



Annual Report

MERIDIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT
2021



**Our mission is to protect and enhance our community
through professionalism and compassion**

FIRE CHIEF

KRIS BLUME

It is a privilege and my honor to present you the Meridian Fire Department annual report for 2021. This organization is in its 114th year of service to the Meridian community. With 9,148 calls for service, 2021 was our busiest year yet, as call volume increased once again by approximately 16 percent from the previous year. This trend does not appear to be slowing down. The men and women of the Meridian Fire Department are expertly trained and well-positioned to meet the community's evolving challenges with compassion and professionalism.

In the fourth quarter of this year, the MFD team completed a three-year strategic plan. What began as a five-year plan, quickly transitioned to a three-year plan based on the speed of change in the Treasure Valley; addressing opportunities and challenges in a timely manner is imperative. The overarching theme for the Meridian community and this fire department will continue to center around growth and support of the needs of the department and the community.

The vitality of the Meridian Fire Department is found in the values-driven, mission-focused membership and is further strengthened by its partnership with the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District and the City of Meridian's Mayor and City Council. New leadership in Local 4627, as well as a new 3-year Collective Labor Agreement, will provide guidance and management opportunities for both the labor group and administration.



2021 NFPA 1403 Training Burn

The Meridian Fire Department is in a great position to meet these challenges not because of my personal efforts, but because of the exceptional team and community I serve. The Meridian Fire Department plays a critical role in ensuring that Meridian will be the West's premier community in which to live, work, and raise a family.

In closing, I'm pleased to offer the 2021 Annual Report, which will memorialize the events of this historical year and recognize the hard work, professionalism, and dedication of its members. I will leave you with the following thought from Benjamin Franklin:

"Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning."

For more information please visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or the Meridian Fire Department website (www.meridiandepartment.org/fire).



MFD Guiding Principals

Compassion

We will provide friendly and compassionate service to each other and the public we serve.

Professionalism

We will dedicate ourselves to be an educated workforce striving to meet the community's and our employees' changing needs.

Honesty

We will conduct ourselves in an honest manner and be transparent in our interactions.

Ownership

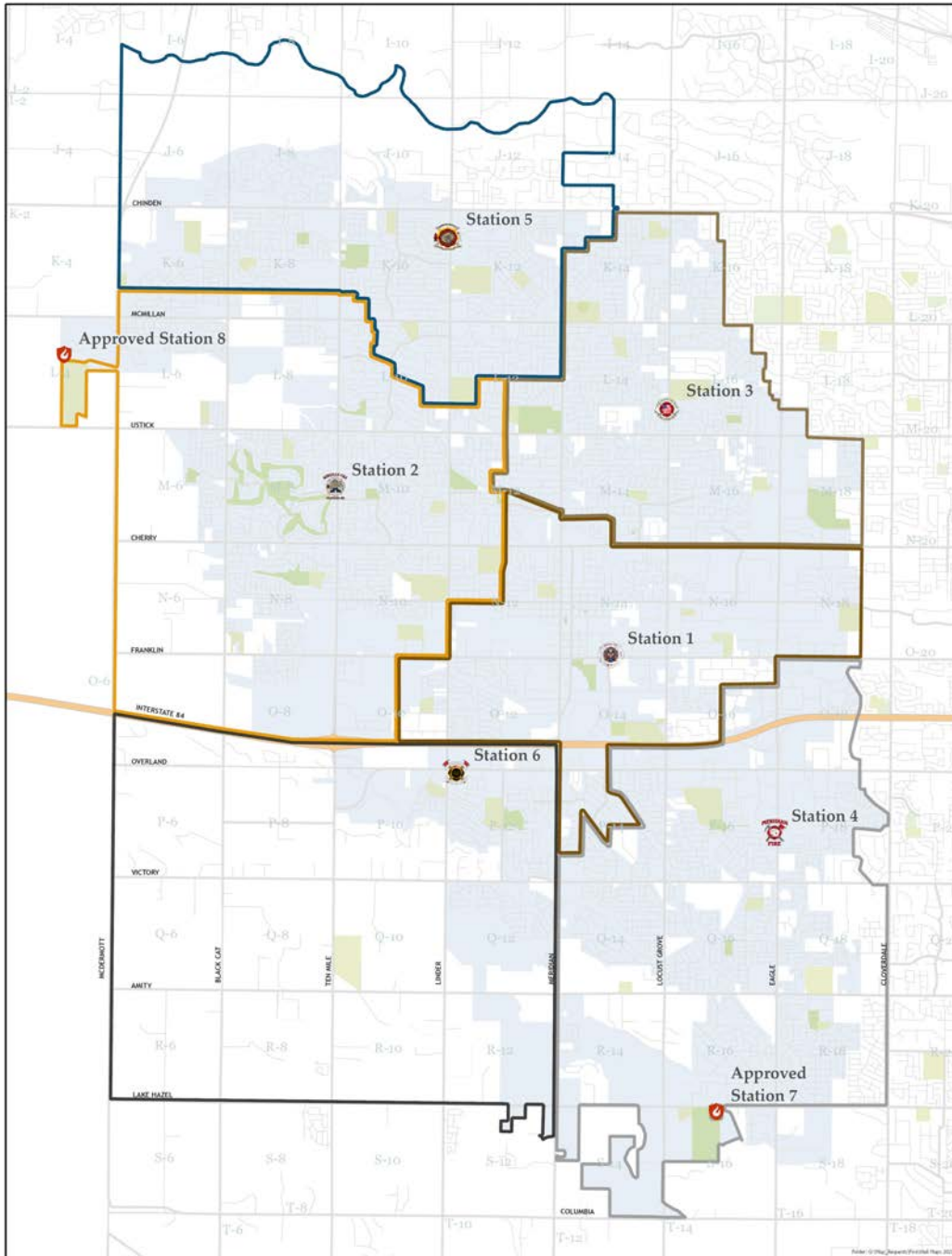
Ownership of our department will be expressed through tradition, loyalty, and dedication.

Trust

We will earn and maintain trust through integrity, our actions, and holding to commitments.



Fire Station Locations



Meridian Fire Station #1
540 E Franklin Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642

Meridian Fire Station #2
2401 N Ten Mile Rd.
Meridian, ID 83646

Meridian Fire Station #3
3545 N Locust Grove Rd.
Meridian, ID 83646

Meridian Fire Station #4
2515 S Eagle Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642

Meridian Fire Station #5
6001 N Linder Rd.
Meridian, ID 83646

Meridian Fire Station #6
1435 W Overland Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642

**Meridian Fire Department
Administration**
33 E Broadway Ave. #204
Meridian, ID 83642

Stations Opening 2023
Meridian Fire Station #7
Meridian Fire Station #8

12

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

81

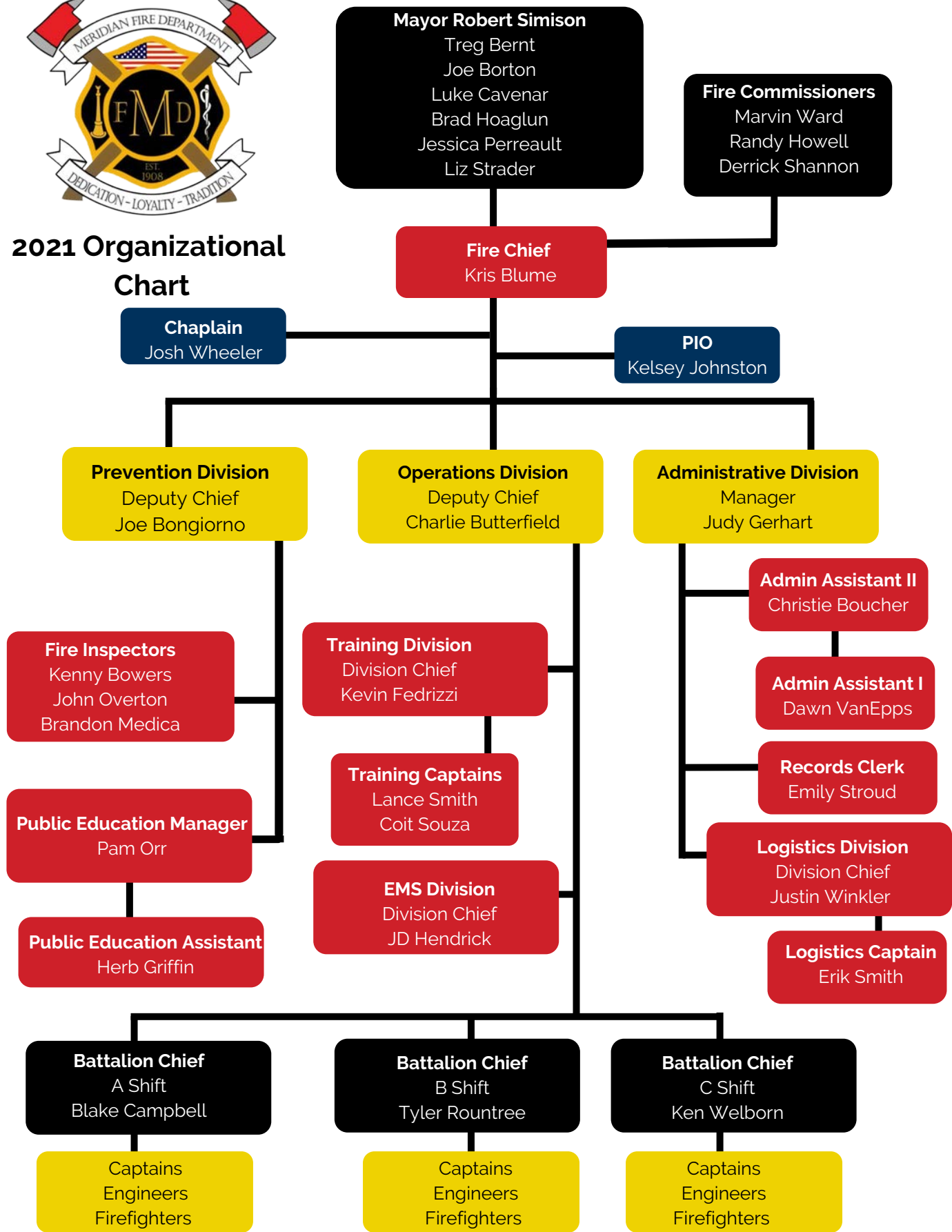
FIREFIIGHTERS

6

**FIRE STATIONS WITH
TWO MORE APPROVED**



2021 Organizational Chart





2021 Overview

Key Operations:

Fire Suppression

Emergency Medical Response

Emergency Rescue Response

Fire Prevention

- Fire Life & Safety Inspections
- Plan Reviews
- Fire Code Development

Fire Investigations

Fire Safety and Public Education

- Car Seat Checks & Installation Assistance
- Hands Only CPR Courses
- Safety Presentations
- Friendly Firefighter Visits
- Smoke & CO Alarm Assistance
- Public Safety Academy
- Juvenile Fire Setter Program
- Stop the Bleed Program
- AED Program

Report Highlights

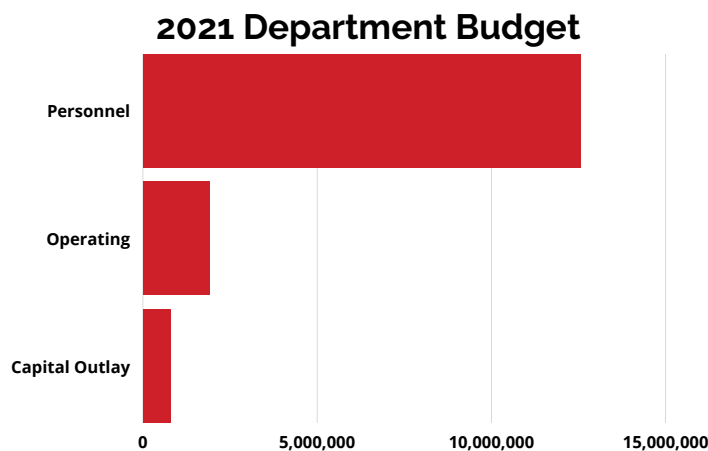
- New Fire Chief Kris Blume
- City Council approval of Fire Stations 7 and 8
- 16% Increase in calls for service
- Adoption of FARS (Firefighter Air Replenishment System) Requirements
- 88% Citizen Exceeds Expectations Overall Satisfaction rating
- Public Education was able to resume some in person events while continuing to host hybrid education sessions
- EMS Division completed active shooter training in coordination with Meridian Police Department
- Completed Three Year Strategic Plan for the department

2021 Financial Report

The Department operated on a \$15.2 million-dollar budget for fiscal year 2021 which compares closely to our previous year's budget of \$15.6 million.

Wages, benefits and operating costs increased slightly while capital purchases were down for FY21. This was mainly due to the construction of Station 6 in 2020.

Capital purchases for 2021 included among other things, an additional Fire Inspector, land purchase for a future fire station and the start of the design process for two new fire stations.



Meridian Fire's continued focus is to provide the highest level of service for the citizens of Meridian while keeping costs as low as possible. We would like to thank all members of the Department that contributed to the preparation of the 2021 budget including the City's Finance Department, the Mayor, our City Council and our Rural Fire Protection District Commissioners.

Administrative Division Manager Judy Gerhart

\$12,000

**DONATIONS
RECEIVED FROM
LIGHT MY FIRE
FOUNDATION**

\$3,280

**PUBLIC
DONATIONS
RECEIVED**

\$56,208

**FEES COLLECTED
FROM FIRE
INSPECTIONS**

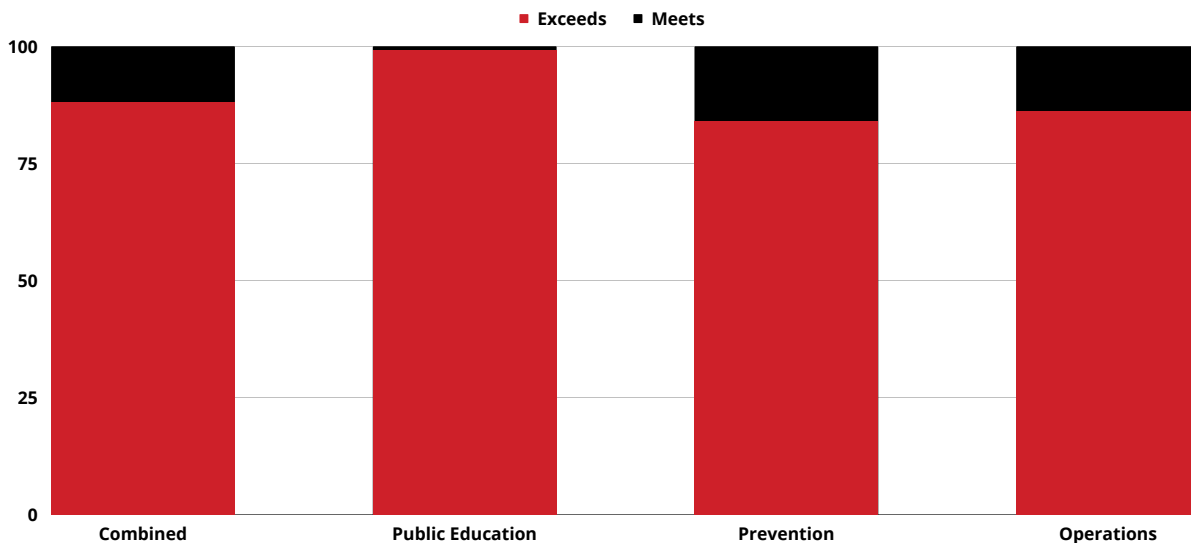


2021 Community Survey Results



"I live by myself and to have them come help with faulty detectors not knowing if there was an issue or not, really put me at ease. They went above and beyond and I am very thankful we have such great crews here in Meridian. Many thanks!"

"The guys came because I thought I smelled gas. They did a very thorough check of the house and assured me it was safe. Thank you so much MFD!"



"The crew was wonderful. Our kids were worried and they even took time to explain to them what they were doing."

"I can't tell you how thankful I am for public education coming out and educating me on smoke alarms. And then the actual firefighters came out to reach the beeping unit. I was so stressed out, not knowing how to handle it. They were so nice. I am proud to call these guys our firefighters! Thanks so much!"

Operations Division

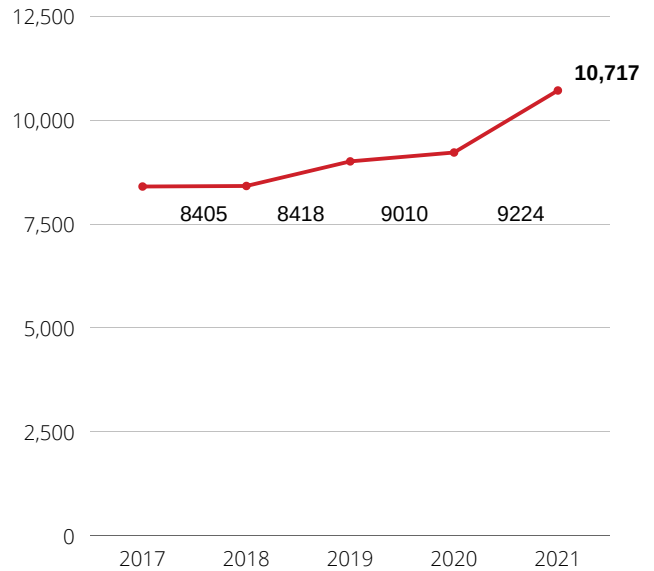


The Operations Division of the Meridian Fire Department is responsible for the delivery of emergency services and public assistance to the community. These services are provided by fire department personnel responding from six strategically located fire stations throughout the City of Meridian.

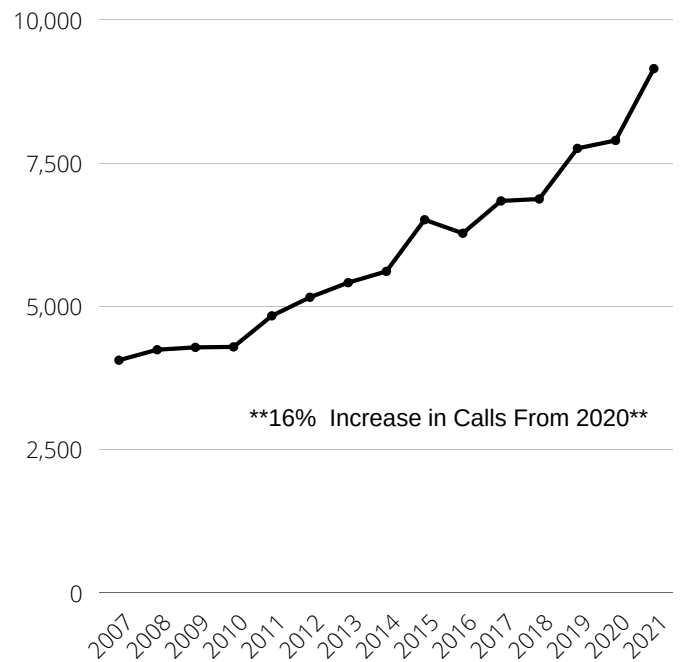
The year 2021 brought many changes to the Operations Division including the promotions of 6 engineers, 4 captains, and 1 battalion chief. Additionally, 5 new firefighters completed department sponsored fire academy and were assigned to the Operations Division. The Operations Division also completed the design of two future fire stations expected to start construction in 2022.

Deputy Chief Charlie Butterfield

5 Year Comparison- Total Apparatus Responses



15 Year Incident Comparison



9,148

**TOTAL
NUMBER OF
INCIDENTS**

07:14

**AVERAGE
RESPONSE
TIME**

10,717

**TOTAL
APPARATUS
RESPONSES**



Training Division

Although 2021 presented a challenging year for all, the Fire Training Division was able to find ways to adapt and accomplish their professional development mission. By focusing on filling vacancies with qualified individuals through a lateral academy process, the division was able to reduce onboarding time and place qualified staff in vacant positions thus reducing the need for call back staffing. A typical entry level hire requires 16 weeks of onboarding whereas a lateral transfer only requires 4 weeks making the department more resilient to staffing shortages as a result of the pandemic.

Building on the educational efficiencies through eLearning opportunities, the Professional Development and Promotional Process was enhanced to reduce the classroom contact time and increase student engagement. This effort utilized on-line Learning Management System platforms that mirror collegiate eLearning models.

In addition, the Professional Development Task Books were revised to encourage mentorship from the current leaders of the department. While this model of instruction is relatively new, the data collected so far demonstrates its viability and effectiveness moving forward.

The division continues to follow COVID guidelines requiring social distancing and the use of masks but have adapted our training by implementing single company training exercises that could be performed at their stations and in the community. Training Captains resumed facilitation of single company training events at the end of the year utilizing the Meridian Scenario Training Center. The Meridian Fire Training Divisions ability to be adaptable ensured that all line members of the Meridian Fire Department met the ISO training requirements for 2021.

Division Chief Kevin Fedrizzi

Emergency Medical Services Division

2021 was a year that required flexibility and adaptability within the Emergency Medical Services Division. Call volume across the Valley increased and for emergency medical services specific to Meridian, there was an increase of 15% from the previous year.

During the first quarter of 2021, the EMS Division joined the Incident Management Team located at Idaho Ice World to assist with the mass vaccination clinic for all ADA County employees. Chief Hendrick held the position of Operations Site Coordinator and several members of the Meridian Fire Department assisted the clinic with daily operations including check in and vaccine administration.

Meridian Fire Department assisted in this county wide collaboration among all ACCESS agencies (Ada County City Emergency Services System) until COVID Vaccines became more widely available.

The EMS Division also assisted in joint ASHER (active shooter and hostile events response) training with the Meridian Police Department. These training exercises provided an invaluable opportunity for multiple agencies to work together and improve overall city preparedness.

Once the State of Idaho transitioned to Crisis Standards of Care due to the spike in COVID cases, in partnership with local hospitals, Meridian Fire Department EMS Division was able to adapt and continue operations with plans in place to divert patients if needed. Through coordinated communication and planning among surrounding agencies, the city of Meridian experienced minimal disruptions to EMS services.

Division Chief of EMS JD Hendrick



I just wanted to say thank you to all the men and women of the Meridian Fire Department. Through the ups and downs of this pandemic our members have showed up day in and day out in full PPE ready to serve their community. While we encountered our own struggles with staffing and staying healthy, our quality of service never wavered and the departments professionalism has never been higher. I could never be prouder to be here representing the EMS Division of the Meridian Fire Department.

With Gratitude.

JD Hendrick, Division Chief EMS

Prevention Division

Fire Inspections

In 2021 Meridian Fire Department completed 2,932 inspections. There were 1,141 violations noted and 1001 violations cleared. The top 4 list of violations charged this year:

- Fire extinguisher(s) need serviced.
- Exit signs: Burned out or not functioning.
- Fire Alarms or Fire Sprinkler systems were past due or had deficiencies.
- Extension cord misuse: using extension cords instead of surge protectors.

Regional Partnership Leads to Consistent Food Truck Safety Regulations

This year, the Meridian Fire Department partnered with 9 other fire departments in the region to adopt the same fee and inspection checklist for Mobile Food Trucks. This ensures consistent fees, inspections and the safety requirements for all owners. This consistency in the valley helps all the business owners and developers as they bring their businesses and developments to Meridian.

Meridian Becomes First City in Idaho to Require Firefighter Air Replenishment System For All New High-Rise Buildings

In partnership with the Firefighter Air Coalition and Meridian Fire Department, City Council was able to adopt the Firefighter Air Replenishment System (FARS) for buildings 5 stories or more above grade, 500,000 square feet on a single level or 2 stories below grade. This system allows firefighters to refill their air packs without having to exit the building. FARS makes buildings safer for residents and firefighters. Union 93 is the first building in Meridian to be built with this new system.

Meridian Fire Department Welcomes New Fire Inspector

The Meridian Fire Department welcomed Captain Brandon Medica to the inspection group in 2021. Brandon started this position in March and has already earned his Fire Investigation Technician (FIT) Certification from the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) and his Inspector I and II certifications with the International Code Council (ICC).

Deputy Chief: Joe Bongiorno



Public Education

The most effective method of fire prevention is public education. 2021 was a successful year due to the Public Education Division's ability to find a balance between in person events and the necessity for hybrid programs due to the Pandemic. Taking advantage of available educational resources through programs such as the National Fire Protection Association, National Safety Council, and Safe Kids, the Meridian Fire Department was able to provide virtual and in person educational opportunities to meet the needs of the community. Some of 2021's highlights include:

90 car seats were provided to families in need through a grant provided by the Idaho Department of Transportation. Monthly car seat events were held to teach parents how to install their car seat into their car and properly fit their child in the seat.

The Public Education Division provided smoke alarm education and assistance to over 650 residents throughout the city. When in homes, the department also provided hazard safety inspections to help residents reduce fire hazards, tripping hazards, and any other visible identifiable safety concern within the home.



Through partnerships with the City of Meridian Parks and Recreation Department, CPR class offerings were increased and AED's were placed in City Parks. Because of this, both departments were awarded the Association of Idaho Cities Award.

According to the US Fire Administration, "more than half of child fire deaths are among children age four or younger—making them an important audience for fire prevention and education." Elementary School Students in West Ada School District were encouraged to "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety" by participating in a poster contest with an awards ceremony at Meridian City Hall. Children learned about home smoke and CO alarms and how to maintain them and what to do should they hear a sound coming from the alarm.

Public Education Manager Pam Orr



Logistics Division

The Logistics Division is responsible for the management of all fire facilities, apparatus and equipment. Logistics completes and directs all apparatus and equipment testing, repairs, preventive maintenance and records management (including self-contained breathing apparatus, technical rescue tools, chain saws, ladders, air compressors, ventilation fans, nozzles, fire hose testing, pump testing, etc.). This division also develops equipment and apparatus specifications for purchasing.

2021 Accomplishments

- Completed annual testing of 28,820 feet of fire hose
- Completed annual testing of 679 feet of ladders
- Completed annual testing of 57 SCBA and 114 personal SCBA regulators
- New Ladder truck was ordered and is currently under construction
- Purchased and placed into service new Fire Chiefs Vehicle
- Purchased and placed into service new Fire Inspectors Vehicle
- New RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) Packs purchased and placed into service
- Roofing repairs completed on fire stations 1 and 2
- All exterior lighting at stations 1-5 replaced with LED lighting receiving approximately a \$14,000 rebate from Idaho Power and continued energy cost savings for the future
- Completed annual pump testing of the fleet
- Stations 4-5 received new flooring

Ongoing Projects

- Accepting and placing new ladder truck into service
- Final design and ground breaking of new fire stations 7-8
- Orders placed for three new engines and pre-build at the factory
- Order placed and construction of new Battalion Chief Vehicle
- Order placed and construction of new Logistics Vehicle
- Placement and training of Logistics Captain Smith
- NFPA required SCBA upgrades
- Up-fit of SCBA repair facility at Fire Station 6

Logistics Division Chief Justin Winkler



Awards and Recognition



Servpro Idaho's First Responder of the Year: Sean Stear

Meridian Firefighter Engineer Sean Stear was awarded Servpro Idaho's First Responder of the Year award on December 21, 2021, during the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

Engineer Sean Stear is a true example of the City of Meridian's CARE values and the Meridian Way.



Logistics Captain Completes SCBA Certification

Logistics Captain Erik Smith completed his Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Certification. This certification allows Meridian Fire Department to complete all service and repairs on their air tanks making them the first SCOTT Factory In-House Service Facility in the Treasure Valley. With the SCBA Certification, it is estimated that Meridian Fire Department will save tax payers at least \$60,000 in fiscal year 2022. In addition to cost benefits, this certification will also significantly reduce equipment downtime.

Promotions

Battalion Chief
Kristian Forbey

Captain
Dylan Anderson
Zachary Mason
Brad Warner

Captain of Fire Inspection
Brandon Medica

Engineer
Timothy Walstad
Ryan Wallace
Sean Stear
Benjamin Paradis
Matthew Myers
Ryan Baker

Awards

2021 Community Service Citation Award
Al Fleming (Local Meridian Citizen)

2021 Chief's Awards of Excellence
Herb Griffin Emily Stroud

2021 Unit Citation
JD Hendrick Randy Platt
Jerin Jones Adam Johnston

2021 Distinguished Service Awards
Charlie Butterfield
JD Hendrick
Glenn Wilson

2021 Medal of Courage
Adam Johnston
Rustin Hood

2020 Awards

2020 Non-Suppression of the Year
Justin Winkler

2020 Suppression of the Year
Chase Christopher

New Hires

Jeremy Ditlove

Anja Sundali

Bryan Wells

Travis Krajnik

Neftaly Lupercio

Awards and Recognition

