

Fire & Rescue Department

As the Chief of the Sherborn Fire & Rescue Department, I am honored to provide our 2021 annual report. The Department experienced a busy year in 2021. We responded to 604 emergency calls, which is 45 calls less than we responded to in 2020, but is 29 more than we responded to in 2019. The Department completed 252 fire inspections and issued 623 permits in 2021.

Sherborn Fire & Rescue Department 2021 Statistics:

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|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Total Emergency Calls: | 604 |
| Fire Responses | 224 |
| EMS Responses | 303 |
| Fire & EMS Responses | 77 |
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| Fires | |
| • Building Fires | 6 |
| • Brush Fires | 22 |
| • Vehicle/Other Fires | 5 |
| Rescues | 5 |
| Hazardous Conditions | 92 |
| Alarm Investigations | 75 |
| Motor Vehicle Crashes | 43 |
| Service Calls | 59 |
| | |
| Property Losses from Fire (Estimate) | \$300,000 |
| Property Saved from Fire (Estimate) | \$975,000 |
| | |
| Inspections | 252 |
| Permits Issued | 623 |

Notable Incidents

Amidst the challenge of delivering emergency services to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department responded to several serious emergencies in Town. They include but are not limited to the following incidents:

- April 9th: Brush Fire on Ward Lane that was threatening multiple homes at one point. Two sheds became involved shortly after arrival. Full 1st alarm responded and contained fire to less than an acre.
- July 30th: Motor vehicle crash with entrapment on Washington Street. Sherborn's ambulance arrived in less than a minute and immediately began extricating the patient. The jaws-of-life and other equipment were used.
- September 21st: Technical Rescue in woods at Rocky Narrows. A patient was injured at the King Phillips Overlook and was extricated from the area by Firefighters.
- November 15th: Motor vehicle crash with entrapment on Coolidge Street. Sherborn and Framingham Firefighters put forth an extreme effort to extricate the trapped person. Once extricated, the person was transported by Boston MedFlight to a trauma center in Boston.
- December 24th: 2-alarm house fire on South Main Street. A quick response from Firefighters and actions by the homeowner limited the damage to the attic. Heavy fire was found in the attic and was quickly extinguished. The home was saved. Property damage was \$250,000.

The Department continues to work hand in hand with surrounding communities as well as with Fire District 14, of which 26 towns, including Sherborn, are members of. District 14 offers us the capability to ensure the response of a Dive Team, Technical Rescue, Communications, Fire Investigation or Incident Management Team if we need it. Some notable mutual aid incidents that we responded to this year include:

- February 13th: Chief Ward & Engine 3 responded mutual aid to Milford for a 4-alarm fire in a tavern. The building was a total loss. Engine 3 helped supply water to the scene.
- March 18th: Chief Ward & Quint 1 responded mutual aid to Holliston for a fire in a waste transfer station.
- July 7th: Chief Ward & Engine 4 responded to Algonquin Drive in Natick for a 2-alarm house fire.
- August 19th: Ambulance 1 responded as part of a District 14 Ambulance Task Force to Sudbury for a mass casualty incident. Sherborn's Ambulance transported patients to Andover and Reading, MA.
- December 19th: Chief Ward & Car 3 responded to Dover for a large animal rescue.

The Department continues to be a primarily on-call agency. The Fire Chief and a Fire Lieutenant are the only fulltime employees working for the Department. The remaining department staff consists of per diem & on-call Emergency Medical Technicians and on-call fire officers and firefighters. With the foundation of full-time staff during the day while many of our on-call members are at their full-time places of employment, and with per-diem staff for EMS, we continue to use cost-effective methods to adequately staff our emergency responses.

We are always looking for help! We invite any resident who is interested to be a Firefighter or EMT to contact us at (508)653-3270 or e-mail me directly at zward@sherbornfire.com.

Emergency Medical Services

The **EMS Division** is led by **EMS Coordinator Ari Winograd**, who is assisted by **Assistant EMS Coordinator Andrew Campbell**. The EMS Division is responsible for overseeing our ambulance service, which includes all EMS responses and the training of our EMTs. Sherborn enjoys a professional, prompt EMS response at a fraction of the cost of other communities. This is done by staffing our ambulance with per-diem or part time EMTs. In 2021, our ambulance averaged a response time of between 5 and 6 minutes from the time the Department was notified of a call, which is quite an accomplishment for a Town the size of Sherborn.

The EMS Division also manages all quality assurance for EMS calls. Every single response is carefully reviewed in order to ensure that we are providing the best possible service to those we serve.

Community Risk Reduction

The **Fire Prevention Division** is under the direction of **Lieutenant Kristin Buckler**. This Division is responsible for conducting inspections and issuing permits, all in the interest of life safety. Some of these inspections include smoke & carbon monoxide detector inspections, annual stable inspections, annual business inspections, and pre-fire planning.

The **Public Education Division** is also headed up by **Lt. Kristin Buckler**. The Public Education Division is charged with providing fire safety and medical education to residents of the Town of Sherborn, with the goal of improving emergency preparedness. This is accomplished with fire safety classes at the Pine Hill Elementary School, free CPR & First Aid courses, voluntary home safety visits and social media outreach, amongst other initiatives. The Public Education Division also manages our Project Lifesaver program, which entails GPS bracelets on individuals who are a flight risk from their families. Sherborn Firefighters have rescued several people using this initiative over the years. For more information, please visit our website at sherbornma.org.

During Fire Prevention week in October, we held our annual Open House. Thirty Sherborn Firefighters were greeted by several hundred residents who stopped by to check out our station, apparatus and meet our Firefighters. A great time was had by all.

Training

The **Training Division** is overseen by **Deputy Chief Josh Buckler**, who is responsible for all Department training.

As the duties of Firefighters and EMTs evolve, Sherborn Firefighters and EMTs are constantly training to answer the call. Training is held 3-4 times per month for both fire & EMS topics. EMTs are required to have 40 hours of continuing education every two years, and now that municipalities fall under OSHA, Firefighters have approximately 20 hours of mandatory training per year in areas such as respiratory protection, HAZMAT, and other topics.

Sherborn Firefighters trained with some of our mutual aid partners in 2021, including Ashland Fire, Holliston Fire & Millis Fire.

Firefighters are initially required to achieve Firefighter I/II certification, which includes attending a five-month course that is held on weeknights and weekends at the Mass. Fire Academy in Stow. In 2021, we had five Firefighters, **Anthony Luoni, Brendan McPherson, Andrew Morahan, Oliver Thompson and Jillian Reynolds** complete Firefighter I/II training. Due to the dedication of our staff, we currently have three members scheduled to complete the program in early 2021, with several more preparing to enroll in it in 2021.

Grants & Revenue

We continue to aggressively pursue grants in order to lower our burden on Sherborn's taxpayers. We were lucky enough to apply for and receive the following grants in 2021:

- Assistance to Firefighters Grant: \$59,800
- Emergency Management Planning: \$4,500
- Department of Fire Services PPE: \$9,792
- Mass. DFS SAFE Grant: \$3,794
- Mass. DFS Senior SAFE Grant: \$2,188
- AFG Covid Supplement: \$5,746

Personnel

Deputy Fire Chief Jonathan H. Dowse retired on July 1st after 38 years of selfless, dedicated service to the people of Sherborn and surrounding communities. Jon was appointed to the Department in 1983 by Chief Fran Heffron. He obtained his EMT certification in 1984 and then his EMT-Intermediate certification in 1990. He was appointed as Lieutenant in 1994, Captain in 1996 and Deputy Fire Chief in 2002. We will miss Jon for his supreme dedication, knowledge and decision-making abilities. Well done, Jon Dowse.

In August, Fire Captain Joshua Buckler was appointed to the open position of Deputy Fire Chief. Josh has served as a Sherborn Firefighter since 1996, was appointed as a Lieutenant in 2004, and a Captain in 2018. Josh is a certified Fire Officer, Fire Instructor and Paramedic. Josh's Father, Ron, also served as a Deputy Fire Chief in Sherborn for many years. Congratulations to the 2nd Deputy Chief Buckler.

We were able to hire and train several new members: Probationary EMTs **Katherine Donovan, Jacob Stavis & Gavin Heffernan**, and Probationary Firefighters **Chris Eppers, Ilias Papadopoulos, Sam Gutwill & Diane Plotts**. Welcome to our team!

Several members reached significant years-of-service milestones in 2021:

- Deputy Chief Josh Buckler: 25 years
- Firefighter Scott Christensen: 20 years
- Firefighter Sean Killeen: 20 years
- Firefighter Ed Shoemaker: 15 years
- Lieutenant Joe Cumming: 10 years
- Firefighter Brendan McPherson: 5 years
- Firefighter Michael Goldstein: 5 years
- Firefighter Arthur Fenno: 5 years

Thank you all for your continued dedication to the Department!

Messages of Gratitude

The Department could not complete its mission without the support of the Town's leadership. We would like to thank the Select Board, Advisory Committee and Capital Budget Committee for their continued support. We would like to thank Town Administrator David Williams, Assistant Town Administrator Diane Moores and Jeanne Guthrie for their continued support and assistance.

We would especially like to thank and welcome **Police Chief Tom Galvin** for his support and assistance to our organization as he begins his service to Sherborn. We'd also like to thank the members of the **Sherborn Police Department**. Our jobs require us to work hand in hand with each other, and we do that very well due to the supreme professionalism of our Police. Our Police Officers also serve as our dispatchers, summoning us to every call that we respond to. We look forward to working with the SPD for years to come.

We would also especially like to thank **DPW Director Sean Killeen** and the members of the **Sherborn Department of Public Works**. The DPW is very supportive of this Department in many areas, but most certainly in the maintenance of our vehicles and our two fire stations. Their work is not unnoticed, and we appreciate the help.

Last but not least, we would like to thank **Building Inspector Chris Canney** and his staff for the regular support rendered to our organization. This includes working together on fire prevention matters, and responses to incidents that we are operating at.

I would like to thank all the members of the Sherborn Fire & Rescue Department for their commitment and dedication. Sherborn Fire & Rescue Department personnel make great sacrifices and consistently provide all hazards mitigating emergency services to the community. I look forward to our continued success as an organization in the future.

Call us if you need us. We are here for you!

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary J. Ward
Fire Chief