

Cartersville Fire Department



2020

Annual Report



Dedication

This report is dedicated to all of the lives lost due to COVID pandemic. It is dedicated to all first responders and health care workers who have worked countless hours to save and help heal those afflicted. It is dedicated to the families of those responders and health care workers as they sacrificed and prayed for their loved ones who stood in harm's way to take care of others. During this year 2020, the year of COVID.



Scott Carter, Mark Bagley, Tim McClung, Hagen Champion, Mark Hathaway, Ronnie Cowart, Mitchell Bagley and John Paschal have written this report. Special photographs and artwork by Michele Bledsoe. A special thank you to all involved.



City of Cartersville

F I R E D E P A R T M E N T



1/27/2021

This is a look back at the year 2020. You will find a comprehensive review of operations, response, accomplishments and challenges. It is my hope that you will enjoy and learn from our Annual Report. This is a year like none other. In January, we saw the beginning of our COVID-19 Pandemic. This shook our organization to its very core. Firefighters having to live in fear of carrying infections home to their families, ever-changing protocols dealing with biohazards, watching a community mourn loss, working with minimal staff, minimal rest and minimal resources.

While I have always been grateful for our support, this year it has been felt more than ever. I have always admired the firefighters of this great City. They are truly my heroes. No matter what the circumstances are, they have fought and they have prevailed. It is my humble honor to be allowed to serve as Fire Chief for the City of Cartersville. If I, or any of our staff, can provide details or assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

With Respect, I Am,

Scott Carter, Fire Chief

scarter@cityofcartersville.org

OUR MISSION

*Above all we prevent,
protect and provide*



*with professionalism,
purpose and passion*

Above All- above all of the noise, distractions, doubt, obstacles and challenges our focus will remain.

We- not I, not me, but us, we will reach our mission together in one accord

Prevent- prevention is key, we will strive to educate, properly enforce codes, stop death and destruction before it can occur to make our community safer for our Citizens and guest.

Protect- using our training, experience, courage and knowledge. We will stand in harm's way to battle fires and disasters facing our community.

Provide- service to our community addressing needs with dedication and compassion.

With- all of this will be done with

Professionalism- competence, skillfulness and efficiency. Not allowing minimum standards to be our maximum. We will strive to be an industry leader and example.

Purpose- knowing that we have been created to fulfill a calling of service and sacrifice. We are here for a reason.

Passion- this is our compelling desire to be firefighters, to walk where others will not go. To believe and to belong with enthusiasm.



Cartersville Fire Department



Senior Officers



Scott Carter

Fire Chief



Mark Bagley

Battalion Chief

A Battalion



Tim McClung

Battalion Chief

B Battalion



Hagen Champion

Battalion Chief

C Battalion



Mark Hathaway

Fire Marshal



Ronnie Cowart

Training Chief





2020 Officers



Capt. Mitchell Bagley



Capt. Chris Edge



Capt. Chad Hendrix



Capt. Shannon Horn



Capt. Michael Mitchell



Capt. Heath Patterson



Capt. Eric Williams



Lt. J. Amerson



Lt. K. Clark



Lt. D. Crocker



Lt. M. Daniel



Lt. M. Elrod



Lt. J. Hill



Lt. M. Hyde



Lt. D. Lanier



Lt. T. Key



Lt. T. McFadden



Lt. J. Paschal

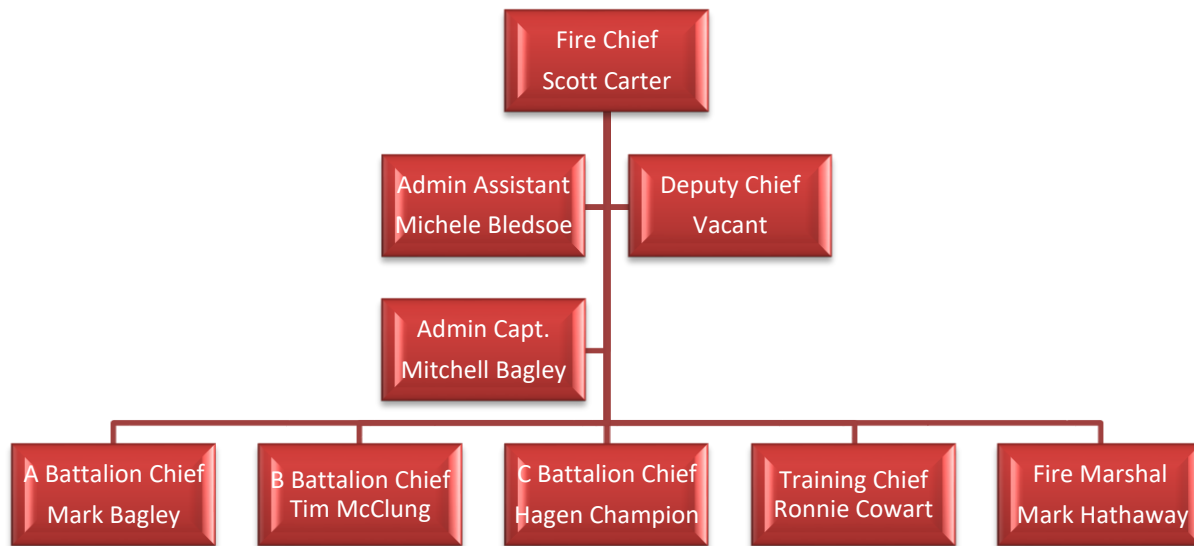


Lt. C. Stewart

We

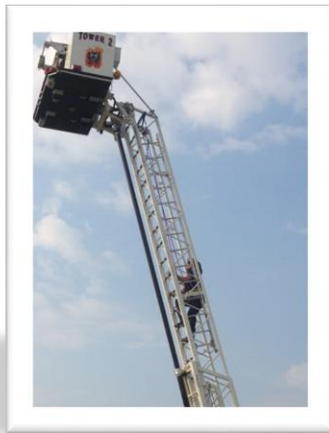
The mission statement for Cartersville Fire Department begins with the words, "Above All We". This organization's foundation is the "We". For in the fire service there is no individual, everything is based on the team concept. From the tailboard to the front office, this organization is driven by a "We" approach.

Cartersville Fire Department is organized is known as a span of control type organization. Our department is broken into different sub groups that all work toward one mission. There are three primary divisions. All under the control of the Fire Chief. The three Primary divisions are Suppression, Fire Marshal Division and Training Division. While each group has specific tasks and goals that are specialized, they all work in harmony to create a positive outcome as a whole.



Cartersville Fire Department is made up of a staff of 74 personnel positions. This includes 22 positions per day working a 24 hours on duty 48 hours off duty schedule. They cover four stations and 7 pieces of first response emergency apparatus. The remaining 8 positions cover administration, Fire Marshal division and training division.

Becoming a firefighter is not an easy task. An individual interested in becoming a firefighter must be at least 18 years of age, graduated high school or obtained a GED, and must have a clean criminal history with no felony convictions, along with meeting additional selection criteria as established by Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council. On an annual basis, Cartersville Fire Department will conduct a competitive hiring assessment. This is based on background, qualification screening, physical agility testing, comprehensive testing and a series of interviews from City of Cartersville Human Resources, Cartersville Fire Administration and staff.



From the time that applications are received, the process to select new firefighters can take up to six months because this is such an extensive process. Once a firefighter pool is established, it is maintained as a hiring pool for the department for a specific period.

Once a firefighter candidate is selected, they will begin an extensive education and certification path. This will begin with a rookie school where all basic aspects of the firefighter profession are covered. Everything from the history of firefighting and Cartersville Fire to fire chemistry, rescue operations, incident command, hazardous materials and emergency medical response. Rookie school is a minimum of 12 weeks and 500 plus hours of instruction. They then must meet an aggressive educational track for the first 48 months to reach many national certifications in firefighting, special operations and emergency medical technician. Cartersville Fire's career path will guide a firefighter through all positions within the department from day 1.



Since 2019, Cartersville Fire Department has welcomed six new firefighters to the ranks. They have begun their career of dedication and service. They are now learning their part of “We”.



FF B. Cronin



FF D. Hall



FF K. Mills



FF A. Moore



FF C. Moss



FF A. Thaxton

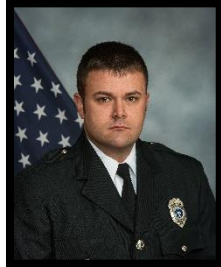
The ranking structure for the Cartersville Fire Department



The following were promoted to new leadership positions within our department since 2019-2020. There were three promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Those are Seth Bachman, Rusty Gwinn and Dave Williams. Our newest Line officers are Daniel Lanier and John Paschal. Heath Patterson accepted a new leadership role as Captain of suppression.



Sgt. S. Bachman



Sgt. R. Gwinn



Sgt. D. Williams



Lt. Daniel Lanier



Lt. John Paschal



Captain Heath Patterson

Since 2019, we have seen the retirement of four. While it is a major loss of experience, each of them have left behind a legacy of service to this department and this community. It is with a humble heart that we say thank you to Sgt. Robert Carlton, Lt. Stephen Ogle, Capt. Chris Wallace and Deputy Chief Ray King.



Robert Carlton



Stephen Ogle



Chris Wallace



Ray King

Cartersville Fire Department began in 1889. Since day one, it has been about protecting, saving lives and keeping this great community safe. There have been many changes since that day. Through all of the changes, there has always been “We” with an above all attitude.



New Station 3



On January 23, 2020, the initial certificate of occupancy was issued for the new Fire Station #3 and fire trucks began to roll from this location. This station is located at #15 Charley Harper Dr. This 10,615 sq. ft. station is located 1.51 acres. This was the anchor site for the Village Hill development. This station has three 80 ft. apparatus bays to house fire apparatus and other emergency equipment. The cost of this station was approximately 3.5 million dollars. This was funded through special local option sales tax (S.L.O.S.T.).

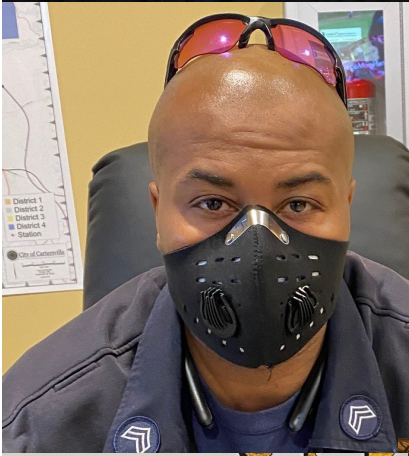
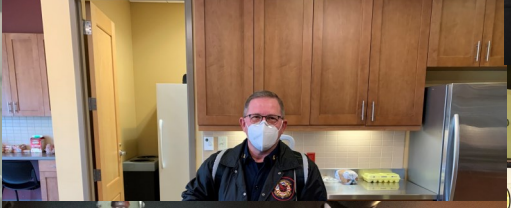
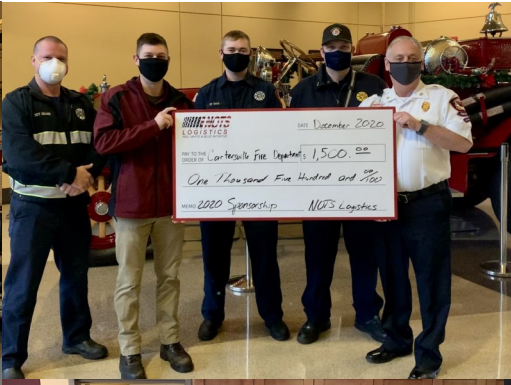
Breaking ground on 10/12/2019 the station had its official open house on March 5, 2020. This was just before the State of Georgia was shut down because of the pandemic. The station



was constructed by ABuck construction, designed by Croft Architecture and Southland Engineering. Built to house eight firefighters it will last for many decades of service to the community. This station location also improved the coverage area for many locations on the southern portion of our City.

This station was a total team effort and could not have been completed without the support of Mayor and Council, city administration and most of all the citizens of this great city.



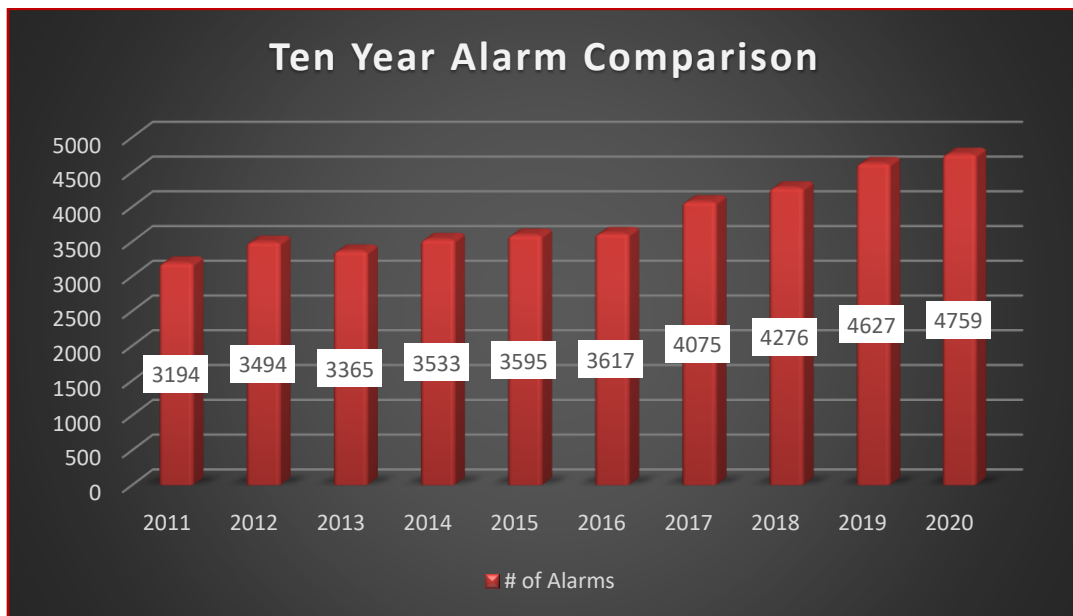


2020 Alarm Response



Emergency response looked very different in 2020 because of the pandemic. Emergency response protocols had to be rewritten because of COVID-19. All emergency request were handled in a new way that would protect citizens and responders. No calls for help were left unanswered, no matter the risk.

Our department answered 4759 calls for emergency assistance from citizens, guest and other agencies. There was a modest increase of 2.9% from 2019 to 2020. The ten-year alarm trend for the department shows almost an approximate 49% increase in call volume over that period.



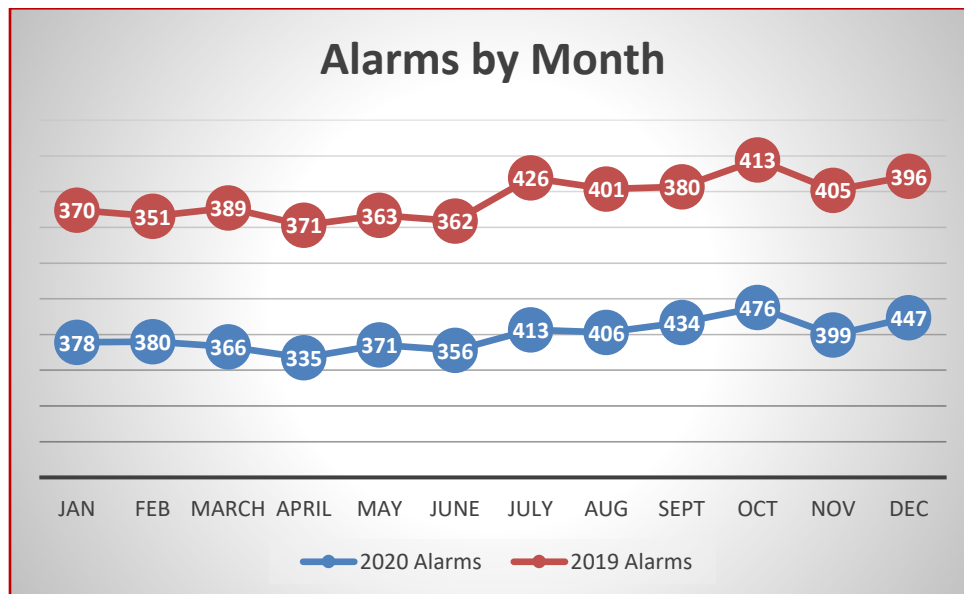
It is anticipated, based on current historical data and trends that by the year 2029 CFD will respond to just over 7000 emergency alarms. It should be understood that growth this will be

directly related to the growth of the community. This is a critical projection for future strategic plans.

The following table reflects the changes per category from 2019 to 2020.

Type	2019	2020	% Difference
Structure Fires	26	27	+ 3.8%
All other Fires	74	81	+9.5 %
Medical	2581	2730	+ 5.8%
Motor vehicle accident	301	196	-34.89 %
Public Assist	204	253	+24%
Dispatch / Canceled	300	390	+30%
False Alarm	275	272	-1.1%
Hazardous Materials	54	49	-9.3%
All other types	812	761	-6.3%
Total	4627	4759	+2.9%

Below you will see a month by month comparison for calls. Our busiest month in 2020 was the month of October with 476 alarms. April was the lowest for 2020 with 335 alarms. On average, we respond to 396.5 alarms each month with an average of 13.03 per day.

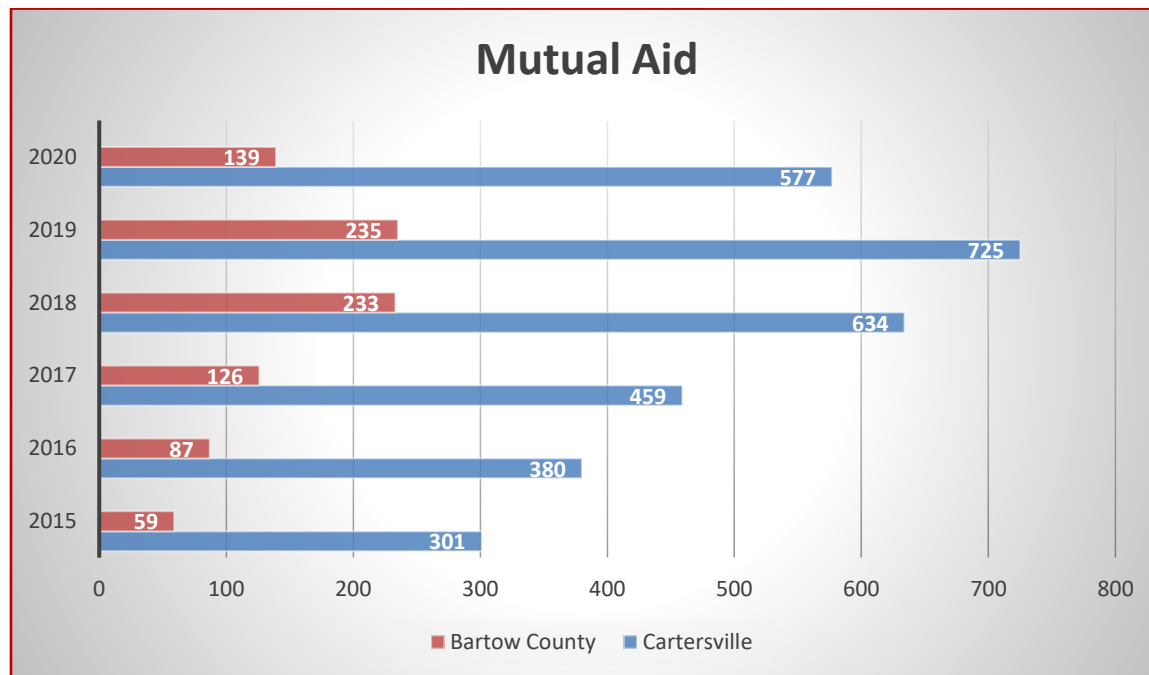


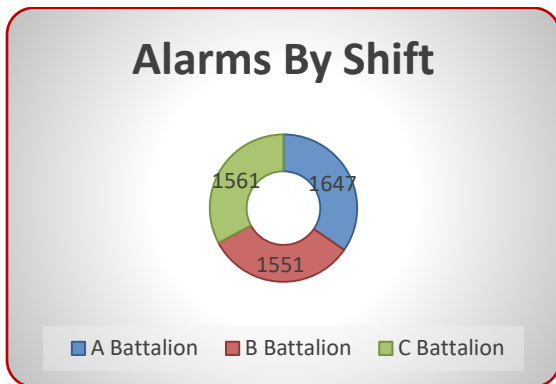
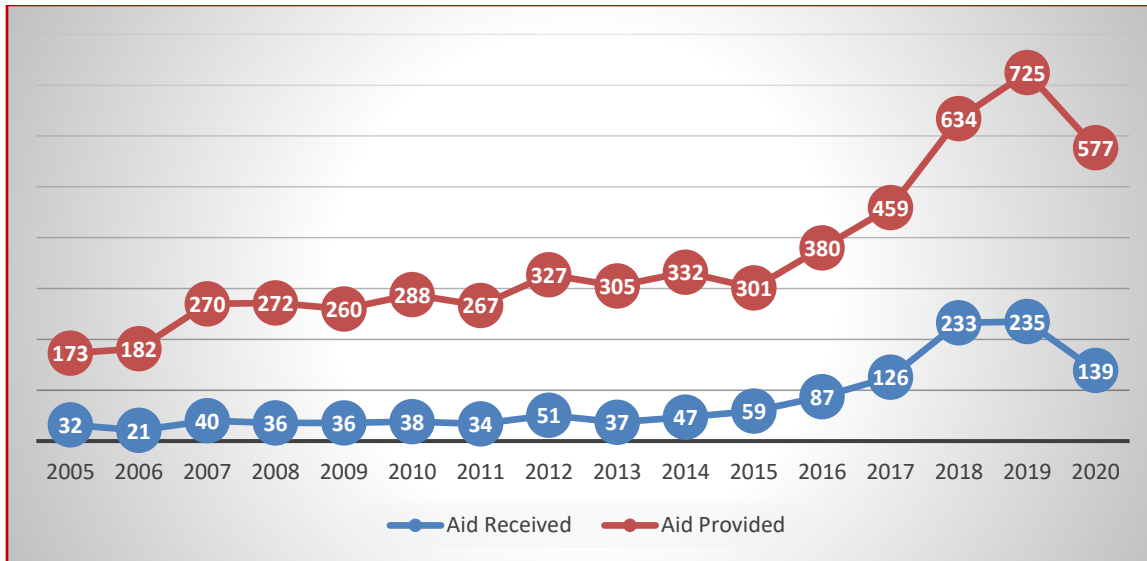
It is interesting to note the effects of COVID on alarm response. The lowest number of alarms were in April of 2020. The shelter in place order went into effect in April, with a ban on large

gatherings in March. Our calls spiked in October, which was also a low point for COVID cases in Bartow County. Citizens were more active in October. The shelter in place also explains the drastic decrease in Motor Vehicle Accidents. Less cars on the road equaled fewer accidents. Our public assist increased by 24%. This is in direct correlation to the sheltering in place. There was an increased fall potential and assistance needed by our aging population.

In addition to assisting the citizens and guests within the City of Cartersville, our department also responds to the request of other agencies outside of our City. The department has an automatic / mutual aid agreement with Bartow County Fire Department. In 2020, Cartersville Fire answered requests from Bartow County 577 times. This was the lowest level of assistance since 2017 for both departments.

The following charts reflect those trends.

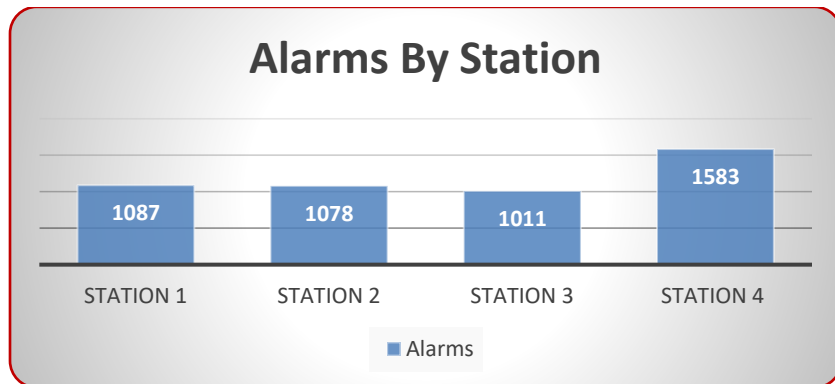




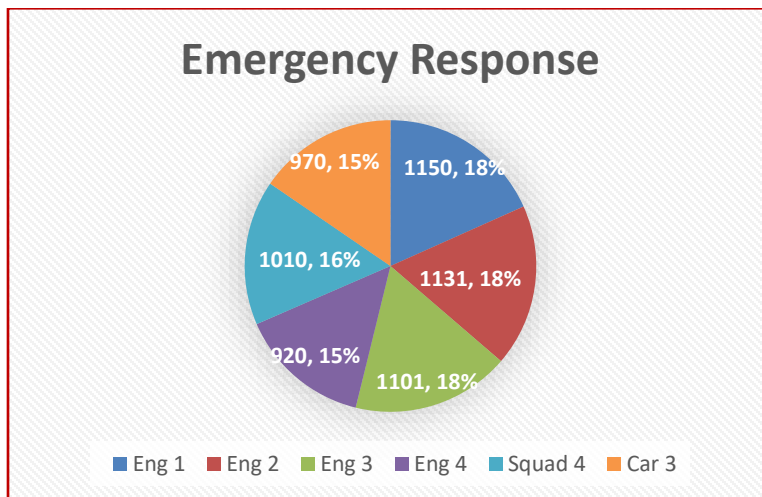
Cartersville Fire Department currently operates four fire stations on a three shift rotation basis. Each shift is 24 hours. A Battalion answered the most alarms with 1647 calls for assistance while B Battalion answered 1551 and A Battalion 1561 respectively. This chart reflects the breakdown of alarms by shift for 2020.

Station #4 located on MLK Jr. Drive continues to be the busiest station in the City. The remaining three stations are about equal on call. Station 2 remains the busiest with automatic aid calls. Running 56.5% of all automatic aid calls from Bartow County. Thirty percent of Station 2's total call volume is outside the City limits. While this number may seem high, it is down drastically from 2019. That year they responded into the county a total of 577 times compared to

326 in 2020. This decrease is due to a redrawing of the AA districts between Bartow and Cartersville.



The busiest engine company in the city in 2020 was Engine #1. The chart below reflects the response numbers for all apparatus.



A few other interesting facts concerning the 2020 alarms are:

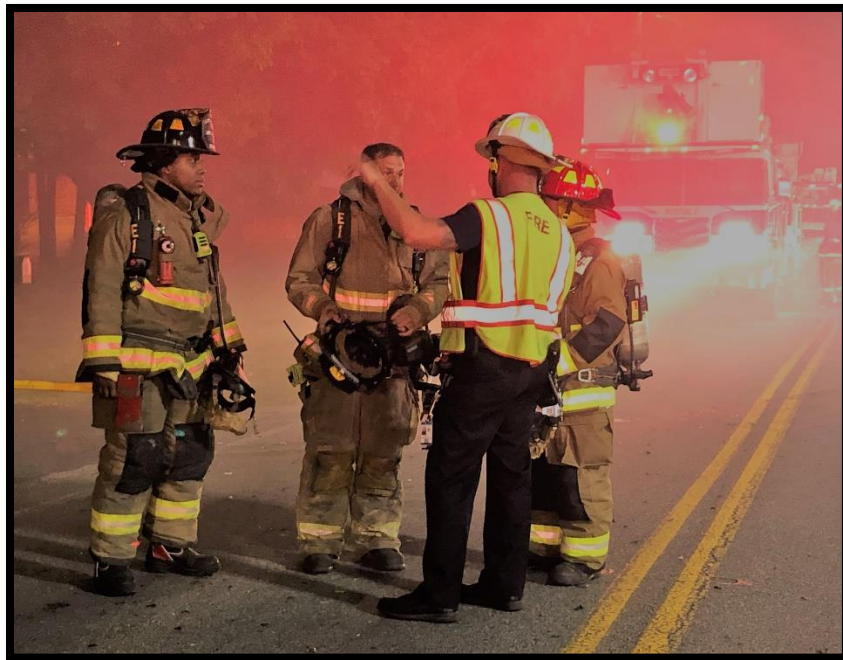
- The average response time for Cartersville Fire was 4 minutes and 56 seconds for emergency call within the City.
- We average 13 calls per day of which 8.22 of those are emergency medical alarms.
- It takes an average of 1 minute 14 seconds for fire personnel to go in route once we receive the call from 911.
- Over 12 % of the departments call volume is outside of the city limits providing aid to Bartow County and its citizens.
- Emergency apparatus responded 6749 times to answer 4759 alarms. This means that 1990 alarms required multiple pieces of equipment to mitigate the emergency. That is

over 41.8 % of the total call volume. An increase of 11% over 2019 that required multiple apparatus to mitigate emergencies.

- The busiest day of the week is Thursday with the slowest day being Wednesday. There is only a 2% difference in the rate of calls from slowest to busiest days. Conclusion; every day is busy at Cartersville Fire
- Busiest hour of the day is between 5 to 6 PM. 28% of our total call volume is ran between 4 PM and 9 PM.
- Quietest hour of the day is between 3 AM and 4 AM
- The average dollar loss in one and two family dwelling during structure fires in 2020 was \$226.00 per fire.

All calls were diverse and our citizen's needs were many but there was one common theme on all calls. That common thread is that the firefighters of Cartersville maintained a compassionate commitment to the mitigation of these emergencies.

Above all, we have been doing so since 1889.





Insurance Service Organization (I.S.O.)

Part of our mission statement says, "Above all WE." This is truly what it takes to receive, and maintaining a Class 1 ISO rating. From the front-line firefighter, senior staff, city administration, elected officials, Water Department, and most importantly, our citizens. ISO uses a rating scale of 10 to 1 based on a variety of scoring criteria. The Cartersville Fire Department was a Class 5 in 1976, Class 4 in 1981, Class 3 in 2004 and obtained a Class 1 rating in 2015. An ISO Class 1 represents an exemplary fire suppression program, that goes to the top level in providing service to its citizens. By receiving this renewal of Class One rating, the Cartersville Fire Department puts its name alongside 1% of the finest departments in America. With this rating, the City of Cartersville becomes a very attractive place for new industry and commercial growth.

The Insurance Service Organization conducted its survey in March of 2019, just as the department began recognizing a new threat to our community. Covid-19. There were areas of improvements in our score. Our communication score increased 3 points, or 45%. This is a direct result of the investment our citizens made with the new radio and computer aided dispatch system that was funded through S.P.L.O.S.T. The Community Risk Reduction increased as all from 5.47 to 5.49, just one 1 hundredth of a point from a perfect score. This score is calculated on criteria relating to Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement, Public Fire Safety Education, and Fire Investigation Programs. The overall score for the Cartersville Fire Department was 91.95 out of a possible 105.5.

Category	Possible Points	2015	2020	Difference
Emergency Communications	10	6.62	9.65	3.03
FD Engine Company	6	6	6	0.00
Reserve Pumpers	0.5	0.42	0.5	0.08
Pump Capacity	3	3	3	0.00
Ladder Service	4	3.96	2.84	-1.12
Reserve Ladder/Service	0.5	0.46	0.45	-0.01
Deployment Analysis	10	9.96	8.42	-1.54
Company Personnel	15	11.43	9.44	-1.99
Training	9	8.64	8.48	-0.16
Operational Considerations	2	2	2	0.00
Water Supply System	30	29.11	28.46	-0.65
Water Hydrants	3	2.99	2.99	0.00
Water Inspection and Flow Testing	7	7	7	0.00
Divergence		-1.2	-2.77	-1.57
Community Risk	5.5	5.47	5.49	0.02
	105.5	95.86	91.95	-3.91

Class 1 rating is one of the factors used to determine fire insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses. The premiums are based on the quality of service and fire protect available. This top rating, means City of Cartersville property owners could get the lowest premium possible in that area of insurance. According to the ISO, “a community’s investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire loss.”

For the City of Cartersville citizens, business owners, and visitors to Cartersville a Class 1 rating demonstrates:

1. Quick response to community needs
2. Risk mitigation at the highest possible standard
3. A stellar commitment to preserve life, property and environment.

As we look to the future, the Cartersville Fire Department is committed to provide a high level of service to is citizens through new and innovative ways, maintaining a strong working relationship with city officials, administration, and departments. “Above all WE will prevent, protect and provide with professionalism, purpose and passion.” Now and into the future.

Fleet Report

In February of 1918 the City of Cartersville purchased its first motorized fire apparatus for a price of \$9000. Since that purchase, the City of Cartersville has purchased 18 more fire apparatus over the years with the last one purchased in 2018 for a price of \$485,843 for the fire apparatus without all the needed equipment. On all of our apparatus, we follow the NFPA recommendations on service, which is 10 years on the front



line and 10 years as a reserve before total replacement of an engine. NFPA states that all fire apparatus over 25 years old should be replaced. We are currently in the process of designing



the specifications for a new aerial apparatus because the reserve aerial is 26 years old. It is hoped that this apparatus will be ordered in 2021 and received in 2022.

Over the years, Cartersville Fire Department has worked very hard to maintain a very dependable and proficient fleet of fire apparatus and

equipment. The preventive maintenance on the apparatus is performed on a routine basis based off a combination of mileage and hours ran. As a standard in the fire service, each hour that a fire apparatus is running is equivalent to 60 miles of driving on a regular automobile.

Currently the City of Cartersville Garage and Ten 8, who is also the dealer for Pierce fire apparatus, perform all of the preventive maintenance. Personnel inside the Cartersville Fire Department primarily perform the routine maintenance on the fire pumps and firefighting parts of the apparatus. Something that has been an added responsibility for 2020 is extra decontamination of the apparatus and equipment after calls concerning possible Covid19 exposure. All of our



apparatus are cleaned with a germicidal protectant. This is sprayed inside the cab to protect the area for up to 90 days from germs and virus. Once an apparatus and crew leave the scene of a possible exposure from Covid19, they return to their respective station and whatever equipment used on the scene as well as the inside of the cab are decontaminated with a disinfectant and then the crew is placed back in service awaiting the next call.

During the year, 2020 other than normal expected maintenance and preventative maintenance with the engines there were no major repairs needed. Major repairs had to be made however to Tower 1, which is our front line aerial. The auxiliary hydraulic pump had to be replaced along with the radiator and the ladder sections had to have new wear pads installed all totaling \$19,759.

Mileage driven by apparatus for 2020 - 42,575

Hours ran by apparatus for 2020 - 4,480

Hours ran converted to mileage by standard for 2020 - 268,800

Total of fuel usage for all apparatus for 2020 – 18,207.4 gallons



Training

The Cartersville Fire Department Training division was created on January 1 1989 in response to the increased demands for up to date training and accurate record keeping within the department. Since that time, there have been five Training Division Coordinators to date.

- Robert “Bob” Nalli promoted to be the first Captain over training in 1989. The department had 35 personnel at that time.
- Captain of Training Rick Heath 1995 – 1997
- Captain of Training Frank James 1997 – 2004
- Deputy Chief of Training Scott Carter 2004 - 2006
- Training Chief (Battalion Chief) Ronnie Cowart – 2006 – Present. Currently the department has 74 personnel.

In 2019, the training division expanded to include an EMS training Officer to provide a higher degree of emergency medical services for the citizens of Cartersville. First Responder is the level of service provided since 1989. The goal is to provide service at the EMT level with advanced capabilities. Sergeant Tracey McFadden promoted to lieutenant in 2019 and became the first EMS training officer for Cartersville Fire Department.

Prior to 2009, all departmental and regional training classes were taught in the training room at Headquarters located on Erwin Street, Cartersville Civic Center or at the individual stations.



Drills/ Physical Skills were coordinated where ever space could be found throughout the city. In 2009, the Bartow/ Cartersville Joint Training Center opened and provided a consistent and effective environment to conduct training and drills. This addition allowed for live fire training, and automatic aid training on a regular basis. The facility has provided the city with the ability to schedule training for fifty percent of the facility usage time as an individual

department.

In 2012, the new Public Safety Headquarters building was opened and with it the addition of two classrooms became available. The classrooms double as the Emergency Operations Center in the event of a disaster. These rooms shared with the Police department and provide necessary

space to assist in the ability to schedule multiple classes taught simultaneously with other classes and drills.

Today the training division provides all levels of initial position training, promotional assessments, new employment assessments, Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council approved recertification training, Insurance Services Office required training, and EMT recertification training for National Registry and the State of Georgia.

Training Division 2020

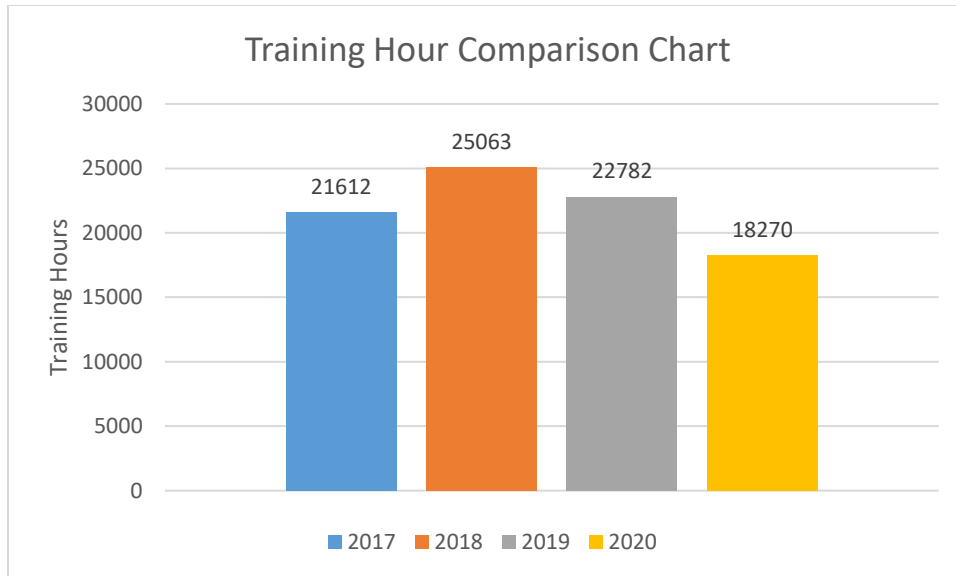
2020 has proven itself a year of challenges. Along with the normal challenges of scheduling training COVID 19 has wreaked havoc on the training calendar and accomplishments for this year. The overall training hours have been reduce affecting all areas and subjects.

The state of emergency declared by Governor Kemp, limits on group size, travel restrictions enacted, social distancing requirements and reduced course availability created a majority of the obstacles during this year.

Cartersville Training Division relies heavily upon the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) to provide training classes to meet the need for all levels of certification and recertification requirements. This year the number of training opportunities at GPSTC was lower than previous years. All classes from March 17 – May 18 were cancelled. This caused a ripple effect of deficiencies in training across the state. When the courses opened back up mid-May, the competition to get in to these classes greatly increased. The backlog will have an effect into 2021. Any future shutdowns in 2021 would have a crippling effect for years to come. In 2019, the department attended 130 classes at GPSTC. This reduced to 50 classes attended in 2020. This is a 38.46% reduction in training at GPSTC.

The total number of training hours for the department for 2020 is 18,270. This averages out to 250.3 hours per member. In comparison, 2019 completed 22,782 and an average of 312 hours per member.





Overall, the training total training hours reduced by 20%. While the challenges were tough, CFD was able to complete the minimum state recertification requirements for 2020.

Highlights from 2020

EMS Training

- 12 personnel attended Advanced EMT Courses
- 5 achieved National Registry Certification and State License in Advanced EMT
- 5 achieved National Registry Certification in Basic EMT
- The remainder projected to receive Certification and License in 2021
- 24 hours of Recertification training was taught at Public Safety Headquarters

The department currently operates with:

- 4 – Paramedics
- 16 – Advanced EMT's (includes Administration)
- 6- EMT Intermediates (includes Administration)
- 13 Basic EMT's

Currently there are 6 personnel registered for EMT class in 2021

Classes Taught at Cartersville Fire Department

- 40 hour Fire Officer Orientation Course

- 8 hour Vehicle Extrication Training
- for Entire Department
- Completed Curriculum for Basic Water Survival II - Swift Water Course
- 40 hour Apparatus Operator Course
- 16 Hour Aerial Operator Course
- CPR Recertification for Department
- 80 hour NPQ FF II Course
- Hosted Charleston 9 Phase II Report 8 hours

In the midst of all of 2020's challenges, there are many successes due to our strong team effort





Emergency Response Team

The Cartersville Fire Department created the Emergency Response Team also known as the ERT Team in 1990. Team members were slowly added as they completed the requirements to be on the team. The Emergency Response Team was put into place to provide an advanced level of training for members which would respond in the event an incident required members to have specific knowledge to mitigate the emergency. The team responded to incidents within the City limits of Cartersville as well as assisted Bartow County Fire Department with calls within the county when requested.

ERT Members were trained in Rope Rescue, Rescue Systems, Basic Confined Space and Trench Rescue Operations. As years have passed the training has evolved and required members to become more versatile and be able to respond to a variety of emergencies. All across the United States teams were being created to respond at a moment notice to a wide range of technical rescue calls anywhere across the nation. Georgia's Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) program was established and funded under the authority of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) in 2003. It was designed to establish a framework of local emergency services personnel that are trained and integrated into disaster response.



In 2005 Northwest Georgia became a part of this when GSAR Task Force 6 was created. Task Force 6 is based out of Calhoun and consist of approximately 80 Members from surrounding departments. Cartersville Fire Departments ERT Team Members started the process of over 400 hours of training to be a part of this team. Each member is trained in Rope Rescue, Confined Space, Structural Collapse, Trench Rescue and Wilderness Search. Currently Cartersville Fire Department has 15 Members which train 4 times a year on specialized skills and responded to emergencies all across the state.



In the past 12 months members have faced many challenges with training due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Normal team trainings have been postponed and quarterly training limited due to class size. Team members have deployed 6 times assisting Bartow, Gordon, Dawson, Pickens and Catoosa Counties in 2020. This was the first time in 3 years members weren't deployed to assist with Search and Rescue due to Hurricane damage somewhere within the state. Without teams such as this, areas all across the state would be left to mitigate large scale emergencies with little to no manpower and sometimes no specialized training or equipment.



Hazardous Materials Team

The Cartersville-Bartow Haz Mat Team was originated in 2002 originally under the Bartow County EMA Office. The team was put into place to assist Bartow County and the City of Cartersville in mitigation of Hazardous Materials Incidents within the county. Members from both departments come together to handle emergencies dealing with Hazardous Materials Incidents when the team is activated by one of the departments. The team has also been requested by other jurisdictions to assist with incidents in the past due to the expanded capabilities of the team.

Members of the Haz Mat Team are required to be trained to the level of Hazardous Materials Technician. The process requires a member to complete an 80-hour Hazardous Materials Training Course, National Professional Qualifications testing (NPQ), and meet departmental selection criteria. Team members are required to attend Monthly training and two 8 Hour Drills annually. Hazardous Material Technicians are required to have 8 hours of recertification training annually to be compliant with OSHA.



Monthly Training is a joint training session with Bartow County Fire Department members. Each training covers a different topic and allows members to work with monitors, specialized tools and other equipment related to Hazardous Material Mitigation. Drills are conducted in the spring and fall of each year and focus on a Hazards within the City or County. The team will work directly with a business and simulate an incident which would require a team activation and the response of the team. This not only allows for a realistic training environment but also builds a strong relationship between the Haz Mat Team and the stakeholders we serve.



The Cartersville Bartow Haz Mat Team has not been deployed in the past 12 months for any incidents. Team members stays prepared for any type response and continue to work as a team to serve the community.

Water Supply

The Cartersville Fire Department and the Cartersville Water department maintain, inspect, flow, and repair over 1300 hydrants located throughout the city. Each year, fire hydrants are inspected in the spring and fall. During the spring the area is maintained for easy access to the hydrant. The hydrant is visually inspected and all caps and stems are greased with food grade grease to eliminate any contamination of the water. Once completed, this information is entered into our record management system, New World, and is readily available at a moments notice. This record keeping system allows us to provide information to ISO, during an assessment of our department. We have records that date back to the early 1990's available in our system. If repairs are warranted, the fire department works closely with Bob Jones and his staff to quickly eliminate any issues. There were 1441 inspections completed by personnel during the spring. The hydrants are visited again in the fall visually inspected and additional cleaning is done, if needed.

Over the course of a couple months, during the summer, a portion of the hydrants are flow tested. Fire flow tests are conducted to determine pressure and flow-producing capabilities at any location within the distribution system. The primary function of fire flow tests is to determine how much water is available for fighting fires, but the tests also serve as a means of determining the general condition of the distribution system. Heavy corrosion water mains or those with heavy wall deposits can reduce flow-carrying capacities of pipe; this reduced capacity can be detected by means of a flow test. Flow tests can also help detect closed valves in the system. The results of flow tests are used by insurance underwriters as a factor in setting rates for insurance premiums and by designers of fire-sprinkler systems. All hydrants are scheduled to be tested once every five years to calculate the gallons per minute the hydrant can provide. This is critical information, that our engine companies need in the event of a fire. The amount of water that the hydrant can provide determines the color of the bonnet, and caps. The color of the hydrant is also transferred into our Mobile software that provides the company officer with the flow information, while in route to the emergency. It also shows the exact location of the hydrant. In 2020, 274 hydrants were flow tested. Our personnel receive

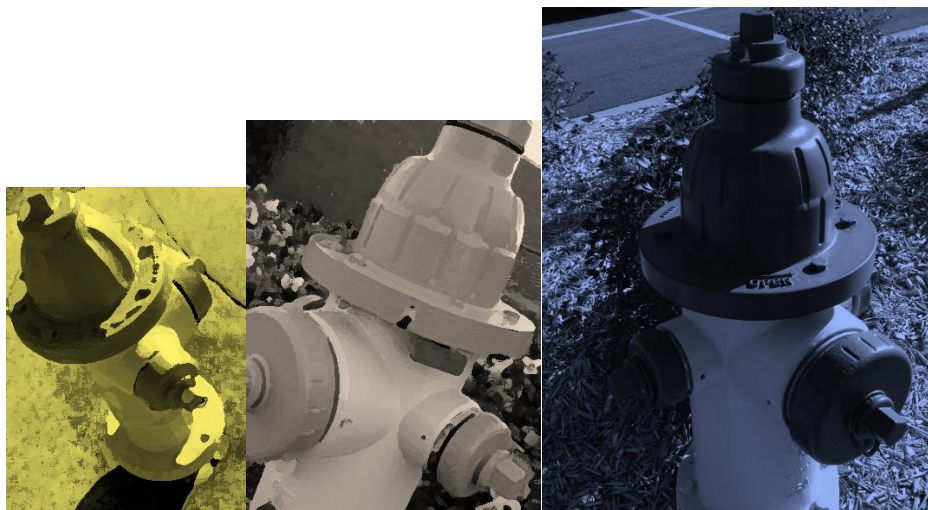


flow testing procedures from the Water Department, to ensure uniformity of test. There were also an additional 13 city hydrants, flushed only, located in the county. We have a system in place to notify customers of the Cartersville Water Department, when flow testing during their area, to minimize impact such as colored water that could affect laundry washing.

The hydrants that were flow tested during the summer are then scheduled to be painted with the calculated fire flow per NFPA 291. In 2020, 200 of the 274 were repainted to reflect the latest flow information. The additional 74 were painted at the end of 2019 in an effort to complete a large area in downtown. There was also a project completed by the Cartersville Water Department in 2020 that greatly increases the water supply in the critical downtown area.

Because of these hydrant programs, the Cartersville Fire Department, Director Bob Jones, Cartersville Water Department, and Bartow County Water Authority, the City of Cartersville was able to obtain a score of 38.45 out of a possible 40 points during the last ISO assessment.

By annually performing these activities, the City of Cartersville provides not only a clean, safe water system, but ensures that in the event of an emergency we have a solid, dependable system to rely on.



Thank you for
everything you do....



P.S.
you are very brave.

I hope you know.

that ~~a~~ and that we love
you.

2020 Cartersville Fire Prevention Report

Cartersville Fire Prevention Division is responsible for all of the public fire safety education, fire inspections, plan review, and fire investigations for the Cartersville Fire Department and consists of three personnel. Fire Marshal, Assistant Fire Marshal, and a Fire Inspector. A brief description of each aspect of the division is included.

Public Fire Safety Education

Public fire safety education is a very important part our fire prevention efforts and much emphasis put into it throughout the year. The Cartersville Fire Prevention team is proactive in fire prevention and provides a number of services. These include fire safety talks to civic organizations, fire extinguisher classes, fire safety house (how to escape a burning structure), participation in local safety events, home inspections (on request), fire station tours and puppet shows.



Another important public safety program is our free smoke alarms. Any city resident that cannot afford to purchase their own smoke alarms can receive two (2) free at Cartersville Fire Headquarters. Also, those needing help with installation can request assistance from fire personnel. Working smoke alarms are statistically proven to increase survival rates in residential fires.

Fire Safety Code Inspections

The Cartersville Fire Prevention staff continues to follow the mission of serving the community through protection of lives and property by providing public safety education and a large part of this is done through fire safety code compliance inspections. During these code compliance inspections, our inspectors can educate the Cartersville business community on how to protect their business, employees, and patrons from the dangers of fire. This element of education is paramount to effective code compliance within our business community.

Another integral part of the inspection process is plans review. Prevention staff review civil, building, fire sprinkler, and fire alarm plans for compliance with the adopted codes and ordinances of the city and state. This helps us to ensure that new and renovated buildings are designed and built to the standards that are required by state law. Inspections are performed by staff during the building process to ensure the life safety systems within the building work as designed and installed. Fire Prevention personnel work hand in hand with the Building Official, inspectors, and Code Enforcement.

Fire Investigation

Fire Marshal Mark Hathaway, Assistant Fire Marshal Eric Williams, and Lieutenant Jason Amerson are deputized by Safety Fire Commissioner King as fire investigators. This gives Cartersville fire prevention personnel greater responsibility in the field of fire investigations and allows us to perform these investigations as a representative for the state of Georgia when necessary. Knowing the most common fire causes allows us to direct our fire prevention efforts toward these types of fires.

Cartersville Fire investigators were called in to investigate **14** fires in 2020. These fires include: **(6) Accidental** (4 electrical, 1 cigarette, 1 unattended cooking), **(4) Undetermined**, and **(4) Incendiary** (arson) fires. The majority of the time, 10 of 14, investigators were able to determine an origin and cause. Of the four incendiary fires, one involved two vehicles that were set on fire. CFD and CPD investigators were able to work alongside each other to close the case with an arrest.

2020

To say 2020 has been an interesting year would be an understatement. The Fire Prevention Division, like everywhere else, has been greatly affected by the Covid pandemic. There here have been so many new challenges that have come up. People and businesses' have struggled

greatly this past year and the fire prevention division helped with ways to stay operating safely and keep in accordance with the executive order declared by the Governor. We helped provide guidance on ways to re-configure exits and new occupant loads based on mandated square footage reductions.

Fire prevention personnel in the city typically perform annual inspections on all buildings, but in February 2020, we shut down this type of inspections due to health and safety concerns. Surprisingly, the number of new business license inspections did not fall off too much this past year and neither did new construction and renovations. Cartersville fire prevention personnel performed more inspections than normal on behalf of the State Fire Marshal's Office in order to assist them during the crisis. All of these aspects kept personnel quite busy with plan reviews and inspections.

Public fire safety education was the most challenging obstacle to overcome. We have put some new ideas into action and have others planned. One of the ways we have been delivering messages is through cooperation of the city school system by posting safety messages on their electronic message boards. We delivered fire safety materials for the schools to print and use in classrooms. Additionally, we were able to deliver fire safety messages in the field utilizing safe practices. Press releases were distributed to local media and posted on the city website. We will be working with the city public relations manager in the near future to develop and deliver more safety messages and videos of our common safety programs so that they may be used by the public (schools, daycares, civic groups, etc.). Examples of these videos will include: station tour, puppet show, "friendly" firefighter, home cooking safety, and our fire safety house program. These videos can be shared for a virtual fire station tour instead of in-person.



There were some notable accomplishments from this past year that should be noted. Lieutenant Jason Amerson was awarded the Heart of Service Award from Cartersville Medical Center for his work with Safe Kids and the car seat installation program. He was also awarded a grant from the TIME Task Force/AAA for \$1250 to purchase infant and child car seats. Additionally, he was elected as president of the Northwest Georgia Fire Investigators Association. We were able to safely continue to inspect new building projects and renovations

that were completed, or mostly completed, during 2020. Some notable projects include: Courtyard by Marriott, Tru Hotel, 11 Charley Harper Dr. (shopping center), CFD Fire Station 3, Good Neighbor Shelter (3 Townsley Dr.), Springhouse Assisted Living, Carlton Room at Drowned Valley Brewery, Fazoli's, Chicken Salad Chick, Rock Fitness, Owen Security (Main St), Gabe's, and Harbor Freight. We are hopeful that year 2021 will bring some normality back.

2020 Annual Inspection Report

	Inservice	Bldg. Add.	Change	New Bus.	Reinsp.	New Bldg.	State	Misc.	Totals
Mark	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	397	428
Eric	74	0	6	51	2	3	35	76	244
Jason	38	0	4	50	23	3	48	191	354
Totals	112	0	10	101	25	6	114	664	1026

Fire Prevention Division Activities

Number of Participants

Fire Investigations	14	Station Tours	5
<i>Accidental- electrical</i>	4	Participants	317
<i>Accidental- cooking</i>	1		
<i>Accidental- cigarette</i>	1	Truck Visits	2
<i>Incendiary-</i>	4	Participants	115
<i>Undetermined</i>	4		
School Inspections	16	Outreach Events	
School Fire Drills	13	<i>Cub Scout group</i>	15
Plan Approvals	57	<i>CMS classroom talk</i>	50
Temporary Sign-Off	34	<i>Rotary Club (Chief Carter)</i>	37
Fire Safety Checklist	80	<i>Rollins School</i>	60
Knox Boxes	19	<i>Monthly Radio spot</i>	13
Fireworks Permits	2	<i>Press releases</i>	5
Fireworks Inspections	2	<i>Newspaper articles</i>	5
Risk Assessment	30		
Smoke Alarms	25	TOTAL	616
Burn Permits	0		
Total	306		

Honor Guard

In 2020, the Cartersville Fire Department Honor Guard was ready to kick the year off before the pandemic shut things down. Throughout 2019, the honor guard had gone through many changes. Lt Ogle retired and Lt Key resigned his position, leaving voids on the team. Before we could kick off 2020, voids had to be filled and new positions elected. The remaining members voted and elected Lt Paschal as coordinator and Sgt Gilmer as trainer. Once the positions were filled, a meeting of interest was called and new members were voted on.

The team is now back up and running with one position still open.

Members of this team currently are: John Paschal, Wesley Gilmer, Heath Patterson, Dave Williams, Paul Varvel, Josh Sanford, David Noll, Brent Hilley, Wayne Terry, Virgil Gentry, Ryan Bray, Sleeper Joe Hill, Sleeper Jason Amerson.

The end of 2019 was a challenge with new members and practice. Many practices were held and a lot of marching was done. During this time meetings were held and we began discussing



possible changes to the uniforms. New coat and hat badges, as well new hats voted on to start the change. Members of the team got involved quickly and hit the strides to start doing small details. The first call for the team was the public safety lunch at Parnick Jennings, which included the 5-5-5 ringing of the bell and the

reading of the 911 passage. Shortly thereafter, we were selected to present colors at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon. As 2019 was about to end, the team also presented colors at Veterans Day and continued to practice.

At the beginning of 2020, Chief Carter gave the team a challenge that many around the state want and never get the opportunity. The team was offered to present colors at the state capital for fire fighter recognition day. The team shifted gears and truly buckled down practicing and marching, knowing the importance of the detail. February 4th, 2020 came quickly, and the team once again stepped up and answered the call to be seen from around the state. After this detail the team was cloud nine, but a small blow came as we performed the funeral detail for retiree



Roger Sweat. The last detail the team was able to conduct was to present colors for the Chamber of Commerce luncheon again. Soon after, the dreaded COVID-19 hit and put a stand still on the team.

In closing out 2020, the team has accomplished a lot in a short amount of time. We as the Cartersville Fire Department Honor Guard team are always ready with a little practice and a lot of stepping ready to march.



Our Mission will be to bestow Honor upon our Nation, Community and Fire Department by adding a professional formality in ceremonies and funerals for the City of Cartersville and neighboring communities while adding a sense of compassion, strength, and caring to the loved ones of fallen public servants.

Fire Stations and Supplies

The Cartersville Fire Department consist of four full time staffed Fire Stations that after lengthy studies of the surrounding geography, area call volume data, and future development of surrounding area the station that have been strategically located. Personnel operating on a twenty-four, forty-eight rotation, staff these stations.

Fire Station 1, located at 195 Cassville Road is the departments Main Headquarters Station where the departments Administration is located also. This includes Inspections, Investigations, and the Training Divisions as well as the Fire Chiefs offices. With the new facility came a Supply and Quarter Master facility within the Head Quarters.

This fifty one thousand square foot facility was open for operation in 2012, which operates as the City of Cartersville's Public Safety Facility. The Fire Station and Administrations occupies half



the building and the Police department is located in the other half of the building. This Fire Station has accommodations to house as many as twelve fire suppression personnel along with one Battalion Chief. The station operates an Engine Company with an officer, driver and two firefighters, and a Tower Company with a driver and firefighter. Then in addition to this, the station also houses a fully compliment reserve engine, F350 support truck and a Kubota UTV with medical and wildland firefighting capabilities.

Fire Station 2, located at 90 Peoples Valley Road is approximately a seventy-five hundred



square foot brick building that opened for operation in 2003. This facility can accommodate eight fire suppression personnel and operates a single company Engine with an officer, driver and two firefighters. This station also houses a fully complemented reserve Engine.

Fire Station 3, located at 15 Charlie Harper Drive, is a ten thousand ninety square foot brick building that opened for operation in 2020. This building also has the capabilities to accommodate up to eight fire suppression personnel. The station operates a single company Engine with and officer, driver and two firefighters. This station also has a fully complimented reserve Engine and a reserve Ladder Truck. In addition to that, the departments Fire Safety Education trailer is located here being that it is nearest to the city schools.



Fire Station 4, located at 550 Martin Luther King Junior Drive is a ninety six hundred square foot brick facility that opened in 2012. This building will accommodate eight suppression personnel on a fully complimented Engine with an Officer, Driver and two Firefighters. Also responding out of this station is a Squad equipped with specialized rescue and emergency equipment that can handle calls

that require such the type of equipment that a regular engine is not equipped. I also has an Officer, Driver and Firefighter staffing it. Then in addition to this, the station, the department houses additional equipment for rescue operation that may arise. There also a Rescue truck and an ATV used for Medical and Rescue located her as well.

Central Supply / Quarter Masters System

The Fire Department had mostly purchased item needed to maintain and operate as needed. This method usually took a little while before you received the item you needed and you sometimes you would be required to pay more for it.

When building the new facility in 2012 it was felt that to progress forward with the growth of the department, part of the construction in new Public Safety facility should be an area designated as the departments Quarter Masters Supply or Central Supply. Leading up to the new concept, there was much discussion and thought put in to it. There were new operating guidelines and

procedures put into place for each station to requisition supplies or equipment that were implemented once opening the new facility.

By implementing a Central Supply, it reduced the wait time for most items while reducing the cost on some. We were able to purchase items by quantity, which would reduce the overall cost per item. In addition, we could keep a better quantity of supply on hand. Items kept on hand would be paper goods, cleaning supplies, laundry soaps, uniforms, and all items that complete an individual's firefighting PPE ensemble, parts for repairs to equipment and apparatus, and medical supplies.



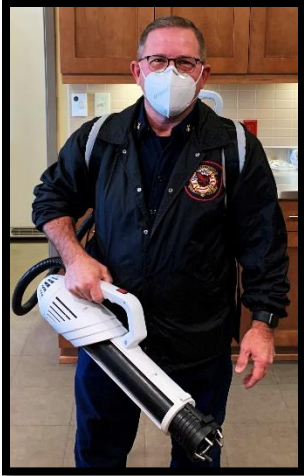
Over the last couple of years, the fire department has had to turn more of its focus more toward the medical readiness for the city. With this comes additional medical equipment that would need to be on hand to replace what is being used on calls. In 2018, the department had to increase the medical PPE kept on hand in Central Supply due to the Ebola outbreak. This caused the department to purchase and maintain more medical PPE that we had ever had to keep on hand for everyday use. It about a year for this settled down. However, as a department we maintained our readiness to respond to these type of calls. Last year in 2020, the COVID 19 pandemic caused the required the department to increase its medical PPE kept on hand again. Which began a new challenge of it's on.

About a month into the pandemic locating and acquisitioning, the PPE was very difficult. All your larger department and medical facilities were buying up all the PPE available. The



department had to begin thinking outside the box and locate items wherever we could find them. All of the larger medical vendors were selling out to the corporations and larger medical facilities. Several of our vendors assisted us with acquiring supplies due to us being a customer prior to the pandemic. They were good about notifying us when they had items available we needed. We were also able to purchase from local vendors like safety supply vendors, drug stores, and home medical suppliers.

In addition to Central Supply, the department had to come up with ways to protect the staff at work and in the stations. We had to reduce the chances of contamination and the spread of the virus while at work and after running calls and getting expose to the virus. We constantly had to search and look for cleaning and disinfectant chemicals to use in the stations and trucks. With this, we were able to reach out to some of the local chemical company's and vendors and see what was available. In October, we found that two local chemical companies had an



Antimicrobial chemical sprayed thru an Electrostatic Sprayer in a facility and would last for ninety days once applied. This was presented to the City Manager's Office and three sprayers and enough chemical to spray all city buildings were purchased. Other departments like Public Works and Water Department assist with the task of spraying all buildings and facilities.

Year 2020 was a year where efficiency, fiscal responsibility and dedication was required more than ever. In the military, it is well known that you cannot win a battle without logistics and supplies. The fire service is no different. Every time there is a public call for help, we rely on strong facilities, equipment and logistics. It not just about supplies, it is about having the supplies to save a life.





Continuing to Climb

There is simply not enough time to cover all of the activity from 2020. For everyone, year 2020 will be known as the year of the COVID. Despite all of the struggles of 2020, we know that we maintained a firefighter injury rate of less than 1%; we know that every time there was a call for help, we answered that call and we know that in 2020 we were rated as one of the top fire departments in the nation. Again.

While this report is a temporary look back, we must keep our vision focused ahead. Growth will continue to affect the community we serve. We must grow with it. If there is anything that 2020 has taught us, it is the fact that we must be prepared to change. We see in the future the potential for expanded coverage with additional stations and work force. We see an aggressive approach at providing the best, most current equipment that is fiscally responsible. In our future, this will allow us to maintain the safety of our community and our personnel. We see the advancement of our departmental strategic plan that will work in conjunction with the vision of our City Leaders. We see strong succession planning so new leadership will not just emerge but thrive. Strength, Stewardship, Sacrifice and Service, **Above all, WE!**



6. Cartersville Fire Department has automatic aid and mutual aid agreements with the Bartow County Fire Department.
7. We have an established Cartersville/Bartow County Haz-Mat Team trained, certified and up and running. This team is a Type II team and is recognized by Georgia Emergency Management Agency.
8. We have a Fire Safety House with severe weather package. This safety house has over 1000 personal contacts with citizens of all ages on an annual basis.
9. Classes offered to City Employees, Citizens and Businesses:
 - A. Defensive Driving – National Safety Course
 - B. Fire Extinguisher Classes
 - C. CPR- First Aid and AED
 - D. We offer various public education programs for Fire and Life Safety that is conducted for all age groups.
 - E. We display and present at community functions such as government day, community events, civic groups and others.
10. We are currently an ISO Class 1 department with places us in the top 1% of departments in Nation.
11. We operate a fire training facility. This facility is located on 180 Paga Mine Rd and is a joint venture with the City of Cartersville and Bartow County. This project was funded with 2003 SPLOST dollars. Phase 1 provided infrastructure, a burn building and rescue tower building. Phase 2 will be developed at a later date; this will be for an onsite classroom facility.

***Above All We Prevent, Protect and Provide with
Professionalism, Purpose and Pride***

