



# ***2021 FIRST QUARTER REPORT***

***JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH***

## **MISSION:**

***“The mission of Lenoir Fire Department is to provide public safety in the form of Fire Prevention, Fire Protection, Rescue Services and Emergency Medical Care. We will constantly strive to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Lenoir.”***

## **VISION:**

***“To be aggressively proactive with respect to traditions and the realization of progression.”***

## **OVERVIEW**

Thank you for taking the time to look through Lenoir Fire Department's quarterly report. This report is designed to give you an understanding of the day to day operations of our department and staff for the first quarter of 2021. The first three months of the year have gotten off to a busy start for our department and staff. We have had numerous calls for service and participated in several events since the new year began. On January 1, 2021, we reverted back to normal operations for medical responses. Due to the pandemic outbreak last year, Medical Control limited fire departments to only responding to "ECHO" calls (life threatening – cardiac or respiratory arrest), in September we began responding to "DELTA" calls (life threatening – other than cardiac or respiratory arrest) and as of January 1 we are responding to "CHARLIE" calls (serious not life threatening) and the full gamut of our medical responses.

## **MAJOR EVENTS**

**JANUARY** – 12 of our staff helped Samaritan's Purse set up a mobile field hospital at Caldwell Memorial Hospital to help the local hospital deal with the influx of COVID positive patients. This was a 30 bed hospital and they received patients from several surrounding counties.



- Also this month our department installed cleaning concentrate dilution systems that should allow us to do our day to day cleaning and save money. These machines put the right amount of product for dilution so that we will use less product and still maintain clean buildings. The products we are using in this system is; degreaser, car wash, window cleaner, floor cleaner, and toilet bowl cleaner.
- Our staff installed touchless water fountains at each of the fire station facilities. These water fountains are designed to distribute water without having to physically touch the machine and should reduce the chance to spread germs from their use. These machines have a spigot and a bottle filler.
- With the addition of the field hospital, the amount of oxygen being used was almost doubled and the flow was causing their towers to freeze up. They asked us to come out

and spray them with fire hoses to help reduce the ice build-up and ensure the O2 remained flowing to the patients. We went on three different occasions to perform this in January – 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.



**FEBRUARY** – On February 1<sup>st</sup> we washed down the Hospitals oxygen tower again due to the amount of flow icing it up

- Several of our staff helped Samaritan's Purse break down and remove the field hospital that was set-up at the hospital. The field hospital officially closed on February 3, 2021.
- On February 15, our department entered into a contract agreement with the County to perform Fire Inspections for each entity. With the retirement of our previous Fire Marshal we did not have anyone that was at Inspector Level III status so we have to rely on the County to help with Level III inspections and plan reviews. In return, when they need help our Fire Marshal can assist them inside the County.
- On February 22, our department had an article published from the commercial structure fire on Virginia St. (old Broyhill Occasional 1 plant) in the NFPA Journal and occurred in January 2019. They did a story about global fire dangers when buildings are undergoing construction, alteration or demolition and published an aerial picture from our suppression efforts. The NFPA Journal is a national magazine.
- We began doing Ambulance coverage for football games at Hibriten High School. We are contracted with Caldwell County EMS to provide back-up ambulance service to the county and with that our department provides, and has provided ambulance coverage for the football games played at Hibriten. We provide an ambulance for the varsity, junior varsity and middle school games played. We stood by for one football game in February.
- On February 23, our department had a 3 alarm fire at the Thrift Store in Whitnel. We responded all apparatus on duty and called back all or off-duty staff and received mutual aid from Gamewell, Hudson and North Catawba while Valmead, Kings Creek and Sawmills back-filled our stations. Our staff were on scene for approximately 8 hours for suppression efforts and then remained on the scene throughout the next day for fire

investigations efforts. The fire did major damage to the structure and affected all four businesses located there.



**MARCH** – On March 1, 2021, Battalion Chief Todd Laws retired after serving a 30-year career for the City of Lenoir. On that day we began searching for his replacement from within our own staff.

- We performed 5 stand-by ambulance coverages for football games at Hibriten High School. 3 for the high school teams and 2 for the middle school. We did have to transport one player to the hospital for injury on February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- We held our annual OSHA blood draw and physicals in this month. We are required to have these physicals and North Greenville Fitness Cardiac Rehabilitation perform our services. They do it all in house and while our staff are on duty.

**RESPONSES/INCIDENTS/CALLS FOR SERVICE**

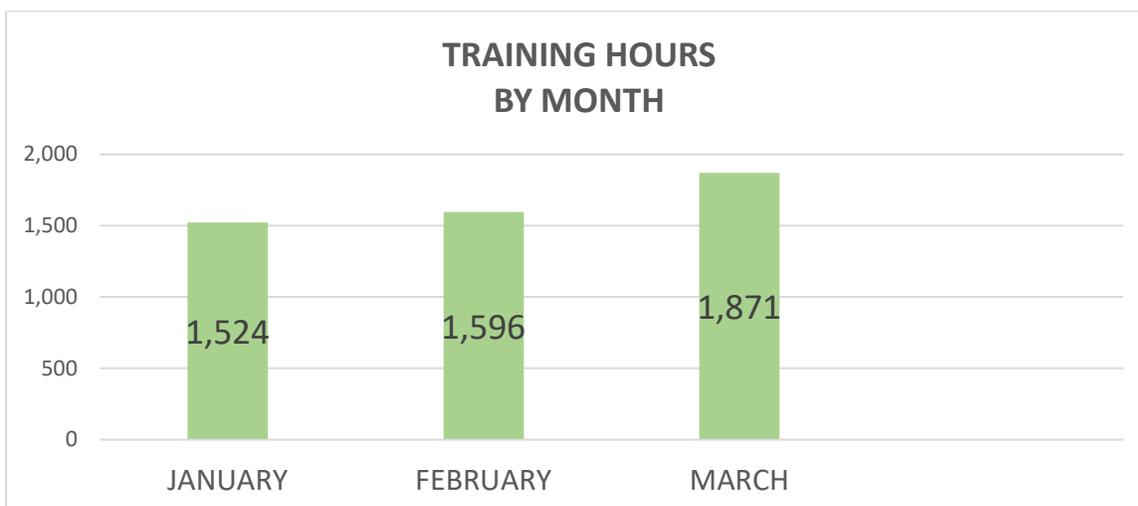
Incident Reports By Type of Situation Found	# of Incidents Current Quarter	2020 Quarterly Comparison	# of Incidents 2021 YTD
Fire, structure	5	5	5
Fire, vehicle & heavy equipment	4	4	4
Fire, brush or grass	10	12	10
Fire, trash	5	2	5
Fire, other	1	3	1
Medical call	293	400	293
EMS lift assist	19	12	19
Assist invalid, lift assist	5	2	5
MVA – with Injuries	14	13	14
MVA- no Injuries	44	34	44
Rescue call	21	12	21

Service call, public	50	64	50
Cover in assignment	2	2	2
Hazardous condition, other, power lines	11	7	11
Hazardous material or spill	19	9	19
False alarm, sprinkler	2	14	2
False alarm, smoke or carbon monoxide	24	34	24
False alarm, alarm sounded	25	13	25
False alarm, malicious & bomb threats	0	0	0
False alarm, other	17	31	17
Severe weather or natural disasters	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>571</b>

Incident Responses by Districts	# of Incidents Current Quarter	Avg. Response Time/Minutes	Incidents 2020 Comparison	Response Time 2020 Comparison
Station 1	352	3.96	400	4.05
Station 2	154	3.5	170	4.07
Station 3	65	3.63	103	4.21
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>4.11</b>

## **TRAINING REPORT**

In the first quarter, our department personnel participated in a total of **4,991 hours** of training, on and off duty which averages to about **86 hours** per firefighter.



- **January**, our training focus on duty was EMT in-service, which is a monthly requirement and Officer's Training which is an annual requirement. During the Officer's training we placed emphasis on Officer Roles and Managing Incidents.
- **February**, we participated in EMT in-service and our focus on duty was Hose Lay Deployments and Search and Rescue Techniques.
- **March**, we participated in EMT in-service and our focus on duty was performing a Debriefing of the Thrift Store Fire with each shift for lessons learned, what went right/wrong and how to improve in the future with equipment and tactics.

## **FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES**

- In the first quarter of this year we have performed and delivered **12 fire prevention presentations/programs**. We were able to perform these programs in businesses and schools and reached a **total of 40 people, 14 children and 26 adults**.
- We did not install any smoke alarms this quarter as we had utilized all we had in stock. We have since received more from the Office of the State Fire Marshal on a grant and we were given the go ahead from the Finance Department to be able to purchase more to help supplement the 54 we typically receive from the grant. This will allow us to reach out and install more alarms for our citizens who are in need.



## **FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT**

**Fire Marshal** - This quarter the Fire Marshal performed a total of **95 fire code inspections** on businesses within Lenoir City Limits. In January he completed **24**, February he completed **31** and in March he completed **40**.

- Also this quarter, this office completed two grants hosted by NCLM. One grant was for Safety, in which, we applied for a battery operated combination tool (cutter and

spreader) for vehicle wrecks and the second was for property liability, in which, we applied for turnout gear storage racks. We are currently awaiting status of our applications.

- We have experienced several open burning issues within the first quarter. This office is currently trying to expand documentation and public notification of open burning inside the City limits to give our citizens a better understanding of the Code of Ordinances as it pertains to open burning. When completed, this document should be placed on the City's website and give a clear understanding of what open burning is acceptable and what is not under the code and how it should be properly performed. We are also looking into the possibility of permitting for these occurrences.

**FIRE INVESTIGATIONS** – In accordance with N.C.G.S. Chapter 58 article 79, all fires that occur inside the City Limits of Lenoir are investigated for cause and determination. We have certified fire investigators on each shift and they work under the direct supervision of our Fire Marshal. This quarter we had **25 fires** that occurred in the City.

- Of the 25 fires mentioned, two required multiple investigators on the scene due to extent of damage, size of structures and amount of property loss; 308 Pennton Ave. on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 1501 Norwood St. on February 23<sup>rd</sup>

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – The Fire Marshal also acts as the City of Lenoir's Emergency Manager under the direct supervision of the Fire Chief. This position works closely with local and State Emergency Management and partners with the LEPC to respond and mitigate hazardous/disasterous incidents or situations.

- Assisted Samaritan's Purse and CMH with the Mobile Field Hospital construction and oxygen tower washdowns
- Continuation of working with Blue Ridge Energy and other partners in dealing with a gas smell near Blowing Rock Blvd. and Nuway Circle. This has been a situation since December of last year and we have been unable to identify the source or the identification of the smell.
- Oil spill at Harper Ave. and Pennton Ave. ( 50 yd. oil slick that on the roadway)
- Oil spill at Hibriten Dr. and Starcross Rd. (1 gallon jug was ran over and busted)
- High Angle Rescue on Hickory Blvd. (subject fell down the bank from a house above)
- Diesel spill at Morganton Blvd. and SW Blvd. (75 gallons due to a vehicle wreck) NCEM was called due to clean up efforts
- Cool Seal, roof sealer spill on Hibriten Extension Rd. (20 gallons fell off a vehicle and busted) NCEM was called due to clean up efforts

**OTHER DUTIES** – Our Fire Marshal also performs IT services for our department to help the City's IT staff. This quarter, he worked to switch the department's Incident Response Reporting from "Fire Programs" to "Emergency Reporting". This included switching the department software and transferring all the information from one program to the other.

## **LOGISTICS' REPORT**

**MAINTENANCE** – This portion of the report will indicate any maintenance that took place on apparatus and/or facilities for the quarter.

**January** – Battalion Vehicle had all four tires replace \$677.10

- Engine 3 replaced hub cap \$75.91
- Rescue 10 had NC Safety Inspection performed and repair work; flushed power steering fluid and fixed tail lights \$74.65

**February** – Rescue 1 body repair work performed by Anchor Richey EVS due to involvement in an accident \$11,161.52 (covered by insurance)

- Fire Marshal vehicle had NC Safety Inspection performed \$40.66
- Engine 1 repair work; replaced coolant sender \$121.46
- Logistics Vehicle had all four tire replaced \$659.62
- Ladder 1 repair work; replaced water pump \$617.00
- Rescue 10 oil change \$119.91

**March** – Ladder 1 repair work; towing bill and replaced air compressor \$2,348.12

- Engine 3 repair work; oil change and 2 red lights replaced \$402.11

**EQUIPMENT PURCHASES** – This portion of the report will indicate the major equipment purchases for the quarter.

**January** – Purchased 10 complete sets of structural firefighting gear \$24,192.43

**February** – Purchased 13 complete sets of structural firefighting gear \$31,450.16

**March** – After the Trift Store fire, we found a need to upgrade/replace equipment that was lacking for suppression efforts;

- Purchased 2 “Bullet” chains for the vent saws \$312.14
- Replaced 3 K-12 Fire/Rescue saws \$2,387.87
- Purchased 5 “Diamond” cutting blades for the K-12 saws \$741.00

Respectfully submitted by;

Ken Hair

Fire Chief, City of Lenoir Fire Department