

# ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

2018

2019 Report to the Community

2020



# Acting Mayor Quinn-Davidson



As our community continues to navigate unprecedented challenges, I am thankful more than ever for the sacrifices and dedication of the Anchorage Fire Department. Members of the Department are enduring the pandemic just like everyone else, and yet they show up every day to help keep our community healthy, safe, and protected.

The Anchorage Fire Department continually provides a high level of safety and security for our community. Whether it be a structure fire, an automobile crash, or a medical emergency, the Department is ready and willing to take risks and put their lives on the line for their community members. In addition to their emergency response capacity, the Department offers ample education opportunities, and consistently works to improve and strengthen their community presence.

In order to reinforce this essential work, it is imperative that we continue to support recruitment, training, and educational opportunities within the Department. We must also ensure that members have the equipment they need to respond to crises in the most effective and safe manner possible.

The generosity and resilience of the members of the Department and their families serves as a shining example to this community: even during challenging times, we can and must show up for each other. The Department has been a consistent source of strength and support in addressing the issues that affect our city, and for that I am deeply grateful.

*Austin Quinn-Davidson*

Municipality of Anchorage, Acting Mayor



# Fire Chief Jodie Hettrick

The Anchorage Fire Department is a positive and progressive all-hazards prevention, response and mitigation organization committed to improving the safety of the community we serve. Our staff are service oriented and driven to provide the absolute best customer service possible.

Your fire department continues to excel at delivering high quality services. AFD has one of the top cardiac arrest save rates in the nation; a demonstration of the high-quality medical care provided by AFD. We have maintained our Insurance Service Organization (ISO) Class 1 rating for four years. The ISO Class 1 is the highest rating based on national criteria and can provide direct savings to property owners by reducing the cost of fire insurance. This is a significant accomplishment earned through constant improvements in our capacity to prevent and extinguish fire within the Municipality. Less than 400 fire departments in the United States have a Class 1 rating.

The last three years have introduced significant change to your fire department. We have restructured our staffing and implemented new programs to more efficiently provide service. Some of these changes include:

- ◆ The Community Outreach Referral and Education (CORE) Team was implemented by AFD in 2018 with a goal of providing direct interventions to high utilizers of emergency response resources to improve their overall health and wellness. The CORE Team has successfully reduced the use of emergency resources by more than 22% for the top five identified significant utilizers of AFD medical services.
- ◆ We implemented a major restructuring of our staff to improve and balance the workload for our line operations section. The restructure allowed us to add two additional Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances to our system at no additional cost to the community.
- ◆ AFD staff created and implemented a new software program named Catalyst to replace our fire dispatching program. This improved our ability to send the appropriate resources to all types of emergencies.
- ◆ The pandemic required your department to adapt to working in a high hazard infectious environment. We transitioned to new personal protective equipment, implemented new treatment and decontamination procedures. Our focus was on preventing the spread of the virus between patients and employees.

I am very proud of the tremendous work of our employees. From large events like the November 30, 2018 earthquake, to ensuring that a new parent installs their child's car seat correctly, we are here to serve all citizens and visitors of Anchorage.



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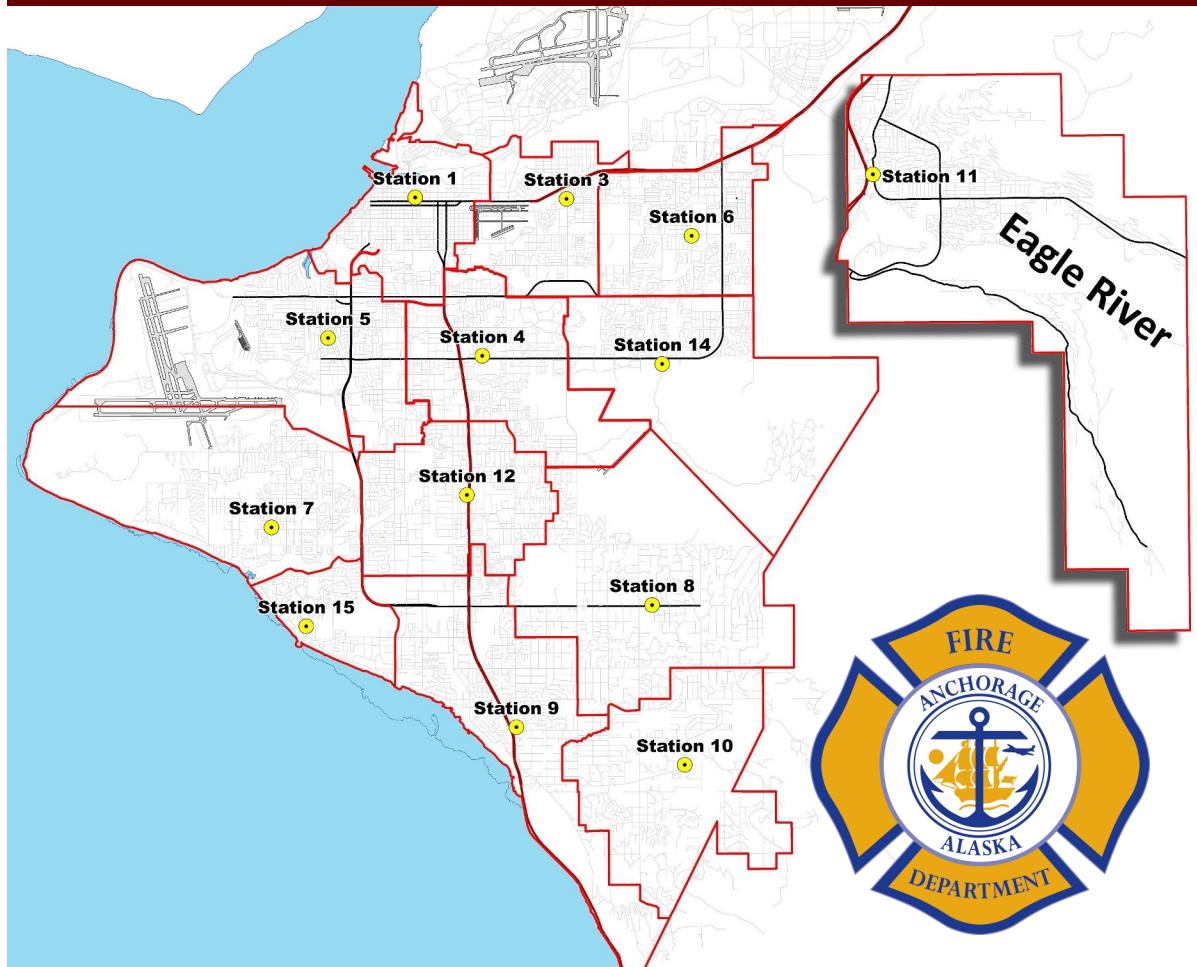


## What happens when you call 911?



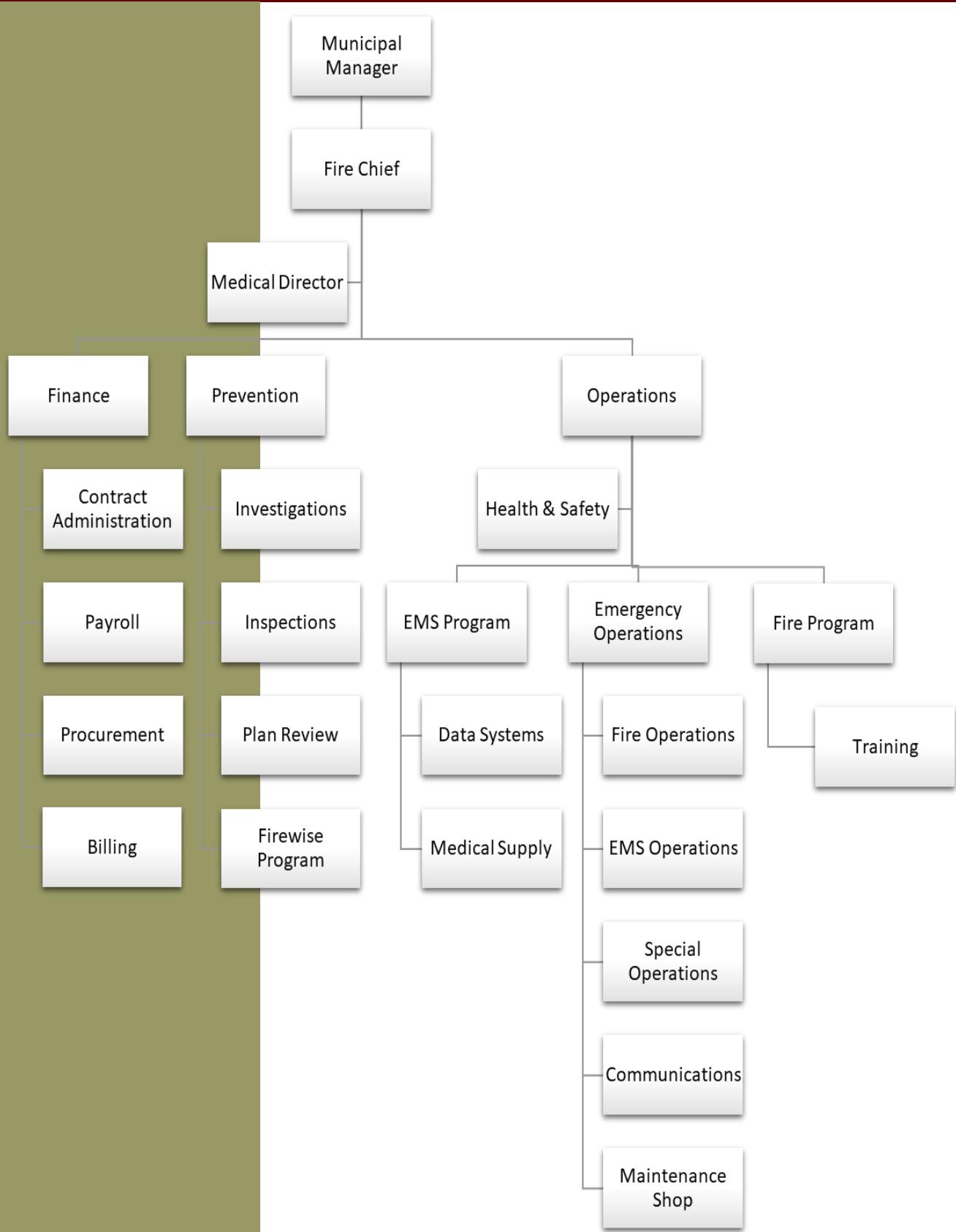
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# Station Info



St	Address	Senior Captain	Personnel per shift	Engine	Medic	Truck	Tender / Special	Specialty
1	122 E 4th Ave	Sr Capt Davis	19-23	2	3	1	1	HazMat
3	430 Bragaw St	Sr Capt Fussell	9-10	1	1	1	0	Urban Search & Rescue
4	4350 MacInnes St	Sr Capt Guest	11-14	1	2	0	2	Heavy Rescue & Dive / Water
5	2207 McRae Rd	Sr Capt Lively	9-10	1	1	1	0	Ladder Maintenance / Rapid Intervention Team
6	1301 Patterson St	Sr Capt Stubbs	6-8	1	1	0	0	Community Risk Reduction
7	8735 Jewel Lake Rd	Sr Capt Fredenhagen	5	1	1	0	0	Sewing / Turnout Repairs
8	6151 O'Malley Rd	Sr Capt Briggs	4	1	0	0	1	Air Resources
9	13915 Lake Otis Pkwy	Sr Capt Schwamm	6-7	1	1	0	1 / 1	Front Country / Rope Rescue
10	14861 Mountain Air Dr	Sr Capt Joyner	4	1	0	0	1	Chains / Fire Protection Systems
11	16630 Eagle River Rd	Sr Capt Staten	10	1	1	1	1	Swift Water Rescue
12	7920 Homer Dr	Sr Capt Stumbaugh	10-12	1	1	1	0	Small Tools / Equipment
14	4501 Campbell Airstrip Rd	Sr Capt Lawson	8-9	1	1	0	1	Wildland Ops / Radios
15	11301 Southport Dr	Sr Capt Johnson	3	1	0	0	0	Hose Testing / Uniforms

# Organizational Chart



# Finance

The Finance Division is comprised of six personnel. These dedicated employees are responsible for the following:

- Management of the AFD budget, expenses and revenue
- Processing the payroll for all department staff
- Managing the procurement process
- Establishing and maintaining contracts for products and services
- Handling the submission of billing information for all EMS transports
- Providing fire and EMS reports as requested
- Billing for Out of Service Area responses and false alarms.

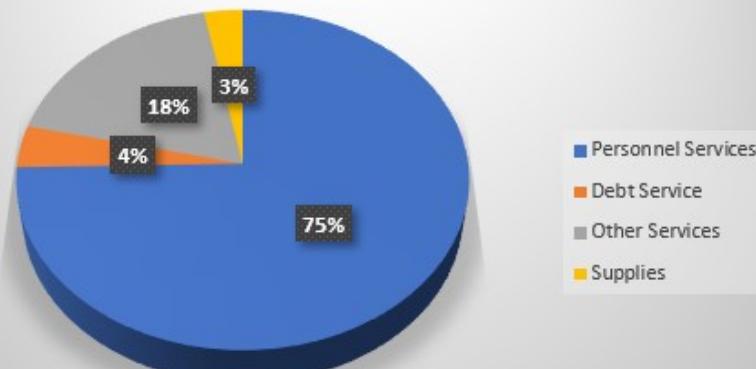
The Finance section seized the opportunity presented by the pandemic to make some improvements in the way business is conducted. While unable to move completely to an electronic, format they moved to storing documents electronically; thus eliminating the need for storage space, the need for collection points, and staff availability to receive them. They worked with the courts to move to a more efficient model of submitting documentation electronically and certifying documentation via a phone call as opposed to staff being required to physically present them at the Court House. Also, the transition from hard copy forms for patient billing to an electronic process further enabled staff to work remotely.

The Anchorage Fire Department is funded through the Municipal General Fund.

Accounting for 19% of the total Municipal budget, the Fire Department also receives revenue through medical transports, fire inspections fees, fines for fire false alarms, and for responses outside of our service areas.

Category	2018	2019	2020
Personnel	\$74,418,253	\$76,060,916	\$77,380,836
Debt Service	\$4,684,114	\$4,967,853	\$4,104,349
Other Services	\$15,537,765	\$17,578,606	\$19,023,526
Supplies	\$2,738,076	\$2,501,527	\$3,119,284
Travel	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$97,528,208</b>	<b>\$101,158,902</b>	<b>\$103,627,995</b>

**AFD 2020 BUDGET**



Put smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home, including the basement.



# Fire Prevention

Before the emergency happens, Fire Prevention works to ensure the buildings in our community are as safe as possible. If an emergency does occur, their work ensures systems are in place to alert occupants, facilitate safe exiting and evacuation, minimize damage and ensure protection for responding firefighters. This is accomplished

Fire Prevention Statistics	2018	2019	2020
Fire Plan Reviews	1,384	1,339	1,172
Fire System Reviews	498	452	389
Permit Inspections	1,764	1,462	1,231
Fire & Life Safety Inspections	2,233	2,331	2,673

through Engineering (Plan Review), Enforcement (Fire Inspections), Investigations and Public Education. Prevention's staff of eight Fire Inspectors complete fire and life safety permit reviews, fire system reviews and fire and life safety inspections on new and existing occupancies and complete a variety of license and special event inspections throughout our community.



## Cook Safely! Prevent Kitchen Fires

**Did you know?**



**Cooking** is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.

**Stay in the kitchen** when you are cooking at high temperatures.

**Set a timer** if you are simmering or baking so you don't get distracted and forget you are cooking.

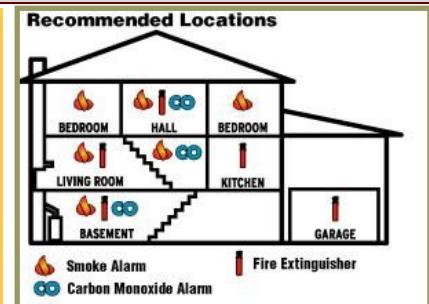
FEMA U.S. Fire Administration

## Most Commonly Found Fire Code Violations

• Fire systems not receiving required annual service	• Improper use of locks on exit doors
• Emergency lighting not maintained	• Exit signs not illuminated
• Fire extinguishers not serviced annually	• Rated doors not self-closing or blocked open
• Obstructed exits	• Improper use of extension cords
• Combustible storage in exits or equipment rooms	• Inadequate building address or suite identification



REPLACE SMOKE  
ALARMS EVERY  
10 YEARS



# Fire Prevention

## Hazardous Materials and the Community Right to Know Program

The Fire Prevention Division administers hazardous material reporting for the Anchorage area required by the Federal *Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986*. Federal law requires commercial industry to report on the storage, use and release of hazardous substances to federal, state and local governments. Facilities within the geographic boundaries of the Municipality that utilize reportable quantities of hazardous materials file Tier II forms annually to Fire Prevention. These reports are available to our dispatchers and responders to effectively plan for and react to incident. Approximately 450 Tier II reports are filed with the Fire Prevention Division each year.

**DANGER**

**HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS**



In order to prevent fires, it is important to understand how and why fires happen. AFD's sole Fire Investigator responds frequently in the late hours of the night to try to find those answers. In very challenging environments, AFD's Fire Investigator utilizes modern techniques, equipment and the scientific principles related to fire pattern analysis, heat transfer, fire dynamics, fluid mechanics and their interaction with the built environment to determine the origin & cause of fires. By determining the cause of fires, it is our aim to prevent future fires and to identify individuals intent on setting fires.

Keeping informed of the more than 1,000 fires that occur in our community throughout each year is a monumental task. AFD's Fire Investigator reviews approximately 1,500 fire incidents each year including 80-100 arson reports from the Anchorage Police Department. Many of these incidents require an in-depth fire scene examination and investigation follow-up. Over the past three years these included 15 fires resulting in 18 fatalities and larger fires such as the 2019 Sea Galley and Courtyard by Marriot fires.

AFD continues to struggle with investigative resources and understands that years of utilizing a single Fire Investigator results in many fires not being fully investigated.

Fire Investigation Stats	2018	2019	2020
AFD Fire Incident Reviews	1,260	1,504	1,370
APD Arson Report Reviews	82	111	82
AFD Fire Investigations	54	62	22

Not every hero wears a cape.

**PLAN and PRACTICE your ESCAPE!™**

[firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org)



For more information, visit:  
[www.muni.org/Prevention](http://www.muni.org/Prevention)

# Firewise Program

The Firewise Program coordinates hazardous fuel mitigation on both public and private property and provides Firewise education to homeowners throughout the Municipality of Anchorage. This grant funded program has been pivotal in helping homeowners that live in densely wooded areas protect their home and property by identifying potential fire hazards and helping defray the cost of mitigation efforts by the owner.



Firewise staff and crews from Stations 8, 9, 10, 11 and 14 provide assessments to homeowners.

For more information about the Firewise Program, visit:

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Fire/Wildfire/Pages/FirewiseHomeAssessments.aspx>



# Youth Fire Stoppers Program

Curiosity about fire is natural. Most children will, at some point in their youth, explore the element. Unfortunately, fires set by children can have devastating consequences. It doesn't matter if the fire is set with intent (arson), or if it is unintentional (curiosity). The unfortunate end result can be the same. When youth misuse fire, adults should pay attention to the behavior and call for help.

## Fire Stoppers can:

- Help parents understand why a child is misusing fire
- Help families create a safe environment
- Provide education for the entire family to help mitigate the behavior
- Recommend other resources helpful in correcting the behavior

Fire Stoppers work hand in hand with many agencies and professionals in Anchorage. If a family needs assistance beyond education, Fire Stoppers can recommend other resources for families.

It is everyone's responsibility to keep our community safe from fire. To report a child or youth that misuses fire, contact AFD Non-Emergency number:  
(907) 267-4950

## Questions about the program:

AFDFireStoppers@anchorageak.org  
(907) 331-7393

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Fire/Pages/FireStoppers.aspx>

# Occupational Health and Safety

**HSO and Safety Officers** AFD is fortunate to have an Assistant Chief—Health & Safety Officer in place since August 2019, plus three dedicated shift Safety Officers (SO). The SOs work 24-hour shifts and respond to all major emergencies to provide scene safety oversight, as well as investigate accidents, injuries and exposures. The Health and Safety Office is responsible for development of programs to reduce the injury rate and improve the health and wellness of our employees.

**Annual Medical and Fitness Evaluations** Responding to emergencies is physically, mentally and psychologically demanding. AFD contracts with Vera Whole Health to conduct comprehensive occupational medical evaluations based upon NFPA standards and designed to the unique work and environment of firefighting. These evaluations ensure firefighters have the physical capacity to safely perform the high-hazard work of emergency response. The fitness evaluation is conducted through a partnership between Vera and the University of Alaska Anchorage's Human Performance Lab.

**Violence Against Responders** Violence toward emergency responders is a true and unfortunately, not rare, risk. The department has been tracking violent acts against our responders since 2016 to identify trends. In a three-year period ending in 2019, forty-two acts of violence were tracked which included injuries and lost work time for responders. Mitigating incidents from occurring, and improving support of employees who are victims of violence in the workplace is a major goal of the Occupational Health and Safety Office.

## **Behavioral Health and Wellness**

A newly developed Behavioral Health Program includes employee resources including an internal Firefighter Peer Support program that provides confidential peer to peer assistance to our employees who experience stressful work-related situations. Providing these services to our employees improves their health, helps with employee retention and enhances the overall quality of their work experience.



**Cancer Prevention and Detection** Research has demonstrated that firefighters have increased rates of certain types of cancers. This has been attributed to exposure to carcinogenic products released during the burning of modern building construction materials and furnishings. The department strives to reduce the exposure by providing training on reducing contact with carcinogens, decontamination of gear, apparatus and equipment, and ensuring responders are provided with the most modern personal protective clothing. Cancer awareness and screening is also part of the annual medical evaluations.

## **Slow Down, Move Over**

Roadway operations are hazardous and a high risk for traumatic injury and death of firefighters.

PLEASE be aware of emergency scenes ahead of you on the roadway and slow down and move over.



Alaska statute 28.35.185: when an emergency vehicle is pulled over with their lights flashing, you must slow down and move over when it is safe to do so.

For more information about the Move Over Law, please visit:

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/police/traffic/Pages/MoveOverLaw.aspx>

# Community Risk Reduction

## COVID-19 Transmission Prevention



WASH YOUR  
HANDS OFTEN

<https://covid-response-moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/>

**Community Outreach, Referral and Education (CORE) Team** In 2018, the AFD undertook an analysis of its EMS responses and transports to evaluate and identify methods to improve system efficacy and increase the availability of its limited resources for 9-1-1 emergency responses. Three gaps in service were identified: an increased number of patients with substance use disorder and behavioral health crisis; an increased number of patients with low acuity medical conditions receiving the same level of AFD resources as high acuity emergencies such as cardiac arrests; rising impact of high service utilizers on the entire community medical system (EMS, hospital Emergency Departments, and health insurance).

In response, AFD established the Community Outreach, Referral and Education (CORE) Team, staffed by a Firefighter-Paramedic, and purposed with the mission to provide the right care, at the right time, in the right setting, with the right resources.

Outreach to high service utilizers was identified as the initial priority. Key highlights in the first operational year 2019 include: Surpassing the initial goal with a 43% reduction in EMS patient contacts which avoided EMS transport and Emergency Department charges of more than \$450,000; 154 client contacts by CORE Team members; 250 hours of Outreach and 300 hours of Case Work; Recipient of the 2019 Zoll Pulse Award for the innovative use of data to improve patient, financial and operational outcomes.



**AFD Mobile Crisis Team** In the 2021 budget, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly approved funding for AFD to provide mental health first response within the community.

The Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) will deliver a community-based first response for people experiencing mental health crisis. The MCT will provide crisis de-escalation and risk assessment, education, brief crisis interventions, and referrals to appropriate support services.

The MCT will also provide crisis follow-up care to continue to support and ensure recommendations and connection with other mental health providers and social services were made. This follow-up care will also reduce hospitalizations, incarceration, out of home placements, and overuse of public safety resources.

# Community Risk Reduction

In early 2020, AFD was able to fill its vacant Community Risk Reduction Coordinator (CRRC) position. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted community outreach and education. Alternative delivery methods were employed to provide fire safety and injury prevention education programs to the public.

October 2020's Fire Prevention Month during a pandemic presented a unique challenge to provide outreach education. Over 5,000 children and adults throughout the Anchorage School District, in home school and in day cares received live-streaming virtual fire prevention and education presentations that included electronic materials for printing. In addition, hundreds of Fire Safety Bags and Home Safety Bags were filled and delivered to schools and other organizations for distribution throughout Anchorage and Eagle River.

A mental health/suicide awareness campaign closed out 2020. Videos, social media messaging, a hosted AFD Facebook Live conversation with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention—Alaska Chapter, and various other events to support awareness and outreach within the community were delivered throughout the month of December. The AFD awareness video can be viewed here "You Are Not Alone" <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=220725042783951>



**AFD Child Passenger Safety Program** As of 2020, the Anchorage Fire Department has 95 certified child passenger seat technicians and four instructors. The technicians on staff are available by appointment or advertised community check-up events to inspect child passenger seat for safety and give instruction on how to correctly use and install them.

In 2018 & 2019, a total of 591 child passenger seats were inspected at our fire stations by private appointment. In addition 130 seats were checked during our five Child Passenger Safety check-ups.



Car Seat Check Up Events

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions, inspections were put on hold. The community will be notified when appointments are opened.**

**If you would like to have your child's seat checked, please call our CPS line at  
907-267-5045**

## 2019 and 2020

### Alaska EMS Administrator of the Year Award

Two employees of the Anchorage Fire Department received the Governor's Alaska EMS Administrator of the Year award in two consecutive years.

In 2019, Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Riley received the 2019 Alaska EMS Administrator of the Year Award for his research and development of the AFD's fire Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program, the AFD CORE Team. Firefighter Riley serves as an excellent example of a dedicated public servant with a strong passion for improving the quality of service AFD provides for its community and patients.

In 2020, Assistant Chief Erich Scheunemann received the award for his occupational health and safety work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the pandemic Assistant Chief Scheunemann lead the efforts to ensure our responders were provided the best information, procedures and guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus.

This knowledge was shared throughout Alaska with other Fire & EMS organizations.

# Maintenance Shop



## Did You Know

Fire Engines carry hose, ladders, water, pumps, and firefighters who focus on controlling the spread of fires and extinguishment.

Fire Trucks are larger apparatus that carry ladders, tools, and specialized equipment to help search for and rescue fire victims and aid in fire attack and suppression.

All Fire Engines, Trucks, and Ambulances carry medical equipment with dedicated professional Firefighter/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics prepared to respond to medical emergencies throughout the Muni.



The AFD Maintenance Shop is staffed with a team of nine: 1 Logistics Technician, 7 Fire Mechanics and 1 Lead Mechanic.

They maintain 184 different vehicles, apparatus, and trailers, for the Anchorage Fire Department, Chugiak Volunteer Fire Rescue Department and Girdwood Fire and Rescue.

In addition, the Shop maintains the breathing air compressors, wildland pumps, hose testing equipment and various other machines and tools used by the department for fire suppression.

In 2018, the AFD Maintenance Shop went through an inspection with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (AKOSH). The findings of this evaluation provided the opportunity to identify several needed changes to the Shop.

On top of the significant amount of maintenance work, shop personnel are engaged in constant improvements to shop operations. During the last three years the Shop completed:

- an accounting of all chemical products in the building
- disposed of 170 lbs. of old and outdated chemicals
- updated the SDS's records to accurately reflect all hazards in the workplace
- created a repeatable maintenance system
- drafted a representative set of policies for the AFD Maintenance Shop



Year	WO	PMC	PMA	PM360
2018	1017	100	167	20
2019	1185	104	207	25
2020	1269	84	134	20

WO = Work orders

PMC = Annual Preventive Maintenance Inspections

PMA = Preventive Maintenance Inspections based on Mileage

PM360 = Preventive Maintenance Inspections on non-powered equipment

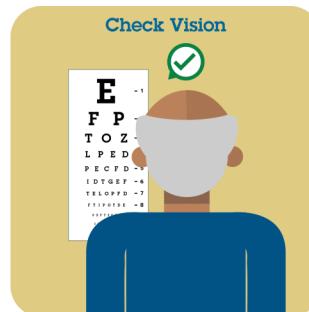
# Data Systems

The Data Systems Division provides technological solutions to support the Anchorage Fire Department's daily and long-term information need, with an emphasis on Fire Incident Reports, GIS-based computer-aided dispatch and records management systems, and Web-based information sharing across an enterprise-wide topology of hardware and software systems. The Data Systems team provides oversight to over 50 separate programs and applications while providing IT support to multiple ancillary public safety agencies including Chugiak and Girdwood Volunteer Fire and Rescue departments, Anchorage Safety Patrol, and the Safety Center.



In 2018, the Data Systems team began a full scale replacement of the apparatus computer systems. This encompassed the vehicle computer, modem, antenna and tracking capabilities. When a unit is assigned to an incident, critical information such as: location, incident type, and routing information are sent from the Communication Center to the unit computer. The system knows the location of all units and selects the closest available unit with the response capabilities that meets the needs of the emergency. The computer system also tracks the status of the unit through the entire cycle of the call.

**To prevent falls, exercise to stay strong and have your vision checked.**



## The Data Systems Team awarded Unit Excellence Award!

At the onset of the 2018 Earthquake the DS team members immediately sprang into action.

When redundant power and backup systems failed at Station 12 along with potential structural damage to the building itself, the team split into 2 units, 1 stayed at St 12 and 1 deployed to the EOC.

Working in challenging conditions, the team was able to restore the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and the apparatus computers in short order.

From Friday through Sunday, the Data Systems team continued to work to restore service.

The four person team worked over 110 hours in the first 3 days, including several members not returning home to be with their families until operations were restored.

The speed with which the CAD system was restored was notable and the Team was featured in an international webinar to share their technical approach, processes, and experience with the Public Safety IT Community.



# Communication Center

## 9-1-1 Dispatch: A Voice in the Darkness Giving Hope to Those in Need

### Annually, the Dispatch Center manages over:

- ◆ 31,000 9-1-1 calls
- ◆ 21,000 calls for Anchorage Safety Patrol
- ◆ 7,000 calls for private ambulance services
- ◆ 68,000 administrative calls
- ◆ 340,000 radio transmissions
- ◆ 18,000 patient transports
- ◆ 250 Chaplain deployments
- ◆ Dispatch 72,000 apparatus on 37,500 responses

AFD's Communications Center (Dispatch) is an essential component of our ability to respond to incidents. The Center manages all 9-1-1 fire, rescue, and emergency medical calls within the Municipality, including Eagle River, Chugiak, and Girdwood. The Center also handles non-emergency calls for AK Police & Fire Chaplains, Anchorage Safety Patrol (ASP), and private ambulance service transports.



The Center is staffed 24-hours per day, 7-days per week by twenty highly trained and State certified Dispatchers who work in 12-hour shifts, with at least four personnel on shift at any one time.

Dispatchers are calm professionals who serve as the first of the first responders. They receive the call, identify the type and location of the emergency, provide critical lifesaving information to callers, and dispatch the nearest AFD resource; all in less than 2-minutes. When necessary, Dispatchers provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instructions over the phone to start life-saving measures prior to the arrival of emergency medical services. Their ability to instruct bystanders to quickly initiate CPR is credited with increasing the survival rates of those in cardiac distress.

The Communications Center strives to keep pace with changes in our community and advances in technology.



# Communication Center

Residents can assist by calling 9-1-1 when there is an emergency . Do not assuming someone else will call.

## When calling, provide:

Your name  
Your Address  
Your phone number



**It is important that children are taught at a young age to do the same.**

This information helps us quickly locate you at a time when seconds count.

## Major Events

The November 30, 2018, 7.1 Earthquake tested the resiliency of the Center as electronic systems were knocked offline while 9-1-1 calls continued to pour into the Center. Dispatchers quickly ensured no loss of capability in the public's ability to receive emergency services.

The Center served as a critical communications node during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave wildland fire on July 2, 2019, managing 94 calls (phone and radio) in the first 15 minutes of the event.



A strong Chain of Survival can improve chances of survival and recovery for victims of cardiac arrest. The 5 links in the adult out-of-hospital Chain of Survival are:

- **Recognition** of cardiac arrest and **activation** of the emergency response system
- Early **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)** with an emphasis on chest compressions
- Rapid **defibrillation**
- Basic and advanced emergency medical services
- Advanced life support and post-cardiac arrest care

The role of the Dispatcher does not end when the call ends. They continue to track the status of response apparatus, maintain communication with incident commands in order to provide additional information or resources, and relay information from the medical teams to local hospitals.

2020 COVID-19: the Center added COVID screening questions to the call taking process to identify higher risk patients prior to responder arrival. They assumed the scheduling for the non-critical transportation group, vital to protecting public safety and health while providing needed transportation services to residents exposed to or infected by COVID-19.

# Training

## Training delivered 2018/2019/2020

- New hire training for 75 recruited firefighters
- Fire Apparatus Engineer Driver training
- COVID-19 PPE training
- Fire Instructor Training
- Fire Officer Development Training
- Over 20,000 hours of Emergency Medical Training per year
  - High Performance CPR
  - Basic Life Support
  - Advanced Life Support
  - Trauma Management
- Wildland Fire Training
- Technical Rescue Training certification and continuing education
  - Dive Team
  - Water Rescue Boat
  - Urban Search and Rescue
  - High Angle Rescue
  - Haz-Mat Team
- Annual Operations and Administrative Training
  - OSHA required training
  - Administrative updates
  - Workplace behavior
  - Principles of Modern Fire Attack
  - Fire Rescue Operations (Vent—Enter—Isolate—Search; VEIS)

The Anchorage Fire Department Training Division is committed to preparing, developing and maintaining our emergency responders at the highest possible state of readiness. We accomplish our mission through the programmatic application of research, development, education and training.

In 2019, the division reached full strength again after more than a decade without full staffing. This allowed updating and deployment of several programs and an increased focus on quality improvement and adapting to the needs of our community.

The program supports dozens of emergency operations specialties including New Firefighter Training, Fire Apparatus Driver / Operator, Fire Instructor Development, Company Officer Development, Leadership Development, Emergency Medical Training, Wildland Firefighting, Technical Rescue Training, Safety and Health Training, and many other subjects.

This adds up to over 50,000 hours per year of training. Training requirements for emergency responders are significant, AFD responders average close to 300 hours of training per person each year.



During the Pandemic, the training division took on new workloads by shifting training programs into the virtual environment while simultaneously creating “COVID-Safe” procedures to manage in-person training. Testing for new-hire firefighter positions also required an overhaul in 2020 that led to hiring 23 new firefighters in early 2021.

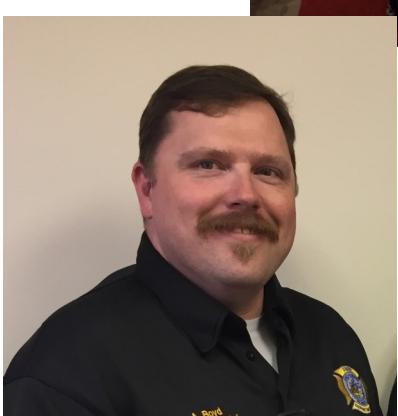


COVID-19 also called the training division into service in emergency logistics for Pandemic supply dispersal and management as new demands were placed on the organization. Training staff assisted with dispersal and training for newly acquired Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies for safe operations in the field.

# Training

The division is staffed with the Assistant Chief of Fire Programs, three Training Specialists and one Administrative Associate. The AFD Video Producer is also aligned under the training division and supports the department with their services.

The Training Division works with groups around the state – they partner primarily with the Alaska Bureau of Fire Accreditation, Standards, and Testing (BFAST), and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (ADHSS) Office of EMS. We partner with the University of Alaska, and with numerous responder agencies within the state. In each of these partnerships, they engage in training development, implementation, and help develop standards for statewide program administration.



# Operations

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 MARCH 2021	2	3	4	5	6	7 APRIL 2021
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
A	B	C	B	C	A	C
A	B	A	B	C	B	C
A	B	A	B	C	B	C
B	C	A	C	A	B	

Firefighters work 24 hour shifts, creating a 56 hour work week. Each firefighter works 2,912 hours of regular work time each year. Firefighters are assigned to one of three shifts (A, B, or C). Their schedule works in cycles, each cycle consists of three 24-hour shifts worked with one day off in between.

There is a 4-day off-duty period between cycles.

This schedule ensures 24-7-365 coverage in every fire station. In comparison, people who work a 40 hour work week work 2,080 hours each year of regular time. Firefighters work the equivalent of 365 8-hour days per year.

## Executive Leadership

### Fire Chief: (1)

The Fire Chief is responsible for all operations and management of the fire department .

### Deputy Chief (1)

The Deputy Chief is responsible for management of all operations within the department .

### Assistant Chief (4)

Assistant Chiefs support the major initiatives and supervise divisions within the department.

Currently there are four ACs who serve as the Fire Marshal, Health and Safety Officer, EMS Programs Administrator, and Fire Programs Administrator.

## Service Improvement

### Battalion Chief (2)

Battalion Chiefs are responsible for focused oversight to manage the quality of services provided to the community. Currently there are two BCs who serve as Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement and Compliance

## Line Operations Staffing

### Battalion Chief (9 : 3 Per Shift minimum)

Battalion Chiefs supervise emergency response operations and mitigation efforts each day. Battalion Chiefs supervise Company Officers (Captains and Senior Captains). Battalion Chiefs report directly to the Deputy chief.

### Safety Officers (3 : 1 per shift minimum)

Safety Officers are responsible for ensuring safety is maintained in the high risk environment of daily operations. They support Battalions Chiefs and Company Officers in emergency response and conduct safety evaluations of all incidents and investigate accidents, injuries, and exposures.

### Senior Captains (13: 4 per shift minimum)

Senior Captains are responsible for station facility and program management. There is one Senior Captain assigned to every fire station. They serve as line supervisors for Engineers and Firefighters.

### Captains (47: 16 per shift minimum)

Captains serve as line supervisors for Engineers and Firefighters . Captains are responsible for daily operations in each company within the fire department . Captains are the “working boss” within the emergency response group and have multiple Firefighters and Engineers reporting to them each shift.

### Engineers (78 : 26 per shift minimum)

Engineers are the apparatus operators for each of the fire apparatus and manage the operation of specialty fire apparatus including fire engines, fire trucks, water tenders, boats, and rescue units.

### Firefighters (178 : 50 per shift minimum)

Firefighters serve as the primary task and service provider in the department. They provide expert emergency medical, fire suppression, and rescue skills on all responses. All Firefighters are EMTS and many have the advanced medical credential of Paramedic. Our Firefighters staff all fire apparatus and are the primary staff on all of ambulances.

# Response Statistics

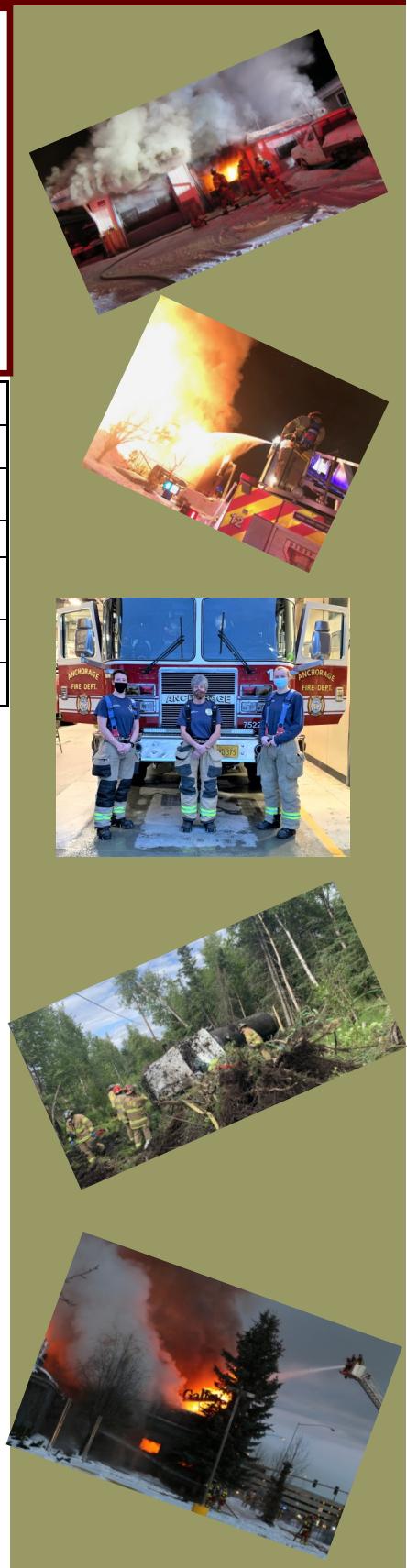
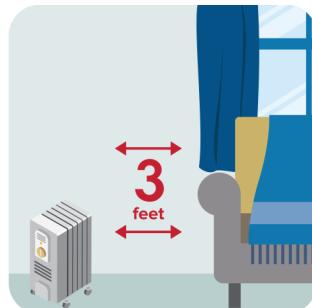
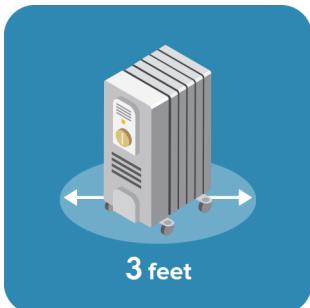
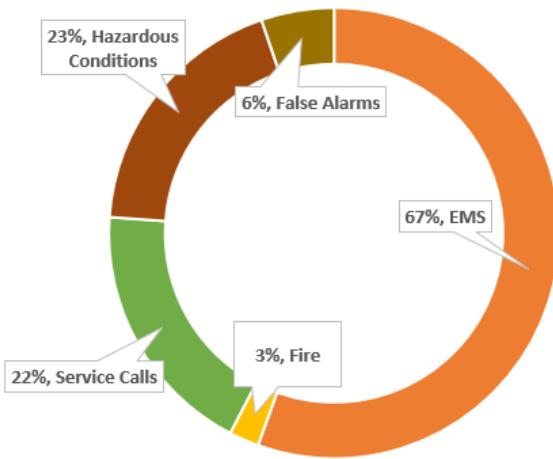
As an all-hazards response organization the Anchorage Fire Department Operations Division responds to and works to mitigate emergency incidents with skill and efficiency. These incidents have been responded to with 13 fire stations housing 14 Engines, 5 Trucks, 5 Water Tenders, 1 Heavy Rescue and 13 Ambulances.

The table below illustrates the last 10 years of incident data separated by general incident type. EMS incidents have increased in the past 10 years and now represent more than 67%\* of all responses.

\*Response data for 2018-2020 updated 4/1/21 to correct an error.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
EMS	19511	21372	21619	20998	22640	24187	24952	24347	24527	24103
Fire	814	735	743	777	797	829	785	915	1010	900
Service Calls	7054	7371	8155	7115	7447	7489	7799	7808	8266	8518
Hazardous Conditions	559	787	465	391	418	425	518	589	508	455
False Alarms	2396	2350	2257	2141	2175	2331	2216	2230	2383	2262
<i>Total</i>	<b>30334</b>	<b>32615</b>	<b>33239</b>	<b>31422</b>	<b>33477</b>	<b>35261</b>	<b>36270</b>	<b>35889</b>	<b>36694</b>	<b>36283</b>

2018/2019/2020 Responses by Type



# Major Incidents

In the last three years the Anchorage Fire Department has responded to over 101,000 emergency incidents. During all of those responses, a few incidents stand out as memorable. Anyone present in Anchorage likely can remember these events and were impacted in some way.



## Earthquake !!!

On the morning of November 30, 2018, Anchorage experienced the largest earthquake since 1964. The 7.1 magnitude quake shook our community leaving physical marks on the city and strong memories for everyone involved. AFD responded to emergencies within seconds and worked to support the community despite significant impacts to AFD facilities and department equipment. In the hours and days following the earthquake AFD responded to hundreds of calls for help. From November 30th through December 6th nearly 1000 incidents were managed by the department.

## Wildfire!!!



On July 2, 2019, a brush fire started in the Campbell Park area of east – central Anchorage. The large greenbelt area surrounded by dense residential areas, started burning and rapidly spread. More than 50 units from the Anchorage Fire Department along with resources from the Alaska Division of Forestry including helicopters and large air-tankers responded to control the largest wildfire inside Anchorage in more than 40 years. The fire was contained in less than 12 hours but required nearly 8 days to fully “mop-up”. This incident reminds us that Anchorage sits in the middle of a very beautiful but still wild place.

## Pandemic!!!

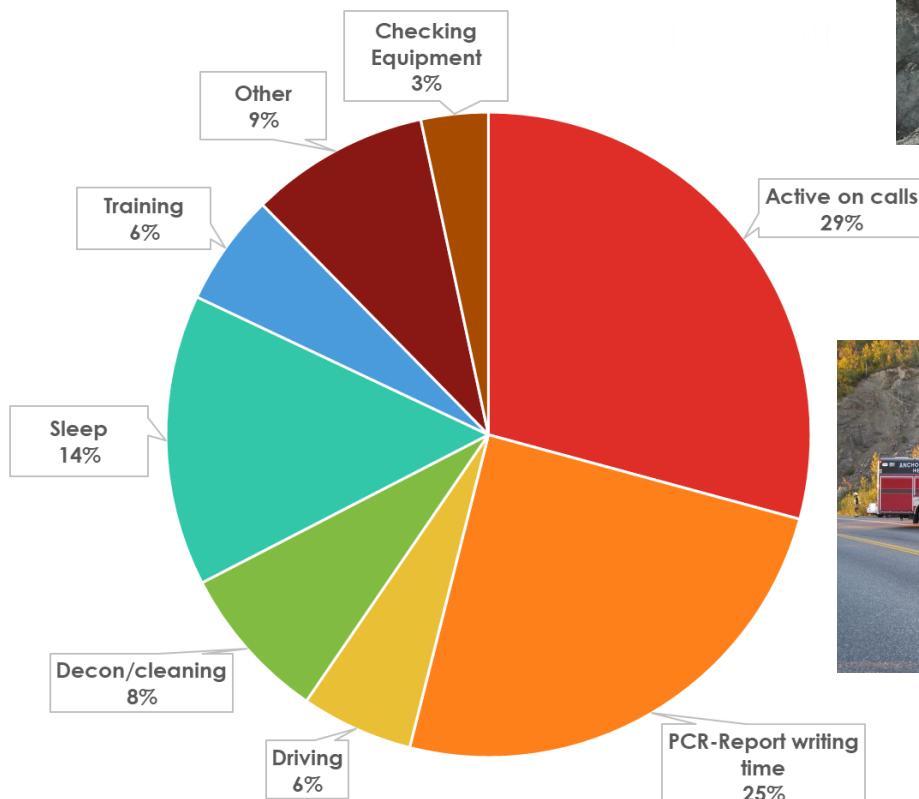


In late January 2020, the Anchorage Fire Department assisted with the repatriation of nearly 80 American citizens fleeing from Wuhan China as the COVID-19 virus began to spread quickly. Within 3 months, the virus had come to Alaska and was starting to change the way the Anchorage and the Fire Department did everything. In the coming months we would acquire new “PPE” and develop new response protocols. In the more than 12 months since the pandemic arrived in Anchorage, our fire-fighters and department members never waivered in their commitment to serve the community. We have all changed together and worked as part of this great community to meet the challenges and handle issues we could not have imagined just 18 months ago.

As we responded in our best ways to these incidents each one influenced the department in different ways. The lessons learned inspire us to grow, improve, and step-up to our community’s needs every day .

# Operations

A typical 24 hour shift on an AFD ambulance is a very full day. Not only are they responsible for evaluating, treating and transporting patients, every run must be documented with a thorough report. Training, equipment checks, cleaning/decontamination take time, and on top of that they need to find time to eat and rest.



# New Apparatus

As a cost saving measure AFD recently converted to re-chassis our ambulances.

We changed the design of the rear patient compartment to be more safe and efficient. All of the patient compartments are updated during the re-chassis work to standardize the fleet and improve vehicle safety.

The passenger compartments last much longer than the chassis so starting in 2020 instead of replacing the whole ambulance it is sent to a vendor to remount the updated patient compartment onto a new chassis and returned to service.

This reduced the cost by nearly 40% and saved production time.

AFD Station 11 in Eagle River is the new home for Squad 11, a new apparatus configuration for fire and rescue work. It is 4-wheel drive so it can conquer the steep driveways in the community.



In April 2020 the community supported our request for long term funding for a refresh of our EMS equipment!

A complete update of EMS equipment at AFD, CVFRD and GFD was placed in service by November 2020.



## FLEET REPLACEMENT PURCHASES

Year Bond Approved	Bond Total Amount	Apparatus Type	#	In Service Year
2018	\$700,000	Ambulances	2	2019
2019	\$800,000	Engine	1	2020
2019	\$350,000	Rehab/Decon	2	2021
2019	\$700,000	Ambulances	2	2021
2020	\$1,450,000	Ladder Truck	1	2022
2020	\$900,000	Ambulances	4	2021

# Resources

External	Contact	Internal	Contact
Alaska Police and Fire Chaplain Ministries	<a href="https://alaskachaplain.org/">https://alaskachaplain.org/</a>	AFD—Headquarters	(907) 267-4900 <a href="http://www.muni.org/fire">www.muni.org/fire</a>
American Heart Association	<a href="http://www.heart.org/Anchorage">www.heart.org/Anchorage</a>	Car Seat Inspections	(907) 267-5045
Anchorage Fire Explorers	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/anchoragefireexplorers/">https://www.facebook.com/anchoragefireexplorers/</a>	Firewise Program	(907) 267-4935
Anchorage Safety Patrol	<a href="http://www.muni.org/departments/health">www.muni.org/departments/health</a>	Prevention	(907) 267-4901
Chugiak Volunteer Fire & Rescue	<a href="http://www.cvfrd.com">www.cvfrd.com</a>	Public Affairs	(907) 267-4966
Girdwood Fire & Rescue	<a href="http://www.girdwoodfire.com">www.girdwoodfire.com</a>	Station dinners	(907) 267-4936
IAFF Local 1264	<a href="http://www.iaff1264.com">www.iaff1264.com</a>	Station tours	(907) 267-4900
Red Cross Alaska Chapter	<a href="https://www.redcross.org/local/alaska.html">https://www.redcross.org/local/alaska.html</a>		
Safe Kids	<a href="https://www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-alaska">https://www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-alaska</a>		

## Honor Guard



The Anchorage Firefighter Honor Guard was created in 2001 as the first civilian Honor Guard in Alaska. The Honor Guard consists of 22 volunteer men and women from all aspects of the Anchorage Fire Department. The Guard's primary focus is to provide ceremonial honors to those members that make the ultimate sacrifice of a Line Of Duty Death. We also provide honor

and burial services for retired AFD members, and assist multiple agencies throughout the State of Alaska when requested. The Honor Guard also provides flag presentation services at a variety of community events, sporting events, and local parades. Funding for the Honor Guard is provided by the Anchorage Firefighters Union, IAFF Local 1264.

For more information you may visit the Honor Guard at:  
<https://m.facebook.com/AnchorageFirefightersHonorGuard/>  
 or by contacting AFD Headquarters at (907) 267-4936



# Community Partnerships



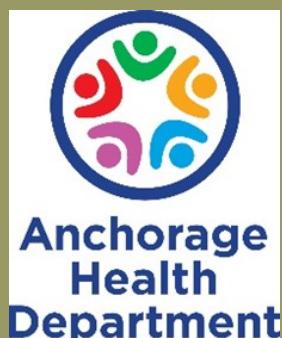
## International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 1264

The [IAFF Local 1264](#) represents the firefighters and other members of the Anchorage Fire Department. The IAFF and AFD work together to expand their service beyond simply responding to emergencies during their work hours. Members of the IAFF Local 1264 continue to serve the community and support programs such as Operation Warm, Shop with a Cop/Shop with a Firefighter, Fill the Boot and many other programs that bring added value and service to our community. The IAFF Local 1264 works tirelessly to help protect the health and safety of our department members and provide support to those who serve our community every day.



## Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Police and Fire Department

The members of the TSAIA Police and Fire Department protect the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport complex positioned on the west side of Anchorage. TSAIA houses one of the busiest cargo airports in the world and the busiest seaplane base in the world. The men and women serving in TSAIA Police and Fire provide police protection, aircraft fire rescue services and first response to medical emergencies within the airport complex. The specialized skills and equipment provided by the TSAIA ensure Anchorage's visitors and citizens are well protected and served whenever they find themselves in and around the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. The AFD also participates in cooperative training opportunities and responds with TSAIA Fire Rescue. Visit their website at <http://dot.alaska.gov/anc/business/policefire/>



## Department of Health—Anchorage Safety Patrol

The Anchorage Department of Health manages the contract for the [Anchorage Safety Patrol \(ASP\)](#) & Anchorage Safety Center (ASC). ASP vans and staff are dispatched by the Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) Call Center to persons that appear to be incapacitated by alcohol or drugs in a public place. When not on a dispatch call, the ASP Van actively patrols the Anchorage Downtown and Midtown areas in search of persons that may be in need of assistance. The Safety Center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week to monitor clients during the sobering process. The services provided by ASP ensure that AFD and APD responders and local emergency departments are available to treat critical patients rather than a patient who is not in need of such specialized emergency care.



## Anchorage Police Department

The Officers and staff at the [Anchorage Police Department](#) are committed to protect and serve with dignity and professionalism. Countless times per day our brother and sister officers take action to improve the safety of our community and citizens, and help those with whom they interact. We are very proud to serve alongside such a tremendous group of professionals and acknowledge the under recognized role these officers play in our success – we couldn't be as successful without this team's support.

# Community Partnerships

## Chugiak Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department

The [Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department](#) is located at the north end of the municipality. CVFRD provides high quality fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services in north Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood and Eklutna. CVFRD provides response through the service of nearly 100 volunteer responders and support members. CVFRD answered nearly 1,000 calls for service in 2017 including several requests for mutual aid to Anchorage Fire Department Eagle River fires and medical responses. The members at CVFRD truly embody "neighbors helping neighbors" through their professional services; we are proud to have them as part of the AFD team serving from their 5 stations.



## Girdwood Fire and Rescue

[Girdwood Fire and Rescue](#) is located in the Girdwood Valley at the south end of the municipality. Girdwood Fire and Rescue works with the Anchorage Fire Department to provide fire suppression, rescue operations, and emergency medical services to residents in the Girdwood Valley and to communities along Turnagain Arm. Girdwood Fire Rescue responds to approximately 400 calls per year including several joint fire response incidents on the Seward Highway. The communities and residents along the Turnagain Arm should be as proud of these responders as we are to have them working with us.



## Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) / JBER Fire

[Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson](#) and their fire department occupy the space north of Government Hill and extend along the north edge of the city to the Glenn Highway. JBER also occupies space along the Chugach foothills in northeast Anchorage with the installation occupying over 79,000 acres. Over 13,000 Arctic Warriors, their families, and associated civilian support contractors occupy the installation. These people are all part of our community and we are encouraged that such a great group of firefighters and responders are supporting them. The AFD also benefits from partnerships in civil support, training and cooperative responses on the base property. For several years the AFD has participated in firefighter mentorship programs sponsored by both agencies.



## Anchorage Fire Explorers

The Anchorage Fire Explorers program is a youth program for high school aged boys and girls with an interest in the emergency services. The program is managed by off-duty firefighter advisors who volunteer their time to lead the participants in training exercises and courses that are beneficial in their path to become firefighters or just in everyday life. The program is managed under an agreement with [Learning for Life](#) which is an extension of the Boy Scouts of America. AFD is extremely proud of the members and advisors of this program and are honored to have a large number of former Explorers working in positions from Assistant Chief all the way down to our newest firefighters.

Email: post264@icloud.com

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/anchoragefireexplorers/>



# Retirements



## Retirements

2018-2020

Engineer Timothy Molle  
Captain James Veatch  
Firefighter Michael Dennis  
Captain Timothy Stigen  
Captain Joe Albrecht  
Captain Mike Hetrick  
Safety Officer Brad Hanson  
Fire Chief Denis LeBlanc  
Fire Inspector James Gray  
EMS Training Specialist Patricia Vincent  
Battalion Chief Rodney Harris  
Battalion Chief Richard Hood  
Captain Matthew McSorley  
Battalion Chief Kevin Keene  
Firefighter Robert Periera  
Engineer Robert Van Dussen  
Firefighter Billy Yelvington  
Engineer Jonathan Ross  
Fire Mechanic Ruel "Tony" Hooper  
Time Administrator Robin Campbell  
Fire Marshal Cleo Hill  
Systems Analyst Therese Gochanour  
Engineer David Gerken  
Contracts Administrator Molly Cullom  
Engineer Denny Ives  
Safety Officer Clinton Powell  
Captain John Paff  
Firefighter Don Hunley  
Firefighter Yeriyah Israel  
Engineer Randy Gilmore  
Firefighter Robert Fuller  
Senior Captain Michael Murphy  
Deputy Chief Brian Keene  
Firefighter Don Wagner  
Fire Inspector Rita Venta  
Captain Blake Lindsoe  
Engineer Mike Hall  
Engineer Danny Cobb  
Firefighter John Borland  
Senior Captain Kevin Wallace

# Recruitment



Anchorage Fire Department is a great place to work! The Department employs a wide range of professionals including Firefighters, Dispatchers, Mechanics, Fire Inspectors, IT Specialists, Investigators, Finance professionals, Logistics Specialists, Administrative professionals, Training Specialists and Community Risk Reduction Specialists.

If you are interested in learning more about employment opportunities, please follow the Anchorage Fire Department Recruitment on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AFDRecruiter>

For more information about each of our positions and the requirements necessary to apply, please visit :

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Fire/Training/Pages/default.aspx>

to be notified when a job is available:

[www.muni.org/jobs](http://www.muni.org/jobs)



# Promotions

## Senior Staff

Deputy Chief Brian Keene—July 2018  
Deputy Chief Mark Monfore—April 2020  
Fire Marshal Brian Dean—August 2019  
Assistant Chief Michael Crotty—October 2019  
Battalion Chief Bill Tyra—April 2018  
Battalion Chief Brian Partch—April 2019  
Battalion Chief Michael Ascone—April 2019  
Battalion Chief Tom Wescott—May 2020  
Battalion Chief Ben Lewis—May 2020  
Battalion Chief Bill Kays—June 2020  
Safety Officer Bryan Grella—November 2018  
Safety Officer Paul Urbano—March 2020

## Engineers

Engineer Benjamin Simonds—January 2018  
Engineer Brian Leigh—June 2018  
Engineer Richard Chon—June 2018  
Engineer Wes Tibbetts—November 2018  
Engineer Jason Jeffers—April 2019  
Engineer Brian Murphy—April 2019  
Engineer Andrew Spohn—May 2019  
Engineer Jeffery Graham—June 2019  
Engineer Greg Wahlman—October 2019  
Engineer Anthony Brugliera—December 2019  
Engineer Paul Miranda—February 2020  
Engineer Tyler Greensfelder—February 2020  
Engineer Justin Mack—March 2020  
Engineer Ryan Schlueter—March 2020  
Engineer Jacob Sedlacek—May 2020  
Engineer Cameron Gregg—June 2020  
Engineer Skyler Gallien—June 2020  
Engineer Robert Whitney—June 2020  
Engineer Dustin Huf—June 2020  
Engineer Brett Phillips—November 2020  
Engineer Clayton Lex—November 2020  
Engineer Chad Martin—December 2020  
Engineer Jeremiah Gilliland—December 2020

## Company Officers

Senior Captain Dan Joyner—April 2019  
Senior Captain Michael Guest—April 2019  
Senior Captain Nicholas Davis—February 2020  
Senior Captain Eric Lawson—March 2020  
Senior Captain Zach Stubbs—December 2020

Captain Nathan Ellis—February 2018  
Captain Landon Forth—May 2018  
Captain David Robertson—June 2018  
Captain Scott Paschall—July 2018  
Captain William Anderstrom—November 2018  
Captain David Wallace—April 2019  
Captain Travis Reier—April 2019  
Captain Chad Richardson—May 2019  
Captain Wes Tibbetts—May 2019  
Captain Brian Murphy—February 2020  
Captain Andrew Harvey—March 2020  
Captain Dan Otis—May 2020  
Captain Justin Mack—July 2020  
Captain Joel Wagner—July 2020  
Captain Matthew Lambert—December 2020  
Captain Benjamin Simonds—December 2020



Thank you for your incredible support of Anchorage Fire Department throughout 2018-2020.

We are proud to serve this great community.



Photo credit Steven Rychetnik

