

# 2020 Annual Report



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# Mission Statement

Our main function is to protect our community by being prepared to respond to the traditional fire and rescue hazard while assuring our ability to mitigate a variety of a growing number of hazards.

The mission of our department is to put highly qualified firefighters with reliable equipment into an ever-broadening variety of roles for the protection of our citizens from fire and other hazardous situations. Using a Community Risk Reduction model using emergency response, engineering, enforcement, education and economic incentive as the basis for employing Fire Department resources to mitigate community risk.

Today's citizens have come to expect fire departments to be prepared and equipped to mitigate any problem encountered. Citizens will receive prompt, specially designed service to meet their needs whether fire, rescues, chemical, environmental, or medical emergencies. With equipment designed for specific and multiple hazards, firefighters can routinely provide the services the citizens deserve.



# Long-Term Plan

## 2020 Goals and Objectives

- **Maintain Inventory of all Department Equipment to ensure serviceability and physical security of City Assets.**
- **Provide over 150 hours of Training for Firefighters in fire suppression, technical rescue, hazardous materials and medical continuing education to ensure our personnel are ready for any eventuality in the community**
- **Sustain a Vehicle Maintenance program using a combination of City Fleet Maintenance Technicians and a third party company.**
- **Continue Applying for and receiving Federal and State Grant Monies to sustain personnel and equipment for the Department.**
- **Maintain our facilities to ensure a safe and clean work environment for employees.**
- **Affect a positive change in the incidents of fire through an aggressive inspection and fire prevention program.**
- **Update current Pre-fire plans and work to expand current occupancy database.**



# Personnel

## Human Resources

### Personnel Totals

- 2 Management Officers (Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief)
- 2 Administrative Officers – Fire Inspector and Assistant Fire Inspector (AFI).
- 1 Secretary
- 58 out of 60 Line Suppression Union positions filled.
- 62 Total Assigned Uniformed Personnel out of 64 Total Fire Department Positions

### Personnel Losses:

Assistant Chief Steve Shilling

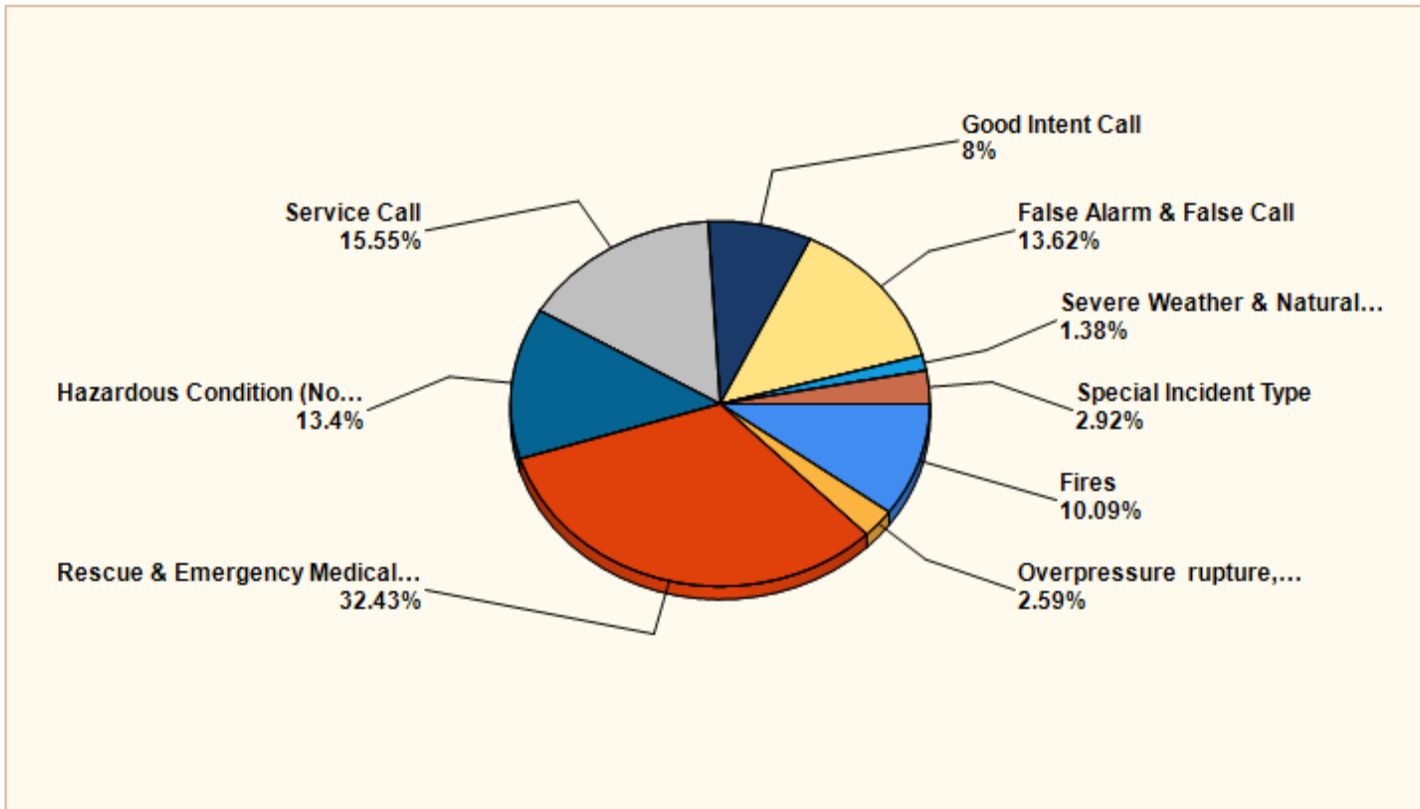
Captain Eric Swank

Personnel Gains: No hiring took place in 2020.



# Operations

## Call type breakdown by percentage



# Operations Continued

## Breakdown of Incident types by total call numbers

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	183	10.09%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	47	2.59%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	588	32.43%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	243	13.4%
Service Call	282	15.55%
Good Intent Call	145	8%
False Alarm & False Call	247	13.62%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	25	1.38%
Special Incident Type	53	2.92%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1813</b>	<b>100%</b>



# Training

Training Class	Hours
VFIS Risk Management for Leaders	3
Truck Company Operations at High Rises	8
Fire Officer III	40
Ventilation Practice	8
Haz-Mat Tech Refresher	16
Incident Command System ICS 300 and 400	40
Rope II	16
Hydrant Training with the AWA	8
Firefighter Rehab Class	6
Total	145

Department wide training was conducted by instructors from Bucks County Community College Public Safety training division. This ensures uniform instruction across our four platoons of personnel.

In addition to the department wide training, dozens of hours of training was conducted through the company level training program.

Each shift conducts many Company level training evolutions on individual skills. Examples include ground ladders, hose line management, firefighter survival, and using SCBA are just a few. Annually, the AFD also conducts Emergency Medical Service training.





# Vehicle Maintenance

- **6 Engines (2 Spare)**
  - **2 Aerial apparatus**
  - **1 Heavy rescue**
  - **2 Haz-Mat vehicles**
  - **1 Command Trailer**
  - **7 Staff / Utility Vehicles**
  - **2 Specialty Trailers**
- 
- **During 2020, Fleet Maintenance, 3<sup>rd</sup> party service company, and the Altoona Fire Department processed 148 vehicle maintenance requests.**
  - **During 2020, the Altoona Fire Department spent \$81,721 on vehicle maintenance. Included in this total is preventative maintenance costs.**



# Facilities – Station Locations

Station Designation	Location	Year Constructed	Apparatus
310	1319 Washington Avenue	1927	E-311, T-351, Staff Vehicles: 301, 341, 342
320	515 N. Second Street	1979	E-312, HM-362 (truck), HM-363 (trailer), E-315(Spare)
330	530 Crawford Avenue	1978	E-313, R-332, R-333 (trailer)
340	3960 Sixth Avenue	1951	E-314, E-316 (reserve), E-317 (PRR Mack)
350	1320 Washington Avenue	2007	T-352, HM-361 (Command Trailer)

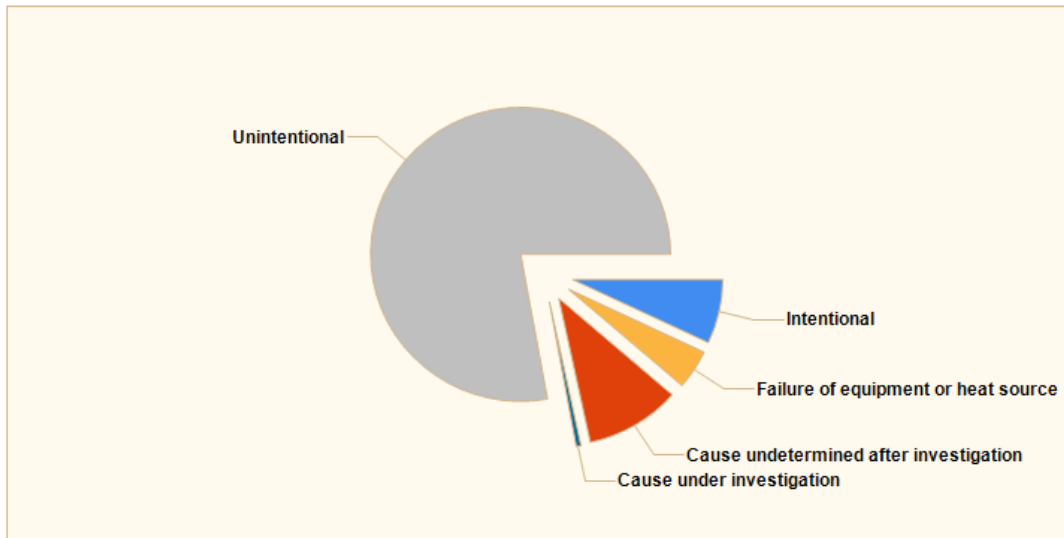


# Fire Investigations Report

## Fire Prevention Division Personnel

- Fire Inspector Adam Free
- Assistant Fire Inspector Justin Smithmyer

CAUSE OF IGNITION	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Intentional	13	7.0%
Failure of equipment or heat source	8	4.3%
Cause undetermined after investigation	19	10.2%
Cause under investigation	1	0.5%
Unintentional	144	77.4%
	185	100%



# Fire Loss Analysis

INCIDENT TYPE	COUNT	% OF INCIDENTS	TOTAL LOSSES (Sum of Property and Content Loss)
100 - Fire, other	2	4.00 %	\$210.00
111 - Building fire	37	74.00 %	\$515,950.00
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	1	2.00 %	\$500.00
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1	2.00 %	\$100.00
122 - Fire in motor home, camper, recreational vehicle	1	2.00 %	\$1,500.00
130 - Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	1	2.00 %	\$1,000.00
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	1	2.00 %	\$5,300.00
134 - Water vehicle fire	1	2.00 %	\$500.00
137 - Camper or recreational vehicle (RV) fire	1	2.00 %	\$1,000.00
138 - Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	1	2.00 %	\$500.00
151 - Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1	2.00 %	\$3,500.00
162 - Outside equipment fire	1	2.00 %	\$100.00
243 - Fireworks explosion (no fire)	1	2.00 %	\$1,000.00
TOTAL			\$530,260.00
Total Property Value Involved			\$2,912,210.00
Total Property Value Saved			\$2,381,950.00
Civilian Injuries	2		
Civilian Deaths	1		
Firefighter injuries	9		
Firefighter Deaths	0		



# Fire Inspections Report

Type	Compliant	Violations	Partially Complied	Total
Fire & Safety Initial	138	278		416
Fire & Safety Reinspection	256	31	69	356
Site Inspections	36	39		75
Open Burning	1			1
Tent	4			4
TOTAL				852



# Juvenile Fire Setter Program

## **Mission Statement:**

*To prevent loss of life and property by identification and intervention of young people who have shown a tendency to start fires.*

### *2020 Juvenile Cases*

In 2020, the Altoona Fire Department's Juvenile Fire setter Program did not receive any referrals.

In person counseling was suspended during this time period in order to limit spread of the Coronavirus.

### *AFD Juvenile Fire setter*

#### **Team Members**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Team Assignment</b>
Captain	Joshua D. Link	Program Coordinator
Engineer	Dan Chesnut	Intervention Specialist



# Fire Prevention - Education

## Fire Education

### Public Attendance Summary

January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

Event	Children Attended	Adults Attended
Station Tours (2)	40	10
911 Telecommunicators Ride Along Training (1)		4
Live Fire Extinguisher Training (3)		42
Public Service – Special Events (24)	12	108
Smoke Alarm Installations (12)		31
Supervised Fire Drills (17)	5046	294
Fire Prevention Programs (35)	202	692
Totals (94 Program)	5,300	1,181



# 2020 Pandemic Data



- The City of Altoona has had 6,561 positive cases of COVID-19
- We started seeing ICU hospitalizations at 2 per day in September of 2020. The highest number of ICU hospitalizations was in November of 2020 when we saw 24 COVID patients admitted to the ICU in one week. We currently are averaging 3.
- Tragically we have seen 346 residents of the Altoona Metro Area die from COVID-19. December of 2020 was the deadliest month when we averaged 9 persons per week passing away from complications related to the Coronavirus.
- The Altoona Fire Department suspended medical calls that were not considered life threatening. We continued to respond to cardiac arrests and unconscious patients. The reduction in service was put in place to limit exposures to the virus and protect our fire suppression forces. We also had 60% of our firefighters get vaccinated. Even with those mitigation efforts we had 20 positive cases among our personnel equaling just over 100 hours of lost time.
- The City had \$37,678 in direct COVID-19 Emergency Response expenses. PEMA State Grant monies totaled \$40,069. The Fire Department also participated in a Regional FEMA Grant that provided \$26,000 in PPE. We have enough PPE to supply City continuity operations for at least 6 months calculated at the highest burn rate.



# 2021 Goals

1. Complete and distribute the Department Tactical Standard Operating Procedures to ensure compliance with most current practices and NFPA Standards for Fire Department response.
2. Conduct over 150 hours per shift of combined certified training on leadership, equipment, techniques, tactics and procedures maintaining the operational efficiency of the Fire Department.
3. Complete the Hazmat Building at Margaret Avenue in order to have more room in the fire stations and provide a secure area to store Hazmat Response Equipment and materials. This would include stock piles of COVID-19 PPE.
4. Conduct Hazardous Materials Response Team Exercise in the Fall of 2021. This exercise will be used for Team recertification through an evaluation conducted by PEMA.
5. Maintain Fire Department facilities by replacing apparatus bay floors, upgrading our diesel exhaust evacuation systems at the stations. Also, maintaining our supply hose by replacing old and worn out hoses.
7. Conduct cross training with the Altoona Police Department in tactical training which will improve City response to incidents like active shooters and related Mass Casualty Incidents.
8. Complete and implement a Community Risk Reduction Plan using emergency response, engineering, enforcement, education and economic incentive as the basis for employing Fire Department resources to mitigate community risk.

