



Pride, Honor, Integrity

GOSHEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

2021 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT



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Message from the Chief



It is my pleasure to present our Goshen Fire Department year-end report for 2021. 2021 was busy and challenging year. The individual efforts of our staff can never be captured in its entirety; however, this report does provide you an overview for the Goshen Fire Department's activity in 2021.

We continued to respond to calls for service for COVID-19 which is now engrained in our process and procedures for GFD. We ended 2021 with just over 5,000 calls for service which is a new record for GFD and I don't believe our calls for service shows any sign of slowing based on our January 2022 call volume of over 500 calls for service.

We partnered with the Elkhart Twp. Volunteer Fire Department and their Trustee to form an agreement whereby the Goshen Fire Department would take over Elkhart Township's fire calls. This agreement was established by the end of the year and we began responding to all fire and EMS calls in Elkhart Township as of January 01, 2022. Our Goshen Community as a whole is growing at a rapid rate and all of our divisions; Fire/Rescue, EMS, Inspection & Prevention, Training and Public Education have worked diligently to keep up with the pace.

We continue to work towards our goal of becoming an ISO 2 rated community which in turn helps lower insurance rates; especially for our commercial and manufacturing partners. Assistant Chief of Training Steffen Schrock is working with Goshen Engineering in developing "Phase 2" of our training site development. Assistant Chief of EMS Bruce Nethercutt is developing processes and policies for efficiencies for the EMS Division. We also suffer from the same supply chain issues as everyone else and EMS Lieutenant Shane McKerchie is diligently working to keep our EMS supplies in stock.....a never ending job. Because of our community growth; our Inspection & Prevention Division, led by Chief Inspector Scott Thomas and supported by Inspector John Evans are working through plan reviews and inspections at a rate that I've never witnessed at GFD.

GFD continues to work with our response partners at the local, regional and state level. We partnered with local fire and EMS departments this year for technical rescue training; mostly in rope rescue and Assistant Chief of Training Schrock is holding monthly drills at our training

facility to help build the skills of our local responders and build the relationships that our so critical in our service.

Assistant Chief of Admin/Operations, Anthony Powell coordinates all of the divisions mentioned above and credit for this report should go to Chief Powell for his efforts in bringing this report together for your review.

In 2022 we will take on new challenges in a professional manner all while providing dedicated care and protection for the citizens we serve.

Dan Sink

Chief of the Department



Goshen Fire Department Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a positive workplace with continual training and adequate equipment so that we may give our customers the very best service possible. The importance of our service; fire suppression, rescue, prevention and investigation, paramedic ambulance service, and public education: compels us to perform our duties in a sincere, skillful, dedicated and professional manner.

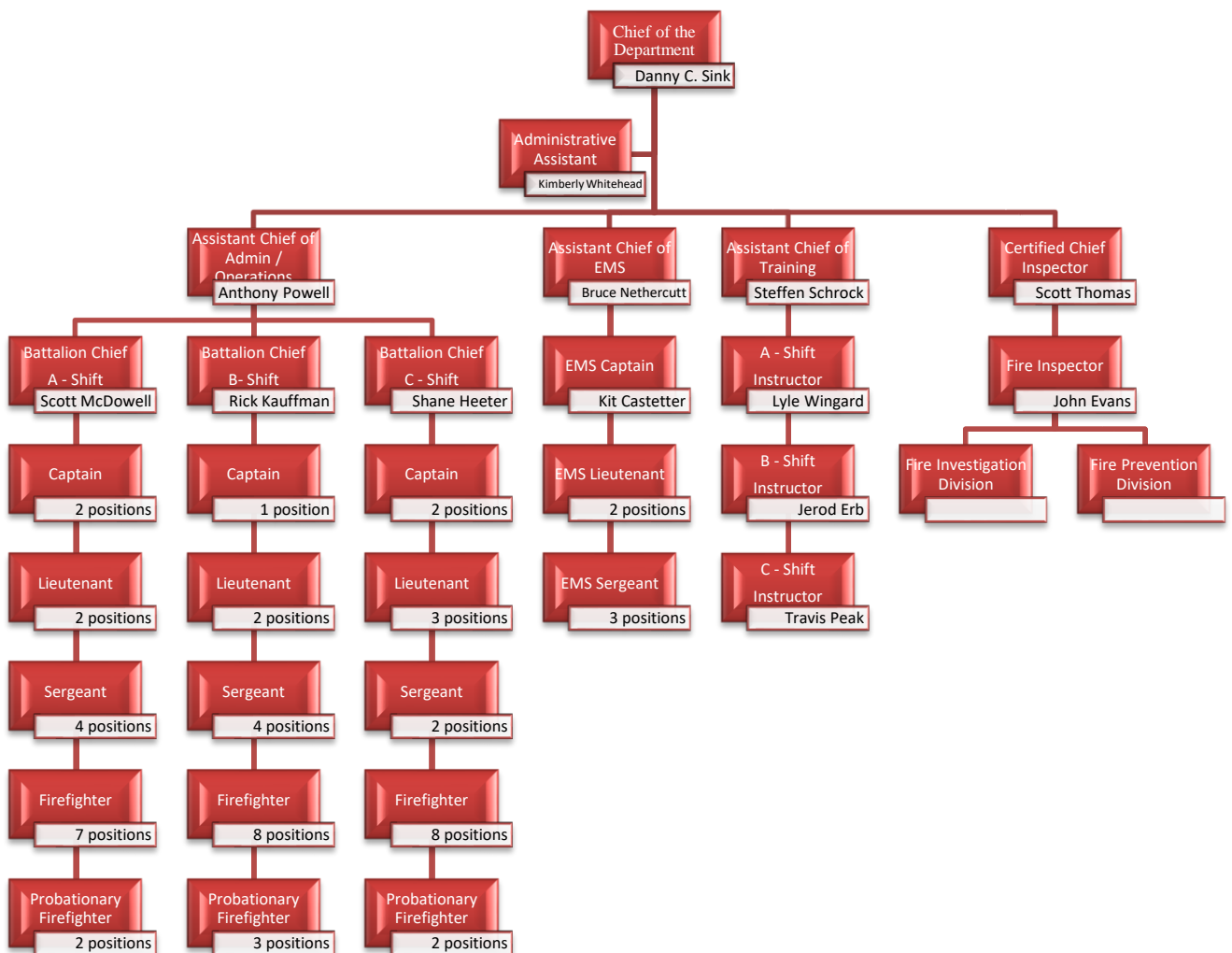
Goshen Firefighter Oath of Office

I do solemnly affirm that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the State of Indiana and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties as firefighter on the Goshen Fire Department according to the law and to the best of my ability, so help me God.



Goshen Fire Department

Organization Chart





Overview:

The Goshen Fire Department responded to 5,101 calls for service in 2021, an 4.9% increase from 2020. Average response time for the first arriving unit on emergency calls from our dispatch to arrival on scene, was 4 minutes and 47 seconds.

The annual dollar loss from investigated fires was estimated at \$887,300 up from \$886,265 in 2020. The percent of property value saved in structure fires during 2021 was 93.6% compared to 94% in 2020.

The total dollar amount of property saved in 2021 was \$13,847,500.

Operations

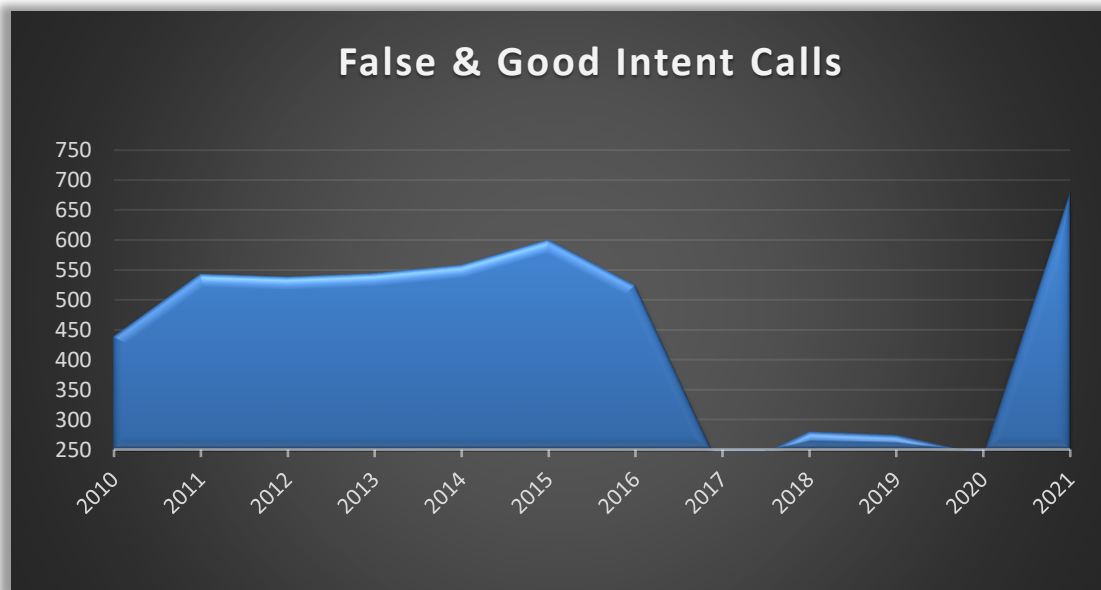
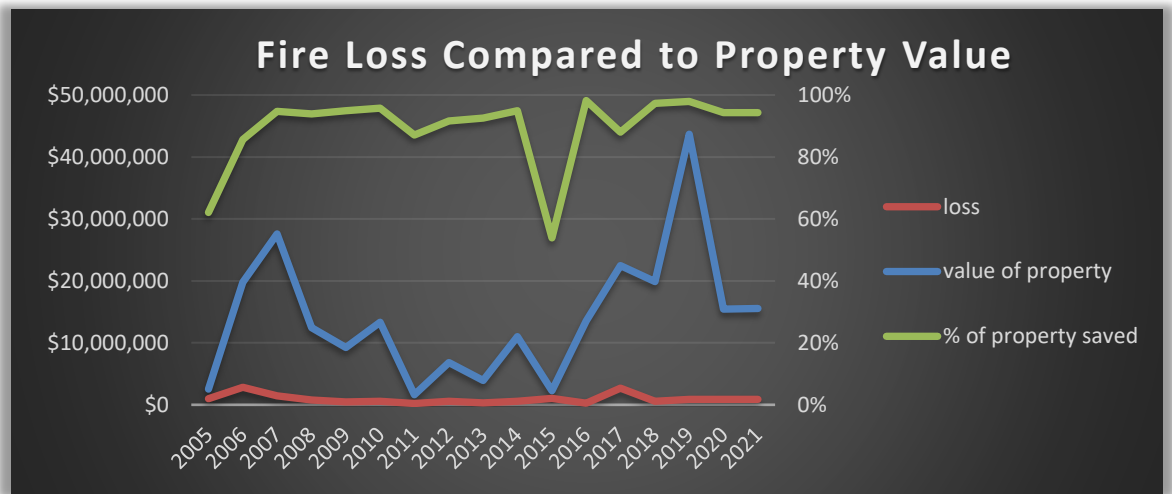
➤ Suppression – Assistant Chief of Admin and Operations Anthony Powell

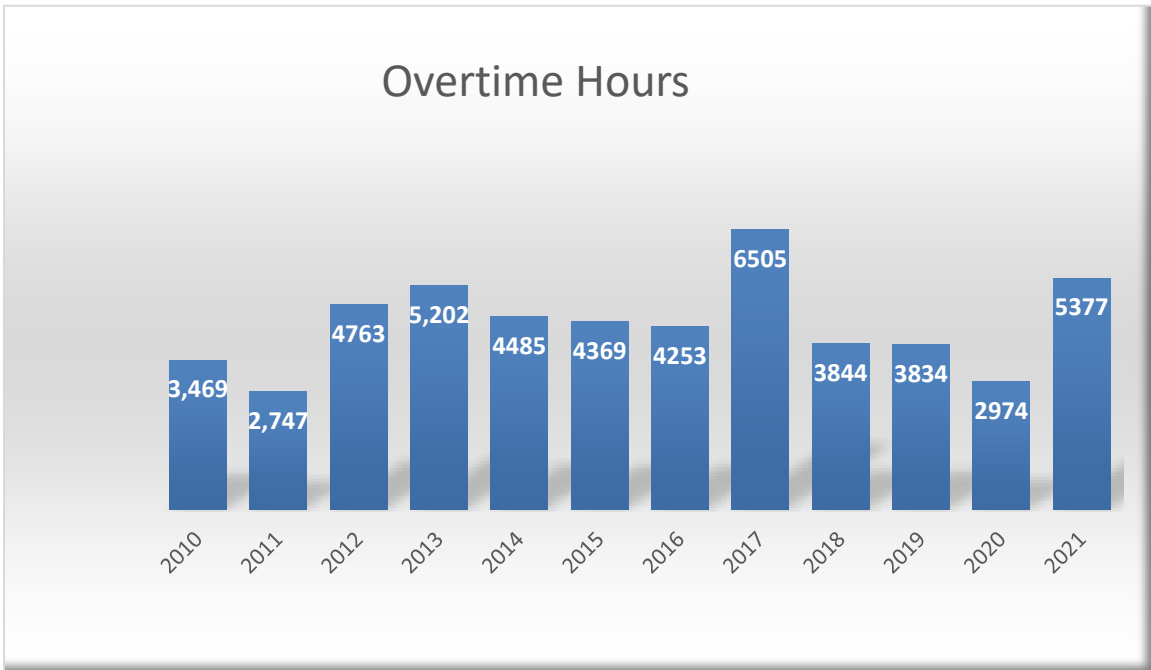
In Table #1, shows the types of calls for service, overtime hours, average response times, estimated fire loss/property value, percent of property saved and average calls per day.

In Table #2, illustrates the type of emergencies that the fire department responded to during 2021. Furthermore, the type of call is indicated by month.

Table #1	2018	2020	2021	2021	Diff from last year
Estimated Population	33,600	34,000	34,217	34,508	291
Total Calls	4638	4746	4527	5101	574 more
EMS Patients	3856	3970	3893	4459	566 more
EMS Assist Calls	2132	2290	2072	2276	204 more
Fire/Hazardous Conditions	63	51	76	110	34 more
Vehicle Fire	10	14	17	23	6 more
False Alarms	280	275	241	313	72 more
Overtime Hours	3844	3834	2974	5377	2403 more
Average Response Time	5:09	5:05	4:47	5:25	0:38 more
Value of Property	\$19,863,550	\$43,674,950	\$14,561,835	\$13,847,500	\$714,335 less
Value of Fire Loss	\$542,805	\$884,505	\$886,265	\$887,300	\$1,035 more
Percentage of Property Saved	97%	98%	94%	93.6%	-0.4% less
Calls Per Day	12.7	12.9	12.4	13.9	0.9 More

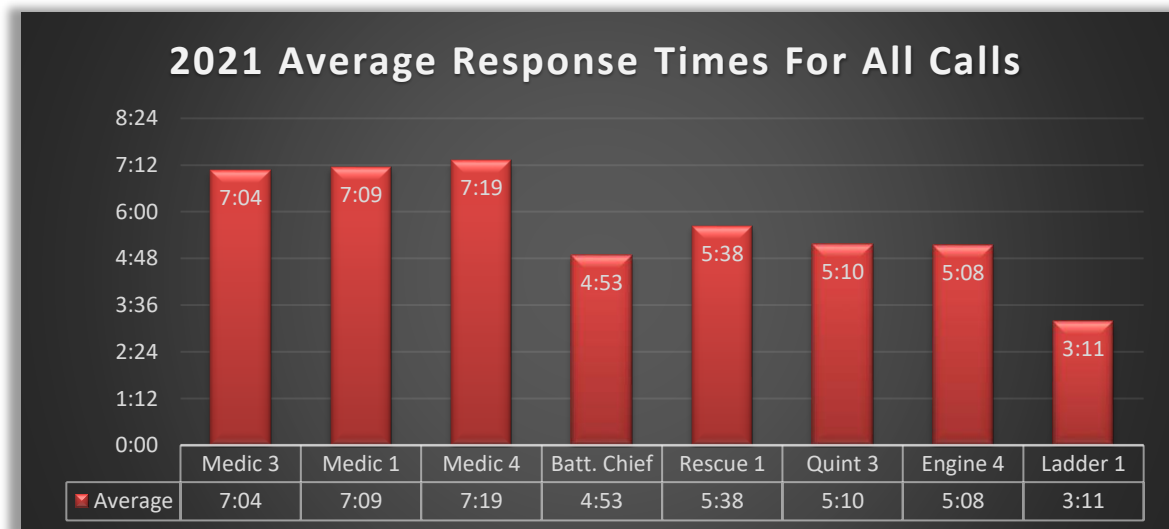
Table #2	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Motor Vehicle Crash	10	8	20	21	20	20	31	20	22	28	23	13	236
Vehicle Extrication	2	0	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	10
Medical Calls	298	262	253	314	281	314	325	357	347	366	332	345	3797
Fire Alarms	14	15	19	24	29	22	24	34	22	32	29	26	290
Cancelled Enroute Calls	13	14	27	25	27	29	38	33	25	35	20	29	313
Structure Fire	2	4	4	4	2	2	1	3	2	0	2	1	27
Rubbish Fire	1	1	8	4	9	2	0	1	5	3	2	6	42
Vehicle Fire	2	1	0	3	3	2	0	4	1	1	2	4	23
Natural Gas Leak	3	3	4	7	3	4	6	6	7	3	6	0	52
CO Incident	3	1	0	3	1	5	0	4	0	1	2	4	24
Service Calls	8	5	14	9	10	13	14	8	14	27	7	6	135

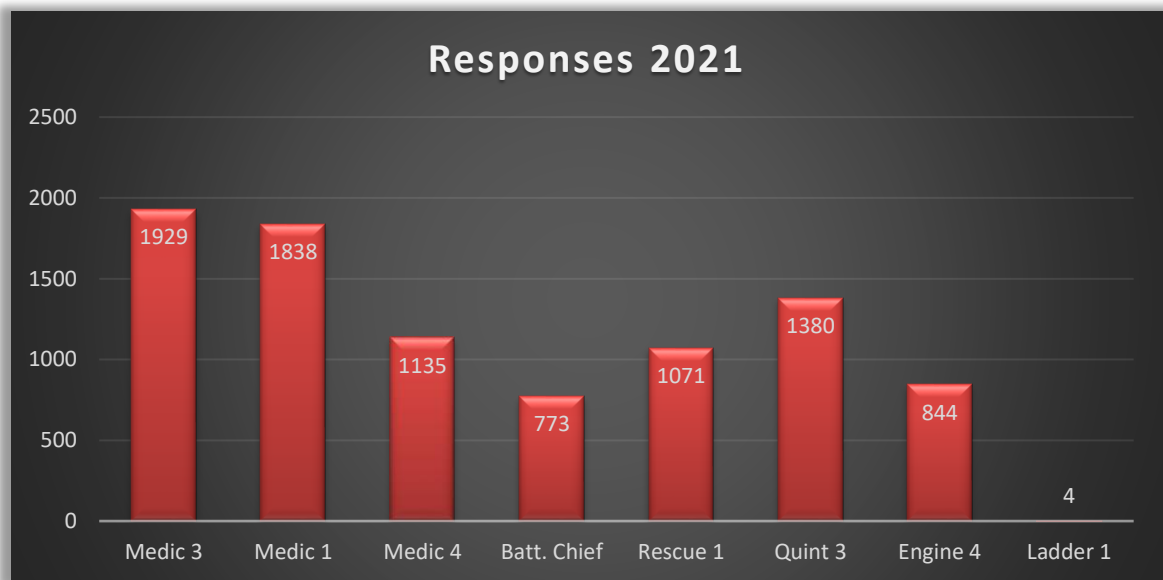
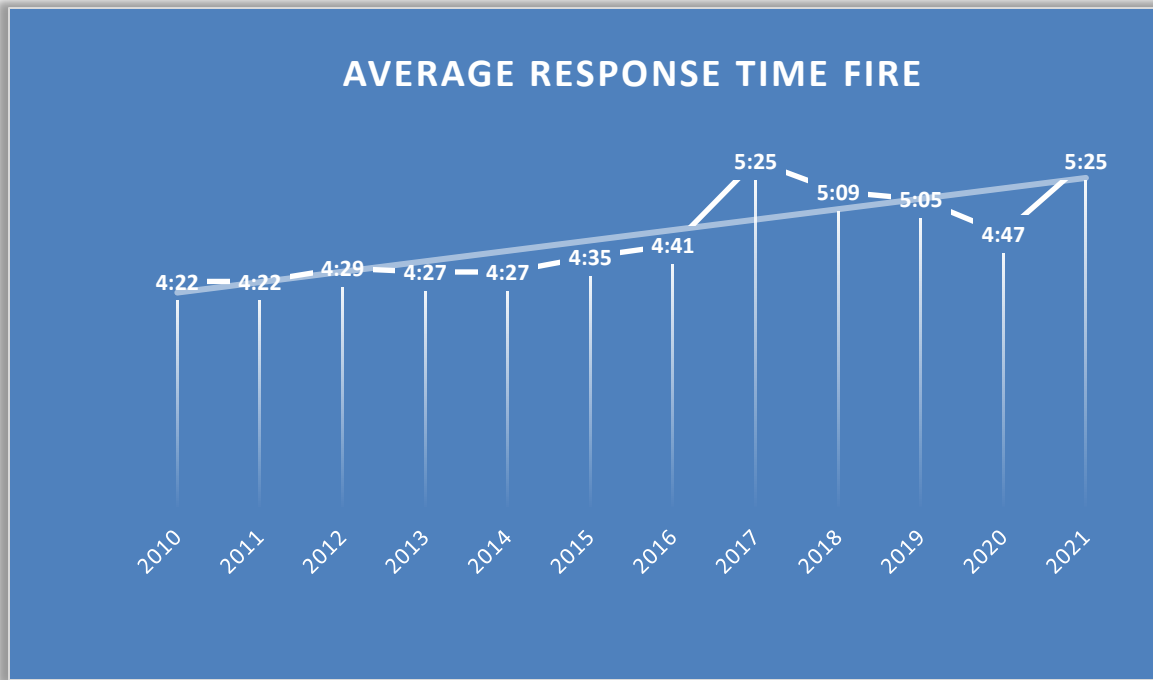




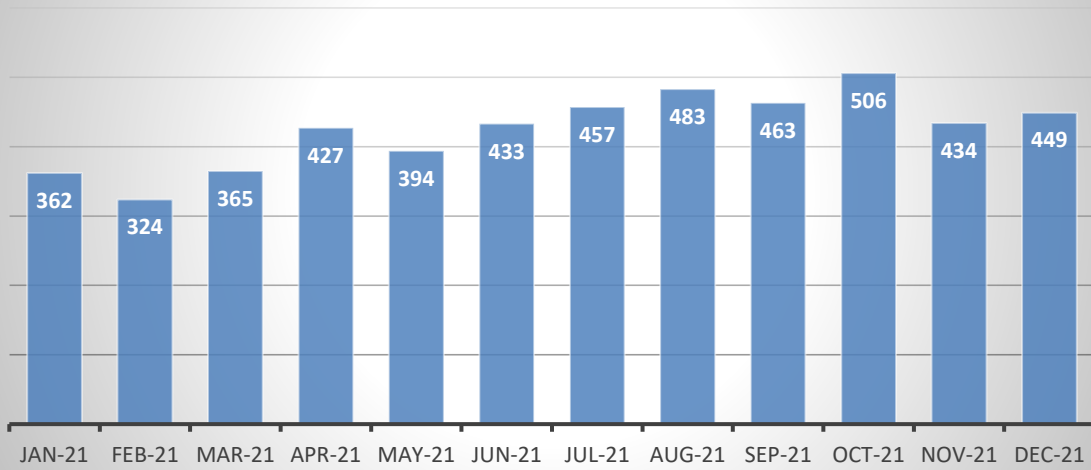
RESPONSE TIME BREAKDOWN FOR 2021		
Mutual Aid Provided to Townships		
Average Response Time from Dispatch to Arrival at Scene: 12 min 33 sec		
Average Response Time from Our Dispatch to Arrival at Scene for EMS Emergent Calls (Primary Units Only)		
Central Station: 5 min 21 sec		
Station 3: 5 min 32 sec		
Station 4: 5 min 38 sec		
Average Response Time from Our Dispatch to Arrival at Scene for FIRE Emergent Calls (Primary Units Only)		
Central Station: 4 min 24 sec		
Station 3: 5 min 13 sec		
Station 4: 5 min 14 sec		
All Unit's Response Times for Every Call		
Average Response Time from Dispatch to Going En-route: 3 min 03 sec		
First Arriving Unit's Response Time for Every Call		
Average Response Time from Dispatch to Going En-route: 1 min 46 sec		
First Arriving Unit on Structure Fires		
Average Response Time from Dispatch to Arrival at Scene: 4 min 22 sec		
Apparatus Average Response Times for EMS Calls (No mutual aid and emergent calls only)		
Apparatus Name	Dispatch Time to En-route	Dispatch Time to Arrival @ Scene
B9	1 min 54 sec	4 min 47 sec
921	1 min 56 sec	5 min 34 sec
923	1 min 49 sec	5 min 51 sec
924	1 min 49 sec	5 min 10 sec
925	1 min 52 sec	5 min 36 sec
961	1 min 40 sec	4 min 47 sec
944	1 min 19 sec	4 min 35 sec
945	1 min 34 sec	5 min 15 sec
993	1 min 36 sec	4 min 41 sec

Apparatus Average Response Times for ALL Calls		
Apparatus Name	Dispatch Time to En-route	Dispatch Time to Arrival @ Scene
B9	1 min 43 sec	4 min 35 sec
921	2 min 00 sec	5 min 25 sec
923	1 min 51 sec	5 min 46 sec
924	1 min 49 sec	6 min 04 sec
925	1 min 52 sec	5 min 36 sec
961	1 min 39 sec	4 min 54 sec
944	1 min 23 sec	4 min 41 sec
945	1 min 31 sec	5 min 03 sec
993	1 min 43 sec	5 min 06 sec

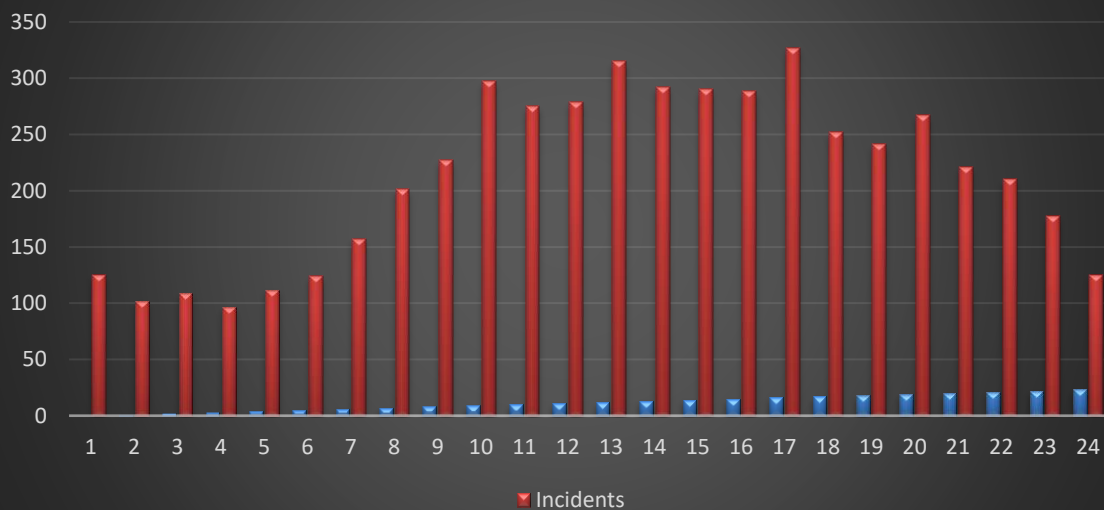


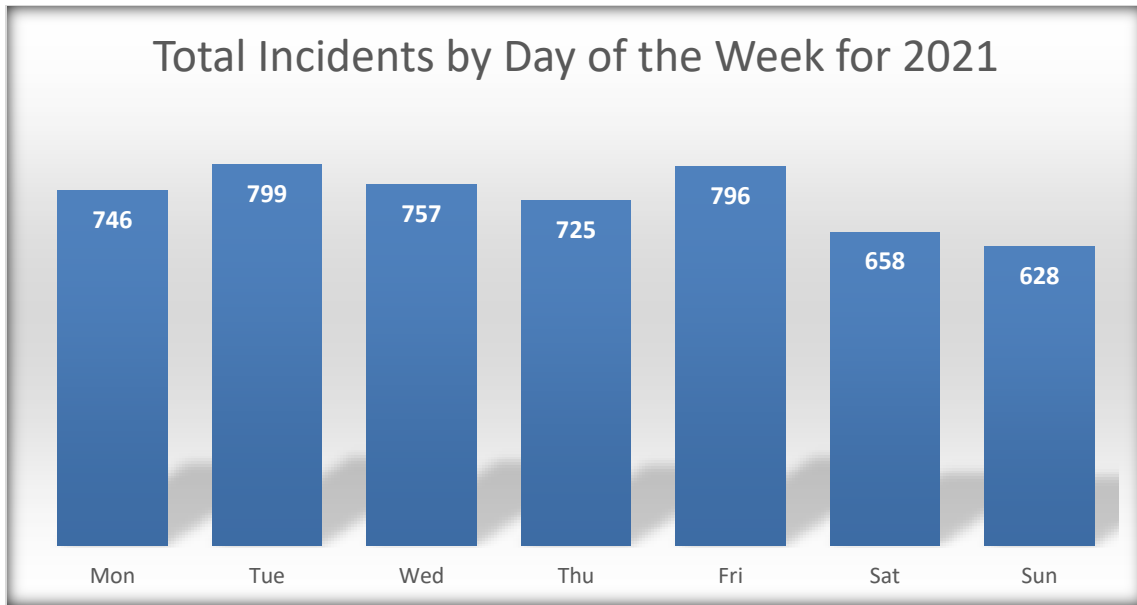


Total Incidents Each Month for 2021



Total Incidents per Hour of Day for 2020

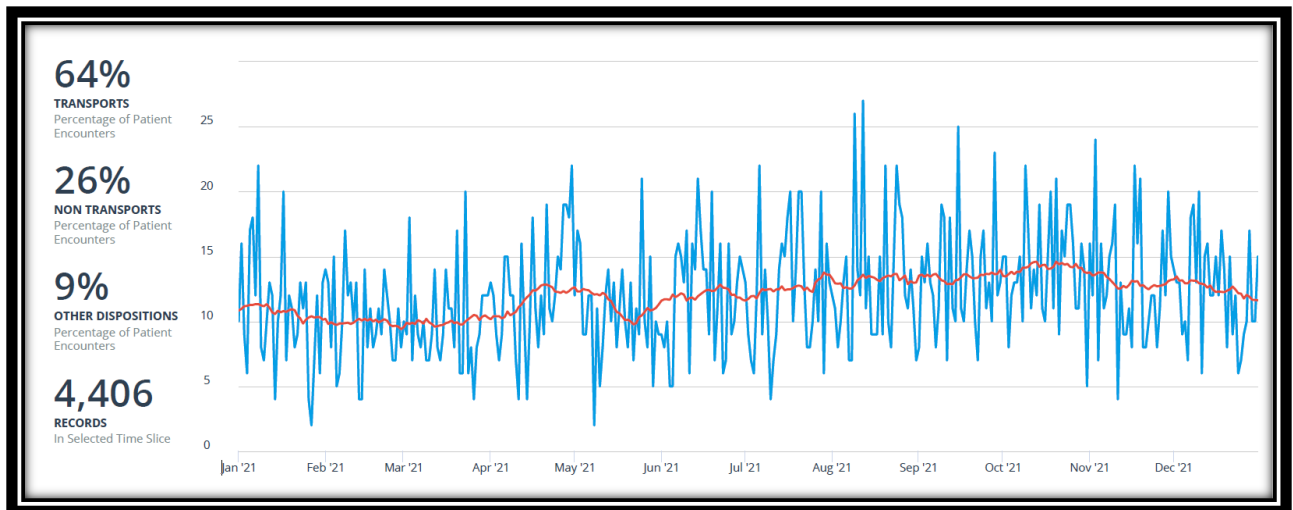




➤ **Emergency Medical Services** – *Asst. Chief of EMS Bruce Nethercutt*

Division Officers: Captain Kit Castetter, Lieutenant Shane McKerchie, Lt. Andrew Priem, Sergeant Jon Weishaupt, Sgt. Lucas Mason and Sgt. Winston Lechlitner.

2021 saw a record number of calls, of which 4,406 were EMS calls with 4,119 patient contacts. The number of patient contacts was up 5% from last year.



Motor vehicle accidents were up 27% and drug overdoses were up 60% from last year.

In 2021, the increase in patient numbers as well as a shortage in hospital staffing caused Goshen hospital to divert patients from their facility on a regular basis. The resulting transports to Elkhart Hospital increased our ambulance times out of service. GFD Paramedics were able to adapt and handle this without any significant lack of patient care to the community.

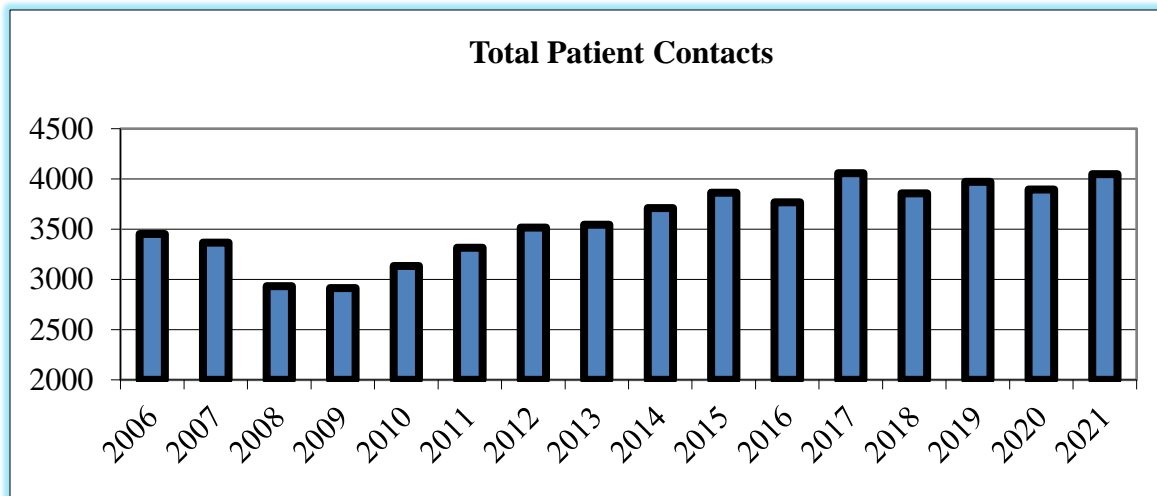
Nationwide supply chain issues continued into 2021. We were able to adapt and maintain our inventory to continue providing advanced care to our patients. The cost of supplies has continuously increased 10% for the last 3 years. 2022's budget was increased to match this demand.



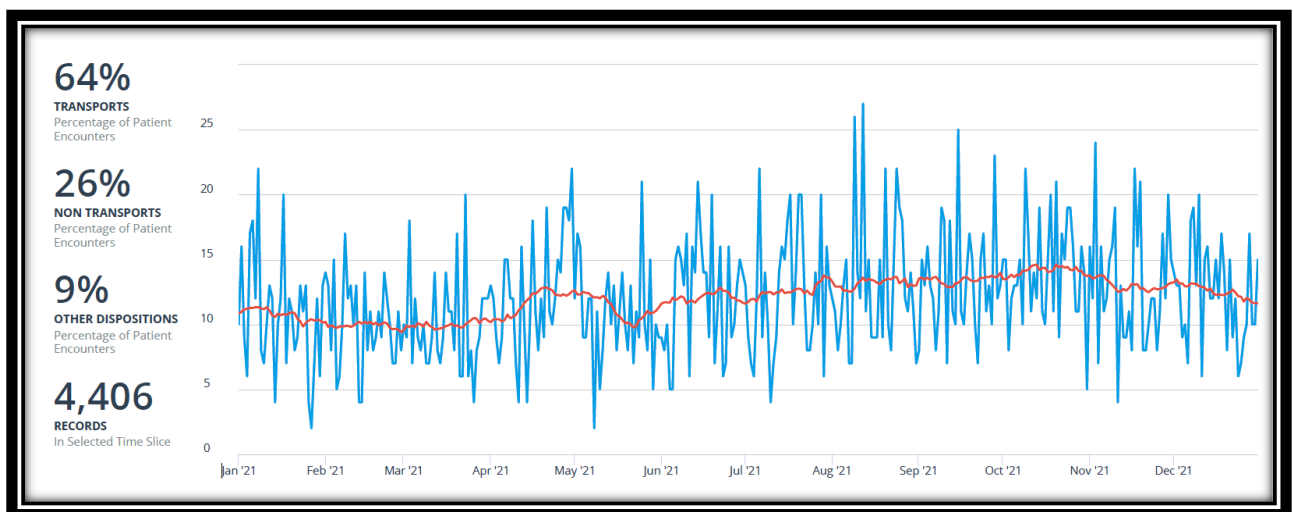
Ambulance #921 suffered a battery fire while in the station. Crews were able to save any damage to the station and saved the patient compartment box of the ambulance. The cab and chassis were deemed a total loss. The box was remounted to a new International 4x4 chassis with delivery in 2022.

After trialing various video laryngoscopes much of the year, Glidescopes were purchased and training was complete in December. Several intubations were performed before the end of the year.

Joint fire and EMS training continued through the year with excellent results. The goal of joint training is to increase our problem-solving skills. These trainings will continue through 2022 and beyond. The focus of EMS training will continue to be on trauma triage and we will increase our airway management skills.



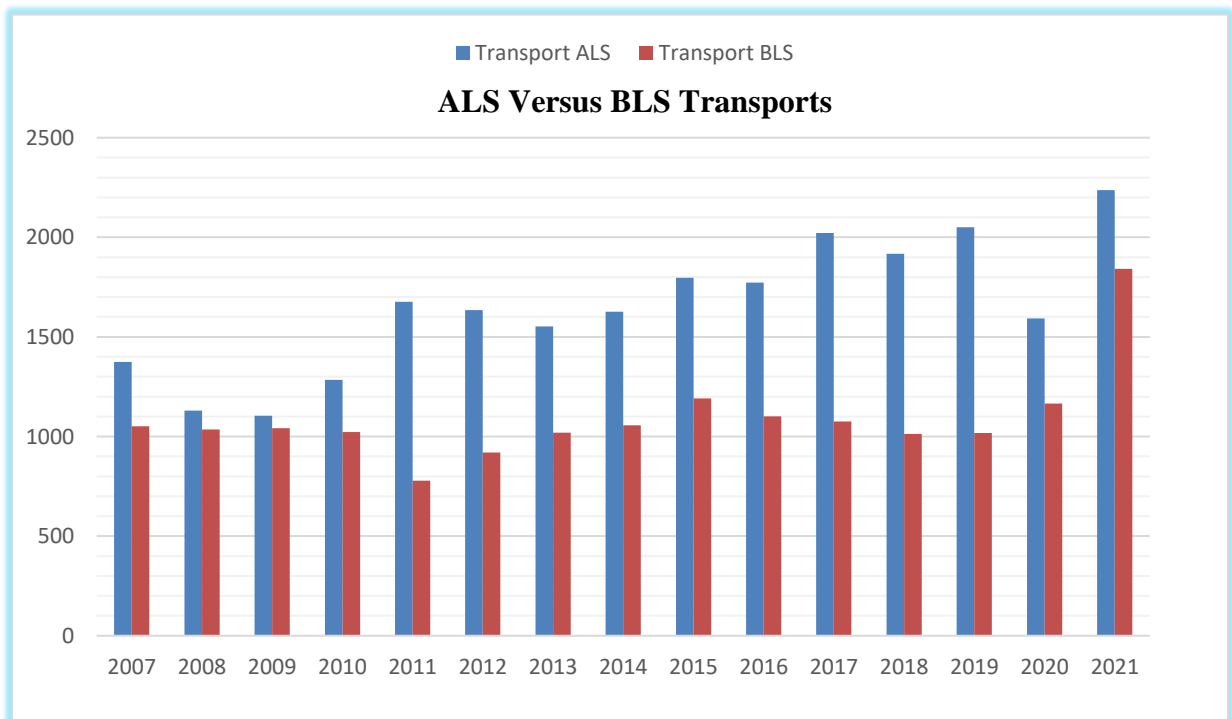
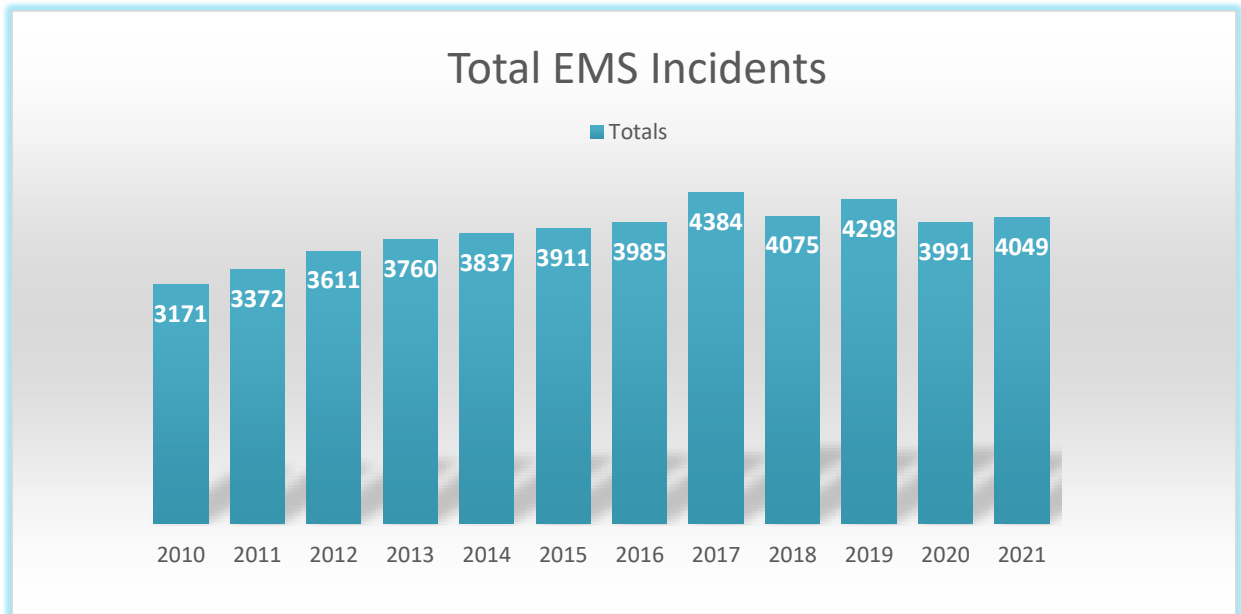
The total number of incidents was more than 2020 and our number of patient contacts declined by 4%.

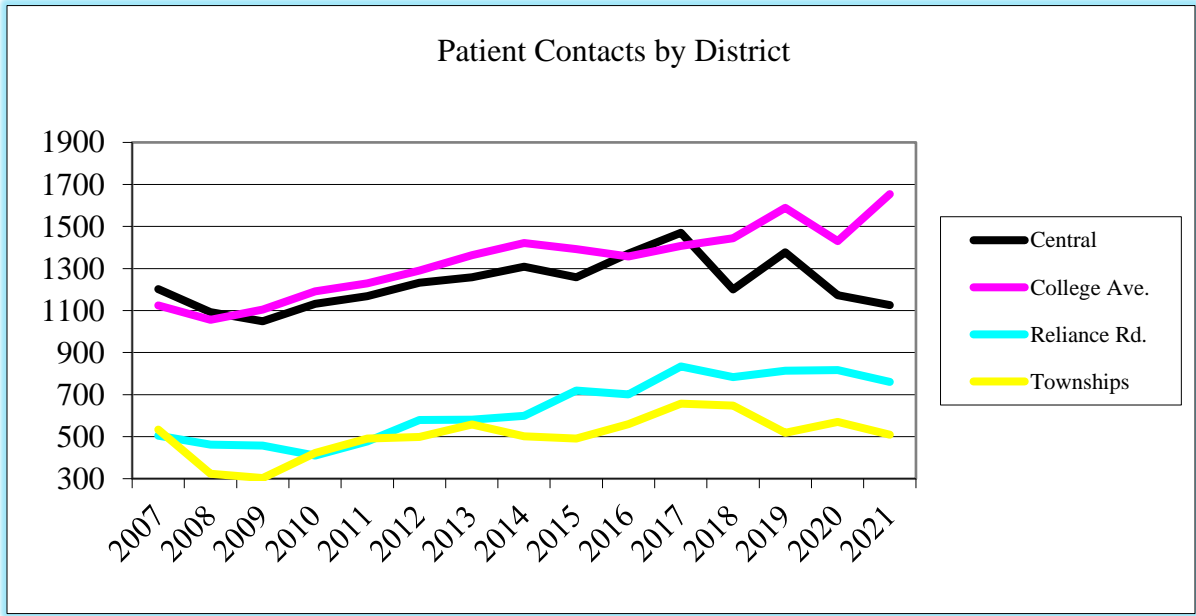
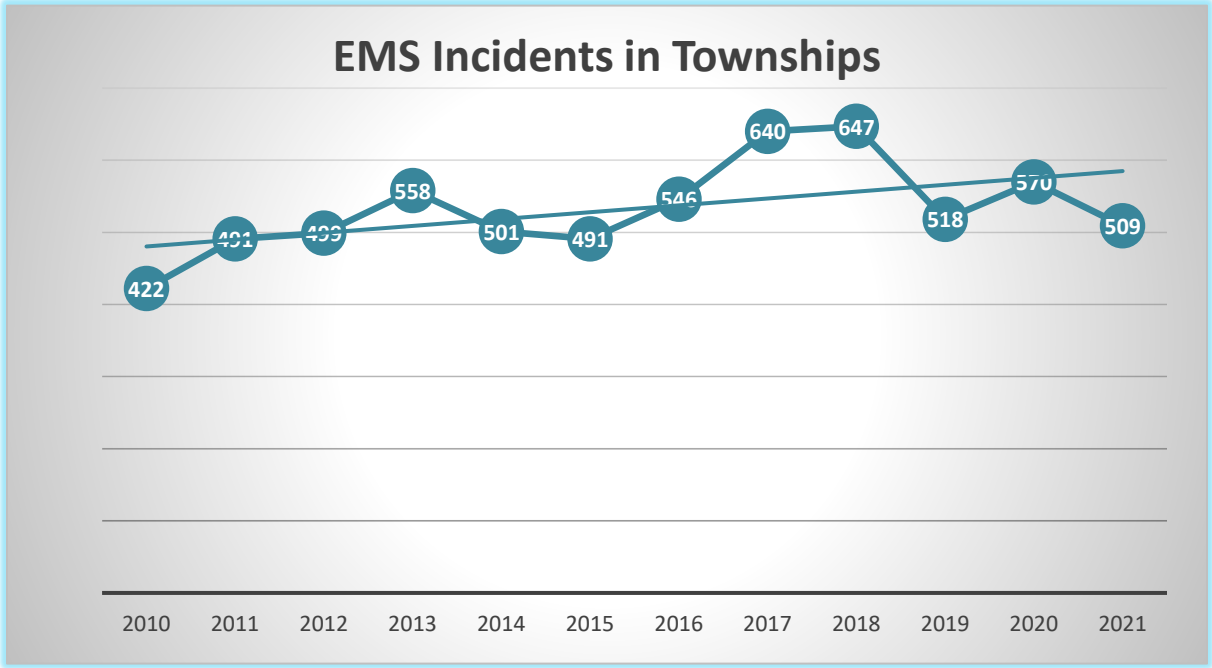


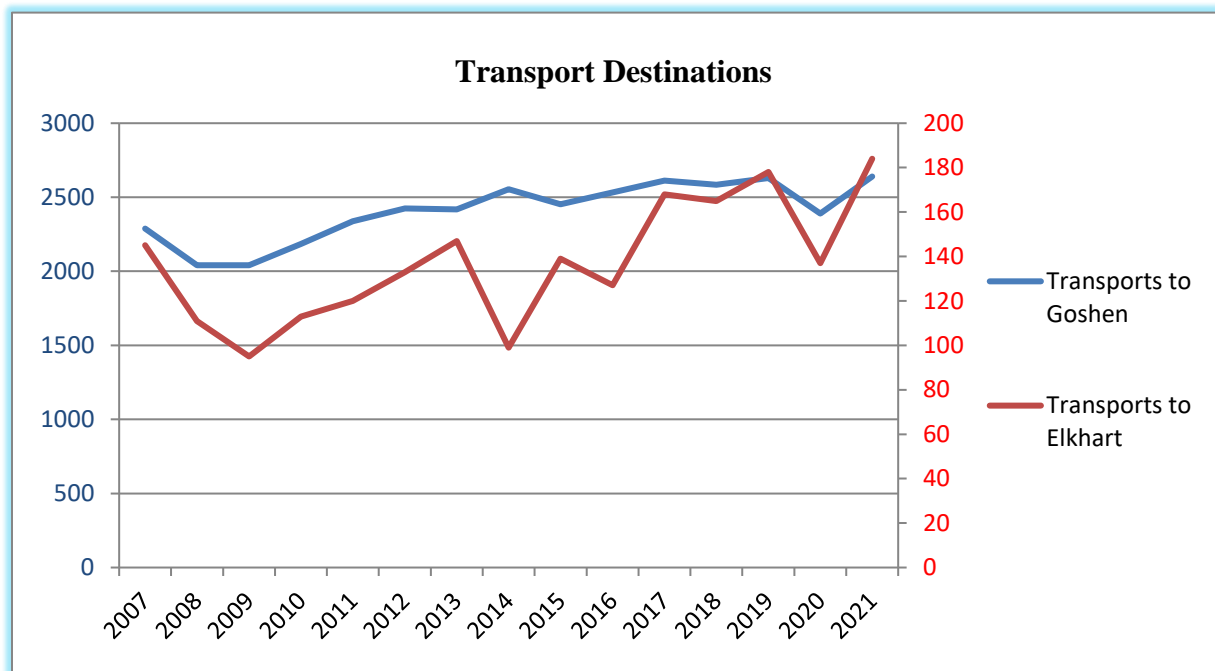
Our daily call average remained lower in the first half of the year and increased in the second half. A spike in our number of daily calls can be seen at the end of October into November.

In 2021, the department had 4049 patient contacts, which is a increase of 156 or 4%. The table and chart below show total patient contacts, total of advance life support vs. basic life support transports and transport destinations.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2020	2021
Total Patient Contacts	3862	3768	4056	3856	3970	3893	4049









➤ **Training** – *Assistant Chief of Training Steffen Schrock*

The mission of the Goshen Fire Department is to provide quality, purpose driven training that promotes firefighter excellence and safety. In order to achieve excellence and promote safety our training objectives are focused on improving the knowledge, skills and abilities of all our members.

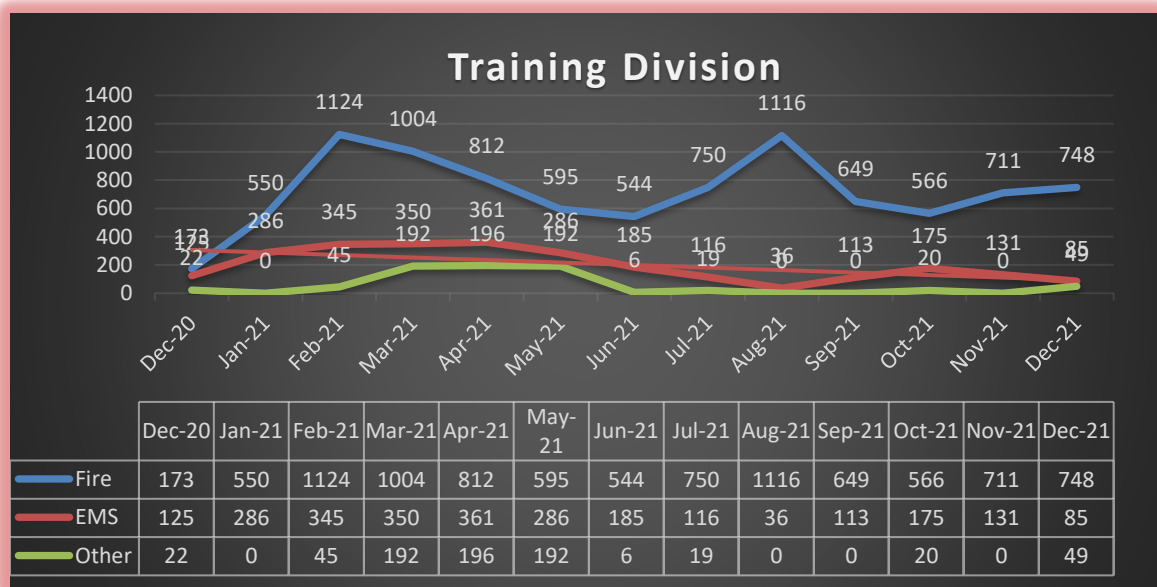
2021 was a productive year for the Goshen Fire Department Training Division. All Goshen Firefighters were trained in disciplines that focused on the immediate risks and target hazards of our community. These disciplines include firefighting, EMS, hazardous materials operations, rope rescue, water rescue, confined space rescue, and community risk reduction. Total training man hours for 2021 equaled 9,068. A deeper breakdown of the total training hours reveals 2469 hours of EMS training, 5880 hours of firefighting / rescue training and 719 hours of community risk reduction training was completed. On average all personnel received 14 hours of training per month.

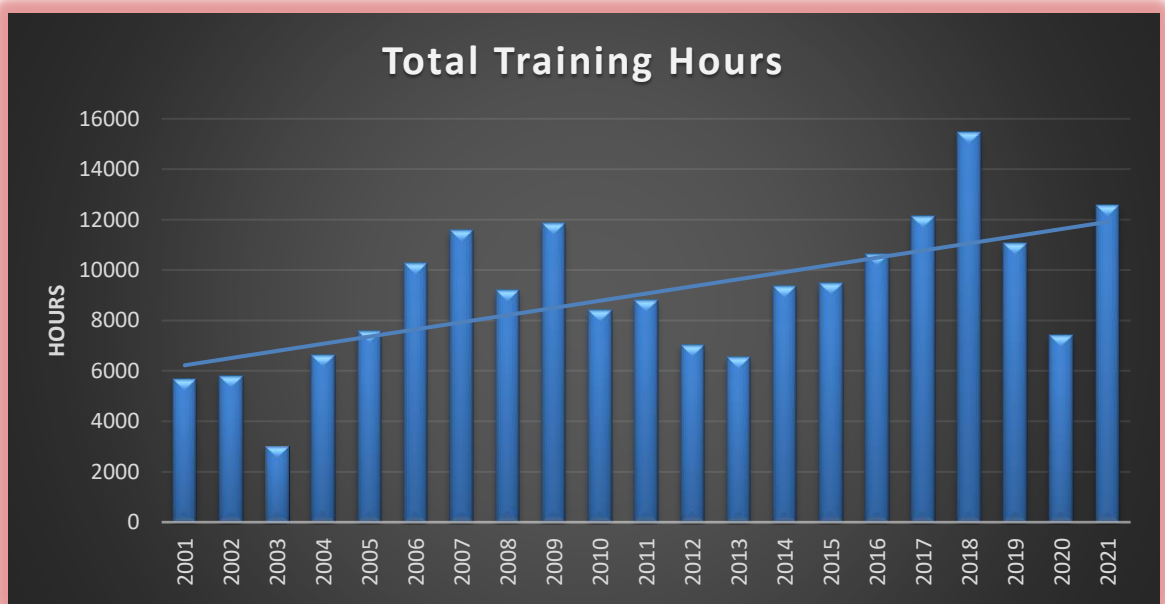
Goshen Fire Department was able to return to a more regular training schedule in 2021 after being hamstrung by COVID in 2020 and 2021. The use of our training facility increased and we were able to resume training with other local fire departments. A significant amount of training time was devoted to RIT training. Instructors that attended RIT school in Illinois presented a series of RIT skills and scenarios over the course of four months. The training improved our ability to respond to a downed firefighter emergency. We will continue our RIT training on a quarterly basis in 2022. The training division hosted a Rope Rescue class in the Spring and a Confined Space Rescue class in the fall of 2021. Both of these classes consisted of firefighters from multiple area departments.

Administratively, the training division experienced a change in 2021. Assistant Chief Anthony Powell was promoted to Assistant Chief of Operations after the retirement of

Assistant Chief Mike Happer. Battalion Chief Steffen Schrock was promoted to Assistant Chief of Training after Assistant Chief Anthony Powell promotion.

Looking forward into 2022 the training division will be working to improve our ability to provide live fire training at our training facility. Plans are being developed to offer a Vehicle and Machinery Rescue class and to finish our Confined Space Rescue training plan that was started in 2021. The largest part of our training attention will be geared to improving our preparedness to respond to our newly acquired response territory in Elkhart Township. The training division is excited about the growth potential that the new territory has to offer.

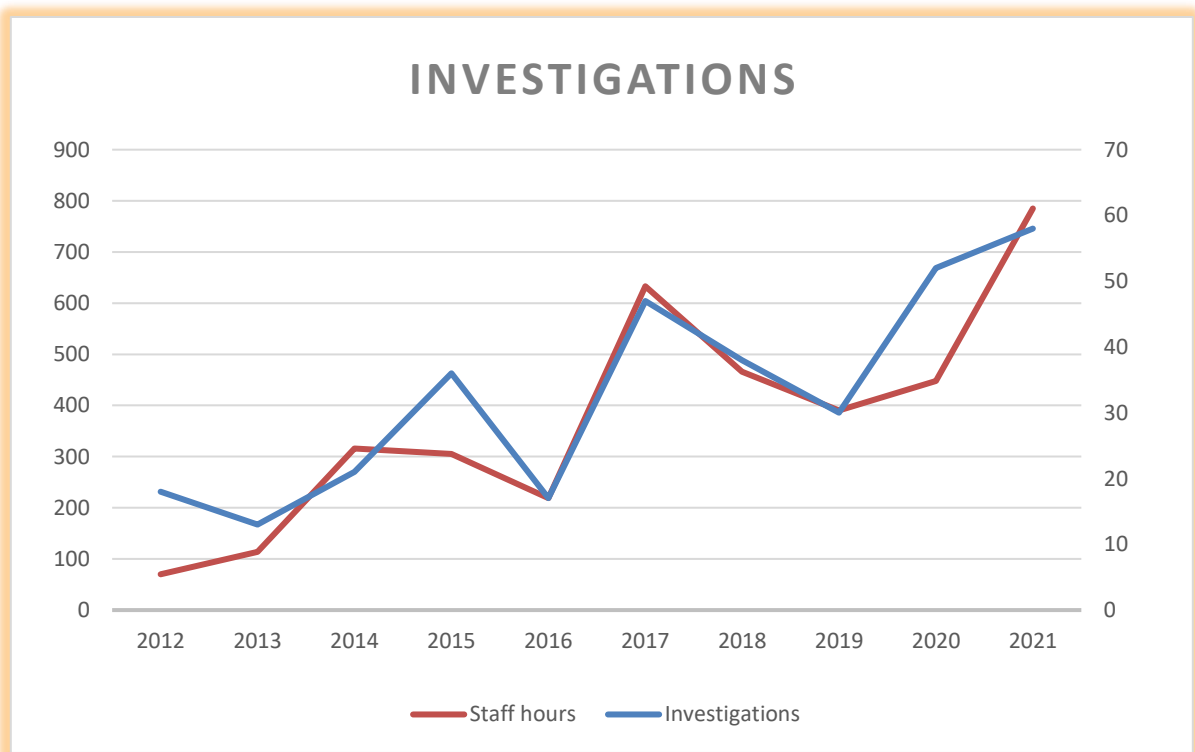






➤ **Fire Investigations** – *Chief Inspector Scott Thomas*

In 2021, the division investigated 60 fires, a 50% increase from 2020, and recorded 448 hours for an average of 7.5 hours per investigation.





➤ **Inspections** – *Chief Inspector Scott Thomas*

As we all know 2021 was a challenging year with COVID-19. The Goshen Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau remained hard at work ensuring public safety.

The number of random and annual fire inspections was greatly reduced this year due to businesses being temporarily closed and our reducing personnel exposure to the virus.

New construction was still busy in 2021. We still remained focused on quality plan reviews, along with designer consults via web conferences.

This was the first year for our division completing construction plan reviews digitally, using Bluebeam and Lama software. So far it is working well.

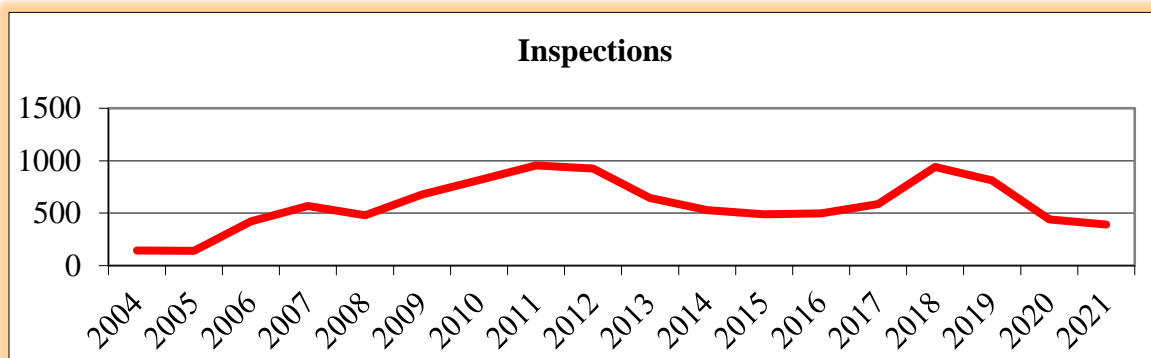
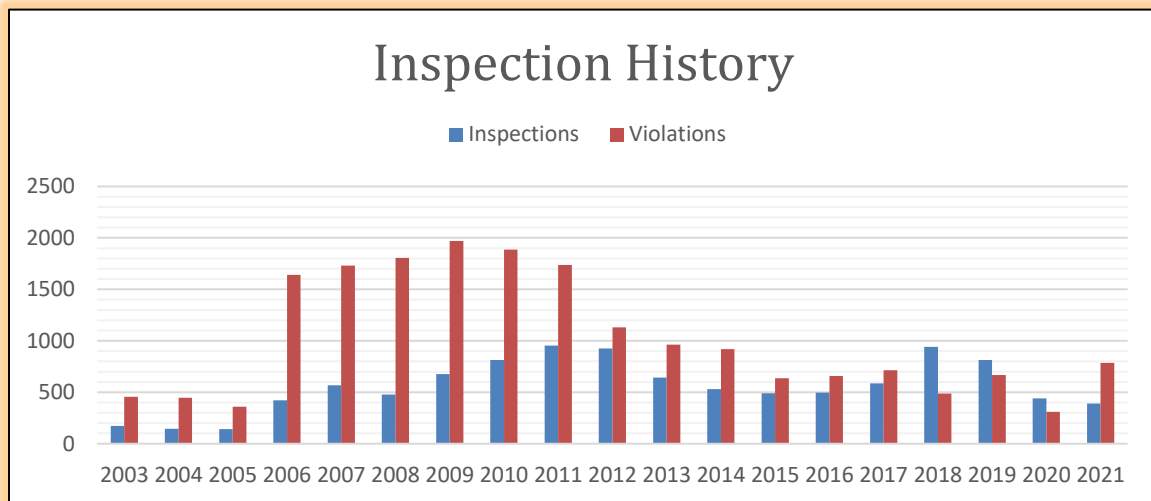
This year we added Sargent John Evans as a new fire inspector. Inspector Evans has recently completed all of his state of Indiana Fire Inspector classes successfully!

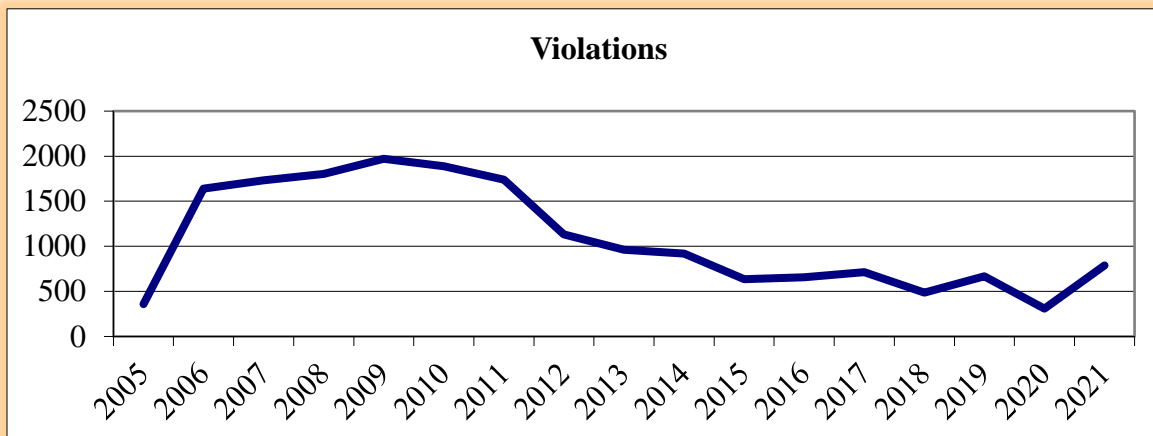
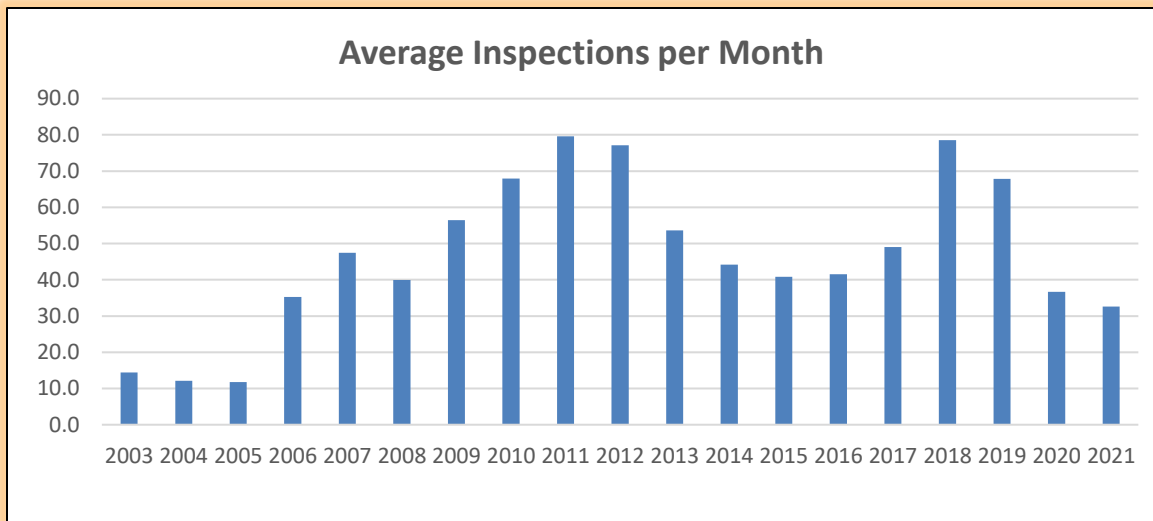
Inspector Evans will now begin his State Fire Investigator classes in February 2021. We are glad to have John join our team in the Fire Prevention Bureau.

As many know Goshen Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau also conducts fire investigations in the City of Goshen and neighboring communities, when requested through mutual aid. Our Investigators and Inspectors attend many education classes to keep up with the never-ending changes in technology, codes and criminal/civil case law.

I am proud of my team for their dedication and professionalism to keep our community safe and informed.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Inspections	490	498	588	942	814	502	391
Violations	636	657	715	487	667	366	787
Violations per Inspection	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.5	1.2	1.4	2.01
Average Inspections per month	40.8	41.5	49	78.5	68	42	32.6







➤ **Fire Prevention/Education**

Sergeant Michael Masbaum - Public Education Coordinator

COVID-19 changed how most aspects of business and life were conducted in 2021. The work of the Fire Prevention division was no different. Our goal is to go into the community to teach people about fire safety. Being able to interact with the general public was something that had to be put on hold for much of the year.

Unfortunately, we were not able to conduct our fire extinguisher trainings in 2021. We are hopeful that at some point in 2021 we will be able to start this again. It is a vital part of how the fire department helps educate residents and employees in the city.

October again brought National Fire Prevention week. Until approximately one week prior to the start we were still unsure if members would be able to go out into the schools to give presentations to students. Fire Prevention and Goshen Community Schools worked together to make a plan that would allow some form of interaction and learning for students. Our first-grade presentation was again a puppet show. We were able to perform it much like normal, with students spacing further apart for social distancing. In years past, students would then have a tour of a fire truck and ambulance. This year we chose to not include the truck tours. In a typical year every truck would have contact with students and every department member on shift would as well.

Leaving the trucks out helped limit any possible exposure to just the three Fire Prevention personnel. Third grade presentations for home exit drills were also done like years past, the only difference being more presentations. Instead of grouping multiple classes together for a presentation we visited each individual third grade classroom in the city of Goshen. While more time consuming, it was a great opportunity to interact with smaller groups of kids. In total, we were able to talk to almost 800 Goshen students.

In 2021 we look forward to being able to pick up where we left off in 2020. Increasing community trainings and trying new and different ways to engage with the schools.



➤ Human Resources

As of December 31, 2021, the department is staffed with 59 sworn personnel, 1 civilian fire chief, 1 administrative assistant, and 2 civilian chaplains.

Change in Rank

Promotions of 2021	
Powell, Anthony	Promoted to Assistant Chief of Administration & Operations on August 2 nd
Schrock, Steffen	Promoted to Assistant Chief of Training on August 2 nd
Heeter, Shane	Promoted to Battalion Chief on August 2 nd
Schrock, Phil	Promoted to Fire Captain on July 13 th
Snyder, Courtney	Promoted to Fire Captain on August 2 nd
Peak, Travis	Promoted to Fire Captain on November 8 th
Wingard, Lyle	Promoted to Fire Lieutenant on July 13 th
Johnson, Jeremy	Promoted to Fire Lieutenant on August 2 nd
Priem, Andrew	Promoted to EMS Lieutenant August 2 nd
Klopfenstein, Zachery	Promoted to Fire Lieutenant on September 10 th
Dunithan, Matt	Promoted to Fire Lieutenant on November 8 th
Dunithan, Matt	Promoted to Fire Sergeant on July 13 th
Masbaum, Michael	Promoted to Fire sergeant on August 2 nd
Lechlitner, Winston	Promoted to EMS sergeant on August 2 nd
Lechlitner, Winston	Promoted to Fire Sergeant September 10 th
Bontrager, Camden	Promoted to Fire Sergeant on November 8 th
Stevens, Charles	Promoted to Private First Class on January 13 th
Peisker, Adam	Promoted to Private First Class on September 1 st



Anthony Powell



Steffen Schrock



Shane Heeter



Courtney Snyder



Phil Schrock

Jeremy Johnson



Andrew Priem



Lyle Wingard



Winston Lechlitner – EMS Sergeant



Matt Dunithan



Mike Masbaum



Zach Klopfenstein



Winston Lechlitner – Fire Sergeant



Charles Stevens



Retirements / Separations

Separations and Retirements	
Miller, Mervin Assistant Chief of EMS	Retired with Disability on January 2 nd , 2021
Mast, Gary - Captain	Retired on July 12 th , 2021
Happer, Michael Assistant Chief of Operations	Retired on August 2 nd , 2021

McCrindle, Scott - Captain	Separation on October 26 th , 2021
Phillips, Bill - Lieutenant	Retired with Disability on September 10 th , 2021



**Assistant Chief
Michael Happer**



**Captain
Gary Mast**



**Lieutenant
Bill Phillips**



**Assistant Chief of EMS
Mervin Miller**



**Captain
Scott McCrindle**

Appointments

New Hires	
White, Wesley	Hired on January 5 th
Kurtz, Daniel	Hired on August 2 nd
Perry, Timothy	Hired on August 2 nd
Fairfield, Michael	Hired on August 2 nd
Berry, Megan	Hired on November 22 nd
Estes, Hannah	Hired on November 22 nd

Cestone, Joseph	Hired on December 20 th
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Wesley White



Daniel Kurtz



Tim Perry



Mike Fairfield



Megan Berry



Hannah Estes



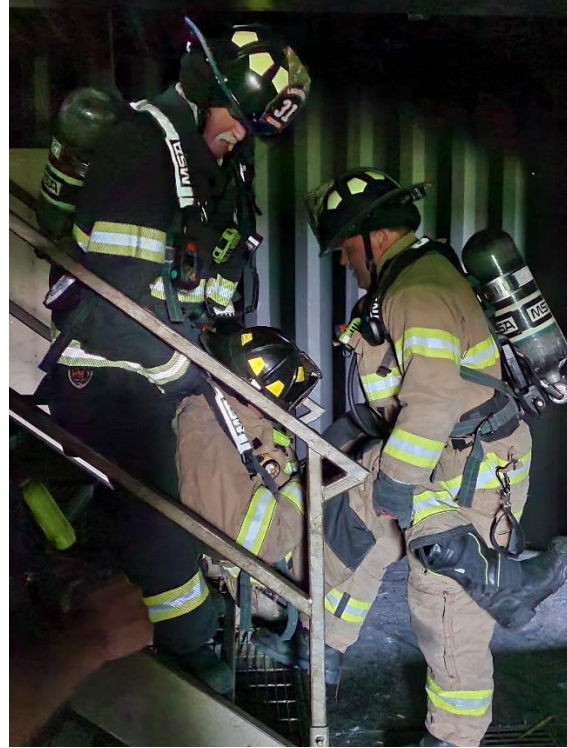
Joseph Cestone

Miscellaneous Photo



Award Presentation to Lt. Shane McKerchie, Sgt. Jon Weishaupt, Sgt. Winston Lechlitner, Pvt. Matt Stamm, (All of GFD) & Ptl. Stewart Smith (GPD) for their efforts in saving the life of a choking child.





Retirement Party

Asst. Chief Mike Happer & Asst. Chief Merv Miller



Lieutenant Jeremy Johnson – Award for his construction expertise on the Central Fire Station project in 2020.



In Memoriam



Larry C. Gill, 80, of Syracuse, died Friday, July 9, 2021 at Goshen Hospital.

He was born June 27, 1941 in Constantine, Michigan to Albert C. and Kathryn (Weldy) Gill.

On August 20, 1977 he married Karen Cramer in Milford.

She survives along with two sons, Randy (Karen) Gill of Millersburg and Michael (Jeli) Gill of Syracuse; five grandchildren, Adriene, Alissa, Dylan, Marci and Grant; and a brother, Gary (Gloria) Gill of Elkhart.

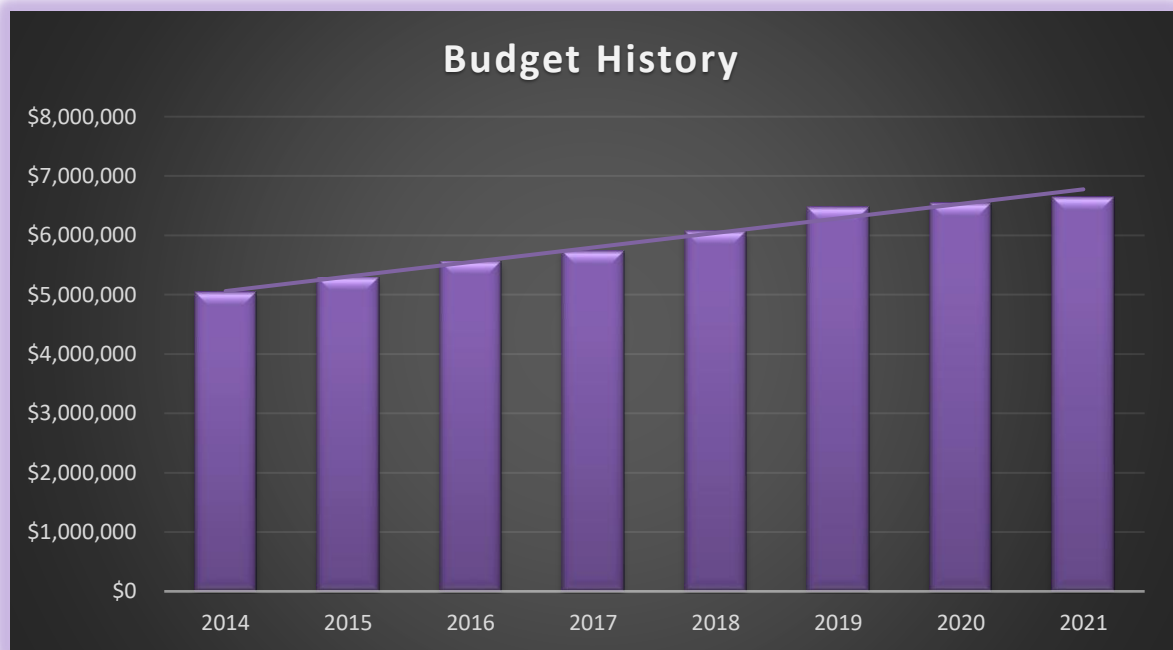
Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Casey Gill.

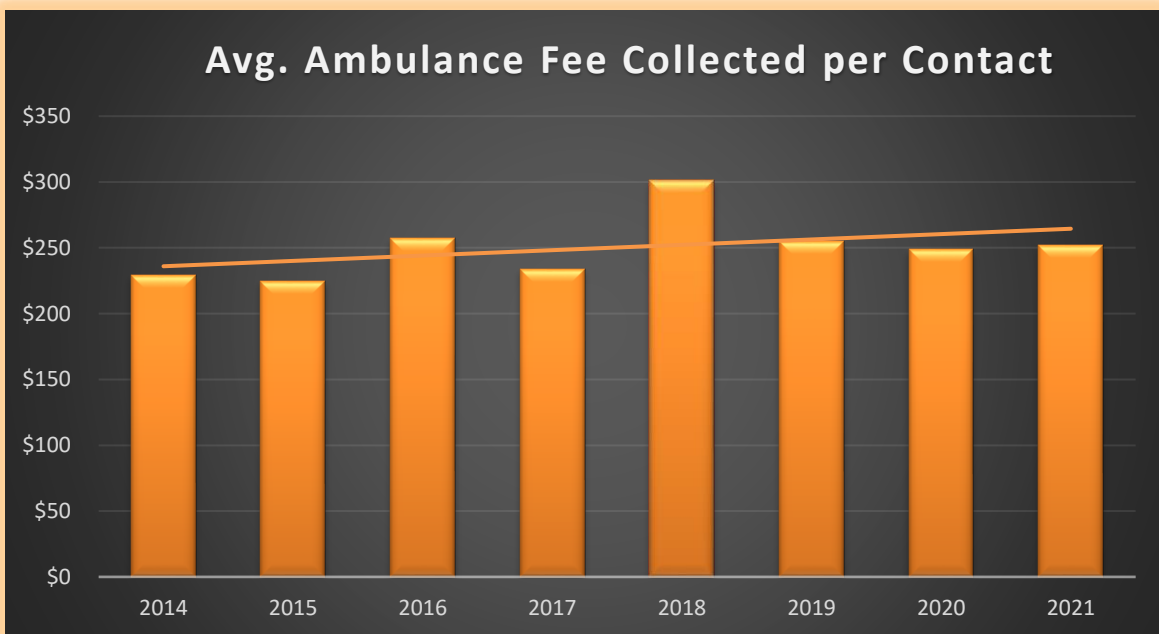
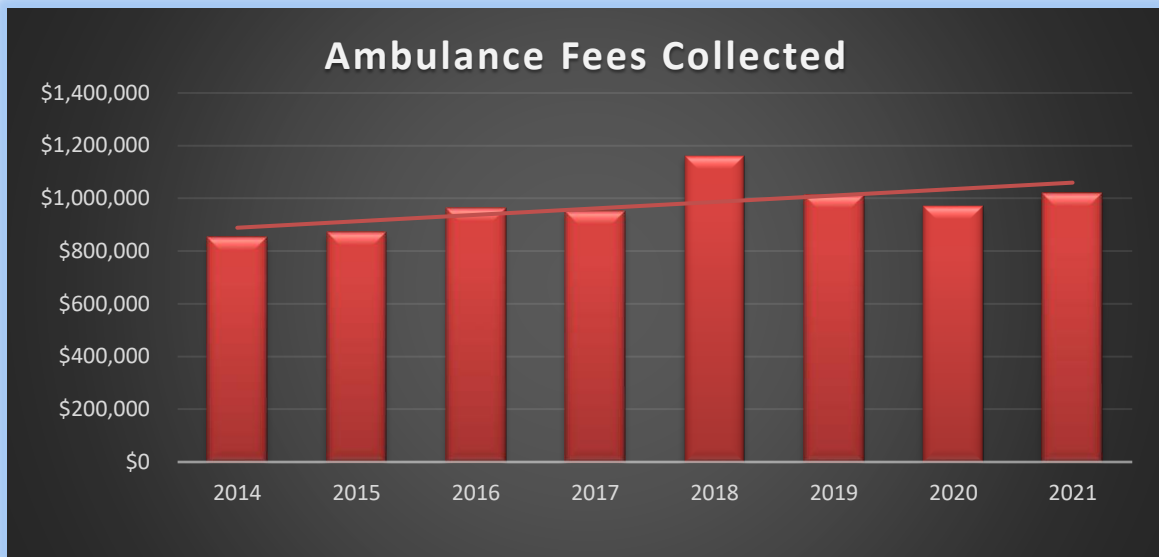
Mr. Gill was a long-term public servant with the Goshen City Fire Department for more than 30 years. He finished his career serving as the fire department Chief. He was also owner of Gill Signs and Designs, Goshen.

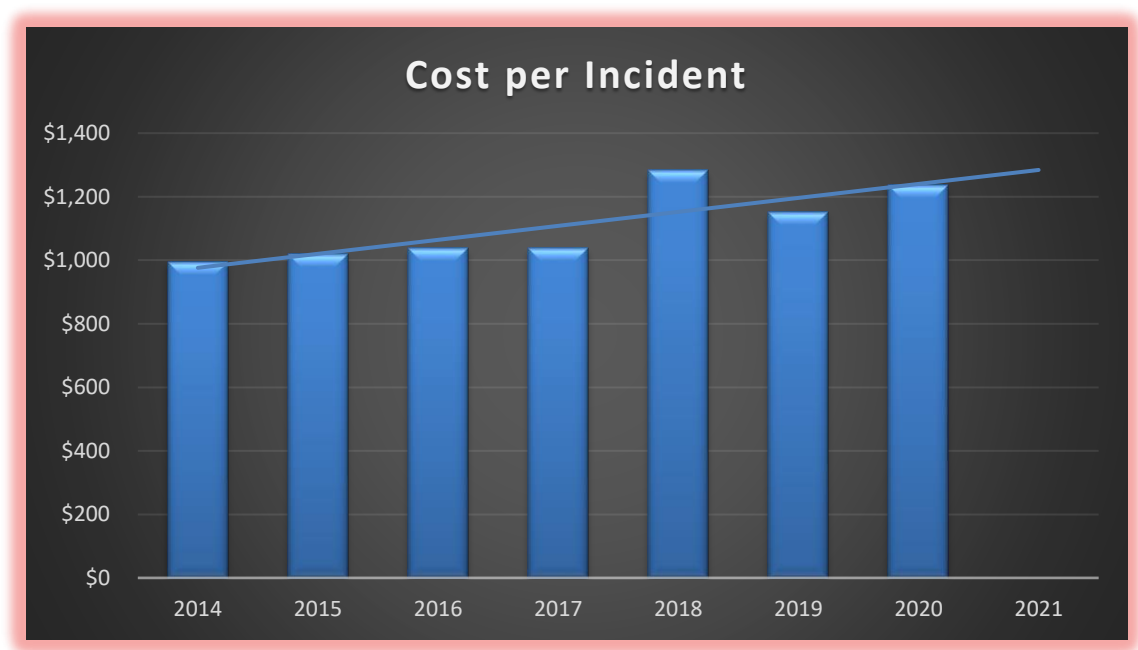
Larry was an avid Notre Dame sports fan. He loved being at the lake and stayed active with water sports and snow skiing in the winter.

➤ **Budget**

	2019	2020	2021
Budget	\$6,469,793	\$6,539,537	\$6,455,593
Ambulance Fees Collected	\$1,010,425	\$970,397	\$1,020,109
Budget (minus) Ambulance Fees	\$5,459,368	\$5,569,140	\$5,435,484
Avg. Ambulance Fee Collected per Contact	\$255	\$249	\$252
Cost per Incident	\$1,152	\$1,235	N/A







➤ **Summary**

This report conveys the activities of the department for 2021. Additional data may be available upon request.

Dan Sink

Chief of the Department