



# **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**



**BLOOMINGDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**



## LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

It is my honor to present the 2021 Annual Report for the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District. The district prides itself on being prepared for the future and remains focused on delivering safe, effective and efficient service to our community. The Bloomingdale Fire Protection District maintains a Class 1 ISO classification which is the highest rating that a fire department can obtain.

In 2021, we took a moment to honor those who died on 9/11/2001 marking the passage of two decades since the day that changed our lives forever. We will never forget the 343 firefighters that paid the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives that day. In honor of their sacrifice the district sponsored a float in the Bloomingdale Septemberfest parade representing the three New York firefighters raising the American flag at ground zero.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to be a challenge. Many of our normal practices both operationally and administratively needed to be adjusted to meet the needs of keeping our members and community safe. The Bloomingdale Fire Protection District responded to 5,407 calls for service, the highest call volume the district has ever experienced. Calls include fires, rescues, medical emergencies, hazardous material spills and general public service requests. We also respond to assist other fire departments within the area. In turn, these departments provide us assistance when we need them. The increased call volume identified a need for a third ambulance to be staffed. This has become a primary goal in our strategic planning for 2022 and will require the district to hire an additional three firefighter paramedics. With the addition of these firefighters it will also give us the ability to staff our tender more effectively which is needed in the un-hydranted areas of our district.

This year we were able to host our annual open house and over 1,000 people attend the event. The fire district also took center stage at the Christmas tree lighting event in Old Town with Tower 23 taking the Mayor and Santa Claus to the top of the Christmas tree to kick off the holiday season.

We look forward to 2022 and the new challenges it will present. Setting attainable goals and expectations is always our priority as we continue to deliver a service that is efficient and cost-effective. Thank you to the Board of Trustees, Fire Commissioners and all of our community partners for their continued support. It is an honor and privilege to serve with the men and women of the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District and I am truly honored to be their fire chief.

Sincerely,

Matthew E. Beyer



## WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

### **SERVICE**

**The delivery of prompt and professional service to the district is our ultimate commitment.**

### **SAFETY**

**Maintaining a work environment where safety is paramount at all times, especially in emergency situations which are inherently dangerous.**

### **TEAMWORK**

**A team oriented approach which fosters excellence in the performance of our duties.**

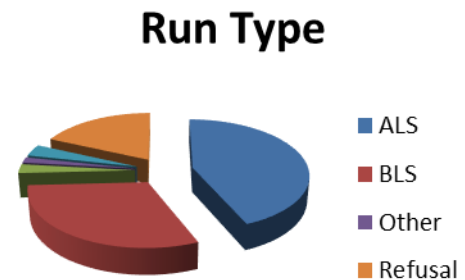


## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

The Bloomingdale Fire Protection District continues to strive for excellence within the scope of Emergency Medical Service providers. In 2021 our paramedics obtained over 1,500 hours of continuing education. We embrace the mission, vision and values of both the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District and the Northwest Community Emergency Medical Services System. We have made notable advances in our ability to serve the community with some fairly revolutionary purchases and implementation of practices.

In **2021** we completed **3,887** EMS runs resulting in the following types of calls:

EMS Run Type	Number	Percentage
Advanced Life Support	2371	61%
Basic Life Support	933	24%
Refusal of Service	399	10.3%
DOA	71	1.8%
Other	113	2.9%



**NORTHWEST  
COMMUNITY  
EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL  
SERVICES  
SYSTEM**

In 2021, the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District had the fourth busiest 911 ambulance in the Northwest Community Emergency Medical Services System. Medic 21, which runs out of our headquarter station, ran 2,004 emergency medical calls. This does not include calls for invalid assists, general public service assistance or refusal of services.





In 2021 the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District continued to face one of it's greatest challenges, the Covid-19 pandemic. Approximately 28% of all requests for emergency medical services were either confirmed or presumed to be Covid-19 related. The Bloomingdale Fire Protection District worked side-by-side with various nursing homes, convenient care centers and doctors offices to meet the needs of the community. Under the guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health, the DuPage County Health Department and the Northwest Community Emergency Medical Services System, we were able to adapt and find ways to keep both our patients and personnel as safe and healthy as possible.

In an effort to keep our personnel safe and maintain adequate staffing levels, the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District became certified as an independent laboratory. This allowed us to adhere to CDC guidelines as well as the executive orders mandated through the governor's office.



### NEW AMBULANCE

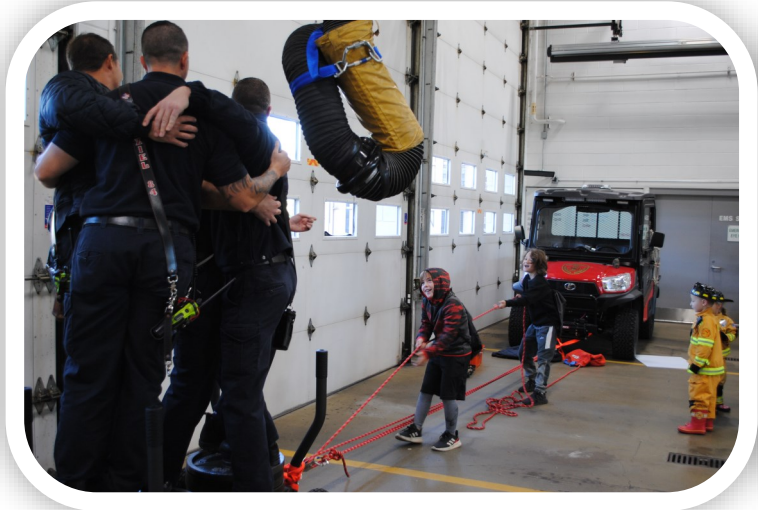


In 2021 the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District ordered a new ambulance which will replace a 2013 Ford currently running out of our satellite station at Army Trail Road and Gary Ave. Initial delivery was set for October of 2021, however, due to global supply chain issues delivery is now delayed to October of 2022.

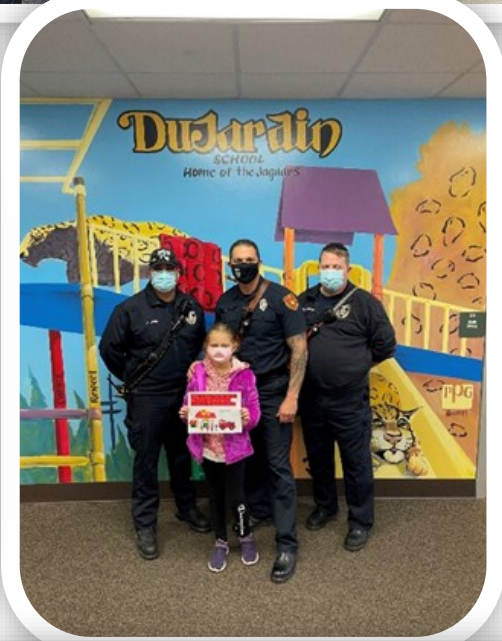
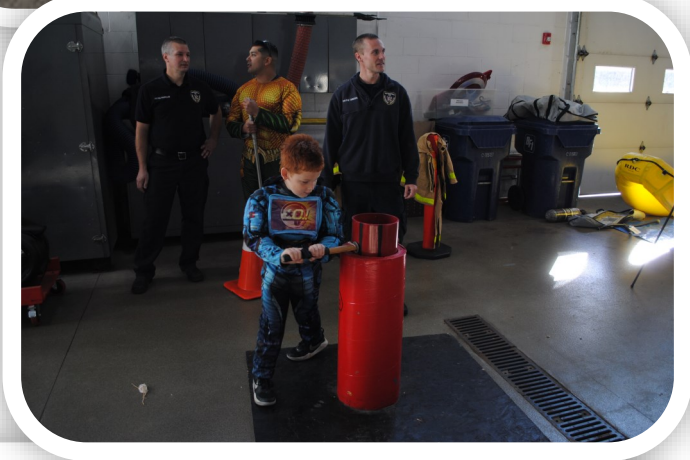
## PUBLIC EDUCATION



It was a fun and exciting year for public education for Bloomingdale FPD! We were able to get creative and enjoy being back in-person with those we serve. Covid did not hold us back this year getting out vital information to the towns we serve. We were able to reach our goal of getting back into schools being a positive presence for our future generations. We held our very first poster contest focusing on “Exit Drill In The Home (E.D.I.T.H)” and had close to one hundred students participating. Two lucky winners received a fire truck ride to school in recognition of their outstanding posters. Also, we utilized our social media account to share vital information to our residents including topics such as dryer vent fires, holiday safety tips, poison control in the home, smoke detectors, and extreme weather safety. We worked closely with the Bloomingdale Almanac, Bloomingdale Park District, local schools, and Bloomingdale Police to help connect to the residents with topics such as the “file of life” initiative. We were able to hand out over one hundred fifty file of life magnets to our residents. These magnets hold vital information that allows first responders to provide the best possible treatment, notify loved ones, and pass vital data to awaiting emergency room physicians. The fire department participated in the Septemberfest parade as well as held our annual open house. The open house was a success as we had over 1000 visitors come through the fire station. The fire department had two demonstrations this year: the side by side sprinkler burn prop as well as the home fire escape ladder from the second window demonstration. Moving forward it is our goal to continue our successful work in the grade schools. We truly believe if we can teach proper fire safety it will be instilled in them for generations to come.









## TRAINING

The Bloomington Fire Protection District No.1 Training Division's Mission is for our firefighters to become: SAFER, FASTER, BETTER AND SMARTER. Our training division prides itself on making all of our training realistic, relevant and referenced.

BLOOMINGDALE FIREFIGHTER TRAINING IN 2021



12,241 hours



Yes,  
we train for  
that.





The training division is responsible for training all career and paid-on-call members in fire suppression, emergency medical service, special operations rescue, hazardous materials, fire investigations, fire inspections services, officer development and other related topics. We are committed to the safety and welfare of our members. Our goal is to have the best trained firefighters and paramedics so that we can deliver the highest quality service to our residents, visitors and neighbors.

## District Training 2021:

- Over 17,092 drills added to approximately 12,241 hours of training received by our Firefighters in 2021, averaging 306 hours per firefighter.
- Each month's training schedule includes: Officer Development, Firefighter Training (individual and company), EMS (Paramedic and EMT), Special Operations Rescue, Hazardous Materials and other required training topics.
- Members participated in over 2,070 hours of specialized M.A.B.A.S. Team and WSFRA Special Ops training in 2021.
- Company Operations and Skills focus for the training division in 2021 were: company effectiveness and survival on the fire ground, engine company operations, tower ladder operations, medic company operations, special operations and officer/ leadership development for every level of our organization.
- Individual Skills areas of focus for the training division in 2021 were: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Survival skills, fire ground emergency communications, fire hose line tactics, forcible entry skills, ladder placement skills, ropes, knots and rescue system proficiency, fire victim removal and resuscitation
- Emergency Medical System training in 2021 focused on: Trauma, Medical, Cardiac, Pediatric, Geriatric and several sub-specialties of emergent medical care.



# SPECIALTY TEAMS

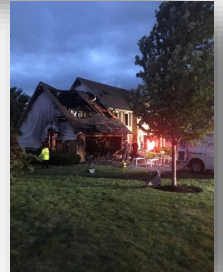
## Fire Investigation Team

Coordinator FF/EMT Sniegowski and LT Skelley

The Fire Investigation Team is responsible for finding the origin & cause for all fires that occur within the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District # 1. The team includes the Fire Investigation coordinator and one additional investigator.

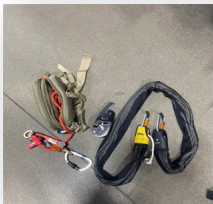
The process of fire investigation consists of taking pictures, interviewing witnesses, digging through debris, examining physical evidence, and documentation of the scene. Both of our investigators are members of the Dupage County Fire Investigation Task Force. The investigator is on call for two weeks every other month. The experience that is gained is beneficial for the fire district.

Each investigator is required to have continuing education of twenty-five hours a year, over a four year period, to maintain certification with the State of Illinois Fire Marshall's office. This includes but is not limited to didactic classroom and hands-on training.



## TRT Team

Coordinator FFPM Matt Smith, FFPM Dave Miller, FFPM Ketcham



**Training:** Bloomingdale TRT members hosted WSFRA training in April at Stratford Square Mall for a high angle rescue scenario over three days. Members also assisted in training at multiple Alliance specialty-ops drills including high-line rope operations and structural collapse.

**Classes/Certifications:** Members Ketcham and Miller attended Rope Technician class and FF Ketcham also attended Collapse Operations

**New Equipment:** The department/team acquired many new and replacement pieces of equipment:

- -New rope gloves
- -Petzl ID descenders
- -Petzl Jag 4:1 for each frontline rig TRT bag
- -CMC "Aztec" 4:1 rope bags for each frontline rig TRT bag
- -New replacement harnesses for 10yr + old class III harness'
- -Aluminum Carabiners and pulleys
- -Webbing and ½ inch reserve Rescue Rope, Pick-off Straps

## Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

Coordinator FFPM Takoy, LT Skelley, FFPM Miller, FFPM Bzdelik, FFPM Gross



The self-contained breathing apparatus is one of the most important pieces of equipment that a firefighter wears. The SCBA provides breathable air in an environment that is "immediately dangerous to life or health." (IDLH). Today's fires burn hotter and faster due to synthetic furniture and building materials. Some of the deadly gasses released in these fires include carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, and hydrogen chloride to name a few.

Failures of the SCBA in an IDLH environment are unacceptable. It is the mission of the team through constant testing and routine maintenance to keep the SCBA in excellent operating condition. The SCBA team uses an industry standard flow test. The flow test is done annually and whenever invasive maintenance has been done on an air pack. The flow test consists of a 5 step computerized program and a calibrated breathing machine. Each member of the BFPD#1 must go through annual F.I.T testing to ensure a proper fit of their mask with no air leaks. Our technicians also perform F.I.T testing for the police officers and public works employees for the Village of Bloomingdale. Along with the SCBA (firefighting) mask the SCBA team services and tests the CBRN (gas mask), Auga mask (dive team) and MSA 1/2 mask (investigators). This year we have been sending our SCBA bottles to Air One Equipment to be hydro tested. This test is done every five years to insure the integrity of the bottle.



## **Metro SWAT DuPage County**

Coordinator FFPM Spejcher, and FFPM Bzdelik

Bloomingtondale FPD had its very first Tactical EMS Paramedic join MERIT Metro SWAT, a multi-jurisdictional special operations unit comprised of law enforcement agencies in Dupage County. The task force protects approximately 928,000 residents in those jurisdictions. The mission of Metro SWAT is to respond to high risk critical incidents requiring specialized training and equipment and to resolve those incidents while minimizing the potential for injury or loss of life to civilians, officers, or suspects. High-risk situations include, but are not limited to: hostage rescues, barricaded suspects, and the execution of high risk warrants.

Paramedics assigned to the METRO SWAT Team respond as a Tactical Emergency Medical Support provider that operate under dangerous conditions with unconventional hazards. The purpose of a tactical emergency medical support (TEMS) program is to provide preventative medicine with immediate access to medical care, despite hazardous conditions that might otherwise delay treatment. TEMS providers are responsible for providing care within the scope of the Standing Medical Orders (SMO) and current TEMS protocols. The TEMS team responded to nine call outs in 2021.



## **Haz Mat Team**

Coordinator LT Skelley, LT Vinyard, FFPM Manion, FFPM Ketcham

Members of the Hazardous Materials Team works closely with the area Alliance towns ( Carol Stream, Roselle, Wheaton, Winfield, West Chicago ) in providing emergency response to hazardous materials incidents to our community as well as Auto – Aid to surrounding communities. Members are constantly training in the mitigation of hazardous materials such as compressed gases, flammable liquids and solids, corrosives, poisons, and oxidizers.

Handling the incident might include but not limited to:

- Site Management and Control
- Identifying the Problem
- Hazard and Risk Evaluation
- Selection of Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment
- Information Management and Resource Coordination
- Confinement, Containment, Neutralizing
- Decontamination



## SPECIALTY TEAM

### DIVE TEAM

Coordinator LT Lopez, FFPM Spejcher, FFPM Mencl, FFPM Heckenbach, FFPM Koziel, FFPM Lind

The Bloomingdale Fire Protection District Water Rescue & Recovery Team's mission is to provide a professional response to water rescue and recovery incidents to the residents and visitors of the Village of Bloomingdale, Glendale Heights, Hanover Park and several other unincorporated areas of DuPage County.

The Bloomingdale Fire Protection District Water Rescue & Recovery Team was founded as a special unit of the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District. There are currently five members on the team each with varying skillsets and years of experience. The Water Rescue & Recovery Team responds to all water rescue calls within the district and is called out to other areas in need of mutual aid as a part of the M.A.B.A.S. Division 12 Dive Team.

The Water Rescue & Recovery Team is organized for rapid rescue response, responding quickly, gathering information, and deploying two or more rescuers to perform a rapid and effective search and retrieval.

Due to the variety of water environments in the area (lakes, rivers, ponds, drainage ditches, etc.) the Water Rescue and Recovery Team must be prepared for several types of water rescue situations.

- ◆ **Evidence Recovery** - They assist law enforcement agencies, locally and through mutual aid in crime scene investigations and evidence recovery operations.
- ◆ **River Diving** - Rescue or recovery of victims using underwater search patterns in a moving water environment.
- ◆ **Surface Water Rescue** - Rescue of accident victims while they are still on the surface of lakes, ponds and other types of still water.
- ◆ **Swift-water Rescue** - Rescues performed anywhere near rivers and other types of moving water.
- ◆ **Underwater Rescue** - Scuba divers performing underwater search patterns to locate near-drowning victims.

In 2021 several of our dive team members were able to partake in the 2021 Operation Great Lakes interdivisional water rescue training on Lake Michigan. This was a joint effort between the IL Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, the Department of Homeland Security and the Chicago Fire Department.

#### Exercise Scenario:

A multi-phased complex coordinated attack targeted a Lake Michigan cruise ship operating within the shores of Chicago Illinois. An IAD detonated on board the cruise ship while it was returning from a lunch cruise. Numerous passengers were injured from the initial blast which left the cruise liner powerless on Lake Michigan. The initial response of Chicago Fire Department was quickly overwhelming as they attacked onboard fire suppression and evacuated passengers. As a result, CFD - MABAS Division 9 requested a MABAS response for watercraft resources to assist in passenger evacuation.





## HOSE AND SMALL TOOLS

The Bloomingdale Fire Protection District strives to maintain an efficient and supernal response capability. This is accomplished through hard training and the implementation of various applications. In 2021 the district purchased a new hydrant valve to speed up tender operations and get water to the fire faster. The district also purchased new thermal imaging batteries. Finally, the district purchased a new chainsaw for the truck. This was to replace an aging and malfunctioning existing chain saw used to ventilate the roof. By ventilating roofs we will increase survivability for occupants and improve visibility to aid in victim identification. We strive to keep our tools and equipment up-to-date and in perfect working order! In 2022 we plan to fully stock our back up engine so it is ready to go into service and respond in a moments notice.

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

### STATION-21

Replaced HVAC /furnace in day room and bunk room  
Drywall patched and painted  
Training Room accent wall painted  
Exterior lights replaced  
New LED lights installed in the men's bathroom  
Purvis monitors installed in BC office  
New TV's hung in the training room  
Comcast cable updated throughout station

### STATION-23

Overhead door replaced  
Upstairs bathroom remodeled  
Downstairs ceiling tiles replaced

## FOREIGN FIRE

The Foreign Fire Insurance Board was established pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Code to receive and account for revenues received from the tax on fire insurance policies sold by foreign (out-of-state) Insurance companies, and to use such funds for the maintenance, use, and benefit of the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District No.1. The board consist of seven members from the Fire Department who meet five times out of the year to discuss such funds. Last year in 2021 proved to be a frugal yet accountable year for the Fire Department. We focused on purchases that were designed to improve not only our health, but our performance as firefighter/paramedics. Two Peloton bike subscriptions were renewed which had a tremendous impact on our member's health. Other purchases included some personal protective equipment (PPE) including upgraded flashlights specific to performance in smoke filled environments as well as Captain Jim Hoods that give each firefighter better protection against heat and cancer causing carcinogens. Lastly, multiple training mannequins were purchased to aid in our daily training. These mannequins are used in lieu of real fireman to emulate down victims in rescue scenarios such as victims trapped in burning buildings, vehicle extrications, and drownings. The goals of the FFIB will continue this upcoming year; to support the firefighters by getting them the extra tools they need to perform at their highest potential for our residents.



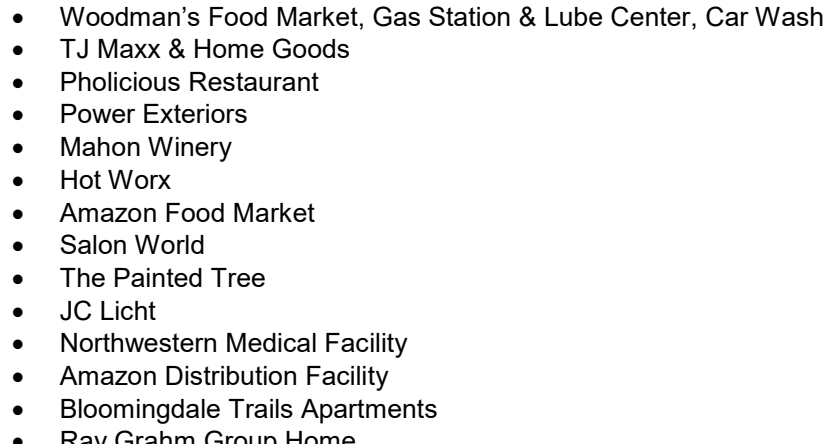
## FIRE PREVENTION

The national building, fire and life safety codes utilized by our fire district and the jurisdictions we protect were engineered to help ensure the safety of the occupants and buildings where we eat, sleep and work. People tend not to think about how safe a building is when they enter it. We all tend to take for granted the safety codes and engineering that went into designing and constructing a building to make it safe for years to come.

Our fire inspectors not only enforce our codes but they help to educate the public on how to maintain the safety of their businesses. Through our annual inspections we help to ensure that all required life and fire safety devices and systems are installed and operating correctly to help ensure people will be able to safely evacuate without being injured in an emergency.

In 2021, there were three fire incidents in our jurisdiction in which the fire sprinkler systems installed in the buildings extinguished or controlled the fire. Two of these incidents occurred in multi-family structures and the third incident occurred in a manufacturing facility. These fire sprinkler systems were all designed and installed years ago and through proper maintenance and inspections operated properly at the time of the emergency. At the conclusion of 2021, our fire protection district now has approximately 100 single family/single family attached homes that are equipped with residential fire sprinklers; systems that will protect their occupants for decades to come.

### New Businesses in 2021

- 
- Woodman's Food Market, Gas Station & Lube Center, Car Wash
  - TJ Maxx & Home Goods
  - Pholicious Restaurant
  - Power Exteriors
  - Mahon Winery
  - Hot Worx
  - Amazon Food Market
  - Salon World
  - The Painted Tree
  - JC Licht
  - Northwestern Medical Facility
  - Amazon Distribution Facility
  - Bloomingdale Trails Apartments
  - Ray Grahm Group Home



Fire Inspections		
	New Buildings & Remodels	Annual Inspections
Life Safety	354	1,987
Sprinkler	198	56
Fire Alarm	105	10
Hood Suppression	7	8
Mechanical	5	4

Fire Inspection Totals	
Initial Inspections	1,698
Re-Inspections	2,110

Fire Prevention Activities	
Complaint Inspections	41
Trouble Alarm Follow-Up's	622
Construction Inspections	97
Site Plan Reviews	14
Plan Reviews	236
Fire Drills	14
Firework Inspections	2
Training Events Attended	10

The fire prevention bureau welcomed a new plan reviewer/fire inspector—Michael Gross. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science from Western Illinois University and is a certified Fire Inspector. Michael was an intern with the district back in 2017. Michael will be performing fire inspections and completing in-house plan reviews in 2022.



Bloomington Fire District received an award from the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Association for adopting an Ordinance Establishing the BFPD Residential Sprinkler Code for Unincorporated DuPage County.

The year 2021 was a challenge for the POC program due to the pandemic. POC's did not work most of the year and the program was scaled back significantly. Twelve hours of training were completed at POC drills on Wednesday nights throughout the year. Paul Hoske retired after serving 10 years with the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District. The POC program was successful at mentoring the remaining members to achieve their career goals. POC Mary Pagnoni was hired fulltime with the Chicago Fire Department as a paramedic. POC Sean Porter was hired fulltime as a firefighter in Florida. Trevor Korinek and Max Kokoszka were POC's that previously worked with us, and returned after being offered a fulltime firefighter/paramedic position. POC's worked various events throughout the year including the annual Bloomingdale Fire Department Open House, Teddy Bear Clinic, Glendale Heights Fest, Party at the Park, and various firework displays at the Medinah Country Club. We are looking forward to revamping the program in 2022 with some new members.



*"Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together."*

*~James Cash Penney*

In 2021, the Local elected board member Kevin Lind as Vice President and his term runs through December of 2021. James Ketcham continues to be the union president and Gio Lopez the treasurer/secretary. The Local maintains a Facebook page to interact with the public and provide information regarding fundraising activities and community involvement. Please take time to connect with us. The Local is looking forward to continued success in working cooperatively with the district and the administration toward our common goals of serving our citizens and the community.



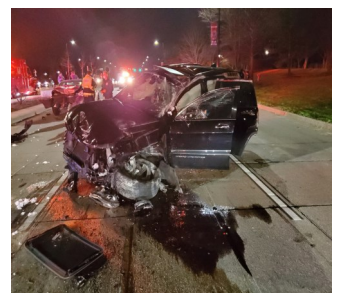
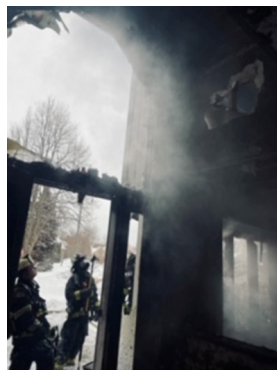
## GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hired two new firefighter/paramedics  
 Hired plan reviewer/fire inspector  
 Remodeled bathroom—Station 23  
 Installed new HVAC system—Station 21  
 Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award (GFOA)

### GOALS

Training Facility—Station 22  
 New roof—Station 21  
 Hire three additional firefighter/paramedics  
 Purchase new vehicles for FPB and EMS  
 Purchase a new ambulance  
 Repair apparatus floor—Station 23





## The Mission of the Bloomingdale Fire District

The mission of the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District No. 1 is to assure the safety and well-being of the district we serve, by providing prompt and professional services in the event of fire, medical emergencies, disasters, or any other event which may threaten the public welfare.

### Jurisdictional Population

40,000

### Fire Stations

3

### Land Area

14.4 square miles

### Personnel

Fire Sworn -38

Administrative—6

### Total Calls

2020—4,839

2021—5,407

### Operating Budget

FY 2021 \$ 8,231,303

FY 2022 \$ 8,571,033

### Apparatus

ALS Engine—1, ALS Tower—1

BLS Tender —1 , Brush Truck-1,

Utility Truck —1, Ambulances-3

### Civilian Fire Injuries

2020—5

2021—1

### Fire Dollar Loss

2020 \$ 1,888,350

2021 \$ 921,625

## 2021 PROMOTIONS



**Battalion Chief**

**Alan Emody**

**Promoted to Deputy Chief**

*Serving Since 2004*



**Lieutenant**

**JJ McClimon**

**Promoted to Battalion Chief**

*Serving Since 2002*



**Lieutenant**

**Dennis Kuntzman, Jr**

**Promoted to Battalion Chief**

*Serving Since 2005*



**Firefighter/Paramedic**

**Matt Smith**

**Promoted to Lieutenant**

*Serving Since 2007*

## 2021 RETIREMENTS



**Deputy Chief**

**Rich Kurka**

*Serving Since 1994*



**Battalion Chief**

**Chris Soderstrom**

*Serving Since 1995*

## 2021 NEW HIRES



**Firefighter/ Paramedic**

**Dennis Kuntzman, III**



**Firefighter/ Paramedic**

**Trevor Korinek**



**Board of Trustees:** President, Tim Deutschle  
Secretary, William Wolff  
Treasurer, Robert Gaseor

**Commissioners:** Chairman, Marshall Gray, Jr  
Commissioner, Shawn Flood  
Commissioner, Brandt Leischner



**Station 21**

179 S. Bloomington Road



**Station 23**

246 S. Gary Ave-



**Station 22**

6N480 Keeney Road

[bloomingtonfire.com](http://bloomingtonfire.com)

Administration: 630.894.9080