



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2021 – January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

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LETTER FROM CHIEF THOMPSON

If you live or work in Basalt, El Jebel, Snowmass Village, Old Snowmass, Emma, Frying Pan Valley, or Missouri Heights in Eagle County, you are proudly served by Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority. We strive to protect life and property with a combination of talented career and volunteer firefighters and paramedics while utilizing the latest and most advanced equipment and apparatus. We can only accomplish this with the support we receive from our communities, and I want to thank each of you for this unwavering support.

As we look back on 2021, I am very proud of the resilience, professionalism, and commitment shown by our members and our organization. We are managing the COVID pandemic that has profoundly impacted our community and your fire department. We initially made many protocol, and operational changes due to COVID which has enabled the department to continue to provide continued exceptional medical care for our residents and visitors without exception.

The Authority Board of Directors continues to be very supportive of our members by adding additional sick time during this pandemic. As each shift spends 48 hours working together in close quarters at firehouses, one member exposing others on a single shift could be catastrophic. Availability of additional sick time has resulted in a dramatic effect of keeping on-duty shifts able to meet minimum staffing. If there was any possibility that a member was sick, they either went home or stayed home. The Board also supported additional protective gear and operational items that continue to this day to protect our members health.

The past year was marked by many successes. The Authority managed to get through another summer of high temperatures and continued drought. We responded to several small wildland fires that were successfully extinguished before becoming a larger threat. We were fortunate to save two individuals in separate incidents that experienced cardiac arrest. Thankfully each was able to walk out of the hospital on their own. We responded to 12 structure fires with one home being a total loss. Without the tireless efforts of our well trained and talented firefighters, the number of homes and condos lost could have been much higher.

In 2021 we began construction on our 6th firehouse, Station 46, near Sopris Mountain Ranch on West Sopris Creek Road. We were fortunate to have received gracious donations from area residents as well as a grant from the Colorado Division of Local Affairs to construct this new station. The Bureau of Land Management provided a long-term lease on the property and Pitkin County Commissioners granted housing funds for this station. The station includes three employee housing units to house our firefighters and medics. Station 46 is scheduled for completion and opening in the fall of 2022.

By all measures, 2021 was a successful year for Roaring Fork Fire Rescue. Our mission continues but our life and our time in our stations have certainly changed, just as it has in our communities. Your firefighters and medics have continued to demonstrate professionalism and excellence despite all the challenges that we have faced, and of this, I am exceptionally proud.

We look forward to serving you, solving problems, and saving lives in 2022. Once again, we can't do this without your support, which we are grateful for.

Respectfully,



Scott Thompson, Fire Chief

FIRE DEPARTMENT FLEET

The RFFRA Fleet Division maintains all vehicles and small power equipment. Currently one full-time fleet mechanic performs repair and preventative maintenance on a total of 47 vehicles. This includes 18 utility vehicles, six ambulances, seven engines, six wildland apparatus, and two aerials. In 2021, RFFRA received delivery and outfitted two new UTVs which completed our new fleet.



UTV in quarters at Station 45 in Snowmass Village.

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

The Roaring Fork Fire and Rescue Authority is an all-hazards emergency services provider operating five stations with a combination of volunteer, part-time, and full-time staff. Three of our five stations are staffed. Station 41 is in the downtown area of the Town of Basalt.

Station 42 is located near the business corridor of El Jebel. Station 45 is in Snowmass Village.

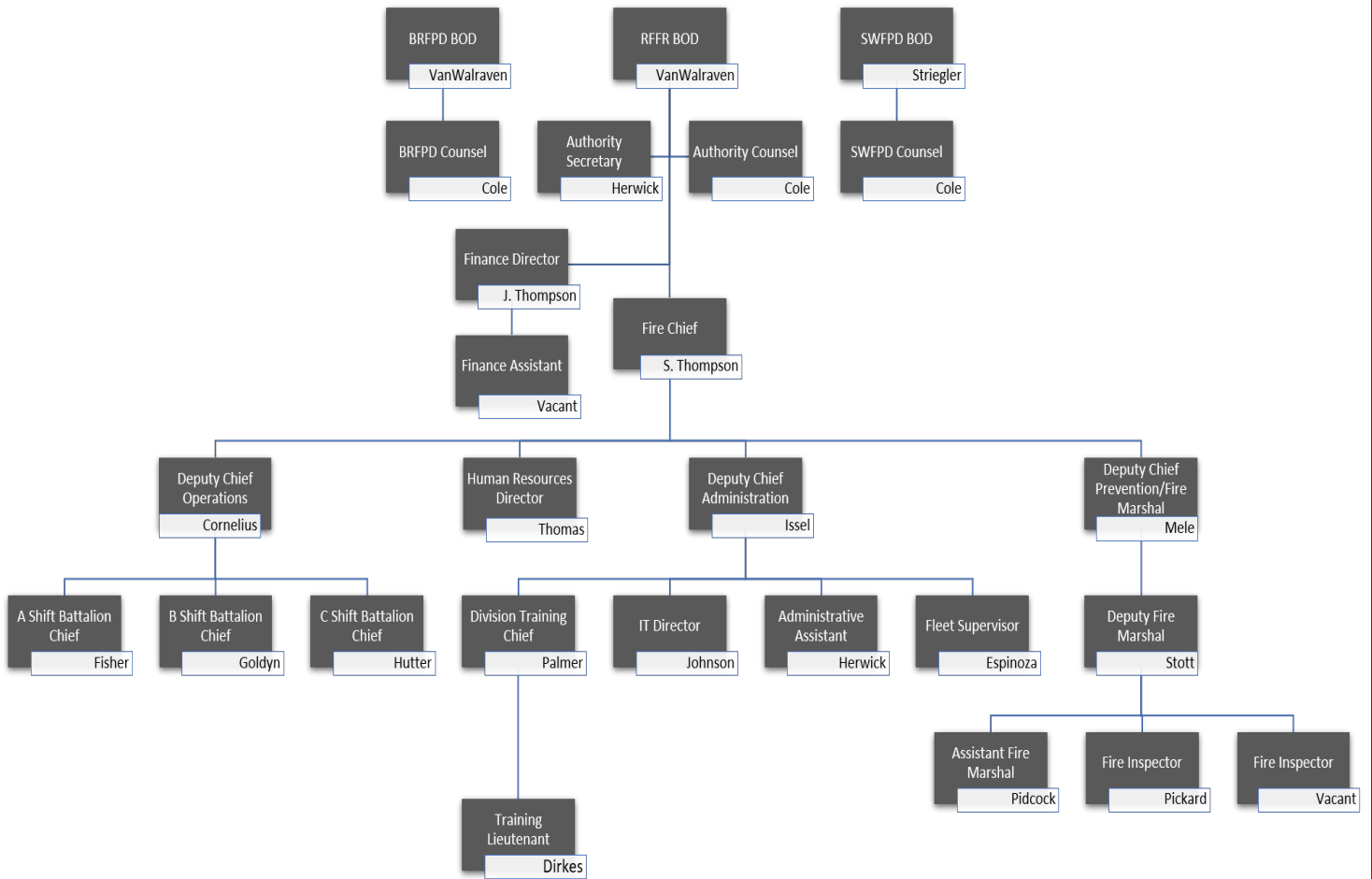
All three of these staffed stations were placed in these locations based on available property and proximity to local business districts. RFFRA also has two unstaffed stations.

Station 43 is located 26 miles up the Frying Pan River in Thomasville, and Station 44 is two miles from Highway 82 on Snowmass Creek Road.

The Authority is led by a Fire Chief with the support of two Deputy Chiefs. There are also two Administrative Assistants working 40 hours a week, along with one Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal supported by four full-time staff. Other administrative staff in Finance, Human Resources, Fleet Management, and Information Technology work to support the mission of the entire organization. The on-duty crew consists of three Battalion Chiefs, six Lieutenants, and 15 full-time Firefighter/Paramedics who work a 48-hour on/96-hour off rotation (Eight full-time members assigned per shift) supplemented with Volunteer and Part-Time Firefighters.

The Authority is a full-service ISO Class 3 fire and emergency medical service agency delivering suppression services, EMS as advanced life support, and a variety of rescue services. The Authority also provides emergency management, fire prevention inspections, post-fire investigations, pre-plan review, and public fire and life safety education.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

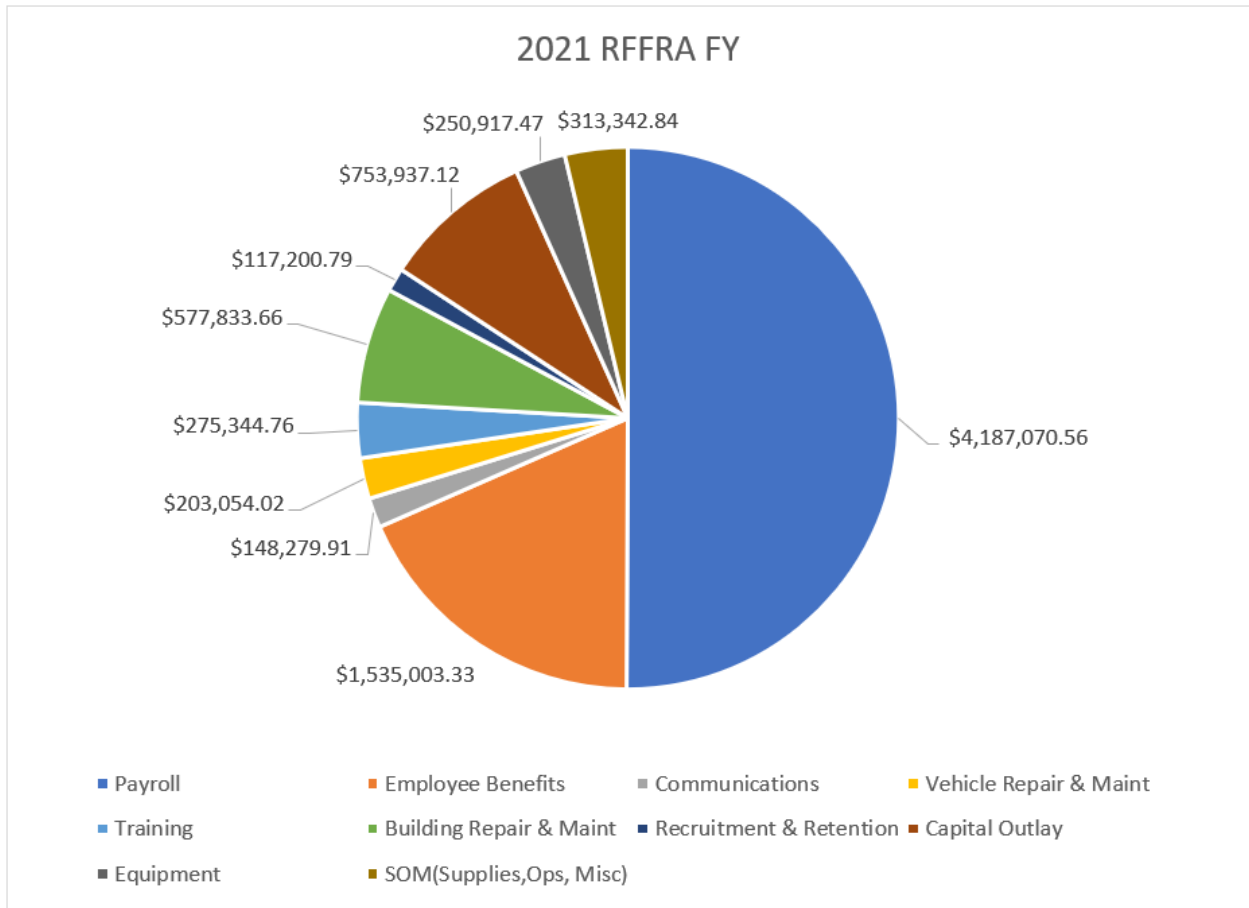


FINANCE

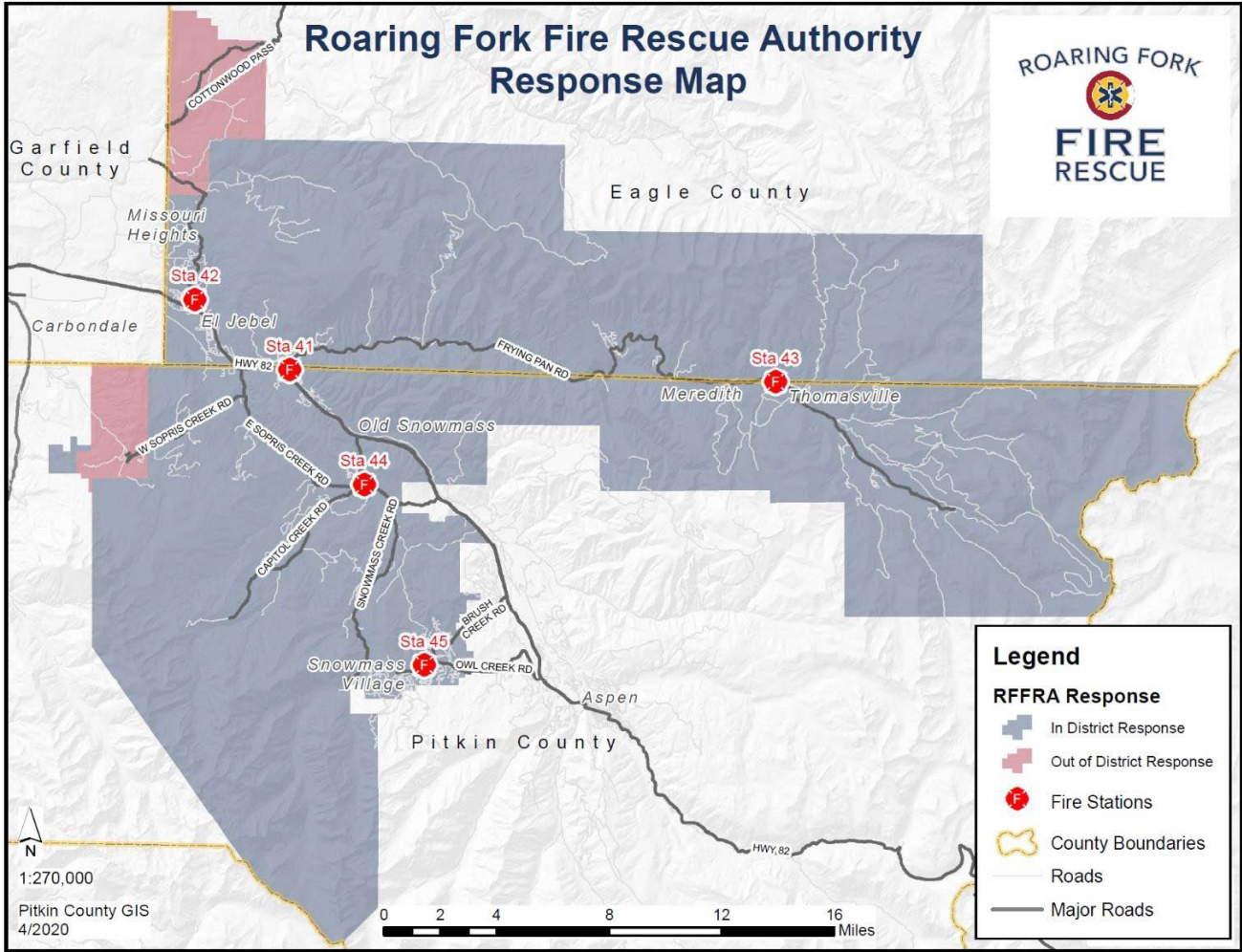
In 2021, leading into the Authority’s 3rd year of operations, there was a much clearer vision of the cost of operations. The overall revenue increase from property taxes was 2% over the 2020 budget.

Construction on the newest Station on West Sopris Creek Road began in late 2021 and is being primarily funded by donations and a matching grant from the State of Colorado. The estimated completion of our newest station is the fall of 2022. This station was made possible with the cooperation and funding of the West Sopris Creek Community through very generous donations. The new station will add three units of employee housing bringing the authority housing options to 17 units.

Due to supply chain issues, many of our scheduled capital purchases have been delayed until 2022. However, we upgraded the breathing apparatus for our firefighters that were purchased at the start of 2021.



DISTRICT MAP



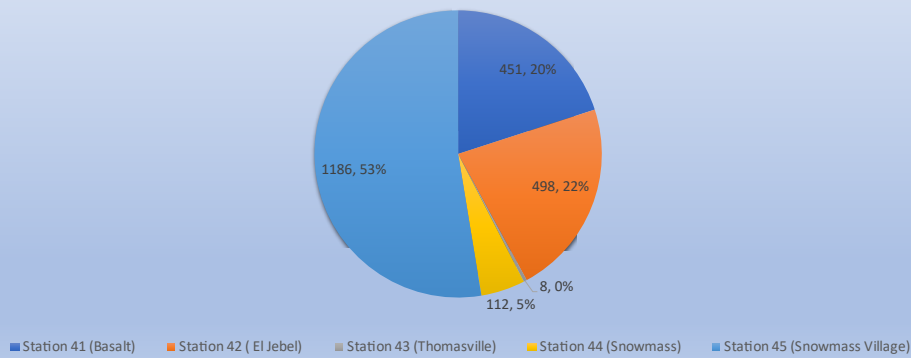
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES

JANUARY 1, 2021, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021

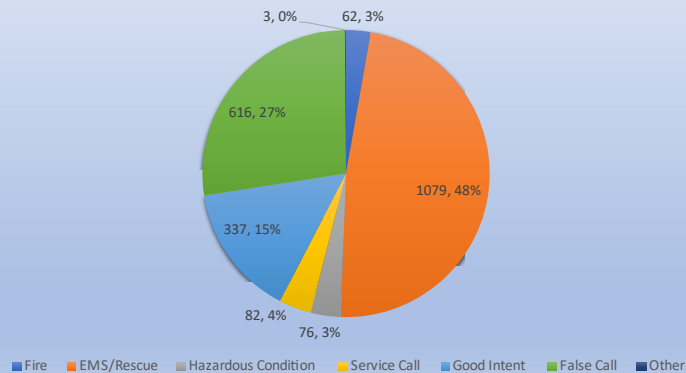
Incidents by Station, 2021



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021

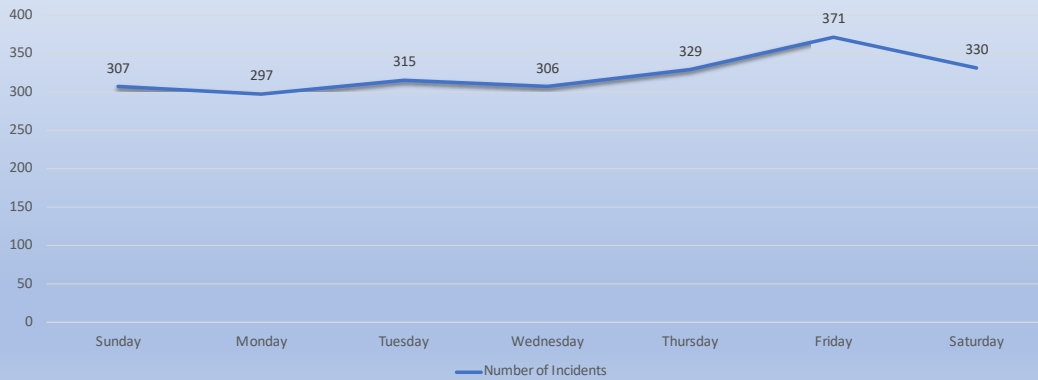
Incidents by Incident Type, 2021



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Incidents by Day of Week, 2021



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021

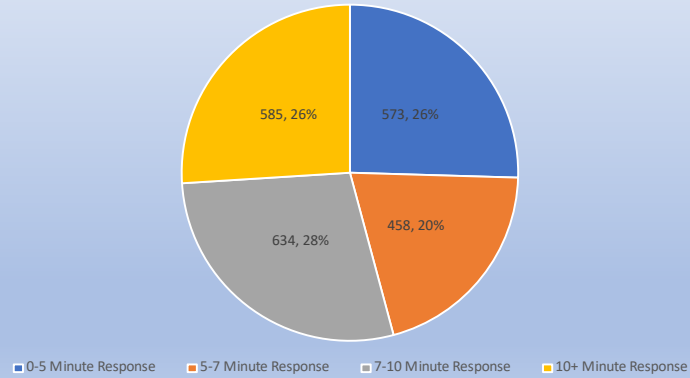
Incidents by Month, 2021



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021

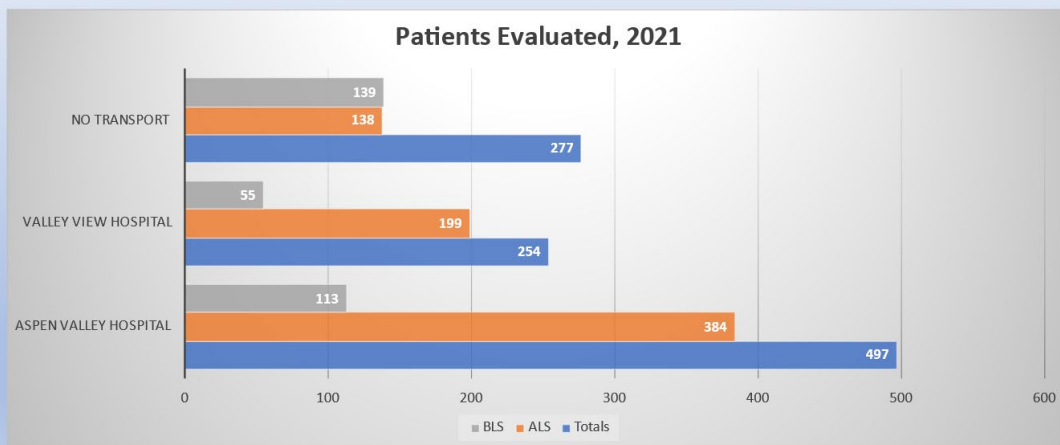
Response Times, 2021



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Patients Evaluated, 2021



FIRE TRAINING

The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority provides highly skilled firefighter, paramedics, company officers, and chief officers that respond to emergency calls in the community. Because we respond to a very diverse range of calls, we cross-train in a wide variety of disciplines. This prepares us to meet the needs of the citizens we are sworn to protect. Our members participate in year-round weekly training in areas such as self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), search and rescue, fire attack, ventilation, and auto extrication. To stay on top of current trends, new equipment, and advanced methods, our members attend classes throughout Colorado and even across the country. The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority also trains with our mutual aid partners to ensure smooth operations and seamless transitions when working on multi-agency calls for service. Many of the members of the Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority receive specialized training to serve on Specialized Response Teams in Pitkin and Eagle Counties. These disciplines include ice rescue, swift water rescue, rope rescue, wildland, and hazardous materials.

As with the rest of Colorado, the country, and the world, RFFR experienced a difficult year in 2021. Given social distancing, group gathering limits, and occasional quarantines, training in person was extremely difficult to accomplish. With our Vector Solutions online training platform, many of our members were able to keep up and improve their knowledge of our craft but practicing manipulative skills in a group setting to promote teamwork and integrated operations proved difficult. Despite these challenges, RFFR was able to host live fire training via the Colorado Division of Fire and Prevention trailers at our station 42 on J W Drive. Crews engaged in training to our Standard Operating Guidelines and rotated through multiple evolutions.

Just as our great state and country, RFFRA met the challenges of 2021 head-on, and persevered, accumulating over 5,983 aggregate training hours. Our members refused to be dissuaded from maintaining the skill and knowledge required to Serve, Solve, and Save our valued community.





EMS DIVISION

The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority is state-recognized by the Colorado Department for Public Health and Environment as an Education Group at the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic levels. Recognized Education Groups can provide continuing education for both Colorado and NREMT certification renewal. RFFRA is also recognized as an Education Center at the EMR level. Recognized Education Centers can provide initial education for both Colorado and NREMT certification.

Each month continuing education is provided to RFFRA members. Topics vary and generally cover medical or trauma emergencies. The RFFRA Medical Director also provides annual training and case review. RFFRA members can earn approved distributive education online at any time through our training platform. Various outside continuing education is also available to RFFRA members.

In 2021 RFFRA had 32 members certified at the EMT level, six members certified at the EMT-I level, and 30 members certified at the Paramedic level. Additionally, two members had an EMR certificate. Several other RFFRA members are not certified but function as ambulance operators, playing an important role in prehospital care.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

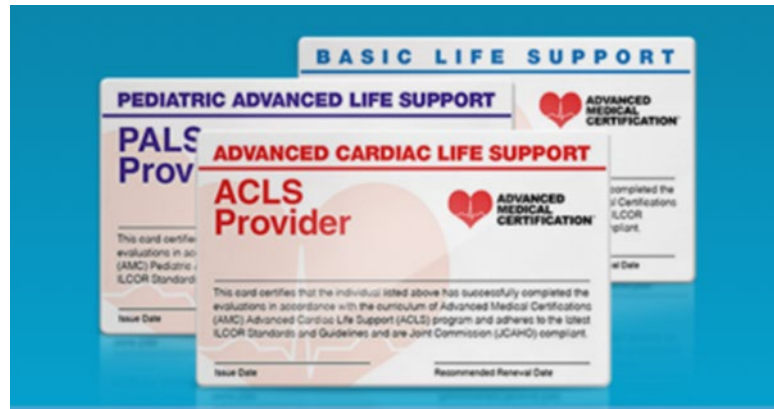
Establishment & Implementation of the RFFRA Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP)

- Implementation of the RFFRA FTEP.
- The following successfully completed the Basic EMS Field Training Officer Course: James Dirkes, Chelsey Johnson, David Klebes, Mo McPhee, Ben Mackoff, and Jesse Tanner. With the onboarding of five new paramedic graduates and three firefighter/paramedics in 2021, the FTEP group has worked hard to get new members trained, integrated and knowledgeable with the Pitkin County EMS Protocols.



ACLS/PALS Contracted Service with In-House Instructors

- RFFRA has contracted with Colorado Advanced Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support Training Center Faculty, Flint Smith, allowing RFFRA to host in-house ACLS and PALS certification and recertification courses. The following members are certified as ACLS/PALS instructors at RFFRA: Richard Cornelius, James Dirkes, Andy Fisher, Chance Goldyn, David Klebes, Ben Mackoff, Maureen McPhee and Nicholas Wall.



High Fidelity Training Mannequin

- In 2021, RFFRA purchased a high-fidelity training mannequin for EMS simulation. This state-of-the-art mannequin allows for more realistic EMS training, and integration/feedback of training equipment so members can train with more detailed and realistic feedback.



FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Marshal’s Office, Prevention, and Community Risk Reduction data tell our story better than most pictures. We continue to experience increases in every facet of the work we do. The addition of a staff member made 2021 extremely productive and bearable. The adoption and integration of the Inspections module to our use and implementation of First Due Size Up also gave us opportunities to track all our inspections (from rough-in, partial, and final sprinkler and alarms to temporary membrane structures and annual liquor fire and life safety renewals, etc.) in one platform.

We enjoy working with our local contractors, business owners, residents, and community members alike as our district continues to grow. This report will highlight our fire prevention staff’s workload toward keeping our communities safe.

Thanks,

- John Mele, Fire Marshal
- Brooke Stott, Deputy Fire Marshal
- Jim Pidcock, Assistant Fire Marshal
- Frank Rudecoff, Assistant Fire Marshal
- Sarah Pickard, Fire Inspector

Fire Prevention Activities

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Inspections- General Fire & Life Safety	272	336	23.53%
Pre-Construction Reviews & Referrals	137	206	50.36%
Knox Installs	19	27	42.11%
School Inspections	10	10	0.00%
Home Wildfire Risk Assessment	11	18	63.64%
Child Passenger Safety Seat Installs	15	18	20.00%
Fire Extinguisher Classes (online)	4	8	100.00%
Fire Investigations Observations	4	9	125.00%



FIRE AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT PICTURE

Town of Snowmass Village

The Town of Snowmass Village has seen significant growth from 2011 through 2021. Most notably was the completion in 2021 of the Viewline by Autograph (formerly the Westin) which went through a major renovation.

Base Village has already completed over **547,846 square feet** of development in the past 10 years. There were additional developments and remodels in 2021.

Snowmass Village 2022+ site-specific approved construction/development is currently underway.

- Electric Pass Lodge (residential) = **80,000** square feet
- Viceroy B Buildings = **90,000** square feet
- Bldg. 12 (residential) = **85,000** square feet
- Bldg. 10 A&B = **187,850 square feet**

Total of 442,285 square feet for just Base Village in Snowmass Village

- Approximately twenty (20) new residential properties being built in 2022 alone. Most are over **5000 square feet** and will be required to have residential sprinkler systems.

Snowmass Village 2022+ land use site-specific approved construction/development.

- **Brush Creek Road Snowmass Center Project**
 - Approved and currently being phased for construction
 - Approximately **200,000 square feet**
 - 21-acre site
 - 64 free-market multi-family residences
 - 10 deed-restricted housing

Pitkin County-specific Projects

- **Aspen Distillery – Emma Farms [Distillery approved for a former lumber yard.]**
 - H occupancy potential with higher hazards
 - 8-acre site
 - Ohio doctor plans to make vodka, gin, and whiskey
 - Not open to public

Basalt area (includes parts of Eagle and Pitkin Counties) of Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority 2022 BOOMING with development

Town of Basalt-specific Projects

- **Workforce Housing** [Completed 2021.]
Plans include forty-three (43) Residential Affordable Housing Units consisting of 150 bedrooms. Certificates of occupancy are expected in early 2021.
- **The Arts Center at Willits** [Completed in 2021.]
The project plans for seating 240 for concerts and lectures, 180 for cabaret, 160 for banquets, and possibly 400 standing guests. The opening is planned for June 2021.
- **Steadman Medical Office Building = 65,000 square feet** [To Be Completed in 2022.]
- **Basalt Vista subdivision** [Habitat for Humanity – Completion expected in 2022.]
Plans call for twenty-seven (27) homes [14 are reserved for Roaring Fork School District (RFSD) teachers and staff and the other 13 for other local workers]
- **Stotts Mill Basalt**
Building 2 (16,000sf) apartment complex is the first building started at Stott's Mill in 2021. This building will be completed in the spring of 2022 and the next buildings are already underway.
- **Basalt Mini-Storage Expansion Project (additional year extension)**
Of the **80,000 square feet** approved, one 20,000-square-foot building has been completed with the construction of a second building is expected to start in 2021 and be completed in early 2022.
- **Basalt River Park [Utility and street work began in 2021.]** Water's Edge has started in 2021 with five units. Free Range restaurant was completed in the fall

- **Additional Current (as of February 2022) Residential Construction**

Twenty-eight (28) single-family homes in the Town of Basalt (includes Eagle County)

Fifteen (15) single-family homes in Pitkin County

Even with COVID, Fire Inspector Sarah Pickard did an outstanding job on her own with fire prevention week/months. Sarah was able to visit with 456 kiddos in 22 classes!

Thanks,

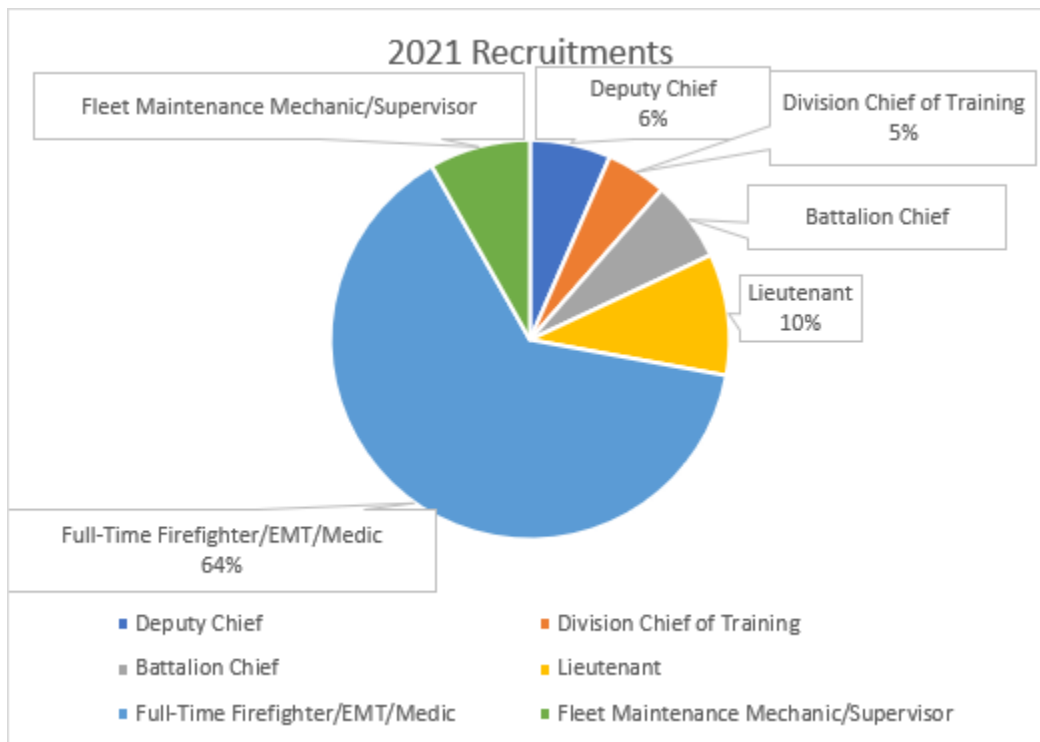
Roaring Fork Fire Prevention Team (John, Brooke, Frank, Jim, and Sarah)

HUMAN RESOURCES

RECRUITMENTS

This has been a year of great movement and opportunity in the organization. We had several members of leadership/supervisors take promotions elsewhere which led to many internal promotional opportunities within the organization. The Authority had ten recruitments for the following positions for 2021:

- Deputy Chief
- Division Chief of Training
- Battalion Chief
- Lieutenants
- Full-time Firefighter/EMT
- Part-time Firefighter/EMT
- Fleet Maintenance Mechanic/Supervisor
- Full-Time FF/Paramedic
- With 61 applications processed.

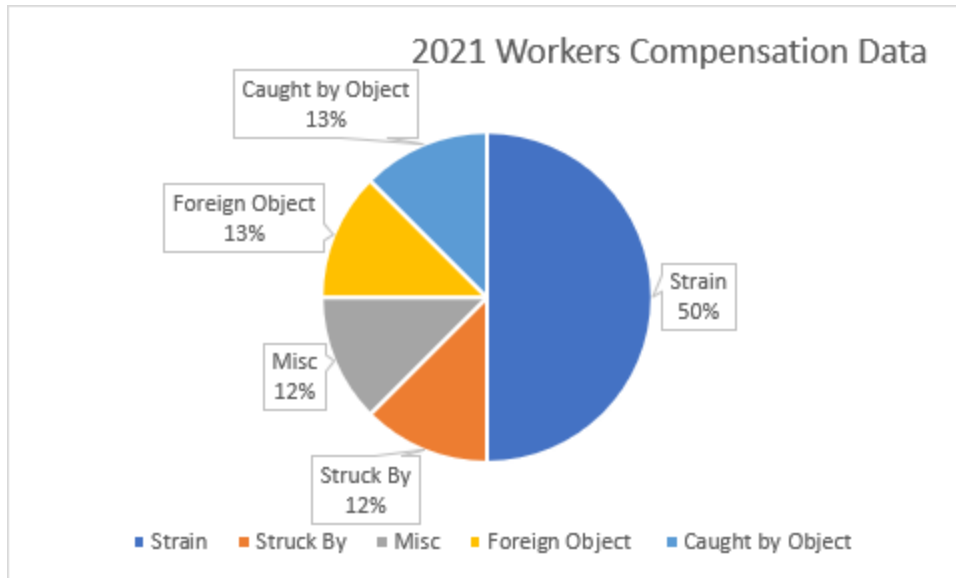


This requires a great deal of planning, development of new content, and coordination with internal and external stakeholders, which was compounded by the pandemic. I am extremely cognizant about the development of content to make sure we are creating assessment material that will test the candidate's ability to do the job while creating equal opportunity for all that apply. Throughout this year, we brought in nine new members to the organization and promoted another nine internal members, from volunteer to paid, part-time to full-time to a supervisor/leadership role. There were a lot of moving pieces happening to get all of this work accomplished this year, and I could not have

done it without the help of many members of the organization for their input and development of the content as well.

Work-Related Injury/Illness

The graph below represents the overall causes of the Authority's work-related injuries/illnesses in 2021. The authority had eight injuries/illnesses whose overall cost was \$95,478.57, with strains leading the highest in cost and frequency of injury/illness.



Strategic Plan

In December 2020, Authority members started working on the review of information provided by the initial survey data in the Strategic Plan. The purpose was to determine what the information in the surveys meant for the Authority and commenced the creation of action plans. Two teams were developed in this process 1) Organizational Excellence and 2) Organizational Culture. Teams met every other week from December 2020 to mid-March 2021 and developed initiatives and defined tasks and outcomes and then presented the work to the executive team and the Roaring Fork Fire Board of Directors in June 2021. The Board of Directors approved the strategic plan and the Authority members started working on the following initiatives:

1. Retention/Compensation Analysis
2. Succession planning/Career Progression Plans
3. Communication Plan
4. Trust Building/Cultural Handbook
5. Empowerment/Process Mapping
6. Employee Recognition Program

These teams are still ongoing and continuing in their efforts to develop and move forward with the initiatives that have been identified in the Strategic Plan.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Technology has matured at RFFRA, and proficiency is better than ever. As COVID restrictions eased, employees seamlessly transitioned back to in-station working. Hybrid work from home functionality remained and our workforce became more flexible and functional than ever before. In 2021, employee turnover was high. This created a sizeable amount of work for IT yet also brought to light several organizational efficiency improvement opportunities. IT is working closely with many other business units on the Authority Strategic Plan. Process Mapping is our work focus. Using a detailed data-driven method of analysis, our goal to map several processes at RFFRA that provide the most value yet currently cause the most pain. The highest daily priority remains focused on security in the context of our global operating environment and ever pervasive use of technology. In addition to keeping every staff member's technology functioning day to day, other completed and in-progress projects worth noting are listed below.

- ✓ Copy editing and design of 2021 Annual Report
- ✓ 3,121 Lifesize meetings totaling 112,627 minutes
- ✓ GovOS SeamlessDocs adoption and refinement
- ✓ Hardware, software, and firmware upgrades in sync with vendor support lifecycles
- ✓ Hardware replacement cycle consistent with district's amortization schedule
- ✓ Physically secured Station 43 in Thomasville
- ✓ High-speed Internet connectivity at Station 43 in Thomasville
- ✓ Launched First Due Size Up Community Connect
- ✓ Fire Prevention field inspection iPads
- ✓ Knox MedVault and KeySecure Wi-Fi upgrades
- ✓ Regular review of security effectiveness and procedures
- ✓ Ongoing security awareness training
- ✓ GETS/WPS – a White House-directed emergency phone service provided by the National Communications System (NCS) in the Cyber Security & Communications Division, National Protection and Programs of the Department of Homeland Security.
- ✓ Strategic Plan Process Mapping

CONTACT INFORMATION

ADDRESSES

Roaring Fork Fire Station #41
20 School Street
Basalt, CO 81621

Roaring Fork Fire Station #42
1089 JW Drive
El Jebel, CO 81623

Roaring Fork Fire Station #43
24265 Frying Pan Road
Meredith, CO 81642

Roaring Fork Fire Station #44
1909 Snowmass Creek Road
Snowmass, CO 81654

Roaring Fork Fire Station #45
5275 Owl Creek Road
Snowmass Village, CO 81615

WEBSITE

www.roaringforkfire.org

PHONE NUMBERS

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Fire Department: (970) 340-7040
Chief Scott Thompson: (970) 340-7031