

Appleton Fire Department



Annual Report

Welcome

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It is my pleasure to present the 2020 Appleton Fire Department Annual Report. We are honored to welcome and serve each citizen and visitor in our community. We are extremely proud to provide the highest level of fire, emergency medical, hazardous materials and technical rescue emergency response. Coupled with our robust fire inspection and prevention programming, the Appleton Fire Department lives out our mission of protecting the community with exceptional service. As our community continues to grow and our environment changes, our responsibility to provide the highest level of service is unyielding. The Appleton Fire Department, and the services we provide, will continue to adapt to effectively meet the challenges found within our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hansen'.

Jeremy J Hansen
Fire Chief

Mission:

With our partners, the Appleton Fire Department protects the community with exceptional service.

Vision:

Pursuing excellence and enhancing the quality of life in Appleton and our regional community.

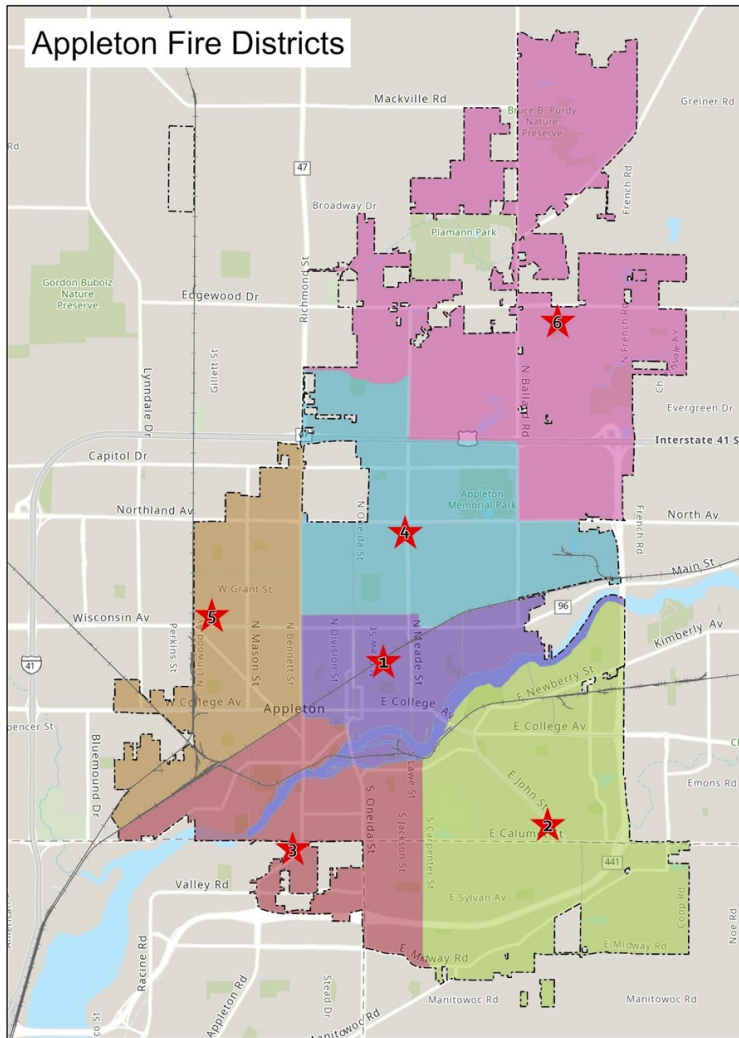
Core Values:

- P** Partnership
- R** Respect
- I** Integrity
- D** Diversity
- E** Excellence



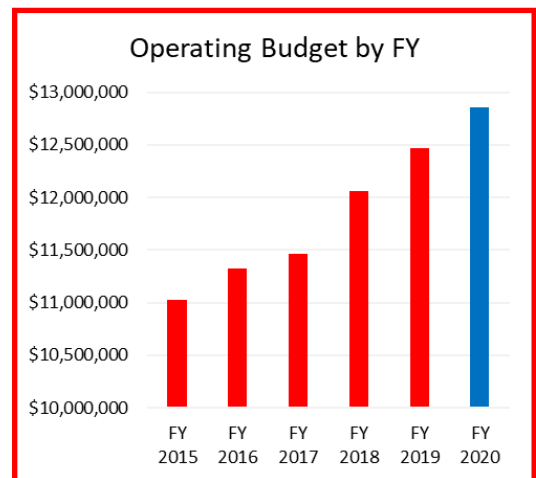
In 2020 AFD took delivery of a 2020 Pierce Aerial Truck (pictured) at a total cost of \$1,065,750.

Fire Department Information

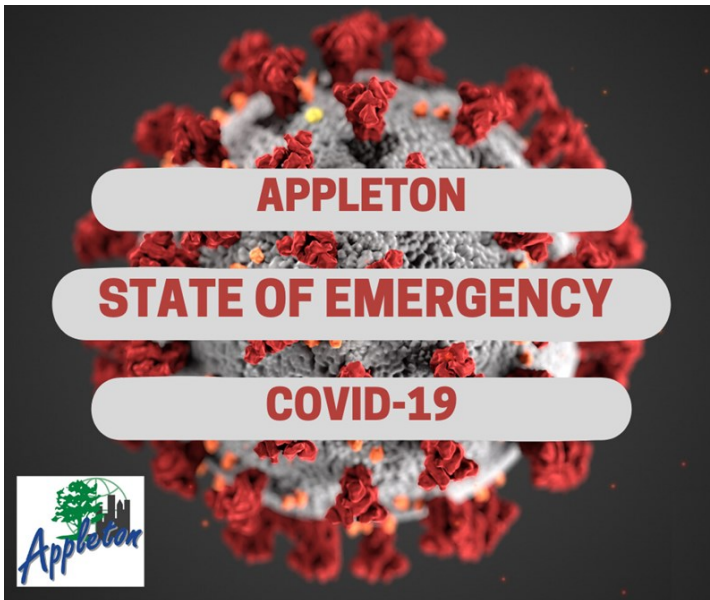


Total Calls	5,909
Total Fires	135
Structure Fires	57
Vehicle Fires	10
Brush/Grass Fires	6
Other Fires	62
Overpressure/Overheat	50
Total EMS and Rescue Calls	4,320
EMS Calls	4,099
Vehicle Accidents with Injuries	93
Other Medical Incidents	128
Total Hazardous Conditions	276
Total Service Calls	283
Total Good Intent Calls	348
Total False Alarms	490
Malicious False Alarms	14
System Malfunction	156
Unintentional False Alarms	263
Other False Alarms	57
Total Severe Weather/ Natural Disaster	2
Total Special Incident Type	5

Operating Budget FY 2020		
Program Area	Cost (\$)	% of Budget
Fire Suppression	\$9,461,388	73.59%
Fire Prevention	\$1,307,288	10.17%
Emergency Medical Services	\$686,893	5.34%
Administration	\$554,902	4.32%
Technical Services	\$419,967	3.27%
Resource Development	\$260,653	2.03%
Special Operations	\$165,418	1.29%
Total	\$12,856,509	100%



COVID-19



COVID-19 brought significant challenges to the Appleton Fire Department. It significantly changed operations in emergency response and fire prevention. Despite the added safety measures, including decontaminating all equipment after each response, there was not a significant increase in time dedicated to each response. Compared to 2019 data, average on scene times were reduced by over nine minutes in 2020; however, the increased disinfection of equipment left overall call times similar.

Fire prevention saw a reduction in inspections and every public education event after February cancelled. Prevention methods then focused on social media and other safe ways to educate the public on fire and life safety.

Several members of the department, including administrative and civilian prevention staff, worked from home for a significant portion of the year.



Significant Events

- ◆ 1/13 N. Richmond Sprinkler Save Fire
- ◆ 2/13 W. Pine St. Fire
- ◆ 2/22 W. Wisconsin Fire
- ◆ 6/20 W. Eighth St. Fire
- ◆ 8/18 Hancock St. Fire
- ◆ September Fox River Victim Recovery
- ◆ 9/26 W South St. Arson Fire
- ◆ 9/27 - 10/4 Light the Night
- ◆ 10/22 Fuji Ct. Gas Leak Fire
- ◆ 11/6 Fox River Water Rescue
- ◆ 11/28 Clark Street Fatal Fire



Fire Suppression Division

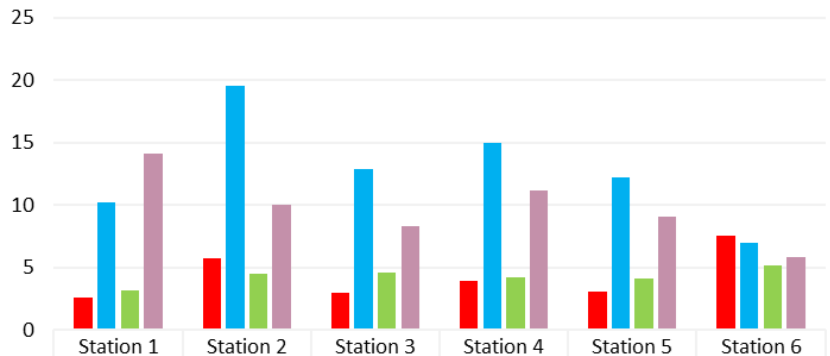


Ryan Weyers
Deputy Chief

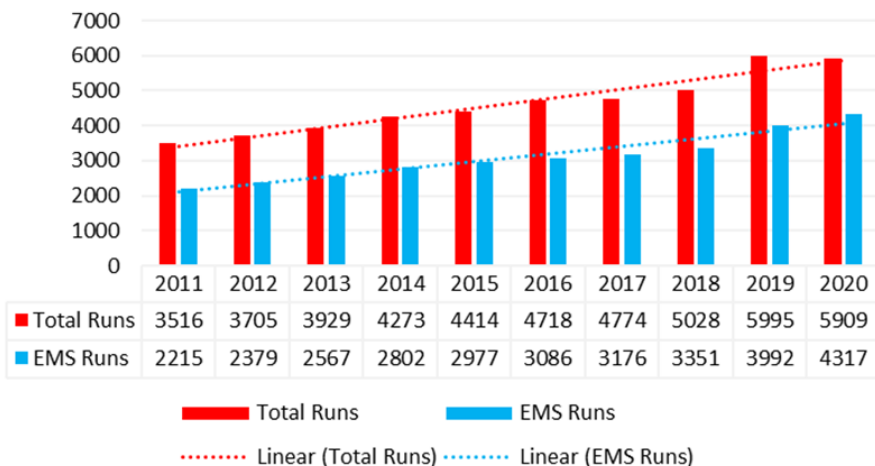
The Appleton Fire Department Suppression Division provides 24/7/365 emergency service to the City of Appleton residents along with regional partnerships for automatic aid for fire response with Grand Chute and mutual aid with agencies in Outagamie, Winnebago, and Calumet Counties. The Fire Suppression Division of the Appleton Fire Department is the largest division of the department and is under the direct supervision of Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Weyers. This division is charged with enhancing the quality of life to our community by providing a safe and healthy environment through our response. The Appleton Fire Department operates out of six strategically located fire stations throughout the city. Each of these stations has a designated fire district. The department is organized into five Engine companies, one Ladder company, one Quint company, and one Command vehicle. Trained personnel also cross-staff a technical rescue unit, two water rescue boats, a rapid response light rescue unit, and a regional hazardous materials unit. The Appleton Fire Department also utilizes management staff to serve additional command roles during emergency incidents.



Fire District Information



10 Year Call Volume



Special Operations



Doug Vrechek
Battalion Chief

Hazardous materials training has migrated to more tabletop exercises, and the team continues to respond to the general incidents. The “protect yourselves from the environment” mentality has suited the Haz Mat team well this year. The experience in personal protective equipment (PPE) has benefited many.

Technical rescue calls include a confined space rescue in the Village of Freedom, and the structural shoring of several buildings damaged by fire or vehicle accidents. Water rescues continue to represent many of these types of calls, and this year was no exception.

Training in all the technical rescue disciplines has progressed well. The Appleton Fire Department is adding personnel to these special assignments as outside training opportunities open up. The firefighter numbers are sufficient in these specialties, and those tasked with this responsibility continue to take a leadership role in these events.



Resource Development



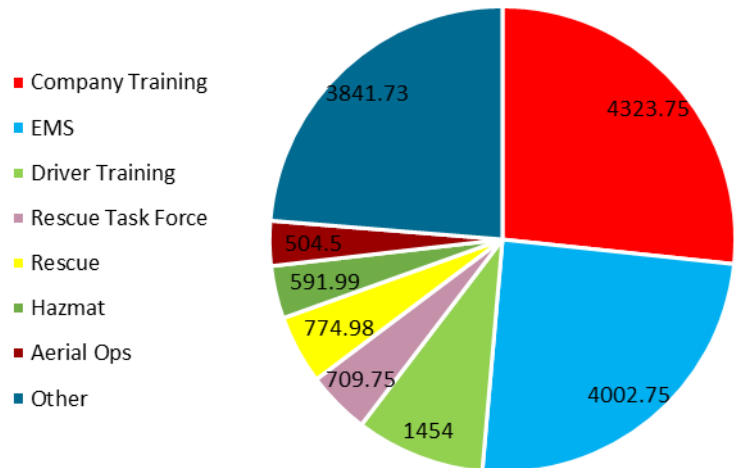
Doug Vrechek
Battalion Chief

In 2020, the Appleton Fire Department added five new members, pushing them through a rigorous six-week recruit academy. Their training continues on the job, as the last group of four recruits, hired in 2019, finish up their probationary period.

The department has learned to train in smaller groups and have focused on training that is more isolation friendly, rather than decrease the amount of training. The Appleton Fire Department has taken advantage of resources like Target Solutions, a web-based training platform, as well as many online opportunities. As we have pushed our crews onto distance learning venues, we've been able to take advantage of staying closer to our assigned fire districts, a new practice that will continue after the pandemic, to help with our response times.

- ◆ Total Training Hours: 16,203.45
- ◆ Average Hours per Person: 180.03
- ◆ Total Categories: 135
- ◆ Total Training Entries: 9,616
- ◆ Average Time per Training: 1hr 41min

Training Hours by Category



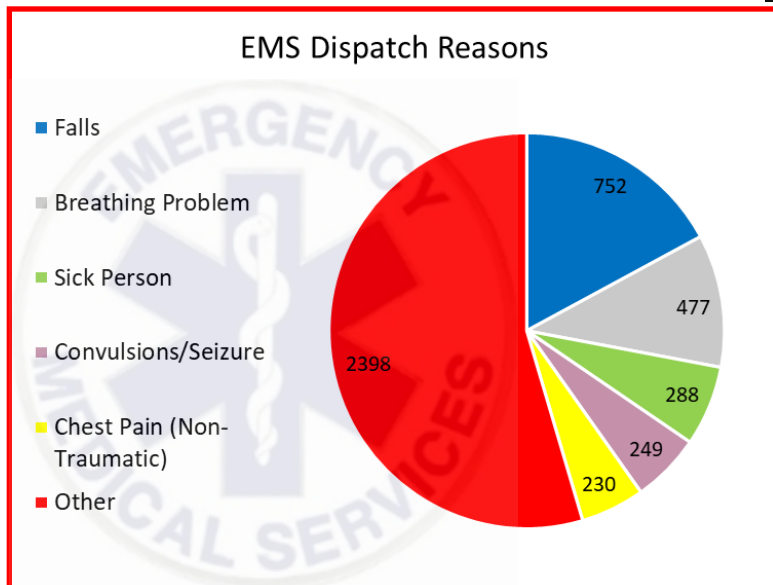
Emergency Medical Service



Doug Vrechek
Battalion Chief

This year, the department continues to commit to enhanced Emergency Medical Service (EMS) delivery. The Appleton Fire Department finished our second class of current firefighters, advancing their skills from Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), allowing additional skills and procedures to be provided to patients. The application to advance the current scope of practice was also approved, now the department will provide EMT service to our community starting January 1, 2021. The Fire Department staff has also been bolstered with additional paramedics.

The Tactical EMS (TEMS), also known as SWAT personnel recently received a letter of appreciation from the Aurora, IL Police Department, for their direct involvement in the apprehension of two attempted murder suspects in our community. The department's TEMS template is regarded as a model for other teams to emulate. This partnership with Appleton Police Department flourishes.

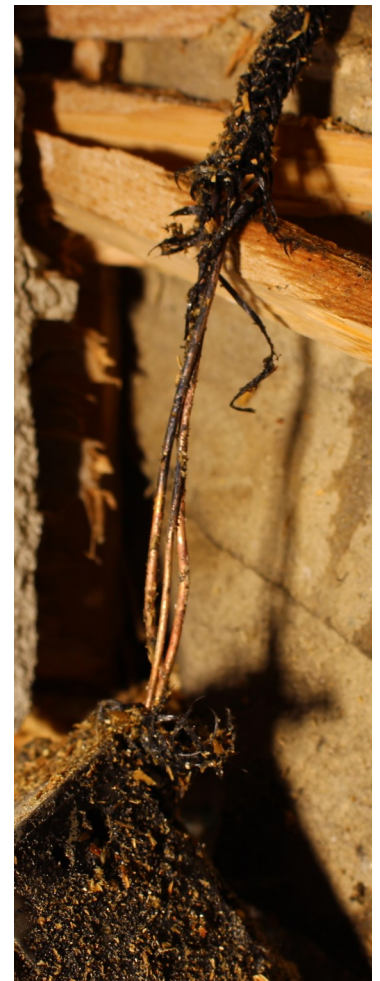


Prevention & Public Education

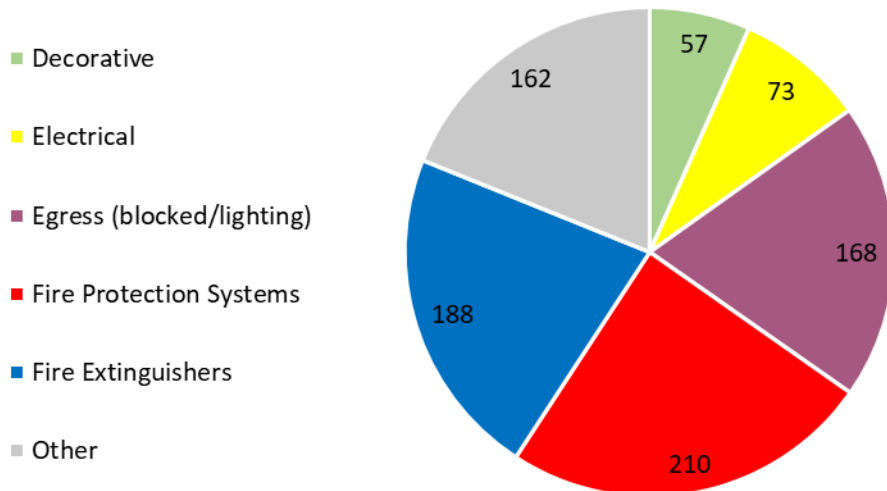


Derek Henson
Battalion Chief

The Fire Prevention Division had a difficult year in 2020. Due to COVID-19, public education events were mostly cancelled and inspections were postponed. Fire Prevention personnel needed to find ways to be productive elsewhere. Work began on a community based risk assessment. This will be a cornerstone for risk reduction decisions going forward. This assessment will also be a key component of the department's Standard of Cover, which will describe the level of performance the department delivers to the community. Public education was focused on social media and other safe events. In coordination with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, a Light the Night to Honor Fallen Heroes was held to honor Fallen D/E Mitch Lundgaard. The annual Keep the Wreath Green campaign was also held, resulting in three red bulbs, one for each structure fire during the holiday season. Even with COVID-19, there were still fires to investigate. In 2020, Firefighter/Inspectors began the process of becoming certified as fire investigators, with a goal of completing the process by the end of 2021.



Violations by Category



Awards & Personnel Updates

Ed King

2020 Employee of the Year



EMS Lifesaving Award

Doug Vrechek	Cody Peabody
Brian Cook	Adam Hansen
Tyler Zunker	Andrew Lane
Mike Becker	Jordan Ross
Adam Hansen	Scott Pelkin
Alex Smith	Jay Kjorlien
Bill Calaway	Tyler Mickelson
Dave Reigles	Travis Nate
Chris Britzke	Gerald Borski
Todd Bean	Scott Karpinski
Andy Dobbe	Mike Wiese
Steve Jahr	Cody Welsh

Recognition Award

Ethan Kroll
Derek Henson
Jake Kirchner

Retirements

Deputy Chief Darrel Baker
Driver/Engineer Jeff Maloney
Driver/Engineer Todd Daanen
Civ. Fire Inspector Dave Kempen

Promotions

Deputy Chief Ryan Weyers
Battalion Chief Doug Vrechek
Lieutenant Justin Brown
Driver/Engineer Kelly Lynch
Driver/Engineer Adam Hansen
Driver/Engineer Mark Deslauriers

New Hires

Civ. Fire Inspector Jose Saldivar
Firefighter Tyler Rusch
Firefighter Ryan Monaghan
Firefighter Sam Felauer
Firefighter Lukas Syrjamaki
Firefighter Jake Laack

Fire Department Staff

Fire Chief: Jeremy Hansen

Deputy Chief: Ryan Weyers

Assistant to the Fire Chief: Sharon Brochtrup

Battalion Chiefs:

Shannon Young	Jeff Felauer	Derek Henson
Ethan Kroll	Doug Vrechek	

Captains:

Mike Woodzicka	Joe Scott	Jason Lee
Mike Mueller	Rick James	Scott Pelkin

Lieutenants:

Chad Rucynski	Todd Bean	Jake Kirchner
Jeff Nelessen	Greg Cullen	Steve Unruh
Jeremy Hotynski	Jerry Borski	Michael Becker
Michelle Bialas	Corby Henkel	Adam Galica
Bill Calaway	Tim Meyer	Justin Brown

Driver Engineers:

Steve Kulas	Scott Karpinski	Andy Patz	Ryan Lee
Jay Kjorlien	Michelle Neeck-Lappen	Matt Gerrits	Tim Blob
Todd Daanen	Kraig Kasten	Mike Hietpas	Tyler Zunker
Darrin Butry	Gary Awe	Mark Delauriers	Kelly Lynch
Bryan Knauer	Ben Lee	Brad Brautigam	
Brian Cook	Dave Reigles	Adam Hansen	

Firefighter/Inspectors:

Jeremiah Detert	Tim Damrow	Bart Rakun
Nate Milhans	Keegan Murphy	Eric Winger

Firefighters:

Tim Lutz	Joe Kozikowski	Travis Nate	Cole Nelson
Chad Johnson	Chris Britzke	Matt Gloudemans	Tyler Rusch
Todd Hendricks	Casey Kostechka	Cody Walesh	Lukas Syrjamaki
Andy Dobbe	Michael Wirtz	Bryce Sternhagen	Jake Laack
Mike Wiese	Tyler Mickelson	Kyle Zuleger	Ryan Monaghan
Andy Lane	Riley Kubisiak	Casey Balczewski	Sam Felauer
Andy Webb	Steve Jahr	Cody Peabody	
Troy Kinley	Jordan Ross	Alex Smith	
Matt Dercks	David Hammer	Tim Verstegen	
Adam Paiser	Chad Donnay	Tyler Linehan	

Support Staff:

Training & Resource Development Specialist	Ed King
Fire Protection Engineer	Steve Patterson
Fire Inspector	Jose Saldivar
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Wilcox
Clerical Assistant	Sally Dickinson
Central Equipment Agency Mechanic	Paul Rynish

