



LETTER FROM THE CHIEF



Each year I am pleased to highlight the hard work and dedication the men and women of the St. Anthony Fire Department do on an annual basis. This annual report is one way that we are able to get our message out and really share our accomplishments with the public. Many in our community are not aware that we had a historic year when it comes to our calls for service. 1661 calls is the highest in the history of the department. Tie that with the fact that we are in our 2nd full year of the COVID pandemic which was something we had to consider on almost every call.

Training was something that we continued throughout as well. We did it over Zoom but also in-person with a focus on masking, distance and airflow. This was an area that we could not let up on simply because we put such a high priority on it.

At our department we say that “competence builds confidence.” If you are a firefighter, a surgeon or an electrician, you want a confident person doing a good job. The public deserves that from us and we owe it to ourselves.

We had another very productive and impactful year and that is because of these dedicated firefighters who make it all happen.

I am once again pleased to present the St. Anthony Fire Department Annual Report for 2021.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Our biggest Community Engagement event of the year is our Annual Fire Department Open House. This is an event that is packed full with different safety topics, presented in fun ways for the whole family. With the dynamics of the pandemic and weather not fully cooperating, we were excited to still have around 450 people attend the event. This year we had a full-cardiac arrest scenario, where we showed the medical tools that we bring into a scene and highlighted our EMS operations and what a cardiac arrest scene looks like. New this year we had a fire safety trivia wheel, where those attending could spin the wheel and answer fire safety questions to win a prize. In addition to that, members of the department made it to Night to Unite as well as Santa on the Fire Truck. Both events are excellent engagement opportunities where we are really able to interact with the public.



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COVID RESPONSE



The COVID pandemic has been front and center for the men and women of the SAFD. We dealt with COVID positive patients as well as those that were symptomatic on a daily basis. Protocols were implemented to provide for the safety of the responders but we did not waver in our response to the residents.

PPE was a struggle at first however we already had an existing cache of supplies (N95's, sanitizer, gowns) available for staff which allowed us to continue to provide care with no hiccups. Like others we did have to wait to resupply however never once did we run out of needed PPE for staff. Creativity as it often does showed up at the department coming from various firefighters on their drive to improve or fix a problem.

A portable sanitizing system was developed using a sanitizing solution, an SCBA and a paint sprayer. This allowed staff to spray down our medical bags, equipment, vehicles and the station after calls.

As we continue to move forward through this pandemic, the understanding is that this may lessen but it will not be going away. We know that there will always be respiratory pathogens that we will have to deal with. The goal is to continue to provide that high level of service that we strive for on every call and to not “miss a beat” doing so. The firefighters of the SAFD have once again shown their commitment and dedication to taking care of others and putting the patient first. This pandemic has only strengthened our resolve to take care of those that need it.



TECHNOLOGY



Stayin Alive by the Bee Gees has been tied to CPR for a number of years. Now we are taking that one step further and have implemented a new device that has removed the song but the beat remains.

Due to the number of high rise buildings in Korea, patients in cardiac arrest were seated upright to fit the stretchers into the narrow elevators. While conventional CPR is done on a flat surface, researchers noticed cardiac arrest survival rates of those that had CPR in a seated position (also known as Fowler's position) were significantly higher. After a multitude of studies, researchers developed the EleGARD; a device to provide a slight elevation of the patients head to increase blood flow to the brain and ultimately, save more lives.

St. Anthony Fire Department has had the EleGARD in service for a year now, and the results have been profound. The EleGARD fits into the current cardiac arrest protocols, following the clinically proven beneficial steps of CPR, use of an AED, and airway management. Once all of those benchmarks have been achieved, the EleGARD is placed under the patient to slowly elevate the head, which creates a more natural position for blood to be pumped into the brain.

CPR pumps oxygenated blood to the brain when the heart cannot. One major downside is that it doesn't always allow the deoxygenated blood out of the brain. The EleGARD provides the optimal angle to return deoxygenated blood to the heart and lungs without making it too difficult to deliver oxygenated blood back up to the brain through CPR.

St. Anthony Fire Department's rapid response, trained professionals, and advanced equipment has been very impactful on giving those in cardiac arrest a second chance at life.



St. Anthony Village Fire Department



@stanthonyfire

YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2021, the department responded to 1661 calls for service. This was the highest number of calls in our history. The calls ranged from emergency and non-emergency medical response to structure fires, vehicle accidents, fire alarms and hazardous materials response. The majority of the emergency responses were handled by the 2 firefighters on-duty and fire chief.

The department responded to 17 structure fires with 3 of those requiring mutual aid assistance. Because of our 24/7 on duty staffing and an average response time of 2 minutes 46 seconds, the total dollar loss was limited to \$226,150. There were no deaths and 0 reported civilian injuries.

In the fall we had 3 cardiac arrests spanning 8 weeks where all 3 patients walked out of the hospital with no cognitive deficiencies and were reunited with their loved ones.

The fire department operates out of 1 station that holds 3 engines, 1 utility truck, 1 rescue truck, a boat and the chief's vehicle. The duty crew is made up of 2 firefighters who are able to handle the majority of the calls for service. With our model we are able to request additional assistance from our 22 dedicated paid on-call firefighters. When we have multiple calls at once or if we have a larger incident where we need personnel, a request for additional staffing is made and those who are available come back to the station and take the next call or assist the duty crew.

TRAINING

Fire department training is vital to keep skills and knowledge sharp. As the years have gone by we are constantly learning new ways of doing things, which improves the department as a whole. Training plays a big part in being a firefighter as there is always some skill that you can improve on. 2021 was our 2nd full year of battling the pandemic. This made training difficult at times. Topics and the way we could get together seemed to be constantly changing. In 2021 we had a total of 2455 documented hours of training. This equates to about 87 hours of training per firefighter on the department. The State of MN requires 24 hours of firefighter training annually which means we exceeded the minimum requirement by more than 3x. We had a total of 32 drills in 2021 and these are a few examples of the training that we focused on:

- Live Fire at the Minneapolis Training Facility
- Hose Loads and Deployment
- EMT
- Pumping and Apparatus Driving
- Physical Agility
- Ladders and Ventilation
- Officer Training which is only for the officers of the department and it focused more on Incident Command and strategies and tactics.

The fire service has always made training a priority and pandemic or not we are going to continue the focus on improving each day.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

The fire service has been known for our years of adapting to ever changing trends. This past year proved to be no different, with the ongoing dynamics of the pandemic. Our Fire Prevention/Public Education program found new ground in the form of digital and social media. We changed our teachings from classroom settings to the online world. We also increased our presence on social media, sharing many informative tips for families to stay safe in various ways. Some of our videos and posts that we made were viewed thousands of times. The SAFD has always made Fire Prevention/Public Education a priority. We strive to make sure we get our message out and that it applies to a wide range of ages. The following are examples of the various topics that we cover with our residents:

- We continued our CPR classes for the 9th graders by moving them online.
- Maintained our focus of working with the younger kids to cover a broad range of topics.
- Firefighters are our friends
- Smoke Alarms
- Safe Escape Planning for the Home
- Safe Escape House
- Fire Safety Poster Contest - "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety." was the theme.
- Fire Dynamics/Fire Science – Understanding Fire from the science perspective.
- In-Home Safety for Senior Citizens

We are extremely proud of the work that we have done in and around our community tied to our education efforts but we will always continue to expand our educational opportunities and partnerships in order to extend our reach.



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2021 ANNUAL REPORT

