

# PIKE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPT



## 2021 Annual Report



Pike Township Fire Department  
4881 W. 71st Street Indianapolis, IN  
46268 317-347-5860

Trustee Annette M. Johnson

Fire Chief: Chris E. Tragesser

## A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF CHRIS TRAGESSER



Despite the ever-present shadow of the pandemic, 2021 was a successful year for Pike Township Fire Department. “Success” being measured by: rapid response by our firefighters and medical personnel; state-of-the art apparatus and equipment; quick thinking in unique circumstances which mitigated damage; growth in knowledge and expertise; and compassion for each resident served. For the first time ever in Pike Township Fire Department history, **runs exceeded 15,000 in 2021 — a 20% increase over 2020.**

Our team of firefighters, medical personnel and staff work in harmony towards ONE GOAL – keeping Pike Township citizens, businesses, schools, churches and all visitors safe from fire dangers. Beyond their job requirements, Pike Township Fire Department members look for other ways to help and improve the community. I am proud to be part of this committed, caring organization.

The Department remains focused on creating a diverse workforce that reflects the community of Pike Township. In order to reach a more inclusive applicant pool, we initiated a number of unique outreach methods including: convening a diverse Recruitment Committee, creating a website response form and working with the Indianapolis Black Firefighters Association. As a result, we **doubled** the number of minority applicants in the last hiring cycle. Even with that success, we are committed to further enhancing our recruitment process in 2022.

Following are some highlights from 2021:

- **New 2-year labor contract** with enhanced benefits, including some new benefits for our hardworking, dedicated firefighters.
- **3 new engines – for Stations 63, 64 and 65.**
- **Short-term disability for civilians and EMS.** While merit personnel had provisions for disability, civilians and EMS did not, until Pike Township provided this benefit in 2021.
- **Recruit Academy 21 graduated 12 candidates** who will finish their probationary year in early 2022.
- **New Maintenance / Decontamination facility.** We completed the final design and engineering phase of our new maintenance and decontamination facility at the Headquarters site. The depreciation of the existing maintenance facility hampers service. Built in the early 1980s, it was not designed for today’s fire service needs. We have outgrown this facility and a feasibility study showed new construction was more economical than remodeling the current structure.

The decontamination section will further address ongoing safety needs of our firefighters in decontaminating the gear and our personnel protective wear in a systematic procedure. This process will further enhance our efforts to continue combating the challenge of cancer in the fire service.

Our success and strength as a Department is possible because of the strong support from Township Trustee Annette Johnson. Her leadership and support of Pike Township Fire Department’s goals and objectives has created an environment that assures the provision of optimum fire and life safety services throughout this community.

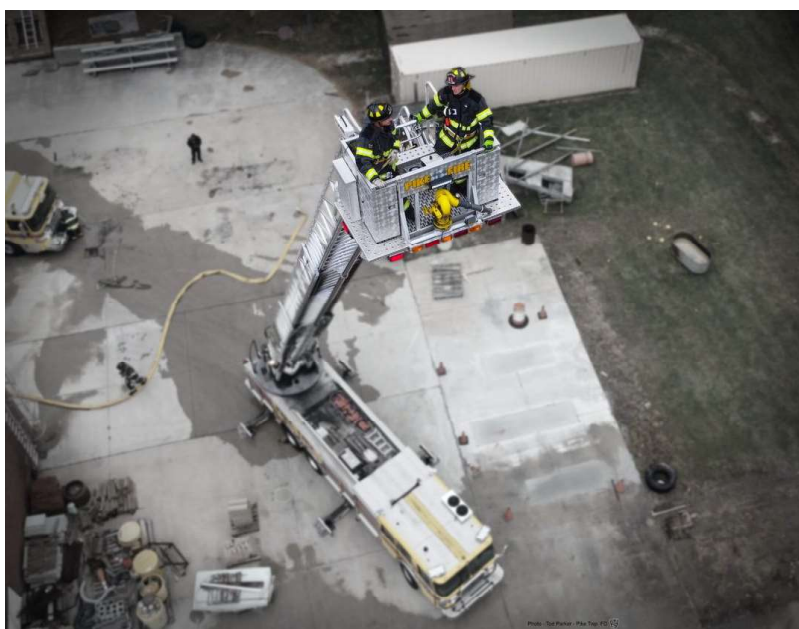
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris E. Tragesser". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Chris E. Tragesser

# PIKE FIRE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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# INTRODUCTION

## Core Values

Core Values are the characteristics by which a fire department and its members want to describe themselves – the ideals they uphold as a group. The Core Values of Pike Township Fire Department represent a baseline of moral behavior expected of all members. They are not merely lofty goals to aspire to, but rather standards of behavior that must be adhered to on a daily basis. The Pike Township Fire Department describes its Core Values in this way:

**Professionalism:** Ethically and competently providing the highest quality customer service achievable.

**Integrity:** Honesty and truthfulness in what is said and done, putting honesty, sense of duty, and sound moral principles, above all else.

**Kinetic Leadership:** Actively influencing people to willingly strive toward shared objectives.

**Enthusiasm:** Demonstrating sincere interest in the performance of one’s duties.

## Vision Statement

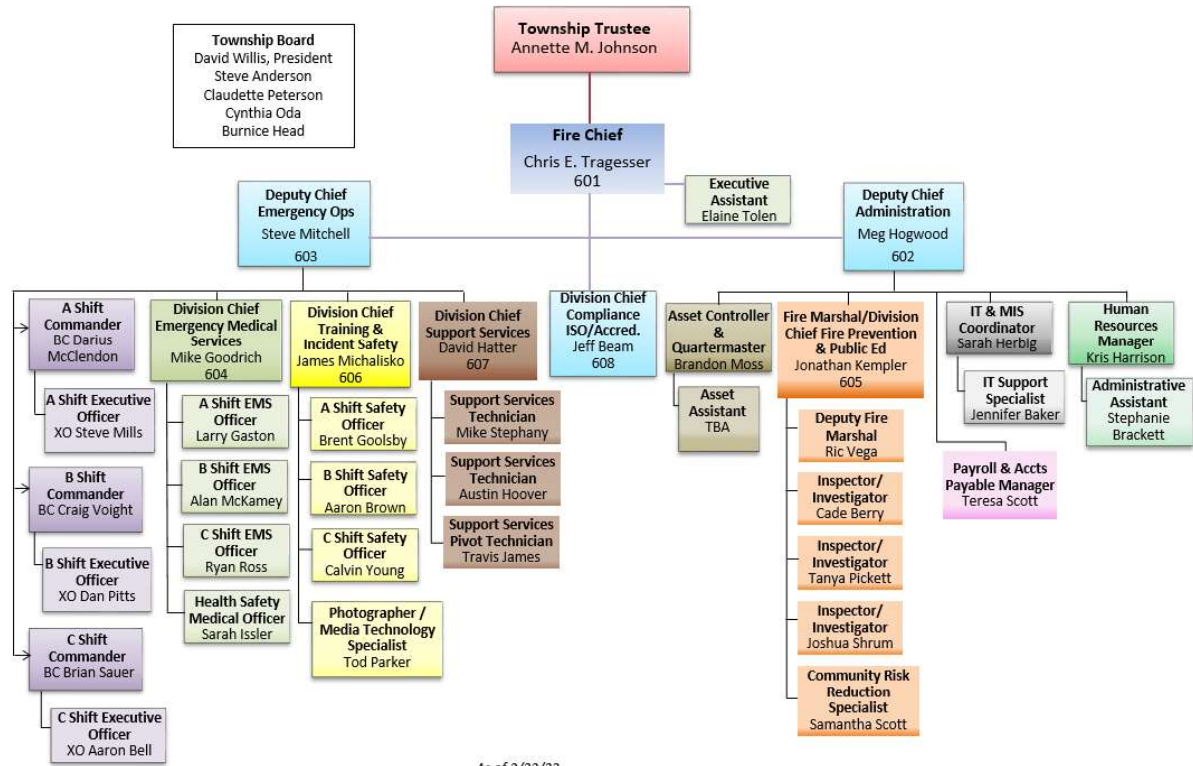
To foster an environment of pride, tradition and service through belief in and application of our core values by every member of the department.

## Mission Statement

To safeguard our community through services designed to protect life and property from the perilous effects of dangerous conditions.



# Pike Township Fire Department Organizational Chart



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BRANCH



*Deputy Chief  
Meg Hogwood*

The primary focus of the Deputy Chief of Administrative Services is the financial health of the fire department. This position is responsible for developing and presenting the annual budget to the Trustee, through collaboration with the Fire Chief and the Deputy Chief of Operations.

In 2021, the Administrative Services Branch continued to be committed to two main goals for Pike Fire Department members: *Health and fitness*, and *retirement readiness*. Health and fitness will continue to remain a priority in 2022, while we continue to focus on retirement readiness through additional services and seminars for personnel.

## Staff

The Administrative Services Branch encompasses all administrative functions for Pike Township Fire Department and includes the following areas:

- Information Technology
- Human Resources
- Asset Controller/Quartermaster
- Payroll/Accounts Payable Management
- Budgeting and Finance

## 2021 Overview in Brief

The continuing presence of COVID-19 forced Administrative Services departments to focus on firefighter safety, policy creation and implementation for safe and efficient operations, and IT support and infrastructure enabling a rapid transition to a remote working environment.

The following reports highlight the specific areas of the Administrative Services Branch as outlined above.



## 2021 Information Technology

In 2021, the IT Department experienced significant changes, including an entirely new IT staff (due to unforeseen circumstances). Even while becoming acclimated to the new positions, the new staff continued rolling out new projects and software in order to provide Pike Township users with more efficient technology. We have continued to strive to make the IT Department the best it can be and have many future projects in the works.

### Meet the new IT crew



As MIS Coordinator, Sarah Herbig brings a specialty of systems along with a broad range of IT skills from her previous job as a Senior Systems Engineer. She graduated with a degree in Software and Cyber Security from Vincennes University in 2016 and has worked in the IT field since then.



Technical Support Specialist Jennifer Baker graduated from Indiana University in 2021 with a degree in Informatics and a minor in Human Centered Computing. She came to PTFD from Crate & Barrel, where she was a lead customer service associate, bringing a specialty in Mac OS and customer service skills.

### Significant IT Projects Completed in 2021

- **Move to Comcast from AT&T fiber optic internet connection**  
This was one of the major projects of 2021. Former MIS Coordinator Aaron Cleveland initiated the move and new MIS Coordinator Sarah Herbig saw it through to completion. After much planning, hardware changes and many meetings with NSI and Comcast, we are now getting speeds and bandwidth that we were previously not achieving.
- **Mosyle Mobile Device Management Program**  
This was another project started by the previous IT team and completed in 2021. This program allows us to more easily and securely manage both iPads and iPhones. One important feature is being able to lock down the iPads and push out apps to them. Currently, all of the iPads in the apparatus have been converted to Mosyle as well as many of the administrative staff's iPhones.

In 2022, the goal is to centralize Apple IDs. Separate, individual logins for each iPhone and iPad would be discontinued. Apple's management program will be incorporated along with Mosyle in order to control these devices remotely and securely.

In 2022, another goal is to upgrade staff members' iPhones. Those devices are outdated and no longer receive security updates, posing a security risk by being connected to our network. This is pending availability as Verizon has recently had low to no stock due to continuing supply chain disruptions.

- **KnoxBox Replacement**  
In early 2021, some issues arose with the current KnoxBox set up for the eKeys. They were constantly disconnecting or not working correctly; and sometimes completely stopped functioning, resulting in the multiple replacements.

The KnoxBox sales rep and an engineer came to Pike Fire to review the situation. They found several defective models of Knox cores, which were replaced at no charge. Additionally, the company replaced every KnoxBox in the apparatus and all of our eKeys. Since the outdated models were replaced, the eKeys have been working successfully.



- **Office 365 and Active Directory**

We began the process of cleaning up groups and users in Office 365 and Active Directory. Previously, there was no off-boarding process. Now, when a user leaves Pike Township employment, their email immediately is disabled or blocked from sign in, and their emails are backed up in case they need to be accessed later.

In 2022, the goal is to implement Multifactor Authentication in Office 365 to increase security.

- **Know-Be-4**

Set up began for this service that sends fake phishing and spam emails to users in order to test the security and awareness in an organization. Education is available to learn how to spot a phishing scheme. The first phishing campaign has been set up, however, the program is not being used on a regular basis yet.

In 2022, the goal is to utilize this tool regularly in order to keep users aware.

- **Vector Solutions**

Each vehicle contains hundreds of items (“assets”), which were inventoried and added to the Vector Check It program. A new ticket system was also set up.

In 2022, the goal is to complete training then implement the program department wide.



## 2021 IT Improvements

- **All ambulances now contain iPads**, allowing them to easily and efficiently use ESO on the go. Each iPad has a rugged case with a keyboard.
- **All fire investigators have received a Toughbook for their trucks**, set up with both fire and police Motorola Premier One CAD programs to enhance the fire reporting process.
- **We recycled a large amount of outdated or non-working electronics**, from Windows 2000 computers to unfixable Toughbooks to old pagers!
- **The server room was cleaned out and organized**. Creating a clearly labeled storage system has improved efficiency and reduced ordering duplicate items.
- **A loaner laptop is now available, and a laptop is ready for a new user at all times**, along with a spare Toughbook imaged and ready for use in case one breaks down in the apparatus. We also have spare iPads. Redundancy is an important part of IT and the flow of a 24-hour fire station.
- **Hardware upgrades were made to the Small Claims Court computers** to help keep up with the upgraded Odyssey program.
- **General improvements are continually being made around the stations**, from software to hardware updates, to meet the needs of every user.



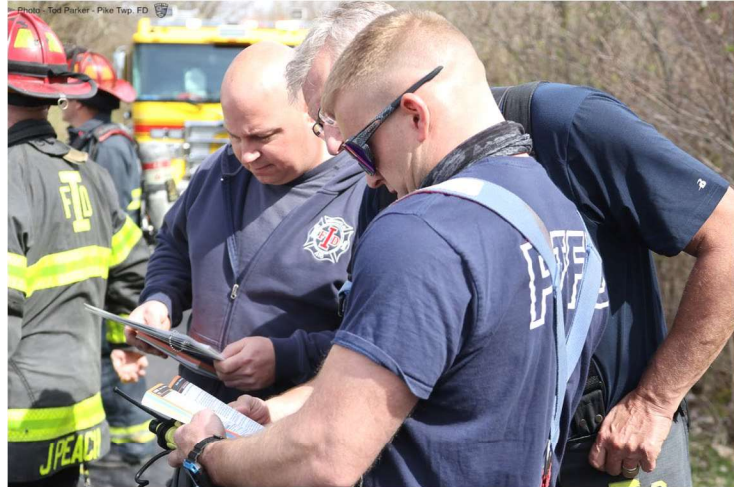


## Future IT Improvement plans

- **2022 improvement plans** include our network infrastructure, servers, and logins. Improving security continues to be priority.
- **Upgrade servers to the latest version.** A few servers are not on the latest version but are still good for a few years, while others are older and need to be upgraded in 2022.
- **Increase security on Office 365.** This includes turning on multi-factor authentication and auditing all groups to ensure that access is limited to necessary users.

- **Upgrade Netapp to the cloud version** to improve future contingency as this directly involves all our files. Currently, we host the program on site.

- **Reconstruct our security structure and Group Policy Objects along with group security.** This involves a complete overhaul to provide the structure which will allow us to assign specific access according to the individual need.



- **Upgrading hardware around all of the stations will continue.** Some computers are older than 4 years old, with hard drives starting to fail. The failing hard drives are being replaced with SSDs, which is a less costly option than complete hard drive replacement.
- **Manage iPads and iPhones in a better environment.** Rather than just using Mosyle, we are moving toward using both Apple MDM and Mosyle for both the Apple ID management and the physical management.
- **Possible upgrading of our VMWare version, which holds our Virtual Machines.** We would also like to look into moving to Azure, which works well with Virtual Machines.



## Finances

One of Administrative Services' main priorities is ensuring the Fire Department operates within the allotted budget as set by the Pike Township Advisory Board and approved by the State Board of Accounts (SBOA). When setting the budget, the largest expense to the department is personnel salaries and group insurance costs. While salaries are set through a collective bargaining agreement, there are items that can be controlled to assist in maintaining a balanced budget throughout the year. The two primary categories that impact the personnel budget line are **group insurance** and **employee overtime**.

### Employee Overtime

Employee overtime is necessary to ensure adequate staffing of apparatus in conjunction with NFPA 1710 standards for career departments. When comparing the expenditure of overtime from 2019 to 2021, consideration must be given to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for firefighters to be off duty for several days in order to meet CDC isolation guidelines. This resulted in an unexpected and unbudgeted increase in overtime expenditure.

In the period beginning with 2019 through 2021, overtime expended was approximately \$1.24 million to \$1.26 million (approximately 9% of the overall budget). As the pandemic eased and the 2021 recruits graduated, the need for firefighter overtime decreased.

Overtime includes EMS overtime that is already budgeted into their salary equivalent. As there is no practical way to separate planned overtime from unplanned overtime, it is impossible to provide a perfectly accurate accounting of overtime spent specifically covering sick time.

Pike Fire ended 2021 with 139 merit personnel, and will enter 2022 fully staffed on paper. However, this does not account for pending firefighter retirements in 2022. Additionally, there are several firefighters and EMS personnel on limited duty or medical leave, creating the need to backfill those positions with overtime personnel.



## Group Health Insurance

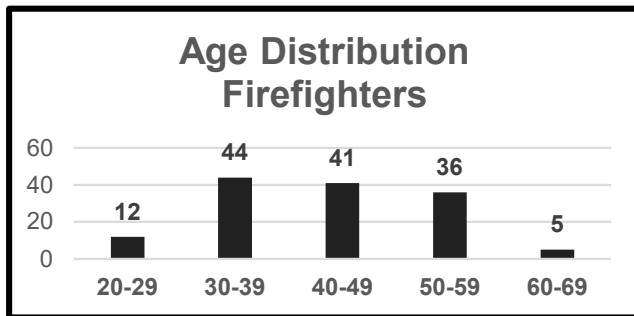
The second category where savings are available is group health insurance. Some of this cost is driven directly by the collective bargaining agreement with the Township. The Department periodically re-evaluates the insurance provided to employees to determine if more affordable options exist. In 2018, the department spent approximately \$3 million on insurance for its firefighters, EMS personnel, civilian employees, and retirees on the plan. In 2019, that cost rose to approximately \$4 million.

In 2020, insurance costs rose to nearly \$5.3 million. Administrative Services, in conjunction with the Township Trustee and the Fire Chief, were able to examine different insurance costs during the past year. By exploring options and allowing a new broker to propose changes to our 2021 plan, the Township was able to hold projected insurance costs steady for 2021, resulting in a savings of nearly \$1 million.

Additionally, by working closely with our insurance brokers and the Trustee, the Department was able to implement a second, more cost-conscious, high-deductible health plan option for the Township beginning in 2022. Through effective marketing, the Township achieved a nearly 90% migration rate from the traditional PPO plan offering to the new high deductible plan with health savings option.

## Hiring - Firefighters

As of December 31, 2021, 139 merit firefighters were on the Pike Township Fire Department payroll. The average age for Pike Township firefighters is 43 years old. For a firefighter to be fully vested in their pension and eligible to draw retirement, they must reach 52 years of age and have 20 years of service in the State Public Employee Pension Fund (PERF). Firefighters must be 21 years of age to be hired by Pike Township and by State law are prohibited from working past the age of 70. This chart illustrates the likely impact retirements will have on Pike Fire and the need for preparedness including planning for recruit academies yearly for the next several years.

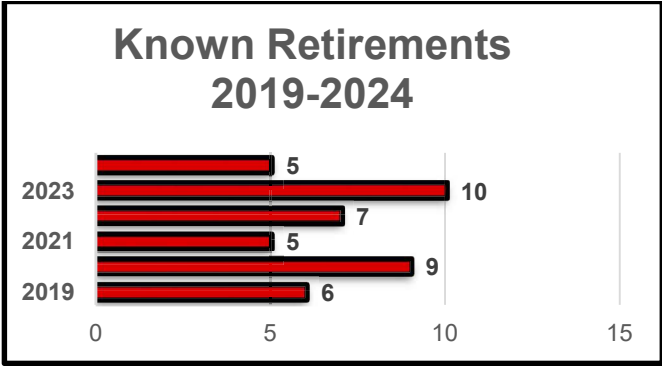


The first step in preparing for future academies is recruitment. The Department remains focused on creating a diverse workforce that reflects the community of Pike Township. In order to reach a more inclusive applicant pool, we initiated a number of unique outreach methods including: convening a diverse Recruitment Committee, creating a website response form and working with the Indianapolis Black Firefighters

Association. As a result, we **doubled** the number of minority applicants in the last hiring cycle. Even with that success, we are committed to further enhancing our recruitment process in 2022.



The Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) is a way for firefighters to prepare for retirement, while giving Administrative Services an idea of the number of personnel that will need to be replaced in a given year. While DROP participants are able to exit the program, there are financial incentives that are typically strong enough to deter this from happening, allowing relatively accurate exit planning. The DROP allows for 13 months to three years participation which, in turn, allows Administration to project numbers three years in advance. Firefighter replacement requires extensive planning. The time required to hire and train a firefighter from the eligibility list takes up to nine months. The DROP attempts to address this potential gap in employment by providing predictive capabilities. The following graph illustrates firefighter retirement from 2019 through 2024.



**Hiring - EMS**

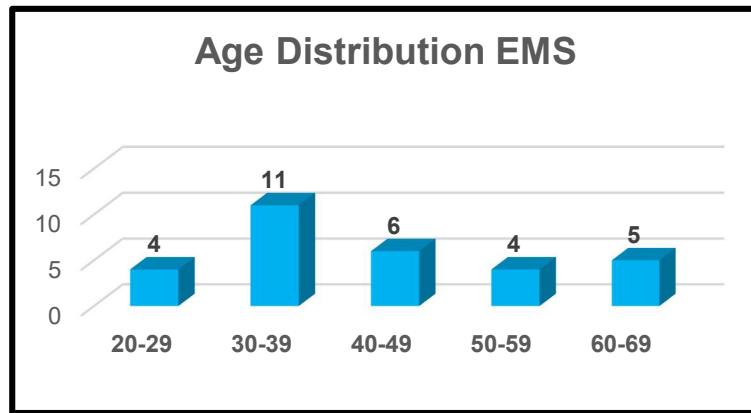
Pike Township Fire Department budgets for 30 civilian Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel who are responsible for staffing four transporting medic units. As of January 1, 2022, all 30 positions are filled. As noted in the graph below, 26 employees (87%) are over the age of 30, and 15 (50%) are over the age of 40.

This is significant because turnover in the EMS sector, either public or private, sits at an average national rate of 20% to 30%. Further, an additional 10% to 15% of staff leaves for retirement (Vincent D. Robbins, 2018). In 2021, four EMS personnel terminated employment for other job opportunities (13%) and no EMS employees left due to retirement.

Based on the current age of our EMS personnel, and utilizing predictive factors available through several key studies, Pike Fire could expect a potential turnover of closer to 40% in the coming year(s). While Pike Fire provides one of the most competitive wages in the State for EMS personnel, studies note that pay rates are not necessarily attributable to lower turnover in public sector EMS.

Specifically, implementation of organizational interventions, including attention to safety, programs allowing for career growth and development, scheduling, and increased employee involvement are areas that tend to lessen employee turnover *Id.* In 2021, EMS personnel were continued to be offered opportunities to advance their career path through the attendance of a Paramedic program, sponsored by Pike Fire. At this time, no EMS personnel are enrolled. Pike Fire will continue to offer opportunities for advancement in an attempt to attract long-term EMS personnel to the department.





Vincent D. Robbins, F. F. (2018, November 20). *Recruitment and Retention: A Perennial Problem in EMS*. Retrieved from jems.com: [www.jems.com/2018/11/20/recruitment-and-retention-a-perennial-problem-in-ems/](http://www.jems.com/2018/11/20/recruitment-and-retention-a-perennial-problem-in-ems/)

## Retirement Readiness

Currently, Pike Township offers employees three options for additional retirement savings. Hoosier Start and Nationwide are Deferred Compensation 457 options and Nationwide also offers an IRA option. These are available to all employees in the Township and contributions can be managed through a convenient payroll deduction option. Pike Township also offers a Post-Employment Health Plan (PEHP) to firefighters. This plan, made possible through the collective bargaining agreement, allows merit firefighters to divert unused vacation days into a separate account that, upon retirement, can be used to help with medical expenses, including the payment of insurance premiums.

In 2019, firefighters were able to reserve and contribute up to two vacation days (48 hours) to their PEHP account. This contribution is paid at the firefighter’s hourly rate as broken down from their base salary by the payroll administrator. This money is deposited by the Township directly into the firefighter’s PEHP account, held through Nationwide Retirement Services. Firefighters can choose investment elections for this money, just as if it were a deferred compensation account.

In 2019, 55 firefighters elected to divert at least one vacation day into their PEHP account. 2020 saw an increase in the availability of banked days, moving up to four days (96 hours.) This increase was due to the collective bargaining agreement in place. Again in 2020, 55 firefighters participated in the PEHP option, representing 43% of firefighters eligible to contribute.

Probationary firefighters are not represented in this number because they do not earn vacation time until after one year on the job. In 2021, 69 firefighters contributed at least one vacation day into their PEHP account, representing 50% of firefighters eligible to contribute. This is a 7% increase from 2020.

Deferred compensation savings is available to all employees of Pike Township. In the period 2019 to 2021, employee contributions increased each year to either Hoosier Start, Nationwide 457, or Nationwide IRA. In 2021, more than 70% of eligible fire department employees contributed approximately \$681,000 to these plans. Nearly 82% of merit firefighters contributed to one of these plans, also an increase; while 40% of civilian EMS personnel contributed to any plan, an increase of 10%. About half of administrative civilian personnel also contributed to one of the above plans in 2021. While merit firefighters have the benefit of a pension plan, civilian pension employees, including EMS personnel, do not receive the same level of benefits, and retirement readiness should be multi-faceted and include options such as contribution to a savings plan.



The goal of increased participation in an optional retirement savings plan for civilian personnel was finalized in 2021, with a matching program that will begin in 2022. Information sessions and retirement planning seminars will be offered that explain their retirement benefits and the need to secure additional retirement funding based upon their desired retirement lifestyle. The goal is to increase employee participation in retirement savings programs.



A final offering through Pike Township is a supplemental pay policy through either AFLAC or Police and Firemen’s Insurance Association (PFIA). Participation in any one of the variety of offered options helps to enhance security in retirement should it need to be taken early due to catastrophic illness or injury. Historically, merit firefighter participation has been low, due partially to the firefighters’ collective bargaining agreement that aids in job protection due to off duty injury or illness, and firefighters’

pension benefits that offer some disability protection should a catastrophic illness or off-duty injury occur and force the firefighter off the job. After additional promotion, voluntary coverage increased for firefighters to 55 personnel having coverage (40%).

Civilian EMS personnel participation in a supplemental pay policy has also been low. State civilian pension does not offer a disability option for early retirement needs. In 2020, the Department set a goal of providing short term disability to all civilian employees as a benefit. This goal was accomplished and as of January 1, 2021, all civilian employees, including both administrative and EMS personnel, are covered by a twelve-week short term disability policy provided by the Township.

**2022 Goals**

The overall direction of the Administrative Services Branch in 2022 is to continue to prepare for high volume firefighter turnover due to retirements, while addressing the likely budget impact from COVID-19. Additionally, maintaining full staffing for our EMS program through competitive wages and benefits will remain a priority.

Firefighter retirements are driven by pension base, as well as the ability to afford quality health insurance. Fitness and overall health improvement of active duty firefighters will ensure their ability to enjoy a quality retirement. Accordingly, Administrative Services will be focusing on innovative opportunities for further enriching the funding of Retiree Health Insurance, as well as continuing to support the health and fitness level of the current firefighters with an aim toward a successful retirement.



In conjunction with human resources, Administrative Services will offer retirement readiness seminars focused on the importance of contributions to the Post Employment Health Plan and the 457 Deferred Compensation plan. Additionally, retirement insurance funding opportunities for civilian employees will be explored. In order to ensure adequate staffing for upcoming retirements, a hiring process will be held in 2022. Planning will continue for recruitment and hiring in 2022 to offset known retirements.



# OPERATIONS BRANCH

The Operations Branch was again extremely busy in 2021 with increases in emergency responses and other challenges. Adding to our normal duties were the continued complications of COVID-19. I could not be prouder of all the men and women from the Operations Branch. They achieved excellence both in terms of their hard work with increased run load during in 2021, and their continued innovative thinking and execution that allowed services and training to continue, despite the unrelenting presence of COVID-19. The command staff of the Operations Branch of the Pike Township Fire Department for 2021 is below.

## Operations Staff

**Deputy Chief of Operations**  
Steve Mitchell



**Division Chief of Training  
and Incident Safety**  
James Michalisko  
\*7/21 – 12/21



\*Battalion Chief Darius McClendon served in this position 1/21 – 6/21.

**Division Chief of Support  
Services**  
Dave Hatter



**Division Chief of Emergency  
Medical Services**  
Mike Goodrich



## Operations Branch Mission:

### Safe

Operate to mitigate problems in a way that reduces as much risk and danger as possible.

### Efficient

Function in a well-organized and competent way to resolve emergencies rapidly with minimal wasted effort.

### Competent

Know – to the mastery level – the skills and knowledge required of your position.

- Know your strengths and weaknesses.
- Officers should know their crews' jobs, skills, strengths and weaknesses as well as their own.
  - ▶ Ensure your crews have mastery skill & knowledge.

### Tough

- Be strong enough and brave enough to stand up for what is right.
- Do your job when it is difficult.
- Have the hard conversations when they are needed.
- Be a leader.





## Shift Commanders – Battalion Chiefs

A-shift = Darius McClendon  
\*7/21-12/21

B-shift = Craig Voight

C-shift = Brian Sauer



\*Battalion Chief Jim Campbell served in this position 1/21-6/21



### Goals

The goals set in 2021 were to maintain and improve upon our excellence as an emergency services provider. As noted previously, COVID-19 had an enormous impact on our operations for the second consecutive year, but through it all, we continued to work towards our goals. These goals are accomplished through the following steps:

- By maintaining our excellent response times to all emergencies;
- By maintaining and improving safety in our service to the community;
- By resolving emergencies in an efficient and competent manner;
- By maintaining and improving the training and skill of our membership;
- By providing the best equipment, apparatus and the maintenance of all equipment and stations;
- By increasing, where possible, our services to the Pike Township community.

### Responsibilities

The Operations Branch serves Pike Township by providing emergency services to our community. We also function to train and maintain the skills and excellence in our emergency personnel in EMS, Fire and Special Operations. Our Support Services Division keeps our emergency response equipment, our stations and grounds all in top condition.

Pike Township Fire Department Operations serve the community by staffing and responding from the stations listed below 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Following is a list of each station, with the apparatus housed at the station, staffing, and the various emergency services they provide to the Pike Township community.



## Equipment and Assets

**Station 61 (Headquarters)** – daily staffed with 13 personnel – Engine 61, Ladder 61, Medic 61, Battalion 60, Executive Officer 60 and Safety 60

-- Fire, Vehicle and Machinery Extrication, Advanced Life Support (ALS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Surface and Ice water rescue, Incident Management and Scene Safety

**Station 62** – daily staffed with 5 personnel – Engine 62, Boat 62, EMS Duty Officer 60

-- Fire, ALS EMS, Surface and Ice water rescue, boat operations with sonar, Project Life Saver (PLS) search and rescue, EMS supervision, EMS supplies

**Station 63** – daily staffed with 6 personnel – Engine 63, Medic 63, Hydrocarbon Unit 63

-- Fire, ALS EMS, Surface and Ice water rescue, Response capabilities to gas/fuel emergencies

**Station 64** – daily staffed with 10 personnel – Engine 64, Ladder 64, Medic 64

-- Fire, Vehicle and Machinery Extrication, Surface and Ice water rescue, ALS EMS

**Station 65** – daily staffed with 6 personnel – Engine 65, Medic 65, Boat 65

-- Fire, ALS EMS, Surface and Ice water rescue, boat operations with sonar, water rescue sonar locating and Underwater Search and Rescue Drone



## Accomplishments

The Pike Township Fire Department's Operations Branch was once again very accomplished in 2021:

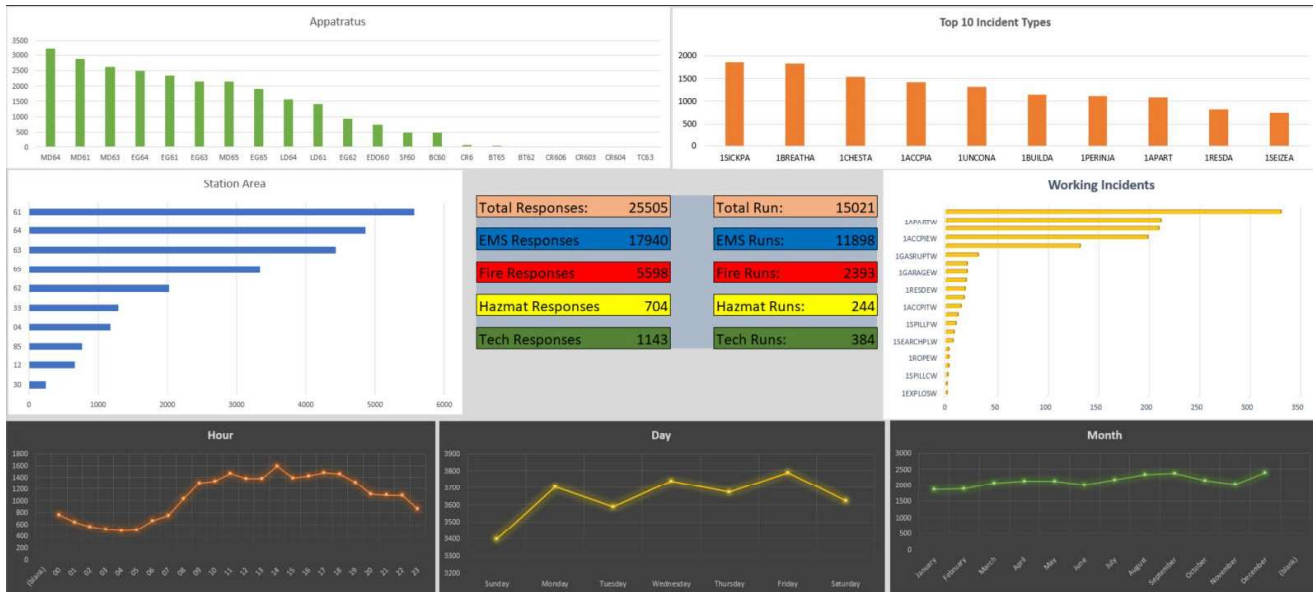
- **Recruit candidates** were selected, a recruit school planned and a recruit school conducted.
- **Recruit school** was conducted February to August (See Safety and Training Division Report for details) and began with all members training and becoming Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). (See Emergency Medical Services Division report for details.) Our new recruits graduated and were added to the ranks of PTFD Operations in early August.
- **Continued training for a rope rescue team** was conducted for the recruits as well for incumbent firefighters. This weeklong, 40-hour course is conducted for individuals who volunteered to add this technical skill to their already diverse resumes. Those completing it demonstrated their willingness to advance their skills to assist PTFD with technical rescue expertise. Further training will continue in 2022 with the plan of standing up a rope rescue team in 2023. PTFD currently has 62 Rope Rescue Technicians.
- **Community involvement**, public safety and education were hampered in 2021 due to COVID-19. We continued to do our best using public health measures when the opportunities presented themselves.
- **Our stations and apparatus received excellent care and service** via our Support Services Division (See Support Services' Report for details).
- **New Engines and Ambulances were added to our fleet** (See Support Services and EMS Divisions Reports for details).
- **Operations Branch continued to coordinate with all of our neighboring departments** and the dispatch center. Bi-monthly meetings were held with all of the Operations Chiefs from Marion County, along with IEMS and Dispatch/PSC (Public Safety Communications) representatives.
- **PTFD firefighters continued to prove that their fitness and conditioning standards** are second to none. Due to COVID-19, most of the area competitions were again cancelled. Therefore, PTFD still remains the reigning champions of the badge team competitions, *Bop to the Top*, *Fight for Air Climb*, *Mini-marathon*, *Beyond the Badge 5k*. We are hopeful that 2022 will allow us to continue these interagency competitions.
- **Policy/Standard Operating Guidelines Overhaul**  
In early 2021, we began a complete reformatting of all Department policies and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). Many of these had not been updated since the 1990s and were in various formats. Duplicate documents housed in various places added to the disorder. The first milestone was to convert all policies and SOGs to a new, standard format and delete duplicates. Many of them were also reviewed and updated at that time. This reformatting part of the long-term project was completed in December 2021. The plan is to systematically review all policies and SOGs during 2022 and 2023.



## Statistical Analysis

PTFD's emergency run load for the 2021 calendar year saw a marked increase over 2020, with an approximate 20% increase in run volume.

**Table 1 – Overview of Run Data Analysis**



This chart displays some of the data points that Pike Fire tracks. This data is used to ascertain that the stations and apparatus are properly located within the Township. This data also helps ensure that the correct number of emergency personnel and apparatus are available to meet the needs of Pike Township.

**Table 2 – First Due Frontline Apparatus Response Times**

<b>DSP-RSP</b>	<b>01:13</b>
<b>RSP-OS</b>	<b>05:33</b>

This table illustrates the time between PTFD crews receiving a dispatch and when units respond to the emergency (DSP-RSP). It also shows the average time for units to reach the scene (RSP-OS). Both of these timeframes are excellent and in line with accepted national standards.



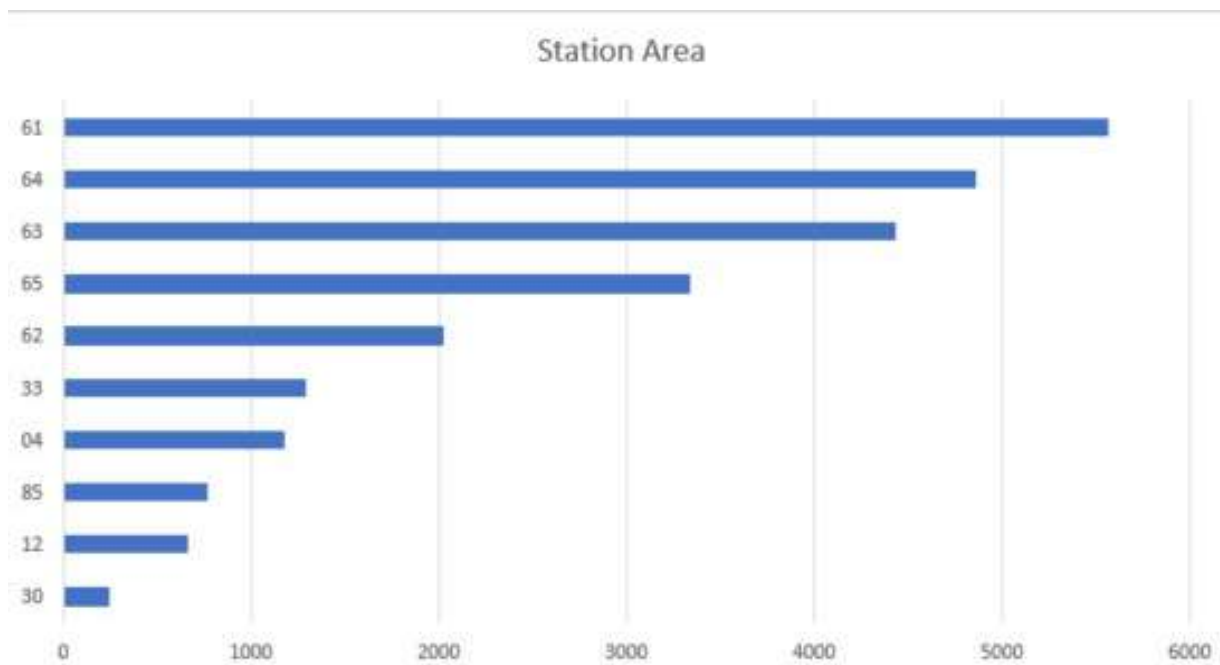
**Table 3 – Total Number of Runs**

Total Run:	15021
EMS Runs:	11898
Fire Runs:	2393
Hazmat Runs:	244
Tech Runs:	384

This table represents the total number of dispatched incidents PTFD responded to in 2021.

The total number of runs in 2021 (15,021) is significantly increased from 12,530 in 2020 – approximate 20% increase in run volume. COVID-19 and other factors in EMS responses contributed to this increase.

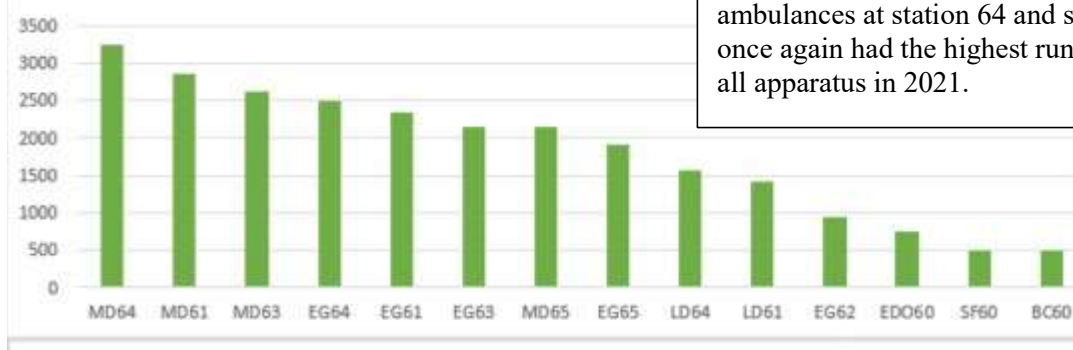
**Table 4 – Runs volume for each of Pike’s and Surrounding Districts**



This chart shows emergency responses (by station districts) -- both in and out of Pike Township. The majority of our services in 2021 were provided to the heart of Pike Township.



**Table 5 – Run Volume per apparatus**



This chart shows the number of runs made by each individual piece of emergency response apparatus in 2021. The ambulances at station 64 and station 61 once again had the highest run volumes of all apparatus in 2021.

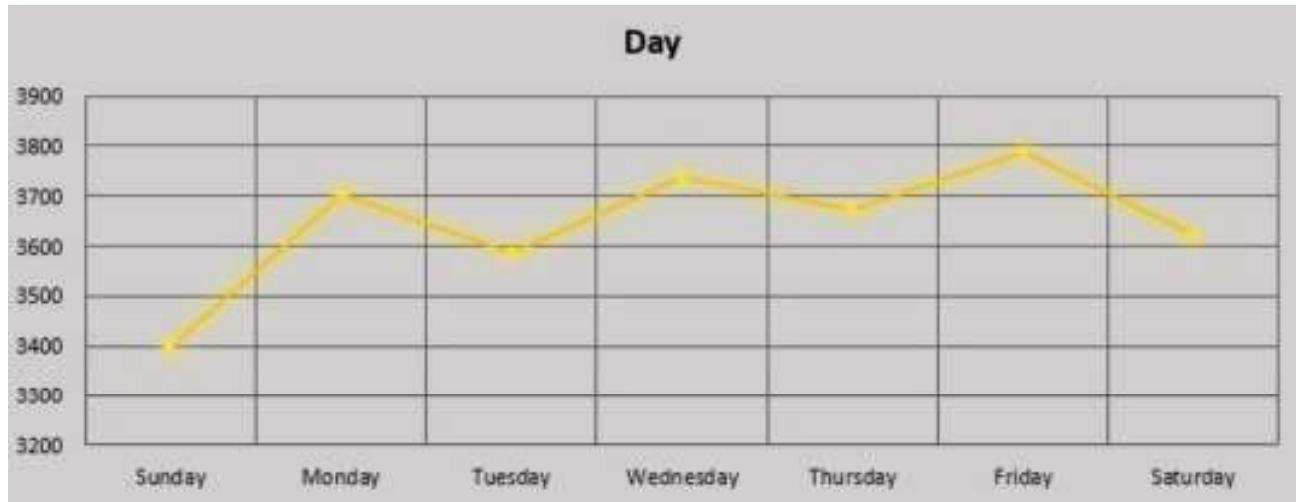
**Table 6 – Month of the Year**



This chart shows total runs per month. December was PTFD’s busiest month in 2021.



**Table 7– Day of the Week**



This table reports the number of runs in 2021 according to the day of the week. Fridays provided our heaviest run volumes in 2021.

**Table 8 – Time of day**



This table shows runs by hour of the day. In 2021, our highest volume occurred around 2:00 pm (1400 hours).



**Table 9 – 2021 Run statistics breakdown by apparatus & districts**

Unit	Runs	#1 Resp. Area	#2 Resp. Area	#1 Run Type	#2 Run Type	DSP-RSP	RSP-OS
BC60	481	61	63	Apt	Res	01:12	07:29
EDO60	749	61	64	Apt	Card Arrest	01:13	08:17
SF60	483	61	63	Apt	Res	01:22	09:09
						<u>In District</u>	<u>In District</u>
EG61	2330	61	63	Bldg Alrm	Diff Breath	01:18	05:32
EG62	941	62	61	PI	Res Alrm	01:23	06:33
EG63	2155	63	4	Bldg Alrm	Sick Per	01:16	05:24
EG64	2492	64	33	Diff Breath	Sick Per	01:06	04:53
EG65	1904	65	85	Diff Breath	Sick Per	01:17	05:15
LD61	1416	61	63	Bldg Alrm	Res Alrm	01:25	05:57
LD64	1563	64	33	Res Alrm	Bldg Alrm	01:12	05:13
MD61	2867	61	62	Sick Per	Diff Breath	01:07	05:32
MD63	2626	63	4	Sick Per	Diff Breath	01:06	05:34
MD64	3247	64	61	Sick Per	Diff Breath	01:13	05:32
MD65	2149	65	85	Sick Per	Diff Breath	01:04	05:43

<b>Totals</b>				<b>Dept. Ave.</b>	01:12	06:32
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Responses	25505		
Runs	15021	<b>% of Runs</b>	
	EMS	11898	79%
	Fire	2393	16%

<b>2020 Run Total</b>	12530
<b>% Run Vol. Increase</b>	20%

<b>Peak Times</b>	
Hours	13-1500
Day	Friday
Month	December

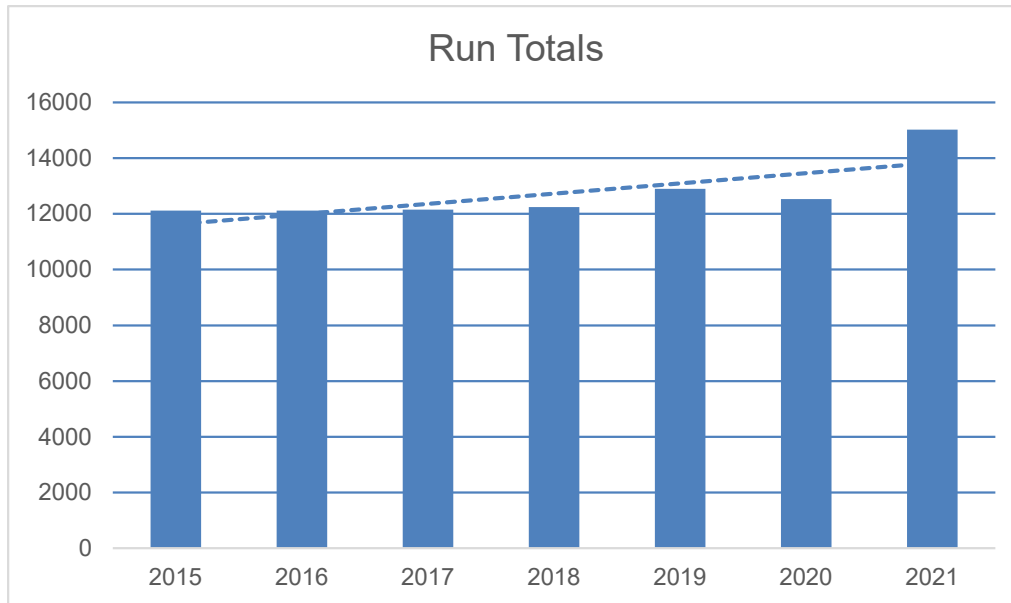
<b>Top Ten Response Areas</b>
61
64
63
65
62
33
4
85
12
30

**Data for 1/1/2021 through 12/31/2021**

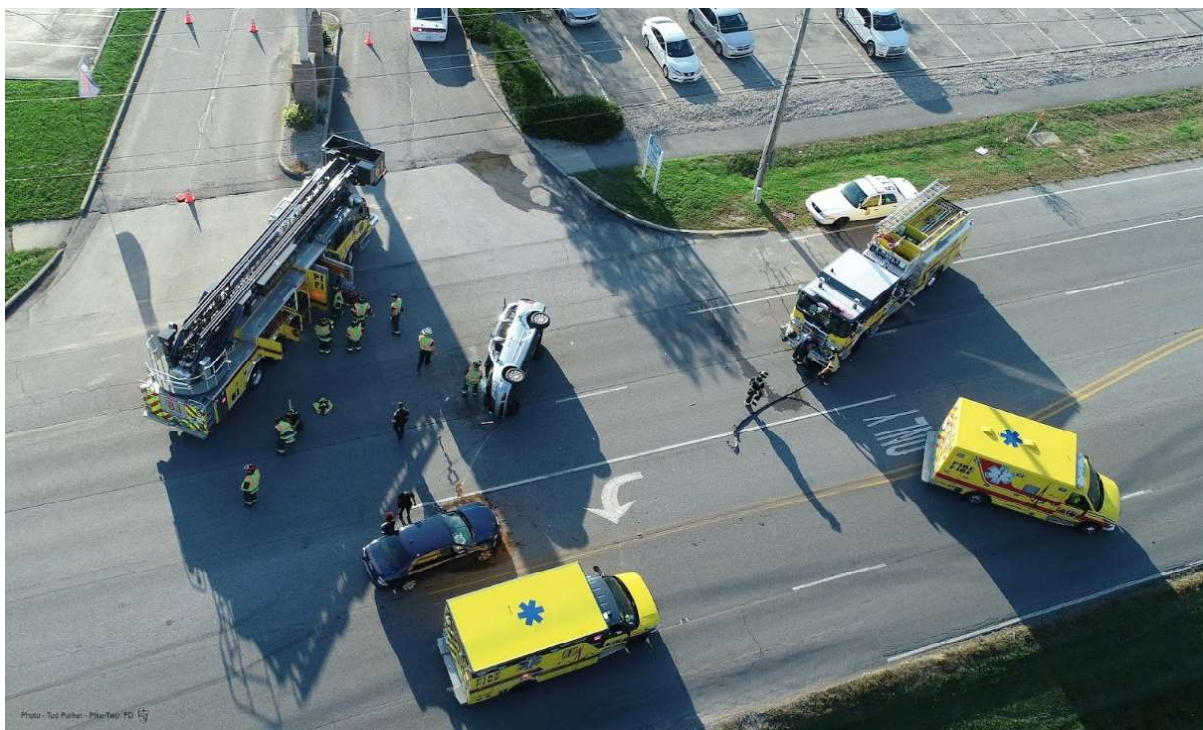




**Table 10 – Historical Run Numbers**



This chart shows PTFD's run volume trends over the past 7 years.



## Operations Personnel in Action

PTFD fire crews battling a house fire.



PTFD crews extricating a patient trapped in a vehicle on its side after an accident.





PTFD Extrication Team stabilizing a rolled over vehicle after an accident on the roadway, in preparation for extricating the patient.

A PTFD firefighter conducting roof operations at a local restaurant fire.



Crews battling a house fire.





2021 PTFD rope rescue training at the Eagle Creek Reservoir Dam.

PTFD members serving as water safety for the Special Olympics' Polar Plunge at Eagle Creek Park.



Fire and EMS crews loading an extricated patient for treatment and transport by our world-class EMS providers.



# TRAINING AND INCIDENT SAFETY DIVISION

## Division Mission Statement

To maintain a safe work environment by providing educational opportunities, supporting physical fitness goals, securing quality and dependable equipment, and applying sound risk management practices.

**Division Chief of Training and Incident Safety**  
James Michalisko



**A-Shift Safety & Training Officer**  
Captain Brent Goolsby



Captain Brent Goolsby has continued to perform at a high level as the A-Shift Safety and Training Officer. He brings nearly 30 years of experience and holds

many technician-level certifications. Captain Goolsby was instrumental in organizing, implementing, and leading several shift wide trainings. He was the Lead Instructor for Vehicle Rescue Operations and Technician Certification in the 2021 Recruit Academy, Lead Instructor for Fire Officer Strategies and Tactics (FOST), and Lead Evaluator for Fire Officer I for the Firefighter III Module Program.

**B-Shift Safety & Training Officer**  
Lieutenant Aaron Brown



Lieutenant Aaron Brown began 2021 as the B-Shift Safety & Training Officer. From April to August, he moved to a day shift position to be the Lead Instructor for the

2021 Recruit Academy. During this time, Lieutenant Brown was tasked with developing a syllabus, recruiting instructors, gathering materials, and instructing 12 recruits on a daily basis. He was a key component in completing a thorough 22-week recruit academy. In addition to ensuring the success of the 2021 Recruit Academy, he also completed Fire Officer II and Fire Instructor II certifications.

**C-Shift Safety & Training Officer**  
Firefighter Calvin Young



Firefighter Calvin Young has also continued to perform at a high level as the C-Shift Safety and Training Officer. He was instrumental in organizing, imple-

menting and leading several shift wide trainings, and instructing Driver Operator Aerial and Driver Operator Pumper certification courses. Firefighter Young was extremely involved in the 2021 Recruit Academy and was a key component to its success. Despite any obstacle, Firefighter Young always has a “can do” attitude! He has been and will continue to be a valuable component of the Incident Safety and Training Division.



## Recruit Academy 21

In 2021, Pike Township Fire Department hosted and completed a 22-week Recruit Academy for 12 candidates (7 from PTFD, 5 from other departments). At the end of the academy, these candidates have been trained and tested, and have achieved certification in a variety of topics. These include:

- American Heart Association Basic Life Support Provider (CPR)
- Suicide Prevention Training
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness and Education
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) 100 – Introduction to Incident Command
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) 200 – Single Resources & Initial Actions
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) 700 – Introduction to Incident Management
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) 800 – National Response Plan
- AWR111 – Concepts of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive events
- AWR160 – WMD and Terrorism Awareness for Emergency Responders
- 8 hours of Ambulance Observation
- 8 hours of Emergency Room Observation at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital
- 16-hour Emergency Vehicle Operators Course
- Emergency Medical Technician – Basic
- Hazardous Materials Awareness & Operations
- Technical Rescue Awareness
- Vehicle & Machinery Technician
- Rope Rescue Technician
- And ultimately, State Certified Firefighter I & Firefighter II

The more than 1,000 hours of classroom, skills development time, and drill time does not include the countless hours of study to maintain a minimum of 80% as an overall grade throughout the academy!



## MODULE PROGRAMS

During the first 3 years of employment at the Pike Township Fire Department, all merit personnel complete a 3-year module program:

- **Year I (Probationary)** consists of Recruit Academy and continues throughout the rest of their first employment year, showing continued proficiency and continuing development in Firefighter I and II skills learned during the recruit academy.
- **Year II (Firefighter I)** is Engineer Training and is concluded when the students obtain State Driver Operator General, State Driver Operator Pumper, and State Driver Operator Aerial certifications, as well as Skill Verification Taskbooks issued throughout the second employment year.
- **Year III (Firefighter II)** is Officer Development Training during which participants obtain State Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics, Fire Instructor 1 and Fire Officer 1 certifications.

In 2021, Pike Fire Training Division completed all 3 module program course requirements simultaneously. This marked the second consecutive year in the entire history of Pike Township Fire Department that all 3 module programs were completed in a single year!

### Firefighter I

Firefighter I (Probationary) begins at the start of recruit school and concludes at the end of the first year of employment. On February 16, 2021, the recruit candidates began their Probationary Firefighter I training.

After the completion of the recruit academy, the probationary firefighters moved into the Firefighter I modular Taskbook. This Taskbook consists of further development on 44 NFPA 1001 compliant firefighter skills that were taught in recruit school. The purpose of the Taskbook is to allow probationary firefighters continuing educational opportunities with crews to further develop each skill. Also, it allows crews to observe and make improvements on skills learned in the recruit academy. As of December 31, 2021, the probationary firefighters were well ahead of schedule in the completion of their modular Taskbooks and will move into Firefighter II programming in February 2022.



## Firefighter II

On April 15, 2021, 12 probationary firefighters from the 2020 Pike Recruit Academy successfully completed their probationary year and moved into the Firefighter II program.

The Firefighter II program consists of completing state certifications in Driver Operator General, Driver Operator Pumper (DOP), and Driver Operator Aerial (DOA). In addition to the state certifications, these Firefighter II candidates have to complete 2 Taskbooks for DOP & DOA. The Taskbooks consist of 25 NFPA 1002 skills, which are closely monitored by the Incident Safety & Training Division as well as existing company officers and engineers. As of December 31, 2021, the 12 Firefighter II personnel were on schedule to meet their April 15, 2022, anniversary deadline.

## Firefighter III

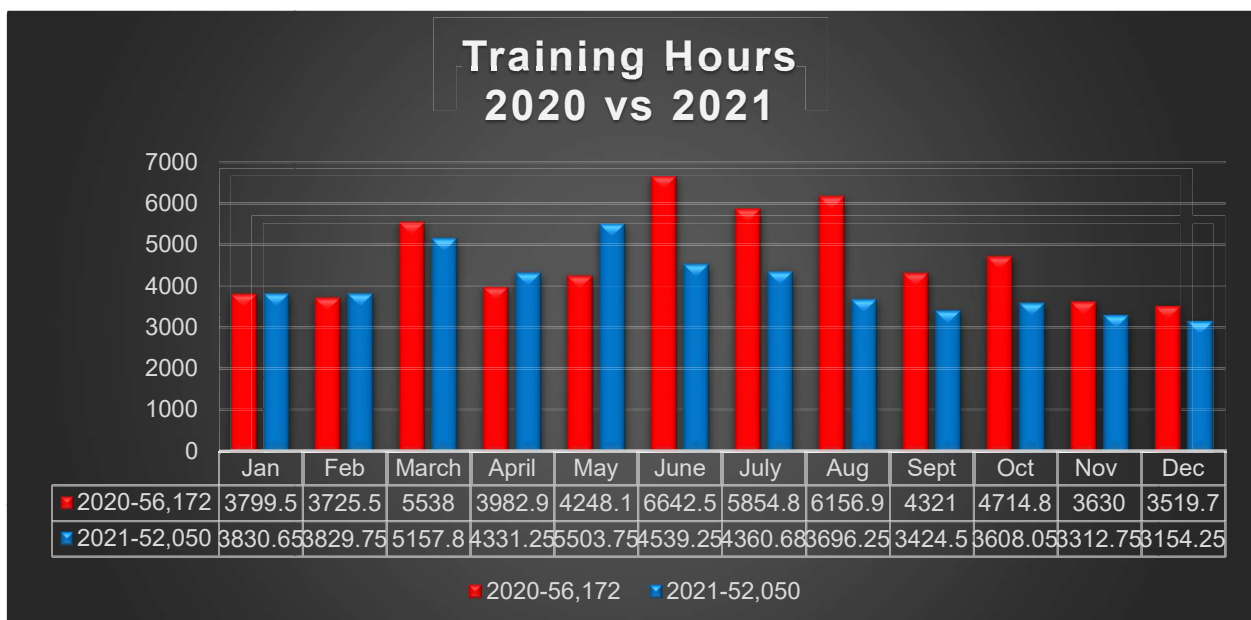
On April 1, 2021, 12 Firefighter II personnel began working on their Year III Module Program, which consists of 3 State Certification classes: Fire Officer Strategies & Tactics, Fire Instructor I, and Fire Officer I. At the completion of these classes, the 12 candidates will have the ability to serve as a backup/rideout officer for Pike Township Fire Department as well as conclude their 3-year module program. At this time, 10 candidates are on schedule to meet their April 1, 2022, anniversary deadline.

## TARGET SOLUTIONS

Since its original purchase in January 2019, the Target Solutions Data Tracking System has proven valuable in recording, categorizing, and reporting all Insurance Services Office (ISO) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) training hours and certifications for both merit and civilian personnel.

In 2021, the department accumulated 52,050 hours of training for both merit and civilian members in comparison to 56,172 hours in 2020. Although slightly lower, the total training hours for 2021 well exceeds the 2019 total hours of 28,204. Target Solutions prides itself on the ease of use for its users, as well as report writing and general tracking for its Firefighters, Officers, and Chiefs. Target Solutions will be an instrumental tool in Pike Township Fire Department receiving a consecutive Class 1 ISO rating!

Late in 2021, the system's name was changed to Vector Solutions by the vendor.





## NEW EQUIPMENT

### Training Tower



In October 2021, the Training Division conducted its 5-Year NFPA 1403 inspection of the Training Tower. The report was overall positive, but a few recommendations were made to bring the Training Tower more into compliance with NFPA 1403, OSHA, and industry standards. These recommendations included: replacing all the anchor points that were underrated, replacing the roof hatch, and installing a guardrail over the elevator shaft for fall protection purposes. In response to these suggestions, all the anchor points on the top floor were replaced with 10,000 lb. rated anchors, the old roof hatch was completely

replaced with an ergonomically friendly hatch equipped with fall protection, and a guardrail was installed over the elevator shaft to provide the recommended fall protection height of 39 inches.





### Training Props



In November 2021, the Training Division purchased and installed a caged ladder on the South side of the Training Tower. This will allow Pike Township Firefighters to train for high-angle rescues involving citizens who fall or slip and become entangled in this style of ladder.

In December 2021, the Training Division purchased two machinery extrication props. These props can be cut, pried, and disassembled, giving Pike Township Firefighters more realistic machinery extrication trainings. The caged ladder and extrication props will give Pike Township Firefighters more opportunities to hone their technical rescue skills!



*These machinery extrication props are able to be cut, pried, and disassembled, allowing for more realistic training.*



Also in December 2021, the Training Division purchased 2 forcible entry training props. One training prop allows firefighters to practice cutting with the K-12 circular saw in different positions, and the other is a thru-the-lock trainer that allows firefighters to practice forcible entry by manipulating the locking mechanism of a door. Thru-the-lock forcible entry skills are very important to practice and master because it allows firefighters to gain entry into occupancies without causing a significant amount of damage to property.



# MEDIA TECHNOLOGY



**Tod Parker**

Reporting to the Division Chief of Training, Tod Parker has been a volunteer and assisting contractor for Pike Township for over 15 years. He was hired as the full-time Media Technology Specialist in 2020 and is responsible for all photography and media pertaining to all PTFD working incidents, staff training, general documentation, staff photos, and miscellaneous private and public events involving the Fire Department and Trustee's office.

Tod is also responsible for public Social Media releases, notices, and updates, all Website development and/or maintenance for both the Fire Department and Trustee's office, and graphic design elements used for Department needs and public content (i.e., vehicle graphics, flyers, public announcements).

Additionally, Tod is responsible for developing and maintaining the Pike Fire Department UAV (Unmanned Air Vehicle) program. This includes utilizing a small fleet of drones for search and rescue operations, Project Lifesaver, assisting incident command with thermal imaging and site situational awareness, and also assisting Fire Prevention/Investigators with capturing aerial footage pertaining to their investigations.

Tod provided all the photographs in this Annual Report.

## 2021 Significant Tasks Completed

- Responded to and documented over 135 working incidents, events, staff training, and special functions involving PTFD, most of which were published on Social Media for public awareness, highlighting Department preparedness and involvement with the community.
- Redesigned the Fire Department's Website (*PikeFire.com*), making it more relevant and more visually up-to-date.
- Redesigned the Pike Township community Website (*VisitPikeTownship.com*) with updated downloadable content and forms, making it visually more relevant and current.
- Added and updated Community Outreach updates on *VisitPikeTownship.com* as required, notifying the public of events and special programs for the community such as food drives, blood drives, and holiday services for the needy.
- Developed Website links and pages on *PikeFire.com* to aide in the hiring process for firefighters, EMS personnel, and other open positions.
- Worked with Division Chief of EMS to develop training/instructional videos for EMS personnel.
- Created official PTFD ID cards with photographs for the entire Department.
- Worked directly with the FAA in re-registering required COA certificates, instead of using a third-party vendor, saving the department over \$11,000.
- Worked directly with the FAA to file all paperwork and registrations for the current drone fleet, complying with all new laws to have all drones registered with the FAA.
- Worked directly with the FAA to register for TBLOVS (Tactical Beyond Visual Line Of Sight) waivers, which are required to fly at night and fly at farther distances "beyond line of sight," currently making PTFD the only Department in the state possessing this waiver. Working with the FAA directly instead of a third-party vendor saved the Department \$7,000.
- Updated/drafted SOGs (Standard Operating Guidelines) for PTFD's UAV program.
- Became proficient at operating the ROV (underwater drone)



# SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

**Division Chief of  
Support Services**  
David Hatter



## Support Services Staff

Support Services Division maintains and tracks all assets for Pike Township Fire Department. In addition to the Division Chief, the division is comprised of two mechanics, one Pivot Technician, and one Quartermaster/Asset Controller.



Travis James



Mike Stephany



Austin Hoover



Brandon Moss

## Division Mission Statement

The Support Services Division is responsible for maintaining 5 fire stations, a training academy, Pike Township Government Center, all equipment, and a fleet of 50-plus apparatus and vehicles. Our mission is to maintain these assets in excellent status 100% of the time.



## 2021 Goals

**Goal:** Support Services Division strives to maintain a fleet of 54 vehicles in run-ready status. Support Services maintains the fleet by providing preventive maintenance on a regular basis, which allows detection of small issues before they become big problems.



In 2021, mechanics resolved 602 work tickets submitted through Operative IQ. The Quartermaster responded to and resolved 262 work tickets, ranging from station supply needs to securing COVID-19 sanitation supplies, purchasing new structural firefighting gear as well as clothing for the new hires and incumbent firefighters.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Goal:** Take possession of 3 new Pierce Enforcer Fire Engines for stations 63, 64, 65.

**Status:** Complete



**Goal:** Complete all annual testing within the department according to NFPA, DOT, OSHA, and Indiana State law. Support Services completes this testing on all Fire Department apparatus. Annual testing includes: DOT checks, Axle weights, pump tests, ladder tests, SCBA pack flow tests, SCBA regulator and face piece testing, and relief valve tests. On station, Support Services is responsible for fire extinguishers, alarms and panels, and sprinkler systems for dial out and domestic water system back flow devices.

**Status:** Completed all NFPA inspections and certifications for 2021.

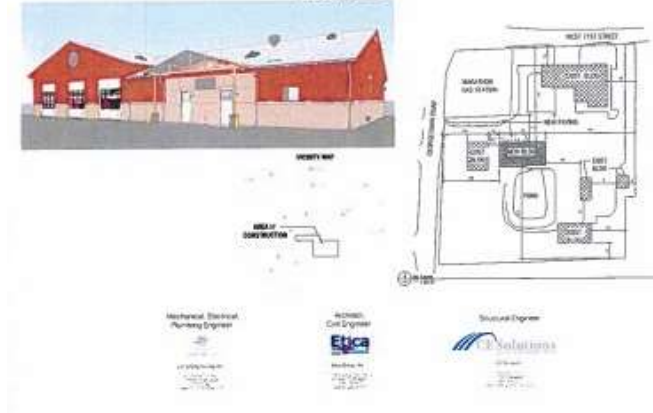


**Goal:** Assist with design and development of new fleet maintenance/laundry decontamination building.  
**Status:** Ongoing

## PIKE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT DECONTAMINATION & MAINTENANCE FACILITY

4881 W 71st St  
Indianapolis, IN 46268

1.25.2022



**Goal:** Assist with design and development of new storage barn  
**Status:** Ongoing

**Goal:** Replace original concrete around the training facility campus as funds become available. Support Services was able to replace 8,000 square feet of concrete, with an additional 10,000 square feet still needing replaced.

**Status:** Second portion of the work complete. Two more to go.





### Summary

Support Services Division is one of the busiest divisions within the Pike Township Fire Department. Every day of the week finds the staff responding to immediate needs in the Township and stations, as well as working on projects within our division. The division’s goal is to keep Pike Township and Fire Department operations flowing smoothly, keeping the fire stations in excellent working order for the firefighters to live in comfortably, and providing supplies without interruption throughout the year.

We thank Trustee Johnson and the Pike Township Board for their support of our operations.





# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

**Division Chief of  
Emergency Medical  
Services**  
Michael Goodrich



**EDO60-A**  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
Larry Gaston



**EDO60-B**  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
Alan McKamey



**EDO60-C**  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
Ryan Ross



## Division Mission Statement

The mission of the Pike Township Fire Department Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is to provide the highest quality 9-1-1, pre-hospital medical care to the citizens and guests of Pike Township and the Indianapolis Metro area.

This mission is carried out by a multi-disciplinary team that provides basic and advanced life support services with the utmost skill, professionalism, integrity, compassion and respect. Pike EMS will continue to provide the most up-to-date and effective training to its personnel to remain at the forefront of pre-hospital emergency medical care.



## Division Programs and Responsibilities

### TRAINING

**Description:** The EMS training program provides each member of the department with the didactic education and hands-on skills training necessary to continue to provide quality medical care to Pike Township citizens. The EMS training program provides training hours that are in excess of the minimum required hours for re-licensure and/or recertification as set forth by the State of Indiana.

#### Department re-certification training program

**Annually:** Prepare an annual training schedule that provides the requirements for re-licensure/re-certification in our three recognized medical disciplines: Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT), Emergency Medical Technician-Advanced (AEMT), and Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (Paramedic).

The schedule involves classroom lecture, computer-based education, and practical skills. These programs produced approximately 4,500 hours of training as a department in 2019 and 7,271 hours in 2020.

**Status:** The 2021 training schedule continued to be affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, the 2021 training schedule was completed with a total 8,159 hours of documented EMS training. This is a 12% increase in documented EMS training when compared to 2020 and an 81% increase when compared to 2019. The 2022 schedule has been set, in consultation with Ascension St. Vincent medical direction, with the goal of increasing total hours and efficacy of the training program.

#### Additionally required certification-training programs

**Biannually:** All department personnel will recertify in CPR for Healthcare Providers.

**Status:** Recertification for all 170 credentialed EMS providers took place in November 2021. Those who are not on the department training schedule will receive recertification as needed.

A total of six fire prevention and public education personnel completed initial CPR certification and were provided automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for all prevention and education vehicles.



**Biannually:** Paramedics and AEMTs will recertify in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Emergencies for Prehospital Providers (PEPP) as part of the requirements to maintain Paramedic licensure for the State of Indiana.

**Status:** ACLS recertification began in December of 2021 and will run through February 2022. ACLS training focuses on the identification and treatment of adult sudden cardiac arrest by EMS providers. The program was altered to accommodate COVID-19 safety protocols and consists of four 1-hour video courses that will be viewed by all 70 advanced life support (ALS) providers via the department online training platform. Skill and written testing will be completed by the shift EDOs in smaller groups to limit shift impacts and to ensure health and safety of all personnel.

PEPP recertification is scheduled to take place November 2022. PEPP will be required for all 70 ALS providers. PEPP trains providers in the treatment of critically ill pediatric patients with a focus on pediatric airway and cardiac related emergencies.



### **Computer-based continuing education**

**Monthly:** Continuing education and run audit and review is provided by Ascension St. Vincent EMS medical direction via emseducation.net. Monthly live-streamed trainings include a basic life support (BLS) topic, an ALS topic and an audit and review of topical St. Vincent EMS affiliate patient cases. This training is mandatory for all fire and EMS personnel.

**Status:** In 2021, 4,685 hours of continuing education were completed through this platform. The contract has been renewed for 2022 at a cost of \$9,460 (no increase from 2021).



## Hands-on practical skills training program

**Monthly:** On station, practical skills training ensures that all personnel are proficient in the hands-on skills and equipment in order to provide the best care to the residents of Pike Township. These training hours are documented in order to meet the state of Indiana requirements for re-licensure and/or re-certification.

**Status:** Hands-on practical skills training continued throughout the year and consisted of upwards of 600 hours of instructor lead training. Skill training topics included CPR and cardiac arrest management, airway management, splinting, bleeding control, patient assessment scenarios, autism awareness and drivers training.



## EMT to paramedic development program

**Annually:** Encourage and assist any interested, eligible Pike Township firefighter in applying for and enrolling in paramedic school.

**Status:** In 2021, two firefighters completed the IEMS paramedic-training program and were licensed in the State of Indiana. Heading into 2022, two additional firefighters are enrolled in the IEMS paramedic program with graduation expected in August 2022 and December 2022. Currently, up to four additional firefighters have expressed interest in beginning paramedic training in the next two years.



*Firefighters Joe Hale and Lana Taylor (center) receive their paramedic license during a ceremony at the Indiana Statehouse.*



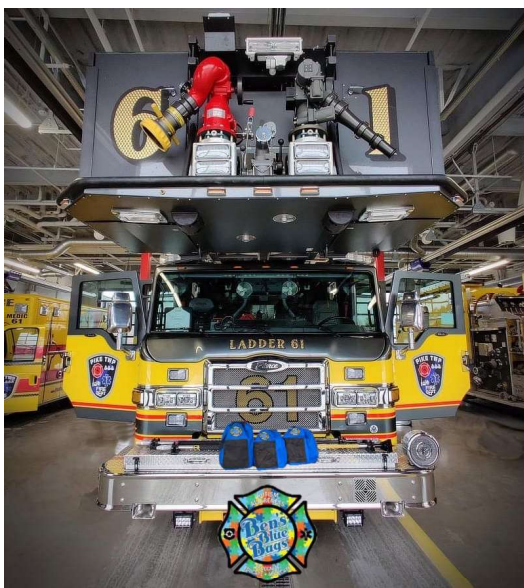
## Additional training

**Annually:** The EMS division continually looks for new and innovative training opportunities throughout the year. In 2021, three new training initiatives were provided to improve resources for personnel as well as improved patient care.

### **Status:**

1. **The first civilian EMS work performance evaluation (WPE) was held for all EMS personnel.** A WPE evaluates a member's ability to complete a course while performing job specific tasks. This type of evaluation has been part of the fire-service and PTFD for years and will now be part of the EMS Division moving forward. The WPE for 2021 had no time limit and will be used to develop the course and time standard moving forward.
2. **Additional one-off training programs were offered to all personnel geared toward improving resources and providing patient centered care for unique patient populations.**

An example of this specialized education was autism awareness training which was provided in collaboration with the Ben's Blue Bags program. This program provides 2 hours of hands-on training for all personnel in special needs and autistic patients. Additionally, sensory bags were placed on all transporting ambulances for those patients who experience over stimulation.



- 24-hour phone and video interpreter services were made available to all personnel in partnership with Luna Language Services in Indianapolis. They offer interpreters for over 200 languages, available via phone or video chat, thus allowing our providers to get accurate and timely information from non-English speaking patients.



ARABIC	أشر إلى لغتك. سيتم استدعاء مترجم فوري.	CHINESE CANTONESE	根據您的語言調用翻譯人員。
BURMESE	သင့်ဘာသာစကားကို ညွှန်ပြပါ။ ကောင်းပြန် မပါလဲမဟုတ်ပါ။	CHINESE MANDARIN	选择您的语言，我们会为您要求翻译。
BURMESE - HAKHA (CHIN)	Na hmanmi holh sawh tuah, holhlettu kan in auhpiak lai.	FRENCH	Montrez-nous votre langue. On vous appellera un interprète.
BURMESE - KACHIN	Tinang a amyu ga hpe madi madun u. Ga byan shaga mai ai.	HINDI	अपनी भाषा के और इशारा करे ,दुआभाषिया बुलाया जाएगा.
BURMESE - KAREN	ရည်မှန်းထားသောစကားကို ဖော်ပြရန် ဖော်ပြပါ။	JAPANESE	あなたの言葉を指差して下さい。通訳をお呼びいたします。
BURMESE - KARENHI	ရည်မှန်းထားသောစကားကို ဖော်ပြရန် ဖော်ပြပါ။	KOREAN	언어를 선택해주세요. 통역사를 호출해 드리겠습니다.
BURMESE - LISU	NUXLEIM AQ: A XJ: A. GO NIM Q'LY. GO LEM NYU TY. AQ: L' L' Q' L BU NY Q' L AQ.	NEPALI	तपाईंको भाषामा दर्शाउनुहोस्। एक अनुवादकलाई बोलाइनेछ।
BURMESE - FALAM (CHIN)	Na tong thiam mi kha sawh awla, ttong lettu kawhsak na si ding.	PUNJABI	ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਦਿਸਾ ਕਰੋ, ਇਕ ਦੁਆਰੀ ਦੇ ਨੂੰ ਬੁਲਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ
BURMESE - MIZO (CHIN)	I tong thiam kha khith		
BURMESE - MATU (CHIN)	Na mih oi to khil or thal (Ma		
BURMESE - TEDIM (CHIN)	Pau na delh pen kaw		
BURMESE - ZO/ ZOPHEI (CHIN)	Naa rei kha suh la, r		



## EQUIPMENT PURCHASING AND MAINTENANCE

**Description:** The equipment purchasing and maintenance program is designed to provide top of the line emergency medical equipment to emergency response personnel for the purposes of medical run response and training.

### Electronic Patient Care Records (ePCR) system

**Annually:** Provide for and maintain a platform that allows for the completion and storage of all patient care reports in accordance with all applicable laws, ordinances and policies.

**Status:** In 2021, Pike Township EMS Division continued utilizing the patient care reporting system provided by ESO Solutions. ESO electronic health record (EHR) offers data storage on a cloud-based system managed by ESO. This system enables the EMS division to have near real-time oversight over all patient care reports, a broad quality control management system, and data analytic capabilities that enhance the care given to patients. The contract has been renewed for the 2022 fiscal year.



## Cumulative Fund Purchases

**Annually:** New front-line and training equipment is purchased to support operations and continuing medical education.



**Status:** In 2021, several pieces of equipment were purchased including:

- A **Ford E-450 ambulance** was ordered as part of the routine fleet management program operated by the Division of Support Services. This ambulance will replace current MD61 and will bring all frontline ambulances up to the most current platform. Expected delivery is May 2022.

- **Stryker bariatric cot** was purchased in order to provide safe and comfortable transport of bariatric patients in Pike Township. This cot will provide:
  1. Safer, wider and higher capacity cot platform for those patients >700lbs or those patients with body types that do not feel comfortable on the standard Stryker cots.
  2. Allows all ambulances, frontline and reserve, to now be outfitted with a cot at the same time, providing more flexibility for EMS operations and special events.

### MX-PRO 6083 Bariatric transport ambulance cot

The MX-PRO bariatric transport features a wide patient surface and wheelbase, providing stability during transport. Compatibility with most ramp and winch systems, and existing ambulance cot fastener configurations, allow service providers to deploy the bariatric cot when and where you need it.

#### Key Features

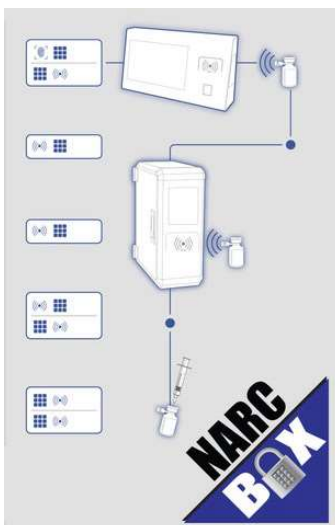
- 1 29-inch width for superior stability
- 2 Optional push/pull handles
- 3 Optional tow package and side lift handles

CE



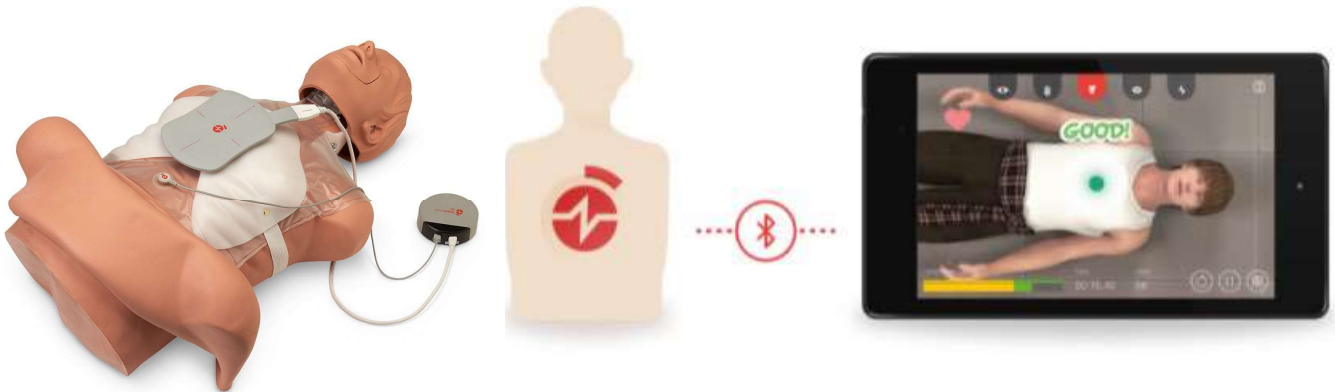
- **Narbox HQ medication vault and tracking system** was purchased in preparation for compliance with Indiana and DEA controlled substance regulations going into effect in 2022.

1. The headquarters vault and RFID system will allow the EMS Division to receive and distribute controlled medications in compliance with state and federal guidelines.
2. The RFID system will allow a vial of medication to be tracked from “cradle-to-grave,” ensuring safety and compliance across the department.



## Training and operational purchases

- Training manikins and operational supplies purchased to enhance training fidelity and replace outdated equipment
  1. CPR feedback devices x 5
  2. Chricothyrotomy training system
  3. Ben's Blue Bags sensory equipment





## Operations medical supply management program

**Monthly:** Supplies are purchased based on par levels for the purposes of medical response for all apparatus. B shift EMS officer Al McKamey is the designated supply officer with all EDOs tasked with delivery and inventory management. Vendors include Indianapolis EMS, J & B Medical, EMP Medical Supplies, Zoll Medical and Ascension St. Vincent Indianapolis pharmacy.

**Status:** Supplies continue to be managed by shift EMS officers with all purchases verified by the Chief of EMS. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to require a focus on purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, safety glasses, surgical masks, surgical gowns, and N95 or P100 respirators. The supply budget for 2022 reflects the continued need for pandemic PPE, increases in costs and supply chain disruptions.

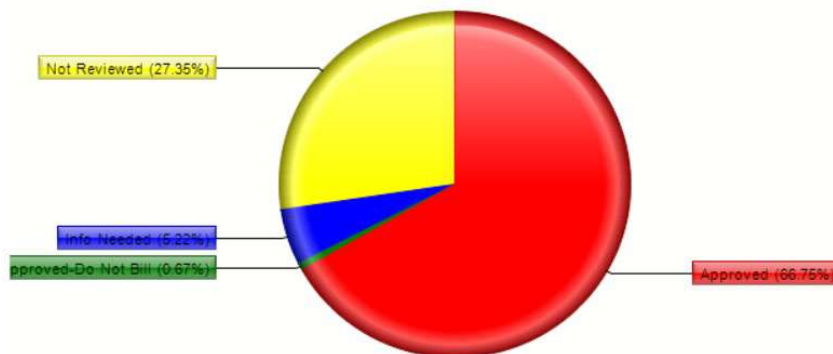
## INFORMATION AND RECORD MANAGEMENT

**Description:** Information and record management encompasses all documentation generated by the Division of EMS as well as all certifications, trainings and licensures required for the department and all personnel to function as EMS responders in the State of Indiana.

### Patient care report quality management program

**Annually:** The EMS Division works to audit a majority of our total run volume. In addition, runs are selected to be sent to Ascension St. Vincent medical direction for further review and comment. Selecting a report to be forwarded is determined by run type (ALS, BLS, Trauma, etc.), run outcome (i.e., transport vs. Refusal of Transport), special /new procedure (i.e., needle decompression, field amputation, live childbirth, etc.) or deviation from protocol (justified or unjustified).

**Status:** In 2021, 73% of runs were audited through the ESO Software QM program. Overall, 400 more runs were reviewed, compared to 2020, with a total of 1,100 more patient reports submitted for 2021.



## **Certification and licensure management program**

**Biannually:** Each firefighter is required to maintain, at a minimum, a current State of Indiana EMT Certification. EMS personnel are required to maintain their current certification or license status throughout employment. All EMS credentials expire bi-annually. Records and appropriate documentation are provided to the state EMS Commission for re-certification/re-licensure every two years for all certification types.

**Status:** A total of 36 EMS credentials were successfully renewed with the State. Training hours and documentation are maintained through Target Solutions records reporting system in accordance with department training documentation policies.

**Annually:** All records, documentation, and communications associated with the Department's medical service are maintained by the Division Chief of EMS.

**Status:** The department was recertified with IDHS as an ALS transporting agency. Department provider recertification will be required in 2024.

**Annually:** Certification of vehicles as BLS or ALS occurs annually.

**Status:** All vehicles will require recertification in 2022.

## **BILLING AND WRITE-OFFS**

**Description.** The billing and write-off program for the Department's medical service is accomplished through the joint efforts of private billing companies, the Division Chief of EMS, and the administrative assistant staff.

### **Objectives**

**Annually/Monthly:** The Department contracts with MedBill to do our primary billing and collection. Billing is tracked monthly and annually. It is invoiced monthly.

**Status:** We continued to utilize MedBill throughout 2021 to the present. Our billing service cost is 4.95% of revenue collection. In 2021, \$3,190,516.61 was collected from ambulance billing.

**Monthly:** MedBill reviews all hardship requests for write-off of billed accounts. These are sent to the Division Chief of EMS for comment.

**Status:** MedBill will continue to review hardship requests on an individual basis for 2022. Additionally, MedBill is now providing additional options to ensure successful collections.

**Periodically:** Pike Township Fire Department receives legal requests for run sheet documents.

**Status:** These requests are entered into the Department legal records tracking system and then forwarded to MedBill for request completion.

## **Medical Direction and Affiliation**

Dr. Mike Kaufmann continued in the position of Medical Director in 2021, and will continue in 2022. St. Vincent has reaffirmed our affiliation for 2022.

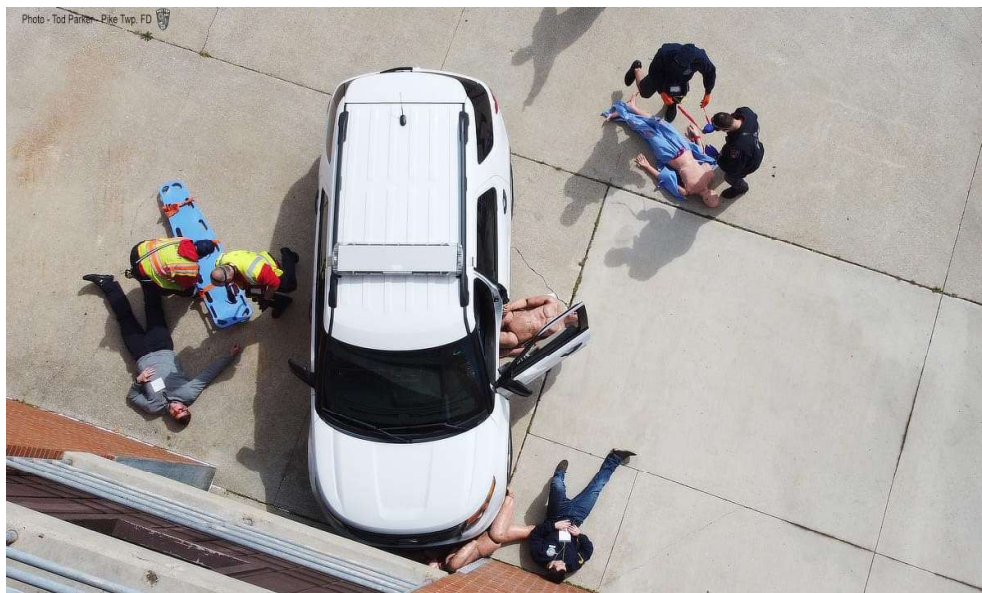


## 2021 PROJECTS

- 2021 Recruit School: To begin with EMT class on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Complete:** 12 recruits successfully trained and certified as EMT
- CPR Training for all emergency personnel in Fall of 2021
  - **Complete**
- Train Support Staff and Trustee's Office Employees in CPR/AED with delivery of Zoll AEDs in the first quarter of 2021
  - **In Progress:** Prevention staff complete, Support Services and Trustee personnel slated for 2022.
- Institute a work performance evaluation (WPE) for civilian EMS personnel
  - **Complete**
- Outfitting of a new ambulance to replace Medic 61
  - **In Progress:** Ordered but delayed due to manufacturer supply chain issues
- Development of an EMS committee to assist the EMS division in equipment specifications, training development and improvement of the EMS division
  - **Complete:** Committee comprised of the EMS division and six additional operations personnel from all shifts and provider levels meets quarterly

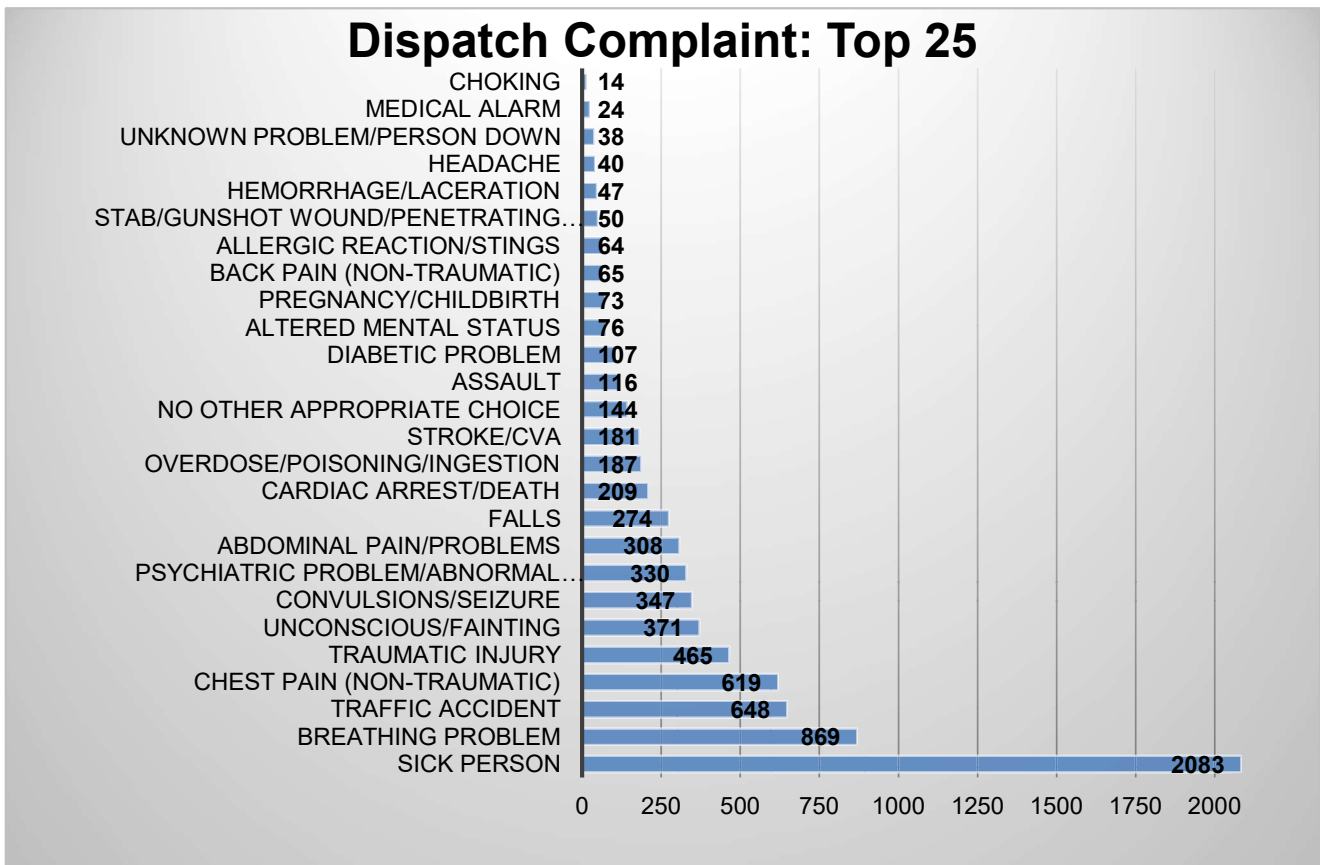
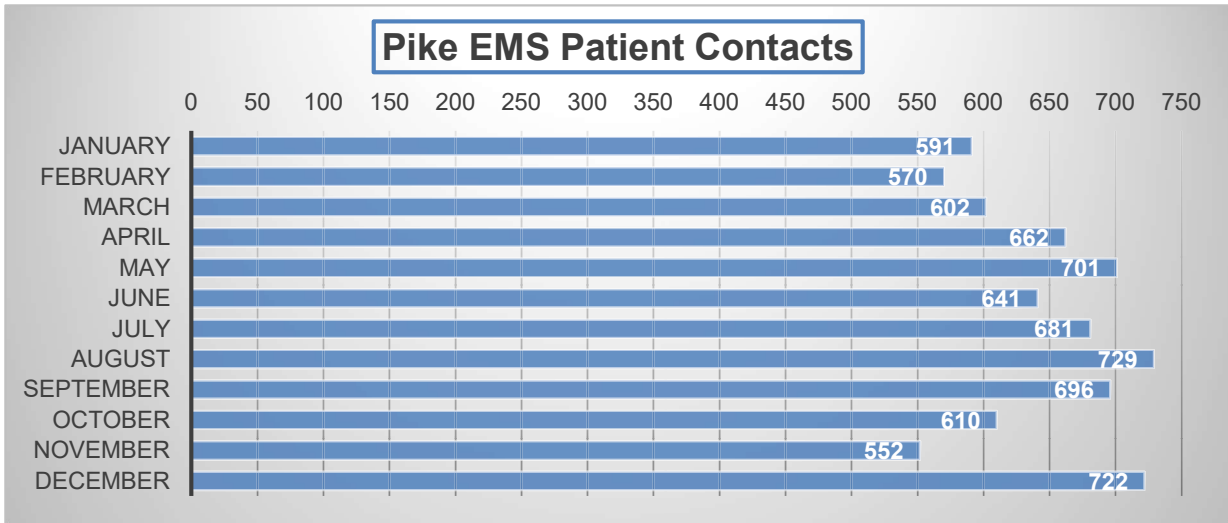
## 2022 PROJECTS

- Complete ACLS and PEPP training for all ALS providers
- Receive delivery of MD61 and place in service
- Train and outfit all EMS providers with PPE to allow access to patients during extrication operations
- Improve upon current onboarding and EMS training through the development of a structured field evaluation training program (FTEP)
- Transition-controlled medication program internally upon receipt of Indiana CSR and DEA licensing
- Participate in the mandatory 2022 Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection (GADC)

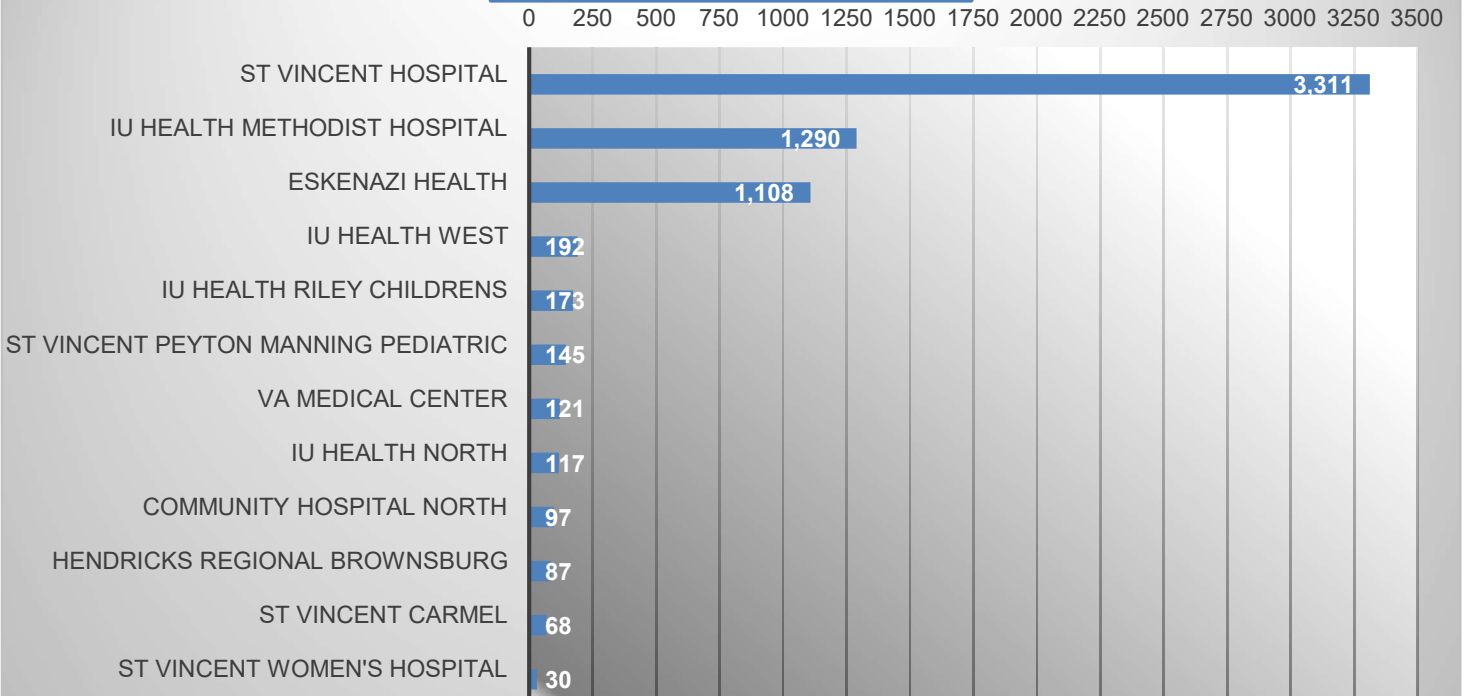


## 2021 EMS STATISTICS

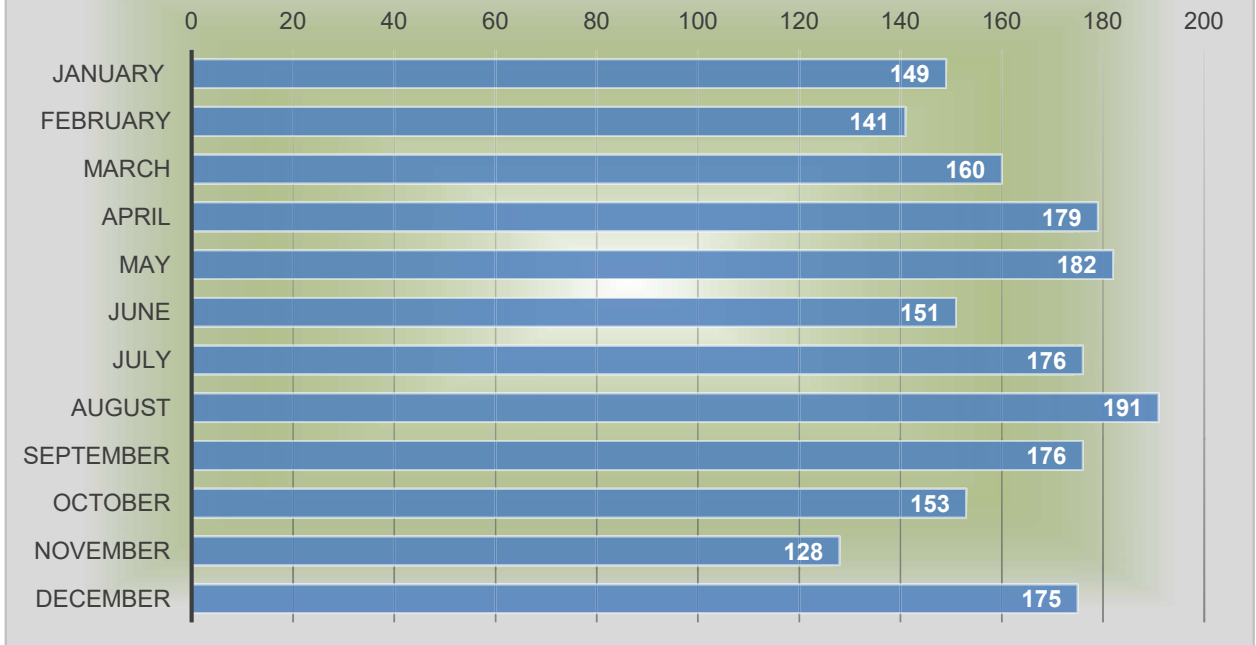
For the year 2021, Pike Township Fire and EMS personnel report contact with **7,757 patients**, a **19% increase compared to 2020**. Of those patients, 87% or 6,749 were transported to a hospital for further evaluation and treatment. Ascension St. Vincent Hospital accounted for 3,311 or 43% of total transports.



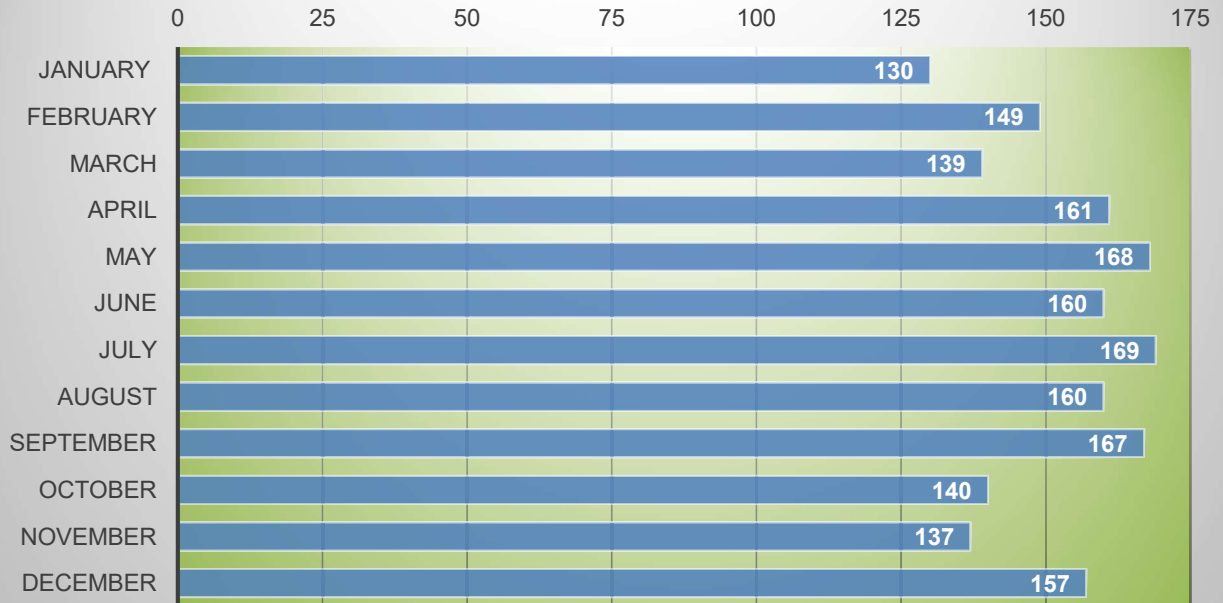
## Transports By Destination



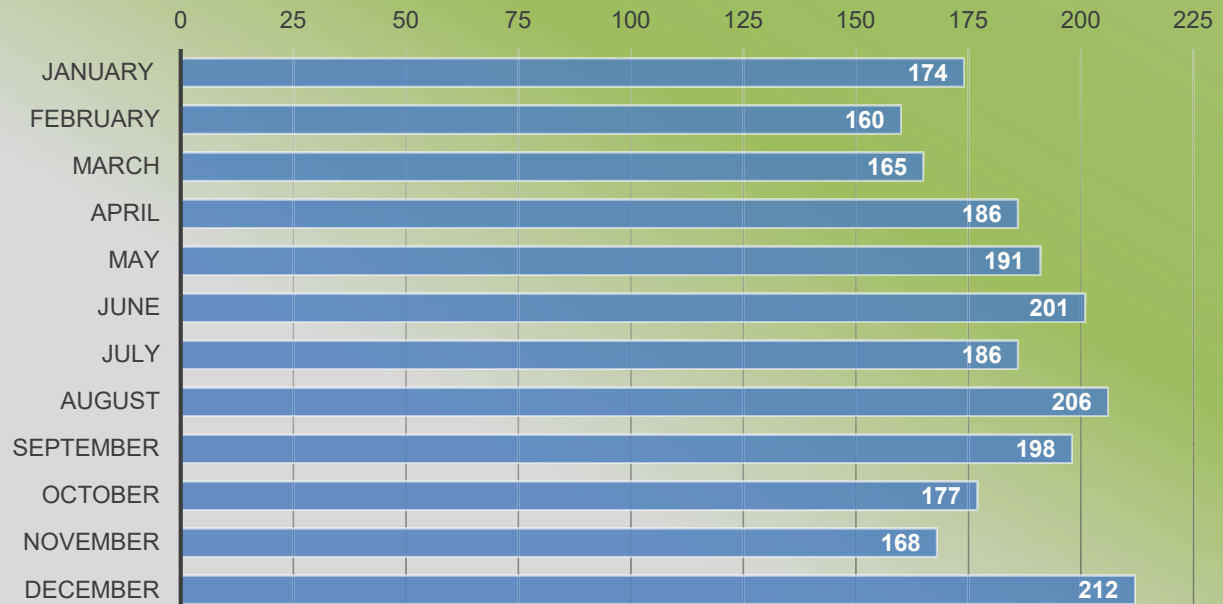
## Medic 61 patient care reports by month



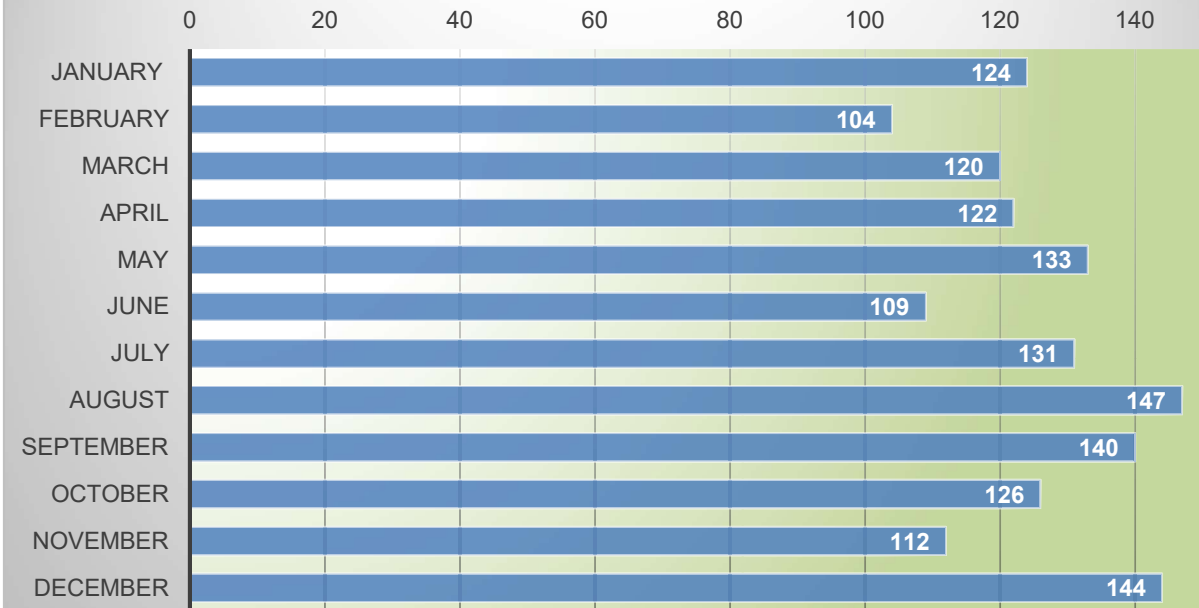
## Medic 63 patient care reports by month



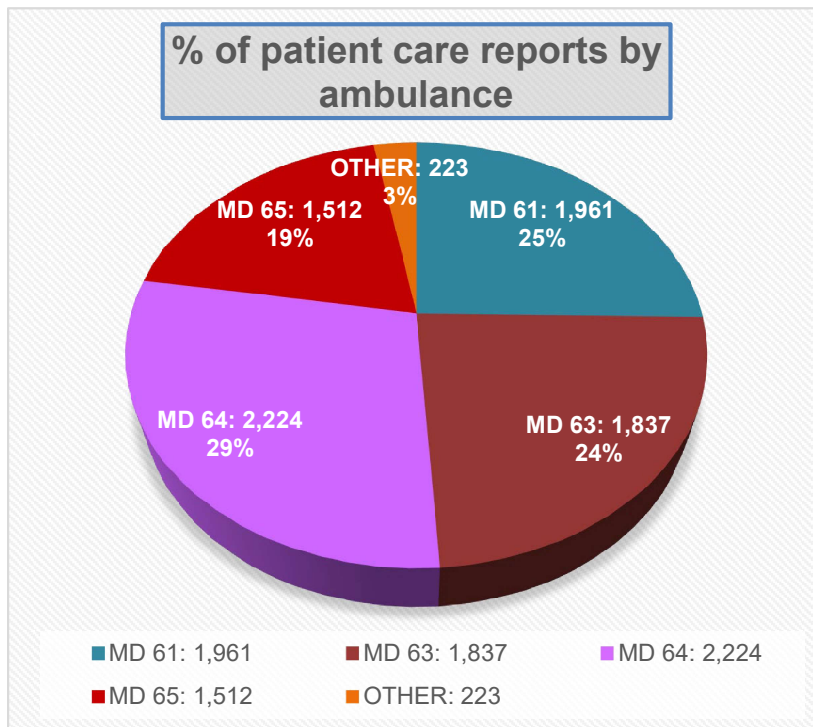
## Medic 64 patient care reports by month



## Medic 65 patient care reports by month



## % of patient care reports by ambulance



# HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFETY



*Sarah Issler, RN MSN*

Reporting to the Division Chief of Emergency Medical Services, Health, Wellness, & Safety Coordinator (HWSC) Sarah Issler has a Master's Degree in Occupational Health Nursing, and has been with Pike Township for five years. The HWSC position is responsible for administering overall department wellness, fitness, and safety compliance through the following programs:

- PTFD's annual Work Performance Evaluations, Physical Fitness Program and Medical/Physical Evaluation Program
- PTFD's Occupational Safety and Health Program including compliance with Indiana Law, National Fire Protection Association Standards and other generally recognized industry standards that may have an impact on employee health and safety needs.
- PTFD's Hazardous Chemical, Blood borne Pathogen, Exposure Control and Employee Hearing Conservation Program. These programs require close coordination with EMS, Training, and Support Services Division Chiefs.
- Organizing and overseeing health-related events for all members on the Pike Township insurance plan, including blood draws, nutrition and health coaching.

## 2021 Highlight of Significant Tasks Completed

- **Case management of COVID-positive or symptomatic personnel** to include contact tracing and notification, scheduling of testing, assessments, and ongoing evaluations.
- **Administered COVID vaccines to Hoosier Homebound Pike Township Citizens.**
- **Coordinated and facilitated blood draw and InBody scans with Public Safety Medical.**
- **Scheduled 2021 physicals**, blood draws, chest x-rays with Public Safety Medical.
- **Scheduled 2021 flu vaccinations** with Public Safety Medical.
- **Administered the 2021 Physical Fitness Evaluation** with committee participation and input.
- **Administered the 2021 Work Performance Evaluation** with peer fitness trainers.
- **Assisted in development of the civilian EMS work performance evaluation.**
- **Purchased physical fitness equipment.**
- **Managed the peer fitness trainers.**
- **Participated on the safety committee.**
- **Led recruit school physical fitness** from April to August to include scheduling Peer Fitness Trainers to assist.
- **Presented nutrition and resiliency education** to the recruit class.



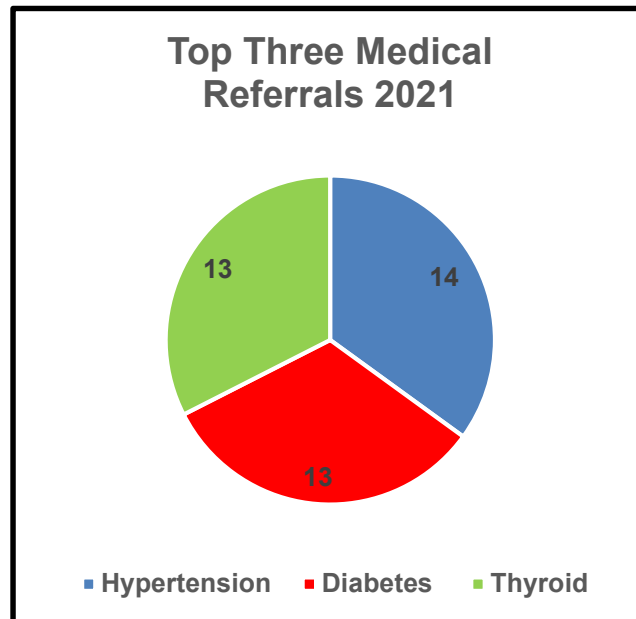


## Annual Department Physical Evaluations

In 2021, 164 personnel were evaluated in accordance with NFPA 1582 standards on comprehensive occupational medical programs for firefighters. The following data is a breakdown of age of the department and top medical referrals.

### Demographics at time of physical evaluation 2021

AGE	NUMBER	%
20-29	13	8%
30-39	52	32%
40-49	45	27%
50-59	42	26%
60+	12	7%
TOTAL	164	100%



These trends reflect both the firefighting and civilian population in Pike Township. These trends are being closely monitored and additional incentive plans are being considered for 2022 in order to drive healthier trends forward.



# PREVENTION SERVICES DIVISION

## Introduction

Prevention Services Division is composed of three subdivided areas of fire and life safety:

- Fire & Life Safety Inspections
- Fire Origin and Cause Investigations
- Community Risk Reduction

The Division includes: the Division Chief/Fire Marshal, the Deputy Fire Marshal, the Community Risk Reduction Specialist and three Investigator/Inspectors. Businesses within the jurisdiction are inspected when newly constructed and regularly thereafter according to hazard rating and occupancy type. The Prevention Services Division is also tasked with the responsibility of investigating the origin and cause of fires and explosions. As part of those duties, personnel routinely interview witnesses, collect evidence, and assist with the prosecution of individuals suspected of arson.

**Division Chief/Fire Marshal**  
Jonathan Kempler



**Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal**  
Ricardo Vega



**Investigator/Inspector**  
Tanya Pickett



**Investigator/Inspector**  
Joshua Shrum



**Investigator/Inspector**  
Cade Berry



**Community Risk Reduction Specialist**  
Samantha Scott



## Mission of Prevention Services

Our mission is to safeguard our community through services designed to protect life and property from the perilous effects of dangerous conditions. Prevention Services supports this through prevention programs, fire investigation, and enforcement of fire and building codes.

## 2021 Year-End Summary

The Division of Prevention Services continued to face challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Many businesses were still closed and some had completely gone out of business. However, new construction was flourishing and many new businesses moved into the Township.

Along with an increased inspection workload, the division also had a record number of fire investigations. There was a 38% increase in fire investigations in 2021 with a total of 100 origin and cause determinations conducted by investigators. The increased number of investigations added an estimated 1,280 hours of time devoted solely to determining the origin and cause of fires.

Our public fire and life safety education program continued to operate with a modified delivery method due to the pandemic. We focused on remote education and made appearances on students' regular Zoom classes. The classes were well received and we were able to maintain our public fire and life safety outreach despite the challenges of not always being able to be on site.

In order to better interact with our citizens and customers and to facilitate routine requests, the division continued to enhance the services offered electronically. An online form was added to allow businesses to update contact information, helping us keep our database as current as possible. We also added a form for home daycares to notify our department of their location and the number of children who may be present.

Prevention Services continued to enhance our preplan program by regularly updating and adding additional hazard information to IamResponding. This program provides general information on fire protection features as well as special hazards to operations personnel via a layered map. The map generates icons that allow personnel to visualize the locations of items such as fire department sprinkler connections, fire alarm control panels, fire hydrants, and other items of importance in an emergency.



The Division of Prevention Services added the position of Deputy Fire Marshal in 2021. Lt. Ricardo Vega, a seasoned fire prevention officer transferred from his assignment in operations and assumed the role. The Deputy Fire Marshal serves as second in command of the division and assists with the supervision of three Investigator/Inspectors.

Joshua Shrum also joined the division as an Investigator/Inspector in 2021. He previously served with the Marion County Sheriff's Office and Eskenazi Health. Along with his experience in law enforcement, he brings knowledge in firefighting tactics and emergency medical services. Investigator/Inspector Shrum's father served as a Deputy Chief with the Wayne Township Fire Department.





*Pike Township Trustee Annette Johnson (center) congratulates Investigator/Inspector Cade Berry (to her right) and Investigator/Inspector Tanya Pickett (to her left) on completion of the law enforcement officer program. Investigator/Inspector Joshua Shrum (far left) and Division Chief Jonathan Kempler (far right) extend their support.*

Two members of the division, Investigator/Inspector Tanya Pickett and Investigator/Inspector Cade Berry, successfully completed a seven-month basic law enforcement officer course sponsored by the Southport Police Department. The program built upon their knowledge and experience, providing valuable specialized training in investigations. After their graduation, the Division of Prevention Services became one of the only fire prevention bureaus in the State of Indiana to have 100% of its personnel cross-trained in all disciplines of fire safety.

knowledge base. The certifications and professional credentials of each member of prevention services makes the division one of the most highly educated in the State of Indiana. This level of education ensures that the residents and visitors of Pike Township receive only the highest level of service.

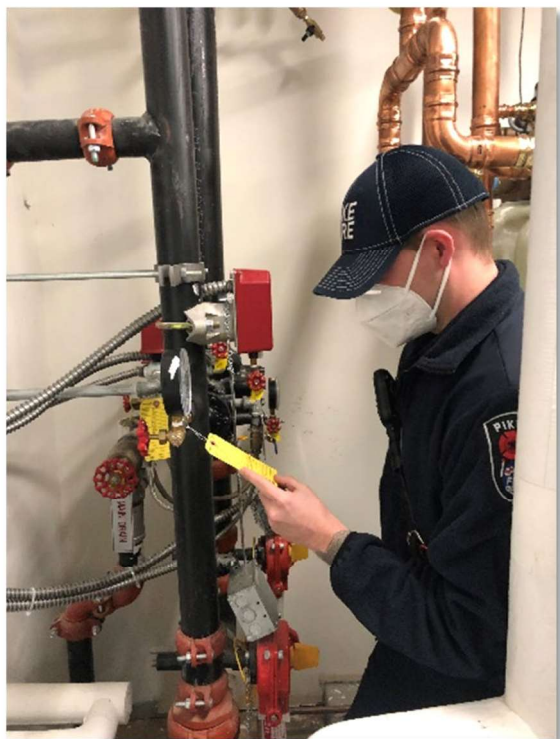
Overall, the Division of Prevention Services had a very successful year in 2021. An emphasis on training and continuing education allowed each member of the division to greatly enhance his/her

## Prevention Services Programs

### Inspection Program:

This program is designed to manage and assure compliance with the Indiana Fire Codes, Indiana

Building Codes, National Fire Protection Association Standards, and Marion County Municipal Codes. Compliance with applicable codes, standards, and identified deficiencies in documentation of sprinkler and fire alarm annual inspections and compliance are verified on a regular basis.



Fire inspection reports are generated electronically with the Mobil-Eyes inspection reporting application. Copies of fire inspection reports can be provided to the building owner electronically via email or fax. Deficiencies that are identified during inspections are photographed and attached to the electronic inspection report. This allows building owners and occupants the ability to review the exact location of deficiencies and leads to a quicker overall compliance time.



### Inspection Program Categories include:

- General Fire Inspection (Annual, Biennial, Triennial)
- New Construction
- After-fire
- Contractor Portal
- Complaint
- Fire Protection
- Hotel
- Paint Booth
- School
- Re-inspection
- Building Remodel
- Fireworks
- Building Alarm
- Fire Drill
- Fuel Station
- KNOX Box
- Plan Review
- Tent

### Re-Inspection Program:

This program is designed to follow-up on fire inspections where the business was found to be non-compliant with applicable fire or building codes. The inspector, based on severity of the deficiencies and previous compliance with the fire code, determines re-inspection date. This program ensures that businesses comply with the inspection orders issued by Prevention Services Division. Businesses are advised of their rights to appeal an inspection order to the Fire Marshal or State of Indiana Fire and Building Safety Commission.

### Night Inspection Program:

The night inspection program ensures the safety of occupants in businesses within the Township at night and after hours. This program targets occupancies that pose a high risk for loss of life and property should a fire occur. The target occupancies include nightclubs, assembly occupancies, theaters, and other locations with a large occupant load.

### 2021 Code Enforcement Summarized Statistics

#### Inspections

Type of Inspection	Inspection Numbers
General Inspections	380
Building Alarm	85
Complaint	47
Fire Drill	28
Fire Watch	13
Site	498
Re-Inspections	644
Knox Box Inspections	208
All Other Inspections *	2,092
<b>Construction</b>	
Sprinkler, Fire Alarm and Hood Test	41
Total Inspections for 2021	4,036

\* “All Other Inspections” listed above include: Hazardous Inspections, State Fire Marshal Inspections, Tent Inspections, Fuel Station Inspections, Paint Booth Inspections and Contractor Portal Inspections. Through focusing on quality inspections and follow-through with re-inspections for 2021, Prevention Services was able to develop and implement an effective inspection program with **1,235** violations cited and **716** violations cleared by year-end. 98,164,601 square feet of building space was inspected in 2021.



## Inspection Totals

	# of Inspections <sup>1</sup>	Violations Cited	Violations Cleared <sup>2</sup>	Violations Remaining	Occupant Sq. Ft.
Contractor Portal Follow Up <sup>FS</sup>	20				284,790
Above ceiling <sup>FS</sup>	1				0
Alarm System (Annual) <sup>FS</sup>	332				11,956,747
Annual <sup>FS</sup>	178				3,821,725
Assist <sup>FS</sup>	27				91,300
Biennial <sup>FS</sup>	77				783,000
Building Alarm <sup>FS</sup>	85				3,993,551
Clean Agent System (Annual) <sup>FS</sup>	31				351,500
Complaint <sup>FS</sup>	47				1,991,748
Construction <sup>FS</sup>	91				991,259
Consultation <sup>FS</sup>	113				3,447,947
Exterior <sup>FS</sup>	27				64,726
Final <sup>FS</sup>	36				710,702
Fire Alarm Acceptance <sup>FS</sup>	28				786,388
Fire Drill <sup>FS</sup>	28				969,585
Fire Protection <sup>FS</sup>	27				743,494
Fire Pump (Annual) <sup>FS</sup>	21				311,220
Fire Watch <sup>FS</sup>	13				1,351,640
Fireworks <sup>FS</sup>	8				451,144
Forbid to Occupy <sup>FS</sup>	6				0
Hazardous Operation <sup>FS</sup>	5				37,500
Hood Suppression System (Semi-annual) <sup>FS</sup>	254				4,842,977
Hood Test <sup>FS</sup>	10				101,288
Hotel <sup>FS</sup>	3				56,000
Knox Box <sup>FS</sup>	208				7,901,730
Parking/Ordinance Citation Warning <sup>FS</sup>	1				37,500
Plan Review <sup>FS</sup>	35				123,046
Pre-final <sup>FS</sup>	18				74,550
Pre-plan (IamResponding) <sup>FS</sup>	418				6,710,252
Private Fire Service Mains (Hydrants) <sup>FS</sup>	107				2,131,426
Re-inspect <sup>FS</sup>	644				25,782,596
Site <sup>FS</sup>	498				7,363,089
Sprinkler <sup>FS</sup>	3				7,200
Sprinkler System (Annual) <sup>FS</sup>	509				9,347,602
Standpipe System (Annual) <sup>FS</sup>	2				62,100
Triennial <sup>FS</sup>	125				483,279
<b>Total<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>4036</b>	<b>1235</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>98,164,601</b>



## 2021 Program Goals

**Goal:** Inspect all educational occupancies.

*Objective:* To complete fire inspections of all educational occupancies so as to provide for life safety standards to safeguard life and property from the hazards of fire in Pike Township.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Goal:** Inspect all hotel occupancies.

*Objective:* To complete fire inspections of all hotel occupancies so as to provide for life safety standards to safeguard life and property from the hazards of fire in Pike Township.

**Status:** Complete

**Goal:** Inspect all hospitals.

*Objective:* To complete fire inspections of all hospitals within the Township so as to provide for life safety standards to safeguard life and property from the hazards of fire in Pike Township.

**Status of Goal:** Complete

**Goal:** Inspect new construction projects.

*Objective:* To complete fire inspections of all new construction so as to provide for life safety standards to safeguard life and property from the hazards of fire in Pike Township.

**Status:** Complete

**Goal:** Create a business contact information update form on the PTFD Website.

*Objective:* To create an electronic form where business owners can update contact information.

**Status:** Complete

**Goal:** Create a program for business owner and resident notification of fire department response.

*Objective:* To implement a program where business owners and residents who are not available at the time of response to receive a notification from PTFD in the form of a flyer left at the front door.

**Status:** Complete

**Goal:** To obtain additional professional credentials for division personnel.

*Objective:* To provide the opportunity for division personnel to obtain advanced professional credentials.

**Status:** Complete. All division personnel are now professionally credentialed by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI).

**Goal:** Streamline the plan review and new construction inspection process.

*Objective:* To create a better process for plan review and new construction inspections that builds upon the current system.

**Status:** Complete



**Goal:** Transition Fire Investigation Reporting to 100% electronic format by 2022.

*Objective:* To create a system for 100% electronic reporting and quality assurance monitoring for fire investigation reports.

**Status:** Complete

**Goal:** Create and maintain an electronic Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) database to facilitate rapid processing of records requests.

*Objective:* To create a system for electronic records to be requested and disseminated to the public and other requestors in a time-efficient manner.

**Status:** Complete

## Community Relations Programs

The Fire Prevention Services Division actively participates in and supports multiple community activities. We believe that this promotes a positive impact in support of the Pike Township Fire Department's mission. Community involvement helps maintain effective relationships. This requires attendance at community meetings with active participation at these gatherings. We have established ongoing scheduled involvement with many community groups. In these meetings we recognize community demographics, formal and informal community leaders, community groups, community and civic issues, effective customer service methods, and organizational policies for good community relations.

The following are community groups with whom Prevention Services has active partnerships to secure, protect, and ensure the safety and welfare of persons and property related to the Pike Township District:

### Pike Township Residence Association

This partnership with Pike Township Residence Association was formed to assist the Township with new construction coming into our area, asking for zoning variances as they relate to the Indiana Fire and Building Codes. We are involved with Pike Township land and building use, development, parks and recreation, transportation, schools, drainage and sewage problems, water supply and area beautification by providing related fire and building codes input.

### Northwest IMPD Police District

This is a partnership with Indianapolis Metro Police Department to form an alliance for a safer community.

### Metropolitan School District of Pike Township

This partnership with the Pike School District to ensures an improved educational atmosphere where students and staff can attend a school day uninterrupted by fire or anything that would obstruct the educational process of the schools.

During the school year, we observed and assisted in the first fire drill in each school in Pike Township to evaluate the evacuation.





## Risk Management Program

### Hazardous Materials Tier II Reporting Program:

Tier II report information received from local businesses is used by Pike Township Fire Department and by the Local Emergency Planning Committees in responding to accidents and other community emergencies involving hazardous materials and for developing community emergency response plans and strategies. Pertinent information on hazardous materials is routinely downloaded into the Mobile-Eyes and IamResponding programs. This allows personnel in the field to view important information about businesses that contain or handle hazardous materials.

## Fire Investigation Program

Fire investigations are conducted in order to analyze fire and explosion incidents and to determine the origin and cause of fires within the jurisdiction of the Pike Township Fire Department. Beginning with the initial notification of a fire or explosion incident to the fire department, an investigation is commenced to determine the origin and cause of the fire or explosion. Investigations of such incidents are done using a systematic approach and knowledge of basic and advanced fire science. This program assesses fire and explosion causes that take place within the jurisdiction of the Pike Township Fire Department. However, through active participation with the Central Indiana Fire Investigation Task Force, investigators assist with investigations throughout central Indiana.

The data obtained through a fire or explosion investigation may be submitted in anticipation of litigation in order to provide details of an investigation including evidence collected, reports, scene sketches, photographs, and other related information relevant to the investigation. Of the total fire incidents in reported to the Pike Township Fire Department in 2021, Fire Prevention Services provided origin and cause investigations for 100 fire losses. Most of the fires were determined to be accidental in nature and occurred in occupied buildings. Prevention Services Division also investigated arson fires that occurred in the township and assisted in the prosecution of those individuals when identified. Of those individuals whose cases were adjudicated in 2021, Prevention Services Division had a 100% conviction rate.

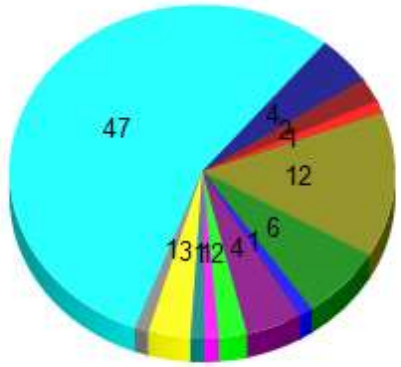
Fire Investigations	
Accidental	57
Incendiary	15
Undetermined	25
Natural	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## Fire Cause Definitions

- **Accidental:** An unplanned event that interrupts an activity and sometimes causes injury or damage or a chance occurrence arising from unknown causes; an unexpected happening due to carelessness, ignorance, and the like.
- **Incendiary:** A fire that is intentionally ignited under circumstances in which the person knows that the fire should not be ignited.
- **Natural:** A natural fire involves fires resulting from lightning, earthquake, and wind without direct human intervention or action.
- **Undetermined:** Fires in which the level of certainty is not determined or in which there is only suspicion of that cause.



### Incidents by Property Type



- Assembly
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Mercantile
- Open Area
- Other Structures
- Outside/Special Properties
- Religious
- Residential
- Storage
- Unknown
- Utility
- Vehicles

### Incidents by Area of Origin



- Assembly, Sales Areas (Groups of People)
- Function Areas
- Means Of Egress
- Other
- Service Areas
- Service, Equipment Areas
- Storage Areas
- Structural Areas
- Technical Processing Area
- Transportation, Vehicle Areas
- Unknown

Type of Fire Investigated	Total
Commercial Building	21
Multi Family	17
Residence	28
Vehicle	22
Other	12
<b>Total Fire Investigation Types</b>	<b>100</b>



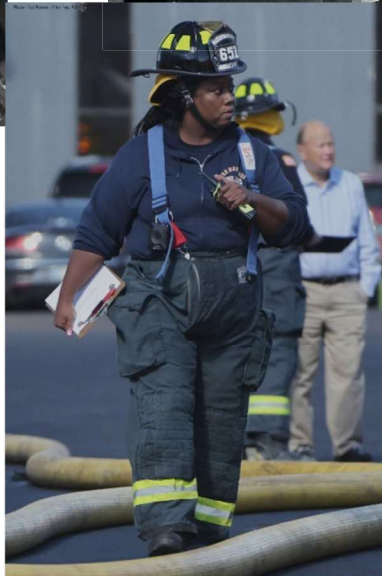
## Reported Fire Injuries for 2021

Of the fires investigated by Prevention Services Division in 2021, three Firefighter injuries were reported, and eight civilian injuries. There was one civilian fire fatality within the jurisdiction of the Pike Township Fire Department in 2021.

## Dollar Losses

Prevention Services actively compiles information on property values, loss amounts and dollars saved from firefighting and prevention services. In 2021, the Pike Township Fire Department responded to fire losses involving commercial and residential properties, accessory structures, and vehicles. The total value of these properties was **\$138,144,695**. A documented dollar loss of **\$3,953,357** was recorded. The Pike Township Fire Department saved **\$134,191,338** in property in 2021.

Values	Total
Total Pre-fire Value	\$138,144,695
Total Loss Amount	\$3,953,357
Total Amount Saved	\$134,191,338



## Community Risk Reduction Programs

The Pike Township Community Risk Reduction Specialist manages programs which address community risk, creates and leads risk reduction programs, analyzes data, plans for short and long-term programs, and writes grants to support these programs.



Our community risk reduction programs touch a wide spectrum of members of the Pike Township community. School programs target Pike Township students in grades pre-K to high school. Fire safety programs are aligned with Indiana State Board of Education criteria. We assist the schools to meet Indiana standards in education with our Risk Watch Program. The Community Risk Reduction Specialist works with fire investigators to identify and reduce fire hazards in target areas within the community. This often includes providing special programming according to current data and fire trends reported

by other members of the division. Such programming often includes education targeted to seniors and apartment tenants regarding cooking safety, industrial fire safety, and youth fire curiosity intervention.

### Public Education Program Categories:

- Firefighter Visits on Station or at Schools
- Car Seat Inspections
- Community Events
- Smoke Detector and Hearing Impaired Installations and Distributions
- Fire Truck Visits and Station Tours
- Senior Citizen Training
- Youth Fire Curiosity Intervention
- Project Lifesaver
- Nextdoor Community Outreach

Education Delivered in 2021	Number of People
Car Seat Installation/Education	27
Preschool	182
Elementary School	6,386
Middle School	151
High School	3
Adult	1,022
Senior Participation	346
Nextdoor Virtual Outreach	164,735
<b>Total Individuals Educated</b>	<b>172,852</b>



Pike Township Fire Department Community Risk Reduction (CRR) also provides programs upon request. Citizens can request community risk reduction programs through our interactive website. Among the additional programs that we offer are fire drills, youth fire curiosity, smoke detector installation, custom school programs, attendance at community events, fire engine tours, and nursing home resident education. These programs allow members of our department to interact with the community on a continual basis throughout the year.

<b>Additional CRR Activities in 2021</b>	<b>Number of People</b>
Fire Drills	26
Youth Fire Curiosity	3
Smoke Detector Installation/Education	22
School Program	24
Community Event	10
Fire Engine Visit	13
Nursing Home	2
<b>Total Activities</b>	<b>100</b>



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Going *above and beyond* is part of the culture of Pike Township Fire Department. Throughout the year, we reach out to meet the needs of our community with various acts of service. Following are just a few examples of Pike Fire's community service in 2021.

Published an ongoing column in the community newspaper "The Pike Pulse" in which we provided updates and informative articles on a variety of topics.

The Trustee's office, along with Pike Township Fire Department, sponsored multiple mobile blood drives.

Two of the biggest community outreach efforts are the Trustee's annual Christmas Toy Drive and MLK Day of Giving food drive. With the help of the community, we were able to completely fill the Trustee's food pantry and also provide holiday gifts to families in need.



To celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup>, Pike Township Fire Department led a neighborhood parade through a neighborhood. For Halloween, we handed out candy and fire education materials. Firefighter Ron Hendrix donned his Santa Claus suit to help little ones celebrate Christmas and 64s led a neighborhood parade.

During National Night Out, a number of firefighters and staff visited neighborhoods to enhance the relationship between residents and first responders while bringing back a true sense of community.

PTFD assisted with the Polar Plunge at Eagle Creek Park, which is Special Olympics Indiana's main fundraiser.



Chief Chris Tragesser presented at several community meetings, including churches and civic organizations, as well as met with community leaders to keep in touch with the needs of Pike Township residents.

the YMCA Back to School Drive.

Prevention Services, along with various crews, participated in community events at Solid Word Bible Church, Fastenal Community Day, Autism Companion Services and Hoosier Burn Camp.

PTFD employees pitched in on Community Clean Up Day to help beautify the Township.

To equip children with adequate school supplies, PTFD employees donated towards



Stories like these could fill pages and pages. These acts of kindness are not stipulated in the personnel manual! This dedication to service goes above and beyond at all levels in our organization. When Pike Firefighters and EMS personnel see a need in the community, they meet that need with action – whether in an official or unofficial capacity.

