



MERIDIAN FIRE



Photo credit Chase Christopher



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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Charlie Butterfield

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Message from the Chief

On behalf of the Meridian Fire Department, I am honored to share our 2020 year in review. This report details the statistics, initiatives and accomplishments of the Meridian Fire Department with the City of Meridian and the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District, which reflects dedication to our mission, vision and values.

Given the expansive, continuous growth of the City, the Meridian Fire Department is constantly evaluating ways to improve delivery of service to the community. On March 2nd 2020, the newest Meridian Fire Station, Station Six was staffed to respond to calls for service. This fire station took



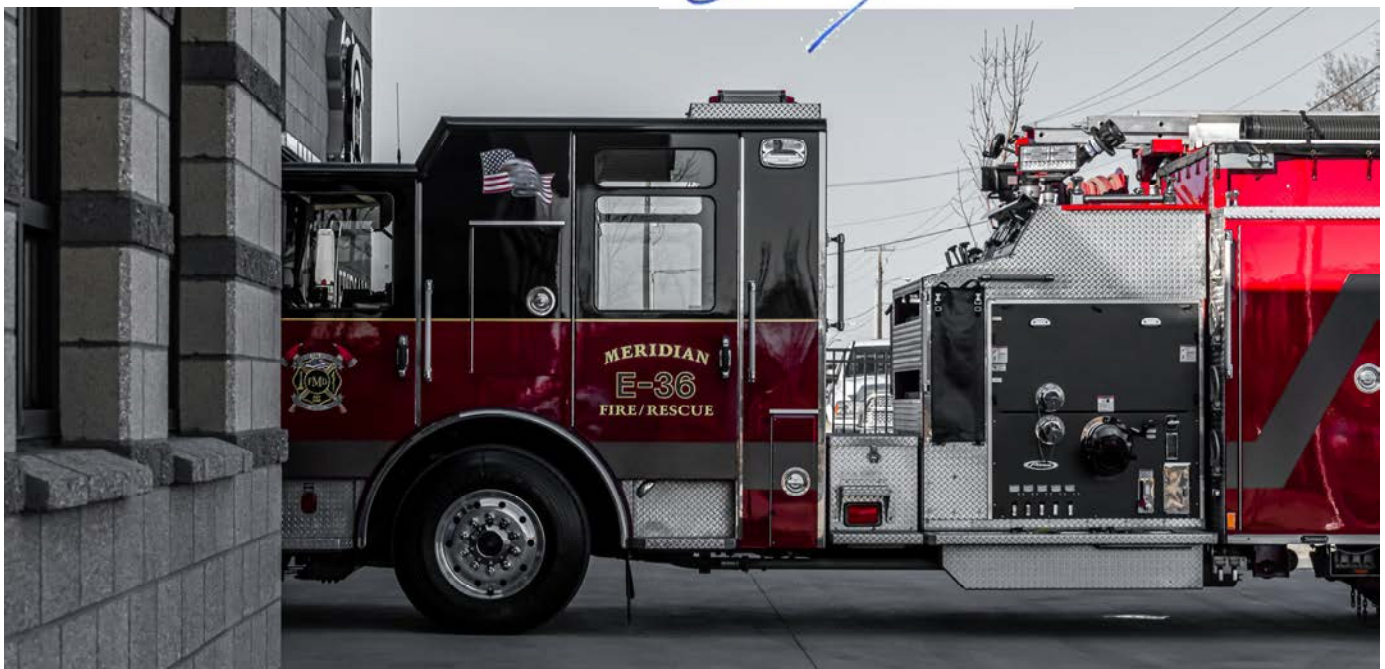
a year to build and will provide an increased level of fire protection and emergency medical services to southwest Meridian. On the front entry of this new station stands a 4-foot bronze statue of a firefighter. This public art piece was created by local artist Daniel Borup and commissioned by the Meridian Arts Commission.

As the need for emergency services evolves and transforms, particularly with the challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the Meridian Fire Department is ready to meet the increased demands. It is a privilege to lead a professional, progressive and community-oriented fire department. The men and women of the Meridian Fire Department are committed to the highest level of service to all citizens of our community.

In Service,



**INTERIM
FIRE CHIEF
CHARLIE BUTTERFIELD**



Our Mission

*To protect and enhance our community
through professionalism
and compassion.*

Our Vision

*A premier organization recognized
for providing a safe community
through professionalism, innovative actions,
and community involvement.*



MFD Guiding Principles

Compassion– We will provide friendly and compassionate service to each other and the public we serve.

Professionalism – We will dedicate ourselves to be an educated workforce striving to meet the community's and our employees' changing needs.

Honesty – We will conduct ourselves in an honest manner and be transparent in our interactions.

Ownership – Ownership of our department will be expressed through tradition, loyalty, and dedication.

Trust – We will earn and maintain trust through Integrity, our actions, and holding to commitments.

ABOUT US

The Meridian Fire Department in Meridian Idaho was formed in 1908 as a volunteer rural fire department. LeRoy Adams was the first Fire Chief and the Department started out fairly small, serving only 600 residents at the time. The first paid firefighter for Meridian Fire was not hired until 1977.

In the early 1950's, the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District formed a partnership with the City of Meridian to better protect and serve the citizens of Meridian and the citizens in the surrounding rural area. A percentage of the Meridian Fire Department budget is funded by this partnership. This joint venture has proved to be very beneficial to the City and the Rural Fire District and continues today. The Rural District employs three District Commissioners.

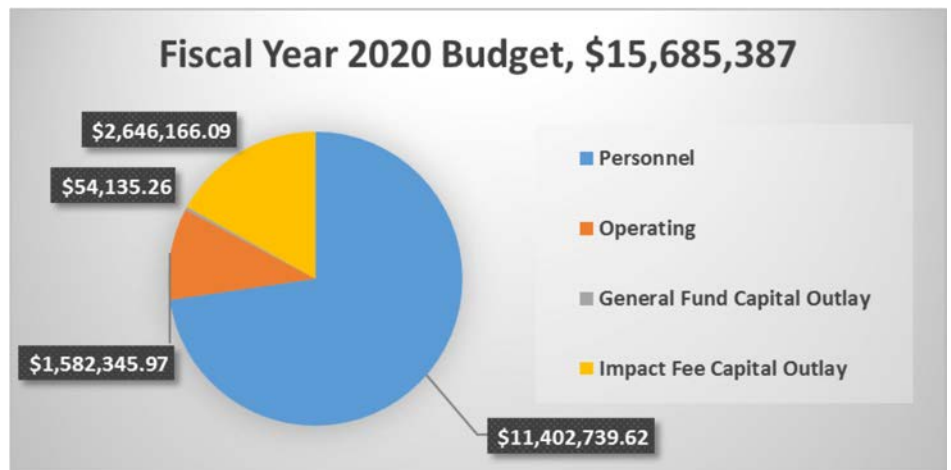
The Department's 8th and most recent fire chief, Mark Niemeyer, resigned in 2020 after serving as Fire Chief for 10 years. In November of 2020, Deputy Chief Charlie Butterfield was named interim Fire Chief.

Today the Meridian Fire Department employs a total of 91 employees and serves over 122,000 residents in a 58 square mile area. We are staffed 24/7, 365 days a year. Firefighters work 48 hour shifts followed by 96 hours off. There are six fire stations, a training tower and a Fire Safety Center. Meridian Fire responded to over 7,800 calls in 2020 and operated on a \$15.6 million-dollar budget which included the construction of Fire Station 6.

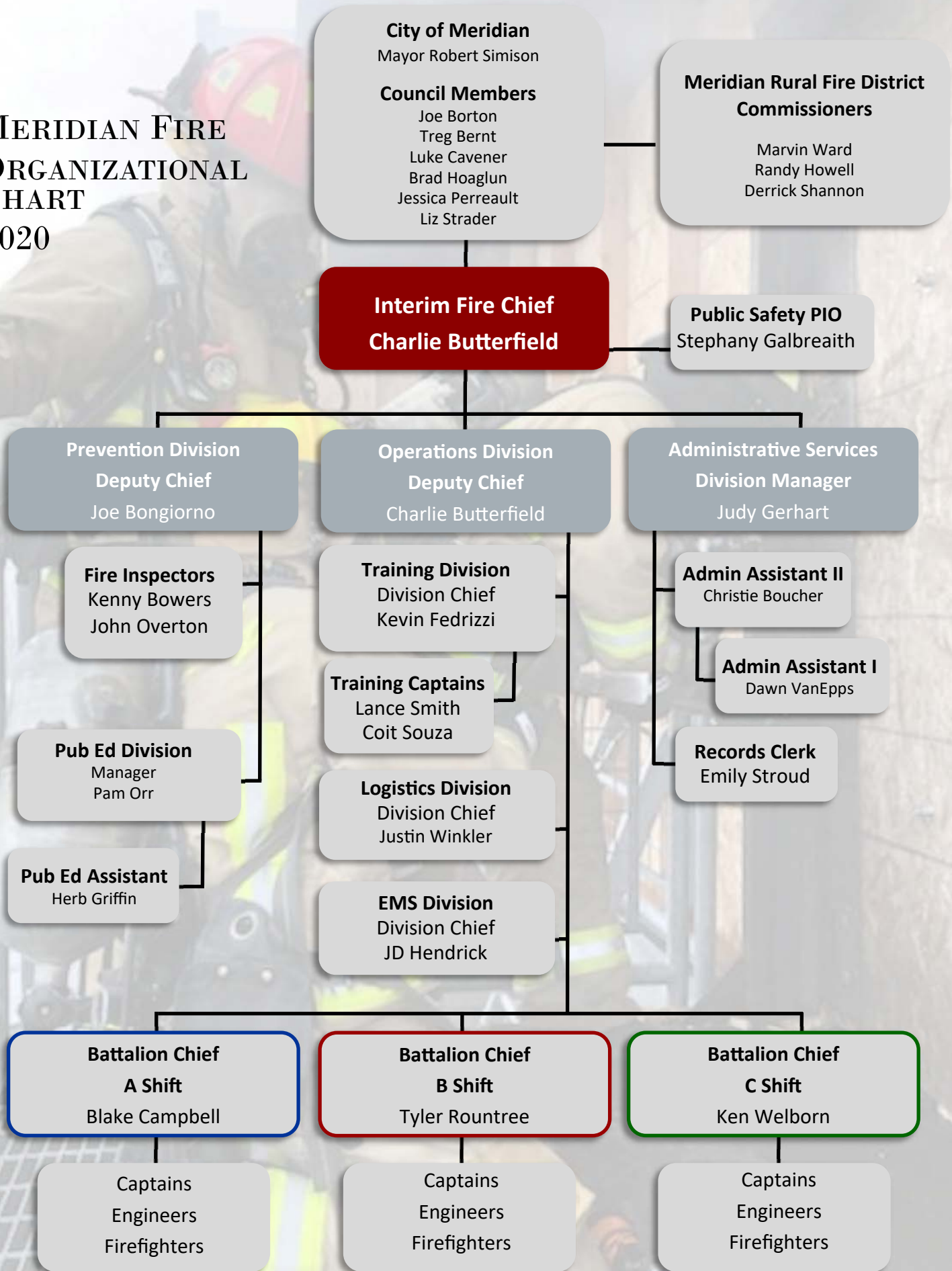


KEY OPERATIONS

- Fire Suppression
- Emergency Medical Response BLS & ALS
- Emergency Rescue Response
- Fire Prevention
 - Fire Life & Safety Inspections
 - Plan Reviews
 - Fire Code Development
- Fire Investigations
- Fire Safety Public Education
 - Car Seat Checks & Installation assistance
 - Hands Only CPR Courses
 - Safety Presentations
 - Friendly Firefighter Visits
 - Smoke & CO Alarm Assistance
 - Public Safety Academy
 - Juvenile Fire Setter Program
 - Stop the Bleed Program
 - AED Program



MERIDIAN FIRE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2020



PREVENTION DIVISION, DEPUTY CHIEF JOE BONGIORNO



The Deputy Chief of Prevention plans, organizes, manages and directs the Prevention and Public Education Divisions of the Fire Department as well as enforcing all fire prevention codes, laws and ordinances. The primary focus of the Prevention Division is to prevent fires from occurring, minimize the impact of fires that do occur and determine the cause and origin of those fires whenever possible.

In 2020, we completed 2,519 inspections. There were 1,120 violations noted and 889 violations cleared. The top 5 list of violations charged this year:

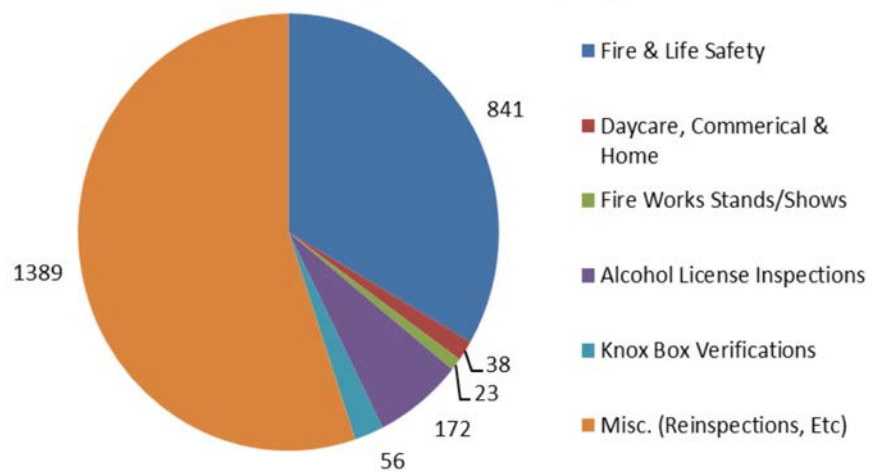
- ⇒ Sprinkler system maintenance past due
- ⇒ New this year: improperly installed alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers (The dispensers should not be installed over electrical outlets, switches or over carpet)
- ⇒ Exit signs: Burned out or not functioning
- ⇒ Extension cord misuse: Using extension cords instead of surge protectors
- ⇒ Hood extinguishing systems out of date for service

This past year 2,691 inspections, done by a 3rd party, were entered into The Compliance Engine (TCE). This is an increase from 2019. TCE is a third-party company that helps us monitor and track occupancies that have fire alarms, fire sprinkler or cooking hoods with extinguishing systems. Meridian Fire wants to ensure our businesses are safe and following the fire code. TCE sends out notices for when the system(s) are due for inspection, sends reminder notices for re-inspections and tracks when repairs are completed.

Much of the work our Division does is dependent on our connection with developers, residents and business owners. We conduct fire and life safety development review of potential new projects and are actively involved at the pre-application process level. It allows us to be pro-active in identifying access issues, water flow needs for firefighting and potential life safety issues in the design of facilities

Fire investigation and fire inspection courses are continuously taken by our staff to keep current with building and fire code changes and ensure our certifications up to date. Technology changes constantly and so does the field of fire investigation. We look forward to adding an additional Fire Inspector in 2021 in order to keep up with the rapid

2020 Inspections by Type



PREVENTION, CONT.

25
STRUCTURE FIRES
10
VEHICLE FIRES

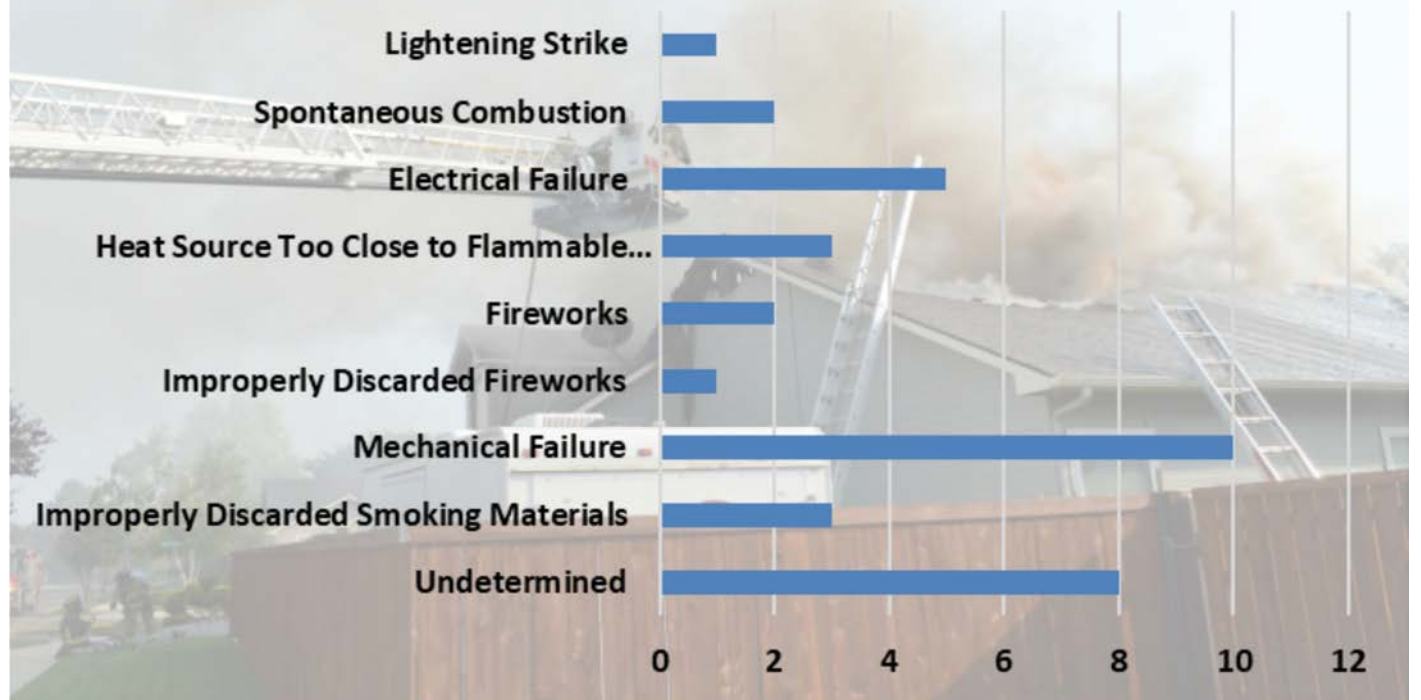
growth and added requirements of maintaining code required life safety inspections within Meridian.

In addition to assisting other jurisdictions with fire investigations, our staff investigated 35 fires in Meridian (down from 42 in 2019). Our goal is to make a determination as to the cause of the fire so we can prevent them from happening in the future.

We will continue to collaborate with the other fire departments in the valley and ensure common language and application of the new and future code editions. Consistency in the valley helps all the business owners and developers as they bring their businesses and developments to Meridian. Overall, we are striving to work together for the safety of all of our communities and ensure the businesses you visit are safe and following the fire code. We are committed to maintaining a safe and code compliant community.



2020 Fire Causes



PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION, PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION MANAGER, PAM ORR



Meridian Fire Public Education Division conducts classes and presentations promoting fire prevention and safety concepts to the general public, schools and the business Community.

“The most effective method of fire prevention is Public Education. It is a vital part of how we best serve the community.”

Our Division started the year supporting our older citizens by performing smoke alarm maintenance sweeps in a couple of our older adult communities. We supported our littlest citizens by holding a car seat event providing free car seats to those in need, supporting our school aged children by hosting station tours, friendly firefighter visits and by visiting classrooms with educational classes. We celebrated Sparky the Fire Dog turning 69 and hosted an annual birthday party for many residents that wanted to celebrate our favorite fire dog. We supported families by participating in safety fairs, holding CPR classes, and hosting a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training as an Advanced Citizens Academy. The CERT program educated the group about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trained them in basic disaster response skills. At the time, we didn't realize that this class would be one of the last large group trainings we would be able to host for the remainder of the year.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, business as usual came to a screeching halt. Not the kind of hiatus from work that a Friday hopefully would bring us, but one that left us scratching our heads. As we watched our calendar free up because of cancelled events and classes, questions lingered, many centered around how we could best serve and safely deliver life safety education to our community when we were all experiencing lock-down. Like many, we were determined to continue in serving our community, even during these difficult circumstances. Technology allowed us to get our important safety messages out to the public. From social media posts to emailing videos, we did our best to support all customers. We dropped educational brochures on home porches, sent teachers teaching guides and educational packets, and responded to chirping smoke alarms. We made videos on smoke alarm maintenance and worked with outside agencies to produce virtual car seat checks. We held a virtual parade for Smokey Bear's birthday and held another for Sparky and Santa to bring some holiday cheer. Facebook showed Sparky continuing to dance and Zenger the Elf reminded families to celebrate safely.

We experienced an increase in our Juvenile Firesetters in 2020 and were successful in educating the families involved.



PUBLIC EDUCATION CONT.

We also saw an increase in the number of residents looking for assistance with the proper operation of a car seat. We were able to secure a child passenger seat grant from the Idaho Department of Transportation which puts us in a great position to help those families who will need car seats in the future.



Herb Griffin demonstrating safe cooking practices with our new Kitchen Safety prop. This prop was purchased through community donations to the Light My Fire organization



Pam Orr, Car seat safety check

Covid-19 created unique challenges in the delivery of our Public Education programs. It also gave us some unique opportunities to have time to further develop new and existing programs that will serve our community for years to come.



Fire Is Everyone's Fight -If it's Predictable, it's Preventable



OPERATIONS

DEPUTY CHIEF CHARLIE BUTTERFIELD



The Operations Division of the Meridian Fire Department is responsible for the delivery of day-to-day emergency and non-emergency services to our community. These services are provided by fire department personnel responding from six fire stations throughout the City of Meridian. The Operations

Division is comprised of all emergency response personnel, the Training Division, Logistics Division and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division.

LOGISTICS—On March 2nd, fire station six became staffed for response to emergency and non-emergency calls for service. The fire station took a year to build and includes several design features that will reduce the exposure of carcinogens to our firefighters. This station is staffed with one engine company which provides service to the expanding geographical area of southwest Meridian.

Following the successful construction of fire station six, the Operations Division began the process of designing fire stations seven and eight, recognizing the forthcoming need for those two stations in the near future.

EMS—The global pandemic of COVID-19 presented many challenges for the operations of the Meridian Fire Department. The Operations Division along with regional Fire and EMS partners acted proactively to this pandemic by supplying personal protective equipment (PPE) to responders and developing procedures on responding to emergency calls related to COVID-19.

TRAINING—Our Training Division found creative virtual ways to continue our training to keep crews current and sharp. The Division conducted a live fire training burn last October.



Photo credit Chase Christopher

MERIDIAN FIRE STATIONS AND FACILITIES



Station 1
540 E Franklin Rd
Calls for Service—1,765



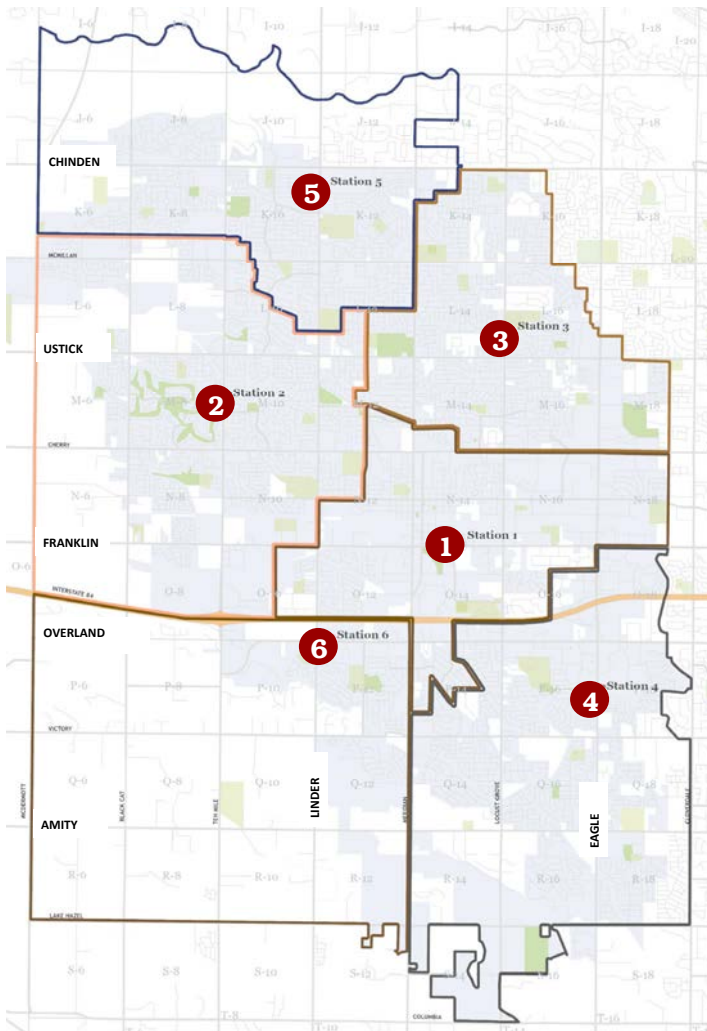
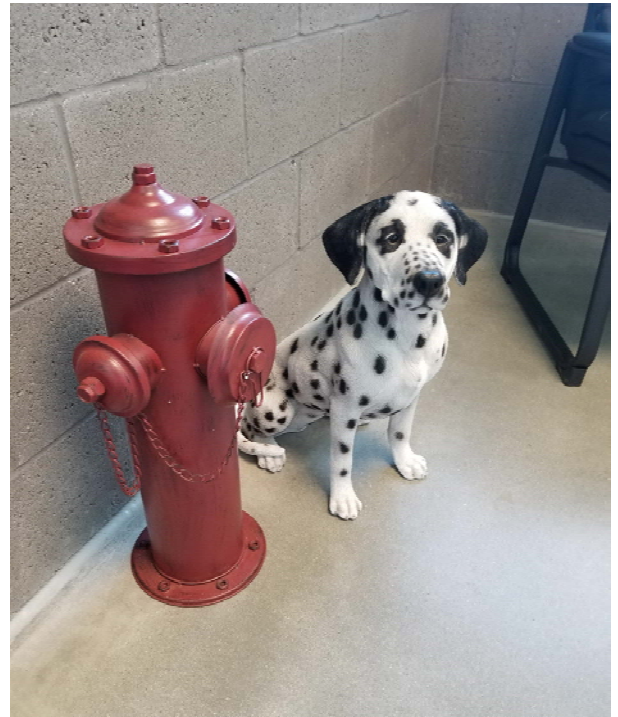
Station 2
2401 N Ten Mile Rd
Calls for Service—1,599



Station 3
3545 N Locust Grove
Calls for Service—1,750



Station 4
2515 S Eagle Rd
Calls for Service—1,771



Station 5
6001 N Linder Rd
Calls for Service—1,286

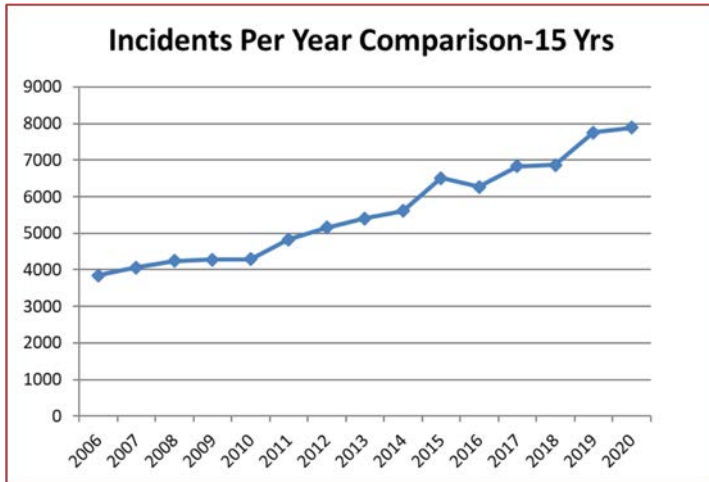


Station 6
1435 W Overland Rd
Calls for Service—1,053



5-Story Training Tower
540 E Franklin Rd

2020 RESPONSE STATISTICS

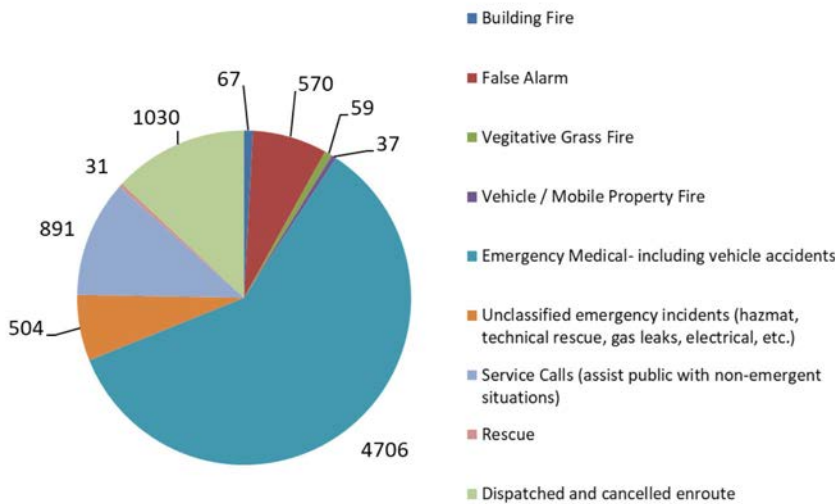


7,895
2020 TOTAL CALLS
1.81% Increase

9,525
2020 Total Apparatus Responses

6:35
Average Emergency Response Time

2020 Types of Incidents

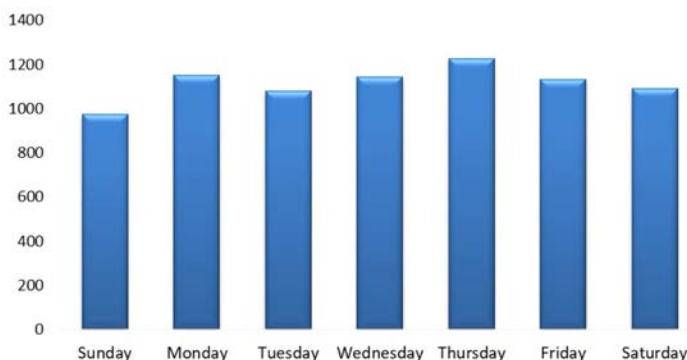


Meridian Fire had 7,895 calls for service in 2020. Emergency Medical (including vehicle accidents) made up 4,706 of these calls. All MFD responding apparatus can provide advanced emergency medical assistance. Meridian Fire has 30 Paramedics, 2 Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMTs), and 52 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). We also responded to 67 building fires, 59 grass fires and 891 service calls.

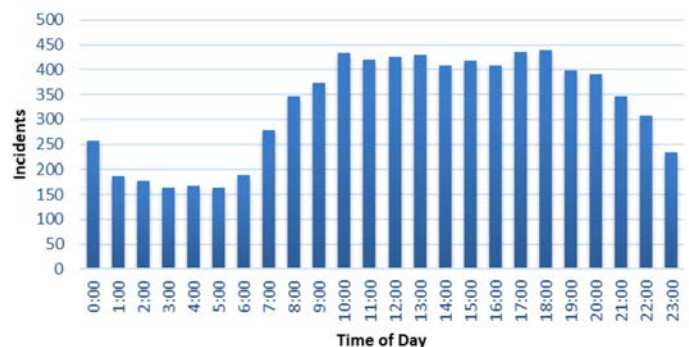
Busiest Day Thursday

Busiest Time 6:00 p.m.

Incidents by Day of the Week 2020



Time of Day Calls for Service 2020



TRAINING

DIVISION CHIEF KEVIN FEDRIZZI



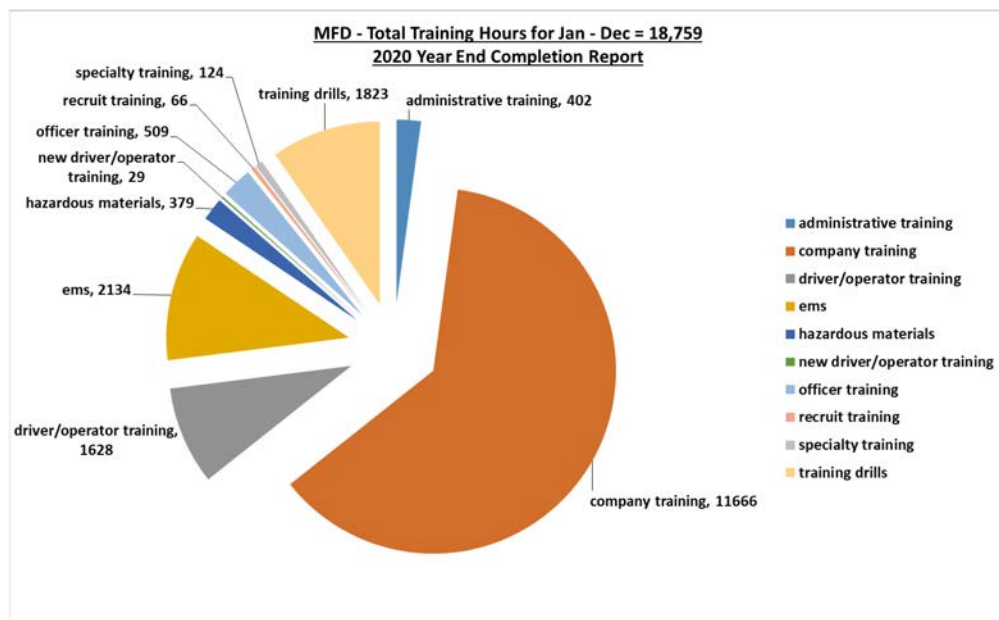
The Division Chief of Training manages the Department's need to meet or exceed required training standards and/or identified best practices. He develops and coordinates the training of department personnel in the areas of fire suppression, EMS, Hazardous Materials, Special Operations, Leadership, and other operational areas. The Training Division consists of a Division Chief of Training and two Training Captains.

2020 proved to be a challenging year for the Fire Training Division. With Covid-19 restrictions shutting down our in-person training events during the spring, the Division diverted efforts to managing the pandemic. As we negotiated our new way of providing emergency services training, we discovered opportunities to communicate through virtual platforms. These platforms provided the needed communications to facilitate the vital exchange of information. Following the new guidelines of social distancing and mask utilization, the crews continued with company training in their stations. In July, the Training Captains resumed the facilitation of several single company training events that kept our crews engaged and sharp through the firefighter safety and survival training events. The training was facilitated on an e-Learning platform crews participating in hands-on training through several learning stations at the training tower. This blended approach to learning reduced the in-person contact while still achieving the training objectives.

The Training Division welcomed Captain Coit Souza to the team in February 2020. Training Captain Souza quickly made a positive impact with the company drills and brought a no-nonsense approach to core critical skill sets to assist the crews with difficult self-rescue situations.



Compass Charter School in Meridian provided the fire department with opportunity to train in a residential structure that was scheduled for demolition. This structure was the site of several non-destructive training events in August through October, that culminated in the live fire training for our new instructors and firefighters. To reduce the risk of injury to firefighters, recognition of critical fireground factors associated with split-level homes were identified and we adjusted our tactics accordingly to provide a successful outcome. In addi-

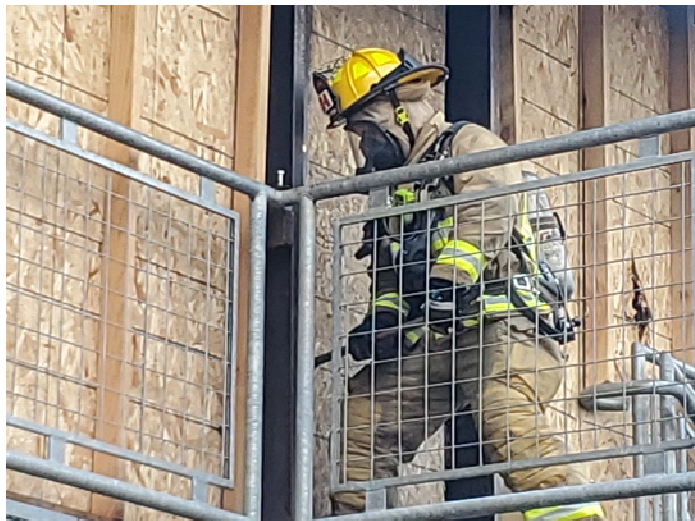


TRAINING, CONT

tion, crewmembers were presented with the most current fire behavior information from the UL/NIST research laboratories. The training event utilized the best practices in structure identification, hose deployment, crew deployment and incident command. This is a rare and valuable opportunity for our crews to practice their skills in live fire conditions.

Professional develop also continued during 2020. The Training Division facilitated promotional exams for the engineer and captain positions and several individuals passed assessments for our working out of class (WOC) program in the ranks of Captain and Battalion Chief. A condensed academy was held for new lateral hire, Ben Sletmoe.

The Meridian Fire Department is committed to safety in all of its efforts.



PROMOTIONS

Captain Promotions

Steve Hayes – 5/21/20

Michael Bayless – 11/21/20

Tyler Bryner – 11/21/20

Engineer Promotions

Trevor Sund – 5/21/20

Garrett Bjerke – 11/21/20

Jason Waites – 11/21/20

Talin Wardein – 11/21/20

Jay Mentzer – 11/21/20

Jermaine Smith – 11/21/20

New Hire

Ben Sletmoe—FF/Medic

6-8-20

LOGISTICS

DIVISION CHIEF JUSTIN WINKLER



The Logistics Division is responsible for the management of all fire facilities and properties and is overseen by Division Chief Justin Winkler. Chief Winkler's responsibilities include developing and maintaining site plans, preventative maintenance and sustainability programs for facilities, design and construction oversight for new facilities, and renovations and repairs. Logistics completes and/or directs all apparatus and equipment testing, repairs, preventive maintenance and records management (including self-contained breathing apparatus, technical rescue tools, chain saws, ladders, air compressors, ventilation fans, nozzles, fire hose testing, pump testing, etc.). This division also develops equipment and apparatus specifications for purchasing.

Accomplishments in 2020

- Fire Station 6 was completed and opened
- Stations 1-3 received new flooring
- Repainted apparatus bay at Station 2
- Repaired roof and burn tiles on the Training Tower's burn room
- Replaced heavy lifting air bags on Truck-31
- Replaced all Knox Boxes in the fleet
- Completed annual testing of 28,820 feet of fire hose
- Completed annual testing of 679 feet of ladders
- Completed annual testing of 50 SCBA and 80 SCBA regulators
- Completed 5-year hydrotesting of 157 SCBA Bottles
- Designed specs for a new ladder truck
- Purchased and placed into service a new public education vehicle
- Completed annual pump testing of the fleet
- Instituted apparatus check and maintenance system called "Check It"



FLEET

- 1 Ladder Truck, 2nd on order
- 6 Front Line Fire Engines
- 2 Reserve Engines
- 1 Training Engine
- 2 Brush Squads
- 1 Water Tender
- 3 Trailers (1 incident command & 2 utility/ equipment trailers)
- 15 Staff vehicles

Current and ongoing projects for 2021

- Purchasing, inspecting, accepting and placing new ladder truck into service
- Initial design of new fire stations 7-8
- New flooring for stations 4-5
- Exterior LED lighting upgrades at all stations



EMS DIVISION

DIVISION CHIEF JD HENDRICK



The Meridian Fire Department's emergency medical services (EMS) training, certification and continued improvement is overseen by Division Chief JD Hendrick. The Division Chief of EMS manages functions that support the ability of the fire department to deliver the highest quality of patient care possible. Chief Hendrick is responsible in planning, organizing, coordinating and administering emergency medical treatment and programs of the fire department. He works directly with ACCESS (Ada County-City Emergency Medical Services System), Central District Health Department, area hospitals, and other healthcare partners.

Meridian Fire Department 2020 EMS Division Update

In 2020, Meridian Fire responded to more than 4,700 medical emergency calls. As with most fire departments and emergency medical service (EMS) agencies across the country, the response to COVID-19 became a major focus beginning in the first quarter of the year and lasting through 2020. With some previous logistical preparation by Ada County Paramedics,

the Meridian Fire Department was able to obtain the personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to respond to the serious outbreaks of the pandemic. Through the rapidly changing recommendations by the Center for Disease Control, the Meridian Fire Department was able to change protocols and procedures to maintain safe practices for the EMS providers.

The fire department conducted 2134 hours of EMS training throughout 2020. These training hours ensure the on-going commitment to providing the most efficient and highest quality of pre-hospital medical care to our community.

2,134

EMS TRAINING HOURS



FROM OUR CITIZENS

We were out of town but our neighbors said that you were prompt, courteous and very professional. You handled the situation well, kept us informed and put us at ease

Awesome crew - kept me calm and took good care of me. Thanks!

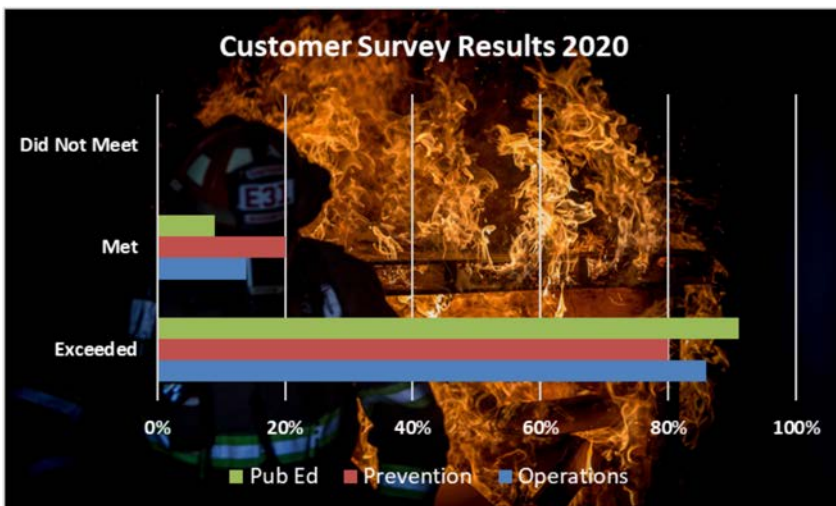
Thank you very much for helping us in our time of need!

Thank you for saving my house!! You guys showed up within minutes and I am grateful for all you do and doing what you could to save my dream home!

Could not have been nicer! They were all very courteous, patient and kind! Thanks!

Wonderful men and women. Thank you!

They have been to my house on 2 separate occasions and they were courteous, friendly and all around great. Thanks for being so nice.



Prompt, professional, efficient. Everything that a fire department should be!

We really appreciated the prompt response and advice given!

Our inspector is always so friendly and accommodates our unusual schedule.
Thank you!

Thank you for watching out for us - you never know when we could be overlooking something.

Fabulous! Fast and kind. Thank you MFD!

Very friendly, informative and competent. Thank you.

Local resources that provide free education and assistance to families is crucial, especially in times of economic uncertainty. We are so thankful to have a fire department that constantly offers programs to help the community. Thank you for everything you do!

Staff was on time - very efficient, pleasant and knowledgeable! Thank you so much!

The inspector was great at calling me back in a timely manner. The experience for a 1st time small business owner is a little intimidating, but the inspector put me at ease.

I really appreciated the friendliness and helpfulness of the staff. You went out of your way to help me.

Thank you!

MERIDIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

CONTACT INFORMATION

**Emergency
9-1-1**

**Fire Administration
33 E Broadway Ave
Meridian ID 83642
208-888-1234
M-F, 8 to 5**

MeridianFire@MeridianCity.org

**Website
www.MeridianCity.org/Fire**



