

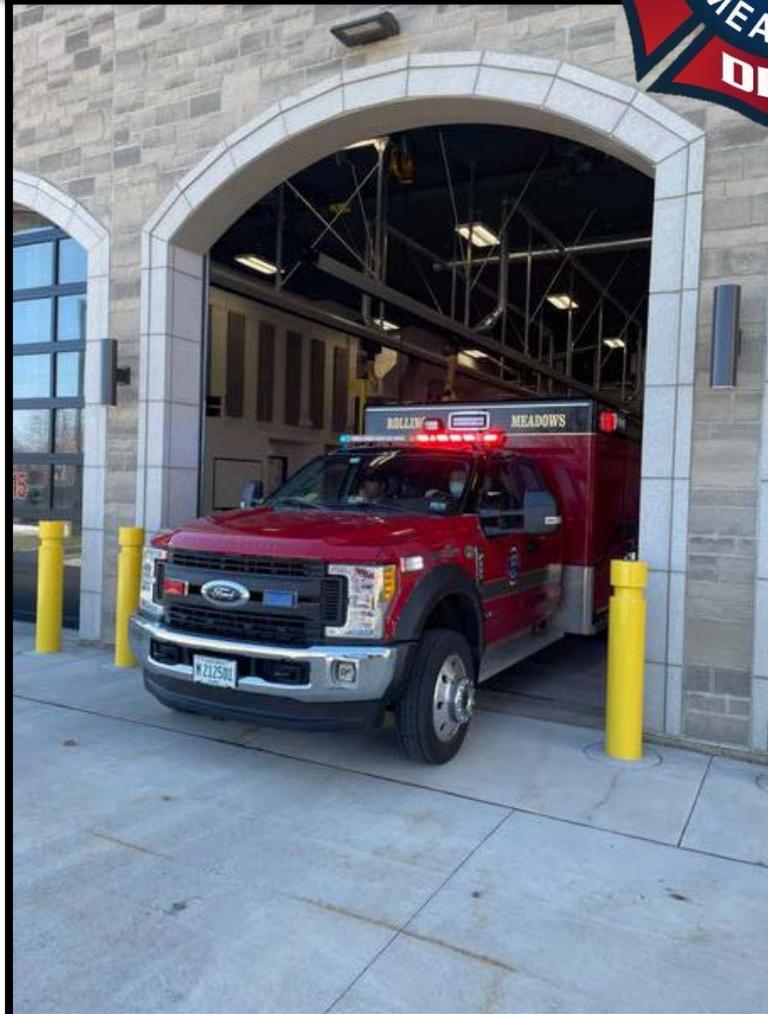


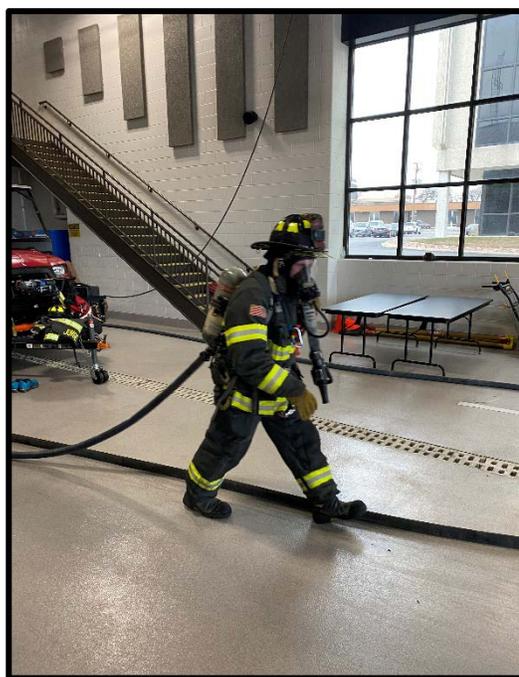
2021



Annual

Report





Rolling Meadows Fire Department Vision Statement

Continually reviewing our current and past performance ensures that we perform at a standard consistent with the expectations of the community. With focus on improvement of future response, we cultivate a vision that is open to change; we adapt as the community grows and matures. We ultimately strive to enhance the safety of the citizens, businesses and visitors of the City of Rolling Meadows.



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Message from the Chief



It is my pleasure to present the Rolling Meadows Fire Department 2021 Annual Report. Calendar year 2021 was another challenging year. The persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic once again prevented many pre-pandemic activities. Despite the obstacles, we made several notable achievements which included earning an ISO (Insurance Services Office) Class 2 rating. We are grateful for the support from Mayor Gallo, the City Council, and City staff.

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department is comprised of outstanding fire officers, firefighters, and staff who work continuously to deliver outstanding service to the residents and visitors of the City of Rolling Meadows. I am honored to be your fire chief and look forward to continued progress in 2022.

Jeff Moxley

Fire Chief



Rolling Meadows Fire Department Organizational Chart

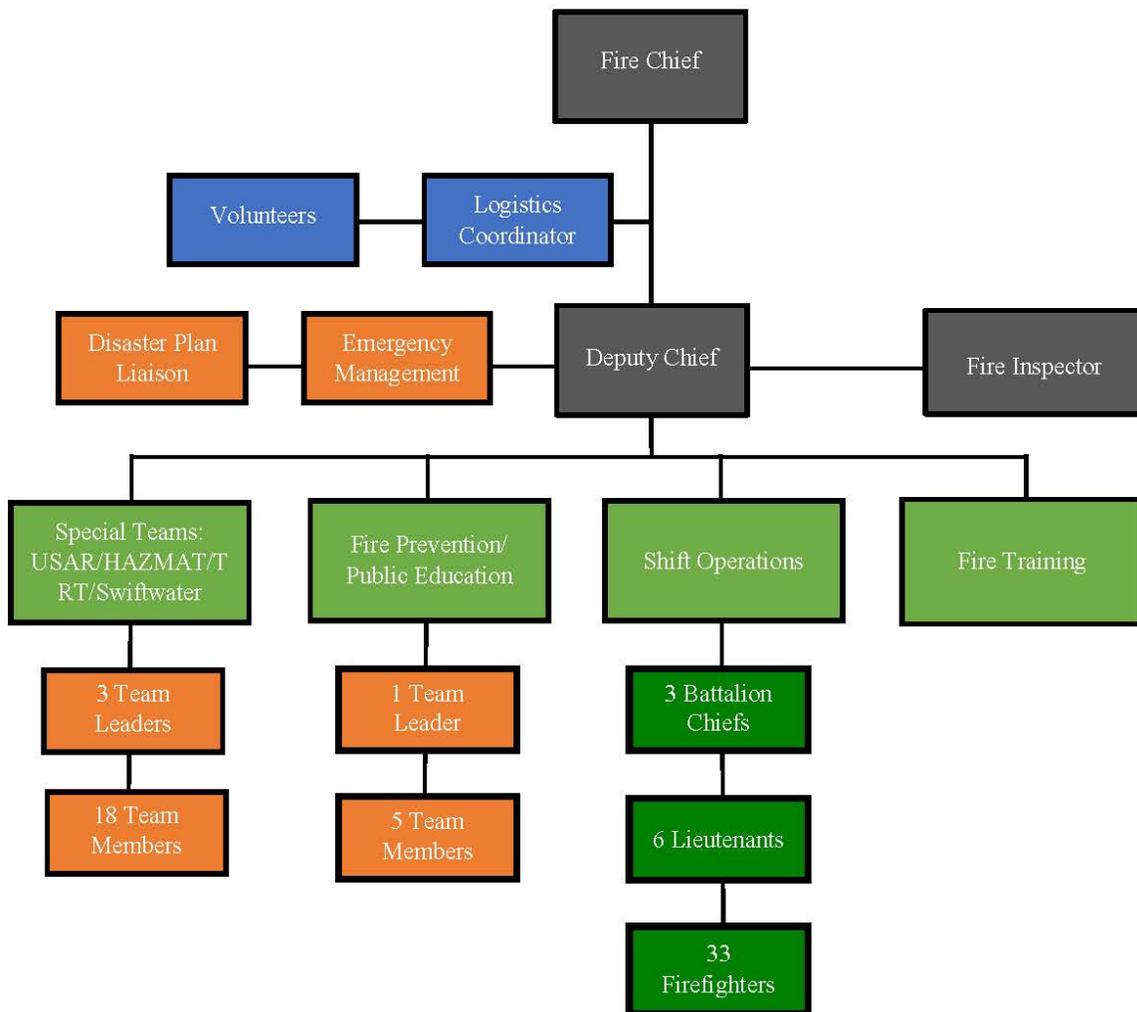
- Administration
- Shift Personnel
- Civilian
- Staffed by Department Members

Current Fire Department Staffing:

- 1 Fire Chief
- 1 Deputy Chief (DC)
- 1 Fire Inspector
- 3 Battalion Chiefs (BC)
- 6 Lieutenants (LT)
- 33 Firefighter/Paramedics (FF/PM)
- 1 Logistics Coordinator (Civilian)

46 Total Personnel

(44 Commissioned/Sworn for City)



Personnel

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department roster includes 2 Command Staff positions consisting of 1 Chief and 1 Deputy Chief. The operations section of the Fire Department is staffed by a total of 42 personnel, consisting of 3 Battalion Chiefs, 6 Lieutenants and 33 Firefighter/Paramedics. All sworn personnel below the rank of Deputy Chief are cross-trained as Paramedics. The Logistics Coordinator is a civilian position providing administrative support to the command staff.

Command Staff



*Chief
Jeff Moxley*



*Deputy Chief
Pete Sutter*



*Logistics Coordinator
Lisa Norton*

Battalion 15



*First Shift
Ben Dwyer*



*Second Shift
Jim Marvin*



*Third Shift
Dan Kusek*

Lieutenants



Chris Lee



Adam Taylor



Ryan Lettieri



Ryan Harding



Rob Rabelhofer



John Palmisano

Firefighter/Paramedics



Jay Delfin



Brian Wirtz



Dave Rill



Nichole Junge



Mark Hayden



Ben Kamminga



Dave Bacino



Brad Petrik



Mike Mullaney



Lance Neuses



Chad Lovick



Mike Padula



Colin Barr



Andre Hall



Tim King



Bryan Earl

Firefighter/Paramedics



Steve Zurek



Zach Wynveen



John Loesch Jr



Matt Cappelen



Paul Davis



Mike Baumgart



Pat O'Meara



Craig Allen



Dan Cheval



Tim Drain



Jacek Brylewski



Charlie Myers



Matt Bohnen



JT Brault

Personnel Changes



Firefighter/Paramedic John Loesch retired on April 30th after over 31 years of service with the department.



Deputy Chief Rick Acosta retired on June 18th after over 27 years of service with the department.



Battalion Chief Pete Sutter was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief on June 21st.

FF/PM JT Brault was hired on July 12th.



Lieutenant Ben Dwyer was promoted to Battalion Chief on August 3rd.

Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Lettieri was promoted to Lieutenant on August 3rd.



Firefighter/Paramedic Josh Gould resigned on December 1st.

Firefighter/Paramedic Austin Isham resigned on December 10th.



Personnel Changes



Annual Responses



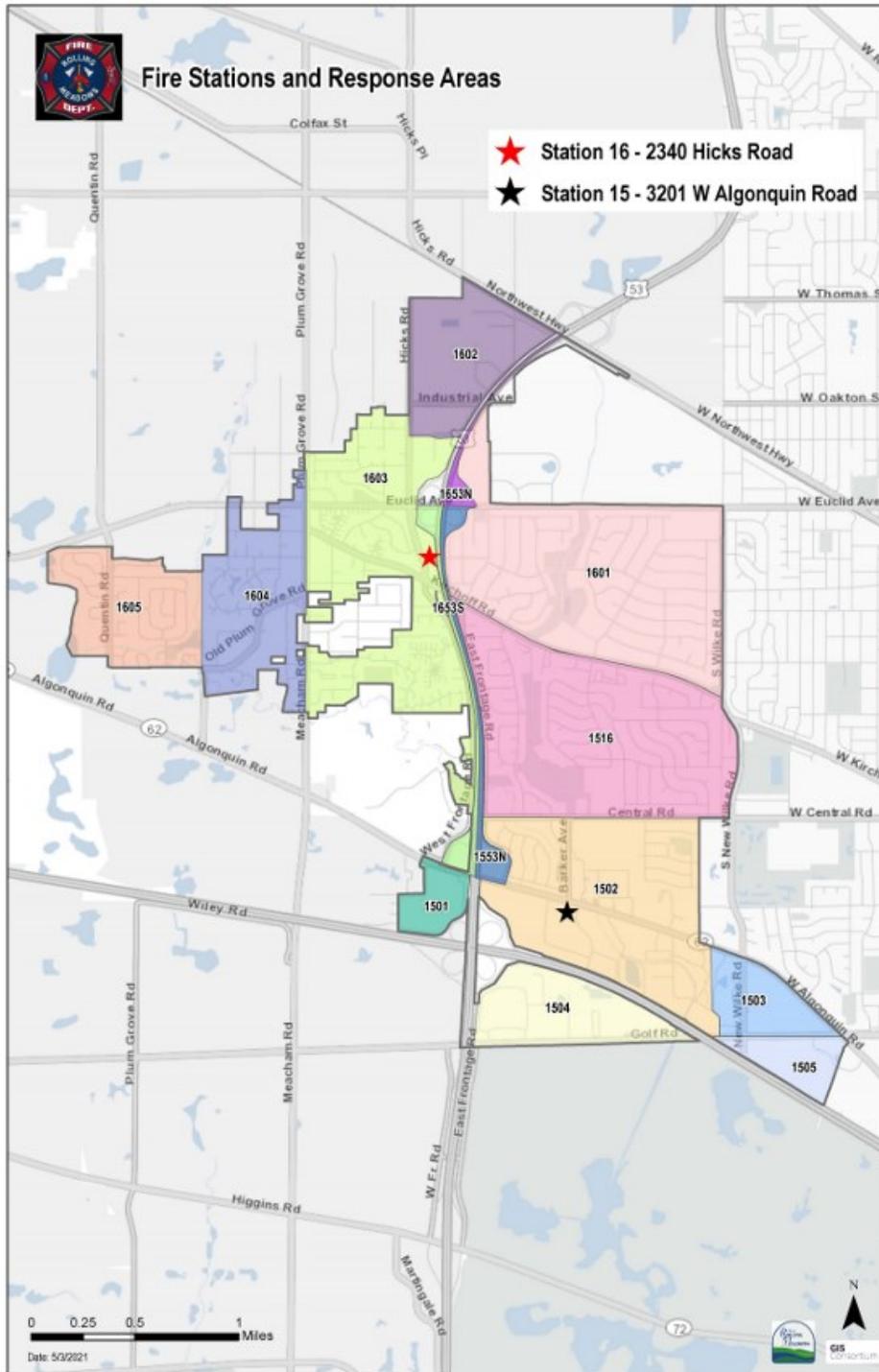
24,200
Estimated Population



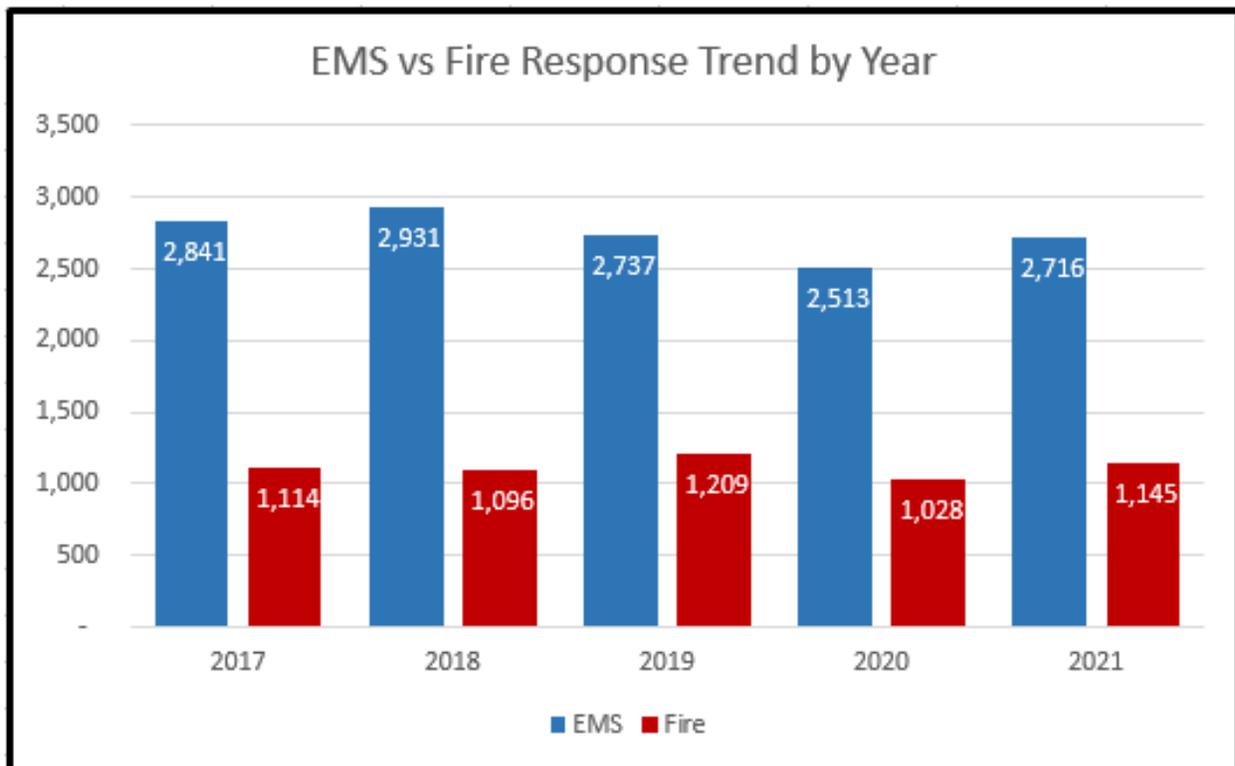
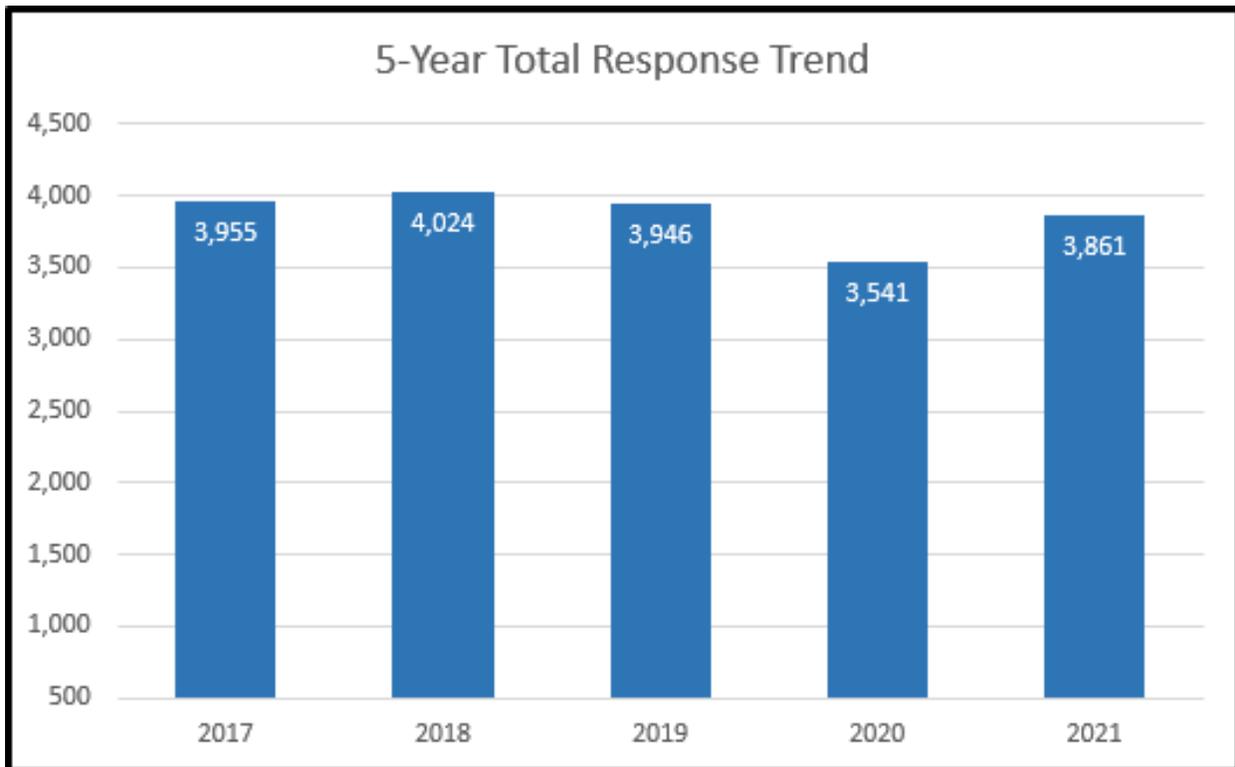
5.62
Square Mi.
Service Area



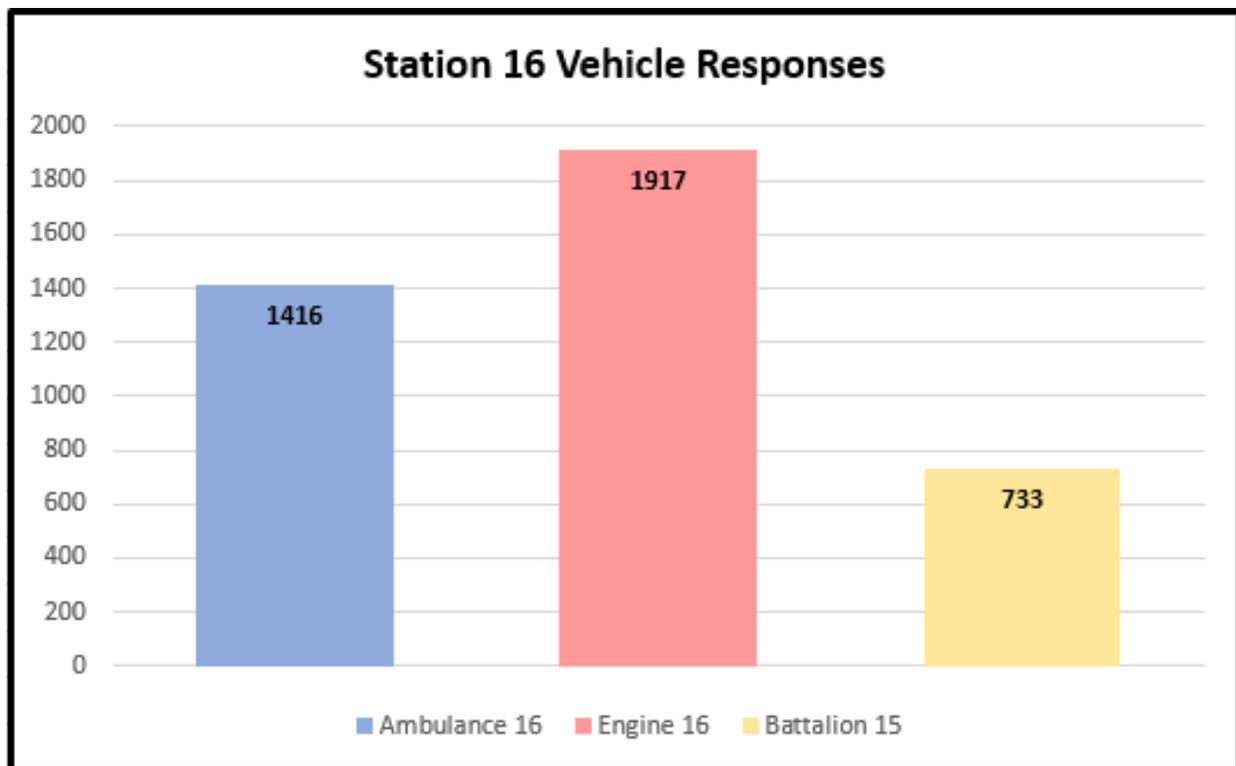
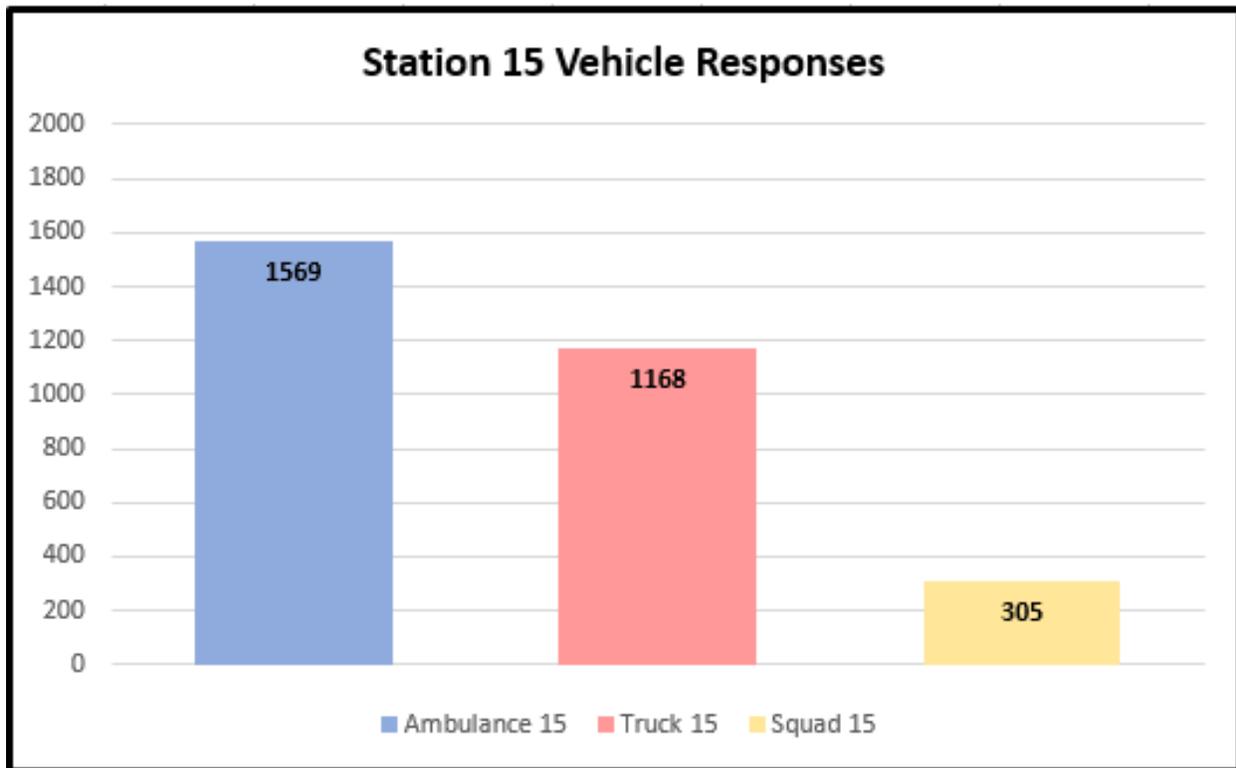
\$936 Million
Value of Property
Protected



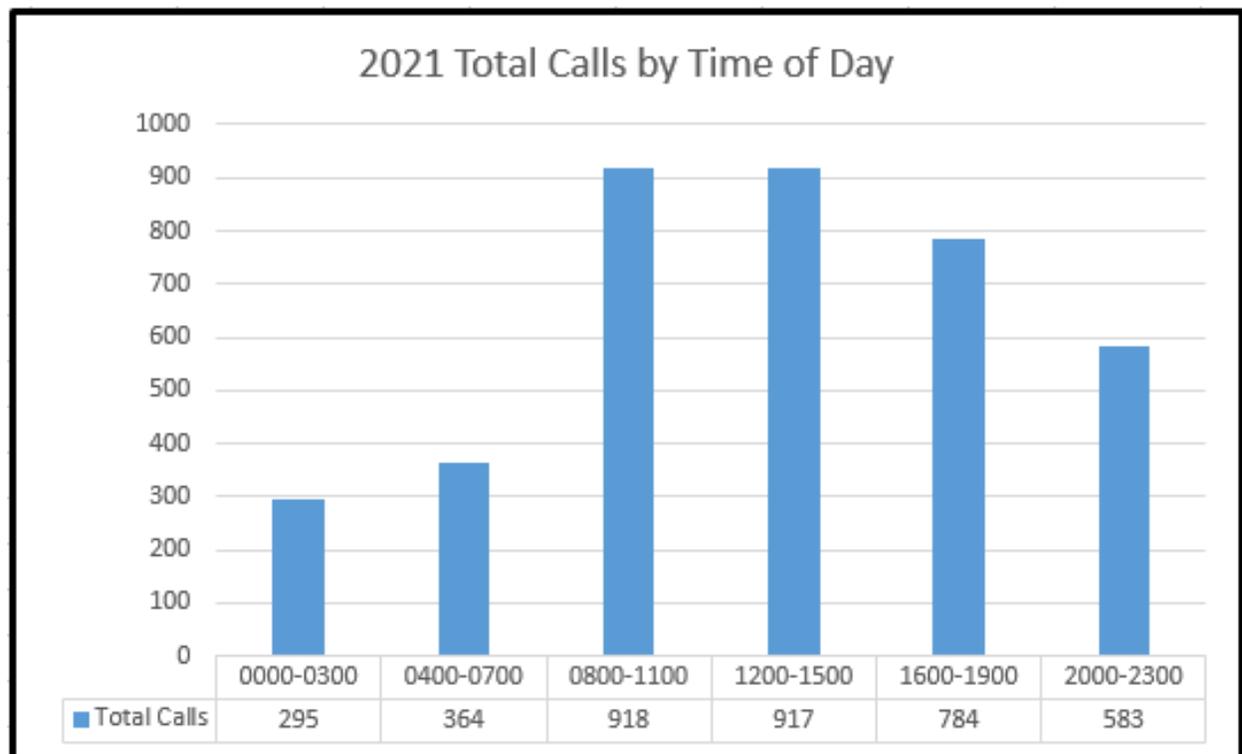
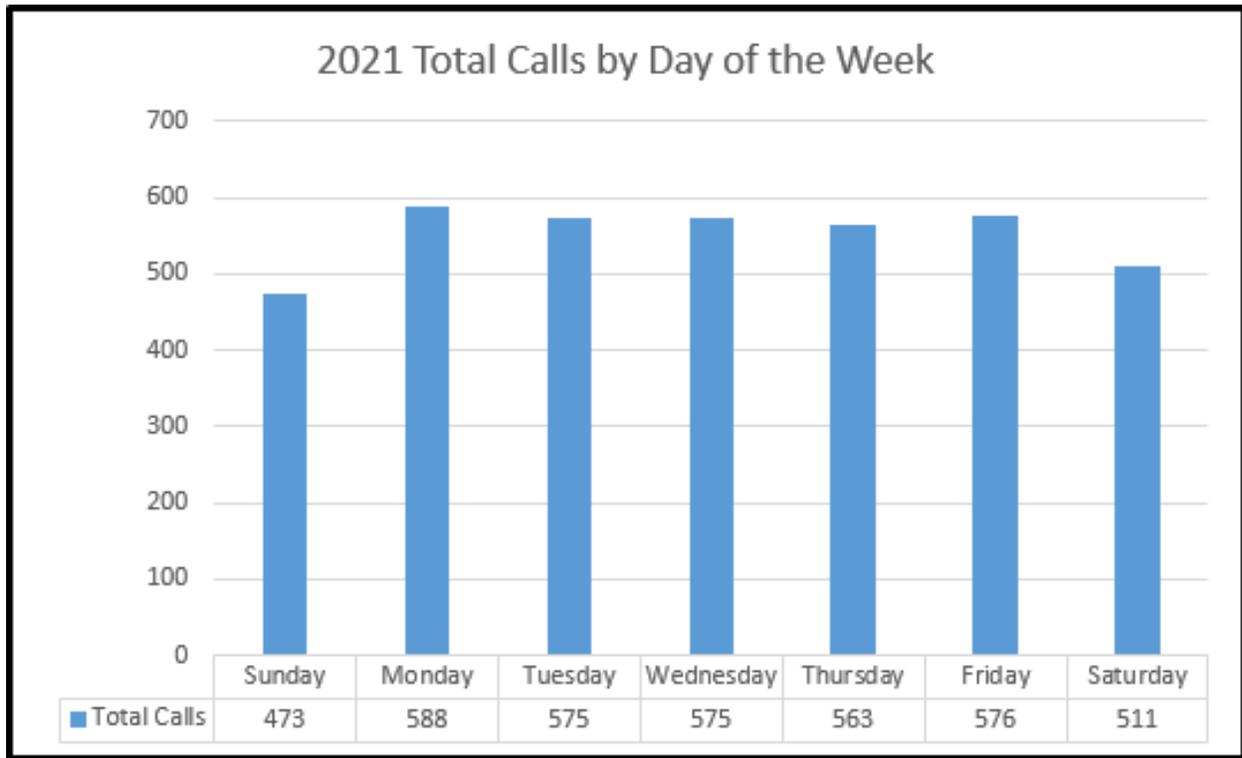
5-Year Trends



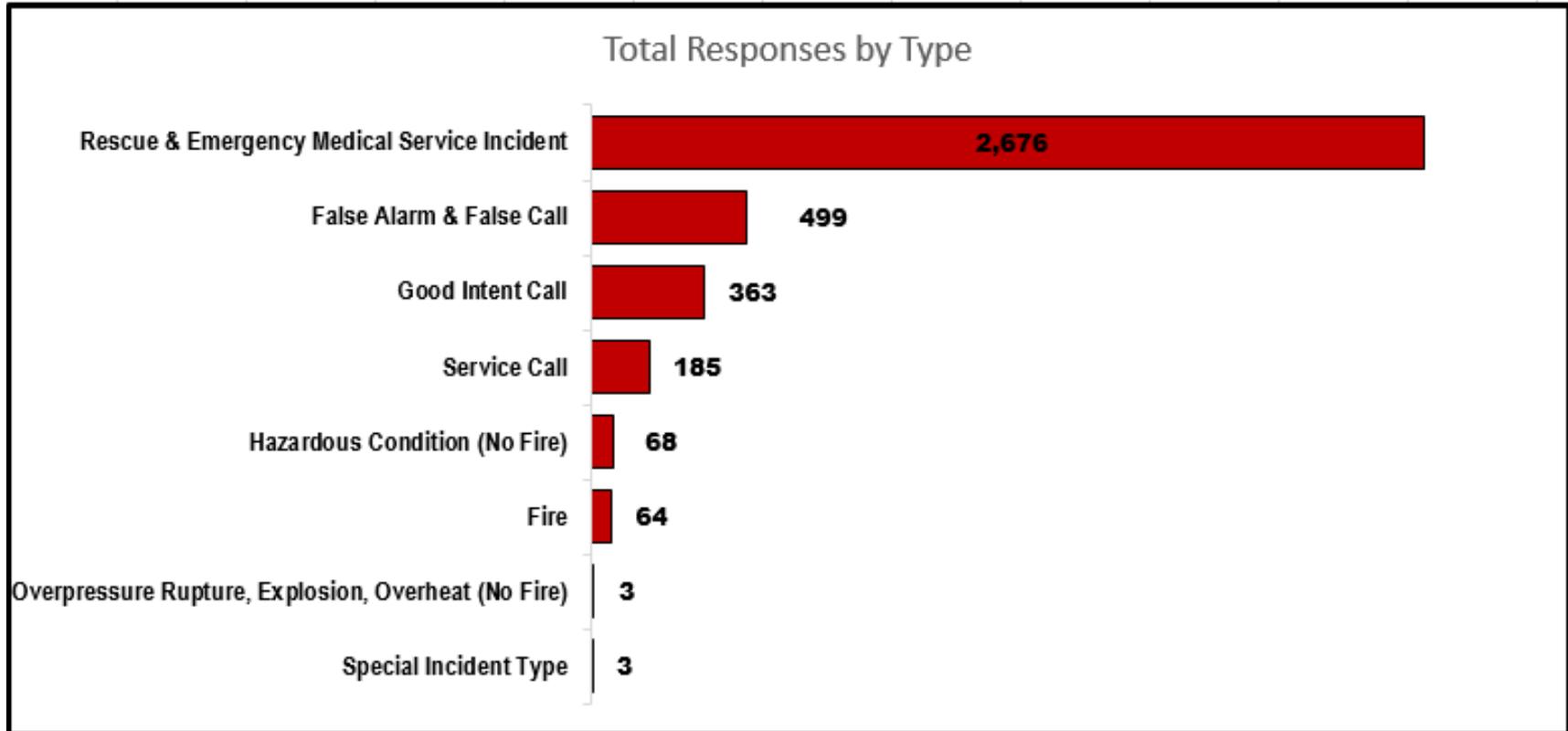
Station Responses



Daily Responses



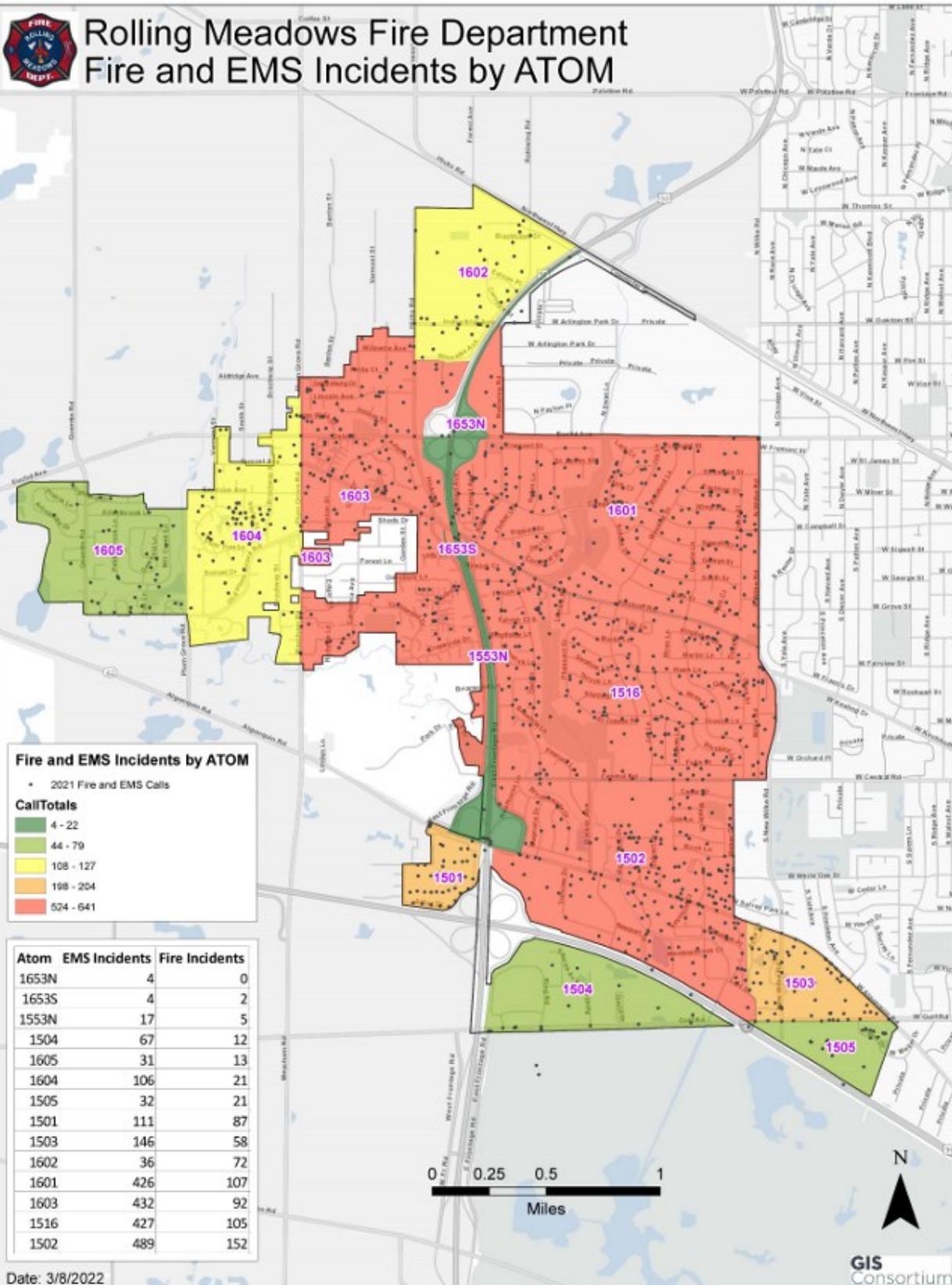
Response Types



Incident Distribution



Rolling Meadows Fire Department Fire and EMS Incidents by ATOM



Noteworthy Events

J.C. Restoration Bell Donation

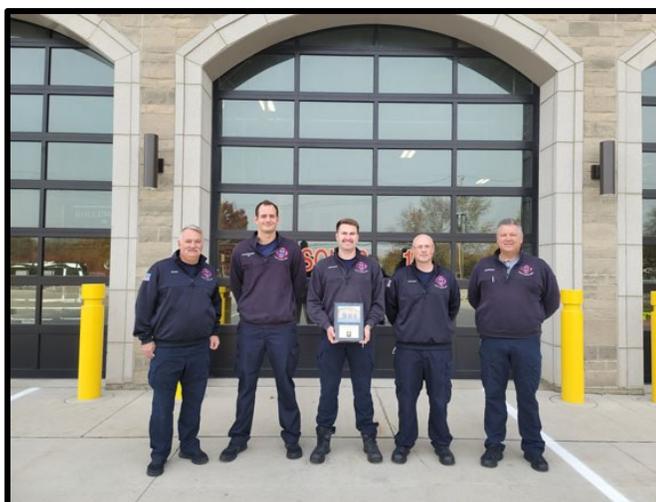
On January 7th, J.C. Restoration presented the Rolling Meadows Fire Department with a memorial bell to keep at our station. The sounding of a bell in the Fire Service is a 200 year old tradition that originally signaled the start of the day's shift. Throughout the day and night, the bell was sounded for each alarm, which summoned the firefighters to place their lives in danger for the good of their fellow citizens. When the fire was out and the call came to an end, the bell was rung again. Today, we use these traditions as symbols which honor and respect those who have given so much. You can hear the sounding of the bell during a member's retirement ceremony or at a funeral of a member who had served in the Fire Service. To symbolize the de

vation of duty that these firefighters had, a special signal of three rings, three times each, represents the end of their duties, their last alarm, and that they will be returning home.



Masonry Advisory Council – Favorite Fire Station Award

Rolling Meadows Fire Station 15 was voted as the Masonry Advisory Council's Favorite Fire Station in 2021. The competition took place in October during National Fire Safety Month and the public was able to vote on their favorite fire station. The Rolling Meadows Fire Department received a plaque and a lunch to commemorate the win!



Communications

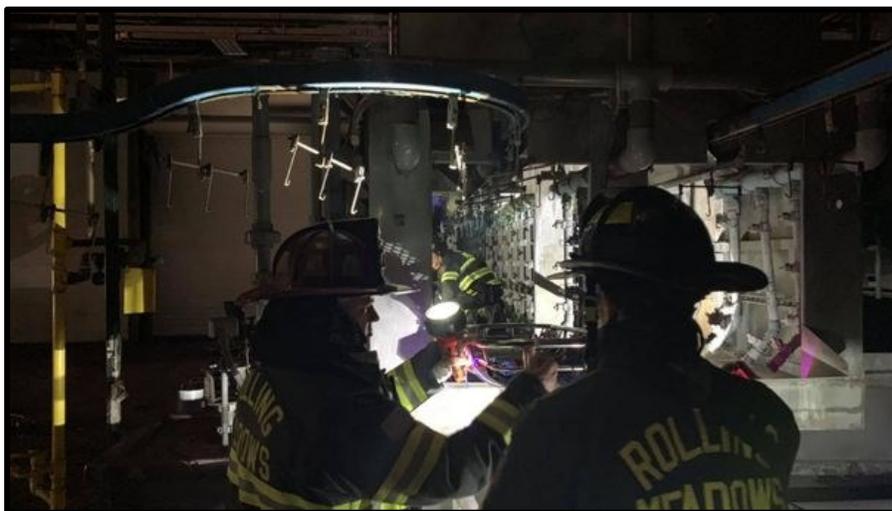
The Communications Division primary focus for 2021 remained with the implementation of a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The new Motorola system provides agencies of Northwest Central Dispatch access to the latest in updated dispatch software including the addition of Automatic Vehicle Location which will provide dispatching of the closest vehicles to an emergency call. The new CAD system became operational in early 2021. Throughout the year the division members maintained our fleet of radios (mobile and portable). We have also committed a member to serve on the radio replacement project committee with Northwest Central Dispatch and all police / fire agencies involved. Dispatching of fire department calls for service is completed by Northwest Central Dispatch System (NWCDS). The dispatch center handles all calls for police and fire requests for the City of Rolling Meadows. The Rolling Meadows Fire Department is a member of MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) Division 1, which is also dispatched by NWCDS.

Training

Training continues to be the main focus of the Rolling Meadows Fire department. In 2021, RPM affiliated departments had the opportunity to train in a very large vacant occupancy within Palatine. We utilized these buildings to train on search and rescue, hose line deployment, ladders, ventilation, forcible entry, and firefighter maydays. Utilizing these acquired structures allows our firefighters to train in these real-world environments. Online training has continued to prove its value and we can accomplish mandatory training anytime throughout the year. In October of 2021, RPM departments along with Arlington Heights completed live-fire training at the AHFD training tower. Rolling Meadows firefighters participated for a total of 3 weeks, on various evolutions. In August of 2021, Lt John Palmisano was selected to be Rolling Meadows's next Training Officer. BC Pete Sutter was promoted to Deputy Chief leaving the vacancy in training. Lt Palmisano and Lt Harding now make up the training committee within the Rolling Meadows Fire Department.



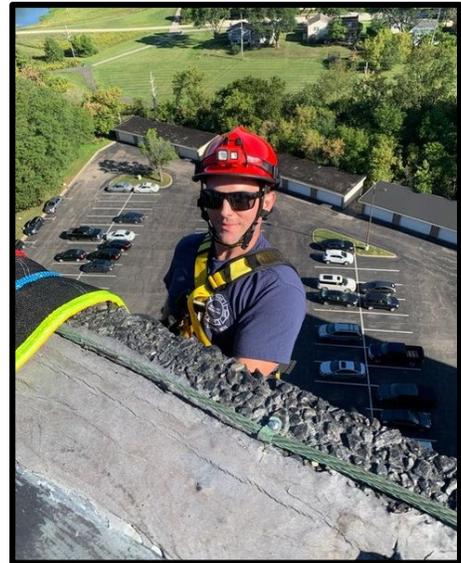
Training Photos



Special Operations

TRT

The members of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department Technical Rescue Team are trained in specialized areas of rescue beyond that of Firefighting and EMS. Those areas include Rope, Confined Space, Trench and Structural Collapse. Our 6 members are part of the larger MABAS Division 1 Technical Rescue Team. The MABAS Team that we belong to is comprised of 14 other area departments. Each department supplies a few of their members who also obtain the same specialized training as our members. We are taught to State and National standards to allow interoperability at local, regional and national incidents. Our Technical Rescue Team Members are highly trained and dedicated rescuers who are driven to perform under less than ideal conditions at an extremely high level of competency.



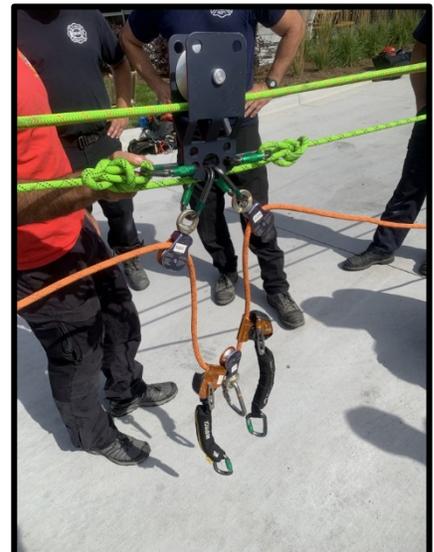
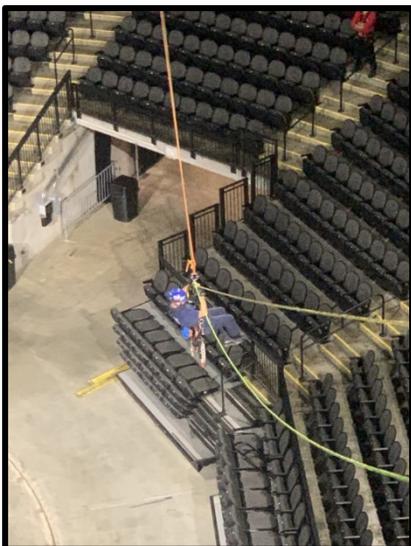
In 2021, The Rolling Meadows Fire Department Technical Rescue Team underwent some personnel changes due to the retirement of Team Member John Loesch and Team Leader Pete Sutter's promotion to Deputy Chief.

Lieutenant Rabelhofer was tasked with the responsibilities of becoming the new Team Leader of the Technical Rescue Team.

Tim Drain joined the Technical Rescue Team and is currently working on obtaining his certifications. In 2021 he obtained his Rope Rescue Operations certificate which is the first of many needed to become a rescuer.

John Loesch Jr. completed the final 2 classes needed to become fully certified. John completed Rope Rescue Technician and Confined Space Rescue Technician in 2021.

In 2021 Team Members completed 331 hours of specialized training.



HAZMAT

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department HazMat Team had an active year in 2021. Our HazMat team consists of six members, four of which are on the Deployable Roster for our MABAS division. The department is in the process of updating our response apparatus, our new Squad should be arriving in early 2023. In the meantime, we are temporarily using a reserve engine as our squad.

As part of the MABAS Division One HazMat Team, we participate in quarterly drills with the rest of the division. In addition, we train on and off duty, several times each year. Trainings in 2021 included topics such as HazMat RIT, metering, and substance collection. The Rolling Meadows Fire Department responded to a total of 57 HazMat calls, including chemical spills, gas leaks, and carbon monoxide incidents.



Swiftwater

In 2021, Paul Davis joined the Swift water team as its newest member. Members of the Swift water team completed their annual swim test at the sports complex in Rolling Meadows. This was our first time holding our swim test outdoors and proved to be successful. Team Leader John Palmisano coordinated a Division 1 Swift water drill at the Algonquin dam in Algonquin. Members throughout Division 1 came out for the two days of training.



Honor Guard

In 2021, the Honor Guard participated in numerous district drills, as well as leading 2 walkout ceremonies for Ret. FF John Loesch and Ret. DC Rick Acosta. The Honor Guard also participated in leading the City of Rolling Meadows Memorial Day parade alongside RMPD Honor Guard members. Over 80 volunteer hours were logged by our 8 members for these various activities. Due to COVID there was no Annual Convention in 2021 and activities were down in frequency. Two new members were inducted into the State of IL AFFI Honor Guard at the Annual Convention in January of this year, and as a result are now part of the RMFD Honor Guard which makes the current roster of 10 members. The new members are Lt. Chris Lee and FF Matt Bohnen.



Public Education

Over the past year we were excited to get back in the swing of things with Public Education events. With Covid-19 Numbers down we were invited back to Rolling Meadows Park District to do Touch-a-Trucks with all preschool classes. Another Public Education event that we, along with the Union, sponsored was a BBQ lunch for the senior citizens of Rolling Meadows. We had thirty attendees and look forward to making this an annual tradition. As we moved forward we are hoping to continue the momentum in 2022 with even more Public Education events. Also, members of the RMFD collected and donated a large amount of food to the RMPD food drive which supported the Palatine Food pantry.

CPR

The best way to describe 2021 for CPR was a year of catch-up. Over the year we continued to have a great turnout for our Wednesday evening CPR classes. Individuals were looking to get their cards up to date after the pandemic. Numerous doctors offices and day cares in town reached out to have their employees become CPR certified. We look forward to 2022 class schedule and opportunities that we have to get out into the community and teach this life saving skill.

Boot Drive

Unfortunately due to the Pandemic we were unable to do our normal collection this past year. However, Rolling Meadows Firefighters Local 3075 made a large contribution to the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) to assist with funding participants at Burn Camp. Our traditional Boot Drive will start up again in 2022.

Fire Investigations

In accordance with state statute 425 ILCS 25, it is the responsibility of the Fire Chief to ensure that the cause and origin of every fire is investigated. He has designated that authority to the Fire Investigations Team. The Rolling Meadows Fire Department Fire Investigations Team has four members: Lieutenant Lee, FF/PM Kamminga, Battalion Chief Kusek, and Lieutenant Rabelhofer. All of our investigators have attended a 120 hour Fire Investigations class. Each investigator has also passed a state exam, and is certified by the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal. In order to maintain certification, each investigator must get 100 hours of continuing education in a four year period. These hours can be obtained through classes, seminars, ride-alongs, and investigations of actual fires.

When investigating a fire, the investigator evaluates evidence from the scene, reconstructs the fire room or area and its contents, conducts interviews, creates scene sketches, and takes photographs of the scene. Depending on the size and scope of the fire, we can call for assistance from the MABAS Fire Investigations Committee, the State Fire Marshal's Office, or the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). We also have the ability to call for help within the RPM departments, with an RPM Investigator call out through our dispatch center. Palatine and Palatine Rural also have the ability to call for our assistance through the same process.

The Fire Investigations Team investigated multiple fires in 2021. Many of the training hours for this year were achieved online. BC Kusek and Lt. Lee attended a Juvenile Fire Setter Interventionist class, which was hosted by the Illinois Fire Service Institute at an Orland Park fire station. This was a state certified program. The MABAS 1 Investigations Committee has several training evolutions planned for this year.

The RMFD Investigations team plans to continue attending training evolutions conducted by the MABAS Division 1 Investigations Committee. Our team has a very active role in conducting many of these training exercises. Lt. Lee is now the Training Coordinator for the MABAS 1 Investigations Committee.

Foreign Fire Tax Fund

The Rolling Meadows Foreign Fire Tax Fund receives revenue via Illinois State Statute (65 ILCS 5/11-10-1) which mandates insurance companies headquartered outside of the state of Illinois pay a fee not exceeding 2% of gross receipts received from fire insurance on properties in areas of Illinois that have established Fire Departments. Per the statute, money is collected by the Illinois Municipal League for distribution and each department who receives this revenue has an elected foreign fire insurance board who manages the distribution of money. Fire Departments that are eligible to receive this fund, provide services for municipalities with fewer than 500,000 residents. The Rolling Meadows Foreign Fire Tax Board is authorized to expend the funds for the following purposes:

- Personnel expenditures for safety devices or education;
- Personnel expenditures for training or training materials;
- Personnel expenditures for health of physical fitness;
- Furniture, appliances, and other materials necessary for personnel at the firehouse; And
- Specialized equipment as appropriate to support daily operations and essential functions.

In 2021, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department Foreign Fire Board members included: Fire Chief Moxley, FF/PM Loesch, BC Dwyer, FF/PM Palmisano, FF/PM Lettieri, FF/PM Davis, and FF/PM Zurek. With the retirement of FF/PM Loesch in 2021, FF/PM Charles Myers was elected to fill his position. All board members complete required ethics training through the Illinois Attorney General's Office and are responsible for each purchase made by the fund.

Major purchases in 2021 included:

- Updated fitness equipment
- Station furnishings including mirrors, chairs, and screens
- Vehicle manning boards for each station
- Kitchen hardware and cooking equipment
- Station humidifiers for the living space
- Large fans for the apparatus bays
- Durable water coolers for each frontline fire suppression vehicle



Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department is proud that all of its members are Illinois State certified paramedics. This allows us to staff two Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport ambulances, an ALS non-transport engine, and an ALS non-transport fire truck on a daily basis. One ALS non-transport engine, an ALS medium-duty squad, and one fully equipped ALS transport ambulance stand ready in reserve status should they be needed. This reserve ambulance is also utilized for special events and is available in the event a front-line ambulance requires repair or maintenance work.

All of our paramedics function under the direction of the Northwest Community Hospital EMS System and as such must receive at least 30 hours of continuing education credits annually. This continuing education addresses both adult and pediatric ALS and BLS care, requires maintenance of a current American Heart Association CPR card, and completion of annual competencies in blood borne pathogens exposure risk. This standard is a minimum and most RMFD paramedics far exceed this requirement.

Members of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department attend and contribute to various different committees consisting of representatives from area departments and Northwest Community Hospital. The main goal of these committees is to bring the highest level of service possible to the residents of the City of Rolling Meadows. Those committees include and are headed by:

- Provider EMS Coordinator (BC Dan Kusek)
- Provider Based Quality Improvement (FF/PM Nichole Junge)
- Computer Aided Reporting System (FF/PM Mark Hayden)
- Education (FF/PM Nichole Junge)
- Cardiac Arrest Committee (FF/PM Mark Hayden)
- Research and Development (LT/PM Ryan Lettieri)

In addition to emergency requests for patient care, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department's EMS division provides additional services such as COVID testing for city employees, blood pressure readings for residents at both fire stations, CPR classes, monthly blood pressure screenings for city employees at City Hall and the Public Works Department, and stand-by ambulance crews at all Rolling Meadows High School football games. The Rolling Meadows Fire Department EMS Division continually strives to provide the highest level of care for our residents and visitors alike.

COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued through 2021, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department responded in kind, evolving as the situation demanded. Early 2021 continued much of the restrictions and reasonable accommodations for staff set forth by federal, state, and county agencies. Members completed their COVID-19 vaccination series in early January as the city complied with vaccination requirements for healthcare providers. The wearing of more robust personal protective equipment (PPE) on every call regardless of the nature has become the new standard for the department. Though you may not always be able to see it, there are still friendly smiles behind every pair of safety glasses and N-95 mask to help when you need.

Rolling Meadows in conjunction with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), and Cook County Emergency Management and Regional Security (EMRS) secured approximately 800 BINAX now COVID-19 antigen tests for testing of critical personnel prior to their release to the public. Having the ability to rapidly test essential personnel provided limited exposures of coworkers and supported staffing to perform essential city functions. This "on hand" testing capability for our critical staff ensured the safety of our department members as well as the public that we serve.

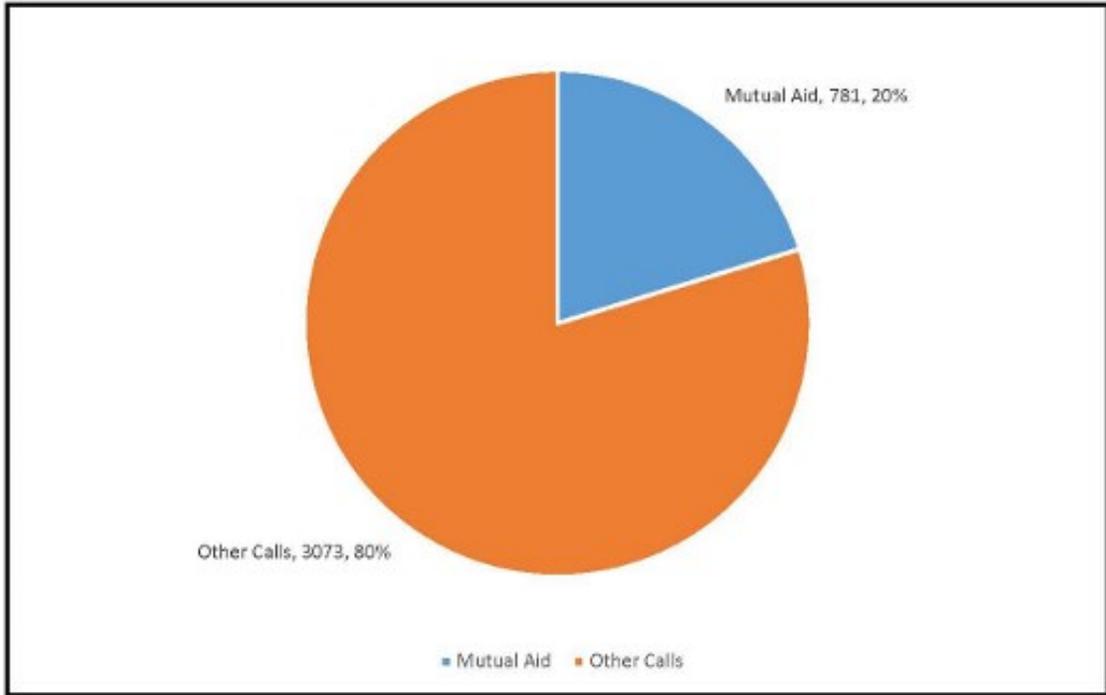
The Omicron variant of COVID-19 caused a surge of infections that tightened up the lowered restrictions that accompanied the summer. This variant contained a mutated protein spike causing it to be transmitted much more easily, again increasing restrictions throughout the community and city departments. As of late December 2021, Cook County and Rolling Meadows were still experiencing an increased spread and higher case load of COVID-19 which was attributed to large holiday gatherings. The infection rate and case load has since dropped significantly during in 2022. We remain hopeful that the continued investment, and hard work of the City of Rolling Meadows, its residents, and the community pays off with us seeing the end of the pandemic in 2022.



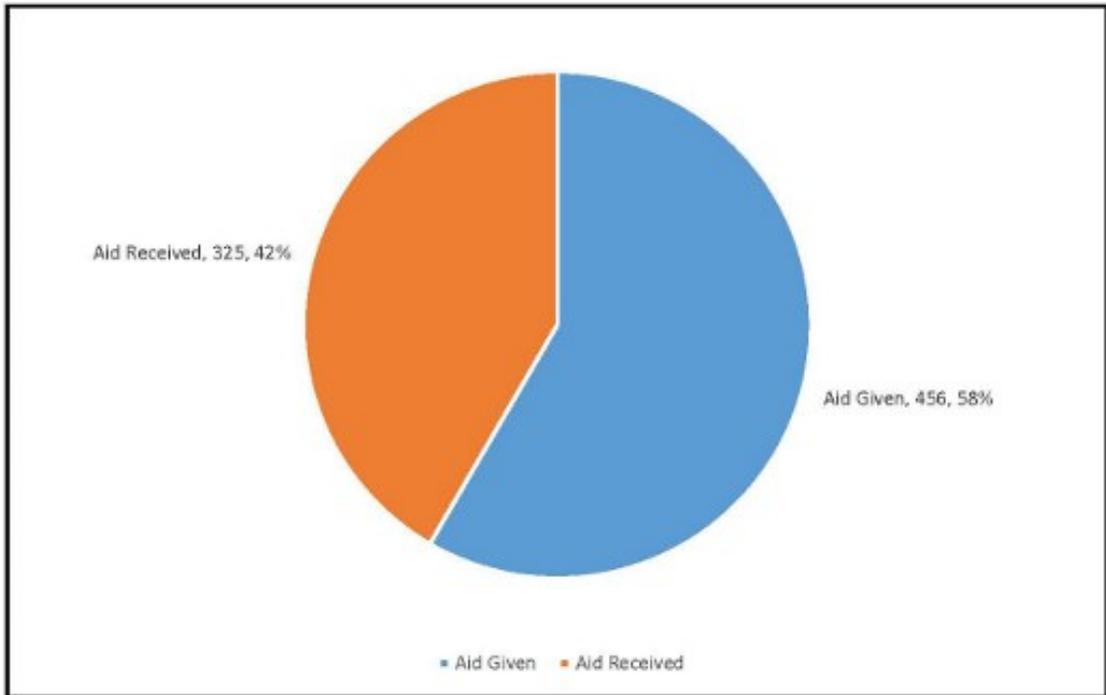
MABAS Mutual Aid

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department is part of the Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) designed to provide assistance to area departments when the response capability of a community is depleted due to large scale or multiple incidents. In addition to MABAS agreements, we maintain automatic aid agreements with three of our surrounding communities: Arlington Heights, Palatine, and Palatine Rural Fire Protection District. These agreements are designed so our respective communities can maximize resources to reduce response times and increase the efficiency of the responding agencies. Approximately 27% of our annual calls involve some type of mutual aid response where the Rolling Meadows Fire Department is either providing resources to our neighbors or receiving aid from them.





RMFD gave Mutual Aid to surrounding communities 456 times and received mutual aid 325 times in 2021.



Deployment

A massive fire broke out at a chemical plant in Rockton, Illinois, on June 14, 2021. This fire was so large it required activation of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. This activation called upon many communities to help the Rockton Fire Department extinguish this blaze, including the Rolling Meadows Fire Department. Our truck 15 responded with a crew of three around midnight and worked until daybreak the following day.



With the fire still burning uncontrolled, MABAS called more Chief Officers to assist on June 15. Battalion Chief Pete Sutter responded to the scene along with five other Chief Officers from MABAS Division 1. Crews finally extinguished the fire and were released later that evening. It took well over 100 fire departments from across Illinois and Wisconsin to snuff out the flames at this chemical plant fire.



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Instagram
@Meadows_fire

