



2019
Annual Report





Message from the Chief

2019 was an exciting year for the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District. During this year we relocated our administration building, purchased new air packs to protect the safety of our firefighters, and implemented Advanced Life Support for our Station #1 zone located at 407 67th Street West. The addition of this unit has significantly increased the availability of advanced care for our citizens. The implementation of the ALS program has exceeded our expectations regarding patient treatment and outcomes.

I had the honor of working closely with the now retired Fire Chief Thomas Sousa, who retired on October 17, 2019 to create a smooth transition. He was instrumental in accomplishing all of the goals and continuing the mission over the last several years. There has been a lot of changes within the leadership of the district, but the mission and dedication to this district has not.

The Fire Prevention Bureau personnel have achieved exceptional accomplishments with continued improvements in our overall service delivery and the way we respond to our residents and visitors in the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District. This report will afford us the opportunity to highlight all the services we provide from non-emergency to all-hazard emergency services.

As 2020 unfolds, a great deal of change will encompass the District. The Advanced Life support program is expected to be fully implemented by the end of the year. The District's focus is to retain professional, properly trained and fully equipped personnel capable of providing fire protection, fire suppression, rescue and emergency medical services to those citizens in need. The West Manatee Fire and Rescue District is made up of personnel that are dedicated, passionate professionals who are committed to delivering fire and EMS services with skills that exceed the industry standard

We remain mindful of our responsibility to provide the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District with the best possible service, without exception. While remembering "We cannot lead from the rear if you wish to be recognized within and beyond our community as a fire department of Excellence".

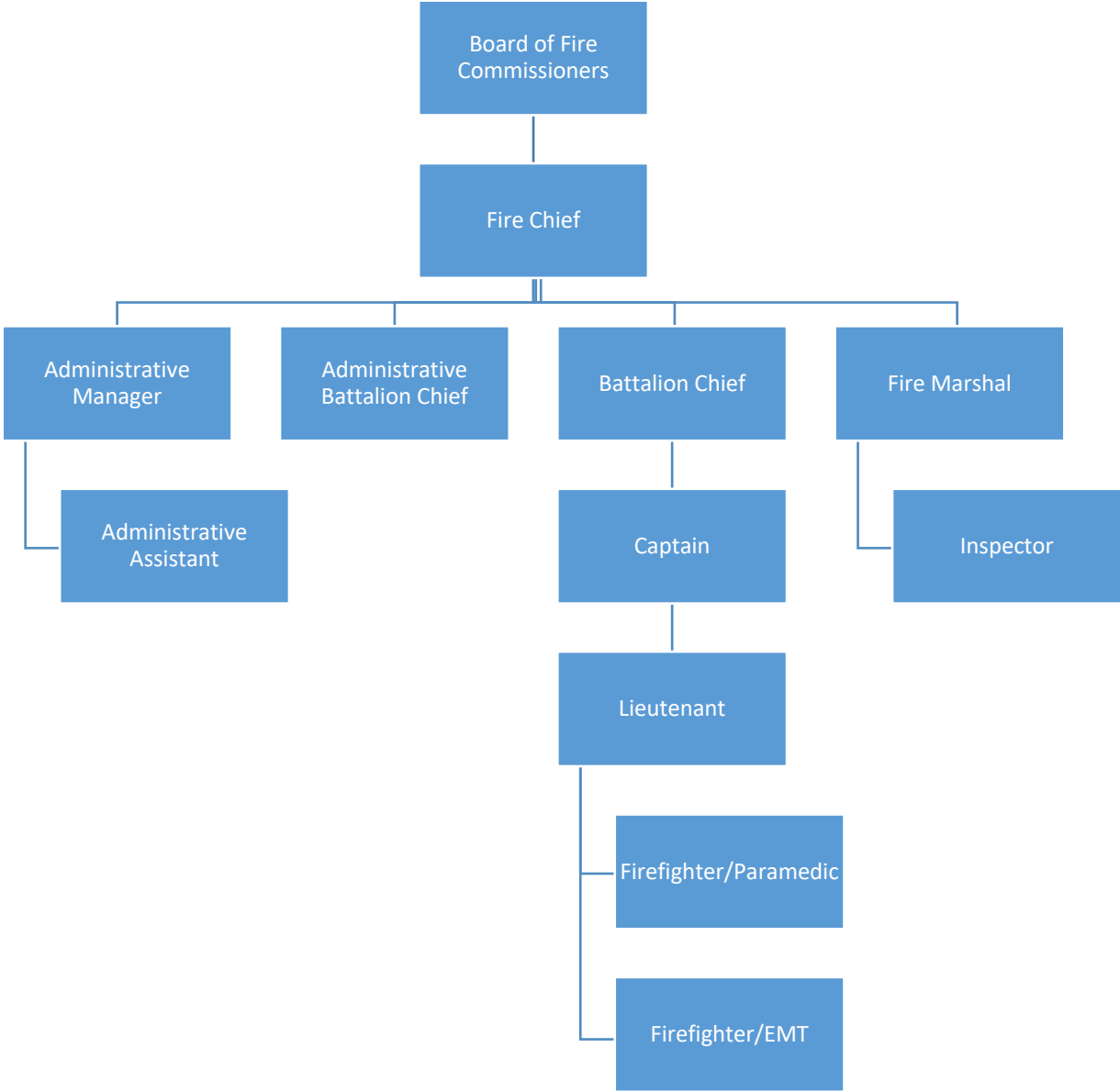
Ben Rigney
Fire Chief

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Agency Background

West Manatee Fire & Rescue is an Independent Special Fire Control District located in western Manatee County, Florida. Within the District are the Cities of Anna Maria, Bradenton Beach and Holmes Beach as well as unincorporated areas of Cortez, Tidy Island, Palma Sola, West and Northwest Bradenton. The resident population of the district is approximately 34,705, with an additional seasonal influx of approximately 13,000 non-residents.

WMFR employs 43 full time personnel, of which 36 are suppression personnel divided equally among three shifts that work a 24/48 shift schedule which amounts to a 56-hour work week. The Fire Chief, Administrative Battalion Chief, Fire Marshal, fire inspectors and administrative support personnel are located at the administration building. All non-suppression personnel are assigned to 40-hour workweek schedules.



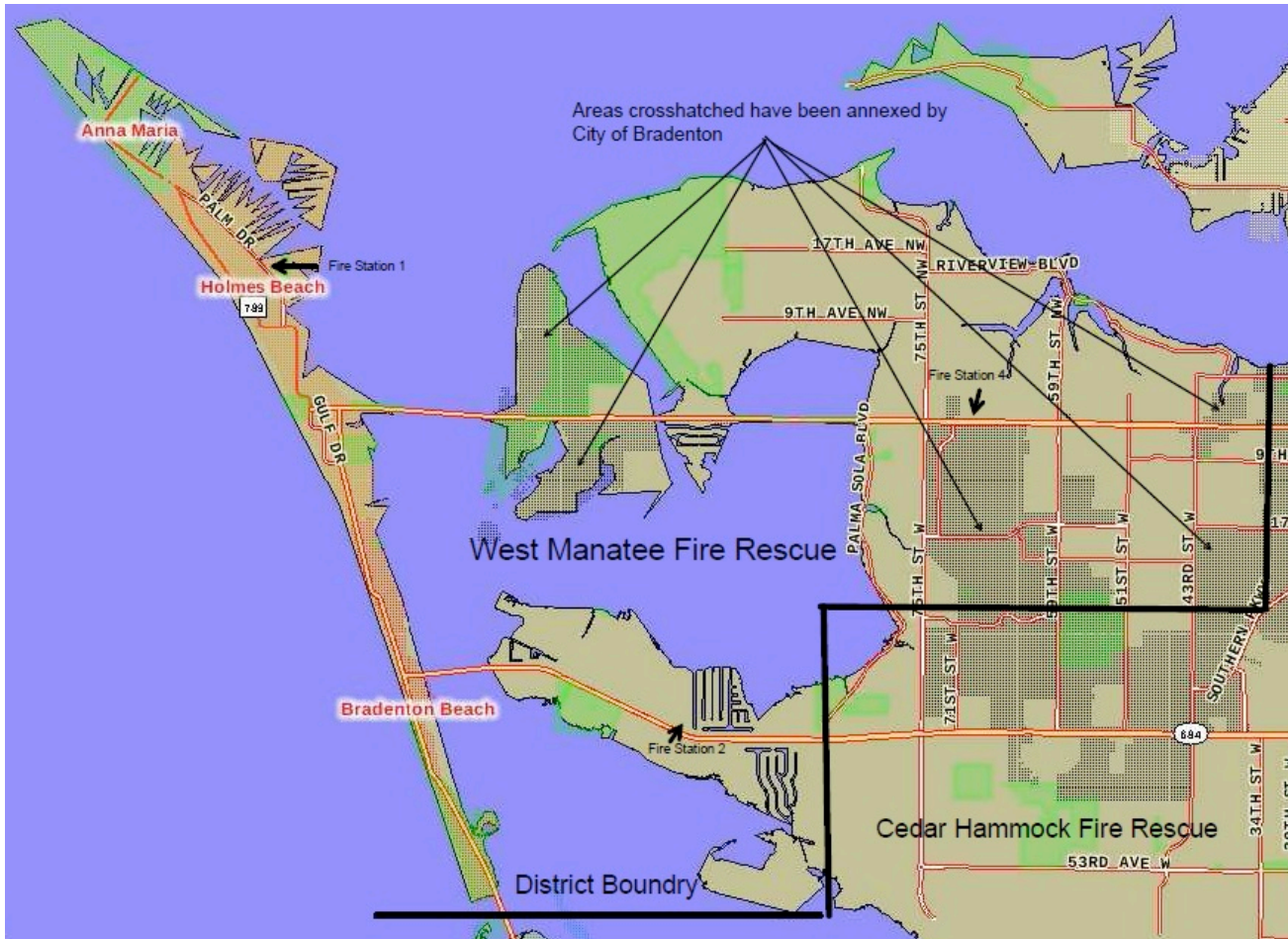
The boundaries of the Fire District are as follows:

Northern Boundary: Manatee River and Tampa Bay.

Eastern Boundary: The area of 32nd Street West along the city limits of Bradenton.

Southern Boundary: A line that borders the City of Bradenton, Cedar Hammock Fire district and the Town of Longboat Key.

Western Boundary: The Gulf of Mexico.



Residential development has accelerated with two new subdivisions in Northwest Bradenton. Also, the Manatee County Board of County Commission approved the development plans for Peninsula Bay, which is a 350 acres tract along Cortez Road, with the addition of these new residential areas as well as the growth in vacation rentals, it is anticipated that the District's call load will increase.

West Manatee Fire Rescue is committed to providing professional services essential to the safety and well-being of the community. This is accomplished through quick and prepared response, life safety education, prevention, and other related services.

OUR VALUES:

In order to exceed the expectations of the community that places their trust in us, we will hold one another accountable for carrying out our mission, living our values, and seeing our vision become reality.

OUR COMMITMENTS:

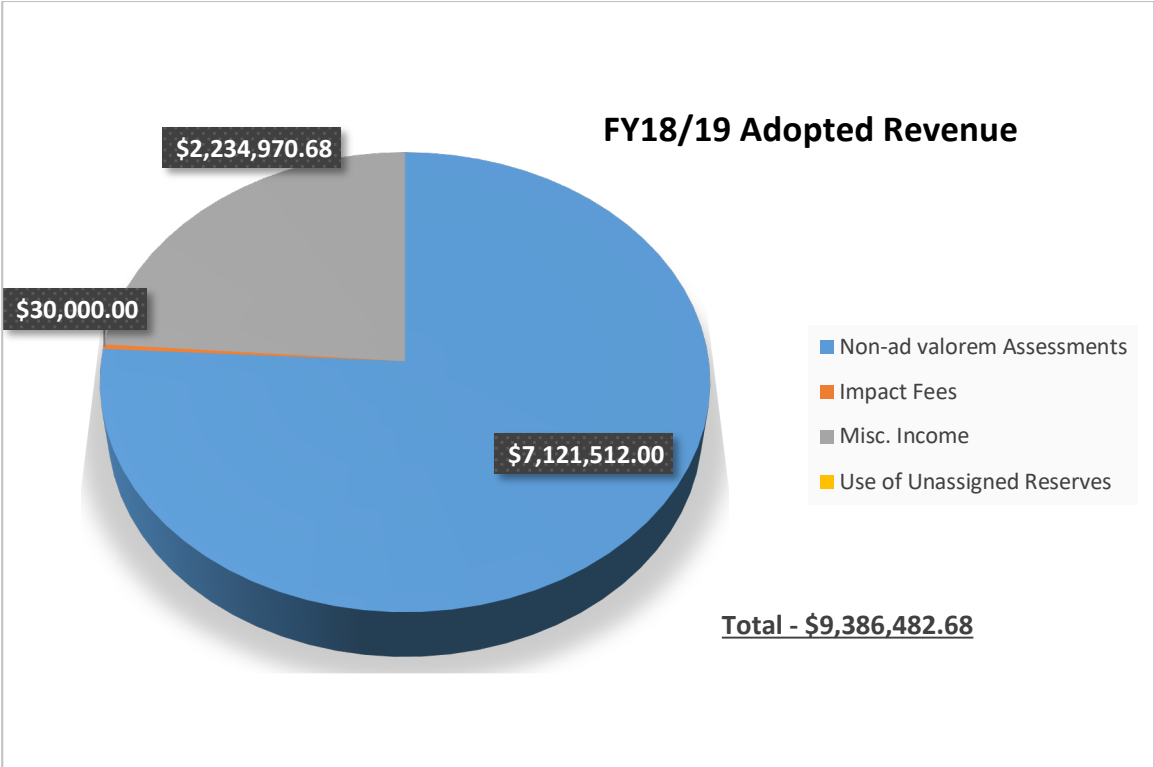
TO OUR RESIDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY:

We are committed to meeting the needs and expectations of our residents today and in the future, to develop innovative solutions to the service delivery challenges we encounter, and to provide rapid response delivered by dedicated and caring professionals.

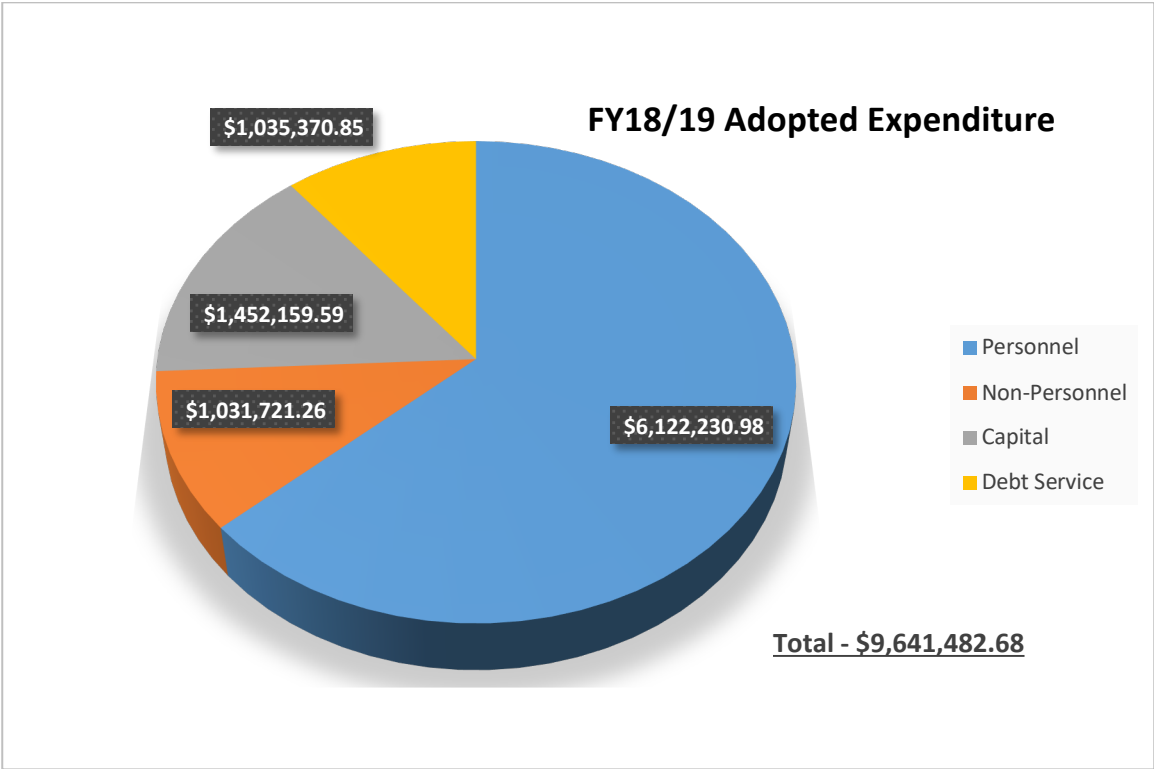
TO OUR EMPLOYEES:

We are committed to providing a working environment characterized by trust and respect, supportive of open and honest communication, and fostering professional growth, community involvement, and illustrating the highest ethical, moral and personal standards to incite public trust.

Revenues



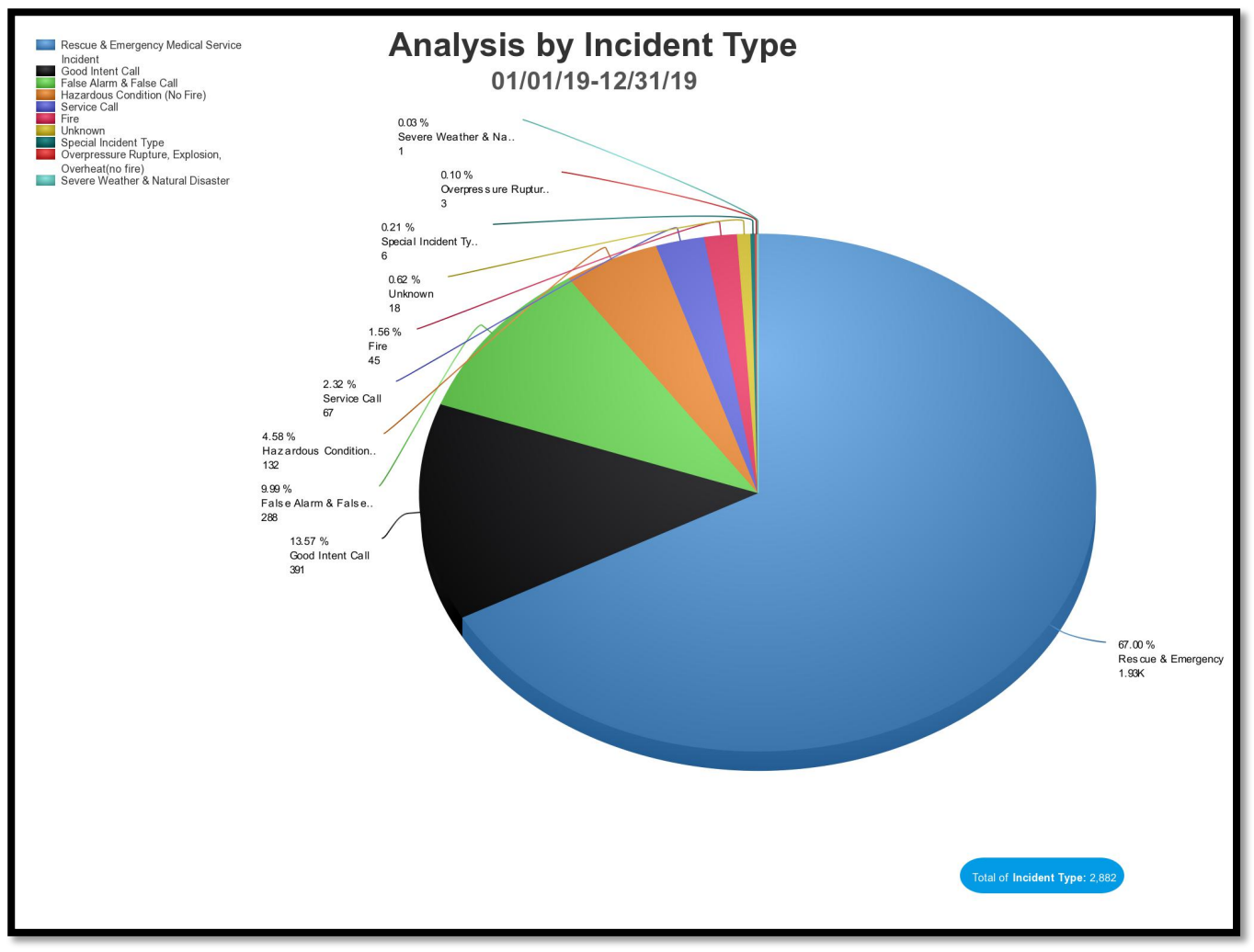
Expenditures



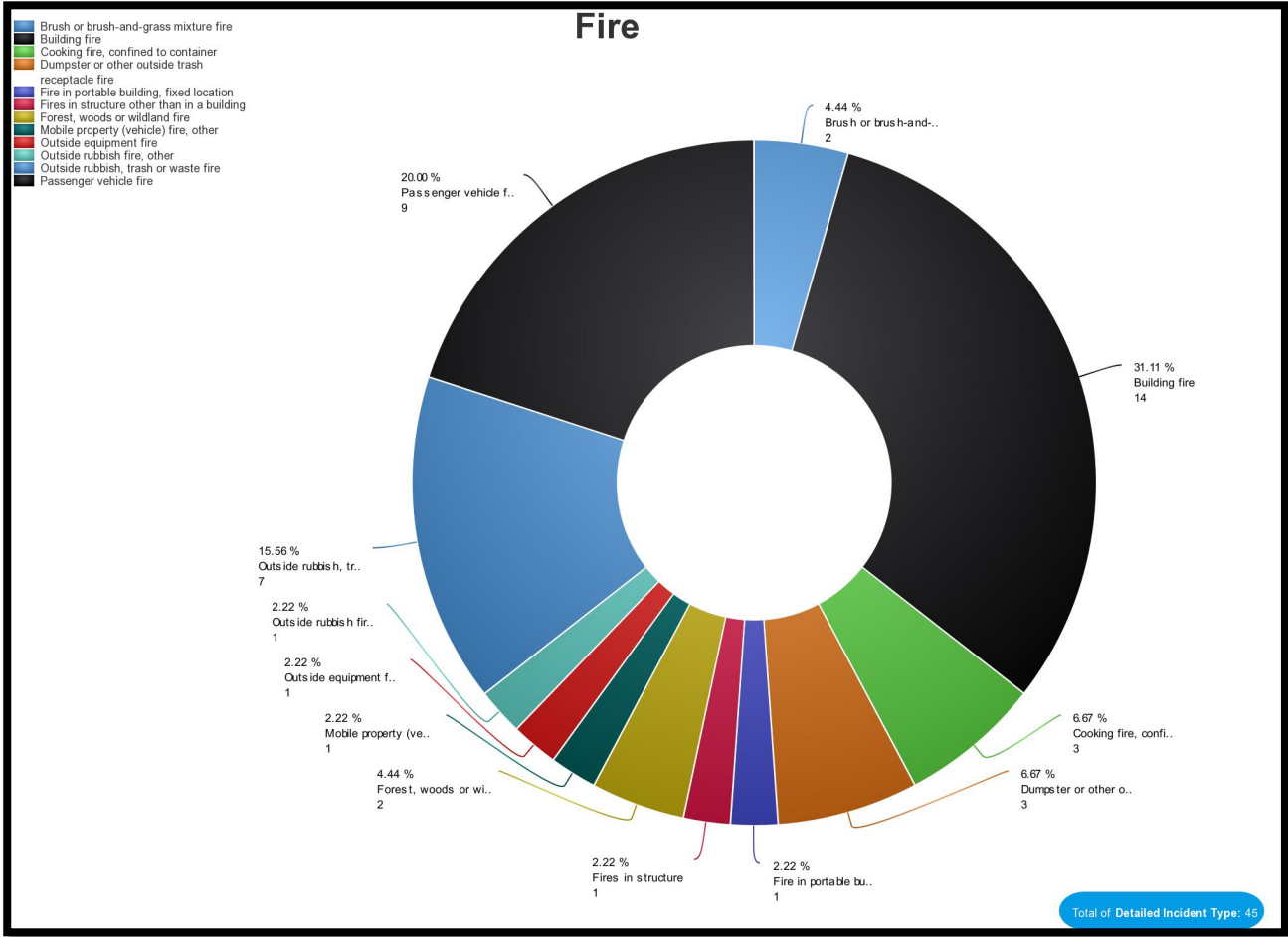
Operations

RESPONSE ACTIVITY

The Operations Division of West Manatee Fire Rescue is responsible to manage the Emergency and Special Operations Divisions. Currently, thirty-six (36) personnel are assigned with 12 on duty per 24-hour operational shift. Personnel are tasked to respond to calls for service which include structure fires, emergency medical services, vehicle accidents, water and beach rescue, hazardous materials spills and releases and marine fire and rescue responses. The operations division responded to 2,882 incidents in 2019. Approximately 67% of those incidents were emergency medical responses.

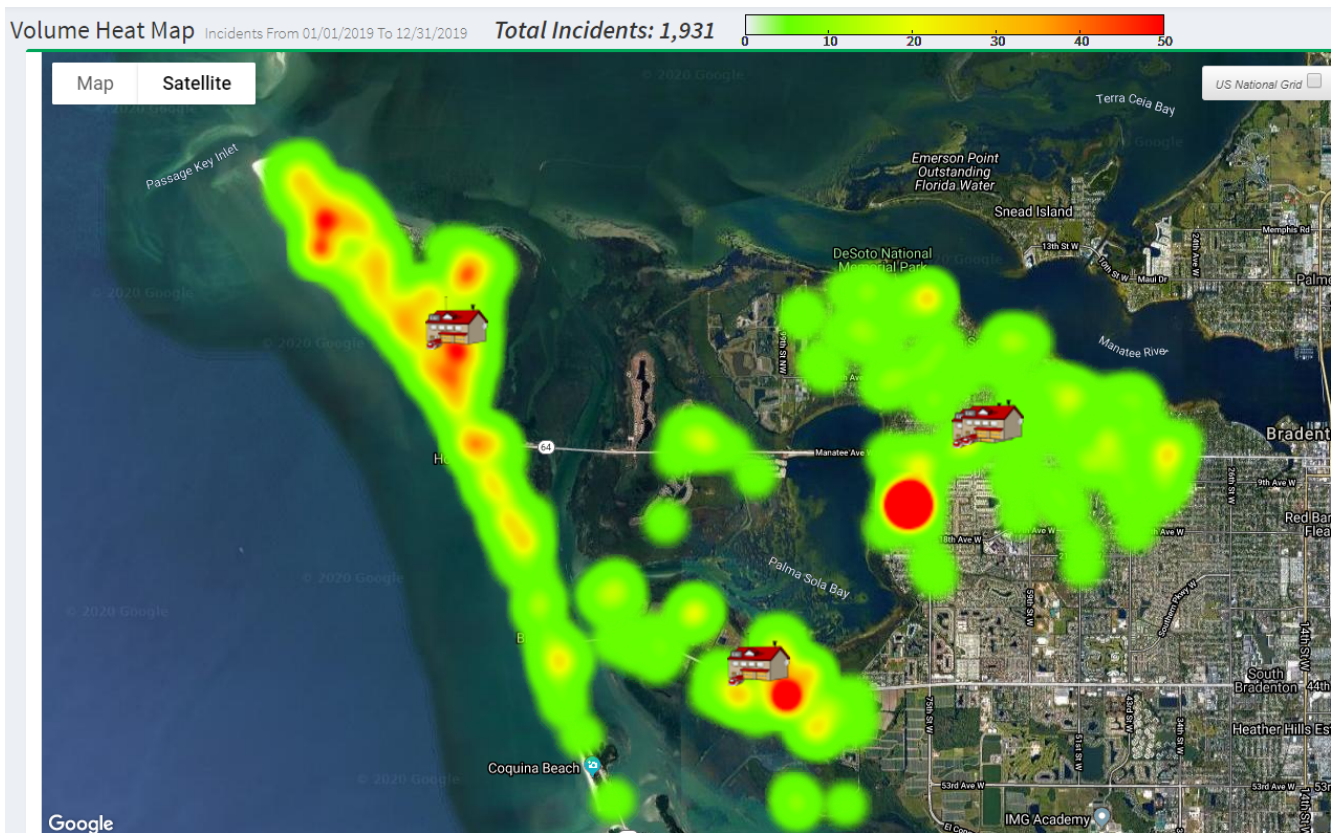


The District responded to 45 incidents categorized as fire incidents with 14 building fires. The value of property lost was approximately \$300,920 in 2019.



EMS Heat Map

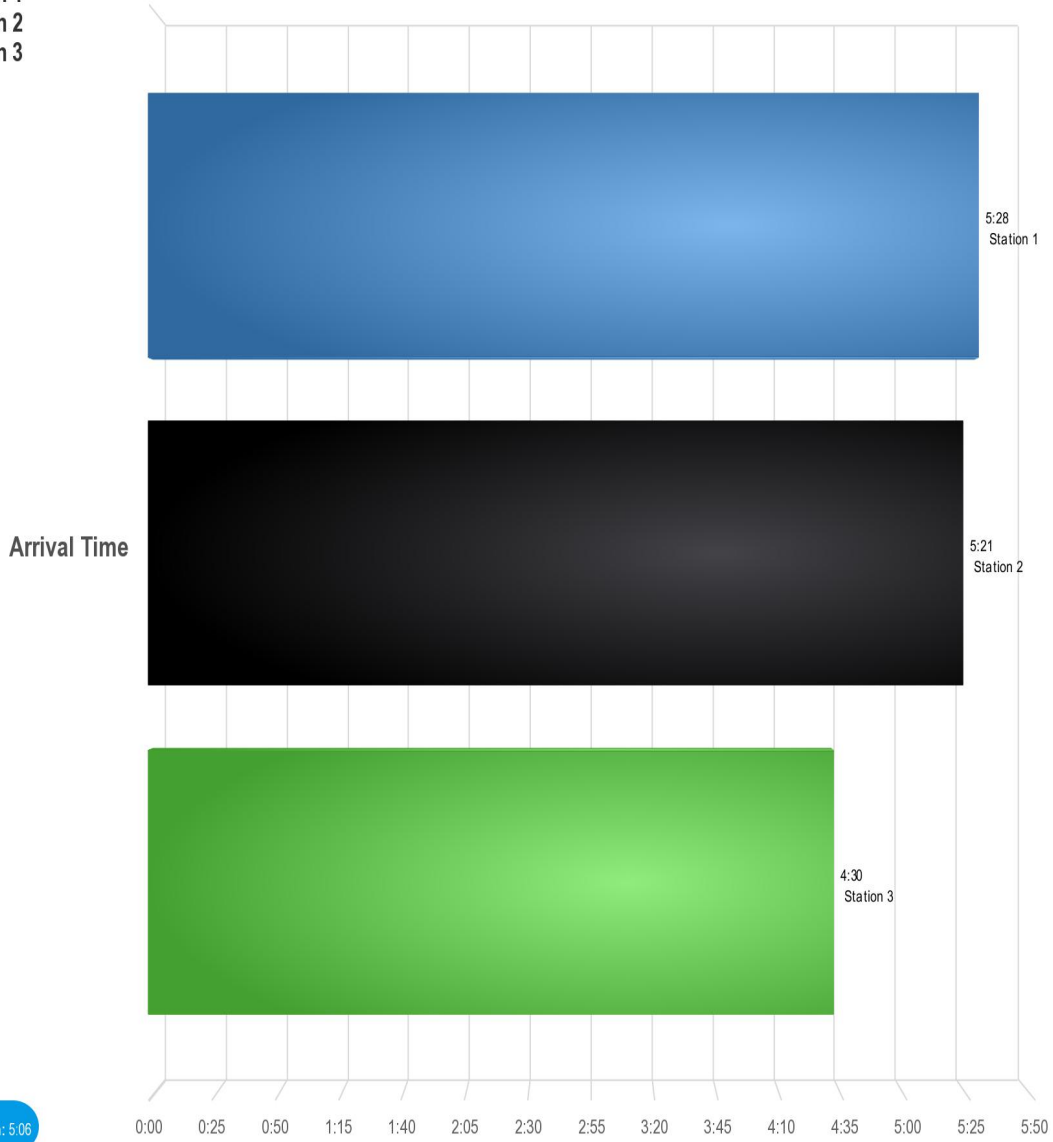
Response personnel responded to 1,931 emergency medical incidents and provided care. The map below depicts the EMS call volume by geographic location for 2019. The dark red areas indicate high call volume in the designated locations.



Average Response Time by Station

01/01/18-12/31/18

- Station 1
- Station 2
- Station 3



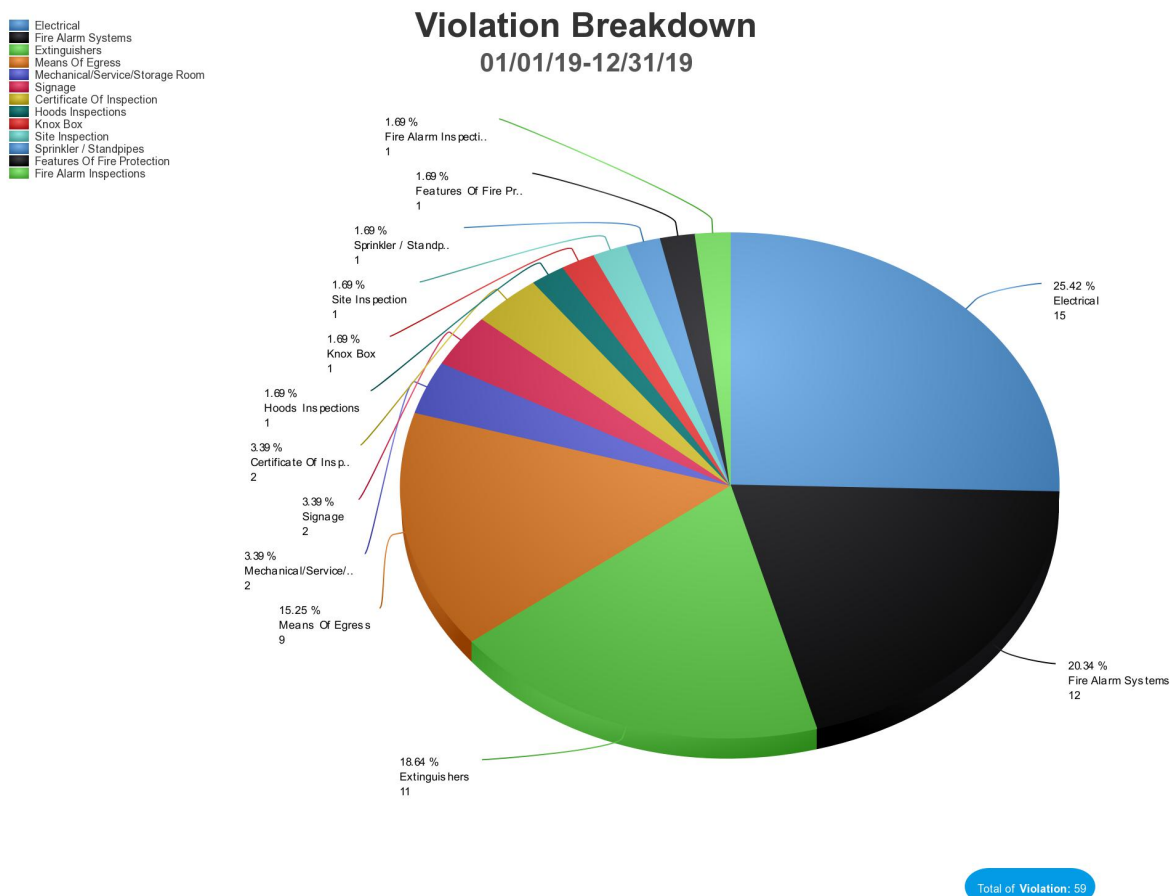
Fire Prevention

Utilizing the three pillars of fire prevention: engineering, education and enforcement, West Manatee Fire Rescues Fire and Life Safety Bureau had an extraordinarily productive year in 2019. The bureau connected directly with over 4,200 individuals within our community, providing life-saving information on topics such as: fire and life safety code and enforcement, smoke alarm installations, fire extinguisher classes, fire investigations, crowd management, bicycle safety rodeos, amongst other topics.

The fire and life safety bureaus ability to accurately record and quantify our work has become more reliable as our records management system (RMS) continues to be customized and mastered. The RMS has increased the level of consistency in all services provided and recorded within the bureau.

INSPECTIONS

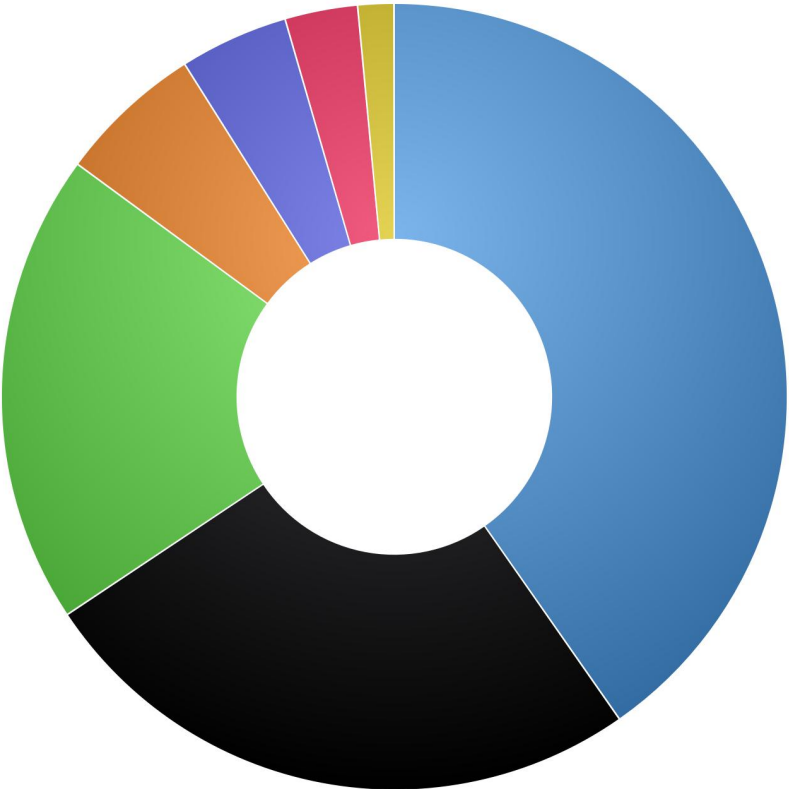
Fire prevention staff completed 1,179 fire and life safety inspections, correcting thousands of life safety hazards and fire threats. The corrected life safety violations fell into 1 of 59 categories of violations, as illustrated below.



In 2019, the bureau made a concerted effort to better track and eliminate fire apparatus response due to fire alarm system malfunctions within the district. Short term data suggests our efforts are proving to be effective. However, more time and data will have to be collected to determine the ultimate success of our endeavor. Illustrated below are the occupancy types most frequently responded to in 2019 for alarm system malfunctions.

- Residential
- Assembly
- Mercantile, Business
- Health Care, Detention & Correction
- Educational
- Industrial, Utility, Defense, Agriculture, Mining
- Storage

Alarm system sounded due to malfunction



Total of Property Use: 67

Conclusion

These are exciting times in WMFR’s Fire and Life Safety Bureau. A new decade, new staffing and new roles, coupled with an ongoing commitment to eliminate fire and life safety hazards, promises to deliver a greater level of safety within our community.

Station 1
407 67th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34209



Fire Station # 1 was opened in the fall of 2016. The facility was engineered to withstand hurricane force winds. This facility will serve as our operations center during major storm events.

Station 2
10350 Cortez Road West
Bradenton, FL 34210



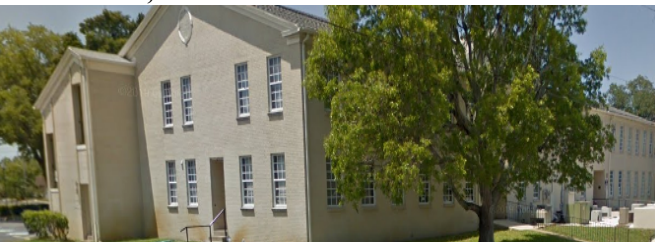
Fire Station # 2 was re-modeled in 2014. The re-model included a complete tear down and rebuild of the living quarters to current building and wind code.

Station 3
6001 Marina Drive
Holmes Beach, FL 34217



Fire Station # 3 was originally constructed in 1983. In 2012 the interior spaces were re-modeled to accommodate additional personnel.

Administration Building
6510 3rd Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34209



The previous Administration Building was sold in April of 2019. These administrative offices are now temporarily located on the second floor while the district continues to work on building a new Administrative Headquarters.

Emergency Response Apparatus

2014 Pierce Impel, E111



2016 Pierce Enforcer Aerial, L129



2004 Pierce Enforcer, E131



2017 Rescue 138



2019 Command Vehicle, B-1



2016 Marine 1 Fire Boat



Contact Information

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