



2021

**Kenosha Fire Department
Annual Report**



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CHIEF'S MESSAGE

On December 31, 2020, Fire Chief Charles Leipzig retired after many years of honorable service to the Department. The recruitment for a successor began in March 2021. The scrupulous process to hire a new Chief was conducted by the Police and Fire Commission over the subsequent six months.

As it was for many in the Kenosha community, 2021 was repeat performance in collectively adapting and overcoming. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact service calls as the virus and its variants ran in surges and posed ongoing exposure risks to our medical care providers. The KFD continued to provide a strong pandemic response in our community, adapting to the challenges and ever-shifting practices of patient care. Station tours and public education events remained limited for the safety of the public and our personnel. Community inspections cautiously returned to normal operations and department-wide training gradually returned to normal procedures, with some modifications. In the aftermath of civil unrest came the Rittenhouse trial, raising local concern for additional protests and possible violence. While the KFD remained alert and ready, thankfully the damaging activity of 2020 was not seen again.

In April, the KFD was heartbroken to experience the loss of one of our own. Apparatus Operator Samuel T. Wenger passed away unexpectedly at the age of 39. A department memorial was held to mourn the loss of our brother, Sam, who is deeply missed.

As 2021 came to a close, the Department had several transitions in leadership with the promotions of a new Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and two Battalion Chiefs. The KFD has and will continue to see large groups of retirements and an infusion of new, young talent. These transition are a part of a normal and expected cycle. While the valued years of experience are missed, the Department's culture has seen an increased emphasis on mentorship, training opportunities and fostering leadership skills. I am confident the men and women of the Kenosha Fire Department will be able to successfully meet any challenges the future holds and will do so with Pride, Dedication and Courage.

Respectfully,
Fire Chief Christopher Bigley



IN MEMORY OF APPARATUS OPERATOR SAMUEL T. WENGER

08.05.1981 - 04.28.2021

Gone Too Soon But Not Forgotten

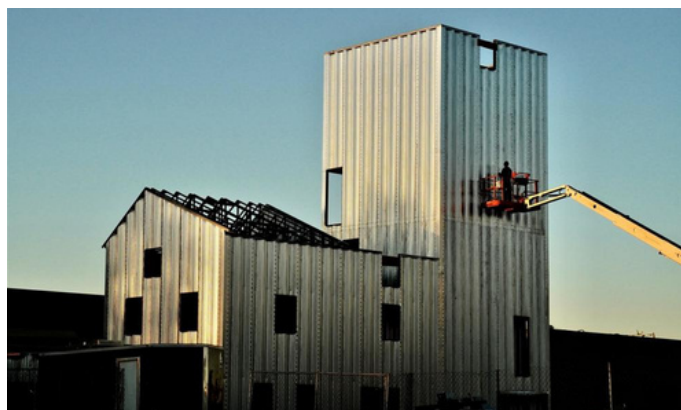


DIVISION OF TRAINING AND SAFETY

The Division of Training and Safety assumes the responsibility of providing continuous training to new and current members of the department, establishing and adhering to safe work practices in hazard zones, and maintaining the administrative duties that are required by both the department and Wisconsin State Statute Chapter SPS 330.

Throughout the year, the Training Division continued to ensure that the basic fundamental skills of all firefighters in all ranks were reassured. Members of the department continued to practice Search and Rescue, RIT training, Hose Advancement, Operations in the Roadway, and other various Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) as set forth by the Training Division.

As we moved out of COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to bring back some hands-on type training. This included a Hazardous Materials refresher course followed by a hands-on scenario at the Kenosha Water Department Intake Facility, physical tour of Uline and their new Hydrogen Plant used to power their forklifts, and a driver/operator cone course held out at the airport.



Construction of a new training tower and classroom marks the beginning of a new era for the Training Division. These new facilities are the best in our area and have the potential to not only elevate our own training, but encourage interdepartmental training and foster partnerships with stakeholders such as Gateway Technical College.

The Kenosha Fire Basic Recruit Training Academy of 2021 encompassed a class of six recruits. This class pushed the instructors to perform at their highest levels of teaching skills as they prepared the recruits for their new career.

In the role of Safety Officer, the Division Chief of Training and Safety responded to nearly 100 incidents throughout 2021. This type of response requires the officer to be available for call 24/7. The type of calls included structure fires, water related emergencies, vehicle accidents, hazardous material situations, and other situations that warranted a Safety Officer being implemented into the command structure. Per SPS 330.14, the use of a Safety Officer is required. Unfortunately, it is near impossible for one person to be on-call every day of the year. In order to improve the availability of a Safety Officer in 2021, the Training Division will again try and implement a program that will not only benefit line officers by providing incident command exposure, but provide for an on-call Safety Officer with availability 24/7, throughout the year.

Training goals for 2022 include the continuation of RTF training with KPD, continued Self-Defense/Subject Control training for our members, an update to the "Red Books" given to promoted officers, as well as continued training through JPRs. With the addition of the new training tower and classroom, the Training Division will begin to work on how to incorporate our newest assets into our curriculum for both department-wide training and the Basic Recruit Academy.

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



The provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the citizens and visitors of Kenosha was presented through a fire-based EMS system. These services are provided by 150 dual-trained medical providers, 70 of which are licensed at the paramedic level and 80 at the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level. All calls for service in 2021 were answered by a paramedic-level response with a minimum of a three-person med unit staffed by at least two paramedics and one EMT.

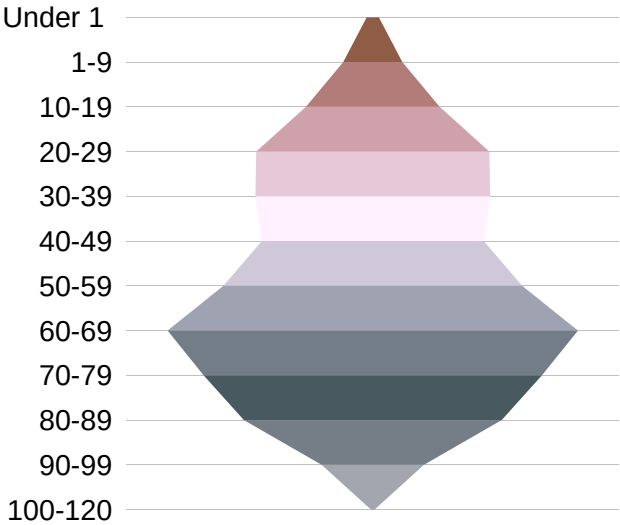
In 2021, KFD responded to nearly 12,500 requests for emergency medical care. Of these, over 8,200 were transported to one of the three hospitals in Kenosha. Approximately 70% of the EMS calls were for basic life support and 30% were at the advanced life support (ALS) level of care. Not all calls for service resulted in transport to the hospital emergency room. The reasons for this include patient refusal, no patient found, or patient dead on scene.

The EMS Division provided high-quality continuing education and training to all of the licensed providers that exceeded minimum state mandates and kept KFD EMTs and paramedics up-to-date on the latest in pre-hospital medicine. We continued our relationship with the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2021. Dr. Tom Grawey provided Medical Direction for the department and helped ensure that all EMS continuing education was of the highest quality.

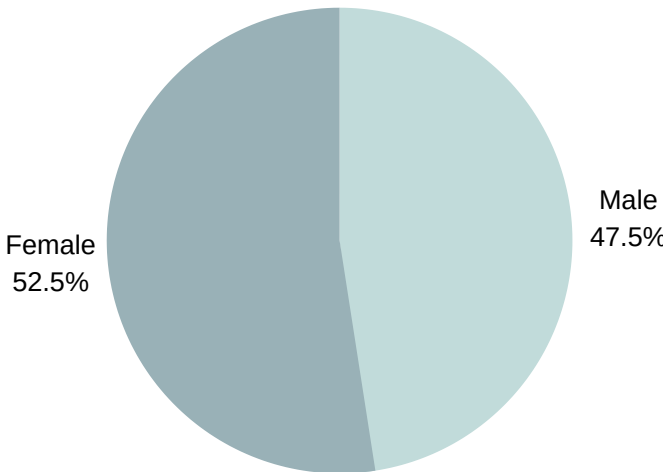
EMS continues to look at recognized and respected quality metrics and benchmarks outside of the department and compares our performance against those indicators. In 2021 KFD was awarded, for the eighth consecutive year, the Gold Plus recognition from the American Heart Association for its exceptional care and treatment of patients suffering from Acute Coronary Syndrome and STEMI, the most serious of heart attacks. KFD joined the Coverdell Stroke Program in 2018. This program allows us to compare our treatment of suspected stroke patients against key performance indicators for stroke care, as well as other Coverdell program participants and all of the other EMS systems in Wisconsin. This allows the department to identify areas for improvement and focus our education and training on those areas. Since joining the Coverdell Stroke Program, KFD has been recognized as one of the top three departments in Wisconsin for the highest level of prehospital Stroke care. The EMS Division maintains an expectation of high quality and appropriate patient care and a focus on continuous provider and system quality improvement.

KFD EMS is one of the largest and busiest systems in the State of Wisconsin and continues to enjoy an excellent reputation. The Division participated in several area initiatives that focus on public health issues identified in our community. An example of this is our participation in the Kenosha County Health Department's COVID-19 vaccination program. In 2021, the greatest percentage of our emergency calls for service were attributed to fall-related emergencies. Fall-related calls accounted for nearly 20% of KFD's calls and that number is expected to rise in coming years as the population ages. In 2022 EMS will focus on improving the department's efficiency and effectiveness responding to low acuity calls.

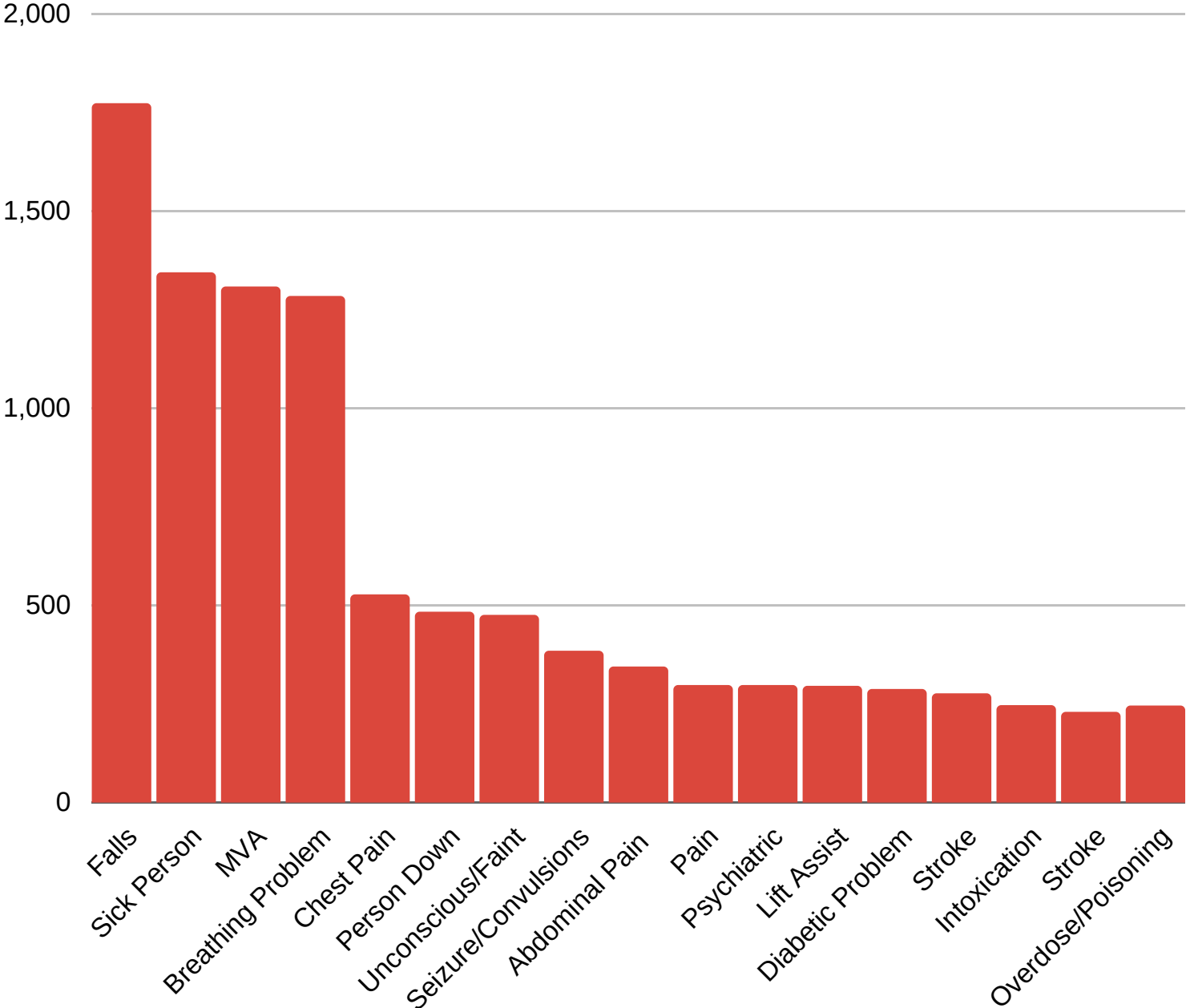
PATIENT AGE (YEARS)



PATIENT GENDER



MOST COMMON EMS CALLS



DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION

The primary function of the Fire Prevention Bureau in 2021 consisted of overseeing the fire inspections of existing buildings by line personnel and phased inspections of new construction to ensure proper installation of life safety components, along with the maintenance of the life safety systems in existing buildings. The FPB also performs public education programs that were taught to the community. Due to the ongoing pandemic, educational outreach, station tours, and public programming was low.

Wisconsin State Statute SPS 314 requires the KFD to fire inspect every commercial occupant and multifamily residential unit twice a year. In 2021, 8100 fire inspections were performed by the line firefighters. The FPB personnel performed 740 fire inspections for new occupancies, new construction and new and existing life safety system checks. 35 fire inspections were also conducted by FPB staff for all outdoor events that took place in the city.

Fire Investigations are conducted as required by Wisconsin State Statute SPS #314. The Fire Investigation Unit is staffed by two personnel assigned to the FPB. The Fire Investigation Unit investigated 25 fires in the year 2021.

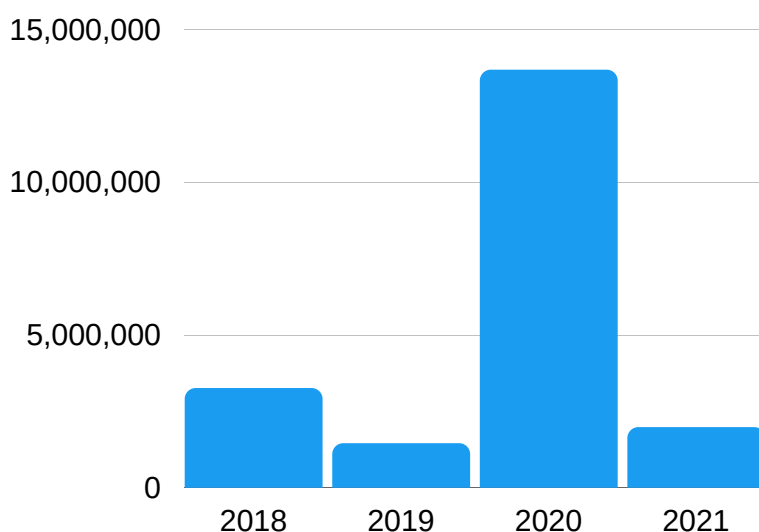
It is the experience of the Bureau that "prevention" is the best defense against fire play. Although the Juvenile Fire Setter program is enormously successful, children who have the propensity for fire play that does not receive fire safety instruction continue to be "at risk."

Juvenile Fire Setters Counseled: 3
 Juvenile Repeat Offenders: 1

This year the FPB charged \$72,350 on 125 reviews and permits.

On December 31, 2022, Division Chief Guy Santelli retired after nearly six years of leadership in the FPB.

Fire Loss in Dollars

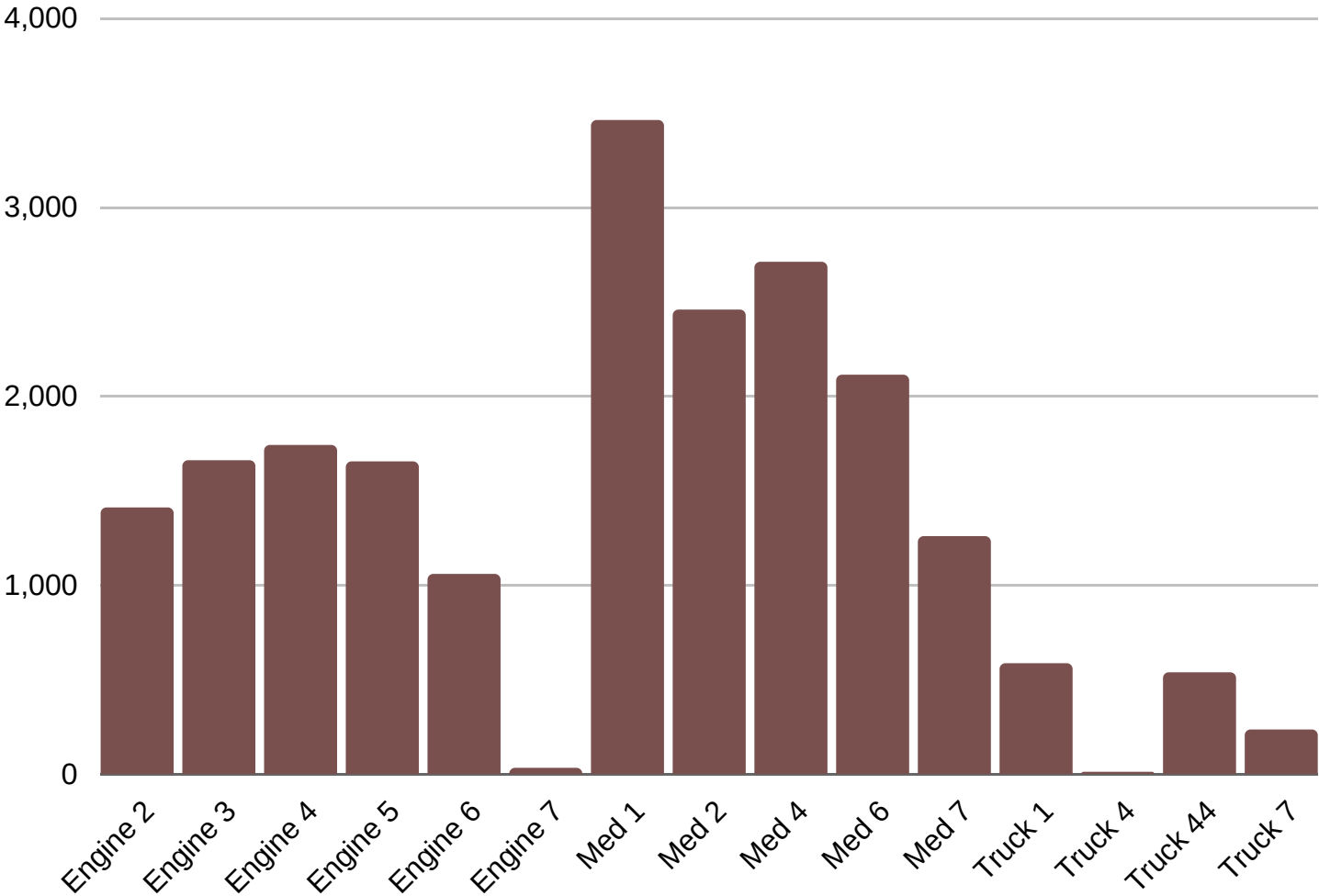


Public Education Programs

Public Events	# Events	Attendance
KUSD Fall Fire Safety Program	0	0
Ride in A Fire Truck	10	48
Engine/Sparky Presentation	0	0
Public Safety Presentations	3	100
Fire Safety Training	5	250
Smoke Alarm Installation	12	48
Bonfire / Fire Marshall	1	200
Fire Safety Booth	1	1500
Fire Station Tours	0	0

Total: 2,146

APPARATUS RESPONSES



ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES

