

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT LEBANON FIRE DISTRICT



# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

*Fire Chief Joseph Rodondi*

Since 1884, the Lebanon Fire District (LFD) has been providing emergency services to the community. A dedicated staff of career and community volunteers, the LFD proudly provides service to 134 square miles of fire protection area, serving a population of approximately 29,000, including the City of Lebanon. The District also provides ambulance services for a total of 416 square miles of area served. This includes ambulance services to our neighboring communities of Scio, Brownsville, and Halsey-Shedd.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Fire Chief and a privilege to work alongside a group of talented and caring people. Our 2021 Annual Report reflects our commitment to our communities and provides a glimpse of the many services we deliver to you. It provides an overview of our mission critical goals: to be operationally ready to respond to emergencies, to provide community risk reduction techniques to improve our community's quality of life, and to foster regional partnerships.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued throughout 2021, often times challenging our capacity to respond to the increased needs of the community battling the surge in cases of the Delta and Omicron variants. Your Fire District was on the front lines of the pandemic from the early onset; prepared and ready to respond with the same level of professionalism and exceptional fire and emergency services you come to expect. We are confident that 2022 will be the start of the COVID-19 endemic and allow the District to start the transition back to some resemblance of normal operations. My commitment to you is to evaluate the lessons learned from this pandemic and to improve our preparedness to respond to similar calamities in the future.

The information and statistics used in the development of this report compares the Lebanon Fire District to best industry practices and positive outcomes. By identifying our strengths and our weaknesses, we can look for ways in which we challenge ourselves to continually improve our emergency response capability to you.

Lebanon Fire District's success is due to the dedication of all our personnel, including those community members who participate on our Board of Directors, Civil Service Commission, and Budget Committee.

The members of the Lebanon Fire District take great pride in serving our communities and look forward to another great year for the Lebanon Fire District to serve you.

*Joseph Rodondi*  
Fire Chief



The Lebanon Fire District is governed by an elected Board of Directors. Within the Board of Directors, they elect a President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. These five community members provide oversight to the District, ensuring that budgets are followed, hiring processes are completed, and ordinances are approved. Each Board member serves a term of four years, though they can continue to run for election after their term has ended.

Board members often attend conferences throughout the state to learn more about governing special districts like the Lebanon Fire District. Some Board members also serve on state level boards.

The Board of Directors meets every second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. All Board meetings are open to the public. New to 2021, all Board meetings are now made available on Zoom for virtual attendance.

In addition to the Board of Directors, the Lebanon Fire District has a Civil Service Commission and a Budget Committee, both of which are made up of appointed community members. The Civil Service Commission regulates the employment of District employees, such as hiring and promotions. The Budget Committee approves the Annual Budget and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors to accept the Budget as proposed, or with approved changes.

*Clockwise starting from the left: Board President Robert Taylor, Member Allen Forster, Member Wyatt King, Secretary/Treasurer Dale White, Vice President Michael Schrader.*



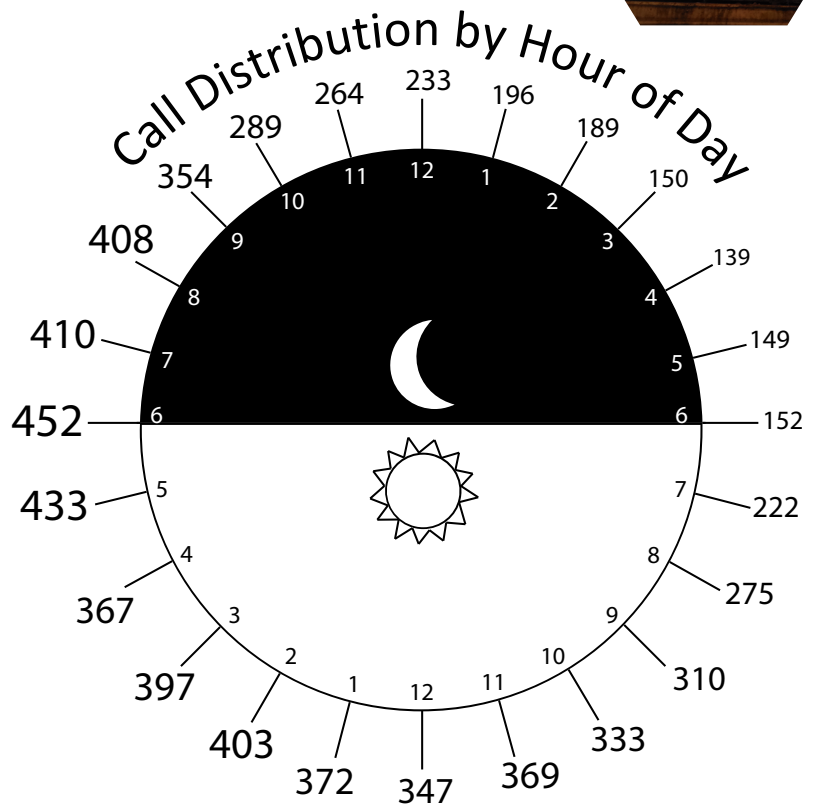
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# 2021 CALL VOLUME

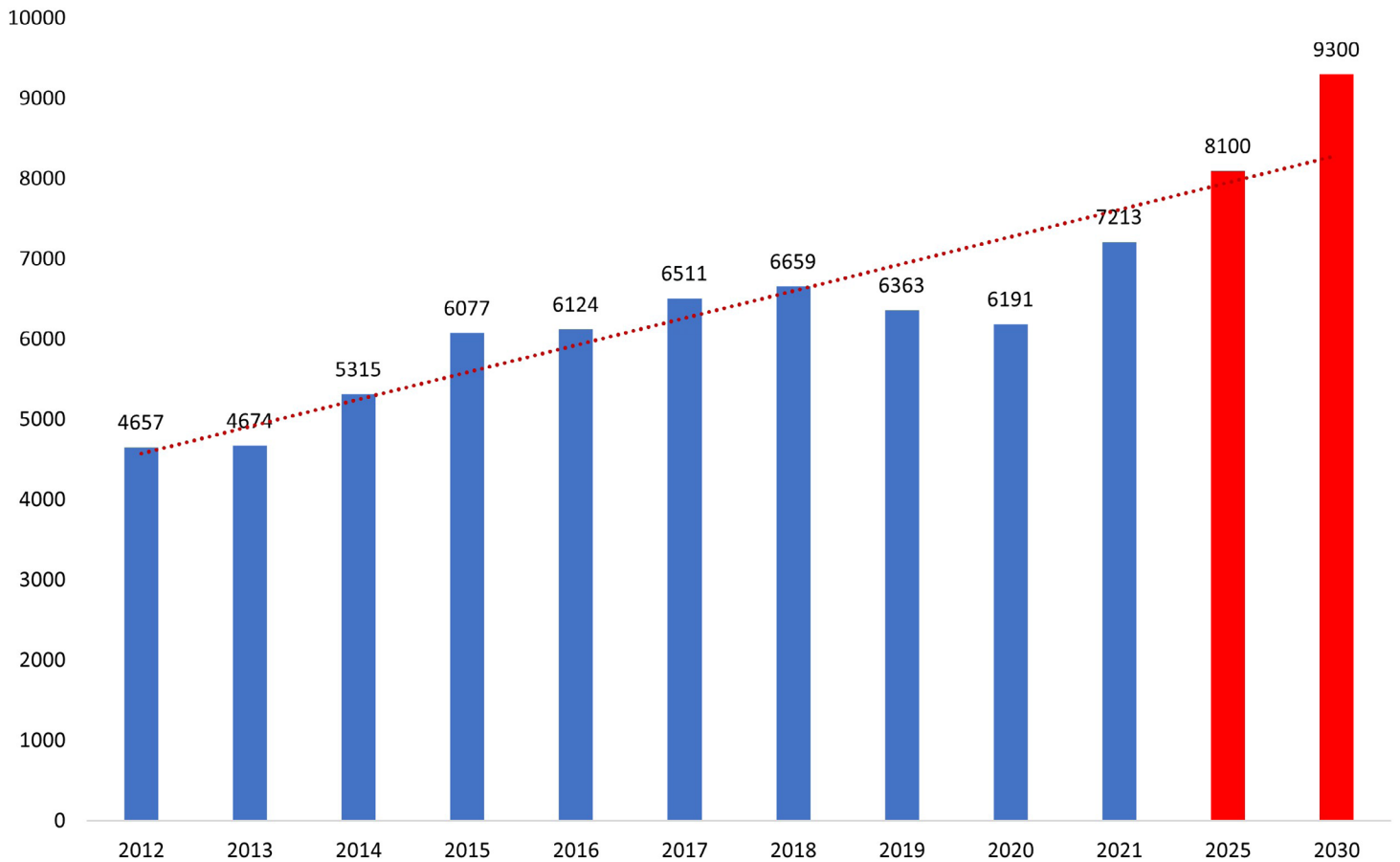
2021 was a record-breaking year with 7,213 calls for emergency services, over 1,000 calls more than 2020. Prior to 2021, Lebanon Fire District had four months with over 600 calls in our 138-year history. In 2021, we had seven months with 600 or more calls. Our busiest month ever was recorded in September of 2021, with 658 calls for service, or roughly 22 calls per 24-hour shift!

## 2021 Call Breakdown

Fire	133
Explosion	4
EMS	5,289
Hazardous Condition	61
Service Call	1,004
Good Intent	618
False Alarm	98
Severe Weather	1
Special Incident	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,213</b>



## Call Volume Projections



Even with the anomaly that was 2020, the Lebanon Fire District is still on track to break 8,000 calls by 2025, and 9,000 calls by 2030. While our population is growing, our staffing levels have remained mostly the same over the last decade. Since 2009, minimum staffing levels have been six career firefighters and one Battalion Chief per shift. In 2019, a Single-Role medic ambulance was added at 10 hours a day, seven days a week to help relieve the increased demand to our EMS services, which include inter-facility transfers. However, these Single-Role medics are not trained as firefighters.



CALL VOLUME TRENDS

# MISSION

## 2021 Volunteer Response

- 588.75 hours of ride time
- 580.5 hours of emergency response
- 3,723 volunteer responses (includes drills, training, and emergency response)
- 2,187.6 hours of training completed



## *Superior Incident Response*

The Lebanon Fire District is a proud combination district. This means we rely on career firefighters and volunteers from our community for incident response. In 2021, we completed three volunteer firefighter academies and added 25 new members to our volunteer cadre.

Volunteers respond to emergency incidents and other district functions in a variety of ways. Sometimes they are dispatched via 9-1-1, sometimes they are riding along with career staff on engines or medic units, and other times they are called to the station for staffing when too many emergencies are occurring at the same time. Active volunteers are crucial to our success as a district.

The NFPA 1720 Standard, viewed nationally as the standard all volunteer and combination departments should aim to achieve, dictates that a minimum of 15 firefighters should respond to a working structure fire. With full-staffing levels only providing 10 firefighters per day, you can see why our volunteers are so important. That doesn't even take into account the fact that emergency calls will often happen concurrently. Out of 23 working structure fires in 2021, we had 18 calls with 15 or more fire suppression personnel, meeting the NFPA 1720 Standard 78% of the time.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Lebanon Fire District, visit our website [here](#) and fill out a volunteer inquiry form.

## Emergency Preparedness

The wildfires and global pandemic of 2020 highlighted the need for local disaster and emergency preparedness efforts. Partners from the Cities of Lebanon, Brownsville, and Sweet Home, as well as Lebanon Fire District, Brownsville Fire District, and Sweet Home Fire & Ambulance District formed a Disaster Preparedness Committee to start addressing those needs in our communities.

The ultimate goal is for East Linn County to be better prepared for large scale disasters. The committee met several times over the course of 2021 to discuss areas of concern and plans for moving forward. The Request for Proposal (RFP) process was started in order to find a consultant company to assist in establishing a disaster preparedness plan to support our partners.

Having a centralized, local Disaster Preparedness Plan will provide improved response capabilities to citizens of the Lebanon Fire District and all of East Linn County by coordinating our efforts with the Linn County Sheriff's Disaster Management team.

## Community Risk Reduction

The best emergency is the one that doesn't happen. That's why community risk reduction is so important to the Lebanon Fire District. As the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) for the district, LFD requires commercial properties to have their fire suppression systems serviced and maintained each year. In 2021, the Fire & Life Safety Division reviewed and approved 590 fire protection system reports for code compliance. Additionally, we were able to reduce deficient systems by 2% over the previous year. To end 2021, over 95% of fire suppression systems in commercial buildings in the District were compliant with testing and maintenance.



**“Provide superior incident response together with progressive community risk reduction and emergency preparedness.”**

**A team empowered to provide professional and superior service to our community and to the citizens we serve.**



***We will communicate transparently and honestly on all levels.***

A new addition to the Lebanon Fire District fleet in 2021 that stands out is the appropriately named "Super Bee." Purchased for \$25,000 from Keizer Fire District, this 1997 Pierce Saber joined our fleet to replace another apparatus that was unable to be repaired.

We anticipate the arrival of two new Type I Fire Engines in 2022 purchased with 2019 Bond funds. These engines will take over 12 months to receive after ordering.

Our citizens expect, and deserve, the high level of fire protection that we have been able to offer for over 130 years. The purchase of the used Super Bee ensures that we can keep that level of protection high while we wait for our brand-new apparatus to arrive.

*Station 31 as it looked in 1975 when first constructed.*



***We will proactively deliver service while anticipating growth and change in our community.***

Progress on the new Station 31 Construction project slowed in 2021, but it didn't stop. Due to a drastic increase in costs of supplies and labor, the District chose to delay the project and the current station was not demolished as originally planned. In the Fall of 2021, the Lebanon Fire District hired Emerick Construction to join as CM/GC, Construction Manager/General Contractor.

In addition to hiring a CM/GC, the Lebanon Fire District continued to work with Rice Fergus Miller, our architects, to design the most cost-effective and functional fire station we can build within our established budget.

By postponing demolition in 2021, we were able to get back on track at the end of the year and see projected costs start to come back down and level out. The new Station 31 is still expected to be completed by late 2023.





Though it was presented at the virtual 2022 Awards Ceremony, the Lebanon Fire District was the proud recipient of the Special Districts Association of Oregon Outstanding Special District Program Award. The award was given based on two extremely unique programs at LFD: the WLEA (pronounced “wheelie”) program and the Fire Corps program.

The Western University Lebanon Fire Emergency Alliance (WLEA) is a partnership between LFD and the Comp-NW Medical school in Lebanon. Medical students are required to volunteer within their communities to graduate, and LFD is always looking for volunteer firefighters. Each student must apply and interview before being accepted into a volunteer firefighter academy. Once they have completed academy, these medical students are fully operational firefighters. This program has been an excellent way for us to provide superior fire protection to our community members and provide an opportunity for future doctors to serve their community.

The Fire Corps program is a group of volunteers who are not operational firefighters. These men and women serve in a different, but just as vital, capacity. Each Fire Corps member is trained in emotional and practical support. Some of them are even certified Emergency Medical Responders (EMR). Fire Corps members respond to death calls to provide emotional support for surviving family and friends. They also respond to fire calls to provide rehab services to firefighters, and help burn out victims coordinate Red Cross services and temporary housing needs.



*We will effectively and efficiently utilize resources while serving our community.*



**VISION**

# VALUES

*We believe in professionalism through training, career development, and mentoring our team to meet the high standards expected by our community.*

As an all-hazards District, it is crucial that we are prepared for any type of emergency that may occur. Our Training Division is responsible for making sure all our career staff and volunteers are trained to the highest degree. Some of the big topics covered in 2021 were rural water supply, rope operations, auto extrication, and swift water rescue.

Rural water supply training is extremely important for our community, as many of our District citizens live outside of the city limits of Lebanon. With the exception of one or two rural hydrants, this means that houses outside of the city limits do not have water readily available for firefighting. There are a few ways to solve this problem, including drafting. Large collapsible tanks are put on scene and filled by water tenders. Engines with pumps can draft out of these tanks instead of relying on hydrant systems. Because this is such an important skillset for our firefighters to have, we trained on rural water supply four times in 2021.

*We believe in improving the quality of life in our community and are dedicated to enhancing relationships with all our partners.*

Social media outreach has never been more important than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because we have been unable to do as much face-to-face outreach as we would like, we have increased our presence on social media in order to spread the fire safety message to as many community members as possible. In 2021, we

had over 307,000 unique impressions over our various social media platforms. That means over 307,000 times our messages of fire safety, home safety, and community updates were received.





***We believe in providing a culture of safety for our team and our community.***

Every year, the Lebanon Fire District performs Fire & Life Safety Inspections at each commercial property in the district. With the lingering affects of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 turned out to be another year in which we were unable to perform in-person inspections at pre-pandemic levels. Though it isn't a new program, our self-inspection program grew tremendously during 2021 to help close the gap between needing to perform inspections and needing to keep our staff and community safe.

In 2021, 211 commercial properties received instructions to complete their own Fire & Life Safety self-inspections. One hundred fifty-one properties, or 72%, successfully completed their inspections and returned their paperwork to the Lebanon Fire District. Though there are more than 211 commercial properties in the District, the self-inspection program's success has allowed us to keep as many businesses as possible safe from fire hazards and other issues an inspection may reveal, while also mitigating risk and exposure to the coronavirus.

Commercial properties become eligible for the self-inspection program by having a history of inspections with no violations. Once every three years, an in-person inspection will occur to make sure violations are all abated as self-reported. To learn more about our self-inspection program, or to see if your business is eligible, contact our Fire & Life Safety Division at (541) 451-1901 or [fireinspections@lebanonfire.com](mailto:fireinspections@lebanonfire.com).



***We believe in providing our customers with the highest level of courtesy, respect and compassion.***



**Professionalism  
Service  
Community  
Safety**



# STAY INVOLVED

Don't miss any news from the Lebanon Fire District. Follow us on social media for updates on community events, emergency response and more.



*Click the logos above to visit our social media sites.*