

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

FIRE
DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION

Office of the Chief



2020 was a challenge for the Findlay Fire Department, as it was for everyone. The anticipation, high hopes and goals we began the year with had turned to uncertainty and contingency planning by spring. The Covid pandemic created many unknowns, especially early in the year. We knew, however, that our primary mission of providing public safety and prompt emergency response to our citizens would remain unchanged.

In the very early stages of the pandemic, we collaborated with other agencies and implemented best practices, including additional mandatory personal protective equipment and other protocols to keep our firefighters safe. Cleaning & disinfection of stations and apparatus became a daily task, and additional equipment and supplies were purchased as we learned more about the novel coronavirus. We also closed the fire stations to visitors and followed government guidelines on limiting contact with others.

Once these new protocols became the norm, we refocused on achieving our goals. We had hired 3 firefighters in January, and they eventually were able to complete their basic training. Camp 9-1-1—the safety retreat for kindergarten kids—was moved to a virtual format and expanded to reach more children. One firefighter was promoted to fill a vacant Captain position, and five firefighters attended State Fire School in the fall.

From a station improvement standpoint, we accomplished a number of items. First, we were able to replace six overhead doors at two different fire stations. Our firefighters also spearheaded the conversion of an unused hose tower at Station 3 into an excellent turnout gear storage room. At Station 2 we replaced all the apparatus bay lighting with efficient LED lights, providing long-term savings. We also implemented some technological improvements, such as an electronic display board at Station 1, additional wireless access points, and truck check/inventory software through a smartphone app.

From an equipment standpoint, we were able to capitalize on available grants, which helps us be responsible fiscal stewards. The BWC Safety Intervention grant program allowed us to purchase a vehicle stabilization system and a large-diameter hose rolling & moving system for only a 25% local match. Through the Firehouse Subs Foundation, we received five state of the art Thermal Imaging Cameras. This grant—completed by one of our Battalion Chiefs—provided 100% of the cost for these essential tools.

The Covid pandemic forced us to think outside the box. We learned that through flexibility and resourcefulness, we can accomplish our goals in spite of obstacles. We learned that we can still be effective when doing things a different way. Through all of this, our firefighters maintained a very high level of service, and I am proud of how well they adapted to changing conditions. While we faced much uncertainty, our commitment to the public has never wavered.

Our firefighters are proud to serve the citizens of Findlay, and we are proud of our city. In the following pages you'll find a summary of our activities from last year, and a general overview of fire department operations. Please look it over, and if you have any questions please contact us in the Fire Administration Office at 419-424-7129 or email fireadmin@findlayohio.com.

KEY ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2020 we saw many achievements that we are proud to have worked through.

- Implemented various protocols to protect our personnel during the COVID pandemic.
- Due to pandemic restrictions, Camp 9-1-1 was moved to a virtual format. Public Safety agencies partnered to deliver 387 " Camp Kits" to Hancock County youth, containing items to go along with online safety videos and activities each day.
- Hired three new firefighters to replace retirements.
- Two additional firefighters completed EMT training at the Ohio Fire Academy.
- Promoted firefighter Gary Clevidence to Captain.
- Firefighters remodeled the Station 3 unused hose tower into a turnout gear room.
- Purchased specialized mechanic tools to allow for in-house brake repair on fire apparatus.
- Installed an electronic Display Board at Fire Station 1 showing apparatus locations, active calls and on duty personnel (Tyler software)
- Five firefighters attended State Fire School (BGSU)
- Purchased Paratech Rescue Struts and Roll n Rack hose roller/mover through BWC Safety Intervention Grant.
- Received 5 state of the art Thermal Imagers from the Firehouse Subs Foundation.
- Fire Prevention employee Rory Ferguson received certification as Fire Safety Inspector.



BUDGET



\$7,216,263

PERSONAL SERVICES

This includes wages, overtime, pension, healthcare, etc.

\$373,582

OPERATIONS

This includes utilities, fuel, tools etc.

26%

CITY BUDGET

Dedicated to the Fire Service.

2020

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Replaced four overhead doors at Fire Station 1

Replaced two overhead doors at Station 3

Installed LED lighting in the apparatus bay of Station 2

**All improvements funded from operational budget*

STAFFING



STAFFING

65 SWORN PERSONNEL

Includes: 61 Suppression Personnel - Firefighters, Captains & Battalion Chiefs, 2 - Fire Prevention personnel, 1 - Assistant Chief, 1 - Fire Chief + 1 - Administrative Assistant (not sworn)

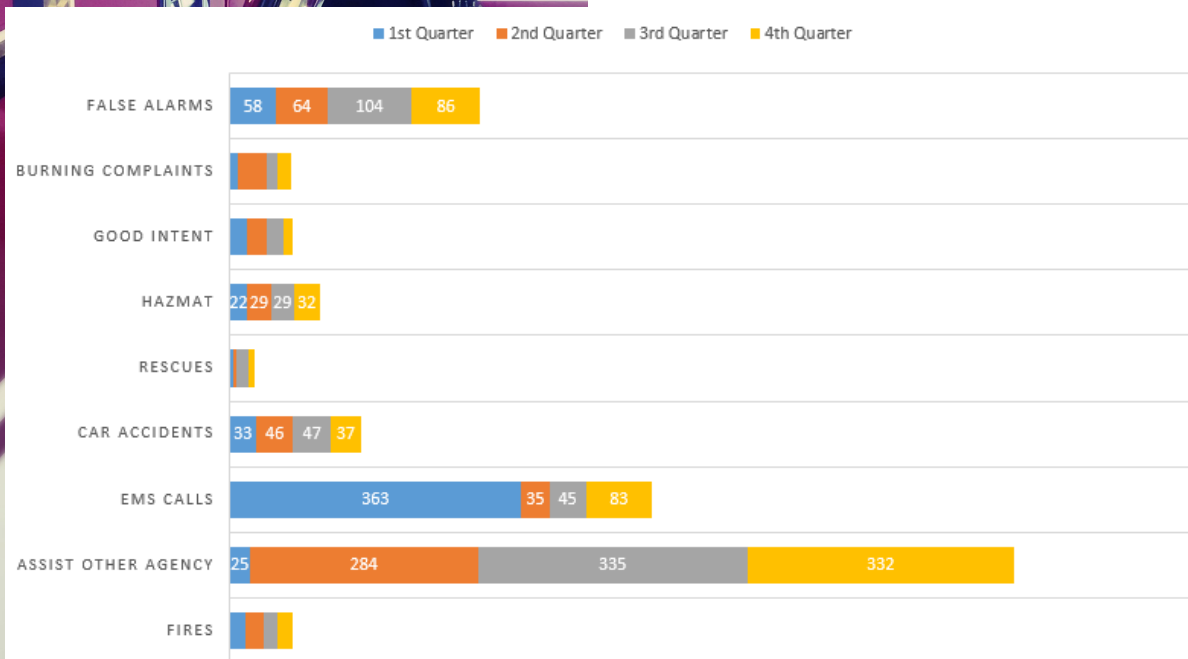
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AVERAGE DAILY MANPOWER

Of suppression personnel.

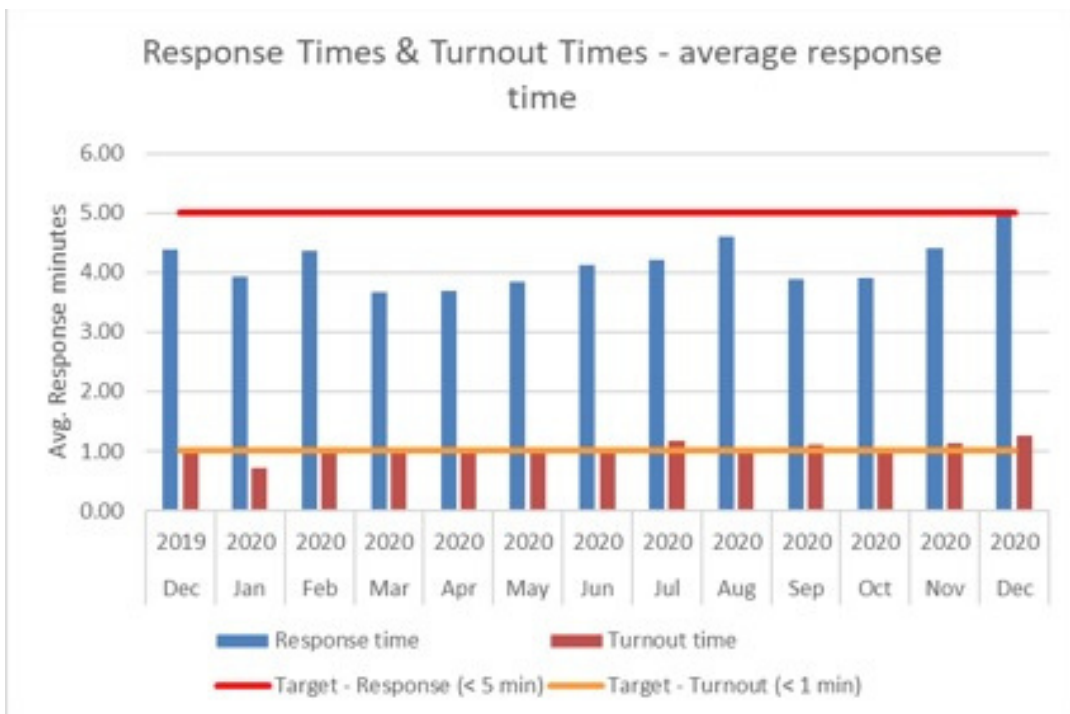
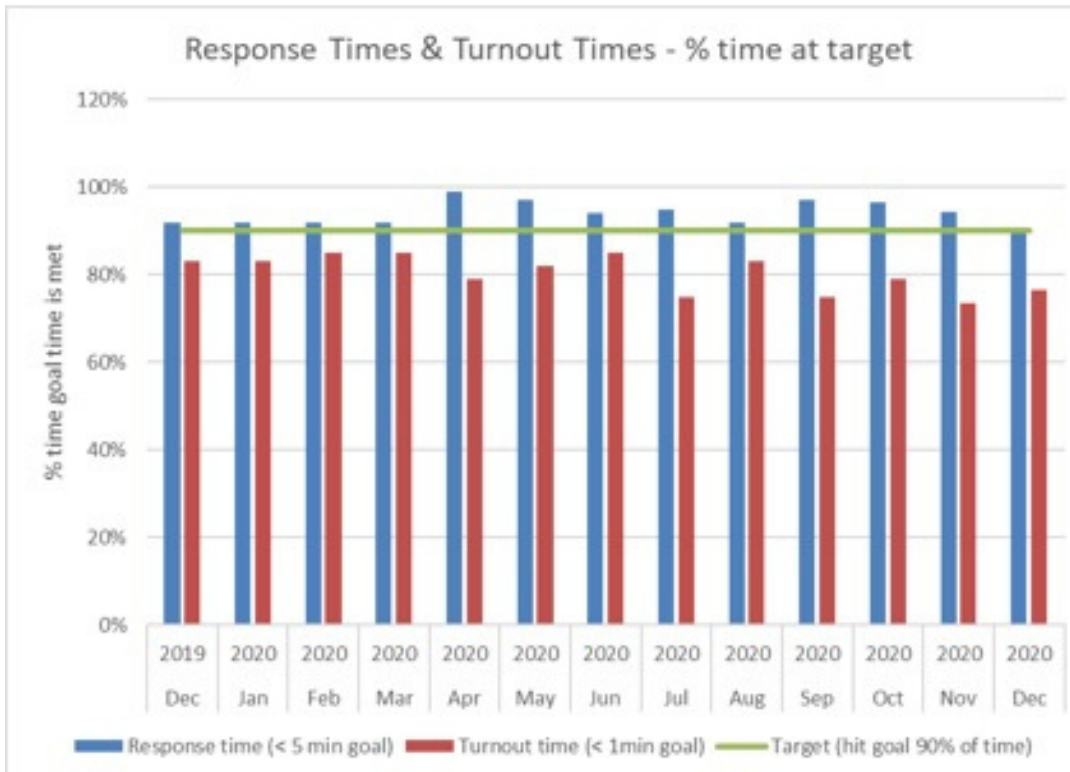
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CALLS FOR SERVICE



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

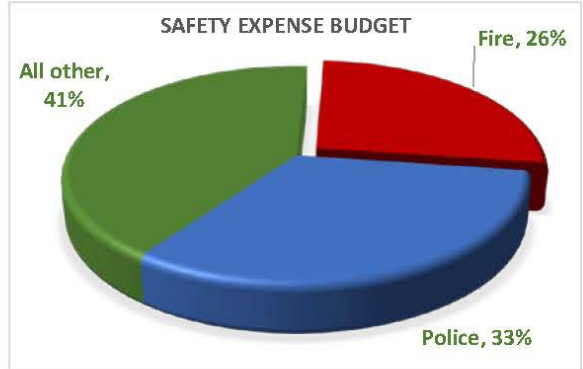
Our Key Performance Indicator Targets are to meet a 5 minute response time and a 70 second turnout time, 90% of the time.



FINANCIAL VISION	BUDGET	2018 actual	2019 actual	2020 projection	Original 2020 request	2021 request	\$ change from 2020 request to 2021 request	% change from 2020 request to 2021 request
	Personal Services	\$ 6,735,068	\$ 6,914,413	\$ 7,216,263	\$ 7,522,702	\$ 7,453,213	\$ (69,489)	-0.92%
	Other	\$ 372,930	\$ 353,761	\$ 373,582	\$ 409,373	\$ 409,516	\$ 143	0.03%
	TOTAL	\$ 7,107,998	\$ 7,268,174	\$ 7,589,845	\$ 7,932,075	\$ 7,862,729	\$ (69,346)	-0.87%

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Hire two firefighters to replace a current vacancy and a known 2021 retirement.
- Plan to complete the transition to LED lighting in all apparatus bays by replacing the lights at Station 1.
- Replace various deteriorated windows at Fire Station 4.
- 1.31% contractual wage increase.



STAFFING LEVEL	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total FT	63	64	65	65	65

OPERATIVE 2020 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Replaced four overhead doors at Fire Station 1 (funded from operational budget).
- Replaced two overhead doors at Fire Station 3 (funded from operational budget).
- Installed LED lighting in the apparatus bay of Fire Station 2 (funded from operational budget).

OPERATIVE 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Implemented various protocols to protect our personnel during the COVID pandemic.
- Due to pandemic restrictions, Camp 9-1-1 was moved to a virtual format. Public Safety agencies partnered to deliver 387 "Camp 911 Bags" to Hancock County youth, containing items to go along with online safety videos and activities each day.
- Hired three new firefighters to replace retirements.
- Three additional firefighters completed EMT training at the Ohio Fire Academy.
- Promoted former firefighter Gary Clevidence to Captain.
- Firefighters remodeled the Station 3 unused hose tower into a turnout gear room.
- Purchased specialized mechanic tools to allow for in-house brake repair on fire apparatus.
- Installed additional wireless access points in all stations.
- Purchased PS Trax software to eliminate paper truck check & inventory forms and for submitting repair orders. This includes a smartphone app so firefighters can complete these on their devices.
- Installed an electronic Display Board at Fire Station 1 showing apparatus locations, active calls and on duty personnel (Tyler software).
- Five firefighters attended State Fire School (BGSU).

OPERATIVE 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Purchased Paratech Rescue Struts and Roll n Rack hose roller/mover systems through BWC Safety Intervention Grant.
- Received 5 state of the art Thermal Imagers from the Firehouse Subs Foundation.
- Fire Prevention employee Rory Ferguson received certification as Fire Safety Inspector.

OPERATIVE 2021 OBJECTIVES

- Complete STRICT Center funding and begin construction.
- Purchase a new fire engine or a quint to replace one of our oldest apparatus.
- Replace a portion of fire department radios, originally purchased in 2007.
- Continue Rory Ferguson's training in fire prevention disciplines (NFPA Plans Examiner).
- Hire 2 firefighters to fill a current vacancy and a known retirement.
- Send three current firefighters to EMT school.
- Send additional TRT members to the Indiana River Rescue School for swift-water training.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



PUBLIC RELATIONS



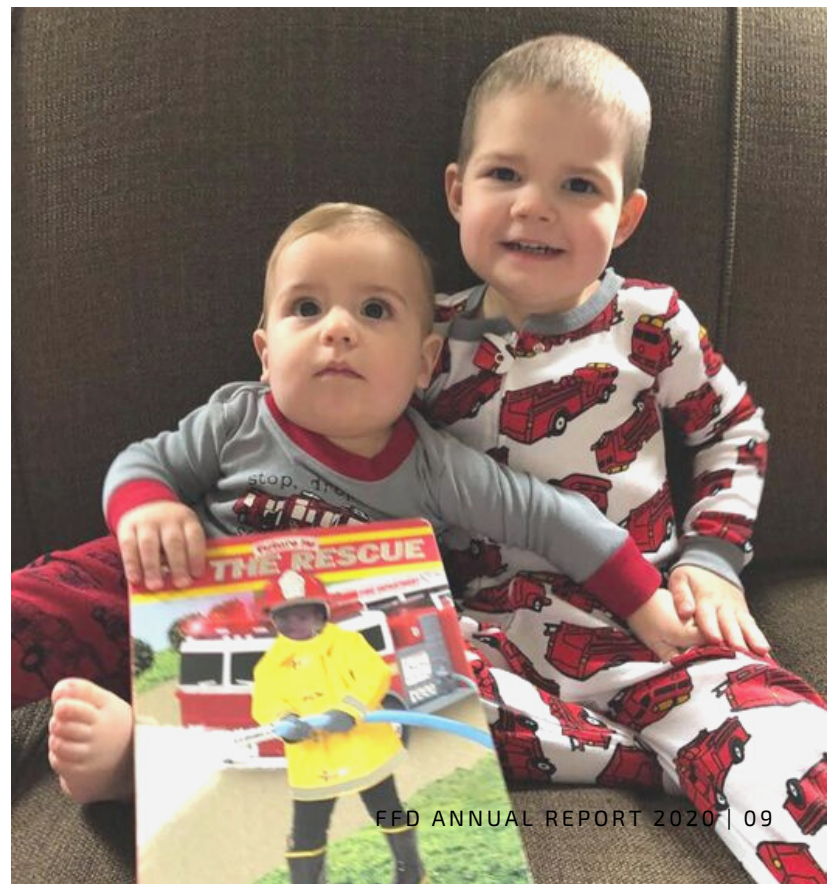
Kevin Stozich delivering lunch to a CCV winner.

The department continues to promote positive public relations with the residents of not only Findlay, but Hancock County as well

The Covid pandemic caused many community activities to be cancelled in 2020. With many kids being home from school and fire stations closed to the public, the department pulled together with 6 weeks of Community Connection Videos to continue to engage with the public.

Morter brothers sharing their favorite book

Each week the community watched a video, via social media, from the fire department and engaged in different activities. Activities included coloring fire truck pictures, working on Fire Escape Plans with the family, hearing a story from a firefighters and sharing their own favorite books. Participants sent in pictures of their activities and all were posted to Facebook. Winners were drawn each week and surprised with a drive-by from a fire truck. Several business' contributed to the program with extra treats and even lunches for families.



PUBLIC RELATIONS



2020 was the third year that Findlay Fire teamed up with other local agencies to bring Camp 911 to 387 local children.

The camp moved to a virtual format due to Covid restrictions. Through online videos posted through social media, children learned about safety services and took part in activities to keep them moving and engaged in learning.

Through partnerships with the Findlay Police Department, Hancock Sheriff's Office, Hancock EMS, Hancock Public Health and City of Findlay Recreation, "Camp Kits" were delivered to each participant to help complete the weeks worth of activities.

CAMP

9-1-1

How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your house.
- Make sure your house or building has a fire escape.
- Talk about your plan with every family member.
- Learn the emergency phone number.
- Practice your home fire drill.
- Make your own home fire escape plan.

MONDAY

FIRE

Monday's Agenda	
8:00 AM	Camp Announcements
8:30 AM	Fire Escape Video
9:00 AM	Fire Truck Tour
9:30 AM	Let's Move: Safety Superhero Training Cards
10:00 AM	Station 4 Tour
10:30 AM	Cooking Safety
10:45 AM	Internet Safety - NetSmartz-Know the Rules
11:00 AM	Firefighter Workout
11:15 AM	Closing Remarks

Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

"COOK WITH CAUTION"

Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, filling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen even a short period of time, turn off the stove. If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

Anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, aprons, food packaging, towels or anything that is hanging over the stove.

Grease (grease) cooking fire and other kitchen fires...

...smother the flames by sliding a metal lid over the burner. Leave the lid on it is completely cooled. Do not touch the heat and keep the lid on.

...if you have any doubt about fighting a grease fire...

...just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.

- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.

Cooking and Kids

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

FACTS

- 1 The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- 2 Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.

nfpfa.org/education ©NFPFA 2018

TRAINING

Each month there is an effort to provide one formal training class in any number of fire/rescue topics, in addition to one formal EMS class. There are numerous company or shift-based training sessions that are assigned. On top of this there is an additional mandatory street school training, pre-plan scenarios and Standard Operating Procedures review.

Standard Operating Procedures are defined processes that our department adhere to. This practices are created through national standards and years of experience. They ensure that a task is done the same by two different people. By doing so, this reduces risks the community and firefighters.

Each new recruit is required to complete 40 hours of emergency driver / operator training, which is part of the Firefighter I & II class while at the Ohio Fire Academy, and at least 12 driving hours in a non-emergency setting once they are assigned to a shift.



Sample list of 2020 training topics:

- Abdominal Trauma
- AHA BLS Provider
- Local Protocols & Bloodborne Pathogens
- Trauma
- Neurological Emergencies
- Vital Signs/Skills Assessment
- Medical Emergencies
- Oxygen Administration
- Calling the MayDay
- Incident Command & Scene Size-up
- Ice Rescue
- Forcible Entry Training
- Pump Operations

TRAINING

The Covid Pandemic put a strain on our in-person training. We did our best to get training hours in a safe environment to insure safety of our team.

2020 Training Achievements Included:

- 5 firefighters attended State Fire School at BGSU
- 2 Firefighters completed EMT school
- 2 New Firefighter completed the Fire Academy achieving their Firefighter I & II certifications
- Rory Ferguson completed his certification for Fire Inspector



13,500+

FIRE TRAINING HOURS

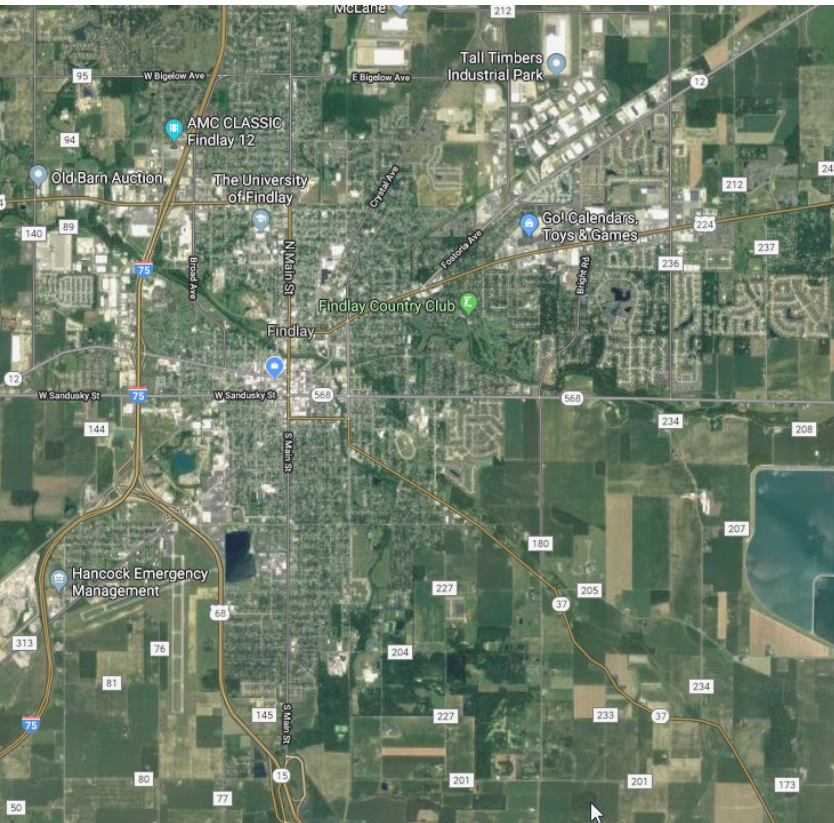
Includes Formal and Informal Training hours.

2000+

EMS TRAINING HOURS

Formal Hours received through Hanco, In-house instructors and online through 24/7.

FIRE PREVENTION



In an effort to identify risks to the community, the department has identified High Hazard Occupancies throughout the city. High Hazard Occupancies are defined as a structure of multiple heights, a certain structures size, and chemical storage types by the NFPA. These could include schools, hospitals, warehouses, etc.

Each company officer is charged with completing nearly 14 pre-incident plans throughout the year. These consist of physical site visit, updated pre-plan or a training evolution. Officers are charged with identifying means of egress, locate utilities, list chemicals, identify structural weakness and secure current key holder information.

Reasons for Pre-Plans:

- Prevent loss of life
- Prevent / reduce exposures to firefighters
- Prevent / reduce loss of property
- Decrease response times



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



The Fire Prevention Bureau consists of two firefighters who are certified as Fire Investigators and Fire Safety Inspectors. This team focuses on code enforcement, public fire and life safety education, fire investigations, building inspections and plan review.

The team also participates as a member of the Planning Commission and the Crime Prevention Association. They also conduct educational programs such as live fire extinguisher training and life safety education classes.

470+ PEOPLE
WENT THROUGH FIRE
EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

From University Students to Senior care agencies.

All took a course to learn how to use a fire extinguisher correctly to save lives and property.

300+ PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED IN
SAFETY PRESENTATIONS

From school groups to non-profit organizations. All listened to various, fine tuned topics regarding fire safety protocols.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2021

For 2021, we are hoping to return to a more normal routine. The Covid pandemic caused us to pause our regular training sessions and scheduled activities for a large part of the last year, and we look forward to better days. While the SARS-CoV-2 virus will be with us for the foreseeable future, we now know how to reduce our exposure risk during normal activities.

We have numerous goals for 2021, related to personnel, training and equipment.

Personnel:

- Hire 4 new firefighters. These are planned for 2021 in order to replace two current vacancies as well as to fill two retirements that will occur in the first half of the year.
- Select one existing fire department employee to move into the fire prevention bureau. This person will fill the FM-2 position vacated by Fire Inspector Rory Ferguson, who requested to return to fire suppression.

Equipment:

- Complete fundraising for the STRICT Center training complex and begin construction.
- Purchase a new fire engine through the city Capital Improvement fund.
- Replace a portion of existing fire department radios

Training:

- Increase formal training for members of the Technical Rescue Team, including Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Swift Water Rescue courses.
- Complete EMT training & certification for two existing firefighters who were hired in 2020.
- Complete Firefighter II training for new firefighters.