

# Stillwater Fire Department

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

### Mission Statement

**Our commitment is to protect life and property through dedicated service to the community.**



**Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, Excellence  
P.R.I.D.E.!**

### Stillwater Fire Department

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## MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF STUART GLASER

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It is my pleasure to present the 2020 Stillwater Fire Department Annual Report. The Stillwater Fire Department (SFD) is honored and proud to serve each citizen and visitor to our community with **Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Excellence - P.R.I.D.E.!**

The year 2020 was an unprecedented year. The nation grappled with the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic, multiple instances of civil unrest and a high profile general election. All of these events affected all of us in some way, shape or form. Through it all, SFD modified and adapted as necessary to ensure high quality, safe and efficient response.

In 2020 SFD responded to 1,938 emergency incidents. The City of Stillwater and surrounding communities continue to grow and expand. As these changes occur, rest assured that the men and women of SFD will continue to meet these challenges. SFD prides itself on highly trained and dedicated personnel striving to provide outstanding service to the residents we serve.

### 2020 Highlights:

- ◇ Placed new class A engine in service
- ◇ Placed new MSA G1 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's) in service
- ◇ Placed new gear washer/extractor in service
- ◇ Promoted three personnel to Volunteer Paid-on-Call Lieutenants
- ◇ Hired several Volunteer Paid-on-Call Firefighters
- ◇ Supported neighboring agencies via mutual aid and automatic aid agreements
- ◇ Implemented response protocols to provide for the safety of personnel and residents during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- ◇ Continued to ensure all personnel met required certifications by utilizing distance and virtual training models

Since 1872 the dedicated men and women of the Stillwater Fire Department have been protecting life and property to those who live, work and visit our community. I look forward to continuing this long standing tradition and leading SFD into the next decade.

Sincerely,

*Stuart W. Glaser*

Stuart W. Glaser  
Fire Chief

## Communities Served

### CITY OF STILLWATER

**Mayor**  
Ted Kozlowski

**City Council**  
Ryan Collins  
David Junker  
Tom Weidner  
Mike Polehna

**City Administrator**  
Tom McCarty

**City Clerk**  
Beth Wolf

### CITY OF GRANT

**Mayor**  
Jeff Huber

**City Council**  
John Rog  
Jeff Giefer  
Tom Carr  
Jeff Schafer

**City Clerk**  
Kim Points

### MAY TOWNSHIP

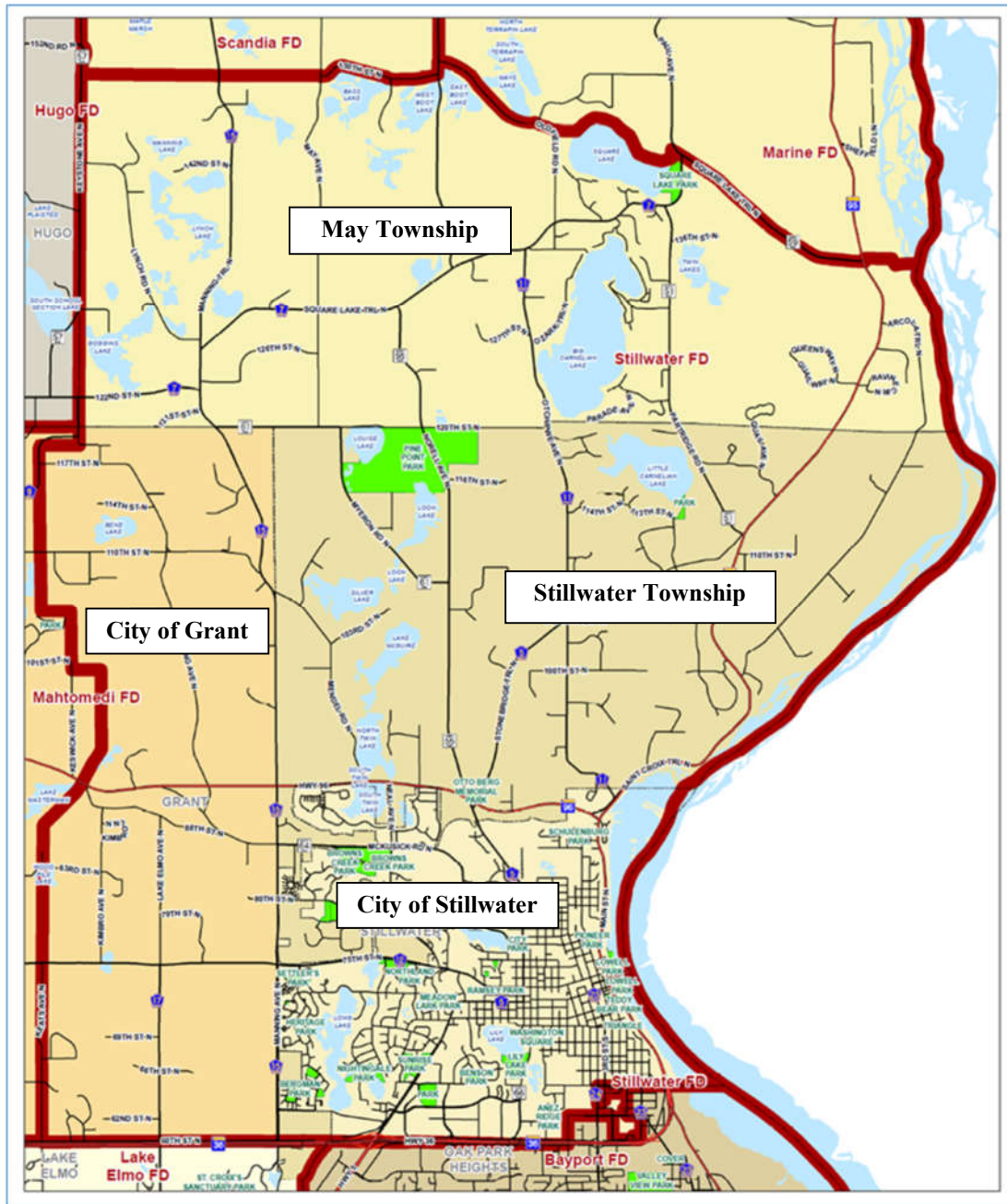
**Township Supervisors**  
Bill Voedisch  
John Adams  
John Pazlar

**Township Clerk**  
Linda Tibbetts

### STILLWATER TOWNSHIP

**Township Supervisors**  
Bonnie Haines  
Mike McMahon  
Rod Hunter  
Tim Sinclair  
Shelia-Marie Untiedt

**Township Clerk**  
Kathy Schmoeckel



## Services Provided

<p><b>Fire Suppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structure - Residential/Commercial</li> <li>Wildland/Urban Interface/Grass</li> <li>Marine</li> <li>Auto</li> </ul>	<p><b>Technical Rescue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Auto and Machinery Extrication</li> <li>High Angle Rope Rescue</li> <li>Confined Space Rescue</li> <li>Collapse</li> <li>Hazardous Materials</li> <li>Hostile Event Response</li> <li>Terrorism</li> </ul>
<p><b>Basic Life Support (BLS) Non-Transport Emergency Medical Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical Emergencies</li> <li>CPR and AED Certified</li> <li>Advanced Airway Placement</li> <li>BLS Drug Variances</li> <li>Assist Lakeview EMS</li> <li>Blood Pressure Wellness Checks</li> </ul>	<p><b>Water &amp; Ice Rescue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface</li> <li>Dive - Washington County Fire</li> <li>Department Dive Team</li> <li>Boat - River and Lakes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Code Enforcement/Inspections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Construction</li> <li>Commercial</li> <li>Multi-Family Residential</li> <li>Daycare/Foster Care</li> <li>Special Events</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fire Prevention &amp; Life Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools Visits and Activities</li> <li>Open House</li> <li>Senior Center Presentations</li> <li>General Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safety Presentations</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fire &amp; EMS Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-service training for businesses; fire extinguisher, AED and CPR</li> <li>Drills and exercises - conduct drills, exercise and re-view emergency plans for assisted living facilities and area businesses</li> </ul>	<p><b>Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Fire Hydrants - Assist Water Department with annual required maintenance and flushing</li> <li>Fire Station - Maintain building, grounds, and mechanical equipment</li> <li>Trucks and response equipment - Daily inspections and inventory of apparatus and equipment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Events</li> <li>Station Tours</li> <li>Child Safety Seat Inspections</li> </ul>	

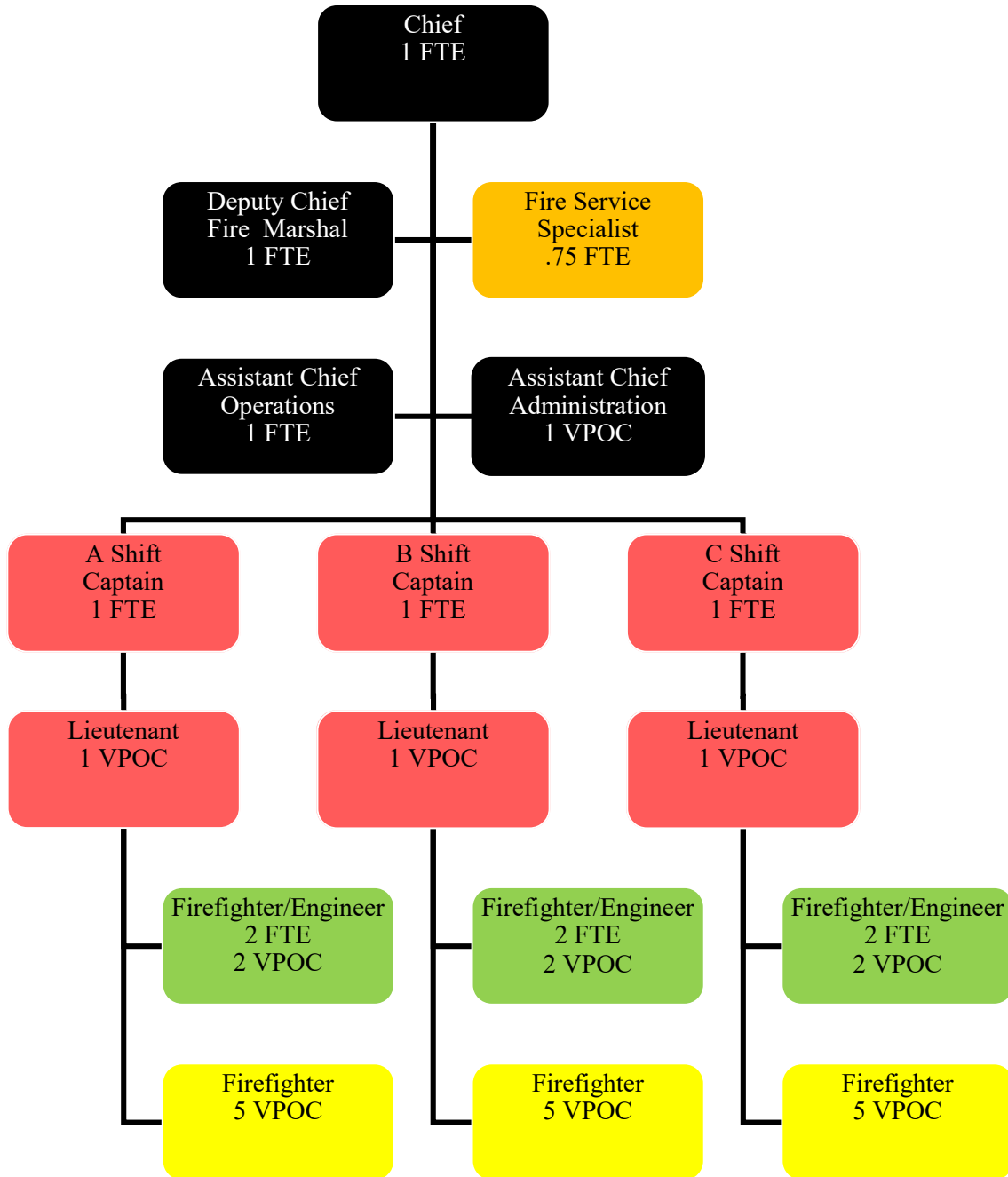


River Fuel Spill Drill



CPR Refresher Training

## Organizational Chart

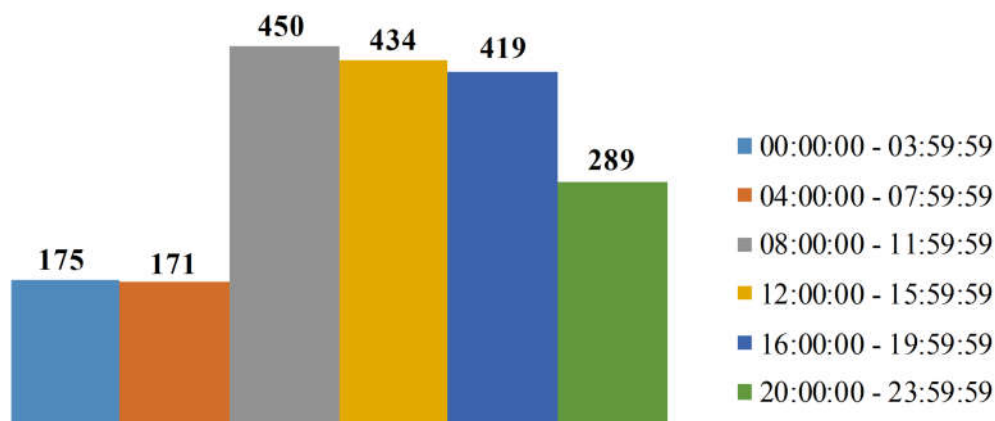


The Stillwater Fire Department was established by Council action on May 28, 1872. The Department is a combination Department consisting of 12 career fire personnel and up to 30 Volunteer Paid-on-Call (VPOC) personnel. Career staff consist of the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal, Assistant Chief of Operations, three Captains, six Firefighter/Engineers and a .75 Fire Service Specialist support position. The Department is staffed twenty four hours per day, seven days per week, three hundred sixty five days per year with a minimum of two personnel.

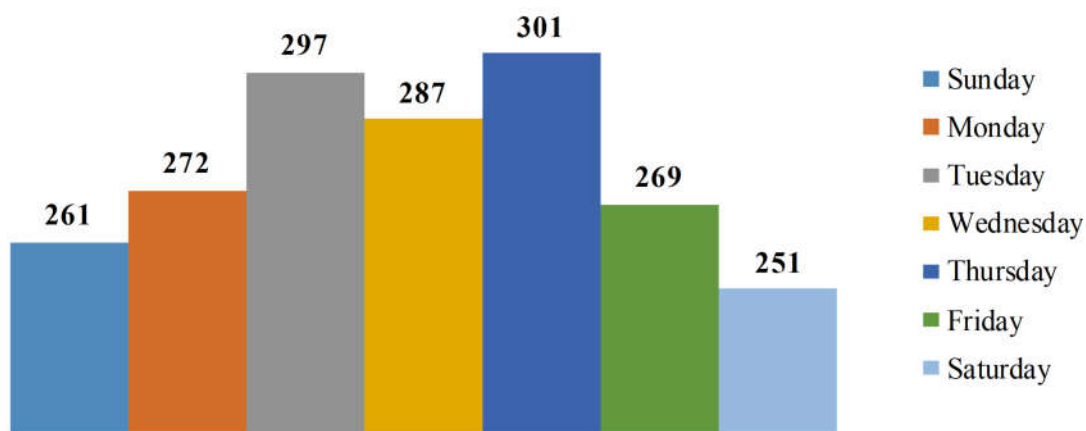
The VPOC personnel respond when paged and calls have various levels of urgency. During 2020 there were 179 calls that VPOC were toned to assist.

## Response Summary

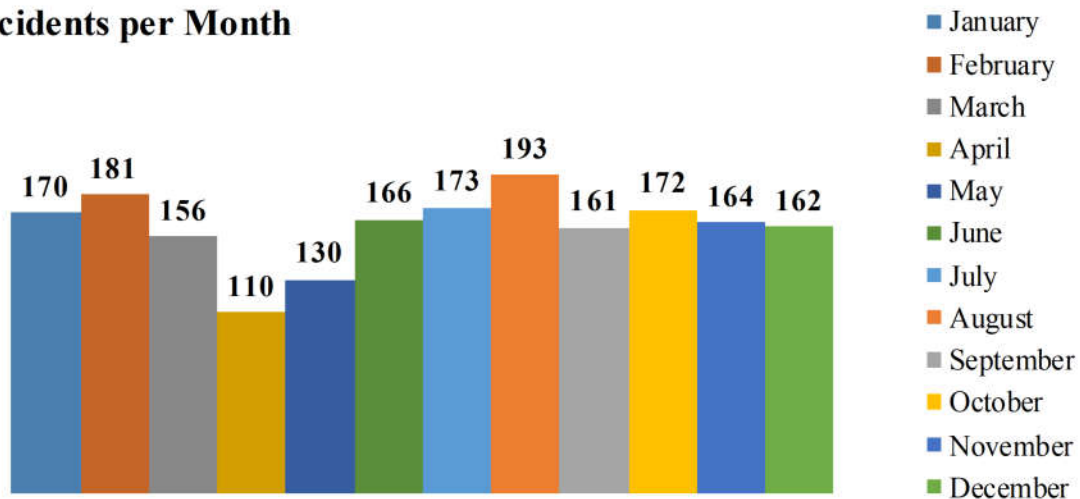
### Incidents by Time of Day



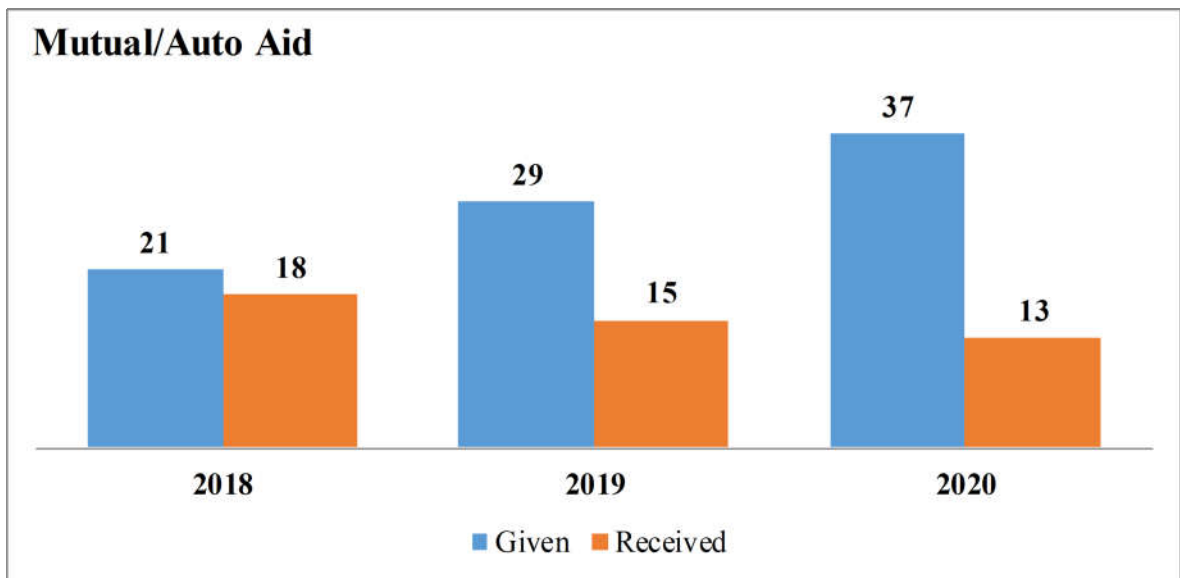
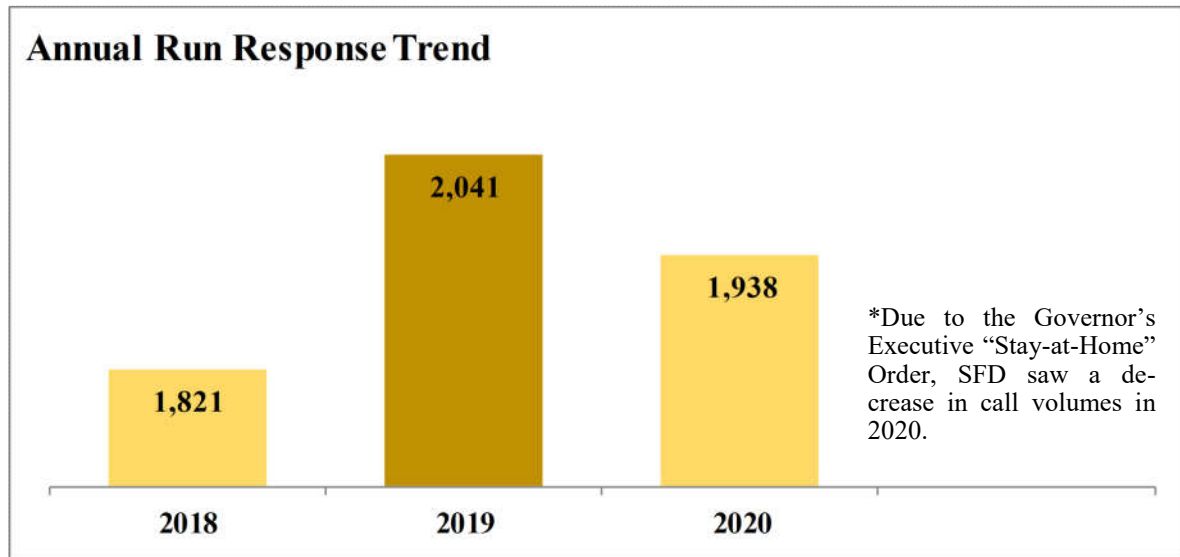
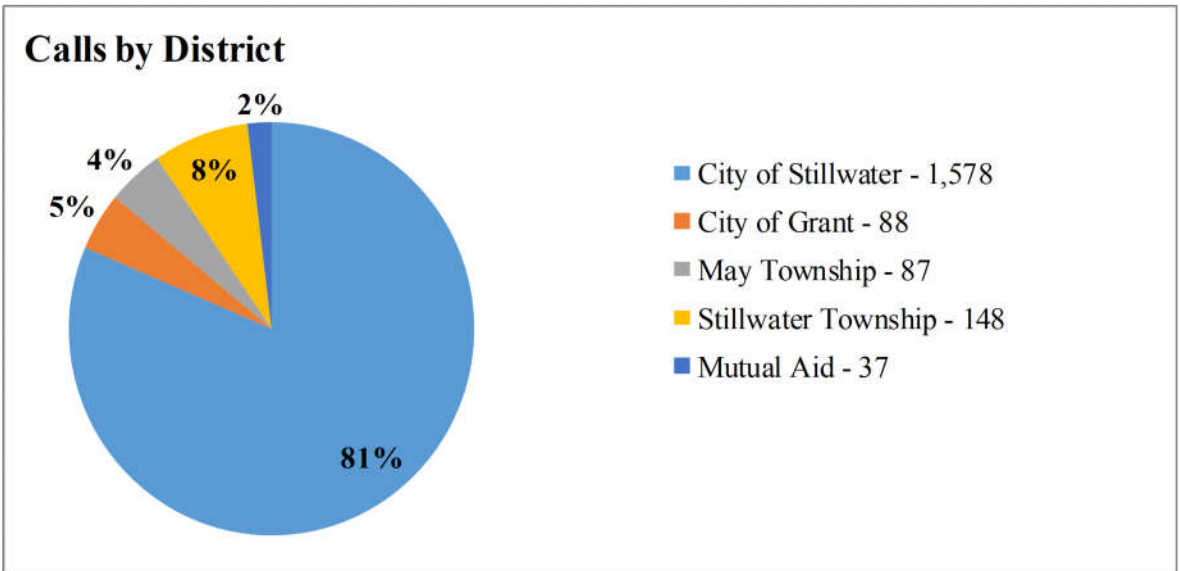
### Incidents by Day of Week



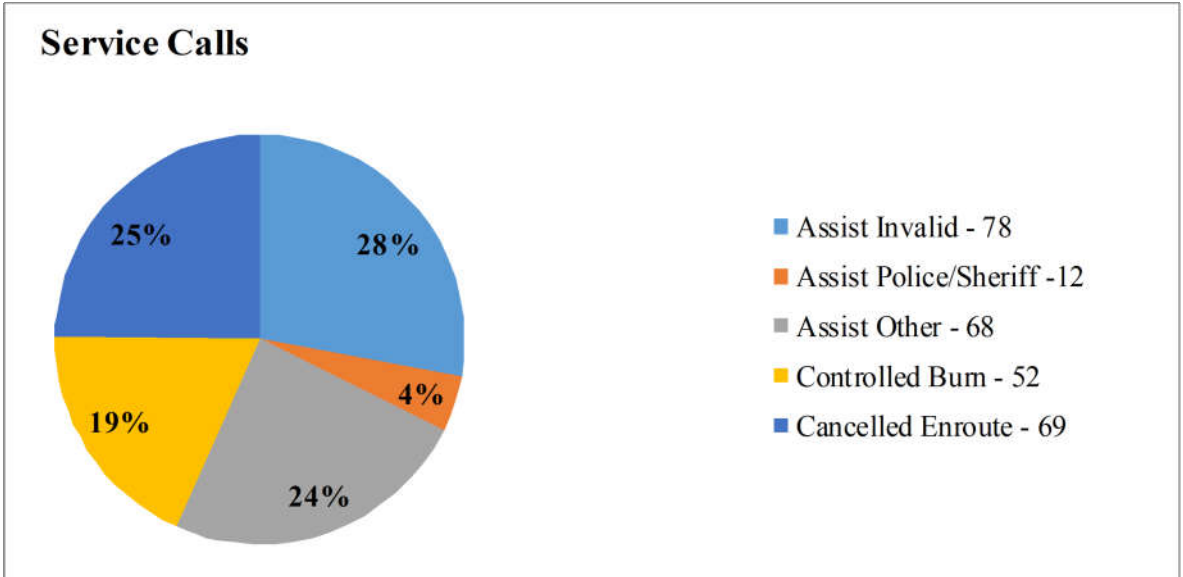
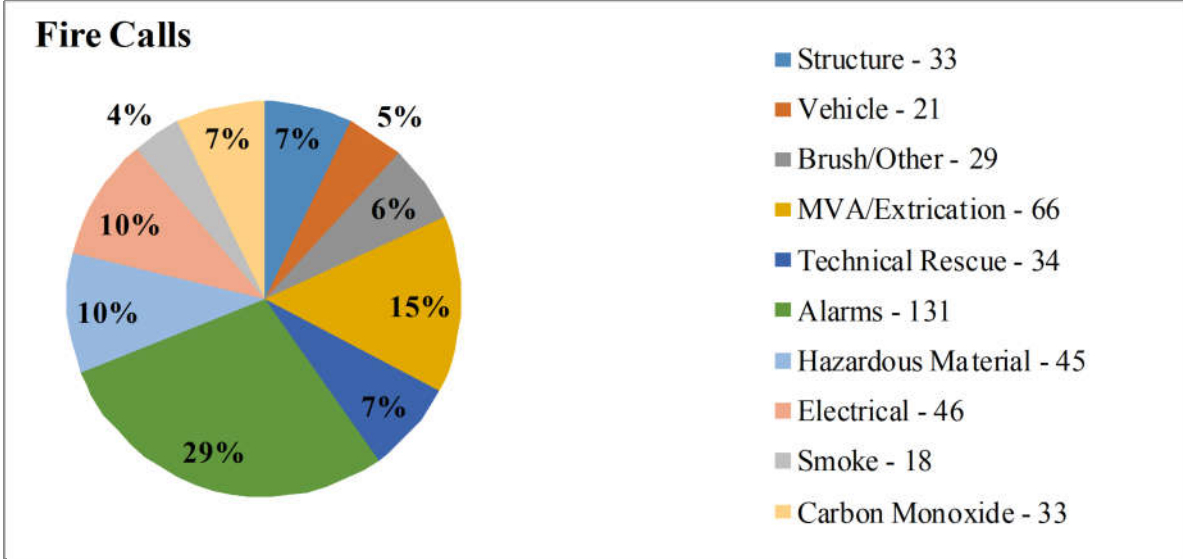
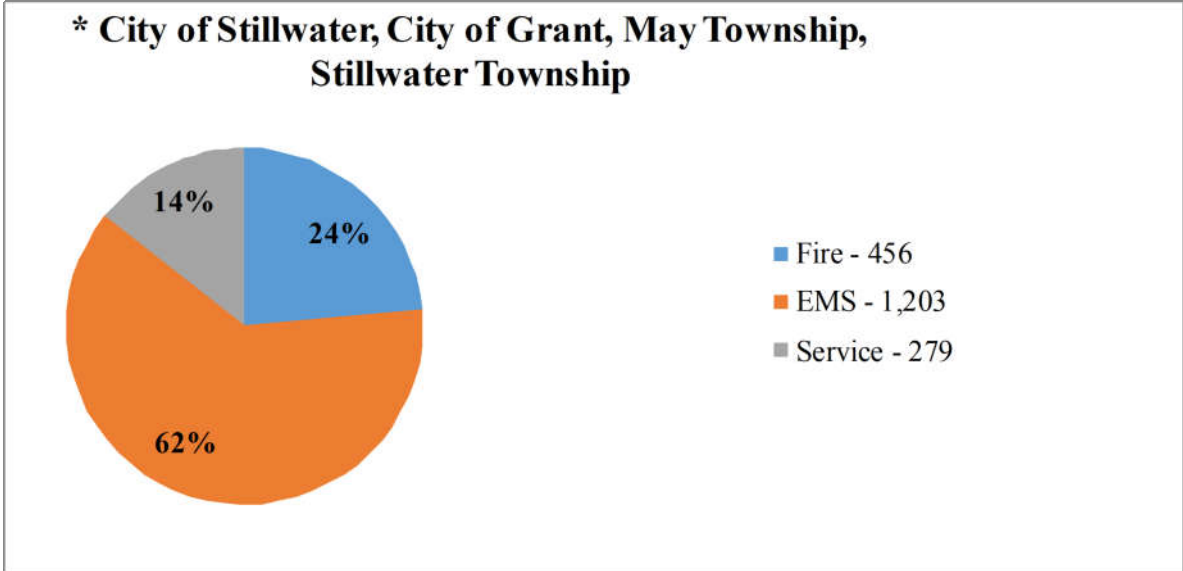
### Incidents per Month



# Response Summary

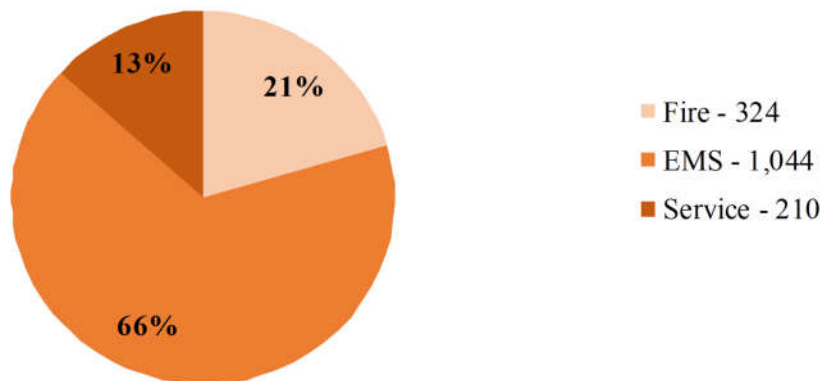




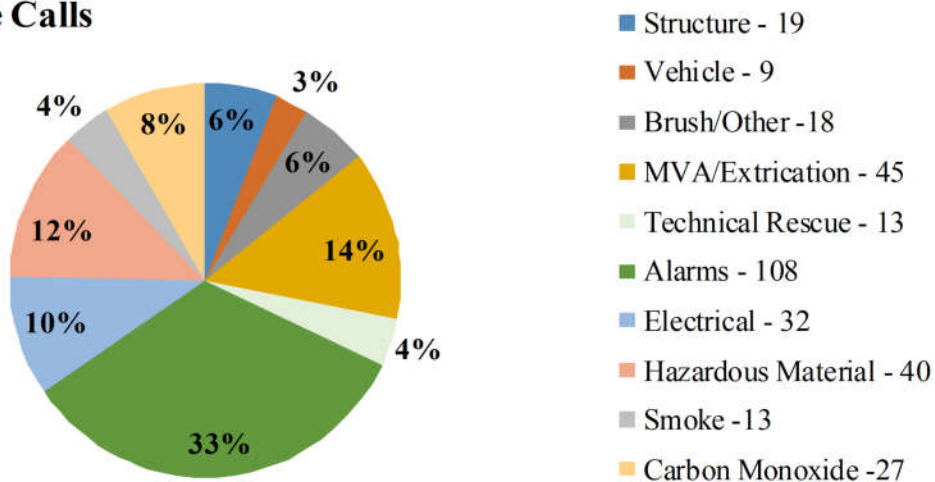


\* District total includes Mutual and Auto Aid Calls

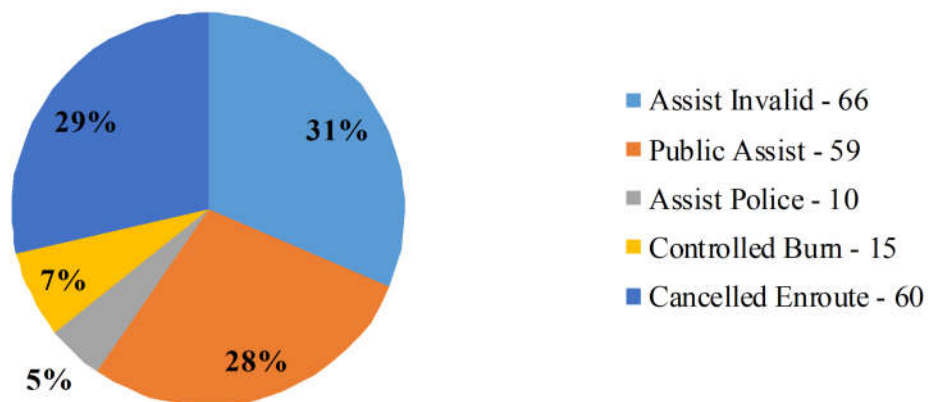
City of Stillwater



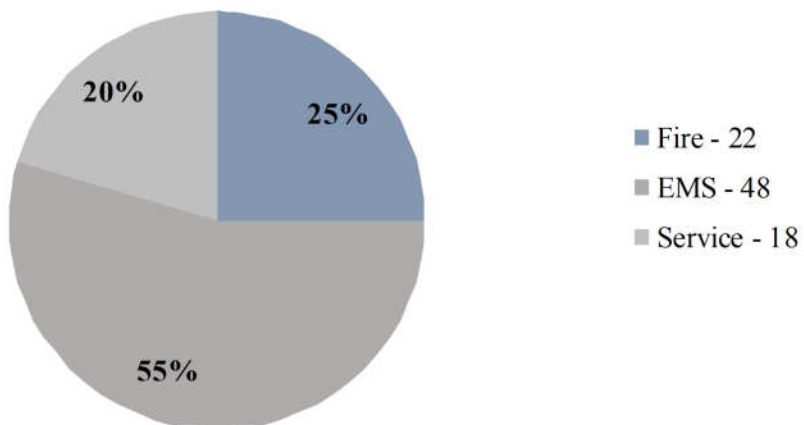
Fire Calls



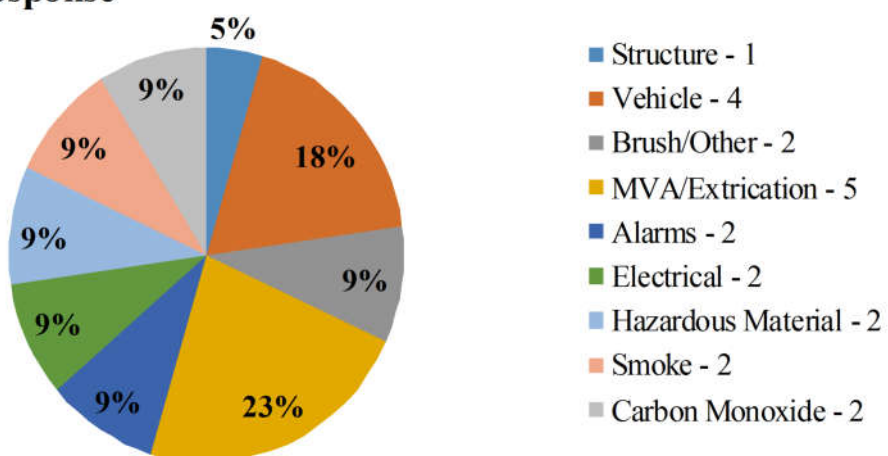
Service Calls



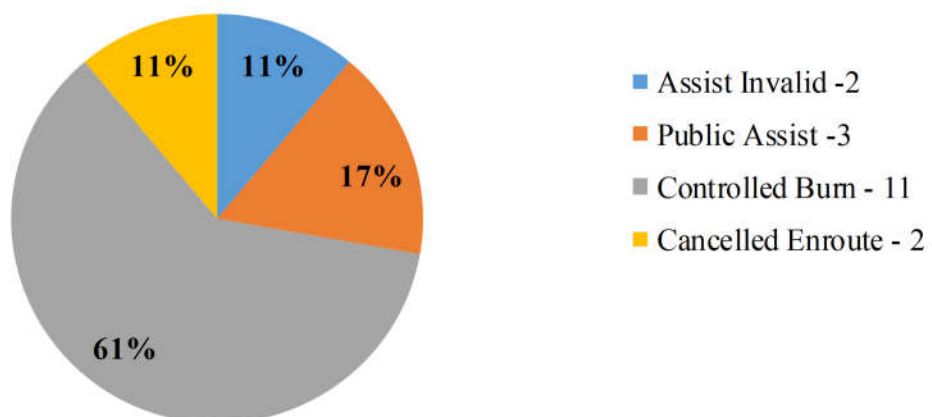
City of Grant



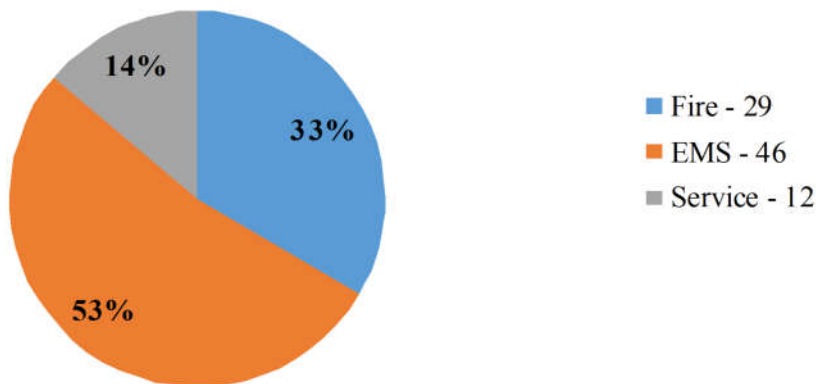
Fire Response



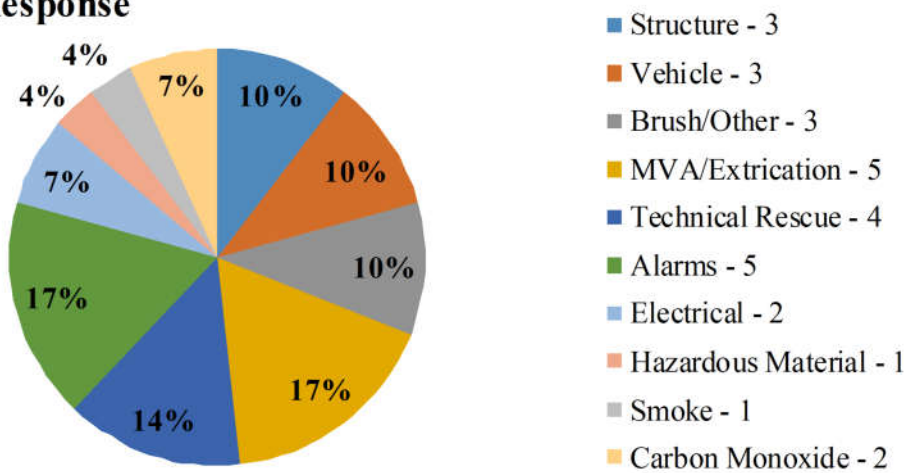
Service Calls



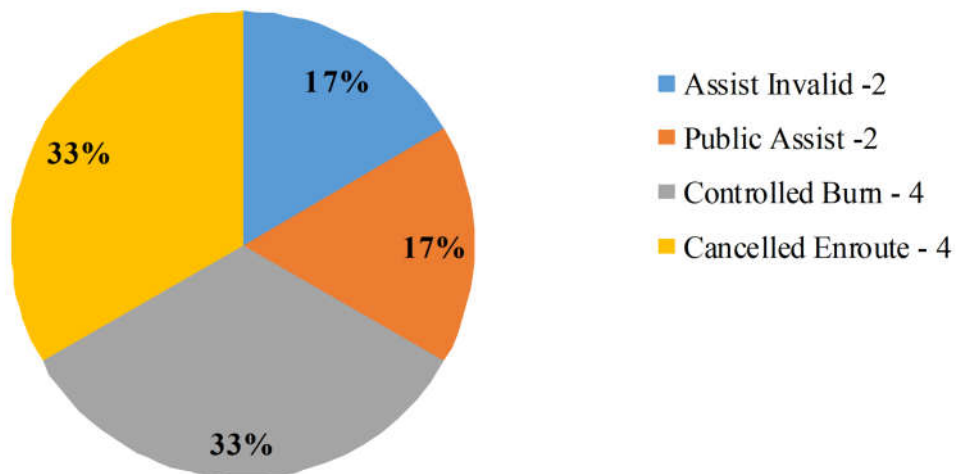
**May Township**



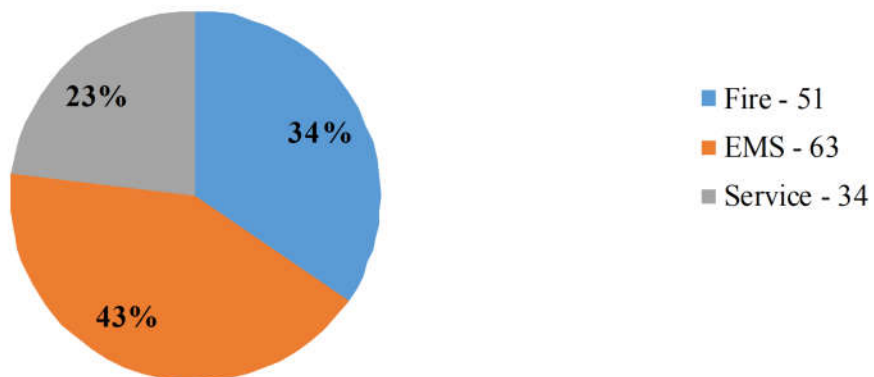
**Fire Response**



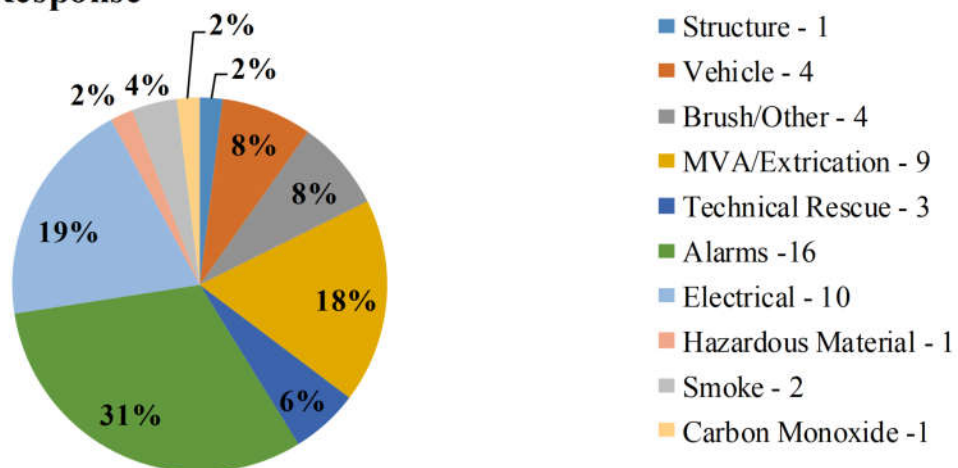
**Service Calls**



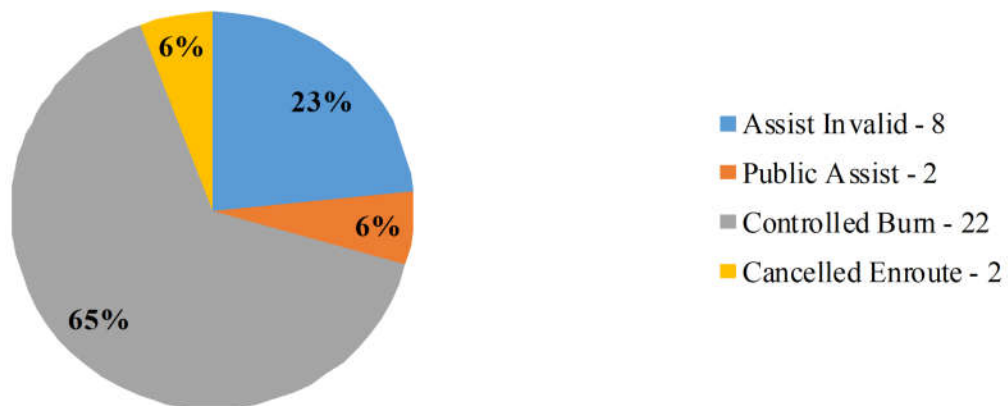
**Stillwater Township**



**Fire Response**



**Service Calls**

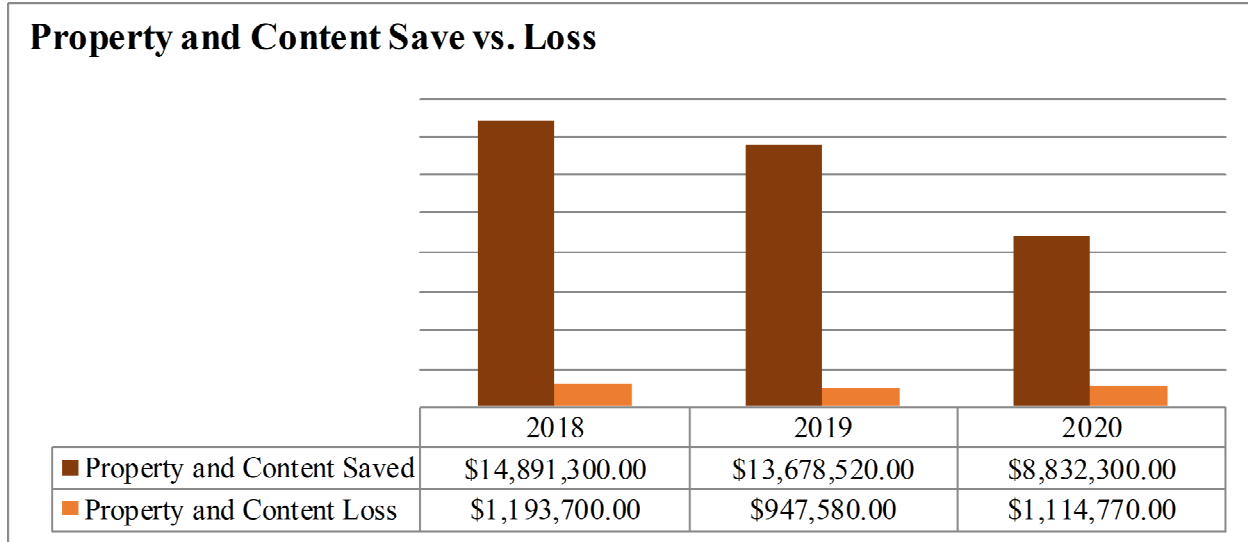


## Fire Prevention

### Property and Content Saved

The Stillwater Fire Department protects a wide variety of properties which have substantial dollar value and also buildings which have great historical significance to our City and the State of Minnesota. The personnel of SFD are proud of our heritage and are extremely honored to be chosen to protect and provide service to the City of Stillwater - the Birthplace of Minnesota, City of Grant, May Township and Stillwater Township.

The chart below indicates the total property and content saved vs. loss which occurred by fire in the Stillwater Fire Department response District over the past several years.



Cost estimates are derived from property value records from the Washington County Property Records and Taxpayer Services

### Code Enforcement

The Fire Prevention Division continues to support the mission of the Stillwater Fire Department to protect life and property through dedicated service. Fire Prevention staff are licensed by the State of Minnesota and listed below are some of the duties performed.

- Search for fire hazards
- Ensure that buildings comply with fire codes
- Test fire alarms, sprinklers, and other fire protection and extinguishing equipment
- Inspect equipment such as gasoline storage tanks and air compressors
- Conduct follow-up visits when an infraction is found
- Review emergency evacuation plans
- Confer with developers and planners to review plans for residential and commercial buildings
- Keep detailed occupancy records
- Conduct fire and life safety education programs

During 2020 Stillwater Fire Department personnel conducted 275 inspections, issued 36 permits and had 344 consultations.

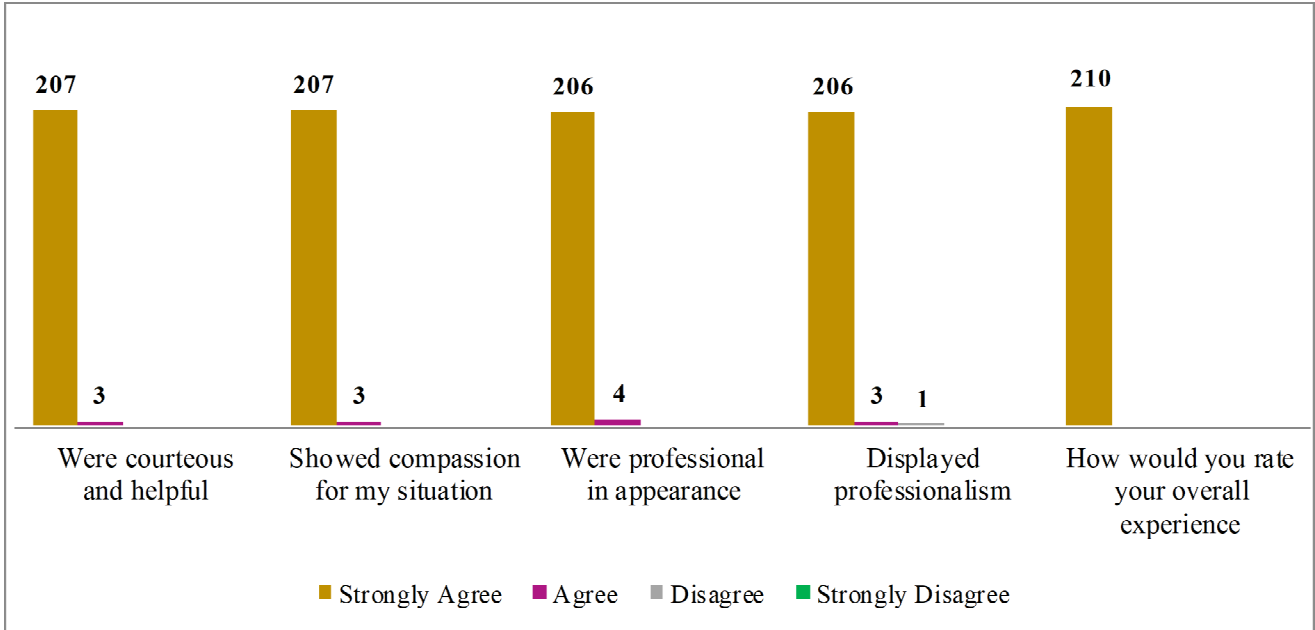
SFD along with the Water Department flushed 1,162 hydrants within the City of Stillwater. Hydrant flushing is a quick release of water from fire hydrants. It's a controlled procedure that is vital to the general maintenance of the City's water distribution system. It ensures adequate water flow is available to firefighters, residents and businesses. Hydrant flushing also ensures that all hydrants, valves, and mains are in working order.

# Improvements

## Performance Surveys

The Stillwater Fire Department wants to provide the communities it serves with the best services possible. SFD takes great pride in their commitment to the public and are constantly seeking ways to improve our service.

To assist us, we send out customer satisfaction surveys to individuals that had contact with SFD to evaluate our level of service. We had a return rate of 40% of completed and returned surveys. Listed below is a chart and comments that we received in 2020.



- *“We appreciate how quickly they arrived and how they presented themselves and made everyone more relaxed in a stressful situation.”*
- *“I’m proud to have a Fire Department as compassionate and kind.”*
- *“On the worst day of my life, the team was calm, caring and professional and brought a sense of calm and control to the situation.”*
- *“I was so impressed by their promptness, calmness and compassion.” “They let my dog out and with my permission gave a neighbor my garage code so I didn’t have to worry about my dog.”*
- *“I very much appreciate their help, as I was not feeling well and they shoveled my driveway for the ambulance around 1:00 a.m. - thank you very much.”*
- *“I was so scared about my husband’s condition and every single person involved were compassionate and helped me feel it will be ok.” “Very protective regarding social distancing in the midst of COVID-19. They are such an asset to Stillwater and I’m so proud that they are part of the community.”*



Fire Prevention Preschool Visit



Fire Prevention School Visit

## Improvements



SFD updated our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) in 2020. The new MSA G1 SCBA have a 4500 psi bottle which allows firefighters to stay on air for approximately 40 minutes. Each SCBA has emergency breathing hoses, personal alert safety system, mask with heads up display showing air levels, Bluetooth communications and better visibility.



SFD updated front line apparatus with FLIR K1 personal thermal imaging cameras will improve situational awareness and crew safety. Each crew entering a hazardous environment will have this technology available to them to assist with firefighting efforts.



Firefighter health and safety is paramount for staff. SFD installed a new washer/extractor and gear dryer to clean and dry contaminated turnout gear after structure fires, hazardous materials incidents and EMS calls involving blood-borne pathogens.



SFD replaced an outdated breathing air compressor and fill station. The new compressor is capable of filling air cylinders to 6000 psi. The fill station is able to fill the 6 storage bottles and 3 SCBA bottles at a time. This new compressor allows crews to return to service much faster than the previous system.



## Training Activity

### SFD PERSONNEL HOLD THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATIONS:

- Firefighter I
- Firefighter II
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Advanced EMS Certification
- Hazardous Materials Operation Level
- Terrorism Awareness Training
- Fire Apparatus Operator
- Technical Rescue
- Vehicle Extrication
- Confined Space Rescue



Live Burn Training

During the current pandemic, SFD continued to train and improved their skills while they stayed healthy and maintained physical distancing. When practical, virtual training was implemented.

Training activities included Fire Training, EMS, HazMat, Technical Rescue, Dive and Department Meetings for approximately 3,954 hours.

### Volunteer Paid-on-Call (VPOC) Firefighter

VPOC Firefighters are essential to the operations of the Stillwater Fire Department. The process to become a VPOC is extensive but the reward in helping others is significant. Those applying for a VPOC position must live within 10 minutes from the fire station. Applicants will attend an informational meeting that covers hiring process and training requirements, successfully pass a written exam and oral interview panel.

Applicants selected to move forward complete and pass a background investigation, physical ability test, psychological screening and medical testing. Those successful in passing all aspects of the hiring process may be considered for a VPOC Firefighter position. During their 12 month probation, candidates will attend over 290 hours of training and education. VPOC Firefighters are required to respond to 25% of All Call tones each quarter.

- Firefighter I - 120 hours
- Firefighter II - 32 hours
- Hazmat Operations - 32 hours
- EMS Training - 40 hours
- SFD Training - Tuesday evenings

After the first year on the Department, staff shall meet the minimum monthly training requirements for licensing, complete Advanced Firefighter training, meet call response standards and work a minimum number of hours on duty.



Dive Training

# Personnel Updates

## Years of Service

The Department was proud and honored to award years of service pins and recognition to the following individuals for their dedication and commitment to the Stillwater Fire Department.



Lieutenant  
Seth McCauley  
5 Years of Service



Assistant Chief  
John Nobles  
25 years of Service

## Promotions

On January 1, 2020, SFD promoted three Volunteer Paid-on-Call Firefighter/Engineers to Lieutenant. These positions play a crucial role in meeting staffing levels. All three of these individuals are new to their leadership roles and SFD looks forward to their insight and ideas as SFD moves into the next decade. Congratulations Seth McCauley, Ryan Smith and Ben Wojcik on your new responsibilities.



Lieutenant  
Seth McCauley



Lieutenant  
Ryan Smith



Lieutenant  
Benjamin Wojcik

## Certificate of Excellence



All Volunteer Paid-on-Call employees must respond to a minimum of twenty-five percent of “All Call” toned emergency incidents during each quarter of the calendar year.

In 2020 there were 179 “All Calls” and Ryan Sarner responded to 130 of those calls for service and went above and beyond and averaged over 72% call response for the year.

Ryan was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for the Highest Run Percentage two years in a row. Congratulations and thank you Ryan for your continued dedication to the Stillwater Fire Department and the citizens we serve.

# Personnel Updates

## Retirement



Tim Bell (TJ) was hired on October 7, 1969, as a Volunteer Paid-on-Call Firefighter. During those 51 years, TJ served under seven Stillwater Fire Chiefs and responded to well over 15,000 calls during his tenure. Tim is the longest serving member of the Stillwater Fire Department in its 149 year history.

On December 31, 2020, having been a member for 51 years, 2 months and 24 days he turned in his uniforms and pager.

Congratulations TJ and thank you for your dedicated service, knowledge, and friendship. You will be missed by everyone.

## New Hires

Stillwater Fire Department would like to welcome George Burns, Lucas Hoffmann and Josh Knodle on board and look forward to their contributions for years to come.



Firefighter  
George Burns



Firefighter  
Lucas Hoffmann



Firefighter  
Joshua Knodle

**\* Cost of Equipping a Firefighter = \$15,392**



### Turnout Gear - \$14,000

- Helmet - \$150
- SCBA Facepiece - \$300
- Nomex Hood - \$135
- Radio - \$4,500
- Gloves - \$90
- Bunker Gear Coat & Pants - \$2,100
- Structural Fire Boot - \$325
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus - \$6,000
- Wildland Fire Gear - \$400



### Standard Uniform - \$899

- Badge - \$69
- Uniform Shirt - \$40
- Name Tag/Years of Service - \$59
- Patches - \$25
- Belt - \$24
- EMS Pant - \$53
- Uniform Boots - \$135
- Job Shirt - \$119
- Leather Name Tags - \$48
- Soft Shell Jacket - \$119
- High Viz Jacket - \$208

### Class A Uniform - \$493

- Class A Coat - \$189
- Class A Trouser - \$53
- Leather Belt - \$26
- High Gloss Shoes - \$73
- Class A Shirt - \$40
- Cap/Tie/Brass - \$112

**\*Not all uniform articles are pictured**

Covid-19 Sanitizer Quarantine

Work Remotely Ventilator

Exposure Epidemic Pandemic Elections

Self-quarantine Mask Drive Distance Learning Hybrid

PPE N95

Isolation gown

Goggles

Gloves

Eye Protection



Dial back

Lockdown

Sanitizing

Asymptomatic

Droplet transmission Self-monitoring

Nasal Swab

Underlying medical condition

Drive thru testing

Civil Unrest

Saliva test

Antigen Testing

Wash your hands

Community Spread

Incubation period

Flatten the curve

social distancing

Telemedicine

