

# MONTROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT





## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Montrose Fire Department is dedicated to protecting life and property within the boundaries of its coverage area. The department will assist citizens and provide medical and fire services to the best of our ability.*

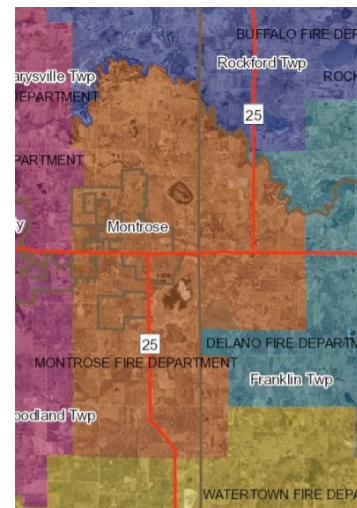
### **FIRE PROTECTION COVERAGE**

The Montrose Fire Department protects the city of Montrose and portions of Franklin, Marysville, and Woodland Townships. Our coverage area is approximately 45 square miles, and protect a population of approximately 6,000 people.

The department also responds to assist other departments with incidents upon their requests. Our common mutual aid partners are surrounding community fire departments (Waverly, Delano, Watertown, and Buffalo).

The Service area of the Montrose Fire Department officially covers the following:

- 100 % of the City of Montrose
- 11 % of Franklin Township
- 19% of Marysville Township
- 30.25 % of Woodland Township





March, 2020

It is my pleasure as the Fire Chief of the Montrose Fire Department to present to you the 2020 annual report for the Montrose Fire Department. It continues to be a privilege to serve as the Fire Chief for the Montrose Fire Department.

I would love to simply say, 2020 was just another year, however we all know this is not the case. The Montrose Fire Department had a very busy year with a total of 281 emergency responses which is a record for the Montrose Fire Department (previous record was 257 in 2012). We also hit 2 other records throughout the year; most calls in a 24 hours period with 8 (previous record was 7) and most calls in a month with 36 in August (previous was 30). Add onto the busy year the COVID 19 issues related to emergency services and emergency management, we have had a busy and interesting year.

With 2020 behind us, I have now served as Fire Chief for a total of 6 years (serving as Fire Chief since January 2015). Without the individuals under me at the department on a regular basis I would not be able to be the Fire Chief I am today. I am amazed and taken back each day by the dedication and work ethic put forward by the firefighters on our department.

My officers have been a rock for me throughout the past year and special mention of my officers seems reasonable; Assistant Chief Tom Marketon, Captain Tom Weineck, Captain Kelly Stoll and Captain Tom Marketon. These individuals keep the department running when I am busy with work and family life and without their extra effort my job would be that much harder. A special thank you to them is necessary.

Not only do we respond to calls for emergencies, but we also put many hours in for training, community engagement and other events. The amounts of time put in by each member does truly make being a part of this department a part time job with most firefighters putting in over 200+ hours per year in total time spent with the Fire Department.

The Community of Montrose is an amazing community and we are given so much support from the community as a whole. I am also very thankful the support and assistance given by our Council, Mayor and city staff.

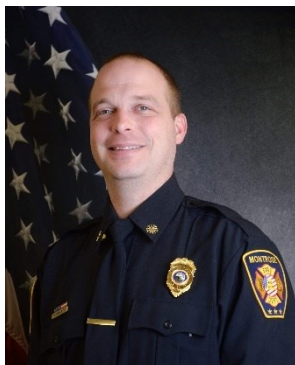
If anyone has any questions, concerns, or comments, I encourage them to contact me directly. All contact information can be found on page 3 of this report. Generally, someone is always at the fire station on Tuesdays in the evening from 6PM until around 10PM. The public and visitors are also always welcome to stop by and visit the station whenever we are here. I truly believe this is the citizens department, and we as firefighters have the privilege of serving the citizens.

As I have done so in previous years, I would like to thank the firefighters that serve with me in the Montrose Fire Department for their service and dedication to the community, department, and fire service. I would also like to thank my family and friends for the support they have already provided me as I continue my service as the Montrose Fire Chief.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kevin S. Triplett*

Kevin S. Triplett – Fire Chief



**MAILING ADDRESS:**

Montrose Fire Department  
P.O. Box 25  
Montrose, MN 55363

**SHIPPING ADDRESS:**

Montrose Fire Department  
311 Buffalo Ave S  
Montrose, MN 55363

**STATION ADDRESS:**

Montrose Fire Department  
260 2<sup>nd</sup> St S  
Montrose, MN 55363

**ISO RATINGS**

In City of Montrose - 4  
In Townships where contracted - 6

**FIRE STATION PHONE NUMBER: 763-575-7480**

[Voicemail checked daily]

**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER: 911****NON-EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER: 763-682-7600**

Connects to Wright County Sheriff's Office Communication Center who has the capabilities of paging fire department personnel

**CITY HALL MAIN PHONE NUMBER: 763-575-7422****E-MAIL ADDRESS: montrosefd@gmail.com****WEBSITE: [www.montrose-mn.com/departments/fire-department](http://www.montrose-mn.com/departments/fire-department)****FACEBOOK: [https://www.facebook.com/MontroseVolunteerFireDepartment/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/MontroseVolunteerFireDepartment/?ref=br_rs)****PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!**

\*\*All information contained within this report is using figures during the 2020 calendar year\*\*



## **PERSONNEL**

As of 01/01/2021, MFD has a total of 21 active firefighters. In total, years of total service is approximately **261 years and 6 months**

### **OF OUR 21 FIREFIGHTERS:**

- 19 Emergency First Responders
- 1 EMT-B
- 13 State Certified Firefighter 2
- 2 State Certified Officer 1
- 3 State Certified Instructor 1
- 1 State Certified Fire Apparatus Operators
- 1 Licensed Firefighters

(Some of the more senior members of the department went through their respective training prior to state certification being an option. All regular training is to the Firefighter 2 level.)

### **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

- Firefighter Keith Johnson      02/11/2020 to 04/11/2020 (2 Months) &  
05/20/2020 to 12/31/2020 (8 Months)
- Firefighter Jacob Moen      02/02/2020-04/19/2020 (2.5 Months)

### **2020 FIREFIGHTERS RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT**

- Jacob Moen – Service dates: 11/20/2018 – 06/30/2020
  - 1 Years 5 months of service (2.5 months LOA 2/2/20 to 4/19/20)
- Vincent Manz – Service dates: 11/20/2018 – 10/31/2020
  - 1 Year 11 months of service

### **NEW FIREFIGHTERS IN 2020**

- Cade Stunetebeck joined our ranks in December of 2020. Matthew Menard also rejoined our ranks in December 2020 after a little over a year off of the department. We are excited to have them both on our department.







## **Active Firefighter Roster (As of 12/31/2020)**

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE (as of 12/31/2020)
Willie Bauernschmitt	48 Years, 11 Months
Mike Marketon	36 Years, 6 Months
Steven Mortensen	27 Years, 11 Months
Allen Mortensen	23 Years, 1 Month (37 Months LOA)
Kevin Triplett – Fire Chief	17 Years, 7 Months
Thomas Marketon - Assit Fire Chief	17 Years
Keith Johnson	16 Years, 5 Months (16 Months LOA)
Tom Weineck – Captain	13 Years, 4 Months
Matthew Menard	12 Years, 1 Month (15 month LOA)
Justin Phillips	9 Years, 7 Months
Kelly Stoll – Captain	9 Years, 7 Months
Cory DeWitte	8 Years, 4 Months
Joseph Von Thoma	6 Years, 2 Months
Terry Vanderbeek Jr	4 Years, 1 Month
Eddie Andreoff	2 Year, 9 Months
Jeffrey Holt	2 Year, 9 Months
Joel Grave	2 Year, 1 Month
Dian Holman	1 Year, 1 Month
Joey Theis	1 Year, 1 Month
Zack Walters	1 Year, 1 Month
Cade Stuntebeck	1 Month



# APPARATUS

		Mileage 01/07/2020	Mileage 01/2021	Total Mileage (2020)	2019 Mileage	Total Pump Hours	
						2019	2020
<b>UTILITY 11</b>	2011 Chevrolet Suburban	13503	14401	898	709		
<b>ENGINE 11</b>	2001 Freightliner	17728	18023	295	550	340.7	343.9
<b>ENGINE 12</b>	2014 Spartan	8123	8850	727	967	104	116
<b>RESCUE 11</b>	2006 Sterling	7472	7809	337	1218		
<b>TENDER 11</b>	2009 Freightliner	5184	5641	457	252		
<b>TENDER 12</b>	1997 Ford F700	7121	7204	83	117		
<b>GRASS 11</b>	2012 Ford Super Duty	12994	13578	584	1225		
<b>GRASS 12</b>	1986 Chevrolet 1 Ton	21445	21491	46	136		
<b>GRASS 13</b>	2015 Polaris Ranger	360	366	6	112		

## Utility 11

- 2011 Chevrolet Suburban
- Can carry up to 5 firefighters
- Utilized for minor medical calls
- Medical Supplies/AED
- Fire Investigation equipment
- Used to go to regional/county meetings/events



## Engine 11

- Built by Central States Fire Apparatus
- 2000 Freightliner Chassis
- 1000 Gallon Water Tank
- 1500 GPM Darley Pump
- 20 Gallon Foam Tank
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- Carries 4 firefighters in full suppression gear, driver, and front seat officer
- over 3,200 feet of hose (800' 5" | 900' 2 ½" | 1515' 1 ½")



## Engine 12

- Built by CustomFire Apparatus
- 2014 Spartan Chassis
- 1500 GPM Waterous Pump
- 1000 Gallon Water Tank
- over 3,100 feet of hose (600' 5" | 1000' 2 ½" | 1530' 1 ½")
- Light Tower
- Thermal imaging Camera
- 20 Gallon Foam Tank
- Extrication Tools (Jaws-of-Life)
- Carries 4 firefighters in full suppression gear, driver, and front seat officer



## Rescue 11

- Built by Central States Fire Apparatus (Rosenbauer)
- Heavy Rescue walk in body
- 4 Gas monitor
- Extrication Tools
- Rescue & medical equipment & AED
- 2006 Sterling Chassis
- Seating for 8 Firefighters (6 with SCBA)



## Tender 11

- Built by Midwest Fire Equipment
- 2009 Freightliner Chassis
- 2000 Gallon Tank
- 2100 Gallon folding water tank
- 400 GPM Waterous pump
- 200' of 1 ½" pre-connect hose
- 250 feet of rolled hose (100' 4" | 50' 3" | 50' 1 ½")



## Tender 12

- 2000 Gallon Tank
- 2100 Gallon folding water tank
- 350GPM Darley Pump
- hose reel w/ 200' of 1" rubber hose
- 300 feet of rolled hose (50' 4" | 50' 3" | 200' 1 ½")





# Apparatus Continued

## **Grass 11**

- Built by Montrose Fire Department/Kirivada Fire/E.A.T.I.     ▪ 2012 Ford F350 Pickup Truck
- 200 Gallon removable skid unit (Water pump/tank/hoses)
- 12 HP Honda Pump – 300 GPM Water pump
- Skid unit removed during winter & Truck used as a plain pickup
- Used to go to regional/county/state events/trainings



## **Grass 12**

- Vehicle acquired from MN DNR through Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP)
- 1986 Chevrolet 1-ton pickup
- Acquired and outfitted as a Grass/Wildland Firefighting truck in 1995
- 225 Gallon Water Tank     ▪ High Pressure Warner Pump/Hoses



## **Grass 13**

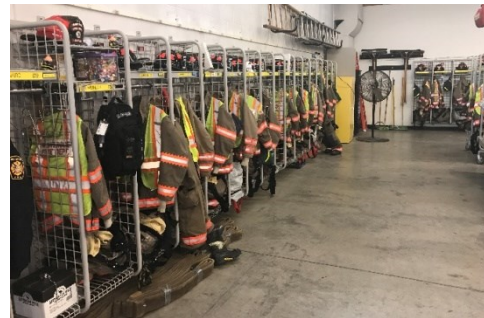
- 2015 Polaris Ranger side by side ATV
- Purchased 06/2015 through Meis Outland in Watkins, MN
- up-fitted in house with emergency lights, scene light, and upgraded suspension
- 35 Gallon Water Tank     ▪ 5.5 HP High Pressure water pump (2200psi 3GPM)



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FIREFIGHTERS WHO PERFORM COUNTLESS HOURS OF MAINTENANCE ON OUR TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT SAVING THE CITY & DEPARTMENT THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR.**

## **STATION INFORMATION**

- Built 1996
- 7200 square foot
- 1 Drive-thru Apparatus Bay
- 4 Back-in Apparatus Bays
- Office Space (Shared by Officers, Relief Association, Internal Dispatch)
- Work Area (SCBA Filling, Storage, Workbench)
- Storage for 30 sets of turnout gear
- Gear washing extractor
- Gear Dryer







## TRAINING

Training is an important part of any fire department. The Montrose Fire Department strives to have its personnel trained in the most up to date methods of fire suppression and emergency medical care. Training ensures we are ready 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. Our firefighters dedicate much time to training, making sure they are proficient in the use of department equipment and apparatus. MFD is fortunate to have 3 state certified instructors on the roster who assist with trainings. Two of our certified instructors also teach for outside instruction agencies. Much of the training is put on by Customized Fire & Rescue Education, and most training is paid for by funding dollars allotted to the Montrose Fire Department through the MN Board of Firefighter Education.

In 2020, the MFD had 3 firefighters complete their initial emergency medical responder training. This class is approximately 40 hours in length. All firefighters are required to obtain and maintain their Emergency Medical Responder certification (paid for and organized by the MFD).

### INTERESTING TRAININGS IN 2020

- |                     |   |                    |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| ▪ Medical Trainings | ▪ Truck Driving                         | ▪ SCBA Fit Testing |
| ▪ Auto Extrication  | ▪ Life Link Helicopter                  | ▪ Radios/Maps      |
| ▪ Pump training     | ▪ Farm Emergency Response & Extrication |                    |

In 2020, the firefighters of the Montrose Fire Department took part in a total of **1895.0 man hours** of training during scheduled training events normally held on Tuesday nights.

*\*\*Total man hours listed above does not generally include hours at conferences, or outside trainings. It only includes our regularly scheduled trainings (first 3 Tuesdays of each month)\*\**

Training in 2020 was interesting to say the least. Many trainings were canceled or changed due to the COVID 19 pandemic and having to work with in place executive orders (social distancing, masks, etc.). We were still able to keep our skills sharp and hone some new skills throughout the year.



Extrication Training – June 2020



LifeLink helicopter training – Sep 2020  
Landing zone training



Social Distancing during training 2020



## FIRE PREVENTION & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fire Prevention and assisting the community in non-emergency events is an important part of the overall mission of any fire department. We reach out to members and groups of our communities to assist in making sure they are safe and prepared for various forms of emergencies and provide support for various functions.

In 2020, we had to become creative with Fire Prevention, specifically as it related to getting our message to the elementary school students. Due to COVID 19 we were unable to have students visit our station as we have done in the past. Instead, we drafted a lesson plan and shared it with all the teachers and requested they spend some time during Fire Prevention Week (October 4-10) talking about and discussing fire prevention and safety. The 2020 Fire Prevention theme was “Serve up fire safety in the kitchen”. We also sent out a lot of information via social media throughout fire prevention week to reach as many people within our community as we could.

In 2020 we were less active in community events, partly to protect firefighters and also because many events were canceled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Some things we did take part in included

- Annual Firefighter Dinner (Feb 2019)
- Homemade Mask Drive (Apr 2020)
- Remembering 9/11 – yearly at corner of Buffalo Ave S/Hwy 12 (Sep 2020)
- Montrose Night to Unite (Oct 2020)
- Many Birthday Drive by's within our entire coverage area (All year)



September 11<sup>th</sup> Tribute – Sep 2020



Homemade mask drive – April 2020



## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

The Montrose Fire Department provides Emergency Management oversight to the City of Montrose and Townships which we provide service to. Our main point of contact during a large-scale event is the Wright County Sheriff's Office, who has 2 full time employees dedicated solely to Emergency Management. Emergency Management is able to assist in providing various resources throughout a large scale event.

The Fire Chief is the Emergency Management Director and is responsible for making sure the city is prepared for various emergencies which may arise. The Fire Department Officers and firefighters also play a key role in ensuring we are prepared for various large-scale events.

Where to start with 2020 and Emergency Management. Emergency Management has been very busy due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. Countless hours, meetings, emails, phone calls have been had over the past 10 months since COVID 19 started in March of 2020. Fire Chief Kevin Triplett has been responsive & supportive of the City and its efforts to be the best prepared we can be for a pandemic.

Never in a million years would I think we would need to plan, coordinate, and implement an emergency management plan for a global pandemic effecting our town. Many snap decisions had to be made and the City staff and council have overall been very receptive and supportive of the decisions and adjustments recommended.

Utilizing CARES Act funding we were able to upgrade the audio recording system in the community center as well as add a camera, 85" screen TV and laptop at a cost of approximately \$36,257 (majority of which was paid for by CARES Act funding)

## **SPECIAL MENTION / INFORMATION**

- In January of 2020 Fire Chief Daryl Drusch of the Howard Lake Fire Department passed away from a medical emergency after responding to a call for service only a couple of hour prior. After the tragic loss of Fire Chief Drusch, Montrose Firefighters paid respects to our fallen brother and supported the Howard Lake Fire Department through their mourning period.

-In April of 2020 Governor Walz requested that Fire Departments throughout the state assist with a home-made mask drive. The Montrose Fire Department assisted in gathering over 200 home made masks made by members of the community. We then dispersed the masks to citizens in need due to the global mask shortage at the time and the requirement to wear a mask while out in public.

- The position of Fire Chief will again be open for applications from current members of the Fire Department in August of 2021. Kevin Triplett currently serves as the Fire Chief.

- Throughout the whole year the Fire Department was contacted by citizens within our coverage area requesting we do birthday drive bys with our fire trucks. This was primarily because of the statewide closures and restrictions put in place by the State. We did over 75 different birthday drive bys throughout the entire calendar year of 2020. This was well received by members of our community and our Firefighters were very dedicated in getting trucks out to these all throughout the year.





## **BUDGET**

- The Montrose Fire Department is assisted with our budget through the City of Montrose. We charge a special assessment to each parcel within our fire protection area. The rate for 2020 was set as \$150 per parcel. This equates to approximately \$320,000 per year to support the operation of the Fire Department. In 2020 we spent \$176,219.85 with a majority of the costs going towards personnel related expenses and equipment maintenance and upkeep. We received several grants/donations and reimbursements for training and some equipment (2020= \$15,566). Money that is not spent is generally moved to our Capital Improvement Account for purchase of large ticket items (trucks, personal protective equipment, expensive fire/rescue equipment, etc.). As of 12/31/2020 the Montrose Fire Department has \$1,112,538.77 in our general and capital improvement accounts (This includes full payment of our new truck which we will be taking delivery of in January 2021). We are proud that we have no outstanding debt or bonds and the city owns all the equipment and apparatus housed at the station which is also owned debt free. A special thank you to Deputy Clerk Wendy Manson for helping with our budget and administrative duties through the City of Montrose.

The Montrose Fire Department was able to utilize COVID 19 CARES Act funding to purchase some necessary equipment to keep us prepared for response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Items purchased utilizing these funds included; 2<sup>nd</sup> set of turnout gear for firefighters (\$69,869), new 800Mhz portable radios (\$66,645) and some miscellaneous minor equipment expenses (\$1,850)

Firefighters are given a \$10 stipend per training and \$10 per call for service. Firefighters receive the \$10 per call regardless of the total length of the call, so firefighters could be on scene for a half hour and get \$10 or they could be on a call for 8 hours and receive the \$10 stipend. Firefighters are paid yearly in January for the prior full year of service

## **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

In 2021 we will take delivery of our new Tender truck to replace our 1997 Tender truck (Total price tag \$232,238). In 2021 we will be applying for a grant to purchase new updated SCBA units (our current SCBA unit will be at end of life in 3-4 years) and without getting a grant we will need to purchase new SCBA Units in the near future at a cost of approximately \$130,000.

## **PENSION**

- The Montrose Fire Department provides a pension for firefighters and the total pension is held through the MN Statewide Volunteer Firefighters Pension administered by The Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). Firefighter's pension level is set by the City of Montrose and the current level is \$4500 per year of service. Firefighters become vested at 5 years and can receive 40% of what they are owed once they turn the age of 50. The vesting level goes up by 4% for each year of service until a firefighter hits 20 years at which time they are 100% vested. The City of Montrose elected to increase the pension to \$4500 (from \$4000) which will become effective 01/01/2020. As of 02/16/2021 our pension account held with PERA totaled \$1,425,518.24. We are required to be 100% funded in this account at all times and the increase to \$4500 will allow us to remain fully funded with no increase to the amount of money that is sent to PERA on an annual basis. \$30,000 from the Fire Department budget is sent to PERA yearly to contribute to the pension fund and the City of Montrose contributes an additional \$12,000 yearly. We also receive investment income and our Fire State Aid dollars are submitted directly to PERA to support our pension as required by State Law.





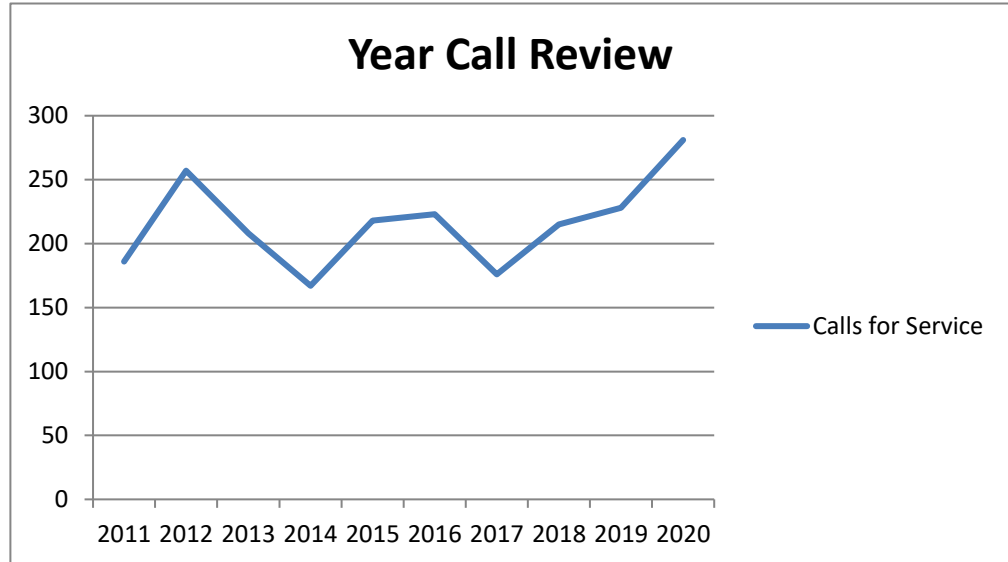
## CALL ANALYSIS

[Call Analysis includes all calls for service both in and outside the city of Montrose]

**2020 Total Calls for Service: 281**

Year Comparison of  
Calls:

2020: 281  
2019: 228  
2018: 215  
2017: 176  
2016: 233  
2015: 218  
2014: 167  
2013: 208  
2012: 257  
2011: 186

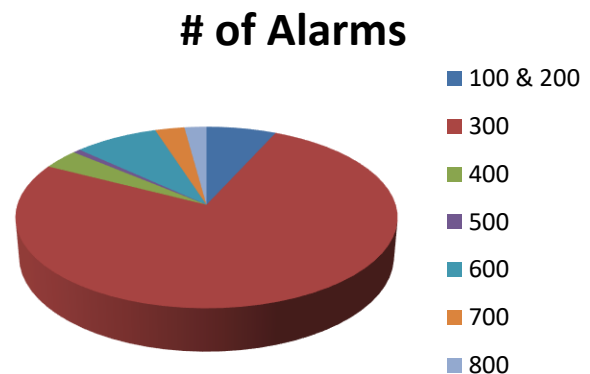


## TYPE OF CALL ANALYSIS

Type of Calls

- Series 100 – Fires (Includes buildings, vehicles, etc.)
- Series 200 – Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)
- Series 300 – Rescue (Includes EMS Calls, motor vehicle accidents, etc.)
- Series 400 – Hazardous Condition (Odor/Electrical/Chemical, etc.)
- Series 500 – Service Call (Animal in distress, odor, person in distress, etc.)
- Series 600 – Good Intent Call (Canceled en-route, controlled burning, etc.)
- Series 700 – False Alarm/False Call (False Alarm, scares, etc.)
- Series 800 – Severe Weather/Natural Disasters

SERIES	# OF ALARMS	% OF TOTAL
100 & 200	19	6.8%
300	213	75.8%
400	10	3.6%
500	2	0.7%
600	23	8.2%
700	8	2.8%
800	6	3.1%





### Average response time (Page to on scene)

Medicals & Others – 6:00 Minutes:seconds (5:50 Minutes in 2019)

Fire – 7:45 Minutes:seconds (8:00 Minutes in 2019)

### 2020 Injuries

0 Injuries to report for 2020!!!

### 2020 Property/Content Loss:

2020 - \$170,500

2019 - \$153,500

2018 – \$275,200

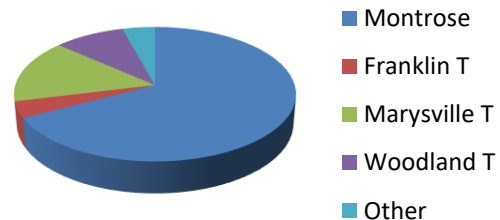
### 2020 Breakdown of District Responses

(Each area we serve is assigned a district (Montrose City, Franklin Township, etc.)

time of day

District	# of Alarms	% of total
City of Montrose	189	67.26%
Franklin Township	11	3.91%
Marysville Township	43	15.31%
Woodland Township	26	9.25%
Other (Mutual Aid)	12	4.27%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>281</b>	

### # of Alarms per district



### 2020 Breakdown Time/Day of Week

Day of Week						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
38	49	43	44	29	41	37

Time of Day					
12A-4A	4A-8A	8A-12P	12P-4P	4P-8P	8P-12A
27	27	43	55	71	58

### 2020 Average Turnout per incident

10.35 (281 Total Calls | 2909 Responses)

2019 = 10.22 (228 total calls | 2330 Responses)

### 2020 Call Hours – 1971.53 Hours (+190.07 from 2019)

2019 Call Hours – 1781.46 Man Hours

### 2020 Mutual Aid

#### Given 11 times

Delano FD – 1 Incidents

Becker FD – 1 Incident

Waverly FD – 9 Incident

#### Received on 7 Incidents

Delano FD – 1 Incidents

Waverly FD – 7 Incident

### Interesting/Significant Calls for Service

- 10/14/20 – Structure Fire – 109 Charity Ln – Montrose (\$130,800 loss)
- Throughout 2020 we responded to 4 separate structure fire calls where due to quick response and action by our department property loss was less than \$10,000 at each incident
- Throughout 2020 – 4 Grass/Wildland Fires
- Throughout 2020 – 6 severe weather standbys
- Throughout 2020 – 11 Motor Vehicle Accident responses
- Throughout 2020 – 202 Medical responses



2020 Firefighter of the Year awarded to Kevin Triplett (L) by 2019 Firefighter of the year, Tom Weineck (R)



2020 Top Responders  
L to R: J. Theis, D. Holman, W. Bauernschmitt, M. Marketon, K. Triplett, K. Stoll



Equipment purchased through Compeer Grant received in 2020



Captain K. Stoll at scene of a fire incident



Car crash incident July 2020



Firefighter J. Grave at scene of a brush pile fire