



BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

The Branford Fire Department provides the highest level of service to our community by valuing our members, promoting positive leadership, and dedicating ourselves to excellence.

Contents

Mission Statement	3
Core Values	3
Board of Fire Commissioners	3
Administration	3
Department Officers	4
Career Captains.....	4
Volunteer Captains	4
Volunteer Lieutenants	4
Career Staff	4
Volunteer Staff	5
Part Time Staff	5
Personnel Changes.....	5
Allocation of Personnel	6
Fire Companies and Stations	7
Fire Headquarters - 45 North Main Street.....	7
Station 2 – 341 Main Street	7
Station 4 – 64 Shore Drive, Short Beach	7
Station 5 – 41 School Street, Stony Creek.....	7
Station 9 – 6 Linden Avenue, Indian Neck	7
Apparatus	8
Current Fleet	8
Vehicle Repair	8
Training Division	8
Prevention and Code Enforcement	10
Operations	10
INCIDENTS BY HOUR (1:00 P.M. WAS BUSIEST HOUR)	10
TOTAL INCIDENTS BY MONTH.....	11
INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK.....	11
INCIDENT TYPE NFIRS (NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM, NOT INCLUDING EMS)	11
SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF INCIDENTS	12

MUTUAL AID REPORT..... 13

Emergency Medical Services (EMS).....14

EMS MONTHLY CALL VOLUME..... 15

EMS Call Disposition Breakdown 15

Finance.....17

Operating Budget..... 17

Capital Budget..... 17

 Fire Apparatus – Sinking Fund 17

 Ambulance – Sinking Fund 17

 Radio Communications - Sinking Fund..... 17

Grants and Donations 17

Ambulance Revenue 18

Summary18

Mission Statement

The Branford Fire Department provides the highest level of service to our community by valuing our members, promoting positive leadership, and dedicating ourselves to excellence.

Core Values

Service - We provide the highest quality services necessary to minimize the loss of life and/or property threatened by the hazards of fire, explosion, medical, chemical, or rescue related emergencies, through fire suppression, code enforcement, and conscientious prevention and education.

Integrity - We will be honest, forthright, loyal, and articulate in all of our daily communications and activities. We will treat our customers and each other with respect and courtesy at all times. We aim to create an atmosphere that encourages individual growth, participation, creativity and acknowledges the achievements of our members.

Courage - We demonstrate bravery by our selfless commitment to the citizens we serve, overcoming fear through fortitude, good judgment and strength of character.

Competence - We will strive to be proficient and optimally effective in our professional practice. We will work to continually improve, by all available means, our knowledge of the profession and our individual and collective performances to provide a high level of customer service to the members of our community.

Board of Fire Commissioners

Branford Fire Department is a municipal agency governed by the Board of Fire Commissioners, created by CGS Chapter A237: Special Acts § A237-4.

Robert J. Massey Jr., Chairman
Jack Ahern
David Lacroix

Madeline "Buzz" Clem
Kathy Fox
Paul Riccio

The Clerk of the Board is Trista Milici.

The Board of Fire Commissioners meets regularly on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Commissioners' Room located on the 2nd floor of Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main Street.

Administration

Branford Fire Department operates under the leadership of Fire Chief Thomas F. Mahoney, Jr. and Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Shaun E. Heffernan. The department's Administrative Assistant is Leah Ahern.

Department Officers

Thomas F. Mahoney, Jr., Chief/Deputy Fire Marshal
Shaun E. Heffernan, Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal
William Pepe, Deputy Chief of Operations – Div. 1
Jason Karpovich, Deputy Chief of Operations – Div. 2
Michael Stackpole, Deputy Chief of Operations – Div. 3
Timothy Judd, Deputy Chief of Operations – Div. 4
Timothy Murray, Volunteer Deputy Chief
Gary Bloomquist, Deputy Chief of Administration and Safety
Robert Dobuzinsky, Fire Prevention Inspector

Career Captains

Craig O'Rourke - Div. 1
James Carson - Div. 2
Randall Chittenden - Div. 3
Joseph Petrosino - Div. 4

Volunteer Captains

Mark Hornyak – Co. 2
Eric Wagner – Co.4
Donald Hennessey - Co. 5
Michael Mullen – Co. 9
Michael Acquino – Rescue 1
Ernest Johnson – Fire Police

Volunteer Lieutenants

Harold Barringham – Co. 2
Tom Wrede– Co. 2
Lawrence Fisher – Co. 4
Kevin Dickson – Co. 4
Conner Hennessey – Co. 5
Connor Ball – Co. 5
Christopher Gagliardi – Co. 9
John Rothfuss – Co. 9
Ryan Dugan – Rescue 1
Kirk Anderson – Rescue 1
John Mason – Fire Police
Raymond Sylvester – Fire Police

Career Staff

Our career firefighting staff is an affiliate of the International Association of Firefighters, represented locally as Branford Professional Firefighters' Association Local 2533. Forty firefighters are assigned to one of four divisions, each consisting of one Deputy Chief, one Captain and eight Firefighter/Paramedics. Each of the four 10-member Divisions works a rotating schedule to provide 24-hour coverage seven days per week. Two additional career positions include the Deputy Chief of Administration and Safety and Fire Prevention Inspector, each assigned to a regular 40 hour schedule.

Volunteer Staff

Volunteer members are divided into four Fire Companies, a Heavy Rescue Squad and a Fire Police Squad; collectively these members dedicate thousands of hours each year to the residents of Branford. When not responding to emergency calls, they spend many hours in certification classes, conducting weekly drills, and performing maintenance on equipment. Their commitment greatly reduces the overall financial impact that fire/ rescue services have on the taxpayer.

Part Time Staff

The Department utilizes part-time paid Emergency Medical Personnel to staff one ambulance, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. and Saturday/ Sunday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This is our peak demand time for emergency medical services. This personnel is also utilized to staff additional ambulances on a “per call or as needed basis” before utilizing Mutual Aid.

Personnel Changes

Firefighter Paramedic David Morton retired from the Department February 1, 2020 after 25 years of service. David began his fire service career as volunteer member of Pine Orchard Company 6 before being hired as a full time Firefighter Paramedic in 1995. David received several Unit Citations and other awards for outstanding service to the citizens of Branford.

Firefighter Paramedic Timothy Kahre retired from the Department July 1, 2019 after 10.5 years of service. Tim began his fire service career as volunteer member of the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Department before being hired as a full time Firefighter Paramedic in 2009. Recognizing the importance of physical fitness as a key component of Firefighter Health and Safety, Tim led the committee began our Peer Fitness Training Program for department members. Tim received several Unit Citations and other awards for outstanding service to the citizens of Branford.

Fire Commissioner Al Carfora resigned from the Commission after 18 years of service to focus more of his time on family and business. As Commissioner in charge of buildings, Al helped oversee construction of both the new Fire Headquarters in 2012 and the Indian Neck Station 9 in 2019.



Allocation of Personnel

COMMAND STAFF	QUANTITY PER POSITION
ASSISTANT CHIEF/ FIRE MARSHAL	1
VOLUNTEER DEPUTY CHIEF	1
DEPUTY CHIEF OF ADMIN. AND SAFETY	1
FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTOR	1
CAREER DIVISIONS 1-4	
DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS	1 PER SHIFT
CAPTAIN	1 PER SHIFT
FIREFIGHTER	8 PER SHIFT
MP RICE COMPANY 2 (VOLUNTEER)	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
FIREFIGHTER	9
OTHER	1
SHORT BEACH COMPANY 4 (VOLUNTEER)	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
FIREFIGHTER	4
OTHER	2
STONY CREEK COMPANY 5 (VOLUNTEER)	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
FIREFIGHTER	11
OTHER	0
INDIAN NECK COMPANY 9 (VOLUNTEER)	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
FIREFIGHTER	6
OTHER	2
FIRE POLICE (VOLUNTEER)	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
MEMBERS	4
CURRENT VOLUNTEER MEMBERS= 54	

Fire Companies and Stations

Branford Fire Department operates from five stations; Fire Headquarters, staffed by career personnel, and four district stations staffed by volunteers. These stations are strategically located throughout town to minimize response time and better distribute resources. These buildings are maintained by the town's General Government Buildings (GGB) department.

Fire Headquarters - 45 North Main Street

Fire Headquarters is home to the department's administration, career staff, emergency medical services and the volunteer rescue squad. The building houses 2 fire pumpers, 1-100' Ladder Truck, 1 Heavy Rescue vehicle, 1 Light Rescue vehicle, 5 Ambulances, as well as staff and other support vehicles. The building's most prominent feature is the four story drill tower designed to aesthetically blend into the exterior design while providing versatile drill space. This tower, along with other features on the property, allows the department to meet rating bureau requirements for a training facility. The large classroom serves to host the educational needs of the department as well as hundreds of town and community meetings each year.



Station 2 – 341 Main Street

MP Rice Hose Company 2 has occupied Station 2 since it was built in 1901. The members of Company 2 operate Engine 2 out of this location. Engine 2 is our busiest volunteer Engine Company.

Station 4 – 64 Shore Drive, Short Beach

Station 4 is the only occupied station that is not owned by the town. The building is owned by Short Beach Hose, Hook & Ladder Co. 4 Inc. and rented by the Town of Branford. The members of Company 4 operate Engine 4 out of this location.

Station 5 – 41 School Street, Stony Creek

Station 5 is in part of a building that is shared with the Stony Creek Museum. The members of Company 5 operate Engine 5, Rescue 5, and Tac 5 out of this location. In addition, they operate Marine 5 out of the Stony Creek dock, which is located just down the road from Station 5.

Station 9 – 6 Linden Avenue, Indian Neck

Company 9's volunteers run two pieces of apparatus, Engine 9 and Tac 6, out of Station 9. This is our newest station serving the Indian Neck Pine Orchard area. It was completed in December of 2019 funded by a Town allocation of \$1,000,000.00 in Capital Improvement funds along with a \$500,000.00 STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) Grant.

Apparatus

ENGINE 1	2015 PIERCE	TAC 2	2010 KUBOTA	MARINE 3	2018 MILLPRO 1673-X2
ENGINE 2	1997 PIERCE	TAC 5	2013 POLARIS	MARINE 4	INMAR SR380
ENGINE 4	1997 PIERCE	TAC 6	2020 FORD F-450	CAR 1	2018 CHEVY TAHOE
ENGINE 5	1993 SUTPHEN	MEDIC 1	2017 FORD E-450	CAR 2	2018 CHEVY TAHOE
ENGINE 7	2005 SMEAL	MEDIC 2	2019 FORD E-450	CAR 6	2016 CHEVY TAHOE
ENGINE 9	2001 KME	MEDIC 3	2015 FORD E-450	CAR 8	2012 CHEVY TAHOE
TRUCK 1	2008 SMEAL	MEDIC 4	2011 CHEVY	CAR 9	2012 CHEVY TAHOE
RESCUE 1	1999 PIERCE	MEDIC 5	2014 CHEVY	CAR 12	2003 FORD EXCURSION
RESCUE 2	2019 FORD F-550	MARINE 2	1993 MUNSON	CAR 15	2020 FORD F-350
RESCUE 5	2009 FORD F-550	MARINE 5	2007 DERECKTOR	CAR 18	2002 DODGE RAM

Current Fleet

In fiscal year 2020, we took delivery of four new vehicles to replace aging apparatus, these included an ambulance, light rescue, a brush truck and utility pick-up. Ambulances have a useful life of approximately 10 years and larger fire apparatus, such as pumpers, 25 years or more. As new vehicles are purchased, the vehicle(s) they replace are used as a backup/ spare until they are traded in or sold.

Vehicle Repair

Since moving into the new Fire Headquarters, the additional space has allowed us to expand our in-house vehicle maintenance and repair program. Approximately 90% of all repairs, preventative maintenance, and vehicle inspections are completed in-house, saving about half the cost of using outside vendors. Most importantly, this program has kept vehicle down time to a minimum, ensuring our fleet is safe and available.

Training Division

Today's first responders are tasked with a multitude of responsibilities which require hours of continuing education, drills and other training to meet standards and regulatory requirements. The Branford Fire Department's Training Division is comprised of certified instructors from our career and volunteer ranks. The Training Division is managed by Deputy Chief of Safety and Administration, Gary Bloomquist; Drillmaster, Joseph Massey; Assistant Drill Master-EMS, John A. Cudgma and Assistant Drill Master-HAZMAT/ TECH & Rescue, Robert Dobuzinsky. The Training Division is responsible for all facets of the department's training and education including OSHA compliance, continuing medical education, land and marine based firefighting, specialized/technical rescue and hazardous material response training.

The following are highlights of more than 1,700 hours of training and educational accomplishments by our members during FY-2020:

- Rescue 2 equipped & placed in service
- Hazmat Technician Refresher Training Completed (New Haven)
- Member graduated from Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit programs 64
- (7) Members earned Q Endorsement licenses (2 volunteer)
- New Rescue 1 operators

- New Truck 1 operator
- (5) New Pump Operators
- New Emergency Medical Technicians
- Paramedics earned regional Medical Control
- Rope technician refresher (Guilford)
- Fire Service Instructor II certification
- (8) Members completed Fire Service Building Construction hosted at Branford FD
- Members attended Fire Service Instructor III
- Members attended Firefighter II
- Members attended a Man vs Machine extrication course These members then trained the on duty crews on the Man vs Machine Rescue kit carried on Rescue 2
- Members participated in the State Cold Water Rescue Course hosted by Branford FD
- Members completed the State Aerial Operator course hosted here by Branford FD
- (89) Members participated in Live Burn training



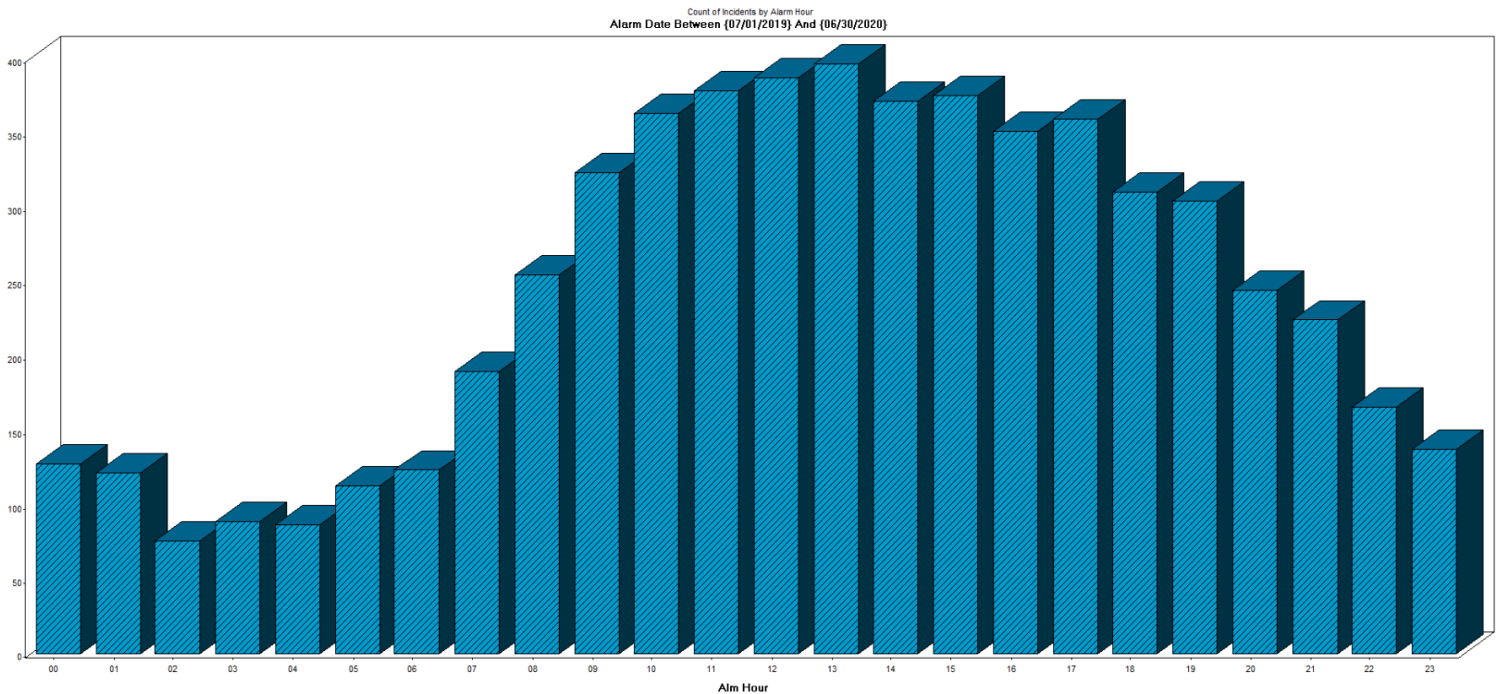
Prevention and Code Enforcement

Branford Fire Department’s prevention program starts with the youngest members of our community. We deliver public education in our school system, daycares and youth groups. Prevention and code enforcement is conducted through the Office of the Fire Marshal, overseen by Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Shaun E. Heffernan. The Fire Marshal is assisted by Fire Prevention Inspector Robert Dobuzinsky and five part-time Deputy Fire Marshals. This office conducts thousands of hours of inspections, investigations and plan reviews with the goal of reducing the overall life safety risks for the residents and visitors of Branford.

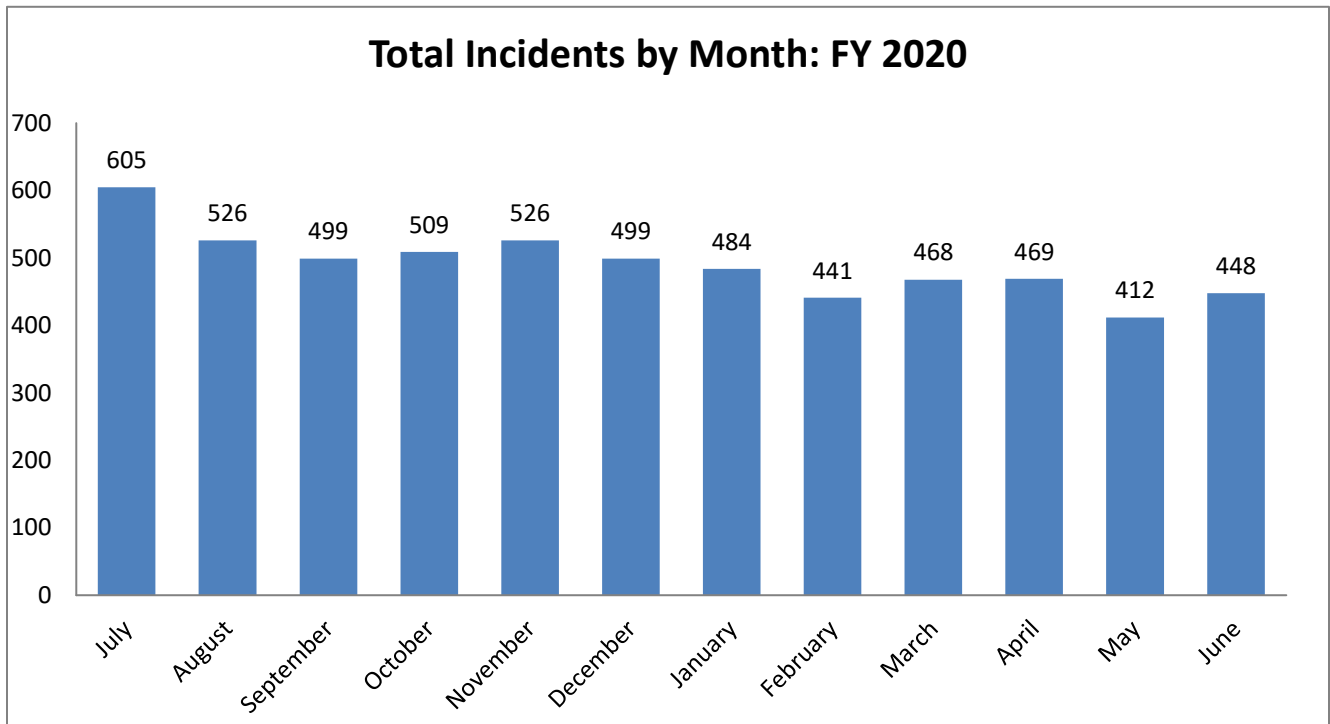
Operations

During fiscal year 2020, the fire department responded to 5,883 calls for service. Medical emergencies, including rescue calls and motor vehicle accidents, accounted for 74% of total requests for service. The early interventions and pre-hospital care provided by our EMTs and Paramedics significantly contribute to positive outcomes for our patients. While the danger from fire has been greatly reduced through our efforts in education, code enforcement, and the application of technology, it remains an ever present danger. During FY 2020, Branford had 14 fires resulting in significant financial loss. These larger fire incidents account for a smaller percentage of the overall need for service, but they result in a much larger percentage of risk to our community. Our ability to rapidly respond with the appropriate resources keeps many smaller incidents from becoming larger and more costly events.

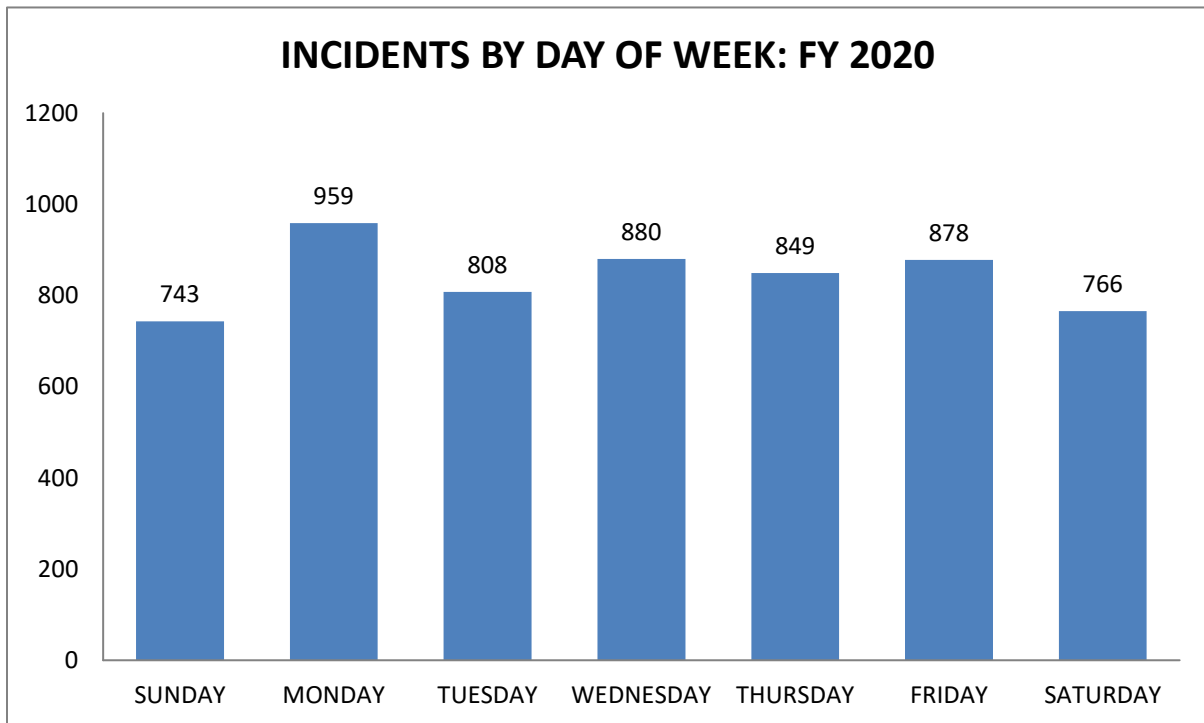
INCIDENTS BY HOUR (1:00 P.M. WAS BUSIEST HOUR)



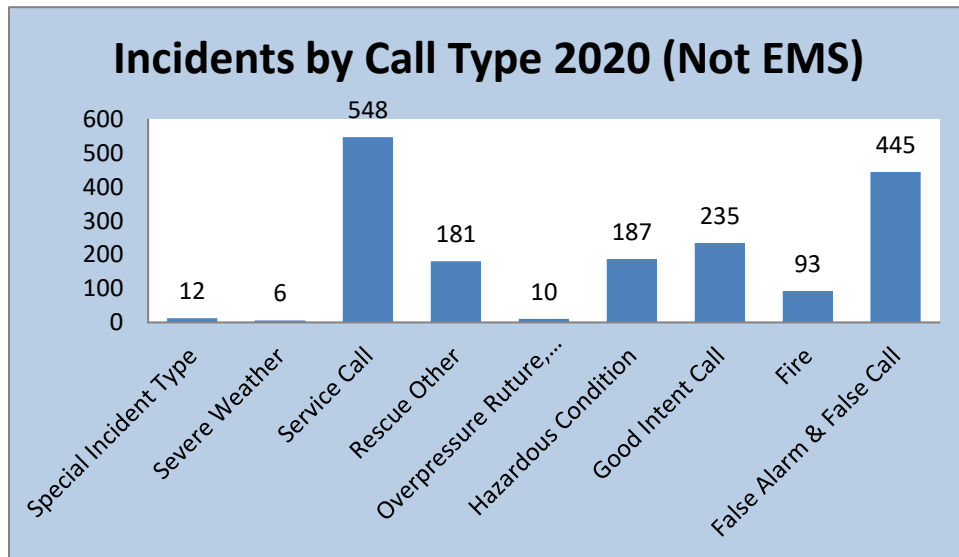
TOTAL INCIDENTS BY MONTH



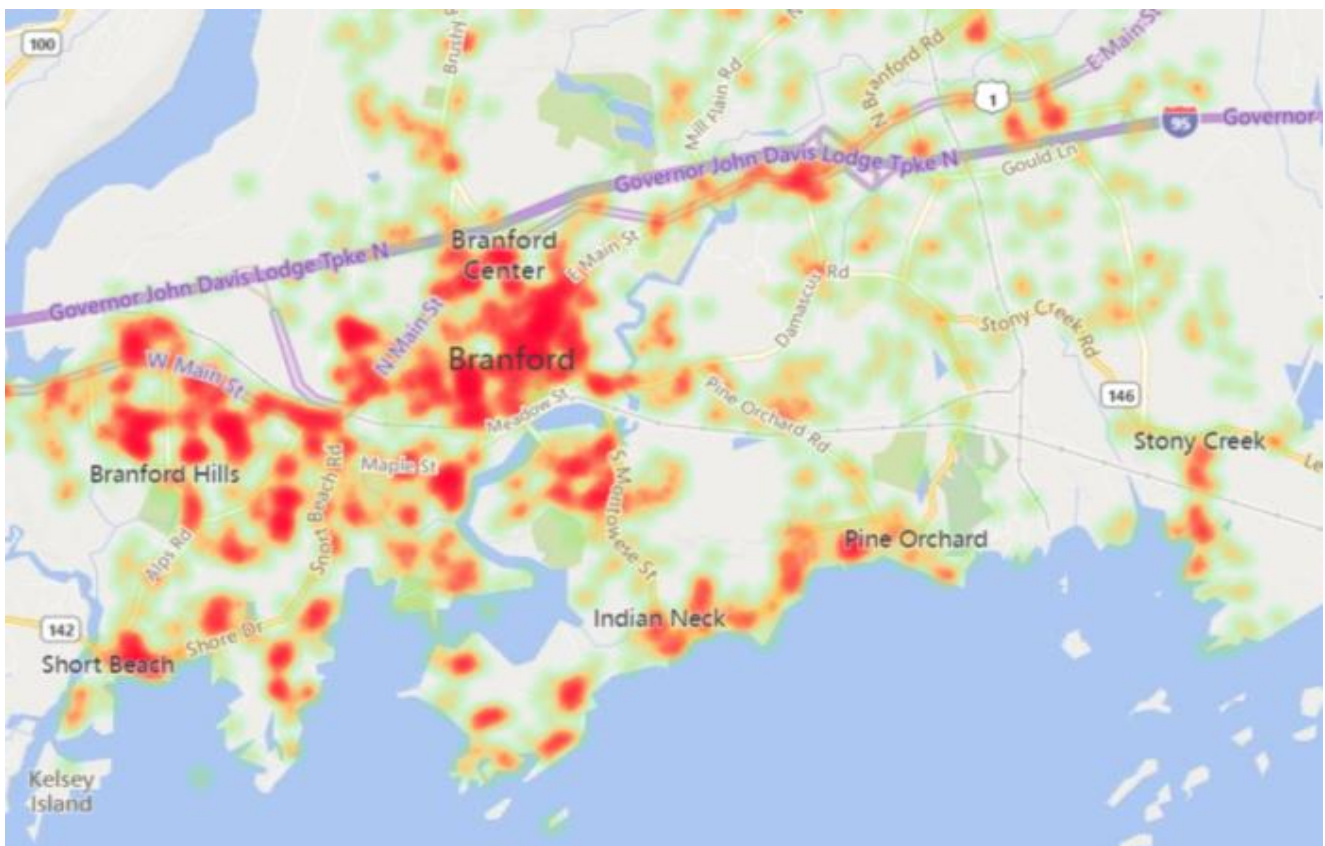
INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK



INCIDENT TYPE NFIRS (NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM, NOT INCLUDING EMS)



SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF INCIDENTS



MUTUAL AID REPORT

Type of Aid	Count
AMR American Medical Response of Connecticut	
Automatic aid received	1
	<hr/>
	1
CFD Clinton Fire/EMS	
Mutual aid given	1
	<hr/>
	1
EAST HAVEN East Haven Fire Department	
Mutual aid received	2
Mutual aid given	16
	<hr/>
	18
GUILFORD Guilford Fire Department	
Mutual aid received	14
Automatic aid received	2
Mutual aid given	8
Automatic aid given	5
	<hr/>
	29
N BRANFORD North Branford Fire Department	
Mutual aid given	9
	<hr/>
	9
NEW HAVEN New Haven Fire Department	
Mutual aid given	1
	<hr/>
	1

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Branford Fire Department is the designated emergency medical services and ambulance provider within the Town of Branford, holding Certificate of Operation CO14P1 in the FR/BA/MIC-P category. Branford Fire Department is part of CT EMS Council Region 2 and receives medical oversight and direction from Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Medical Services. EMS service is provided by dual-role career Firefighter/Paramedics, and our part-time EMTs and Paramedics. Our service is based upon a multi-tiered response consisting of pre-arrival instructions, first responder, and ambulance service at both the basic life support (BLS) and advanced life support (ALS) levels. The Branford Communications Center (PSAP) receives 911 calls originating within the town. The center triages the call and provides pre-arrival instructions to the caller while simultaneously dispatching the appropriate resources. The ambulance and first responders are dispatched via radio, tone activated paging, alpha numeric paging, station alerting and mobile data terminals (MDTs). Branford participates in a mutual aid system implemented automatically to help assure EMS response during times of system overload. Branford Fire Department operates five ambulances, two full-time and three part-time or on-call. All ambulances are located at Branford Fire Headquarters.

The full-time ambulances are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are each staffed at the advanced life support (Paramedic) level. Our other ambulances are staffed part-time or by call-in crews. When call-in ambulances are needed, the radio alert and paging system is activated and another crew is brought in.



EMS MONTHLY CALL VOLUME



EMS Call Disposition Breakdown

EMS Incident Disposition Breakdown 2020	
Assist, Unit	2
Assist, Public	203
Cancelled (No Patient Contact)	49
Cancelled (Prior to Arrival at Scene)	8
Cancelled on Scene/No Patient Found	24
Patient Dead on Scene - No Resuscitation Attempted (Without Transport)	43
Patient Dead on Scene - Resuscitation Attempted (Without Transport)	12
Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required	199
Patient Refused Evaluation/Care (Without Transport)	157
Patient Treated, Released (AMA)	190
Patient Treated, Released (per protocol)	106
Patient Treated, Transferred Care to Another EMS Professional	48
Patient Treated, Transported by Private Vehicle	5
Standby - No Service or Support Provided	0
Transported Lights/Siren	192
Transported Lights/Siren, Downgraded	2
Transported No Lights/Siren	3,391
Transported No Lights/Siren, Upgraded	6
Totals	4,637

EMS Clinical Impression Breakdown 2020

Abdominal Pain	187	Epistaxis	18	Mental disorder	49
Acute Bronchitis	0	Esophageal obstruction	3	Migraine	1
Acute Bronchospasm	1	Extremity Pain	84	Nausea	52
Acute Pain, not elsewhere classified	21	Eye Injury	5	No Complaints or Inj/III Noted	363
Acute Respiratory Distress (Dyspnea)	130	Eye Pain	8	Obvious Death	30
Acute abdomen	3	Failure to Thrive (Adult)	2	Overdose - Heroin	13
Acute appendicitis	0	Fatigue	8	Overdose - Other opioids	14
Alcohol dependence with withdrawal	18	Febrile Seizures	7	Overdose - Unspecified	19
Alcohol use	149	Fever	65	Pain (Non-Traumatic)	91
Allergic Reaction	31	Foreign Body in Respiratory Tract	10	Palpitations	15
Altered Mental Status	162	Foreign Body in Trachea	2	Patient assist only	74
Amputation of other parts of head	1	Gastro-esophageal reflux disease	2	Pelvic and Perineal Pain	9
Anaphylactic Shock	1	Gastrointestinal hemorrhage	22	Pitting Edema	2
Anemia	1	Gastrostomy Malfunction	2	Pneumonia	10
Angina pectoris	1	Generalized Weakness	327	Pneumothorax (Traumatic)	0
Anxiety reaction/Emotional upset	70	Headache	39	Poisoning / Drug Ingestion	24
Asthma	10	Heatstroke and Sunstroke	1	Pregnancy related conditions	3
Back Pain	131	Hematoma (Non-Traumatic)	3	Pre-eclampsia	1
Behavioral/psychiatric episode	264	Hemorrhage	34	Pregnancy with contractions	2
Burn	1	Hyperkalemia	1	Psychogenic Shock	1
Cancer	4	Hypertension	27	Pulmonary Edema, Acute	0
Cannabis related disorder	1	Hypertensive crisis	1	Pulmonary Embolism	4
Carbon Monoxide poisoning	1	Hypoglycemia (Not Diabetic)	1	Reduced Mobility	2
Cardiac arrest	34	Hypotension	24	Respiratory Arrest	3
Cardiac arrhythmia/dysrhythmia	68	Hypothermia	3	Respiratory Failure	1
Cellulitis	11	Hypovolemia	1	Respiratory disorder	14
Chemical burn	1	Influenza/ Infectious Disease	3	Seizures	48
Chest Pain / Discomfort	165	Injury	146	Seizures with status epilepticus	4
Chest Pain, Other (Non-Cardiac)	29	Injury of Ankle	9	Seizures-No status epilepticus	2
Chest pain on breathing	4	Injury of Elbow	2	Sepsis/Septicemia	15
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Dis.	21	Injury of Face	33	Septic Shock	3
Common Cold	9	Injury of Foot	7	Sexual Abuse	3
Concussion	1	Injury of Forearm	11	Shortness of breath	84
Confusion/Delirium	20	Injury of Head	130	Skin infection	3
Congestive heart failure (CHF)	6	Injury of Hip	46	Stroke	49
Constipation	8	Injury of Lower Back	14	Subdural Hemorrhage (Trauma)	1
Cough	24	Injury of Lower Leg	31	Substance abuse	10
COVID-19 -Confirmed by testing	10	Injury of Neck	31	Suicide attempt	8
COVID-19 -Exposure to confirmed	5	Injury of Nose	3	Suicidal Ideation	44
COVID-19 -Suspected – no known	12	Injury of Pelvis	8	Syncope / Fainting	140
Dehydration	25	Injury of Shoulder or Upper Arm	31	Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA)	11
Diabetic Hyperglycemia	25	Injury of Thigh (Upper Leg)	7	Unconscious	5
Diabetic Hypoglycemia	33	Injury of Thorax (Upper Chest)	1	Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)	39
Diarrhea	18	Injury of Wrist, Hand, or Fingers	27	Urinary system disorder	8
Dizziness	64	Kidney stones	2	Vaginal Hemorrhage	3
Dysphagia	1	Laceration/Abrasion/Hematoma	37	Visual Disturbance	7
Dystonic reaction	1	Malaise	21	Vomiting	62
Edema	14	Medical device failure	3	Vomiting due to pregnancy	1

Finance

The Town of Branford strives to support an efficient, well equipped, highly trained, Fire, Rescue and EMS response system. The Town faces growing financial concerns as the State economy remains uncertain. We understand these increased financial concerns and work diligently to find cost efficient solutions to maintain the high level of service our community expects.

Operating Budget

The 2020 approved operating budget was \$6,359,765.00. \$790,583, or 12.5% of our total operating budget, is the amount paid to the New Haven Regional Water Authority to provide and maintain hydrants and mains for fire protection. The total revenue from ambulance billing for FY 2020 was \$2,084,297.50 exceeding the budgeted amount of \$1,800,000 by \$284,297.50.

Capital Budget

Long term apparatus, equipment, and infrastructure improvements are budgeted through the Capital Budget, often through multi-year allocations in the form of sinking funds.

Fire Apparatus – Sinking Fund

The life expectancy of major fire apparatus is more than twenty years; the cost of new fire apparatus averages over \$525,000 for a new pumper to more than \$1,300,000 for an aerial ladder truck. We budget a portion of that cost each year to prepare for these larger purchases in this sinking fund.

Ambulance – Sinking Fund

The department's fleet of five ambulances is rotated so that the newest ambulances run as front line units with the older ambulances remaining active but used on an as needed basis. The department purchases a new ambulance on average every two years; the cost of a new ambulance is approximately \$225,000.00 with stretcher and mount.

Radio Communications - Sinking Fund

This fund is used to fund projected annual portable and mobile radio purchases with the balance carried over year to year to fund future replacement of major radio infrastructure.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

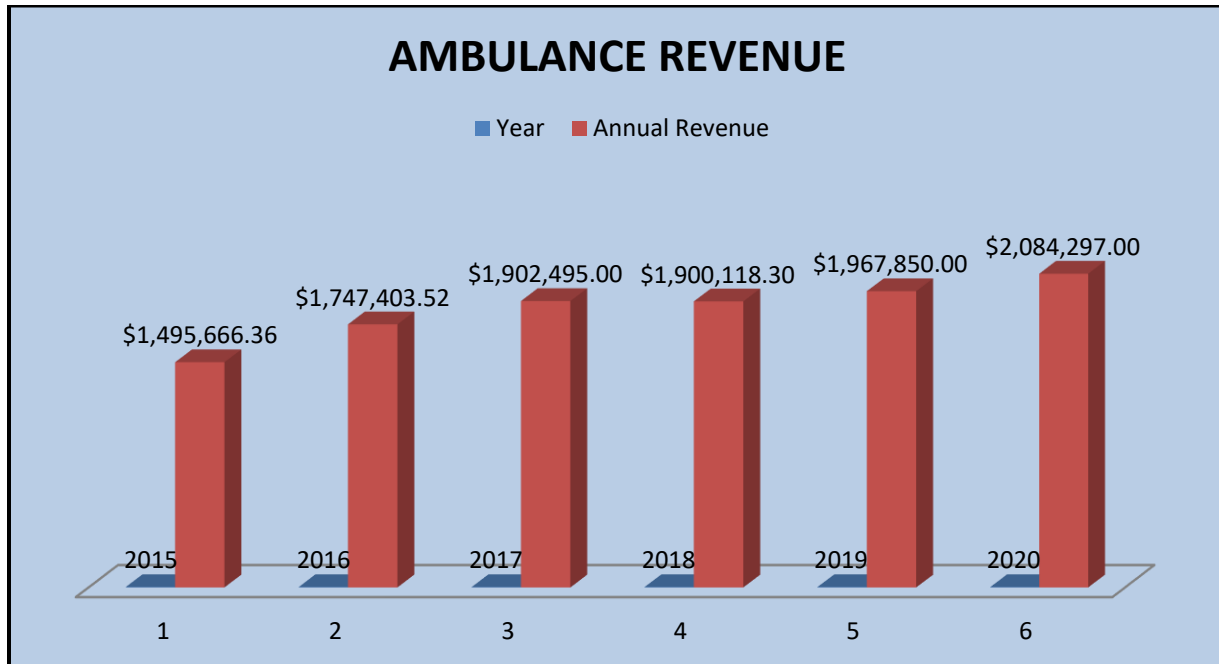
Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) is an integral part of a firefighter's personal protective ensemble. A complete unit costs approximately \$7,800.00 per unit, the department has 56 SCBAs in our inventory. This fund is designed to replace these units at the end of their 15 year life cycle.

Grants and Donations

In Fiscal Year 2019, the Department was awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) FEMA Grant in the amount of \$1.46 million dollars. This grant reduced the local tax burden associated with the hiring of 8 additional firefighters (2 per shift). The \$1.46 million grant represents a federal cost-share of the total project cost of approximately \$2.38 million over three years. SAFER is a Federal competitive grant evaluated based on the substance of the application relative to the established SAFER Grant funding priorities. In Fiscal Year 2020, we received \$593,212.22 in reimbursements from this grant.

Ambulance Revenue

Our five ambulances generate significant revenue, offsetting the operational cost to the taxpayer. Ambulance revenue deposited to the Town's General fund in FY 2020 totaled \$2,084,297.50.



Summary

The following are highlights of Fire Department activity for fiscal year 2020.

- July 01, 2019: Firefighter/Paramedic Timothy Kahre retires after 10.5 years of service.
- July 5, 2019: Companies responded to a working fire at 62 Orchard Hill Rd. The male homeowner was transported to Yale New Haven Hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation. The fire was quickly knocked down with firefighters locating a dog and cat rendered unconscious by the thick smoke. The pets were removed unconscious and revived with Pet O2 masks.
- July 9, 2019: the first steel structural members are erected at the new Indian Neck Station 9 on Linden Ave.
- July 22, 2019: Firefighters respond to several incidents related to a severe thunderstorm. These included, a house struck by lightning on Flat Rock Rd, a car in the water on Indian Neck Ave and a brush fire caused by primary power lines down on Featherbed Lane.
- August 12, 2019: BFD regrets to announce that retired Lieutenant Donald L. Thayer passed away at home. Lt Thayer served as both a paid and volunteer member for more than 30 years.
- August 18, 2019: Firefighters extinguish a rapidly spreading fire in a residential home at 122 Chestnut Street.
- August 19, 2019: a brush fire threatening buildings and two homes struck by lightning were some of the 34 incidents handled on this day.

- August 23, 2019: Chief Tom Mahoney is appointed as Emergency Management Director and Deputy Chief Tim Murray as Assistant Emergency Management Director by the Board of Selectmen.
- August 26, 2019: Branford is one of 14 communities to donate used fire gear to Lima Peru Fire Department.
- September 11, 2019: Companies participate in the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony held at Fire Headquarters.
- September 26, 2019: Firefighter/ Paramedic John A. Cudgma is appointed as Assistant Department Drill Master for Emergency Medical Services by the Fire Commission.
- October 1, 2019: BFD kicks off Fire Prevention Month by announcing the theme of this year's focus, "Plan Your Home Fire Escape". More than 1500 adults and children went through fire prevention demos at our schools.
- October 11, 2019: BFD regrets to announce that Volunteer Firefighter John F. Mason passed away. John served as President and a trustee during his 64-year membership in the Short Beach HH&L Company 4. In recent years, he was a member and officer in the Branford Fire Police.
- December 9, 2019: Indian Neck Pine Orchard Volunteer Fire Company 9 moves back into their newly constructed quarters and resumes operations.
- December 12, 2019: Fire Prevention Poster winners are announced. In its second year, The Fire prevention poster contest included grades 4 and 5 in all of our schools. Scarlett DiAdamo was a 1st place winner in her grade. She is a 5th grade student at East Shoreline Catholic Academy. Her teacher is Ms. Stephanie Voytek. Christopher DePalma II was a 2nd place winner in his grade. He is a 5th grade student at East Shoreline Catholic Academy. His teacher is Ms. Stephanie Voytek. Miah Maharaj was a 1st place winner in her grade. She is a 4th grade student at Mary T. Murphy School. Her teacher is Mrs. Nancy Ryan. Richard Mesiona was a 2nd place winner in his grade. He is a 4th grade student at East Shoreline Catholic Academy. Her teacher is Mrs. Donna Pecoraro.
- December 19, 2019: A residential building fire was extinguished at 165 Shore Drive.
- January 6, 2020: Branford Fire Department (BFD) leaders and town and state officials were joined by a big crowd of supporters for the ribbon-cutting opening Branford's brand-new Indian Neck-Pine Orchard Fire Co. 9 facility at 6 Linden Ave.
- February 1, 2020: David Morton retires after 25 years of service.
- January 30, 2020: Commissioner Al Carfora announces his resignation from the Board of Fire commissioner's after 18 years of service.
- January 30, 2020: The Fire Commission votes to extend conditional offers of employment to Dylan Kessler and Ian Canny to fill the two vacant full time firefighter/ paramedic positions.
- February 5, 2020: Jack Ahern is appointed to the Fire Commission by the Board of Selectman.
- February 10, 2020: BFD begins preparations for the COVID-19 Pandemic by inventorying and ordering personal protective equipment.
- February 14, 2020: BFD regrets to announce the passing of Kenneth N. Burne. Kenneth was a member of Indian Neck Company 9 and served on the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- February 26, 2020: Branford Fire begins posting social media warnings regarding COVID-19.
- February 29, 2020: Firefighters quickly knocked down a wind driven fire at 9 Wilford Avenue. The fire reported at approximately 2:45, started on the exterior of the home but extended into the walls.
- March 13, 2020: The Emergency Operations Center is opened virtually in response to COVID-19. BFD played an integral role as part of our Town efforts to prevent, prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from the Pandemic.
- March 17, 2020: Rescue 2 is placed in service. Rescue 2 is a light rescue, it is designed to handle a wide range of fire, rescue and medical emergencies. It is staffed 24/7 by Firefighter/Paramedics.

- March 30, 2020: A major fire in a residential home was extinguished preventing spread to nearby homes.
- April 2, 2020: Branford Fire Department regrets to announce the passing of Past Captain Tom Raiola. Tom was Captain of Indian Neck Engine Co. 9 in the late 70s and early 80s. He was also active with Rescue Squad 1 and Branford Ambulance.
- April 14, 2020: BFD members extinguished a fire in the basement of a home on Brooklawn Terrace. One occupant was treated on scene for minor injuries, two others escaped without injury.
- June 25, 2020: The Board of Fire Commissioners approves an increase in the base hourly pay rate of Part-Time EMTs and Paramedics.
- June 30, 2020: BFD ambulance transport revenue exceeds \$2M for the first time in history.
- June 30, 2020, the department finishes the Fiscal Year with 5,883 calls for service.
- The Department maintained an average town wide response time of less than 6 minutes.
- July was our busiest month, Monday our busiest day, 1:00 p.m. our busiest hour.

The Branford Fire Department continues to provide the highest level of service to our community as a leader in cost efficient emergency response, prevention and risk reduction services. We will continue to find creative solutions to overcome challenges while providing exceptional value to the taxpayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert J. Massey, Jr.
Chairman Board of Fire Commissioners

Thomas F. Mahoney, Jr.
Fire Chief

