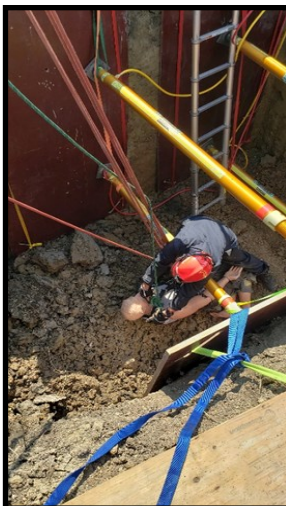
There are a variety of technical rescue calls that our technical rescue team (TRT) responds to. These include structural collapse, trench collapse, confined space entrapment, high angle rescue, and water rescue.

#### Norwood Park's Trench Rescue/High Angle Team

Lt. Larry Curran– Division 20 TRT Coordinator

D/C Claude Erlewein, Lt. Dan Davila,

Lt. Ron Schneider, Matt Mattio, Mark Blondell, Zach Schullo



MABAS Division 20 has a TRT Vehicle, which is housed at Norwood Park. It has the equipment and supplies needed to make a technical rescue like the above pictures possible. MABAS Division 20 responded to 1 TRT incidents in 2021.

*- Submitted by Lieutenant Larry Curran*

## Urban Search and Rescue (US&R)

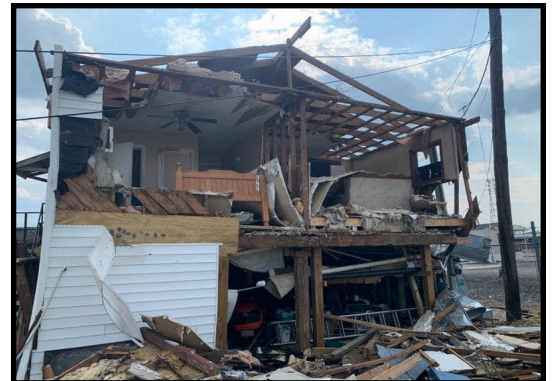
IL-US&R TF-1 is an asset of MABAS-IL and serves as the State of Illinois' Urban Search & Rescue Taskforce. IL-TF-1 is a Type I US&R team which is modeled after and in compliance with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) US&R system. As a US&R team, they are equipped and prepared to respond to all-hazard emergencies and disasters, both natural and man-made, which involve significant collapse of multiple, large and/or heavyweight constructed structures.

Deputy Chief Erlewein and Firefighter/Paramedic Zachary Schullo participated in multiple USAR drills in 2021.

### **Norwood Park's US&R Member**

Deputy Chief Claude Erlewein

Firefighter/Paramedic Zachary Schullo



## Specialized Teams

### Hazardous Materials Team

The Norwood Park Fire Protection District Hazmat Team handles any hazardous material situation that may occur, including terrorism or chemical incidents. Our Divisional team is a state recognized team and is available 365 days a year.

MABAS Division 20 has a Hazardous Materials Vehicle that is equipped to assist with almost any situation that may occur.



MABAS Division 20 holds monthly training, which consists of full scale drills and refresher classes. There is also monthly coordinator meetings. All members of NPF D's team completed the required number of hours of training for 2021 and responded to 1 Hazardous Material Incidents in MABAS 20.

#### **Norwood Park's Hazardous Materials Team**

Chief Blondell– Division 20 Haz Mat Chief

Lt. Dan Davila– Division 20 Hazmat Coordinator

Deputy Chief Claude Erlewein

Lt.. Ron Schneider

Stephen Swank

Chief Blondell is the MABAS Division Haz Mat Chief and oversees budget and operational duties of the team.



## Juvenile Firesetter Intervention

The Norwood Park Fire Protection District offers families a beginning intervention for people who are at risk for developing fire setting problems. State certified Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialists interview the family and review incidents with them in a non-hostile environment. The goal of this team is to mitigate fire setting behaviors through education and to recommend, as necessary, outside sources of help for families needing more assistance.



### **Norwood Park's Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialists**

Lt. Stanley Koy

Steven Henmueller

## Designated Infectious Control Officer (DICO)



The Norwood Park Fire Protection District has a Designated Infectious Control Officer. This is due to Public Law 101-381 which was enacted in 1990, commonly known as the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act. The law requires medical facilities to report the disease status to the DICO, and determine if an exposure occurs to one of the District's personnel.

### **Norwood Park's Designated Infectious Control Officer**

Marty Lupo

For 2021, there were ZERO exposures reported.

## Other Information

### Paramedic Preceptors



In 2021, Norwood Park welcomed all 10 of the paramedic students from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. Due to COVID-19, other departments were not willing to take on the students. All paramedic students completed their provisional time and our contracted paramedic partner PSI hired some to begin working at Norwood Park.

The students must successfully complete their ride time while being monitored by Norwood Park Paramedic Preceptors.

### Medical Officer

Commander Jeffrey Peistrup is Norwood Park's Medical Officer. He has had a paramount roll in the COVID-19 operations and procurement of supplies. Commander Peistrup is in charge of our staff paramedic/EMT certifications as well as the liaison with our resource hospital.

Commander Peistrup and his assigned shift representatives carry out many operations that are essential to our District.

### **Norwood Park's Paramedic Preceptors**

Brian Fahey  
Phil Goldman  
Brian Krueger  
Martin Lupo  
Ryan Nieva  
Phil Pawlowski  
Anthony Prunotto  
David Sanchez  
Stephan Swank  
Mark Taubensee



### **Norwood Park's Medical Officer**

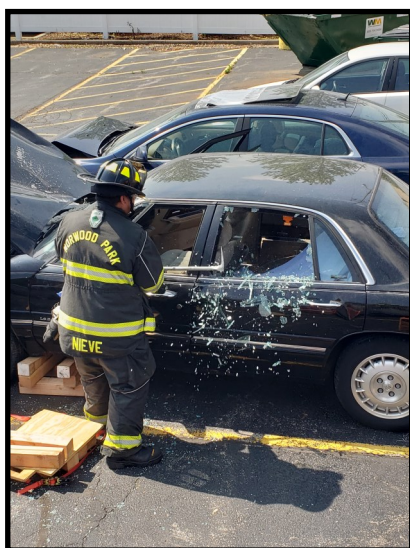
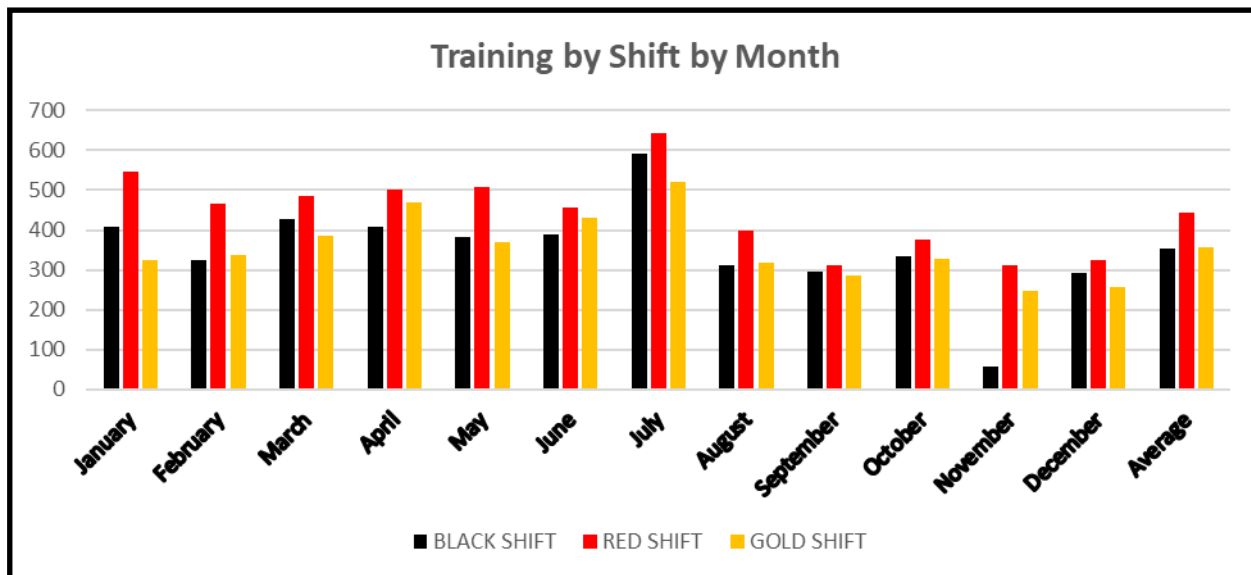
Commander Jeff Peistrup

### **Shift Representatives**

Martin Lupo  
David Sanchez  
Stephen Swank

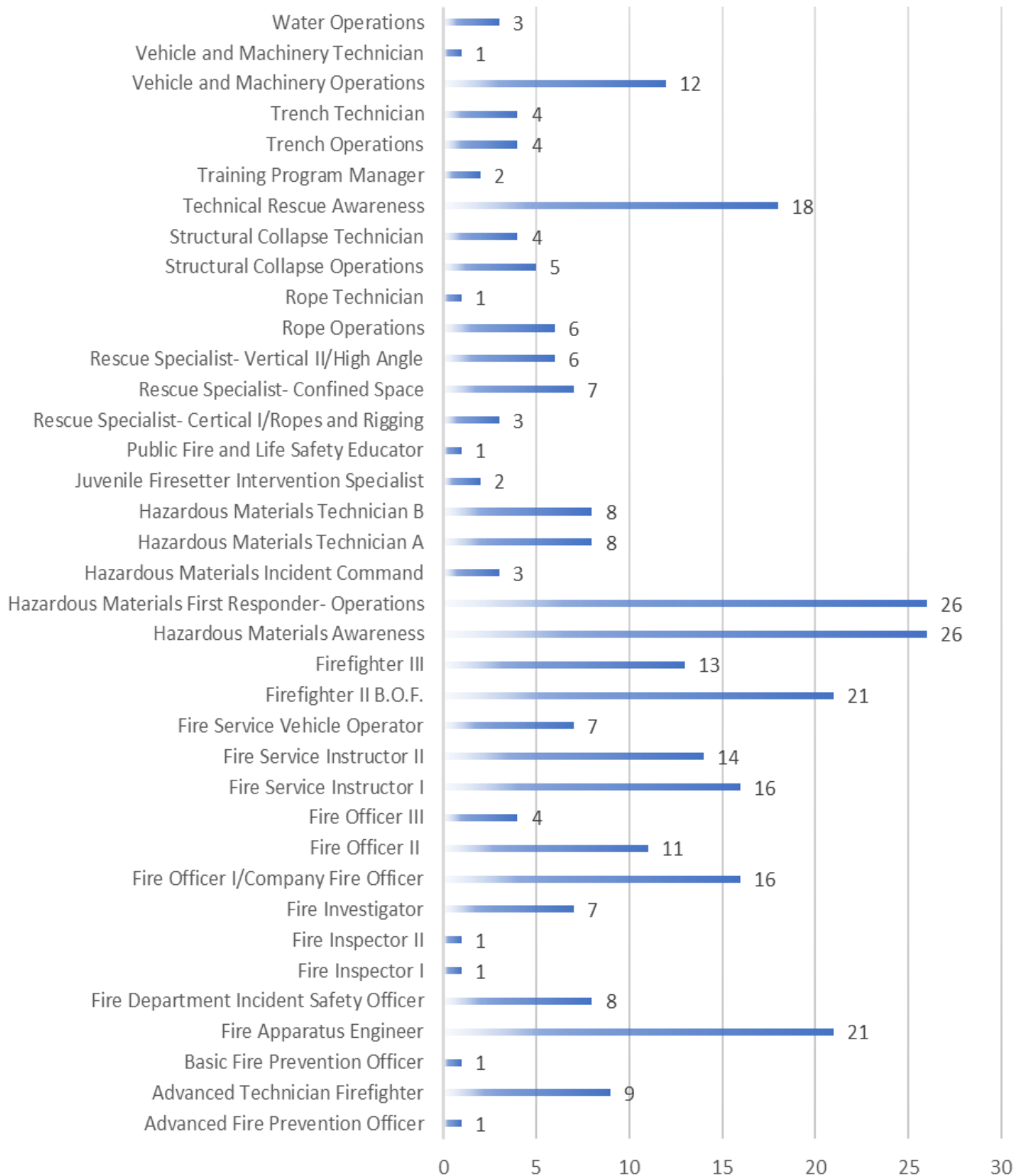
Training is an important part of every paramedic and firefighters day. The members of Norwood Park train an average of 20 hours a month in order to be up to date with the latest techniques and be prepared for any situation that may come their way.

*-Submitted by D/C Erlewein*



# Certifications

## OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL CERTIFICATIONS



**Ambulances**

Vehicle Identification	Year	Vehicle Description
105	2018	Ford E450 Ambulance
106	2018	Ford E450 Ambulance
107	2015	Ford Horton Ambulance



**Amb 105**



**Amb 106**



**Amb 107**

**Engines**

Vehicle Identification	Year	Vehicle Description
101	2012	Pierce
102	2001	Pierce



**Engine 101**



**Engine 102**

# Summary of Vehicles

## Squads

Vehicle Identification	Use	Year	Vehicle Description
108	Chief	2021	Ford Expedition
109	Deputy Chief	2015	Ford Expedition
110	Utility/Plow	2019	Ford F250/Plow
111	Command	2021	Ford Expedition Max
112	Fire Prevention	2020	Ford Escape



## Truck

Vehicle Identification	Year	Vehicle Description
104	1994	Pierce Aerial



**January 2021**



Health Endeavors had their RV parked at the fire department so Dr. Fragen could complete the annual firefighter physical exams.

**February 2021**



NFPD paramedics practicing airway skills.



A young resident painted a gift for the firefighters.

**March 2021**



Squad 108 and Squad 111 were put in service.

## Year in Review

### April 2021

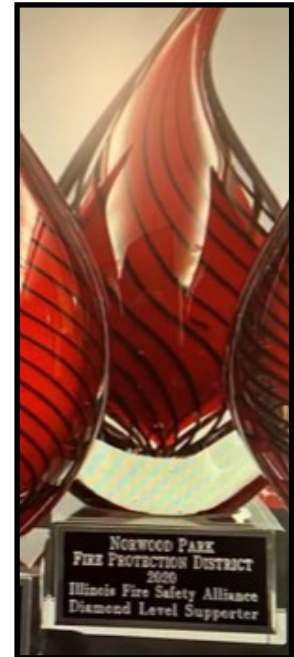


NFPD Board Members and Fire Chief throw out the first pitch for the RHS Varsity Baseball game.

NFPD received the Diamond Level Award from the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance for money raised during Boot Day. The ceremony was held remotely this year due to COVID.



**Illinois  
Fire  
Safety  
Alliance**



### May 2021



Trustee Santoro, D/C Erlewein, & Honor Guard at Norridge's Memorial Day Service.



Trustee Avino was presented a plaque at his last meeting by President Cichon.

**Make-A-Wish**

On duty crews were able to be part of a Make-A-Wish event for a young resident of the District.

### June 2021



Crews welcomed back RHS state qualifying softball team.



# July 2021

The firefighths/paramedics were able to participate in block parties again.



The removal of the underground storage tanks was completed .

# August 2021



COVID

Delta Variant arrived.



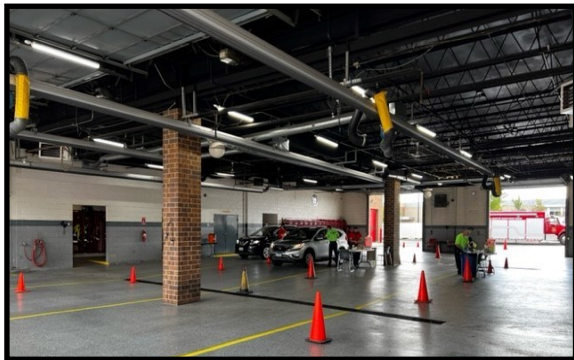
Engine 101 returned from frame rust mitigation.

# September 2021

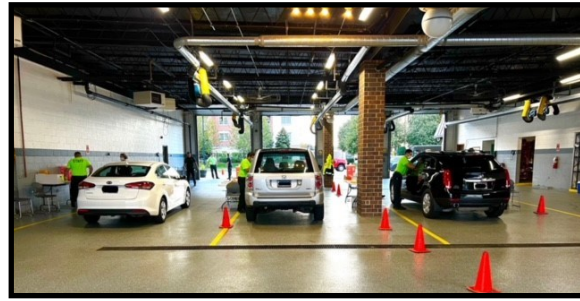
9/11 Ceremony



# October 2021



Drive  
Thru  
Flu  
Shots



### Camp I Am Me



Boot Day was a great success. The firefighter/paramedics raised over \$22,000 for burn survivors.

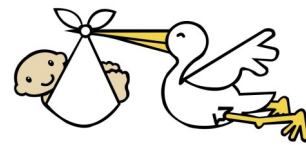
# November 2021



Louis Mezzano was sworn in as a Trustee of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District.



Members of NOPK had the honor of delivering a healthy baby. Days later, mom, baby, and family came for a visit.



# December 2021

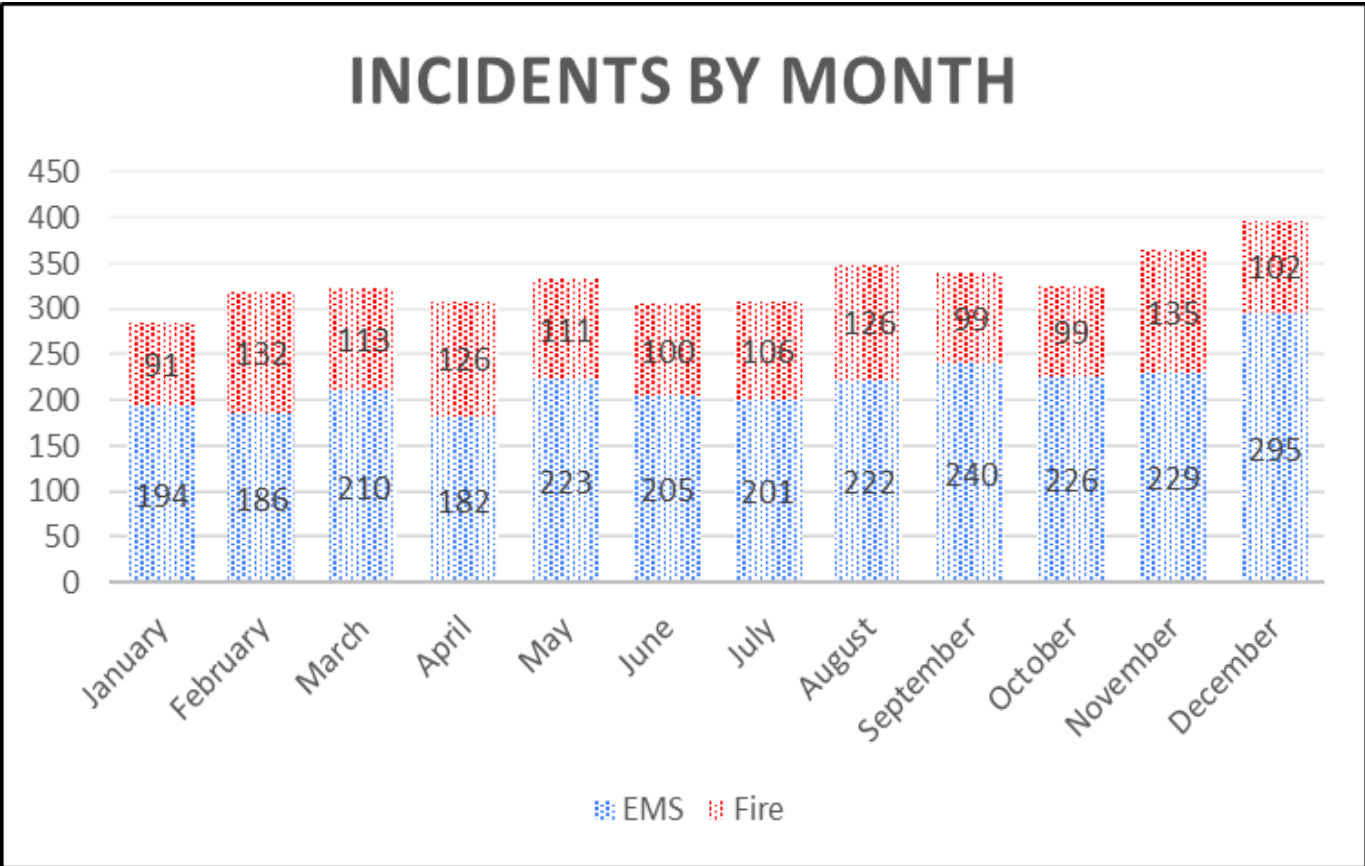
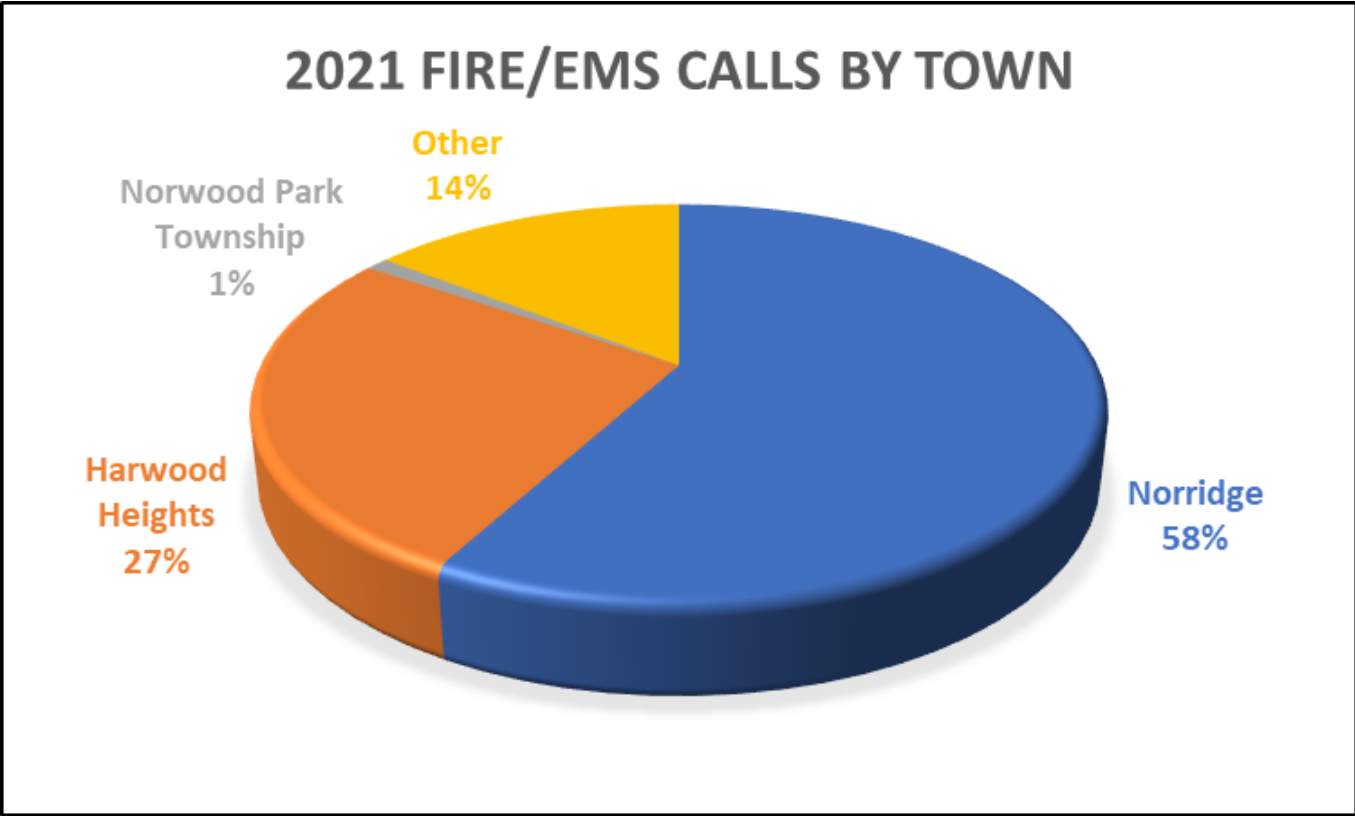


Toys for Tots collection!

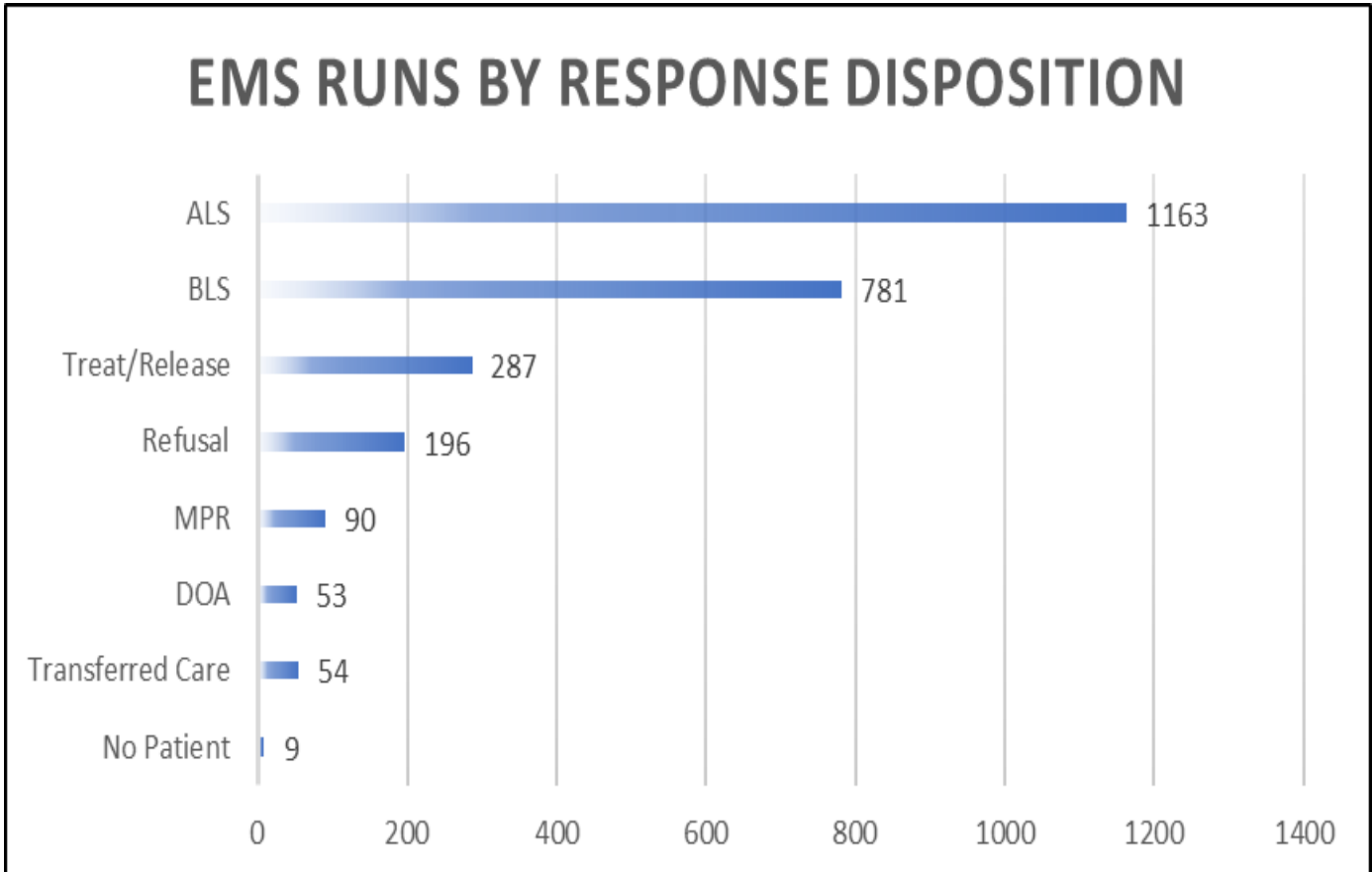
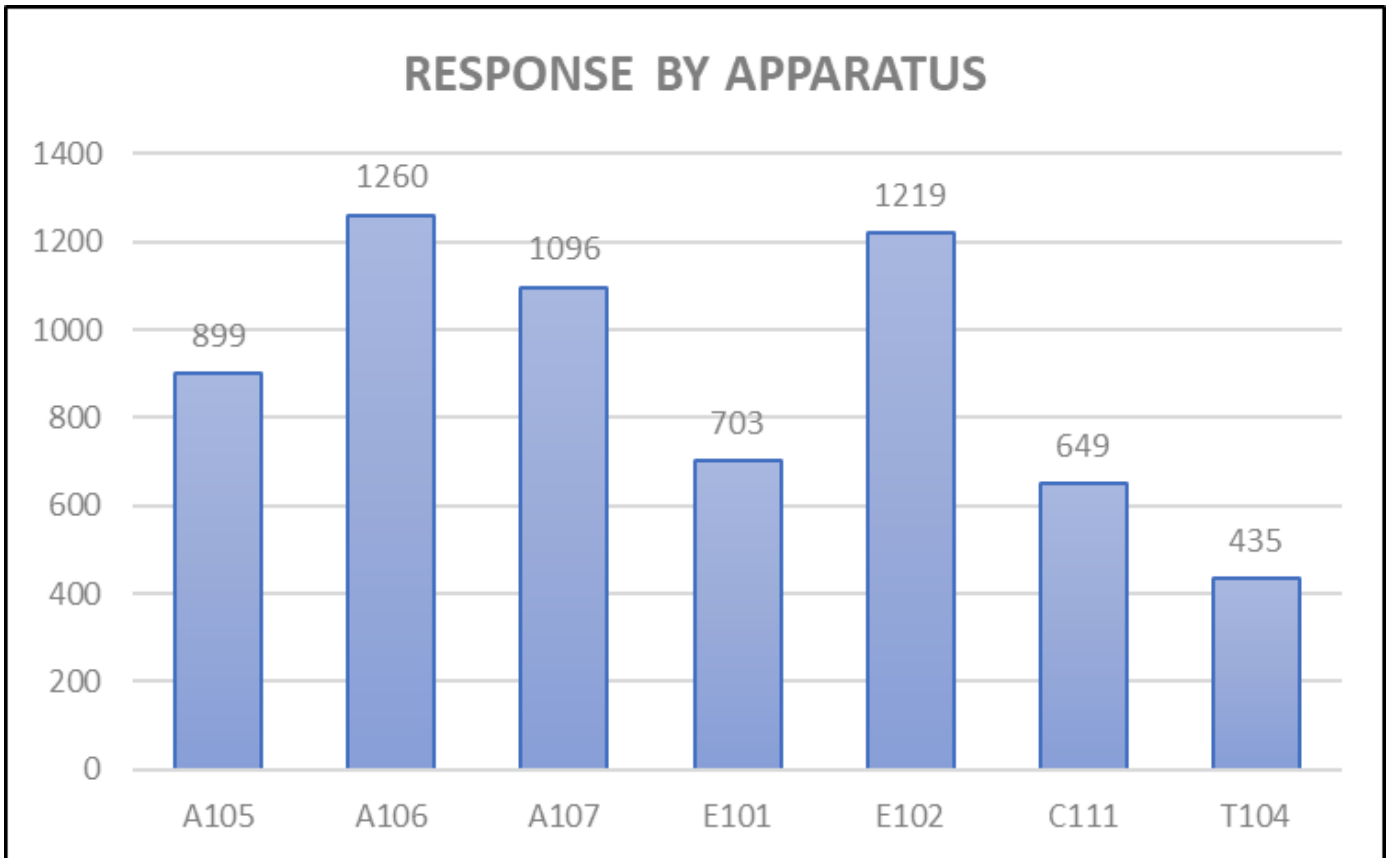
Shoveling out hydrants.

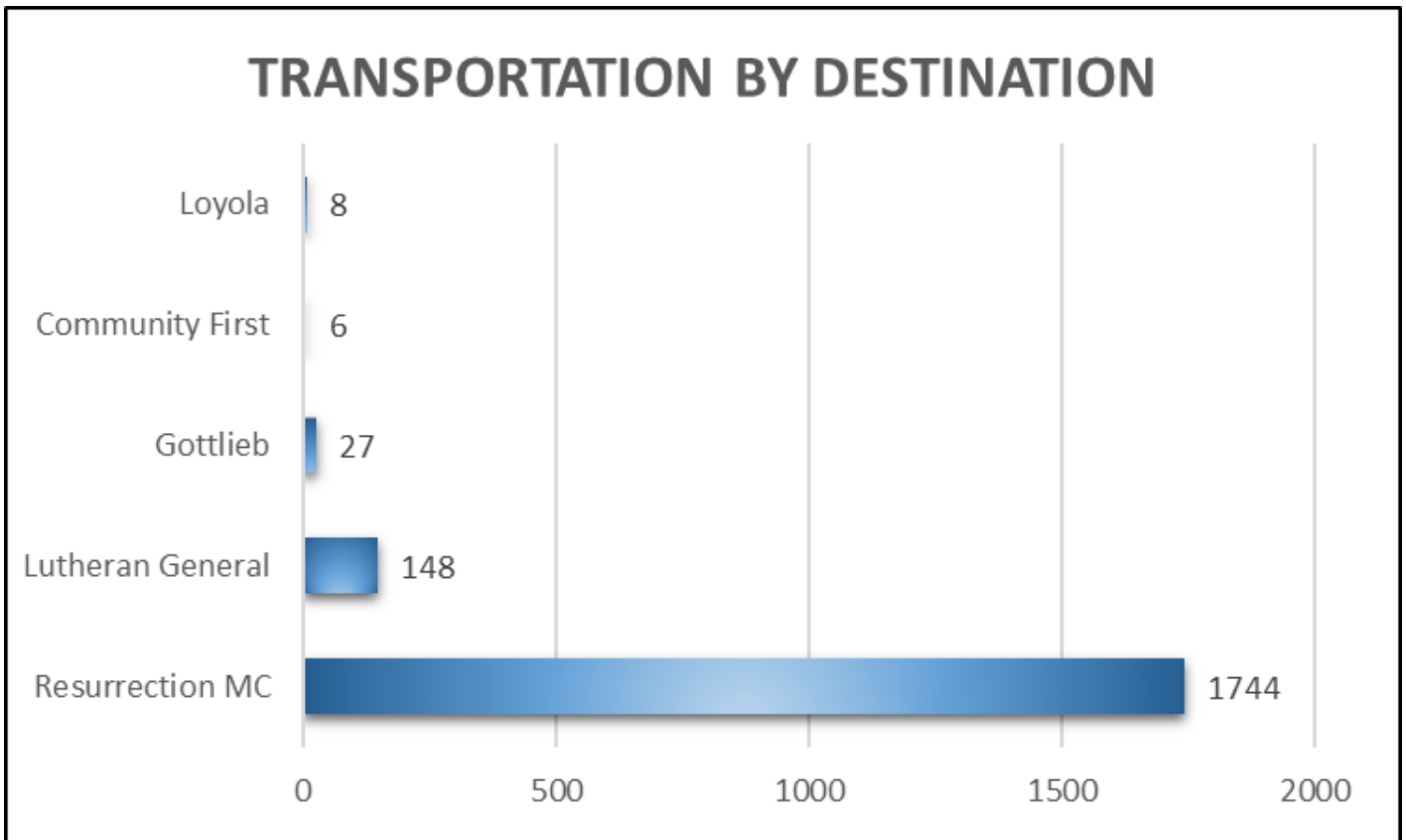
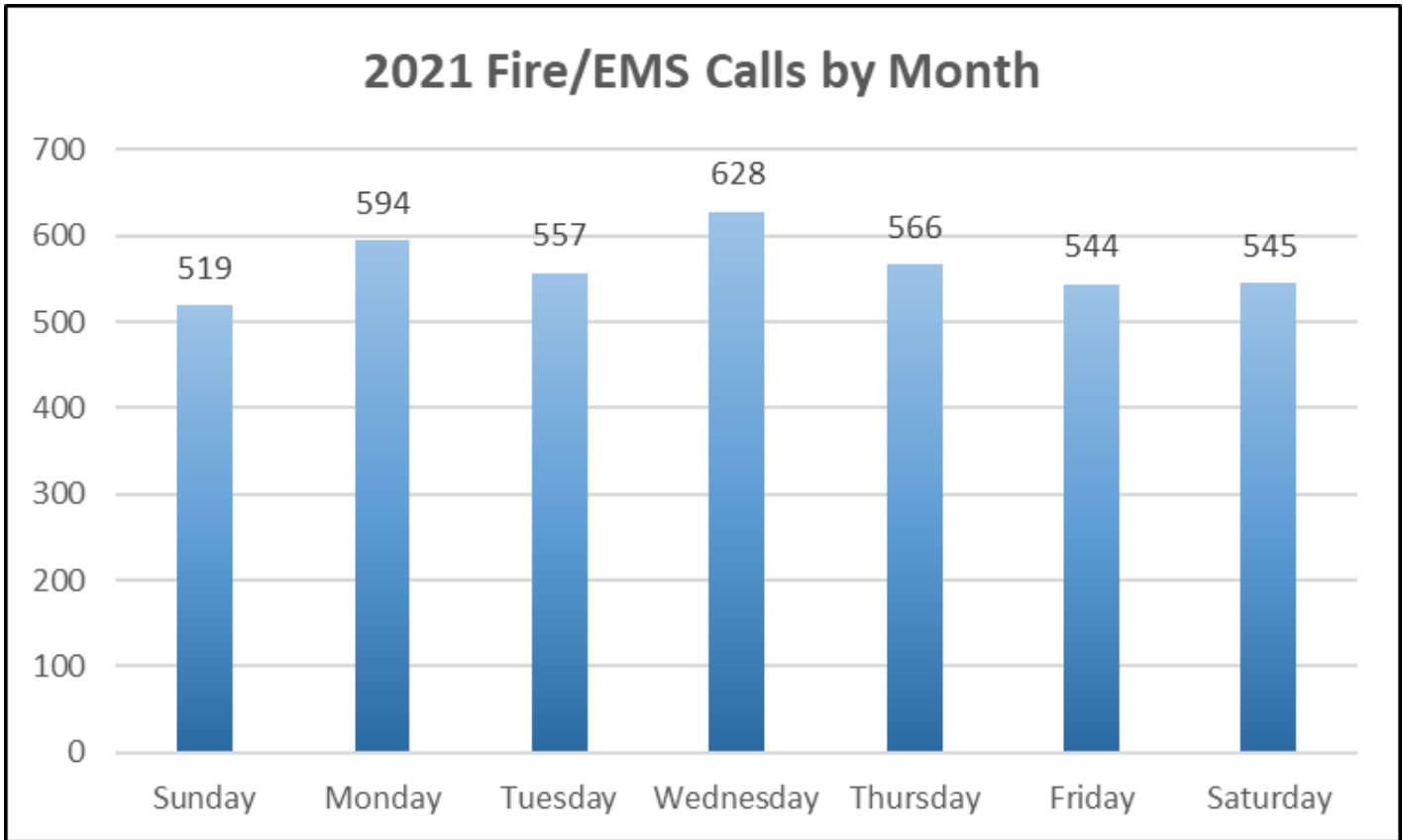


Annual firehouse Christmas party.



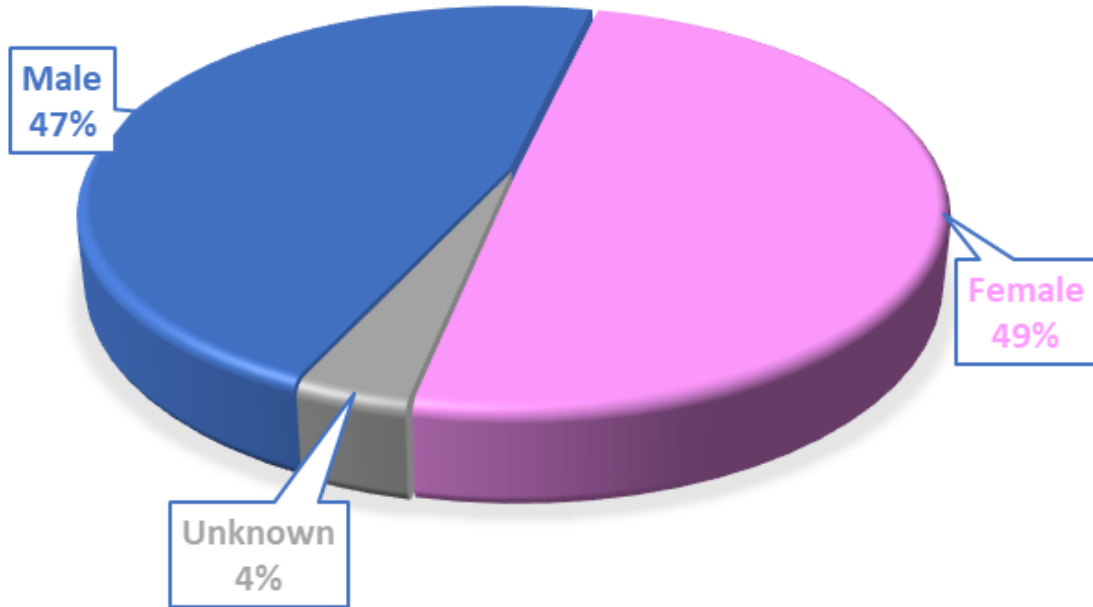
## Summary of Calls



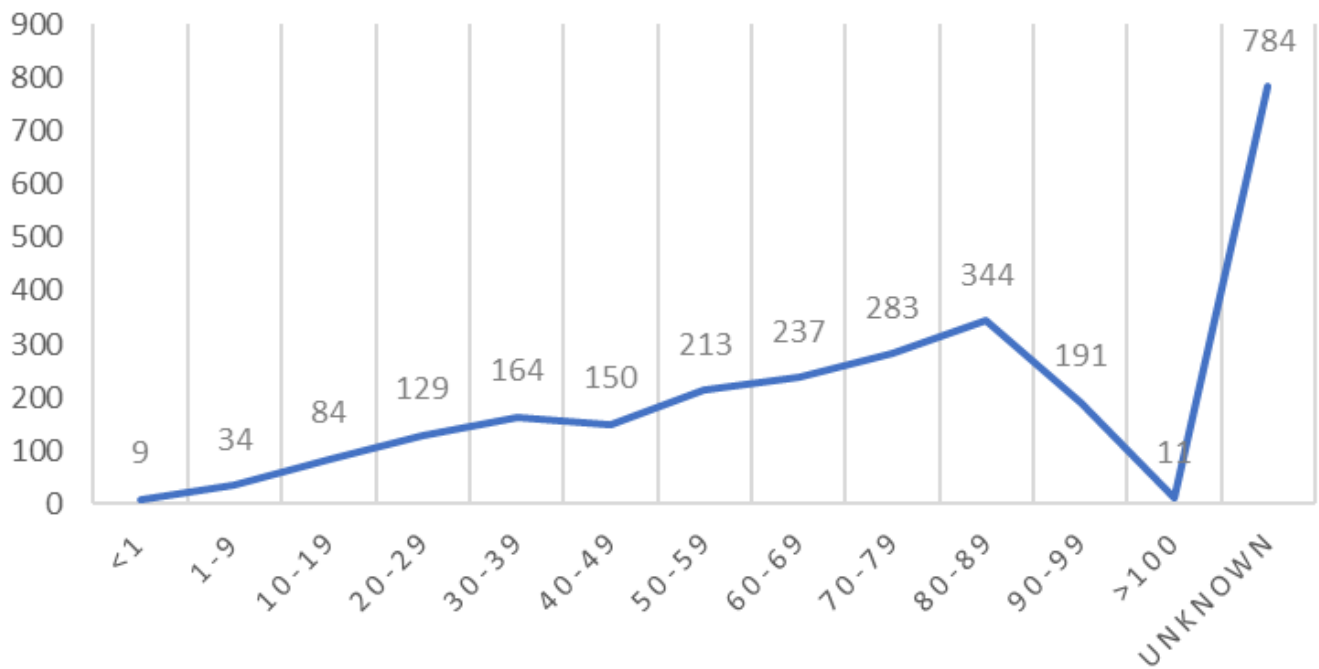


## Summary of Calls

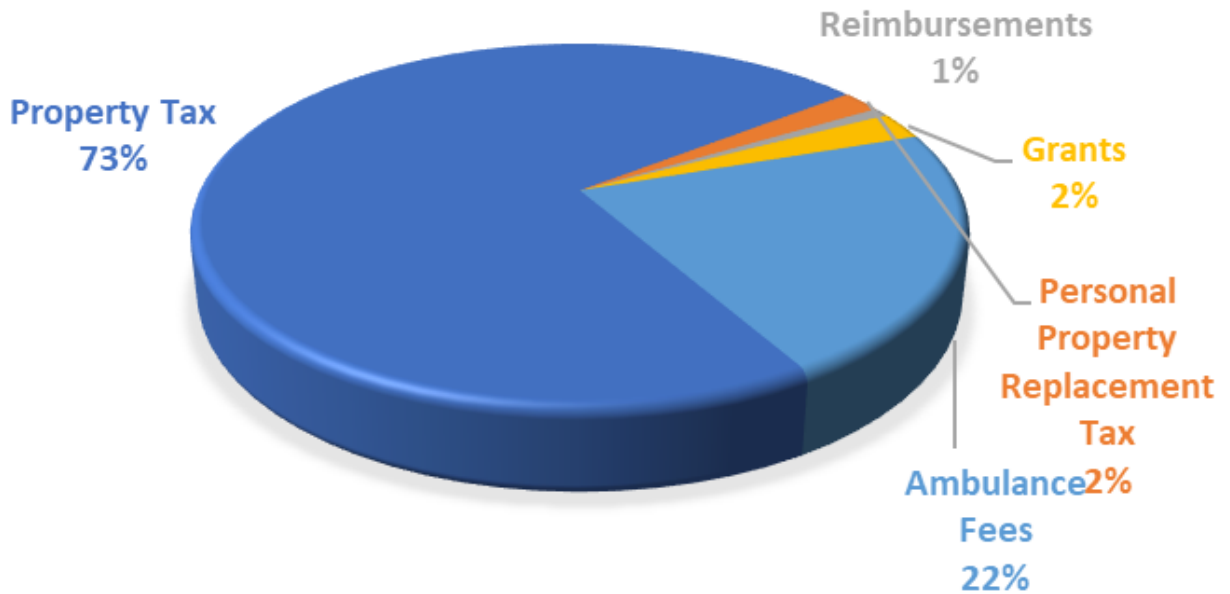
### PATIENT GENDER



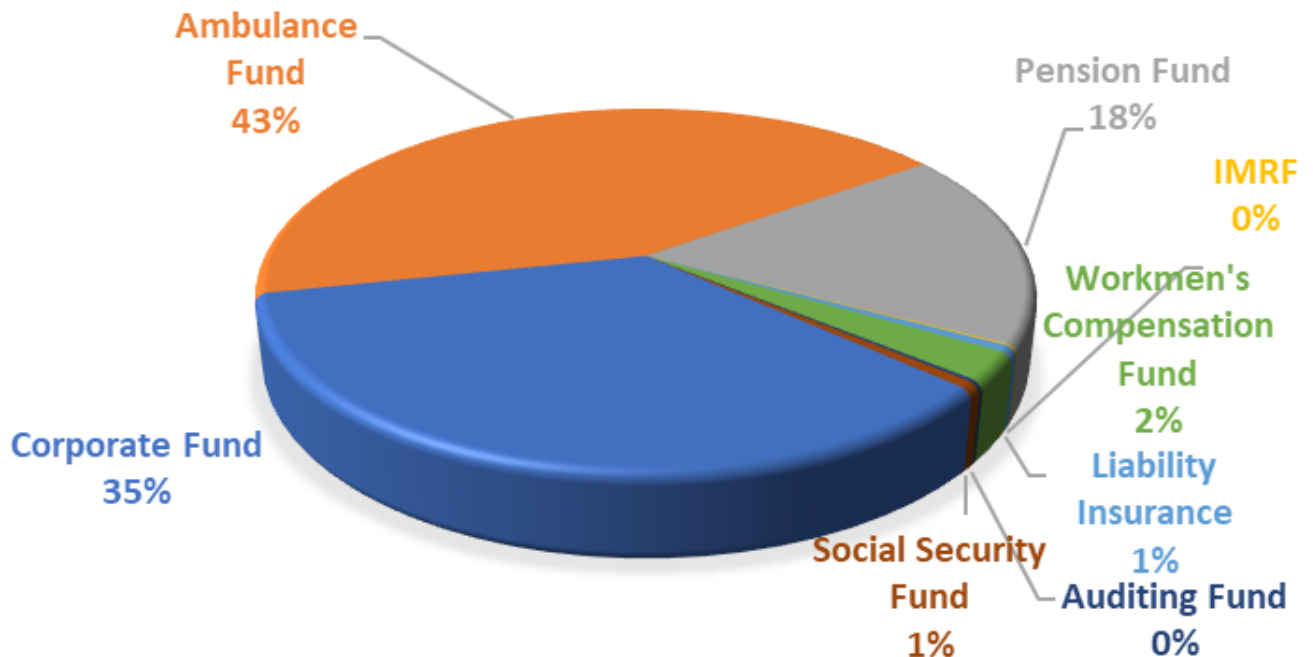
### PATIENT AGE



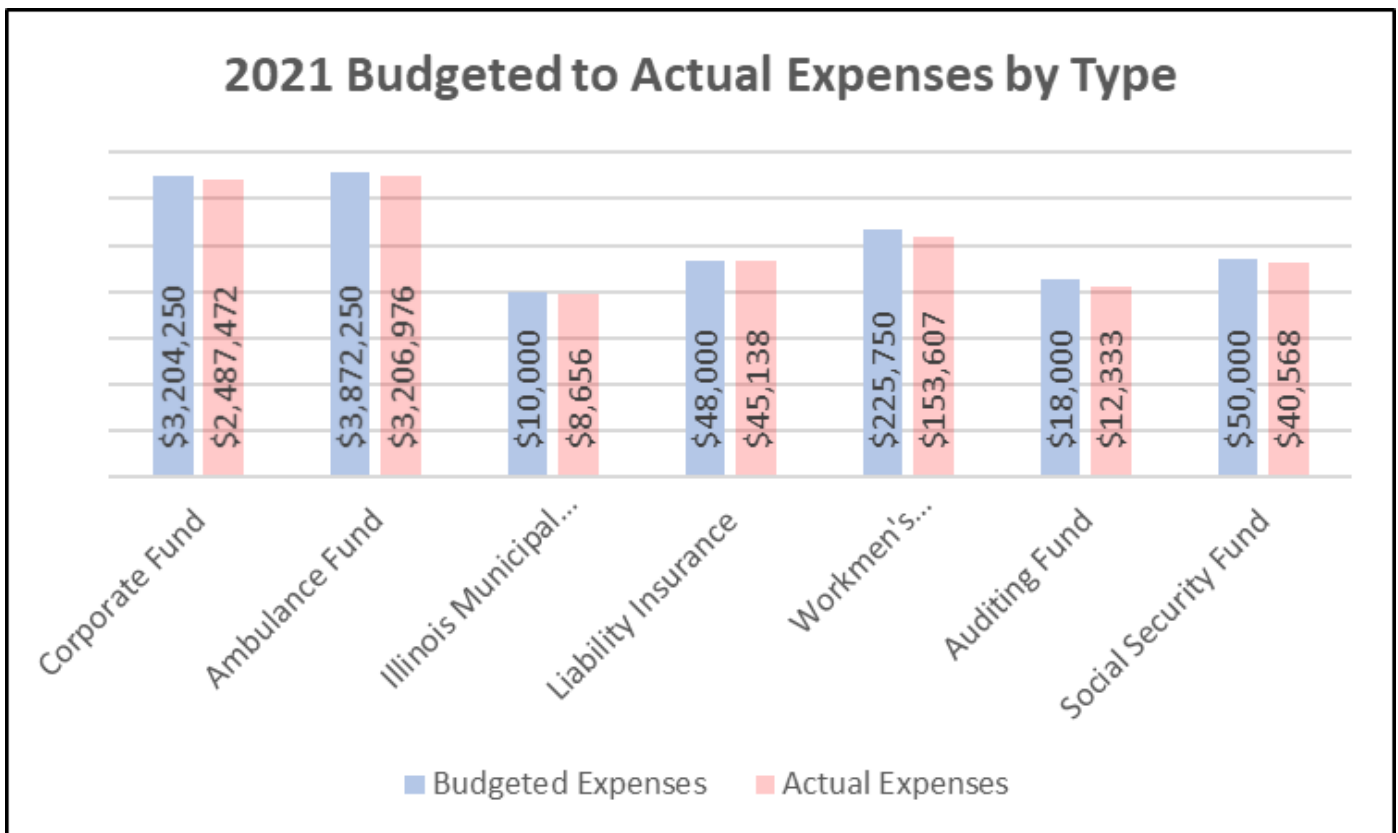
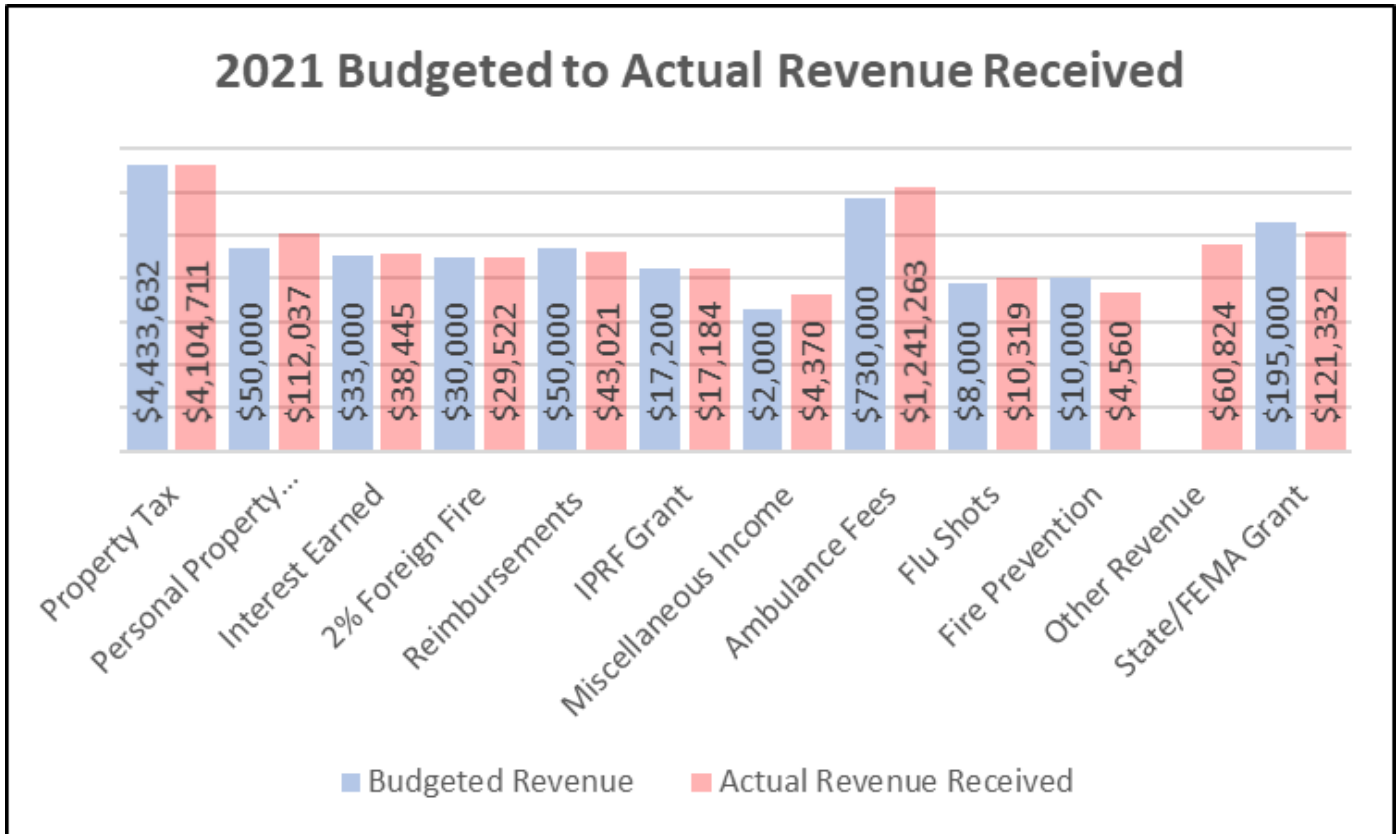
### 2021 BUDGETED REVENUE BY SOURCE AS OF 06-30-2021



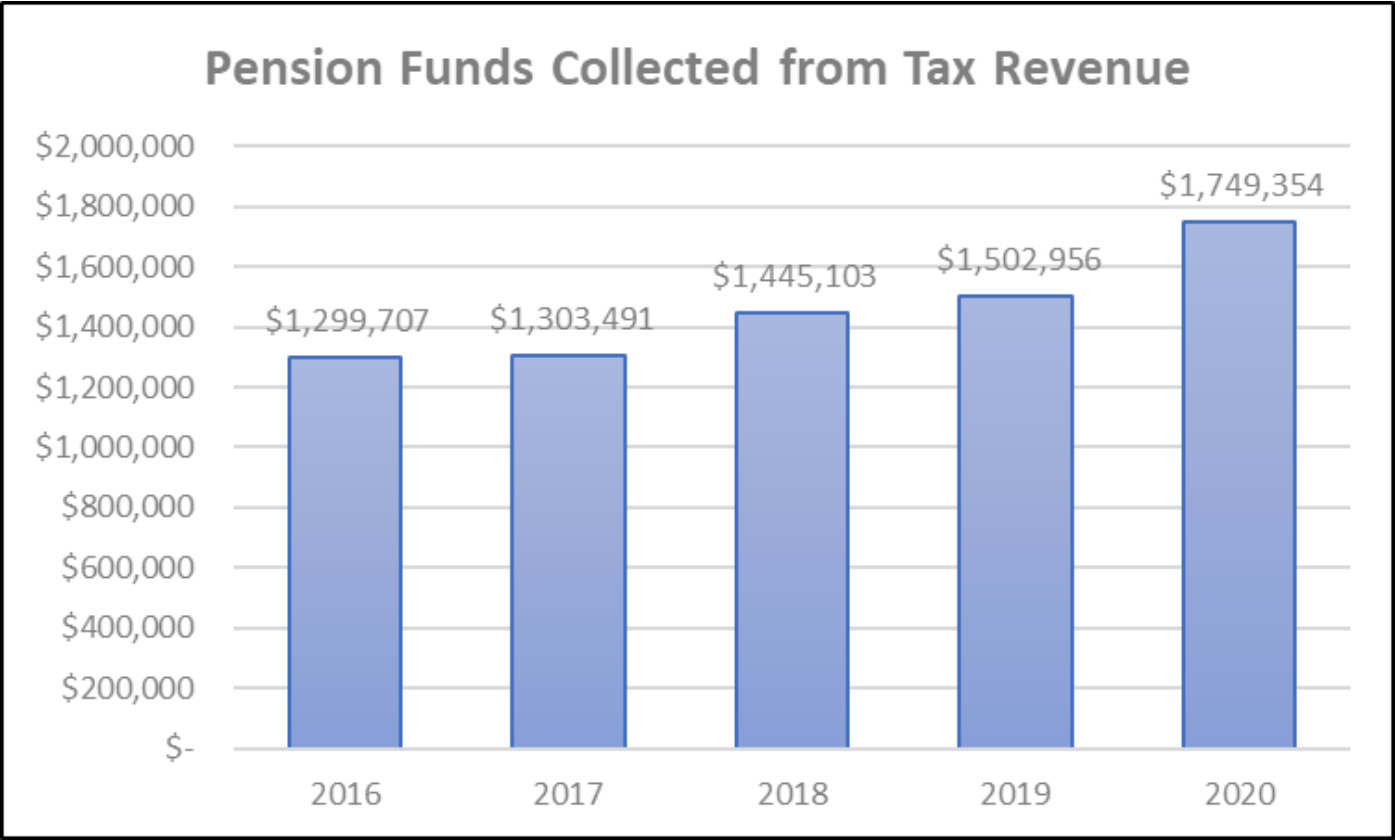
### 2021 BUDGETED EXPENSES BY TYPE AS OF 06-30-2021



## Financial Information







CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR 2021	COST
Gear Washer / Extractor	4,670.00
Bunker Gear	3,190.00
2021 Ford Expedition MAX XL (Squad 111)	63,773.49
2021 Ford Expedition XL (Squad 108)	58,775.97
LUCAS device	15,349.58
Bunker Gear	3,409.00
Bunker Gear	3,409.00
Bunker Gear	3,409.00
Engine 101 - Exterior Rust Proofing	15,095.84

## Norwood Park Fire Protection District's Commander and Lieutenant Assignments

