



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2020 – January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

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LETTER FROM CHIEF THOMPSON

Like most of our community members and businesses, the year 2020 led Roaring Fork Fire Rescue down a difficult, challenging and unfamiliar path. The goals and projects that we aspired to accomplish at the beginning of the year were quickly pushed aside as the gravity of the pandemic forced us to refocus on the health and safety of our members and citizens. We worked diligently to continue answering calls and providing aid appropriately while keeping our members' physical and mental health in the forefront of our response.

Our partnership with both Pitkin and Eagle County's health departments provided us the latest and most pertinent information available as we authored guidelines for our responders to treat and transport COVID patients without contracting the virus. These resources proved valuable. Roaring Fork Fire Rescue proudly did not report any work-related COVID-19 cases in 2020.

A global pandemic was not the only obstacle our agency faced in 2020. Devastating wildfires raged across Colorado and much of the Western United States. Roaring Fork Fire sent engines and firefighters to support many other agencies in our region. This was a daunting task for our crews. Battling unpredictable wildfires is difficult enough without the added pressures of following social distancing and other COVID precautions. Fortunately, none of our skilled and experienced firefighters were injured.

Roaring Fork Fire also fought several significant and damaging home fires in 2020. All of these fires were caused by weather, misplacement of ashes, and chimney failures. These losses highlight the importance of homeowners who heat even occasionally with a wood stove or fireplace to have your chimney inspected by a professional each and every year.

An incredibly generous grant from the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation allowed Roaring Fork Fire Rescue to acquire and place into service two custom built all-wheel drive fire engines. The engines were designed to keep our firefighter's health and safety a top priority. Both engines have numerous capabilities and are well-equipped to suppress building and wildland fires, rope rescue calls, hazardous material containment, and vehicle rescue incidents. One of these state-of-the-art new engines takes the place of multiple apparatus and will serve our community for at least the next 20 years.

The Authority also placed into service a new 107-foot ladder truck in 2020. This truck significantly increases our capability to maneuver tight streets and reaches farther than its predecessor. As our communities continue to grow and develop Roaring Fork Fire Rescue is committed to adapting our apparatus, tactics, and skills to meet every Roaring Fork Valley citizen's needs.

Roaring Fork Fire is truly privileged to serve our supportive and gracious community, and I remain thankful to be entrusted with this role.

Respectfully,



Scott Thompson, Fire Chief

FIRE DEPARTMENT FLEET

The RFFRA Fleet Division maintains all of the 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, five ambulances, seven engines, six wildland apparatus, and two aerials. In 2020 RFFRA received delivery of one new 107' ladder and two new engines which completed our new fleet.



Fire apparatus 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 located in the downtown area of the Town of Basalt. Station 42 is located near the business corridor of El Jebel. Station 45 is located 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 off of Highway 82 on Snowmass Creek Road.

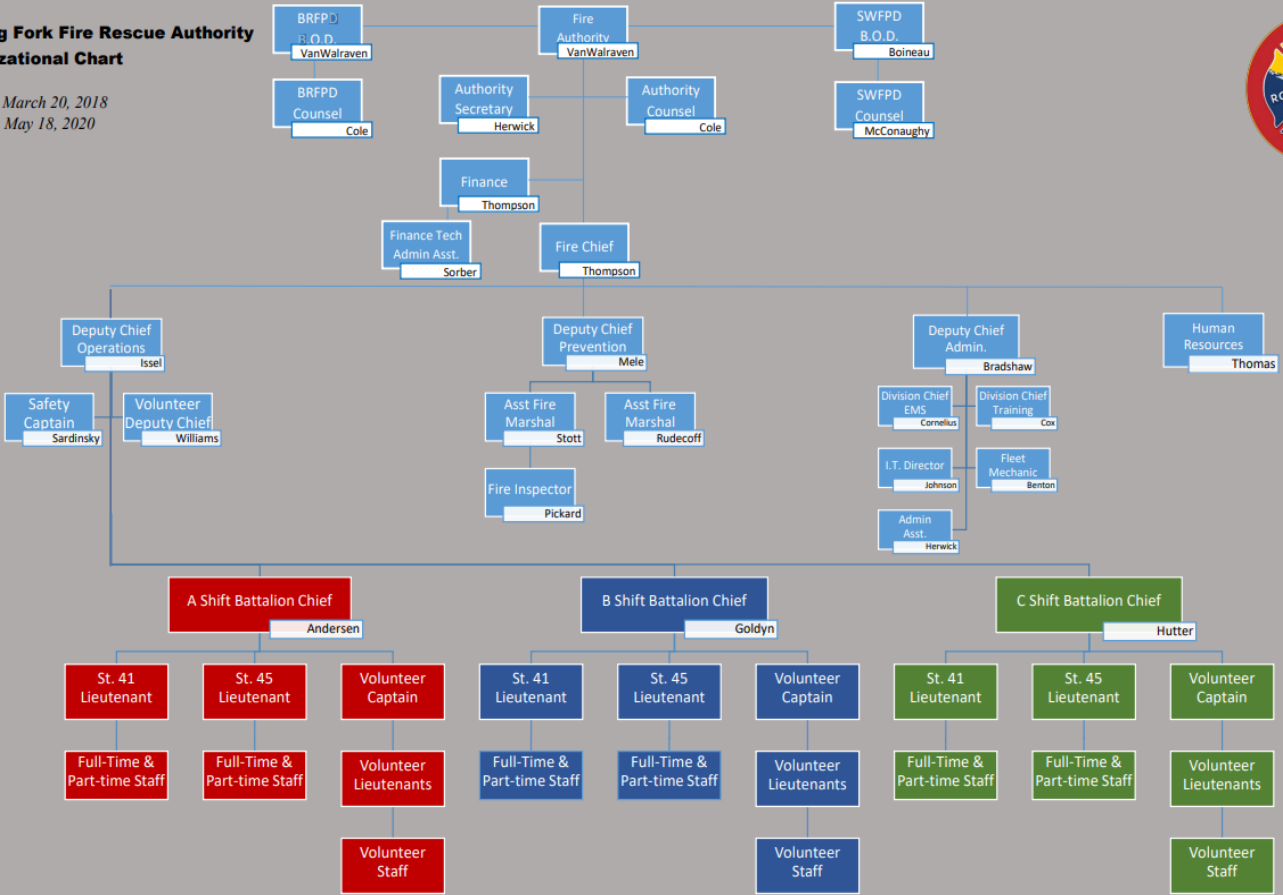
The Authority is led by a Fire Chief with the support of a Deputy Chief. There are also two Administrative Assistants working 40 hours a week, along with one Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal supported by four full-time staff. Other administrative staff in Finance, Human Resources, Fleet Management, and Information 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 (8 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

**Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority
Organizational Chart**

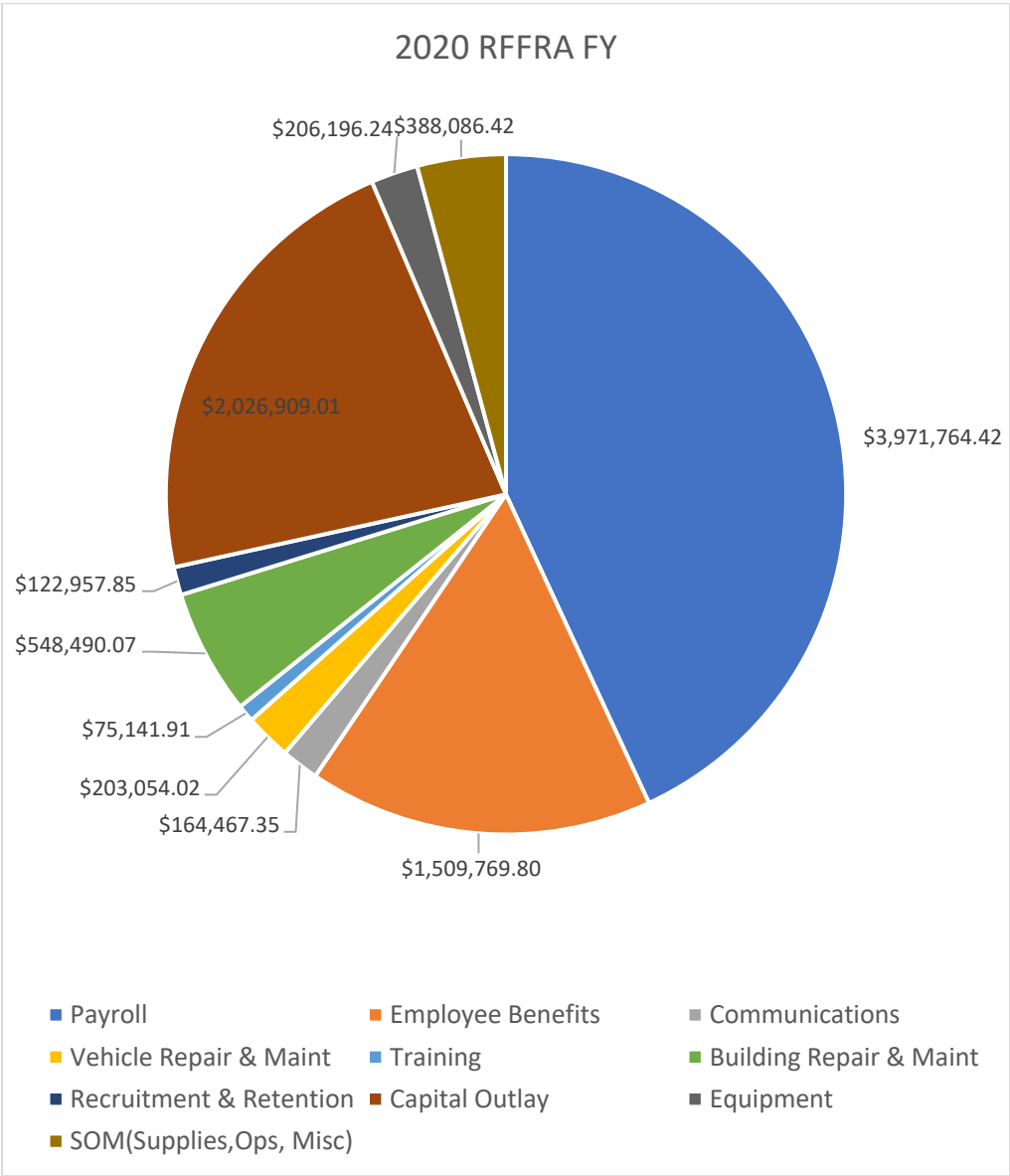
Adopted: March 20, 2018
Updated: May 18, 2020



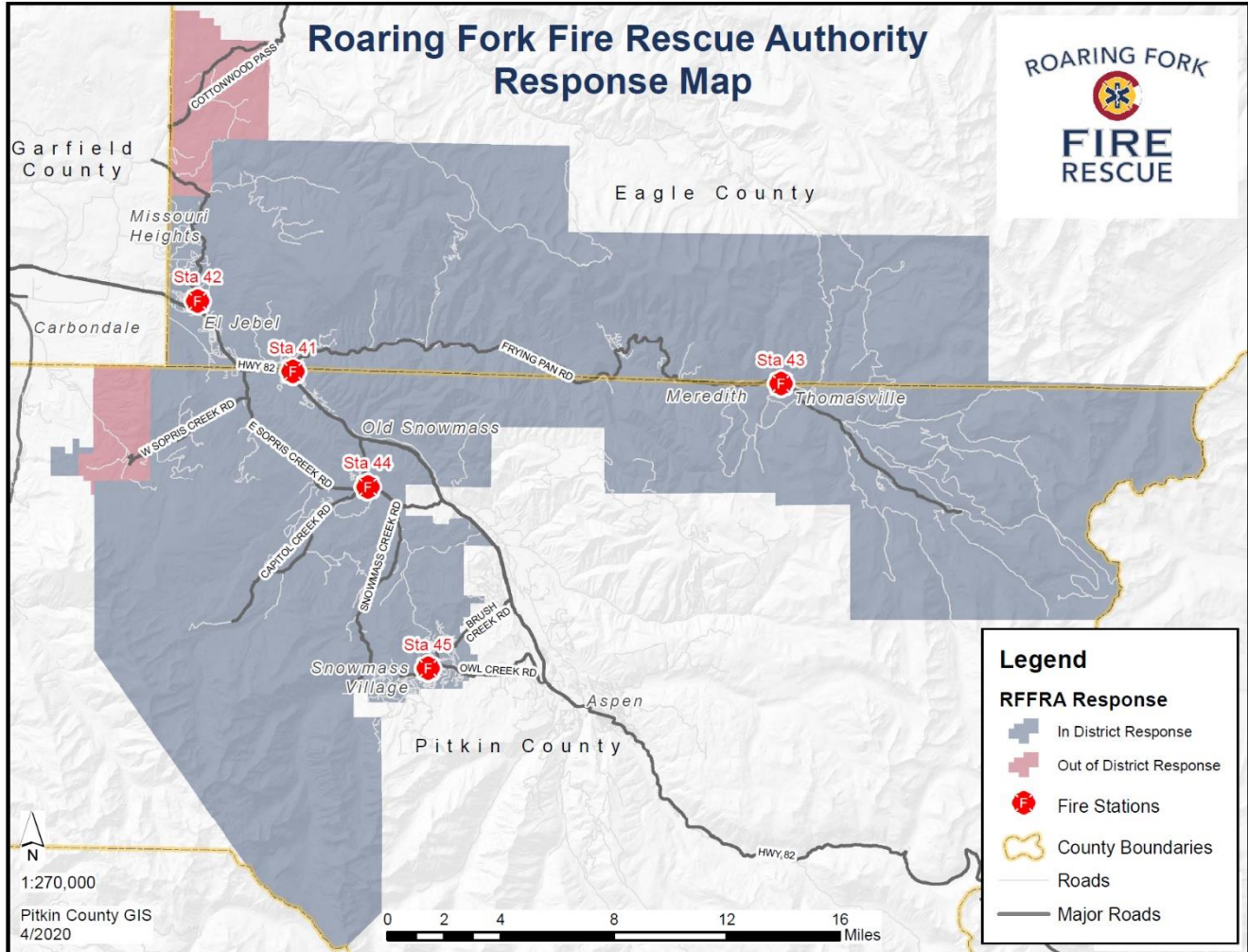
FINANCE

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the budget was amended to include COVID-19 expenditures incurred due to the scope of the pandemic. The Authority Board passed a resolution in March 2020 that allocated \$100,000 in additional funding to account for spending associated with protection of Authority staff. The Authority was able to recoup the expenditures by applying for and receiving a \$100,000 matching grant from the State of Colorado.

The Authority liquidated much of the aging fleet, creating additional income to purchase new equipment better suited to the needs of the growing population. The Authority also purchased a 107 ft Ariel Ladder to better serve our increased commercial use needs.



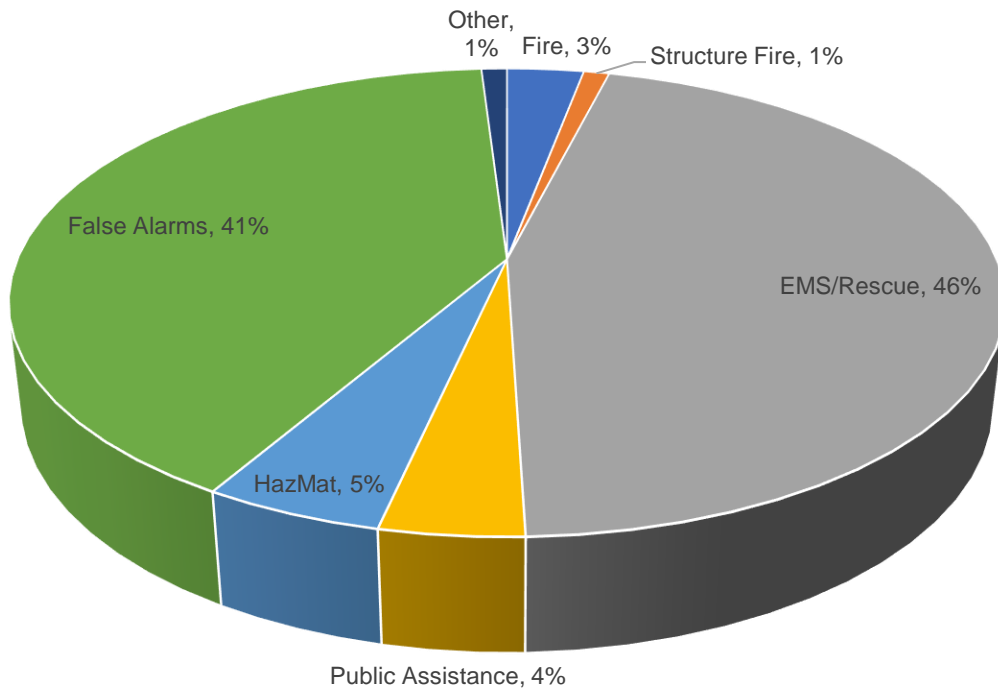
DISTRICT MAP



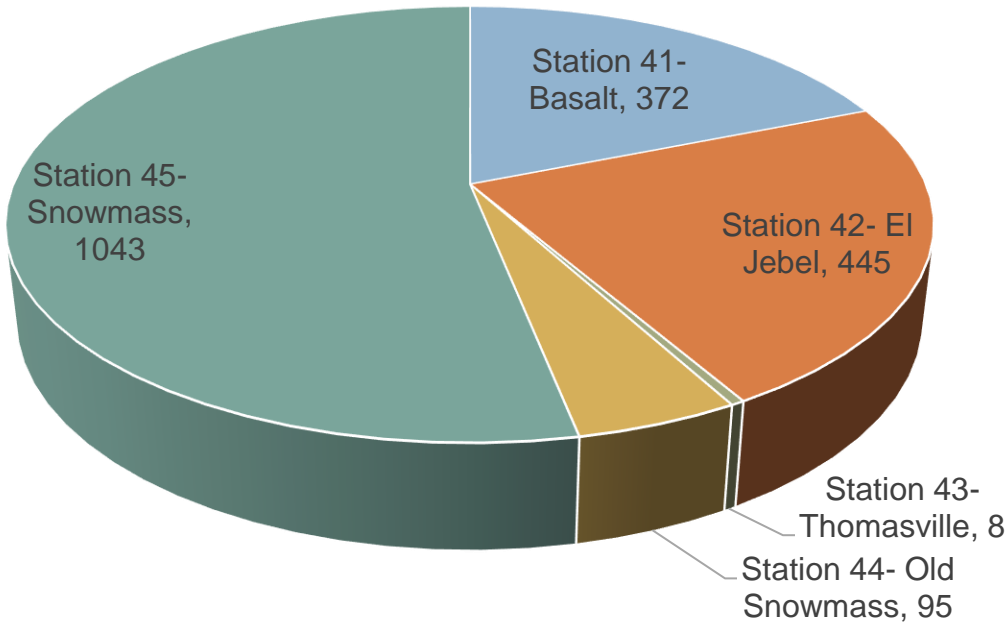
FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES

JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020

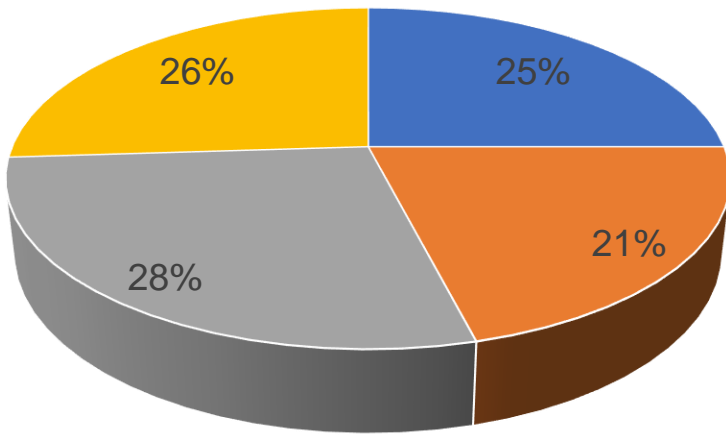
2020 Incidents by Incident Type



2020 Incidents by Station



2020 Response Times



■ 0 - 5 Minutes ■ 5 - 7 Minutes ■ 7 - 10 Minutes ■ 10+ Minutes

RFFRA MAJOR INCIDENTS 2020



In mid- 2020 RFFR responded to a residential structure fire due to a lightning strike



RFFR crews responded to multiple wildland fires throughout 2020



2020 RFFRA Federal Wildland Deployment



2020 RFFRA Federal Wildland Deployment



2020 RFFRA response to a well involved residential structure fire in Missouri Heights

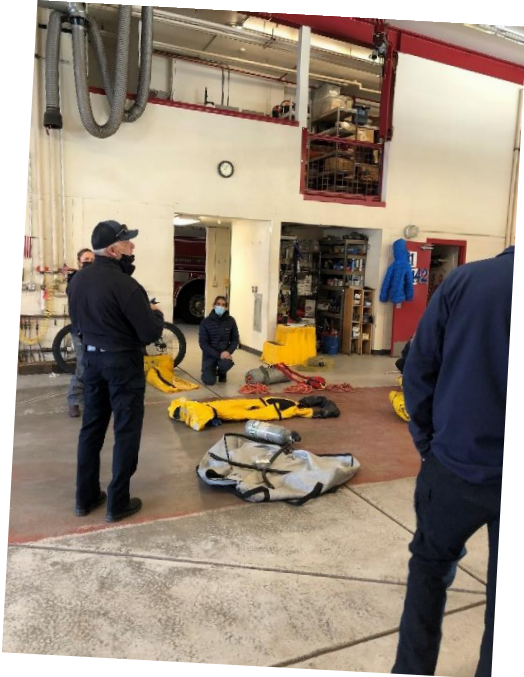
FIRE TRAINING

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. In order 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 in order 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 2020. Given social distancing, group gathering limits, and occasional quarantines, training in person was extremely difficult to accomplish. With our on-line 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 and driver operator training via Colorado Division of Fire and Prevention trailers at our station 42 on J W Drive. We also managed a Volunteer recruitment and held a 40-hour orientation for the 12-person class. We are proud to say these new Volunteers are working shifts in the stations and continuing their training. Over half of our new Volunteers will be attending firefighter or emergency medical provider courses at community college this year.

Just as our great state and country, RFFR met the challenges of 2020 head on, and persevered, accumulating over 4,823 aggregate training hours. Our members refused to be dissuaded from maintaining the skill and knowledge required to Solve, Serve, and Save our valued community.

FIRE TRAINING

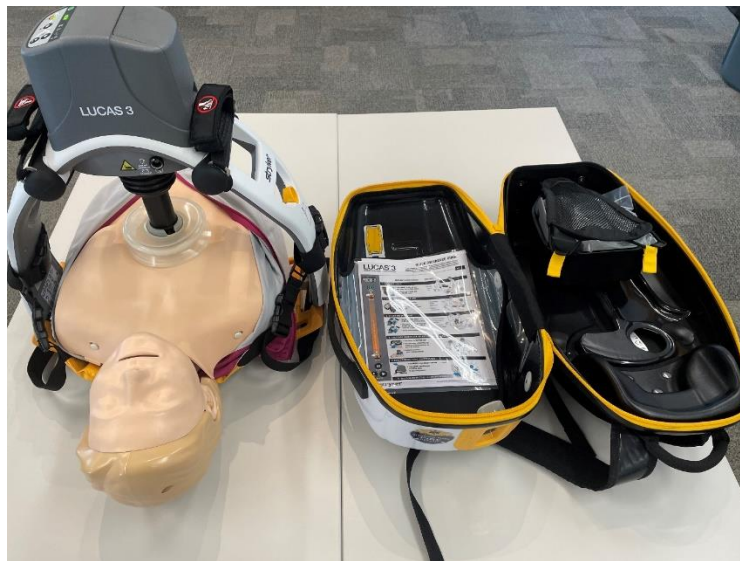


EMS DIVISION

The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority is state recognized by the Colorado Department of 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.

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 are able to earn approved distributive education online at any time through our training platform. Various outside continuing education is also available to RFFRA members.

In 2020 RFFRA had 42 members certified at the EMT level, 7 members certified at the EMT-I level and 28 members certified at the Paramedic level. Additionally, 1 member had an EMR certificate. Several other RFFRA members are not certified but function as ambulance operators, playing an important role in prehospital care.



LUCAS Mechanical CPR Devices

In 2020 three LUCAS Mechanical CPR Devices were added to the frontline ambulances at Stations 41, 42 and 45. Mechanical CPR devices allow EMS providers to deliver consistent, uninterrupted chest compressions. With the on-going COVID-19 pandemic not only do the mechanical CPR devices reduce the required contact with patients in cardiac arrest, they also allow EMS providers to be safely seated and restrained during transport of a patient in cardiac arrest.

COVID-19 PPE and commercial ozone generator



The on-going COVID-19 pandemic has required many changes to the way we do business. COVID-19 Response Guidelines have continued to evolve as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updates their recommendations and local public health agencies adjust their public health orders. One of the biggest defenses against COVID-19 is personal protective equipment (PPE). The required PPE compliment includes an N-95 respirator, eye protection (goggles or face shield), a gown and gloves. Rigorous cleaning and decontamination as well as use of a commercial ozone generator are additional ways in which EMS providers have stayed safe and healthy. All of these safeguards also provide a higher level of protection for the patients we continue to take care of during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

Pitkin County EMS Protocols



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority follows the Pitkin County EMS Protocols. In November 2020 a transition to a protocol application was made which involved a major overhaul of the formatting and content. Provider levels were also added which includes EMR, OEC, EMT, EMT w/ IV Authorization, AEMT, EMT-Intermediate, Paramedic, and Paramedic Critical Care level providers.

FIRE PREVENTION

2020 Fire Marshal's Office, Prevention, and Community Risk Reduction

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

Even with the pandemic and all the safety restrictions we self-imposed, we had an incredibly productive year. We found new and innovative ways to get things done: virtual inspections, online fire extinguisher training, requirements for businesses to submit proof of meeting the adopted 2015 International Fire Codes prior to virtual or limited onsite inspections, and more. All-in-all, we stayed as connected as allowed to the communities we serve in as many ways as we could: social media posts increased and handouts for door-to-door delivery were created. We even successfully hired a new Fire Inspector in December. Welcome, Jim Pidcock!

One of the activities of which we are most proud is the wildland fire mitigation efforts in our fire authority. We had 50+ acres of forested land mitigated to reduce the likelihood of fire spread!

Another accomplishment was working with Town of Basalt Planning and Building Department on adopting Wildfire Codes. This was a cooperative effort that resulted in Town of Basalt taking an important step to harden homes and create more fire-resistant structures.

The Fire Authority worked closely with SWIFT crews on wildfire mitigation projects in Snowmass Village. The result was excellent forest management as well as fire breaks, fuel reduction, and a healthy forest.



Mitigation efforts under the guidance of the Fire Authority, worked well for the around the Town of Basalt water treatment plant. SWIFT crews did a wonderful job.

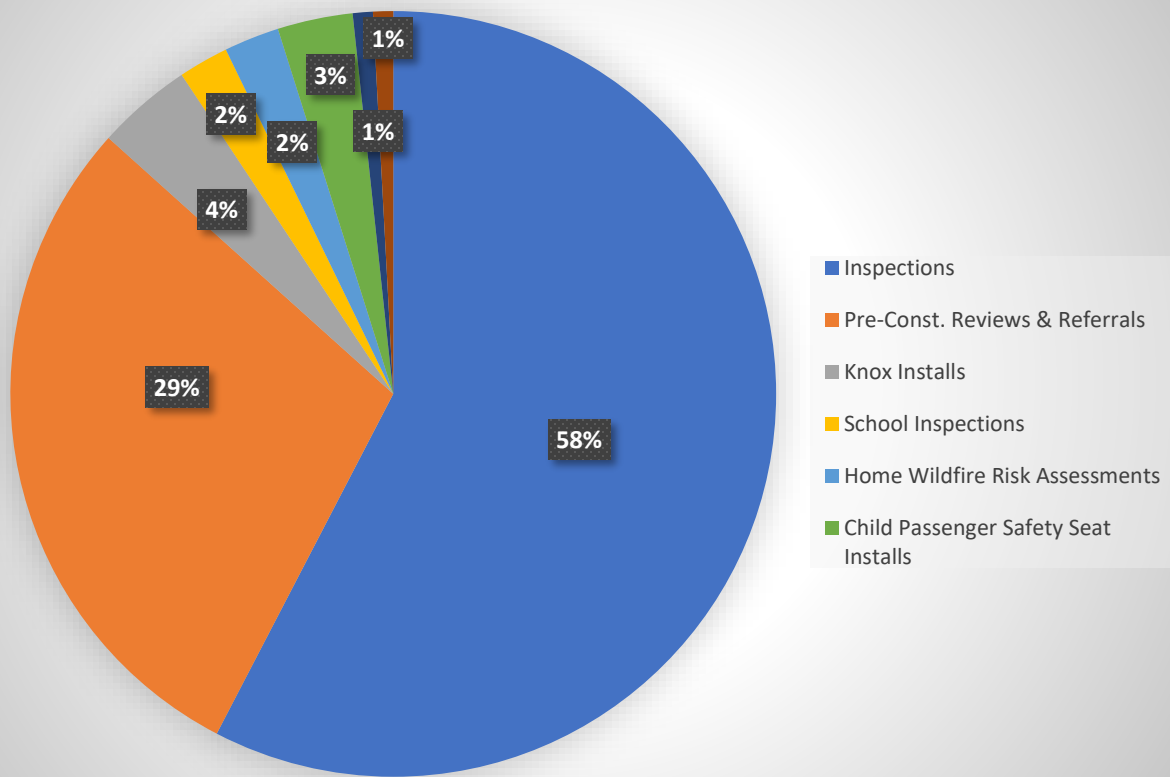
Collectively, we also stayed very busy with our internal and external community engagements and connections:

- COVID19 Incident Management Team (only 3 weeks at the start of the pandemic)
- Eagle County Project Team for Public Infrastructure (Comprehension Plan)
- First Due Size Up Super Users Group
- National Fire Protection Association – Fire Service Section Executive Board
- RFFR Social Media Committee
- RFFR Strategic Planning Team
- RFFRA Board and Staff Meetings
- Temporary Outdoor Structure Policy Committee
- Roaring Fork Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Town of Basalt SAR/TRC Weekly meetings
- Town of Snowmass Village community and Board Meetings
- Romero Group Safety Meetings
- Odor Investigations with Black Hills
- Complaint Investigations

We also kept up on staff training, almost all virtual, which kept costs down for travel and expenses. Here are some examples of training completed by our FMO Team:

- Certifications
 - American Heart Association BLS Provider & First Aid
 - Colorado School Inspector
- Career Development course work
 - Building Construction for Fire Protection
 - COVID19 Part I & II
 - Fire Behavior and Combustion
 - Fire Prevention Organization and Management
 - Mobile Driving Simulator
 - Performance Reviews
 - Workplace Respect: Harassment Prevention
 - Workplace Respect: Managing our Unconscious Biases
- First Due Size Up
 - 17 multi-building properties (37 buildings total) in Upper Snowmass Creek Caucus mapped over the summer
 - 166 Updates (including adding emergency contacts) to various properties (commercial and residential)
 - Evaluated Fire Prevention module and started trial use

Fire Marshal's Office Activities 2020



Inspections	272
Pre-Const. Reviews & Referrals	137
Knox Installs	19
School Inspections	10
Home Wildfire Risk Assessments	11
Child Passenger Safety Seat Installs	15
Fire Extinguisher Classes (online)	4

HUMAN RESOURCES

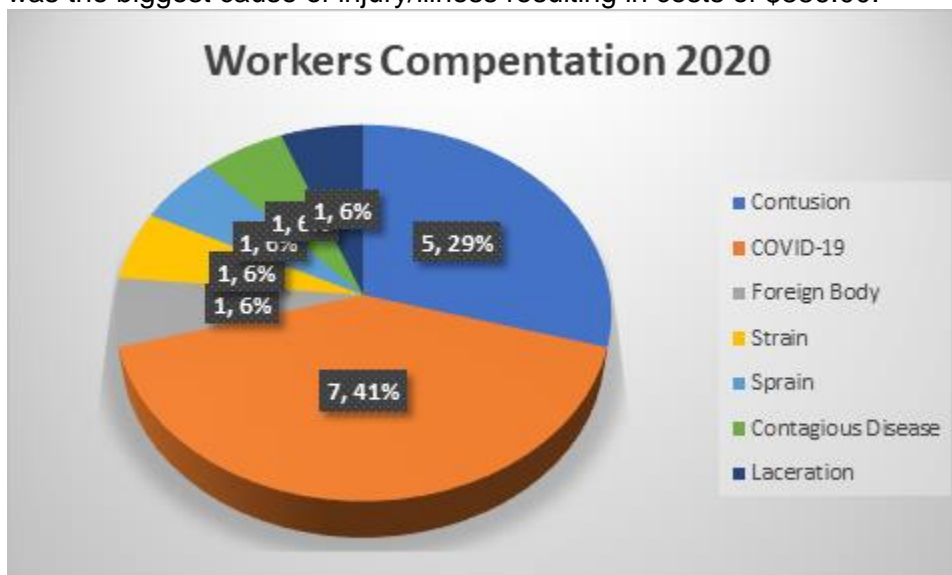
RECRUITMENTS

The graph below represents the Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority recruitments in 2020. The Authority held seven recruitments, processed 56 applications, and hired or promoted a total of 18 people. We recruited internally/externally for three full-time firefighter/paramedics, one full-time firefighter/EMT, a Fleet Supervisor and Automotive and Equipment Mechanic with zero hires, and 13 volunteers.



Work Related Injuries

The graph below represents the overall causes of the Authority's work-related injuries/illnesses in 2020. The Authority had 17 injuries/illnesses whose overall cost was \$1,345.00. The strain was the biggest cause of injury/illness resulting in costs of \$886.00.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

COVID was the theme of 2020 for all of us. The IT department felt the impact profoundly. In March, we transitioned our office staff to a fully functioning work-from-home organization in a matter of days. Video conferencing became the norm. We harnessed the power of [Lifesize's](#) desktop and room system fully encrypted video conferencing solutions for everything from daily Executive meetings to Board Meetings and monthly All Hands Business Meetings. A remote dispersed work environment also presented security challenges as users were outside of our network's physical firewall environment. SonicWall's AI-based threat protection allows us to secure our endpoints no matter where they are. 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 2019 Annual Report
- ✓ 3,358 Lifesize meetings totaling 114,113 minutes
- ✓ Kicked off web-based forms automation project
- ✓ Hardware, software, and firmware upgrades in sync with vendor support lifecycles
- ✓ Hardware replacement cycle consistent with district's amortization schedule
- ✓ Achieved connectivity in all district ambulances and engines empowering line personnel with incident response tools and patient care reporting almost anywhere they go
- ✓ Integrated FirstNet as a new mobile communications option
- ✓ Phased out deprecated 3G AED communications, upgraded with LTE hardware
- ✓ Began Pitkin County microwave project that will provide high speed Internet access to Thomasville and Old Snowmass in 2021
- ✓ Social Media improvements
- ✓ Regular review of security effectiveness and procedures
- ✓ Ongoing security awareness training
- ✓ Successful completion of the CDPS UAS Pilot Certification Course

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

PHONE NUMBERS

Fire/EMS Emergency: 911
Fire Department: (970) 340-7040
Chief Scott Thompson: (970) 340-7031