



# SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE

## Annual Report 2019



Pictured:  
RoadKill Auto Fire  
April, 29 2019



# **SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

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### Mission Statement

Protecting lives and property by providing a superior level of service through prevention and emergency response to the public.

### Vision Statement

We will be recognized as leaders in our profession by setting the standards of excellence while providing World Class Public Safety Services through integrity, innovation and professionalism.

### Slogan

***“PRIDE THROUGH PERFORMANCE”***

### Values

As members of the Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District we take pride in our commitment to professional service by maintaining our skills, knowledge and abilities. All members of the Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District are committed to conducting ourselves in an ethical manner, conforming to a moral standard of right versus wrong by treating each other and the citizens we serve humanely, professionally and honestly. We ascribe to the following Values.

**Accountability and Fiscal Responsibility** – Members of the Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District are accountable to each other and the community we serve. We accept responsibility for our decisions and actions. Accountability applies not only to the professional manner in which the District meets its primary goals but also to the efficiency, effectiveness and fiscal responsibility which guides all of our actions.

**Integrity and Trust** – Members of the Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District are honest and fair in our dealings with our citizens and each other. We are honorable to our profession, and we inspire each other to maintain trustworthiness, openness and sincerity.

**Honor and Respect** – We are “fire department” family. We are committed and accountable to each other because our lives depend on it. We value the role each member plays in our organization. We respect those that came before us, and will strive to make the organization better for those who follow. We will place a special and high regard on the premise of treating others as we would like to be treated.

**Teamwork and Discipline** – We seek out and value the input and opinions of our members at all levels of the organization. Teamwork is the building block that drives the Fire District’s labor/management process. We work as a team to cooperate locally, regionally and nationally to improve service to our citizens and maintain a safe and effective work environment. We value a professional attitude with high moral work ethic that can enhance our team.

**Service Excellence and Competency** – We do all we can to ensure the best possible service to our internal and external customers/communities through smart, well trained, humble, dedicated, competent, hard-working, safe members. We are active participants in the communities where we live and work.

**Innovation and Flexibility** – We recognize the value of change in responding to and meeting the ever-evolving needs of our customers and members. We are committed to seeking out effective methods and progressive thinking toward change. We recognize the value of ongoing education and training. We adapt to the ever-changing needs of our community, the organization, and the environment.

**Professionalism and Dedication** – Providing service with a high standard of ethics, behavior and competence.

**Compassion** – Providing service with empathy and sympathy for the suffering of others.

**Readiness and Motivated** – We value preparedness, training and education, safety and wellness, dedication and an understanding that lives are more valuable than property.

**Family** – We will support coworkers, their families and our community.

# SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT

## Administrative Division

### OVERVIEW

The Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District was formed June 1, 1990 with the merger of the Oneco-Tallevast Fire Control District and the Samoset Fire Control District. The combination department provides fire protection to a population of approximately 55,000 permanent residents and grows to 60,000 with winter residents in a 34 square mile area. Geographically, the District includes the areas south of the City of Bradenton, east of First Street, west of the Braden River and north of University Parkway, the Sarasota County line. Major transportation routes within and adjacent to the District include U.S. 41, U.S. 301, State Road 70, University Pkwy and I-75.

In addition, the District is served by two railroad lines, Seminole Gulf Railroad and Seaboard Coast Line. The southwestern portion of the District borders on the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport. The Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District protects the largest industrial area in Manatee County. The total value, as of 2019, of commercial and residential properties protected is \$5,078,756,415.

The Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District operates five (5) fire stations that are staffed 24 hours a day, a training facility, and an administrative office that also houses our Fire Prevention Division. The District employs 96 full time employees and 5 volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic's.

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Administration                | 2451 Trailmate Drive              |
| • Station 1                     | 6100 15 <sup>th</sup> Street East |
| • Station 2                     | 1911 30 <sup>th</sup> Avenue East |
| • Station 3                     | 7611 Prospect Road                |
| • Station 4                     | 5228 45 <sup>th</sup> Street East |
| • Station 5                     | 7301 Honore Avenue                |
| • Training Facility             | 7611 Prospect Road                |
| • Building Maintenance Facility | 1911 30 <sup>th</sup> Avenue East |

In addition, we have an extensive mutual and automatic aid response system with all neighboring fire departments and agencies, including all Manatee County Fire Districts, Manatee County EMS, City of Bradenton Fire Department, and Sarasota County Fire Department.

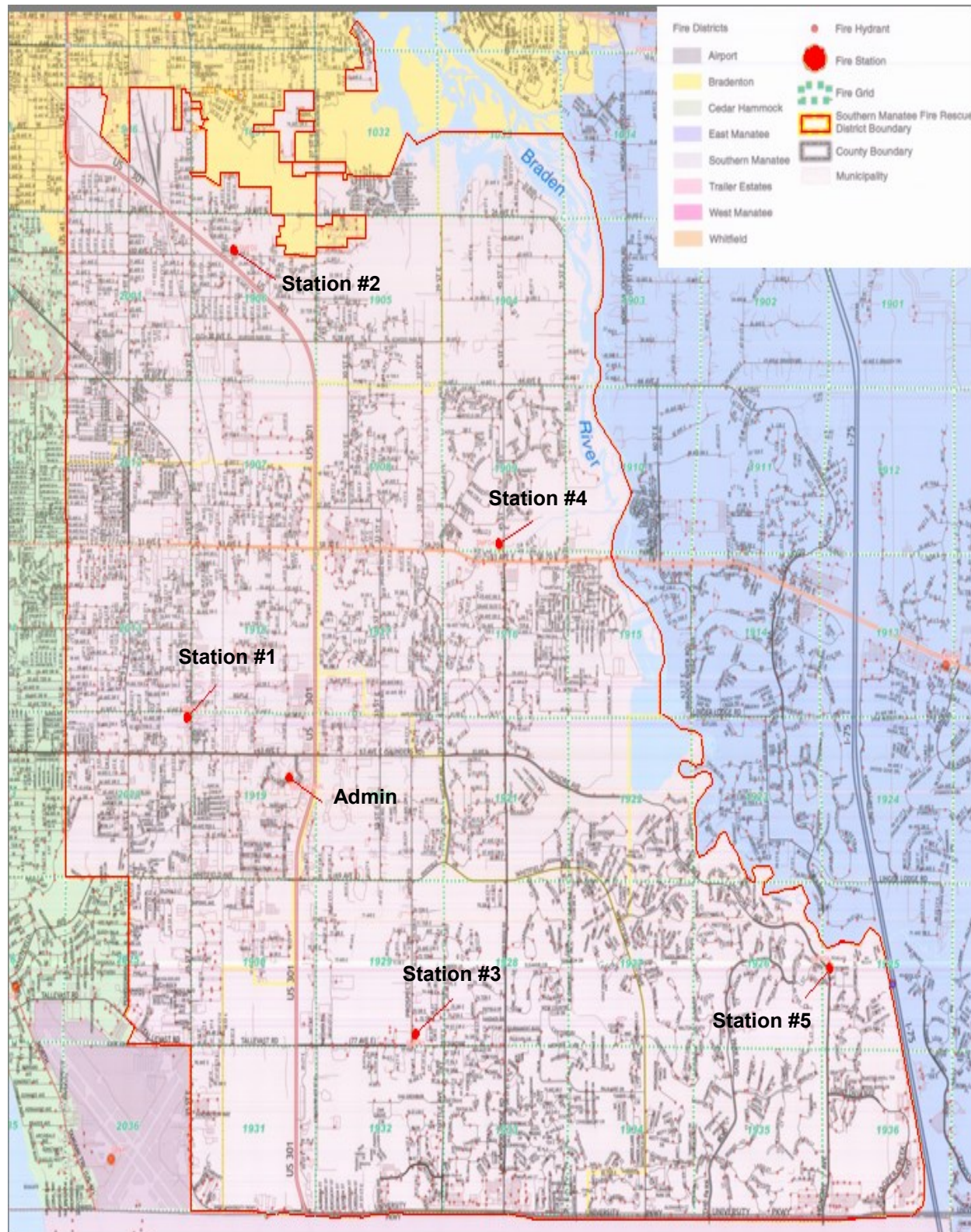
Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District holds a Class **3** rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). We missed a Class 2 by only a few points. We have made changes to our responses which will get us to a Class 2 on our next review. The lower the rating the greater the possibility that property owners could see a reduction in their insurance premiums.

Daily activities include interaction with the following agencies:

- Manatee County Department of Public Safety
- Manatee County Sheriff's Office
- Manatee County Government
- Manatee County Building/Planning Department
- School Board of Manatee County
- Florida State Highway Patrol
- Manatee and Sarasota Emergency Management



Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue Administrative Complex



## Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District

## FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Charles Durant

Daniel Center

Melanie Marken

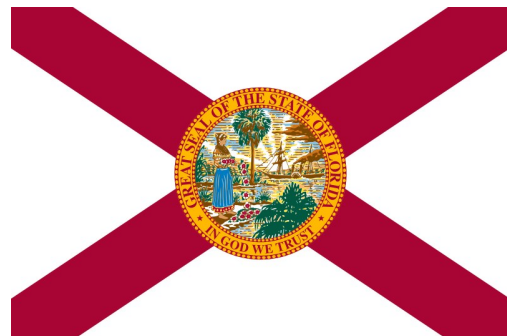
James Cena

Anthony Evans

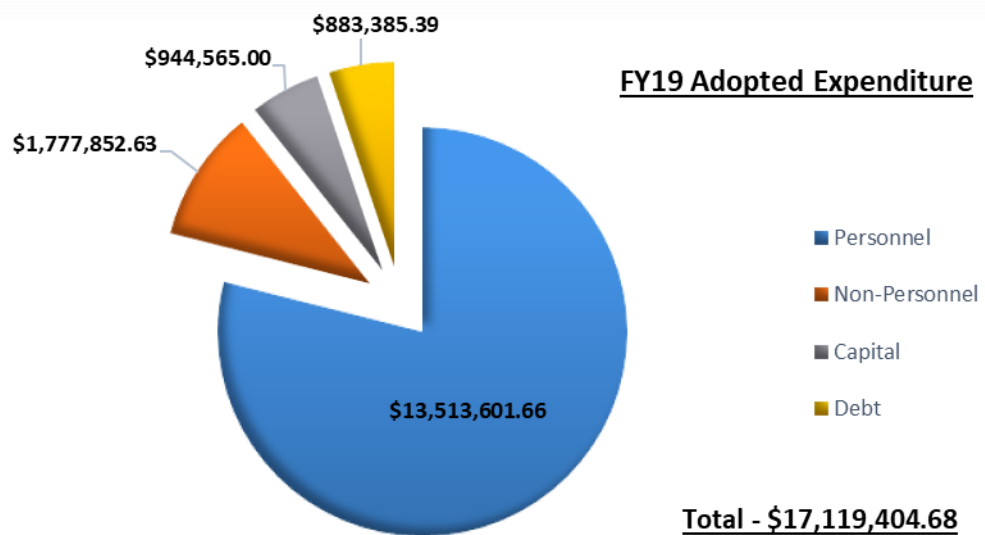
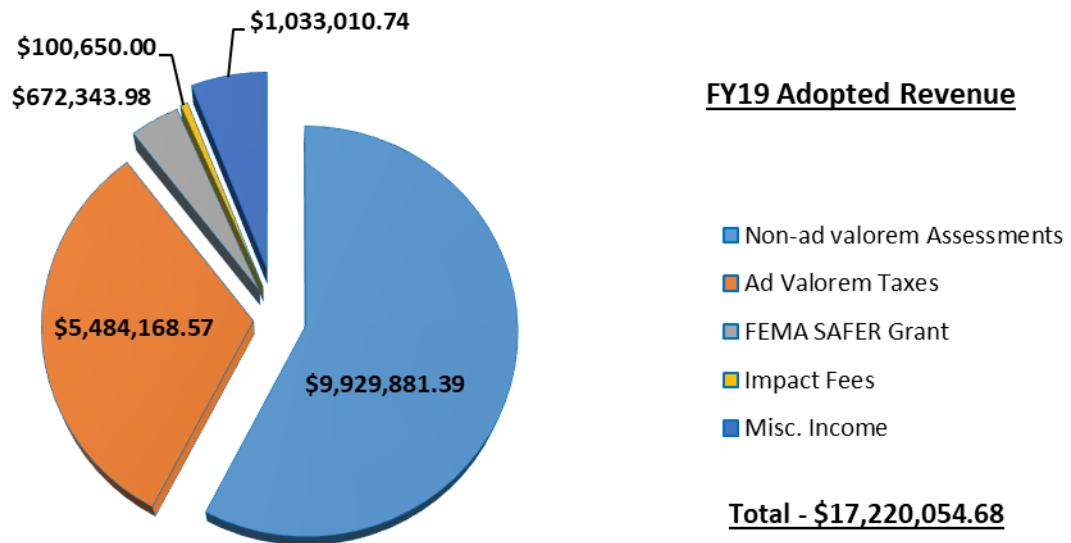
The Administration Division is directed by a Board of Fire Commissioners who are elected by the District's community. The Administration Division consists of the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief of Administration/Finance, Deputy Chief of Operations, Executive Management Assistant and Accountant. The operations include overseeing various administrative support services:

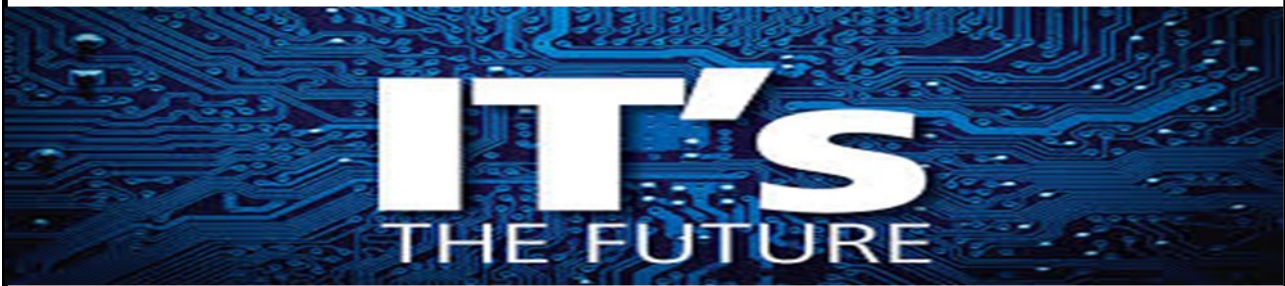
- Daily business operations
- Management of personnel policy and procedure
- Develop and maintaining the District's financial operating plan
- Building and ground maintenance
- Purchase and distribution of supplies
- Maintenance and repair of equipment

The District has been ever changing with the rapid growth of Southwest Florida. The District is committed to provide the best fire-rescue protection available and to raise the awareness of fire prevention education within our community. We have established a process of positive interaction of all employees, working together to meet the needs and objectives of the District.



## FY19 Budget Analysis





## Information Technology

Provided new Surface Pro tablet pc's to the prevention department. Inspectors can now efficiently work in the district well connected to our various cloud services and perform their duties. The tablet pc's were combined with docking stations to provide a desktop experience when working in the office. This dual use let us reduce the number of devices maintained by the department.

We replaced 12 Verizon flip phones with Samsung Android smartphones. The on-duty lieutenants and inspectors now have the ability to use the full functions of a modern day smartphone. Just some of the benefits are:

- Access to email, photos for documentation, access to fire reporting cloud services and mapping abilities.
- Another mode of communication in the event of radio malfunctions.
- We were able to restructure our mobile accounts and take advantage of both the State of Florida Public Safety Contract as well as the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) to add new devices and lower the total cost of services.

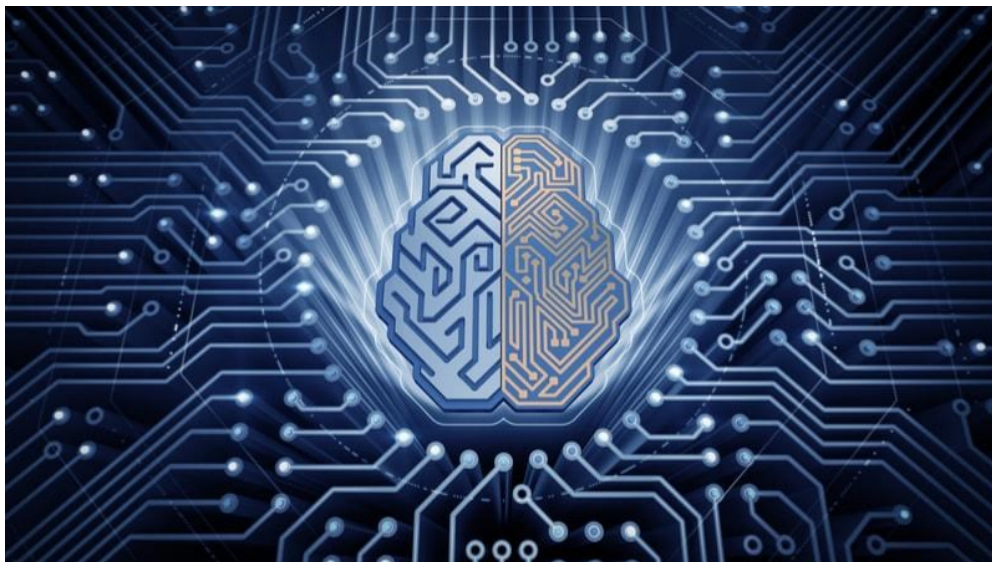
As part of the Advanced Life Support (ALS) initiative we needed a software platform for patient health records. ESO Suites offers an interface for both Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting Systems (EMSTARS) and National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) reporting as well as an Inspection/Investigation module. Historical data was migrated from the previous vendor and to ESO. Integrations between our recently purchased LifePack 15 defibrillators and ESO were configured to enable us to share patient health records securely with Manatee County EMS via the cloud while on scene or even transmit the 12 lead directly to the receiving facility.

The alerting and radio systems were updated at Station 2. The alerting systems provide audio and visual notification to station personal of an emergency call. Antennas were replaced and lightning protection was reassured. The remaining stations will be updated with new alerting systems by a schedule created by Manatee County.

# IT'S THE FUTURE

Laptops were issued to key administration personal as part of the computer replacement program. The new equipment provides much needed mobility for staff to conduct business outside of the admin offices. The laptops have the ability to connect remotely to the administration server, giving command staff the same functionality as if they were in their office.

Security in the IT field is a major concern. In 2019 we implemented 2fa (Two factor authorization) for services and updated password polices district wide. We hardened vpn connectivity and established critical incident plan in the event of an attack.



### Accomplishments

The Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District strives to perform at the highest level of service to its citizens. Our members are always ready to take on new challenges. It is through the dedication of each department member and the outstanding support from the community and the Board of Fire Commissioners that allows the District to be successful.

The District continues to use the Strategic Planning Process to guide the organization through economic and political times. Our plan outlines the District's goals and objectives for the present and future and allows us to track their accomplishments while delivering the most cost-effective level of service to the citizens of Southern Manatee.

The following is a list of a few of our accomplishments that were achieved during the past few years:

- February 2018 the District began sending personnel to Paramedic school and currently have 10 Firefighter/EMT's in 3 different shift classes at Suncoast Technical College.
- In March 2019 our first three employee's graduated Paramedic school and became State Certified Paramedics. For the remaining 2019 year we had another 5 graduate Paramedic school and became Florida State Certified Paramedics. We still have 2 more in the final stage of the Paramedic program and will graduate in late February 2020. Additionally, another 2 FF/EMT's will begin Paramedic on February 10, 2020. The District now has 12 Florida State Certified Paramedics.
- On April 11, 2019, Firefighter/Paramedic Sam Collins was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society for having and maintaining an extremely high GPA throughout his 13 months in school, constantly exhibiting the qualities of citizenship, leadership, workmanship and scholarship. This does not happen often for this program, so it was quite an honor for Sam and for the District.
- Since February 2015 the District has taken delivery of four (4) Class A Engine with a foam system and drafting capabilities and replaced all our vehicles for our Battalion, Inspectors and staff and in November 2019 the Fire Commissioners approved the purchase of another Class A Engine which with purchase completely outfits our entire first out fleet with new Engines.
- In 2017 the District took delivery of a new 107' Ascendant Ladder Truck.
- In December 2019 the District took delivery of our new Hazardous Materials Apparatus, Squad 328.
- In 2016 the District began replacing all our 800 MHz radios that were old and non-P-25 compliant, with new P25 Radios that will be able to work on the new radio system. The Sarasota-Manatee 800 MHz project installed their final towers and

radio equipment at the new and existing sites and is scheduled to go live in both counties sometime in March 2020.

- During April 2018 the District through the work and input of all employees updated our five (5) year strategic plan. Our strategic plan is updated on an annual basis.
- Through committee, the District has been updating, revising, deleting or creating new SOP's, Rules and Regulations, Position Descriptions and Directives. Our Committee is now in the maintenance mode and will keep these documents updated on an annual basis.
- Since December 2105 the District has submitted and has been awarded twelve (12) for the donation of the Naloxone (Narcan) Auto-Injectors, Narcan Nasal Spray and Narcan Luer-Lock Syringes. We received over 1650 doses and these were distributed to all the Fire Districts in Manatee County in the treatment of an overdosed patient on heroin.
- The District has fully implemented Krono's-Telestaff software 100% for scheduling of time off and for computing payroll. This is a fully automated paper-less system. With the implementation of this system it increased our efficiency, reduce errors and drastically reduced the amount of time it took to process payroll, meaning in the past it could take four hours or longer to do payroll, now it takes less than 5 minutes.
- Since 2015 the District began holding an Open House to kick off the start of Fire Prevention Week. Our Open House is held at Fire Station #3. Our 2019 Open House was a huge success with over 850 citizens attending. and it allowed our citizens to not only learn about their fire department and the many services we provide, they also learn about fire safety. Our next Open House is planned for September 26, 2020.
- Since its creation, the District has received nine (9) Safety Grants through Preferred Training Incentive Program for Safety (TIPS) grant program. So far, the TIPS has funded our Driving Simulator, Binder Lifts, Nomex Hoods, Search & Rescue Safety Rope Kits and other safety related equipment such as Secunet III Devices to cover a steering wheel airbag that has not inflated and a Polar Breeze air conditioner for rehab.
- Personnel from SMFR assisted our local hospitals in the delivery of a "Hands-only" CPR all day event at Booker High School. This occurred on December 5, 2019 from 0700 to 1500 hours. We trained over 200 high school students in "Hands-only" CPR and use of an AED.
- On December 7, 2019 the District held their fourth Annual Awards Banquet. This year's event was held at the Moose Lodge on 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue East.
- Firefighter/EMT Rich Gatanis was invited to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Firefighters Congress in Bogota Colombia over the use of Drones in Hazardous Materials Response. FF/EMT Gatanis presented to over 200 Firefighters from all over Latin American and other European countries. Thanks to FF/EMT Gatanis and our Drone program, Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District has now created

an International Footprint!

- On June 25 and June 26, 2019, both Battalion Chief Chris Gould and FF/EMT Rich Gatanis were requested the Utah Department of Public Safety to speak over the use of drones for Hazardous Materials Responses.
- During March 2017 the District was evaluated by the Insurance Office Services (ISO) and recently received our score back. Prior to this review the District was a low 3 and today we are a high 3, just missed a 2 by 1.5 points.
- On May 18, 2017, our Commissioners approved our Business Plan to implement ALS Non-Transport Engines. In the fall of 2017, we began sending our Firefighter/EMT's to Paramedic school. During 2019 we began purchasing the necessary equipment and supplies needed to operate ALS Non-Transport Engines.
- During late summer 2019 the District filed their application with Manatee County Government to obtain our COPCN, which was awarded on October 22, 2019. After obtaining this document, we then obtained our DEA license on October 31, 2019, the DEA license is required to purchase, store and use controlled substances. After obtaining both certificates/licenses, we then submitted our application to the State of Florida-EMS Division for our Advanced Life Support License.
- On December 16, 2019, the State of Florida issued ALS License #10019 to operate ALS Non-Transport Engines.
- While all this paperwork was being completed and submitted, we entered our State Certified Paramedic's into the Paramedic Bridge Program that was created to get them ready for Dr. Nonell's sign off to Charge Paramedic. This program focused on Manatee County ALS Protocols, Policies and Procedures and critical skills. They were given exams on their ALS protocols, medications, EKG's and 12/15 Lead EKG's. Upon completion of the Paramedic Bridge Program, then we placed them on extremely busy ALS Non-Transport vehicles at Sarasota County Fire Department with a Paramedic Preceptor. Our Paramedics were required to ride 12 twenty-four shifts on these apparatuses to gain experience, knowledge and skills. Our Paramedics started this program in October 2019 and completed it in December 2019.
- During the month of December 2019 on different dates, Dr. Nonell then tested and signed off our first 8 Paramedic's as Charge Paramedics. Each one of our Paramedics spent about 1.5 to 2 hours in front of Dr. Nonell testing them on numerous medical and trauma scenarios utilizing his ALS protocols.
- When our Fire Commissioners approved our ALS Business Plan back in May 2017, I said it would take 3 years to get us there and it did.
- The District continuously makes enhancements to our website for the purposes of making it easier for a citizen to find and obtain documents. Any new ADA requirements are immediately made ensuring that our website is complying.
- On July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, we were notified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Fire Act SAFER grant that were awarded the funding to hire nine (9) Firefighter/EMT's. This is a three (3) year grant that funds 75% of salary & benefit for the first two years and 35% on the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The purpose of this grant to hire person-

nel to allow our Haz-mat Technicians to staff Haz-mat apparatus 24/7 and utilizing these new grant positions to backfill the seats where our Haz-mat Technicians were location. The benefits of this grant are numerous. FY20 is the last year of this grant.

- January 2018, SMFR hired 10 new Firefighter/EMT's/Paramedic's, of which 9 of them are funded through the SAFER grant.
- On February 4, 2018, thanks to the SAFER grant, we began staffing Squad 328 (Haz-mat) 24/7 at Fire Station #2. Squad 328 not only responds to Hazmat calls, but it also responds to all of our structure fires calls within the District and all medical calls within Station #2's area. As soon as the new Squad 328 goes into service it will be staffed 24/7 with 3 Hazmat Technicians.
- On December 20, 2018, the Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District Board of Fire Commissioners approved the purchase of eight (8) Physio-Control Life Pack 15's. These defibrillators can be used by both EMT's and Paramedic's, EMT's use it as an AED along with numerous patient assessment tools (SA02, ETCO2, NIBP, Temperature, CO and basic EKG) and for Paramedic's, full defibrillation, cardioversion, pacing, 12 & 15 Lead EKG's and much more. These new defibrillators were placed in service in early 2019 after completing multiple in-service training classes.
- We created a county-wide bid for oxygen services that included all of the Fire District's and EMS and now everyone is using a common vendor, same type of cylinders and everyone's prices dropped drastically on their rental and refill charges, actually some agencies saw a 75% reduction in their cost.
- In May 2019 we obtained 3 patient simulators (computer generated) through surplus through Suncoast Technical College. These simulators allow us to intubate, start IV's, push medicine, hook-up for standard 4 lead ECG and 12 lead ECG. You can obtain vital signs, blood pressure, pulse, respirations, lung sounds, heart tones, bowel sounds, and they even talk. New these costs around \$12,000 to \$15,000 each, we got them free. We used these during our in-service training of our Life Pack 15's and our Paramedic's and Paramedic have been using them to practice and sharpen their skills and knowledge. We did notify the other Fire District's that they are available for use if they need them for training.
- On October 9, 2019 Captain Mike Bloski was awarded the "Dedication and Professionalism" Award from Congressman Vern Buchanan for his work in the field of hazardous materials and his outstanding work in the creation of our Team today that operates as a Type 2 Team, a few points away from being a Type 1 Team.
- On March 16, 2019 Firefighter/EMT Dwayne McKeaver received the "Fire Safety Commendation Medal" from the Saramana Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution for his tremendous work in getting the Florida Cancer Bill passed. This Bill became law effective July 1, 2019.
- On October 26, 2019, Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District once again participated in Morton's Market Annual Chili Cook-off and once again won "1<sup>st</sup> Place" and "People's Choice". Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District has won the "1<sup>st</sup> Place Award" three (3) times and the "People's Choice" Award four (4) times, thanks to FF/EMT Chuck Moonen famous Hazmat Chili. For winning "1<sup>st</sup> Place" Sony's BBQ provided a BBQ dinner for 100 people. We use this dinner each year for our Annual Awards Ceremony.

- Captain Bloski applied for a grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation for detection equipment and gas monitors. This grant not only would benefit Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District's Hazardous Materials Team, but it would also benefit the North River Fire District by obtaining gas monitoring equipment for their Engines to carry. On September 16, 2019, Captain Bloski received notification from the Office of Senator Marco Rubio that he was approved for this grant in the amount of \$45,499.00. This equipment has been purchased and is now being carried by both agencies.
- On July 24, 2019, the Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District received an award from Cigna the "Cigna Well-Being" Award. This was due to the tremendous work by our Wellness Committee over the development of our Wellness Program and the amount of time and energy that FF/EMT Christi Hollins puts into our program in making it very successful and fun.
- On December 9, 2019, Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District Hazardous Materials Team underwent an assessment process by SERC, and we scored a 96.58% for a Type II Team and 95.08% for a Type I Team. Our Type II score of 96.58% was the second highest in the region (compared against Hernando, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Tampa, 48<sup>th</sup> Civil Support).





### **HR Accomplishments for 2019**

What a year for Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District (SMFR)! So many aspects of our service delivery models have changed that they are too numerous to list, but a few of the “headlines” are:

- SMFR orders a new Special Operations apparatus
- SMFR goes Advanced Life Support
- SMFR sends multiple employees to paramedic school
- SMFR and the IAFF sign a new 3 year contract

And many, many more.....

All of these items have a Human Resources component to them and the impacts must be taken into account. As you can imagine Human Resources is an ever changing dynamic set of issues that must be planned for, as much as possible or addressed in a way that best serves the totality of our personnel, while always adhering to established law(s). As SMFR moves into a new and exciting decade in 2020 the Human Resources section stands poised to compliment all facets of our organization to ensure compliancy and provide direction as our department continues to be a top performer not only in the State of Florida but internationally. A few of the significant contributions of HR for 2019 have been:

- Assisted with Healthcare Insurance negotiations in which SMFR saw a remarkable reduction in premiums for fiscal year 2020 and an increase in our wellness dollars to \$20,000 annually.
- Worked diligently with our payroll program conversion (Rescuer Pro) to implement new payroll codes for paramedic, paramedic-in-charge and hazmat personnel, and several other codes as a result of the new Union contract (2020-2022).
- Attended several training workshops with our Information Systems Specialist to become more self-sufficient in diagnosing and debugging the various software we utilize on a daily basis. This will result in a notable savings, but more importantly less down time.



- Continued to lessen the physical paper storage on site by scanning and moving the electronic records to a cloud based storage system.
- Created a number of directives to account for the ordering, storage and tracking of medications as a result of SMFR's Advanced Life Support Implementation, all of which are in compliance with local, state and national laws.
- Currently completing the final year of our SAFER Grant and the monthly reimbursement process that accompanies it. This has been an ongoing 25 month process that requires diligence and tenacity in order to realize the full potential of the grant, which SMFR has done.
- Through Great Plains (accounting software) a monthly "snapshot" of the budget is produced showing the current levels (in percentage and dollars) of expenditures and revenues. This allows for better tracking by program managers, greater accountability for the current budget and more insight for future projections.

As we march into the future the goal of the HR section of Southern Manatee is to remain proactive and "ahead of the curve" in regards to State and Federal laws as well as the needs of our employees and citizens. The "readiness to serve" model doesn't only describe our operational procedures, but also encompasses our Human Resources personnel who stand ever vigilant in the employee's corner to ensure that fire and prevention personnel can operate with piece of mind, thereby guaranteeing they can focus on providing the highest level of service to the citizens we serve.



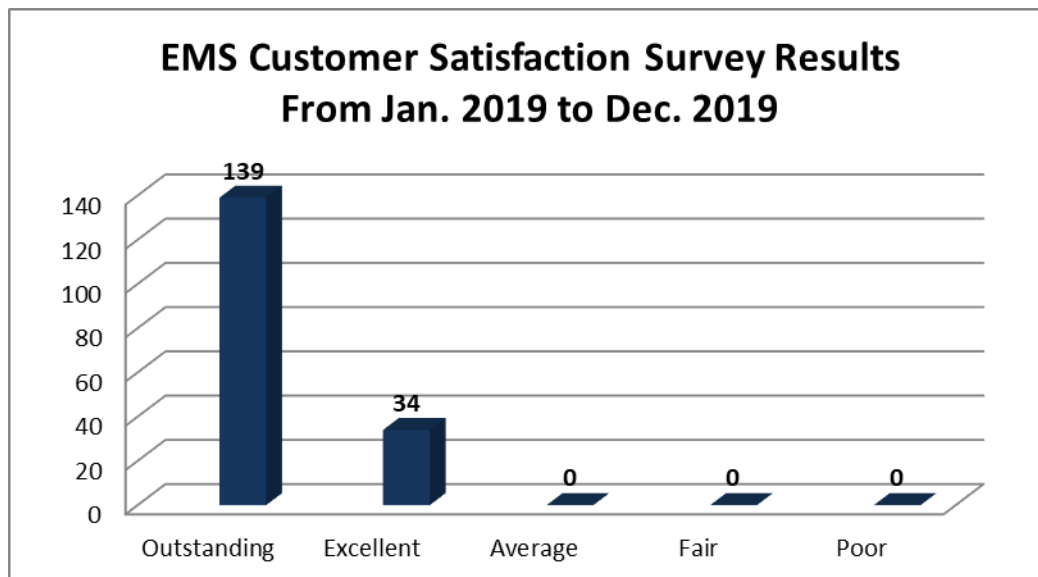
## Customer Satisfaction Survey Program

The Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District is committed to providing high quality and efficient services to our community. One tool that we employ to insure that we are fulfilling our mission is through our Customer Satisfaction Survey Program. We mail a survey to randomly selected customers who have been served by our personnel. We compile the results and use the data to monitor the quality of our service and its impact. This data can be used to make changes in our service delivery if necessary.

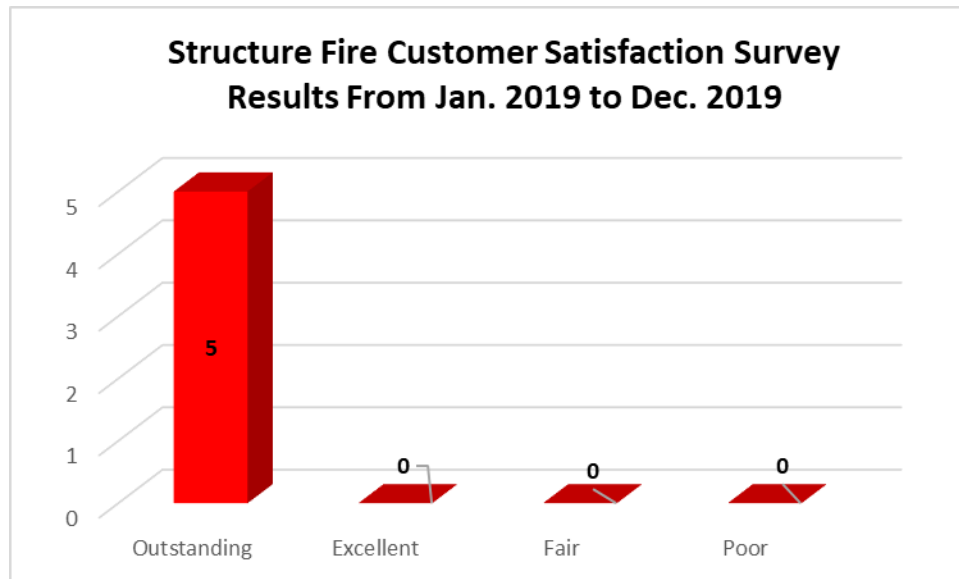
We implemented our Customer Satisfaction Survey Program in December 2012. From this date to December 31, 2019 we mailed out 1189 surveys and had 1110 surveys returned, which represents a return rate of 94%. The rating is on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Outstanding). The survey looks at the following categories:

- Was the call handled in a prompt, courteous and competent manner
- Response time to the emergency was prompt
- Firefighters actions reduced property damage or resolved situation
- Firefighters acted in a concerned, caring and professional manner
- Firefighters provided customer service beyond my expectations
- The assistance provided to me was
- Rate the overall experience with the services provided by FD

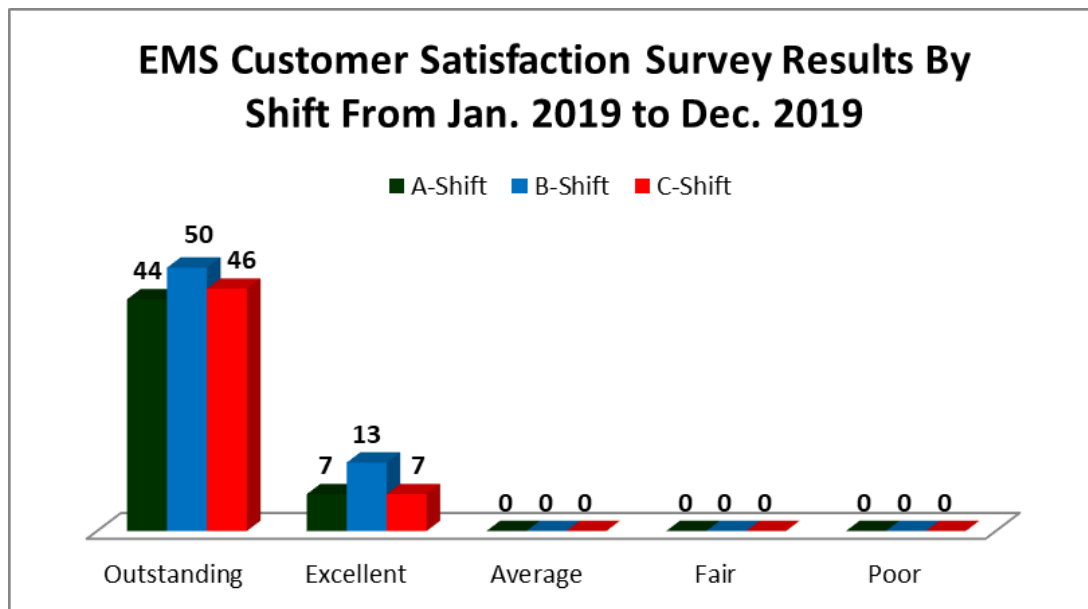
The graph below are the results of all three shifts for EMS Related Calls:



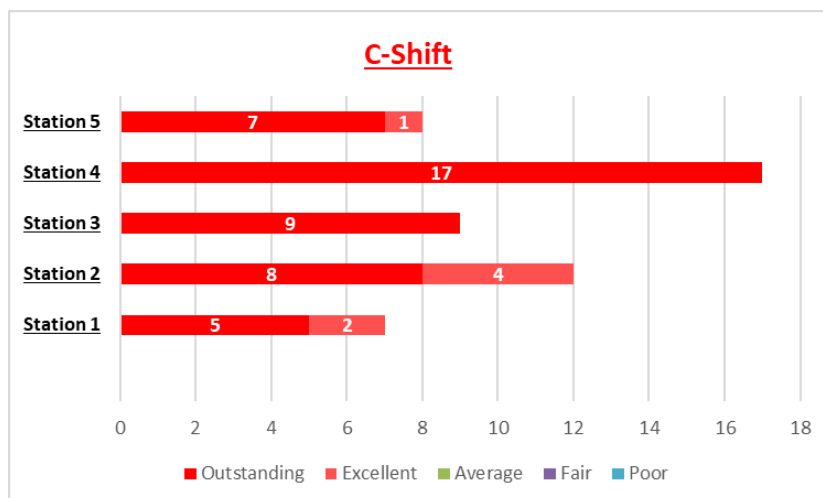
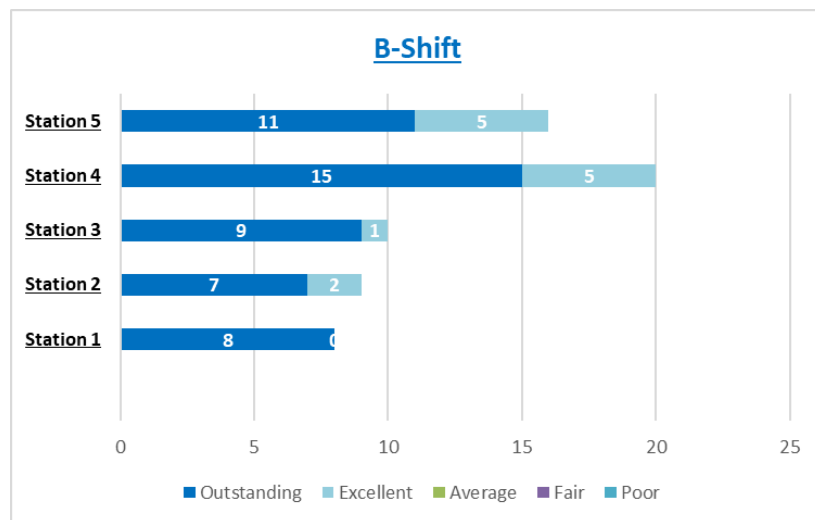
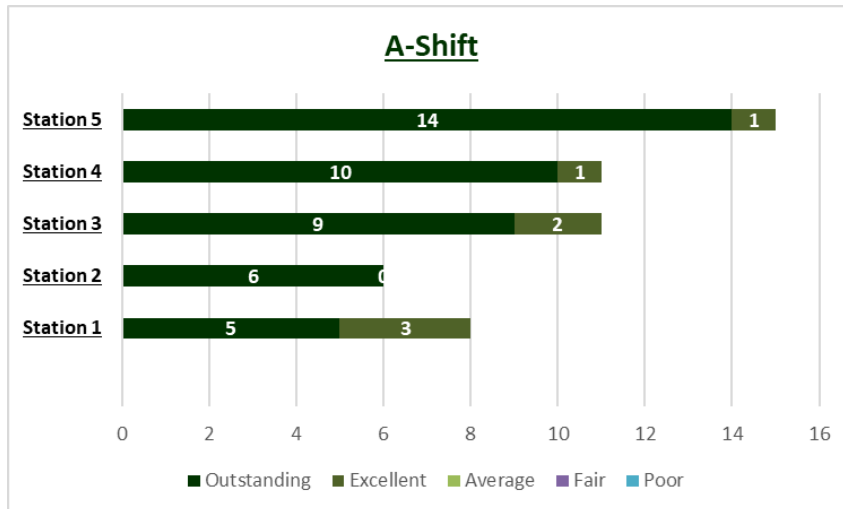
The graph below are the results of all three shifts for Structure Fire Calls:



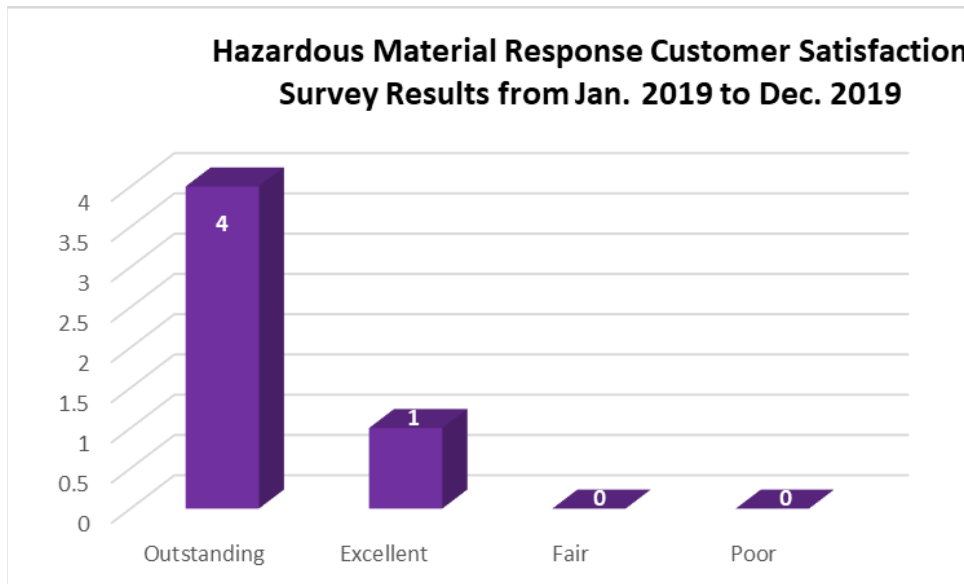
The graph below are the results broken down by our three (3) shifts:



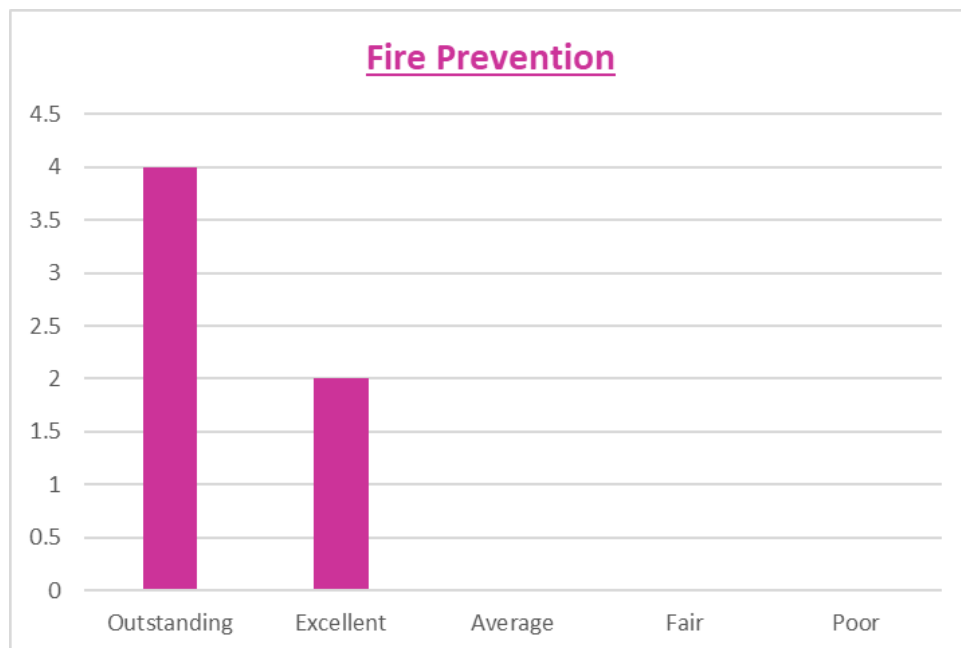
The graphs below are by each shift and station and the results are combined EMS and Fire Customer Satisfaction survey results for 2018:



Below is the customer satisfaction survey results for Hazardous Materials Response:



Below is the customer satisfaction survey results for Fire Prevention:



Listed below are some of the written feedback provided by our customers for 2019:

**01/02/2019** - *"The EMT's did a terrific job – thank you"*

**01/08/2019** - *"Great job"*

**01/08/2019** - *"Excellent response and service"*

**01/17/2019** - *"The assistance that I received was excellent – thank you".*

**01/23/2019** – *“Thank you for your prompt response and concern. It was very reassuring!”*

**01/27/2019** – *“Thank you”*

**02/08/2019** – *“No, you guys are wonderful, thank you”*

**02/11/2019** – *“Mere words do not do justice to the thankfulness I feel for all of you, you are true public servants”*

**02/11/2019** – *“The fire department was here promptly”*

**02/13/2019** - *“Thank you for excellent and professional service”*

**02/14/2019** – *“Thank you”*

**02/16/2019** – *“Personnel were knowledgeable and most helpful, many thanks”*

**02/23/2019** – *“Outstanding job, very impressed with the service, thank you!”*

**02/24/2019** – *“Service and response was excellent”*

**02/27/2019** - *“Thank you for your service”*

**03/03/2019** – *“The fire department saved my life”*

**03/08/2019** – *“Superior service”*

**03/10/2019** – *“So thankful for their help”*

**03/11/2019** – *“The whole team reacted well”*

**03/12/2019** – *“Thanks for your help”*

**03/17/2019** – *“All were kind and concerned, we were in good hands”*

**03/19/2019** – *“The service was outstanding - thanks”*

**03/21/2019** – *“They did a good job”*

**03/21/2019** – *“Service was as expected from SMFR, Pride of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, thank you for the excellent service, happy to see service is still strong at my department”*

**03/25/2019** – *“The service was the best ever, everyone was great, God Bless these wonderful people”*

**03/30/2019** – *“My first time to require help. They were so efficient, their services were great, also outstanding, thanks”*

**04/07/2019** – *“Wonderful, respectful and considerate”*

**04/08/2019** – *“Excellent care”*

**04/13/2019** – *“They were here quickly, offered suggestions, best care given”*

**05/02/2019** – *“I am grateful for these guys that provided the best, I would not have made it, thanks to all who provided care to me”*

**05/26/2019** – *“Great Job!”*

**05/28/2019** – *“The response to our call was outstanding – thank you”*

**06/18/2019** – *“Well satisfied – Thank you”*

**06/22/2019** – *“The people at our local fire station are wonderful, they were here in minutes, so calm and professional”*

**06/23/2019** – *“You were very prompt – thank you.”*

**06/25/2019** – *“As a recent retired physician from Chicago I was very impressed with the customer service, training and knowledge, they were great”*

**06/27/2019** – *“Keep up the good work, thank you for your help, they were fast and excellent”*

**06/28/2019** – *“Everything was great!”*

**07/09/2019** – *“I’m very grateful for the response time, you got my husband to the hospital in a timely manner, he was able to have a new procedure done that reduced the stroke damage, may god bless you all”*

07/11/2019 – *“Your services were excellent; god bless the people who help!”*

07/13/2019 – *“We had excellent care and service, everyone who entered our home was professional and caring, we appreciated everything!”*

07/17/2019 – *“You did a great job and saved my life, thanks so much!”*

07/28/2019 – *“Prompt, courteous, professional, calmed my wife as you helped my sugar imbalance, many thanks”*

08/01/2019 – *“Services were so very appreciated!”*

08/18/2019 – *“The were perfect all the way around, thanks for what you all do!”*

08/31/2019 – *“Outstanding, rapid assessment of the situation and resolution, were very impressed”*

09/02/2019 – *“Thank you for your service”*

09/14/2019 – *“You are GREAT!”*

09/15/2019 – *“I think you did a wonderful job here, I still have him, thank you for your knowledge, we are so grateful!”*

09/26/2019 – *“Everyone was outstanding, I love the crew!”*

09/26/2019 – *“An excellent performance by all”*

09/30/2019 – *“I am very thankful for the outstanding service I received, thanks again and god bless you all!”*

10/02/2019 – *“Professional all around!!! Thank you!”*

10/04/2019 – *“We appreciate all you do and really can see that these people want to help my wife in her critical COPD stage!”*

10/05/2019 – *“Very satisfied with personnel and service!”*

10/05/2019 – *“Service is exceptional as always – thank you”*

10/07/2019 – *“I am grateful for all personnel involved – thank you!”*

10/17/2019 – *“Everything was great care, thank you and god bless!”*

10/25/2019 – *“Your crew did an outstanding job!”*

10/26/2019 – *“Excellent Paramedics – very professional and kind!”*

10/30/2019 – *“You all are the BEST of the BEST, thanks for keeping us safe – God Bless!”*

11/01/2019 – *“You all are the best, keep up the outstanding & brave fearless – god bless!”*

11/03/2019 – *“Every one of the firefighters carried out their duties in a professional manner, thank you to all”*

11/22/2019 – *“Every one of the firefighters was outstanding, I am very thankful!”*

11/23/2019 – *“Please keep your excellent and very professional men and women”*

11/26/2019 – *“Thank you, please be safe and keep up the great work! You are the true heroes of the community”*

11/28/2019 – *“Excellent service”*

12/02/2019 – *“It’s hard to improve what is already a great service”*

12/02/2019 – *“Very pleased with the professionalism – thank you”*

12/08/2019 – *“Great men and women doing a very hard job, the BEST!”*

12/13/2019 – *“The care to me was excellent!”*

12/20/2019 – *“Excellent service!”*

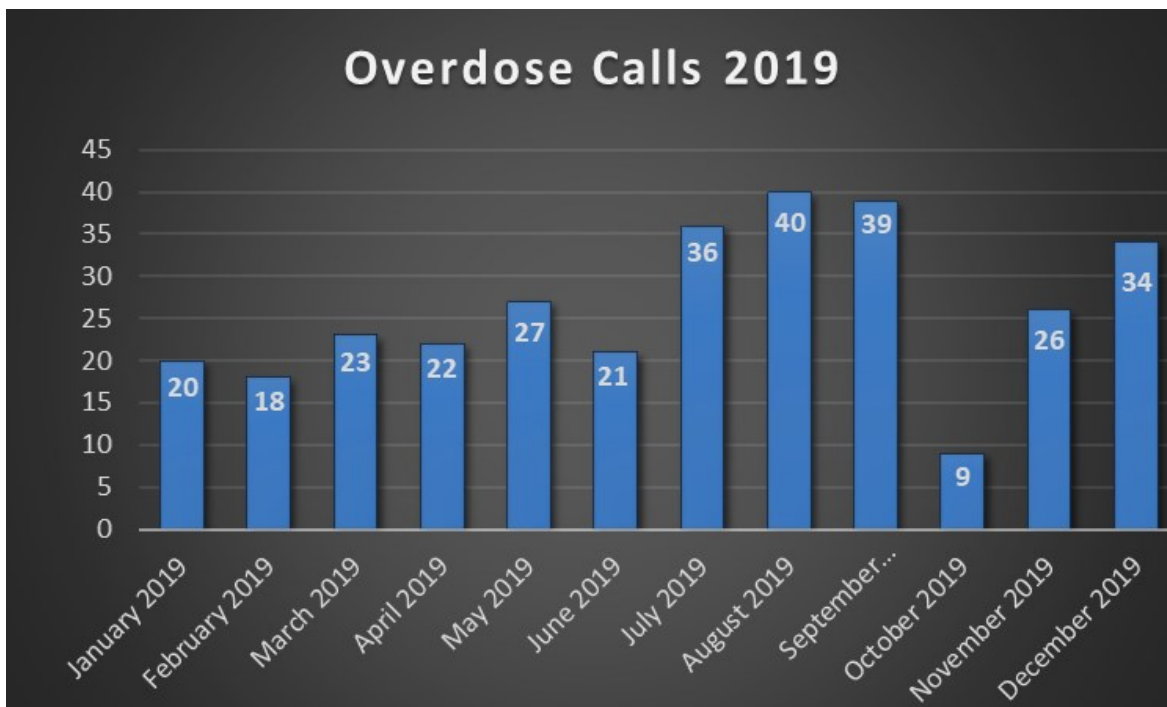
# Emergency Medical Services

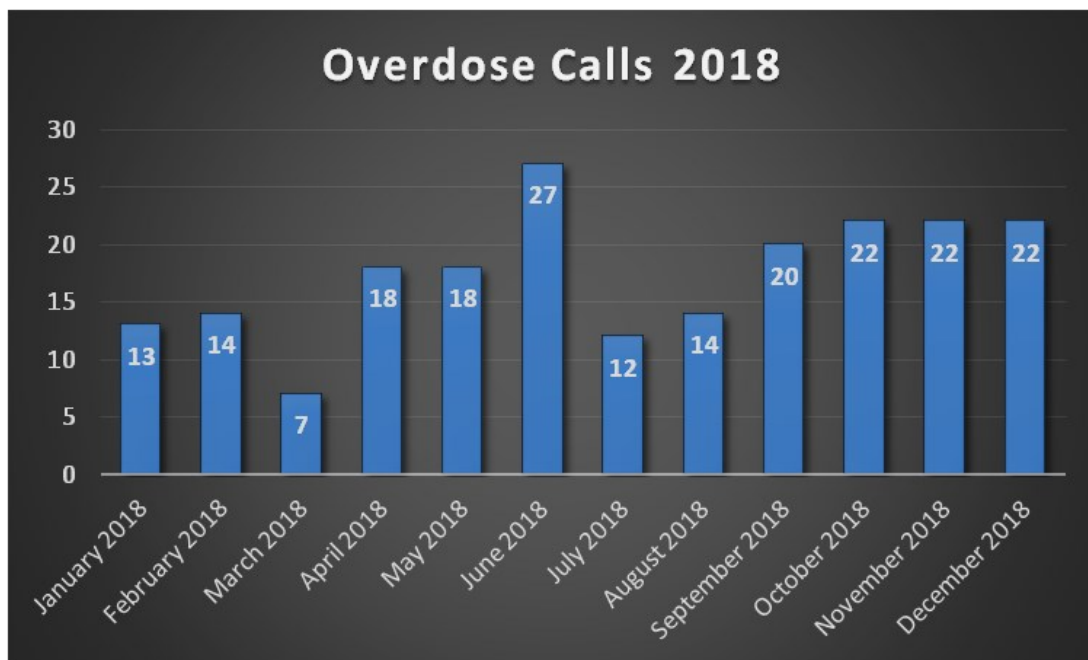
The Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District responded to 4630 medical responses during 2019, which represents 69.02% of our total responses.

In 2019 the District obtained their State of Florida License for operating ALS Non-Transport Engines. The District currently has 12 State Certified Paramedic's, 2 in the final segment of Paramedic school and 2 that will start Paramedic School in February 2020. The District will begin operating ALS Engines by the first of January 2020.

From January 2019 through December 2019 the information provided below is a breakdown of the incident types as well as the appropriate protocol that our personnel utilized prior to the arrival of Manatee County Emergency Medical Services.

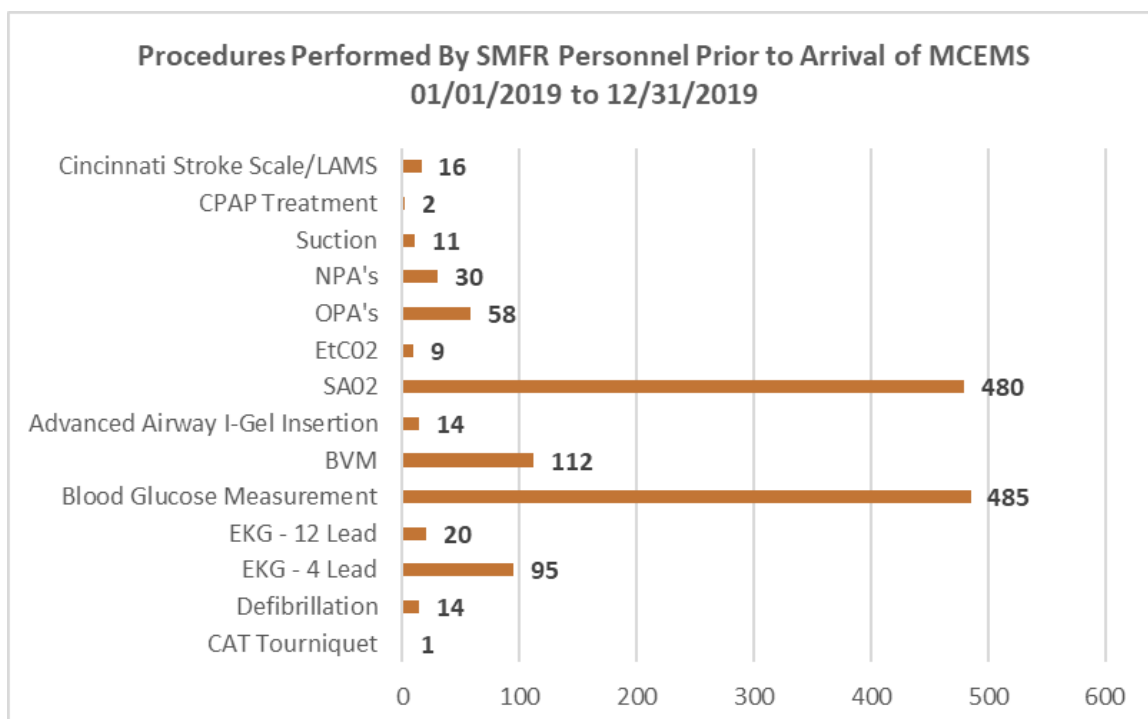
In 2019 our responses (315) to overdoses increased compared to 2018 (209) with most of these cases involving overdoses on Heroin and Heroin lanced with another powerful opioid such as Fentanyl or Carfentanil.

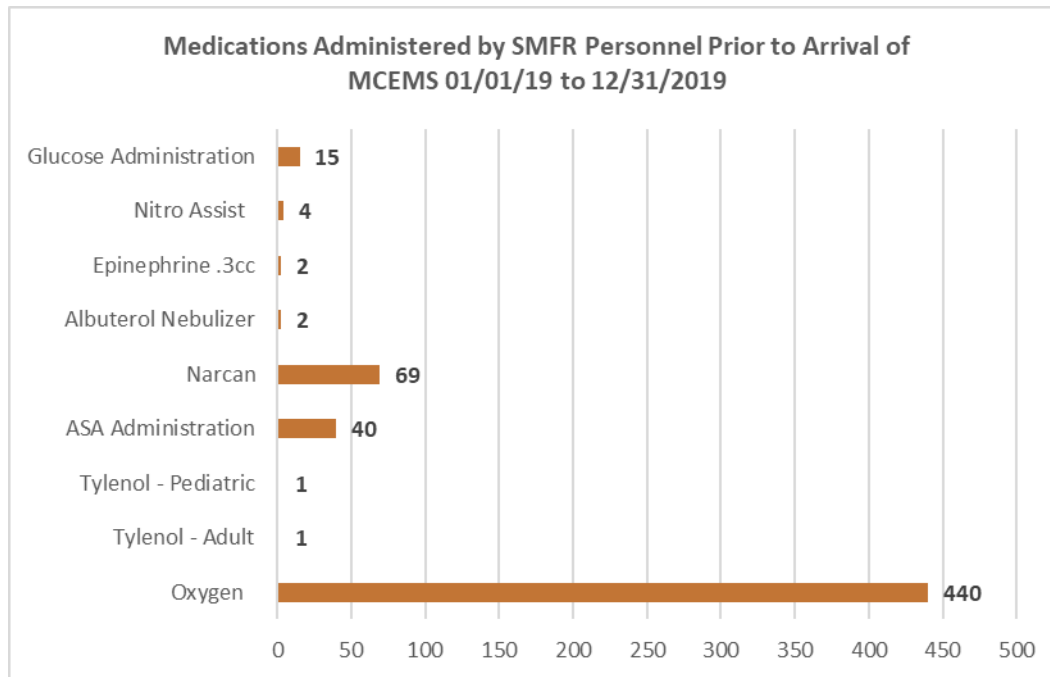




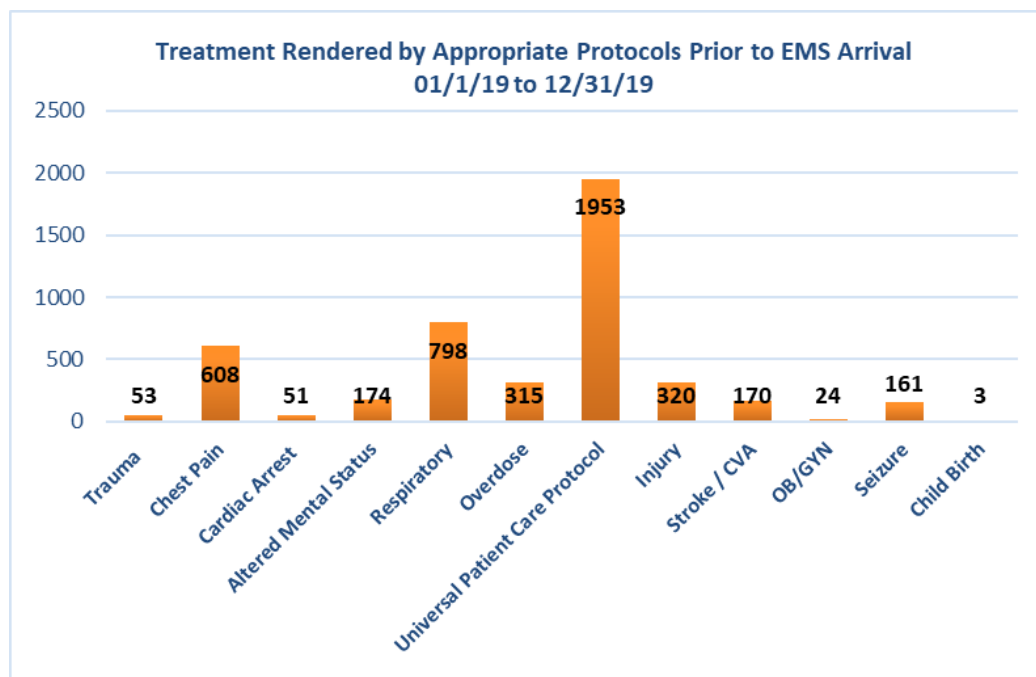
In 2019 we did submit grants twice to the Florida Department of Health Hero's Program for their Narcan and did receive these grants for a total of 400 doses. This Narcan was distributed among all the Fire Districts with the bulk of it going to Southern Manatee Fire Rescue and Cedar Hammock Fire District due to the high call volume of overdoses that our Districts respond on.

The graph below are the results over the use of medical equipment and medications during the time period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 for all three shifts:





The graph below identifies the treatment protocols that were used during January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018:



# Cardiac Arrest Statistics

Annually, 326,200 people experience out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the United States. Of those treated by emergency medical services, 10.6 percent survive. Of the 19,300 bystander-witnessed ventricular fibrillation cardiac arrests, 31.4 percent survive.

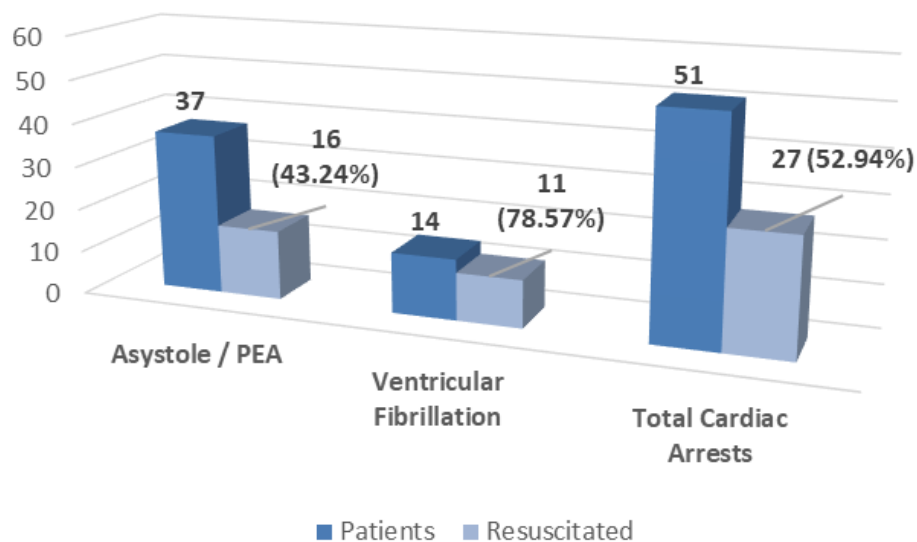
Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest patients in ventricular fibrillation has a greater chance of survival if the event is witnessed by the public with immediate calling of 9-1-1, starting BLS-CPR, and rapid deployment of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), rapid response of both Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support.

It is statistically proven that for every minute that goes by that a heart in ventricular fibrillation the chances of converting to sinus rhythm with pulses decreases by 10 percent and in 10 minutes, the chances of resuscitation drop to 0%. That is why it is imperative to immediately call 9-1-1, start CPR, deploy an AED and ensure a rapid response of Fire and EMS.

From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, the Southern Manatee Fire Rescue responded to 51 cardiac arrest events. Out of 51 cardiac arrest events, the District along with Manatee County EMS resuscitated 27 or **52.94%**, meaning restored pulses. Listed below is a breakdown of the type of events:

- Ventricular Fibrillation – 14
- Asystole / PEA (Pulseless Electrical Activity) – 37

## Cardiac Arrest 2019





## Operations

Southern Manatee Fire Rescue is an ISO Class 3 fire department and is committed to providing our community with prompt, effective and fiscally responsible service by efficiently utilizing available resources from both within the department and from outside agencies. Southern Manatee Fire Rescue also actively seeks and has obtained grant funding for equipment, supplies and training to aide in our endeavor.

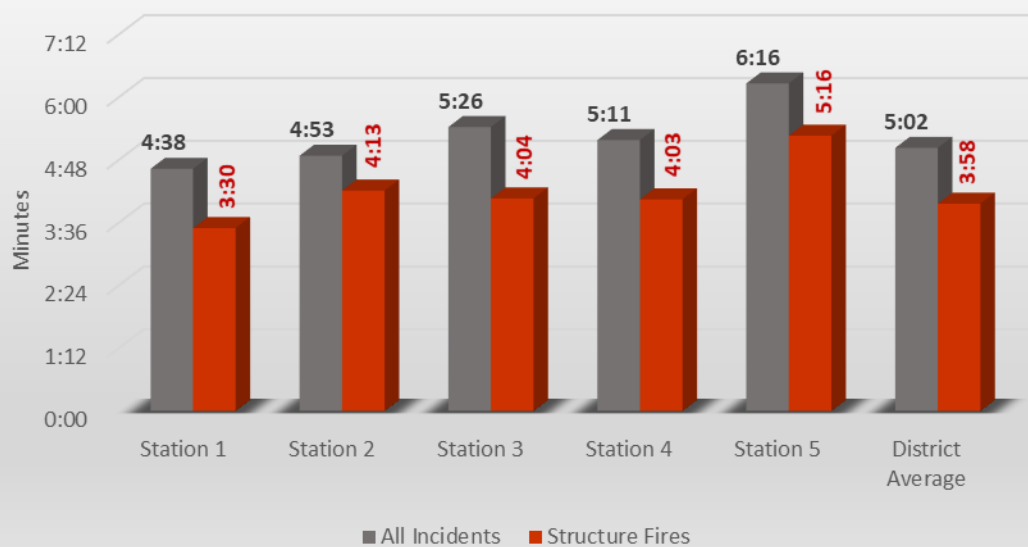
Southern Manatee's Operation Division's foremost responsibility is responding to and mitigating emergencies calls by providing essential services in the areas of emergency medical services, fire suppression and hazardous materials response.

The Operations Division is led by the Deputy Chief of Operations and three separate Battalions. Each Battalion is comprised of a Battalion Chief, 6 Lieutenants and 21 firefighters along with volunteer firefighters. The Operation Division is divided into three shifts A-B-C, each comprising of 28 personnel who work a 24/48-hour schedule. Our personnel work out of 5 fire stations housing a total of 84 full time employees, and are supported by a Fire Training Captain, a Hazardous Materials Training Captain and a Facilities Maintenance person. The Operations Division staffs five fire engine pumpers, a 107' aerial ladder and a Hazardous Materials response truck. This year SMFR responded to over 6709 emergencies with an average response time being 5:02 minutes. In 2019 Southern Manatee Fire Rescue experienced an 1.08% district wide call volume increase compared to a 0.09% increase in 2018.

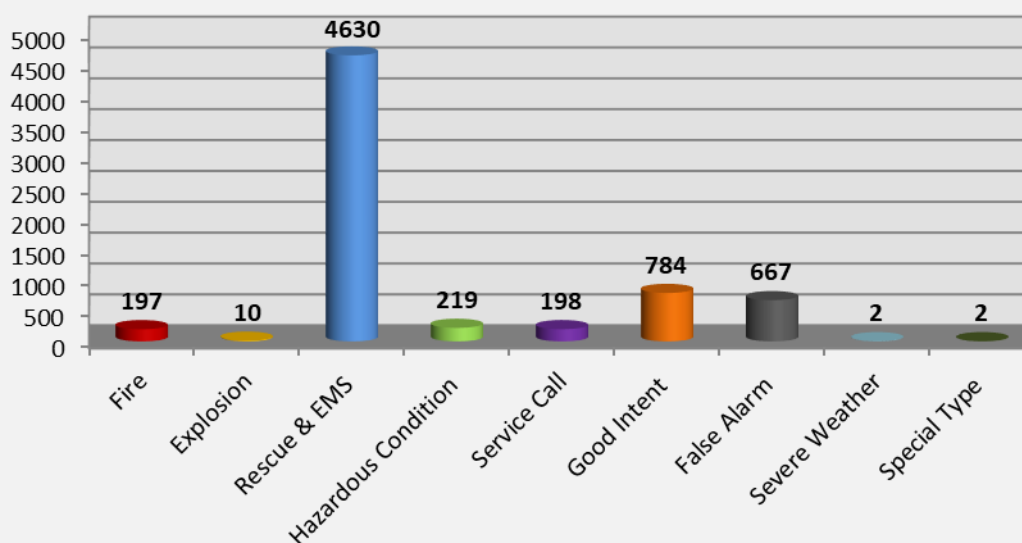
Each year we strive to improve the level of service provided to the community. It has been determined that patient survival is directly related to the amount of time it takes to receive treatment, therefore we work extremely hard to ensure rapid responses and we continuously train to keep up with modern technology regarding basic and advanced life support. The majority of the time fire departments are the first emergency responders to arrive at the scene of a dispatched medical emergency, this offers the fire crews primary access to patients for initial treatment. By expanding our capabilities and placing medications and other equipment on the fire engines medical treatment can be started sooner rather thus increasing patient survival rates. With direction and support from our Fire Chief the Operations Division has aligned its focus on establishing an advance life support program within the department. The goal to have an ALS fire engine ready for service by end of year 2019 was met and the new ALS pumper went to work in the first week of 2020.

Southern Manatee also enhances its service to the public through a series of agreements which allow our organization to cooperate with local and state agencies to provide and receive additional crews and resources during disasters and in times of need. Southern Manatee cooperates with our neighboring fire departments and have agreements in place which provide for "Move-Ups" from nearby fire departments to help cover the district during times of exceptionally high call volume so you as a resident are never left unprotected. We are honored to be your fire department.

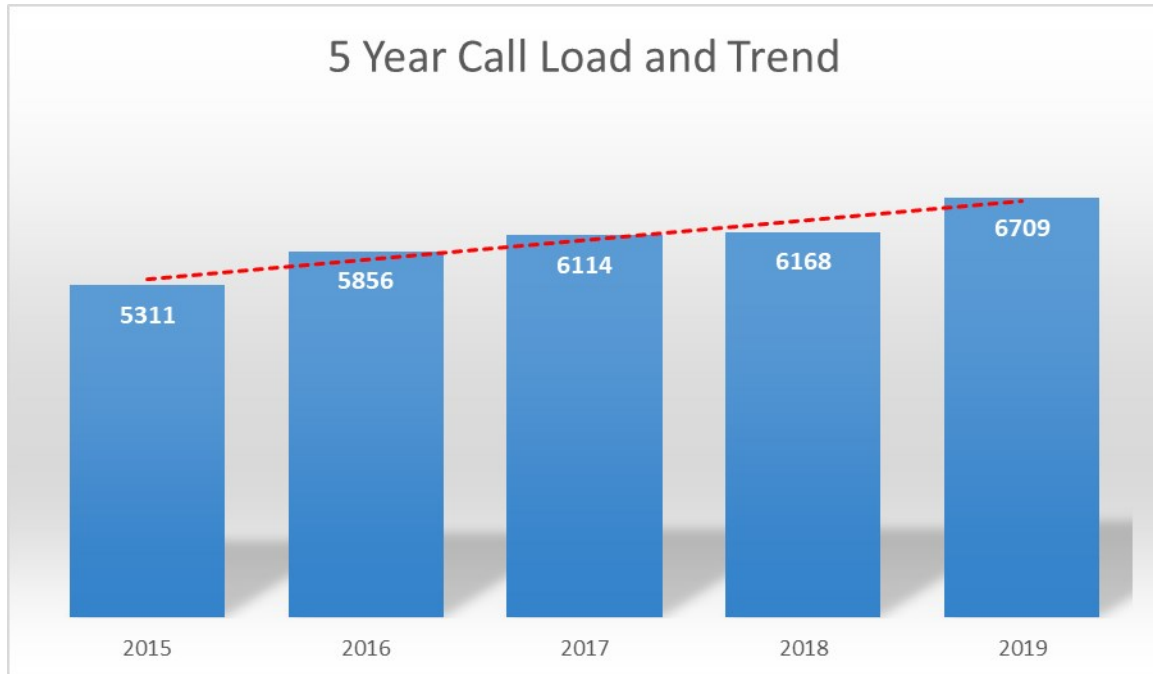
### 2019 Response Times - Station Averages



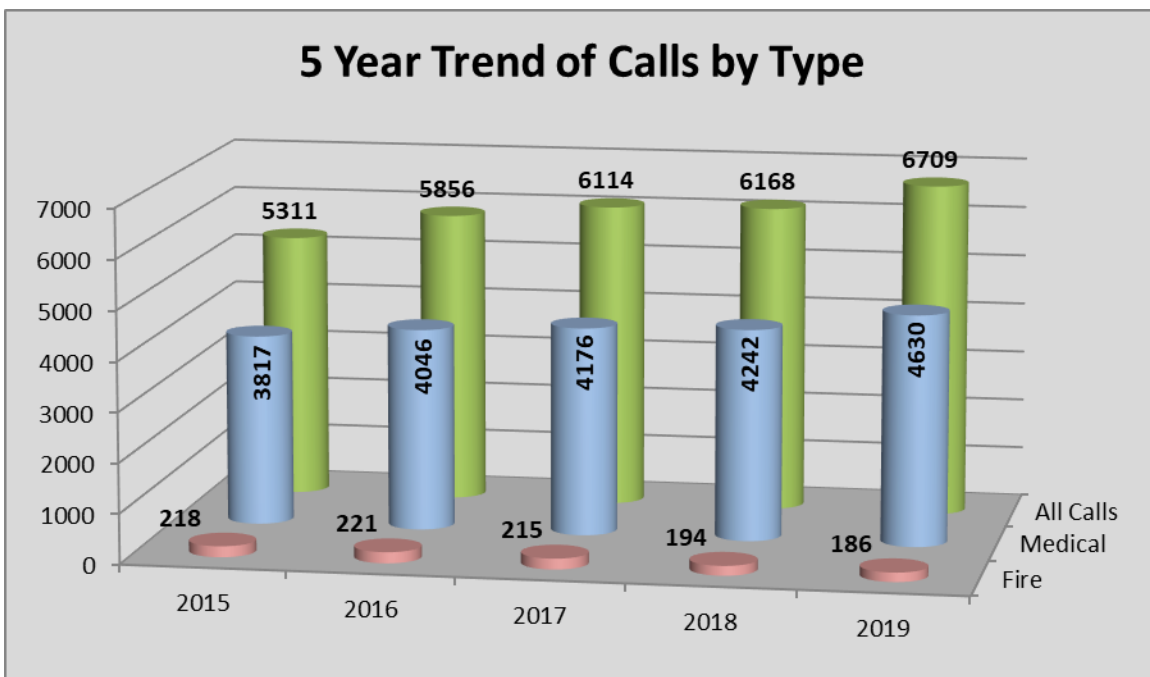
### 2019 Calls By Type



### 5 Year Call Load and Trend

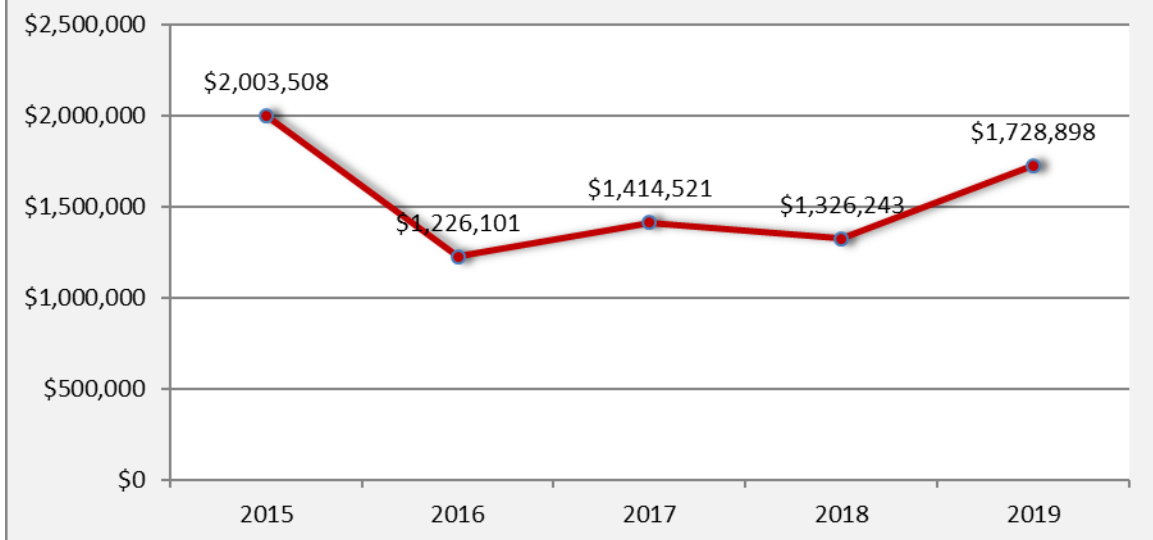


### 5 Year Trend of Calls by Type

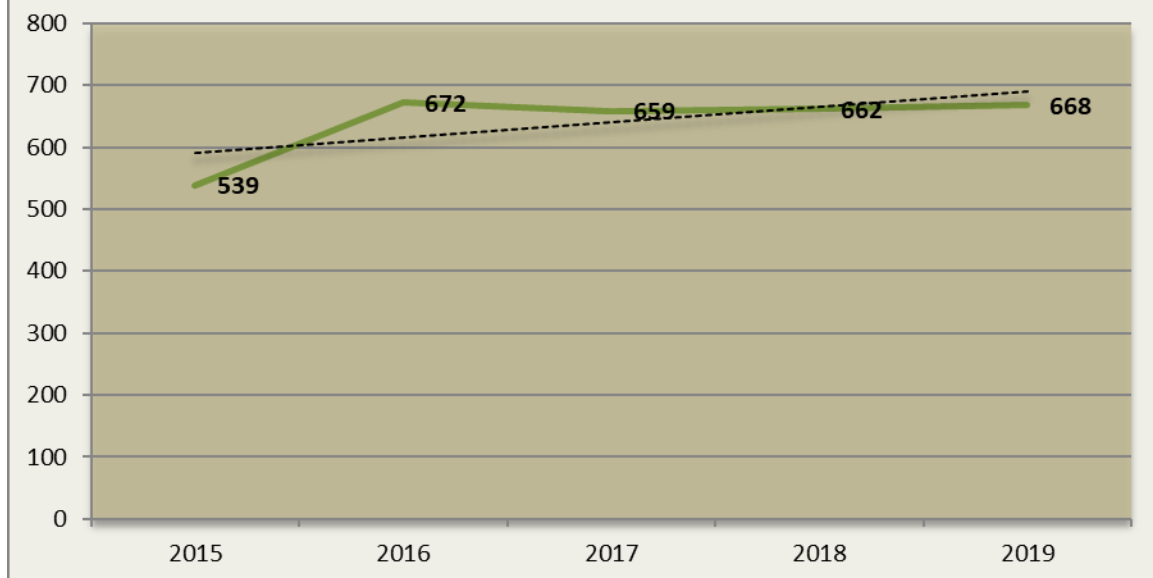


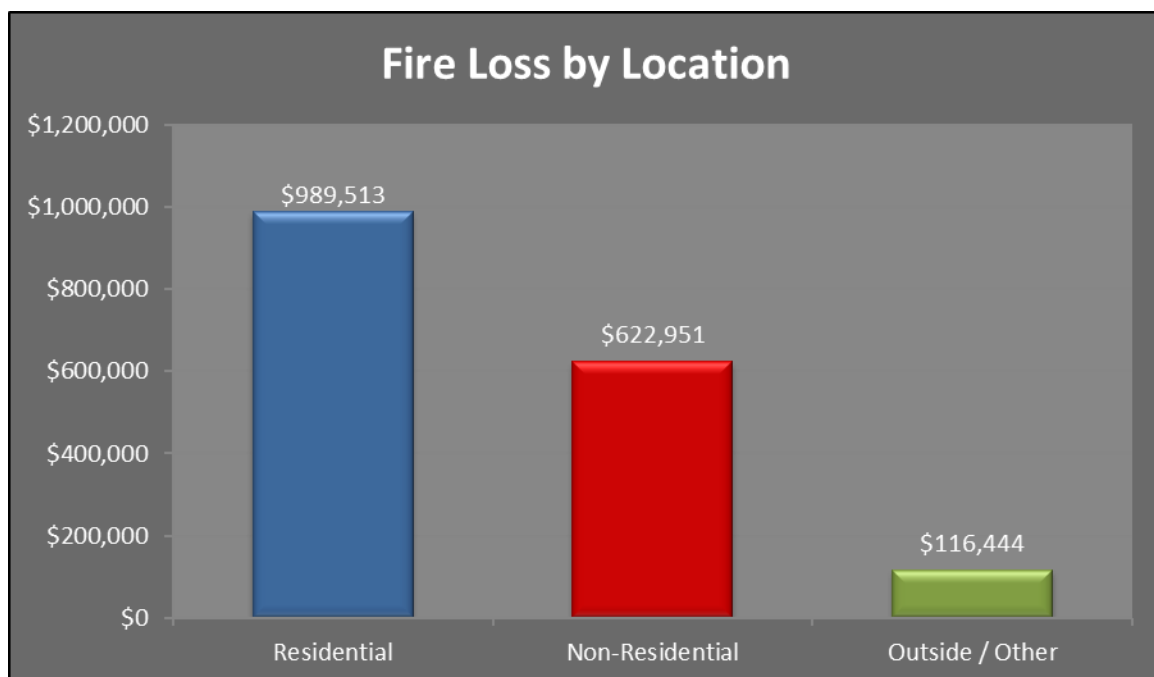
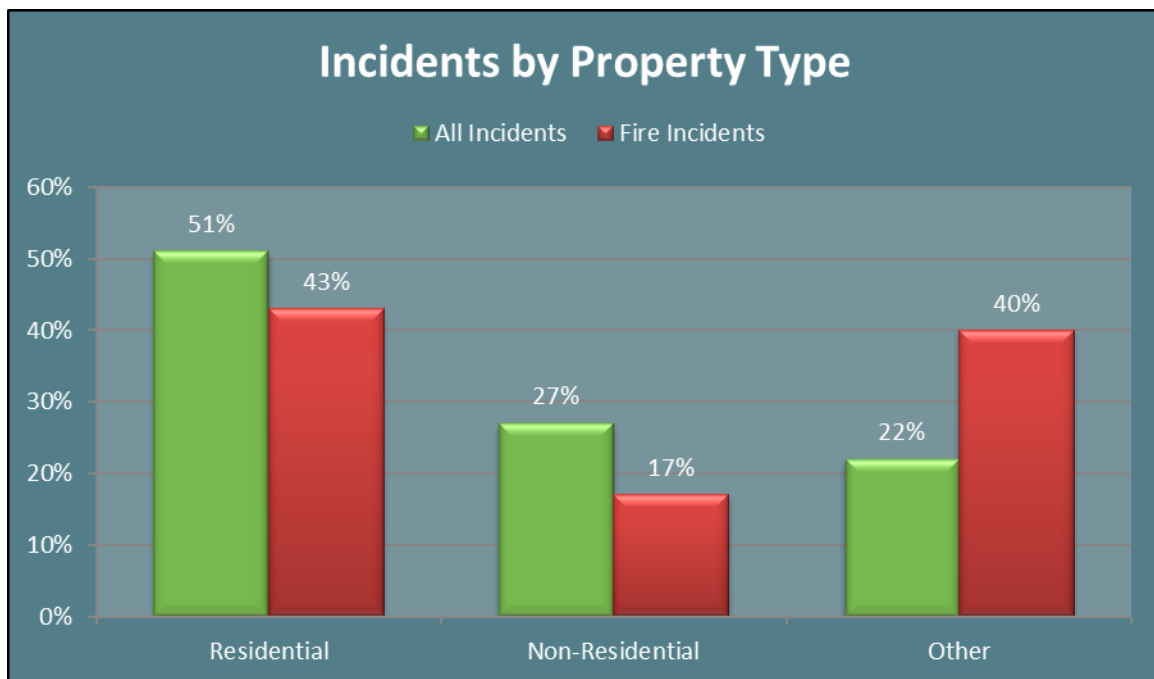
### 5 Year Trend in Fire Loss

*(Property & Content Combined)*

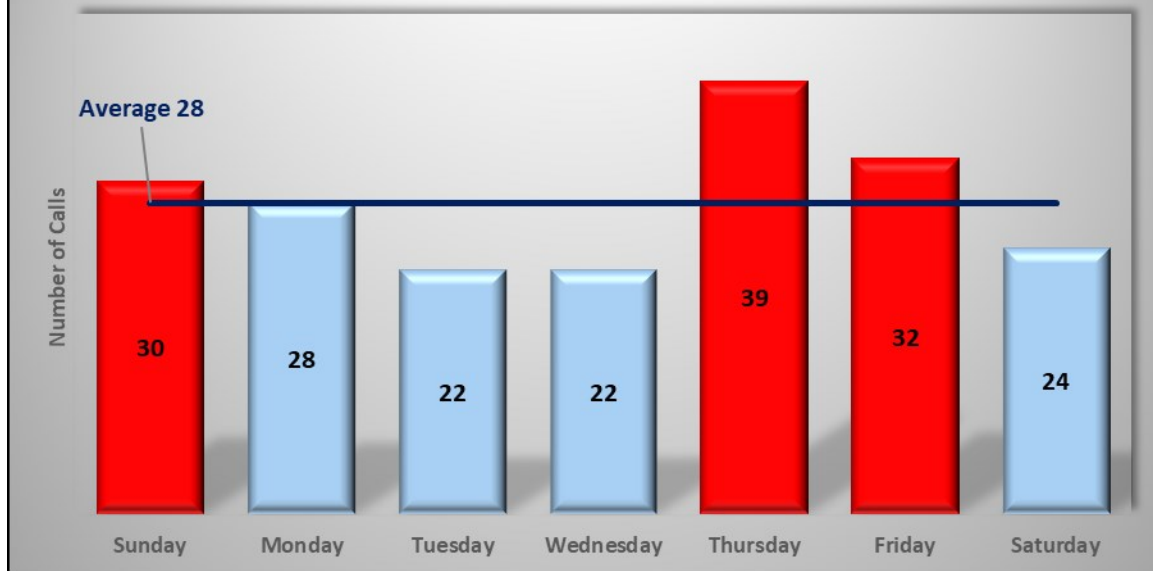


### 5 Year Trend of False Alarm Incidents

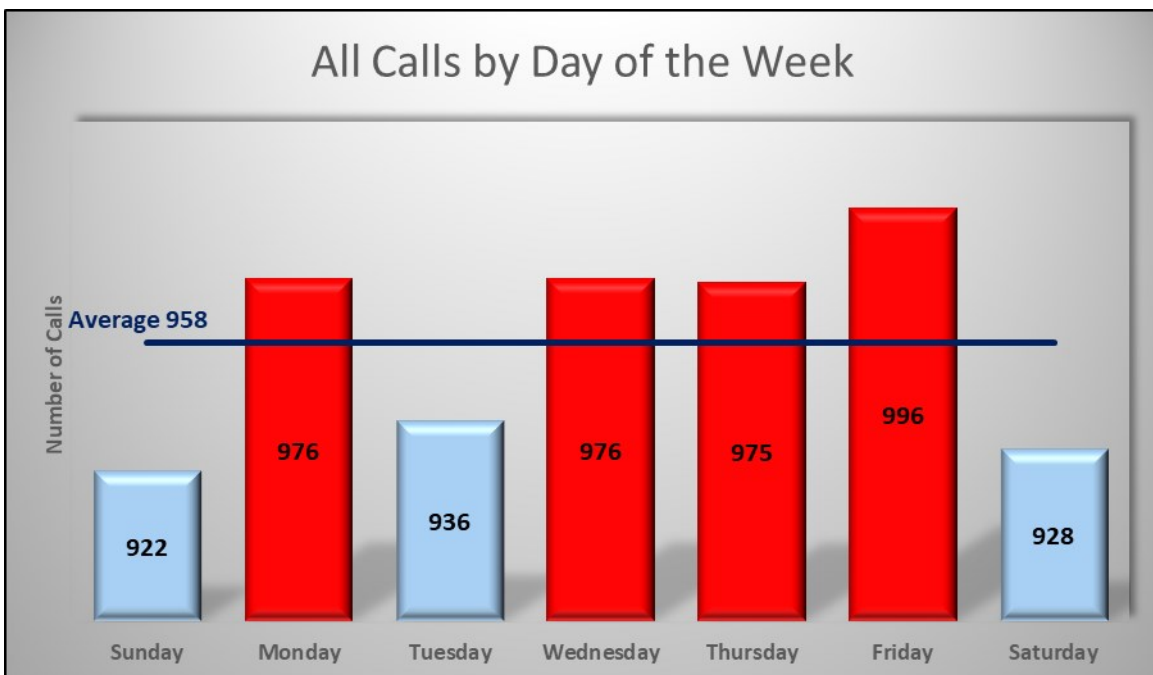




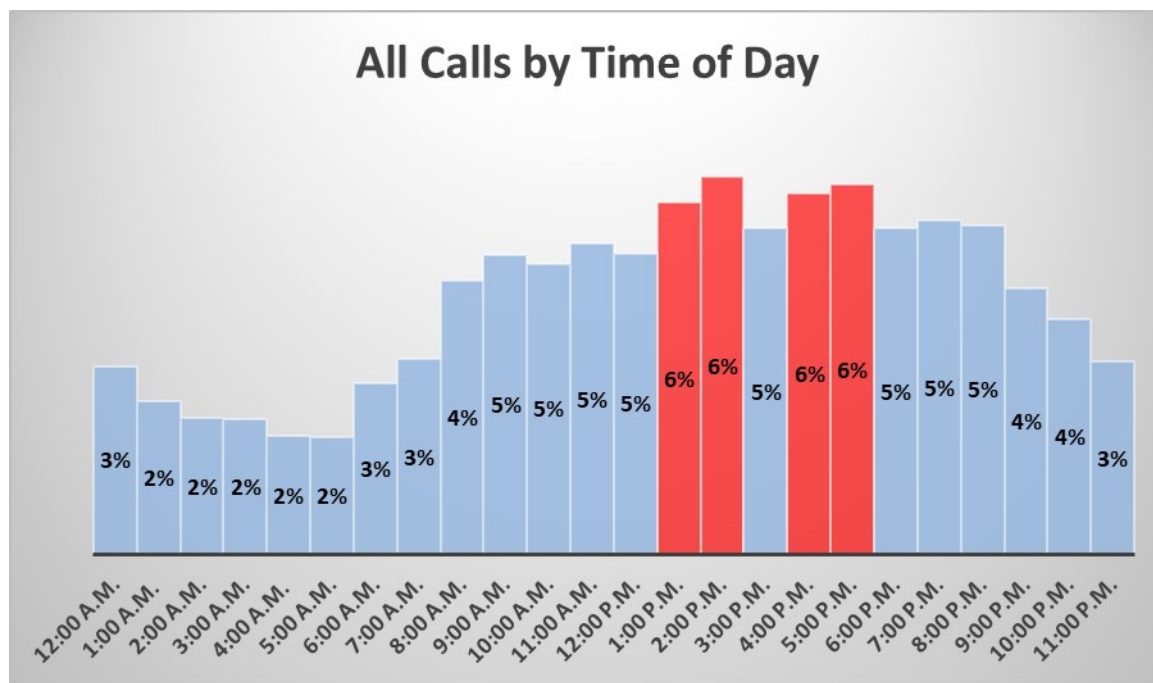
Fire Calls by Day of the Week



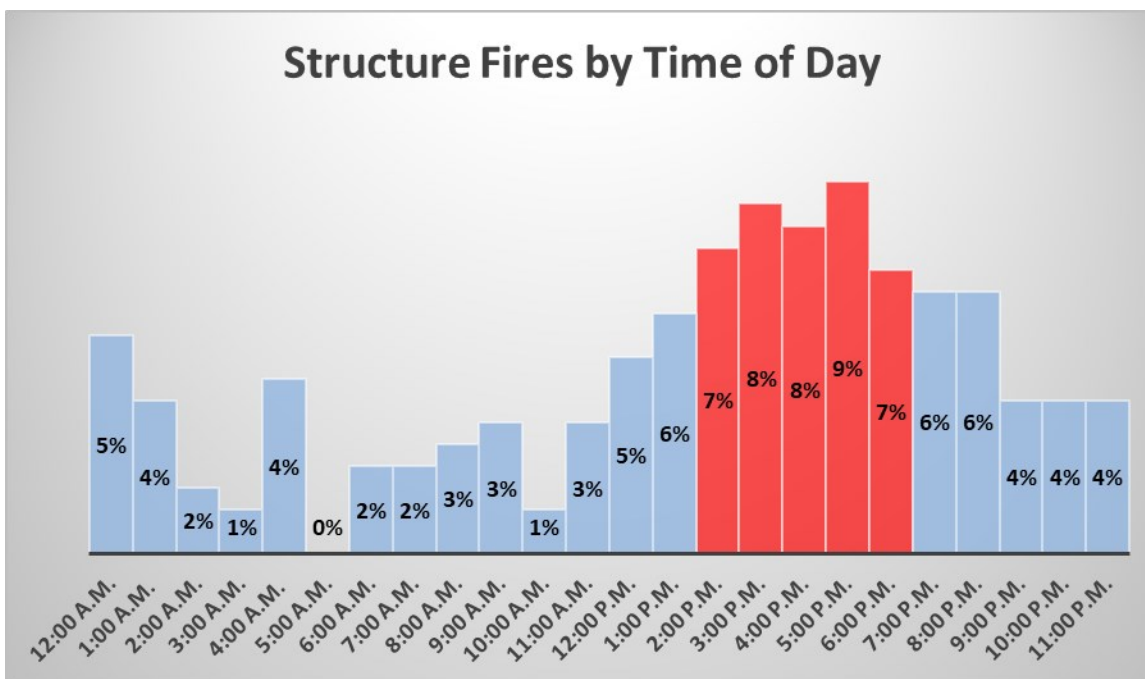
All Calls by Day of the Week

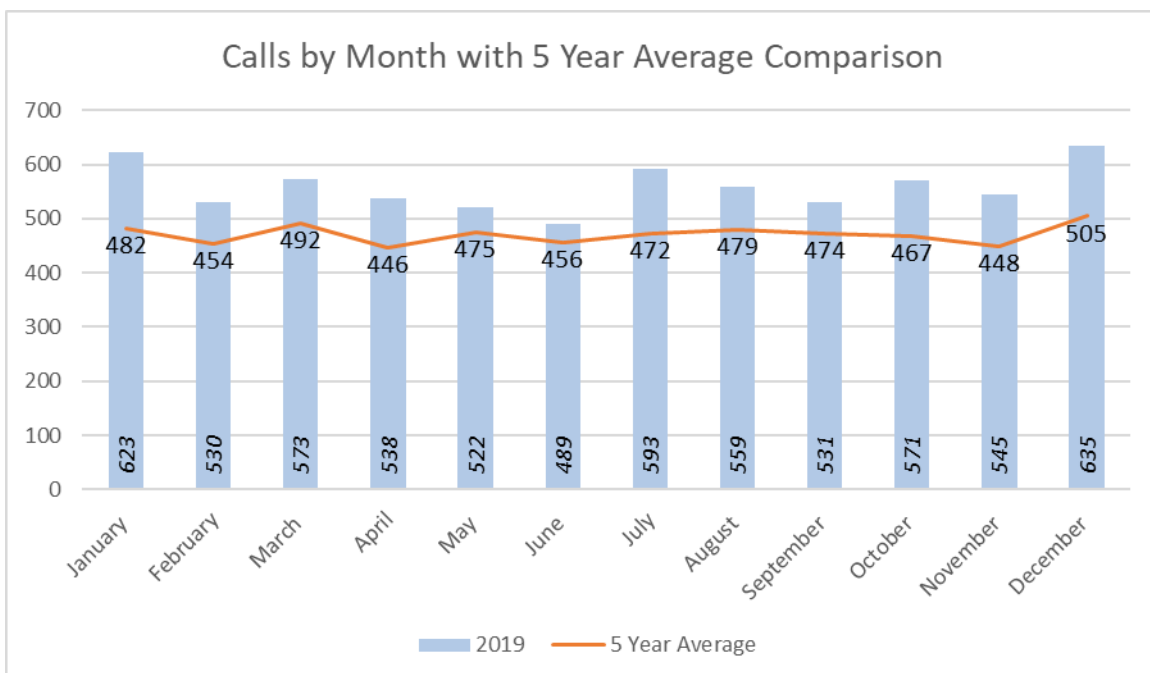
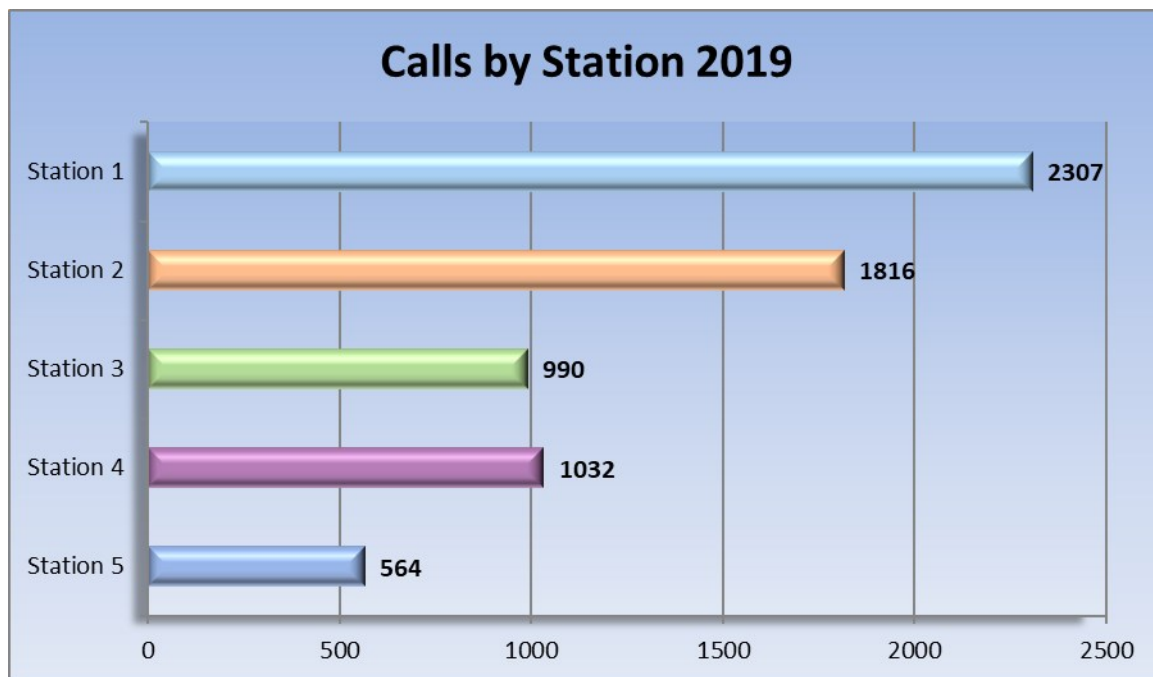


### All Calls by Time of Day



### Structure Fires by Time of Day





## Mutual Aid by Agency and Type, Summary

### Bradenton Fire Department

Automatic aid received	4
Mutual aid given	14
Automatic aid given	8

### Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue

Mutual aid received	2
Automatic aid received	9
Mutual aid given	11
Automatic aid given	8

### East Manatee Fire Rescue

Mutual aid received	3
Mutual aid given	6
Automatic aid given	7

### North River Fire District

Mutual aid given	8
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### Sarasota County Fire Department

Automatic aid received	3
Mutual aid given	3
Automatic aid given	8

### Trailer Estates Fire Department

Mutual aid given	1
------------------	---

### Other

Mutual aid given	20
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## 2019 Special Operations Report

The Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District (SMFR) is now entering its 6th year in operations since taking over all hazardous materials response in 2014 from Manatee County Public Safety department. These incidents ranged from a wide range of hazardous materials responses that included natural gas leaks, suspected biological agent release, unexploded military ordinance and UAS/ Drone assistance missions from other public safety agencies. We are composed of a 31-man team with members spread across three shifts. Our 2019 response totals are impressive showing a 9% increase of response incidents from the previous year with an on-scene deployment times of 131 hours managing these events. Since assuming management of the team, we have been deployed 509 times to assist or manage local hazardous materials emergencies. This represents an increase in call volume up 49% over a 6 -year period making us an active response team serving our regional partners. At the inception of the team, we visualized three components under strategic planning needed to sustain a successful team:



Members of B-shift reviewing rail car fittings during CSX Course.



SMFR Hazmat Team responding in April 2019 with North River to a suspicious package at Skyway Bridge

- 1: Trained personnel with knowledge, skills, and abilities to respond to multiple disciplines of Hazardous Materials Incidents.
- 2: Equipment packages following state guidelines in order to respond and carry out our mission statement.
- 3: Vehicle response to allow us the transport of personnel and equipment as required.

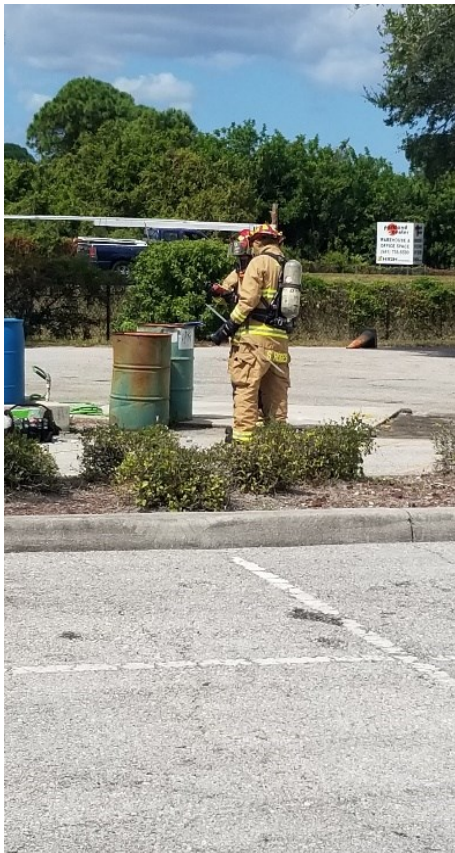
Over the last 6 years we have meet or exceeded each of the areas identified.

Our 31-man team completed over 1,653 hours in training in 2019 that continues to define and operate under many diverse conditions of our mission

packages. In 2019, we conducted another SERC audit of training and equipment that allows our team to be defined as a Type I Hazardous Materials response agency. This defines us as a state asset for regional deployment should called upon. The next component with transportation is now completed as we move from our aging response vehicle donated by the Sheriff's Department explosive response unit to a custom-built Pierce Heavy Rescue type vehicle that will placed into service in early 2020. This will increase our response package that will improve incident response time, increase personnel knowledge, skills, abilities, and allowing better organization of equipment.



Our mission is to meet the needs of a growing community and provide new approaches to hazardous materials education, hazmat response, hazmat code regulations and medical care services related to toxicology to the citizens of our district. This mission is in cooperation with our Federal, State, and Local agencies.



SMFR Hazmat Team responding to abandoned 55-gallon drums illegally dumped within the district.

### 2019 Notable Responses and Actions:

Feb. 2019: SMFR assisted the Tampa Bay Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC) in hosting a CSX Railroad tabletop exercise with multiple agencies participating in response and planning.

Feb. 2019: Assisted Manatee County Sheriff's Dept. identifying 12 lbs. of commercial explosive that was discovered in a marsh area. This device had been lost for over 30 years and used for blasting access in mangroves in north Manatee County.

Feb. 2019: Response to south area of Skyway bridge to an attempted chemical suicide attempt in a vehicle. No victim was found but all the products for carrying the action were found.

April 2019: Deployment to the area around Terra Ceia Bay to assist with search using UAS/Drone of a pediatric patient that fell from a small boat at night. Many agencies participated in the unsuccessful search operations.

April 2019: Deployment and support forming a Joint Hazard Assessment Team (JHAT) for the annual Manatee County Heritage Day parade in downtown

Bradenton.

May 2019: SMFR and North River Fire District were awarded \$45,499 Department of Transportation Pipeline Grant to enhance both districts response to natural gas incidents. This grant provided basic and advanced equipment to both agencies.



July 2019: Assisted North River Fire Rescue with a vehicle accident with 50 gallons of Diesel spilled in wet-land area.

July 2019: Deployed to the city of Bradenton to assist MSO with suspicious package found outside of a retail department store.

July 2019: Deployment as a regional hazmat team to Highlands County Florida to assist with hazmat operations and UAS/Drone reconnaissance on a large industrial fire.

Nov. 2019: Responded within our district to two (2) 55-gallon drums of abandoned haz waste. We were able to identify and work with the responsible party for proper disposal.

Dec. 2019: Responded to the Cedar Hammock Fire District working with the Florida State Fire Marshall to identify an explosive device that had detonated in a mailbox of a residence.

Jan -Dec. 2019: SMFR conducted several outreach hazmat trainings to local departments to increase operational hazmat incidents showing them team capabilities.

Jan- Dec 2019: Conducting several interviews with local news agencies on our developing UAS/Drone program and use on fireground operations.

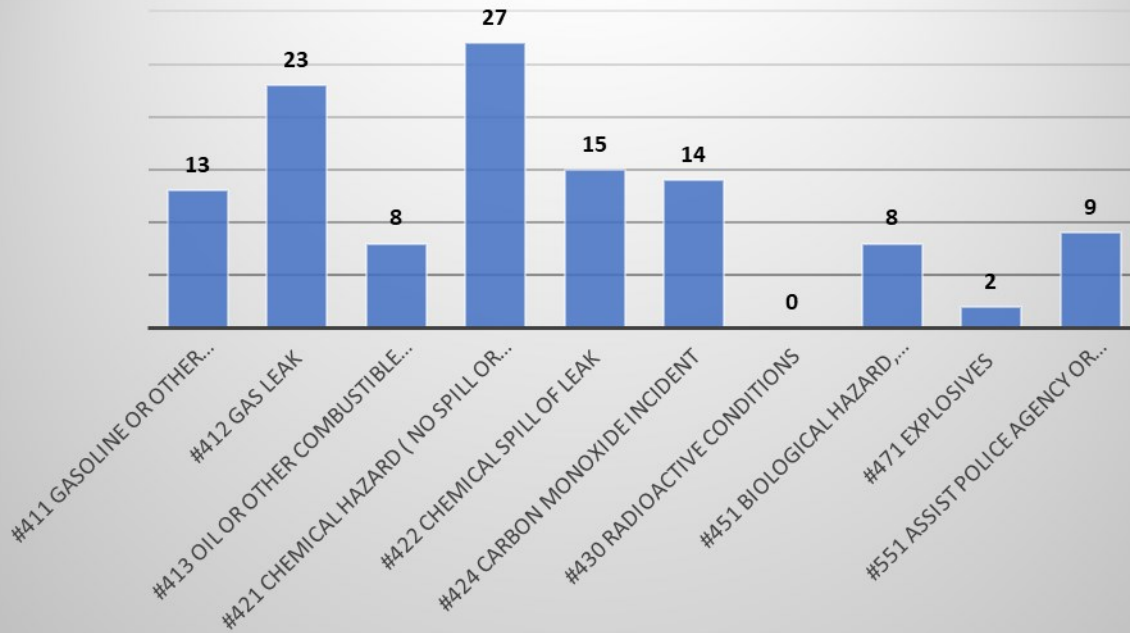
Jan.- Dec 2019: SMFR conducted in-house training to several stakeholder businesses in Manatee County dealing with hazardous materials response training an incident management.



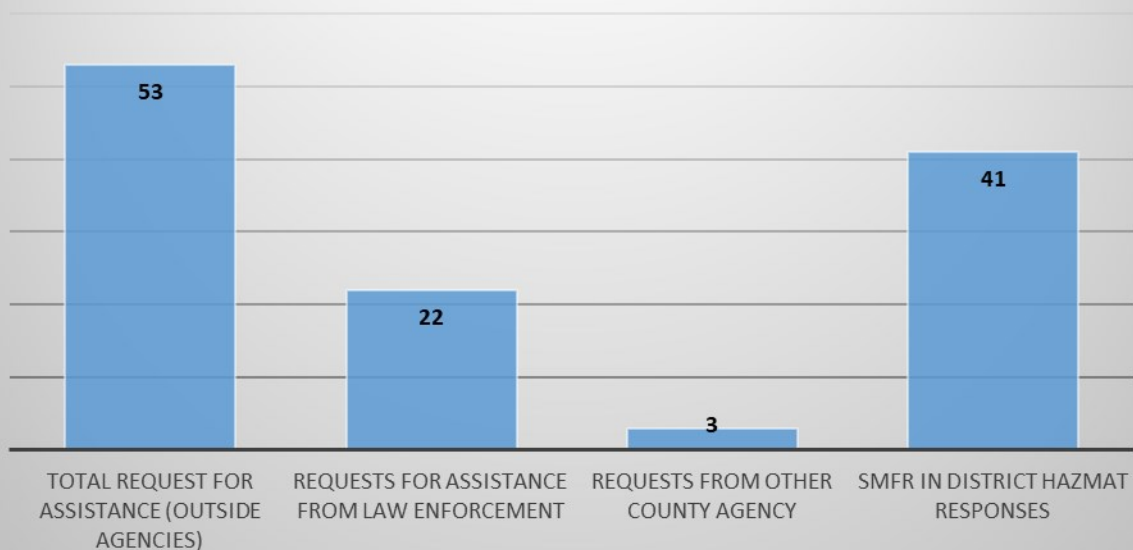
SMFR Hazmat Team members working out a hazmat incident during annual training.

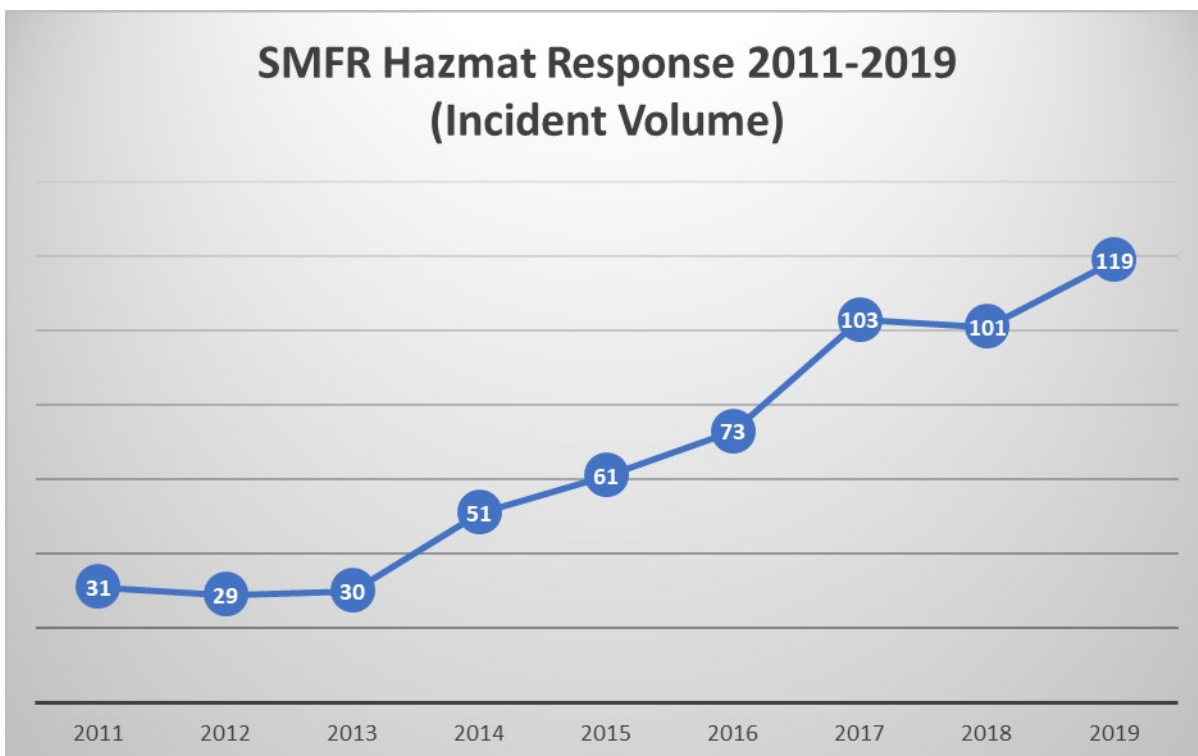
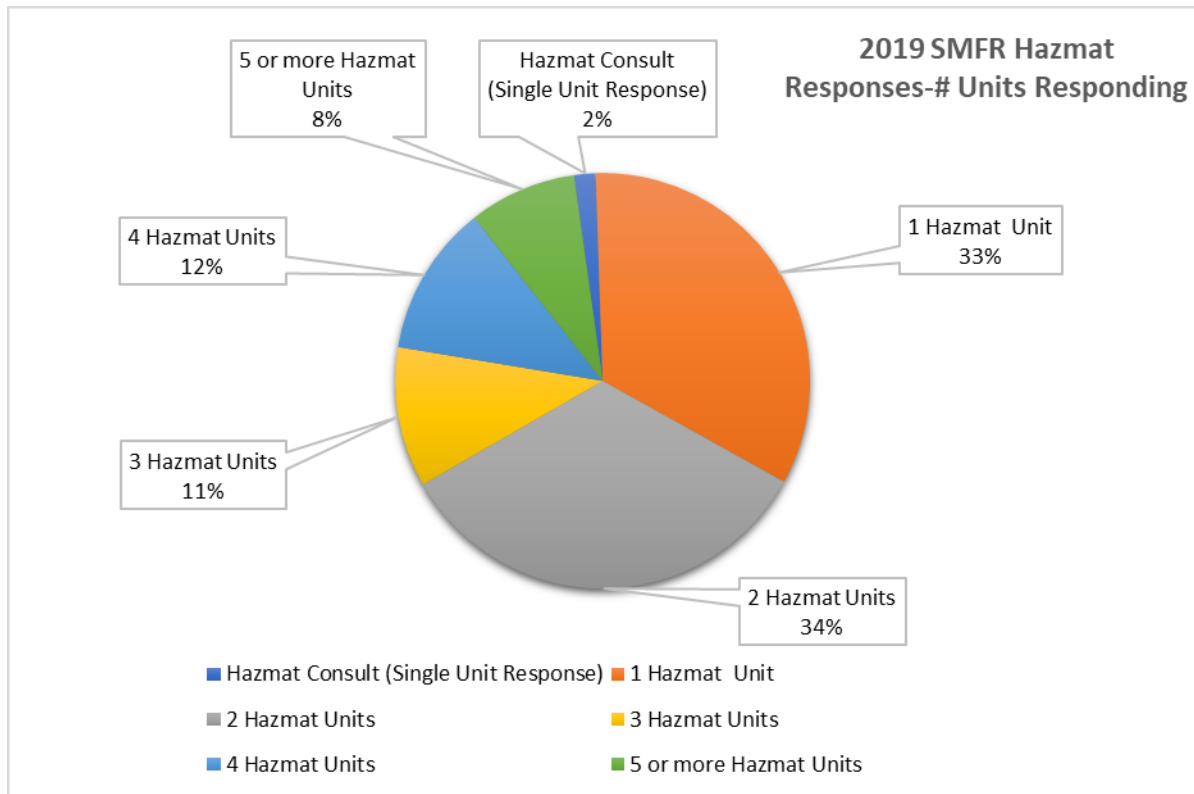


### 2019 Hazmat Responses- Incident Type



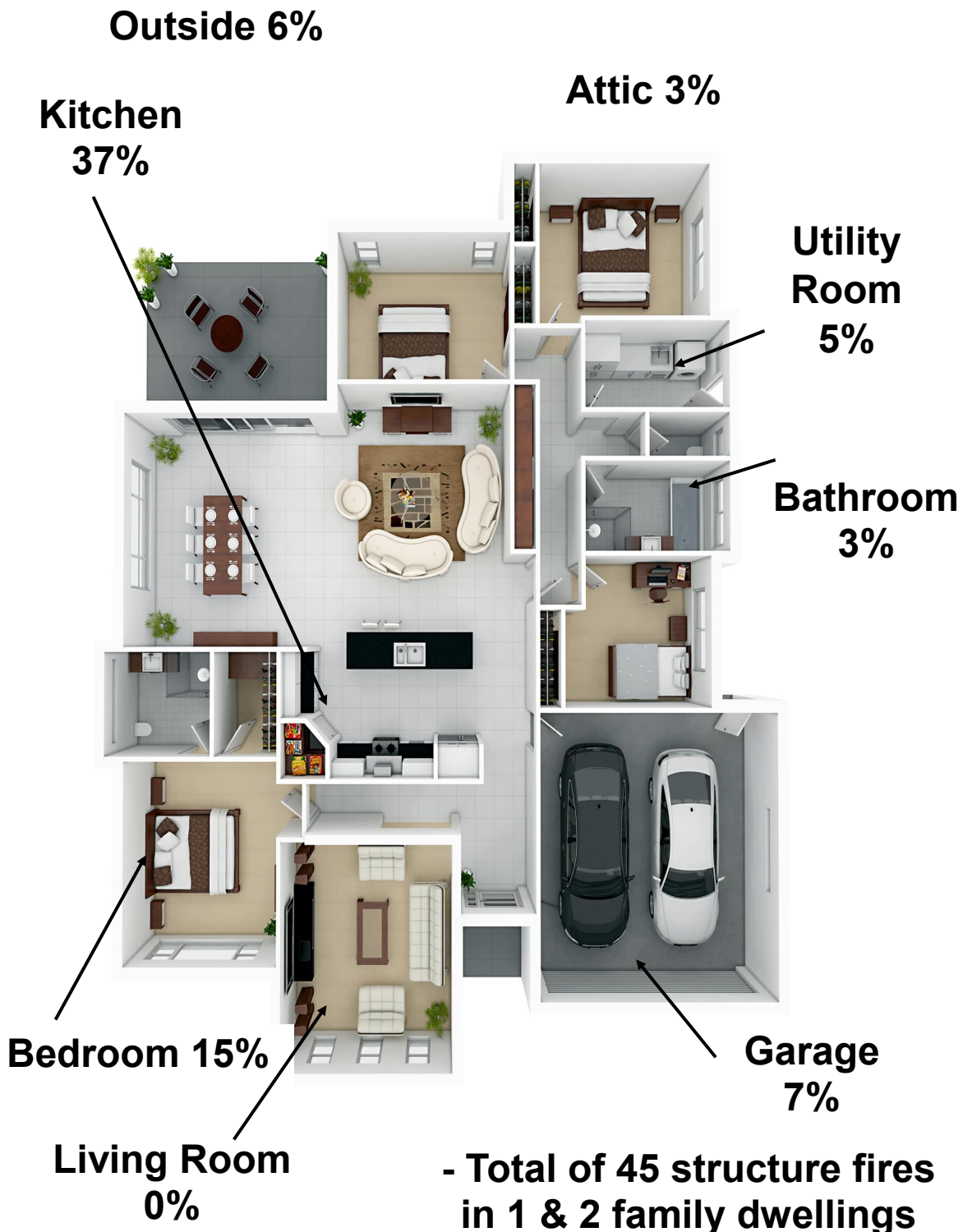
### 2019 SMFR Hazmat Responses Mutual Aid Requests Total=119 Incidents





## Fire Prevention Division

Area of origin and fire cause percentages  
for residential structures in Southern Manatee Fire  
Rescue District for 2019





Southern Manatee Fire Prevention Division is responsible for the regulatory and code enforcement segment of the fire service. As such, we work hand and hand with Manatee County and their various departments. We work with the Planning, Zoning, and Building departments on a daily basis. We assist the Utilities department with the placement and maintenance of fire backflows and fire hydrants. We work with Emergency Management and EMS with access issues. We work closely with Manatee County Code Enforcement and their officers. We are called out to assist getting compliance with the business and property owners conducting illegal operations, code infractions and environment issues. When needed, we work with the State Fire Marshal's Office and conduct origin and cause investigations on fires within our district. Our duties include but are not limited to Fire Inspections, Fire Investigations, Public Education, Youth Fire setters Program, Smoke Alarm Program and Fire Extinguisher Training.

The Fire Prevention Division is responsible for plans review. This includes but is not limited to site, construction, and system drawings. Most plans are submitted through Manatee County paperless computer system called Accela. This program began in 2018 and is continually being updated and improved on. The customer downloads their plans which are directed to the appropriate departments for review. Current state law now requires plans to be completed for full review in a designated time frame. Planners and plan reviewers need to stay on top of their work load and provide comments for completeness for the project to move forward. This review includes fire department comments. In 2019, we completed 95 site plans, 265 construction plans and 106 system plans for review. All this and keeping up with current codes and standards.

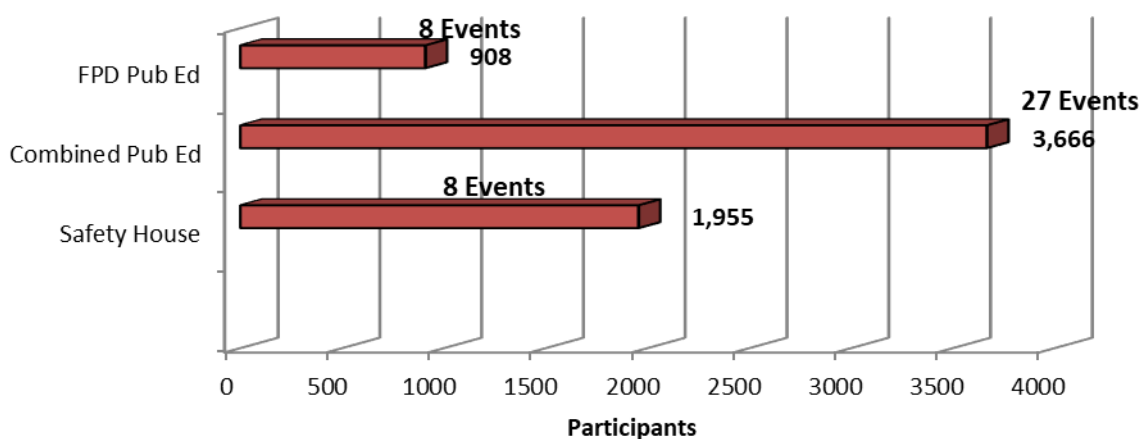


The Fire Prevention Division is responsible for Public education. We attended 27 events that ranged from extinguisher training, bounce houses and safety talks. The Fire Safety House went out 20 times and had 3,100 visitors. Our smoke alarm program is still saving lives across the district. Last year we installed 148 alarms and 20 batteries.

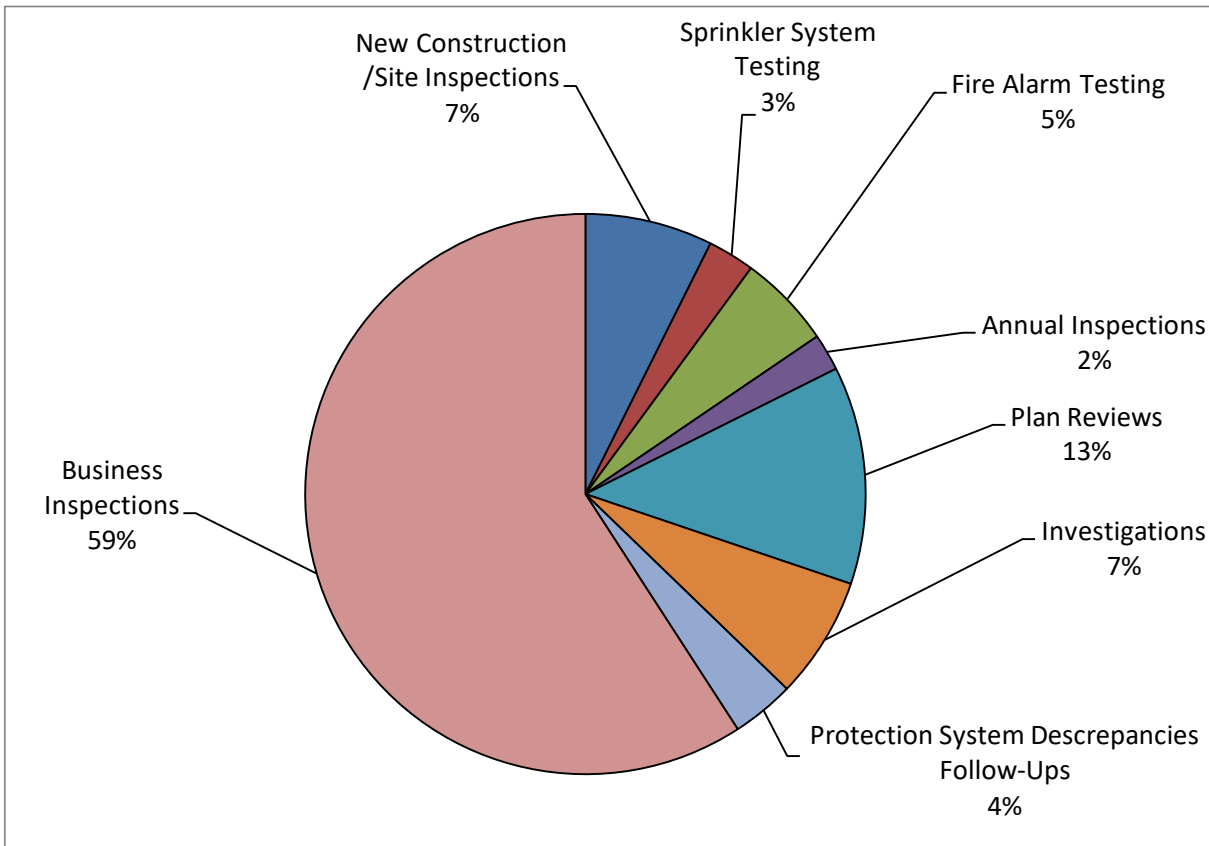
Our newsletter has grown in popularity. We continue to reach out across the community sending them to HOA's, MHP's, churches, schools and homes. Last year we sent out 22 issues of the newsletter, reaching to approximately 18, 000 resident each time.



### Public Education Events/Participants



## 2019 Fire Prevention Additional Responsibilities



### **Business Inspections: 2192**

Initial  
Vacant/ No Access  
Reinspection  
Completed

### **New Construction/ Site Inspections: 273**

Courtesy Inspection  
Fire Walls/Tenant Sep. /Penetration  
C.O. Finals  
Hood (Mechanical) Light Test, General  
Suppression System Final

### **Sprinkler System Testing: 100**

Visual/Pipe Check  
Hydro/ Pressure Test  
System Flush  
Final Acceptance

### **Fire Alarm Testing: 201**

Final/ Acceptance  
Follow-ups

### **Annual Inspections: 79**

Sprinkler System  
Fire Alarm System

### **Plan Reviews: 466**

Site Plans Reviews  
Construction Plans Reviews  
System Plans Review

### **Investigations: 261**

Fire  
Complaints  
Code Research

### **Protection System Discrepancies Follow-Ups: 134**

Fire Alarm Systems  
Sprinkler Systems

\* See separate charts for Public Education Programs, Safety House Events,  
Smoke Alarm Installations and Youth Fire Setters Information

## Risk Analysis 2019

### Overview:

The Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District is an independent special district with taxing authority and the responsibility to "Protect lives, property and the environment by providing prompt, skillful and cost effective fire safety education, fire protection and life saving services to the citizens of our community." The District provides fire protection for mobile home parks, condominiums, single family dwellings, various types of businesses, shopping centers, malls, storage facilities and a heavy industrial section.

### Review 2015 - 2019 Fire Reports

<b>Reported Structure Fires - Residential</b>			
Year	# 1&2 Dwelling	# Mobile Home Fires	Age of Citizen 50 yr +
2015	43	4	4
2016	40	1	1
2017	23	4	Unknown
2018	60	4	4
2019	45	0	Unknown

<b>Smoke Alarms</b>			
Year	Notified	Failed	Unknown
2015	8	15	9
2016	6	7	17
2017	4	1	2
2018	6	2	52
2019	5	4	36

**Fatal Fires:** In 2019 Southern Manatee Fire Rescue experienced One fire fatality.

<b>Injuries</b>			
Year	Number of Injuries	Alarms Present	# of Alarms not working
2015	2	1	Unknown
2016	2	1	0
2017	1	0	0
2018	1	1	0
2019	0	0	0

## 2019 Annual Open House

Our Annual Open House on September 28<sup>th</sup> at Station 3 was a HUGE success! Over 800 residents enjoyed the day filled with snow cones, food and fun. Residents watched demonstrations from our firefighters doing extrication, repelling and hazardous materials team with the drone. West Coast Southern



Medical service provided patient care for the demo's. Outside agencies attending include, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Manatee County Sheriff's, ECC, Florida Fish and Wildlife, Manatee County Search and Rescue K9, Division of Forestry, Community Paramedics and FHP. The Kid Zone expanded with a new bounce house for smaller children and we had free snow cones. Save the date: September 26, 2020 is the next Open House!

## Youth Fire-setter Program

### Prevention and Intervention

The Manatee County Youth Fire-setter Program is an educational intervention program presented by the local fire departments of Manatee County. It was designed for children and their families that were involved with fire or show an interest in fire setting. The program is strictly an educational program for first time setters and is not meant to replace professional counseling.

Southern Manatee Fire Prevention Division is heavily involved with this program and hosts the intervention on the second Tuesday of the month. All of our personnel involved with the program are a State Certified Youth Fire-setting instructor.



**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE****2019 Training Data**

Total in-house training hours:	25,016.55
Per Person yearly Average:	316.65
Per Person monthly Average:	26.40
In-house Classes:	21
Rider Certs:	12
Driver Certs:	62
Outside Classes Completed:	206
Target Classes Completed:	2916
Promotions:	19
State Certifications:	31
Daily Training Subjects:	45

In 2019, Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue (SMFR) personnel conducted training on a daily basis and logged over 25,000 hours. Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue has 3 Field Training Officers (FTO's), 1 for each shift and a Fire / EMS Training Captain, as well as a Hazmat Training Captain. The FTO's conduct hands-on-trainings with their respective crews, and the Training Captain's over-see department wide training and compliance of State, Federal and Insurance Services Office requirements. In 2018 and 2019 we have re-invented our wellness program with our 3 Group Fitness Coordinators. And have allotted time every month for group fitness events as well as daily fitness training.

This year we continued to complete classes with our on-line training platform; Target Solutions. The savings to the district will equate to approximately 17,000.00 this year. That money will be reallocated to sending personnel to specialty classes in various areas of EMS and Fire Ground operations. Classes are added annually to help maintain renewal requirements, and in 2018 & 2019 classes were added to fire prevention for Inspector renewals.

This was the third full year that two training captains were fulltime in the training division. We were able to expand our training to more practical applications and techniques. We concentrated a lot of



efforts this year on Fire Ground Operations within our district. We also concentrated on drivers training and day to day operations. All personnel recertified driving both engines and aerials. This area is high priority as our responses are increasing annually.

This year we completed several In-House classes that are beneficial learning to our personnel. This year we focused attention to our Fire Prevention team to obtain their Fire Code Administrators licenses. We also have been spending time within our department on ALS and the equipment that goes along with this program. We continue to spend time monthly on Drivers Training, Hazardous Materials Response, Fire Ground Activities, and Medical Response



Another focus of this year was wellness and fitness. In addition to the members of the training division we also have three very active Group Fitness Coordinators. This year we split our monthly group fitness trainings and brought in several outside speakers to enhance both health as well as safety. We will have our third annual 5K run or walk. Over 100 personnel from the district with families participated in the two day event. This was all made possible by the Cigna wellness fund given to us the second year in a row.

This year the Training Division continued teaching CPR & First Aid to our business partners in the district. We charge a small fee to cover the cost of the certification cards and book. We only complete these classes in our district; if someone calls from outside our district we put them in touch with that local F.D. It is estimated we certified over a 100 bystanders in these vital skills.

Finally a big part of this year's training plan was to get our mutual aid resources involved. Manatee County EMS firefighter/paramedics were always invited to any of our fire related training. We have also partnered up with the 911 dispatch center to have all their new hire dispatchers ride along with our apparatus for 12 hour shifts. We continued to host classes in our admin and invited our mutual fire departments to attend.





### Vehicle Maintenance FY19

Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District's fleet consists of 8 fire engine pumpers, 1 aerial ladder truck, 1 Hazardous Materials response truck and 17 staff vehicles of various types. Apparatus/staff vehicles are purchased and replaced in accordance with the apparatus replacement program. We began the process to spec out and build a Special Operations truck to replace the current Hazardous Materials response truck. It has the capabilities to suppress fire, mitigate hazardous materials and serve as a command center. This is the first of its kind in Manatee County. All the fire apparatus and staff vehicles are maintained by the district using outside agencies to perform preventive maintenance and repair work. All work is performed within the Fire District at various locations. The repair and preventive maintenance for fire apparatus is performed at Ten-8 Fire Equipment and Sun State International which employs certified Emergency Vehicle Technicians as required by National Fire Protection Association. Callaghan Tires of Bradenton maintains the apparatus tires, while the staff vehicles are serviced and repaired at Neumann's Auto Repair, both locations offer full technical mechanical services.



Vehicle repairs are conducted by scheduled appointment on an as needed basis or repairs are handled during the preventive maintenance services. The frequency of preventive maintenance services varies from fire apparatus to staff vehicles. The apparatus go through a preventive maintenance service every 150-200 hours of operating time, while staff vehicles go



through their services every 5000 miles. We aspire to maintain all vehicles at a superior level in order for the District to provide emergency services without interruptions.

Fire apparatus require special preventive maintenance for specific areas of the apparatus, which is not the case for staff vehicles. Some of these special maintenance areas include annual pump testing, annual pump service and the annual aerial testing. These specifics are performed once a year and are scheduled by our service provider. The main types of apparatus preventive maintenance include level 1 and level 2.

#### **Level 1 Preventive Maintenance:**

Full vehicle inspection, oil change, filter replacement, fluid checks, tire gauging, pump packing, safety inspection

#### **Level 2 Preventive Maintenance:**

Full vehicle inspection, oil change, filter replacement, fluid checks, tire gauging, pump packing, safety inspection, air filter, transmission service, brake inspection, chassis lube, cooling system, A/C system, fuel system, These maintenance services are performed at every other interval and are scheduled by our own personnel whom manage the vehicle apparatus maintenance program in house at Southern Manatee.



Equipment/Vehicle Type		Year Purchased	Purchased Cost	Vehicle I.D.	2019 Maintenance Cost
Pierce Pumper		2004	\$351,151.00	E-11	\$9,903.25
Pierce Pumper		2010	\$397,105.00	E-13	\$19,110.55
Pierce Pumper		2010	\$397,105.00	E-12	\$7,265.17
Pierce Pumper		2015	\$483,894.00	E-14	\$21,404.14
Pierce Pumper		2015	\$483,894.00	E-15	\$16,064.54
Pierce Pumper		2016	\$454,577.00	E-17	\$11,776.12
Pierce Pumper		2018	\$537,260.00	E-19	\$3,754.90
Pierce Aerial		2017	\$901,654.00	E-18	\$13,339.24
Hazmat Truck		1994	Donation	E-16	\$2,220.90
GMC Sierra Utility		2007	\$17,012.00	T-2	\$120.55
GMC Sierra Dually		2003	\$9,050.00	T-3	\$274.23
GMC Yukon		2007	\$41,290.00	C-13	\$0.00
GMC Yukon		2007	\$41,290.00	C-14	\$1,953.02
GMC Yukon XL		2008	\$49,416.00	C-15	\$654.53
Ford F150		2016	\$23,000.00	C-16	\$116.74
Ford F150		2016	\$23,000.00	C-17	\$116.47
Ford F150		2016	\$23,000.00	C-18	\$1,075.16
Ford F150		2016	\$23,000.00	C-19	\$63.25
Ford F150		2017	\$24,709.00	C-20	\$103.87
Chevy Suburban		2017	\$58,031.00	C-21	\$1,918.52
Ford F250		2018	\$37,942.00	C-22	\$1,226.50
Ford Explorer		2018	\$33,494.00	C-23	\$60.47
Ford Explorer		2018	\$33,494.00	C-24	\$57.66
Ford Explorer		2018	\$33,494.00	C-25	\$62.33
Ford T-150 Van		2018	\$25,113.00	C-26	\$0.00
			<b>\$4,502,975.00</b>		<b>\$112,725.02</b>



## VOLUNTEERS

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 85% of fire departments in the United States are Volunteer or have a Volunteer element. Southern Manatee Fire Rescue is a combination department with the majority of personnel being full-time. Most of the full-time firefighters at Southern Manatee Fire Rescue began their careers as Volunteers. There were 5 active Volunteers in 2019 that supplemented our staffing and assisted with various activities with a combined total of 774.5 hours; equivalent to over thirty-two, twenty-four hour shifts. 404.5 hours of that were training related while at the fire stations. In addition, two Volunteers attended Paramedic school with a combined 1,250.0 hours, and one of our Volunteers attended a fire academy refresher class which was 224.0 hours. These individuals dedicate many hours of their time to our community.



Volunteer Firefighter uses hydraulic cutters during an advanced vehicle extrication class



Firefighter's Segneri and Brady practicing Paramedic skills  
Paramedic certification takes over one year to complete

## **Southern Manatee Union Bargaining Units/Local 2546**

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. It feels like I just finished last year's Union column for the annual report yesterday! The saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun". There's also another saying that correlates with age, but we don't need to include that one. At Southern Manatee, we are always working hard and having fun which makes for a productive environment. Time is precious, so make the most of it because we don't know how much of it we have. That being said, let's get started on 2019's recap.



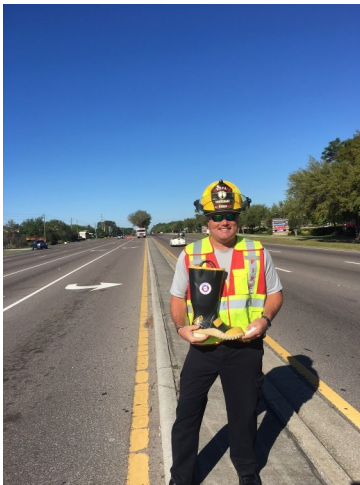
The first weekend in March, our Fire Fighters and several Administrative Staff hit the streets to collect money for MDA. We were able to utilize "on and off duty" personnel to collect over \$18,000 for the three days. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual MDA Boot Drive collaboratively performed by the Local which continues to be successful. Our Local consists of (12) different fire departments that span from Charlotte to Manatee County. As a Local, we collected over \$180,000 which is a great improvement from 2018's total of \$114,000. Our Local is #1 with collecting money for off duty participants in the state. Even though we do have on duty participation, it is very minuet compared to other Locals that collect more funds with only on duty participants. Great job to all those who donated their time to help this worthy cause and to our MDA Coordinator, Fire Fighter Mike Geiser. FF Geiser was instrumental with recruiting volunteers, gathering resources, organizing collection sites and schedules. Great Job Mike!!

Mid way thru March, we had three (3) of our Union members completed paramedic school for our ALS Program. Bobby Thayer, Sam Collins and Dave Wernet were the first group to complete the paramedic class for SMFR personnel and successfully become Nationally Registered Paramedics. In addition, they also finished the top of their class which was a proud moment for them and the department.

Every year Florida has their Legislative Session that runs from the first week of March thru the first week of May. The Session consists of presenting bills that potentially become laws if passed by the Senate, House of Representatives and Governor. These bills



range from tax proposals to health insurance language/coverage for Florida citizens. At this year's Florida Legislative Session, we were successful with getting the Cancer Coverage Bill passed. One of our own Fire Fighters was a constant beacon and spokesman supporting the Bill. FF Dwayne McKeaver is a cancer survivor and has been instrumental with educating Legislators with the importance of providing cancer coverage from his personal testimonies. His dedication has captured the attention and support of several political figure heads like Chief Financial Officer Jimmy



Patronis, Senators Flores and Bill Galvano to name a few. His hard work has provided light and direction for future cancer patients knowing that they will have support as they battle this relentless epidemic. Even though the Cancer Bill is now law, there is still areas for improvement as new ideas and situations arise. This by far was the greatest accomplishment for 2019 and it could not have been accomplished without the collaborative efforts of those involved.

In May, the Union began their preparatory meetings for contract negotiations. These meetings consisted of the members discussing the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and what changes they would like to see implemented. These meetings usually lasted three (3) hours and were conducted over the course of two (2) months. Although the meetings can be stressful, they are warranted in order to accomplish a healthy CBA.

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed a new employee to SMFR and our Rank-n-File Bargaining Unit; Mario Disi. Mario is also a paramedic and had several years of experience working for Manatee County EMS which has been beneficial for our ALS Program. Congratulations Mario to the beginning of your new career, we look forward to your success and thank you for being a member of our Union family.

In July, we began our Contract Negotiations with the District. Contract negotiations can be lengthy and take months or even a year or so to complete. Fortunately, we have an excellent working relationship with the District and we were able to agree on a contract by the



beginning of August. This fortune is not by luck, it is a result of a cohesive working and personal relationship between the Bargaining Unit Members, Administration and Commissioners. Our goal and mindset is to maintain this healthy relationship for the foreseeable future. A healthy relationship between labor and management provides superior service to our supportive citizens of the community. We as a department recognize that our citizens' well-being is paramount and it is our privilege to serve them!



Towards the latter half of the year, several other Bargaining Unit Members completed the paramedic class. Jason Weissman, Brett Hylwa, Bill Pratt, Paul Wojcik and Jordan Velazquez all made the commitment to becoming paramedics for our ALS Program. Congratulations to them all for their successful completion of the class and "BIG" thanks for their commitment.

In December, we welcomed three (3) new employees to SMFR and our Rank-n-File Bargaining Unit; Crystal Tucciarone, Kyle Brady and Ian Segneri. All three were Volunteers and were promoted to full-time employees. Crystal Tucciarone has a tremendous amount of experience as a paramedic with Manatee County EMS. Kyle Brady and Ian Segneri are almost finished with paramedic school with a completion date of March 2020. We are excited for you as you begin your new careers, look forward to your success and thank you for being a member of our Union family.

In closing, I want to mention the honor it is has been to be a Southern Manatee employee over the past 28 years. I have had the opportunity and privilege to be a part of the positive transformation of Southern Manatee as the Bargaining Units' District Vice President over the past ten (10) years. The Union and Administration have worked collectively towards creating a fire department where the employees are treated like family. As a department, we are dedicated to our citizens by providing a superior level of service, compassion and understanding in an efficient and responsible manner. Providing a Fire and Rescue Service is not only our job, it's also a privilege to serve and protect our community. As 2019 becomes a part of history, we look forward to broadening our horizons and accomplishing new goals together as ONE!!

God Bless,  
District Vice President  
(DVP)

Adam Chevalier



## Car Seat Program

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have child safety seat laws. Child safety seat laws require children to travel in approved child restraints or booster seats and some permit or require older children to use adult safety belts. The age at which belts can be used instead of child safety seats differs among the states. Young children usually are covered by child safety seat laws, while safety belt laws cover older children and adults.



The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children younger than 13. Most crash deaths occur among children traveling as passenger vehicle occupants, and proper restraint use can reduce these fatalities. Restraining children in rear seats instead of front seats reduces fatal injury risk by about three-quarters for children up to age 3.

Southern Manatee Fire Rescue has nine Certified Car Seat Technicians, and they are all up for renewal on their respective certifications over the next 12 months. These technicians collectively installed 51 seats in 2019, an increase of 8 car seats from 2018. Each technician is certified voluntarily, are passionate about child safety, and are continuing to educate themselves on knowledge and techniques.

Southern Manatee Fire Rescue wishes to continue our partnership with Safe Kids to promote all aspects of child and adolescent safety. They have assisted us with car seat purchases as well as helping to educate us. This program creates and maintains positive public relations with the public as well as providing a needed service.



## Employee Recognition Program

Southern Manatee Fire Rescue recognizes the value of the services and sacrifices made to protect the lives and property of Manatee County citizens by its Firefighters and members of the public. The dedication of these individuals is recognized at the Commission meetings. In addition to the "Years of Service" awards, other categories include the Phoenix Award for saving the life of a cardiac arrest victim, Genesis Award for the delivery of a baby in the field, Military Awards for those who served and the "End of the Year" Annual Awards. Below are the recipients for 2019:

**Officer of the Year:**

Lieutenant Tony Hauck

**Firefighter of the Year:**

Firefighter/EMT Mike Geiser

**Rookie of the Year:**

Firefighter/Paramedic Mario Disi

**Staff Employee of the Year:**

Deputy Chief Rick Blanco



*Lt. Tony Hauck*



*Firefighter Mike Geiser*



*Firefighter Mario Disi*



*Deputy Chief Rick Blanco*

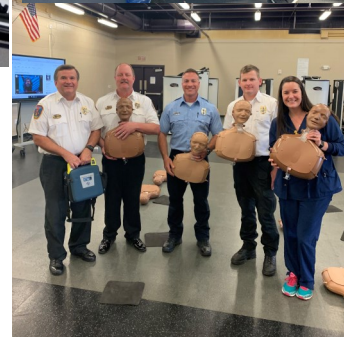
### Service Awards

Robert Thayer	30 years
Marc Morgan	25 years
Brent Ranney	20 years
Ryan Kaliher	20 years
Duane Ely	20 years
Sean Lucas	20 years
Randy Smith	20 years
Tim Keusch	15 years
Chuck Moonen	15 years
David Sedgley	15 years
Chris Snider	15 years
Michael White	15 years
Frank Meola	15 years
Tony Hauck	15 years
Mike Murphy	15 years
Paul Wojcik	15 years
Shokee Barry	15 years
Richard McGinley	10 years
Jordan Velazquez	5 years
Richard Asher	5 years
Brandon Baserva	1 year
Brian Craycraft	1 year
Alex Davis	1 year
Michael Dunois	1 year
Logan Savitsky	1 year
Justin Young	1 year



### Genesis Award

Jerry Bennett  
 Brian Craycraft  
 Melvin Bonds  
 Brian Hodges  
 Steve Gibson  
 Brittan Williams  
 Danny Burton  
 Chris Burghdurf  
 Tony Lear  
 Crystal Tucciarone





### **Haz-mat**

Sean Lucas  
Duane Ely  
Michael Murphy  
Steve Gibson  
Christopher Burghdurf



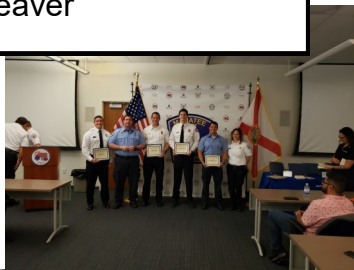
### **Phoenix Award Ribbon and/or Certificate**

Tim Keusch  
Bernadette Kenniff (2)  
Keil Duquette  
Robert Thayer  
Adam Chevalier  
Jarek DeHart  
Rich Gatanis  
Dustin Daughtrey  
Justin Young  
Robert Moore  
Justin Markey (2)  
Chad Dagostino  
Randy Smith  
Alex Davis  
Danny Burton (2)  
Matt Yoder (2)  
Tony Lear (2)  
Tony Hauck  
Derek Foss  
Shawn McMullen  
Richard Asher



### **SaraMana Sons of the American Revolution Award**

Dwayne McKeaver



### **Florida 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Fire Rescue and EMS Awards**

Mike Bloski







**This annual report is a courtesy of the Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District. We strive daily to provide the best fire-rescue protection and fire safety education to the citizens of our Community. If you have any questions or comments about this report or would like any information about the programs discussed, please do not hesitate to contact us.**

**Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District (941) 751-7675**