

RICEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

COMPASSION

PROFESSIONALISM

COMMUNITY

DEDICATION

FAMILY

President of the Board of Directors: Mark Curran

Mark.curran@ricevillefire.org

828-298-2456

MISSION STATEMENT

**TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES TO THE RICEVILLE COMMUNITY AND SAFEGUARD LIFE AND
ITS QUALITY THROUGH TRAINING AND EDUCATION**



Riceville Volunteer Fire Department

2251 Riceville Rd. Asheville NC 28805

Phone: (828) 298-2456 Fax: (828) 298-7040

October 11, 2021

Mark Curran
Board of Directors, President
Riceville Volunteer Fire
Department 2251 Riceville Rd
Asheville, NC 28805

It is my pleasure to present the Riceville Volunteer Fire Department's 2020-2021 Annual Report. We are dedicated to our mission, "*...to protect the lives and property of the citizens of our district, and all those who may pass through, from fire and other emergencies*". The department strives to meet the needs of our community through the committed efforts of our firefighters.

As we look forward to 2021-2022 and beyond, we continue to accept the challenges presented by the economy, demands for service, staffing challenges, and ever-changing technology. We will constantly evaluate our operational platform to ensure it provides efficient and effective services to the community and make necessary changes when needed. The department also continues to collaborate regionally with other fire departments on training, specialized response teams (USAR and SMAT), purchase of the safest equipment, and mutual aid. These collaborations greatly reduce our overhead costs, while at the same time, allowing us to provide a broader array of services to the Riceville community.

The exceptional members of the Riceville Volunteer Fire Department are proud to serve citizens and guests of Riceville. The community is an outstanding community to live in, work in, and visit because of our dedicated personnel, reliable citizen support, and our diversity. Please accept my genuine thanks and appreciation for your continued investment in the future of our community.

If you have any questions regarding your fire department, please contact me at (828)-298-2456 or via email at mark.curran@ricevillefire.org

Respectfully yours,

Mark Curran

Annual Meeting Financial Report

Riceville Volunteer

Fire Department

2021

Financial Notes

- Position**
- Operating Reserve Fund- \$150,000.00
 - Vehicle Fund - \$75,000.00
 - Building Fund- \$112,000.00

- Planned for funding of Operating Reserve, Vehicle Fund and Building Fund for future improvements
- Have been notified as a recipient of a regional FEMA grant funds to replace aging Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, a savings to department funds.
- Working to replace apparatus and expiring or older equipment as well as maintenance to the building and grounds.

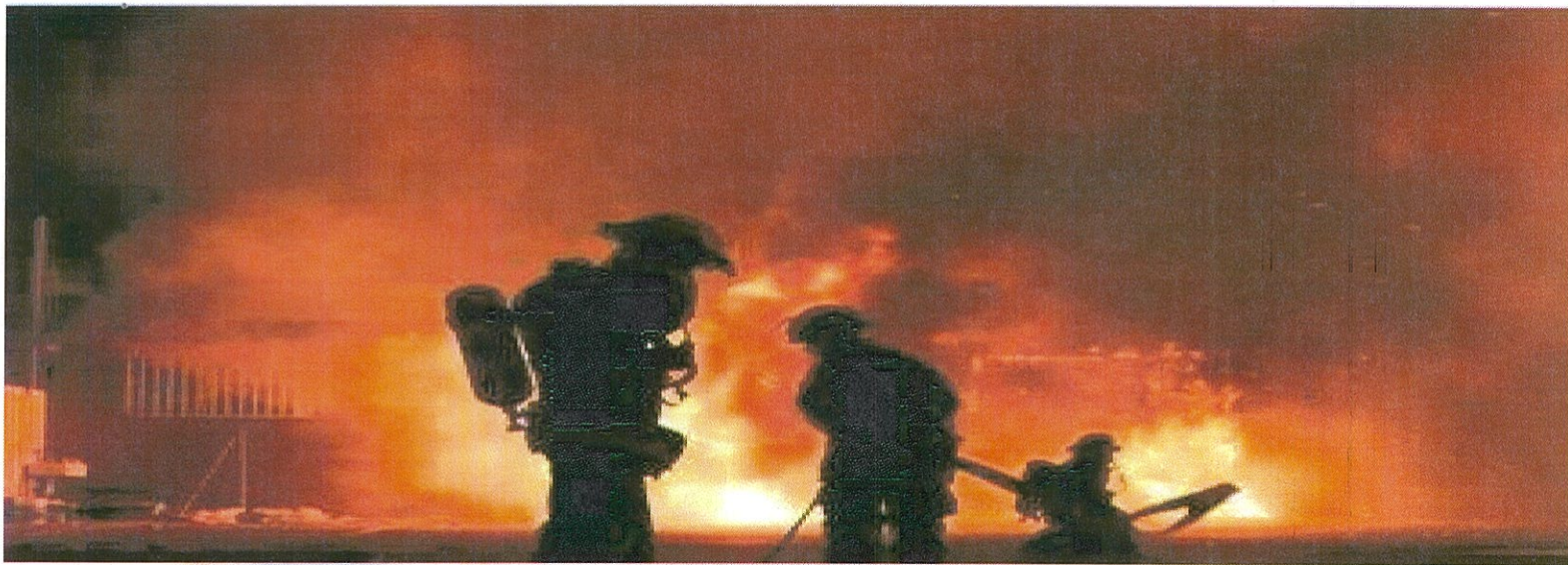
Major Expenses

- 1110 Ambulance Payment- \$47,000
- E-11-2 Payment \$86,500

Our Mission

To provide professional fire and emergency medical services to the Riceville Community and safeguard the quality of life through training and education.

RICEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL



FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT 2020-2021

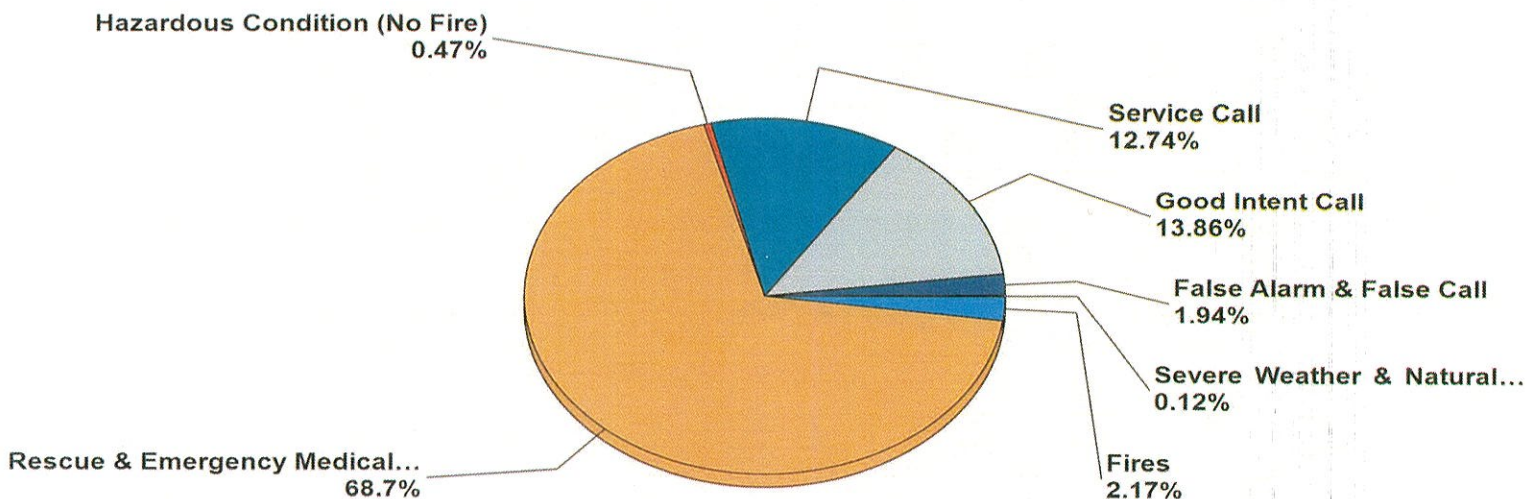
Chief Tom Kelly
chief@ricevillefire.org
2251 Riceville Rd
Asheville, NC 28805
828-298-2456
Website: ricevillefire.org

1st quarter Fire 5 EMS 314 Service 135 Other 1 total 455 calls

2nd quarter Fire 10 EMS 244 Service 110 Other 1 total 365 calls

3rd quarter Fire 15 EMS 279 Service 124 Other 0 total 404 calls

4th quarter Fire 7 EMS 341 Service 131 Other 0 total 474 calls



Firefighters are a department's greatest resource. The biggest station, newest apparatus, and most technically advanced equipment will do nothing to save lives without firefighters. Riceville Volunteer Fire Department has highly trained and dedicated firefighters. Having the appropriate staffing levels and training is critical to our mission of protecting our community from fire and other emergencies, as well as providing Emergency Medical Services.

Response times (Dispatch to Arrival)

EMS 09:11 Fire 08:50

269 overlapping calls

Average time on scene 20:41

Busiest day of the week: Tuesday

Apparatus response

1110 – 1146 calls

E 11 – 88 calls

E 113 – 5 calls

Tanker 11 – 75 calls

1120 – 91 calls

E 112 – 92 calls

Br 11 – 81 calls

Tac 11 – 589 calls

591-MAN HOURS PER MONTH TOTAL 7095 HOURS

NO LOSS OF LIFE AS A RESULT OF FIRE

\$3000 PROPERTY LOSS AS A RESULT OF FIRE

CHALLENGES FOR RESPONSE TIMES TO

EASTMOOR HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED

2021 Annual FLSE Report

The Fire Life Safety Report is as follows.

1. We had 3 events this year. We have had events canceled due to Covid-19.
2. We also lost two daycares in the past year.
3. We had a car seat check at Verner that we partnered with WNC Safe Kids.
4. We had checked many child safety seats and given many station and truck tours this past year.

❖ **Verner car seat check**

- ❖ We checked 3 seats and gave out safety information to about 100 kids and their parents

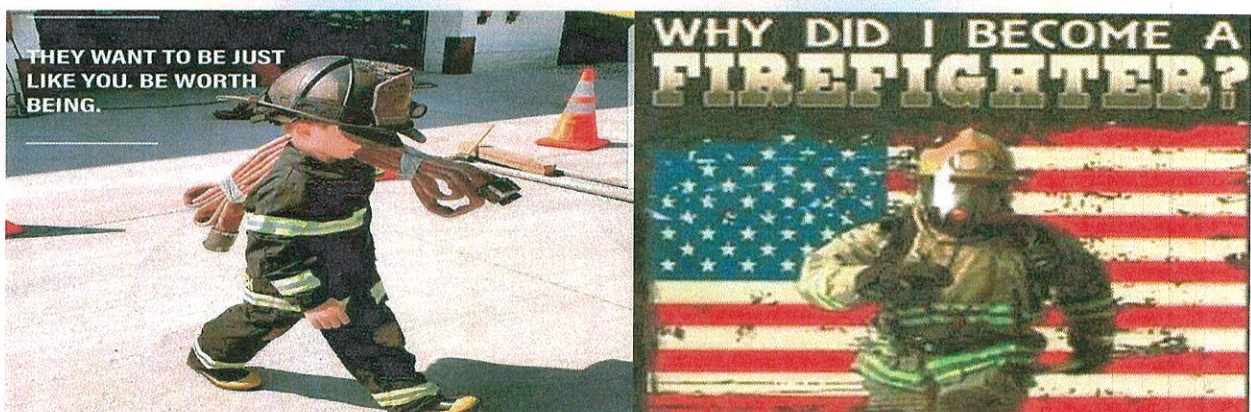
❖ **Bethel Church Homecoming**

- During church services the new Fire Chief was introduced to the congregation. After services, spoke with community members on Fire Department Operational plans and needs for Community Risk Reduction. Also spoke of partnerships with the community and how to help serve with the Fire Department
- We interacted with 30 of the congregation.

❖ **Verner child and development center Fire safety day**

- We gave Safety programs on this day to all 7 of their classes.
- We also gave fire truck tours and gave out safety information.
- 100 Kids and 20 Adults

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we used social media to send several Community Risk Reduction messages. Tracking Facebook we are showing 400% increase of interaction with our followers. We are also seeing greater interaction via our web page, receiving emails from links on the web page.





RICEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL TRAINING REPORT

Jason McEntire

Division Chief / Training Officer

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Asheville, NC 28805

828-298-2456

Website: ricevillefire.org



2021 ANNUAL MEETING TRAINING REPORT

- Riceville VFD has had: **3670.6** total training hours from October 1, 2020 thru September 30, 2021. That is down from **5134.25** total training hours from the previous years' time frame and should come up some when members complete their transfer hours.
- Riceville VFD currently holds **477** NC State and national accredited certifications. **31** new certifications have been acquired since October 1, 2020.
 - Out of those certifications, Riceville has the following;
 - 10- EMT-Basic
 - 15- EMT-Intermediate
 - 16 - EMT-Paramedic
 - 27- NC Certified Firefighters
 - 22 - NC Driver/Operators
 - 19 – NC Technical Rescuers
- Riceville currently host multiple Continuing Education hours per year for EMS.
 - This has been expanded to 96 opportunity hours annually to help members meet their CE requirements.
 - Working on assisting members that hold American Heart Certifications (ACLS, PALS, etc.) with scheduling recertification classes.
 - The State of NC OEMS has also been in the process of adjusting requirements for EMS providers. We have been working hard to make sure Riceville is ahead and ready for any and all of the changes to EMS.
- Fire Training projects
 - Working on scheduling required training topics that gain maximum points for the NC OSFM/DOI Rating system to assist to maximize training points for our next rating. Below is a breakdown of training hour per category per member annually to achieve maximum points. These hours are needed per member;
 - Facility Training -18 hrs
 - Company Training-192 hrs
 - Haz Mat Training -6 hrs
 - Officer- 12 hrs
 - Drivers Training - 12 hrs
- Training division is working diligently to help members get through requested programs by deadlines for changes to NFPA standards and transition to new standards
 - NFPA 1001: FF standards change deadline is December 31, 2021

Chief Kelly's Summary

2020 was to be the year we would be challenged and tested daily. 2021 was to be a rebuilding year as COVID-19 would be a bad memory. Choices to vaccinate or not to vaccinate certainly influenced the spread back into our communities. Production of common medical equipment has once again slowed down. As the allocation of items including the most needed PPE, gloves, has once again been placed by the suppliers. When gloves are available, we are seeing prices originally less than \$10 per box of 50 are now \$25-\$30 per box. Other related issues to COVID-19 more so now than last year is staffing as many have become more cautious. Many shifts are going unfilled because there is simply no one to work our mandated skilled positions. The labor market is now global, rather than a local problem. We will need to re-evaluate our staffing benefits and seriously quantify pay studies on a regular basis to remain competitive for what few solid candidates who want to work here.

COVID-19 response

We are transporting at least 2 COVID-19 positive patients daily. Many are being transported every other day as they develop moderate to severe breathing issues. Along with gloves, our supply of COVID-19 PPE that was paid for by FEMA, is now dwindling down without a viable resource for replacement. Without additional Federal Funding, we may be using a greater portion of our line item funds that were designated for other needed items.

Support teams

We will continue to provide specialized rescue teams due to money spent for the training and the specific PPE. Natural disasters will not stop, nor will we. Our Firefighters and EMS staff bring very special and needed skills to work with them each day and when we are called for assistance we will do our best to provide and still provide care for our district through our in-house Emergency Operations Planning.

Regional FEMA Grant

Riceville VFD as well as Swannanoa FD, Black Mountain FD, and Broad River Fire Departments were awarded nearly \$780,000 to purchase new SCBA with 2 bottles and 1 mask per unit.

Riceville VFD committed to purchasing 26 XP3 Pro SCOTT SCBA with 15 additional masks due to pricing from SCOTT/3M. We will be taking possession and begin training by late November. Fit testing will be scheduled for all firefighters. Riceville's share of the grant funds to be paid by Riceville is less than \$20,000.

Chief Kelly's Summary

gear is approximately \$3000 each. If we don't continue to fund this allocation, only 12 more sets of gear can be purchased before the allocation has a zero balance. Additionally, if gear cannot be replaced after 10 years, the number of active firefighters will also have to be reduced, thus greatly impacting the safety of our firefighters and citizens.

Pumper and Tanker Replacement

The retirement, and replacement, of our primary pumper will be considered within the next five years. The department tries to replace each of our pumpers on a 20-year cycle. This pumper is a 2006 making it 15 years old. Many safety concerns have arisen over the past two years. On several occasions, the apparatus has been removed from service, for an extended length of time, for mechanical problems that involve a reduced supply of parts. Unlike a personal vehicle, fire apparatus must use manufactures recommended parts to remain compliant. We have estimated the cost to replace a compatible tanker will be approximately \$525,000 to \$600,000 depending on equipment needs. To plan for a compatible engine will need approximately \$675,000 to \$750,000 depending on equipment needs as well.

Other apparatus will be on a short list for replacement as well. Engine 11-3 while an much needed critical piece of equipment due to being 4-wheel drive, will now need bi-annual pump service testing to remain in compliance for our NCDOI rating as our second due on structure fires. Tanker 11 was built in 2006 as primarily a water tender, hauling water with minimal equipment. It too will begin becoming difficult to maintain as parts continue to no longer be available.

Primary and Secondary EMS Transport 1110 and 1120

Maintenance issues have plagued 1110 for many years as the mileage increases. With the final payments being made, we should begin to plan a remount within 2 years as the new unit we are looking to purchase will be in service. Each year to better take care of the primary and secondary units will have a plan in place to rotate their roles for service. Equipment is constantly improving for quality patient care and we will stay vigilant to alternative funding for changes.

Chief's vehicle

Upon accepting the Fire Chief's position I made the decision to use the older Tahoe and let the firefighter have the 2015 Tahoe for the Medical Response vehicle due to safety features needed for rapid response. The Chief's vehicle has been built into the budget and will need to be replaced within the next 6 months as it approaches 190,000 miles and repairs are occurring more frequently.

Chief Kelly's Summary

Communications equipment

A few years ago, the Buncombe County Firefighters' Association, as well as other agencies in Buncombe County, formed a Communication Committee to investigate issues related to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) order to narrow band (P25 compliant) all public radio frequencies. Now we have aging communication equipment that parts are no longer readily available. We currently have 3 different radios making management of equipment difficult when preventative maintenance is required. When pricing radios cheapest is of the best move for our firefighters and the department replacing every 3-5 years due to poorly manufactured equipment.



Thank you for your support!