

# Alexandria Fire Department 2019 Annual Report

Alexandria, Virginia

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*Dedicated to Our Community, Our Profession, and Each Other*



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## Mission, Vision Statement, and Core Values

### **Our Mission**

The mission of the Alexandria Fire Department is to plan for and deliver responsive and caring emergency service, mitigate emergencies and disasters, prevent the loss of life, protect property and enforce applicable construction, fire, and building maintenance codes for the City residents and the general public in order to maintain and enhance public safety.

### **Vision Statement**

Dedicated to our Community, our Profession and Each Other

### **Core Values**

Unity – Community – Dedication – Professionalism – Preparedness





*City of Alexandria*  
**Fire Department**  
Dedication to Our Community, Our Profession, and Each Other  
**Corey Smedley**  
Fire Chief



December 31, 2020

Dear Mayor, City Councilmembers, City Manager and Alexandria residents,

On behalf of our dedicated, trained, and professional career and volunteer members of the City of Alexandria Fire Department, it is a pleasure to present our 2019 Annual Report for your review.

One of our top priorities in the Fire Department is the health and safety of our first responders, and some of our improvements in 2019 are evidence of our dedication to their wellbeing and the safety of the Alexandria community. In 2019, our Health, Safety & Risk Management Division began seeing more members for mental health visits and making direct referrals for those with mental health needs (pg. 28). Additionally, our part-time nurse practitioner is available to all staff for medical needs and concerns.

The Alexandria Fire Department also continues to dedicate its time and effort in providing the best service to our community. These efforts include providing volunteer and emergency preparedness information and opportunities to residents (pg. 30); improving our social media presence (pg. 34); and increasing our presence in the community through outreach initiatives (pg. 37).

Like many organizations, the Alexandria Fire Department experienced some turnover from retirements and resignations in 2019. However, we also had the opportunity to welcome multiple recruits and a summer intern.

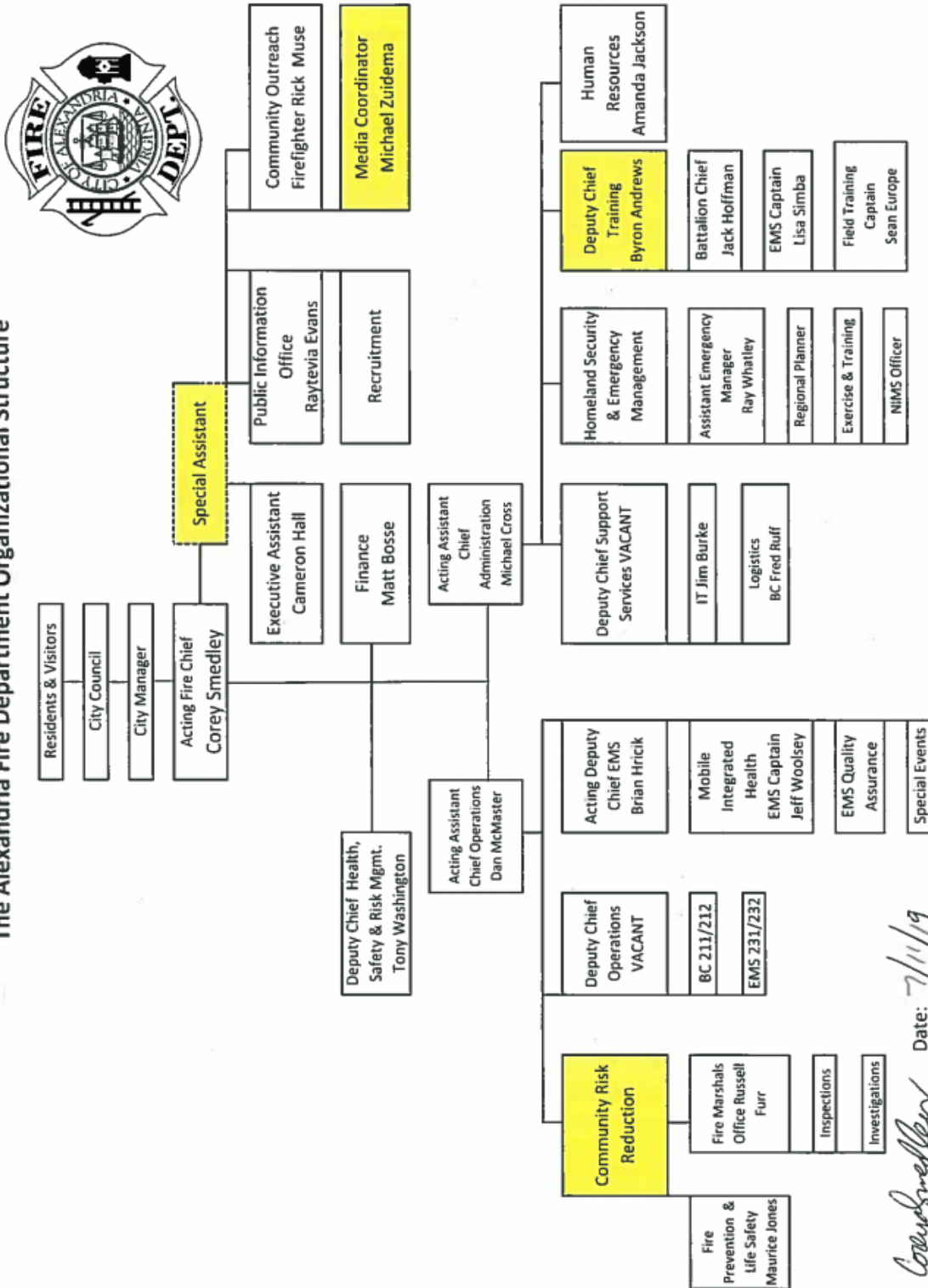
While our Fire Department is going through a transitional period, we are still in a progressive time, and our vision statement remains the same: "Dedicated to Our Community, Our Profession and Each Other."

Kind regards,

Fire Chief Corey Smedley



The Alexandria Fire Department Organizational Structure



*Corey Smedley* Date: 7/11/19  
 Corey Smedley, Acting Fire Chief



## Administration Section

The **Administration** Section provides management, logistical, technical, and professional support to the Fire Department. Administration oversees fiscal management, human resources, information technology support, and fleet and facilities maintenance for sworn and civilian personnel. The Administration Section is commanded by Assistant Chief Michael Cross (as of July 2019).

### **Fiscal Office**

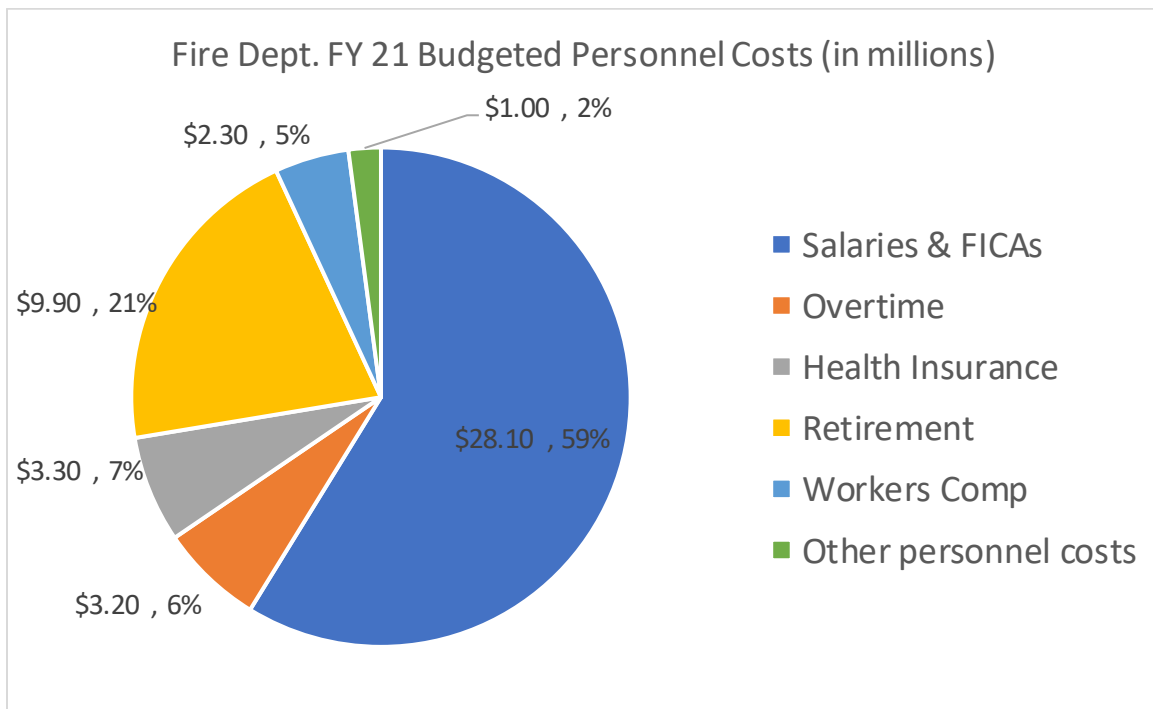
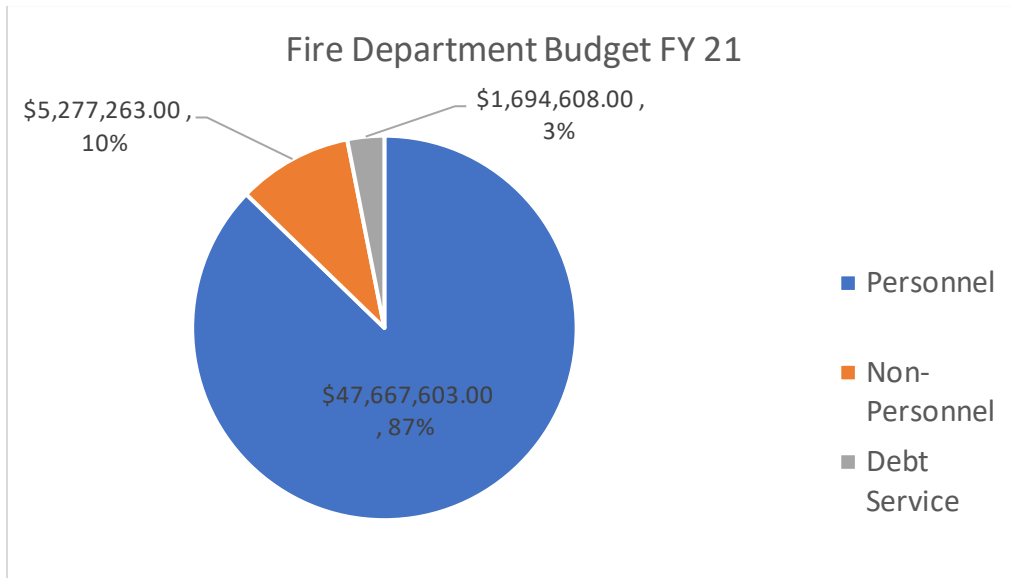
The Fire Department's budget is referred to as the City's general fund operating budget. The 2020 fiscal year started on July 1, 2019 and ended on June 30, 2020. The general fund is the portion of the budget that is funded by City of Alexandria tax dollars. The operating budget refers to the day-to-day operations of the department consisting of salaries, supplies, and equipment and does not include the capital budget, which deals with the replacement of fire stations and other fixed facilities. Local City of Alexandria tax dollars provide 96% of the department's overall operating budget.

The Alexandria Fire Department has an overall general fund operating budget of \$55.7M (FY 20). Of this, \$48.9M is related to personnel costs (salaries, benefits, overtime) while \$6.5M is non-personnel related (supplies, hose, ladders, personal protective gear, uniforms, maintenance of stations and vehicles, etc.).

### **Fiscal Year 2021**

The 2021 fiscal year began on July 1, 2020. This fiscal year represented the first time in the last 11 years that the Fire Department's General Fund budget had actually **decreased** from the previous year. The Fire Department's FY 21 General Fund budget is \$54.6M in FY 21, compared to FY 20 which was \$55.7M. Most of the decrease comes from an increased vacancy savings rate in FY 21, which will require the Department to hold positions vacant longer before hiring.

The Fire Department's budget is largely driven by personnel costs as shown in the charts below. It is important to note that these reflect **budgeted** amounts for Fiscal Year 2021, and not **actual expenditures** (which track very close to budget in terms of categories).





The Department’s non-personnel expenses are varied.

**Non-Personnel Budget**

Operating Supplies	\$ 775,723	15%
Grant Matches	\$ 630,908	12%
Uniforms & PPE	\$ 563,177	11%
Utilities & Fuel	\$ 531,148	10%
Vehicle Repair	\$ 461,426	9%
Other/Misc.	\$ 351,556	7%
Building repairs	\$ 351,028	7%
Vehicle Repair	\$ 307,479	6%
Contract Services	\$ 306,619	6%
Physicals & health services	\$ 262,624	5%
Telecommunications	\$ 151,003	3%
Ambulance Billing Contract	\$ 122,717	2%
Travel/training	\$ 121,785	2%
Capital Eqt. Replace	\$ 114,662	2%
Computer Eqt/Software	\$ 83,060	2%
Dues & subscriptions	\$ 79,817	2%
Station cleaning supplies	\$ 62,531	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,277,263</b>	
Debt Service (Vehicles)	\$ 1,694,608	
<b>TOTAL Non-Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 6,971,871</b>	





### Looking Ahead: 2021 (FY 22) Budget Expectations

In August 2020, the City started preparing for the next fiscal budget (FY 22), which will begin on July 1, 2021. The revenue projections based on COVID-19 impacts for FY 22 will result in further budget reductions for City departments. As the charts above show, this is particularly difficult for departments like AFD that have most of their expenses in personnel costs.

Beyond looking within the Department’s own budget, the Alexandria Fire Department continues to aggressively pursue grant opportunities and has had several successful applications which have helped to meet costs. AFD is waiting for two grant applications related to COVID-19 worth \$4M to be processed, both of which would help defray costs in the City.

While the Fire Department has seen success with grants, they are becoming more competitive and reporting requirements more extensive, making this a more challenging funding source. There will certainly be an increased emphasis on trying to get grants to help meet costs, given budget challenges. However, many of these applications are dependent on the grant agencies’ allowable expenses and those items deemed a high priority. AFD does its best to meet internal needs, with budget optimization, with each grant’s priorities.

The chart below highlights some of the major grants and applications the Fire Department has worked with in the past. It’s important to note that once a grant is awarded, there is still continuous work being done for financial programmatic reporting.

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>How Funds Were Used</b>
Assistance to Firefighters Grant 2018	\$1.1M	\$1.1M	EMS Training, health screenings for firefighters & medics, exercise equipment, vaccines, and nurse practitioner support for firefighters & medics.
Assistance to Firefighters Grant 2019	\$1.7M	\$540k	EMS Training, health screenings for firefighters & medics
SAFER 2017	\$1.5M	\$1.5M	Partial salary & benefits for 9 new firefighters for three years
SAFER 2018	\$1.5M	\$1.5M	Partial salary & benefits for 9 new firefighters for three years



Assistance to Firefighters - COVID	\$1.0M	Awaiting award	Personal protective equipment for first responders during COVID.
SAFER - COVID	\$3.2M	Awaiting award	Full salary & benefit costs for 12 firefighters to relieve overtime

## Human Resources

The department has an integrated **Human Resources Office**. The office is responsible for talent acquisition, employee relations, benefit management, employee relations, leave management, classification and compensation, the promotional process and professional development for over 300 employees. During Fiscal Year 2020, the office hired an Assistant Fire Chief, one (1) summer intern and two recruit classes.

Position	Count
Fire Chief	1
Assistant Fire Chief	2
Deputy Chief	5
Battalion Chief	9
Captain	30
EMS Operations Manager	1
EMS Captain	6
Lieutenant	21
Firefighter	164
Medic	27
Chief Deputy Fire Marshal	2
Deputy Fire Marshal	5
Fire Protection Engineer	1
Code Inspector III	6
Fiscal Officer III	1
Fiscal Officer I	2
Public Information Officer	1
Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	2
Chief of Staff	1
Human Resources Manager	1
Human Resources Recruiter	1
Human Resources Technician	1
Information Technology Specialists	5
Administrative Support V	2
Project Superintendent	1
Supervisor Fire Maintenance	1



Mechanic	3
Supply Clerk	1
	<b>302</b>

## Logistics

**Logistics** provides support through specification, selection, acquisition, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the department’s vehicle fleet, facilities, equipment, personal protective gear, uniforms, and supplies. The work of Logistics is performed by various units.

- **Apparatus Committee:** Provides selection of apparatus manufacturers, detailed specifications for apparatus design and build and acceptance inspections in compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1901 – *Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus* for fire emergency response vehicle and Federal GSA, KKK-A-1822, *Star-of-Life Ambulance* for patient transport vehicles. Three apparatus committees provided recommendations for new fire engines, heavy rescue squad, hazardous materials unit, and command vehicles during Fiscal Year 2018.
- **Facilities Unit:** Provides maintenance and repairs in compliance with codes, regulations, and NFPA 1500 – *Standard for Fire Department Occupational Safety* for 10 fire stations, 2 training facilities, a burn building, and the administrative offices. The unit also coordinates capital replacements of facility systems and building with the City’s Department of General Services (DGS) through the Capital Facilities Maintenance Projects (CFMP) and Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Facility	Street Address	Area (sq. ft.)	Age
Fire Administration	900 Second St.	20,833	22
Fire Maintenance	3552 Wheeler Ave.	3,800	43
Fire Station 201	317 Prince St.	5,690	104
Fire Station 202	213 E Windsor Ave.	7,247	92
Fire Station 203	2801 Cameron Mills Rd.	3,588	71
<b>UNDER CONSTRUCTION</b>			
Fire Station 204	900 Second St.	20,838	57
Fire Station 205	1210 Cameron St.	7,854	70
Fire Station 206	4609 Seminary Rd.	5,248	43
Fire Station 207	3301 Duke St.	8,103	48
Fire Station 208	175 N Paxton St.	1,180	43
Fire Station 209	2800 Main Line Blvd.	21,541	10



Fire Station 210	5255 Eisenhower Ave.	38,917	5
Friendship Fire House	107 S Alfred St.	2,288	163
PDC East	1108 Jefferson St.	69,668	60
PDC West	5255 Eisenhower Ave.	38,917	5

- Fleet Maintenance**: Provides inspections, certification, maintenance, and repairs in compliance with manufacturer’s recommendations, Virginia Department of Transportation safety requirements, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality emissions standards, and NFPA 1911 – *Standard for Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles* for 53 heavy emergency response vehicles and 57 light duty trucks, sedans, trailers and other specialized vehicles. In addition, the Fleet Maintenance Unit provides annual certifications in compliance with NFPA 1932 – *Standard for Use, Maintenance, and Service Testing of In-Service Fire Department Ground Ladders* for 135 ground ladders that are used for search and rescue.
- Personal Protective Equipment Unit**: Provides inspection, cleaning, and repair in compliance with manufacturer’s specifications and NFPA 1981 – *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting* for more than 600 sets of firefighting personal protective coats, bunker pants, gloves, hoods, helmets, and boots.
- Research and Development Taskforce**: Provides research, field studies, and recommendations using numerous NFPA standards and industry practices on the best available firefighting tools, equipment, and personal protective ensembles for use in training and during mitigation of emergency incidents.
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Unit**: Provides maintenance and repairs in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications and NFPA 1982 – *Standard for Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus* for more than 300 self-contained breathing apparatus packs and regulators, 600 air cylinders, 500 facepieces, 6 supplied air breathing apparatus systems, 2 station based air compressors, and 1 mobile air unit. In addition, the unit performs annual OSHA 1910.134 – *Respiratory Protection* respirator fit testing for the department’s 270 emergency responders.
- Supply Unit**: Provides maintenance, repairs, and replacement using manufacturer’s recommendations and numerous NFPA standards for firefighting appliance, tools, equipment, and hose; provides uniforms and personal protective equipment for 270



emergency responders; provides office and cleaning supplies for more than 15 fixed facilities; and performs annual certification in compliance with NFPA 1962 – *Standard for the Care, Use, Inspection, Service Testing and Replacement of Fire Hose, Couplings, Nozzles, and Fire Hose Appliances* for more than 55,000 feet of firefighting attack and supply hose.

## Operations Section



The **Operations** Section, commanded by Acting Assistant Chief Dan McMaster (as of July 2019), consists of the Suppression Division, EMS Division, Training Division, and Special Operations Battalion.

The Suppression Division provides emergency and non-emergency services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The all-hazards response model includes fire suppression, advanced life support (ALS) medical treatment, technical rescue, hazardous materials mitigation, and marine rescue.

Emergency services are delivered to the City and surrounding areas from 10 strategically located fire stations, separated geographically into two battalions, and comprised of 270 uniformed men and women. Service is delivered using (9) Engines, (6) ALS Transport Units, (3) Ladder Trucks, (1) Heavy Rescue Squad, and a Fire Boat 201.

Battalion Management Teams (1 Battalion Chief and 1 EMS Supervisor) assigned to each battalion on each of the three shifts supervise all personnel, stations, and incidents within their geographical area of responsibility.

### **East Battalion**

Station 201 – 317 Prince St.  
Station 202 – 213 E. Windsor Ave.  
Station 204 – 900 Second St.  
Station 205 – 1210 Cameron St.  
Station 209 – 2800 Main Line Blvd.

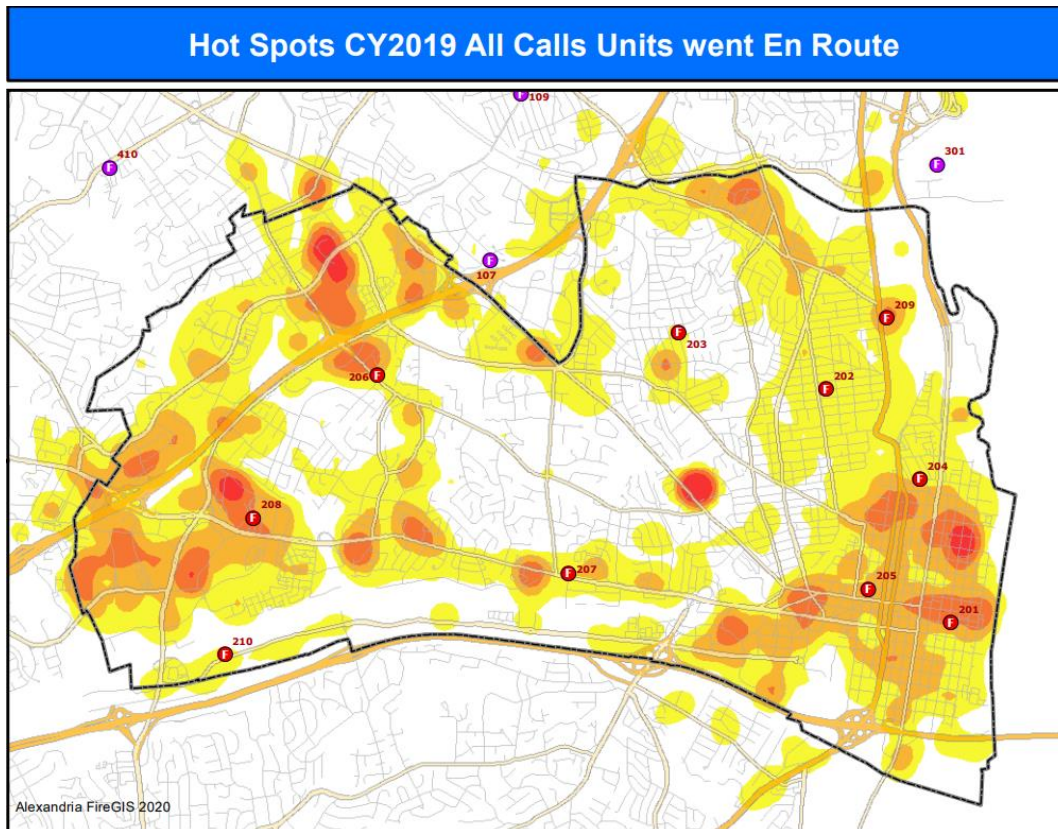
### **West Battalion**

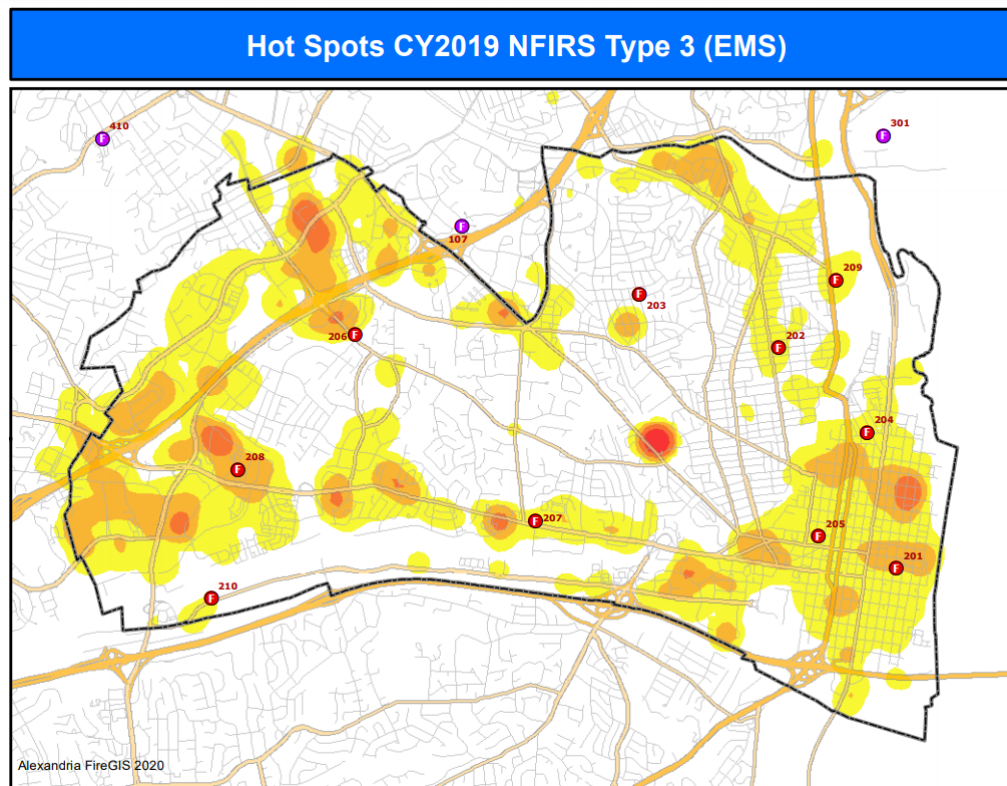
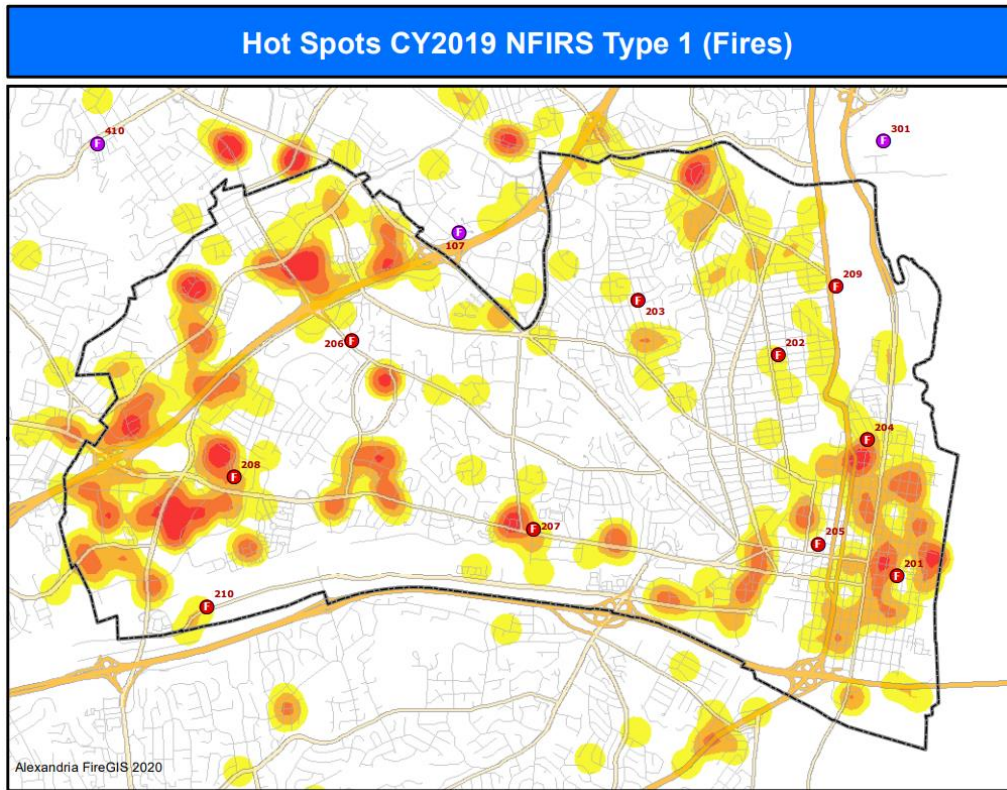
Station 203 – 2801 Cameron Mills Rd.  
Station 206 – 4609 Seminary Rd.  
Station 207 – 3301 Duke St.  
Station 208 – 175 N. Paxton St.  
Station 210 – 5255 Eisenhower Ave.



**2019 Total Response by Unit**

MEDIC UNITS			ENGINES			TRUCK/RESCUE			COMMAND	
M201	1	-	E201	1,446	-	T205	1,815	-	BC211	859
M202	1,044	-	E203	1,112	-	T208	1,609	-	BC212	1,219
M203	1,433	-	E204	1,400	-	T209	1,214	-	BC205	7
M204	4	-	E205	2,530	-	R206	1,589	-	BC214	3
M205	2,857	-	E206	2,435	-	-		-	BA215	680
M206	2,813	-	E207	1,952	-	-		-	SO201	586
M207	2,259	-	E208	2,878	-	-		-	EMS231	1,647
M208	2,762	-	E209	1,708	-	-		-	EMS232	1,746
M209	1,024	-	E210	1,024	-	-		-	EMS235	88







The **EMS** Division, commanded by Acting Deputy Chief Brian Hricik, in conjunction with the Training Division (pg. 26), provides initial medical training and continuing education for all uniformed personnel; ensures the department's compliance with state and federal regulations and mandates for the provision of Emergency Medical Services; procures and maintains emergency care supplies and equipment, medical records management, preparation for response to a multi-patient event; and maintains partnerships with INOVA Alexandria Hospital, the City and regional EMS Council, the Virginia Office of EMS, the Alexandria Health Department, Community Services Board, and other local and regional allied health care partners and hospitals.

In coordination with the Operational Medical Director (OMD), Dr. Benjamin Marfori, the EMS Division oversees the Fire Department's commitment to a high-quality emergency medical care system through sound medical protocols, participation in EMS training, the Quality Management process, and the final say on those paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) released to practice in the field.

Beginning in 2017, the Fire Department introduced our Mobile Integrated Health/Community Paramedic (MIH/CP) program. Community paramedicine is a new and evolving model of community-based health care where paramedics function outside their customary emergency response and transport roles. They facilitate more appropriate use of emergency care resources (medical transport units or the emergency department) and/or enhance access to primary care, other allied health professionals, mental health, social services, or community risk reduction.

During in-home visits, the community paramedic uses his/her expertise and knowledge of health care access, assessment of the home environment, and the patient's medical history to ensure that the patient is compliant with medications or treatment plan as prescribed by a physician. The goal is to improve the patient's outcome, promote living a healthy lifestyle, prevent medical emergencies, and reduce the utilization of critical resources for non-critical circumstances.

The Fire Department is excited about what the future and the impact this program will have on improving our response capacity, but moreover, how it will improve the health and wellness of those we serve by preventing that trip to the emergency room. Led by EMS Captain Jeff Woolsey, the Fire Department's MIH/CP program has completed more than 160 home assessments since February 2018. Additional accomplishments include:

- Collaborating with an apartment management company to get a handicapped parking place installed.
- Reducing one of the department's high-frequency users' use of calling 911 from 16 times in 3 months with medication education and encouraging him to continue physical therapy to rehab his knee replacement.





- Developing system to collect gently used medical equipment to donate to patients in need.

Working collaboratively with our first responders, paramedics, and the emergency department staff and cardiac catheterization lab staff at the INOVA Alexandria Hospital, the Alexandria Fire Department received the 2019 Mission Lifeline EMS Gold Plus Recognition Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize those organizations that meet established national criteria, as established by the American Heart Association (AHA), for cardiac emergencies.

This is the sixth consecutive year the Fire Department has been recognized in the 6 years the program has existed. This award requires reporting performance measures in categories for the calendar year.

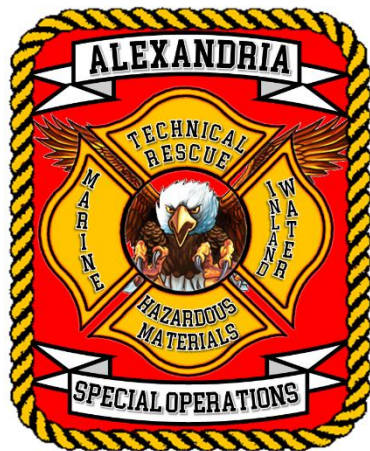
### 2019 EMS Transport Destinations

Hospital Name	Number of Transports	% of Transports
INOVA Alexandria Hospital	7,630	93.86%
Fairfax Hospital	178	2.19%
George Washington	81	1%
Virginia Hospital Center (Arlington)	78	1.32%
Mount Vernon Hospital	57	.70%
George Washington University Hospital	30	.37%
Children’s Hospital (DC)	15	.18%
MedSTAR	7	.09%
Springfield Healthplex	6	.07%
Washington Hospital Center	5	.06%
Fairfax Care Center	3	.04%
Georgetown	3	.04%
Other	3	.04%
Children’s National Medical Center	2	.02%
Prince George’s Hospital	1	.01%
Southern Maryland Hospital	1	.01%



**2019 EMS Incident Disposition**

<b>Disposition</b>	<b># of Incidents</b>
Transport by Unit	8,126
Refusal - No Transport	1,723
Assist, Public	551
Prior to Arrival at Scene	469
Assist, Agency (No care provided)	344
No Patient Found	295
Transferred to Other Unit (Care provided)	288
No Patient Contact	285
Standby: Staged	139
DOA - Not Worked (No transport)	92
MIH Evaluation	79
Standby: Support Provided	56
Termination - No Transport	56
Assist, Unit	12
Refusal - With Transport	5
Termination - Transported	3
Mutual Aide Tx & Transported	1
Transport Non-Patient, Organs, etc.	1



The **Special Operations** program, under the direction of Battalion Chief Chad Lallier, provides a wide array of specialized services to the community including technical rescue, hazardous materials response and mitigation, inland water rescue, ice rescue, and marine operations. In addition to serving a critical role at fire, rescue, and medical incidents, members of Special Operations are specially trained for, and charged with, responding to those events involving dangerous/hazardous goods or physical conditions that pose potential harm to people, property, and/or the environment.

*Technical Rescue* response involves incidents such as auto accidents requiring vehicle extrication, metro and train incidents, building collapses, trench rescue, confined space rescue, and high and low angle rope rescue. Members of the Special Operations Technical Rescue Team receive extensive training in an array of special equipment such as extrication tools, cribbing, generators and power units, lifting and moving tools, shoring jacks, pressurized air bags, breaching and breaking tools, mechanical advantage systems, confined space rescue equipment (tripods, system hardware, and ropes), communications equipment, and patient packaging and removal systems.

*HAZMAT* responders are specially trained for, and charged with, responding to those events involving dangerous goods or physical properties that pose potential harm to people, property, and/or the environment. In addition, the Members of the Special Operations Hazardous Materials Response Team are charged with maintaining a working knowledge of specialized chemical protective equipment; scientific detection and air monitoring equipment; safe methods for the containment of chemical spills; appropriate techniques for the “off-loading” of chemicals from damaged containers as well as the efficient and effective use of reference material to determine chemical hazards that may cause harm to themselves and the community.

*Marine Operations* responders are members specially and professionally trained to respond to maritime emergencies on the Potomac River. The Members of the Special Operations Marine Operations Team (MOT) operate on the river using our specially designed Fire Boat 201. The Fire Boat is cross staffed by Engine Company 201 with a minimum requirement of four, trained maritime personnel. The MOT works side-by-side with the U.S. Coast Guard and the District of Columbia Marine Unit to provide rapid response to any incident involving the navigable waters of the Potomac River.

*Inland Water Rescue* responders are specially trained to handle flood, ice, and swift water responses in areas inland of the Potomac River. The members of the Special Operations Inland Water Rescue Team operate using trailered inflatable rescue boats along with specialized tools and equipment designed for water and ice conditions. Team members



## City of Alexandria Fire Department 2019 Annual Report

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receive extensive rescue training that involves swimming and navigating while in flood and swift water conditions. The Inland Water Rescue and the Marine Operations Teams work together to handle the flooding conditions that regularly impact the Alexandria community and region.





**2019 Technical Rescue Training**

<b>Training</b>	<b>Classes Delivered</b>
Introduction to Tech Rescue Module 1 & 2	2
Vehicle 1	3
Rope 1	2
Confined Space 1	1
Vehicle Rescue 2	1
FEMA Structural Collapse Specialist	1
FEMA Squad Leader School	1

**2019 Water Rescue Training**

<b>Training</b>	<b>Classes Delivered</b>
Flood and Swift Water Rescue Technician & Advanced	2
Flood and Swift Water Boat Operator	1
Ice Rescue Technician	1

**2019 HAZMAT Training**

<b>Training</b>	<b>Classes Delivered</b>
VDEM Chemistry of Hazardous Materials	1
VDEM Hazardous Materials Technician	1
VDEM Hazardous Materials Technician – Train the Trainer	1
MX 908 Training w/DCFD – Instrumentation	1
First Line Technology – DRY DECON Training	1
FBI Terrorism Trends Conference	--
US Secret Service Attacks Seminar	--
RAZOR X Biological Detection System Training	1
Mobile Detection System – Radiation Training	1



### 2019 Marine Operations Training

Training	Classes Delivered
Multi-Jurisdictional U.S. Coast Guard Mass Incident Potomac River Drill	1
Radar School	1
FLIR Training by Manufacturer Representative	1
USCG SAR Conference	--
Workboat International Conference/Symposium	--
Captains License U.S. Coast Guard Course (OUPV)	1
USCG OUPV/Masters Recertifications	1
FCC Marine Radio Operators Class	1

### 2019 Hours of Special Operations Training

Special Operations	Total Hours
HAZMAT	1,952.25
Inland Water Rescue	401.5
Marine Operations	294
Technical Rescue	1,809.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,457.5</b>





The **Fire Protection Systems Retesting Unit** is responsible for enforcement of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, applicable sections of the Virginia Construction Code and related sections of the Code of the City of Alexandria.

Staff inspect existing properties for compliance with these codes as well as providing information to owners and occupants for achieving code compliance. The Fire Protection Systems Retesting Unit provides inspection and oversight for the retesting of existing fire protection systems. Inspection staff respond to complaints and conduct annual inspections to ensure proper operation of these critical life safety systems.

There were a number of significant discoveries of fire protection systems related problems by staff during FY 2019 including:

- Stair pressurization system out of service in a highrise
- Entire highrise building fire alarm system out of service
- Main fire sprinkler system control valve at a storage facility shut
- Standpipe system control valve at un-sprinklered highrise shut
- Thousands of painted sprinkler heads in various residential multifamily communities
- Fire department connection failing when pressurized
- Building fire protection systems monitoring system out of service
- Fire alarm system for entire complex providing inaccurate device location at annunciation panel

Due to the pandemic in 2020, most in-person field inspections were stopped, and four of the six inspectors worked from home from April 6 through most of June. Two of the six inspectors were in office two days a week and worked from home the other two days. When not in the office, the inspectors handled emails and phone calls and were assigned to take a training class consisting of 100 courses on fire protection systems, electrical systems, building construction, and safety. Each course required passing a final exam to receive credit. Most of the inspectors successfully completed 90% of the classes before returning to full time duty in June.

Another major highlights from the Fire Protections Systems Retesting Unit was the retirement of Margaret King on June 30, 2020 after 21 years of service to the City of Alexandria.

**NOTE:** During FY 2019, a new permit tracking system was implemented throughout the city. Due to our case type being placed in the wrong module, our ability to accurately track performance indicators was severely compromised. This issue is finally being addressed, but it will take another few months to resolve.



<b>FY 2020</b>	
Systems inspected	1,661
Private hydrants inspected and tested	180
Faulty fire protection systems/investigations	337
Number of cancellations where no fee was applied	139
Number of lost hours	472
Estimated lost revenue from cancellations where no fee was applied	\$145,830
Invoiced June 2020	\$470,142
Plans reviewed	200
Fire prevention permit inspections	25
Occupancy inspections	100





## Training Division

The **Training** Division, under the command of Deputy Chief Byron Andrews, is responsible for developing and delivering all-hazards training programs to new firefighters and incumbent responders. Training types include classroom instruction, field training, battalion-level drills, hands-on training utilizing simulators and training props and a host of online courses. Topics include core basic firefighting skills, EMS

recertification, company-level competencies, driver operator, safety and survival, officer development, and incident command.

AFD's EMS Training Program has made a significant impact on both the local community and throughout the Commonwealth. Its many responsibilities include EMS license renewal for all members and delivery of annual EMS Continuing Education.

The EMS teaching lab includes classroom space for didactic training and a simulator for hands-on exercise, designed to simulate common response scenarios. The sim lab helps ensure hands-on delivery of the practical exercise of both basic and advanced life support techniques, and serves to simulate actual calls, and duplicates all the stressors on the responding crews and crew dynamics.

### Recruit Schools

- RS 47 graduated with 9 members who went to Operations in May 2019
  - Phase 1 Testing started in July 2019 and was facilitated at PDC West by the Field Training Office.
  - Phase 2 Testing started at in late August 2019.
- RS 48 graduated with 13 members who went to Operations in June 2019.
  - Phase 1 Testing started in August 2019 and was facilitated at PDC West by Field Training Office.
- RS 49 started on Monday, Aug. 26, 2019 with 26 recruits and 5 MWAA recruits. This class graduated on Friday, March 20, 2020.
- RS 50 started in early December 2019 and graduated with 8 members on May 29, 2020.



### **Field Training Office**

The Filed Training Office processed and coordinated the use of the following training assets:

- 86 requests to use acquired structures
- 180 burn building drills
- 15 requests for “new” window prop
- 48 requests for smoke machine use
- 80 requests for use of the forcible entry doors

### **Company Core Competency Program**

- Prep work during 1st Quarter 2019, IB distributed with revised scheduling and process in February 2019.
- May 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019—Company Competency Drills daily as scheduled by each Shift Battalion Chief
- 2020 Competency Program will follow same timeline as 2019 drills

### **DOE and Aerial Release for New Drivers**

This program was done all the way through June 2019 until the process changed reverting the responsibility back to the company officer.

### **Acquired Structures**

Continue to work with local builders and city partner agencies to obtain access to vacant structures that are scheduled for demolition or remodel. Ongoing throughout the year.

## **Health, Safety & Risk Management Section**

The **Health, Safety & Risk Management (HSRM)** Section is commanded by Deputy Chief Tony Washington. HSRM provides 24-hour health, safety, and risk management support with the dedicated position of a Shift Safety Officer. While our members are caring for and ensuring the safety of civilians during emergent situations, HSRM is ensuring the safety and protection of our members. HSRM administers and manages AFD’s occupational safety and health program and ensures health and safety compliance for components under the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

HSRM provides input into all Fire Department emergent and non-emergent operations to ensure that safety of all personnel is a primary objective inclusive of practical training events. The HSRM section provides oversight and direction for:

- The Accident and Injury Review Board, which is comprised of a cross section of members who provide recommendations for corrective actions regarding accident and injuries.



- The department's Health and Wellness Workgroup (HWWG), which provides and works with members on health, wellness, and fitness initiatives.
- The Traumatic Exposure Recovery Program (TERP) team, which has been developed to provide behavioral health peer support for members struggling with job-related traumatic exposures.

The HSRM Section develops and implements operating guidelines pertaining to health, safety, wellness, and high-risk activities, administers the annual medical physicals, and administers the annual work performance evaluations.

### **Changes & Improvements to Procedures**

In 2019-2020, the Alexandria Fire Department made the following changes and improvements:

- Started an enhanced physical for staff including full body ultrasound
- Included admin staff, volunteers, inspectors, and fire marshals for the first time to be more inclusive and promote equality amongst divisions in regard to total health of all members
- Established in-house lab for bloodwork of members
- Epicenter for pandemic management for members in terms of doing all contact tracing, bringing members back to work, clearing them, etc. And providing testing and guidance to not only AFD but all public health and safety while also providing pandemic guidance and procedures to other departments.
- Rewriting grant and to have MMRs for all AFD members funded
- Started seeing more members for mental health visits; made direct referrals for members with mental health needs.
- Received, researched, and placed new fitness equipment in all 10 stations to meet health promotion goals and increase activity
- Worked with members to reduce A1C, blood pressure, and lipids from abnormal to normal ranges, not only bringing them back to duty but enhancing quality of life for their future
- First steps in creating inhouse vaccination clinic (ordering vaccines now) initiated to promote >90% of immunity for members

The in-house lab has been a major financial relief and saves time. HSRM recently ordered a fridge to hold vaccines for all employees. The goal is to reach 90% immunity or higher by providing free vaccines for all Fire Department employees against MMR, TDAP, and Hepatitis A, which is beneficial for special operations teams such as Swift Water Rescue. A benefit of this is if any exposure to measles or varicella happens, our employees will not be affected if vaccinated or blood tests show positive immunity. Also, all tuberculosis exposures are being handled in house, decreasing the number of AFD members who need to go for testing during their off-duty hours. Blood and body fluid, or any other infectious



disease exposures and concerns, are also relayed to our nurse practitioner Dr. Asra Amin who is in close contact with the hospital's Infection Preventionist.

The Alexandria Fire Department recently selected Life Scan to deliver the department's annual medical physicals. The Life Scan Wellness Program is an integrated medical approach to firefighter/medic exams that combines an annual physical with lifesaving, early detection testing for major diseases such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and aneurysms before they reach a catastrophic stage. The program provides firefighters and medics with a thorough assessment of their health as well as recommendations for achieving and maintaining long-term wellbeing and managing medical risks.

Each Life Scan exam has the added value benefit of ultrasound imaging assessments of the internal organs, heart, and vascular system, as well as cardiac and pulmonary testing, extensive laboratory blood profiles, infectious disease testing, diet and nutritional analysis, a state-of-the-art fitness evaluation, and a personalized wellness plan.



## Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security



The mission of the **Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security** is to save lives, protect property, and speed recovery from major emergencies by developing citywide programs and emergency operational capabilities that

prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from any emergency regardless of cause – whether in peacetime or a situation of national security. This is accomplished with the full support of the elected and appointed officials of the City, and requires the active participation of a range of participants from all departments and agencies of government, citizens, and the private and non-profit sectors to be fully successful.

OEM aligns itself with the City of Alexandria’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) – a multi-discipline, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of major emergencies and disasters within the City – as well as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP) and the Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan. OEM is commanded by Captain Ray Whatley.

### EOC Activations

- May – WMATA Platform Improvement Project (partial activation)
  - First activation of new EOC
- May – OEM and CERT were activated for a multiday highrise power outage and worked with the Red Cross
  - Not an EOC activation
- July – July 8 flooding event (partial activation)
- November – Elections (partial/virtual activation)

### Emergency Declarations

- July 8 flooding event

### After Action Reports (\*in progress)

- 2019 Wind Event
- 2019 CSX Derailment
- 2019 Tornado Drill



**Participated in the following Exercises**

- Active Violence Drill – Birchmere
- AHD POD
- NCR Incident Management Team FSE
- Arlington ATI
- WMATA Shutdown Workshop
- MWCOG CAO Bio-Response TTX
- City Bio-Response TTX
- Transurban HOV TTX
- Community Based Emergency Response Seminar (CBERS) OVERVIEW OF THE CHEMPACK program
- Capital Fortitude FSE
- Mark Center CBRN Response TTX



**Exercises Evaluator Support**

- USCG Potomac River
- Capital Fortitude
- Alexandria Health Department MSA Cities Readiness Initiative
- Alexandria City Public Schools Active Violence Incident Tabletop
- City CAO Bio-Response Tabletop
- City (statewide) Tornado Drill
- City Active Violence Drill – Birchmere
- MWCOG Bio-Response Emergency Preparedness Council



**Training/Public Outreach**

- Crisis Track Damage Assessment – 17 participants
- USCG Crisis Communications – 36 participants
- EOC 101 – 2 classes | 39 participants
- ICS for Law Enforcement – 4 classes | 72 participants
- ICS 100 – 6 participants
- ICS 200 – 6 participants
- ICS 300 – 3 classes | 43 participants
- ICS 300 (Assisted partners) – 1 for Fairfax OEM | 1 for PWC OEM
- ICS 400 – 3 classes | 44 participants
- ICS 700b – 6 participants
- G-191 – 2 classes | 27 participants
- G-775 – 2 classes | 18 participants



- CERT (Spring/Fall) – 2 classes
- CERT Training and Assessment Drill – 12 participants
- WebEOC Basic User
- Alexandria Radio Emergency Services conducted their annual 24 field day
- Multiple community outreach event throughout the year, including National Preparedness Month (September) activities

### **Conferences Staff Attended**

- Virginia Emergency Management Conference
- WebEOC Symposium
- Virginia EMS Symposium\*
- International Association of Emergency Managers Conference
- Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update\*

\*Not OEM-related

### **Other Division Accomplishments**

- January
  - Michael Brown and Teresa Scott Hoggard received the course completion for the National Emergency Management Basic Academy. This is a series of five courses for a total of 112 hours.

The National Emergency Management Basic Academy is a gateway for individuals pursuing a career in emergency management. Similar to basic academies operated by the fire service and law enforcement communities, the National Emergency Management Basic Academy will provide a foundational education in emergency management.

The goal of the Basic Academy is to support the early careers of emergency managers through a training experience combining knowledge of all fundamental systems, concepts, and practices of cutting-edge emergency management. The Academy provides shared classrooms of adult learners and skillful instructors resulting in a solid foundation upon which to build further studies and sound decisions.

- February
  - The new EOC became operational. Highlights:
    - ➔ **EOC Overview**
      - The development of the EOC was part of a large-scale, three-phase Public Safety Complex administration wing renovation project. The project included the relocation of the City IT network operations center out of Tavern Square.
      - February 22, 2016, phase one of the project began.
      - January 22, 2019, the EOC renovation project was completed.



➔ **Budget Information (\$5.171 million)**

- The original budget for the EOC and any additional cost associated with the EOC was \$4.5 million.

➔ **Grants Used**

- City Funds, Local Emergency Management Performance Grant 16 & 17, Urban Areas Security Initiative

➔ **New EOC Facts**

- Office space dedicated to OEM staff
- Privacy to participate in conference calls
- Minimal time required to set up EOC
- Additional space for private meetings and collaboration during activations
- State of the art visual technology that aids in coordination, collaboration, and situational awareness in the event of a crisis
- May be used by City departments for meetings or training
- 8,750 sq. ft.
- Consists of 47 workstations

- May
  - Brent Ruggles received the course completion for the National Emergency Management Basic Academy. This is a series of five courses for a total of 112 hours.
- June
  - Official Grand Opening of the EOC.
  - Proclamation issued for the EOC
  - Mr. William "Bill" Kehoe recognized for his dedication to OEM and the EOC. A plaque hangs in the EOC for his outstanding dedication.
- July
  - July 8 Flooding event occurred. EOC was partially activated.
  - OEM worked with Arlington OEM to open and staff a Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Outreach Center.
- September
  - Supported Community COVID-19 Testing event at two locations

**Significant Notes**

- All OEM Staff (Brown 2019, Ruggles 2019, Scott Hoggard 2019, Whatley 2018) have completed the National Emergency Management Basic Academy.
- Whatley/Scott completed FEMA E0110 Train the Trainer: National Basic Academy
  - Course Description: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes the need to tie training programs to an established set of emergency management competencies and to a career development program





through a progressive training and education system that includes the Basic Academy. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is offering the opportunity to students who are experienced in emergency management and adult training to take a step toward becoming qualified as an instructor for the Basic Academy courses.

- Whatley appointed Chair of MWCOG Public Access Bleeding Control Workgroup
- Whatley appointed Vice Chair of MWCOG Complex Coordinated Attack Workgroup (RESF-5 Representative)

## Public Information Office

The image of the Alexandria Fire Department, and its perception in the community and surrounding areas are of the utmost importance. The Alexandria Fire Department's **Public Information Office** oversees operations of the department's official social media accounts, the website, and communications with local and regional media representatives. The Public Information Office is staffed by a civilian Senior Public Information Officer (PIO) and four sworn, on-duty PIOs. The Public Information Office also works closely with the Community Outreach Unit (pg. 34).

PIOs respond to multi-alarm fires, major incidents in the City, and incidents where media is present. Additionally, PIOs collaborate with the Office of Communications and Public Information (OCPI) to notify the City Manager about certain incidents that may impact residents and/or normal operations in the City. The Public Information Office is staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. In the event of an emergency during afterhours, an on-duty PIO is on call from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. Monday through Friday and on holidays and weekends.

### Social Media

The Alexandria Fire Department Twitter ended 2019 with 8,691 followers and 29,424 total engagements. AFD's Facebook page had a total of 6,807 and 87,689 total engagements.

### OEM Social Media

In an effort to create an individual social media identity and increase online presence for the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), separate Twitter and Facebook accounts were created to push out emergency preparedness messaging, emergency management and volunteer information, and training information/opportunities. The accounts officially went live in August 2018.



In 2019, OEM Twitter had 298 followers and 5,378 total engagements. On Facebook, OEM ended 2019 with 199 likes and 4,898 total engagements.

### **PIO Training Completed**

In calendar year 2019, the senior PIO completed the following training & conferences:

- 2019 Government Social Media Conference (GSMCON) – Nashville, TN
- 2019 Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Annual Membership Meeting – Albuquerque, NM
- CPR Training – provided by AFD
- VDEM – G290: Basic Public Information Officer
- VDEM – G291: Joint Information System/Center Planning for Public Information Officers
- EOC 101 Course (2x) – provided by OEM
- FEMA – PER-304: Social Media Platforms for Disaster Management
- FEMA – PER-343: Social Media Engagement Strategies



## Fire Investigations Division

The primary purpose of the **Fire Investigations** Division is to determine the origin and cause of fires. The data collected during a fire investigation is of great significance because it can expose a serious crime, such as arson. The data also provides valuable statistics on fire trends and formation essential in developing programs to reduce fire risk in the future.

The Fire Investigations Division is responsible for investigating the origin and cause of all fires and explosions within the City of Alexandria. They also investigate fire-related deaths, burn injuries, suspected explosive devices, and bomb threats.

The division consists of five full-time law enforcement fire marshals (1 Chief Deputy, 4 Deputy Fire Marshals) who have completed extensive fire investigation, forensic and law enforcement training, and one part-time Deputy Fire Marshal who specifically handles fire inspections. All Alexandria law enforcement fire marshals are sworn law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Building Fire Loss: \$2,904,377**

**Building Fire Saved: \$678,687,807**

**FY2020 Significant Building Loss: \$1,575,000**



## Community Outreach Unit

The Alexandria Fire Department is dedicated to fire prevention and life safety and offers a variety of fire safety programs and resources throughout the year. Through its **Community Outreach Unit**, AFD proudly participates in various community events to inform, educate, and prepare the citizens of the City of Alexandria for emergency situations. Some of AFD’s community outreach programs include Read Across Alexandria, ASSIST smoke alarm

installations, and the Community Fire Academy.

The Community Outreach Coordinator also arranges ride along events and collaborates with various AFD employees to organize the annual September 11 Remembrance Ceremony, the Ivy Hill Wreath Laying & Memorial Service, and the Open House event for National Fire Prevention Week.

Community Outreach	Total
Event Requests	170
Events Completed	195
Smoke Alarms Installed (ASSIST)	273
Individual Smoke Alarms Requested	29
Smoke Alarms Installed	29
School Visitation (Read Across Alexandria)	14
Ride Along Requests (through OEM)	23
Ride Alongs Completed	23

