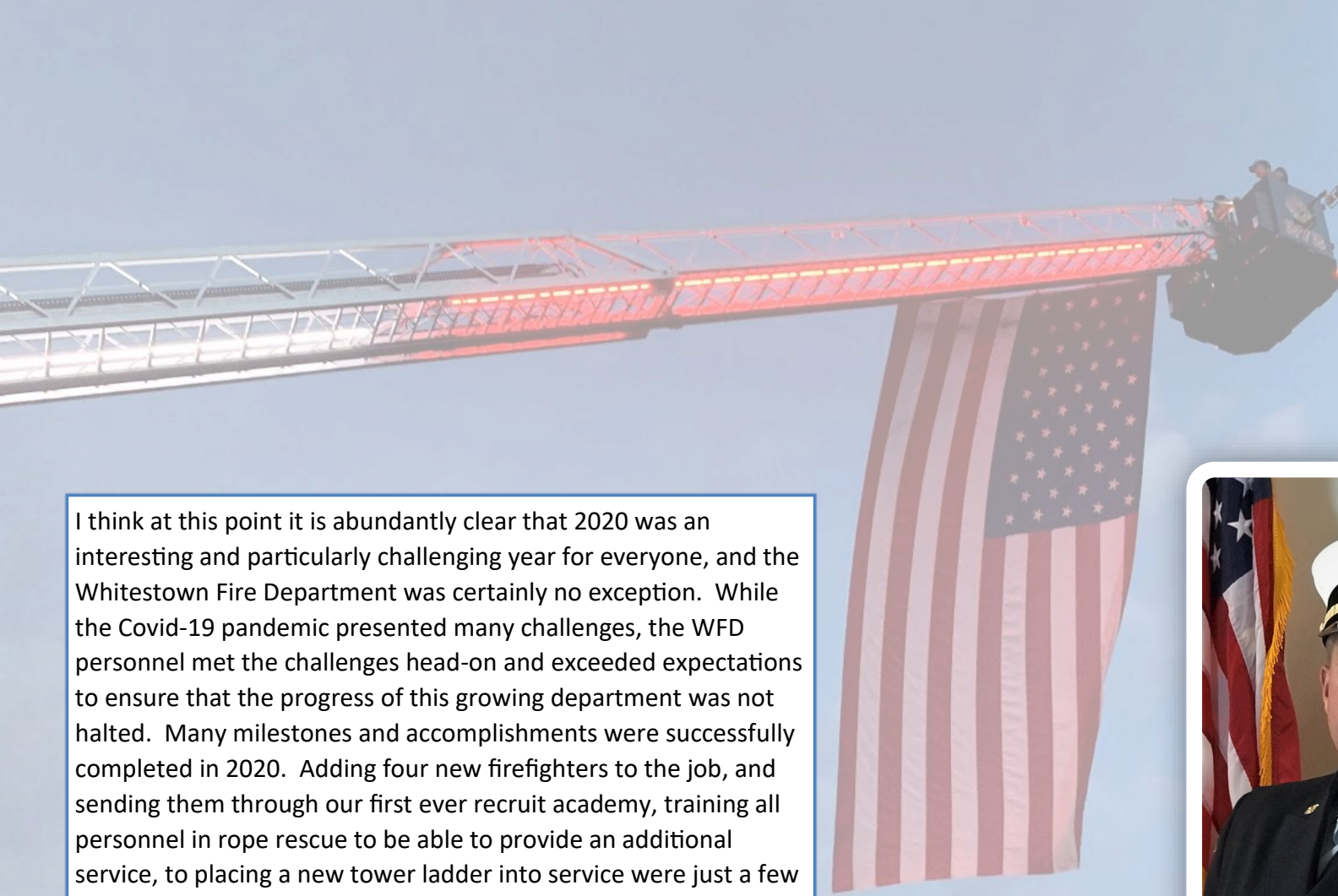


Whitestown Fire Department

2020 Annual Report





I think at this point it is abundantly clear that 2020 was an interesting and particularly challenging year for everyone, and the Whitestown Fire Department was certainly no exception. While the Covid-19 pandemic presented many challenges, the WFD personnel met the challenges head-on and exceeded expectations to ensure that the progress of this growing department was not halted. Many milestones and accomplishments were successfully completed in 2020. Adding four new firefighters to the job, and sending them through our first ever recruit academy, training all personnel in rope rescue to be able to provide an additional service, to placing a new tower ladder into service were just a few of the successes we were able to experience. As you continue through this report, you will find the highlighted accomplishments for each division of service we offer. Whether you are a citizen of Whitestown, an elected official, Town management and staff, community stakeholder, or just a fan, the Whitestown Fire Department would like to thank you all for your continued support!



Joshua Westrich
Chief of the Department

Professionalism, Integrity, Compassion, Honor, Dedication, Respect, Commitment, Health and Safety

Mission Statement

The Whitestown Fire Department is devoted to protecting lives and property by providing professional emergency services for our community, its visitors and neighbors, with compassion, courtesy and integrity.

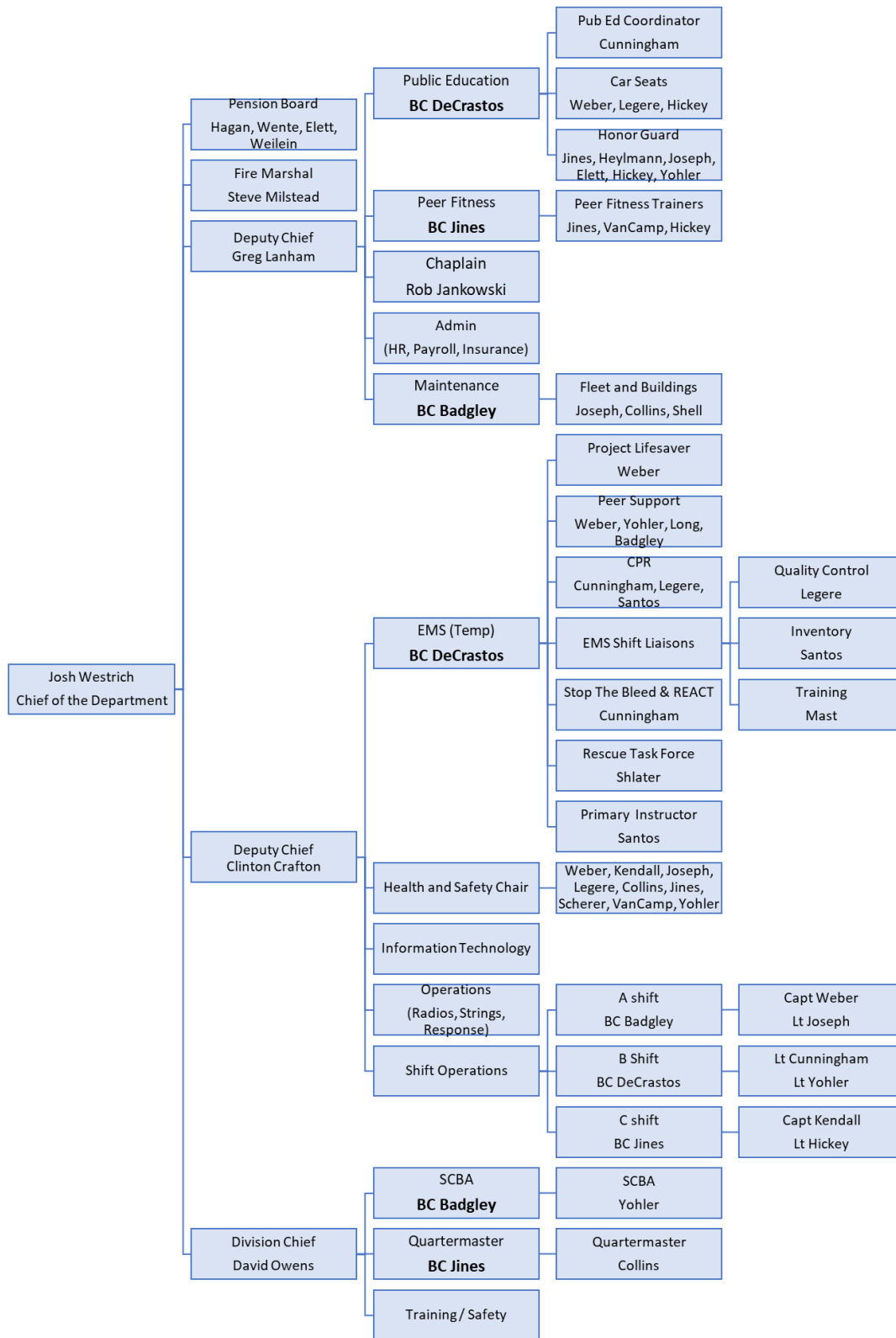
Core Values



Vision Statement

The Whitestown Fire Department is dedicated to remaining a progressive and innovative fire department that ensures a safe community through public education, fire prevention, training, and service

2021 WFD Organizational Chart



Administration



Dep Chief Greg Lanham

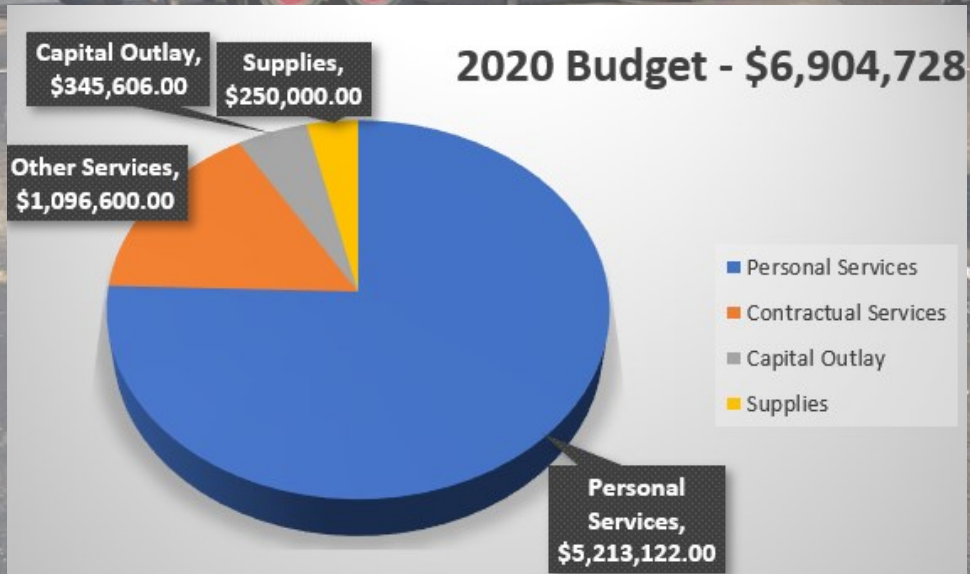


2020 started off like a normal year. As a department we had many good things planned, but by February, things started to unwind. A Pandemic was declared and quarantine was initiated. All of our focus was on keeping the crews safe at work. Extra PPE was purchased, new safety guidelines were started and Zoom meetings became the new normal. The Town of Whitestown has partnered with Aria Diagnostics to test our employees for COVID 19. We spent most of the year without a positive test result and have been blessed with no serious results from the few positive results we have had.

As an administration we became challenged to complete the list of items we had hope to accomplish. In early 2020 we were in the final phase of building a new Ladder truck with Rosenbauer. That included the apparatus committee traveling again to Minnesota for the final walk through before taking possession of the new ladder. Rosenbauer had also planned on using our new ladder as a model truck to represent them at FDIC. Due to COVID 19 we couldn't travel and FDIC was cancelled. We were able to take possession of the new ladder weeks later than expected and it was put into service as one of our front line apparatus.

New station 272 broke ground in October of 2019 and was scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2020, but due to COVID 19 and some other factors the station is still under construction and not scheduled to be completed until early spring 2021. We did our best to keep up with managing the station build while in quarantine and continue to work hard overseeing the new station construction.

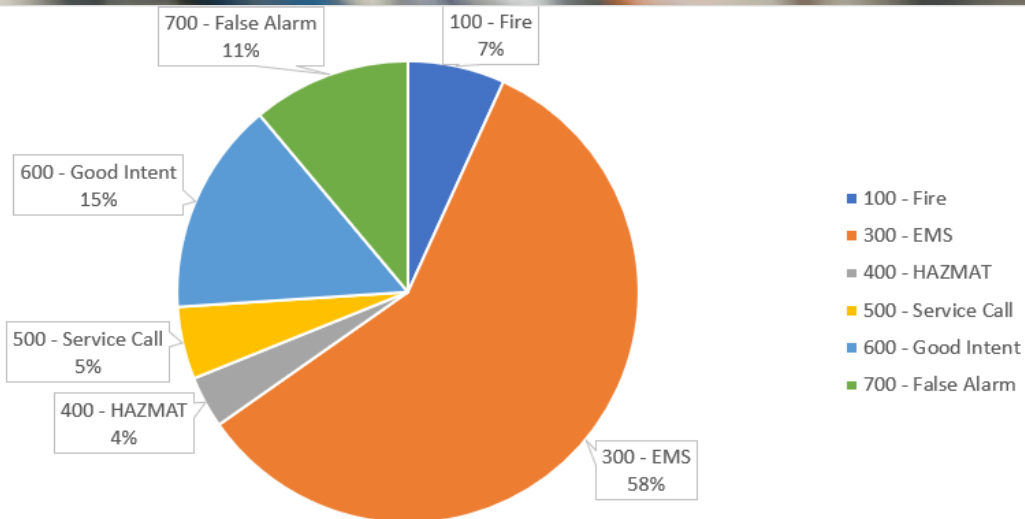
We also were in the middle of hiring 4 new firefighters at the beginning of the year. We were able to hire the 4 new firefighters and put on the first ever recruit academy. COVID-19 changed many things, but some things must continue no matter the circumstances, like responding to emergencies and prioritizing the wellness of our personnel. Both annual physicals and the WPE were pushed later in the year than normal, but we were able to get both completed. We completed our first DARI test with Pro Team Tactical at the end of 2019 and were looking forward to utilizing the results and fitness prescriptions that came with them, but due to the pandemic we were not able to complete the quarterly tests to update our progress. We are looking forward to utilizing the full services of Pro Team Tactical in 2021.



Operations



Dep Chief Clinton Crafton



While there were many aspects of 2020 that we were glad to leave behind, the reality is that it was a hugely productive year for the WFD. We did increase our manpower by three more firefighters and will have to grow even more in 2021 as we were dwarfed again by the rapid growth of the community and the number of properties we protect. Total call volume remained almost identical to 2019, due in part to the dramatic slowdown during the spring. In addition to continued (albeit slightly modified) training with our neighboring agencies, we also added rope rescue to the list of services provided by our responders. As we continue to see multiple buildings being built at four or more stories, the potential risk for elevated rescue was the next big step in our service delivery model.

Among the biggest highlights of 2020 was the acceptance of our new Tower Ladder 272. In addition to reduction in ongoing maintenance costs, this platform brings a new level of capabilities to our department and the county at large. Again, with multiple hotels and long term care facilities being built at 3-6 stories, we desperately needed this capability to effect potential rescues.

On the technical side of the house, we performed a full revamp of software platforms covering staffing, payroll, training, certification, truck checks, work orders and more. By fall the full impact of this wholesale changeover had become evident but the hard work of the battalion chiefs made it possible to bring all systems online in only a few months. The long range benefit of this will be system consolidation and cost savings for several years into the future.

To conclude, with a rather firm knock on wood, the WFD has been very fortunate during the COVID crisis in that only one of our members has tested positive. While we've seen a few near-misses, the diligence of our personnel has paid off and can not be understated. As we wrap up this tumultuous year, we look forward to 2021 with a light at the end of this tunnel. 2021 will bring more growth and better health. That said, whatever challenge should arise, the WFD remains ready to serve and protect our community.

Emergency Medical Services

As the population increases in Whitestown, so too does the impact on emergency medical services. As if 2020 wasn't going to be enough of a challenge, the addition of the pandemic certainly tested our personnel in the area of emergency medicine.

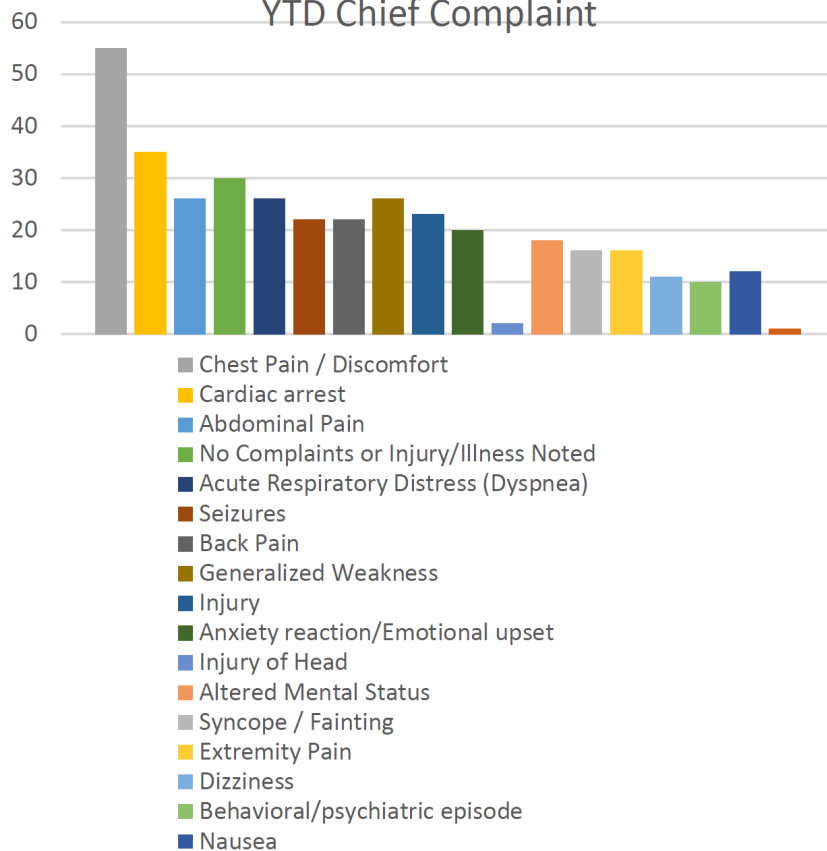
The biggest impact, across the board, was the implementation of new personal protective measures and new protocols to deal with an unknown and untested virus. Like everyone, we were literally learning on the fly as we faced new challenges and new setbacks.

Almost prophetically, the department made a decision at the end of 2019 to add more personnel to the management of EMS when we started 2020. For many years, Paramedic Billy Legere had been handling the lion's share of EMS administration by himself, and with great success. With the increasing run volume, and an increase in available personnel, we were able to add Paramedic Josh Mast to EMS training, Paramedic Heather Santos to purchasing and supply management, and Paramedic Battalion Chief Rick DeCrostos to manage the overall EMS side of the house. Paramedic Legere remains in the role of Quality Assurance and Agency Liaison, where he has been incredibly effective for several years. In addition, Paramedic Santos also led our first ever EMT course during the recruit academy.

While we couldn't have foreseen what was coming, having these additional personnel in place prior to the pandemic was enormously helpful in our ability to mitigate and respond to this virus. It truly took a team approach and everyone certainly stepped up (with particular credit to Paramedic Santos for her hard work on keeping us supplied in proper PPE when none was to be found!)

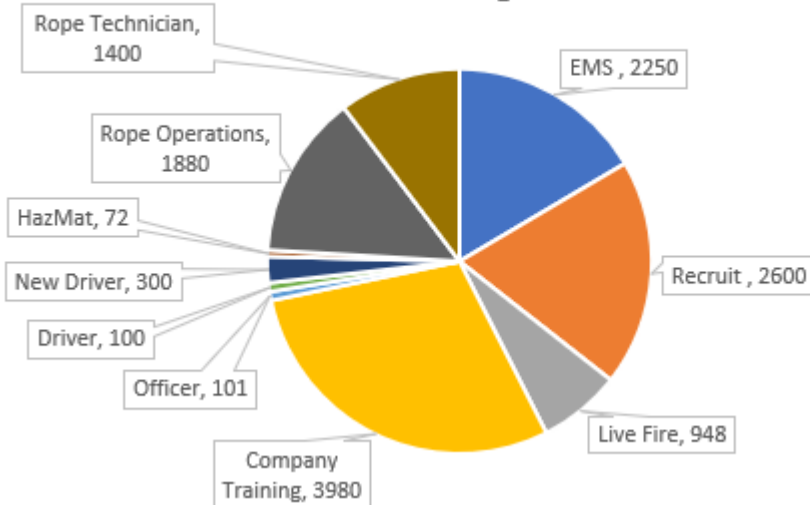
Finally, in the efforts to keep our facilities and apparatus safe, we incorporated a new high pressure misting device and portable UV light decontaminators to help keep the virus at bay. While we have had a handful of positive cases and scares within the department, we are incredibly proud of our personnel in that none of these cases were due to on-duty exposures. This is a testament to how our personnel adopted and utilized all of the new protocols and safety measures.

YTD Chief Complaint



Training Division

2020 Training Hours



Division Chief Dave Owens

The Training Division provides the latest cutting-edge training, education and certification for new officers, current line officers, driver/operators, firefighters, recruit firefighters and civilian medical personnel on the Whitestown Fire Department. The goal of the division is to ensure all members of the department are competent, efficient and effective during every emergency response.

The fire training division provides and coordinates training in the areas of fire attack, smoke reading, fire dynamics, fire ground tactical decision making, search & rescue, ventilation, salvage & overhaul, firefighter safety & survival, hazardous materials, rope rescue, ice rescue, driver operator, company officer development, vehicle & machinery extrication & emergency medicine.

As a department we accomplished 8,781 hours of fire training, 2,250 hours of EMS training for the incumbent personnel and 2,600 hours of Recruit Training that included State of Indiana and National Registry Emergency Medical Technician Certification, State of Indiana Hazardous Materials Operations Certification and State of Indiana Firefighter I & II Certification.

13,631

Total Training Hours

Fire Prevention

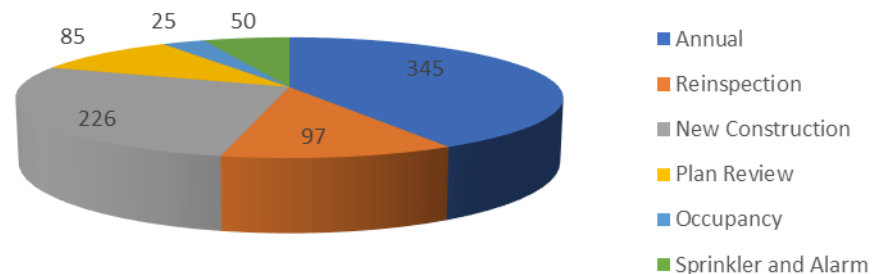
With the challenges in 2020, due to the pandemic, the Fire Marshal's office was able to inspect all existing Class I buildings, along with new construction within the district. Inspection of all commercial structures including sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, kitchen hood systems, clean agent extinguishing systems, and fire and life safety for Certificate of Occupancy. The Fire Marshal's Office attends pre-development meetings, and looks at all new plans by developers, to identify items needing attention before the beginning of construction.

We investigate the origin and cause of fires within the district. If it is determined to be an intentional fire, the investigator will work with local law enforcement and Boone County Prosecutor's office to identify any suspects and pursue criminal charges. In 2020 we conducted five fire investigations, with none of them being suspicious in nature.



Fire Marshal Div. Chief Milstead

Inspections & Plan Reviews



Public Education



Public Educator Lt Cunningham

As with all aspects of life, 2020 and the COVID crisis brought everything in our public education and outreach to a grinding stand-still. We were not able to do our annual school visits this year or make it out to the neighborhoods for our summer-time Whitestown Firefighter Experience visits. While that was a disappointment, we did manage to squeeze a few things in and we have a list of things planned for 2021 to pick up right where we left off.

One of the big achievements this year was procuring several Stop the Bleed kits to be distributed to every school and childcare facility in our district.. Training for these kits was in the process of being scheduled when COVID hit but we will be back out to train all of our educators and childcare professionals in the very near future.

We also purchased, assembled, and put in service an Autism support kit for each apparatus. These kits contain many items to provide comfort and support to an Autistic patient during the high-stress and unfamiliar environment of an emergency call. We were blessed to have the additional support of our local Behavior Analysis Center for Autism school with some virtual training and discussion on how to best accommodate these customers as well.

Finally, after wrapping up the production of our Distracted Driver video, we were able to spend the winter converting and editing the 360 degree Virtual Reality footage. While we would love to have placed these in front of the public at our events, we have it loaded on the headset and ready to go when the time comes. In the meantime, these videos are ready for viewing on our webpage. More of these VR videos are being worked on and will be posted throughout 2021.

2020 was a crazy and unpredictable year. We relied on technology more than ever for communication but we can't wait to get back out in person!



PIC•COLLAGE

Peer Fitness Training

As occupational athletes, our personnel must maintain a high state of physical readiness throughout the year. To achieve this, the WFD has Peer Fitness Trainers (PFT) who are specifically trained through a course offered by the International Association of Firefighters to meet the unique functional fitness needs of today's firefighters. These PFTs are coordinated by Battalion Chief Jines and are maintained at one PFT for each shift. Our peer fitness trainers ensure that every firefighter meets their daily fitness requirements and provide motivation, training, and support to their shift, as needed.

Two of the existing PFTs attended the required recertification course in 2020 and one new member attended the full course to become a PFT, filling a vacancy due to shift moves.

In preparation for moving into the new Station 272, the PFTs worked with the administration to research, design, and plan the layout for the new fitness facilities. This included rigorous research of similar facilities, selecting cutting edge equipment, and developing alternative options to remain in a tight budget.

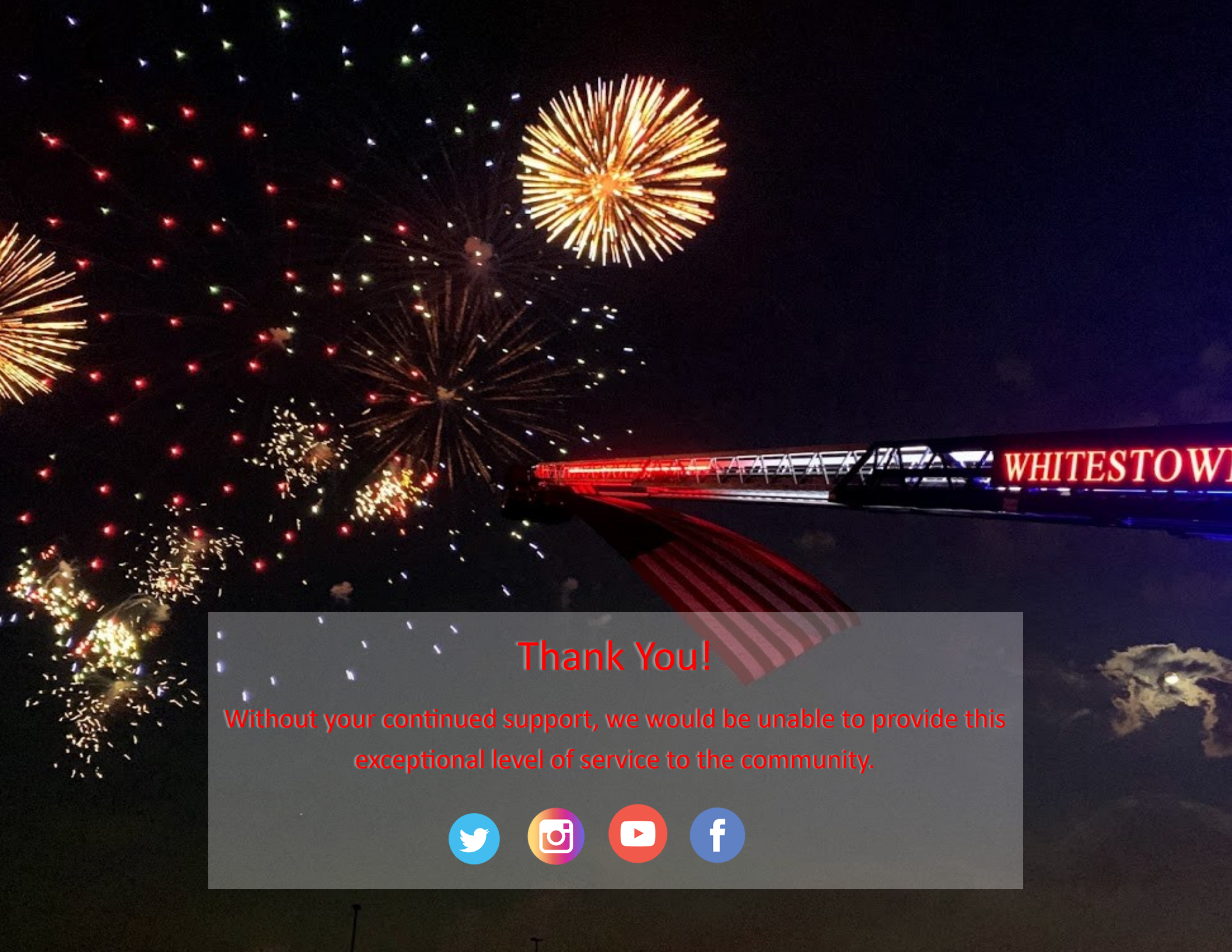
In addition to the shift-level responsibilities, the PFTs take full responsibility for conducting physical fitness training on a daily basis for the recruits during their academy.

Finally, in 2020 the PFTs and administration worked with ProTeam Tactical Performance to conduct functionality testing for every member. This test, called the DARI Motion Test, uses computer tracking technology to identify key improvement points for each individual's range of motion and functionality. The firefighter is then provided a customized program to improve these key areas, leading to a statistically proven reduction in strains, sprains, and musculoskeletal injuries.





2021 Additions



Thank You!

Without your continued support, we would be unable to provide this exceptional level of service to the community.

