

Fremont Fire Department 2021 Annual Report



Structure Fire June 2021 Photo Courtesy Fremont Tribune



FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Todd Bernt, Fire Chief
415 East 16th Street
Fremont, NE 68025

February 2021

Received donation from the Fremont Board of Realtors for smoke/carbon monoxide detectors.



FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

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Check us out on the City's web page at:

<http://www.fremontne.gov/fire>

Section 1



Structure Fire December 2021 Photo by Dion Menking

Department

Message from Chief Bernt



Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

On behalf of the members of the Fremont Fire Department, I'm proud to present the 2021 Annual Report. This report is a testament to your fire department member's professionalism and dedication to our community. In 2021, we responded to a total of 3,366 emergencies; 3,073 medical and 293 fire. The fire department saw an 8.2% increase in emergency calls from 2020.

Our 3,073 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses account for approximately 91% of our fire and EMS responses. We had a total of 3,192 patient contacts with the average patient age of 60.18 years old. The fire department saw an 8.8% increase in EMS emergencies and an 9% increase in patient contacts from 2020.

Of the 293 fire emergencies, 42 were extinguishable fires which include 5 exposure fires (three structure and two vehicles). An exposure fire is when property receives damage from the original fire. There were three fires (structure, vehicle, and trash) out on our arrival but was still investigated. Electrical and equipment failure were the leading causes of fires. The fire losses for 2021 totaled to \$4,298,002. In 2021, there was a 2.4% increase in fire emergencies from 2020.

The Matrix Consulting Group conducted a Long-Range Master Plan and Strategic Plan for the fire department. These plans will help drive the fire department into the future.

In October, Captain Tom Christensen retired with 26 years of service with the fire department. His years of experience will be missed.

The accomplishments of the Fremont Fire Department are only possible through the ongoing dedication of each firefighter's commitment to our community. None of which would be possible without the support of the mayor, city council, city administrator, and the citizens of Fremont.

Sincerely,

Todd Bernt
Fire Chief

Vision Statement

Provide exceptional life safety services to make our community one of the safest places to live, work, and grow.

Mission Statement

Protect life and property with courteous delivery of services through continuous improvement and adherence to our core values.

Core Values

Fremont Fire Department

CARES:

- *Community
- *Accountability
- *Resilience
- *Empathy
- *Safety

COMMAND STAFF



Fire Chief Todd Bernt
Paramedic
29 years of service

A-SHIFT



Captain Jamie Meyer
Paramedic
28 years of service



Lieutenant Brian Monaghan
Paramedic
11 years of service



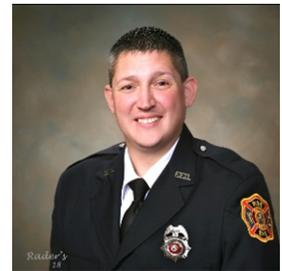
Levi Alley
Firefighter/Paramedic
11 years of service



Terry Luthy
Firefighter/Paramedic
9 years of service



Alex Iniguez
Firefighter/Paramedic
4 years of service



Jason Meyer
Firefighter/EMT
4 years of service



James Bazer
Firefighter/EMT
2 years of service



Zachary Toole
Firefighter/EMT
2 year of service



Brian Carpenter
Firefighter/EMT
1 year of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography

B-SHIFT



Captain Pat Tawney
Paramedic
29 years of service



Lieutenant Zach Klein
Paramedic
15 years of service



Alan Atkinson
Firefighter/Intermediate
30 years of service



Todd Coffey
Firefighter/Paramedic
29 years of service



Dave Wordekemper
Firefighter/Paramedic
26 years of service



Wyatt Swartz
Firefighter/EMT
17 years of service



Rich Osterloh
Firefighter/EMT
15 years of service



Blake Wagner
Firefighter/Paramedic
5 years of service



Jason Shreck
Firefighter/Paramedic
3 years of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography

C-SHIFT



Captain Tom Christensen
Paramedic
26 years of service
Retired October



Lieutenant Nick Morris
Paramedic
17 years of service



Mike Schuler
Firefighter/EMT
15 years of service



Tyler Thomas
Firefighter/Paramedic
15 years of service



Darek Schuller
Firefighter/EMT
9 years of service



Rick Schutt
Firefighter/Paramedic
9 years of service



Peter Kafonek
Firefighter/Paramedic
5 years of service



Christian McKenzie
Firefighter/EMT
3 years of service



Riley McCoy
Firefighter/EMT
1 year of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography



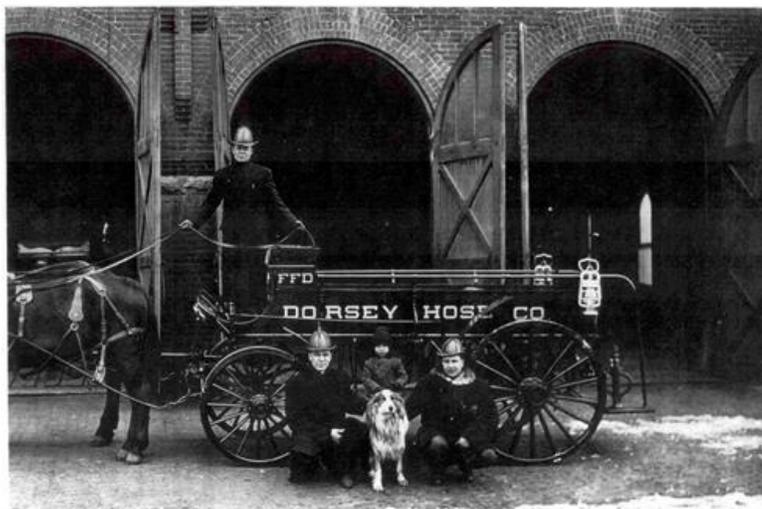
FREMONT'S FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

Established in the late 1860's, the Fremont Fire Department was the third fire department in the state of Nebraska. Several fire companies made up the early Fire Department:



- Frontier Fire Company, November 1868
- Fremont Engine Company, February 1872
- Red Jacket Engine Company, December 1874
- J.C. Cleland Hose Company, 1883
- Mechanic Hose Company, May 1886
- G.W.E. Dorsey Hose Company, May 1886
- W.G. Mercer Hose Company, February 1890

These were all volunteer companies which, in 1890 boasted a membership of 182. A board of directors for the volunteer fire department was formed in 1891. The board was made up of 16 members (two from each of the seven companies, plus a president and vice president). This board was the governing body of all the volunteer firefighters.



In 1888 the Fremont City Hall was built at the corner of 4th Street and Park Avenue. This building also contained the fire station. A bell tower was erected in this building to call citizens with teams of horses to pull the fire wagons and hose carts. When the bell sounded, the first person to get to the station and hook their team of horses to a piece of fire equipment got paid for their services. In 1900 the city was split into six wards, with one hose reel cart placed in each ward.

The City of Fremont purchased a Wilcox Hose and Chemical Truck in 1911. This was the first motor driven fire truck in the state of Nebraska. A man was hired for \$65 a month to run and take care of the truck. He became the first paid employee of the Fremont Fire Department. Additional motorized trucks were purchased in 1915, 1919, and 1922. The position of a paid Fire Chief was created in January 1929, and was held by Harry D. Struve until September 1932. Since 1929 Fremont has had eleven career Fire Chiefs, one (Carl Hansen) died in the line of duty in 1969.



In July 1937, the seven volunteer fire companies were reduced to four. The volunteer fire department remained divided into companies until about 1990 when “companies” were dropped and all members began meeting together under the heading of Fremont Volunteer Fire Department.

The current fire station, at 415 East 16th Street, was built in 1968 for \$240,000.00. It houses three pumpers (two front line trucks and one reserve truck), one aerial, one water rescue/command center unit, EMS quick response pickup, and three ambulances/rescue squads. We also have two paramedic bicycles and a boat that we keep at this location.

Today’s Fremont Fire Department consists of 27 career firefighters, who work three shifts of nine firefighters each. Shifts are 24 hours long, with 48 hours off.



Our department’s fire protection area covers approximately eleven square miles. Through our Mutual Aid agreements, our rescue squad and fire response does not stop at the city limits. It extends into the rural communities and surrounding areas, and our Advanced Life Support Service allows us to intercept critical patients when requested with area fire departments. It’s interesting to note that it was in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s, members of the department became the first Emergency Medical

Technicians (EMT’s). The last thirty years have seen tremendous change in our rescue squad service. Defibrillators were introduced to the department in December 1989 and were a controversial

acquisition at the time. The next year, members of this department saved their first life as a direct result of using a defibrillator. In 1993 the City approved the department's request to become an Advanced Life Support (ALS) service. In 1995, we obtained our paramedic license.



Presently, additional services the Fremont Fire Department provides is water rescue, ice rescue, trench rescue, high/low angle, confined space rescue, and hazardous materials response at the operations level. We're always looking at building on the foundation that was built by the early founders of the Fremont Fire Department.

We're proud of our history. It's reflected in a sense of tradition and "family" our firefighters have towards their job and one another. The most outstanding part of the fire service is the

heart of each firefighter. The best equipment means nothing without the commitment and dedication of our firefighters. We are determined to provide our community with the best possible service, now and in the future.



This photograph of Fremont's City Hall was published in the Fremont Tribune for the City's 150th "birthday". The three large open doors indicate the area of the building that housed the fire department. The building was located at 4th and Park Avenue.

Section 2



Structure Fire September 2021
Photo Courtesy Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Fire Response

Fire Reponses

The department responded to 293 fire related emergencies, this is 2.4% increase from 2020. October was the most active month with 43 fire calls. June was the busiest month with ten working fires that needed extinguishment which include three structure fires, two vehicle fires, one railroad engine fire, one machinery, one wooden fence, one trash fire and one grass fire. There were 16 fire related incidents where the responding units were cancelled enroute.

There were 42 working fires that needed extinguishment which include 5 exposure fires (three structure and two vehicles). An exposure fire is when property receives damage from the original fire. There were three fires (structure, vehicle, and trash) out on our arrival but was still investigated. Electrical and equipment failure were the leading causes of fires. The fire losses for 2021 totaled to \$4,298,002.

There were two civilian injuries and no firefighter injuries related to fire emergencies in 2021.

FIRE RESPONSE TIMES:

The average turnout time is 2 minutes 40 seconds. The 90-percentile turnout time is 4 minutes 00 seconds. Turnout time is measured from the time of the call is received at the fire station to the time unit(s) go enroute.

The average travel time is 3 minutes 15 seconds. The 90-percentile travel time is 5 minutes 27 seconds. Travel time is measured from the time fire department units go enroute to the time unit(s) arrive on scene.

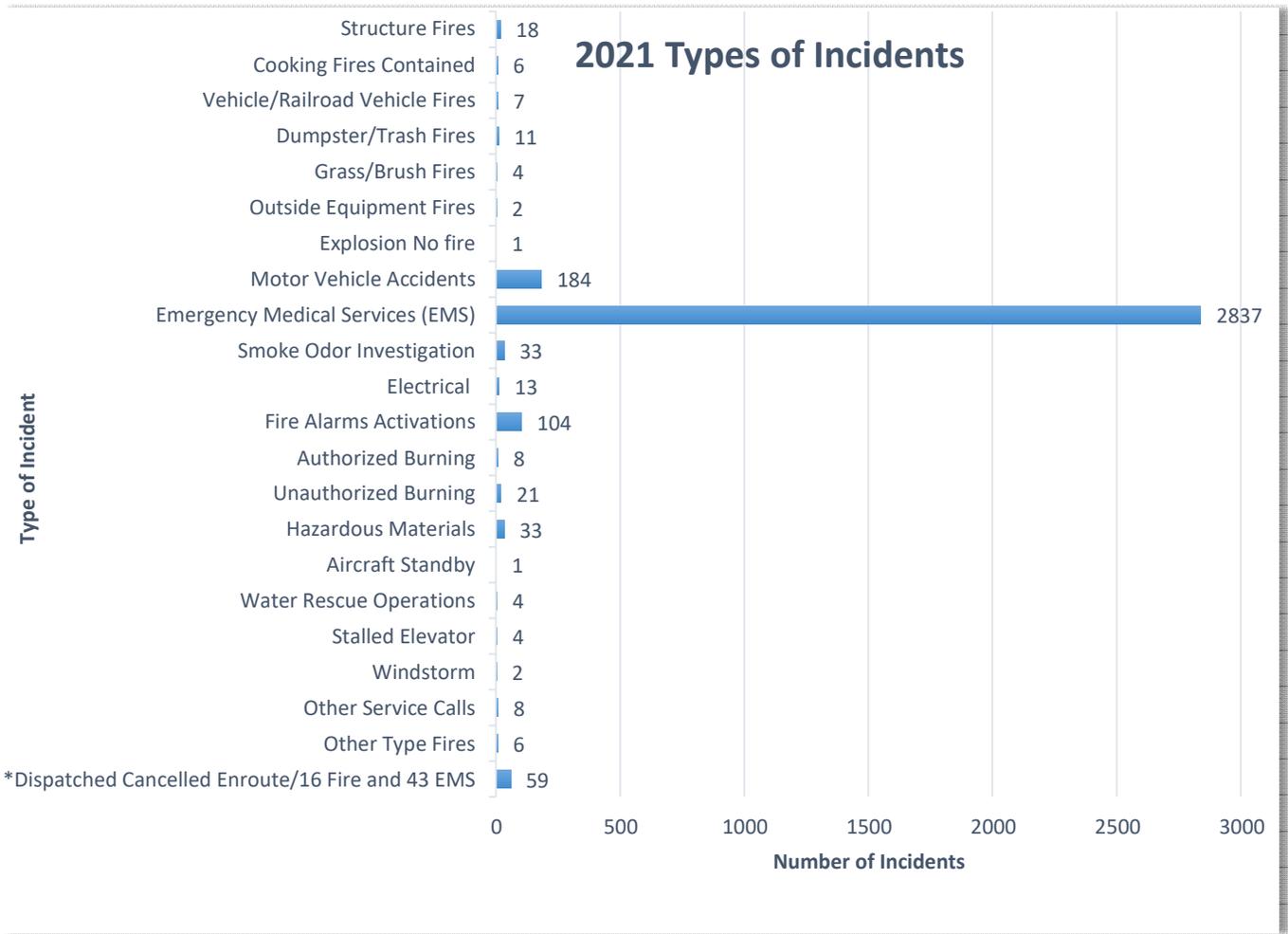
The average response time is 6 minutes 03 seconds. The 90-percentile response time is 8 minutes 56 seconds. Response time is measured from the time the call is received at the fire station, to the time unit(s) arrive on scene.



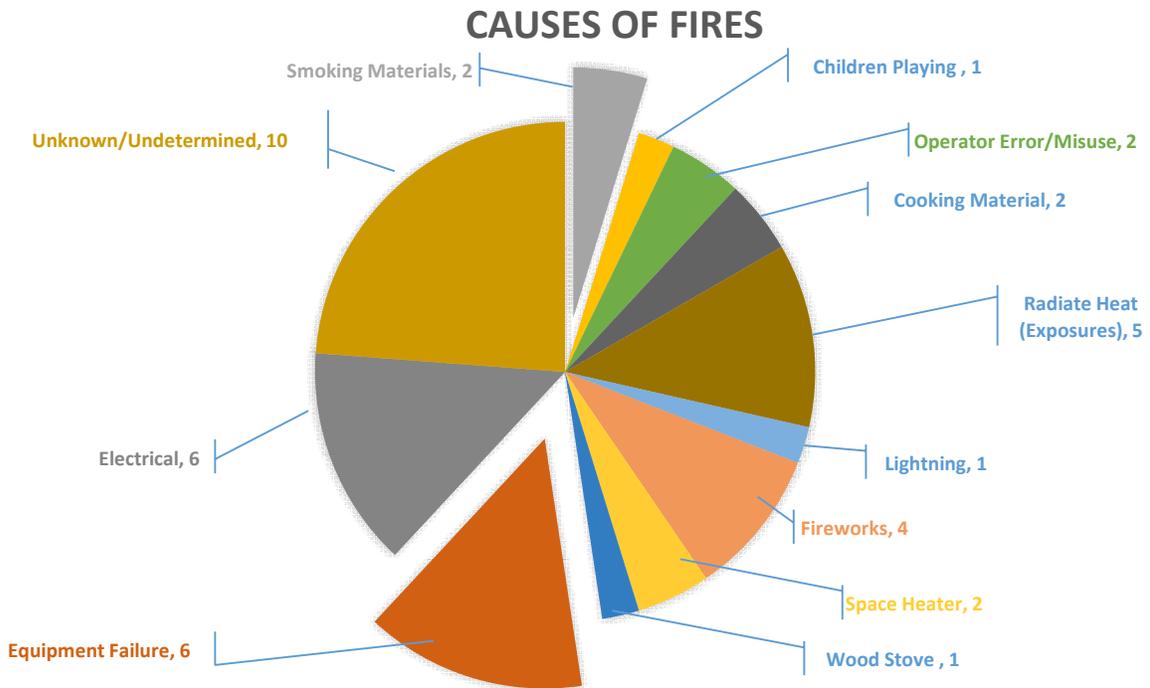
Vehicle Fire June 2021



Structure Fire May 2021 Tribune Photo

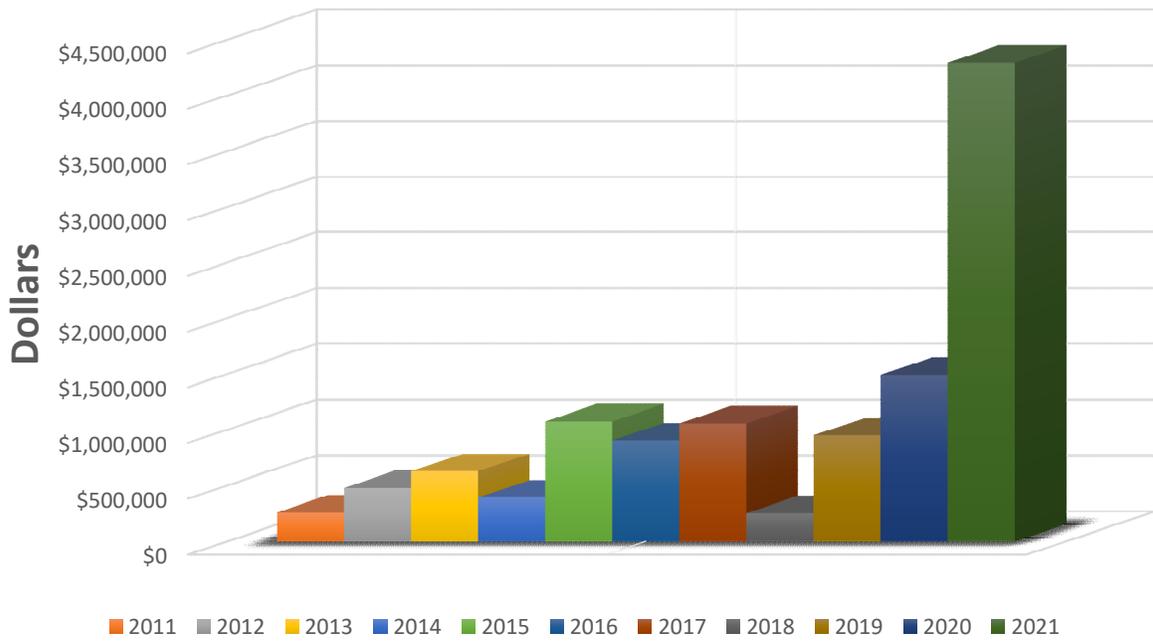


Not included in the above chart are the 12 exposures.

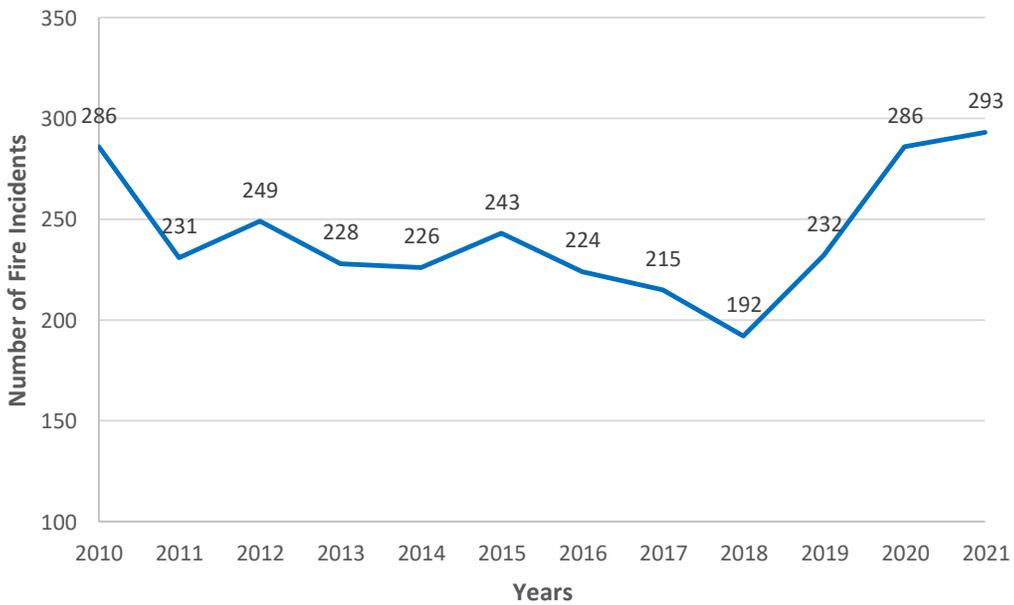


(42 fires requiring extinguishment including 5 exposures)

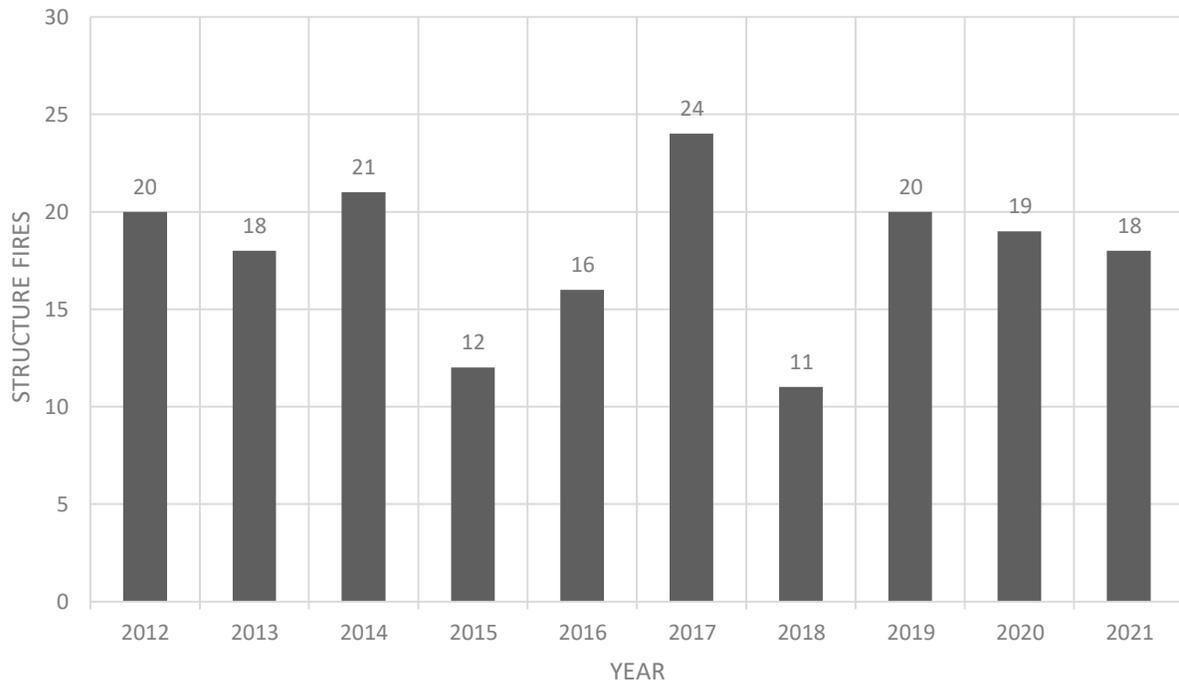
Fire Losses By Year



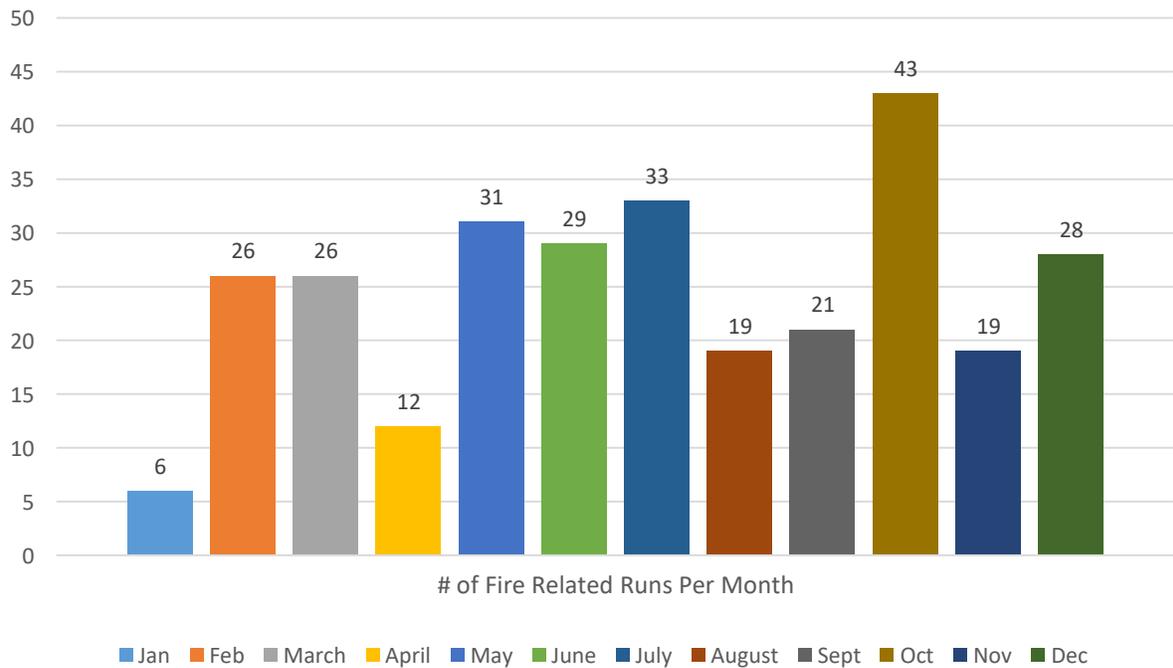
Fire Runs By Years

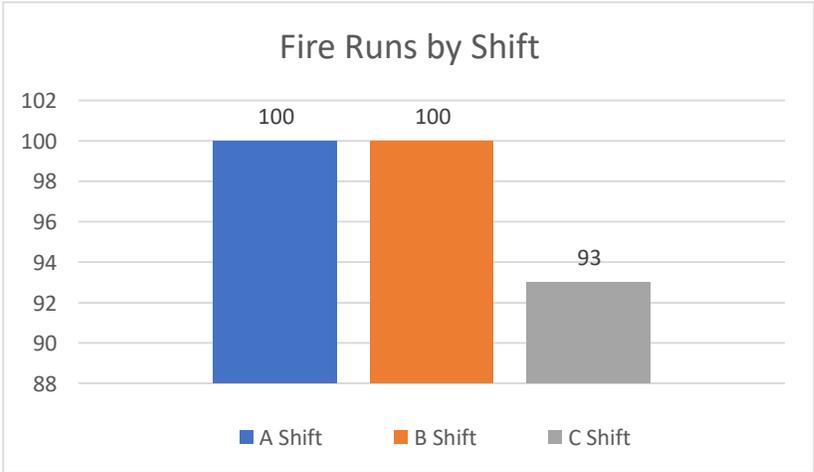
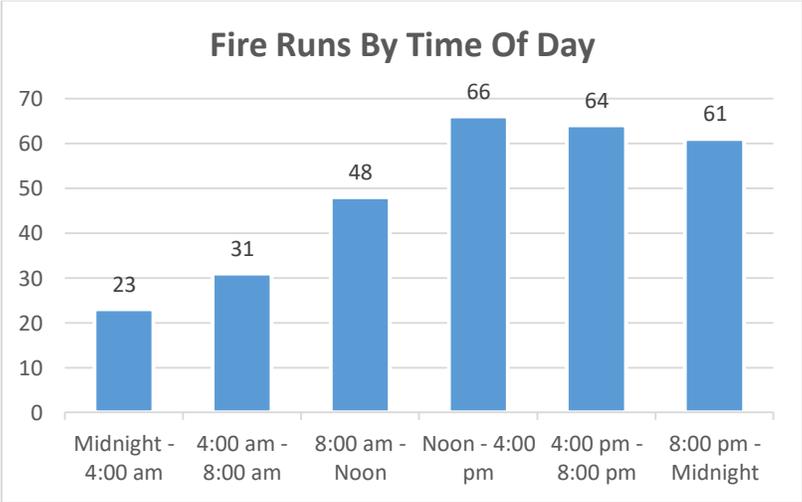
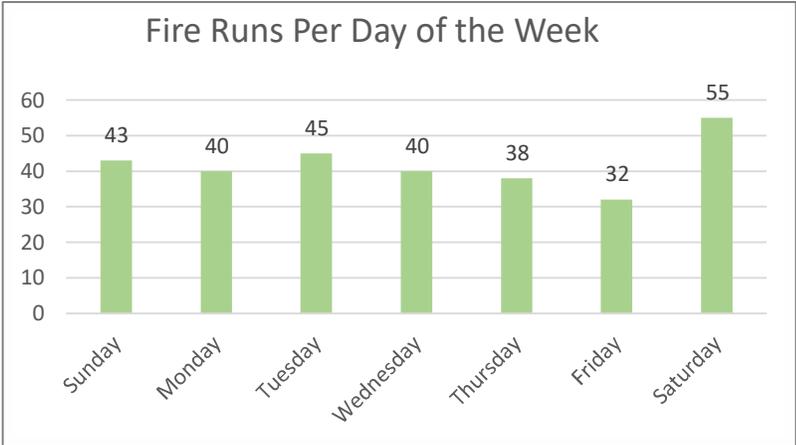


Structure Fire Incidents By Year 2012-2021



2021 Fire Runs Per Month

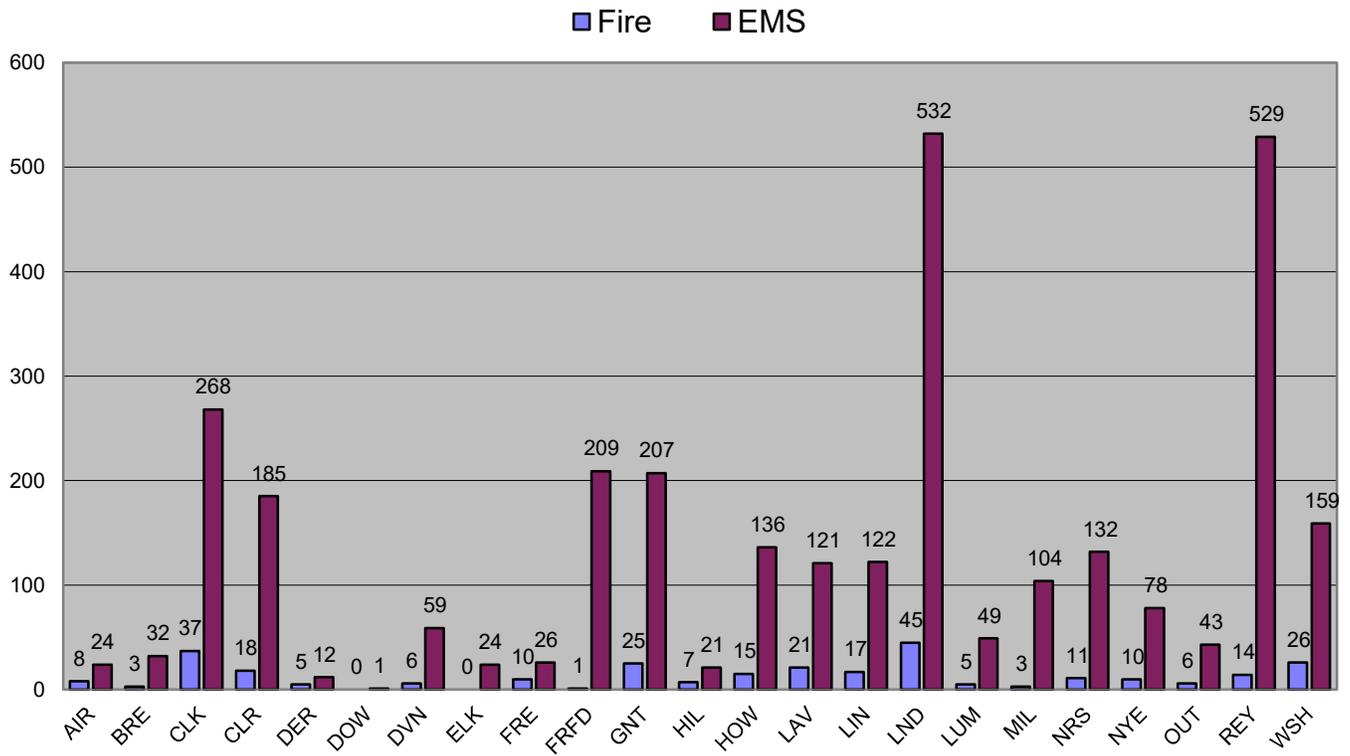




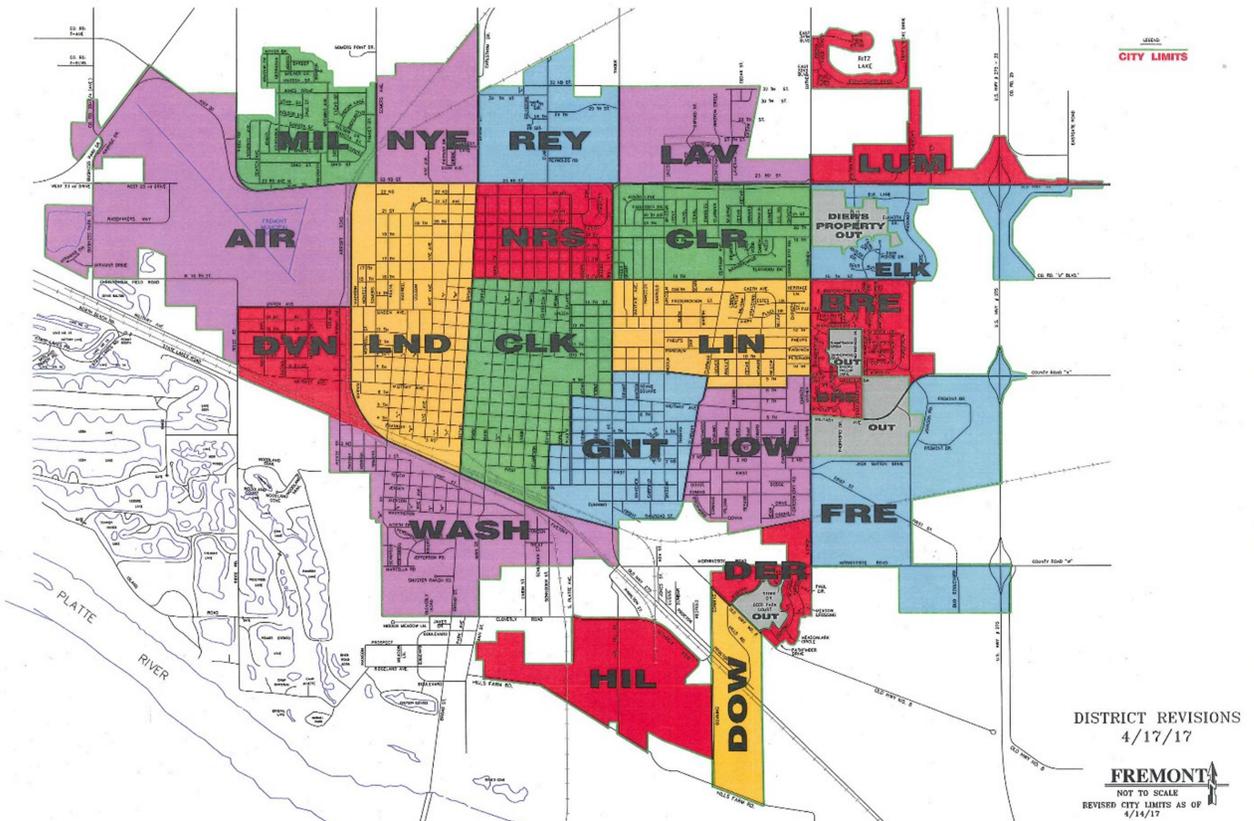
FIRE BILLING:

Total fire billing amount for calls collected in 2021 was \$13,431.50. The current fire billing rates are: Engine \$650.00 per hour, Aerial/Ladder Truck \$900.00 per hour, Utility Truck \$350.00 per hour, Command Vehicle \$250.00 per hour, Heavy Rescue \$400.00 per hour, and Mileage \$17.00 per mile per vehicle. Equipment Cost: Jaws of Life \$400.00, Power Saw \$75.00, Vehicle Stabilization Struts \$75.00, Air Bags \$75.00, Cribbing Blocks \$10.00, Hand Tools/Shovels \$10.00, Ventilation Fan \$50.00 and Damaged Equipment fair market value.

2021 Fire/EMS Emergencies By Section of City



FRFD-Fremont Rural Fire Department District
 OUT-out of city limits and out of Fremont Rural Fire Department District



Section 3



Water Rescues during Platte River Flooding
with the Fremont Rural Fire Department
February 2021



Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS SERVICE

The fire department saw an 8.8% increase in EMS emergencies and a 9% increase in patient contacts from 2020. The fire department responded to 3,073 medical emergencies which include 184 motor vehicle accidents (MVA) and 14 Advance Life Support (ALS) intercepts with area fire departments. The fire department had 3,192 patient contacts. Of the 3,192 patients, 654 (20%) were Advanced Life Support (ALS), 1,498 (47%) Basic Life Support (BLS), and 1,040 (33%) refused care/transport. The average patient age was 60.18 years old. December was the busiest month with 319 EMS calls. There were 43 EMS related incidents where the responding units were cancelled enroute.

There were three firefighters that were injured on EMS related emergencies in 2021.

Four department paramedics are also members of the Emergency Response Unit (ERU). The ERU members are made up Fremont Police Officers and Dodge County Sheriff Deputies. The paramedics are there to assist that team when they serve warrants and if one of the members become injured or if others become injured. This teams also conducts monthly training.

EMS RESPONSE TIMES:

In-Town EMS Emergencies:

The average turnout time is 2 minutes 06 seconds. The 90-percentile turnout time is 3 minutes 01 seconds. Turnout time is measured from the time of the call is received at the fire station to the time unit(s) go enroute.

The average travel time is 3 minutes 05 seconds. The 90-percentile travel time is 4 minutes 53 seconds. Travel time is measured from the time fire department units go enroute to the time unit(s) arrive on scene.

The average response time for is 5 minutes 13 seconds. The 90-percentile response time is 7 minutes 21 seconds. Response time is measured from the time the call is received at the fire station to the time unit(s) arrive on scene.

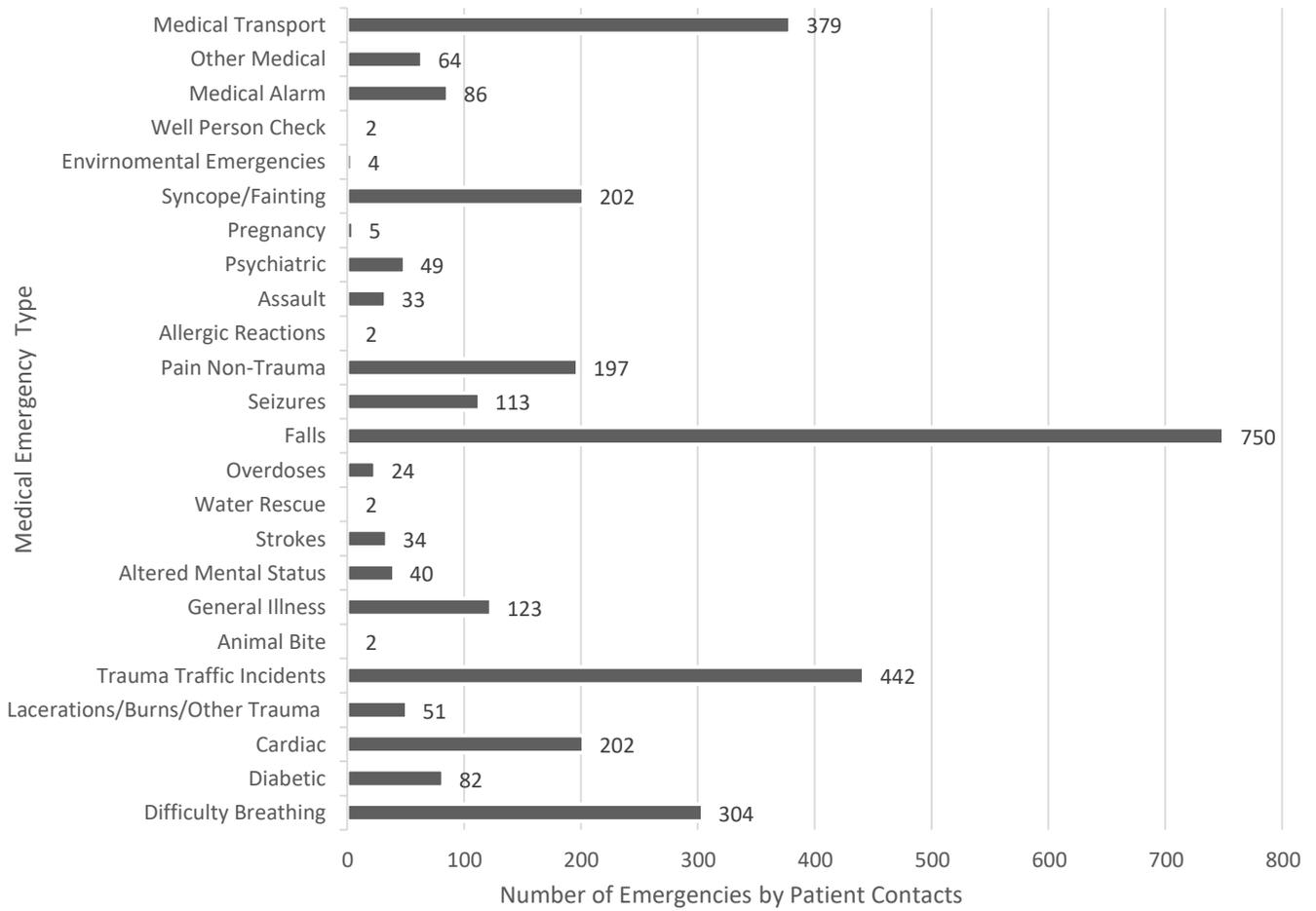
Out-Of-Town EMS Emergencies:

The average turnout time is 2 minutes 18 seconds. The 90-percentile turnout time is 3 minutes 16 seconds. Turnout time is measured from the time of the call is received at the fire station to the time unit(s) go enroute.

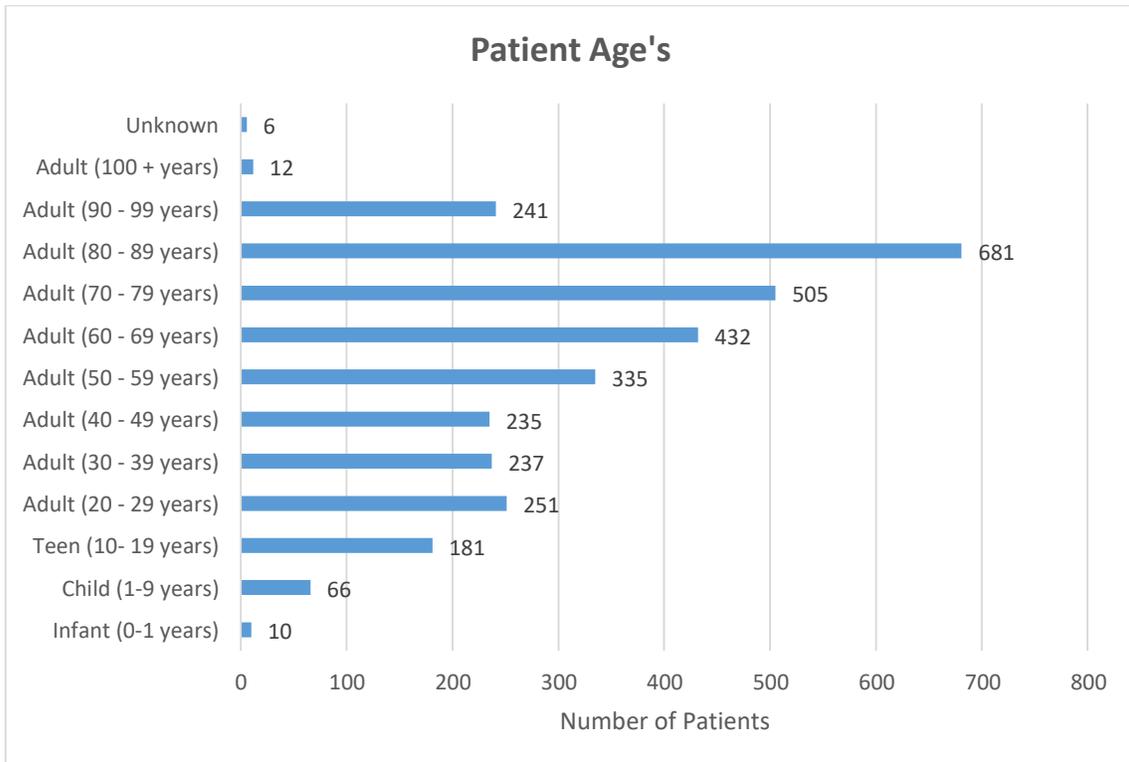
The average travel time is 7 minutes 12 seconds. The 90-percentile travel time is 11 minutes 12 seconds. Travel time is measured from the time fire department units go enroute to the time unit(s) arrive on scene.

The average response time is 9 minutes 30 seconds. The 90-percentile response time is 13 minutes 59 seconds. Response time is measured from the time the call is received at the fire station to the time unit(s) arrive on scene.

Medical Emergency Types

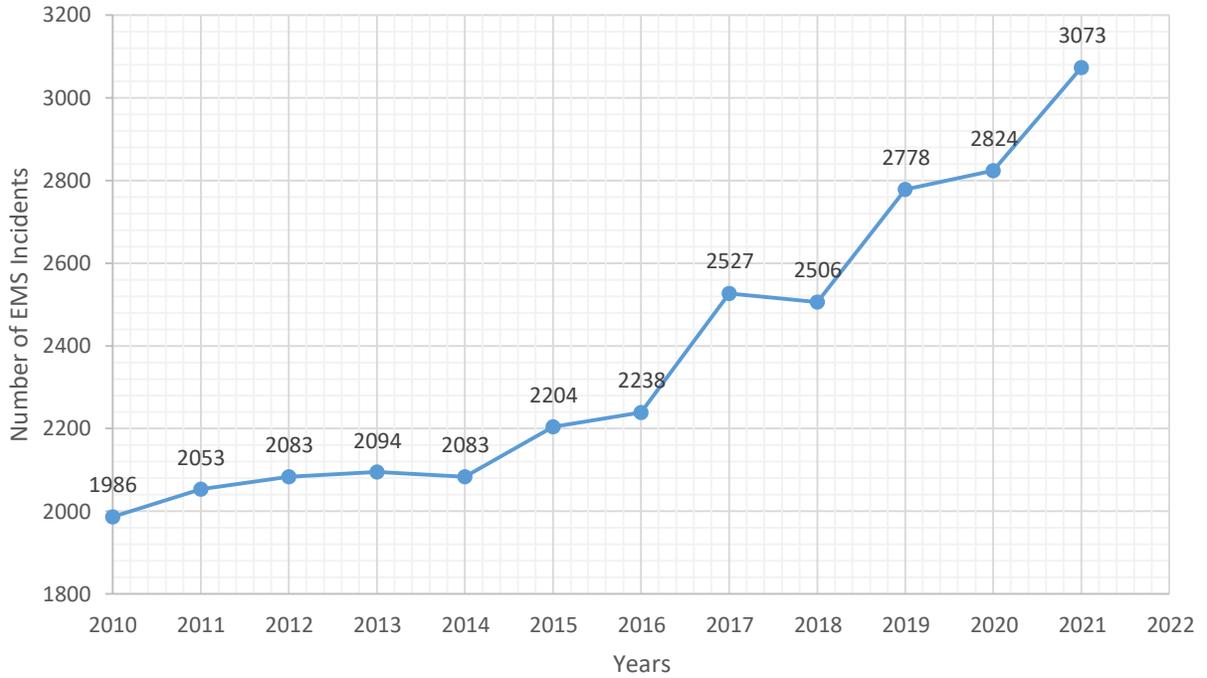


Patient Age's

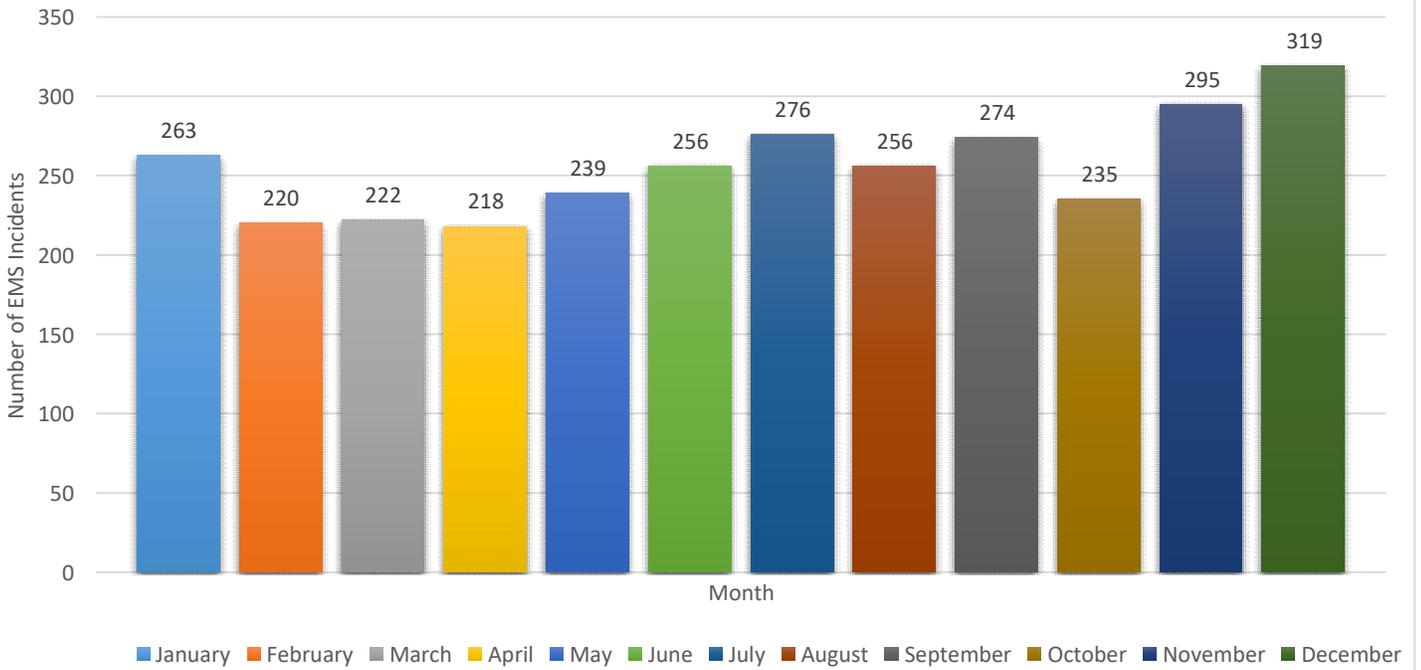


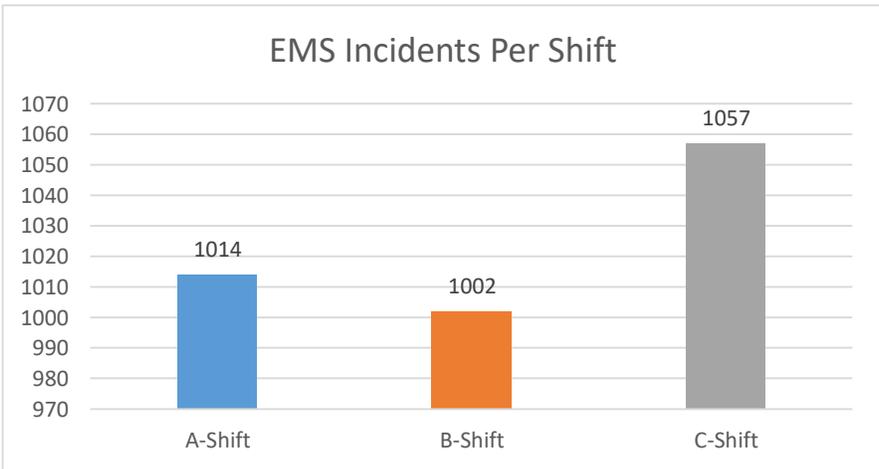
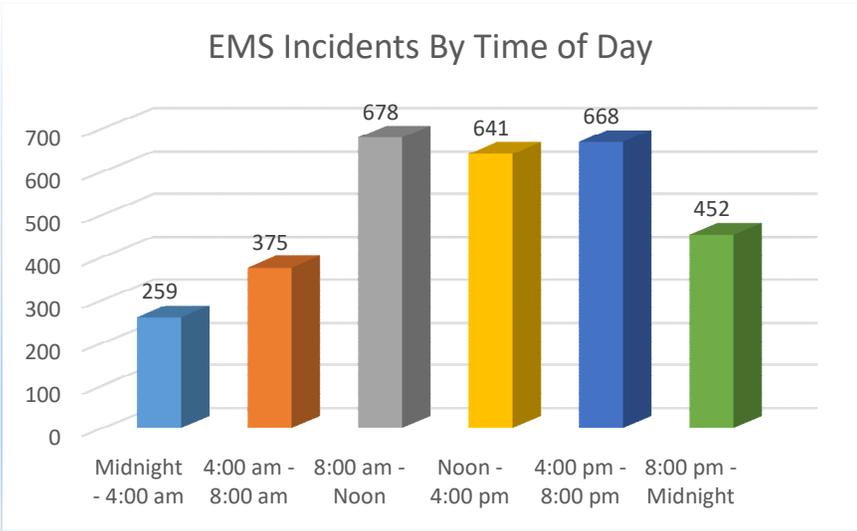
Average Patient Age: 60.18 years old

EMS Incidents By Years



EMS Incidents Per Month





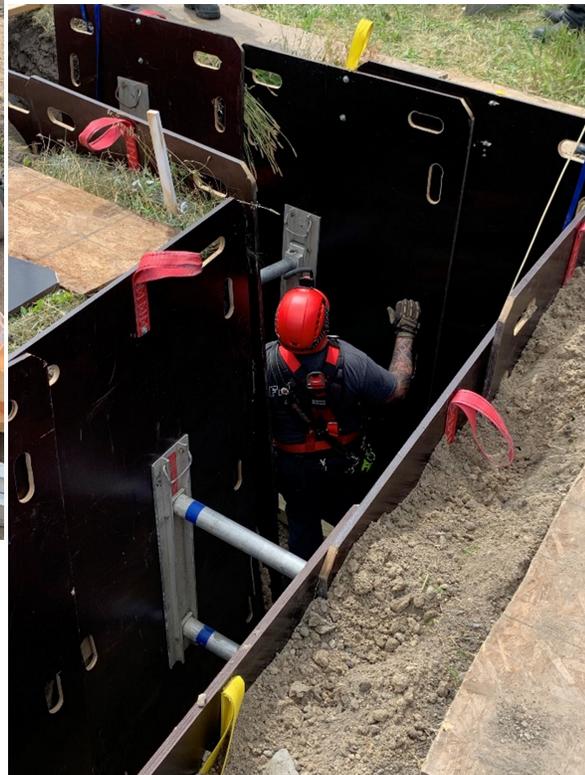
EMS BILLING:

The EMS service provided by the fire department generates revenue through user fees, which are determined by the level of service provided. The department’s current rates are: BLS (Basic Life Support) \$725.00; ALS1 (Advanced Life Support – Level 1) \$950.00; ALS2 (Advanced Life Support – Level 2) \$1,250.00; and Facility Assist \$250.00. A \$17.00 per mile one-way fee is added to all transport runs. When transporting is not necessary, but ALS assistance is given to a patient at the scene there is a \$350.00 fee. When personnel are requested to “intercept” with an ambulance from another community, a contract has been put in place to receive \$175.00 of what is collected by the transporting squad (the transporting agency bills the patient). For the year (January - December 2021) a total of \$729,716.50 in squad user fees were collected by the City.

Section 4



Trench Rescue Training with
Metro Community College, June 2021

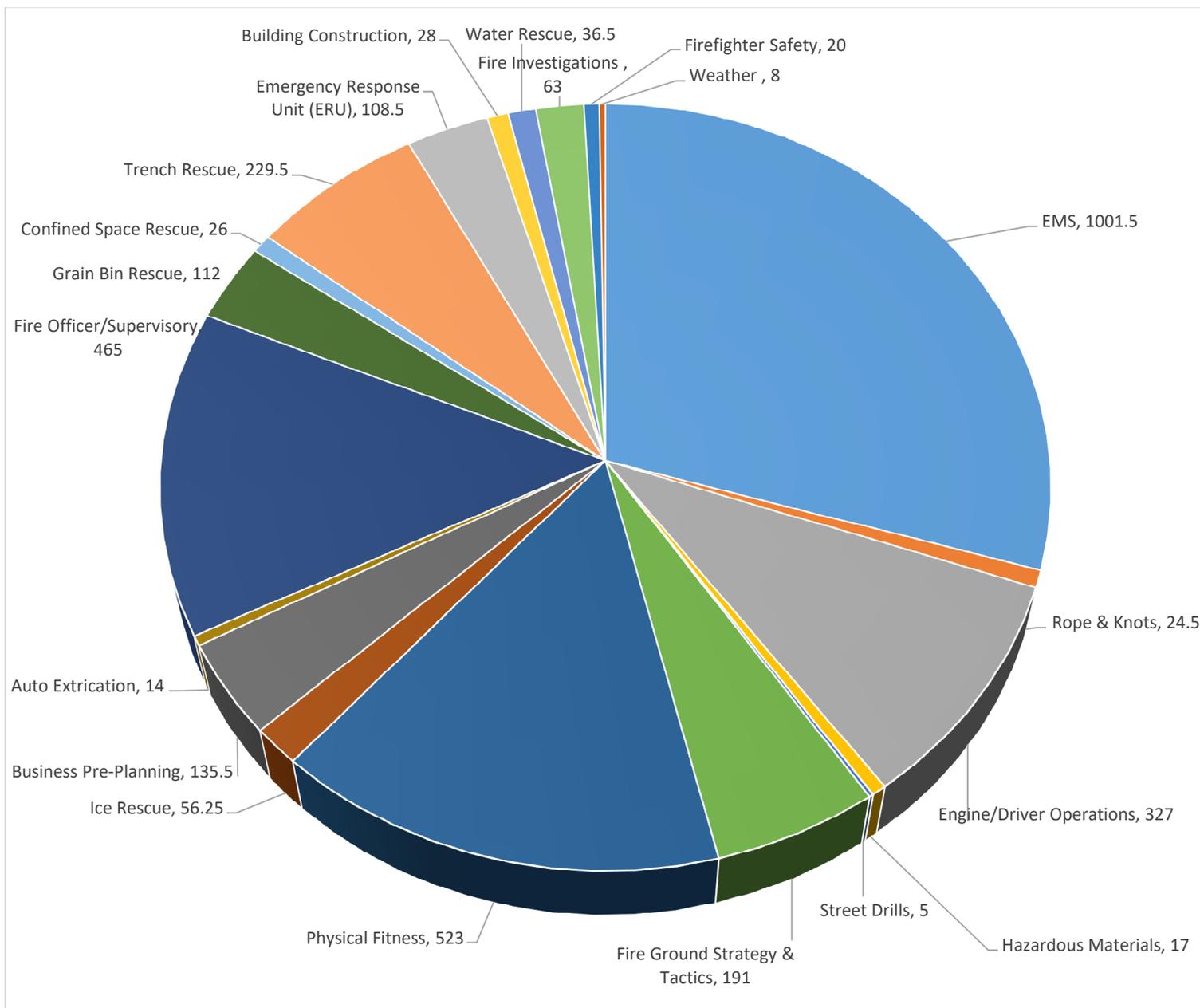


Department Training

Department Training

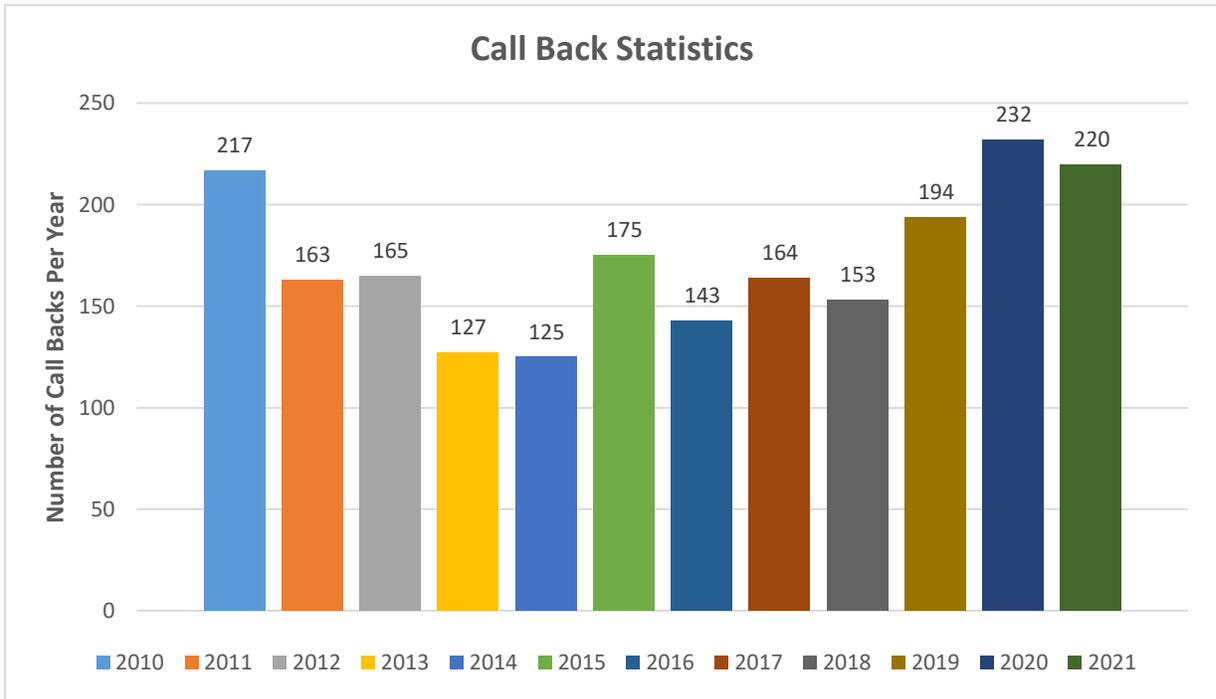
In 2021, department personnel received roughly 3,391.5 hours of training. We do send personnel to training opportunities outside the fire department. Fire department training does involve various subject matter including pumper/aerial driver operations, street drills, vehicle extrication, confined space, high angle/low angle rope rescue, emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials response, fire ground strategy & tactics, and technical rescue. The department conducts yearly training to maintain their paramedic and EMT licenses with the State of Nebraska and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians including the courses Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advance Life Support (PALS).

Fire Department Training Hours 3,391.5 Total Hours



Grain Bin Rescue Training with Oklahoma State University, July 2021





Calls backs are used when additional staffing is needed to staff the fire station due to multiple emergencies happening at the same time or to provide staffing at an EMS and/or fire emergency when needed. In 2021, there were 220 call backs. This is a decrease of approximately 5% from 2020.



Machinery Fire June 2021



Apartment Fire June 2021

Section 5



Fire Department Open House October 2021
Picture used by permission

Public Relations Activities

Members of the Fremont Fire Department actively work to inform and educate the public by participating in community events, as well as initiating its own programs. A few of the activities include an annual open house, presentations to service organizations, fire drills, Keep Fremont Beautiful ECO-Fair, and puppet shows at the elementary schools, Junior Fire Marshal program, 'Change Your Clock Change Your Battery' campaign, and fire extinguisher classes for area businesses.



Story Time with Keene Memorial Library at the fire station. October 2021



For Fire Prevention Week 2021, the fire department distributed fire prevention materials and home safety checklists to the grade schools. The Junior Fire Marshal Program is for all Fremont kindergarten through fourth grade students. The students are given a 'Home Safety Checklist' to take home. With the help of parents or guardians, they go through their home looking for fire hazards and correcting the problem for a fire safe home. Both the student and parent or guardian sign, return the checklist back to school, and then the checklists are picked up by the fire department. The school with the highest percentage of 'Home Safety Checklist' returned, are awarded the 'Junior Fire Marshal Program' traveling trophy for the year. The 2021 school with the highest returns was Clarmar School with 84%, other school's returns are, Linden 49%, Washington 43%, Trinity 31%, Grant 22%, Bergan Elementary 13%, Howard 15%, Milliken 17%, and Bell Field 2%.

Fire Station Open House, October 2021





Keene Memorial Library
Touch-A-Truck Day, July 2021



The fire department conducts inspections/pre-plans of various local businesses. In 2021, department personnel logged roughly 135.5 hours working on pre-plans of local businesses. This allows personnel to be better prepared in the event of an emergency at that location.

Every June prior to the sale of fireworks, the fire department inspects all firework stands so they meet the city ordinance prior to the city issuing a permit to sale fireworks. Firework stands must also meet the state statute for the sale of fireworks.

The department offers a presentation called “What to Expect When the Squad Arrives”. This program is available to anyone, but is designed specifically toward senior citizens. Its goal is to try to minimize the anxieties a medical emergency can create by answering questions and showing procedures in a more relaxed environment. Personnel also offers tips on what to do, or what not to do, while waiting for the squad to arrive – whether you are alone or with someone.

Fremont Firefighters conduct fire extinguisher education classes for employees of local businesses and welcomes the opportunity to speak to groups of any age or background at any time.

Every spring and fall, the fire department takes part in the National 'CHANGE YOUR CLOCK CHANGE YOUR BATTERY' campaign. Through the campaign, department personnel are able to get 9 Volt batteries free of charge through Energizer. Through advertising, the department checks and changes smoke detector batteries for senior citizens and disabled individuals.



FAQs

What is a Key Lock Box and where can I obtain one?

A Key Lock Box System is a high security, rapid entry option containing appropriate keys, access cards or other small items necessary to allow the Fire Department to gain entry to a building or alarmed portion in the event of an emergency without property damage due to forcible entry. Key Lock Boxes are ideal for commercial and industrial businesses protected by automatic alarm system or automatic suppression system or such building that are secured in a manner that restricts access during an emergency; for multifamily residential buildings that have restricted access through locked doors and have a common corridor for access to the living units; public school buildings, nursing, adult day care, and long-term care and assisted living facilities, child day-care facilities, nursery and preschools and private schools, churches, and community centers. In Fremont, the fire chief designates the type of key lock box system to be implemented within the city. Contact the fire department at 402- 727-2688 for more information.

Do you install or inspect child car seats?

No, we don't. However, members of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office are certified to install and inspect car seats. You may reach them at 402-727-2700 to make an appointment. They are located in the Dodge County Courthouse (435 N Park in Fremont). Three Rivers District Health Department also provides this service. They can be reached at 402-727-5396 and are located at 2400 North Lincoln Avenue in Fremont.

Why do firefighters cut holes in the roof and break windows of a building on fire?

This is called "VENTILATION". There are two basic reasons for ventilating a structure. The first is, removal of dangerous gases, heat, and dark smoke that accumulate in a burning building reducing visibility and greatly impeding rescue and firefighting efforts. Second, ventilation allows firefighters to relieve the structure of superheated gases and smoke which spread fire and contribute to dangerous situations like flashover and back draft explosions.

What should I do with HOT fireplace ash?

DO NOT remove hot ashes from the fireplace immediately. Wait up to 2-3 days and let the ashes cool completely in the fireplace until there are no remaining hot embers before removing them. Place cool ash in a metal container and store outside away from the home and all combustibles.

What is your response area?

Our fire response area is within the Fremont City limits. EMS (Emergency Medical Service) is provided east to the Washington County line, west approximately seven miles, north two miles, and south to the Platte River. Upon request from neighboring agencies, in accordance with mutual aid agreements, those lines can be crossed.

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