



City of  
**Sheboygan**  
spirit on the lake

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

COURAGE  
HONOR  
INTEGRITY

ESTABLISHED 1888



**SHEBOYGAN  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



# CHIEF'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the Sheboygan Fire Department's 2021 Annual Report for your review, which provides a summary of the activities and achievements of our members, as well as some statistical comparisons from previous years.

As we continue to implement COVID safety precautions for both our crew members and the public, I thank everyone for the ongoing support. We are proud to serve the Sheboygan community and strive to provide the best service possible.

I would like to highlight a few of our 2021 achievements starting with one we were most pleased by.

**The inaugural Citizens Fire Academy (CFA) was met with excitement and successfully completed by 11 participants including the public, council members and City staff.**

## *Other Highlights*

- We received approval to purchase a new fire engine to replace Ladder 5 which failed the recertification process due to its age and condition.
- The administrative chiefs began working with the Department of Public Works and Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH) on a remodel / construction plan for the SFD Headquarters - Station #3.
- We ended the year with 6,299 incident responses, which is 636 higher than 2020's counts.

On behalf of the entire Sheboygan Fire Department, thank you for taking the time to read our annual report and please let us know if you have any questions.

**ERIC MONTELLANO**

*Sheboygan Fire Department, Chief*



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## OUR MISSION

The Sheboygan Fire Department is dedicated to serving all who live, visit, work, and invest in the City of Sheboygan through excellence in fire protection, rescue, emergency, and non-emergency medical services, code enforcement, and education, at the highest professional level in a compassionate, ethical, and cost effective manner.

## OUR VALUES

Courage, honor and integrity.

## OVERSIGHT

Board of Police & Fire Commission

- President Robert Lettre, Sr.
- Secretary Andrew Hopp
- Commissioner Jeanne Kliejunas
- Commissioner Larry Samet
- Commissioner Gerald Jones

## CONTACT

*For emergencies, dial 911.*

Non-emergency office: (920) 459-3327

Headquarters station mailing address:

1326 N 25 Street, Sheboygan WI 53081



# DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

## ADMINISTRATION

**FIRE CHIEF**

**ADMIN. COORDINATOR/ SUPERVISOR**

**ADMIN. ASSISTANT**

**2 ASSISTANT CHIEFS**

**FIRE MARSHAL/ BATTALION CHIEF**

## FOR EACH 24-HOUR SHIFT:

A, B AND C SHIFTS

**BATTALION CHIEF**

**CAPTAIN**

**4 LIEUTENANTS**

**5 FIRE EQUIPMENT OPERATORS**

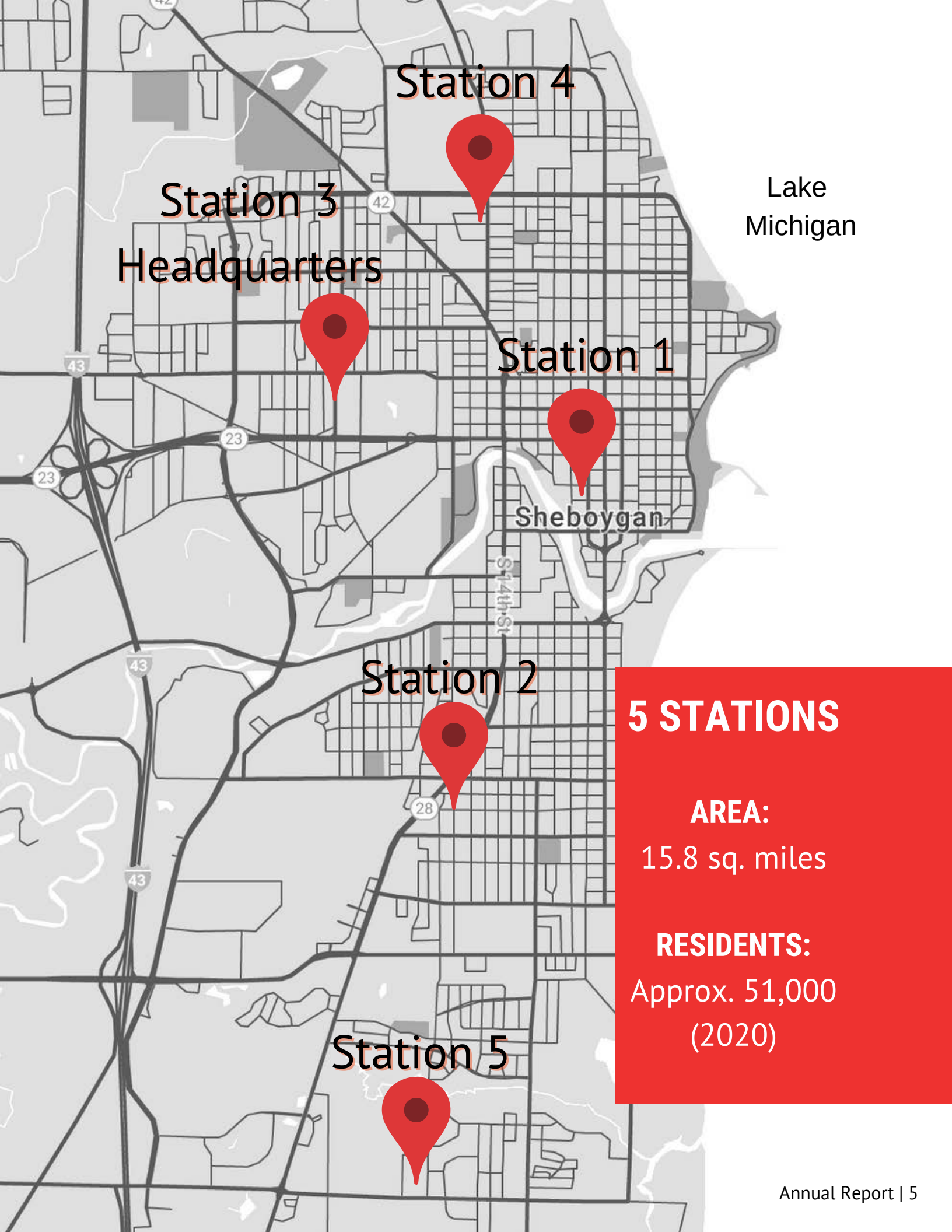
**12 FIREFIGHTER/ PARAMEDICS**

**75  
PERSONNEL**









Station 3  
Headquarters

Station 4

Lake  
Michigan

Station 1

Sheboygan

Station 2

**5 STATIONS**

**AREA:**

15.8 sq. miles

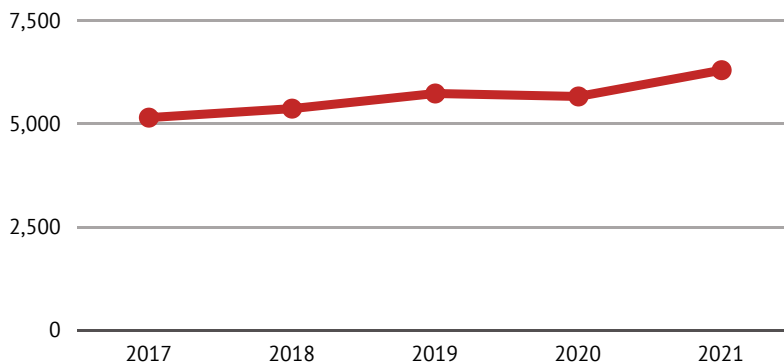
**RESIDENTS:**

Approx. 51,000  
(2020)

Station 5

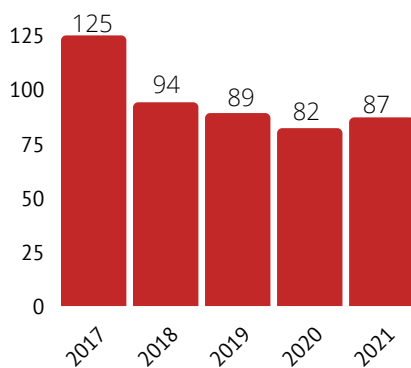
# INCIDENT STATISTICS

## TOTAL INCIDENTS

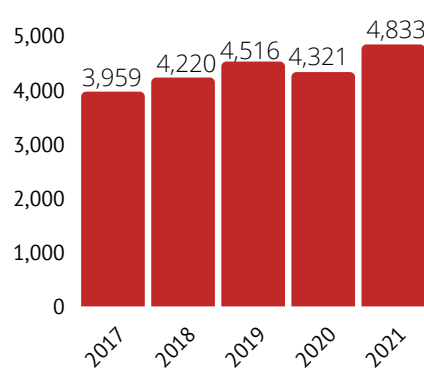


The Sheboygan Fire Department's 2021 call volume supports a trending increase in calls with the department running 663 more calls than the previous year. 2021's total call volume was 6,299.

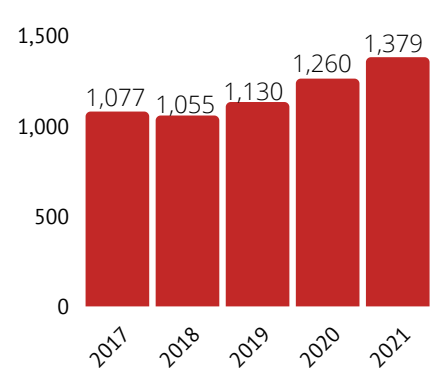
## FIRES



## RESCUE/EMS



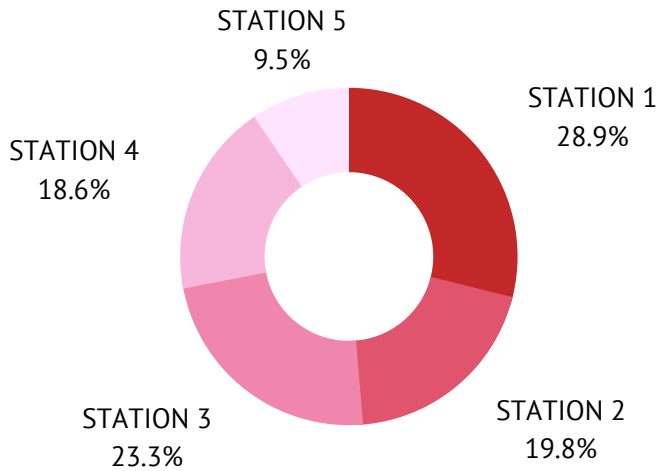
## NON-FIRES



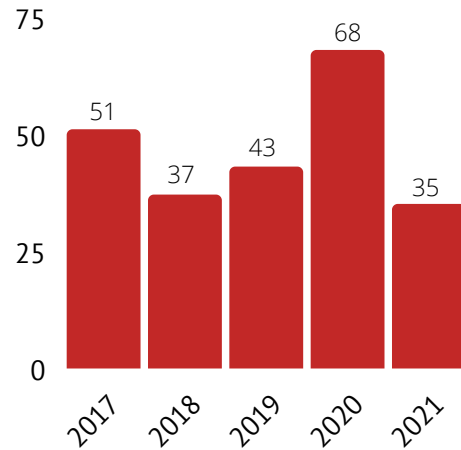
**Due to changes in National Fire Incident Report System (NFIRS) criteria, the number of fires in 2017 was reported as being much higher than in subsequent years. For example, burnt food calls were previously coded as structure fires; however, this has since been changed to another code.**



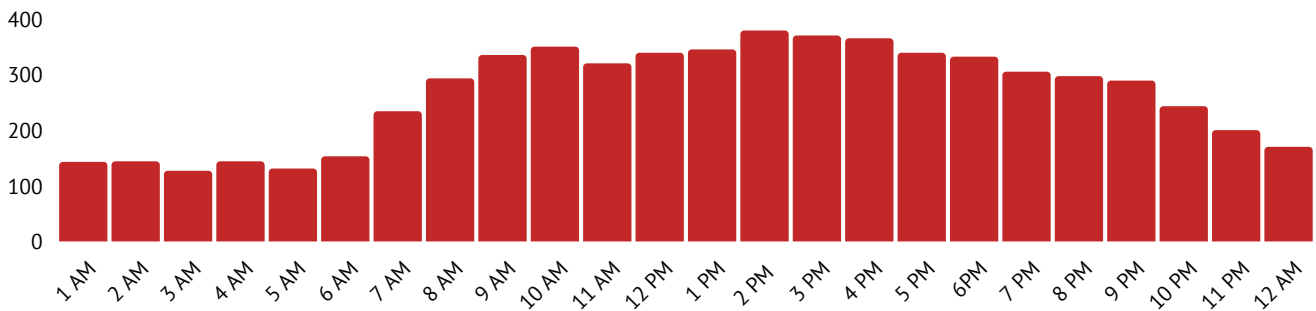
## CALLS PER STATION



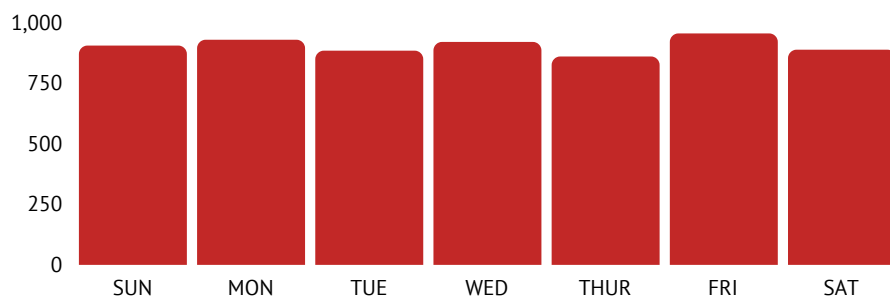
## CALLS OUT OF CITY



## CALLS BY HOUR

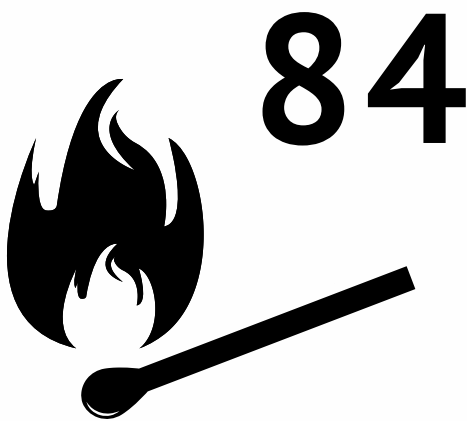
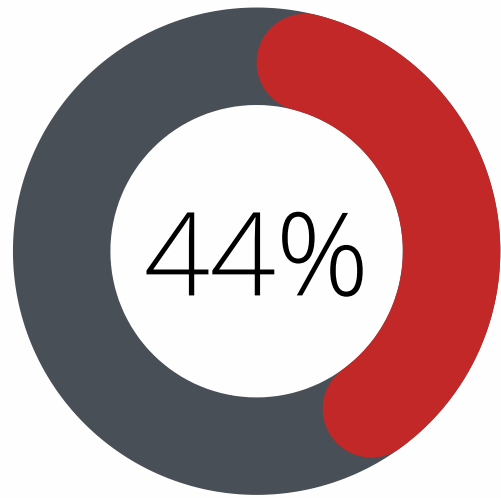


## CALLS BY DAY



# OVERLAPPING INCIDENTS FOR 2021

This represents total SFD call requests, while another call or multiple calls were already in progress. This is a 2% increase from 2020.



# 84

## FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

This represents the number of origin and cause investigations conducted for fire related incidents. This number may differ from the number of “fire’s” that occurred as an incident not labeled as a “fire” may still require investigation.

## ISO RATING

ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating is a classification of public fire protection services. This has a direct effect on insurance rates within the city. It evaluates how well-equipped a community is to handle fires. The best rating is Class 1. The SFD continues to evaluate all services in hopes of achieving ISO Class 1 in the future.



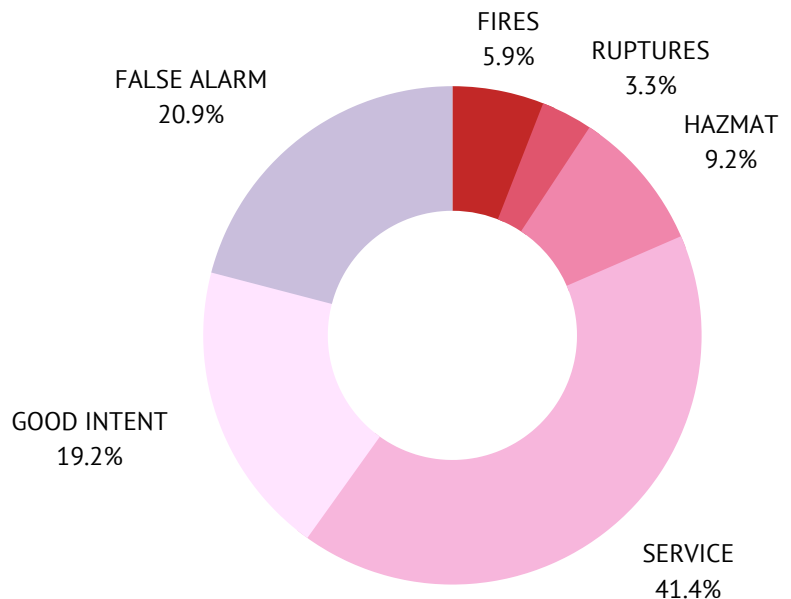
## CLASS 2



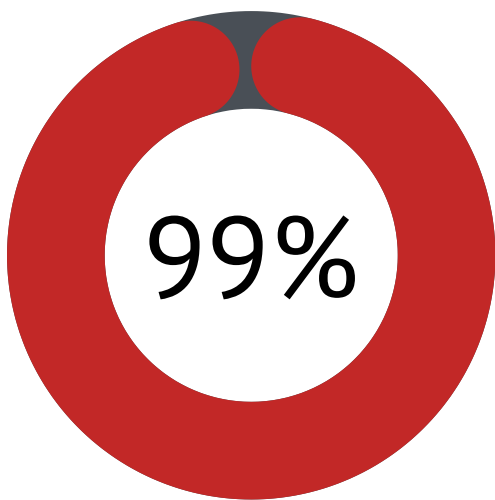
# FIRE SERVICE INCIDENT TYPE BREAKDOWN

A breakdown of all non-rescue/EMS calls. This includes calls of the following nature:

- Gas and carbon monoxide
- Animal rescue
- Unauthorized burning
- Dispatched & canceled en route
- Alarm malfunction
- Building fire, passenger vehicle fire, trash fire
- Excessive heat



## RESIDENT SATISFACTION

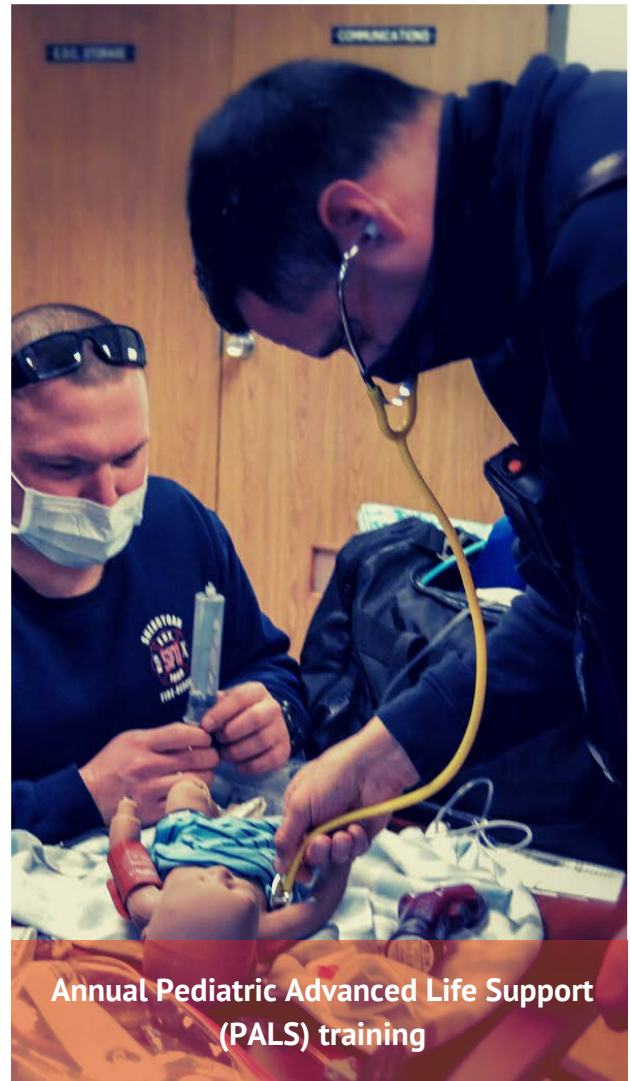


"We appreciate the support from residents and visitors alike as we strive to provide the best services possible."

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

2021 proved to be another busy year, with our department responding to over 4,800 EMS calls. In comparison, that's over 500 more EMS calls than last year, and over 2,100 more EMS calls than our first year of providing ambulance service to the citizens of Sheboygan in 2008.

A few notable EMS changes from the past year include the department's implementation of new responses and equipment to improve patient care, including the addition of a second fire apparatus for cardiac arrest calls and the purchase of new video laryngoscopes for the ambulances.



Annual Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) training

## EMS FAQs

**Why are patients having a Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack) not transported to a local hospital?** A true heart attack patient requires emergency intervention at a cardiac catheterization lab. The closest emergency cardiac catheterization lab is located in Grafton, WI. SFD paramedics are trained to recognize an actual heart attack and transport that patient to the most appropriate facility.

**Why are patients transported by a medical helicopter?** Medical helicopters are requested for the most critically ill patients who need a higher level of medical care not available locally. These are often patients with traumatic injuries who need immediate surgical intervention. Less than 1% of the patients Sheboygan Fire Department paramedics encounter require transport by a medical helicopter.

## TOP MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS:

#1 OXYGEN    #2 IV FLUID



## VIDEO LARYNGOSCOPES

The department purchased new video laryngoscopes for our ambulances. Our paramedics use laryngoscopes to insert an endotracheal tube into a patient's trachea to breathe for the patient while protecting their airway. Previously, a paramedic would use a regular laryngoscope and look into a patient's mouth to visualize the airway anatomy.

The new video laryngoscopes have a video camera attached, giving the medics a full view of a patient's airway. This new equipment has decreased the time it takes to secure an airway for a critically ill patient, and significantly improved our department's success in completing this intervention.



## MEDICAL DIRECTION

In 2021, Dr. Scott Kunkel took over as the new SFD Medical Director. Previously, Dr. Steven Zils served the department for ten years helping to implement emergency medical dispatch, which provides life-saving instructions to 911 callers. We appreciate all the assistance and guidance from him over the years and look forward to building our relationship with Dr. Kunkel. Dr. Kunkel is board-certified in emergency medicine with a fellowship in emergency medical services. In addition, Dr. Kunkel works on-staff in the emergency department at Aurora Medical Center in Sheboygan and is a Commander in the United States Navy Reserves.

Dr. Kunkel is responsible for the medical oversight of Sheboygan Fire Department EMTs and Paramedics. This includes, but is not limited to protocol development, training, quality assurance, and credentialing our department EMS personnel. As an active part of the department's EMS program, Dr. Kunkel frequently rides along with our ambulance crews and provides on-site training.

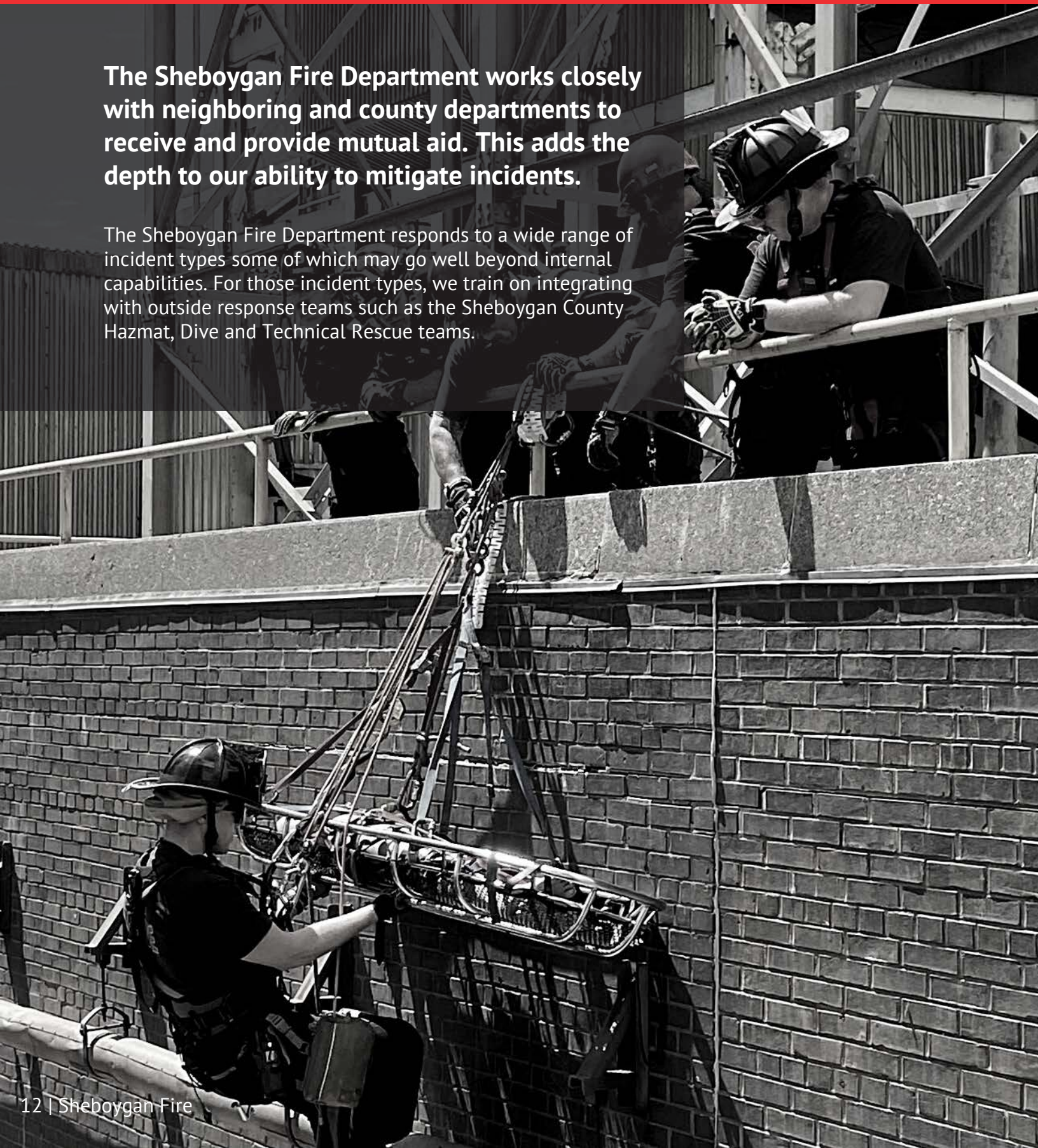


Dr. Scott Kunkel

# OPERATIONS

**The Sheboygan Fire Department works closely with neighboring and county departments to receive and provide mutual aid. This adds the depth to our ability to mitigate incidents.**

The Sheboygan Fire Department responds to a wide range of incident types some of which may go well beyond internal capabilities. For those incident types, we train on integrating with outside response teams such as the Sheboygan County Hazmat, Dive and Technical Rescue teams.

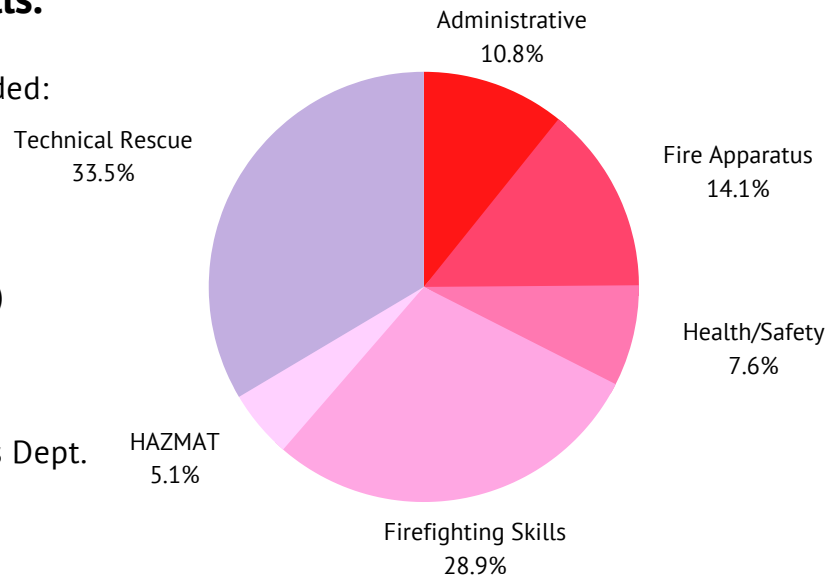




**Throughout the year, all members from probationary firefighter to senior officers review and practice lifesaving skills.**

Some of the 2021 trainings included:

- Hoses
- Confined Space
- High Angle
- RIT (Rapid Intervention Team)
- Trench Rescue
- Water Rescue
- Rescue Boat with the Sheriff's Dept.
- HazMat



# TRAINING



# FIRE PREVENTION

A firefighter in a blue uniform is sitting on a fire truck, interacting with a group of children. One child is reaching out towards the firefighter. The scene is set outdoors, with the fire truck's red and white body visible. The firefighter is smiling and looking at the children. The children are gathered around the truck, some with their hands raised. The background shows a building with a white roll-up door.

**3,148 Sheboygan area students reunited with firefighters in-person for Fire Prevention month.**

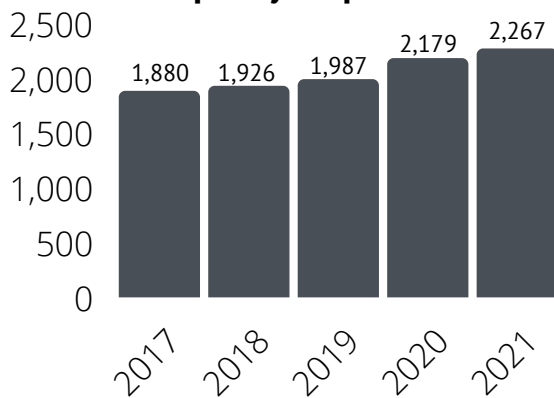
Students in kindergarten through fourth grade met firefighters, learned about their gear and equipment, how to "stop, drop and roll", plan home exit drills, prevent household fire hazards, and put it all together exiting the Survive Alive House and calling 911. All students receive reminders about testing their smoke detectors.

# FIRE INSPECTIONS

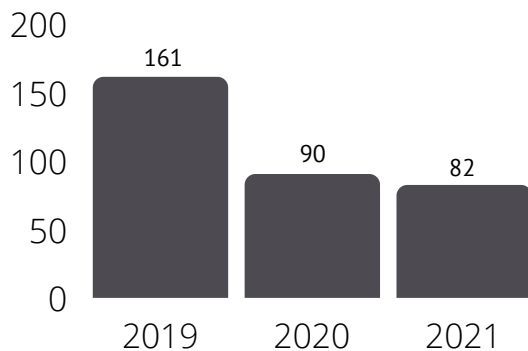
Each year the City of Sheboygan Fire Department conducts inspections to ensure that buildings are safe and up to National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Fire Safety Code.

Properties inspected include three family or more residential units, commercial/business, and mixed-use occupancies.

**Occupancy Inspections**



**Smoke Alarms Installed**



The hope is that as our inspection program continues to strengthen, more homes will be protected thanks to early detection devices.







# CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY




**Over the span of nine weeks, 11 community members learned what it takes to become a firefighter.**

The Sheboygan Fire Department was excited to offer its first Citizens Fire Academy (CFA) this year. Program curriculum featured a series of classroom sessions and hands-on training similar to that of a recruit firefighter/paramedic. Topics included department history, emergency medical operations, incident command, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), search and rescue, fire investigations/inspections and home fire safety. Participants got to know crew members and ask candid questions regarding the fire service.



# FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CFFA

Email [karley.campbell@sheboyganwi.gov](mailto:karley.campbell@sheboyganwi.gov) or connect with us on Facebook for updates on the next Citizens Fire Academy.

Find us on   
**@SheboyganFireDepartment**

Must be at least 18 years of age to participate and able to attend all sessions.



# PERSONNEL



## THE PROMOTIONAL PROCESS

While each position has unique responsibilities, they all share similar components. All positions require the applicant to fill out an application and submit it with a resume.

Applicants for Captain & Lieutenant are required to take a written test. This is followed with an assessment conducted by an outside panel consisting of chief officers from other departments. Lieutenant candidates must develop and demonstrate a training exercise and emergency scene exercise to the panel, while Captain

candidates have an incident management scenario and must identify corrective measures for a fire service problem. The last area is an evaluation conducted by the SFD chiefs and captains. Successful candidates are placed on an eligibility list.

Applicants for Assistant & Battalion Chief are evaluated and interviewed by an outside panel as well as perform an incident scene management exercise. Then, an interview is conducted by the fire chief and assistant chiefs. After careful consideration, the fire chief selects the candidate that best fits department needs.



# NEW HIRES



**Firefighter/Paramedic**  
**Andrew Perman**



**Firefighter/Paramedic**  
**John Senkbeil**



**Firefighter/Paramedic**  
**Lucas Haltaufderheide**

# PROMOTIONS



**Asst. Chief**  
**Jeffrey Salzman**



**Battalion Chief**  
**Jamon Ingelse**



**Fire Equipment Operator**  
**Stephen Mechenich**

# RETIREMENTS



**Assistant Chief**  
**Charles Butler, jr.**

*26 years*



**Assistant Chief**  
**Dean Klein**

*30 years*



**Captain**  
**Efrem Capetillo, jr.**

*28 years*



**Fire Equipment Operator**  
**Scott Enriquez**

*30 years*



# PEER SUPPORT

The health and wellness of all our members is a top priority. Our peer support program began in 2020. Its mission is to *“help those that help others.”*

## LOCAL 483

The Sheboygan Firefighters Local 483 is a labor union that was formed and affiliated with the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) in 1936. Through engaged membership they strive to work in partnership with Fire Department administration, city management, elected officials and the citizens of Sheboygan to ensure that union members are provided wage and working conditions consistent with departments locally, statewide, and nationally. The union also supports the citizens of Sheboygan in events outside of the department including:

- “Making Spirits Bright” by the Sheboygan Rotary
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing
- MDA “Fill the Boot”
- Sheboygan Firefighters’ Honor Guard and other charitable organizations.

### According to an IAFF study of 7,000 firefighters, 77% found peer support helpful.

Peer support is the process by which a trained member of the fire service provides confidential support to another member who may be experiencing personal, emotional or work-related problems, while acting as a bridge to outside professional services. Peer support builds off of an existing rapport and mutual trust between two members of the same department or occupation.

The program is currently led by Lieutenant Justin Langdon, who readily applies his long-term trauma, critical incident stress debriefing and mental health training experiences to his peer support role. Lt. Langdon strives to support all members however they may need.

# EQUIPMENT & APPARATUS

## 5-year hydro static testing was conducted on all SCBA cylinders

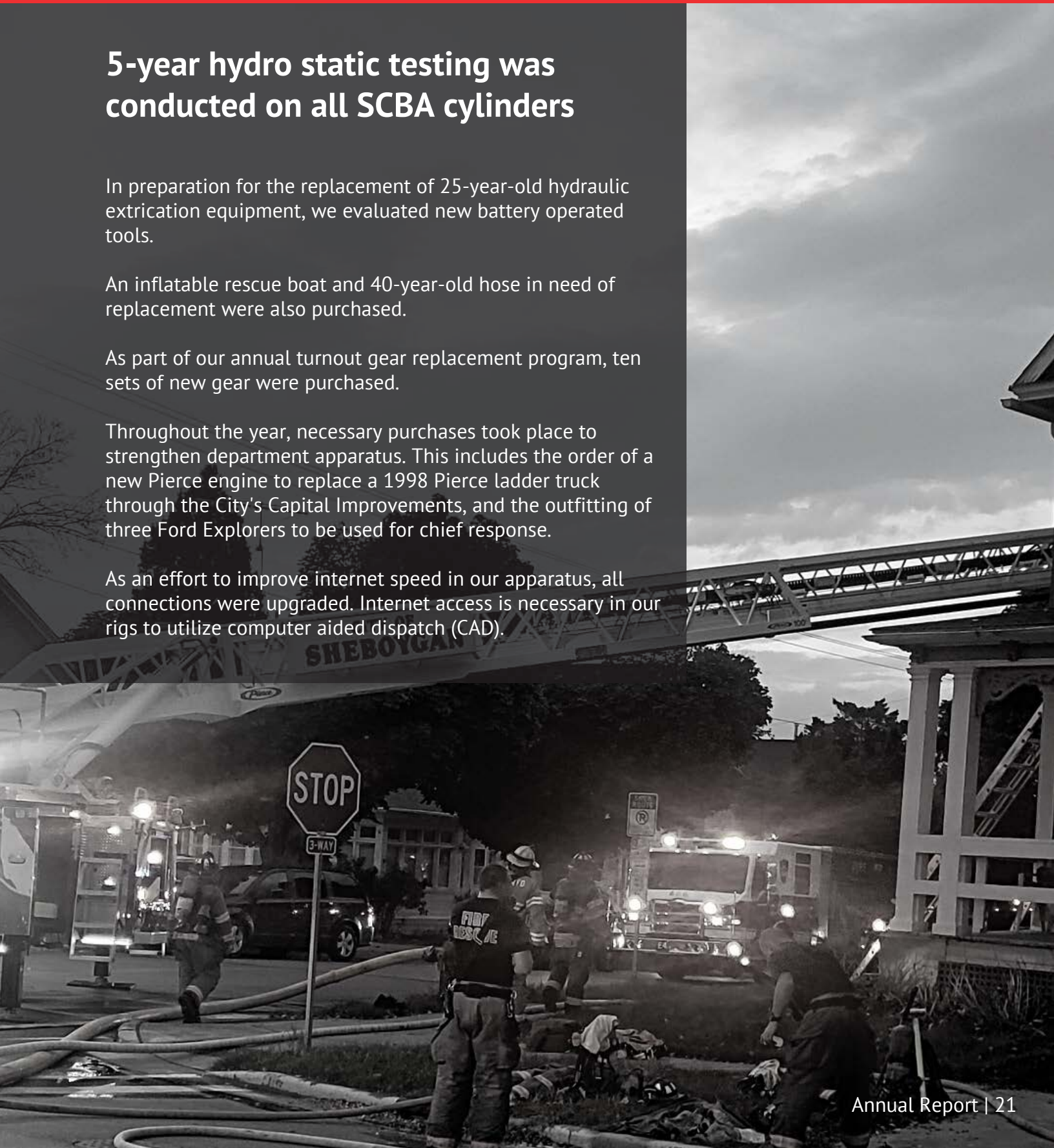
In preparation for the replacement of 25-year-old hydraulic extrication equipment, we evaluated new battery operated tools.

An inflatable rescue boat and 40-year-old hose in need of replacement were also purchased.

As part of our annual turnout gear replacement program, ten sets of new gear were purchased.

Throughout the year, necessary purchases took place to strengthen department apparatus. This includes the order of a new Pierce engine to replace a 1998 Pierce ladder truck through the City's Capital Improvements, and the outfitting of three Ford Explorers to be used for chief response.

As an effort to improve internet speed in our apparatus, all connections were upgraded. Internet access is necessary in our rigs to utilize computer aided dispatch (CAD).







# In memory of...



Leadman  
Robert Kovacic  
Service: 1953-1982



Fire Equipment Operator  
Craig Schrameyer  
Service: 1970-2001



Fire Equipment Operator  
Tom Stranberg  
Service: 1973-2001



Remembering 9/11 - 20 years later