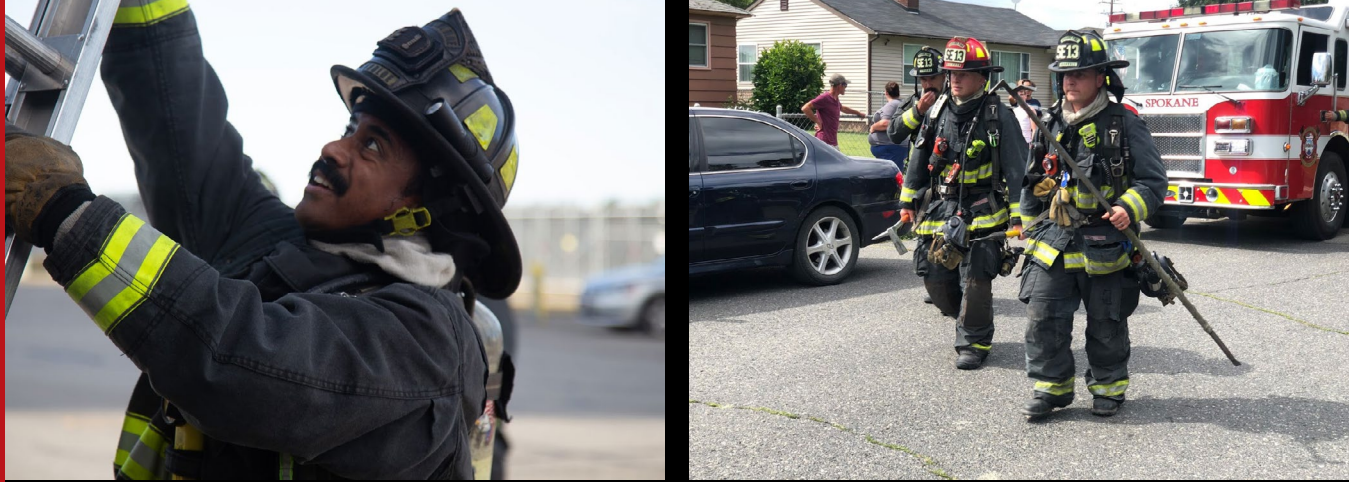




# Spokane Fire Department 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Trust  Mutual Respect  Integrity  Empathy  Transparency  Equality



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....2-3

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF .....4-5

ABOUT SPOKANE FIRE.....6-7

EVERY SECOND COUNTS .....8-9

COVID-19 .....10-11

FIRE COMMUNICATIONS .....12-13

FINANCE .....14-15

TRAINING DIVISION.....16-17

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES .....18-19

HEALTH CARE INNOVATION .....20-23

FIRE PREVENTION & INVESTIGATIONS .....24-25

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION .....26-27

SPECIAL OPERATIONS.....28-30

IN MEMORY .....31





**MESSAGE FROM  
FIRE CHIEF BRIAN SCHAEFFER**

There are simply no words to describe 2020 as it was a year like none other in our community's history. As I write this message in January of 2021, we are amid a pandemic that continues to impact millions of people, cost over 400,000 lives in the United States, and resulted in a deep nationwide fiscal recession. Additionally, we witnessed a racial and cultural awakening concerning the pain caused by a long history of racial injustice and watched as the national scene played out in Spokane. Ultimately, we were once again reminded of the frequently unseen dangers from our jobs and the impact it can have on our bodies as we laid Firefighter Ed Foster to rest with honor after succumbing to a job-related cardiac event.

Amid the landscape faced by the SFD in 2020, our organization's values and determination were never more vital and healthy. Looking back at the full fiscal year, we began just as we planned, with an approved balanced budget and the excitement of a new Mayor and incoming administration. The SFD positioned ourselves to leverage several new collaborative programs with partners from several disciplines of governments as well as the private sector to deliver improved protection and care to our community. Then, the world changed. The COVID-19 global pandemic arrived, with the resulting economic recession not far behind. By the beginning of March, we knew — like every other organization — the pandemic reality would bring an entirely new set of challenges, requiring an extremely agile response from the SFD and our community. We wasted no time adjusting our focus to protecting our personnel and the community from the impacts of the pandemic, social unrest, and economic recession, all while continuing the organization's existing services.

The risks facing the community required a team of leaders from inside our organization. They created the Fire Operations Center (FOC), a 24-hour Point of Contact for employee advocacy, a COVID research and knowledge center, and an interdisciplinary vaccination clinic. These programs were the genesis of our membership and served throughout the year to achieve a successful outcome despite our personnel's deadliest risks daily. The Labor and Management teams also came together to adapt practices, craft agreements, and develop work rules that ensured everyone's safety and provided to best working conditions for all divisions.

This Annual Report outlines many of our accomplishments from 2020. I know the community's continued support and reinvestment in the SFD will yield enormous dividends for our community, visitors, and our members in 2021 and beyond. I remain humbled and appreciative of everyone's support and trust as we move into the next year's challenges.

I leave you with Firefighter Foster's simple and very mindful message to all of us on his final shift, "Time flies. Please remember to be kind and do the right thing."



**MESSAGE FROM  
THE FIRE CHIEF**





# ABOUT YOUR SPOKANE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Spokane Fire Department (SFD) has existed as a fire protection agency within the State of Washington since 1884. The fire department is a unit of the City of Spokane general government as required of first-class cities under Chapter 35.22 RCW. The City of Spokane is the second-largest city in the State of Washington, located adjacent to the Idaho border. It has a Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (equivalent to the Insurance Services Office) rating of three (3). The Spokane Fire Department's service area is approximately 69.5 square miles and consists of a mix of urban, suburban, industrial, and wildland areas.

The primary services provided by the Spokane Fire Department include:

- Fire Suppression
- First Response Basic Life Support (BLS)  
Emergency Medical Services
- First Response Advanced Life Support (ALS)  
Emergency Medical Services
- Community Risk Reduction
- Fire Prevention (Inspection, Fire Protection  
Engineering Services)
- Fire Investigation/Special Investigations
- Hazardous Materials "Specialist Level" Response
- Special Rescue (Marine, Technical, and USAR)

## MISSION

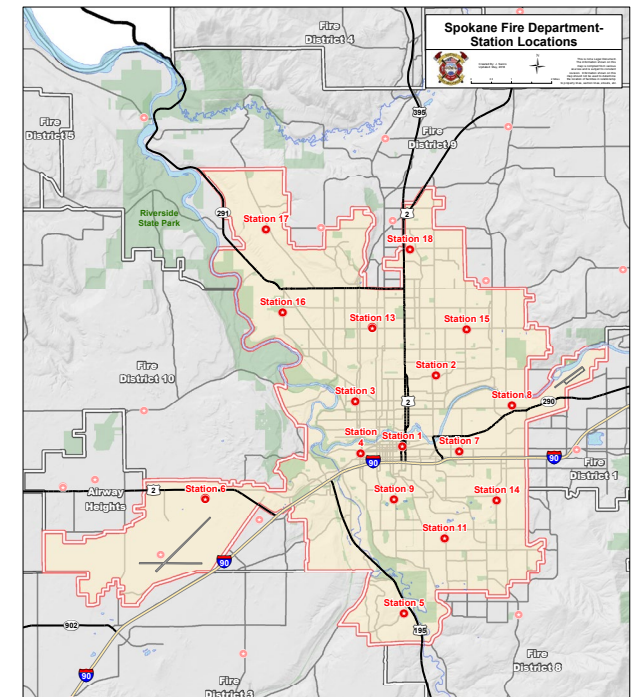
We enhance your quality of life, always earning your trust, by saving lives, preventing harm and protecting property with compassion and integrity.

## VISION

The Spokane Fire Department's vision is to cultivate a culture and legacy of pride through teamwork, inclusion, respect, and professionalism; rooted in our community and service. Every member of the organization is bound together by our mission and a passionate commitment to saving lives.

## VALUES

Trust - Mutual Respect - Integrity -  
Empathy - Transparency - Equality







## EVERY SECOND COUNTS

### CASCADE OF EVENTS

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) has defined response time elements as a cascade of events. This cascade is similar to that used by the medical community to describe the events leading up to the initiation, mitigation, and ultimate cardiac arrest outcome. It is imperative to keep in mind that certain intervals described, such as turnout and travel time, can be directly influenced by the fire service via station locations and design, staffing levels, as well as local rules and procedures for a response. Other factors, such as the alarm interval, can be influenced indirectly through public education and engineering initiatives. The fire service can also affect the call-processing interval through its ability to define standards and compel performance by its dispatch centers.

### TIME TEMPERATURE STANDARD

The "time-temperature curve" standard is based on data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Insurance Services Organization (ISO), which have established that a typical point source of ignition in a residential house will "flash over" at some time between five and ten minutes after ignition, turning a typical "room and contents" fire into a structural fire of some magnitude.

### TIME TEMPERATURE CURVE

The utility of the time-temperature curve for fire station placement is limited to several factors, including:

- It does not account for the time required for the existence of a fire to be "discovered" and reported to the fire department via the 911 system.

- The time from ignition to flashover varies widely (5-30 minutes depending on building characteristics); thus, it cannot provide a reasonable basis for allocating resources.
- The curve is continuously shifting, given the numerous changes in building construction, built-in suppression systems, the increased use of fire-resistive materials for furniture, and other items typically found in the interior of occupied buildings.

### CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVAL RATE

In communities where the fire service is the principal provider of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) first response, the goal is for basic life support (CPR and defibrillation) to be available to the victim of a cardiac arrest within four minutes of the event, advanced life support (paramedic service) should be available within eight minutes or less of the event. Early notification, distribution, and concentration of emergency response services are thus paramount to successful resuscitation efforts.

### THE GOLDEN HOUR STANDARD

In trauma events, the golden hour is the historic benchmark applied to victims with significant critical traumatic injuries. The golden hour reflects the concept that survivability decreases significantly if the patient isn't in the operating room within one hour of receiving a critical traumatic injury.





- Establish an internal system of contact tracing to quickly identify Fire Department personnel who may have become infected by the disease and the fellow responders who may have been exposed due to coming in close contact with that individual; and
- Continually review scientific literature about COVID-19 to ensure that our practices were consistent with recommended exposure control best practices.

Throughout the pandemic in Spokane, the men and women of the Fire Department continued to respond to emergencies without hesitation. The same quality care the community has grown to expect continued in the face of the pandemic, and the Spokane Fire Department continued its long-standing reputation for providing excellent care to sick and injured people.

As it became evident that a vaccine would be available soon, several people from the Spokane Fire Department became part of a County-wide task force in mid-December. The task force goal was to vaccinate as many First Responders as possible under the State's Phase IA distribution guidelines. On December 30, 2020, 70 First Responders in the County received the vaccination during a clinic that was held at the Spokane Fire Department Training Facility. This "drive-through" concept eventually vaccinated over 1100 First Responders during the first two weeks of January 2021 and is being modeled by other communities in Washington State.

### IMPACTS OF COVID-19

While the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Spokane occurred in early March, the Spokane Fire Department began preparing for its arrival when the first confirmed case was identified in Washington State on January 21st of 2020.

- A Team of Fire Department EMTs, Paramedics, and Leadership quickly assembled in anticipation of the disease's arrival in Spokane. This dedicated group of men and women started to:
- Quickly develop policies and procedures to protect our people and patients from the exposure that soon became the norm for all EMS responders in Spokane County;
- Evaluate the current status of recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) used to protect responders from becoming exposed and expose the next patient they cared for. Then, despite world-wide shortages of PPE, Fire Department PPE inventories were incrementally expanded until there were sufficient amounts;



## COVID-19

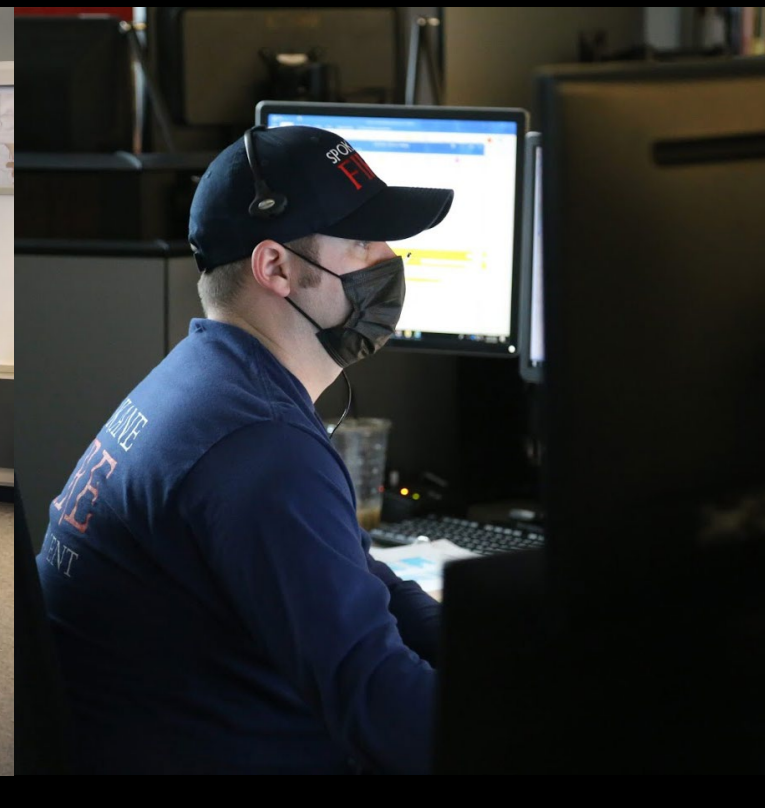




## **FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

The Spokane Fire Department Dispatch Center provides fire service communications, dispatch, and all-risk emergency coordination services to the City of Spokane Fire Department with eleven shift personnel. On average, the center receives and dispatches over 120 emergency calls per day. For 2020, SFD Dispatch processed and dispatched 41,862 incidents in the City of Spokane.

Fire Communication Specialists each receive 1000 hours of initial training. They are all EMT and EMD certified, making them highly trained and skilled to answer and provide instruction during medical emergencies. In the fourth quarter of 2020, the Spokane Fire Department hired and began the training process for five new Communications Specialists. The six veteran employees triaged and dispatched 36,212 EMS calls for the citizens and visitors of the City of Spokane, all while meeting the NFPA 1221 standard of dispatching critical calls in 64 seconds or less 90% of the time and urgent calls in 106 seconds or less, 90% of the time.



# **FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**





# FINANCE

## Spokane Fire Department 2020 Annual Report



### Overall Budget

	2020 Budget	2019 Budget
Fire/EMS	57,758,934.00	56,609,361.00
Fire Communications Center	2,242,175.00	4,046,562.00
Combined Communications Building	511,989.00	808,155.00
Asset Management/Fire Capital	2,844,087.00	4,448,539.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,357,185.00</b>	<b>65,912,617.00</b>



### Budgeted Expenses

	2020 Budget	2019 Budget
Personnel	53,370,598.00	53,750,424.00
Maintenance & Operations	3,456,421.00	3,741,709.00
Capital	2,671,683.00	4,479,117.00
Interfund	3,810,333.00	3,893,216.00
Operating Transfers	48,150.00	48,151.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,912,617.00</b>	<b>65,912,617.00</b>



### Budgeted FTEs

- Fire Communications
- Fire/EMS

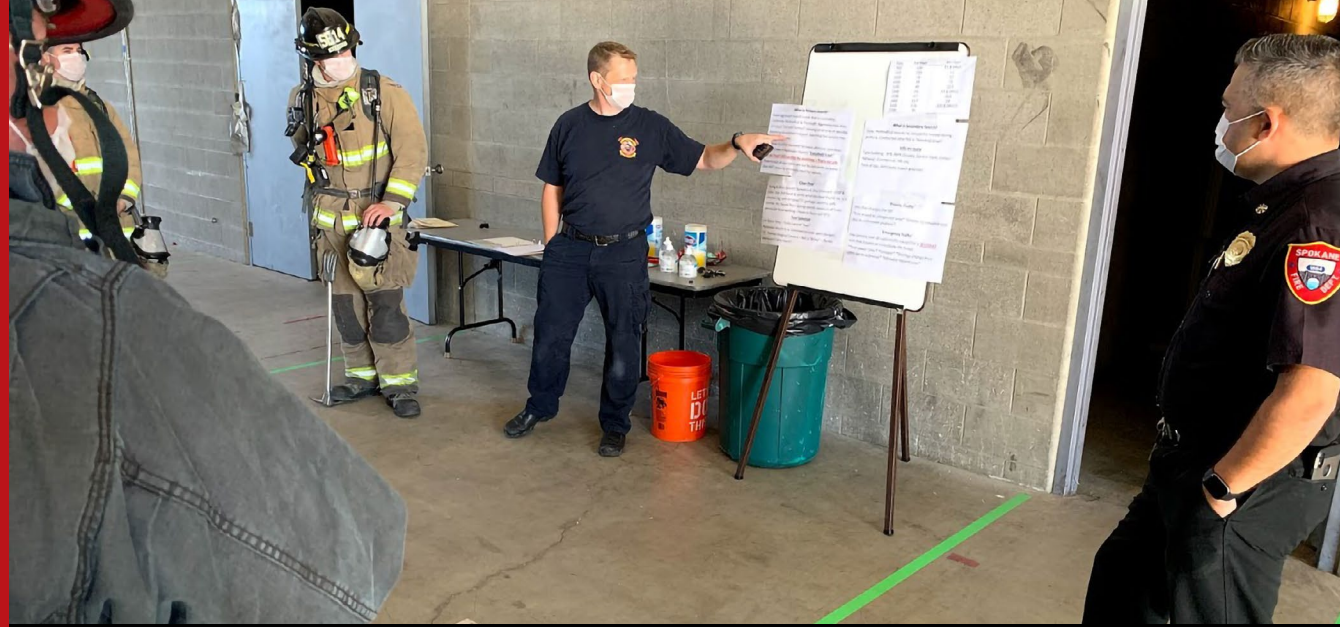


### Uniformed vs. Civilian FTEs

- Uniformed
- Civilian







## TRAINING DIVISION

### TRAINING DIVISION

The SFD Training Center houses both civilian and uniformed members of SFD, responsible for Fire & EMS training, the CARES program, the Behavioral Response Unit (BRU), comprehensive audio-visual products, and management of the Quartermaster program.

The SFD Fire Training Center became the focal point of early COVID-19 response by hosting the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC). Spokane County Department Emergency Management, Spokane Regional Health Department, partners from multiple agencies, and state Incident Management Teams converged at the Fire Training Center for weeks to coordinate food, shelter, testing, and care for the region.

The SFD Training Division launched an aggressive training initiative during the year 2020. Due to the pandemic, an 11-person recruit academy was postponed until March 2021. The Training Division focused much of their work on adapting incumbent operations level training around COVID risk reduction best practices. Remaining compliant with state and federal mandates, SFD conducted fixed facility live fire training; wildland refresher training; small-unit clinic-style training that included fire ground search in realistic environments, firefighter down and MAYDAY scenarios, priority ground ladder deployment, emergency vehicle operations, and active shooter training.

The Training Division also aids in the rehabilitation process of injured firefighters through light-duty assignments and facilitating time needed to attend medical appointments. These members contribute to projects and emerging programs throughout the course of their recovery.

The Training Division also facilitates a myriad of local, regional, and national training. Personnel have attended courses offered at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, fire service training conferences, and certification-level training aimed at producing professionally accredited fire officers and specialists; facilitating weeks-long acquired structure operations-led training focused on hose deployment, fire ground search, and ventilation.



**Smoke/CO Installs**

**102**



**Community Presentations**

**15**



**Arson Arrests Made**

**17**



**Inspections Completed**

**10,873**



**Patients Defibrillated with Return of a Pulse**

**48**





**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)**

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 posed a new challenge for the Spokane Fire Department's Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics. During the early months of the pandemic, there was a noticeable decrease in the number of acute illness responses compared to 2019. However, by June, the number of sudden cardiac arrest, stroke, multi-system trauma, and heart attack complaints increased dramatically. Spokane Fire Department responders cared for nearly 1800 people who were severely ill or injured. COVID-19 created the need to increase personal protective equipment to protect the responders and patients. The Spokane Fire Department EMT's and Paramedics adopted new and innovative ways to deliver care in the new COVID-19 environment to care for these severely ill and injured people safely.

Despite the year's challenges, Spokane Fire Department EMS personnel continued to meet or exceed all clinical key performance indicators for acute illness and injury. The Spokane Fire Department continues to foster robust integrated working relationships with the hospital systems in Spokane. These relationships result in continued quality care for injured and ill people in the community.

**EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL SERVICES**

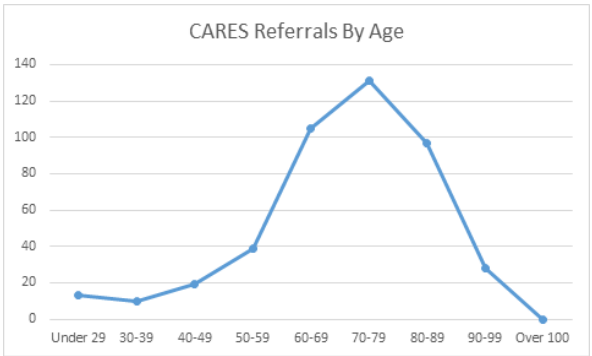




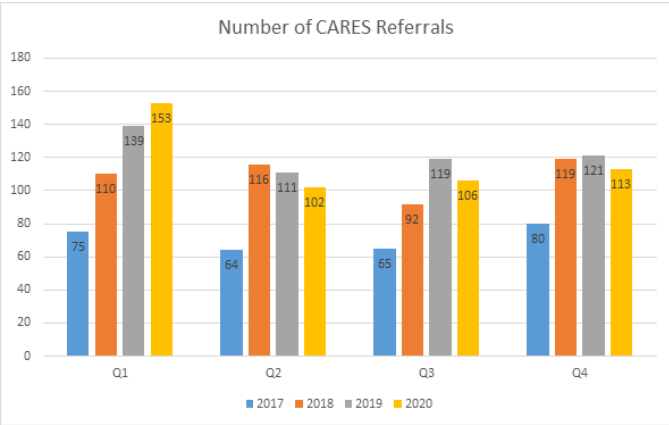
# HEALTH CARE INNOVATION

## COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE RESPONSE (CARES) PROGRAM

The CARES Team is the Fire Department’s social response team. Fire Department personnel often encounter an individual who has significant needs apart from their physical health needs. When they encounter these situations, Fire Department EMS providers make a referral to the CARES Team requesting a follow-up visit. The CARES Team advocates on behalf of the client and assures that connections are in place to improve their quality of life. The program’s primary goal is to enhance the quality of life and reduce unnecessary use of the emergency health care system by addressing needs based on the social determinants of health. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, the Spokane Fire Department CARES program was required to adopt new ways of connecting and providing services to some of Spokane’s most vulnerable individuals. CARES Team members worked to engage with individuals over the phone, minimized time in homes and sought out new resources and services to address individuals’ needs. Some community resources and services were no longer able to meet in-person, which was a unique challenge for some with limited access to technology and phone services. Some of the individuals referred to the CARES program were not interested in additional services due to the risks of contracting COVID-19. With increased concerns about the safety of in-home support and some services’ limitations, the CARES team worked with community members to identify safe solutions to their assessed needs. Over the year, the CARES Team provided supportive listening and a connection for the individuals referred to the program.



The CARES program started 2020 with two of the highest months of referrals in the program history. With the onset of the pandemic, the referrals decreased slightly. In 2020, the CARES program received 474 referrals from first responders in the Spokane community.



The CARES team is comprised of the Social Response Manager and students from local social work and nursing programs. Students are required to complete field work as part of their school programs. Students are in unpaid practicum or internship placements with the CARES program and receive college credit for their work. During the first quarter of 2020, social work and nursing students provided 2,260 hours of volunteer time to support the program’s work. Following the COVID-19 restrictions, the student’s volunteer hours were significantly reduced. Despite finishing their school required hours, multiple students selected to continue to volunteer with the CARES program.

Student Volunteer Hours	
Quarter 1	2267
Quarter 2	281
Quarter 3	352
Quarter 4	719

In 2020, the CARES team:

- Received 474 referrals from Spokane Fire Department EMS providers. This represents a 6% decrease in the number of referrals managed by the CARES Team in comparison to 2019.
- Ensured that 318 individuals had sufficient community resources and support.
- Provided resources that allow vulnerable citizens in our community to remain in their home in a stable, safe and healthy environment.



SPOKANE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S  
INNOVATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY  
PROGRAMS

In addition to responding to incident involving severely ill or injured people, the Spokane Fire Department serves the community through innovative programs like the CARES social response Team, our partnership with Spokane Treatment and Recovery Services that provides care to those in our community suffering from substance use disorder and the Behavioral Response Unit partnership with Frontier Behavioral Health. Together, these programs serve some of the more vulnerable people in our community, connecting them with community resources that improve their quality of life.

COVID-19 had a significant impact on these crucial programs as well. At the outset of the pandemic, the students who staff the CARES Team were restricted from in-person learning. Throughout the rest of the year, the CARES Team experienced an approximate 80% reduction in staff availability. Despite the reduction in resources, the CARES Team received 474 referrals from firefighters concerned with the well-being of people they contacted. Modifications to how the CARES Team responds and adopting the same personal protection strategies used by the Emergency Medical Services Division allowed the CARES Team to continue helping those in our community who are most in need. COVID-19's impact on all community resources posed a barrier to connecting CARES clients with community service resources. In many cases, these resources were unavailable for in-person consults, which hindered the CARES Team's efforts. Despite that, there were many success stories of people experiencing an improved quality of life through the CARES Team's efforts.



Call Processing Time  
(Urgent)

Year	% Met
2020	96%
2019	97.1%
2018	98.4%
2017	98.4%

Call Processing Time  
(Critical)

Year	% Met
2020	91.2%
2019	94.2%
2018	94.8%
2017	92.2%

Critical EMS Turnout Time

Year	% Turnout Time Met
2020	24.2%
2019	28.5%
2018	30.9%
2017	25.1%

Critical Fire Turnout Time

Year	% Turnout Time Met
2020	63.2%
2019	67.5%
2018	65.6%
2017	55.7%

First Arriving Engine At Fire

Year	% Response Objective Met
2020	93.8%
2019	93.2%
2018	94.6%
2017	95.3%

Emergency Incidents

Spokane Fire Department calls from 911

Year	Emergency Incidents Responded to by SFD Units	% Increase
2020	56,114	-3.0%
2019	57,830	-0.8%
2018	58,280	5.9%
2017	55,013	3.6%

Year	Emergency Incidents In Spokane City Limits	% Increase
2020	53,521	-3.2%
2019	55,290	-0.8%
2018	55,731	6.2%
2017	52,486	-1.2%

Full First Alarm Assignment  
Met

Year	% Response Time Met
2020	89.7%
2019	90.9%
2018	92.5%
2017	89.8%

Basic Life Support Unit

Year	% Response Time Met
2020	87.4%
2019	85.3%
2018	87.4%
2017	90.9%

Advanced  
Life Support Unit

Year	% Response Time Met
2020	93.7%
2019	94.7%
2018	95.3%
2017	94.1%





## FIRE PREVENTION

### FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

The Spokane Fire Department Fire Prevention Division consists of one Fire Marshal, one Assistant Fire Marshal, five Deputy Fire Marshals, one Fire Protection Engineer, an Office Manager, and two outstanding administrative staff. The Prevention Bureau's responsibilities include education, engineering, code enforcement, and special inspections for temporary special events. The Bureau currently utilizes the 2015 International Fire Code as adopted by the State of Washington and the City of Spokane. This provides the legal requirements for the protection of property from the hazards of fire, explosion, or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings and providing a minimum level of life safety for the public and emergency responders during emergency operations. In 2020, the Bureau conducted 10,873 inspection activities requiring site visits or the review and approval of submitted reports. Of that number, there were seven different types of service reports reviewed totaling 6,903 activities, consisting of private hydrant reports, range hood service reports, fire alarm and sprinkler system reports, standpipe service reports, extinguishing system reports, and paint/spray booth service reports.

Additionally, 1,375 Deputy Fire Marshal site visits were conducted to renew annual operating permits for activities involving more hazardous operations, 63 special event evaluations were conducted, 829 plan review approvals by the Fire Protection Engineer, and 707 construction-related sign offs. The Bureau also monitors the end life dates for multiple single wall underground storage tanks in Spokane and notifies property owners when those tanks need to be removed. In 2020, 13 tanks were removed, reducing the potential for contamination of the Spokane aquifer, our sole source of drinking water.

### SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT

The Special Investigation Unit had a successful and hectic year in 2020. The relationship with SPD continues to evolve in a positive direction. Word on the street is that we work well together. We have two Major Crimes detectives that are now assigned to arson cases as their caseload permits. We also continue working closely with ATF's Senior Agent Todd C. Smith, a Certified Fire Investigator. In addition, we have been able to utilize ATF resources such as their electrical engineers and IT personnel. We have been invited to send investigators to advanced fire investigation training at ATF facilities.

Ensuring that all investigators are trained to a level that qualifies them to testify in court as experts in fire investigation will continue to be our primary focus this year and will continue to be a priority. This year the impact of Covid directly affected our ability to attend training outside our desktop computers and ZOOM presentations. IAAI had monthly virtual classes and allowed our Investigators to participate via ZOOM. The new NFPA 921 2021 edition Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations was released in January, and several of the virtual classes addressed the changes within this guide. CFITrainer.net online training courses continue to be required quarterly for all the Investigators.

This office continues to review and help crew members make necessary corrections within their ESO Fire reports, teach basic fire investigation to department recruits, new officers, and conduct internal (Special) investigations.

Current Full Time Fire Investigators; Capt. Bridget Luby, Lt. John Goodman and Lt. Tom Oliver

Current Supplemental Fire Investigators; Lt. Ethan Verduin, Capt. Paul Peterson, Capt. Dan Strobeck, Capt. Jason Reser, Lt. Adam Knapp





## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

### NOTABLE COMMUNITY EQUITY EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

#### **COVID-19 Safety, Fabric Face Masks, and more.**

When masking emerged as a part of our daily lives early on in the pandemic, through the Joint Information Center, Spokane Fire Department partnered with Spokane Regional Health District to provide easy, accurate information in alignment with CDC recommendations. This content was updated throughout the year to include a demonstration of the flammability of fabric masks in the microwave and safe homemade disinfectant spray, and COVID-19 vaccines.

**Preschool Program** Spokane Fire Department works with preschool providers to help the community better recognize the higher risk status to children under the age of five. We provide an age-appropriate lesson on the sound of a smoke alarm, tools for adults vs. toys for kids, hands off matches & lighters, and the chance for the children to see a firefighter slowly put on their gear. This positive interaction with first responders helps children feel more comfortable if they are in an emergency. In 2020 this translated to a virtual platform with storytime, fire truck tours, and more.

**Wildfire mitigation with goats** increased awareness of behavioral health considerations with the **dedication of the Spartan Axe, and three lives saved through the SFD smoke alarm install the program.** 2020 caused us to continue to think outside the box when it came to risk reduction efforts.

### STATISTICS

COVID-19 precautions impacted engagement early March 2020 through the end of the year.

**15** Presentations and community events organized through the Community Risk Reduction office (before COVID restrictions)

**102** Smoke and CO alarms installed

### COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Educational programming provides data-driven, fire and life safety information to our community. Various community programs are offered with increased emphasis placed on the national Community Risk Reduction priority populations: older adults, people living with disabilities, immigrants, and refugees, families with young children, and low-income households. Examples of programming include; smoke alarm installation, home safety visits for low-income households, preschool and grade school fire safety curriculum, first responder interaction for refugees and immigrants, and fire and fall prevention programming for older adults.

COVID-19 impacted our community in early March 2020, which resulted in a significant reframe of Community Risk Reduction programming. For the safety of our community and first responders, all in-person engagement was canceled. Our Community Risk Reduction programming focused on supporting our community response to the COVID-19 pandemic while promoting our region's safety and unity.





## SPECIAL OPERATIONS

### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The SFD Hazmat Team's mission is to respond to incidents involving Hazardous and suspected Hazardous Materials located within the City of Spokane and anywhere within the region when the appropriate requests are made. The Spokane Hazmat Team will conduct operations to remove endangered people, conduct rescue operations, stabilize the incident, and act as technical advisors to Incident Commanders of Hazmat Incidents using properly trained team members, safe work practices/equipment, and adhering to the following priorities:

**To Preserve Life**

**To Protect the Environment**

**To Protect Property**

**Incident Stabilization**

Hazardous Materials are defined as chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear releases that pose threats to people, the environment, and property. All personnel assigned to the team undergo rigorous training upon assignment and ongoing training to maintain proficiency and increase efficiency and safety at Hazardous Materials incidents. The Hazmat Team is staffed daily by three fire stations. SFD's Hazmat Team is a member of the Inland Empire Hazmat Task Force, comprised of the Spokane Fire Department, Fairchild AFB Hazmat Team, and Kootenai County Fire and Rescue Hazmat Team. These resources have the capabilities and training to work together to stabilize large-scale, regional hazmat incidents.

### TECHNICAL RESCUE

The Spokane Fire Department's Technical Rescue Team was established in the early 1990s. The team responds to rescue situations beyond the standard fire company's capabilities within the City of Spokane and throughout Spokane County. The team has responded to many challenging and high profile incidents in its 20 plus years of existence. These extreme rescue situations include building collapse, confined space rescue, trench/excavation emergencies, and machinery rescue, as well as high and low angle rope rescue operations. The team is made up of 40 personnel with highly specialized training and equipment responding from Station 15 and Station 4. The Captains of Station 15 and 4 manage the team with program administration managed by a Battalion Chief, under the Deputy Chief of Operation's supervision

In September of 2020, the Technical Rescue Team was deployed as an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) resource to Malden Wa following a devastating fire that destroyed most of the town. The team was tasked with performing a coordinated grid search of the town for potential survivors and victims and evaluating the fire-damaged structures for stability. The deployment of the team as a USAR resource was a first in the team's 20-year history.

### WATER RESCUE

The SFD Water Rescue Team provides first response rescue capabilities for all types of water-related incidents. The Spokane Fire Department Water Rescue Team also responds to emergencies throughout Spokane County in conjunction with the Spokane Valley Water Team and Spokane County Sheriff's Dive Team. In addition to providing swift water rescue on the Spokane River, the team will respond to a pond, ice, and flooding incidents. Forty highly trained technicians, responding from Station 2, located in the Logan Neighborhood, and Station 16, located near Joe Albi Stadium, utilize various equipment to include a jet boat, catarafts, and kayaks to conduct rescue operations. The Captains of Stations 2 and 16 manage the water rescue team with program administration handled by a Battalion Chief, under the Deputy Chief of Operations' supervision.

### RESCUE TASK FORCE

The Spokane Fire Department's Rescue Task Force is a specialty team within the SFD that is tasked with providing medical care during mass casualty acts of violence or other active threat situations. RTF Teams are made up of specially trained Firefighter/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics from Stations 3, 13, and 14. They are part of a workgroup made up of Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers that have the common goal of treating and rescuing victims from an active threat area. RTF Teams are designed to operate in the "warm zone" of dynamic threat situations, where they work in clear but not secure areas. As the law enforcement objectives of identifying, confine, and eliminating threats are proceeding, RTF Teams can be provided a separate security detail and enter the area to provide wound care for victims. The RTF Team's primary goal is to access, stabilize, and evacuate victims from these hostile environments.





**SPOKANE REGIONAL  
AIR SUPPORT UNIT**

Since April of 2019, the Spokane Fire Department has partnered with the Spokane Regional Air Support Unit. This unit is a consortium of Inland Northwest agencies, with the Spokane County Sheriff's Office being the lead agency. SFD provides four specially-trained Firefighter/Paramedics to operate as Helicopter Rescue Medics. The Sheriff's Office owns and operates a Bell 205 Super Huey formally known as "Rescue 3". This rescue helicopter has been outfitted with a 247' hoist for inserting our HRM's into remote, austere environments so they may stabilize and extract anyone who has been injured or otherwise needs retrieval. Rescue 3 carries a complement of medical equipment so the team can provide Advanced Life Support. A secondary role of Rescue 3 is the remote deployment of the Sheriff's Office SWAT team. SFD's Helicopter Rescue Medics accompany the SWAT team to render immediate aid should the need arise. Being a regional resource, our operating area mainly consists of the inland northwest though we can fly wherever we're requested, depending on circumstances.



**IN MEMORY OF ED FOSTER**

Ed Foster passed away on July 27th, 2020, in the line of duty after sustaining a cardiac event during training at the age of 61.

He served the City of Spokane and the Spokane Fire Department for 27 years.

*"Time Flies. Remember to be kind  
and do the right thing."  
Ed Foster*







## MISSION

We enhance your quality of life, always  
earning your trust, by saving lives,  
preventing harm and protecting property  
with compassion and integrity.

Chapter 35.103 RCW: Revised Code of Washington Chapter 35.103 was passed into law during the 2005 legislative session (House Bill 1756). This law mandated certain response criteria be established and measured by fire departments across the State of Washington beginning in 2007 with an analysis of responses in 2006. The requirement was passed and is now the law for all substantially career fire departments. The purpose of this law is to report to the Governing Body of each fire jurisdiction, as well as to the residents of any given area, how the fire department is doing in meeting its established emergency response standards. These standards take into consideration a number of response types: A) Fire Suppression, B) Emergency Medical Services - Basic Life Support (BLS), C) Emergency Medical Services - Advanced Life Support (ALS), D) Special Operations (i.e. Hazardous Materials response and Technical Rescue response), E) Aircraft rescue and firefighting, F) Marine rescue and firefighting, G) Wildland firefighting.

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