

## **BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT 2021 ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW**

*The year 2021 continued with challenges like dealing with the fluidity of COVID-19 and disaster event. However, the Biloxi Fire Department is up to the challenge, and I must emphasize that in spite of these issues, we also experienced a tremendous amount of change and growth.*

*One of the major developments in 2021 came with the implementation of new reporting and staffing software for the department. These new programs—Emergency Reporting and Fire Roster—replace our aging Firehouse software utilized since 2004. The new software has revolutionized the way we manage staffing, accountability, and data retention and reporting.*

*The department has also benefited from securing grants to assist in improving operational efficiency and providing first-class service to the community. They include a SCBA/Health & Wellness grant in the amount of \$890,000.00; a Firehouse subs grant for \$35,000.00; and a MOHS grant for a new support vehicle to tow our rescue and hazmat trailers in the amount of \$39,000.00.*

*We were able to hire 12 new recruits this past year, and to help with training them, an EMT Basic course is scheduled at the beginning of this year to accommodate approximately 25 students.*

*In addition to implementation of new departmental reporting software, we have started an online uniform ordering process which enables each member of the department to create their own specifications and quantity of uniform items needed. This procedure should help mitigate the errors made in our current comprehensive style of ordering.*

*Perhaps the chief (no pun intended) transformation this past year is the face of a new departmental administration, including a new Director, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief of Training, Battalion Chiefs, Captains, and Firefighter IIIs. With these changes, the department is evolving to meet the needs of the new year while we also stay steadfast to our mission to serve the citizens and visitors of Biloxi.*

**BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Operations Division**  
**2021 Annual Report**

*The Biloxi Fire Department responded to 8,286 emergency calls during this past year compared to 7,485 calls in 2020. Of the 8,286 emergency calls, 5,655 were rescue and medical incidents which represents 68.2% of our overall calls. There was a significant increase over the past year in the amount of good intent or service calls that were non-emergency related, as well as hazardous condition and false alarm calls. Conversely, the number of fire-related calls, including structures, vehicles, boats, motorhomes, and wood fires were relatively lower; with an overall total of 223 compared to 306 in 2020.*

*In 2021 we provided fire, rescue, and medical protection for major events in the City, including Scraping the Coast and Cruisin' the Coast. We designated specialty teams for each event which were placed in strategic locations to ensure the safety needs of our citizens and visitors. For all of these events, Police, Fire, and EMS were again staged in the same Command Post and worked seamlessly together for the fourth consecutive year. Consequently, our combined efforts provided a highly effective stratagem for the safety and well-being of both our personnel and citizens.*

*The department had eight (8) firefighters become national registry certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) within the last year, as well as two (2) advanced EMTs and one (1) Paramedic. The Department promoted several personnel, including a Director, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, two Battalion Chiefs, six Captains, and five FFIII's (Driver/Operator). In addition, 12 new recruits were hired, and they will greatly enhance our staffing needs. Operations personnel also had the opportunity to participate on promotional boards for the Cities of Pascagoula and Gulfport Fire Departments.*

*The Department also once again had the opportunity to host the annual SE AFC Conference, in which retired Chief Joe Boney was named President of the organization.*

*The Biloxi Fire Department is committed to community outreach programs, including city-wide events, including Fire Academy for Kids, Biloxi Christmas Parade, Special Needs Christmas Dance, and the Joppa Shrine Disabled Kids Christmas Party. Departmental personnel also collected and delivered toys to the disaster area of Kentucky devastated by recent tornadoes. In conjunction with the West End Hose Company Fire Museum, members of the Department also spent time in Louisiana assisting with the relief efforts from the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.*

*Further, we continue our dedication to maintaining an interactive relationship with our citizens by participating in community related events such as our annual smoke detector program. Although we were unable to partner with the Red Cross to access entire*

*neighborhoods in the City due to COVID-19 this past year, Fire Prevention personnel continued to perform smoke alarm service and installation upon residents' requests. Such activities are instrumental in our efforts to educate, save lives and protect property.*

*Also, this year we trained in the implementation for emergency response for Active Shooter Incidents and Lost Person Incidents with our Police Department as a way to work seamlessly together on low-frequency, high-risk emergency incidents and huge potential media events.*

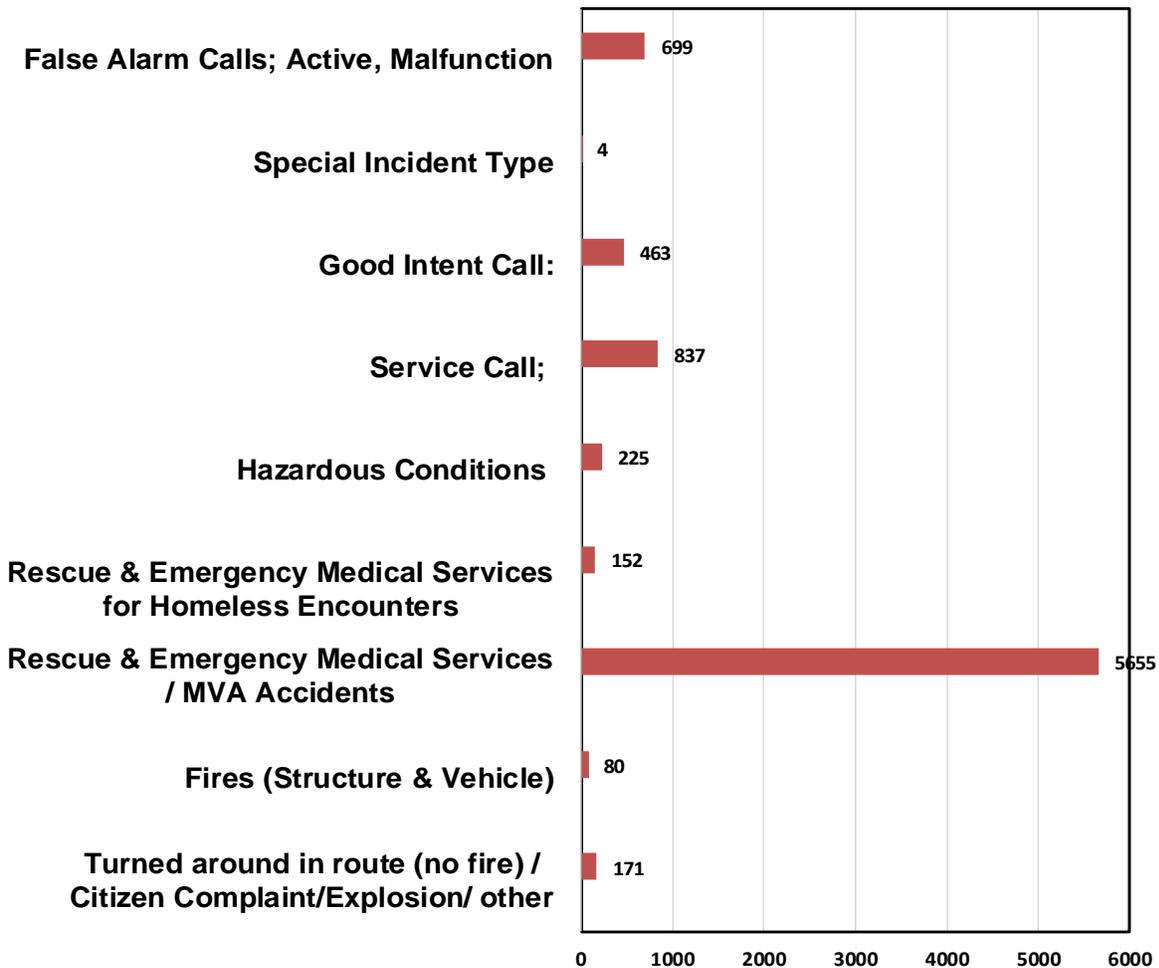
*The attached graph details the Fire Department's incident type averages for the past year.*



## BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT SUMMARY REPORT FOR January - December 2021

<i>Turned around in route (no fire) / Citizen Complaint/Explosion/ other</i>	171
<i>Fires (Structure &amp; Vehicle)</i>	80
<i>Rescue &amp; Emergency Medical Services / MVA Accidents</i>	5655
<i>Rescue &amp; Emergency Medical Services for Homeless Encounters</i>	152
<i>Hazardous Conditions</i>	225
<i>Service Call;</i>	837
<i>Good Intent Call:</i>	463
<i>Special Incident Type</i>	4
<i>False Alarm Calls; Active, Malfunction</i>	699
<b>Total</b>	<b>8286</b>

**Weekly Count of Incident Type**



**BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Fire Prevention Division**  
**2021 Annual Report**

*In 2021, Fire Prevention conducted a total of 1,613 fire inspections, with 673 of those inspections performed by firefighters on the truck companies. Fire Prevention personnel conducted 940 inspections which included 377 certificates of occupancy inspections and 63 short-term rentals.*

*Daycare facilities, summer day camps, and after school camps are all required by the State of Mississippi to have a Uniform Fire Safety Survey Form completed by local agencies. The form is a detailed fire inspection performed in conjunction with our Fire Inspectors. Last year, a total of 33 of these types of inspections were performed (28 daycares and 5 after school/summer day camp programs).*

*The Biloxi Fire Department had 8,286 calls in 2021 and 223 of those calls were fire-related. Fire Inspectors are on-call 24/7 to conduct systematic investigations to determine the cause and origin of any fire requested by the on-scene Battalion Chief if the apparent cause is unknown. Fire Prevention investigated a total of 17 of these types of fires, and there no reported fire deaths in 2021.*

*The number of development plans reviewed by Fire Prevention continued to increase last year, including commercial construction and fire protection system plans. There were 51 commercial plans reviewed in 2021, along with the following plans: 6 automatic hood extinguishing systems, 11 automatic sprinkler systems, 8 fire alarm systems, and 1 paint booth system, for a total of 77 blue prints reviewed for approval by Fire Prevention. Fire Prevention is also involved with the Development Review Committee which included reviewing 104 proposed developments in the past year.*

*Once the process of reviewing blue print drawings is approved, most projects are then permitted, built, and finally the inspection/testing process takes over. In addition, some of the pre-existing fire protection systems that have been tested are also required to be recertified each year by Fire Prevention personnel.*

*Fire Prevention is also responsible for issuing burn permits which are free for residents of the City of Biloxi. Fire Inspectors must check the initial burn site and explain the rules and fire safety practices before a permit is issued. In 2021, a total of 39 permits were issued for burning, including both new and renewed permits. Fire Prevention also manages the permit process for pyrotechnic shows displayed within the city limits and in 2021, 12 outdoor fireworks displays permits were approved.*

*Public education remains the primary goal of the Fire Prevention Division because the first defense against fighting a fire or surviving a fire incident is education. We connect with the citizens in many ways, such as providing station tours, conducting fire safety presentation classes to children and senior citizens. Fire Inspectors also give fire extinguisher classes to businesses, high school students and teachers. Fire Pup, our mascot, also makes many appearances at events and is a tremendous hit with the children. As an important part of our ongoing educational programs, Fire Prevention conducts fire drill training to all schools (public and private), daycare facilities, senior citizen facilities, and private businesses. Our Division also participates in a number of career day events for both adults and children. Fire Prevention reached over 12,000 people through our public education programs, although due to COVID-19, this was down from previous years. Various news outlets did interview members of Fire Prevention this past year as a form of public education this year which allowed us to keep connected to the community.*

*In June of 2021, the Biloxi Fire Department was able to conduct its annual fire safety summer camp, "Fire Academy for Kids". This summer camp is a fun way for kids to learn lifesaving information through a hands-on and interactive approach. Since its inception, the camp has become a popular event and we eagerly look forward to offering it again in 2022!*

*Last, but not least, in keeping with our commitment to life safety, Fire Prevention also continued its successful smoke alarm installation program. This is a free service offered to residents of the City. We not only tested existing smoke alarms, but in some cases, provided new batteries, thus returning the smoke alarms to good working order. We installed new smoke alarms if a resident did not have one, if theirs was faulty, or if it was out of date. In 2021, we installed 82 smoke alarms in 22 residential dwellings. This program is funded through different grants applied for by our department, and all smoke alarms are donated free of charge. We also have a smoke alarm program in place for the hearing and visually impaired that includes vibrating pillow/mattress and strobe devices. Unfortunately, once again due to Covid-19, we were unable to team up with the American Red Cross this year to provide smoke alarms to neighborhoods as we have done in previous years, but we hope to continue the partnership with them in the coming year.*

*In closing, the Biloxi Fire Department has the most advanced Fire Prevention Division, not only on the Gulf Coast, but also in the State. We continue to give our Fire Inspectors the tools needed to perform at their best and provide the training necessary for them to serve our community at the utmost level. Our goal is to continue to grow with our City, and we take pride in providing superior public service and education to our community.*

**BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Training Division**  
**2021 Annual Report**

*The Training Division led refresher classes in CPR and Emergency Medical Technician for fire personnel and also certified the Parks & Recreation Department's Summer Camp employees in CPR.*

*Driver Operator testing was conducted this past April resulting in five firefighters attaining the rank of Driver/Firefighter III.*

*From August through October, the Training Division familiarized the department on the new Emergency Reporting Software and Fire Roster Software. This replaced the old Firehouse reporting software.*

*The Biloxi Fire Department adopted the Mississippi Trainee Agility Test (MSTAT) for entrance examination for Firefighter to align with the State Fire Academy's testing protocols. An agreement was made between coast fire departments that allows Biloxi to host the MSTAT on even months in an effort to facilitate the coastal departments' hiring processes and entrance for the academy.*

*In the months of September and November, a total of twelve new firefighters were hired - nine (9) recruits, two (2) laterals, and one (1) certified FF. The Training Division directed more than 3,960 hours of training to get each of them ready to complete the required Basic FF 1001 I-II course and for shift work. Eight recruits became certified Firefighters on 12/16/2021. Because the department conducted the in-house recruit class, it saved the City approximately \$5,000.00 due to less travel and no meal reimbursements.*

*Live burns were conducted with crews and recruits at the Training Tower at Fire Station #7 during the month of October.*

*In December the Training Division re-implemented the Workforce Development Training Agreement with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) to receive reimbursement for training conducted in the department.*

*The Training Division completed 4,197 hours of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training by providing an EMT course and EMT refresher courses to our personnel using our own Paramedics to teach the classes. The department currently has 6 Paramedics, 3 Advanced EMTs, and 99 EMTs.*

Our personnel completed 17,715 hours of Company Training conducted at the fire stations by the crews themselves, while 26 firefighters completed 2,352 hours of training through the Mississippi State Fire Academy and 4 firefighters completed 196 hours of training through the National Fire Academy. The graph below details training areas and hours:

## 2021 SUMMARY OF TRAINING HOURS

TRAINING TYPE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
INHOUSE TRAINING				20	37				80		43	12	192
RECRUIT INHOUSE									360	1,512	1,328	768	3,968
COMPANY TRAINING	1,507	1,282	1,406	1,354	1,686	1,372	1,413	1,176	1,266	2,003	2,354	896	17,715
STATE FIRE ACADEMY	80	640	720			192	640			80			2,352
NAT'L FIRE ACADEMY				16	60					120			196
TASK FORCE				48	208				40		144		440
MISC. TRAINING	8	10	92	8	8			40	3				169
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	24				106	120	32		36	32		36	386
EMS TRAINING	8	200	872	864				369	51	1,260	1,059		4,683
TOTAL TRAINING HRS.	1,627	2,132	3,090	2,310	2,105	1,684	2,085	1,585	1,836	5,007	4,928	1,712	30,101