



Columbia-Richland
Fire Department
2021 Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



Greetings,

As fire chief of the City of Columbia and Richland County it is my pleasure to share with you our department's calendar year report for the year 2021. Like every year the contents and highlights of this report would not have been made possible without the dedicated work of our firefighters and civilian staff members. I consider it an honor to lead these talented men and women each day as together we work to provide the best services possible for our citizens.

Over the course of 2021 our city, county, state and the world at large continued to grapple with complications brought on by COVID-19. While vaccines for the virus became available earlier in the year, variants of COVID-19 brought several surges in cases to our area. As a result, this prevented our department from seeing a complete return to the level of community engagement we were used to before the pandemic began. Virtual video applications such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams were still used by our staff over the course of the year in order to maintain connections with our citizens and provide them needed services. This included but was not limited to making appearances at area schools to speak with children and

providing assistance with smoke alarm installations for those who are most vulnerable.

This past year also brought tragedy to our department as we lost two of our members to illness in just a span of a few short days. The loss of Chaplain Billie Bright and Battalion Chief Joseph Casey Desso was felt throughout our ranks. Both men were dedicated members of CRFD who devoted their lives to serving others. We will never forget them or the daily positive impacts they made among our members and in the community at large.

Despite these challenges and difficulties, our members once again rose to the occasion and excelled in their work. Over the course of 2021, the heroic actions of our firefighters would earn them several awards and for the second year in a row our department as a whole would be named a 'Fire Safe SC' community for our work in community risk reduction. Receiving this honor is a true testament to the daily mission our members have to keep our citizens safe. We know we can not only make a difference in people's lives by saving them from danger but by also educating them on ways to avoid it.

I hope you will enjoy reading through the material you find in this report. As a new year begins our department will continue to push forward, overcome presented challenges and do it all with the intent of serving our citizens to the highest level.

Community, Integrity and Service have always been the core values of CRFD and that will never change.

Be safe and be well,

Aubrey D. Jenkins, Columbia-Richland Fire Chief

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



The CRFD Public Information Office acts as a liaison between our agency and the communities we serve. The department's Public Information Officer communicates information from CRFD in a number of ways. This includes through our many social media platforms and by providing information to numerous media outlets in the Columbia area. The purpose of the CRFD Public Information Office is to provide transparency in all affairs of the department with our citizens and aid them in providing community feedback to the department and its leadership.

SOCIAL MEDIA

<i>Twitter</i>	629 posts
<i>Facebook</i>	555 posts
<i>Instagram</i>	365 posts
<i>Nextdoor Neighbor</i>	29 posts
TOTAL	1,578 posts

Social Media Highlights of 2021

- Twitter followers of CRFD have now surpassed 9,900.
- Facebook followers of our department page surpassed 18,000 over the course of the year.
- The department has close to 5,300 followers on Instagram.
- The department's YouTube account continues to be an effective tool for releasing content related to department affairs. Over the course of the year the account was primarily used to release internal training videos for our staff members. This allowed training curriculum to be viewed more quickly and easily not only by our firefighters but also recruit prospects.

CRFD WEBSITE

52 stories posted in 2021

DEPARTMENT INTERVIEWS

	ON CAMERA INT.	INT. BY PHONE	RADIO INT.
JANUARY	13	29	0
FEBRUARY	8	15	0
MARCH	4	11	0
APRIL	11	19	0
MAY	17	17	0
JUNE	1	18	0
JULY	1	13	0
AUGUST	3	10	0
SEPTEMBER	10	20	0
OCTOBER	21	10	1
NOVEMBER	3	8	0
DECEMBER	3	5	1
2020 TOTALS	95	175	2

DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES

34 press releases put out over the course of 2021

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

300 FOIA's received and answered

CITIZEN INQUIRIES

568 inquires answered through the department website & social media platforms

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS TO CRFD

Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins – Officially sworn in as the 2020-2021 President of the South Carolina State Association of Fire Chiefs **(January)**



Columbia-Richland Fire Department – Selected by the National Fire Protection Association to take part in a nationwide pilot program for Community Risk Reduction. The program will help chart our communities and the types of emergencies they experience. **(January)**

Assistant Fire Marshal Bengie Leverett – Honored with the 2020 'Firefighter of the Year Award' by the members of American Legion-Richland Post 6. **(May)**



Public Fire Education Officer Ariel Thomas – Presented with the ‘Community Leader Honoree Award’ during the South Carolina JuneTeenth Freedom Fest Gala Noir in Blythewood. (June)



Columbia-Richland Fire Department – Recognized for the second year in a row as a ‘Fire Safe SC’ community by Fire Safe South Carolina. This achievement for our community risk reduction efforts led to the department being recognized by the Columbia City Council as well as the Richland County Council. (July)



Columbia-Richland Fire Department – Recognized with the ‘Outside Agency Award’ from the Columbia Police Department. **(August)**

Columbia-Richland Fire Department – Recognized for Fire Prevention Month by the City of Columbia City Council. **(October)**

Fire Captain Christopher Cotton, Engineer Cody Dominick, Firefighter Len Stokes Jr. , Richland County EMS Corporal Theresa Douglass, EMT Nathan Miller & Lieutenant Andrew Fowler – Recognized with the CRFD Phoenix Award for their work on a CPR save. **(October)**



Fire Captain Cleo Jackson, Engineer Layne Dowey, Engineer Kenneth Foster, Engineer Justin Epps, Engineer Arthur Mitchell, Senior Firefighter Travis Wiggins, Volunteer Fire Captain Michael Deal, Volunteer Firefighter Booker Moore & Volunteer Firefighter Ryan Doerzbacher – Recognized with the CRFD Phoenix Award for their work rescuing and providing life-saving care to two victims of a house fire. **(October)**



Fire Captain David Cooper, Engineer Devon Ash, Firefighter Shannon Peters & Firefighter David Palevich – Recognized with the CRFD Stork Award for their work delivering a baby girl. (October)



Battalion Chief David Reed, Fire Captain Christopher Cotton, Firefighter Len Stokes Jr. & Firefighter Kevin O'Brien – Recognized with the CRFD Stork Award for their work delivering a baby girl. (November)



Fire Captain Matthew Busenlehner, Fire Captain Terri Hale, Fire Captain Jason Herbert, Engineer Ethan Blackmon, Engineer Austin Graham, Engineer Sami Sanders, Senior Firefighter Campbell Jacobs, Senior Firefighter Matthew Valencia, Firefighter Ryan Espling, Firefighter Marcus Pee, Firefighter Trent Yandle, Volunteer Firefighter Brett Powell Recognized with the HURST Jaws of Life Green Cross Award for their work on a vehicle extrication rescue that happened on I-77. (December)



Fire Investigator Kenneth Willis – Recognized with the ‘Firefighter of the Year’ award from the Knights of Columbus. (December)

TOTAL AWARDS & HONORS – 42

CRFD COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2021

'Famously Hot New Year' – The department once again committed resources in support of the city's New Year's celebration on New Year's Eve and into New Year's Day morning. **(January)**

'Wear Red Day for Women' – Several members of the CRFD Command Staff joined city of Columbia leaders in wearing red for women on Friday, February 5. They wore red items to work to help spread crucial awareness of cardiovascular health in women. **(February)**



'Volunteering with 'Meals on Wheels' – Over the course of the week of March 22 several members of our CRFD Command Staff stepped up to assist 'Senior Resources Inc.' with making 'Meals on Wheels' deliveries around the area. Fire department staff made the deliveries during 'Senior Resources Community Champions Week.'

By the end of the week our staff has successfully delivered roughly 30 meals to area citizens who are currently home bound. **(March)**



'9-1-1 Appreciation Parade' – During the afternoon of Friday April 16 CRFD organized a small parade to thank our many great staffers at the Richland County 9-1-1 Center.

Vehicles from the department along with ones from Richland County EMS, the Columbia Police Department and the Richland County Sheriff's Department all processed from the parking lot of the Township Auditorium, down Blanding Street and by the 9-1-1 Center off of Barnwell Street.



Several dispatchers and call takers came out to watch the parade go by. The event was organized to show appreciation during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. The parade was covered by ABC Columbia News, WACH FOX and WLTX News 19. **(April)**

‘Community Push-In for New Engine 34’ – Richland County Councilman Overture Walker and Assistant County Administrator Dr. John Thompson would join our staff members for a ‘Push In Ceremony’ for the new CRFD Engine 34 on Monday April 20. The new engine has been in service at Station 34 since late last year. It is the only Spartan model fire engine in the department. **(April)**



‘Babcock Building Press Conference’ - On Friday April 23 CRFD Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins took part in press conference with other City of Columbia officials to discuss upcoming renovations to the historic Babcock Building. The cause of the 3-Alarm fire that caused extensive damages to it remains under investigation. **(April)**



(Photo courtesy of ‘The State’ newspaper)

'Truck Demo with Construction Workers' - As part of 2021 Construction Safety Week, CRFD held a series of truck demonstrations with area construction workers on May 4 and 5. The sessions were set up to help workers understand how we respond to emergencies related to their occupations. **(May)**



'Prisma Health Physicians Visit' - The department was once again honored to host physicians in residence at Prisma Health Midlands to our department training grounds. Over the years CRFD has welcomed hospital staff to learn more about the fire service and how our crews handle patient care in various types of emergencies.



On May 19 roughly 30 doctors in ER residence at the hospital got to observe our firefighters perform several vehicle extrication exercises. This was done to show them how our firefighters aid victims of vehicle wrecks and the types of injuries these accidents can cause. **(May)**

‘Battle of the Badges’ – CRFD once again took part in promoting and participating in the annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive in support of the American Red Cross. On Friday May 28, 2021 the department took on the Columbia Police Department and the Richland County Sheriff’s Department to see who could raise the most pints of donated blood.

The sheriff’s department ultimately won the competition but CRFD still had a strong showing of support! **(May)**



‘Marine Teams with RCSD’ - CRFD and the Richland County Sheriff’s Department worked together to keep citizens safe on the waters of Lake Murray.



Firefighters joined members of the sheriff’s department on two RCSD boats during peak days of lake use this summer. This included days during the Memorial Day Weekend, the July 4th Holiday as well as Labor Day Weekend.

Joint staffing the boats allowed firefighters to reach locations on the lake faster during medical emergencies. CRFD members were also trained to operate the boats if deputies have to board other watercrafts during police matters. **(May)**

'Fire Rescue South Carolina 2021' – Several members of CRFD took part in the annual South Carolina Fire Rescue Conference at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center from June 10-13. On Thursday June 10 our Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins and Fire Marshal George Adams delivered welcoming remarks to guests at opening ceremonies for the conference.



On Saturday June 12 the department was recognized as one of 80 departments in the state to be named a 'Fire Safe South Carolina Community' for the year 2020. This was CRFD's second straight year earning this honor, which is given to departments who do an exceptional job reducing fire-related injuries and promoting fire safety and prevention in their communities.

On Sunday June 13 the department sent several firetrucks to take part in the annual Memorial Service to honor South Carolina firefighters who died in the line of duty. **(June)**

'Carver-Lyon Elementary School Parade' – Fire Marshal George Adams led the 5th Grade Promotion Parade at Carver-Lyon Elementary School on June 10. **(June)**



'National Night Out 2021' – CRFD was proud to once again join our partners in law enforcement and the community at large for the annual National Night Out celebration.

Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins and several of our department crews made appearances at community events across the City of Columbia and Richland County on NNO night, which was Tuesday August 3, 2021.

The department also took part in the NNO Kickoff Celebration on Thursday evening July 29 at Page Ellington Park. Engine 1 and Rescue 1 were on scene to interact with guests and members of our Fire Prevention Division assisted the city's parks and recreation department by cooking hotdogs.





Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins and Public Information Officer Mike DeSumma also took part in a make-up National Night Out event that took place at Meeting Place Church near the Columbia Mall on Tuesday August 10. **(August)**



'H2O for Heroes' – Area Firehouse Subs restaurants raised and donated more than 100 cases of bottle water to the department during this years 'H2O for Heroes' campaign on Saturday, August 7. Water from three area restaurants was picked up by our staff. **(August)**



‘Starbucks Ribbon Cutting’– On Friday August 20, Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins and other members of the CRFD Command Staff attended a ribbon cutting for the new Starbucks on Forest Drive. The new Starbucks is the first community store in the state of South Carolina. **(August)**



‘Back to School’ Supply Drives’ – During several days in mid-August members of the department contributed their support to several ‘Back to School’ supply drives in the area. On Saturday August 14, CRFD Assistant Chief Mickey Folsom dropped off school supplies that were donated at Pine Grove Elementary. A ‘Back to School Bash’ was taking place at the school that day. The event was organized by area nonprofit P.I.T.C.H. (Positively Influencing the Community with Heart) to raise school supplies for area families in need.



The very next week Sparky the Fire Dog accompanied Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins to Wal-Mart where more school supplies were purchased. These items were then donated to Columbia City Councilman Edward McDowell's school supply fundraiser on Saturday August 21.

In all the department and its members purchased and donated hundreds of dollars worth of school supplies. **(August)**

'Honoring the 20th Anniversary of 9/11' - CRFD was once again honored to provide resources in support of annual events to commemorate the 9/11 Attacks. Ladder 9 was staged with an aerial flag at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center for both the Tunnel to Towers 5K on the evening of September 10 as well as the 9/11 Morning of Remembrance Ceremony on Saturday September 11.

Members of the department's honor guard also took part in the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony while Mule 1 was used at Tunnel to Towers to help organizers of the 5K take pictures.



Deputy fire marshals were present at both events to help ensure all spectators complied with Columbia's protective mask ordinance.

Community members also took time to show our firefighters appreciation close to the anniversary of 9/11. Volunteers with Senior Resources provided a catered BBQ lunch to members of Battalion 5-2nd Shift on Thursday, September 9. The 2nd Shift crew at Station 14 received the BBQ and from there it was shared with the rest of Battalion 5. Volunteers with Senior Resources also rode by the station to show their appreciation to our crews. **(September)**

'Isabel Law Breakfast' – Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins once again served as a 'celebrity server' for the annual Isabel Law Breakfast at Columbia City Hall on October 1.

All proceeds raised from the breakfast went to support the Mayor's Campaign Against Breast Cancer. **(October)**



‘National Fire Prevention Week’– National Fire Prevention Week officially kicked off on Sunday, October 3 and the department followed suit by beginning promotions on our CRFD social media platforms.

Over the course of the week we shared information and activities surrounding this year’s FPW campaign -- ‘Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety.’

Also on Tuesday October 5 members of the CRFD command staff were present during the Columbia City Council Meeting as a proclamation was read officially declaring it National Fire Prevention Month in the City of Columbia. **(October)**



‘Carolina Cares’– During Fire Prevention Week, CRFD Fire Marshal George Adams sat down with Tyler Ryan to do the Carolina Cares radio program.

Chief Adams took part in a 30 minute, commercial free show with Ryan to discuss a variety of fire safety topics, including cooking safety, the importance of checking and maintaining your smoke alarms as well as creating a fire escape plan for your home.

The segment ran on several iHeart radio stations in the Columbia area on Sunday October 10. [It is also posted to the Carolina Cares webpage.](#) **(October)**



‘Happy Birthday Mr. Busbee’– On October 25 CRFD gave a well-deserved salute to our Chief Photographer Robert Busbee on his 89th birthday! A Birthday Cruise Call was organized to go by Mr. Busbee’s house late Monday morning. He was also presented with balloons and a birthday card from CRFD Division Chief Scott Jacobs. **(October)**





‘First Responders Day’– Engine 14 and Firefighter Jason Bordeaux represented the department in a photo shoot for ‘First Responders Day’ in late October. The shoot was organized by the PIO team at the Richland County Sheriff’s Department and also featured representatives from RCSD, the Columbia Police Department and Richland County EMS.

The sheriff’s department had this photo posted on its social media accounts on October 28 during First Responders Day and we shared it on our CRFD accounts from there. **(October)**



‘Fall Fest’– On Saturday, October 30 CRFD sent a station crew to take part in ‘Fall Fest’ at the Columbiana Mall. The event was organized by the Columbia Police Department as well as other officials with the City of Columbia.



Engine 6 was on scene to help give out candy to trick or treaters that attended.

(October)

'Inside CRFD'– On November 5 the department unveiled it's first 'Inside CRFD' video on social media. This new segment will allow the public to get an inside look at some of our fire stations and meet our firefighters.

The first station to be featured was Station 24 on Sparkleberry Lane. Battalion Chief Tomas Niles and Senior Firefighter Duncan Oliver both appeared in the video to give a tour of the station and show our response vehicles and equipment there. **(November)**



‘Malfunction Junction Project Groundbreaking’– On November 8 members of the department attended a press conference with SCDOT to announce groundbreaking on the Carolina Crossroads project.

The project is South Carolina's largest interstate improvement project to date and will improve 14 miles of I-20, I-26 and I-126. **(November)**



‘Veterans Day Parade’ - CRFD was once again honored to join in the community celebration of our veterans at the annual Veteran’s Day Parade in Columbia. Engine 1, Rescue 1, Ladder 9 and several members of our command staff all took part in the parade on Sumter Street on November 11.



The department was also joined by several members of the Columbia City Council as well as the Richland County Council. **(November)**

'Volunteer Appreciation Dinner' - Battalion Chief Kareem Spain and members of Battalion 3-1st Shift hosted their annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on November 16 to thank volunteer members of the battalion for their work over the past year.



Family members of our volunteer firefighters and officers were also in attendance. **(November)**

'Facebook Live Segment with the Red Cross' – On November 18 CRFD Assistant Fire Marshal Bengie Leverett took part in a Facebook Live Interview with Red Cross South Carolina. The topic of discussion was ways to keep fire safe while using heating sources and cooking for the holidays. A link to the full interview was shared on our CRFD social media platforms. **(November)**



‘Block Party for First Responders’ – Several of our CRFD 2nd Shift crews attended a holiday block party hosted by The Holiday Inn in downtown Columbia On December 2. The event featured free food and drinks as well as live music. **(December)**



‘Carolina Carillon Holiday Parade’ – CRFD firetrucks and members once again took part in the annual Carolina Carillon Holiday Parade in downtown Columbia on Saturday, December 4.

Engine 1 and Ladder 7 took part in the event on Sumter Street, which each year ushers in the holiday season for the Midlands. **(December)**



‘Good Night Lights’ - The department was thrilled to contribute to ‘Good Night Lights’ at Palmetto Children’s Hospital on December 5. Ladder 7 was on scene to

give Santa Claus a lift so he could greet children who are receiving care at the hospital. **(December)**



'City Employee Holiday Luncheon' – On December 9 Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins and members of the CRFD command staff assisted with food distribution at the annual City of Columbia Employee Holiday Luncheon.



This year's event was a drive-thru luncheon due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19. Employees were able to drive through the city's wastewater treatment site to collect their lunch and go on their way. **(December)**

'Junior Fire Marshal's Program' – Fire Education Officer Ariel Thomas, Sparky the Fire Dog and members of the department's Fire Prevention Division visited Watkins-Nance Elementary School to recognize children there as Junior Fire Marshals during the week of December 10.

The children at Watkins-Nance put in work to learn and practice fire safety skills. **(December)**



'Photos with Santa' – On Saturday December 11 area first responders and their families were treated to free photos with Santa Claus at the department's fire museum. This annual event was once again hosted by the Columbia Fire Family Association. Children who attended the event also got free snacks and other fun prizes. **(December)**



‘Firefighters Feeding Families’ – Our 2nd annual ‘Firefighters Feeding Families Holiday Food Drive’ was a great success. On Friday, December 17 the department took in enough food donations from the community to fill roughly 200 bags during our community collection day. These bags of food were then distributed to area citizens in need on Monday December 21.

Many of the donated items came from merchants such as Wal-Mart and Sam’s Club. This year packs of chicken and cooked hams were also donated by stores so area families could have meat to go with their meals. **(December)**



‘Santa Rides Through Five Points’ – Ladder 9-3rd Shift provided Santa Claus with a ride through Five Points, the Shandon neighborhood and other parts of the city to spread holiday cheer on Saturday, December 18.

The ride started at Station 9 on Devine Street and went to area neighborhoods from there. Fire Chief Jenkins organized the ride along with area community leaders. **(December)**



‘Sendoff for Mayor Benjamin & City Council’ – On December 21 Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins and members of the department would take part in a final salute to outgoing Columbia mayor Steve Benjamin and members of the city council who will not return in January.



This recognition event took place during the city council’s final meeting of the year on Tuesday, December 21. Chief Jenkins presented each outgoing council member with an honorary certificate of membership from the department as well as a challenge coin from the chief for excellence.

The outgoing members of council were also given a ceremonial final tone out over 9-1-1 dispatch. **(December)**

WORKING THROUGH COVID-19

Over the course of the year CRFD continued to combat and overcome challenges created by COVID-19 and its many variants. Here are some of the ways that the department continued our normal operations and reached goals despite this lingering health crisis.

‘Firefighters Vaccinate for COVID-19’ – Over the course of January members of CRFD would begin the process of getting vaccinated for COVID-19. Among the first to accomplish this was Columbia-Richland Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins who received his first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine on Monday, January 4, 2021.

By the end of January roughly 70 members of CRFD had been vaccinated. Some members of the department also took part in creating public relations materials, which were used in our ‘Firefighters Vaccinate’ campaign. That project featured videos and photos that were released on our social media platforms encouraging members of the community to vaccinate against the virus.



‘Supporting COVID-19 Relief’ – On Friday January 15, 2021 the department mobilized resources to support two COVID-19 Vaccination sites: one in the Columbia area and another in York County.

CRFD staff moved two 20 foot by 20 foot pop up tents as well as folding chairs and tables to Gamecock Park on Bluff Road where Prisma Health Midlands distributed vaccinations.



In addition to that the department also provided York County Emergency Management with 20 tables and 50 chairs for a vaccination site in York County. The items were loaded by our staff on a trailer which was picked up. York County officials stored the trailer in a secure location for the duration of the clinic.

The resources were requested through South Carolina DHEC Midlands Medical Coalition.

‘Virtual Reading Days’ – Despite the pandemic our department continued to support reading programs with area school children. During the last two weeks of February CRFD staff members videotaped several reading segments for kids to enjoy at area schools. The videos were aired during virtual reading days at Carver-Lyon Elementary School, Catawba Trail Elementary School and CrossRoads Intermediate School.

A reading segment that Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins and Deputy Fire Marshal Ariel Thomas also taped for a Black History Month program at the Richland Library also aired there during the month of February.



‘Virtual Recruiting’ – As part of recruitment activities CRFD hosted a virtual ‘Q & A’ session on the evening of March 4, 2021.

Recruitment Officer Captain James Bostic and Volunteer Coordinator William Broschius hosted the meeting. In the days leading up to the event it was promoted on our CRFD social media platforms.



‘Firefighter Recruit Class 2020-02 Graduation’ – The department welcomed 16 new firefighters into our ranks as the members of Recruit Class 2020-02 officially graduated on Friday March 5, 2021. Their graduation ceremony was held at Charlie Johnson Stadium on the campus of Benedict College.

Assistant County Administrator Dr. John Thompson served as the keynote speaker for the event and the recruits were able to invite guests to attend. Everyone in attendance adhered to COVID-19 preventative guidelines.



‘School Mask Mandate’ – From late summer through the fall of the year CRFD supported the City of Columbia’s implementation of a school mask mandate. This mandate required all students, teachers and visitors at schools located within the city limits to wear a face covering.

The department would support the ordinance by engaging with students and faculty on the importance of wearing masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins, Sparky the Fire Dog and other members of our department paid visits to several area schools while the mask ordinance was in effect.



‘Curing Kids Cancer Firetruck Pull’– CRFD once again provided support to the annual Firetruck Pull to benefit Curing Kids Cancer. This year the event was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Teams taking part raised funds in support of Curing Kids Cancer over a three day period from August 26 through August 28.



One team was made up of CRFD members and it raised funds in memory of Killian Owen, whose courageous battle with cancer led to the founding of CKC.

Information on the event was shared on our department's social media pages from August 26 through August 28. By the end of the fundraiser CRFD's team had captured \$185 in support of CKC.

OPERATIONS DIVISION



Expectations and Training

The Operations Division of CRFD is responsible for ensuring safe, effective, and efficient responses to all calls for service from the public or partner agencies in the City of Columbia and Richland County. These responses require a variety of actions including fire suppression, medical stabilization and basic life support, hazardous material (HAZMAT) mitigation, and the execution of technical rescues. Preparation and support for HAZMAT mitigation and technical rescue responses is performed by the Special Operations Bureau of the Operations Division.

Our department also frequently responds outside of our jurisdiction, when requested, through mutual aid and automatic aid agreements. These neighboring areas we can respond to include Cayce, West Columbia, Irmo, Lexington County, Fairfield County, Kershaw County, Sumter County, and Fort Jackson.

Occasionally CRFD will support more distant regions of the state, when specifically requested, through the South Carolina Firefighter Mobilization system or State Task Force Program.

Work in 2021

The Operations Division began several far-reaching initiatives in 2021.

The first involved *intentional communication of our department's mission and values* to help solidify an organizational identity, a shared meaning and purpose among our personnel. This precipitated a focus on professionalism that our staff is carrying into 2022.

We started using *daily measurable objectives to both clearly communicate our expectations to staff and to set goals for improved effectiveness*. We tracked the implementation of these objectives and have been able to use resulting information to direct our efforts for improvement. Daily objectives were the following:

- Daily inspection of road worthiness for all department vehicles
- Daily inventories of equipment assigned to each vehicle (including medical bags)
- Completion of annual company and individual training requirements
- Completion and review of all incident reports created from calls we service
- Decreasing turn out times to our calls for service

In conjunction with the department's training division we have also developed a fruitful program of using Chief Officer Leadership Training (COLTS) to identify company level, battalion level, and overall department training needs. We then have used resulting information to design and execute our periodic multi-unit drills (MUDS) for our suppression crews. This has added a dimension of *progressive learning* to the department that identifies and then introduces new valuable skills, allows our members to practice these skills, and then incorporates these initiatives as new formal expectations.

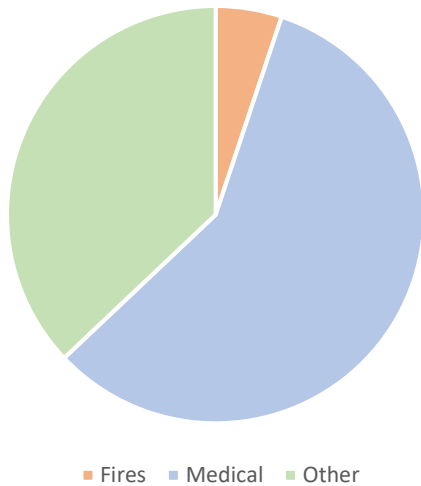
We also, augmented the medical response capabilities of our department by training our firefighters in high performance CPR and adding NARCAN administration to our medical capabilities.

Operational Statistics

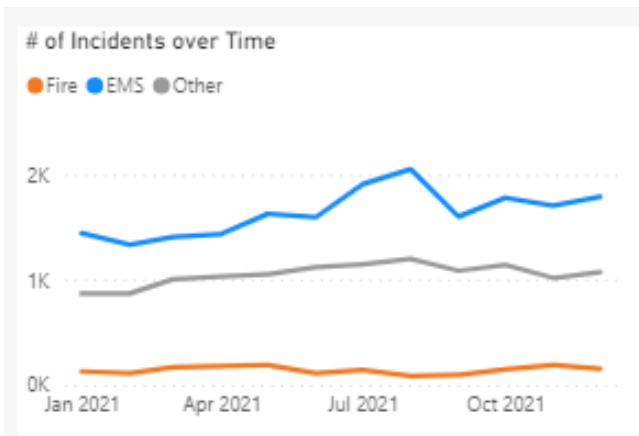
The Columbia-Richland Fire Department responded to over 34,000 calls for service in 2021.

Incident Series	# of Incidents
+ 1XX - Fire	1,749
+ 2XX - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat(no fire)	61
+ 3XX - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	19,717
+ 4XX - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	895
+ 5XX - Service Call	1,193
+ 6XX - Good Intent Call	3,670
+ 7XX - False Alarm & False Call	6,727
+ 8XX - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	31
+ 9XX - Special Incident Type	67
Total	34,110

2021 Calls for Service

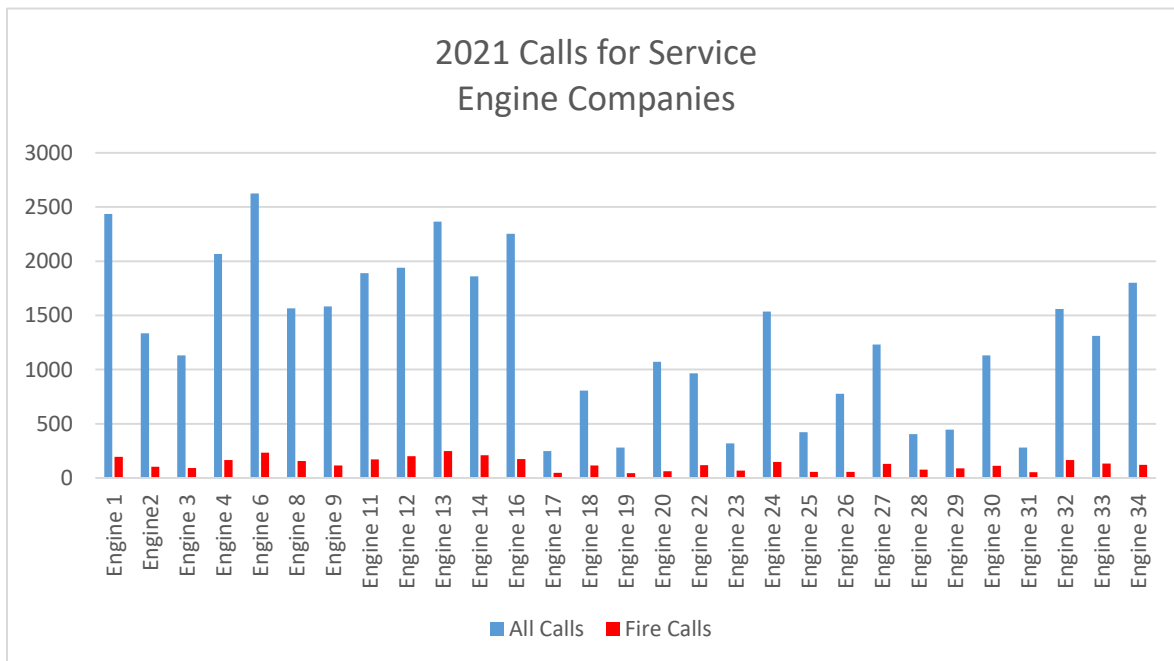


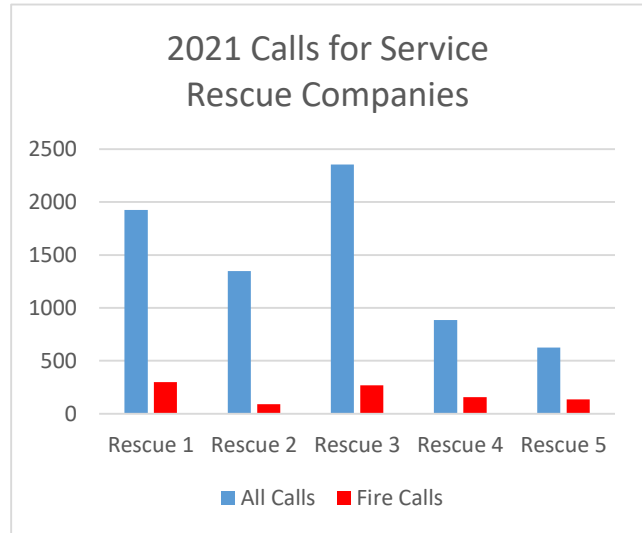
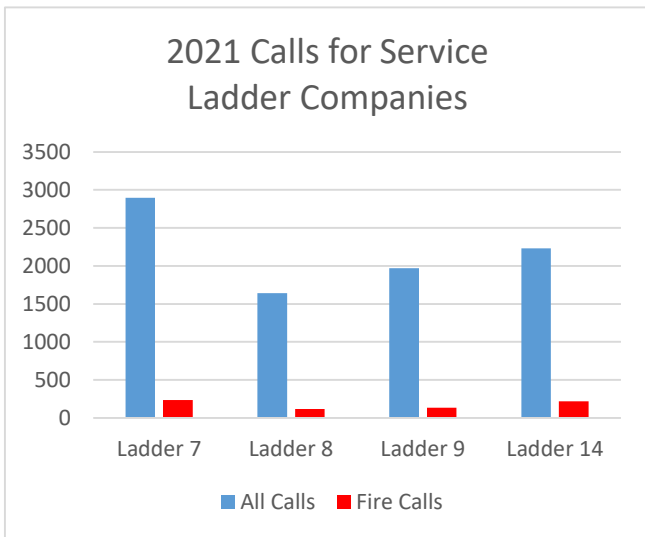
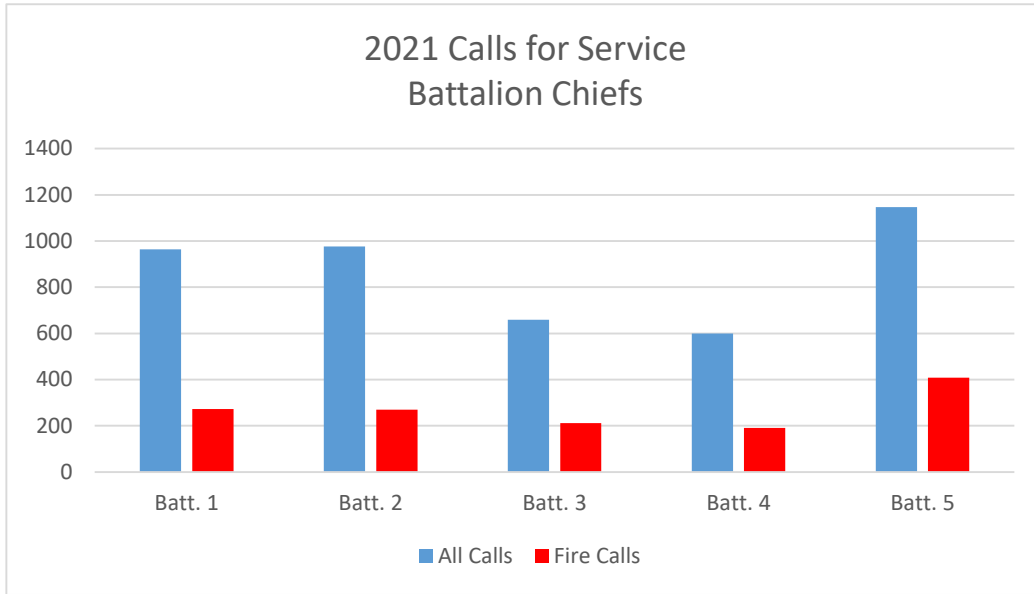
Of these calls 58% were medical in nature. In 2021 our firefighters responded to 313 vehicle entrapments requiring patient extrication, 17 water rescues and 6 rescues/recoveries that required complex rope rescue systems.



The dramatic spike in medical calls after July is most likely a result of the increased COVID medical cases because of summer gatherings. The increase in October of medical calls is probably a mark of the climax of the COVID Delta variant.

Fires service calls typically seem to remain constant through the year. Fire hazards that the summer brings seem to be balanced by specific fire hazards distinctive to the winter.





Promotions in 2021

Over the course of the year the department successfully promoted:

- 5 new battalion chiefs



- 14 new fire captains
- 8 new engineers
- 15 new senior firefighters
- 1 new volunteer fire captain
- 4 new volunteer engineers
- 1 new fire accreditation chief

In addition, the department also appointed:

- 3 new fire training officers
- 1 new fire public education officer

Major Incidents in 2021

Wednesday January 13, 2021 – AIRCRAFT CRASH WITH STRUCTURE FIRE

Just after 10:30 a.m. CRFD 3rd Shift crews along with Richland County EMS and Columbia Police Department crews responded to 2909 Kennedy Street in the Rosewood neighborhood for a reported plane crash that caused multiple homes to catch fire. Crews called for a 2nd alarm while en route to the scene. Upon their arrival firefighters found one home on fire with the flames primarily in the attic area.



The home had one occupant inside at the time but she was able to escape with minor injuries that were unrelated to the crash. Crews entered the home and were able to extinguish the fire.

The aircraft itself, which was a small single-engine plane, crashed in the backyard of the home. One person was found inside the wreckage and pronounced dead on scene. Removal of the body was handed over to the coroner's office. The victim was later identified as 62-year-old Farhad Rostampour of Greenville. Officials with the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board arrived on scene to begin investigating the crash.

Friday January 29, 2021 – 2 ALARM FIRE AT APARTMENT BUILDING

Just after 3 p.m. CRFD 1st Shift crews responded to the Willow Run Apartments at 511 Alcott Drive for a reported apartment fire. The first units en route to the scene saw thick smoke in the air and called for a working fire dispatch and a 2nd alarm was toned out when crews arrived on scene.



Heavy fire broke through one part of an apartment building's roof and flames began to spread across the building. By the time the fire was out 8 units in the building had been damaged and roughly 30 people were left displaced. There were no injuries to civilians or fire department personnel.

An investigation by the CRFD fire marshal's office determined that the fire was caused by a space heater that was being powered improperly in one of the apartments. This caused an electrical fire.

Saturday February 27, 2021 – STRUCTURE FIRE WITH INJURIES

Just before 7:30 p.m. our 3rd Shift crews responded to Penelope Lane for a reported house fire. Engine 27 arrived on scene first and found a quarter of the home on fire. The flames had spread to at least two corners of the building and there was also heavy fire in the garage. There was also a large number of people in front of the home and they notified our personnel that there was a person inside the home.

Additional crews arrived on scene and established a water supply. Rescue 3 made entry into the home and found two victims inside – an adult and a child. Both victims were pulled out of the home and personnel began performing CPR.

EMS crews ultimately transported both patients. The fire was extinguished and its cause is being investigated by the Richland County Fire Marshal's Office.

Friday May 28, 2021 – 2-ALARM STRUCTURE FIRE

Shortly after 11 a.m. our 3rd Shift crews responded to Durham Creek Court after multiple calls came in that a house there was on fire. Upon arrival firefighters found a home where most of the first floor was on fire and the flames were spreading to adjacent homes.

This prompted officers on scene to call for a 2nd Alarm which dispatched additional units. Roughly 50 CRFD staff members became involved in the operation. By the time the fire was brought under control the primary home was left a total loss. The home to its left also suffered significant damages. 7 people total were left displaced but thankfully there were no injuries.

The cause of the fire is being investigated by the Richland County Fire Marshal's Office.



Thursday June 24, 2021 – CONFINED SPACE RESCUE

CRFD 3rd Shift crews were dispatched to the intersection of Hampton Street and Park Street in downtown Columbia at around 2:30 p.m. for a report of a person falling off a ladder. Rescue 1 arrived on scene to discover that the worker had in fact fallen off a ladder and into an excavation in the ground. The patient had landed in a concrete junction box that was 12 feet long, by 12 feet wide and 10 feet high. He had suffered an injury to his lower leg.



Additional units were dispatched as this was now a confined space rescue. An EMS crew was already on scene and was treating the patient in the hole. A crane on the construction site was used to hoist the worker out of the hole in a rescue basket. He was then transported from the scene by EMS.

All fire crews then cleared the scene.

Sunday July 11, 2021 – 2-ALARM STRUCTURE FIRE

At roughly 4:50 p.m. CRFD 2nd Shift crews headed to Austin Woods Apartments at 7648 Garners Ferry Road for a reported apartment fire. Ladder 8 could see smoke showing from their station and requested a working fire dispatch while en route.

On arrival the crew found smoke and flames showing from a 3-story apartment building. Ladder 8 would then request a 2nd Alarm. Ladder 8 searched the building after getting reports that there was a victim inside but no one was found.



Engine 30 established a water supply and Engine 3 went through a wall to apartment 122. They got water on the fire while ladder crews went to the roof to provide ventilation.

The fire was put out and there were no injuries. The fire started in apartment 122 and the Richland County Fire Marshal's Office arrived on scene to investigate. The Red Cross was also contacted to assist those tenants who were left displaced.

Tuesday July 27, 2021 – MVA INVOLVING WATER

Shortly after 3 p.m. CRFD 3rd Shift crews responded to Highway 277 near the Farrow Road exit for a reported motor vehicle accident where a car had left the roadway and gone into a creek.



Rescue 1 and other crews responded and found the car in the creek off the southbound side of the highway. The southbound side of 277 was shut down while firefighters made contact with the driver and got him to safety. He did not have any injuries.

The driver reported he was driving on 277 when his car hydroplaned due to the heavy rain. This caused him to lose control and go off the road.

South Carolina DHEC was notified that the car was in the water. All units cleared and the southbound side of the highway reopened.

Saturday August 14, 2021 – SEARCH FOR PEOPLE ON LAND

Shortly after 1 p.m. CRFD 3rd Shift crews were dispatched to Congaree National Park in Hopkins to assist with locating two lost hikers. The hikers became lost along the South Cedar Creek after the inflatable water craft they were using suffered multiple punctures.

Rescue 5 was able to use coordinates from a cell phone ping taken from 9-1-1 dispatch to locate the individuals. An amphibious vehicle and 3 kayaks provided by the park rangers were used to find the hikers about 2.5 miles into the park.

The hikers were ultimately found and required no medical attention. They were taken back to the main parking lot and all fire crews cleared the scene.

Saturday August 28, 2021 – 2-ALARM STRUCTURE FIRE

At around 10:30 p.m. CRFD 2nd Shift crews were dispatched to 716 Zimalcrest Drive for a report of an apartment fire at Grove at St. Andrews Apartments. Engine 6 was en route and called for a working fire as flames could be seen from the road. Once on scene Engine 6 reported that they had a large 2-story apartment building with heavy fire coming from the rear side and flames going through the roof.



Battalion 2 arrived on scene. Half of the building was on fire at this point and there were reports of people still inside the building so a 2nd alarm was called for.



Irmo Ladder 171 established a water supply and additional crews arrived on scene. Searches of all 16 apartments in the building yielded no occupants. Crews were able to open the ceilings, gain access to the fire and put it out. There were no injuries but at least 14 people were left displaced by the fire.

The Richland County Fire Marshal's Office is investigating what caused the fire.

Friday September 3, 2021 – PRISON RIOT

At around 8:20 a.m. CRFD 2nd Shift crews headed to the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center at 201 John Mark Dial Drive for a reported fire alarm activation. Crews were notified of a situation involving a riot at the facility.

The first units arrived and made entry into the building. There was no active fire present. Firefighters were informed of the riot situation and that there were possible hostages. At that point our crews pulled back and staged outside and waited on law enforcement to secure the scene.



Richland County EMS and the Richland County Sheriff's Department also responded and a unified command was established. Fire personnel were directed to perform decontamination procedures and provide medical triage to support law enforcement operations.

Two guards at the detention center were taken from the scene with non-life threatening injuries. No gas was deployed so our crews did not have to perform any decontamination services.

The scene was placed under control by law enforcement and all units cleared.

After the situation was under control Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins joined Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott for a press conference to update area media outlets on what happened.

Monday September 20, 2021 – 2-ALARM STRUCTURE FIRE

Shortly after 4:15 a.m. CRFD 3rd Shift crews were dispatched to 6525 Two Notch Road for a commercial structure fire. Ladder 14 arrived to find a mega commercial thrift shop with heavy smoke coming from the eaves of the building and fire showing on the rear side and through the roof.

A 2nd Alarm was called for due to the size of the building and staffing levels.

Ladder 14 and Ladder 7 went to the roof of the building to start ventilation. Rescue 1 and other crews forced entry through the doors to begin searching the property. It was later determined that a bulk of the fire was in the rear of the building in what was the warehouse section of the thrift store. Several engine companies were used to get water on the fire. Searches of the remaining parts of the store yielded no occupants and there were no civilian injuries. One firefighter did suffer a minor injury.

A business employee on scene told our crews that there was a dog inside the building but no dog was ever recovered from the scene. The scene was placed under control and overhaul began so the Richland County Fire Marshal's Office could begin investigating what caused the fire.

At around 6:30 p.m. Ladder 14 had to go back out to the site as the fire at the store rekindled. The crew found a small pile of debris smoldering in a protected area. The smoldering was doused again and all units cleared.

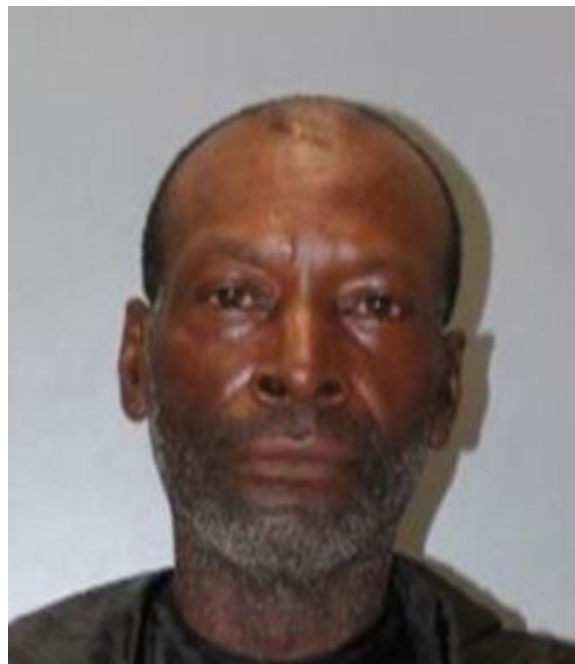
Wednesday September 29, 2021 – ARSON STRUCTURE FIRE

Shortly after 10:15 p.m. fire crews were dispatched to the 3400 block of Beaumont Avenue for a reported house fire. A Columbia police officer had been flagged down by a citizen who indicated that there was a property on fire.

By the time CRFD crews got to the scene the house was fully engulfed. Firefighters were eventually able to put the fire under control and extinguish the flames. There were no injuries and no one was found inside the home during searches.



Our fire marshal's office and the Columbia Police Department investigated the fire. Later in the day CPD put out a public notice seeking the whereabouts of 57-year-old Michael Masterson McClellan, who had been criminally charged in the past for setting previous fires in the same neighborhood.



On Friday October 1 McClellan was located by police and taken into custody. He is facing charges for burglary and arson in connection with the Wednesday night fire.

Monday October 18, 2021 – 2-ALARM STRUCTURE FIRE

Minutes before 12:30 a.m. CRFD 1st Shift crews were dispatched to 1925 Barnwell Street for a reported structure fire. Engine 1 arrived on scene to find a two story apartment building that was half on fire. The fire was also spreading to the home next door and this prompted crews to call for a 2nd Alarm. The bulk of the fire in the first building was in the front side and the flames were extending over the roof line and into the attic space.



Engine 1 pulled two lines and began extinguishing the fire in both buildings. Rescue 1 searched the exposure building. The primary building appeared to be vacant. Ladder 7 and Ladder 9 arrived on scene and secured utilities. Engine 2 pulled another line and began extinguishing the fire on the back of the primary home. The second alarm crew staged at Calhoun and Harden streets and was called up as needed. The fire was ultimately put out and no one was injured.

The cause of the fire is being investigated by the CRFD Fire Marshal's Office.

Thursday November 25, 2021 – 2-ALARM STRUCTURE FIRE

On Thanksgiving Day just after 1 p.m. CRFD 1st Shift crews headed to 2028 Watermark Place after getting reports of an apartment fire. Ladder 7 spotted a

column of smoke from I-126 while en route and arrived on scene to find fire showing from the third floor windows and roof of one of the apartment buildings.



Rescue 1 forced entry on the first floor and companies made entry to get up to the fire floor. Crews attacked the fire in one apartment and put it out. The fire walls of the building held so there was no need for vertical ventilation. The tenants of the apartment where the fire started were not home. Two small pets were found on the second floor of the building and removed.

CRFD investigated the fire and determined that the fire was started from an electrical source on the third floor. One apartment suffered heavy damages and another suffered exposure damages from the fire.

Monday December 13, 2021 – MUTUAL AID STRUCTURE FIRE

At around 5:45 p.m. CRFD 1st Shift crews in Battalion 2 were requested by the Irmo Fire District to respond to 22 Rutherglen Court for a working apartment fire. The West Columbia Fire Department and the Lexington County Fire Service also responded. Division Chief Will Broscious also went to the scene.



Much of one of the buildings at Gleneagle Apartment Homes was involved with fire and flames were coming through the roof. Irmo Fire District was in command and attacks of the fire went from offensive to defensive and then back to offensive.

The fire was ultimately put out and there were no civilian injuries. More than 20 people were left displaced. Rehab 1 also responded to the scene once the fire was placed under control. One firefighter on Ladder 7 did suffer an injury and it was documented.

Division Chief Broschious took photos and video while on scene. These items were shared with Public Information Officer Mike DeSumma as well as members of the Irmo Fire District.

Special Operations Bureau



Strategic Accomplishments in 2021

- Defined a detailed and sustainable 10-year budget for all of Special Operations
- Created Hazardous Materials Company #2, located at CRFD Station 12, utilizing Reserve Rescue 11
- Took ownership of new boat house on property of the Riverbanks Zoo. This 20-year project is in the final stages of becoming a reality.
- Introduced several CRFD battalion chiefs to their counterparts at the Richland County Sheriff's Department. These commanders now meet monthly to ensure that they have open communication and can provide better services to each other and our citizens.
- Moved all Foam products to CRFD Station 16 with FOAM 3.

Additional Equipment and Gear

- Placed 22 new ballistic plate carriers in service. Plates in 12 current vests were replaced. In total 34 ballistic vests are now available.
- Repaired, replaced and upgraded all swiftwater rescue PPE within the system. Expanded basic kits to rescue support companies (helmet/gloves/PFD) to support larger operations.
- Added new tablets to CRFD Collapse 5 as well as HAZMAT 1 and HAZMAT 2
- Upgraded portable radios on HAZMAT 1 to APX style

- Added a new 16' inflatable boat package (DHS Grant money) to the water rescue fleet
- Provided all truck companies (and most rescue companies) with Gemtor Class III harnesses for turnout gear.
- Up fitted 5 new 4 gas meters for Richland County Truck/Rescue units. This has doubled our reserve meter cache to ensure better in-service time
- We have outfitted HAZMAT 1 and HAZMAT 2 with an additional \$33,000 in hazardous material equipment
- Replaced all O2/CO meters on medical bags with new TANGO meters
- Purchased 2 new 40' goose-neck style trailers to better support MMRS response
- Acquired two military Humvee's from the Columbia Police Department to use for high water incident response
- Upgraded extrication equipment on CRFD Ladder 9 and Rescue 1 to new Halmatro tools
- 4 new portable APX radios were acquired for the special ops bureau
- All Level A and HAZMAT suits were replaced and are now in service

Events and Projects with Outside Agencies

- Provided support to South Carolina DHEC, Prisma Health, the City of Columbia, York County, the University of South Carolina (USC) and other agencies with MMRS equipment throughout the year
- Supported another USC football season with game day operations
- Created and sustained the new Joint Marine Task Force with the Richland County Sheriff's Department. Our members provided 170 man hours of on water support



- Planned a response package for the visit of former U.S. Vice President Mike Pence
- Supported the Columbia Housing Authority's Gas Safety Project
- Formed a I26 /Interstate Response Task Force
- South Carolina State Search & Rescue Committee, President
- SLED Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection (PRND) Committee, Active member
- Midlands Medical Coalition, lead by DHEC, Active Member
- Met three times with Westinghouse Inc., and the bureau is looking to host joint Rad/Nuc training with DHEC in 2022
- Took part in Dominion Energy's Emergency Action Plan Exercise
- Conducted a full scale exercise at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station
- Took part in an active shooter exercise with the Richland County Sheriff's Department



- Participated in the Unified Command Post at the South Carolina State Fair
- Has an in-person meeting with the Lexington County Fire Special Operations Chief
- Completed a HAZMAT/fire suppression pre-plan at Tyson Foods Inc.
- Completed a HAZMAT/ fire suppression pre plan meetings and walk through at Dorn VA Hospital

Administration

- Provided detailed cost analysis for Firefighter Mobilization & Regional Response Teams
- Updated state/federal “Mission Ready Package” documents for the 2021 Hurricane Season
- Loaded all HAZMAT/ CSAR equipment into DHS/SLED required database.
- Held planning, purchasing meetings of the Joint Task Force with the Richland County Sheriff’s Departments aviation and marine programs
- DHS / SLED Grants: Closed 18SHSP, 19SHSP and have 20SHSP and 21SHSP remaining.
- Successfully spent \$180,000 in grant funding to support CRFD rescue companies, HAZMAT companies and MMRS
- Wrote application for the AFG/SAFER grants
- Acted as project coordinator for the following vehicle purchases: Battalion 1, Battalion 2, Support 2, CRFD Pickup Truck 2, Fire 1 Tahoe, Special Ops Pickup.
- Assisted with the purchase of a new Ladder 9, Ladder 4 and other larger fleet projects.
- Coordinated the annual in-service of 75 extrication tools that were distributed to staff
- Finalized and submitted for approval new directives for the department’s HAZMAT program

Special Ops Training Provided in 2021

- Collapse Rescue Operations Course
- RAE Meter Technician Course
- HAZMAT IQ Above the Line Below the Line
- Hazardous Materials Technician Refresher Training
- Confined Space Rescue Refresher Training
- Rope Rescue Refresher Training
- Swiftwater Rescue Technician Refresher Training - 74 personnel took part
- Swiftwater Rescue Technician Training



- Marine Unit / Boat Operator Training
- 2021 IAFC HAZMAT Virtual Conference for HAZMAT 1 and HAZMAT 2 personnel

Line of Duty Deaths

Passing of Chaplain Billie Bright and Battalion Chief Joseph Casey Desso

Over the course of two days in September CRFD lost two of our dedicated members to illness. CRFD Chaplain Billie Bright died on the early morning of Sunday September 12 and Battalion Chief Joseph Casey Desso died sometime during the night of September 13.



News of their passings was shared with area media outlets and also communicated on our department's social media platforms.

Funeral services for Chaplain Bright took place on Friday, September 17 in Columbia while services for Battalion Chief Joseph Casey Desso were held in Lexington County on Monday September 20.

For both funerals CRFD organized processions to carry the fallen from church services to their respective grave sites. Both Chaplain Bright and Battalion Chief Desso were also buried with full firefighter honors.

The South Carolina State Firefighter's Association, the Irmo Fire District and the Lexington County Fire Service all provided assistance to CRFD as we carried out these plans to honor our fallen members.



FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

2021 Highlights

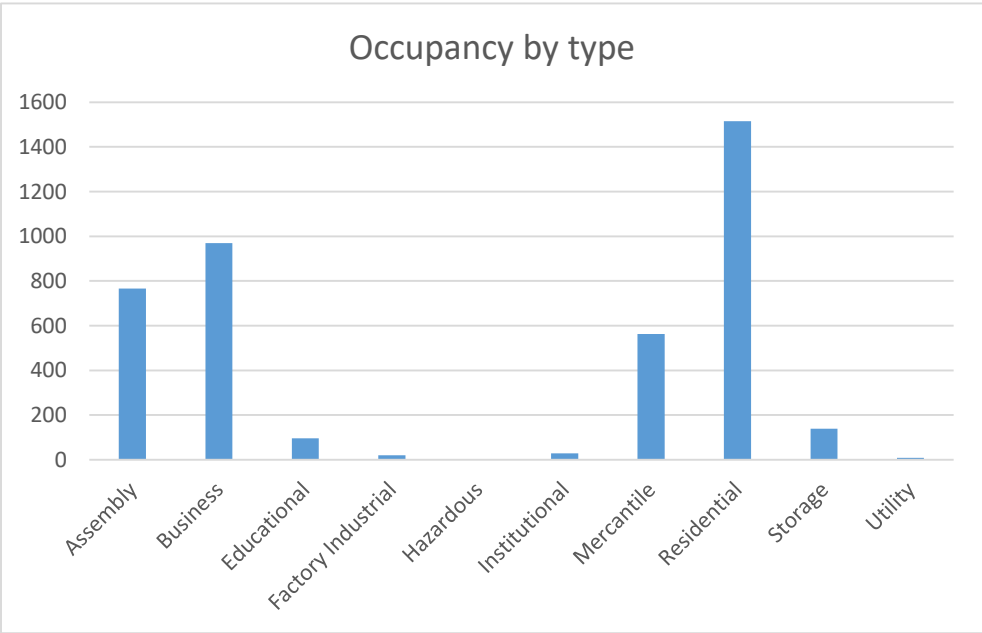
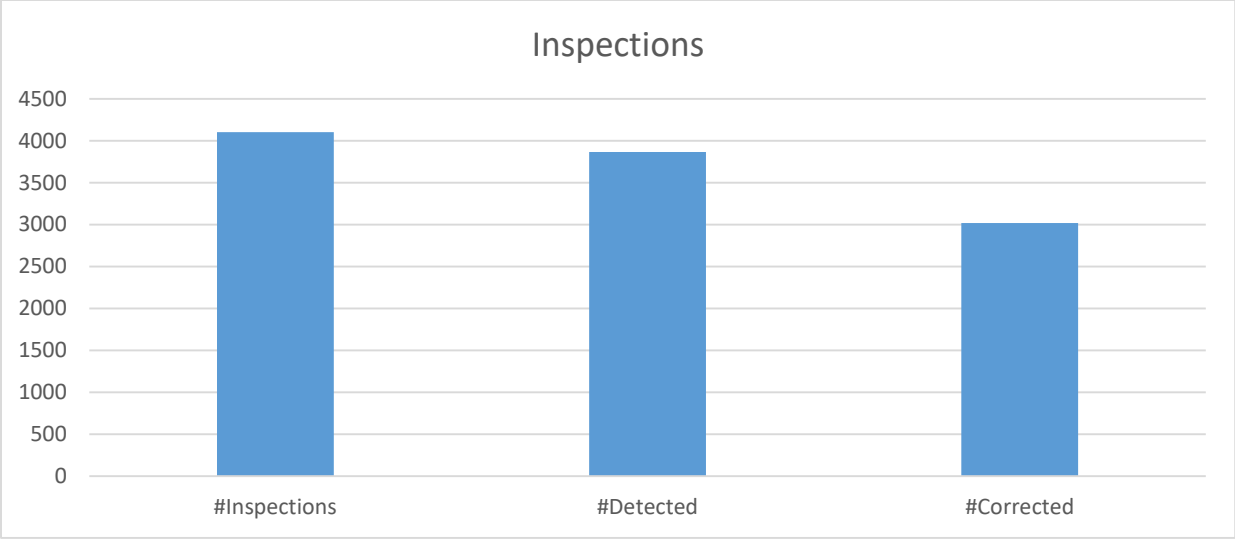
The CRFD Fire Prevention Division conducted annual fire safety inspections for nearly 4,104 commercial properties. A large percentage of these inspections required at least one follow-up inspection to ensure compliance. Many commercial properties required several re-inspections and court appearances.

Working Through COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Fire Prevention Division implemented the best practices and explored innovative solutions to support its mission. Below is an overview of data recorded during the pandemic.

Inspection Type	Inspections
⊕ Above Ceiling	62
⊕ Alarm System Test	4
⊕ Annual	1,858
⊕ Assembly Use	1
⊕ Business License	801
⊕ C/O Inspection	36
⊕ Complaint	118
⊕ Covid-19 Education	6
⊕ Covid-19 Mask up, Columbia Inspection	61
⊕ Fire Protection System Inspection	139
⊕ Hazardous Use Permit	2
⊕ Holiday Inspection	25
⊕ Hood and Duct Inspection	4
⊕ Mobile Food Vendor /	6
⊕ Night Inspections	1
⊕ Permit	22
⊕ Reinspection	853
⊕ Site Visit	70
⊕ Special Hazard	1
⊕ Upfit	48

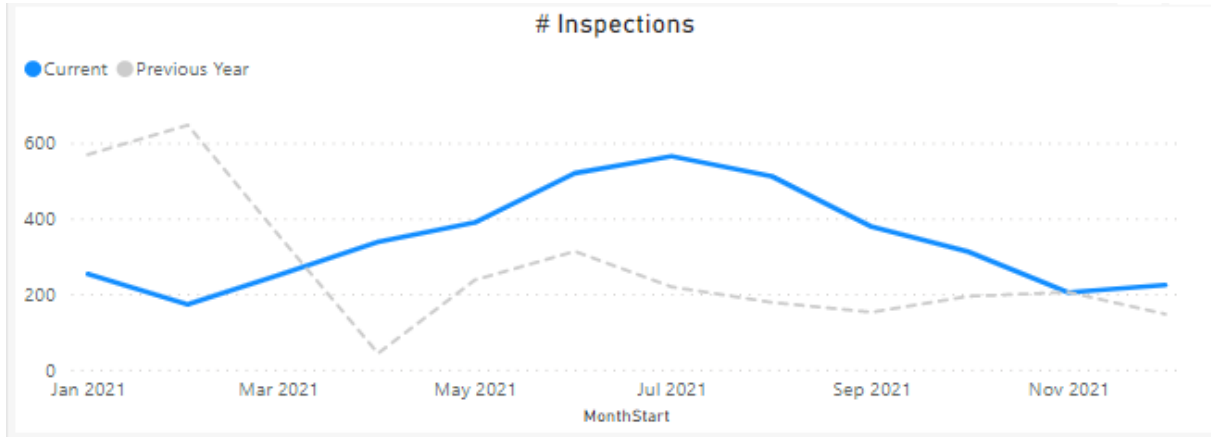
- Deputy fire marshals met with over 4,000 area property owners to ensure their compliance with fire code standards
- Fire Prevention staff worked with large retail businesses on social distancing practices and compliance with fire code standards
- The division assisted businesses by conducting site visits. This was in response to business owners requesting guidance on do's and don'ts in relation to fire code and life safety standards.
- The division implemented new fire safety education messages through the department's social media platforms and other electronic forums due to social distancing restrictions.



‘Residential’ is the highest type of occupancy due to the large amount of buildings associated with each property.

Residential occupancies are considered high risk due to the potential for a higher loss of life or significant economic impact to the community. All residential occupancies are inspected annually.

Over the course of 2020 COVID-19 restrictions were in effect and limited our progress with inspections. In 2021 some COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and we were able to increase the number of fire and life safety inspections completed.



Monthly Site Visits

Each month CRFD Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins and Fire Marshal George Adams conducted a physical inspection or walkthrough of an occupancy as well as assessed fire lanes, fire hydrants locations and construction sites to assess if fire and life safety code compliance were being maintained. During a site visit, Chief Jenkins and Chief Adams would sometimes meet with the workplace organization’s leadership, observe the environment, collect data, and implement corrective measures.

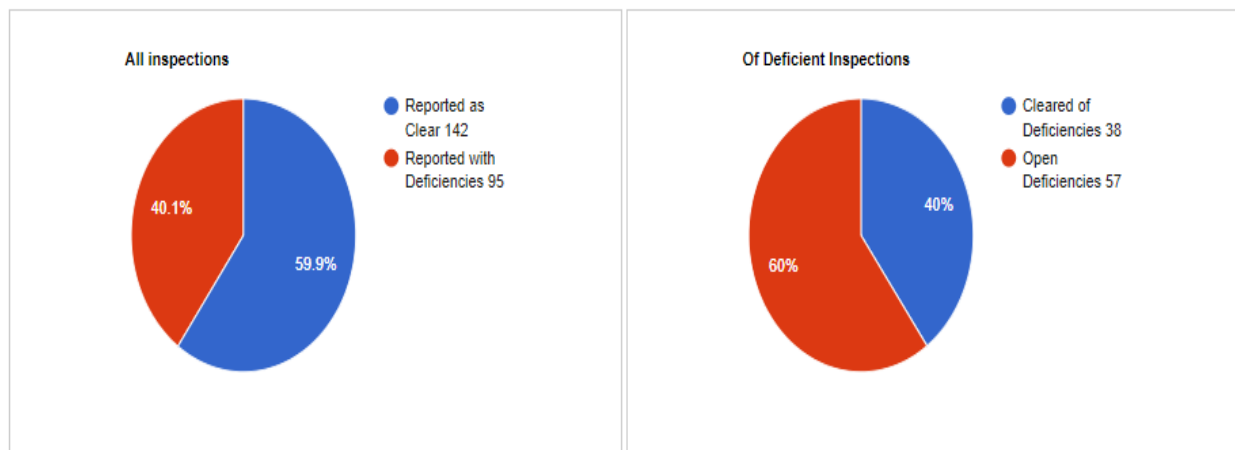
Over the course of 2021 a total of **251** site visits were conducted.



Inspection Reports Online (IROL)

This year staff members of the Fire Prevention Division were able to conduct meet and greets with several area service providers as well as property owners in an effort for them to reach full compliance with the fire code; especially in regards to fire and life safety system inspections, as well as testing and maintaining maintenance records of these systems. In an effort to collaborate with service providers and contractors who service fire protection systems and to aid in adoption of the required codes and standards, our department implemented a web-based reporting program in July of 2020.

Due to COVID-19, many service providers were unable to meet the demand for repairs to several fire service systems. Manufacturing and shipping delays as well as employees getting COVID-19 has created a backlog in repairs for several occupancies in our city.



1. Department Challenges implementing IROL:

- Getting more service providers to use IROL and submitting inspection reports
- ITM company's participation
- COVID-19

2. Addressing the Challenges:

- Prevention staff members provided assistance with fire code language.
- Prevention staff provided data/analytics of departments enforcing IROL (i.e. increased rate in overall compliance, cost savings to the fire department and increased revenue for service companies).
- The Fire Prevention Division held additional training sessions for both ITM companies and owners participating in the Risk Assessment Program.
- Prevention staff members emailed/mailed additional letters to service companies and owners.

3. IROL Suggestions:

- There's no doubt that COVID-19 has been one of the leading impacts regarding IROL submissions, however, we need to continue to improve our relationships with local service providers.
- The Fire Prevention Division will modify the review follow up with an increase in timeframe (60 days).
- Prevention staff members will send letters/emails to all businesses within our jurisdiction regarding the ITM program and maintaining compliance by having their hired ITM company submit.
- The division will encourage surrounding jurisdictions to participate in IROL. More departments working together will provide greater consistency for ITM companies.

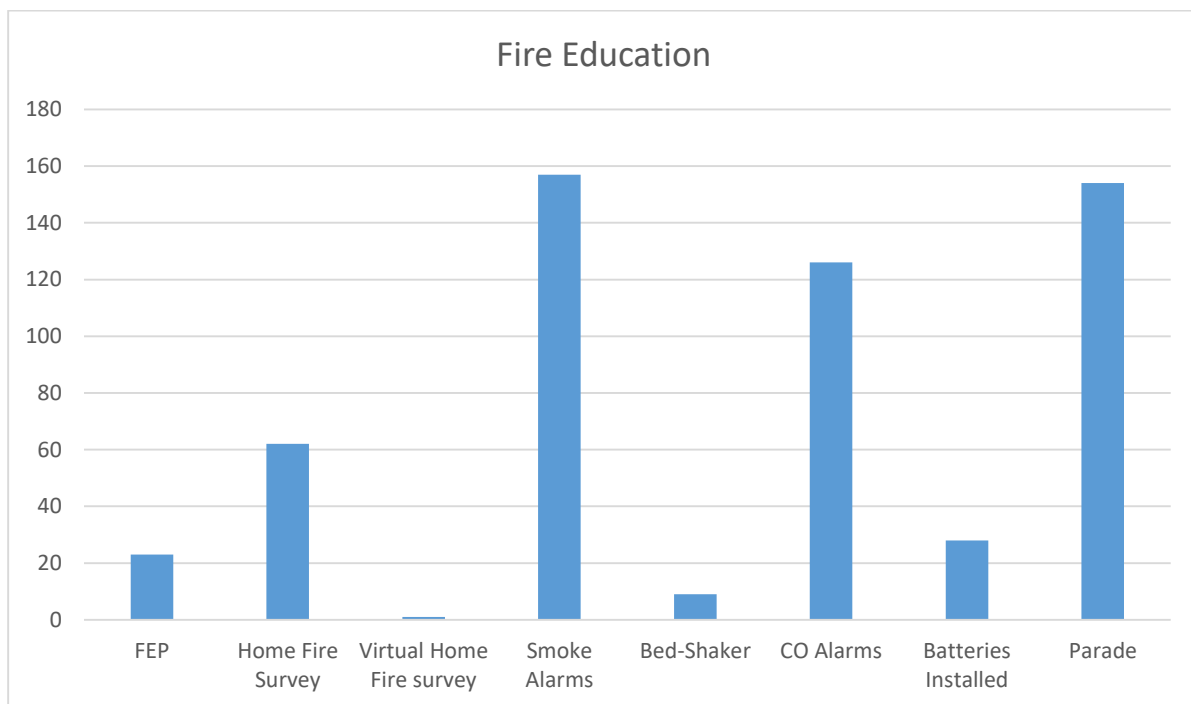
4. 2022 Goals for IROL

- Increase overall participation and gained compliance
- Refocus on the Risk Assessment Program
- Connect and engage surrounding AHJs and owners

Fire Education

Our CRFD Fire Education Office strives to ensure the safety of the communities that we serve through educational programs and community outreach. The CRFD Public Fire Education Officer goes out into the community daily to assist in creating a safer and healthier environment for our citizens. This work especially applies to area residents who are most at risk.

The fire education office offers a variety of programs including smoke alarm installations, carbon monoxide (CO) alarm installations, battery installations for alarms, in-person and virtual home fire safety surveys and fire education presentations. Additionally, our public fire education officer teaches older adults about fire and life safety topics pertinent to their stage in life, including how to prevent injuries from falls.



Over the course of 2021 the CRFD Fire Education Office completed 578 public education events. This figured included:

- 23 fire education presentations
- 62 home fire safety surveys

- 157 smoke alarm installations
- 126 carbon monoxide (CO) alarm installations
- 154 parades in the community

Fire Investigation

The CRFD Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for the investigation of structure fires, vehicle fires, any suspicious fires, outside vegetation fires, rubbish fires and fires with no identifiable origin and cause.

Following an investigation, the cause of a fire can be classified in a number of ways:

Accidental - The cause did not involve an intentional human act to ignite or spread the fire into an area where the fire should not be.

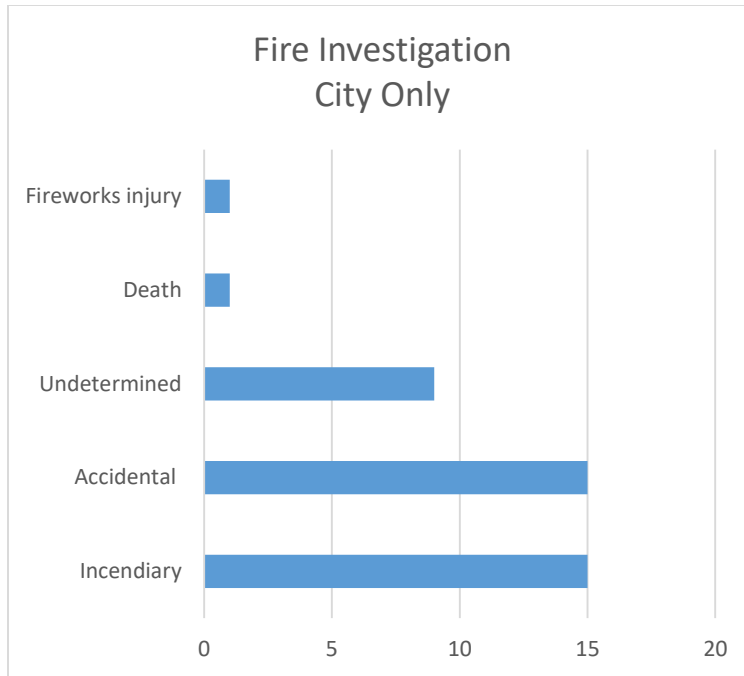
Incendiary – The fire was intentionally ignited under circumstances in which the person knows that the fire should not be ignited.

Natural – The fire was caused without any direct human intervention or action. Examples can include fires that were started by lightning, earthquake or wind.

Undetermined – The cause of the fire cannot be proven to an acceptable level of certainty, or the fire is still under investigation and a cause may be determined later if new information or evidence is discovered.

Over the course of 2021 the CRFD Fire Marshal's Office investigated a total of 39 fires. Following their investigations 15 fires were classified as incendiary, 15 fires were ruled accidental and 9 fires were ruled undetermined.

Meanwhile the Richland County Fire Marshal's Office over the course of 2021 investigated a total of 94 fires. Following their investigations 38 fires were ruled accidental, 35 went undetermined, 15 fires were ruled incendiary, 3 were ruled to have started by natural causes and 3 were found to be caused by some other source.

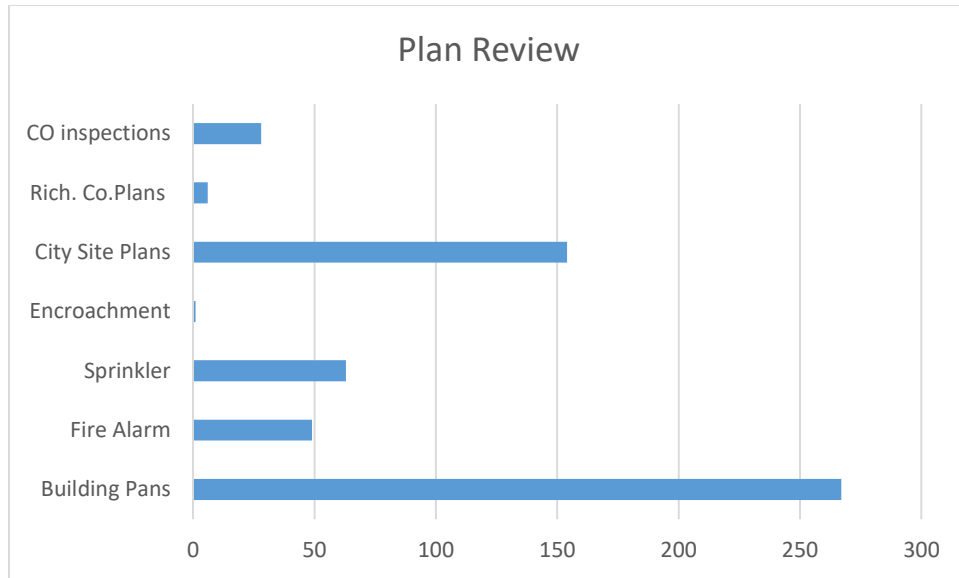


Plan Review

The Plan Review Office of CRFD Fire Prevention Division reviews fire alarm, building, sprinkler, tank, range hood, site and other plans for the City of Columbia. The office provides code interpretation for the building industry and members of the general public for plans for new construction, renovations, or modifications of sites, buildings, building tenants, and fire protection systems.

Over the course of 2021 the Plan Review Office assessed a grand total of 568 plans. This included:

- 49 fire alarm plans
- 63 sprinkler system plans
- 154 city site plans
- 28 carbon monoxide alarm plans

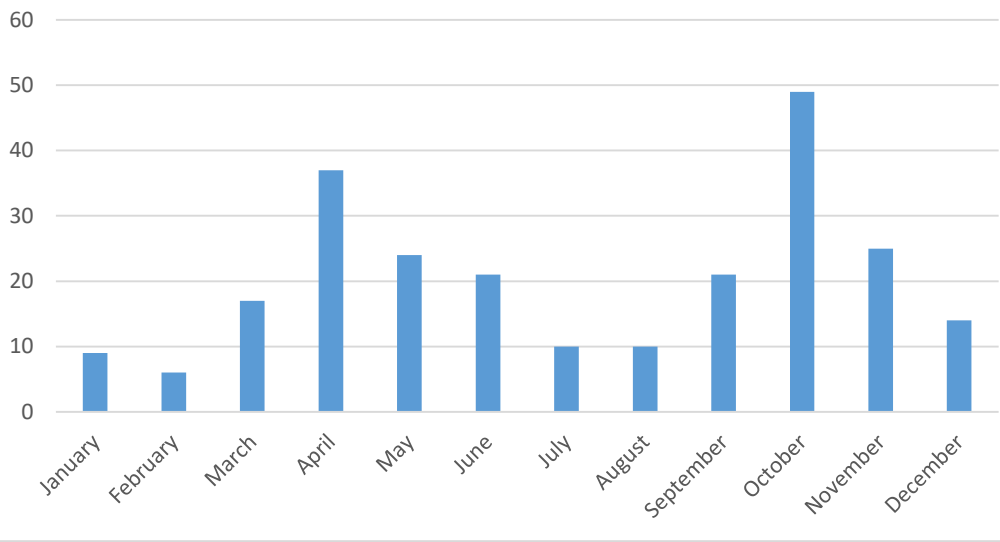


Special Events

The CRFD's Fire Prevention Division also provides additional oversight services to some of the larger and unique special events that take place in the City of Columbia.

These events include but are not limited to: University of South Carolina (USC) football and basketball games, Columbia Fireflies baseball games, mobile food truck shows, various events at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds including the South Carolina State Fair, retail shows (Boat Show, Home & Garden Show, RV Show, Gun & Knife Show etc.), the annual Oyster and Chili Cook Off, Pink Ice Ball, and the Christmas and Spring Classics. CRFD Fire Prevention also has a hand in overseeing various festivals in the City of Columbia including the Italian Festival, the Blues Festival, the Crawfish Festival, the Oyster Festival, the Tiger Burn, the Pride Festival, the Summer Concert in the Park Series, the St. Patrick's Day Festival, the Famously Hot New Year's Eve Festival and the weekly Soda City Marketplace.

Special Events



ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Over the course of 2021 CRFD's Administration Division:

- *Established a new position for safety, efficiency and cost savings*
 - **Fire Personal Protection Equipment Technician**- This position will increase our personnel's safety when it comes to their firefighting protective equipment. It will also assist the department with remaining compliant with NFPA regulations. Not only does this create cost savings when it comes to equipment repairs but it will improve the longevity of the equipment.
- *Hired Tonya Robinson as our Fire Admin Account Specialist*
 - This position will help us transition to Priority Based Budgeting (PBB). Ms. Robinson will also provide the department with daily analysis of where we are and where we are going within the budget.
- *Hired Kemberly Williamson as our Fire Accounting Technician*
 - This position will ensure that the department's purchase and procurement needs are met within a timely fashion. This is an integral part of daily operations to make sure our staff members have what they need.
- *Updated our Flash Hoods to BarriAire Gold Hoods*
 - These new flash hoods are equipped with particle-blocking capabilities that can block out cancer causing carcinogens
- *Secured funding for a new Engine 4/Ladder 4 and Engine 1*
 - These new units should be arriving at the department in 2022
- *Evaluated and secured services of an architect for new CRFD Firehouse 2*
 - Land acquisitioning for the project is currently underway
- *Put a new Engine 2 and Engine 11 into service for the beginning of 2021*
 - These new engines arrived at the department in December of 2020.



- *Purchased and installed all new radio consolettes in all CRFD city fire stations*
 - Radios in county stations were upgraded about two years ago.
- *Began utilizing Active 9-1-1 to pull real-time fire plan data*
 - This will help department personnel pull information much more quickly and efficiently during an emergency incident.

The Logistics Office also over the course of 2021 conducted 6,957 fire hydrant inspections.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

Hiring

Over the course of 2021 the department hired 41 new personnel members. This filled open positions at CRFD and left the department 96% staffed by the end of the year.

By the close of 2021 the Professional Services Division had developed a new multi-tiered recruit school.



- CRFD has maintained its traditional 18-week Standard Recruit Firefighter Program for candidates who are not certified in Firefighter II.
- The department also now has a 6-week Bridge Program for certified Firefighter II candidates.
- Each recruit school will allow a maximum of 30 students per class. Typically, the department has conducted two of the 18-week standard classes each year for a max of 60 potential candidates. This new adjustment in firefighter hiring will allow the department to train up to 120 potential candidates in the same amount of total instructional time.

Promotions in 2021

Over the course of the year the department successfully promoted:

- 5 new battalion chiefs
- 14 new fire captains
- 8 new engineers
- 15 new senior firefighters
- 1 new volunteer fire captain
- 4 new volunteer engineers
- 1 new fire accreditation chief

In addition, the department also appointed:

- 3 new fire training officers
- 1 new fire public education officer

The department has started the next promotional process for the ranks of fire captain and engineer.

Recruitment Bureau

The CRFD Recruiting Officer was unable to attend any recruitment events in person this year but did participate in multiple virtual events.

Over the course of 2021 the department received over 350 applications for open positions that were posted.

Training Bureau

The CRFD Training Bureau recorded 102,421.5 completed training hours by department staff during 2021. These hours included training at every level of the department.



Staffing Bureau

The CRFD Staffing Bureau managed all Telestaff rosters and daily staffing assignments along with managing the Kronos time-keeper system for payroll. The department was heavily impacted due to the Kronos and Telestaff programs shutting down near the end of the year. Overall CRFD was able to manage this interruption without any major issues. Our Professional Services Division was able to quickly develop an alternate scheduling system through our fire reporting system (Emergency Reporting). Our staff also worked with the City of Columbia's IT Department to develop and simplify the paper time sheets that are currently being used by our fire shift personnel.

Volunteer Bureau

Over the course of 2021 the CRFD Volunteer Bureau received 232 interest forms from potential volunteer applicants. Following conversations with many potential applicants and advanced recruitment, 34 individuals sent in an official volunteer firefighter application.

Also during the year:

- For the first time in recent history, volunteers were hired to career firefighter positions at the department through a direct hire program.
- The department instituted physical fitness training as part of our volunteer recruit school. New volunteer firefighters will have to complete the physical agility test prior to being cleared for active duty.

HEALTH & SAFETY DIVISION

Introduction

The following section outlines the CRFD Health & Safety Division's annual report on the safety and well-being of our department's employees.

The report includes all incidents from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

In 2021 the Health and Safety Division undertook the following key actions:

- Reviewing completely the safety culture of the department
- Developing safety management processes
- Raising awareness of health and safety matters within the department
- Reviewing existing policies that impact the safety and health of employees

Accidents

CRFD's policy is to record all injury-related incidents and near misses that involve the department's paid employees as well as volunteer firefighters -- regardless of where these incidents occur. The department also provides a consistent pathway for injury management in order to return injured employees to full-duty status.

All employees are therefore encouraged to report injury-related incidents and near misses.

In 2021, there were 76 work-related injuries reported to the CRFD Health and Safety Division. There has been a significant improvement in CRFD staff members reporting near misses and injuries that do not require medical attention. However, promotion of the department's requirement to report near misses must continue as there is still the need for 100% reporting.

The Coronavirus Pandemic & It's Impact on CRFD

During 2021, the department saw surges in quarantine levels of its members due to COVID-19. This reflected the numbers of COVID infections in the state as reported by South Carolina DHEC.

However, despite these predictable surges, the number of COVID infections that could have been traced as being spread at the workplace were minimal. A great effort was made to quarantine and isolate personnel who were exposed and infected by COVID in order to avoid spreading the virus to other department employees. Measures to mitigate COVID infections included:

- enhanced emergency response protocols for firefighters
- enhanced cleaning and disinfection of fire stations and equipment
- enhanced decontamination procedures for personnel who responded to confirmed COVID-19 patients

Over the course of 2021:

- 166 personnel were quarantined due to COVID-19
- 2 personnel were hospitalized due to the virus
- 1 member died of COVID

COVID-19 Vaccination Statistics

As of January 31, 2022.

- **398** CRFD members are currently vaccinated for COVID-19 **(84% vaccinated)**
- **74** CRFD members are currently unvaccinated for COVID-19 **(16% unvaccinated)**

Staff Injury Statistics for 2021

2021 Category of Injuries	Number of Injuries
Fire ground injuries	23
Injuries incurred during medical calls	5
Exposures (Blood-borne)	1
Exposures (Chemical)	0
Injuries incurred during firefighter training	6
Recruit school injuries	7
Other injuries	34
Workers' Compensation claims filed	73
Total number of injuries	76

Injury Statistics Comparison 2017 - 2021

Category of Injuries	Number of Injuries					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
Fire ground injuries			40	23	19	23
Non- fire ground injuries			42	48	58	53
Misc.			9			
WC claims filed	121	99	99	66	57	73
Total number of injuries	121	99	101	71	77	76

Motor Vehicle Accidents

CRFD Fleet Vehicle Accidents in 2021	
Total Number of vehicle accidents	31
Number of County Vehicle accidents	18
Number of City Vehicle accidents	13
Number of accident while responding to emergencies	9
Number of accidents where CRFD driver at fault	15
Number of personnel injured in vehicle accidents	1

- Damage to apparatus – Non MVA causes – 7
- Damage caused by apparatus hitting station bay doors/walls/stationary objects – 6
- Damage to apparatus with unknown causes – 4
- Equipment falling from apparatus and damaging other vehicles on road - 1