

# 2021



*Terrible loss for family on 11<sup>th</sup> Street*

Menomonie  
Fire Department

## **FROM THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESK**

As 2021 came to a close, Dunn County was experiencing some of the highest COVID infection rates since the start of the Pandemic in March of 2020. Despite that, our members persevered and continued to deliver high-quality service to the community.

2021 saw the department take major steps in completing several long-term projects that increased efficiencies and lowered costs. Those projects included:

- Equipping our front-line fire engines with laptops and internet
- A new fire reporting software that integrates with our patient care reporting software
- A new fire training software that ensures continuity, tracks hours and license expiration
- An electronic fire inspection program that replaced paper forms for each business
- New power load cot systems for the ambulances that greatly reduce back injuries
- A new bumper-pull Hazardous Materials trailer allowing for greater response flexibility
- A drone with thermal imaging fully purchased with grant funds and donations

People define an organization and we've got the best. Investments, such as those listed above are greatly appreciated, increase morale and ensure continued quality service for the community.

Our department responded to 3,382 calls in 2021. Of those, 2,641 were medical and 741 were fire or rescue. That was a 16% increase in call volume over of the 2020 of 2,907. The 2,641 EMS calls in 2021 resulted in \$1,351,962 in revenue for the city. Bills passed in early 2022 will greatly increase Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement rates which will significantly impact revenue this year.

For the first time in many years, citizens saw Menomonie Fire Department ambulances standing by at the Red Cedar Speedway for Friday night racing. Off-duty members staffed the reserve ambulance to provide coverage for the community event.

Our department conducts roughly 2,200 fire prevention inspections each year in the businesses and multi-family units we protect. As a commitment to the inspection program, 22 members participated in a 60-hour, State certified Fire Inspector class. This certification has been set as the standard for all inspectors for the Menomonie Fire Department.

Three new members were hired in 2021. Stuart Wallace was hired in June and Katlyn Wettberg and Kyle Holden were hired in November. All three members have performed very well and are great additions to the department.

Towards the end of 2021 we were able to open our stations back up to the public for tours and training. We hope this trend continues into 2022 where we can once again provide this service to the schools and community at large.

We would again like to thank the citizens we serve, city and rural administrators, and council for the support they've shown our department.

Denny Klass,

Fire Chief

## Yearly Runs by Zone-EMS

Scene Incident Zone	Number of Runs	Percent of Total Runs
City Ward-11	528	20.02%
City Ward 1	390	14.79%
City Ward 2	261	9.90%
Menomonie Township	214	8.12%
City Ward-10	199	7.55%
City Ward 8	142	5.38%
Out of Jurisdiction	122	4.63%
City Ward 3	98	3.72%
Red Cedar Township	94	3.56%
City Ward 9	90	3.41%
City Ward 4	84	3.19%
Tainter Township	83	3.15%
Dunn Township	68	2.58%
City Ward 6	61	2.31%
Lucas Township	43	1.63%
Spring Brook Township	42	1.59%
City Ward 5	37	1.40%
City Ward 7	35	1.33%
Village of Knapp	31	1.18%
Sherman Township	14	0.53%
Weston Township	1	0.04%
<b>Total: 2,637</b>		<b>Total: 100.00%</b>
<b>Report Criteria</b>		
Incident Date:		
Agency Name (Dagency.03):		Is Equal To Last Year
Is In Menomonie Fire Department		

## EMS ADMINISTRATION

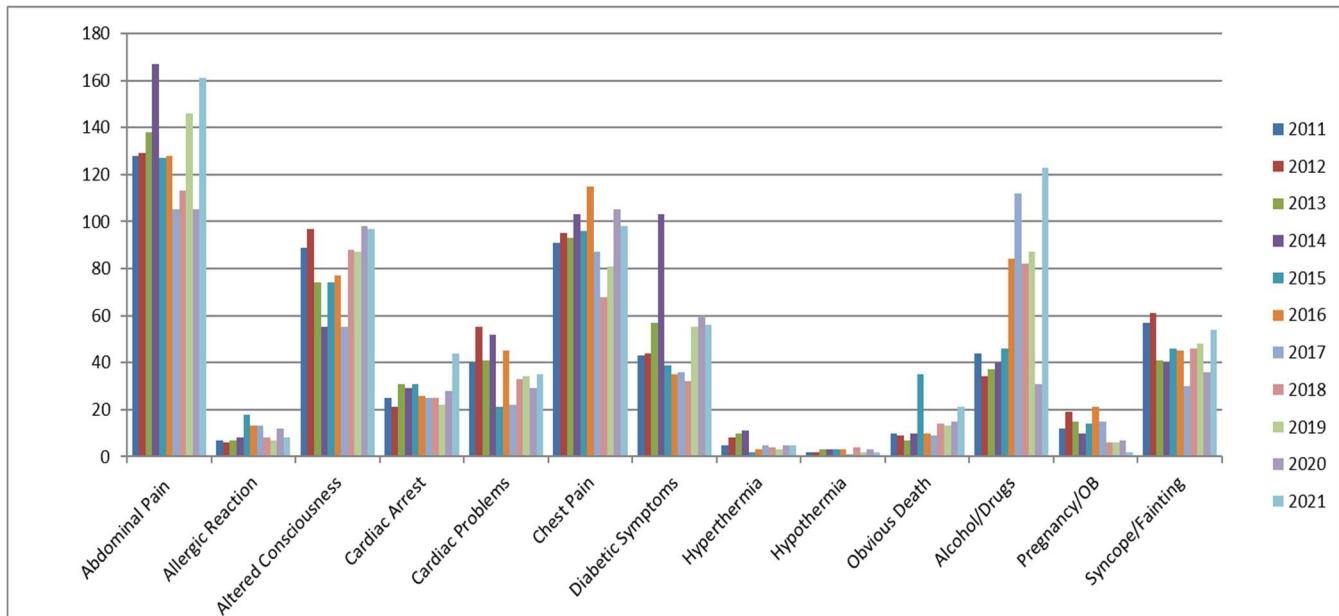
### **Medical Director**

Dr. Nelson continues to be the Medical Director at MFD. He is a board-certified emergency room physician at Mayo-Menomonie and Eau Claire. He reviews critical calls that the ambulance responds to. During 2021, MFD had 2639 ambulance responses which was almost a 9% increase from the previous year. Dr. Nelson also provides quarterly medical training for MFD staff. His involvement is very much appreciated by the all.



Dr. Drew Nelson

### **Provider Impressions**



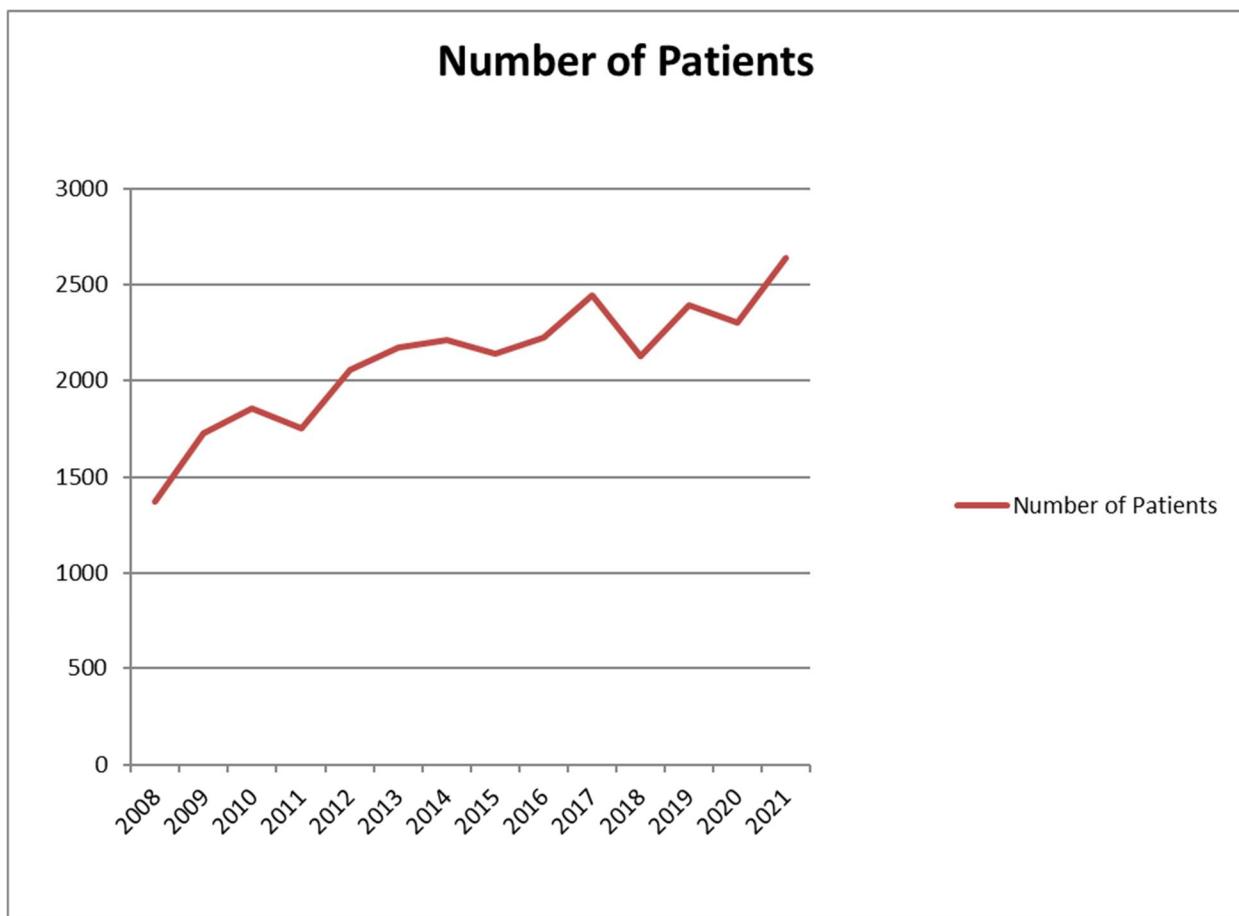
### **Provider Impressions**

\* In 2021, MFD had 242 traumatic injuries. (Not in graph)

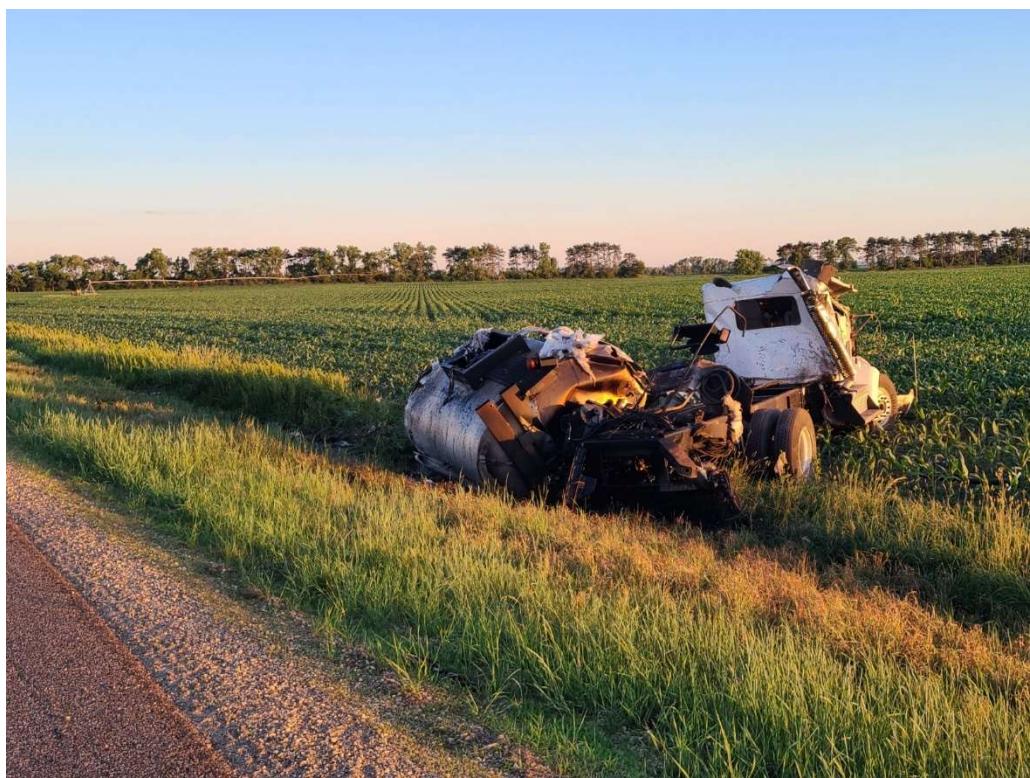
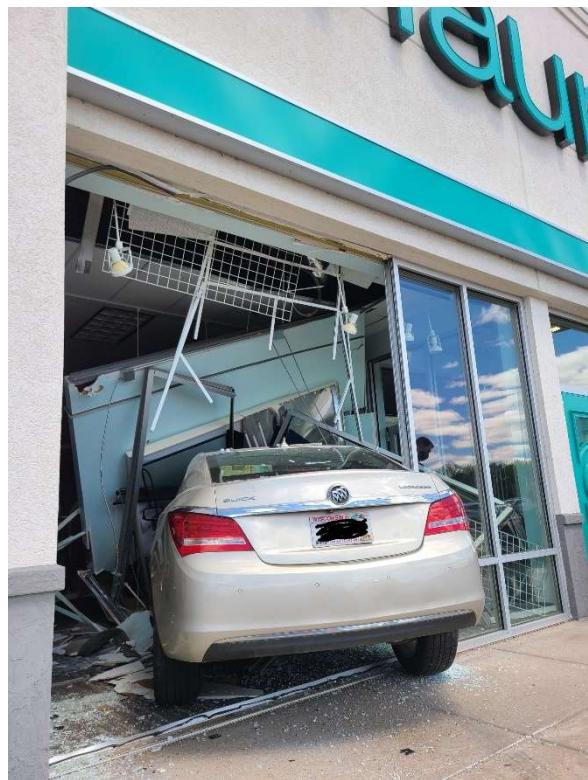
\* Many patients had unspecified injuries or illnesses and are not included in this graph.

## EMS AT A GLANCE

### Number of Patients

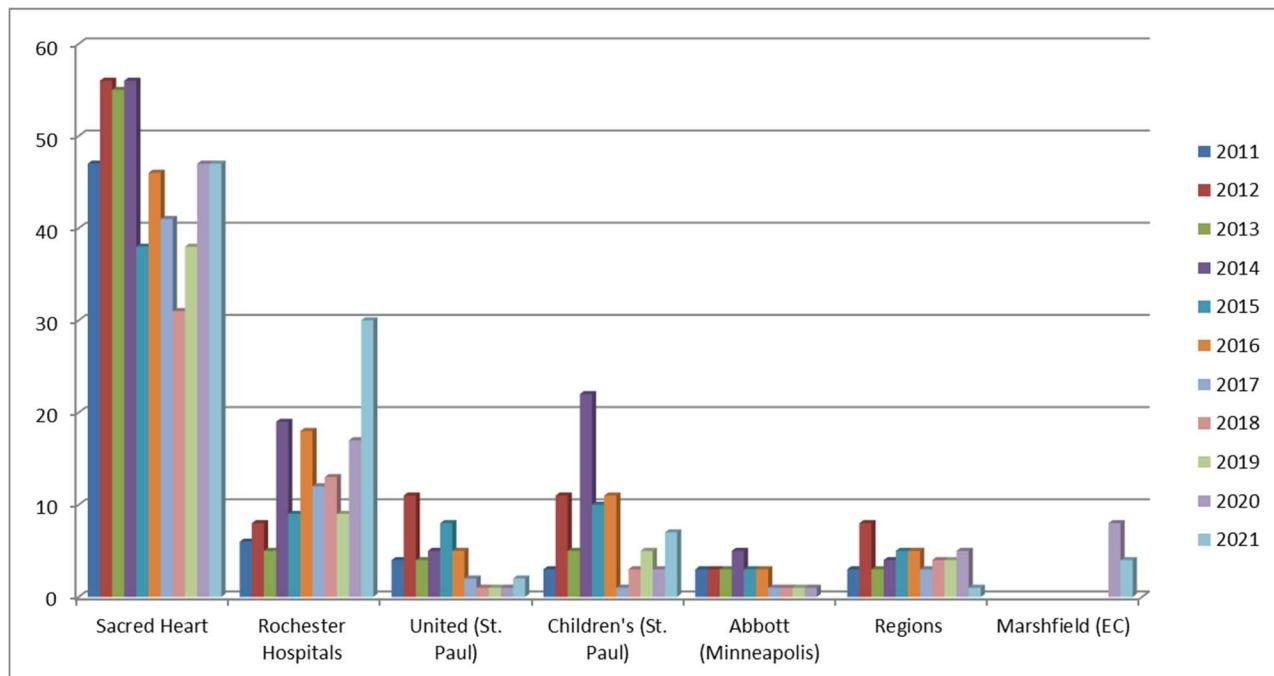


The number of patients MFD is treating each year has been increasing almost every year. But during 2020, we were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and in the beginning of the pandemic the call volume drastically decreased. Towards the end of 2020 the ambulance call volume dramatically increased with the local surge of COVID cases. In addition, MFD also did 25 ambulance intercepts with other area ambulance services. This is requested of us to provide higher level of care that they cannot provide. In 2021, MFD responded to 2639 patients which was approximately a 9% increase from 2020 (fire calls not included).



## EMS AT A GLANCE

### Hospital Destinations



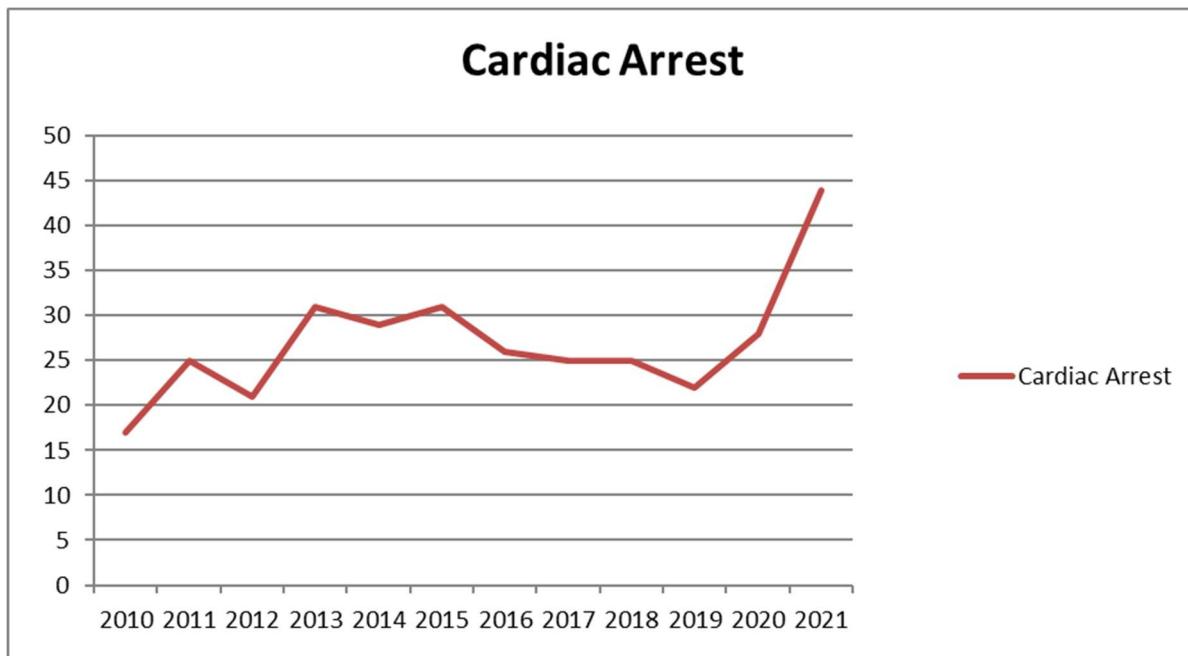
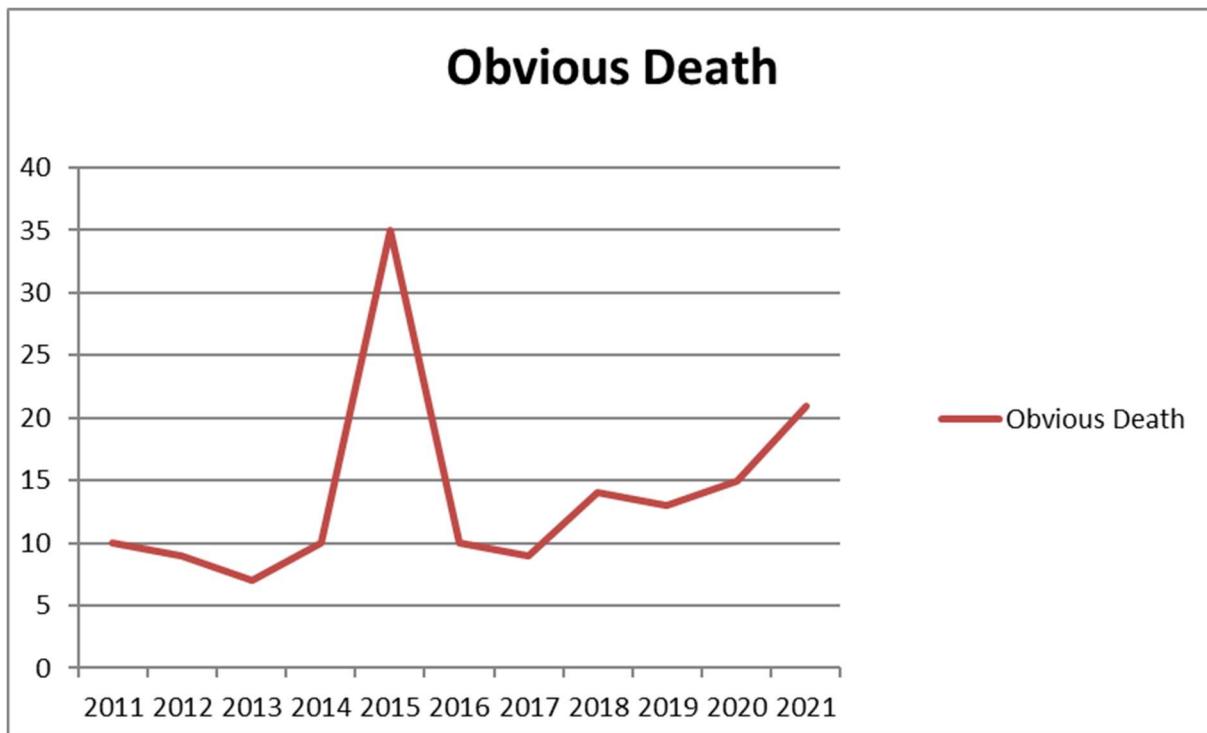
\*The most frequent hospital that MFD transported patients to was Mayo-Menomonie. In 2021, the number of patients transported to Mayo-Menomonie was 1,388.

With the higher level of skills that the Paramedics have, it is possible to stabilize and transport patients to hospitals in Eau Claire for specialty care such as the cardiac cath lab or regional trauma center. MFD transported 117 patients to Mayo-Eau Claire in 2021 and this was the second highest hospital destination for MFD. This is due to Mayo-Eau Claire being the highest rated trauma center (Level II) in the area and having specialized cardiac capabilities.

We also transport less frequently to some other area hospitals that are not listed in the graph. The ambulance transported to hospitals that we have never been to before due to the lack of hospital beds in the regional area. We transported patients to Baldwin, Barron, Osseo, La Crosse, and River Falls during 2021. Also, many times patients decide they do not wish to be transported by ambulance and they refuse transport. Each year approximately 16% of all patients request not to be transported.

In 2021, MFD provided 393 interfacility (hospital to hospital) transports. Of those interfacility transports, 96 were designated Critical Care which is the highest level an ambulance can be in Wisconsin. Only 66 ambulance services in Wisconsin have the Critical Care designation and this out of 800 ambulance services in the State.

## EMS AT A GLANCE





Interestingly, every day of the week received approximately the same volume of ambulance calls. All days of the week averaged between 13-15% of the total call volume with Sunday being slightly busiest. This trend seems to stay consistent every year.

At MFD, we look forward to providing high quality patient care this year and in the future!

Andy Benrud

Battalion Chief

## **EMS SUPPLIES**

This summary of the EMS supply division discusses the major vendors used, the approximate amount spent, and some service upgrades that were added for 2021, at the Menomonie Fire Department.

The major vendors used when purchasing EMS supplies are Emergency Medical Products (EMP), Sacred Heart Hospital, Zoll Medical, Arrow, Life Assist, and Mississippi Welders. Emergency Medical Products is one of our largest vendors used at \$36,659.94; this includes intravenous (I.V.) solutions, I.V. sets, glucometer test strips, many medications, and some small items. Teleflex came in at \$5,531.31. Teleflex is used for IV supplies. Zoll Medical is where we purchased, primarily, cardiac defibrillator supplies for \$1,297.65. Life Assist is another major vendor used for video intubation at \$1,363.25. Mississippi Welders is the oxygen supplier for MFD at \$1,671.27. We purchased intra osseous needles for initiating difficult intravenous lines from Arrow at a cost of \$4,488.22. We also purchased medications from Sacred Heart Hospital totaling \$5,241.12. Some of the medications purchased were Fentanyl, Ketamine, Midazolam, and Ketorolac. The total spent on EMS supplies was \$62,859.00.

We were able to upgrade the airway camera that we use on calls. This camera is called a GlideScope. This enables us to view intubations in real time without the use of a computer. Prior to this purchase we had to use a laptop to intubate. The cost of this camera was approximately \$4500.00.

Chuck Mensing

Captain



## GLIDESCOPE GO

Menomonie Fire Department trained on the use of a new video laryngoscope device that was purchased for performing intubations in the field for patients that require airway management with an advance airway such as inserting a breathing tube into a patient's trachea. The GlideScope Go was used for the completed year of 2021 and improved the first attempt intubation rates when compared to previous years.

GlideScope Go is a device that is used for difficult airway management. A GlideScope provides better visualization of the larynx compared with direct laryngoscopy when you need to maintain cervical immobilization, have excessive oral secretions, or anticipate a very anterior larynx during intubation.

Michael Christian  
Lieutenant



## Yearly Runs by Zone-Fire

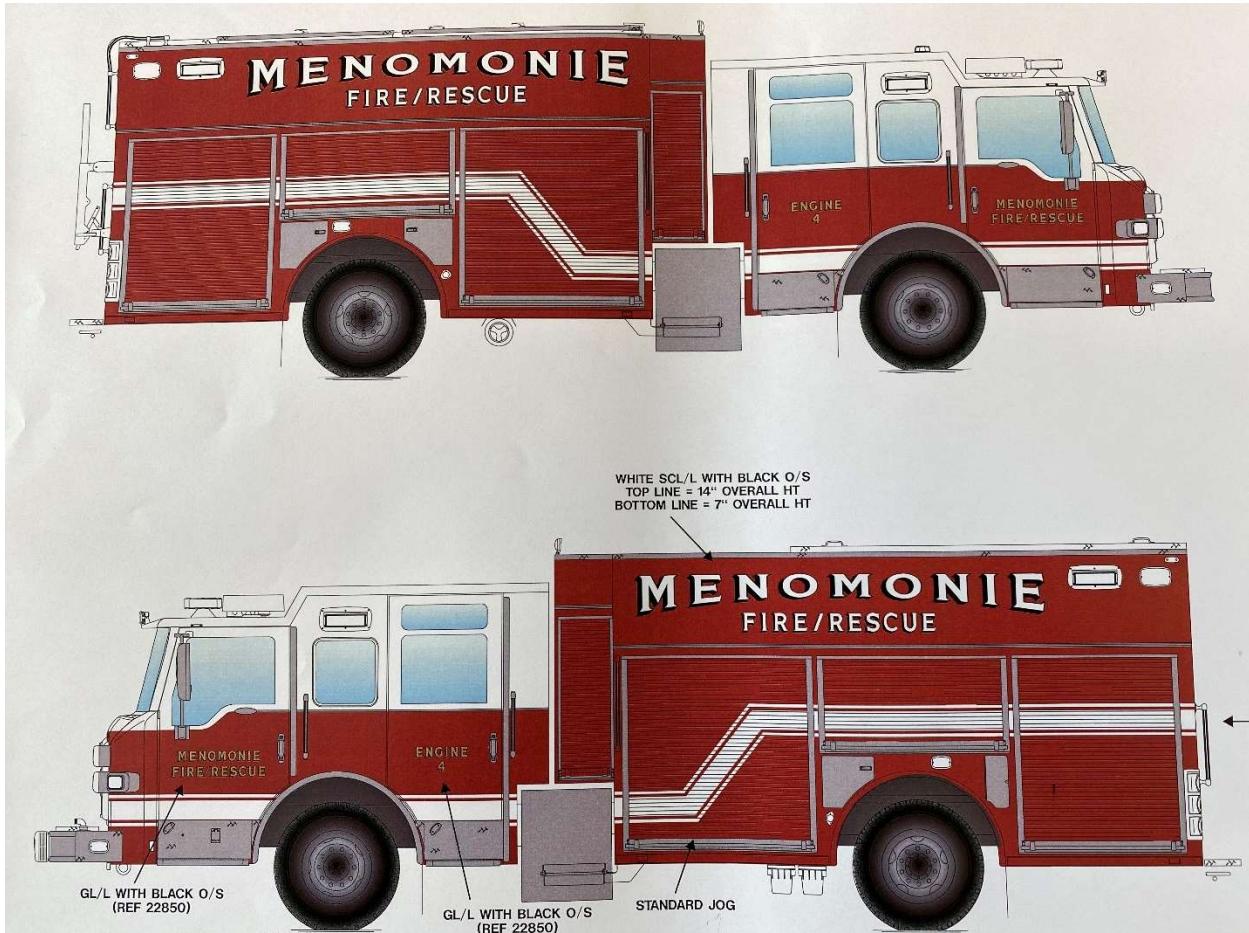
Basic Incident Zone/District Number (FD1.32)	Number of Runs	Percent of Total Runs
City Ward 2	106	14.52%
City Ward 1	95	13.01%
City Ward-11	70	9.59%
City Ward-10	55	7.53%
Menomonie Township	54	7.40%
City Ward 3	47	6.44%
City Ward 8	46	6.30%
Red Cedar Township	38	5.21%
City Ward 4	34	4.66%
Out of Jurisdiction	28	3.84%
City Ward 6	26	3.56%
Lucas Township	26	3.56%
City Ward 9	22	3.01%
Tainter Township	20	2.74%
City Ward 5	17	2.33%
Dunn Township	17	2.33%
Spring Brook Township	10	1.37%
City Ward 7	9	1.23%
Sherman Township	6	0.82%
Village of Knapp	3	0.41%
Weston Township	1	0.14%
<b>Total: 730</b>		<b>Total: 100.00%</b>

## Report Criteria

Basic Incident Date Original (Fd1.3): Is Equal To Last Year

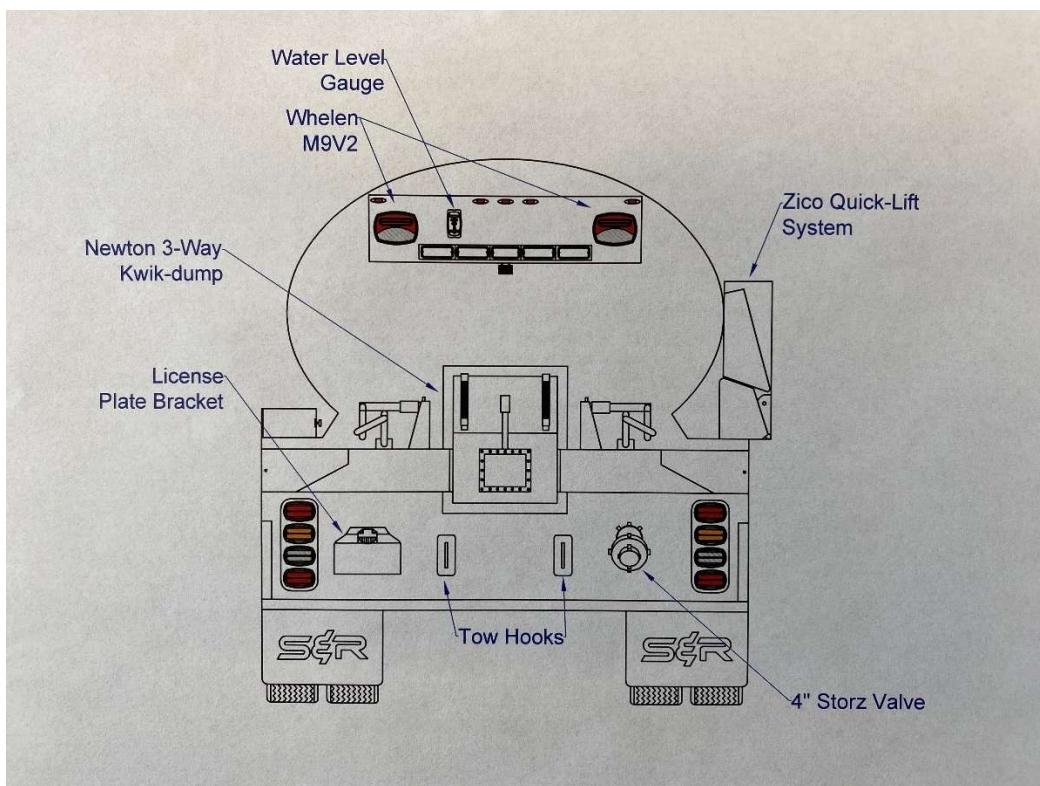
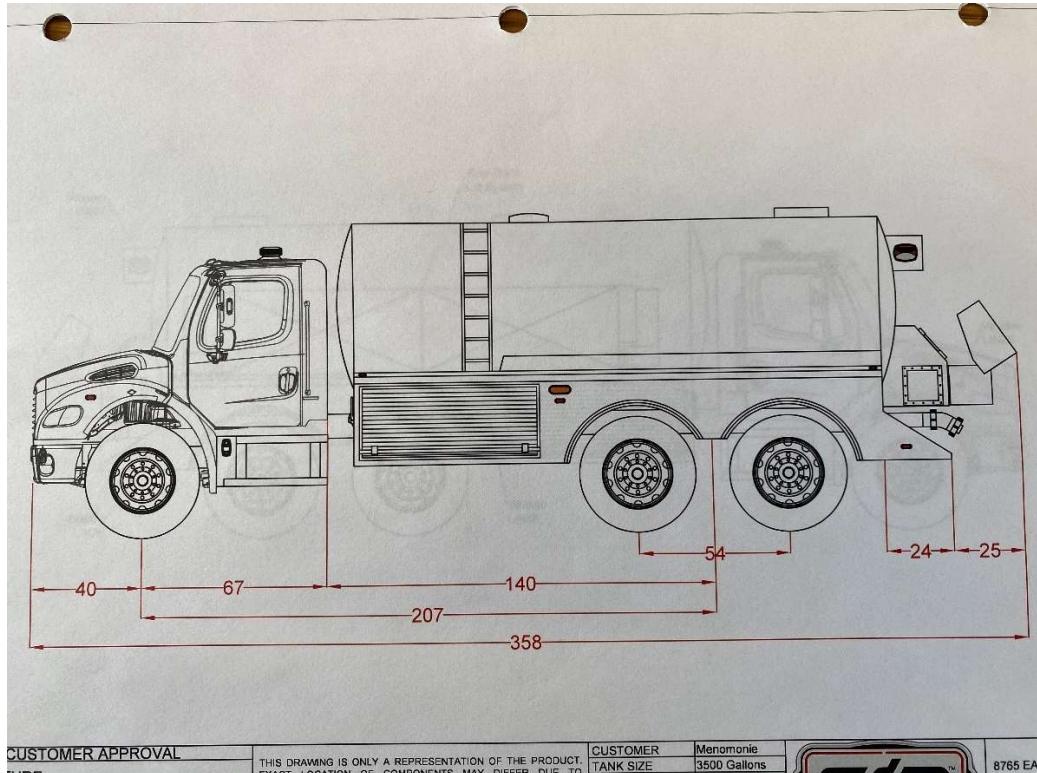
## FLEET RESOURCES

The Menomonie Fire Department worked hard in 2021 to update its fleet. In January a contract was signed with Pierce Mfg. from Appleton, WI to build a new city engine. The new engine will take 10-13 months to build.



In March the department replaced a 1996 Ford F250 truck and a 1996 Gooseneck Trailer that are used for our Hazardous Materials Response. A new 28-foot enclosed trailer was purchased at Johnson Trailer and a new Ford F150 was ordered at Northtown Ford. The department moved a Ford F250 from station 1 to station 2 to be used to pull the new trailer.

At the annual Rural Fire Board meeting, the board approved the replacement of a tender. A contract was signed with Stainless and Repair of Marshfield, WI for a new Tender. With the current supply issues, we anticipate the truck to be delivered 12-18 months from contract signing.



The new Ford F150 arrived in November. This vehicle will be used as a utility vehicle for the department with a wide range of uses.



The department maintains fifteen fire apparatus along with three ambulances. Our ambulances are our most heavily used vehicles in our fleet. Medic 3 is a 2012 with more than 145,000 miles on it. It is primarily used as our 3<sup>rd</sup> out ambulance, but is 2<sup>nd</sup> out if Medic 1 is out on another call. Medic 2 is a 2015 with more than 142,000 miles on it. It is stationed at Station 2 and does most of our long-distance transfers from Mayo Menomonie to other hospitals along with answering 911 calls. Due to COVID, our department was taking patients to places like LaCrosse, Red Wing, Barron, Bloomer, Osseo, and Stillwater along with our normal hospitals of Eau Claire, St. Paul, and Rochester. Medic 1 is our newest ambulance. Coming to our department in 2019, this ambulance has over 47,000 miles and primarily does 911 responses in and around the city.

Annually, our entire fleet gets a DOT inspection, has preventative maintenance done, and has pumps and ladders tested and recertified. Most of this is done by companies like Northtown Ford, Norden Truck Repair, Emergency Apparatus, and American Test Center. The department also uses these same companies for any repairs that cannot be done by our own personnel.

Larry Zais  
Battalion Chief

## PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS

Our Paid-on Call is currently staffed with twenty personnel. We have a couple of members that have 20 and 24 years of service with our department. We also have four more members that have between 15-19 years of service. Their service and dedication to our department is greatly appreciated.



Each year the paid-on call helps develop their training schedule. The members meet twice a month for training. This year we were able to use a vehicle fire simulation prop from CVTC. This was great training for them.

Larry Zais  
Battalion Chief



## NEW GEAR

The Menomonie Fire Department was able to upgrade six sets of new turnout gear and get twenty new fire helmets. We try to stay in compliance with NFPA's guidelines. Most protective gear has a service life, depending on the gear, this life span can be ten to fifteen years. These items will last at least ten years. We were also able to fit all firefighters with a new wildland face mask through a grant. We were also able to place 24 pair of structural firefighting boots into service.

Chuck Mensing  
Captain



## **TRAINING**

The Fire Department continues to maintain and improve our skillset through constant training. We are fortunate to have such a driven group of employees that continue to develop their knowledge base. This directly benefits the people we serve. The number of professional certifications that our membership maintains is remarkable and our organization has diversely trained firefighters that can mitigate a wide variety of emergencies. Beyond Firefighting and EMS, our group continually maintains knowledge and certifications in multiple special rescue facets. These include rope (high angle), trench, open water, ice, confined space, collapse, and grain rescue. Hazardous Materials and Active Shooter (Rescue Task Force) are also situations we must be prepared for.

Highlights of 2021 include significant training time in an acquired structure in the Town of Red Cedar, a full-scale grain rescue scenario with our paid-on call group, and continual development of new employees through in-house training. A State certified fire inspector course, which was held by CVTC, also took place at the North Fire Station. This provided state certification to the majority of our department for fire inspecting. Please enjoy multiple photos of training events that took place throughout the year.

Adam Mucks  
Battalion Chief



Grain Bin Rescue Training at Rusk Prairie Grain Service



Travis Nessel and Joe Kunkel attend Mayo Landing Zone Training at the North Fire Station



Brent Monfort leads a CVTC intern into an acquired training structure



Larry Zais providing tourniquet care during a CVTC paramedic refresher



Rich Brackett displays some finesse during extrication training



Large area search training on Station One's apparatus floor using a smoke simulator



Ice Rescue Training on Lake Menomin. Stuart Wallace and Kyle Holden rescuing mock victim Michael Christian



Rope Training with Paid on Call



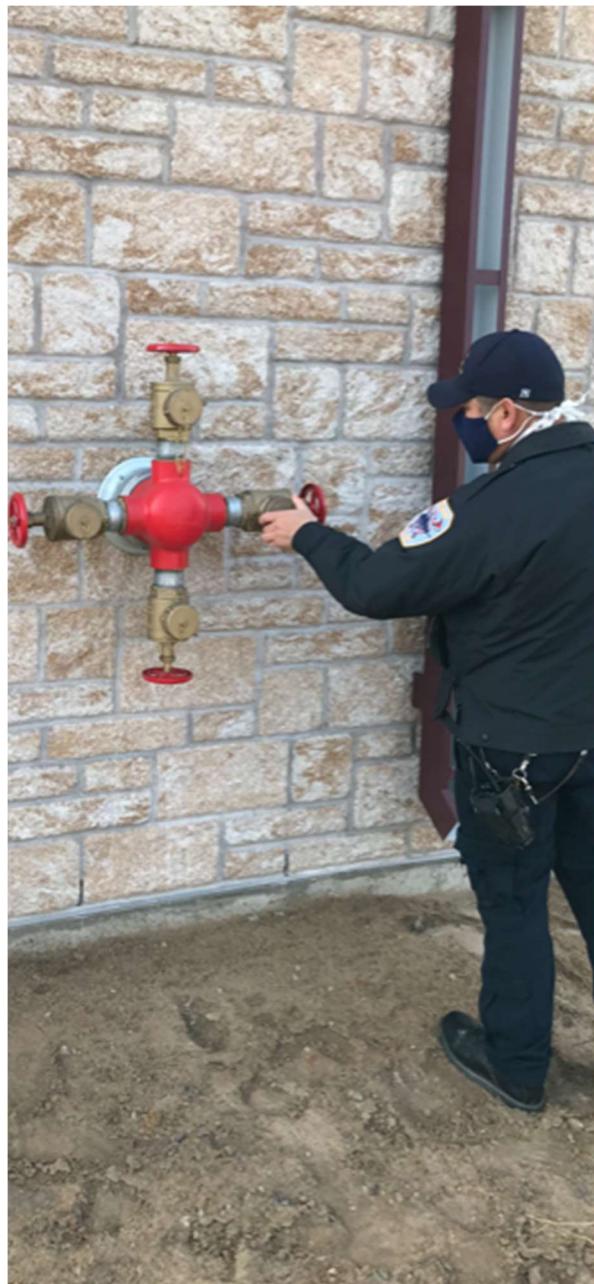
Clint Lightell takes a ride during high angle rescue training



Ben Simmons and Rich Brackett during confined space rescue training



Vehicle Fire training at the North Fire Station. Karl Palmer and Scott Barnhart advance a hose line



Juan Gamez during the field mentorship portion of the State Certified Fire Inspector Course



Paid on Call Group after Grain Bin Rescue Training

## **RESCUE TASK FORCE**

MFD continues to train for mass casualty and active shooter events through the use of our Rescue Task Force (RTF). Historically, EMS and Fire had to wait for law enforcement to clear a building before they could enter and render aid to the injured. As a result, many people died as they bled out from injuries that could have been stabilized. The RTF allows us to enter into the “warm zone” with law enforcement escorts, which has been cleared but has not necessarily been secured, so that we can perform lifesaving interventions on the injured and save more lives. Members of the RTF are outfitted in ballistic vests and helmets, and carry supply packs of specific trauma items like tourniquets, chest seals, hemostatic dressings, and trauma bandages.

In 2021 interdepartmental training resumed with our local law enforcement agencies, allowing us to practice movements with law enforcement in various buildings, and from room to room. Having the ability to train with law enforcement allows us to familiarize ourselves with their commands and priorities, and vice-versa. It also allows for our staff to refresh on triage and trauma, which in an RTF setting, is quite different than our standard EMS assessment. We are continuing to train with law enforcement to build toward another large-scale mass casualty incident similar to the one we did a few years ago at Cedarbrook Church. During these types of exercises, all players in a scenario are involved – dispatch, local law enforcement branches, local EMS branches, and the hospital.

The RTF branch is comprised of Captain Poliak, Firefighter/Paramedics Andy Kiss, Travis Nessel, and Ross Boyd.

## **AIR PACKS**

Our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) or “air packs” go through weekly inspection and maintenance to ensure they operate correctly. This includes cleaning, checking for adequate air pressure, and checking to make sure the personal alert safety systems (PASS) function properly. They also must pass an annual “flow test” that is done by an outside company to test their pressure and electronic components.

As our air packs have become seasoned, repairs to our air packs have become frequent. Battery boards that power the electronic components of the pack have needed to be replaced in over half of our inventory. MFD was able to recoup some of these repair costs through a warranty claim, however it looks to be a continuing issue and a main reason why consistent inspections on these packs are required.

Matt Poliak  
Captain

## **COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION**

Community Risk Reduction is a relatively new focus for MFD. This division focuses on the areas of risks that are specific to our community and how we can seek to make our response area safer as a result through prevention and education.

The first step in this process is collecting good data, which we do through our reporting of incidents. The next step is taking the data and identifying the risks that are most common in our jurisdiction (i.e., falls at home, cooking fires, etc.). Once the risks have been identified and prioritized, prevention and education efforts can then begin to take place. Whereas we used to give broad, all-encompassing safety talks to everyone, we can now hone our public education trainings to specific populations, thereby preventing and reducing these specific risks in the future.

We are still in the early stages of this program and are actively collecting data that will be analyzed so that we can identify the risks most applicable to our jurisdiction.

Matt Poliak  
Captain

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

The Public Education Division is responsible for providing information about our department to our community. Through school visits during fire safety week, younger students are able to interact with our staff and familiarize themselves with our staff, both in and out of turnout gear. We also take that opportunity to give age specific emergency safety talks to students and discuss topics ranging from knowing their address and fire escape plans at home, to changing batteries in their smoke detectors. The Public Education Division is also responsible for giving station tours to visitors and providing fire extinguisher training to local businesses and institutions.

In 2021, we were finally able to regain a sense of normalcy with regard to our Public Education program. MFD was able to get back into local schools for fire safety talks and interacting with the children on a face-to-face level. It is so important for school aged kids (especially the younger kids) to be able to see what a firefighter looks like, both in and out of their gear. A fire can be a scary ordeal, and being able to interact with kids while in our gear allows them to see us as “helpers” and not a scary stranger when a fire occurs at their house.

Matt Poliak

Captain



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Menomonie Fire continues to maintain a strong online presence to keep in contact with the community through its Facebook page. Firefighter/Motor Pump Operator Dan Williams and Firefighter/Paramedic Adam McCulloch continue to add content that keeps our community engaged in fire safety and what is happening with our department. More than 3,900 people follow our page, which continues to increase with the amount of information we post. In the coming years, we hope to expand to other forms of social media to interact with our community as efficiently as possible.

Matt Poliak  
Captain

 Menomonie Fire Department  
Dec 9, 2021 · 

Audrey making her return to Main Street Menomonie in the WinterDaze Parade this evening. Audrey was a frontline Engine in Menomonie in the 40's and 50's. [Downtown Menomonie, Inc. Winter Daze Parade & Fireworks](#)

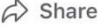


 Old Menomonie Wisconsin  
Michael J Trinko · Sep 8, 2021 · 

These are pix showing Meno Fire Dept from 1946. I don't know why there were three groupings. The truck was still in use in the late 50's. I made a pdf with the names of the men I could recognize. I also have a listing that shows Louie Patterson was chief in 1949, He was one of the volunteers in the 50's. In the 50's, and maybe earlier, there were 6 regulars who worked 24 hrs off, then 24 hrs on... 3 each shift. Nate Webster was chief in the late 50's.



 Boost this post to get more reach for Menomonie Fire Department. 

 Like  Comment  Share

 Write a comment...  

 Home  Marketplace  Groups  News  Notifications  Menu

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

In 2021, MFD personnel completed numerous building projects and general building maintenance. A large section of concrete parking area at the Downtown station was removed and replaced with 8" new concrete. The old section of concrete was sinking and was in poor condition due to cracking.



Multiple appliances were replaced at each station. The old appliances that were replaced were nearing 15 years old and were not functioning properly.



New light curtain sensors were installed on the garage doors in the Downtown station. This increases safety and decreases the potential of a garage door damaging a vehicle or property.



Andy Benrud  
Battalion Chief

## INSPECTIONS

The Menomonie Fire Department performs fire prevention inspections on all educational, commercial, industrial, manufacturing and multi-unit apartment buildings in our response area. This includes the City of Menomonie, Villages of Knapp and Downsville and Towns of Tainter, Spring Brook, Red Cedar, Lucas, Dunn, Sherman and Weston. All structures mentioned above are inspected twice per year. 2021 was the exception to the rule due to COVID. The fire department under orders from the State of Wisconsin was not required to do our regular inspections. We did however inspect all of them once as usual. The fire department also assisted any business that was in need or wanted their inspections more often.

### Inspection Numbers:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Total Inspections performed -----	1041	80
Total hours inspecting -----	336	60
Total violations found -----	241	9
Total violations corrected -----	23	0
Total re-inspections performed -----	0	0
Total notices issued -----	142	80

In 2021 we responded to three fires in inspected structures.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Business Type</u>	<u>Damage</u>	<u>Cause</u>
1-31-21	N5747 377 <sup>th</sup> St	Automotive Shop/House	\$100,000.00	Undetermined
4-13-21	307 Micheels Ln	Apartment Building	\$350,000.00	Undetermined
6-17-21	2003 9 <sup>th</sup> St	Apartment Building	\$1,000.00	Electrical

Inspections are conducted to assist the business/building owners in the elimination of hazards which could lead to a devastating fire loss.

The photos below show some of the issues we find while inspecting.

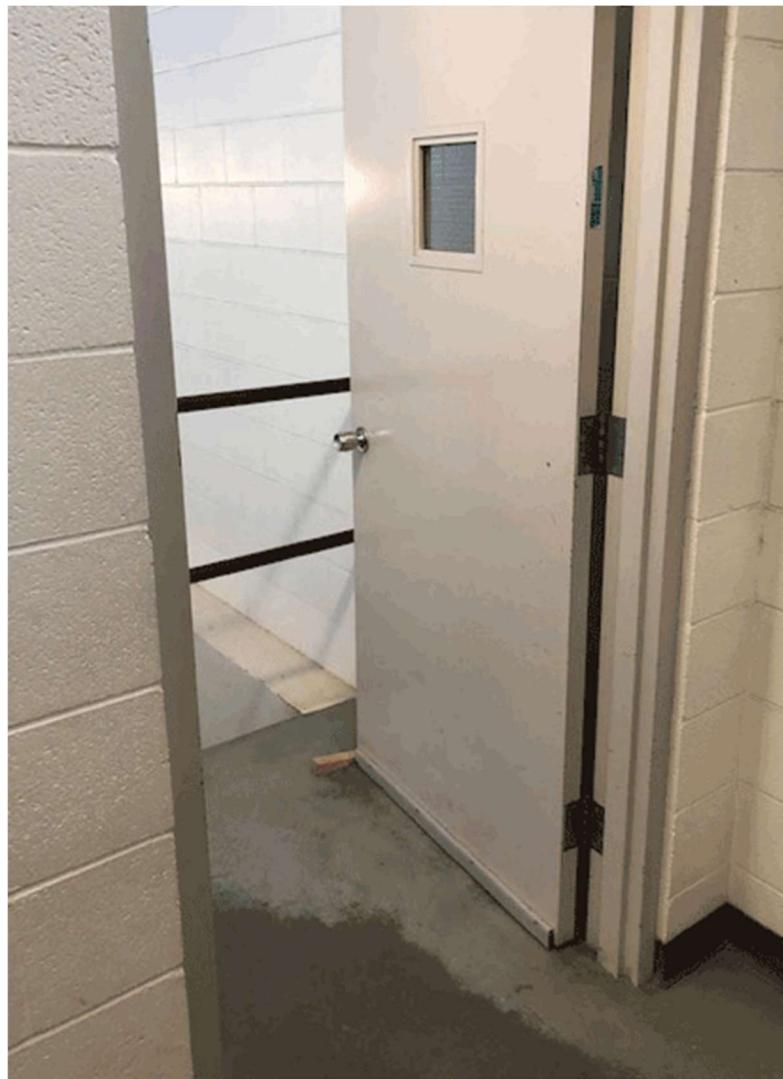
### Out of Date Extinguishers



**Broken Exit Lights**



**Blocked Open Fire Doors**



Brady Bleskacek  
Lieutenant