

GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE

2021



Annual Report



EDUCATION • PREVENTION • RESPONSE

a year's overview

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Dear Residents of Great Falls,

It is my pleasure to present Great Falls Fire Rescue's (GFFR) 2021 Annual Report.

I am hopeful this Report will provide clear and informative insights about the services our organization provides, our accomplishments and the dedicated work from the staff here at Great Falls Fire Rescue.

This year changes were made to the organizational structure of the Department to align us with our Mission and Vision. We expanded our Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) by adding two Deputy Fire Marshal positions to address the workload of the FPB and increase safety in our community that fire prevention efforts create.

We also established the positions of Deputy Chief of Emergency Medical Services and Deputy Chief of Training. These positions include a combination of administrative management and time spent in the field that allows for supervision by subject matter experts in their respective areas.

Another new addition to the department was the Community Risk Reduction Manager (CRRM) to oversee and coordinate hazard mitigation strategies, promote community partnerships and enhance GFFR's education outreach in our community. Our CRRM also concentrates on emergency and disaster preparedness efforts for the City of Great Falls.

When it comes to safety and service, our firefighters at GFFR are second to none. The commitment they show each and every shift when responding to calls of every nature are a testament of their devotion to our community.

Their hard work ensures everything is done in our power to meet or surpass standards set by the National Fire Protection Agency and respond to the calls of need from the public.

With the fiscal challenges we face, staffing and equipment needs are always existing. I am proud to say that our crews take on that added weight by ensuring our equipment is serviced and maintained to the best of our ability and do not hesitate to step up if a brother or sister is unable to.

A prime example of staff dedication is the All Call Back GFFR issued for the Gibson Flats Fire. Through training and devotion, our firefighters responded without hesitation and worked alongside our mutual aid partners to ensure no casualties occurred from the devastating fire. Our hearts go out to the families that were removed from their homes and lost property and lifelong belongings. We will continue to devote ourselves to a high level of training to be best prepared for these unfortunate events and continue to foster our relationships we have with local rural and volunteer fire departments.

In this report, you will find some of our key areas of focus over the past year, challenges we took on and results we achieved. Thank you for your interest in Great Falls Fire Rescue. I hope you find value in this Report.

My Best,



Jeremy Jones
Fire Chief





MISSION

To protect lives and property by delivering professional, all hazards emergency services to our community through public education, fire prevention, training and response.

VISION

To make a difference by providing progressive response and innovative avenues of safety and education to everyone we serve.

CORE VALUES

- Safety
- Responsive
- Committed
- Reliable
- Family-Centered
- Service-Driven

Retirements

Captain Mike Kuntz
Deputy Fire Marshal Ron Martin
Engineer Jay Kromarek
Engineer Jerry Geist
Deputy Training Chief Shane Klippenes

Promotions

Battalion Chief

Jay Jarrett
Darin Hirose

Deputy EMS Chief

Jeremy Virts

Deputy Training Chief

Nolan Eggen

Deputy Fire Marshal

Tim Harris
Tom Zaremski

Captain

Nathan Schmidt
Trevor Johnson
Troy Weir
Tyler Loney
Kristofer Whitaker

Lieutenant

Steven Tucker
Tucker Cook
Maren Reilly
Tim Harris
Shaun Opp
Eric Fowell
Devon Hagen

Engineer

Bryan Martinez
Steven Luwe
Joseph Jordan
Jedidiah Sauder
Joshua Mattson
Tyler Osweiler

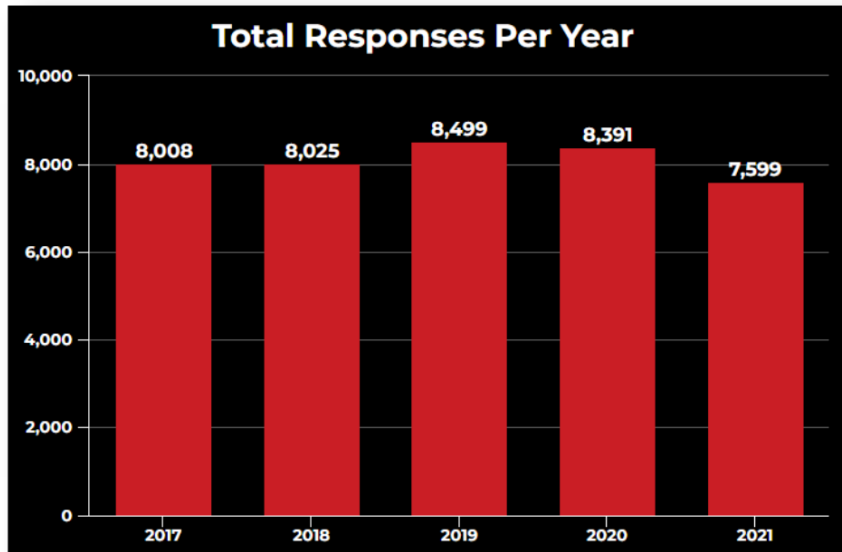
Senior Fire Fighter

Tyler Pfennigs

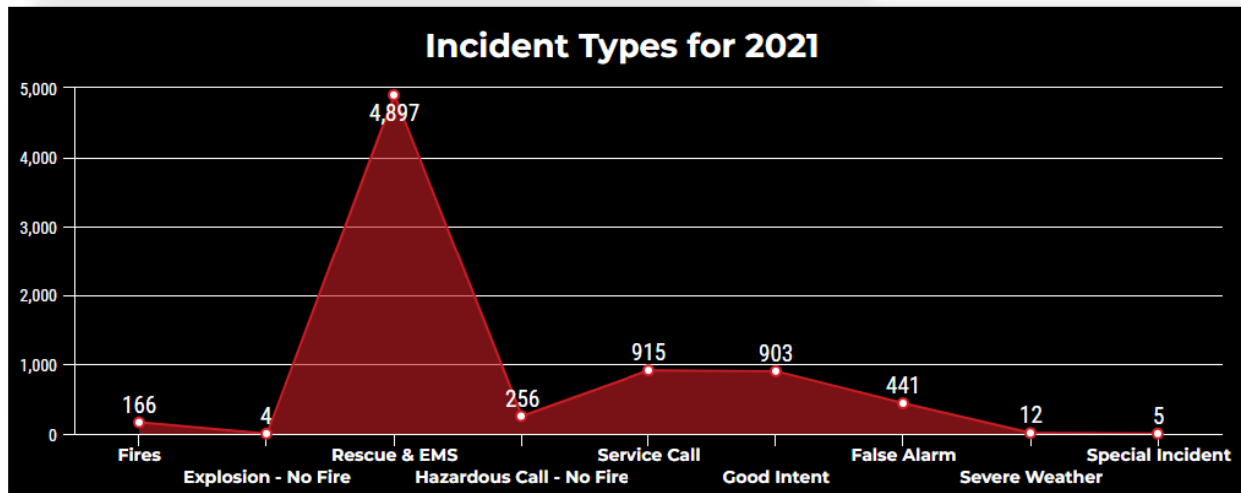
Fire Fighter 1

Brooke Wells
Kessler Leonard
Keenan Watt

2021 Incidents Reports



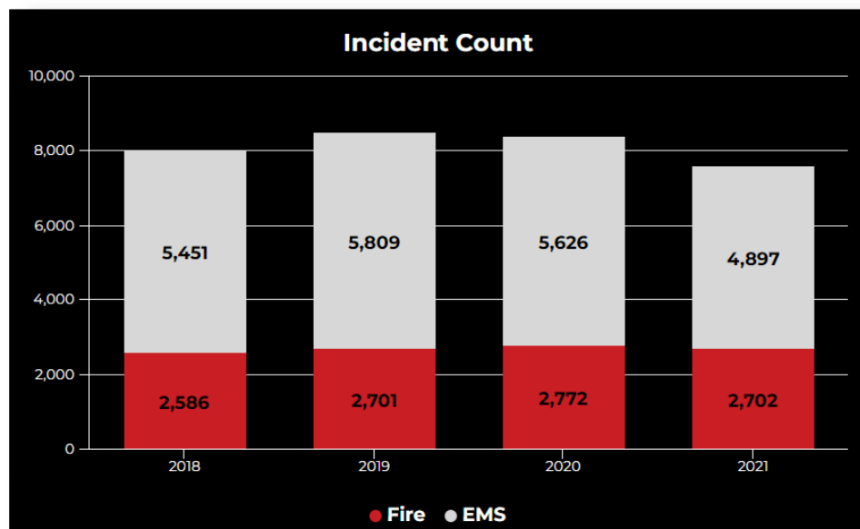
Response numbers in 2021 decreased by 9.4% due to GFFR no longer responding to minor medical calls. The decision was made to reduce the strain on GFFR's responsibility to respond to major medical calls. The change became effective July 1, 2021.



Incident Types are the actual situation found upon arrival to the scene. The "incident type" sets the stage for not only how the incident is managed, but how the information is logged and what data is required.

The majority of calls that GFFR responds to are EMS/Rescue type calls.

Due to the volume of EMS/Rescue calls, GFFR requires all firefighters to maintain, at minimum, an Emergency Medical Technician Certification.

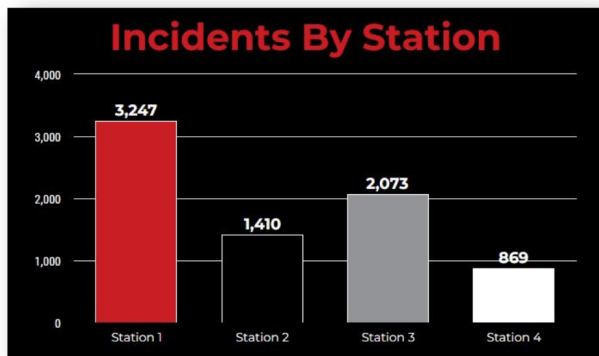
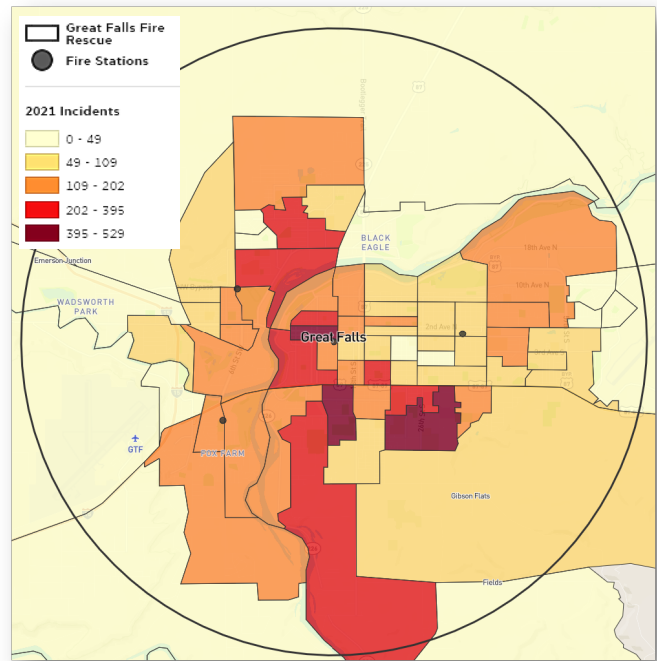


Response Times

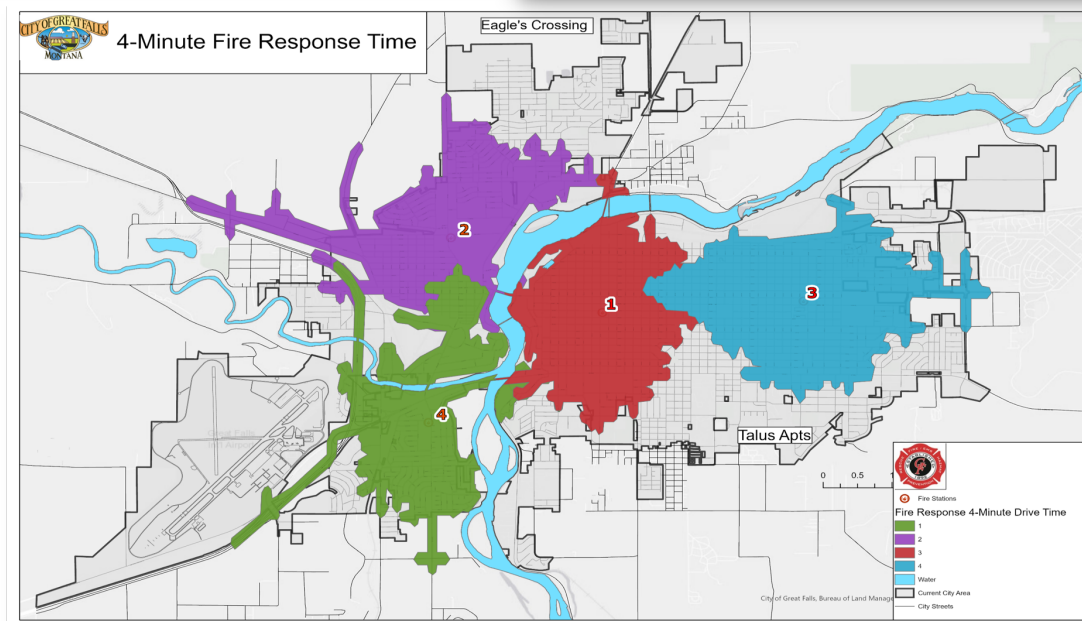
Each of GFFR's (4) fire stations are assigned to a City Fire District (1-4) that covers a geographical response area. However, that does not mean that an engine from one district does not respond to incidents in another district.

For example: Engine 1 from Station 1 (District 1) may respond to a structure fire or major medical emergency taking place in Station 2's district (District 2). This may occur because crews from Station 2 are already responding to another call or may have a longer route to the incident. If Engine 1 from District 1 responds to the incident in District 2, it will remain at that incident until it is over.

It is important to note that when an engine crew leaves their district, calls from that particular district may have a delayed response. Delays may result from the other 3 districts being unavailable because they are also responding to calls or have a longer travel time outside their district.



Zone	Average Response Time in Minutes (Dispatch to Arrived)
City District 1	06:35
City District 2	06:39
City District 3	06:46
City District 4	06:51
Stations	Percentage of Incidents for Selected Stations Responded to Within 8 Minutes
Station 1	85.76%
Station 2	79.31%
Station 3	79.69%
Station 4	69.25%



GFFR BY THE NUMBERS

Budget

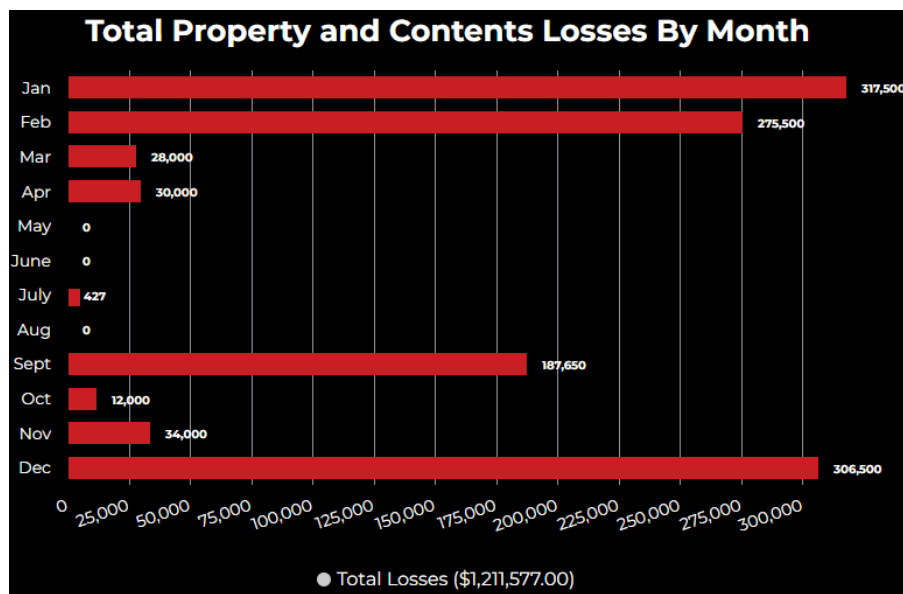
	7/1/2016-6/30/2017	7/1/2017-6/30/2018	7/1/2018-6/30/2019	7/1/2019-6/30/2020	7/1/2020-6/30/2021	7/1/2021-6/30/2022
Adopted Budget	\$8,146,118	\$8,520,817	\$8,981,238	\$9,633,357	\$10,073,881	\$10,144,215
Actual Amount	\$8,481,687	\$8,884,652	\$9,229,663	\$9,693,385	\$10,400,987	Not yet completed

Authorized Personnel (FTEs)

	7/1/2016-6/30/2017	7/1/2017-6/30/2018	7/1/2018-6/30/2019	7/1/2019-6/30/2020	7/1/2020-6/30/2021	7/1/2021-6/30/2022
Operations	66.6	66.6	66.5	66.5	66.5	65.6
Prevention	3.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4
Emergency & Disaster	1	1	-	-	-	1
GFFR Total FTEs	71	72	71	71	71	71

Pre-Incident Value & Total Losses of Property & Content

Pre-Incident Value **\$8,395,607.00**
Losses **\$1,211,577.00**
Value Saved **\$7,184,030.00**



GFFR's First Citizens Academy is a success

Great Falls Fire Rescue's first Citizens Academy took place during September through October, over the course of 8 weeks.

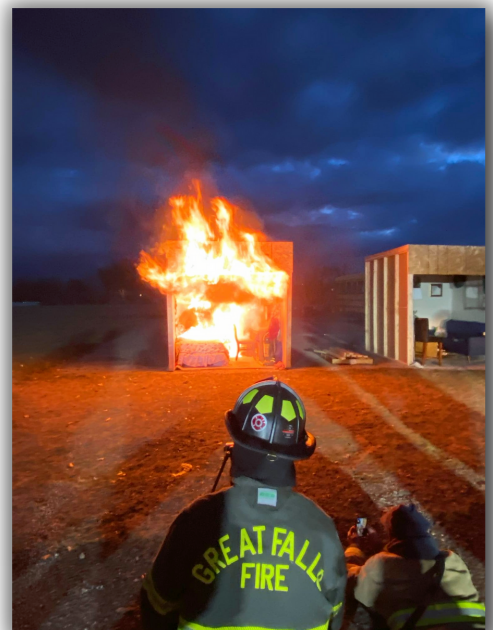
With limited spots available, participants were required to be over 18 years old. Each individual was issued personal protective gear, instructed on proper usage and trained under supervision by Great Falls Fire Rescue officers throughout the academy. Classes took place at GFFR's Training Facility.

For several hours each Thursday night, participants gained first hand knowledge in disciplines directly related to Great Falls Fire Rescue's service delivery, including:

Search Techniques **Fire Behavior and Investigation**
Structure Fires With Forcible Entry **Rope Rescue**
Emergency Medical Services **Car Fires** **Extrication**

Upcoming classes planned for Spring and Fall 2022.

If interested, send email requesting information and an application to neggen@greatfallsmt.net



Rookie Academy

GFFR conducts a Rookie Training Academy to provide entry level training compliant with National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1001: Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, along with GFFR operational standards to include fire suppression, EMS, Vehicle Extrication, Technical Rescue and HazMat Response.



All new hires must successfully complete this academy prior to being assigned to shift work on a GFFR engine company. Students who complete the academy receive an accredited Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 Certification. As positions become vacant through changes such as retirements and/or promotions, the academy is then offered as needed.

During 2021, GFFR offered an 8 week academy in the spring and other late in the summer. Each academy trained 4 new hires for a total of 8 personnel.



Great Falls Fire Rescue

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

This last year allowed for multiple accomplishments relating to Great Falls Fire Rescue's Emergency Medical Services. GFFR remains a front-runner in providing paramedic level care delivered through fire-based EMS.

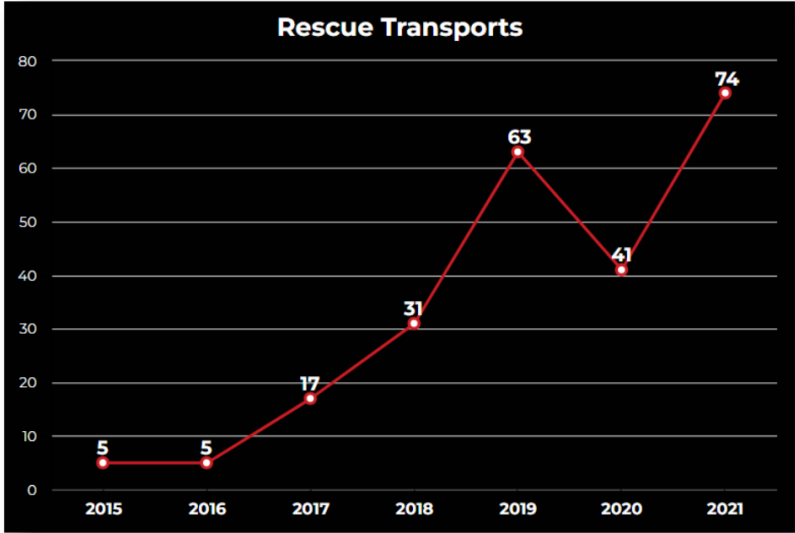
Training and education are keys to performing at a high level. Advanced standards along with disciplined practitioners continue to equate to the service delivery that GFFR aims to deliver.

The number of EMS calls GFFR ran during 2021 was greater than the total number of calls ran in 2004 (4813). EMS calls have increased by 80% since then.

The number of GFFR firefighters has not increased since then but GFFR has trained and/or hired up to 13 paramedics in 2021. Doing so allows GFFR to continue to deliver a higher level of pre-hospital care.

7,599
TOTAL CALLS during 2021

65% (4,897)
WERE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE CALLS



GFFR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Medic 1 Ambulance was purchased, equipped and placed into service.

Controlled Substance Policy updated and refined.

EMS training gear was purchased and made consistent with Engine Company gear.

New EMS bags purchased for all front-line engines.

5 Paramedics advanced their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) status from EMT-1 to EMT-2 status.

A full year of CODESTAT Data was collected and continued training occurred based on Quality Improvement focus.

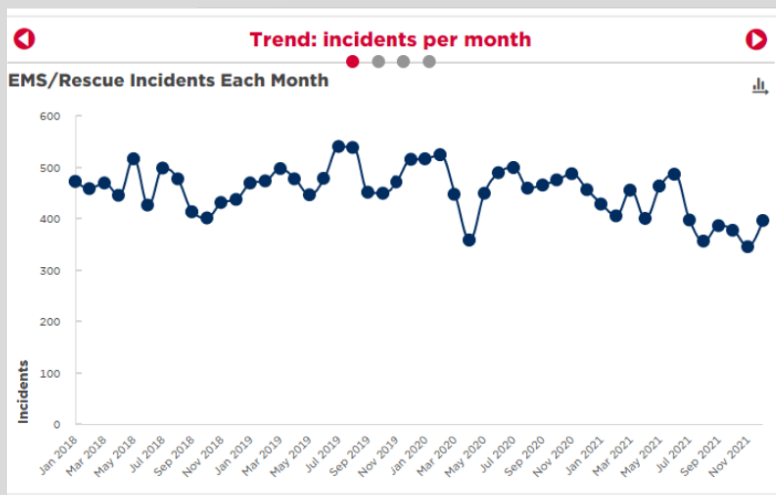
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (CONTINUED)



Part of Great Falls Fire Rescue continued efforts to enhance our EMS system is constantly looking for avenues to improve our services. Keeping up with medical studies and advancements in pre-hospital care are several of the ongoing efforts we are committed to. Training and hiring more paramedics and training our EMTs to a higher level, increases availability of Advanced Life Support service delivery to our community.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) includes approximately 130 hours of didactic and hands on training focusing on building general knowledge of injuries and illnesses. EMT training focuses on recognizing injuries, stabilizing and transporting patients to a higher level of care.

Paramedic training can take up to 18 months depending on core requirements completed. A paramedic course must be through an accredited program as a requirement to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Exam. Paramedics focus on advanced body systems; recognition, treatment and stabilization of severe injuries; Advanced Cardiac Life Support; Pediatric Advanced Life Support; Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support; and much more. Paramedics must be able to think through algorithms and understand concepts to apply advanced treatments. Oftentimes, this has to be done during high stress moments.



Looking At Trends

GFFR is able to look at incidents per month for the last three years to identify if certain factors are contributing to increased calls.

Risk Reduction assessments and planning can then take place to decrease hazards that may contribute to those EMS calls. A large part of those reduction efforts involve community partnerships and education outreach to the community.

Equipment

Maintenance, Testing & Repair

Hose & Nozzle Program

Testing and maintenance of hose and nozzle equipment is crucial to provide the essential service of fire suppression in a safe, efficient and reliable manner.

GFFR has been looking to secure funding through grants to purchase a hose washer to reduce carcinogens that linger in the hose after exposure.

The current method to wash hose is with a "crew crafted" hose washer that does not thoroughly remove carcinogens. Until funding is established, efforts to improve GFFR's hose washing capabilities are ongoing. A hose washer with deep clean capabilities can cost between \$15,000 - \$20,000.

About 500 sections of hose were tracked, tested and maintained in 2021. 20 of those sections were repaired and put back into service. Much of GFFR's 3" hose was purchased during the 1970's and 1980's.

Testing and research resulted in GFFR's future goal to only maintain Combat Ready hose.

A nozzle maintenance and tracking program was established to maintain and service all nozzles according to manufacturer specifications.



Hose Rack at Station 1



Old vs New Combat Hose

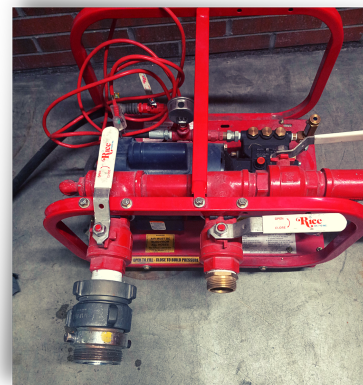
Along with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hose is one of the most used items in fire service.



GFFR Homemade Hose Washer



GFFR Homemade Hose Tester



GFFR 's New Hose Tester

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



GFFR maintains 117 sets of structural ensemble:

**(63) Frontline ensembles to include 1 pair of boots, 2 pair of gloves, 2 hoods and 1 helmet and
(54) Reserve ensembles**

16 new sets of structural PPE purchased:

**(8) for new employees
(8) replacement for current**

In 2021, GFFR implemented a PPE Care and Maintenance Program. With the important role that properly maintained PPE plays in the safety of our members, it requires each person to be diligent in making sure their equipment is properly maintained and kept in high quality condition.

To assist with the efforts to reduce cancer risk among firefighters, GFFR maintains reserve PPE, along with issuing crew members 2 hoods and 2 pairs of gloves to allow for clean equipment post fire. Doing this allows for dirty gear to be laundered while still being ready for incidents.

GFFR also invested in alternative PPE such as wildland PPE to allow for increased versatility. Historically, GFFR has used structural PPE for all response calls. Due to the high cost and because the equipment is strictly designed for structural fighting, a lighter weight and less expensive wildland certified (by NFPA 1977 standards) PPE was purchased to allow members to have a choice of PPE for incidents such as motor vehicle accidents, medical calls, and wildland incidents.

Continuing analysis of the effectiveness of currently purchased PPE and the ability to maintain a cache system, along with determining if current practices are effective in combating the current trend of elevated cancer rates among firefighters.

Advanced inspections of PPE are conducted by a certified member within the Department.

THERMAL IMAGERS



GFFR utilizes thermal imagers to pinpoint heat sources in scenes. This enables firefighters to see the changes in heat conditions and isolate the seat of the fire. The imagers also allow us to identify areas that may become active fires or rekindles.

The Thermal Imager Maintenance Program was established to improve the equipment's lifespan.

During 2021, GFFR reached out to manufacturers and retailers of the Bullard LDX Thermal Imagers to develop relationships that increased communication

and guidance with the goal of optimizing maintenance of the equipment and enforcing maintenance standards.

This program resulted in fewer costs associated with purchasing new imagers by applying the enhanced maintenance that prolongs the life of existing equipment.

APPARATUS SERVICE TESTING

GFFR apparatus operators have established a high functioning, cost effective testing program for our fire apparatus. This not only saves the City of Great Falls money, but also allows our members to better understand the mechanics of the trucks and provides increased ability to troubleshoot issues that may arise on a working fire.

This program meets NFPA standards and assists the City with ISO rating. Most importantly the apparatus are tested to verify their performance capabilities or to identify if maintenance issues are needed. The pumps are essential in the process of saving lives and protecting property.

**2021
(10) APPARATUS
SERVICE TESTED
BY GFFR'S ON
SHIFT PERSONNEL**

Engines	7
Ladder Truck	1
Tender	1
Brush Truck	1

Average cost per apparatus by outside service - \$500.00
Annual savings to the City of Great Falls - \$5000.00

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU (FPB)

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2021

Added 2 new civilian Deputy Fire Marshals

The addition of the new Deputy Fire Marshals was due to the increased workload taken on by the Bureau. The FPB is now staffed by a Fire Marshal and 3 Deputy Fire Marshals.

Completed the majority of Life Safety Inspections

The pandemic limited life safety inspections in 2020. The FPB was able to increase inspections by almost 40%, for a total of 2523 inspections during 2021.

Awarded a FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant

The FPB received a grant for (4) Grace 950-ASH Hydrocarbon detectors to be use by GFFR's Fire Investigation Team when conducting Origin and Cause Fire Investigations. The upgraded technology provides increased accuracy when determining if accelerants or hydrocarbons are present at a fire scene.

Partnered with Inspection Report Online (IROL)

IRO became the City's 3rd Party Vendor for submission of Inspection, Testing and Maintenance Reports. This is a result of a collaborative effort between GFFR, other City Departments such as Planning and City Commissioners.

Arson Investigation

The FPB continued to work with Great Falls Police Department, Cascade County Sheriff's Office and County Attorney to develop and grow the Arson Investigation Team. GFFR addresses the fire investigation side, law enforcement handles the criminal side if the fire is determined to be arson and County Attorney's Office handles prosecution. This is a joint team effort by all agencies.

2021

2523 Inspections

- 1981 Annual Inspection
- 337 Reinspections
- 205 Other Inspections

2020

1811 Inspections

- 1483 Annual Inspections
- 183 Reinspections
- 145 Other Inspections

2019

2992 Inspections

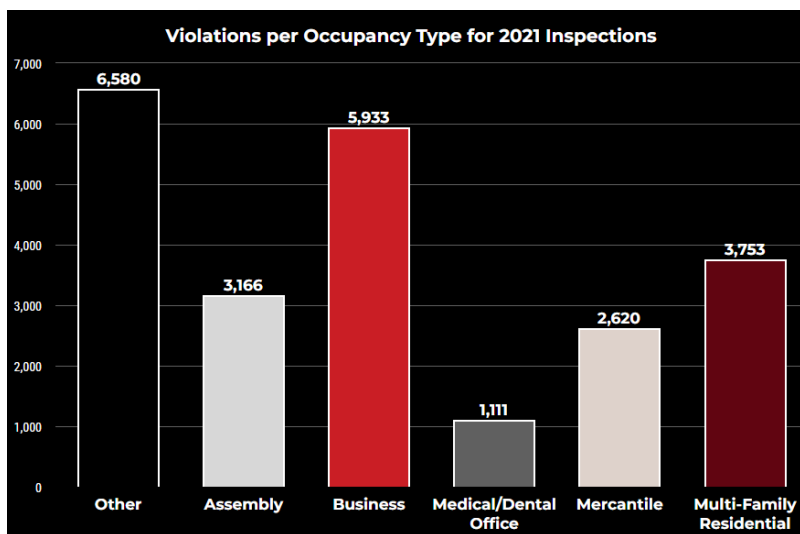
- 2266 Annual Inspections
- 592 Reinspections
- 134 Other Inspections

2018

2465 Inspections

- 1874 Annual Inspections
- 448 Reinspections
- 143 Other Inspections

Inspection Violations



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU IN THE COMMUNITY



Great Falls Fire Rescue Child Seat Safety Program

Great Falls Fire Rescue (GFFR) is committed to keeping children safe by installing child car seats and performing car seat safety checks at no cost.

GFFR has Certified Car Seat Technicians offering car seat installations and safety checks, who will work with your schedule. This includes weekends and evenings.

During safety checks, parents or guardians will be educated on the proper way to install a child car seat.

Car seats will be inspected and checked against the current national recall list.

Free Car Seats are available on a limited basis to qualifying families.

- Bring your child to the installation.
- Please bring your car seat manual with you, if you have one.
- Please allow for the installation and safety check to take approximately 30 minutes

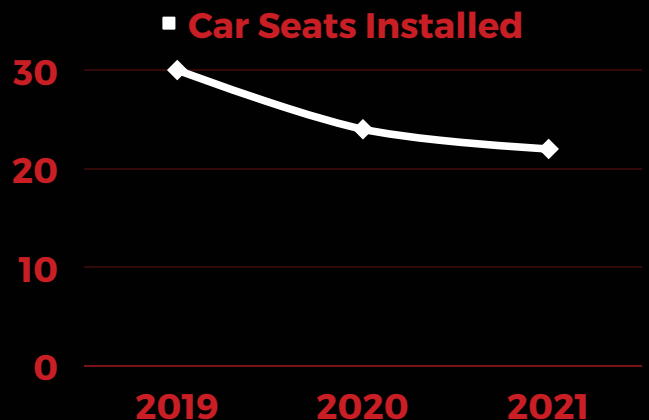


Call (406) 727-8070 to speak to one of our Car Seat Technicians for more information.

Car Seat Installations

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, car seat installations and safety checks experienced a decrease over 2020 and 2021.

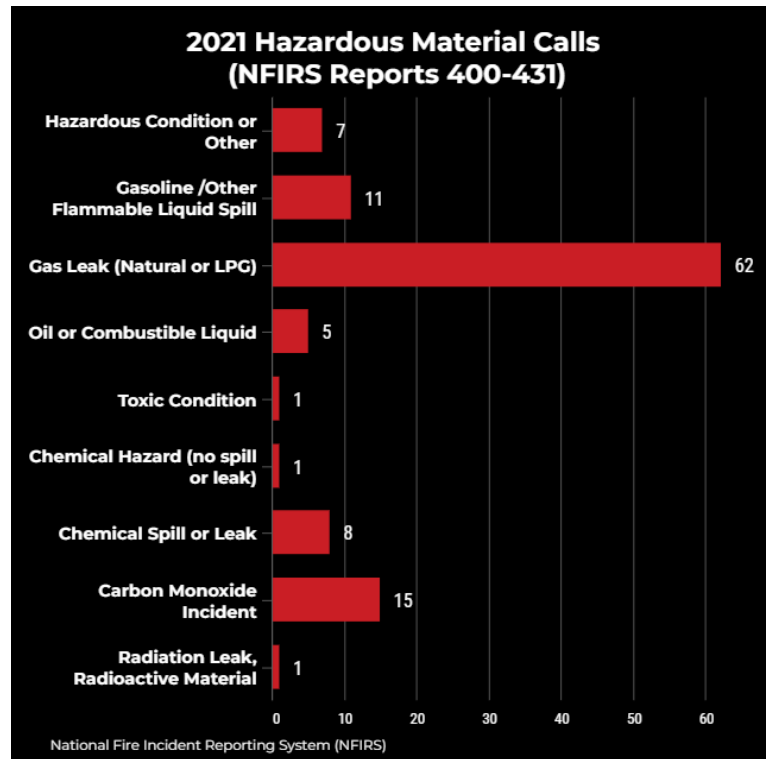
Education and outreach efforts with the Car Seat Safety Program will increase for the upcoming year.



GFFR'S REGIONAL HAZMAT TEAM

Great Falls Fire Rescue forms one of six Regional Hazmat teams in the State of Montana. As hazmat incidents increase and expand, aggressive approaches to training for the unknown and staying involved with industry partners keep us informed of hazards in and around our communities or hazards that may be passing through.

Utilizing grant funding for specialty equipment and training creates opportunities that would be otherwise out of reach for GFFR and the City of Great Falls. Our affiliation with the State of Montana Hazard Response Team has enabled us to become a trained and capable Hazard Response Team which benefits the City of Great Falls and surrounding jurisdictions.



2021 HAZMAT HIGHLIGHTS

- Two days of Hazmat team training that included hands on and didactic instruction, resulting in full team competency and compliance with NFPA 472.
- Revamped equipment to better fit operational tempo, and updated decontamination procedures/equipment to align with new emerging threats.
- Added electrostatic sprayed to our capabilities in response to COVID Pandemic Remodeled Hazmat Lab to increase efficiency.
- Awarded Hazmat UAs/Drone by Department of Homeland security and MT DES adding significant department capabilities that include infrared, nighttime operations, aerial scene size up.
- Responded to local Hazmat requests that included, Chlorine Dioxide, Chlorine Gas leak, Radiological response, and Thionyl Chloride.
- Multiple Hazmat team members were sent to Anniston Alabama for Regional and National team training and Hazmat evaluation.
- Sent two team members to Billings Montana to be certified as Hazmat Incident Safety Officers.



PHOTOS FROM 2021



Great Falls Fire Rescue



(406)727-8070

facebook.com/GreatFallsFireRescue

greatfallsmt.net/fire

STATION 1

105 9th St South

STATION 3

3325 Central Ave

STATION 2

731 6th St NW

STATION 4

1800 Fox Farm Rd

TRAINING FACILITY

1900 9th St South