2020 Annual Report

Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District
2020 Annual Report

Special points of interest:

- Operations
- Yearly Incident Report
- Local 4749
- Division Reports
- Closing Remarks

Letter From Chief Joe Cluchey



OLD Greetings, on behalf of our members, officers, administration, and board of trustees I am proud to present this Annual Report for 2019.

Contained within this report are highlights on initiatives, actions, and accomplishments undertaken by our trustees, commissioners, administration, officers, and members to help ensure that our organization is prepared to meet the needs of our community. We work tirelessly to meet these needs through planning, preparation, prevention, training, and response while striving to remain fiscally responsible.

As you read through this report you will find many noteworthy activities and accomplishments, and we are very proud of these. What I am most proud of however, is how TOGETHER our members, administration, staff, commissioners, and trustees work collaboratively to serve the residents and visitors of our community.

OLD Some of the major accomplishments in 2019 include:

The approval and implementation of fiscal management policies to assist with our long-term financial planning and health. Such policies are essential to helping us meet our current and future needs.

The adoption and implementation of service delivery objectives. More information on how we improved the efficient use of personnel to revise our response model with "standardized" staffing can be found in Assistant Chief Hanson's report on Page 4 and Lt. Hall's report on page 19.

Significant improvement of our ISO Property Protection Class ratings in our "city" and "rural" areas can help keep home and business owners insurance rates down. During 2019, under the direction of Asst. Chief Hanson our ISO rating improved to the top 3.5% in the United States. You can read more about this on Page 4.

In the last two years Asst. Chief Hanson has overseen many other critical programs. As examples, we have planned, designed, implemented, and measured an entirely new response model. We have completely redesigned our response packages, defined our Initial Arriving Response Force (IARF), MABAS box cards, CAD run cards, and adopted a Service Delivery Objective; we use as a measurable standard. Along with this, we have implemented our IARF Fire

Ground Operational Manual, with objective based expectations for arriving companies at emergencies.

Our Fire Prevention Bureau helped coordinate public education presentations, tours, and special program presentations that were conducted by our members. Through these efforts we had 10,085 Community Risk Reduction contacts. This is in addition to the 500+ annual fire inspections; dozens of plan reviews; 1,000 hydrant flushes/inspections; and 1,100 visits by our Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal Schopp and her assistants have undertaken a proactive approach to preventing emergency incidents from occurring and reducing the impact for those that do occur. You can learn more about their specific activities in her report on Page 10.

During this past year we enhanced our response readiness through the work of several different committees and individuals. Committee members are from across all ranks, part-time / full-time status, and tenures. A few examples of how these committees have helped move us forward during 2019 include:

Taking delivery of a new Emergency One custom built fire engine. ***Our New Engine Committee*** members helped to create the specifications, evaluated the bids, accepted the lowest responsible bid, conducted meetings and inspections with the manufacturers and supplier to make sure we received a safe, reliable, and functional vehicle. After delivery, committee members outfitted the engine and provided training to our membership before placing this unit in service on December 16th, 2019 following a traditional "push-in" ceremony. Learn more about our other vehicle acquisitions and fleet maintenance program on Page 22.

Our standardization committee was not only instrumental in the developing and implementation of our Assigned Part-Time (APT) staffing program, they were also busy in nearly every aspect of readiness. Through their establishment / revisions to standards in training; vehicle & equipment checks; policies; and procedures this group of very driven individuals worked together as a team to help us "institutionalize" the expectations of our members. More information can be found on Page 19.

Our Fitness Committee helps provide our most valuable asset (our members) with the guidance and equipment to serve as "occupational athletes". More information on the Fitness Committee is on Page 18.

The Safety Committee has also been very active in protecting our members. During 2019 they arranged for a "Mock" OSHA safety inspection. Members have begun working on areas needing improvement, with plans of completing these improvements in 2020. You can read about more on this committees activities on Page 19.

Under the joint coordination of the Training committee; quartermaster; and Chief we prepared and equipped our members to respond to violent events. Our members participated in Rescue Task Force training for active shooter events and have been outfitted with ballistic protection to wear during potential hostile incidents. This is another example of how we are

transitioning to an "All Hazards" preparedness and response approach.

There have been so many more activities completed by our Divisions and groups (listed below), that we hope you will take the time to read the reports from each of these areas.

Car Seat Installation	**Page 12**
EMS	**Page 13**
Explorers	**Page 16**
Fire Investigations	**Page 15**
Foreign Fire Insurance Board	**Page 16**
Hazardous Material Team	**Page 16**
International Association of Firefighters Union Local 4749	**Page 9 and 21**
Public Education and Fire Prevention Bureau	**Page 10**
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	**Page 17**
Training	**Page 20**
Technical Rescue Team	**Page 14**
Quartermaster and Personal Protective Equipment	**Page 19**

Late in 2019, Mike Huneke was appointed by the Board of Trustees to be our newest Assistant Fire Chief (filling the vacancy of A/C Tate Haley who tendered his retirement resignation in December). Since assuming this role, Asst. Chief Huneke has been very busy in working on the planning and potential construction of a new Station 3 facility; he has helped lead the implementation of a new Program Manager initiative which is instrumental in giving leadership roles to our membership to address issues "at the lowest level" while enhancing accountability for projects and areas. Lastly he has spearheaded an initiative in updating our fire sign address marker program to validate the addresses, and provide essential marking and data to assist in timely responses. You can learn more about these and other activities under his leadership, by reviewing his report starting on Page 7.

We hope this report illustrates how the leadership and members of the Elburn and Countryside Fire Protection District focused on laying the groundwork for the future direction and strategic planning to continue our tradition of exceptional service. If you have any specific questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Letter From Assistant Chief Matt Hanson



- Global Pandemic
- Behavioral Health
- Tower 302

"Always forward, with the team; never alone"- I use this as my personal motto and often end emails and discussions with it.

Although the year 2020 will go down in the history books for many reasons, for our organization, in the year 2020; the ECFPD stood tall in the face of a Global Pandemic, and moved forward as a team. Battling an enemy we could not see, with no historical data or play book on how to proceed, our members remained strong, and worked with Administration to develop, implement, and continually reevaluate General Orders and Operational changes designed to keep our members, families and patients safe throughout the year. I'm proud to report we had minimal known exposures, and provided assistance to our neighboring agencies in drafting General Orders and Operational changes.

We were fortunate to obtain Corona Virus Relief Funding from Kane County, which helped to not only rebuild our personnel and payroll expenses, but also launch our pilot "Behavioral Health Wellness Check-In" program. This pilot program provided an opportunity for each member to participate in a private, "Zoom" style meeting with a licensed therapist. We are excited to provide this opportunity for our members in a continued effort to promote personal wellness, both physical and behavioral.



Our development into becoming a data driven fire department, coupled with our, strong working relationship with L4749 helped us bring home our first Tower Ladder (Tower 302) in July! Our Training Division, Fleet Maintenance Division, and multiple Special Committees all worked together, as a team, to bring this apparatus home (from New York), train our members, and prepare and outfit the aerial to meet our needs. We were fortunate to hire Marty Coomes, as an outside Instructor, to help us with this exciting project. This vehicle brings with it, many new possibilities of suppression, rescue, emergency response, safety for our crews, and continued ISO improvements, while we work to save lives and property.

Near the end of 2020, I began to transition less from an operations role, more to a personnel and administrative role. It remains my pleasure to continue to serve on the Southern Fox Valley Paramedic Advisory Board and the Kane County Fire Chiefs Board (Treasurer).

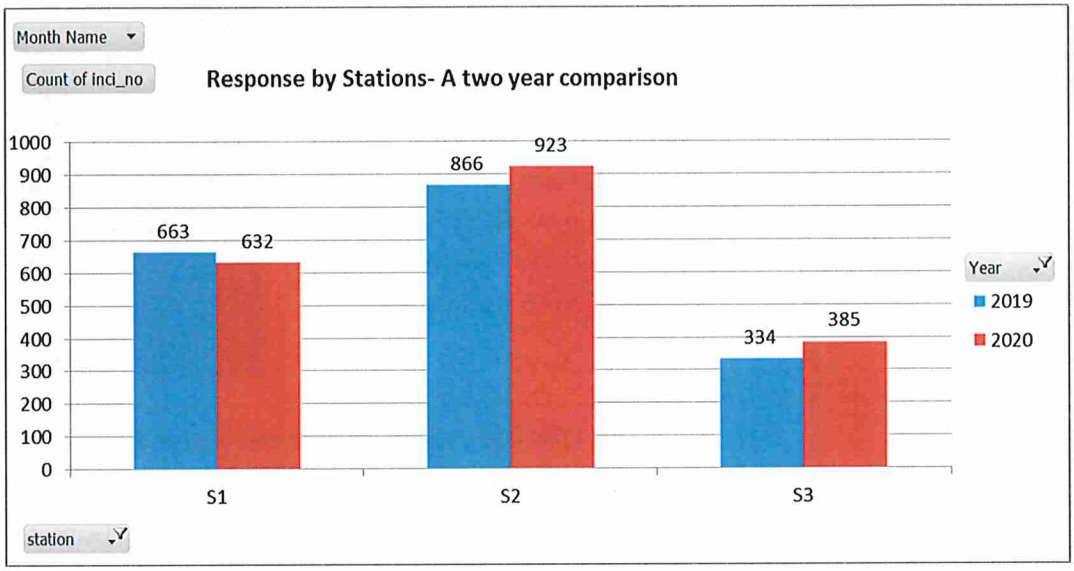
Our focus on empowering each other and investing in our membership has paid off in unmeasurable dividends. This next year we will continue to build each other up, develop each other, and move forward.

"Always forward, with the team; never alone"

2020 Incident Response Report

2020		Station 1	Station 2	Station 3
	Total	Total	Total	Total
Fire Incidents	76	40	29	7
Medical Incidents	1368	365	671	332
Service Incidents	496	227	223	46
Total Responses	1940	632	923	334

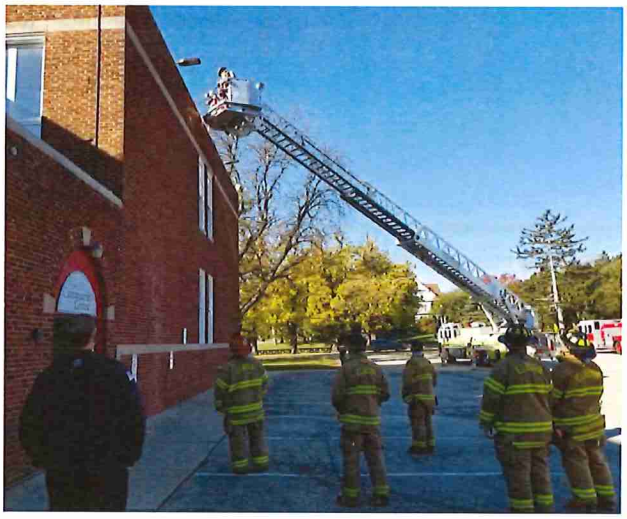
In the calendar year 2020, we completed 1940 emergency responses, broken out by the following charts by Station and District Zoning.



Zones	2019	2020
NORTH	328	374
CENTER	179	114
VILLAGE OF ELBURN	418	490
SOUTH	160	175
MILL CREEK	482	572
OUT OF DISTRICT	296	215
Grand Total	1863	1940

The Initial Arriving Response Force of the ECFPD measures itself against the adopted service delivery objective below. This is used as a "Target" response time for arriving units.

Service Delivery Objective: The ECFPD desires to have, an Initial Arriving Response Force, on scene in 6 minutes or less 80% of the time, to all areas of our district. The priority of the Initial Arriving Response Force will remain Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, Property Conservation and when needed, initiating ALS intervention.



The table below represents our end-of-year statistics, with each unit responding to their primary still district, as well as when our two Ambulances respond out of their primary district back to District one.

Unit	District	Responses	80th Percentile
Engine 301	District 1	520	05:29
Engine 302	District 2	605	06:50
Medic 352	District 2	577	06:41
Medic 352	District 1	185	08:40
Medic 353	District 3	315	07:35
Medic 353	District 1	292	06:20

Letter From Assistant Chief Mike Huneke



- OLD Station 3
- OLD Program Managers
- OLD Fire Signs

Old Early in November I accepted the position of Acting Assistant Chief to help continue to move projects along for the district. I was excited to begin to help with the administrative team and help with the implementation of the long term projects for the district. In mid-December I was officially appointed and then sworn in as Assistant Chief, in Early January 2020. I am excited to accept this new position; I will do my best to continue to help make this an incredible organization, one that we are all proud to be a part of. We have a great team, we are an incredible organization, and together we will continue to make this organization great. I am excited to continue our succession planning and member development, from the newest recruits to the officer development program.

I have been tasked with the construction of our new Fire Station 3, with plans to have it up and operational by late fall of 2020. We have started the implementation of our program manager systems. This creates more of a linear operating system for all of the programs within our organization. This system is designed to allow our people to operate outside of the rank structure and allow the program managers the opportunity to run their programs and report to one staff liaison, who oversees several programs. We have also began to tackle our fire sign update project. We have implemented an application program from Tri-com that allows us to quantify the fire sign program, but additionally allows us to validate address that Tri-com has in the CAD system. So far we have already found roughly nine issues over the 10% of fire signs that have been checked. These could have resulted in delayed responses in fire or medical emergencies. This will also be transitioned into our fire hydrant program, this spring with the Fire Marshal as we will use the same application to track and GPS locate all of the hydrants in the district.

I am excited to continue to be a part of this incredible organization, in closing ill share my thoughts and lessons from my swearing in ceremony:

Challenge the status quo, RESPECTFULLY, that's the lesson, have sound ideas, that support the entire organization, are not self-serving but better everyone.

Don't be afraid to be selfish, don't ever give up on yourself, and don't ever sell yourself short of what you can accomplish. Don't ever let someone discourage you, If you want it, go get it.

OLD Assistant Chief Huneke, supported by his children and parents as he is Sworn in by Board President Reyn-

Follow your goals and dreams, but don't ever forget while you're accomplishing those goals in this job, that they are to be in service to others, that we are here for those who need us at their worst moments in life. Selfishly train and prepare yourself, so that you can selflessly serve when called upon.

Always follow your heart; it almost never points you in the wrong direction. Never settle, don't ever accept less than what you deserve.

OLD Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it, don't ever be afraid to not know the answer, if you wait, it will probably be too late.

Whenever you get where you are going, don't forget to turn around and help those around, we have all been helped and assisted to get where we are. Always return the favor.

Last, No matter what, don't stop, never settle, whatever it takes. I use these words to drive me through the toughest parts of life. I use these words to remind myself of what my objectives are, and that I will succeed at achieving them. They are my objectives, what I care about and love most in life and I intend on accomplishing each and every one of them. I remind myself every single day to never quit, never settle and I must do whatever it takes to achieve them.

Local 4749: President Mike Didenko



In 2020 Elburn Professional Firefighters Association Local 4749 had a great year. The relationship has continued to grow stronger with the District along with the working relationship with the POC staff and Trustees.

Local 4749 was proud to bring on Brothers Chris Meyers, Andrew Oliver, and Steve Walters who have become a valued asset not only to the Department but the Local. It Is always great when you are able to hire brothers who have worked their way from cadet to Full time.

In 2020 Local 4749 worked tirelessly with the district to complete a four year collective bargaining agreement while maintaining a great working relationship. We worked with the district to come up models to utilize Elburn & Countryside's first ever Tower 302.

Despite all the challenges that 2020 has presented Local 4749 Brothers and Sisters have stayed committed to staying healthy, working together through this pandemic and making sure that we are stronger going into the new year.



2020 saw the conclusion of two Local 4749 member careers; both Lt. Nielsen and Lt. Lloyd retired in early 2021.

Fire Prevention: Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp



In 2020 there were 49 permits issued for new construction, remodels/alterations, fire alarm systems, hood systems, sprinkler systems and solar panel installations. The total amount of revenue generated from those permits was $10,302.28. Approximately 45 Burn Permits were issued in 2020 for ecological management of prairies, wet land and/or woodland property. Burn permits applications were added to the website to give residents and businesses the option of completing the process on line versus coming into the station.

Businesses were mailed a letter explaining that due to COVID-19 and for safety reasons, they had a choice of performing their own inspection or having ECFPD send one individual to perform the inspection. Approximately one-quarter of businesses requested that we perform their inspection. Most businesses appreciated this choice, and were compliant with performing the inspection and sending it back to us for our records.

Specific hydrants were flow tested in the Village of Elburn, Mill Creek and Wasco. Flow testing provides information on water supply and performing this yearly helps to determine any changes in our water supply. Additional hydrants were flow tested for ISO. All dry hydrants were tested, flowed and had the yearly maintenance performed. New hydrant tags were installed throughout the fire district in 2020. Personnel utilized an app created by Tricom to collect hydrant addresses and to verify addresses throughout the fire district. Both the Hydrant Collection App and the Address Verification App utilize GIS to identify exact address and hydrant locations.

OLD Duty crews flushed over 1,000 hydrants throughout our district!

Fire drills were performed at Greenfields of Geneva and Meadows Senior Apartments, Blackberry Creek Elementary School, Creative Beginnings Preschool School, Fabyan Elementary School, John Stewart Elementary School, Lily Lake Elementary School, Lighthouse Academy, MA Center Greenfriends Montessori School, Mill Creek Elementary School, Marklund Hyde Center and the six Marklund Group Homes.

We gave 12 station tours, participated in 4 parades, installed 7 car seats and had 6 CPR classes. Seven of our CPR instructors were also able to be recertified this year between lock downs. Between those items and fire drills, approximately 530 adults and 893 children were still reached during 2020.

The Elburn Explorers, with the help of Sean Darklak, CeCe Hathaway, Chris Meyers, Rob Stevens and Fire Marshal Schopp discussed our usual fire safety messages with Sparky. These were taped by BaTV at Elburn Station 1. BaTV generously donated their time that day, and then also edited the different scenes shot and created a video. The video was then sent out to all of the school principals via Drop Box. We received phone calls and emails from all of the schools thanking us for our efforts to continue teaching fire prevention to the students this year. The fire safety messages discussed were Covid Safety; Calling 911; Crawl Low in Smoke; Don't Play with Matches; Fire Extinguishers; Knowing 2 Ways Out; and Stop, Drop & Roll.

Public Education: Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp

A Residential Supra Key Lock Box program was implemented in part by a donation from Country Financial Advisor Ed Steum. The primary target audience is residents with mobility issues and health concerns. ECFPD has on hand 20 residential lock boxes for residents to use. The resident is required to put down a $50.00 deposit, which is returned when the lock box is returned. This will assist crews in making access to homes if someone is unable to unlock the door. Fire Safety educational materials, non-slip socks, slated spoons and hand sanitizer were handed out to the residents of Meadows Senior Apartments and to Seniors at the Senior Dinner at Lion's Park. Smoke & CO detectors were installed for residents on calls or when requested with the smoke detectors we received through the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and OSFM program, and CO detectors from BRK Electronics in Aurora.

Program Managers and Staff Liasons were assigned their pertinent sections of the Research and Collection Guide from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. This is an ongoing process to collect data in our quest to create a Strategic Plan for the future of ECFPD. A minimum of 3 years of data is required.

David Oliver is the Program Manager for fire hose. He has been working on putting hose cards on all the vehicles to keep track of where the hose is in case there ever is a recall or a problem with a certain hose length. He is also working on using PS Trax as the tracking system for the hose, which could be used to track the hose testing betting as well as the hose cards.

2020 Purchases included: 5 length of 100' rubber 1 1/2 bumper lines; 30 length of 50' attack 1 3/4 Replacement due to age; 10 length of 100' supply 5" for new truck and spare rack.

Working on getting: 1 length of 50' rubber 1 ¾; Attack hose for T302 (basket line); 1 length of 10' rubber 1 ¾; Attack hose for T302 (basket line); 2 Elkhart Brass Smoothbore Nozzles 15/16 tips 160gpm

Fire Prevention: Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp

Car Seat Installation: FF/PM Joe Homon



Joe Homon installs car seats for us. For the year 2020 only 7 car seat installations have been assisted at our Fire Stations. This unfortunately is due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hard Facts about Safety in Cars: Road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States. Correctly used child safety seats can reduce the risk of death by as much as 71 percent. More than half of car seats are not used or installed correctly. For more information: https://www.safekids.org/car-seat

Emergency Medical Services: Lt. Dan Czaruk

Elburn EMS Analytics
Total EMS Calls: 1283
875-ALS
414-BLS
379- Calls transported lights and sirens.
M352:690 & M353:526
201- Positive Screening cases of COVID-19

Call totals by Shift:
Gold Shift:455
Red Shift: 424
Black Shift:404
Busiest Months: January, July and August
Busiest Days: Tuesday and Wednesday
Busiest Times: 9am-1200

AVG SCENE TIMES
Trauma: 20:55
50% of calls, scene times are less than 20 minutes
90 percentile scene time is 30:53
STEMI (Myocardial Infarction or Heart Attack): 17:17
67% of calls, scene times are less than 20mins
90th percentile scene time is 21:56
100% 12-lead transmission rate for suspected STEMI's
Average time from patient contact to 12-lead: 06:59 with a 90th percentile of 11:00
Stroke: 18:00
86% of suspected stroke patients received a bG check.
Cardiac: 19 CPR attempts with 8 patient achieving ROSC (Return of Spontaneous Circulation or Save)= 42% per CPR attempts

Department Statistics:
Top Three types of calls: Behavioral/psych, injury, generalized weakness

Technical Rescue Team: Lt. Trevor Hall



Lots of changes this year. Lt. Algrim is still in charge of MABAS Division 13 TRT Team. I was the ECFPD TRT Coordinator until December 1st, 2020 as Lt. Algrim transitioned into other areas of responsibilities for ECFPD. M. Linden took over at the ECFPD TRT Coordinator. R. Seggebruch has taken on the responsibility of attending the MABAS Division 13 TRT Training Committee. AC Hanson and D. Oliver have stepped down from the ECFPD TRT team. Thank you both for your years of service with the ECFPD TRT. Due to COVID-19 there were only two MABAS Div. 13 TRT drills that did not get canceled. Team members did continue to train on their own with ropes and rigging systems. M. Linden is seeking out employees that are interested in TRT to join the team to replace members that have stepped down. Good job ECFPD TRT for doing what you do.

Hazardous Material Training: Lt. James Lloyd



2020 presented a challenge to the team with training. Members were still able to participate in several drills when allowed by CDC and IDPH guidelines. Training and Drills are scheduled for the new year. The Coordinators will continue to review guidelines from the CDC to ensure we are following current guidelines and safe practices for drills and responses.

Members of the Hazardous Materials Team and Technical Rescue assisted in deploying the MABAS asset Western Shelter to Delnor Hospital. Delnor Hospital has used the shelter several times when the cases of COVID-19 spike in the area.

Division 13 received a grant from Kane County LEPC in the amount of $1,050. The money was used to purchase an iPad that is on Elburn's Hazardous Materials Trailer. The iPad has numerous apps that are used for Hazard Materials incidents.

Lt. Mulvihill will be the new Elburn Haz-Mat Coordinator. St. Charles Fire's Joe Davila and Aurora Fire's John Ross will be heading up the Division Team for MABAS 13.

Fire and Arson Investigations: FF/PM Rob Stevens



The Investigation Team consists of 6 members. Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp, Capt Brian Schopp Team Lead Rob Stevens, Lt Chris Mulvihill , Eric Daffron and Mike Didenko. The Investigation Team provides a Fire Investigator dedicated to each shift.

Of the six members of the Investigation Team, three members currently serve on the Kane County Fire & Arson Investigation team. Robert Stevens Training Officer, Lt Mulvihill, and Eric Daffron. This Team is a combination of Fire & Arson Investigators throughout the Kane County areas Fire Departments, who come together to determine and assist Kane County Fire Departments and unincorporated areas , with origin and cause to fires, and explosions.

In March 2020 the ECFPD Investigation team attended the Will, Cook and Grundy County Fire Investigation Conference. This Conference is held annually and ECFPD has been represented at the conference for the past 9 years with 2020 being our 10th consecutive year. The topics that were covered are as followed, Vehicle Fire Investigation, An in-depth analysis and understanding of the fire dynamics of vehicle fires, understanding and identification of the effects of ventilation, and analysis of fire patterns. Agricultural and Heavy Equipment, Agricultural and construction equipment, identifying and understanding the electrical and fuel systems, common failures causing fires, analysis of ventilation, identification of fire patterns. Investigating Juvenile Fire Setters, Dynamics of the Fire Investigation, Motives, Interviewing/ interrogation, Juvenile Laws, Philological Aspects of the Juvenile Fire Setter, Prosecution and or Treatment.

With 2020 being the year of COVID-19 the Investigation Team was limited on hands on and class trainings as were most. However the ECFPD Investigation Team participated in training though CFI.NET, (Certified Fire Investigations IAAI. This gave our Team Members the opportunity to learn new topics along with gain a greater knowledge into topics that had been learned in the past during a time when classes were canceled.

For 2021 Our Investigation Team will be working diligently this year with the Administration in hopes to place two new members onto our Team. Those perspective members are Chris Spitzock and Bryon Ferguson.

The Investigation team for 2021 will be adding a new training schedule with class room and hands on for our Team Members along with participating more with the Kane County Fire Investigation Task Force

This year the Investigation team continued to see a trend around the Kane County and neighboring county's with dehumidifier fires. Our district also had a dehumidifier fire that caused significant damage. Our Investigation is helping provide insight to this case so that a possible national recall can be made, and possibly save numerous homes and life's from an unsafe product.

The ECFPD Fire & Arson Investigation Team is a vital component of fire department operations. Accurate fire origin and cause determinations are essential to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District from fire and explosions. As a result of thorough and accurate fire investigations, future incidents and crimes can be prevented, and

responsible parties can be held accountable.

The Fire Investigation Team conducts systematic investigations following NFPA 921, the national standard for fire investigations. The many facets of an investigation include scene examination and analysis, photograph and video documentation, evidence recognition and collection, diagrams, interviews, and reporting. The investigations are based on facts and evidence and utilize the scientific method, which provides a widely accepted organizational and analytical process.

Training: Lt. Trevor Hall



I took over as the Training Officer from Lt. Algrim as he moves on to other areas of responsibility. As we are driven by statistics and ISO, I looked at implementing better tracking for things that are accredited by ISO. I reached out to our on-line training program Target Solutions to further advance our "ISO Tracking". This was broken down into three categories as each has different requirements. All three have roughly the same amount of hours that may need to be obtained but may require different training. The three categories are Firefighter, Driver/Operator, and Officer. With the implementation of this, employees can readily see on Target Solutions where they stand with completing the required hours/training for the year. As we continue to use this record keeping it will help us in our endeavor to moving towards a better ISO class and improve on our training. There is one down fall to ISO and it is that they do not count EMS training at all. We still document our EMS training and that is why there is a discrepancy in ISO Hours versus Total hours in the numbers listed.

ECFPD purchased a Tower in July and the training committee worked on setting up training for our members to get people properly trained before we put Tower 302 in service. The training division was assisted in this task by retired Battalion Chief M. Coomes. Marty was a Truck Officer for numerous years and his experience has helped train our members. My goal for the training division next year is to have 85% of our employees 100% compliant with ISO Training. This should be an obtainable expectation with our employees doing the required training that has been set forth and entering it. Due to COVID-19, 2020 was a difficult year to use as a baseline because we could not always train on the subjects or Job Performance Records (JPRs) that needed to be trained on due to social distancing guidelines. The Training Division has some ideas moving forward if our social distancing guidelines have to be strengthened. Total Training Hours for everything was 9,650.54 hrs, For ISO Training Hours Firefighter was 1,685.62 hrs, ISO Driver/Operator was 3,379.73 hrs, ISO Officer was 1,350.58 hrs. Thank you to all the members for all the training that you did get accomplished during the past year.

Basic Operations Firefighter Academy: Lt. Trevor Hall

The 2020 ECFPD BOF Academy started off great. We had seven ECFPD recruits along with three from Hinckley Fire Protection District attend the academy. Lt. Algrim was the Lead Instructor in charge of administrative tasks for the academy, I was the Lead Instructor in charge of day-to-day operations. Other instructors included Lt. Lloyd, Lt. Fuller, S. Coomes, M. Linden, R. Seggebruch, D. Oliver, K. Suriano, B. Ferguson, S. Darlak, M. Horner, and S. Ferris. Class and hands on training started off great. There was definitely a sense of team unity in this group of recruits from Day 1. First the weather did not cooperate with the schedule then COVID-19 started to arrive. Lt. Algrim and I started planning for the event if class had to shut down. Lt. Lloyd and Lt. Fuller taught and completed the Haz-Mat Operations portion of the class. COVID-19 then started shutting things down. Lt. Algrim and I figured out a solution to keep class going. Mod B and C were left to teach for the in person class portion of the academy. Lt. Algrim and I received phone calls from a few area academies to see what we were doing. It was definitely nice to brainstorm with other area instructors and nice to hear that what we had setup was ahead of the curve on dealing with COVID-19. Class transitioned to remote learning on Zoom for Mod B and C. After completing the class room portion of the class the academy was shut down for almost two months waiting for some of the restrictions on COVID-19 to be lifted so in person hands on training could be completed. The practical portion of the class started back up at the end of May and ended on June 25th. Everyone made it through the class. Due to the schedule being lengthened for the Academy and needing the recruits to get to shift sooner it was determined by the Chiefs and Lt. Algrim and Lt. Hall that we should try a new path for getting the recruits released to shift faster. This new path was to continue scheduled training for a month on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. In years past the recruits graduated the Academy then came in on shifts to do their required JPR training to be released to shift. This takes time not only on the shift personnel but also the recruits. We could be looking at three to six months before some recruits would be released to shift in the past. For our seven members we took about a month and on July 6th we started the recruit JPR training and we ended it on August 19th. We did accomplish getting a good start with the recruit JPR book. This definitely did help some of the recruits get to shift faster while others are still working on getting released to shift. Through this challenging year Lt. Algrim and myself are proud of the recruits, instructors, and shift staff that have continued to adapt and overcome every challenge that has been thrown at us. Graduation was on September 25th. Lt. Algrim and I would like to thank everyone that was involved in the 2020 ECFPD BOF Academy.

Assigned Part-Time Program: Lt. Trevor Hall

The APT program continues into its second year. This year we were fortunate to see what we had envisioned for this program come true. This program was setup to have progression in our department for our part-time staff. The progression from Recruit to Swing Part-Time (SPT) to Assigned Part-Time (APT) and hopefully/eventually being hired as a Full-Time member. This year we were able to see this progression happen for 3 of our past APT members. Chris Meyers, Andrew Oliver, and Steven Walter were all hired as full-time members. This left vacancies in the APT program. We had SPT members that then moved up to the APT program to fill in those vacancies. The two that progressed from the SPT to the APT positions were Henry Wimmer, Stephen Bicos, and Dylan Razee. We have two vacancies at the time of this report. We anticipate holding interviews for the APT position in the near future for eligible SPT members to fill these two open slots. We believe the program has been running well and continue to evaluate it and make adjustments as needed.

Fitness Committee: Lt. Steve Fuller



OLD This year we have continued to create a healthier, safer, and higher performing department through our continued training with Zac Schrieber of KineticZ. As a department we have continued to decrease resting heart rate and body weight and increase cardiovascular strength, as well as muscular strength and flexibility. Several department members represented Elburn and participated in the "Fight For Air Climb" once again. We purchased two rowing machines and two assault bikes which have gotten much use in the weekly workouts as well as in individual use. In the upcoming year we intend to increase member participation in scheduled workouts and continue our functional fitness training in order to stay healthy and prepared. We will continue to assess the need for new and upgraded workout equipment as well as upkeep and maintenance of current equipment.

Foreign Fire Insurance Board: Chairman FF/PM Eric Daffron



The Foreign Fire Insurance Board consists of seven trustees. The District Fire Chief, who holds office by virtue of rank; and six members who are elected at large by the members. It is the mission of the Foreign Fire Insurance Board to receive and account for revenues from the tax on fire insurance policies sold by foreign (out of state) insurance companies, and to use such funds for the maintenance, use, and benefit of the Elburn and Countryside Fire Protection District.

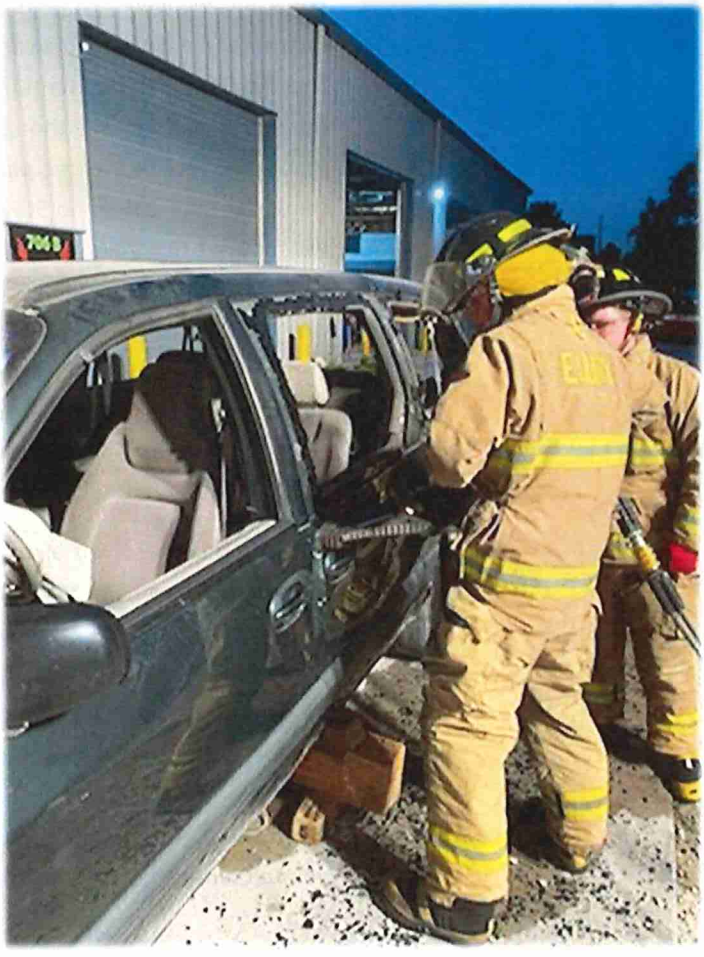


In 2020 the board purchased items to benefit the district and it members. Notable purchases included step ladders, training manikins, coffee subscription, and station towels. The Foreign Fire Insurance Board was also tasked with helping outfit our new Station 3. Station 3 purchases included kitchen appliances, fitness equipment, televisions, station furniture, dishware and utensils.

Explorers: FF/PM Chris Meyers



The explorer post had a busy year, despite COVID-19 restrictions to the building. They were able to train the first, third, and fourth Thursday of each month at Station 1. They also completed training at the career center, going over ladder operations, and team dynamics. They were also able to secure a vehicle to use for extrication training, where they practiced dash rolls/lifts, glass removal, cribbing, with the use of hydraulic extrication tools and hand tools. There are ten explorers on the roster, and eight advisors.



Quartermaster: FF/PM Mike Didenko



In 2019 with the rising needs of the district we established a new order system for uniforms with UAS (Unique apparel Solutions). Having a full year in 2020 we have been met with multiple challenges (COVID-19) during this pandemic. While things have been shut down and or slowed down our partnership with UAS has been forging forward. The communication, receiving uniforms, tracking, and data has been great.

In 2020, while maintaining the budget we were able to add multiple items to the uniform store to give our members more options for daily wear which has extended the life on uniforms including added moral to the members.

We were also able to continue with the Fire gear replacement program this year and will keep that going forward for the next year. With the features that we have in place in 2020 going into the new year we will be able to identify additional cost saving measures to help us with the program as a whole and hopefully allow us to expand our capabilities even farther.

SCBA: FF/PM Matt Linden



2020 has brought some interesting things to the district in all areas of responsibility. For SCBAs we were just getting ready to start the trial process for three different air pack manufacturers. We developed a committee to try SCOTT, Interspiro, and MSA. We set a day aside and had the different representatives come in at different times to show us their product. We came up with a plan that we thought would best simulate working in the SCBA in actual conditions. Just as we received all the packs, props, and equipment to start the trials, COVID-19 hit. Everything was shut down, no SCBA trials were able to be attempted until June. Once June arrived, we sent out the trials plan again and gave people a month to get into a pack, and get us feedback. We took that feedback and compiled it, then took the results to the Chiefs for consideration. I'd like to thank AC Huneke, Capt. Schopp, Lt. Algrim, Lt. Hall, Rob Stevens, Stephen Coomes, Chris Meyers, Mike Horner, and Sam Ferris for stepping up to help put this together. Through some different conversations with the Chiefs, I know that we are in the process of starting the grant writing process in an effort to reduce the financial impact of this large purchase on ECFPD.

This year I was also able to finish engraving the masks we currently have, so that records for them can be tracked easier. I also hope to use this assigned number to track repairs as we move forward. We have been able to make all necessary repairs to our current SCBAs, and didn't have to remove any of the equipment from service due to damage, or it not being able to be repaired. We also had to go through Tower 302 and get the SCBA bottles on the main tested, and get the seats fitted with different brackets for our SCBAs. We also had to have hose ends made so we could use the on-board air when working out of the basket, and be able to use the fill on the platform so we could fill the bottles on the main without removing them. Up to this point in our year, I've been able to stay within the budget that was proposed and approved last year.

Standardization Committee: Lt. Trevor Hall



The committee members are Lt. Nielsen, Lt. Fuller, Lt. Hall, J. Miller, K. Suriano, R. Seggebruch. With Lt. Nielsen retiring we have added A. Poynor and S. Darlak. This committee has been tasked with standardizing how the department functions. All changes are to be funneled through Standardization Committee for approval. The committee started to work on Policy and Procedures and turned things over to Chief Cluchey and R. Seggebruch. In September/ October of 2020, R. Seggebruch was appointed committee chair person. The committee has also worked on hose loads, Daily PSTrax setups, equipment for the rigs, training topics, tactics and day-to-day operations and activities. The committee is working to maintain a standardized means of how we operate day-to-day and implementing what employees would like to see moving forward.

Safety Committee: Lt. James Lloyd



The Cancer Reduction Policy was completed and submitted to the Standardization Committee for them to review. Originally named the Post Fire Decontamination policy. Cancer diagnosis in firefighters are still above those of the general population. We have seen a positive change in the department members when it comes to cleaning of the gear, rigs and stations. We received equipment from IFSI to assist with post fire decontamination of turnout gear. The equipment has been placed on the frontline rigs for people to use.

The Safety Committee has implemented conducting Station Inspections on a monthly basis. They are using the NFPA Facility Checklist. This allows us to address any problems early before they could potentially become a major issue.

We had minimal injuries and accidents this last year. The Safety Committee is working on ways to address these. We had a site visit from IPRF earlier in the year. They have made several recommendations on improving the safety committee, reducing accidents and reducing injuries.

OSHA/IDOL/ECFPD Compliance

The department is maintaining their compliance with all of these. All of the different program managers are working with their committees and team members to make sure they are in compliance. Each area works to ensure they are following all of these along with associated NFPA Standards. As the program managers change they are trained to ensure we can continue with staying compliant.

This program along with Safety are working together and are still in the development stage. It continues to make progress, but has been challenged by COVID-19 compliancy.

Meters and Monitors

We have been accomplishing monthly calibrations of the 4 gas, CO and Senseit monitors that are on all of the department vehicles. We continue to replace these as the sensors expire or the meter reaches its end of life. MABAS has assisted with providing calibration gas when it is needed.

MSDS and SDS Sheets

All 3 stations have a current MSDS/SDS compliance book. We are updating them when we receive new products that require them.

Tier II

No new Tier II sheets to report on. We will start receiving the 2021 information from the business in the next few months. This is accomplished on an annual basis by the business and is an EPA requirement for them. They also submit them to Kane County LEPC. These files are changing yearly as businesses continue to grow or downsize. With the projected growth of the district this program will grow. It also changes with the yearly requirements set forth by the EPA and State of Illinois EPA as to what needs to be reported.

Honor Guard: Co-Commander Stephen Coomes



The year of 2020 was a very different year for our department's honor guard. The effects of COVID-19 prevented our honor guard from meeting and training as much as we wanted to, but our members still completed many hours of training through the AFFI and the department. We were able to participate in many events such as the swearing in/promotional ceremony of FF/PM Joe Miller, Lt. Trevor Hall, and Assistant Chief Mike Huneke, the 2020 AFFI Honor Guard convention where we unveiled the new "Elburn Fold" created by FF/PM Bryon Ferguson, the Elburn BOF academy recruit graduation, the swearing in ceremony of FF/PM Steven Walter, FF/PM Andrew Oliver, and FF/PM Chris Meyers, and our departments annual 9/11 memorial ceremony. We also had members of our honor guard travel to South Holland to participate in honor guard duty for a firefighter that was lost in the line of duty this year. We had two new additions to the Honor Guard in 2020 with Brother Matt Linden and Lt. Greg Algrim being inducted into the AFFI Honor Guard at the convention in Naperville.



Our goals for 2021 are to continue to be active in the department and community with multiple events already scheduled such as the Station 3 grand opening, Walkout ceremonies for two of our members that are retiring, the promotional ceremony of two new Lieutenants, the 2021 Elburn BOF recruit academy graduation, the Elburn Days Parade, our annual ECFPD 9/11 memorial ceremony, and any other events that we are called upon to help. The annual AFFI Honor Guard convention has been cancelled for 2021 due to COVID-19, but we will continue to put in the training on our own to be prepared to help our district or surrounding departments when needed. We are very grateful to have the ability to bring a professional Honor Guard to our Fire District and community and look forward to continuing to improve our skills and provide the most honorable service that we are able to.



The Honor Guard participating in a recent event

Buildings and Grounds: Assistant Chief Mike Huneke



OLD As 2019 came to a close, we began the groundwork for replacing fire station 3, using the existing property to build a new facility. Studio 222 Architecture has developed a concept plan and all of the necessary site surveys were completed to get the project rolling. The village of Lily Lake approve our permanent use application late in 2019 in order for us to start the project. We have a very aggressive building schedule in order to make sure we are in the new building before the end of 2020. Prior to winter coming, a temporary garage was built in order to keep Engine 303 inside and warm for the winter months. This will allow us to still respond to structure fires in accordance with our response plans and our service delivery objectives.

Vehicle Maintenance: FF/PM Eric Daffron



Over the course of 2020 our vehicle maintenance program has gone through several administrative changes. Starting off with Lt. James Lloyd as fleet manager working alongside Chris Elliot as Mechanic. In the fall we had to say goodbye and wish Chris the best of luck as he resigned to start his full-time firefighting career with a neighboring department. I took over the program in October. My interest in fleet manager grew stronger as he had the opportunity to participate in purchasing our newest engine. Since then I have worked alongside with Lt. Lloyd as he prepared to retire and move to Texas. We cannot thank Lt. Lloyd enough for his dedication to our fleet and fire district.

During this past year our fleet has also went through several updates. First was replacing our aging command vehicle Chevrolet Tahoe with a new 2020 Tahoe. In the process of purchasing the new vehicle we decided to update the overall look of the vehicle as well as its graphics. This truck now matches our current command fleet. Secondly, Engine 1004 suffered from numerous large mechanical issues. Including replacing both the engine and transmission with factory refurbished units. Soon after major structural damage in the form of corrosion was found. Fleet maintenance has started the warranty claim process for the corrosion to be repaired by Fire Service Inc.. Fire Service Inc. expects to have our vehicle back in early 2021. Next, our district has begun the process of equipping our newly purchased Tower Ladder. They have carefully selected a durable, used Tower Ladder from a department in New York. This vehicle has gone through all proper testing, as well as lettering and fitting of all necessary equipment. By purchasing this vehicle, it will require additional preventative maintenance due to the large array of moving parts and systems within. Tower Ladder 302 is expected to go into service early 2021.

We continue to perform all preventative maintenance necessary to keep our fleet in top operating condition. Fleet maintenance looks forward to the purchase of a new Fire Engine and Fire Marshal vehicle in the year to come.

Fire Signs: FF/PM Joe Miller



2020 not only offered us COVID but it also offered us new fire signs. We have implemented the Collector App which allows us to track and grade each fire sign in the district. The first half of this year was spent gathering all said data, only very few areas still need data gathering. In Spring we received our initial batch of new fire signs to replace the most poorly recorded signs. Throughout COVID, training and adapting to new changes, duty crews have been out installing these signs. This work has been very tedious as crews are working through weather, busy schedules, delayed utility locating and also ensuring that each resident is happy with the placement of their sign. The effort has been much appreciated to all of those involved in putting these signs up. I can tell we are doing a great job as we routinely get new requests from citizens that want their signs updated to the new style that they see throughout the district. The work is appreciated and noticed by not only district members but also by district citizens. Keep up the work!

CPR: FF/PM Joe Miller

The year 2020 was very interesting to say the least. The CPR budget was developed pre -COVID-19 and it was designed to account for 120 BLS students, 70 Heartsaver students, 4 new live feedback mannequins and also several pieces of new supply (i.e gloves, first aid equipment, etc). Due to COVID we did not see this many students at all between State restrictions, following CDC guidelines and also AHA extending the recommended renewal date of thousands of licenses. All in all, we taught 44 BLS students. These were done safely following all the guidelines listed above. Talking to these students before and after classes we came to find out that they were extremely thankful that we were able to host CPR classes and get them the certifications they need in order to continue their professions as healthcare providers.

As we are now into a new year, we have many thoughts on how to handle CPR onward. First, we are placing an order to obtain the digital copies of the new 2020 videos and instructor manuals. Second, we plan on ordering new mannequins with live feedback. Currently we have one set, however, COVID-19 taught us that it is very time consuming to pass around the same mannequin while disinfecting between each person. That being said we plan on ordering more with the new year. This is also a requirement from AHA in order to teach any of the new 2020 material. Third, we plan on changing up the way we do our annual CPR recertification. Per the SFVEMSS providers only have to have a current CPR card. That being said we are planning on switching to an actual recertification class, rather than a full class, and also incorporating cardiac arrest scenarios with your actual crew, equipment and operating out of our system protocols. This allows the class to be more geared towards us as 911 responders, refresh us on "code" protocols and actually use our skills.

All in all, I am very proud of our CPR Instructors and how they have handled this challenging year. So thank you to all involved and keep up the strong work. 2020 has proved to us we can only go up from here, and that is the plan.

Closing Remarks: Assistant Chief Matt Hanson



As you can see, in the year 2020 our membership did not slow down, and our organization continued to build and succeed. We faced different challenges this year, all of which our team, took on and moved past. The focus of this administrative team remains taking care of our personnel and giving them tools to thrive. Listening to each other, taking care of each other, and making decisions to support the needs of the membership, keeps driving this team forward.

Looking at the strides our membership made in 2020 makes me excited to see what this Fire Department will do in the future!



"Listening to each other, taking care of each other, and making decisions to support the needs of the membership, keeps driving this team forward."