

# MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT



2020  
ANNUAL REPORT

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# WHO WE ARE

The Myrtle Beach Fire Department is an **E**lite team. We are **A**ccountable, **R**espectful, and Proud to honor this **N**oble profession with **I**ntegrity and **T**rust. This earns us the privilege to provide outstanding service to all!

# **EARN IT**

*“WHEN A MAN BECOMES A FIREFIGHTER HIS GREATEST ACT OF BRAVERY HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. WHAT HE DOES AFTER THAT IS ALL IN THE LINE OF WORK.”*

- CHIEF EDWARD F. CROKER 1899



# MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF TOM GWYER



THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO READ OUR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT. INCLUDED IN THIS PUBLICATION IS JUST A BRIEF SNAPSHOT OF ALL THE THINGS THE DEPARTMENT ACHIEVED OVER THIS PAST, CRAZY YEAR. CERTAINLY THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEW DECADE WAS NOT WHAT ANY OF US WOULD HAVE IMAGINED. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAD HUGE IMPACTS ON THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT AND THE CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH WAS NOT IMMUNE FROM ITS EFFECTS. BUT THROUGHOUT ALL THE UNCERTAINTY THAT 2020 BROUGHT, ONE THING REMAINED THE SAME; THE EXCELLENT SERVICE DELIVERY FROM THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT. I AM SO PROUD OF HOW THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THIS ORGANIZATION PRESERVED AND SHOWED THEIR METTLE. THEY CONTINUED TO ANSWER THE CALL EACH AND EVERY DAY, AND DID SO WITH A LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM AND COMPASSION THAT PERSONIFIES OUR EARN IT MANTRA.



# HISTORY

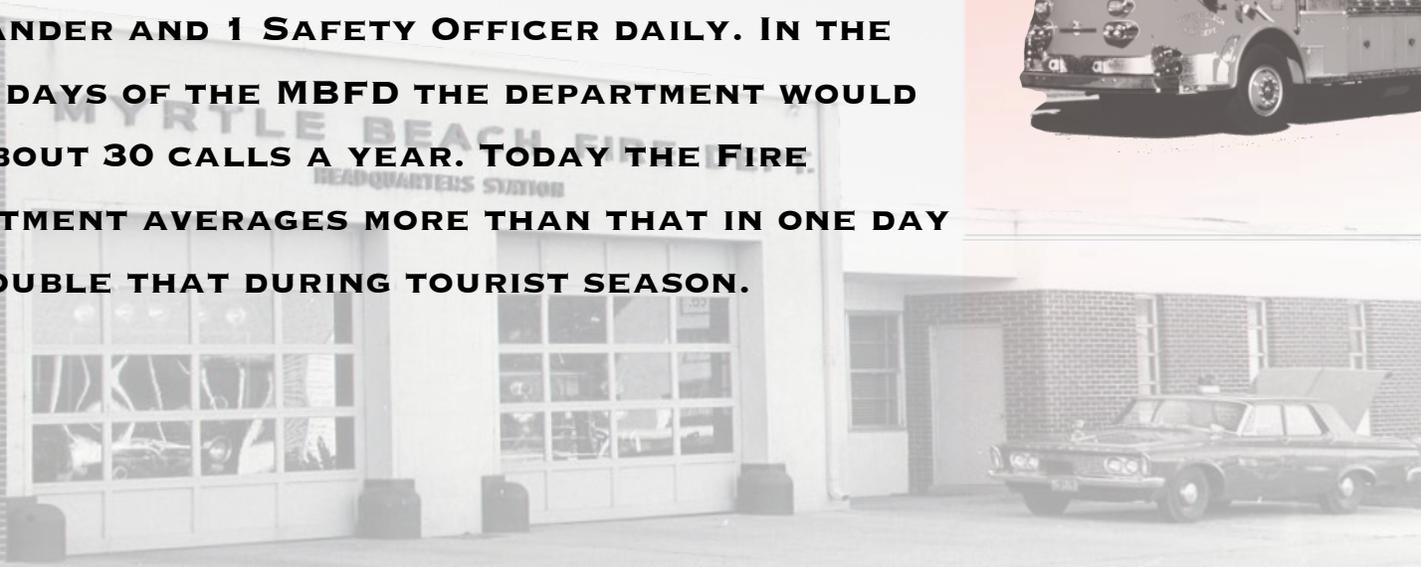
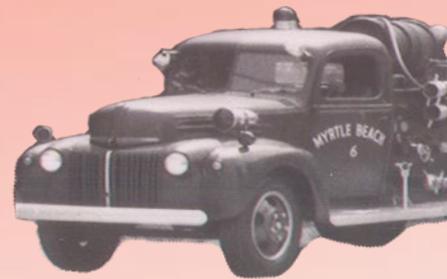
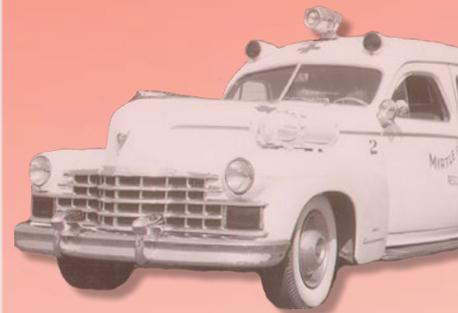


## Myrtle Beach Fire Department

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AS A VOLUNTEER EFFORT OF CITIZENS, THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS EVOLVED INTO A CLASS 1 FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSISTING OF 175 CAREER FIREFIGHTERS/EMT-PARAMEDICS. FROM A SMALL GARAGE BEHIND THE BROADWAY RESTAURANT, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY STAFFS 6 FIREHOUSES LOCATED STRATEGICALLY THROUGHOUT THE CITY. THE FIRST FIRE ENGINE WAS A 1936 FORD PUMPER PURCHASED BY THE MYRTLE BEACH FARMS COMPANY. TODAY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT DEPLOYS 5 ENGINES, 3 LADDER TRUCKS, 1 HEAVY RESCUE, 2 AMBULANCES, 2 SQUAD COMPANIES, BEACH PATROL UNITS, 1 SHIFT COMMANDER AND 1 SAFETY OFFICER DAILY. IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE MBFD THE DEPARTMENT WOULD RUN ABOUT 30 CALLS A YEAR. TODAY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AVERAGES MORE THAN THAT IN ONE DAY AND DOUBLE THAT DURING TOURIST SEASON.

### PRINCIPLE GOALS

- + LIFE SAFETY
- + INCIDENT STABILIZATION
- + PROPERTY CONSERVATION



**DID YOU KNOW?**



## **FAST FACTS:**

- **DID YOU KNOW THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO AN EMERGENCY EVERY 38 MINUTES?**
- **DID YOU KNOW THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO A WORKING FIRE ON AVERAGE EVERY 3 DAYS?**
- **DID YOU KNOW THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO 8,224 MEDICAL CALLS IN 2020?**

**OUR DIVERSE CITY CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 23 SQUARE MILES OF LAND THAT INCLUDES A COMBINATION OF HIGH RISE HOTELS, RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, HIGHWAYS, THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, AND BEACH ACCESSES TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. OUR POPULATION EXCEEDS 33,000 YEAR ROUND RESIDENTS WITH AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION OVER 140,000. THE CITY WELCOMES MORE THAN 18 MILLION TOURISTS VISITING ANNUALLY. MYRTLE BEACH CONSISTENTLY RANKS AMONG THE FASTEST GROWING COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY AS FEATURED ON THE TRAVEL CHANNEL.**





**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

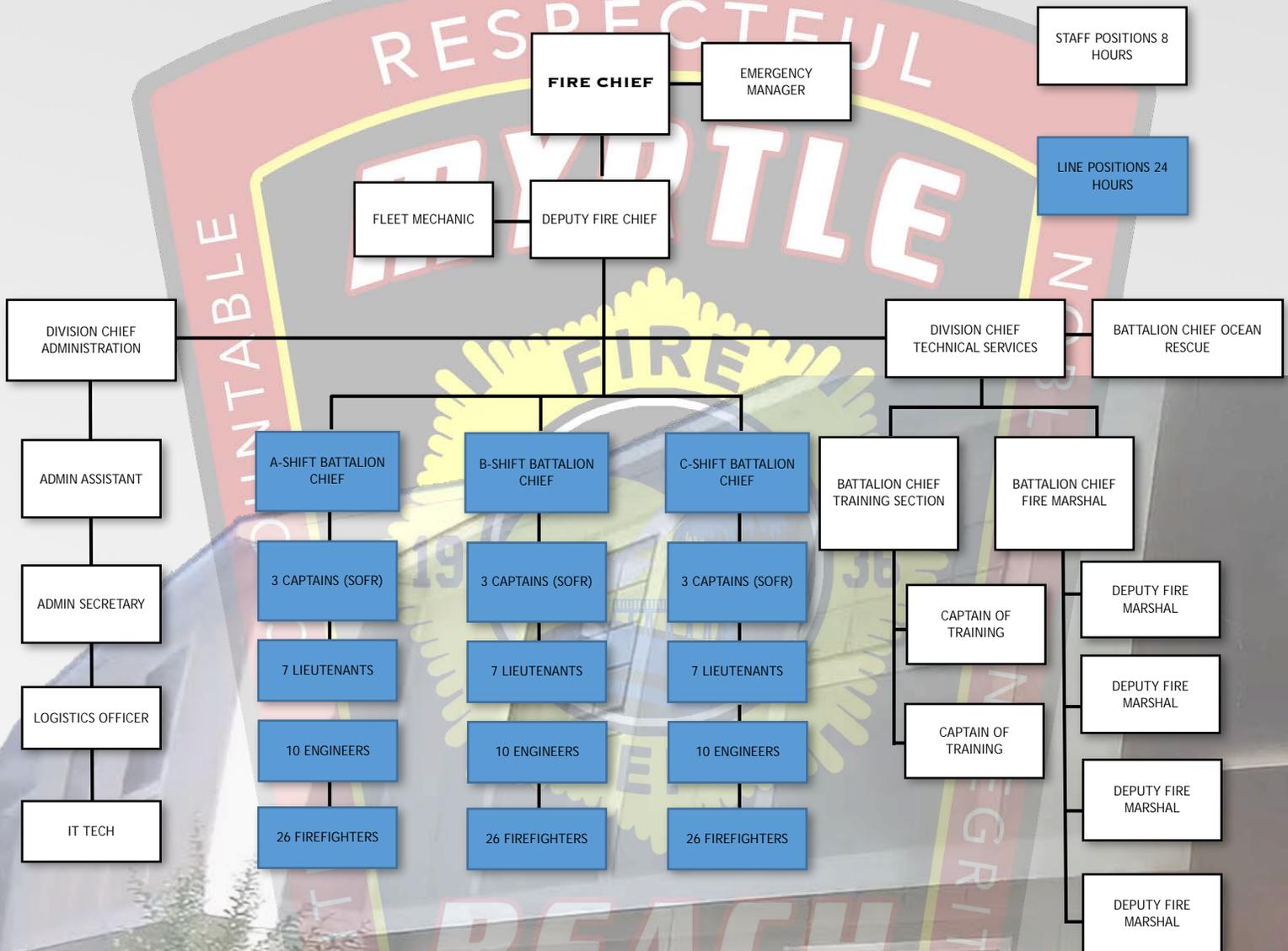
# **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION IS THE DIRECT ACTION ELEMENT OF THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT, RESPONDING TO ALL HAZARDS THAT OCCUR WITHIN THE COVERAGE AREA. THIS RANGES FROM THE TRADITIONAL FIRE RESPONSE TO MEDICAL CALLS, HAZARDOUS MATERIAL, AND TECHNICAL RESCUE INCIDENTS. WITHIN THE LAST FEW YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED AND DEPLOYED AN OCEAN RESCUE TEAM.

PERSONNEL COVERAGE IS PROVIDED BY 3 SEPARATE SHIFTS ON A ROTATING 24 HOURS ON-DUTY/48 HOURS OFF-DUTY WORK SCHEDULE. IN ESSENCE, SOMEONE ASSIGNED TO THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION LIVES 4 MONTHS AT THE FIREHOUSE EACH YEAR. WHEN FIREFIGHTERS ARE NOT RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES, THEY HAVE OTHER DUTIES THAT INCLUDE TRAINING, STATION MAINTENANCE, APPARATUS MAINTENANCE, PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND ATTENDING COMMUNITY EVENTS. IT CAN BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD WHY THE FIRE SERVICE IS MORE OF A “CALLING” THAN AN OCCUPATION.



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



T6 helmet

## **STAFF POSITIONS 8 HOURS**

**FIRE CHIEF-** OVERALL FIRE DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR WHO HANDLES ALL BUDGETING AND DECISION MAKING FOR THE DEPARTMENT. THIS DEPARTMENT HEAD POSITION REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER.

**DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF-** REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE FIRE CHIEF. THE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF SERVES AS THE OVERALL DIVISION HEAD OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION, THE DEPARTMENT'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AND THE ISO COMPLIANCE OFFICER. THE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF ALSO OVERSEES OUR FLEET OF APPARATUS INCLUDING MAINTENANCE, SPECIFICATION AND SUPERVISION OF THE FLEET MECHANIC. FACILITY MANAGEMENT IS ALSO ANOTHER RESPONSIBILITY THIS POSITION. THE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF ALSO REPRESENTS THE ROLE OF THE FIRE CHIEF IN ABSENCE.

**DIVISION CHIEF OF TECHNICAL SERVICES-** THIS DIVISION CHIEF REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE FIRE CHIEF. THIS DIVISION CHIEF SERVES AS THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS CHIEF, THE OVERALL DEPARTMENT SAFETY OFFICER, AND THE DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND CONDUCT OFFICER. THIS DIVISION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPERVISION OVERSEEING THE TRAINING DIVISION, COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION SECTION, AND SPECIALTY TEAMS INCLUDING OCEAN RESCUE, URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE, AND HAZMAT. THIS DIVISION CHIEF ALSO HANDLES GRANT WRITING RESPONSIBILITIES.

**DIVISION CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION-** THIS DIVISION CHIEF REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE FIRE CHIEF. THIS CHIEF SERVES AS THE DEPARTMENT CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, AND CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER. THIS CHIEF ALSO OVERSEES LOGISTICS, PROCUREMENT, AND ALL EMS RELATED TASKS (COMPLIANCE, BILLING, RX CONTROL ETC.). THIS CHIEF ALSO OVERSEES STRATEGIC PLANNING, MANAGING THE DEPARTMENTS RECORDS, AND DATA COLLECTION/ANALYSIS.

**BATTALION CHIEF OF OCEAN RESCUE-** THIS CHIEF REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE DIVISION CHIEF TECHNICAL SERVICES, AND ACTS AS THE BEACH SUPERVISOR FOR OUR OCEAN RESCUE OPERATIONS. THIS CHIEF SPLITS TIME IN THE OFFICE AS WELL AS ON THE BEACH AS ANOTHER BEACH PATROL UNIT, AND IS IN CHARGE OF ALL INCIDENTS THAT HAPPEN ON THE BEACH. THIS CHIEF ALSO ACTS AS A LIAISON

BETWEEN CITY DEPARTMENTS (POLICE BEACH PATROL), OUTSIDE AGENCIES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, AND LIFEGUARD FRANCHISES. THIS CHIEF ALSO SERVES AS A MEMBER ON THE BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE COASTAL WATER SAFETY COALITION.

**FIRE MARSHAL-** THE FIRE MARSHAL REPORTS TO THE DIVISION CHIEF OF TECHNICAL SERVICES. AT THE RANK OF BATTALION CHIEF, THE FIRE MARSHAL MANAGES THE COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION SECTION. THIS SECTION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL CODE ENFORCEMENT/COMPLIANCE, PUBLIC EDUCATION INCLUDING INFORMATION AND RELATIONS. THE FIRE MARSHAL HAS 4 DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS THAT ASSIST WITH INSPECTIONS, COMPLIANCE CHECKS, CODE ENFORCEMENT, BUSINESS LICENSES, AND VARIOUS OTHER DUTIES. 1 DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL HANDLES COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION EFFORTS, PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.

**BATTALION CHIEF OF TRAINING-** THE BATTALION CHIEF REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE DIVISION CHIEF OF TECHNICAL SERVICES AND OVERSEES THE EXECUTION/DELIVERY OF ALL INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT MEMBERS. THIS TRAINING INCLUDES FIRE, EMS, AND SPECIALTY TRAINING. THE BATTALION CHIEF OF TRAINING ALSO SUPERVISES TWO TRAINING OFFICERS AT THE CAPTAIN RANK.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS-** THE DEPARTMENT ALSO EMPLOYS TWO CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS THAT SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES IN BILLING, HR MATTERS, PERSONNEL ISSUES, HIRING, AND VARIOUS OTHER TASKS. THESE ASSISTANTS REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE DIVISION CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION.

**LOGISTICS OFFICER-** AT THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT, THE LOGISTICS OFFICER REPORTS TO THE DIVISION CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION. THIS POSITION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL DEPARTMENT PROCUREMENT, AND INVENTORY MANAGEMENT (SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, UNIFORMS, ETC.)

**FIRE IT-** THIS CIVILIAN POSITION REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE DIVISION CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION. THIS POSITION IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT INCLUDING ALL COMPUTERS AND RADIOS (MOBILE AND PORTABLE) DEPARTMENT WIDE.

## **LINE POSITIONS 24 HOURS (OPERATIONS)**

**SHIFT BATTALION CHIEFS-** THESE CHIEFS REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF. EACH OF THE THREE SHIFTS HAVE ONE BATTALION CHIEF THAT IS THE OVERALL SHIFT COMMANDER OF OPERATIONS FOR THE DAY. THESE CHIEFS ARE ASSIGNED TO THE COMMAND VEHICLE WHICH RESPONDS TO ALL MAJOR INCIDENTS. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE DAILY OPERATIONS FOR ALL 6 STATIONS.

**SHIFT CAPTAINS-** EACH SHIFT HAS 3 CAPTAINS. 2 OF THE CAPTAINS ARE IN CHARGE OF A STATION WHILE THE THIRD IS THE SAFETY OFFICER FOR THE DAY AND IS ASSIGNED TO THE SAFETY OFFICER VEHICLE. THE STATION CAPTAINS ARE EACH RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE MAINTENANCE ISSUES AND APPARATUS AT THE STATION THEY ARE ASSIGNED TO. THE SAFETY OFFICER RESPONDS TO ANY MAJOR CALL IN THE CITY AND ACTS AS ANOTHER STAFF OFFICER TO ASSIST THE INCIDENT COMMANDER. THE SAFETY OFFICER IS IN CHARGE OF ALL SAFETY OPERATIONS ON AN INCIDENT SCENE TO ENSURE THAT OUR PERSONNEL ARE WORKING SAFELY.

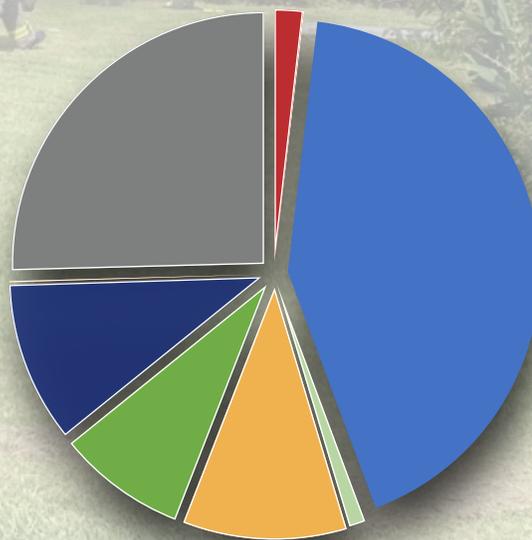
**SHIFT LIEUTENANTS-** THERE ARE 7 LIEUTENANTS ON EACH OF THE 3 SHIFTS THAT ARE IN CHARGE OF A COMPANY. THESE LIEUTENANTS HANDLE THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS AT THEIR RESPECTIVE STATION, AND ARE THE INCIDENT COMMANDER AT MINOR INCIDENTS. THEY HANDLE ALL DAILY REPORTS FOR THE STATION AND HANDLE PERSONNEL ISSUES WITHIN THE STATIONS.

**SHIFT ENGINEER/FIREFIGHTERS-** ENGINEER/FIREFIGHTERS ARE THE DRIVER/ OPERATORS OF THE FIRE APPARATUS IN THE STATION. ENGINEER/FIREFIGHTERS ALSO HANDLE STATION TRAINING AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES TO ASSIST THE SHIFT LIEUTENANTS AND CAPTAINS IN DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS. ENGINEER/ FIREFIGHTERS ALSO FILL IN FOR THE OFFICER IF THEY ARE OFF AND HANDLE THE STATION OFFICER DUTIES.



# 2020 CALLS FOR SERVICE

INCIDENT TYPE GROUP	INCIDENT TYPE GROUP
100 - FIRE	238
200 - SERIES	8
300 - EMS	5,574
400 - HAZMAT	137
500 - SERVICE CALL	1,382
600 - SERIES	1,087
700 - FALSE ALARM	1,355
800 - NATURAL DISASTER	10
900 - SPECIAL INCIDENT	1
OTHER	3,336
<b>TOTAL: 13,128</b>	



# FIRE STATIONS



**Station 1**  
**1250 Mr. Joe White Ave**

1250 MR JOE WHITE AVE  
Station 1



**Station 2**  
**5338 N. Kings Hwy**

5338 N KINGS HWY  
Station 2



**Station 3**  
**2108 S. Kings Hwy**

2108 S KINGS HWY  
Station 3



**Station 4**  
**1170 Howard Pkwy**

1170 HOWARD PKWY  
Station 4



**Station 5**  
**804 79th Ave N**

804 79th Ave N  
Station 5

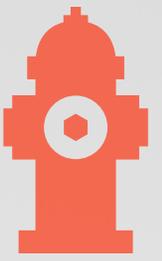


**Station 6**  
**970 38th Ave N**

970 38th Ave N  
Station 6



# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION



THE COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION SECTION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CITYWIDE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ADOPTED FIRE CODE AND CITY ORDINANCES AS THEY RELATE TO FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY. OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE PUBLIC EDUCATION, FIRE INVESTIGATION, BUSINESS LICENSE INSPECTIONS, PLANS REVIEW, PRE-CONSTRUCTION PLANNING, PYROTECHNIC PERMITTING, PRE-INCIDENT SURVEY PROGRAMS AND CODE COMPLIANCE FOR LARGE COMMUNITY EVENTS.

OVER THE PAST YEAR THE CRR SECTION HAS COMPLETED NEARLY 3800 FIRE CODE INSPECTIONS, RE-INSPECTIONS, SPECIAL EVENTS INSPECTIONS, MOBILE FOOD UNIT INSPECTIONS, COMPLIANCE CHECKS, AND BUSINESS LICENSE INSPECTIONS. DURING THE INITIAL STAGES OF THE PANDEMIC, THE CRR SECTION SERVED AS AMBASSADORS OF THE CITY TO HELP EDUCATE AND ENFORCE OUR CITY ORDINANCES IN RELATION TO LOCAL BUSINESSES. THE CRR SECTION ALSO HELPED CREATE AND DISTRIBUTE SOCIAL DISTANCING MESSAGE THAT WAS DISPLAYED CITY WIDE.



INSPECTIONS	TOTALS
INSPECTIONS PERFORMED	3,791
CODE VIOLATIONS FOUND	4,460
VIOLATIONS CORRECTED WITHIN 30 DAYS	3,360

**OPERATION FIRE SAFE-** THE OPERATION FIRE SAFE PROGRAM IS A PROGRAM THAT WAS DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE LOCAL BUSINESSES AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND THE TRAINING OF THEIR STAFF, HELPING TO MAKE THOSE BUSINESSES SAFER FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS.

**CAR SEAT PROGRAM-** OUR CAR SEAT PROGRAM HAS 45 DHEC SAFE KIDS CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS THAT ASSISTED WITH 82 CAR SEAT INSTALLATIONS AT THE FIRE STATIONS AND 1 CAR SEAT EVENT OVER THE COURSE OF 2020.

**SCHOOL PROGRAMS-** THE DEPARTMENT WORKED WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS IN 2020 ON PROGRAMS INCLUDING, CAREER DAYS, WORK STUDY VISITS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES, AND READING BUDDIES.

**PSA AND MEDIA SUPPORT-** WE HAD ANOTHER INCREASE IN SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSE WITH 25,000 FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK, 6,000 ON TWITTER, AND 5,600 FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM. WE PRODUCED OVER 1,500 POSTS AND 35 PSAs AND VIDEOS IN 2020.

**TRADE SHOWS-** WE HAD A PRESENCE AT THE HOTEL/MOTEL SHOW, THE SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENTS SHOW AND THE DICKENS SHOW LAST YEAR. WE REACHED OVER 7,700 PEOPLE WITH FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY INFORMATION DURING THOSE SHOWS.

**VOLUNTEER TEAM-** OUR COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION VOLUNTEER TEAM HAS 22 MEMBERS THAT WORK DILIGENTLY TO HELP OUR DEPARTMENT DURING MANY OF OUR PUBLIC SAFETY EVENTS.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS-** THE DEPARTMENT TAKES PART IN NUMEROUS COMMUNITY EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THESE EVENTS INCLUDE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB EVENTS, THE MDA BOOT DRIVE, CHARITY BASEBALL, AND VARIOUS OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR A MULTITUDE OF ORGANIZATIONS.

**BEACH SAFETY CAMPAIGN-** THE DEPARTMENT STRIVES TO KEEP OUR BEACHES SAFE THROUGH BROCHURES, PSAs, AND FACE TO FACE INTERACTION. WE HAVE ACHIEVED THIS THROUGH OUR BEACH PATROL CREWS, RECENTLY ADDED NEW SIGNS ON THE BEACH TO HELP WITH LOST PATRONS, AS WELL AS THE INTRODUCTION OF SUNNY SWELL TO HELP CHILDREN.

OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION IS CONSTANTLY LOOKING TO FURTHER ENHANCE OUR PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. OVER THIS PAST YEAR WE HAVE HELD OUR THIRD CITIZEN'S FIRE ACADEMY, BUT UNFORTUNATELY HAD TO POSTPONE GRADUATION DUE TO COVID. THE CURRICULUM IS DESIGNED TO SHOW OUR CITIZENS HOW THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT IS ORGANIZED AND OPERATES. IN ORDER TO INCREASE OUR PRESENCE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, THE CRR SECTION PRESENTED AT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCHES ALONGSIDE OUR FIRE CREWS.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION TOTALS**

<b>ADULTS CONTACTS</b>	<b>12,390</b>
<b>CHILDREN CONTACTS</b>	<b>13,420</b>
<b>CAR SEATS</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>SMOKE ALARMS</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>TV INTERVIEWS</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>NEWS PAPER ARTICLES</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>RADIO</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>EVENTS</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>TRAINING CLASSES</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD WATCHES</b>	<b>20</b>



# TRAINING

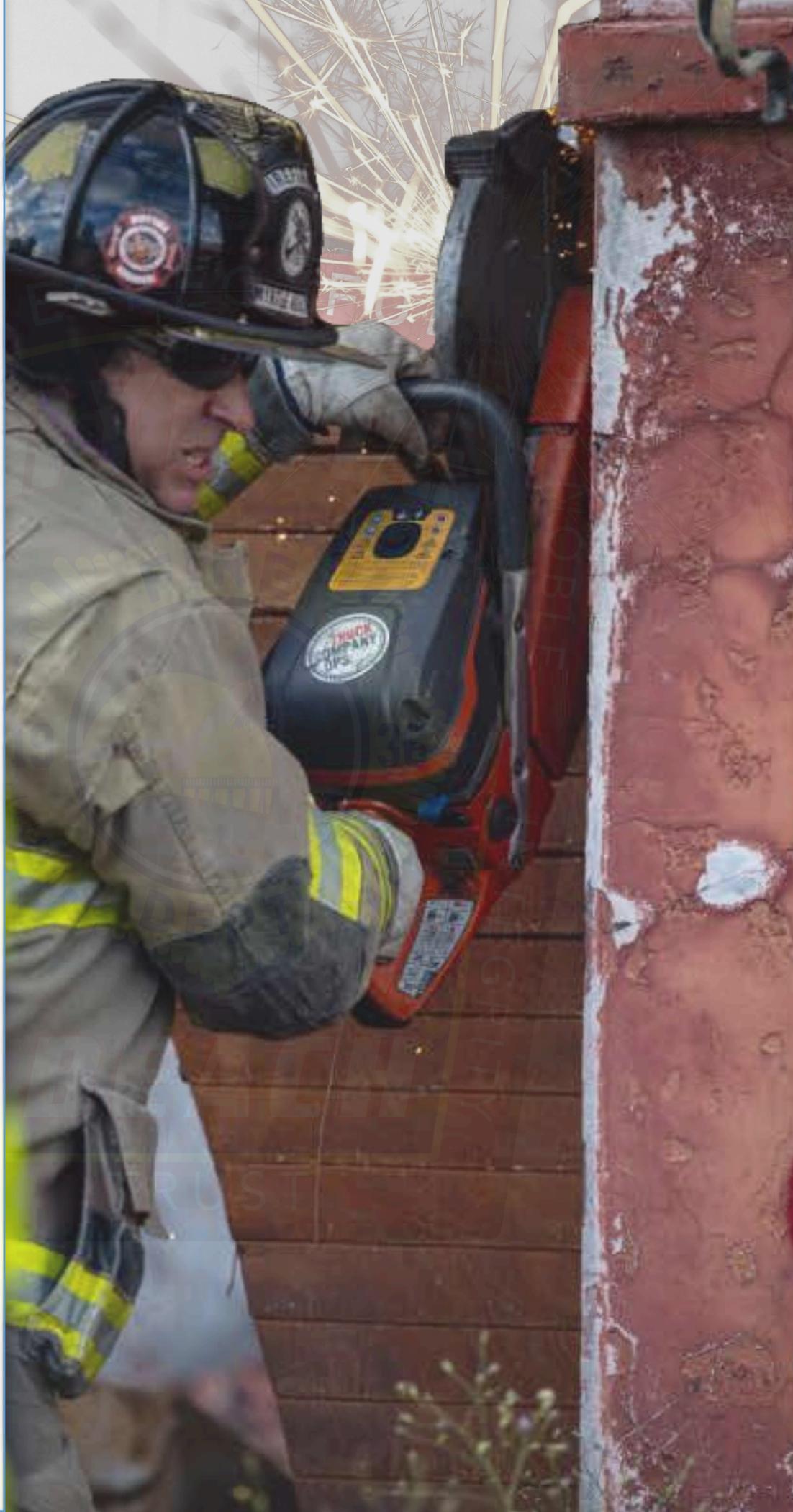
THE TRAINING SECTION WHICH WAS HEADED BY NOW RETIRED CHIEF MARTIN EELLS HAS RECENTLY BEEN TAKEN OVER BY JOSHUA ANDREWS. CHIEF ANDREWS IS ASSISTED BY EMS TRAINING CAPTAIN DWAYNE WRIGHT AND FIRE TRAINING CAPTAIN KARL SCHOOK. THE TRAINING SECTION ENSURES THAT MEMBERS MEET THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY THE INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO), OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA), THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA), THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (DHEC) AND INTERNAL REQUIREMENTS AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE TRAINING SECTION STRIVES TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST QUALITY TRAINING, INSTRUCTION, AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO OUR MEMBERS. THIS IS INTENDED TO PREPARE OUR DEPARTMENT TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MEANS POSSIBLE, ENSURING THE SAFETY OF OUR PERSONNEL AND CITIZENS. IN 2020 TRAINING CLASSES SAW A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE DUE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC. IN 2020 THE DEPARTMENT HOSTED 14 SOUTH CAROLINA FIRE ACADEMY (SCFA) CLASSES, HOSTED THE STATE SPONSORED TRENCH COLLAPSE RESCUE CLASS, ASSISTED WITH THE STATE RE-CERTIFICATIONS OF 50 EMTS AND PARAMEDICS, 77 NATIONAL REGISTRY RECERTIFICATIONS, TAUGHT AN EMT SCHOOL FOR SIX OF OUR PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS AND DELIVERED AN ADVANCED PEDIATRIC LIFE SUPPORT CLASS (PALS) FOR 43 OF OUR PERSONNEL.

THE TRAINING SECTION PARTNERED WITH THE GRAND STRAND MEDICAL CENTER RESIDENTS PROGRAM INSTRUCTING A DRIVER TRAINING COURSE FOR 18 PHYSICIANS IN ORDER FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN A QUICK RESPONSE PROGRAM. A PARTICIPATION DEMONSTRATION DAY WAS ALSO CONDUCTED WITH THE PHYSICIANS IN ORDER FOR THEM TO EXPERIENCE EMERGENCY MEDICAL CALLS IN THE PREHOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT. THIS ALSO INCLUDED A FIRST YEAR RIDE ALONG PROGRAM FOR THE RESIDENT PHYSICIANS THAT REAPED ENORMOUS BENEFITS FOR BOTH AGENCIES.

<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
<b>FIRE</b>	<b>37,656</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>9,441</b>
<b>DRIVER/OPERATOR</b>	<b>3,589</b>
<b>OFFICER</b>	<b>5,514</b>
<b>RESCUE</b>	<b>7,932</b>
<b>HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b>	<b>3,529</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>3,147</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70,811</b>

# SPECIAL



# OCEAN RESCUE

THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT OCEAN RESCUE PROGRAM COMPLETED ITS FIFTH SEASON PATROLLING THE BEACH.

MBFD'S SUNNY SWELL SIGNAGE AT PUBLIC BEACH ACCESSES RECEIVED POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE.

THIS YEAR SUNNY SWELL'S SAFETY MESSAGING COVERED ALL MBFD'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS. SUNNY POSTED THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE'S BEACH HAZARD WARNINGS. THESE WARNINGS PROVIDED RESIDENTS AND VISITORS PERTINENT INFORMATION ABOUT OCEAN CONDITIONS. THE OCEAN RESCUE PROGRAM IS COMPRISED OF

25 MEMBERS THAT MEET THE STANDARDS SET FORTH BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND UNITED STATES LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION (USLA). MBFD REMAINS ONE OF ONLY 23 USLA CERTIFIED AQUATIC RESCUE RESPONSE TEAMS (ARRT) IN THE COUNTRY, LOGGING 1,293 HOURS OF AQUATIC RESCUE TRAINING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



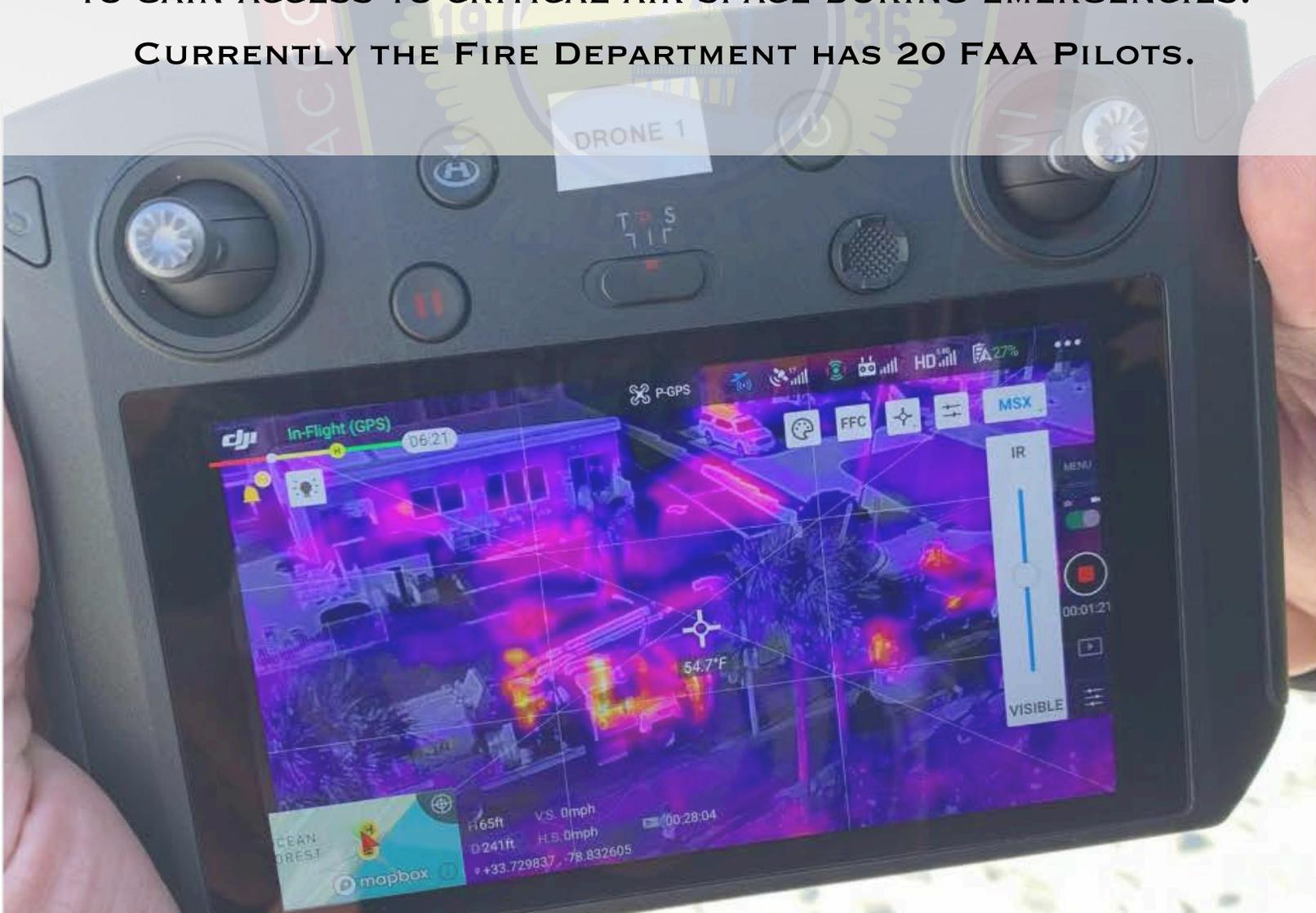
**THE SPRING SEASON PATROLS WERE MODIFIED DUE TO COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS/STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS FOR VISITORS. BY MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, STAFF WAS BACK TO DAILY PATROLS AND MBFD STAFFED UP TO FOUR OCEAN RESCUE CREWS PATROLLING THE BEACH FROM MAY THROUGH OCTOBER. DURING THAT TIME, 361 INCIDENT WERE COVERED BY BEACH CREWS, THUS ALLOWING STATION APPARATUS TO REMAIN IN-SERVICE FOR OTHER EMERGENCY DEMANDS. THE OCEAN RESCUE PROGRAM DEPLOYED 65 RESCUE SWIMMERS TO AFFECT 34 RESCUES AND ASSISTS, ENFORCED 1,845 BEACH ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS, ASSISTED WITH 87 LOST CHILDREN/PERSONS, MADE 5,300 CONTACTS WITH BEACHGOERS, COMPLETED 15 PUB ED EVENTS/STANDBYS AND PERFORMED 3 MEDIA INTERVIEWS. MBFD OCEAN RESCUE PROGRAM PROVIDES EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE BY UTILIZING THE FOLLOWING ASSETS FOR ITS MEMBERS: FOUR 4X4 RESPONSE PICKUP TRUCKS, FOUR JET SKIS, TWO RESCUE BOATS, AND A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF ASSOCIATED RESCUE EQUIPMENT. MBFD OCEAN RESCUE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO PLAN FOR THE GROWING NEEDS OF THE CITY'S RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.**

**THIS YEAR, MULTIPLE COASTAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS HAVE CONTACTED MBFD ABOUT OUR USLA ARRT PROGRAM AFTER SEEING THE SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM FEATURED AT 2019 FIRE-RESCUE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. AN INCREASE IN TRAINING AND THROUGH THE EXPANSION OF THE WATER RESCUE PROGRAMS' DIVERSE SKILLS, THE USAR REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM CAN NOW DEPLOY AND PROVIDE SWIFT WATER RESCUE RESOURCES TO BOTH LOCAL AND STATEWIDE COMMUNITIES.**



# DRONE PILOTS

THE DRONE PROGRAM WAS STARTED IN 2019 WITH THE DONATION OF 3 DJI MAVIC 2 ENTERPRISE DUAL DRONES BY THE MYRTLE BEACH ROTARY CLUB. IN 2020 THERE WERE 75 DRONE FLIGHTS WITH OVER 39 HOURS OF FLIGHT TIME. DRONES WERE USED TO ASSIST OPERATIONS AT 11 STRUCTURE FIRES, 2 BRUSH FIRES AND 15 OCEAN RESCUE EMERGENCIES. 4 OCEAN RESCUE FLIGHTS WERE AT NIGHT, GIVING SEARCHERS INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GAIN UNDER DARK CONDITIONS. THE DRONE TEAM HAS BEEN BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE FAA AND MYRTLE BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER TO GAIN ACCESS TO CRITICAL AIR SPACE DURING EMERGENCIES. CURRENTLY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS 20 FAA PILOTS.



# **URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE**

THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT (MBFD) IS THE HOST AGENCY FOR SC TASK FORCE 2 (SC-TF2). SC-TF2 IS THE REGIONAL COLLAPSE SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM THAT SERVES THE MYRTLE BEACH AREA AND PEE DEE REGION. SC-TF2 OPERATES UNDER THE DIRECTION AND SUPPORT OF THE STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TASK FORCE (SCERTF). THE TEAM IS COMPRISED OF 48 ACTIVE MEMBERS THAT HAVE ADVANCED TRAINING IN VARIOUS TECHNICAL RESCUE DISCIPLINES SUCH AS STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE, HIGH ANGLE ROPE, CONFINED SPACE, TRENCH AND SWIFT WATER RESCUE. TEAM MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO TRAIN ON A BIMONTHLY BASIS TO REMAIN PROFICIENT IN VARIOUS RESCUE CAPABILITIES. SC-TF2 RECEIVED A FEDERAL GRANT IN 2020 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78,000 THAT FACILITATED THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS TYPES OF TECHNICAL RESCUE EQUIPMENT. TRAINING EXPENSES WERE ALSO FUNDED THROUGH THE GRANT TO SEND PERSONNEL TO ADVANCED ROPE RESCUE AND A SWIFT WATER RESCUE TECHNICIAN COURSE.



**THE TEAM DID NOT DEPLOY DURING 2020, BUT WAS PLACED ON STANDBY SEVERAL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. IN ADDITION TO THE LOCAL TEAMS HOSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT, SEVERAL MEMBERS ALSO BELONG TO SEVERAL STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS AS WELL. THIS INCLUDES SOUTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY RESPONSE TASK FORCE SC-TF 1, AND SC-HART. SC-TF 1 IS A NIMS COMPLIANT TYPE 1 US&R STATE ASSET, THAT IS AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO WHOMEVER REQUESTS THE ASSISTANCE. OUR MEMBERS WERE DEPLOYED SEVERAL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR BOTH IN STATE AND OUT OF STATE. SC-HART (HELICOPTER AQUATIC RESCUE TEAM) IS A DETACHMENT OF SC-TF 1 AND IS COUPLED WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD. SC-HART PROVIDES CIVILIAN RESCUE TECHNICIANS (SIMILAR TO USCG RESCUE SWIMMERS) TO SCNG AIRFRAMES TO PERFORM LIFE CRITICAL MISSIONS BOTH IN AND OUT OF STATE.**



# HAZMAT

MBFD IS ALSO THE HOST AGENCY FOR SC HAZ-MAT 2 (SC-HM2). SC-HM2 IS THE REGIONAL HAZ-MAT WMD (WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION) TEAM THAT SERVES THE MYRTLE BEACH AREA AND PEE DEE REGION. THE TEAM IS COMPRISED OF 30 ACTIVE MEMBERS THAT ARE SPECIALIZED IN ONE OF FIVE MAIN WORKING GROUPS. THEY INCLUDE ENTRY/RECON, DECONTAMINATION, COMMUNICATIONS/RESEARCH, MEDICAL, AND COMMAND/SAFETY. SC-HM2 ALSO RECEIVED A FEDERAL GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,000 FOR 2020, ALLOWING THE TEAM TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL SCBAs, RADIOS, COMPUTERS, AIR MONITORS. FUNDING ALSO INCLUDED THE MAINTENANCE NEEDS FOR VARIOUS CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF THE EQUIPMENT. TRAINING EXPENSES WERE ALSO FUNDED TO SEND PERSONNEL TO A COMMUNICATIONS COURSE AND A HAZ-MAT SAMPLING COURSE. THE TEAM TRAINS ON A BIMONTHLY SCHEDULE OPPOSITE OF SC-TF2. DURING 2020, SC-HM2 WAS INVOLVED IN NUMEROUS MUTUAL AID RESPONSES AND INCIDENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH AND SURROUNDING AREAS.



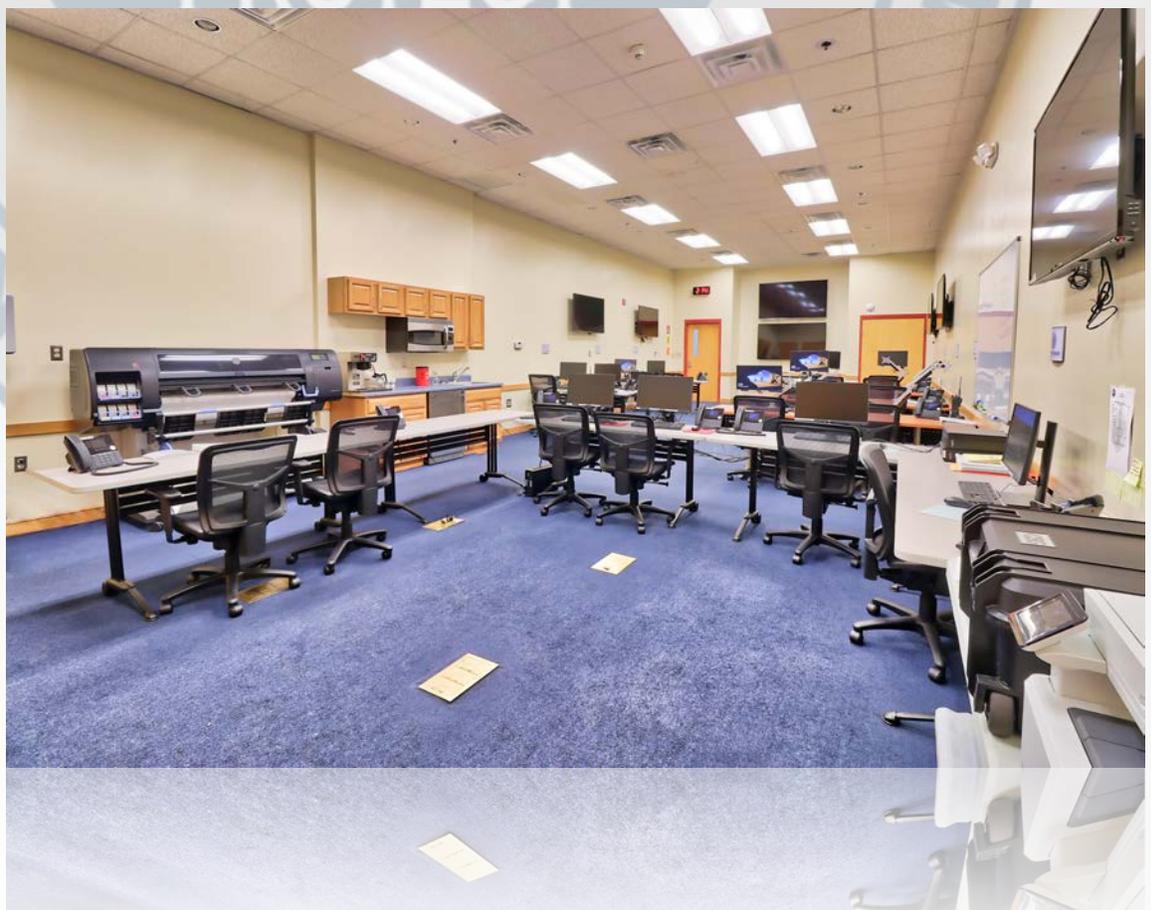


# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

# **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

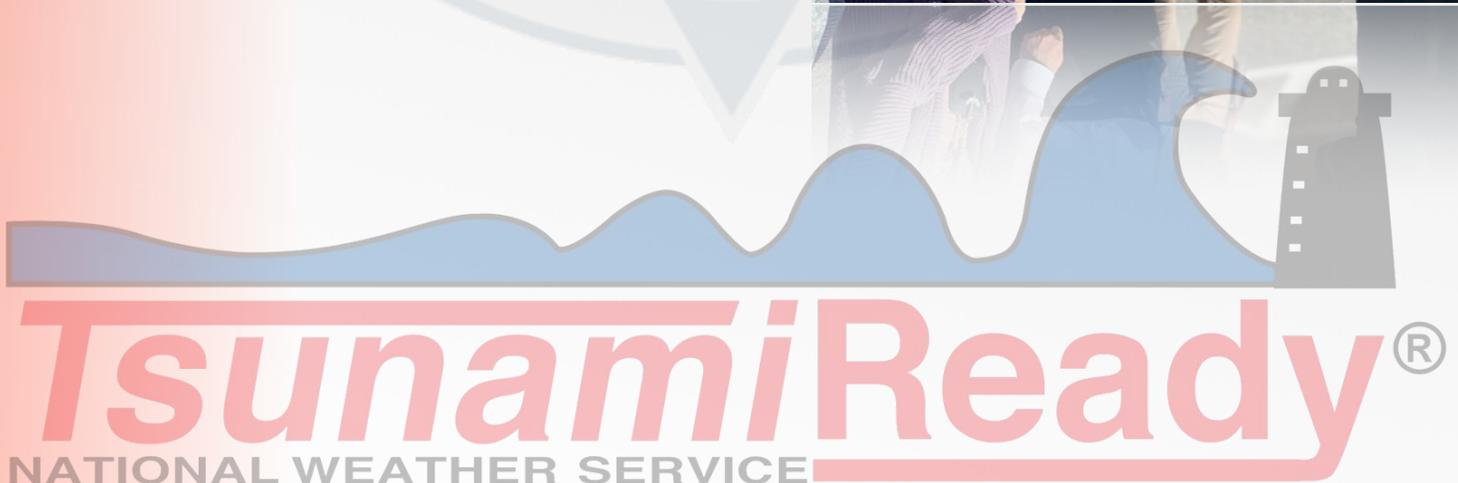
- + COORDINATING INTER-DEPARTMENTAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS.**
- + DEVELOPING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POLICY CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LAWS, REGULATIONS, GUIDANCE, AND DIRECTION.**
- + COORDINATING OPERATIONS FOR ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS DURING SERIOUS EMERGENCY INCIDENTS.**
- + SERVING AS PRINCIPAL POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND OTHER AGENCIES PERTAINING TO OVERALL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**
- + OPERATE AND FACILITATE THE EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER(EOC).**



IN 2020 THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY (OEM) FACED MANY ONGOING CHALLENGES. THIS YEAR THE OEM LED THE CITY'S COVID RESPONSE. THE OEM WAS IN CHARGE OF TRACKING DATA FROM THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS AND CREATING A PLAN FOR THE CITY TO FOLLOW. THE OEM WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING AND CREATING POLICIES FOR THE CITY'S REOPENING AND OPERATIONS UNDER COVID CONDITIONS THIS INCLUDED PLANS, POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS. THE OEM WAS ALSO TASKED WITH TRACKING COVID EXPENSES AND WAS ABLE TO RECOUP \$1.2 MILLION IN DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS. THE OEM ALSO SECURED A \$75,000 GRANT FOR A DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN.

THE EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (EOC) WAS ALSO VERY BUSY THIS YEAR. THE EOC WAS ACTIVATED 5 TIMES FOR EVENTS SUCH AS HURRICANE ISAIAS AND OTHER LARGE EVENTS. THE EOC LEAD BY THE OEM HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN CRAFTING AND COORDINATING THE CITY'S RESPONSE TO LARGE EVENTS. THIS HAS INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS BETWEEN CITY DEPARTMENTS DURING EMERGENCIES.

ALSO THIS YEAR WAS THE RETIREMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGER BRUCE ARNEL. DURING HIS 29-YEAR CAREER WITH THE CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH EM ARNEL SERVED IN MANY CAPACITIES WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND WAS EMERGENCY MANAGER FOR THE LAST 4 YEARS. HE WAS THE FIRST EMERGENCY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH AND WAS PIVOTAL IN CREATING THE OFFICE AND LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE MANAGERS TO FOLLOW. WITH THE DEPARTURE OF EM ARNEL THE FIRE CHIEF HAS ASSUMED THE RESPONSIBILITIES UNTIL THE POSITION IS FILLED.



**OEM OVERSEES THE PEE DEE REGIONAL TYPE 3 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM. THIS INCLUDES TRAINING, OPERATIONS AND DEPLOYMENTS. THE TEAM RECEIVED A GRANT THIS PAST YEAR FROM SLED TO ALLOCATE FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$33,600.00 IN HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING. THE IMT SAW THREE DEPLOYMENTS IN 2020. THE FIRST DEPLOYMENT WAS IN RESPONSE TO A STATE FULL SCALE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION EXERCISE TITLED PHOENIX DAWN. THIS EXERCISE TESTED THE RESPONSE OF ALL 37 REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAMS AROUND THE STATE FOR A COMPLEX COORDINATED TERRORIST ATTACK. THE SECOND DEPLOYMENT WAS A RESPONSE TO SENECA, SC IN OCONEE COUNTY. THE TEAM INTEGRATED WITH OTHER REGIONAL IMT'S, AND OPERATED FOR 5 DAYS AT THE REQUEST OF SENECA'S MAYOR. THE THIRD DEPLOYMENT REQUEST CAME WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS TO STAFF THE EOC FOR A DIRECT IMPACT FROM HURRICANE ISAAIS, A DESTRUCTIVE CATEGORY 1 HURRICANE.**





**2020 CHALLENGES**

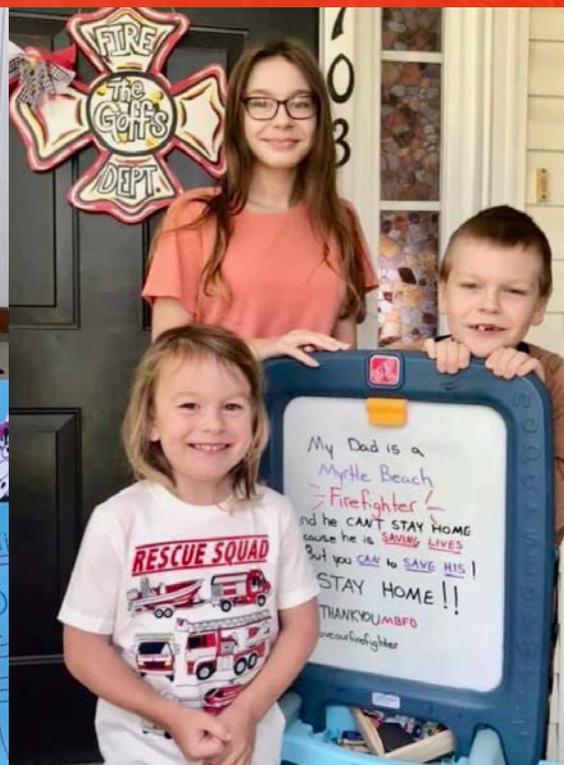
# 2020

**LIKE ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED BY THE EVENTS OF 2020. THE PANDEMIC AFFECTED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN ALL FACETS. THE PANDEMIC CHANGED OUR RESPONSE MODELS, INTERACTION WITH THE PUBLIC, FIREHOUSE LIFE, BUDGET, AND MENTAL HEALTH. ALTHOUGH FACED WITH SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES AND CHANGES DUE TO COVID OUR RESPONSE TIMES AND SERVICE LEVEL REMAINED UNCHANGED. AS WE WORKED THROUGH THE “NEW NORMAL” THE MBFD LEARNED AND ADAPTED TO THE RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATIONS.**

**ONE EXAMPLE OF THE NEW NORMAL IS THE WAY WE ACQUIRED PPE. PROCURING ITEMS LIKE GLOVES, MASKS, SANITIZER, AND MEDICAL GOWNS WAS SOMETHING TAKEN FOR GRANTED IN THE PAST. WITH THE MASSIVE DEMAND AND DISRUPTIONS IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN OBTAINING PPE BECAME INHERENTLY MORE DIFFICULT. LUCKILY THE CITY WAS ABLE TO SECURE A FEMA DISASTER GRANT TO ASSIST WITH PROCUREMENT OF CRITICAL EQUIPMENT.**



**THE PANDEMIC ALSO HAD LARGE IMPACTS ON OUR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE MBFD HANDLED ALL NORMAL RESPONSES, PLUS THE ADDED RESPONSIBILITIES OF TREATING AND MANAGING THE PANDEMIC. COVID REQUIRED ADDITIONAL PPE AND EXPOSED MANY OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS TO BECOMING ILL THEMSELVES. 2020 WAS A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR FIREFIGHTERS BETWEEN THE RISK OF GETTING SICK ACCOMPANIED BY THE RISK OF BRINGING THE ILLNESS HOME TO THEIR FAMILIES. APPROXIMATELY 25 OF OUR EMPLOYEES CONTRACTED COVID AND OVER 100 OF OUR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE QUARANTINED DURING THE PANDEMIC. DUE TO ILLNESS AND QUARANTINES, OUR FIREFIGHTERS WORKED EXTRA SHIFTS TO MAINTAIN OUR MINIMUM LEVEL OF STAFFING. WHILE CALLS FOR SERVICE WERE SLIGHTLY DOWN, THE NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT CALLS REMAINED THE SAME. WE BELIEVE CALL VOLUME MAY HAVE BEEN DOWN DUE TO THE DECLINE IN TOURISM AND ALSO DUE TO THE COVID RESTRICTION. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE DEDICATION AND COURAGE OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS. WHILE FACING UNKNOWN UNPRECEDENTED RISKS, THE MBFD AND FAMILY MEMBERS SUCCESSFULLY ANSWERED EVERY CHALLENGE PRESENTED DURING THIS UNUSUALLY TRYING YEAR.**



# RETIREMENTS

THE RETIREMENTS OF 2020 LEFT A SIGNIFICANT VOID IN THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT RANKS. BETWEEN TURNOVER AND THE RETIREMENT OF 9 SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT, WE LOST OVER 300 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

**DEPUTY CHIEF IAN MAXWELL 27 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

**EMERGENCY MANAGER BRUCE ARNEL 29 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

**BATTALION CHIEF MARTIN EELLS 34 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

**BATTALION CHIEF MICHAEL LEWIS 27 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

**CAPTAIN RHETT FLOYD 25 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

**LIEUTENANT JAMES PHALEN 37 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

**LIEUTENANT JAMES MILLS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

**ENGINEER SPENCE LAPORTE 15 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

**MECHANIC MICHAEL LYNCH 10 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

**WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE CITY MANAGER JOHN PEDERSEN WHO RETIRED WITH OVER 43 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE.**

**AFTER SERVING HONORABLY WE WISH THESE MEN A LONG AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT.**

*"I have no ambition in this world but one and that is to be a fireman. The position may in the eyes of some appear to be a lowly one; But those who know the work which a fireman has to do believe his is a noble calling. Our proudest moment is to save...lives. Under the impulse of such thoughts the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring even of supreme sacrifice."*

**Edward F. Croker**

**Chief of Department FDNY (1899-1911)**



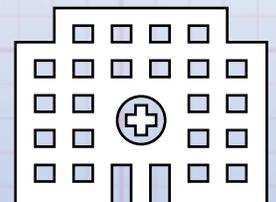
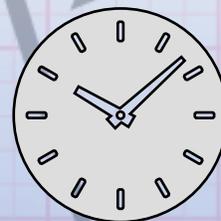
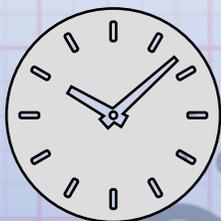
**2020 SUCCESSES**

# 2020 SUCCESSES

2020 WAS ALSO A YEAR OF MANY ACHIEVEMENTS. BECAUSE OF OUR RESPONSE TIMES AND HIGHLY TRAINED PERSONNEL, PROPERTY LOSS DUE TO FIRE WAS HELD TO LESS THAN 1.5%. THAT MEANS WHEN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED WE WERE ABLE TO SAVE AN AVERAGE OF 98.5% OF CONTENTS AND PROPERTY. THIS IS A GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT CONSIDERING FIRE DOUBLES IN SIZE EVERY 4 MINUTES.

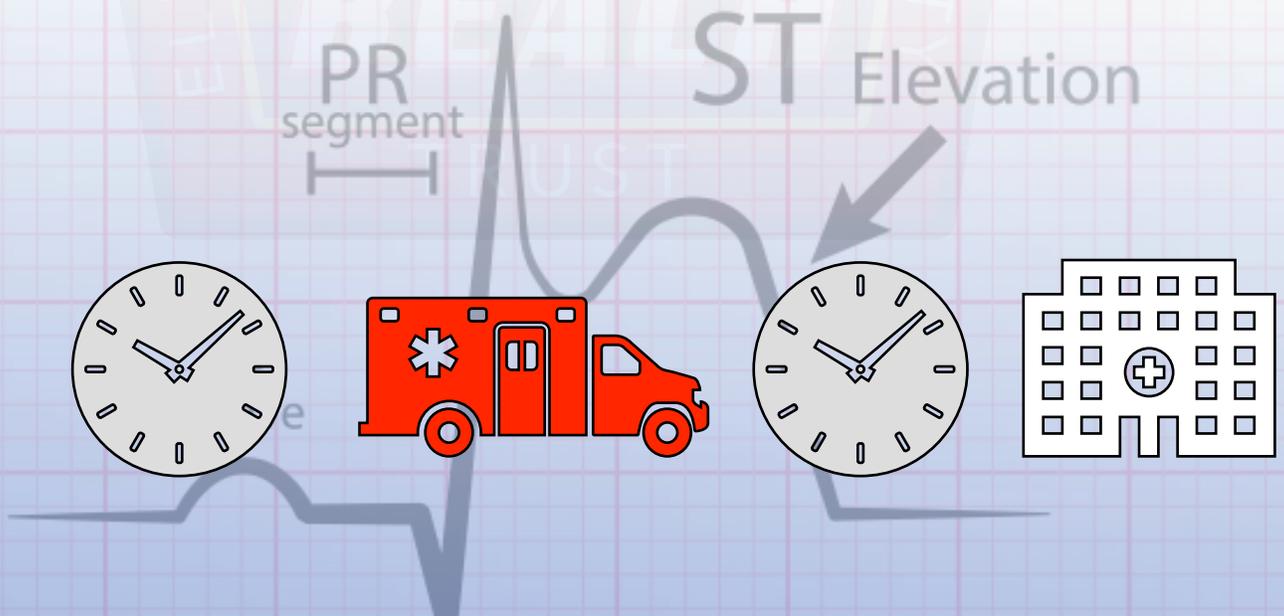
## STEMI PROGRAM

THIS YEAR OUR WORK WITH GRAND STRAND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER ON OUR STEMI PROGRAM HAS PAID DIVIDENDS. A STEMI (ST-ELEVATION MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION), IS A VERY SERIOUS TYPE OF HEART ATTACK IN WHICH ONE OF THE HEART'S MAJOR ARTERIES THAT SUPPLIES OXYGEN AND NUTRIENT-RICH BLOOD TO THE HEART MUSCLE IS BLOCKED. CURRENTLY OUR DEPARTMENT AND PARTNERS AT GRAND STRAND AVERAGE 60 MINUTES FROM TIME OF 911 CALL TO THE OPERATING TABLE. THIS IS ACHIEVED BY OUR PARAMEDICS ARRIVING ON SCENE EVALUATING THE PATIENT RECOGNIZING THE CONDITION AND GETTING THE INFORMATION TO THE HOSPITAL. BY THE TIME WE TRANSPORT THE PATIENT TO THE HOSPITAL, THE HOSPITAL IS PREPARED TO TREAT THE STEMI BECAUSE OF THE EARLY WARNING. CURRENTLY THE NATIONAL GOAL IS WITHIN 90 MINUTES.



PR  
segment

ST Elevation



# **COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE**

AS PART OF A STATEWIDE INITIATIVE, THE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHED THE SOUTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARAMEDIC EDUCATION PROGRAM. SC COPE WAS CREATED WITH THE HOPES OF HELPING TO TAKE THOSE WHO MAY BE STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION TO THE NEXT STEP. THE COPE TEAM GENERATES REPORTS FROM OUR EMS DATABASE OF PATIENTS THAT HAVE RECEIVED NARCAN (REVERSAL AGENT FOR OPIOIDS), DUE TO AN OVERDOSE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS. WE HAVE 6 PARAMEDICS THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THIS PROGRAM AND WE TRY TO MAKE VISITS EVERY 2 WEEKS. A PARAMEDIC WILL ATTEND THESE VISITS WITH 1 MBPD LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND 1 NEW DIRECTIONS PROGRAM COUNSELOR. THIS PROGRAM HAS ASSISTED SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH GAINING ACCESS TO THE HELP NEEDED. THE NEW DIRECTIONS COUNSELOR SAYS HE RECEIVES PHONE CALLS AT THE TIME FOR HELP, WHERE SOME HAVE COME FROM CONTACTS WITH THE COPE PROGRAM. THE PANDEMIC LIMITED OUR ABILITY TO GET OUT AND MAKE CONTACT WITH POTENTIAL PEOPLE STRUGGLING, BUT OUR DEPARTMENT STILL MADE SEVERAL CONTACTS AND HAD SUCCESS WITH THE PROGRAM DESPITE THE CHALLENGES. AS THE COVID RESTRICTIONS DECREASE WE PLAN ON BUILDING ON THIS PROGRAM TO HELP WITH THE OPIOID CRISIS.

# **EMERGENCY VEHICLE PREEMPTION SYSTEM**

THE MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT WORKED WITH GLOBAL TRAFFIC TECHNOLOGIES (GTT) COMPANY TO PLAN FOR AND INSTALL PHASE II OF AN OPTICOM EMERGENCY VEHICLE PREEMPTION SYSTEM.

THIS INVOLVED IDENTIFYING INTERSECTIONS AND ENGINEERING PLANS FOR TRAFFIC PATTERNS IN CONJUNCTION WITH DOT. THIS PREEMPTION SYSTEM MAKES EMERGENCY VEHICLE RESPONSE SAFER AND MORE EFFICIENT WHILE RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS. A VEHICLE EQUIPPED WITH OPTICOM ALLOWS FOR THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE TO GIVE ALL OPPOSING TRAFFIC A RED TRAFFIC SIGNAL WHILE THE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL GAINS A GREEN LIGHT. THIS KEEPS TRAFFIC FLOWING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE AND STOPS ALL ONCOMING TRAFFIC IF THE VEHICLE NEEDS TO CROSS CENTER TO MAKE THE INTERSECTION. MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT COMPLETED PHASE II IN 2020, INSTALLING OPTICOM PREEMPTION EQUIPMENT TO 37 INTERSECTIONS.



## **RSI PARAMEDIC PROGRAM**

**IN 2020 WE WERE ABLE TO FACILITATE AND EXPAND OUR RSI PARAMEDIC PROGRAM. RAPID SEQUENCE INTUBATION(RSI) IS ADVANCED INTUBATION WHEN TRADITIONAL INTUBATION METHODS FAIL OR ARE NOT POSSIBLE. HAVING PARAMEDICS WITH THIS ADVANCED SKILL IS A GREAT ASSET TO OUR ON-DUTY PARAMEDICS. THIS HAS GREATLY ENHANCED OUR PREHOSPITAL PATIENT CARE ABILITIES.**

## **CANCER REDUCTION INITIATIVES**

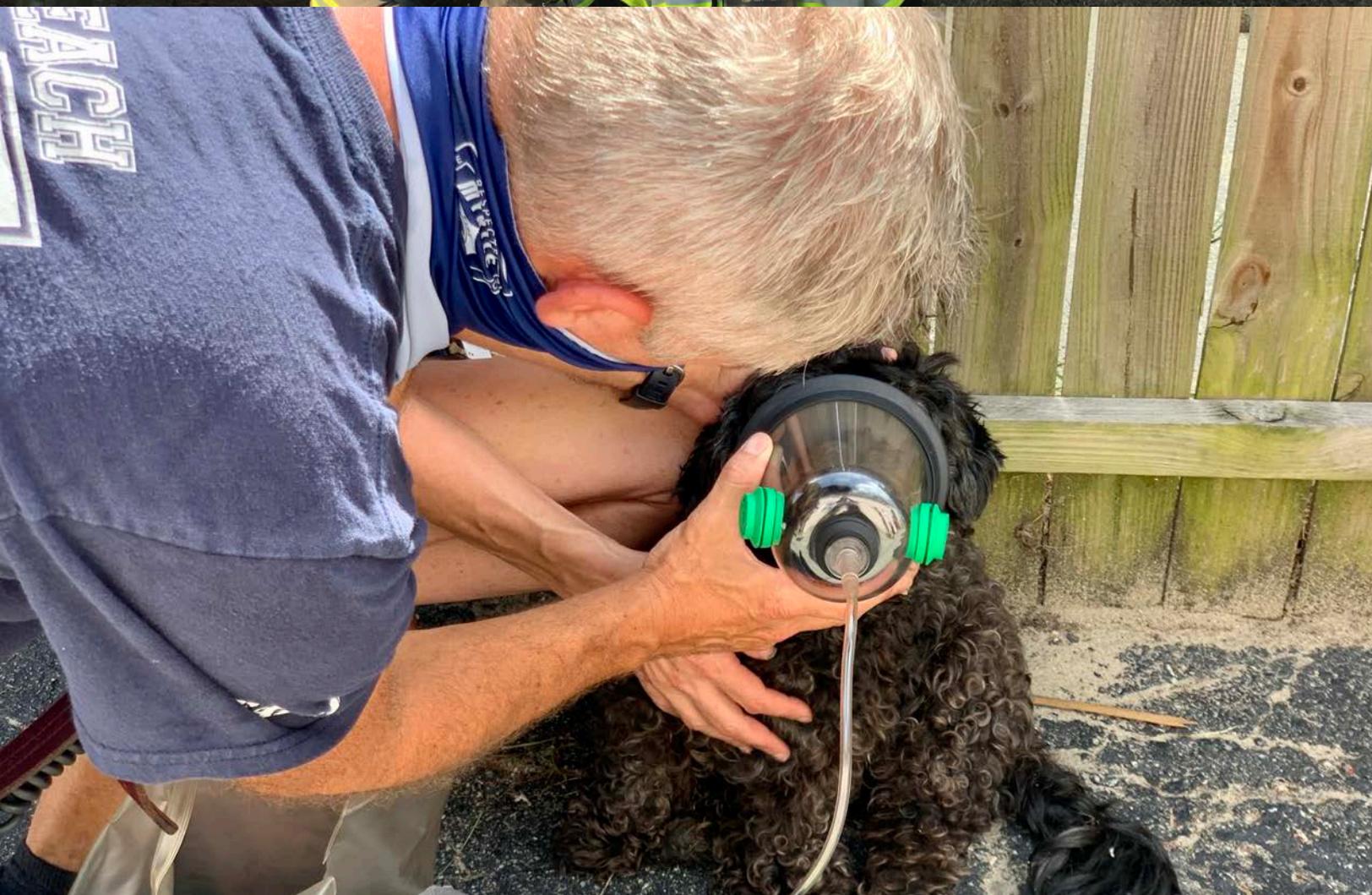
**TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF HIGHER CANCER RATES OF FIREFIGHTERS, WE HAVE INSTITUTED MULTIPLE CANCER REDUCTION INITIATIVES. THIS YEAR WE WERE ABLE TO PURCHASE THE APPARATUS EXHAUST CAPTURE SYSTEM FOR FIRE STATION 6. THIS WAS OUR LAST STATION THAT DID NOT HAVE A SYSTEM TO CAPTURE DIESEL OUTPUT FROM THE FIRE TRUCKS. ALSO THIS YEAR, WE WERE ABLE TO PURCHASE 60 SETS OF NEW TURNOUT GEAR. THIS TURNOUT GEAR IS THE LION RED ZONE THAT IS UL VERIFIED TO ELIMINATE SMOKE/PARTICULATE INGRESS AT THE AREAS THAT PREVIOUSLY ALLOWED SMOKE TO CONTACT A FIREFIGHTER'S CORE. THIS IS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN REDUCING OUR FIREFIGHTERS EXPOSURES TO CARCINOGENS. CURRENTLY WE HAVE PURCHASED GEAR FOR ABOUT 2/3S OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS AND HOPE TO PURCHASE THE GEAR FOR THE REMAINING 1/3 NEXT BUDGET YEAR.**



# **NON-PROFIT** **ORGANIZATION**

2020 WAS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR OF OUR NEW 501C3 MB FIRE CARES. MB FIRE CARES WAS SET UP AS A CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT FUND TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITY AND MEMBERS FACING ILLNESS AND HARDSHIP. TWO ISSUES CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS ARE BREAST CANCER AND AUTISM. EACH OCTOBER WE WEAR AND SELL PINK MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT SHIRTS FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS. THIS YEAR WE PARTNERED WITH NATIVE SONS TO SELL AUTISM AWARENESS SHIRTS IN APRIL. WE WERE ABLE TO RAISE \$6,000 AND GIVE THE MONEY DIRECTLY TO SOS HEALTHCARE. TO DONATE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DEBBIE JOHNSON AT [DJOHNSON@CITYOFMYRTLEBEACH.COM](mailto:DJOHNSON@CITYOFMYRTLEBEACH.COM) OR 843-918-1192.





# **THANK YOU**

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**THE MBFD WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THE AMAZING OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT DURING THIS CHALLENGING YEAR.**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU ALSO GOES OUT TO OUR CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGEMENT TEAM.**

**MAYOR BRENDA BETHUNE  
MAYOR PRO TEM JACKIE HATLEY  
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL CHESTNUT  
COUNCILMAN JOHN KRAJC  
COUNCILMAN MIKE LOWDER  
COUNCILMAN PHILIP RENDER  
COUNCILMAN GREGG SMITH**

**CITY MANAGER FOX SIMONS  
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER LISA WALLACE  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER MICHELLE SHUMPERT  
CITY ATTORNEY WILL BRYAN**

**[WWW.MYRTLEBEACHFIRE.COM](http://WWW.MYRTLEBEACHFIRE.COM)**