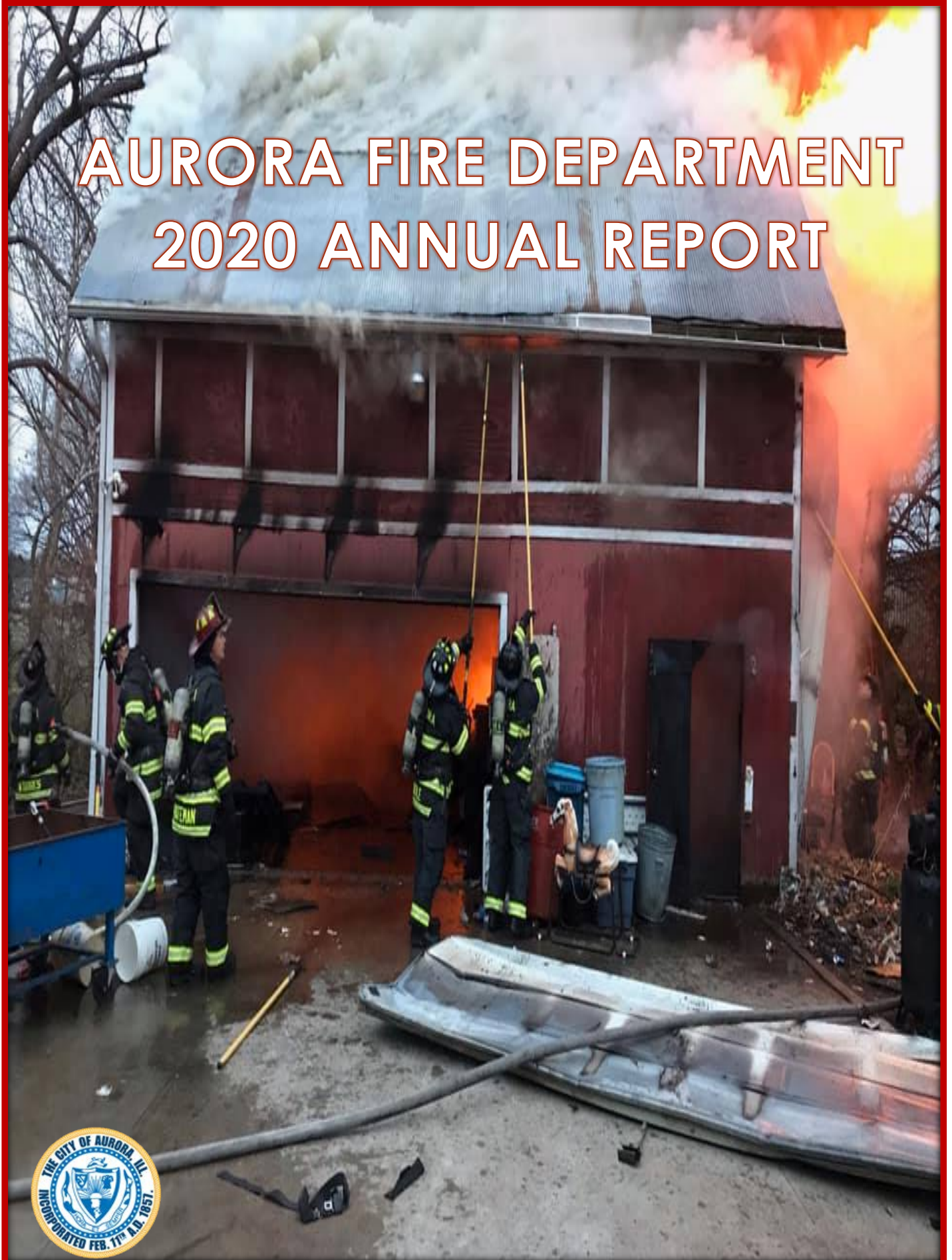


AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT





MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On Behalf of the Aurora Fire Department, I respectfully submit for review the 2020 Annual Report, an illustration of the department's most significant accomplishment of the last twelve months.

The Aurora Fire Department is proud to have served the citizens of this City for 165 years. Many of those years have presented challenges for the department to overcome. 2020 was certainly a year that presented obstacles. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, we faced many challenges that seemed insurmountable, but the skill and innovation of the Aurora Fire Department firefighters and paramedics allowed us to adapt as we continued to serve the citizens of the City of Aurora.

Our department responded to 18,036 calls in 2020. This was a 7% decrease from 2019. 79.4 % of those calls to 911 were EMS related. This decrease can be attributed to the COVID-19 lockdown during the state of declared emergency. However, even though the number of calls declined, the increased use of PPE and COVID- related health screenings made calls more complex and time-consuming. The average response times for fire calls was 5 minutes 06 seconds and for EMS calls it was 5 minutes 12 seconds.

We serve our citizens with not only fire and ambulance response, but also via our hazardous materials team, our SCUBA -dive team, technical rescue, fire investigations, child safety seat installers and juvenile fire setter counselors. The Fire Prevention Bureau, along with Fire Inspectors, provide code enforcement services, plan reviews, commercial inspections, and life-safety education. The Aurora Emergency Management Agency has provided invaluable support, knowledge, and resources to every department within the City. This time during COVID-19 has demonstrated, more than ever, the value of the vast network that Aurora EMA can bring to the table.

In 2017 the Federal Government awarded the cities of Aurora and Naperville a 1.3million dollar grant for us to conduct three years' worth of counter terrorism coordinated attacked preparedness training. During 2020 we completed the city-wide continuity of operations plan (COOP). An extension was granted by FEMA for us to finalize the grant obligations in 2021. This includes a COOP exercise and a full-scale operations drill with the City of Naperville.

In 2020 we added to our Special Teams, the Tactical Emergency Medic Service (TEMS) Team. These members respond with the Aurora Police Special Response Team to incidents involving high risks, providing immediate medical care for an injured individual.

While 2020 presented us all with many challenges, it also highlighted our strengths. We were able to rely on the strength of our training and continued preparedness. We are confident to adapt and innovate to meet the ever-changing needs of the City. We wish to thank the residents of Aurora for the opportunity to serve them, and extend our sincere appreciation to City of Aurora, Mayor Richard C. Irvin, and City Council for their continued support in our advancement of life safety initiatives city-wide.

Fire Chief Gary Krienitz



WORDS FROM DEPUTY CHIEF

2020 was a challenging year for the Aurora Fire Department, as it was for departments all around the country. The pandemic caused reduced revenue for the city, and as a result, several approved decision packages for major projects were put on hold until 2021.

Numerous firefighters were quarantined during the year for COVID exposures. The department was charged with procuring personal protective equipment, including gloves, face masks and safety goggles, as well as hand sanitizer for all City of Aurora employees. Civil unrest in May resulted in a downtown store being burned, as well as extra crews being called in to cover calls.

However, through all of this, the department never decreased its level of service, and never took any front-line vehicles out of service. Department members stepped up to cover all manning needs of the department and should be commended for all their support and efforts.

In August 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the department a \$ 975,000.00 grant to replace its aging breathing equipment. This grant will allow the department to have new self-contained breathing apparatus on all vehicles, while saving the city a large amount of money. The new breathing equipment will be purchased in Spring 2021.

Fire Deputy Chief Dave McCabe

Mission Statement :

To provide essential fire suppression, special operations, and emergency medical services to the citizens of the City of Aurora with an elevated level of expertise.

To provide a unified professional response to life and property incidents affecting the City of Aurora and its citizens.

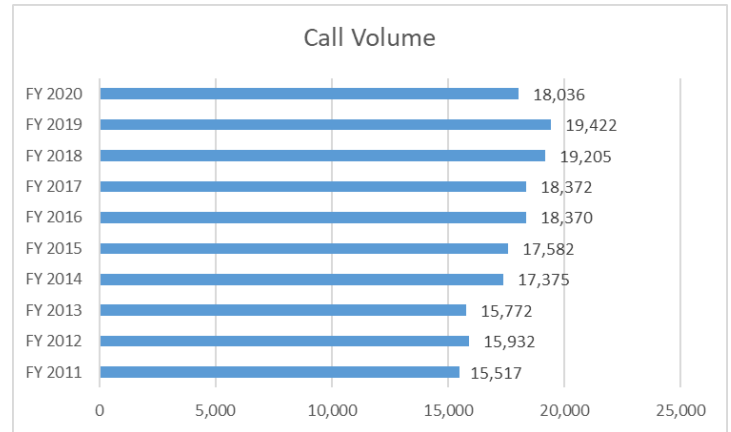
To maintain and enforce an updated and continuing inspections program to enforce adopted codes and to supply quality fire prevention and education programs to the citizens of Aurora. To provide the greatest quality of service to the public through a comprehensive training program that seeks to sharpen existing skills and develop new technologies to meet future demands and to provide a safe and healthy work environment for our employees.

RESPONSE CHARTS

CALL VOLUME

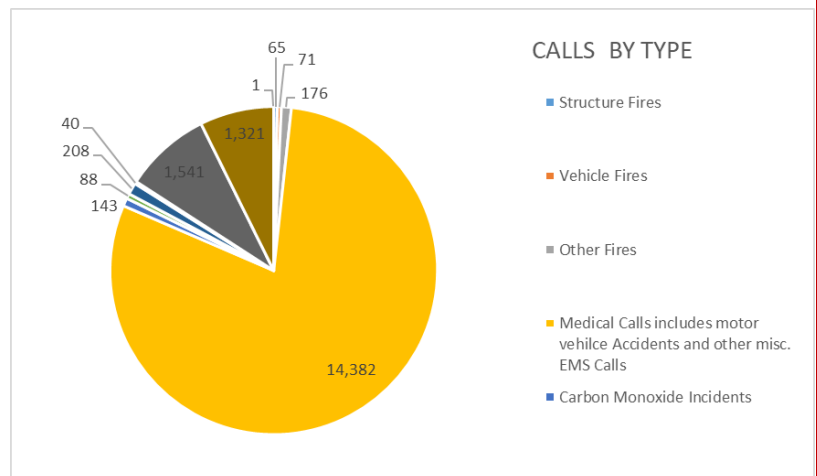
We experienced a decrease of 7% in our calls for service this year. The department responded to 18,036 calls, involving 25,629 vehicle response to these calls.

We continue to evaluate our service delivery and method to make sure we meet the demand and provide the appropriate resources in the time of need.



CALLS BY TYPE

Calls for emergency medical services (EMS) continue to make up most of our responses representing 79.4 % of our overall call volume. We responded to 14,382 calls for EMS. We also responded to 312 fire calls during the year. The other 3,342 calls for "All Other Responses" include incidents involving lockouts, reports of smoke, other incident types that we do not classify under EMS or Fire. We experienced 1,321 false alarms during the year. False alarms are made up of fire, medical and other types of alarms.



TEN (10) YEAR CALL VOLUME TREND



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

The Aurora Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau is committed to providing life safety to our community and our firefighters through plan review for new constructions, fire inspections, fire investigations, public education, and community outreach.

A fire prevention program is the most effective method of keeping the community safe from fires. Although firefighters and their fire engines do amazing work to put out fires, the damage to the community begins before they even get the call. Fires devastate communities, costing billions of dollars, destroying vital infrastructure and taking thousands of lives.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for the review of certain plans and issuing of permits for various fire related activities. The Bureau also inspects sites for fire lanes, responds to fire related complaints, inspects target occupancies for compliance with adopted fire codes and enforces the False Fire Alarm Ordinance. The City of Aurora has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of a class 2, putting the department in the top 6% of fire department in the country.

In 2020 despite COVID restrictions and many businesses not open for service a total of 648 inspections were conducted, 153 permits were issued, 16 plan reviews were completed, 447 hydrant inspections completed, and 67 fire drills along with 18 fire prevention programs were conducted.

Fire Administration was able to complete a review of 8,900 occupancy records, updating emergency contact information.

Between Fire Prevention and Fire Administration Offices a total of 682 request for records (FOIAS) were filled.

Fire Administration Office worked with the City Clerk's office and the Office of the State Fire Marshal of Illinois to properly hold and dispose of Fire related records, documents etc.

This holding on to records and disposing of the same by the recommendation of State and Local government ordinances. Certificate of disposals for records received for items held in storage boxes dated back to 1970.



Fire Safety Tips may be found on our city's webpage at

www.aurora.il.us/Fire-Prevention-Bureau

OPERATIONS & TRAINING

As part of our ongoing commitment to training, crews log many hours in training from basic firefighter skills to advanced training in hazardous materials, technical rescue such as structural collapse or confined spaces, water rescue, and Tactical Emergency Medic Service (TEMS).

In addition to spending many hours training at their stations, on site training also took place at SKTA and online classes due to COVID restrictions.

Thirteen (13) new firefighters attending our inhouse Fire Academy in June – Aug.



2020 Fire Academy Graduation

Twelve (12) paramedics attended Tactical Emergency Medic Service Training several times throughout the year. In February six (6) members certified as ICE Divers for our Water Rescue Team. The Fire Investigation Team added five (5) new members. Training was completed in Sept – Nov. for new the members joining the team.

Nine (9) Members attended Truck Operations in June and six (6) new members attend Hazmat Operations class in November.

Three Battalion Chiefs and Three Captains attend our Incident Safety Officer Class held in Sept. Four Battalion Chiefs attended Command Officer class held in Oct. and seven new Officers (Lieutenants) attended Company

Fire Officer Academy also held in Oct. Overall, the department training hours decreased due to COVID compared to previous years.



PROMOTIONS

Lieutenant Richard Dahleen
Promoted 02/22/20



Lieutenant Daniel Bateman
Promoted 04/05/2020



Captain Kevin Nickel
Promoted 04/05/2020



Lieutenant Michael Eley
Promoted 04/27/2020



Lieutenant Michael Hoffman
Promoted 05/09/2020



Captain Matthew Anslow
Promoted 05/09/2020



Battalion Chief Stephen Kish
Promoted 05/09/2020



Asst. Chief Mark Matkovich
Promoted 05/09/2020



Deputy Chief Dave McCabe
Promoted 05/09/2020



Lieutenant Jeffrey Kerley
Promoted 09/05/2020



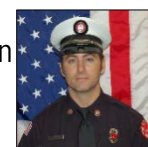
Lieutenant Shawn Clements
Promoted 09/05/2020



Captain Chris Kjellesvik
Promoted 09/05/2020



Battalion Chief Brandon Matson
Promoted 09/05/2020



Battalion Chief Kris Tappendorf
Promoted 09/05/2020



Lieutenant Chris Temes
Promoted 10/30/20



Captain Corey Fryer
Promoted 10/30/20



“I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. Our proudest moment is to save lives. Under the impulse of such thoughts, the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring, even of supreme sacrifice.” Edward Crocker

RECOGNITIONS

The community continue to recognize our employees for their efforts on and off duty.



The Aurora Exchange Club

RECOGNITION

The Aurora Exchange Club 2020 Firefighter of the Year ceremony took place on Tuesday, Dec 1, 2020 live through the Department's Facebook page.

This year, firefighters involved in three incidents were nominated as follows:

On May 9, 2020 at 11:12 a.m. firefighters responded to a structure fire with reports of a person trapped inside. One of the first fire units to arrive on scene was a Battalion Chief who quickly assessed the situation learning the victim was trapped in the basement. A second Battalion Chief arrived on the scene and assisted the first chief with forcible entry into the building. Fire crews arrived on scene shortly after forcible entry was made, entered the structure, and rescued the victim withing minutes. The victim was transported to an area hospital and made a fully recovery.

On May 13, 2020 at 11:09 a.m. firefighters responded to a structure fire with reports of a person still inside. Initially, Aurora Police were called to the scene for a domestic issue. As the incident progressed, one individual barricade oneself inside the house armed with a weapon and made threats to harm anyone who attempted to make entry. The individual then started a fire. Firefighters arrived on scene and worked with police to deescalate the situation. Fire crews were advised by an officer in contact with the subject that the subject was overcome with smoke. Firefighters forced entry into the home and quickly rescued the victim without incident. The victim was transported to an area hospital and made full recovery.

On July 16, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. firefighters and paramedics responded to crash involving a motorcycle and a vehicle. Upon arrival, fire crews

immediately began treating the patient and requested a medical helicopter to the scene to transport the patient to level 1 trauma center. The patient eventually discharged to a rehab facility and should make a full recovery.

The Aurora Exchange Club named 911 Operator Barbara Mitchell, Battalion Chief Jason Demas, Battalion Chief Randy Leek, Capt. Chuck Niemeier, Capt. Steve Buono, Lt. Mike Kaufman, Firefighters Daniel Darce, Kevin Molitor, Aaron Stawikowski, Lucas Hanson, Zach Knasko and Mark Bachleda and Paramedics Anthony Farinella and Kevin Hoffman as the Firefighters of the Year in Aurora for 2020 for their actions during the fire incident on May 9, 2020.

A \$750.00 donation was made from the Aurora Exchange Club to the 100 Club of Kane County, an organization that provides benefits to families of fallen police and firefighters in the county, in honor of the nominated firefighters.



2020 Firefighters of the Year which also includes 911 Operator, Barbara Mitchell.

RETIREMENTS

Firefighter Roman Azua
2/13/2020 24 years of service

Capt. Tim Schomer
2/20/2020 28 years, 6 months of service

Capt. Joseph Franzen
4/5/2020 32 years, 8 months of service

Firefighter John Hopkins
4/16/20 27 years, 9 months of service

Lieutenant Dan Kveton
4/29/20 22 years, 7 months of service

Deputy Chief John Gilbert
5/9/2020 30 years, 9 months of service

Sr Medic John Nagy
7/18/20 25 years, 3 months of service

Sr. Medic Aaron Garcia
7/19/20 28 years of service

Battalion Chief Andrew Silagyi
9/5/2020 30 years of service

Battalion Chief James Rufer
9/5/2020 30 years of service

Sr. Medic Jeffrey Smitley
10/23/2020 20 years of service

Capt. John Nolan
10/30/2020 31 years, 7 months of service

Firefighter Robert Campbell
11/06/2020 29 years of service

Inevitably, our employees move on to the next chapter in their lives. We congratulate all our retirees this year and thank you for your years of service to our department and the community.



Deputy Chief
John P. Gilbert



Roman Azua



Lt. Dan Kveton



Sr. Medic Aaron Garcia



Capt. Tim Schomer



Batt. Chief Andrew
Silagyi

Batt. Chief Jim
Rufer

We wish them health and happiness as they
move forward.

**Tradition,
Honor,
Excellence
&
Discipline**





Our ultimate goal is to keep our public informed about fire safety and medical wellness as well as showcase our continuous training efforts that improve our level of service to the community.

Follow us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AuroraILFire> or via Twitter @auroraifire

