

2021 Annual Report



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Mission Statement

Our main function is to protect our community by being prepared to respond to the traditional fire and rescue hazards while assuring our ability to mitigate a variety of a growing number of hazards.

The mission of our department is to put highly qualified firefighters with reliable equipment into an ever-broadening variety of roles for the protection of our citizens from fire and other hazardous situations. Using a Community Risk Reduction model using emergency response, engineering, enforcement, education, and economic incentive as the basis for employing Fire Department resources to mitigate community risk.

Today's citizens have come to expect fire departments to be prepared and equipped to mitigate any problem encountered. Citizens will receive prompt, specially designed service to meet their needs, whether fire, rescues, chemical, environmental, or medical emergencies. With equipment designed for specific and multiple hazards, firefighters can routinely provide the services the citizens deserve.



Long-Term Plan

2021 Goals and Objectives

- **Maintain Inventory of all Department Equipment to ensure serviceability and physical security of City Assets.**
- **Provide over 150 hours of Training for each Firefighter in fire suppression, technical rescue, hazardous materials, and medical continuing education to ensure our personnel are ready for any eventuality in the community**
- **Sustain a Vehicle Maintenance program using a combination of City Fleet Maintenance Technicians and a third-party company.**
- **Continue Applying for and receiving Federal and State Grant Monies to sustain personnel and equipment for the Department.**
- **Maintain our facilities to ensure a safe and clean work environment for employees.**
- **Affect a positive change in fire incidents through an aggressive inspection and fire prevention program.**
- **Update current Pre-fire plans and work to expand the current occupancy database.**



Personnel

Human Resources

Personnel Totals:

- 2 Management Officers (Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief)
Deputy Fire Chief position vacant June 2021 until mid-January 2022
- 2 Administrative Officers – Fire Inspector and Assistant Fire Inspector (AFI).
- 1 Secretary position vacant January 2021 until end of January 2022
- 58 out of 60 Line Suppression Union positions filled.
- 62 Total Assigned Uniformed Personnel out of 64 Total Fire Department Positions

Personnel Losses:

Deputy Fire Chief Michael Tofano
Secretary Carol Guerin
Assistant Chief Mathew Detrich
Assistant Chief Daniel Drumm
Captain James Campbell
Captain Kirk Mitchell
Driver Lance Johnson

Department Vacancies:

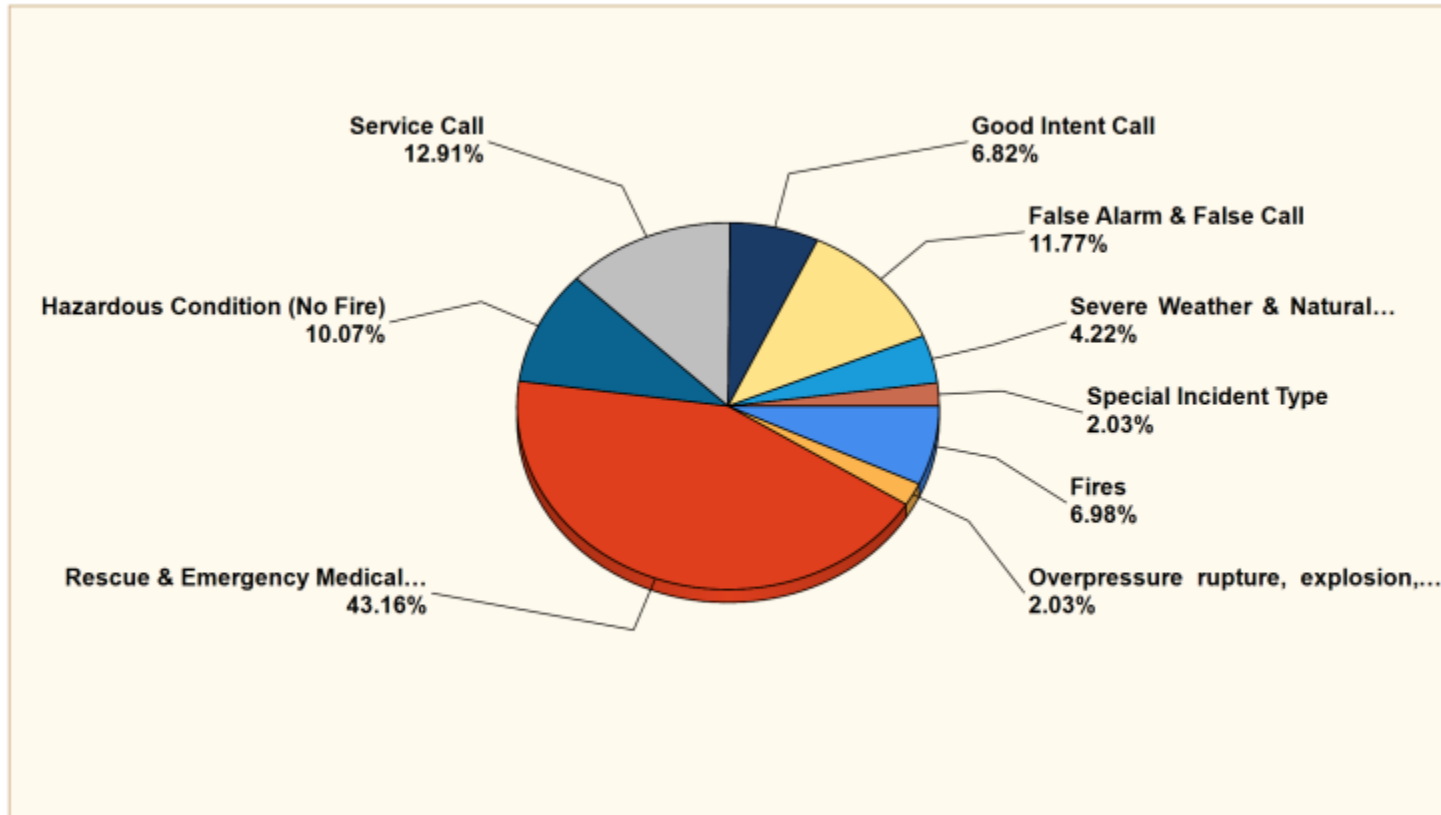
1 Deputy Fire Chief
1 Secretary
1 Assistant Chief
3 Captains
2 Drivers
4 Firefighters

Personnel Gains: No hiring took place in 2021



Operations

Call type breakdown by percentage



Operations Continued

Breakdown of Incident types by total call numbers

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	172	6.98%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat - no fire	50	2.03%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1063	43.16%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	248	10.07%
Service Call	318	12.91%
Good Intent Call	168	6.82%
False Alarm & False Call	290	11.77%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	104	4.22%
Special Incident Type	50	2.03%
TOTAL	2463	100%

There was a 36% increase in calls in 2021 compared to 2020. Significant increase in Rescue & Emergency Medical Service [588 to 1,063] and Severe Weather & Natural Disaster [25 to 104] calls.



Training

Training Class	Hours
Haz-Mat Tech Refresher	16
SCBA Emergencies and Self Rescue	8
Truck Company Operations at High Rise Fires	16
Vehicle Fires and Other Emergencies	16
Structural Fire Rescue	16
Strategies and Tactics	16
EVDT	16
Full Scall Haz-Mat Drills	16
New Technology in Vehicle Rescue	4
Total per shift	140

Department wide training was conducted by instructors from Bucks County Community College Public Safety training division. This ensures uniform instruction across our four platoons of personnel.

In addition to the department wide training, dozens of hours of training were conducted through the company level training program.

Each shift conducts many Company level training evolutions on individual skills. Examples include ground ladders, hose line management, firefighter survival, and using SCBA are just a few. Annually, the AFD also conducts Emergency Medical Service training.



Vehicle Maintenance

- **6 Engines**
 - **2 Aerial apparatus**
 - **1 Heavy rescue**
 - **2 Haz-Mat vehicles**
 - **1 Command Trailer**
 - **6 Staff / Utility Vehicles**
 - **2 Specialty Trailers**
-
- **During 2021, Fleet Maintenance, 3rd party service company, and the Altoona Fire Department processed 159 vehicle maintenance requests.**
 - **During 2021, the Altoona Fire Department spent \$95,382 on vehicle maintenance. Included in this total are preventative maintenance costs.**



Facilities – Station Locations

Station Designation	Location	Year Constructed	Apparatus
310	1319 Washington Avenue	1927	E-311, T-351, Staff Vehicles: 301, 342, 343
320	515 N. Second Street	1979	E-312, HM-362 (truck), HM-363 (trailer), E-315(Spare)
330	530 Crawford Avenue	1978	E-313, R-332, R-333 (trailer)
340	3960 Sixth Avenue	1951	E-314, E-316 (reserve), E-317 (PRR Mack)
350	1320 Washington Avenue	2007	T-352, HM-361 (Command Trailer)

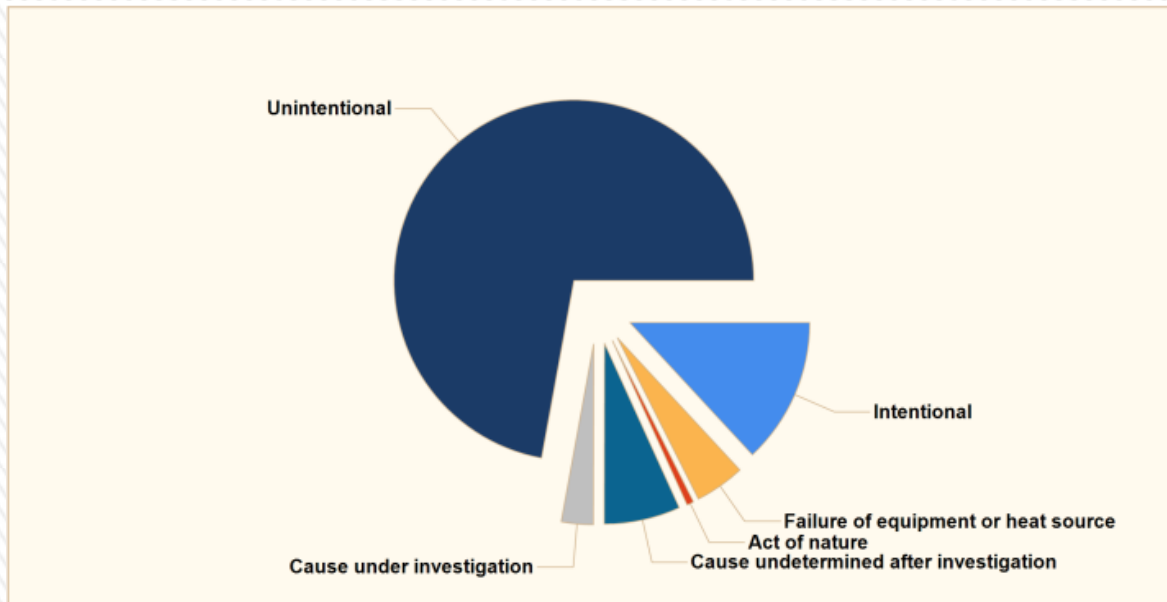


Fire Investigations Report

Fire Prevention Division Personnel

- Fire Inspector Adam Free
- Assistant Fire Inspector Justin Smithmyer

CAUSE OF IGNITION	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Intentional	23	12.8%
Failure of equipment or heat source	8	4.4%
Act of nature	1	0.6%
Cause undetermined after investigation	12	6.7%
Cause under investigation	5	2.8%
Unintentional	127	70.6%



Fire Loss Analysis

INCIDENT TYPE	COUNT	% OF INCIDENTS	TOTAL LOSSES (Sum of Property and Content Loss)
100 - Fire, other	1	2%	\$500
111 - Building fire	40	82%	\$787,450
112 – Fires in structure other than in a building	1	2%	\$1,000
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1	2%	\$200
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	1	2%	\$4,500
140 – Natural vegetation fire, other	1	2%	\$500
151 - Outside rubbish, trash, or waste fire	1	2%	\$20,000
154 – Dumpster or other outside trash receptable fire	1	2%	\$5,000
164 – Outside mailbox fire	1	2%	\$100
531 – Smoke or odor removal	1	2%	\$1,000
Total Losses			\$820,250
Total Property Value Involved			\$10,204,250
Total Property Value Saved			\$9,384,000
Civilian Injuries	5		
Civilian Deaths	0		
Firefighter injuries	11		
Firefighter Deaths	0		



Fire Inspections Report

Inspection Type	Completed
Fire & Safety Initial	686
Fire & Safety Reinspection	618
Site Inspections	188
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	1,492
Violations Found	1,079

Permits	Issued
Tent	7
Fireworks	1
Open Burning	2

In 2020, inspections were placed on hold for 4.5 months due to COVID-19. Therefore, there is a noticeable increase with the 2021 inspections of 76%. Otherwise, minus the 2020 inspections completed in 2021, the growth would be closer to 51% with the second full-time Fire Inspector.



Get Out Alive

- » In 2021, the **Get Out Alive** project began with funding through CDBG programming. The Fire Department **installed 98 smoke alarms, 21 fire extinguishers, and 22 carbon monoxide alarms into 22 households** and conducted a fire safety inspection while there. City residents needed to qualify by income or disability to be eligible for the program.

Installations by Quarter	Smoke Alarms	Fire Extinguishers	Carbon Monoxide Alarms
January – March	13	3	2
April - June	21	5	5
July - September	21	4	4
October - December	43	9	11



Juvenile Fire Setter Program

Mission Statement:

To prevent loss of life and property by identification and intervention of young people who have shown a tendency to start fires.

2021 Juvenile Cases

In 2021, the Altoona Fire Department's Juvenile Fire Setter Program received one referral; however, the family did not participate in the program.

In-person counseling has been affected by the Coronavirus for 2020 and 2021.

AFD Juvenile Fire setter

Team Members

Rank	Name	Team Assignment
Captain	Joshua D. Link	Program Coordinator
Engineer	Dan Chesnut	Intervention Specialist



Fire Prevention - Education

Fire Education

Public Attendance Summary

January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021

Event Type	Number of Events	Children Attended	Adults Attended
Station Tours	3	4	5
911 Telecommunicators Ride Along Training	1		2
Live Fire Extinguisher Training	8	50	67
Public Service – Special Events	52	297	108
Smoke Alarm Installations	22		26
Supervised Fire Drills	7	474	186
Fire Prevention Programs	34	4,046	395
Totals (Program)	107	4,871	789

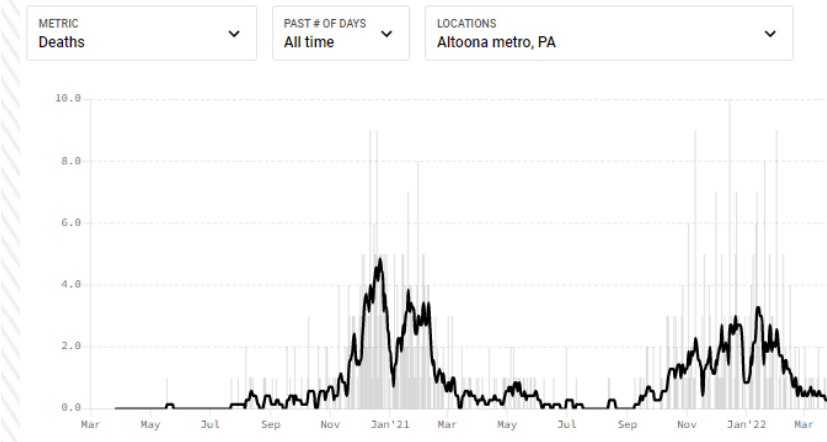
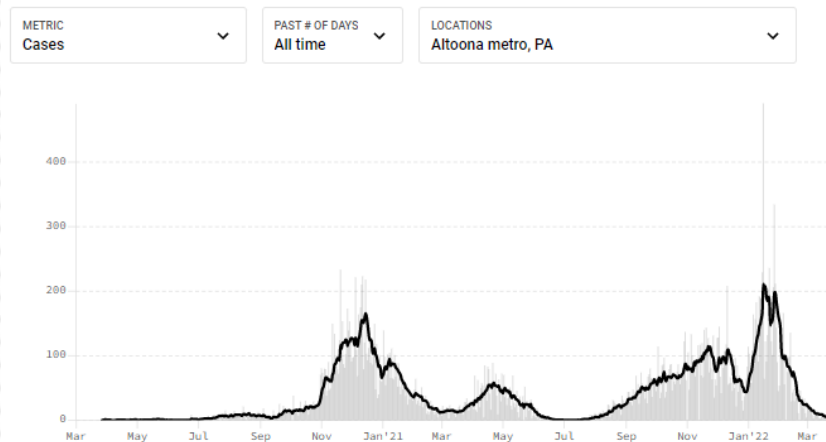
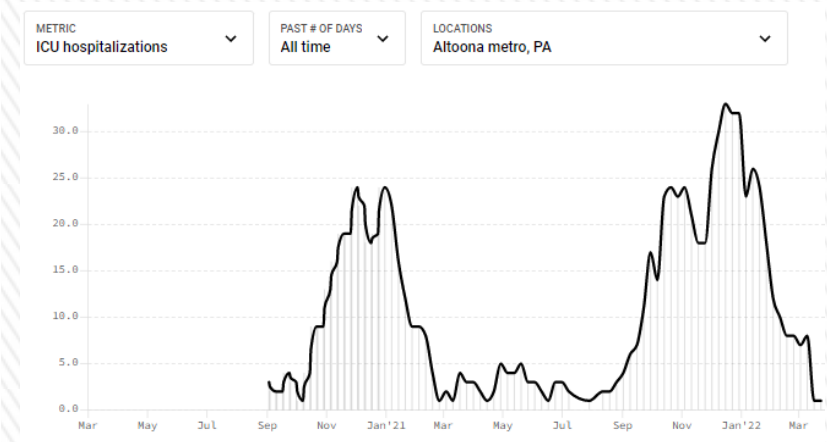
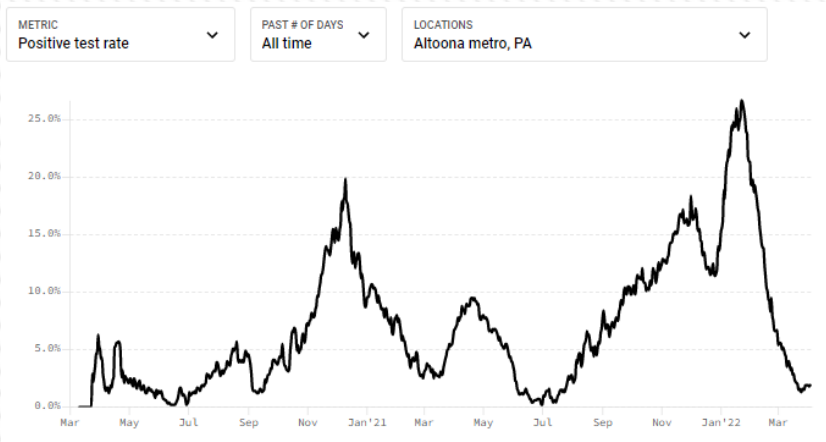
Attendance numbers do not include large events (i.e., block parties and parades) or community service tasks.



2021 Pandemic Data



Data Trends: Highest daily death toll was 10. Highest Positive test rate was 14%. Highest Daily ICU usage was 33. Highest daily new cases reported was 219.



2022 Goals

1. Ensure the safety and health of our firefighters by providing medical surveillance, vaccines for infectious diseases, and the training and equipment for conducting physical fitness while on duty.
2. Maintain firefighter skills by conducting over 600 hours of certified training on leadership, equipment, techniques, tactics, and procedures.
3. Sustain fire equipment by acquiring new personal protective equipment no longer meeting NFPA Standards; replacing all hose that does not pass annual inspections; updating Hazmat detection equipment; having all ladder and aerial apparatus inspected and certified by a third-party company; and conducting all annual testing on fire suppression equipment.
4. Integrate our newly appointed Deputy Chief and Administrative Assistant into Fire Administration and divide tasks allowing for more interaction with agencies in the community.
5. Maintain the Hazardous Materials Response Team's expertise through planning, exercising, and drills geared toward performance-oriented tasks. We will participate in a minimum of one regional exercise with Center County's HMRT.
6. Maintain Fire Department facilities by completing capital improvement projects including apparatus bay resurfacing at Fire Station 330, and upgrading the Margaret Avenue Building to better suit our equipment and training needs.
7. Maintain the Community Risk Reduction Plan using emergency response, engineering, enforcement, education, and economic incentive as the basis for employing Fire Department resources to mitigate community risk. Increase our presence in the community through robust participation in events and proactively conducting fire safety programs.
8. Improve personnel performance by implementing a personnel evaluation system that will provide feedback to employees on their performance, set expectations, and develop plans of action in order to meet expectations.
9. Conduct a series of surveys with Fire Department personnel that will assist the Command with improving safety, communications, training, operations, and professional development.

