

Fort Thomas Fire Department



2021 Annual Report

As the newly appointed Fire Chief for the City of Fort Thomas in early 2021, I am honored to lead an organization that continues to grow and develop. Staff continues to meet the increasing challenges of delivering exceptional emergency services to our citizens and visitors. The Fire Department has an essential place in the community, and it is our duty to meet that expectation every time we are called upon.

I am pleased to present the 2021 Fort Thomas Fire Department Annual Report. The Department prides itself on being prepared for the future and remains focused on delivering safe, effective, and efficient service. Our mission is to provide the highest level of fire and emergency medical services for the community. 2021 continued to present many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dedication to our mission as well as creativity allowed us to meet these challenges while still maintaining the highest level of service delivery and efficiency. Many of our standard practices, both operationally and administratively, continue to be adjusted to meet the needs of keeping our members and community safe. Our success remains a result of the dedication of all of our members and the support of our wonderful community.

As Chief, I am incredibly proud of the work the Fort Thomas Fire Department members did this past year. It was busy with emergency calls, requests for services, and adapting to a changing world, but our members responded to these challenges in a manner that made our community proud.

Throughout the year, the Department and myself received clear and constant support from the Mayor, Council, C.A.O., and Staff. It is through this support which makes our Department function and thrive within the City.

In January, we saw the retirement of 20-year employee Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Shepherd. With this opening, we began the process of his replacement. After our testing and vetting process, we are pleased to announce the hiring of Firefighter/Paramedic Charles Long.

In March, Campbell County Fire Departments placed the new digital radio system into service. This included all new radio equipment for our personnel to use. The new system and equipment are a significant upgrade to the old antiquated system we have used since the 1960s.

On May 1st, we moved all Fire Department operations to the Armory. This included parking the apparatus in the parking lot. We stayed in these accommodations until Mid-November, when we returned to the Station after the building remodel and upgrades.

In November of 2020, the Fire Department purchased a CPR device called the Lucas Device. This machine is designed to provide high quality CPR to patients in need. In 2021, we responded to twenty calls of cardiac arrest. The Lucas Device was applied to each patient. Crews observed Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) on approximately 75% of patients. This enhances the patient's chance to receive further in-hospital care to address the issue causing cardiac arrest. Historically, this percentage is roughly 20% ROSC. We have been informed that 20% of the patients we treated in 2021 have walked out of the hospital!

Community Involvement

Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Fromeyer serves as the Department's Car Seat Safety Officer. FF/P Fromeyer helps teach people how to properly install and maintain their children's car seats on specially scheduled days by appointment. This year he installed 19 (fewer than in the past because of the extended COVID closure) car seats and trained parents, grandparents, and caretakers in how to properly install the car seats themselves.

The Fire Department continues to deliver and provide community C.P.R. programs. We "restarted" our program in the spring when we felt it was safe to do so. Lieutenant Eric Scherpenberg and FF/P Brandon Fromeyer deliver most of our C.P.R. programs. For 2021, they delivered thirty-three classes reaching 248 students. New this year was instructing all of the City's staff in C.P.R. and AED usage. This training was well received by staff, and we will continue to deliver the training to keep certifications up to date.



The Fire Department continues to be very active in partnering with the Schools to provide direction for schools' safety programs and evacuation procedures. In conjunction with our Police Department, we met prior to the school year to review each school's plan, provide input, and then an on-site observation of their procedures. Furthermore, we have become very active with Highlands High School staff and counselors to provide information to their students wanting to pursue firefighter/E.M.S. careers.

Our members remain very active with the City functions. Participation in the Summer Recreation Program, 4th of July Events, Touch-A-Truck, Pumpkin Walk, and Holiday Walk highlight the events we are proud to be part of.



Public Education

The Fort Thomas Fire Department members are committed to keeping our community safe from the perils of fire and other life-threatening emergencies. This commitment begins with prevention by educating the public on the dangers of fire and life safety interventions such as C.P.R. As always, our commitment to safety starts with educating our youth in a close partnership with our local schools.

2021 brought continuing challenges to public education in the City of Fort Thomas as we continue to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic. During a time when many fire departments have suspended public education, the members of the Department have found a way to forge on and continue delivering fire prevention education despite the limitations the pandemic has caused. Lt. Scherpenberg once again organized our public education effort.



Moyer Elementary
@FTMoyerES



Congratulations to these kiddos who had winning entries in the Fire Safety Poster Contest. We are proud of you!



In 2021 the Ft. Thomas Fire Department had to find a way to continue delivering public education despite having limited access to the schools due to the pandemic. We achieved this by partnering more closely with the Ft. Thomas Independent School System, who generously assisted in spreading the 2021 N.F.P.A.'s Fire Prevention Week message through social media. We also focused heavily on our annual N.K.F.A. Junior Fire Marshall Poster Contest. The Fort Thomas Fire Department once again led the way in public education, not only in Campbell County but also in the entire three-county N.K.Y. region as a whole. Lt. Scherpenberg chairs the Campbell County Fire Protection Association's public education committee and coordinates the Northern Kentucky Junior Fire Marshall Poster Contest for the 6th year in a row. The Fort Thomas Fire Department was solely responsible for the over \$5,500 of desperately needed outside donations solicited to keep the program alive and running. This increase allowed every Department in Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties to participate in the contest regardless of ability to pay. Four local businesses even stepped up as major donors to support this region-wide safety effort. This pandemic friendly activity was sent out to every household in Ft. Thomas with a student in public or private elementary school K-5.

This year's fire safety message was; Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety. This theme was chosen to teach students about the sounds smoke detectors can make, everything from a low battery chirp all the way to a full alarm. Despite the contest occurring across all three N.K.Y. counties, Ft. Thomas students once again won over 50% of the awards, continuing their dominance in this contest.



Fort Thomas Schools @FTSc... · 18h ···

This is an exceptional, community-focused initiative in tandem with the great people at the Fort Thomas Fire Department.

Congratulations to our Mustangs who are prioritizing fire safety for our families.

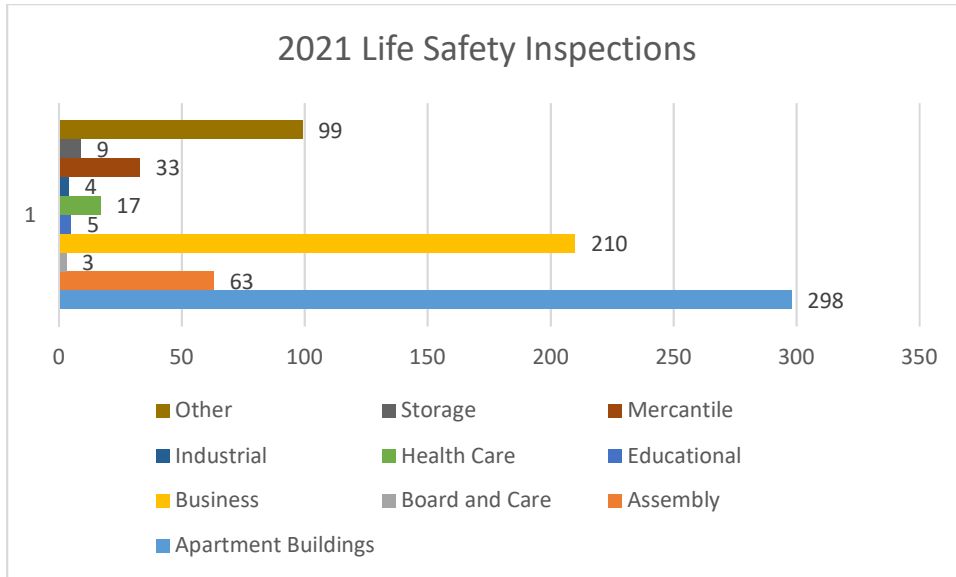
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[@APWinklerFTIS](#)



The Fire Department also purchased a limited amount of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors for our most vulnerable citizens. The installed detectors have a ten-year lithium-ion battery that will prevent repeat calls to change the battery and possible fall scenarios for the citizens attempting to change their batteries. The Department also received a grant from the Kentucky Injury and Prevention Research Center for 50 free smoke detectors in 2021. These detectors continue to be the most critical tool in providing early warning of a fire or carbon monoxide gas presence and the need for emergency action and evacuation.

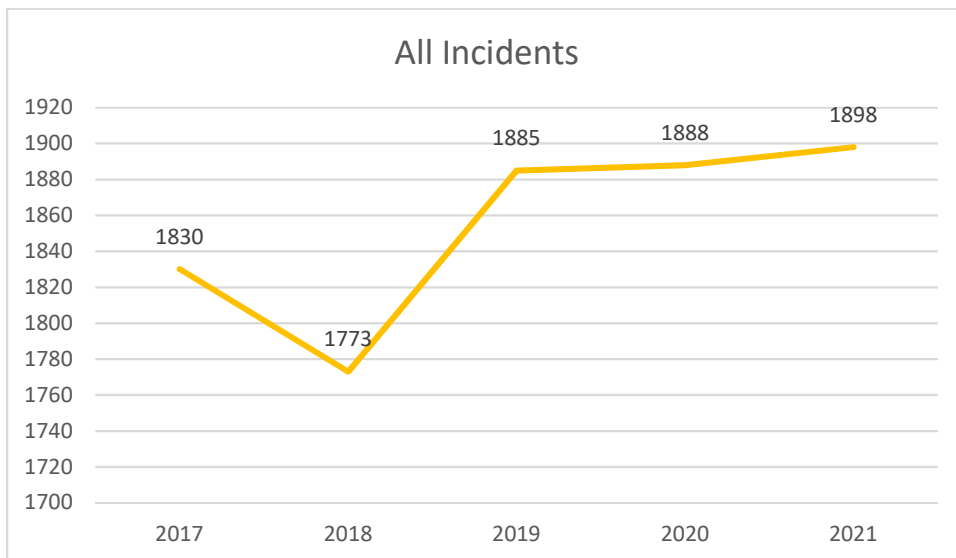
Fire Prevention

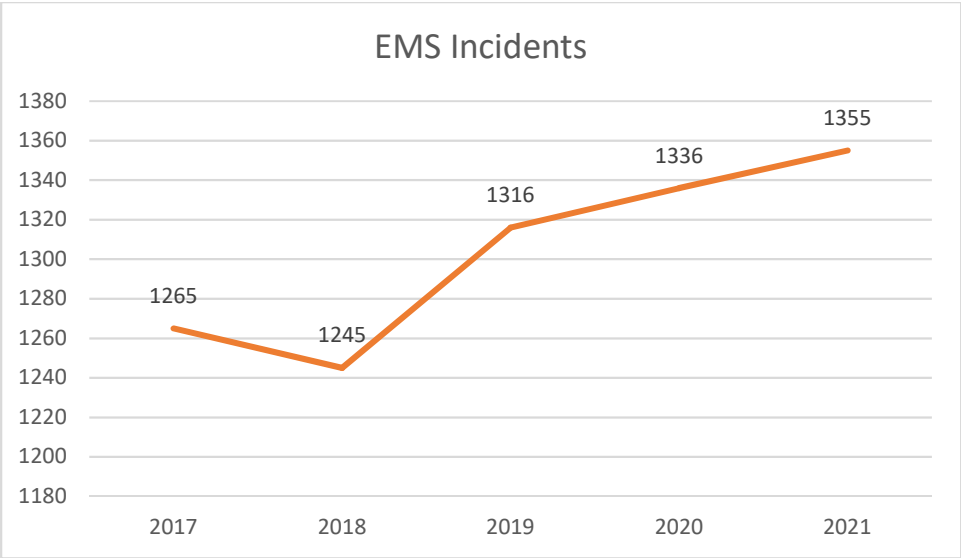
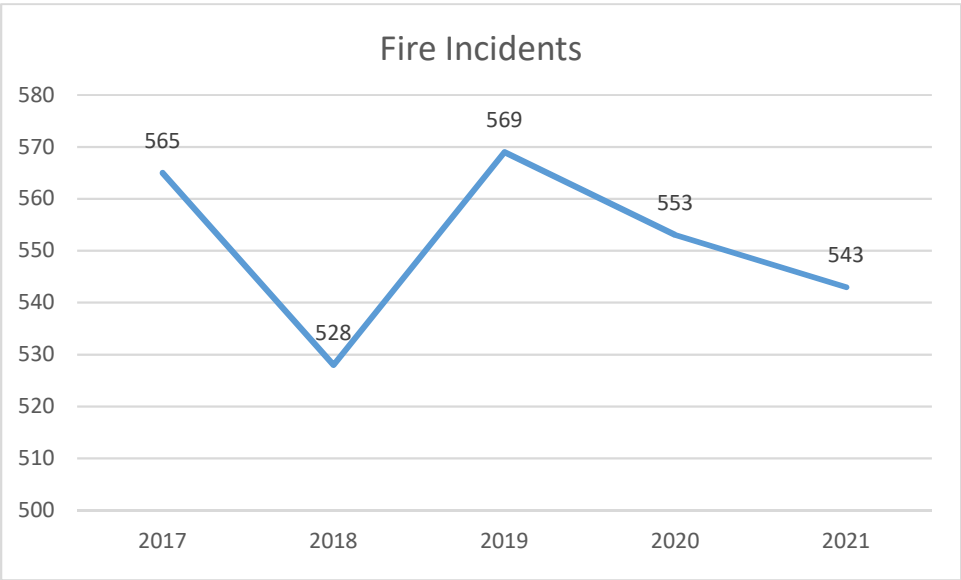
Led by Captain Steve Lumpp, our Fire Prevention Bureau reached every business in the City for a Life Safety Inspection. Our Lieutenants, Lt. Carr, Lt. Scherpenberg, and Lt. Kaufman, completed 741 inspections. This is the first line of defense to preventing a tragedy from occurring.

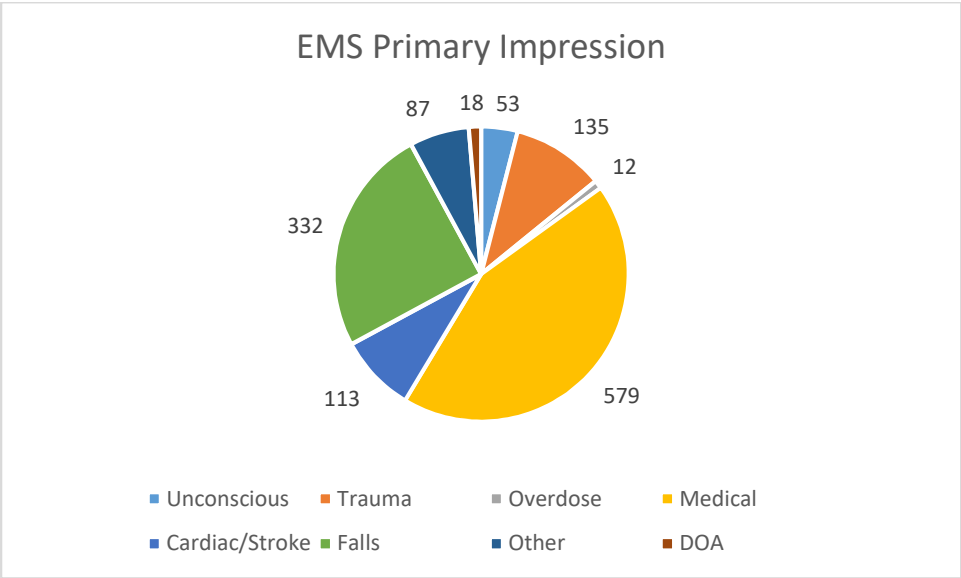
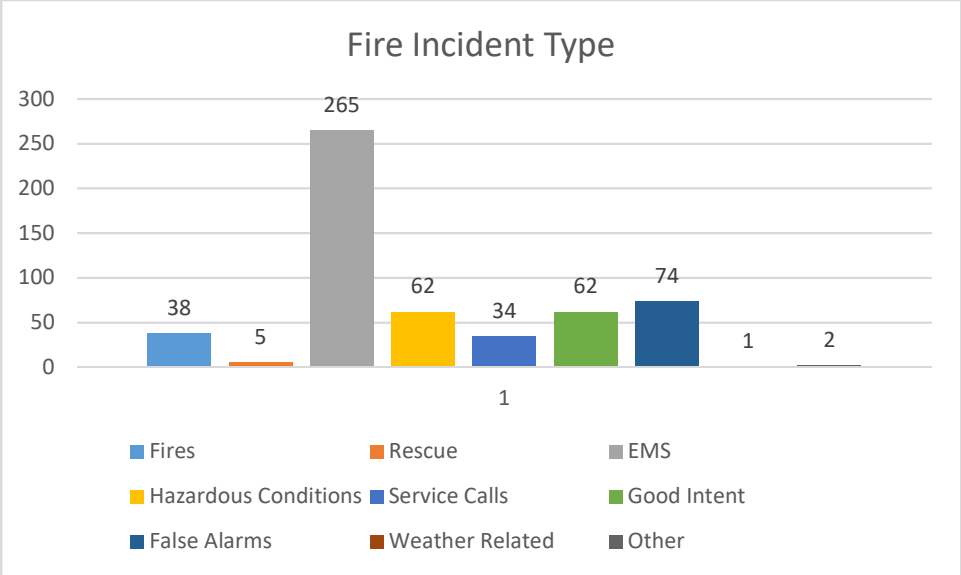


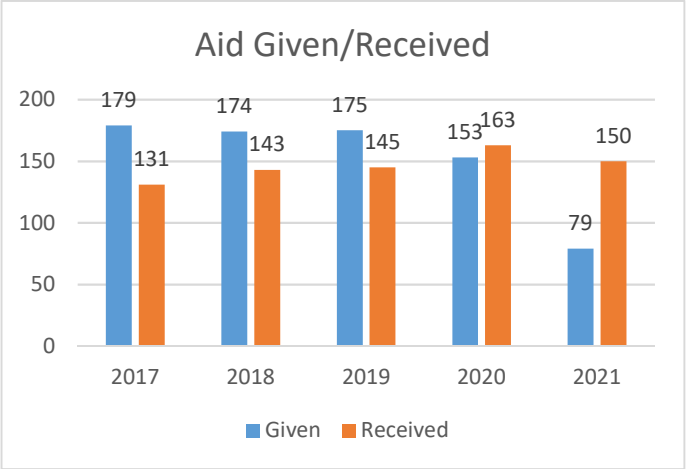
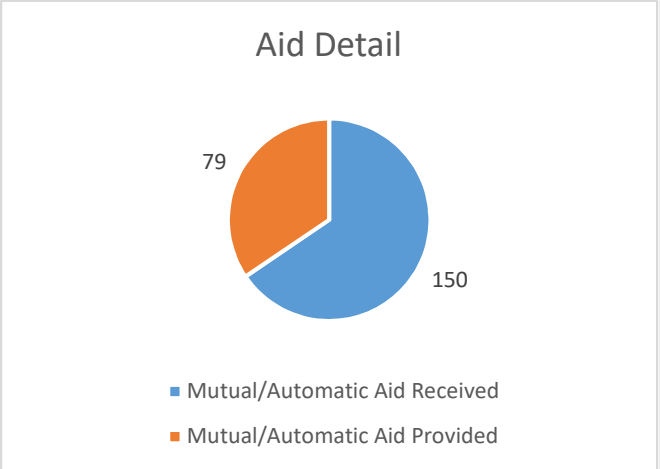
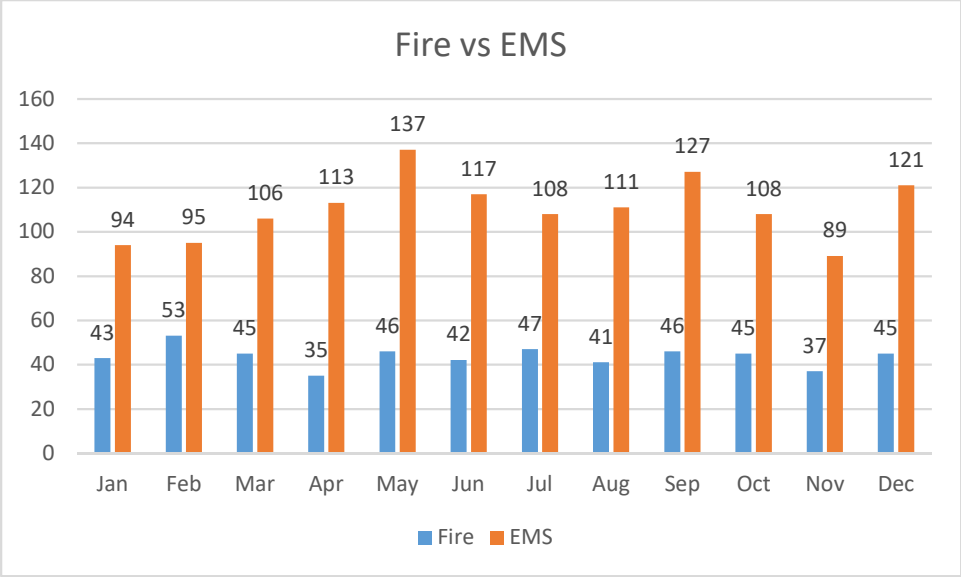
Incident Response

In 2021, the Fire Department responded to 1898 incidents, which was a slight increase from the previous year. Of the responses, 543 were fire, and 1355 were E.M.S. Below are charts that illustrate our incident data and comparison from previous years.

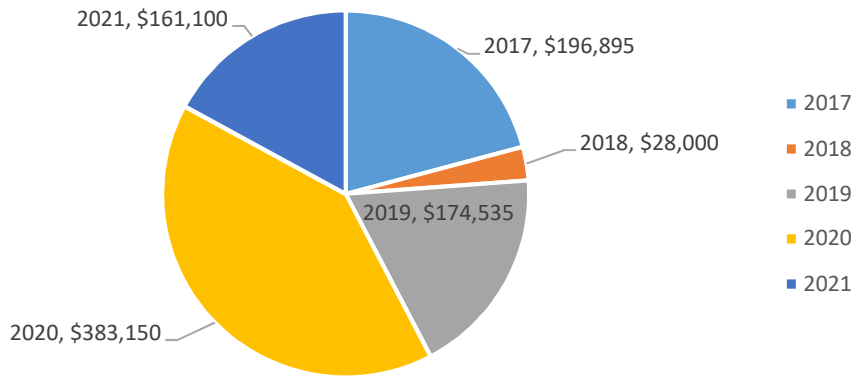








Fire Loss



Training

The Department is continually training. Whether preparing for different parts of the job or training on new equipment, crews spend a good part of their day training when not on calls. The Training Division heads up all the training in the Department, whether E.M.S., Fire, Vehicle or Technical Rescue or HazMat. The Training Division also oversees continuing education. All training is verified through the Kentucky Fire Commission and Kentucky Board of E.M.S.

In 2021, we introduced a new model for training within the Department. The purpose of this plan is to outline a comprehensive Annual Training Plan for the Fort Thomas Fire Department, which builds upon the momentum and foundation of training previously provided to the organization and identified opportunities for improvement from past training. The structure and content of this plan have been developed to meet the dynamic needs of the organization and its personnel while simultaneously improving time management and coordination efforts through the early determination of 2021 training topics and events.

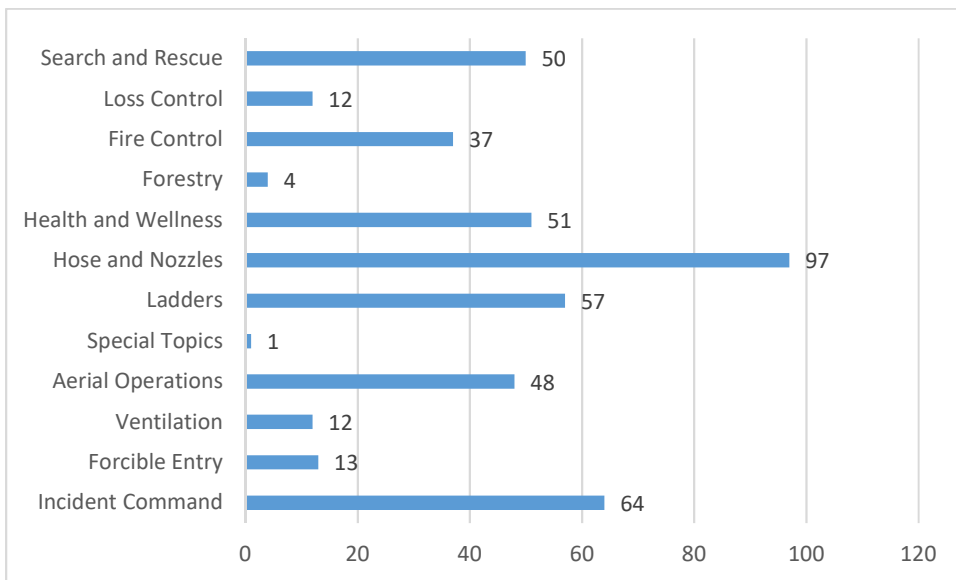
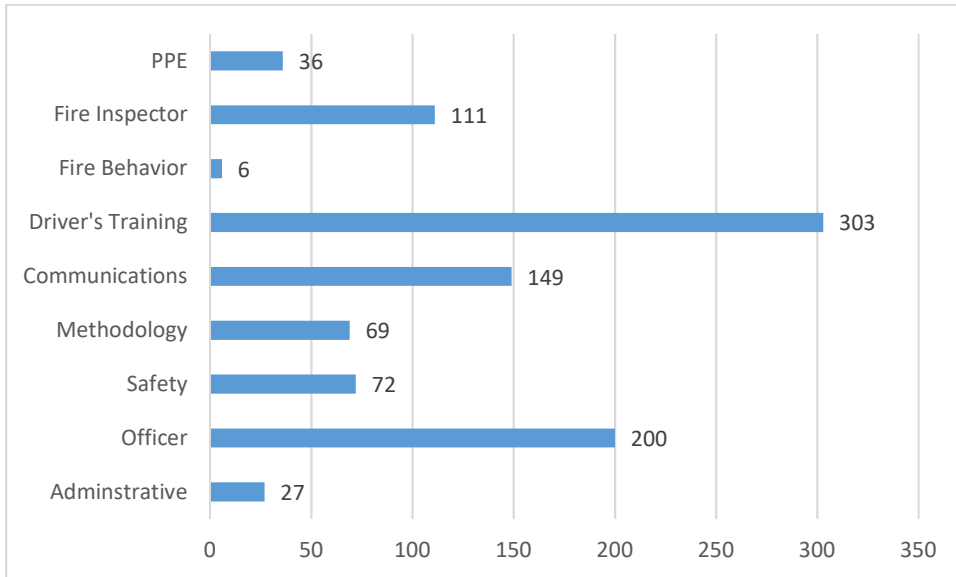
The cumulative goal of this plan and its associated efforts is to provide personnel with the best possible preparatory knowledge, skills, and abilities while subsequently establishing the Fort Thomas Fire Department as a recognized authority on the safe, efficient, and effective delivery of all-hazards emergency response training. Doing so will ensure fulfillment of our organizational mission as we strive to ensure the citizens and visitors of Fort Thomas *Experience better* quality of life through excellent risk-reduction and response services. Furthermore, the safety and effectiveness of our personnel and emergency scene operations will be enhanced by providing these diverse training opportunities developed following established federal, state, and local requirements and the *ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule*.

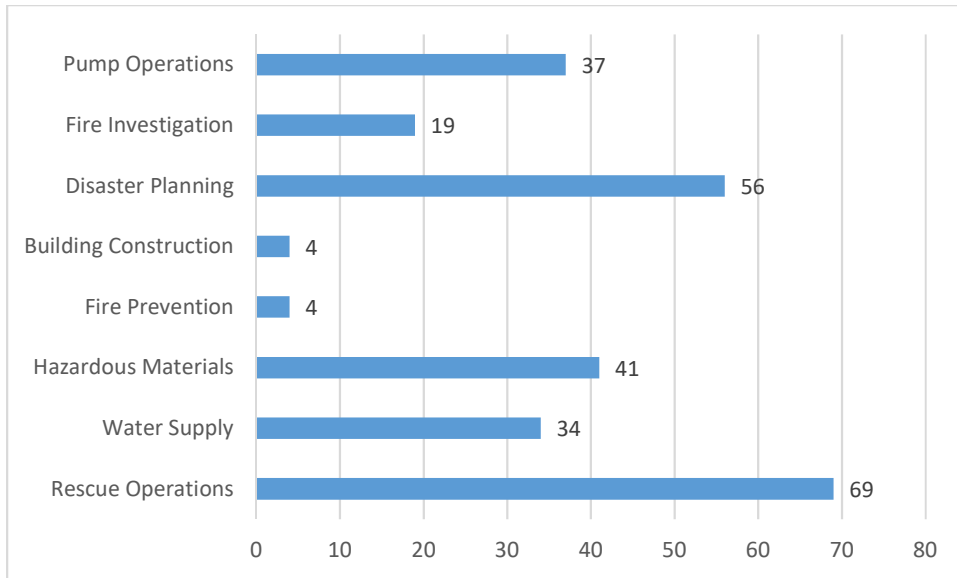
This plan has been designed to meet the time and topic refresher requirements for bi-annual recertification as an Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic in the State of Kentucky and National Registry Re-certification. The distribution of continuing E.M.S. education over the two-year license cycle as opposed to “traditional refreshers” lends itself to increased levels of skill maintenance/proficiency and knowledge retention. E.M.S. continuing education will be delivered on shift the first, second, and third Wednesday each month from 09:00 to 11:30. This training will be delivered by PASS with P.A.S.S. Like fire training, Bi-Monthly department drills will be provided for subsequent delivery at the department level by respective instructors. The content of these drills will address E.M.S. disciplines to meet the organization’s emergency response readiness requirements.

ANNUAL TRAINING PLAN – 2021 OVERVIEW

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
FIRE			BASICS
EMS			PASS
A/O			
SPECIAL OPS			
DEPARTMENTAL			FIRE BI-MONTH
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
FIRE	FIRST-DUE ENGINE	FIRST-DUE ENGINE	FIRST-DUE TRUCK
EMS	PASS	PASS	PASS
A/O	NFPA 1410	HYDRAULICS	AERIAL SETUP
SPECIAL OPS	CONFINED SPACE	AIR MONITORING	STOKE OPS
DEPARTMENTAL	EMS BI-MONTH	FIRE BI-MONTH	EMS BI-MONTH
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
FIRE	FIRST-DUE TRUCK	SEARCH AND RESCUE	VEIS
EMS	PASS	PASS	PASS
A/O	AERIAL SETUP	DRIVERS TRAINING	INTERSECTIONS
SPECIAL OPS	CONFINED SPACE	NIOSH POCKET GUIDE	SAVE FORMATIONS
DEPARTMENTAL	FIRE BI-MONTH	EMS BI-MONTH	FIRE BI-MONTH
	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
FIRE	RIT	RIT	VEHICLE EXTRICATION
EMS	PASS	PASS	PASS
A/O	FIRE TRUCK CRASHES	AERIAL LADDER OPS	
SPECIAL OPS	LOCK OUT/TAG OUT	LOW ANGLE	MPD SYSTEM
DEPARTMENTAL	EMS BI-MONTH	FIRE BI-MONTH	EMS BI-MONTH

The results of the new training program produced 2707 hours of training delivered to our members. This averages to approximately 142 hours per person. Below are the topic hours we completed:





Additionally, the Department completed 1024 hours of E.M.S. continuing education. This averages to approximately 54 hours per person.

Monthly EMS Training Topics

March 2021 Oxygenation: 0.5 hour Capnography: 1 hour Ventilation: 1 hour

April 2021 Acute Coronary Syndrome: 1 hour EMS Research: 1 hour Evidence Based Guidelines: 0.5 hour

May 2021 Endocrine Emergencies: 1 hour Cardiac Axis Deviation/Individual Component: 1 hour Ambulance Safety: 0.5 hour

June 2021 OB Emergencies: 0.5 hour Gynecological Emergencies/Local Content: 1 hour Pediatric Transport: 0.5 hour Toxicology: 0.5 hour

July 2021 Trauma Triage: 1 hour Field Triage - MCI: 1 hour Fluid Resuscitation: 0.5 hour

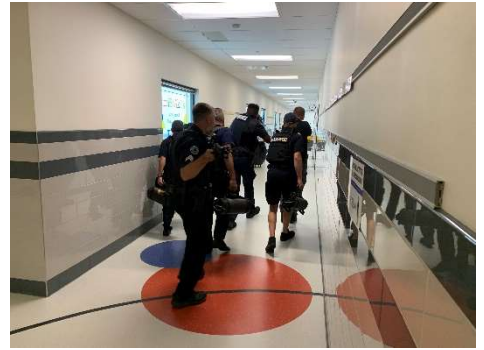
August 2021 CNS Injury: 1 hour Mechanical Ventilation/Ventilation: 1 hour Hemorrhage: 0.5 hour

September 2021 Traumatic Arrest: 1 hour Special Needs - Birth Defects: 1 hour Hygiene, Safety & Vaccines: 0.5 hour

October 2021 Infectious Disease: 0.5 hour Seizure: 0.5 hour Stroke: 1.5 hours

November 2021 CHF: 0.5 hour VADs: 0.5 hour Cardiac Arrest: 1 hour Pediatric Cardiac Arrest: 0.5 hour

December 2021 Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma/Local & State Component: 1 hour At Risk Populations - Opioid Use Disorder: 1 hour EMS Lawsuits/Culture of Safety: 0.5 hour



The men and women of the Fort Thomas Fire Department take great pride in serving the City. Each member is committed to training, life safety prevention, and community involvement. It is my honor and privilege to serve as the Fire Chief and lead such a dedicated group every day.

