2021 Annual Report

Elburn & Countryside
Fire Protection District
2021 Annual Report

Special points of interest:

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

Letter From Chief Joe Cluchey



Greetings and thank you for reviewing our 2021 Annual Report. It has been just over five years since I was fortunate enough to be hired as the Fire Chief of this District. I recall a question that was asked of me by the Trustees during my interview for the position which was "If we were to hire you as the fire chief, what would your plan for the District be?" I explained to the Board that as an outside candidate I would establish my expectations for our members and we would "plan to plan". I went on to discuss my intent to work with the Board, our officers, and membership to determine what our internal priorities and needs were and then to work with our affiliated agencies and community to evaluate our "external needs". Once those needs were determined, it would be our intent to work with our internal and external stakeholders to act upon those needs.

Internally, the Trustees and administration made the conscious decision to avoid writing a lengthy long-term strategic plan and instead develop "rolling" strategic objectives. As we worked forward with this concept we were able to establish major objectives in the following areas: Standardized Operational Objectives, Personnel Development Objectives, Service Delivery Objectives, Financial Objectives, Capital Facilities, Apparatus, and Equipment Objectives

The members and leadership who have come before us provided the fertile soil for us to plant the seeds for our future. Working collaboratively among every rank and position within the District, as well as with our neighboring response partners, we were able to nurture the budding plants of progress. I am extremely proud to say that 2021 has provided us with many examples of how everybody's combined efforts over the last five years have yielded fruitful results.

The attached annual report highlights some of the incredible progress that has been made towards many of the objectives in the last year, and below is a brief summary of some of the most noteworthy outcomes that were achieved in 2021 despite the increased demands and impacts from the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic:

<u>Standardized Operational Objectives</u>

- In 2021 we were able to revise our staffing model to add an additional part-time apprentice member assigned to each shift. In addition to the increased capabilities of serving our community, this also reduces our mandatory overtime and provides us with "depth" for our

future full-time employees. This would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Elburn Professional Firefighter's Union Local 4749; our members; and the Trustees.

- We continued establishing/revising the standard conditions and actions our members must take at an emergency scene to achieve standard results of safe operations. This is instituted through our Initial Arriving Response Force objectives.

Personnel Development Objectives

- We continue to revise and enhance our "program manager roles" which gives our members ownership to make improvements to their areas of responsibility and provides us with a force-multiplier to improve nearly every area of our organization.
- During the Fall of 2021, we hosted our first "general public" Emergency Medical Technician-Basic course. Our EMS Committee and team leaders developed the proposal for this course and ran the student-paid tuition program with great success. Several of the "graduates" will remain as recruit Firefighter/EMT members with our District while other graduates will be serving their communities with other departments or EMS agencies.
- Our training committee and instructors were very active again upgrading our Basic Operations Firefighter Academy by incorporating a "Release to Shift Bootcamp" as part of the basic training.
- In late 2021, our Chief Officers created an in-house "Leadership & Officer Development" program that will begin in January 2022 to enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of our current and future leaders.

Service Delivery Objectives (SDO)

- Establishing benchmarks that assist us in meeting the needs of the public in a timely manner
- We opened our new Station 3 in February, which currently houses three members who work as a "jump crew" on the ambulance or ALS tender (depending upon the call). Station 3 helps us meet our SDOs for a large portion of their "first due" service area.
- Our Fire Marshal led the adoption of formal Fire Prevention Service Delivery Objectives, which will assist in our community risk reduction efforts.
- Our Chief has been working with the police chiefs from the Village of Elburn and Village of Campton Hills to create a Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT) to aid in protecting larger-scale community events or emergency responses. He participated in a CERT class and CERT Train-the-Trainer class to allow the Elburn-Campton Hills Area CERT Team to host our inaugural class in March and April of 2022. Having a group of civilian volunteers will help enhance to capabilities of first responders during larger events.
- We continued to develop and improve upon our "data-based" decision guidance that assists in evaluating and meeting our service benchmarks. In late 2021, the Board of Trustees ap-

proved the hiring of a Data Specialist who will join us in January 2022.

Financial Objectives

- In 2021 we were able to gain compliance with our fund balance policies.
- We also were able to restructure our Station 3 construction loans to pay them off in a shorter and more cost-efficient manner.
- We continued to identify and implement cost-saving improvements without reducing our capabilities or service deliveries.

Capital Facilities and Apparatus Objectives

- As previously mentioned, we completed the construction of Station 3 on schedule and under budget.
- We initiated an architectural review and needs assessment for Station 2 rehabilitation to address significant infrastructure shortcomings. We have decision packages developed for future guidance, if and when, grant funding becomes available or when supply chain and labor costs improve.
- We have updated our vehicle and capital equipment replacement plans and have ordered a new engine for Station 2. With the arrival of this engine in mid to late 2022, we will move our 2005 engine to reserve, and decommission our 1996 engine.

It is my sincere hope that you take the time to read this entire annual report. In doing so, I am certain you will be able to see how our members, officers, administrative staff, Fire Commission, and Trustees continue working toward our vision of being a progressive inward and outward-facing organization that leads the community in public safety. As you read on, you will clearly see the "pride in ownership" displayed in each section of this report and you will see that our greatest strength is the combined effort of our dedicated members!

Lastly, I hope you are as proud as I am of the members who continue to work so diligently in providing the highest quality of service possible commensurate with our fiscal means and responsibilities.



Lt. Linden speaking during his promotional ceremony

Letter From Assistant Chief Matt Hanson



- OSHA
- Tower 302
- Data Specialist

This administrative team, has made a conscious effort over the last few years to empower our members. We are using data more and more to drive and support our employee centered vision. When you empower people, give them tools to succeed, and provide an environment in which they are not only invested, but a key to its success, you see amazing outcomes.

Serving as the department's Designated Infection Control Officer (DICO) during our second year operating in a global pandemic has proven itself to be challenging. However, keeping lines of communication open with our EMS Team, Local 4749, neighboring Fire Departments and Ambulance Services we have been able to navigate through the changing directives and guidance. This has allowed us to maintain our priority of keeping each other safe, and providing a safe environment for our patients and guests in our buildings. It remains my pleasure to continue to serve on the Southern Fox Valley Paramedic Advisory Board and the Kane County Fire Chiefs Board (Treasurer).

In 2021, we received a surprise inspection from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) office. This non-scheduled inspection is an all-inclusive inspection of all facilities, vehicles, training records, fire ground operational materials, etc. This inspection lasted eight hours and also included interviews with Firefighters and Officers. I am proud to report that not only were we listed as an agency not needing a follow-up inspection with no issues cited, but also given special recognition for the highly trained firefighters and officers we had on staff! This is a direct reflection of our Company Officers, Training Programs, Safety Committee and our top notch personnel!

The hard work of the membership paid off this year as we put our first Tower Ladder, Tower 302, in service! The men and women of the ECFPD not only met a standard for training for this new apparatus but exceeded and raised the bar. I have no doubt Tower 302 will quickly earn the respect of our auto-aid partners. Our Training Division, Fleet Maintenance Division, and multiple Special Committees deserve special recognition for this achievement.

We are excited to have developed a new administrative position that will strengthen our ability to use our own data in an aggressive, calculated, and measurable decision-making process. Our first Data Specialist started soon after the first of the year (2022). We are excited to fill this position with a current leader in the area and industry, who specializes in Fire Department Response Force Analytics. This is a strong move forward for the ECFPD.

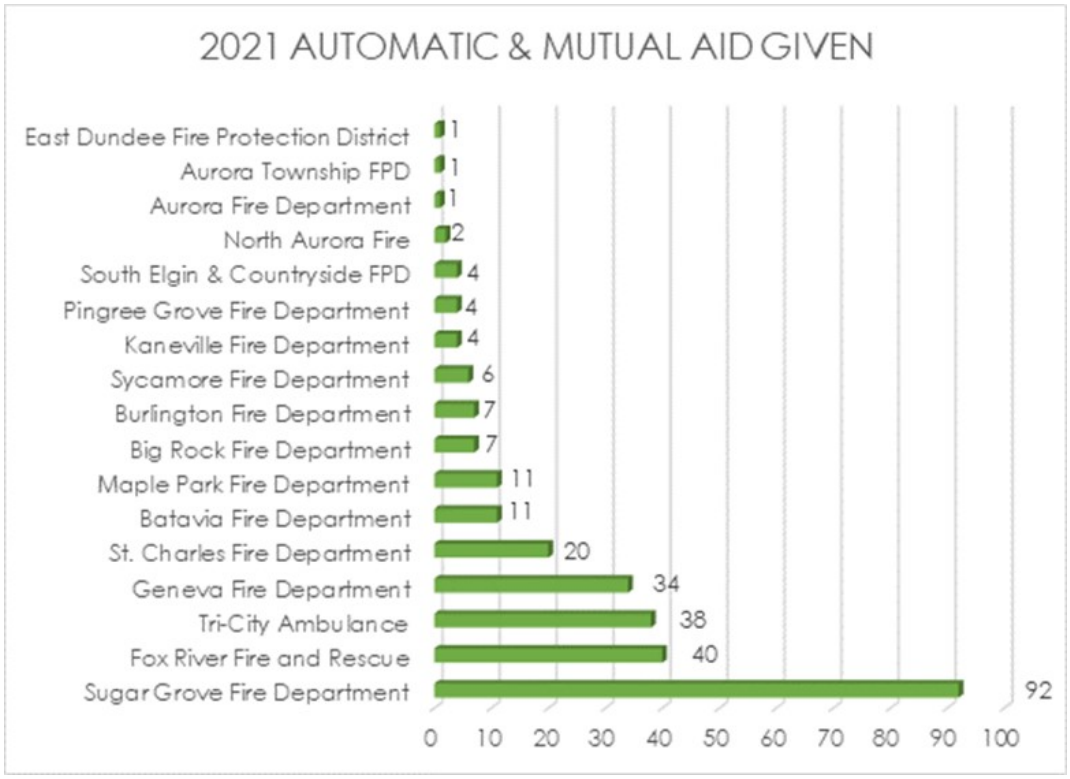
This next year we will continue to build each other up, develop each other, and more forward. I am proud to be a part of this team, and am proud of our members.

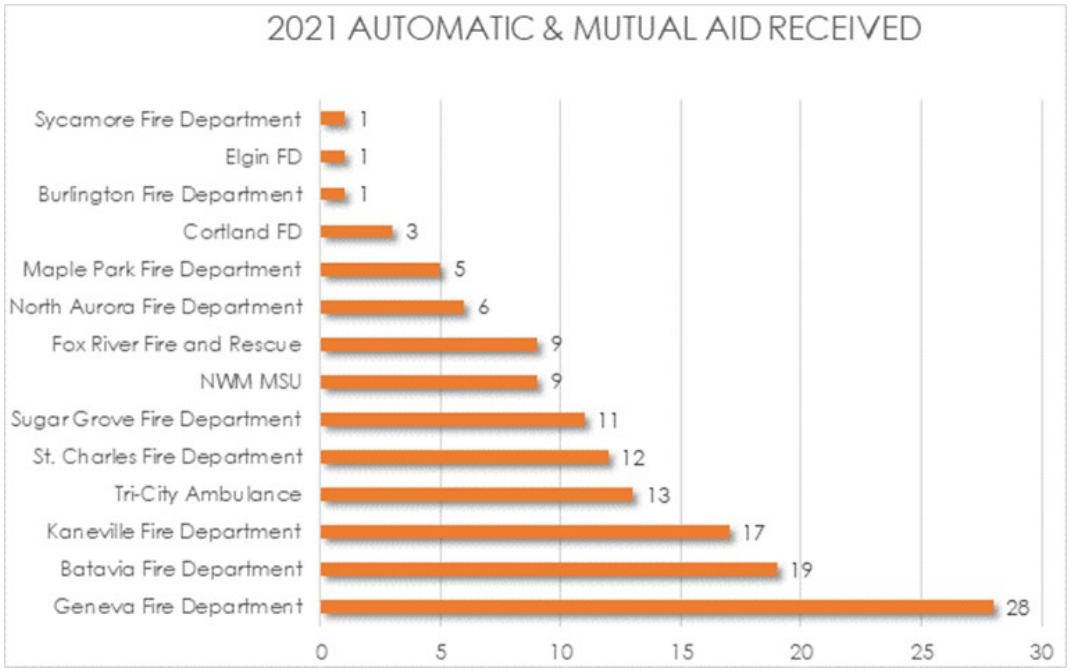
Thank you for taking the time to read the accomplishments of our team members.

We are using data more and more to drive and support our employee centered vision.

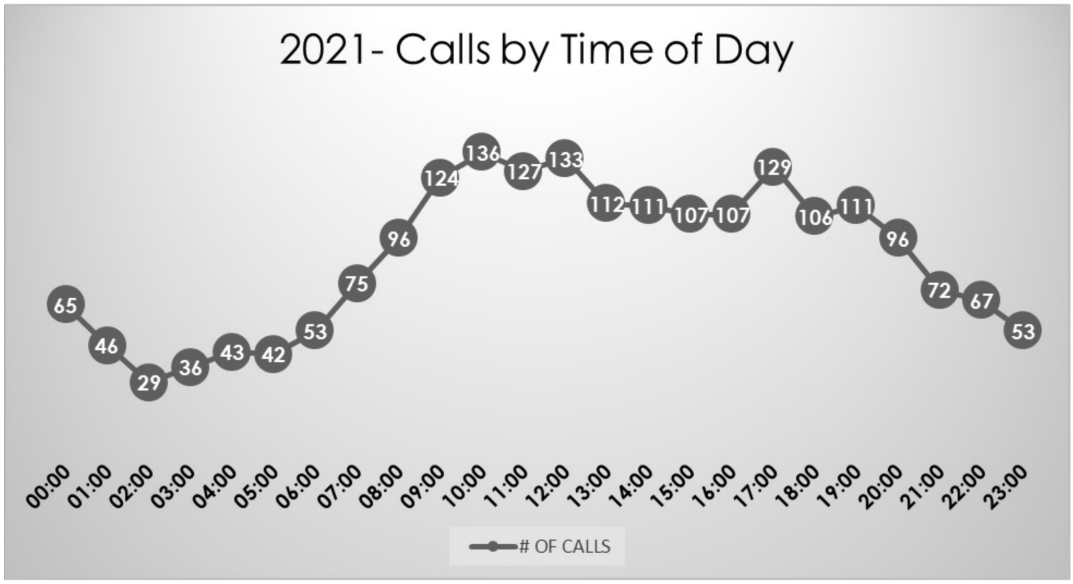
2021 Incident Response Report

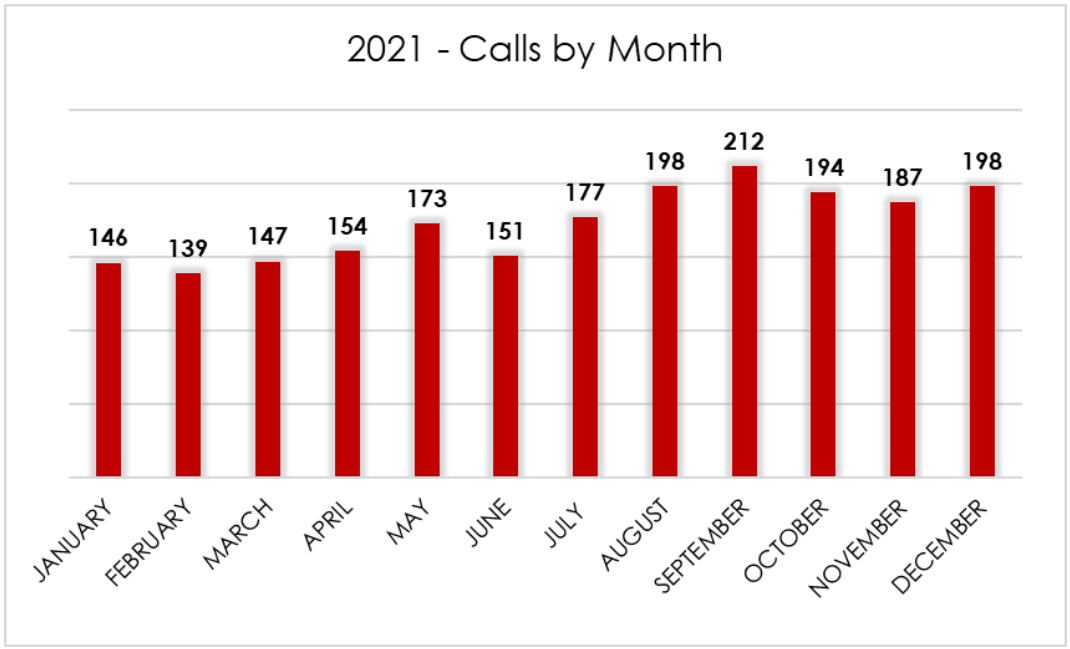
Balancing automatic and mutual aid resources is an important element of our response plan.





2021 Incident Response Report

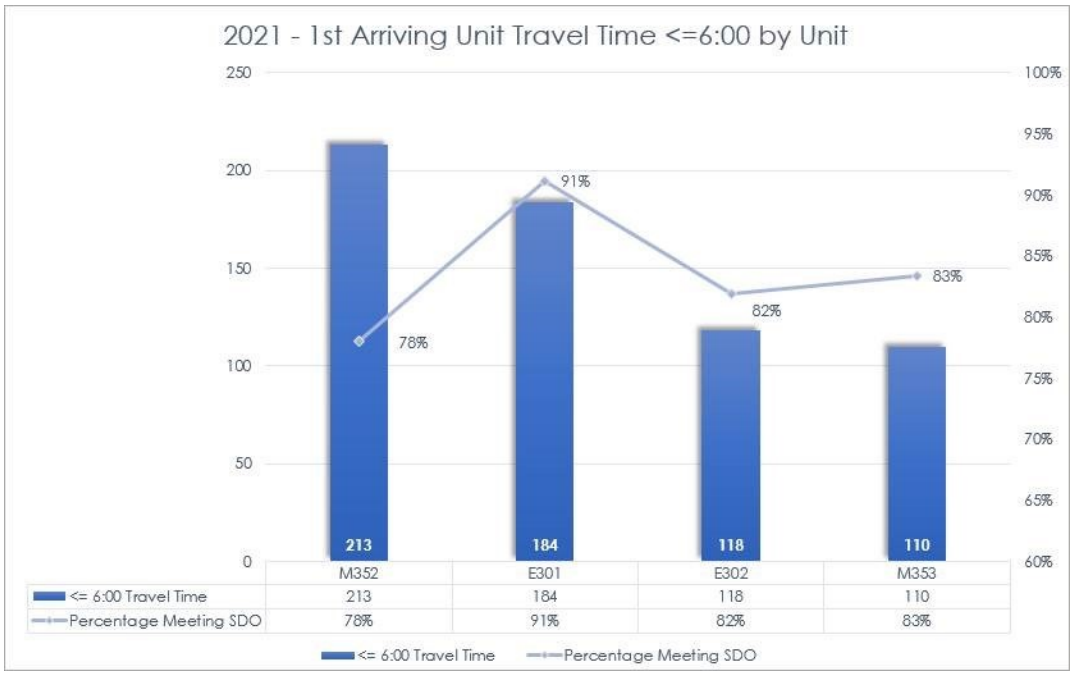




Our Initial Arriving Response Force (IARF) remains busy 24 hours per day

2021 Incident Response Report

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.

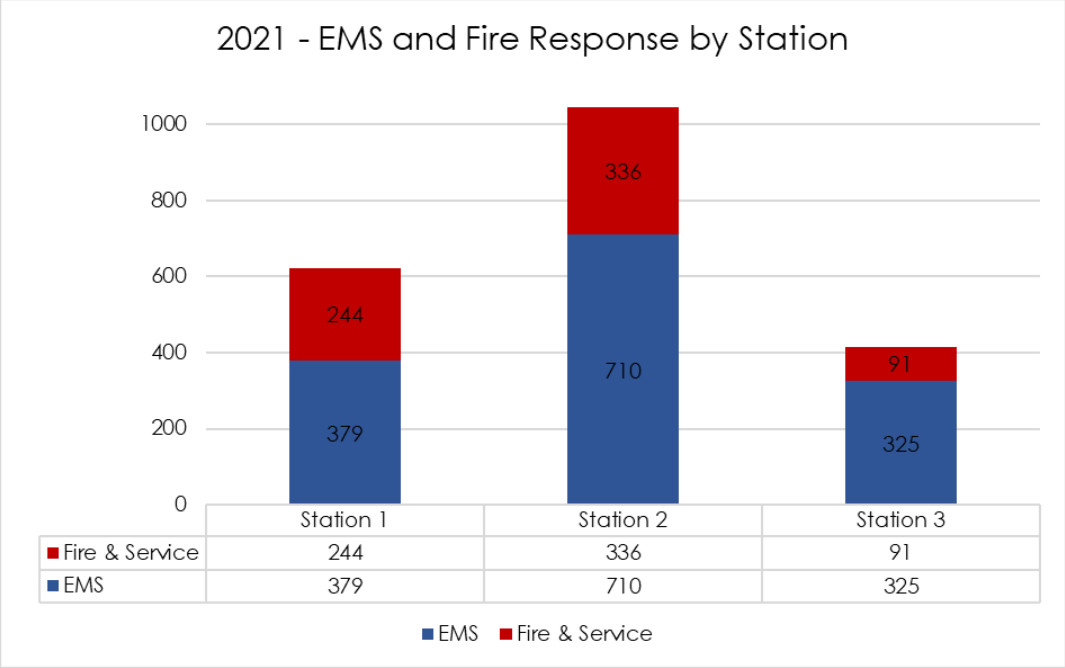


Service Delivery Objective: The ECFPD desires to have, an Initial Arriving Response Force, on scene in 6 minutes or less 80% of the time, to all areas of our district. The priority of the Initial Arriving Response Force will remain Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, Property Conservation and when needed,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

2021 Incident Response Report

The tables below represent our end-of-year statistics, with each station showcasing the two primary functions of the response, Emergency Medical Service and Fire calls.

STATION	EMS CALLS	FIRE or SERVICE CALLS	TOTAL CALLS	% EMS	% FIRE or SERVICE
Station 1	379	244	623	61%	39%
Station 2	710	336	1046	68%	32%
Station 3	325	91	416	78%	22%
Total	**1414**	**671**	**2085**	**68%**	**32%**



Letter From Assistant Chief Mike Huneke



- Station 3
- Address Verification
- Staffing

As I sit down to write this I realize just how busy last year was. We were scrambling at the beginning of 2021 to get our crews and equipment into our new Station 3 and out of our temporary quarters. Thanks to the hard work of the construction managers, architects and members of this organization we were able to demo and move back into Station 3 in just over a six month time period. The facility opened in January of 2021 but with the weather too cold and frigid for a formal opening, we held a formal opening ceremony in May.

COVID-19 policies and influxes continued to challenge the staffing of the organization. The members of this organization met this challenge by continuing to work hard and train taking Elburn to the next level. Early on in my position as Assistant Chief we established a new APT staffing model as well as revamped the recruitment and training program of our new members. As these ideas were put into place we were not only building a staffing model to always be preparing ourselves for the next level of participants into the organization, but training up every level to be prepared to fill in when needed. As a result, we met every staffing challenge head on, we had zero incidents of browning out or closing fire stations from a lack of adequate staffing. Inadequate staffing and station closures are a crisis that continue to challenge the fire service nationally, right now. This administration is committed to the succession plan and development at every level of the organization. Our commitment to doing this has afforded us the opportunity to continue to bring up the next level when we are required to do so. Our baseball methodology of recruiting at the very beginning levels of the explorer program, recruits have allowed us to continue to maintain a depth to our bullpen and continue to bring in new members for staffing as needed.



Elburn opened a new facility on the same site as the old Station 3 in May



Right and below: pictures from the open house at Station 3

We continue to look at our response and data to determine the best ways to serve the citizens of our district. As our crews get busier on responses and incidents we have continued to look for ways to reduce the daily activities and assignments outside of emergency calls, training, inspections and pre-fire plans. One way we helped accomplish this was to hire a third party for exterior buildings and grounds maintenance. Using a cost based model we determined that the expense of using internal sources, maintaining equipment, the risk of injury and the amount of hours required to complete these task, utilizing the third party was more cost effective and efficient maintenance. By doing this, the extra time allowed crews to complete their necessary and assigned work that helps us achieve and become one of the best organizations in the surrounding area.



We also accomplished validating every address of every residence in the fire district. This was to assist Tri - Com in their national data collection for 911 callers as they continue to update their data bases. We utilized this opportunity to grade and rate our fire signs in the district allowing us to plan for and replace fire signs in an organized fashion, and identify several missing, mislabeled, unknown or incorrect addresses. Now that these have been validated the information sent on locations and address to responding units is accurate and correct, reducing response times and confusion when someone calls 911.



Board President Tom Reynolds addressing the participants during the Station 3 dedication ceremony

Next year we continue to look at ways to improve our staffing models, reduce response times and continue to meet the objectives that we use to measure our services that we provide to the citizens of this district.

Local 4749: President Mike Didenko



In 2021, a year like no other as we all navigate COVID-19 and all of its hurdles, the Elburn Professional Firefighters Association Local 4749 continues to have a strong working relationship with the District along with the working relationship with the Paid On Call (POC) staff and Trustees.

Local 4749 was honored to have Lt. J. Lloyd and Lt. S. Nielsen retire with more than 20 years of service at the beginning of the year. In addition we were able to hire Brothers FF/PM Sean Darlak badge number 63 and FF/PM Sam Ferris badge number 64. Both 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 2021 Local 4749 continues to work alongside the district to come up with policies and procedures to utilize Elburn & Countryside first ever Tower 302 and ever changing COVID-19 practices.

Despite all the challenges that 2021 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.



Fire Prevention: Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp



- Inspections
- Public Education
- Service Delivery Objective (SDO)

Inspections

Fire Marshal Schopp completed inspections and witnessed testing on all of the projects. Inspections and testing include opening framing; above ceiling; fire stopping; underground piping; sprinkler pipe and sprinkler head locations; fire alarm device locations; underground system flush; hydrostatic testing of wet and dry sprinkler systems; testing of every fire alarm component in the system; hood system testing; elevator testing; solar system final; and occupancy final. Meetings were held with Kane County Government, Shodeen and the Village of Elburn for future construction projects in the Village of Elburn, LaFox, MA Center, and unincorporated Kane County. The Fire Marshal attended Annual School Review Safety Meetings for Geneva School District and Kaneland School District.



Over the summer months of 2021, the Fire Prevention Office conducted a review and analysis of our current Standard Operating Guidelines and response data as outlined in ECFPD's IARF response package. A questionnaire was sent out to multiple buildings in our fire protection district, including low hazard, medium hazard, high hazard, critical infrastructure and target hazard occupancies. The review, analysis and questionnaire were completed to determine if we are meeting the needs of our district, and where we can improve. While we strive to complete an inspection of every business (over 600) in our fire district on an annual basis, emergency calls, training, fire signs, public education, and other items that pop up every day, all take time away from completing the inspections. In 2020, due to COVID-19, self-inspections were sent out to businesses. Businesses were given the choice of completing the self-inspection or having the Fire Marshal perform the annual life safety inspection. This was well-received by businesses and property owners, and prompted increased communication. Per NFPA 1730, the minimum fire prevention inspection and code enforcement schedule is based on hazard occupancy type. With life safety, fire prevention and mitigation remaining the priority, and using guidance from NFPA 1730, the Fire Prevention Office Service Delivery Objective (SDO) recommended the following: Schools: Twice Annually, Target & High Hazard: Annually, Moderate Hazard: Biennially/Self-inspection, Low Hazard: Triennially/Self-inspection, Critical Infrastructure: Per AHJ recommendations.



In October of 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the new Service Delivery Objective for the Fire Prevention Office.

The engine and ambulance crews performed annual fire and life safety inspections at businesses throughout our fire district. We have two businesses that are a work in progress with code compliance. New Service Delivery Objectives for the Fire Prevention Office were approved by the Board of Fire Trustees in November of 2021. The new SDOs will adjust our inspection schedule based on the hazard rating of the building/business.



In 2021 there were 40 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 almost $8,000. Approximately 50 Burn Permits were issued in 2021 for ecological management of prairies, wet land and/or woodland property. Burn permits applications can be done on line or in person at any of the three stations. Projects included: Blackberry Counseling, Dollar Tree, Drumbeaters, Edward Jones buildout, Kane County Coins pole barns, Kane County Forest Preserve, Murray Commercial, Obscurity Mead, Obscurity Warehouse, Ream's Meat Market addition, Richard Electronics additional sprinkler systems, Pound 4 Pound remodel, Shell/Oasis of Lily Lake, Windings Clubhouse. There were multiple solar system installations in the fire district, including residential houses in Mill Creek and the Village of Elburn, and two businesses. Kaneland John Stewart Elementary School had solar panels installed on the school's roof. A solar farm was installed in Lily Lake, just north of Lily Lake Elementary School on Route 47.

Duty crews flushed hydrants in the Village of Elburn. Duty crews did flush hydrants in Mill Creek and Wasco. 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. In April we adopted a new ordinance requiring all new hydrants to be fitted with a 5" Storz fitting on the steamer. This would include new construction and hydrant replacements that coincide with infrastructure improvements or which result from damage.

Public Education: Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp

Crews attended multiple public education events, including: Block Parties; CPR Classes; Elburn Christmas Stroll; Elburn Days; First Aid Classes; Halloween Bags were passed out to all the schools; a Juvenile Fire setter Intervention Program; Keep the Wreath Red; National Night Out in Campton Hills, National Night Out for the Village of Elburn, and National Night



Out at the Kane County Sheriff's Office; multiple Parades throughout the year; and multiple station tours were given.

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 performed a couple fire safety training programs at Station One with Mid-Valley for the 18-25 years old special needs students.

Fire Prevention Week was started up again this year. The theme for 2021 was Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety. Fire prevention programs were held at Blackberry Creek Elementary School, Fabyan Elementary School, Kaneland John Stewart Elementary School, Lily Lake Elementary School, and Mill Creek Elementary School. Multiple fire prevention demonstrations were also held at Creative Beginnings Preschool School. The fire safety messages discussed were Calling 911; Crawl Low in Smoke; Don't Play with Matches; Fire Extinguishers; Knowing 2 Ways Out; Stop, Drop & Roll; and Touch a Truck in the parking lots.



Emergency Medical Services: Lt. Dan Czaruk



- **EMS Committee**
- **New cardiac monitors**
- **Goals for 2022: Performance, Education, Equipment**

Our EMS Committee is dedicated to ensuring the community of the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District receives a standard exceeding level of prehospital care. Provider education, data driven decision making, and advancements in prehospital equipment are how we aim to make this possible. Accountability, dedication and professionalism are the foundational values that the committee is built upon.

The EMS Committee is comprised of Lt. Dan Czaruk, FF/PM Chris Spitzock, FF/PM Bryon Ferguson, FF/PM Travis Lange, FF/PM Joe Miller and FF/PM Kristy Suriano. We are currently responsible for ensuring ECFPD is compliant with SFVEMS and IDPH rules and regulations. FF/PM Kristy Suriano was brought onto the EMS Committee in early 2020 to pilot ECFPD's EMT-B program. We report to Assistant Chief Matt Hanson, who serves as our Chief of EMS.

The EMS Committee conducted and successfully completed in-system testing for 9 EMT-Bs. Four students completed this year's paramedic school curriculum. Three of these students committed to Elburn and completed their field clinical time requirements here. Lt. Dan Czaruk, FF/PMs Ferguson, Miller, and Spitzock obtained their initial NAEMSE Level 1 Instructor.

One of the bigger goals we had for 2021 was to re-establish Elburn as a leader in EMS education in our area. Collectively we decided that re-establishing the EMT-B program would be one of the better ways to begin to do that. We brought on FF/PM Kristy Suriano into the EMS Committee to pilot the program due to her experience as a lead instructor at Waubonsee Community College. The first EMT-B course was successfully completed; starting September 13, 2021 and ending November 24, 2021. We adopted the National curriculum to follow for the course.

Lt. Czaruk and FF/PM Ferguson have continued to work with the Southern Fox Valley Policy and Procedure Committee on revising and updating system policies to ensure their relevance in today's EMS climate.

With assistance from the District, we have purchased four new Zoll X-Series cardiac monitors that are set to arrive and be placed in service in March of 2022. Elburn was one of the first department to use the Zoll X-Series and thus, have been using some of the oldest monitors in the area. These monitors are upgraded models of what we currently use which will streamline the in-service process. The new models offer the following new features: Real Bag Valve Mask (BVM) Help, Traumatic Brian Injury (TBI) Dashboard, RescueNet Live, and continued case review functionality.

With the assistance of AC Huneke, we have been able to reduce our spending by appropriately utilizing relevant warranties for our current equipment. We have also made continued efforts to utilize Delnor for equipment restocking which also assists in cost savings.

Goals for 2022:

1. Performance – Continued improvement in ALS skill success rates. Improved documentation in the flow chart, such as documentation of alert times, for better data reporting. Above a 50% report QA/QI completion rate. Continue to strengthen our excellent relationship

with SFVEMS. Establish guidelines for providing additional assistance to our community "after the call". Examples would be resources for senior services and drug and alcohol assistance.

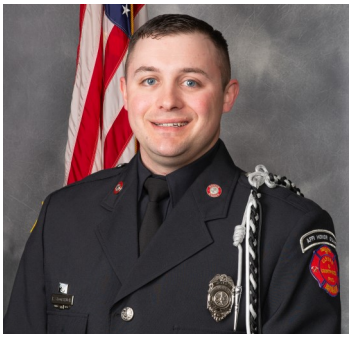
2. Education – Complete policy that officially allows ECFPD to take on outside paramedic students for field clinical time. Establish a list of "approved preceptors" that work closely with the EMS Committee and stay up to date on the latest educational guidance from SFVEMS. Possibly transition these members to become CE Facilitators. Perfect the current EMT-B program; build the program to allow for more instructors and offer continuing education opportunities for our members.

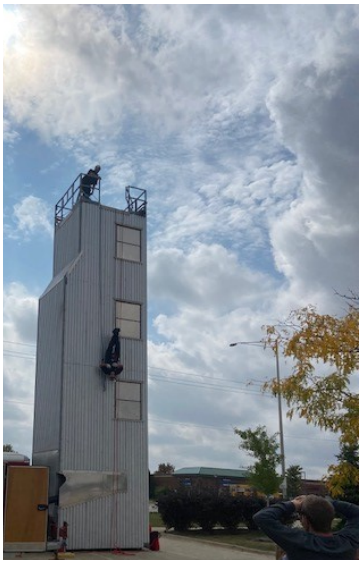
3. Equipment – Continue to work on asset management and continue to minimize our consumable burn rates. Upgrade our suction equipment, our splinting equipment and our KED units.

We continue to be presented with a variety of and I am proud of the way we have come together to get through each and every one. I appreciate the continued hard work and patience as we continue to grow. Because of this, we are viewed as a standard of EMS in practice and as an educational hub. Let's keep inching the bar up, we cannot do this without you.



Technical Rescue Team: FF/PM Ryan Seggebruch





With the guidelines used for the 2021/2022 calendar being more conducive to training, the MABAS Division was able to schedule drills and attend them, while keeping all members safe. The Division drills this year covered structural collapse, grain bin rescue, ropes and systems, and VMT. The in-house drills covered different shoring and support systems for the collapse drill. The grain sleeve assembly with required tools and equipment for making a grain bin rescue. The proper equipment for setting up a haul system to retrieve someone, or to lower a rescuer to a victim. Tools that might be needed for a prolonged extrication, or different techniques to gain entry to a vehicle involved in an accident. The grain bin rescue drill was held in a neighboring district's response area, and the drill enabled us to have participation from Maple Park Fire as an initial response. We were able to showcase our Division operations, equipment, and manpower and how they can be part of a successful rescue.

To make sure our team members could have their hands-on equipment more this year, the ECFPD TRT team decided to have an in-house training drill the month prior to the Division 13 drills. We also went through our trailer and identified items requiring replacement due to age and use.

For the first time we were able to go train with the Division 6 DeKalb Technical Rescue Team this year at their trench drill. We were able to use their Divison 6's Mobile Training Tower (MTT) at our Open House this year to do rappelling demonstrations for the public. We loaned our grain rescue sleeve to them for their grain bin rescue drill. We are on the right path to developing a great working relationship with Divison 6, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds.

Hazardous Material Training: Lt. Chris Mulvihill





In January Lt. Lloyd retired and Lt. Mulvihill took over as HazMat coordinator choosing Lt. Oliver as Assistant Coordinator. In February, Elburn hosted Div 13 team training. The team reviewed all monitors and HazMat detection/sampling techniques. In May the team did hands on training at the St. Charles FD training tower. Over the summer there were a couple of major HazMat incidents in Northern Illinois. In Rockton IL, Chemtool, which is the largest producer of industrial lubricants in the country, and an abandoned paper mill in Morris, both caught fire a few weeks apart from each other. Severe environmental damage was averted due to sound tactical decisions early on and innovative solutions by responders. The potential for such incidents exists in the response area of Division 13 and ECFPD.

In the fall, ECFPD hosted an open house for fire prevention week and the HazMat team was tasked with putting on a demonstration. We chose to simulate a 150 pound chlorine bottle leak with a victim. We were successful in setting up a very realistic scenario that closely matching the conditions. We ran three demonstrations and we were able to count it as a suit qualification drill for our technicians. We look forward to providing future demonstrations and training.

MABAS: Hurricane Ida Deployment



In August, The Illinois Emergency Management Agency working with Illinois Fire Service Agencies and the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) deployed a response to Louisiana following Hurricane Ida. ECFPD current members FF/PM Eric Daffron and FF/PM Kristy Suriano helped to represent MABAS Division 13 in this response with our reserve Engine 304. While in Louisiana Daffron and Suriano worked tirelessly, responding on emergency calls for a local Fire Department and providing humanitarian relief to local families needing help with flooding, patching roofs, debris removal, etc. from the hurricane. This mission lasted nearly three weeks.





It was our honor to award both Daffron and Suriano the Humanitarian Service Medal from Illinois-MABAS!

We were proud to welcome home our members and in the words of MABAS Chief Ericksen, "The mission was achieved with the greatest sense of commitment, compassion and due regard for one's own personal needs."



Promotions and Hiring: Lt. Linden, FF/PM Darlak, FF/PM Ferris



The ECFPD Board of Trustees, at the December Board Meeting, granted approval to promote FF/PM Matt Linden to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Linden is a nine year veteran of the ECFPD earning his place through our commissioned promotion process. Lt. Linden is also active with the Safety Committee and Technical Rescue Team!

Pictures from top to bottom: Lt. Matt Linden and his family, FF/PM Sean Darlak and his family, FF/PM Sam Ferris being sworn in by Board President Tom Reynolds.





We were also fortunate to hire both FF/PM Sean Darlak and FF/PM Sam Ferris, both Darlak and Ferris worked their way up through our Assigned Part-Time (APT) program to become exceptional candidates on our full-time eligibility list. Darlak and Ferris remain active with recruit instruction and multiple committees .

Fire and Arson Investigations: FF/PM Rob Stevens



The Investigation Team consists of six members. Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp, Capt. Brian Schopp, Team Lead Rob Stevens, Lt. Chris Mulvihill, FF/PM Eric Daffron and FF/PM Mike Didenko. The Investigation Team provides a Fire Investigator dedicated to each shift. Three members currently serve on the Kane County Fire & Arson Investigation team: Stevens Training Officer, Mulvihill, and Daffron. This team is a combination of Fire & Arson Investigators throughout the Kane County, who come together to determine and assist Fire Departments with origin and cause to fires and explosions.

With 2021 being a challenge for hands on training due to the impact of COVID-19 the Investigation Team was limited on hands-on and in person class trainings. 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 gaining a greater knowledge into topics that are the foundation of Fire Investigations. The Investigation team for 2022 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, came together with other organizations to work on vandalism fires that were in our District and other towns. This type of networking is priceless in the Fire and Arson community to help solve complex and complicated cases, current and for the future.

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.

We welcomed the ATF to our open house in September



Training: Lt. Trevor Hall



- Training
- BOF Academy
- APT Program

We adapted and overcame COVID-19 restrictions throughout 2021. This is the second year that we have training data for ISO Compliance for job specific classifications. The three job specific categories are Firefighter, Driver/Operator, and Officer. We strive for 100% compliance in each category. We have vast improvements over last year. In the Officer category everyone was 95% or higher in their ISO Classification. In the ISO Driver/Operator Classification we have 15 of 25 employees at 90% to 100%. In the ISO Firefighter Classification we have 2 of 14 employees at 80% to 89%. For the ISO Officer Classification there was 2,494 hours of training, Driver/Operator 9,116, and Firefighter 1,834. The grand total for training hours was 13,444 hours. Good job everyone!



As we are driven by data and statistics we are able to predict certain things as it relates to training. I am currently in the process of putting the data together to see what classes our members need. The classes are stated both in the CBA and "Career Path" for our members both Full-Time and Part-Time. This could allow our department to hold in-house classes. These would be classes that our members need to obtain OSFM Certifications. Hosting in-house classes would allow some of our members that have obtained Instructor I or Instructor II to teach. This potential has a cost savings and also the added benefit of getting large groups of employees certified at the same time. With the help of the Chiefs, we are kicking off the year with "Succession Training". This will lead to training across the board, from Officer to AO, AO to Senior Firefighter, Senior Firefighter to Firefighter, Firefighter to APT/SPT. We are moving forward with our training to make our department better than ever. We will have some larger drills throughout the year with our neighboring departments and Law Enforcement.



Basic Operations Firefighter Academy: Lt. Trevor Hall

The 2021 ECFPD BOF Academy consisted of ten recruits. We also had three recruits that attended portions of the BOF Academy as "fast track" recruits. These "fast track" recruits either had all or portions of the requirements for BOF already or just needed to obtain their EMT-B. Lt. Hall was the Lead Instructor in charge of administrative tasks for the academy, FF/PM Stephen Coomes and FF/PM Ryan Seggebruch were Co-Lead Instructors in charge of day-to-day operations. Other instructors included Lt. Fuller, Lt. Mulvihill, FF/PM Linden, Lt. Oliver, FF/PM Suriano, FF/PM Ferguson, FF/PM Darlak, FF/PM Horner, FF/PM Ferris, and FF/PM Miller. This group of Recruits definitely had a sense of team unity from day one. Lt. Mulvihill and Lt. Fuller taught part of Haz-Mat First Responder Operations. All recruits completed all portions of the BOF Academy. Graduation was held on June 7th.

It was decided before the end of the BOF Academy that we would hold a "Recruit Released to Shift Boot Camp". This boot camp ran for ten days for approximately eight hours a day. This Boot Camp allowed us to improve on the timeline of getting the new recruits released to shift, aiding our department in meeting staffing model needs. Some of these recruits applied for our "Assigned Part-Time" (APT) program right out of the Academy.

Our continued effort in the ECFPD BOF Academies continue to pay off in the long run. We made minor adjustments this year with the BOF Academy compared to last year to seek these improvement and continue to put out a top notch program. We also changed up the recruit training after the Academy by holding a Boot Camp, it appears that this Boot Camp was successful and we look forward to improving on it for 2022.

I personally want thank all of the instructors that helped teach the 2021 BOF Academy and Boot Camp. I know this year was challenging for some of the instructors and that some of you took a lot on with all the over-time and teaching that you were doing. I know you/we were spread thin at times. A huge thank you also to the "On Duty" crews at Station 1 that assisted in teaching our recruits when we were short on instructors or instructors having to work on shift.

I have been very involved over the past four ECFPD BOF Academies. It has been an honor and privilege to teach so many of our new members and area department members. This Academy could not do it without the team work from some of our great employees. As I move onto other projects, FF/PM Coomes and FF/PM Seggebruch will be taking over the BOF Academy. I know this program is in good hands and they will continue to make this Academy the best it can be. Thank you again to all the instructors that have helped us out!



Assigned Part-Time Program: Lt. Trevor Hall

The APT program continues into its third year. This year we added the fifth APT position. Currently are staffing model is 11 maximum and 11 minimum per shift. We can have up to eight full-time members working and up to five APT/SPT members working each shift. Having five APTs assigned per shift allows for us to have one APT member off per shift in the rotation. In actuality there are only four APTs working their assigned shift at the same time while the fifth APT is scheduled off in the rotation. This allows us to follow the maximum hour worked in the 28 day cycle. We continue to see what we had envisioned for this program when it was implemented three years ago. The vision of the 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. Due to past APT members being hire here or elsewhere and the implementation of the fifth APT position we moved seven people into these APT positions over the past year. They are Josh Beaman, Harold Halstead, Kylie Hanks, Josh Kuefler, Daniel McHale, Jeremiah O'Brien, and Tyler Sutphen. A couple of the vacancies that were left in the APT position were also due to us hiring Sean Darlak and Sam Ferris to full-time members. Over the past two years we have now seen five APT members be hired as full-time members. We currently have 15 APT members and six SPT members. We believe the program has been meeting our goals that we have set, we will continue to evaluate it and make adjustments as needed.



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 2021 the board purchased items to benefit the district and it members. Notable purchases included new TV subscription service for stations, station tool boxes, stereo equipment and fitness equipment. 2021 proved to be difficult in purchasing other approved items due to supply shortages. The board has been watching these items diligently in hopes they become available. Items approved but not purchased include patio furniture and X-box gaming consoles.



Steven Walter replaced Mike Didenko as board secretary in November. We would like to thank Mike for his time served on the board.

Explorers: FF/PM Chris Meyers



Elburn Explorer Post 1357 consists of seven aspiring firefighters who meet the first, third and fourth Thursday of each month. They have completed SCBA training, firefighter practical's consisting of ladders, search, down firefighter CPR, company tactics and donning and doffing to name a few. Along with Fire training the post goes over EMT skills with vital signs and BLS assessments to name a few. We had three explorers who became EMTs this past year, we even have a post member participating in this years recruit BOF academy. I am very excited for and very proud of our explorers and can't wait to see what they can accomplish in 2022!

Quartermaster: FF/PM Mike Didenko



In 2021, we have been meet 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. UAS has been doing everything they can to keep us informed regarding delays in products and shipping due to unprecedented circumstances.

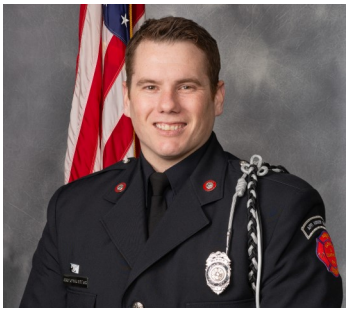
In 2021 while maintaining the budget we were able to add multiple items to the uniform store to give our members more options for daily wear which has extended the life on uniforms including added moral to the members.

We were also able to continue with the Fire gear replacement program this year. We hope to continue that program going forward for the next year.



In the New Year I hope continue to get the year of service crosses added to the class A uniforms. Additionally as we add, new members get a complete inventory and reorganize our current products in house to meet with the ever-growing demands of new members and recruit academies. All while continuing to work on identifying ways to add additional cost saving measures to the quartermaster program all having the ability to expand our uniforms and gear capabilities even farther.

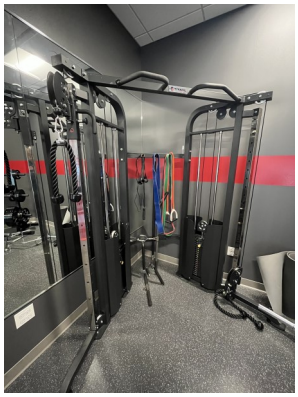
Fitness Committee: FF/PM Chris Spitzock



"Your fitness will make the difference between life or death for others"

Members were able to continue workouts during COVID-19 mandates and precautions while staying socially distanced and safe. ECFPD continued the partnership with Kinectz and Zac with workouts Tuesday through Thursday. We look forward to continuing this partnership into 2022, aimed at limiting work place injuries through functional job-related fitness. Lt. Czaruk and FF/PM Coomes were able to represent ECFPD and complete the Fight for Air Climb held at Soldier Field. Fitness Committee will continue to look for and promote fitness related events in 2022 including Tough Mudders, Fight for Air Climb and Elburn 5k. Keep an eye out for details and come join or support members at these events. 2% Committee approved two more Titan Fitness functional trainers (cable machines). The functional trainers were delivered and are in use at each station. The committee will continue to upgrade each station to have universal gyms. The Fitness Committee was also approved for purchase of new squat racks, adjustable bench and bumper plates from Rogue Fitness.





SCBA: Lt. Matt Linden



Our current equipment is going on 14 years old. We have been working with Air One Equipment to keep our current SCBAs functional and ready. We have been able to have harnesses and other cylinders repaired to keep them functioning properly. Some of the repairs have been able to be completed in house by one of our members who spent some time at Air One with one of the techs to learn how to perform certain repairs. The repairs we can do in house now only require a functional test after the repair, not a certified test. This in turn saves us money on the repair costs. We have learned that there has been an increase from the manufacturer of about 20% over the last eight months in parts cost. This increase is out of our control and is due to supply and demand of the materials required for the parts. We have been able to stay in budget as of the writing of this report, which is good seeing as our equipment is approaching the end of its life.

Chief Cluchey has been actively writing and submitting for possible grant money to assist with the purchase of new SCBA harnesses, bottles, and face pieces. Thanks to the budgeting over the last few years, we have the funds to purchase new SCBA equipment. We will continue repairing our existing SCBAs and look forward to when we obtain the new ones.

Safety Committee: Lt. Matt Linden

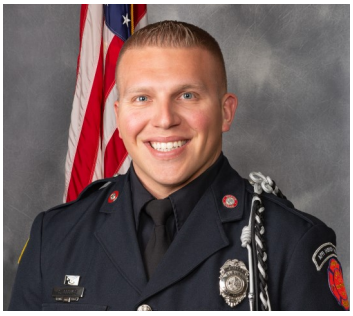
Safety Committee developed and submitted a Patient Movement Procedure. This procedure came at a recommendation from our IPRF representative to help reduce injuries while moving patients. This procedure will be sent out for training via Target Solutions after review from EMS and Standardization. The Safety Committee is in the process of developing an exercise policy for when members are exercising outside of the designated personal trainer workout times.

The Safety Committee is also tasked with keeping our SCBA fit testing equipment in proper working order. This year the fit testing machine and particle generator were sent off, cleaned, calibrated and returned in working order with no major repairs noted.



The Safety Committee reviewed and discussed multiple accidents and incidents this year. We have developed recommendations when needed after an incident to help prevent the same incident in the future. We believe that through constant education and discussion we can help all of us maintain a safe working environment. Each station has its own lockout/tag out kit.

Honor Guard: Co-Commander Stephen Coomes



The year of 2021 was another challenging 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 promotional ceremony of Lt. Dave Oliver and Lt. Dan Czaruk, the grand opening ceremony for Elburn Fire Station #3, the open house for Elburn Fire Station #3, the Elburn BOF academy recruit graduation, the swearing in ceremony for FF/PM Sam Ferris, the Elburn Days Parade, and our department's annual 9/11 memorial ceremony. We also had members of our honor guard travel to Sterling, IL to participate in honor guard duty for a firefighter that was lost in the line of duty in early December. We did not have any new additions to the Honor Guard in 2021.



Our goals for 2022 are to continue to be active in the department and community with multiple events already scheduled such as the swearing in ceremony of Lt. Matt Linden, the 2022 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 will be in Bloomington/Normal in January of 2022 and we have two new members getting inducted into the AFFI Honor Guard. FF/PM Steven Walter, and FF/PM Sean Darlak will be our two newest members and we look forward to their help. We also will continue to put in the training on our own to be prepared to help our district and 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.



Members of Honor Guard at Lt. Linden's promotional ceremony

Fleet Maintenance: FF/PM Eric Daffron



2021 has been a busy year for the fleet maintenance program. We have made it our top priority to keep our fleet on the road and operating as safely and efficiently as possible. This is all made possible by recognizing the need to perform preventative maintenance at manufactures recommended intervals. We track these intervals using ESO software and performing thorough checks. Fleet maintenance saw the completion of several ongoing projects from the previous year as well as new projects. Projects in 2021 proved difficult to complete with ongoing supply and labor shortages. We can't thank our vendors enough for making it essential to complete projects and preventative maintenance.



Our 2005 E-One Engine 1004 returns from a major overhaul. While this vehicle was out for the replacement of corroded frame rails we also assessed all worn parts from bumper to bumper. During this assessment we completed all needed repairs. Engine 1004 replaced Engine 1019 in June and is currently running front line as Engine 302 at Station 2.

In July Chief Cluchey, Assistant Chief Huneke and Fleet Manager Eric Daffron traveled to Ocala, Florida to complete order of 2022 E-One Fire Engine. Vehicle will be completed at E-One North in Hamburg, NY with an anticipated June 2022 delivery. This will be a near twin to our 2019 E-One Engine. Upon delivery this Engine will be running as Engine 302 replacing 1004.

Tower 302 was placed into service October 1st of 2021. Tower 302 is a 1997 KME that was purchased used from Clifton Park, New York. This vehicle although in great working order for its age needed several large repairs. We worked with local service centers to help diagnose and make all necessary repairs. This proved to be a long process but we believe we now have a very sound Tower ladder that can be used for years to come.



Fleet Maintenance: FF/PM Eric Daffron

2021 Ford Explorer was delivered and placed into service in December. This vehicle features up dated livery and undercover light package. This vehicle replaces a 2010 F150 that is now being used for station 3 utility and plowing.





Engine 1019 makes a 2,350 mile round trip to assist in Hurricane Ida MABAS deployment.



2021 Chevrolet Tahoe was delivered and has started its up fitting process. This vehicle will feature updated livery, undercover light package, rear command box, and custom dash console. This will be AC Hanson's new vehicle as his current vehicle becomes battalion 300 car.



Fire Signs: FF/PM Joe Miller



For 2021 we have made progress on fire signs throughout the district. Since the implementation of the Collector app we can now see live data on our signs. Currently, the app reports the following: 2,186 signs in great condition, 123 signs that are readable but due for replacement, 881 signs that are hard to read and need replacement, 197 that need repair. These numbers may seem large however, looking at where we were compared to now, crews have made great progress in getting to our end goal of all signs being readable. We have been ordering signs in shipments of 300 to be dispersed to shifts to install. Going forward it sounds like this will continue to be the plan once the ground thaws.



Each shift has done extremely well in finding time to do these signs and further help us get to the goal of having all signs readable. I want to give thanks to each and every firefighter and officer that has been out installing signs this year. Your work is noticed and you are appreciated!

CPR: FF/PM Joe Miller

I want to give special thanks to every instructor listed as they have committed time away from home in order to satisfy the needs of this program and educate others.

2021 brought us improved class numbers, new equipment and new instructors. Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Instructors are Lisa Schopp, Brian Schopp, Dan Czaruk, Chris Meyers, Bob Lennon, Dave Oliver and Joe Miller. Sean Darlak, Stephen Bicos and Justin Altmayer took a class to become instructors. Stats include: 86 BLS students, 64 Heartsaver students, and seven new mannequin sets with live feedback. We have been overwhelmed with compliments from the public on how these mannequins helped improve their skills as well as visualize the correct way to administer CPR. With these additional mannequins we can donate the old ones other programs. New prices going forward are: $60 in district per class / $70 out of district per class. These prices remain less expensive compared to other programs in the immediate area.

Our 2022 goal is to proactively add more instructors since we are anticipating some instructor retirements, obtain more equipment like AEDs and medical supplies, and provide more class availability to the public. As a reminder we currently teach BLS classes every other fourth Wednesday of each month and Heartsaver classes on an as needed basis. We are already trending to have more students this year compared to last year.

American Heart Association
Learn and Live
AUTHORIZED TRAINING CENTER

The CPR instructors' commitment and dedication not only shows in our data but physically as they passionately educate the public in this life saving skill. So thanks again to all instructors. If any member has any questions, concerns or interest in being a CPR instructor please reach out to me for more information.

Closing Remarks: Assistant Chief Matt Hanson



Providing an environment in which our membership is empowered, invested in the growth and development of each other and the fire district; and providing tools to succeed, has proven for the ECFPD to produce fantastic outcomes.

Our members are our most valuable resource, and when they are empowered, they provide the highest quality EMS, Fire, Rescue and Community Risk Reduction in the area!

Thank you for taking the time to read our year-end report for 2021! As you can see, we are proud of our team, and are excited to drive forward into the future.



Elburn crew working a fire in December