



ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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Mission Statement:

The Harker Heights Fire Department will provide, with care and concern, the highest quality Fire/Rescue/EMS care and service to all persons for whom the City of Harker Heights is responsible.



HARKER HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

**ADMINISTRATION / CENTRAL STATION
401 INDIAN TRAIL
HARKER HEIGHTS, TEXAS 76548**

(254) 699-2688

FireDept@harkerheights.gov

On behalf of the men and women of the Harker Heights Fire department, I want to say thank you for taking the time to read and enjoy our 2021 & 2022 Annual Report. Having now experienced a pandemic as a nation and seemingly moving out of it, many things are somewhat back to normal and we are grateful for being blessed to not have been too adversely affected. We have and continue to lift up those in prayer who have been affected in our community, state, and nation in a more profound way through loss or illness!

We have a lot to be proud of as an organization for the accomplishments we were able to achieve over these last two-years and our team is to be commended. The following are just a sample of our achievements during the 21/22 calendar years:



- Received the American Heart Association’s Mission Lifeline “Gold Plus” EMS Award year for the seventh and eighth consecutive year. This award recognizes its commitment and success in implementing specific quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who suffer a severe heart attack.
- Completed renovation of our fire station #2 with the addition of 2350 sq. feet of space in order to serve our needs for well into the future.
- Ordered a new ladder truck this will be known as Tower 41 once it arrives, expected to be April of 2023.
- Ordered a replacement Medic unit during in October of 2021 and received new unit in February 2023 and placed into service.
- Purchased new extrication tools.
- Continued the Thanksgiving Basket and Santa Pal program assisting more than 200 families over the course of the last two years.

We look forward to what 2023 has in-store in the way of challenges and possibilities and we will approach them with the degree of diligence and purpose we expect of ourselves in order to best serve our community.

- *Providing public services that empower people to focus on what matters most: their goals, hopes and dreams;* is our city’s vision statement and we strive daily to see it through.

Paul D. Sims

Fire Chief/EMC

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



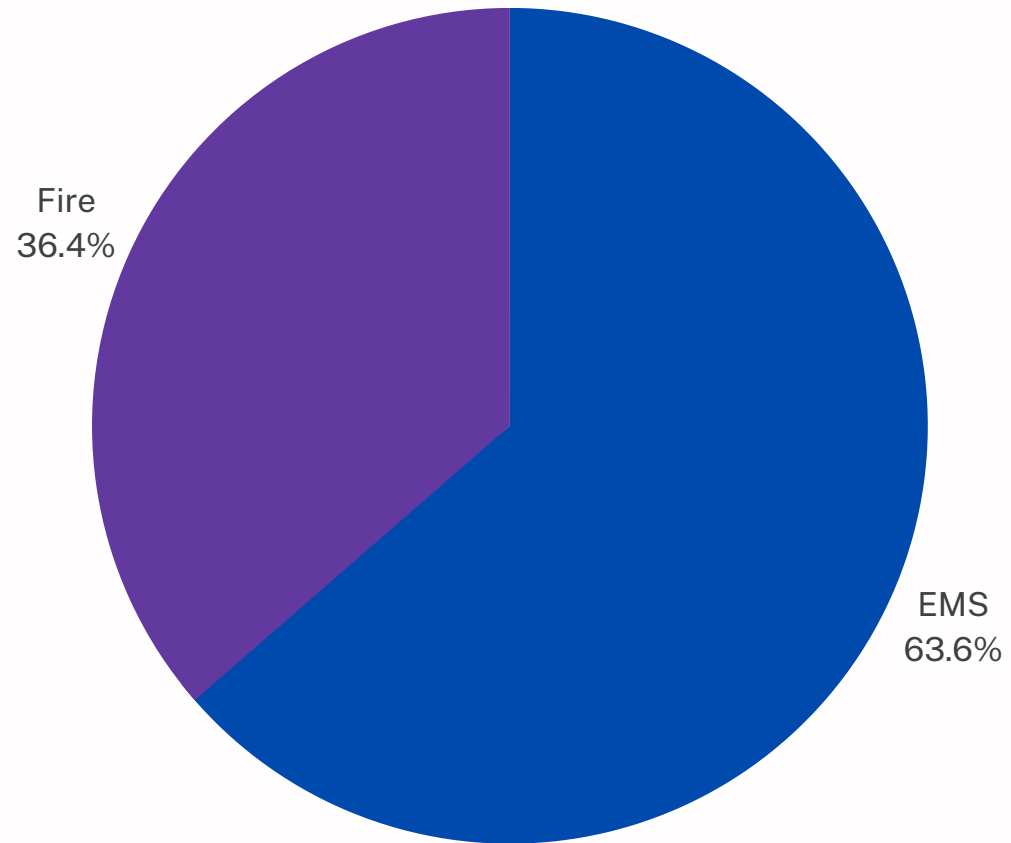


The Operations Division is led by the Deputy Fire Chief of Operations Cindy Hicks and is tasked with providing an array of fire suppression and specialized rescue operations. Moreover, the suppression staff of thirty nine (39) are responsible for providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) and basic emergency medical care to those who live, work and/or pass through our community. These and other areas of service are provided twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, with two front line state of the art mobile intensive care units and one reserve ambulance. As well as, one Quint “ladder” truck, one front line Class “A” pumper, one Class “A” reserve pumper, two brush trucks, one boat for high water rescue, and one Battalion Chief commander vehicle. The Operations Division responded to 4284 calls for service this year. The Harker Heights Fire Department handled an average of 11.73 emergency responses each day.

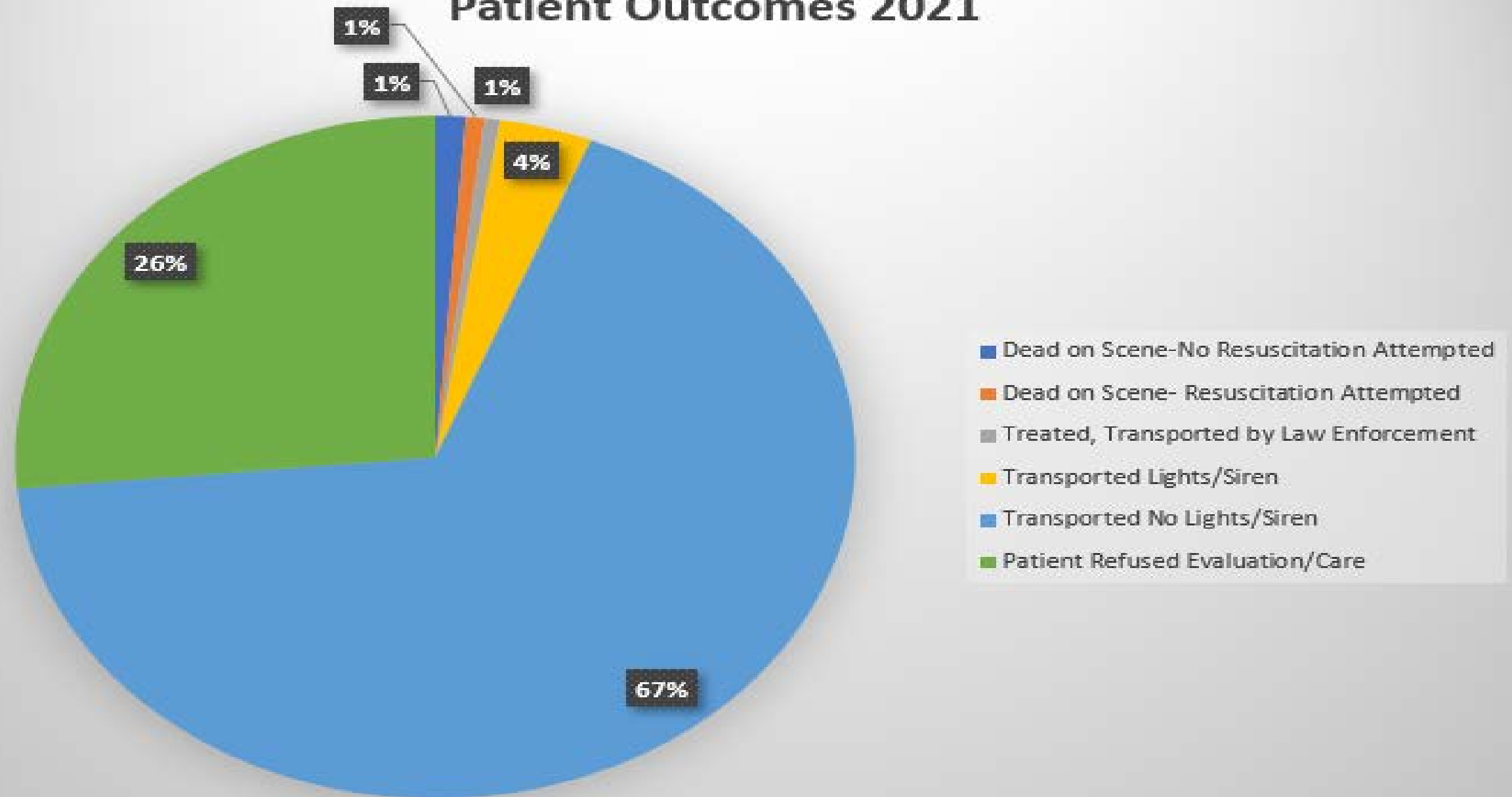


Deputy Fire Chief Cindy Hicks has been with the Harker Heights Fire Department since 1994. Besides being a certified firefighter and paramedic, she is also a chaplain, wildland firefighter, among holding many other certifications.

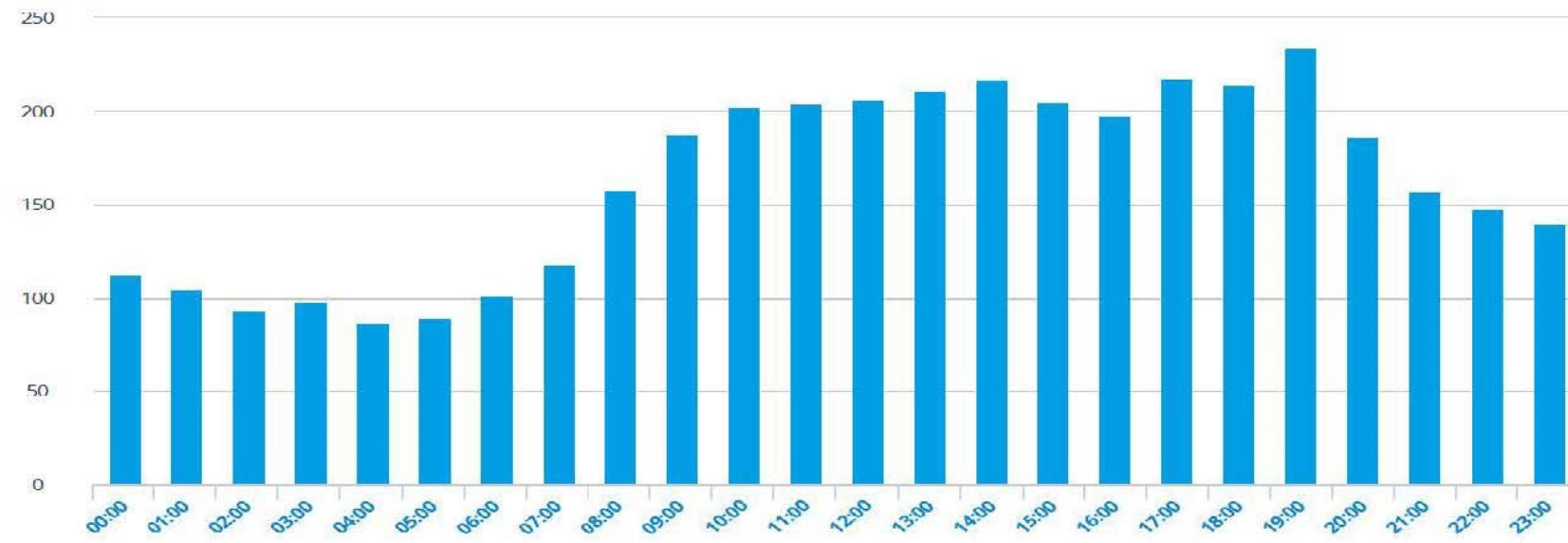
FY 2021 Statistics Call Volume



Patient Outcomes 2021



Jan 1, 2021 - Dec 31, 2021

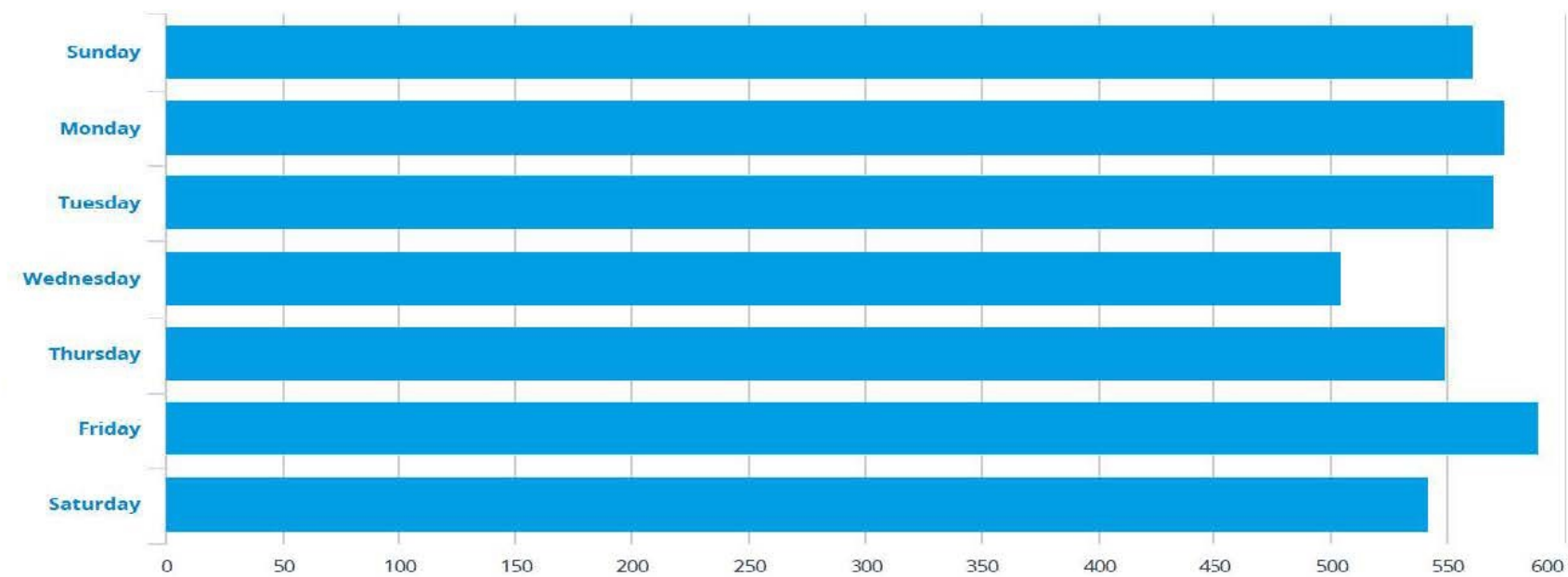


EMS Responses by Hour of Day



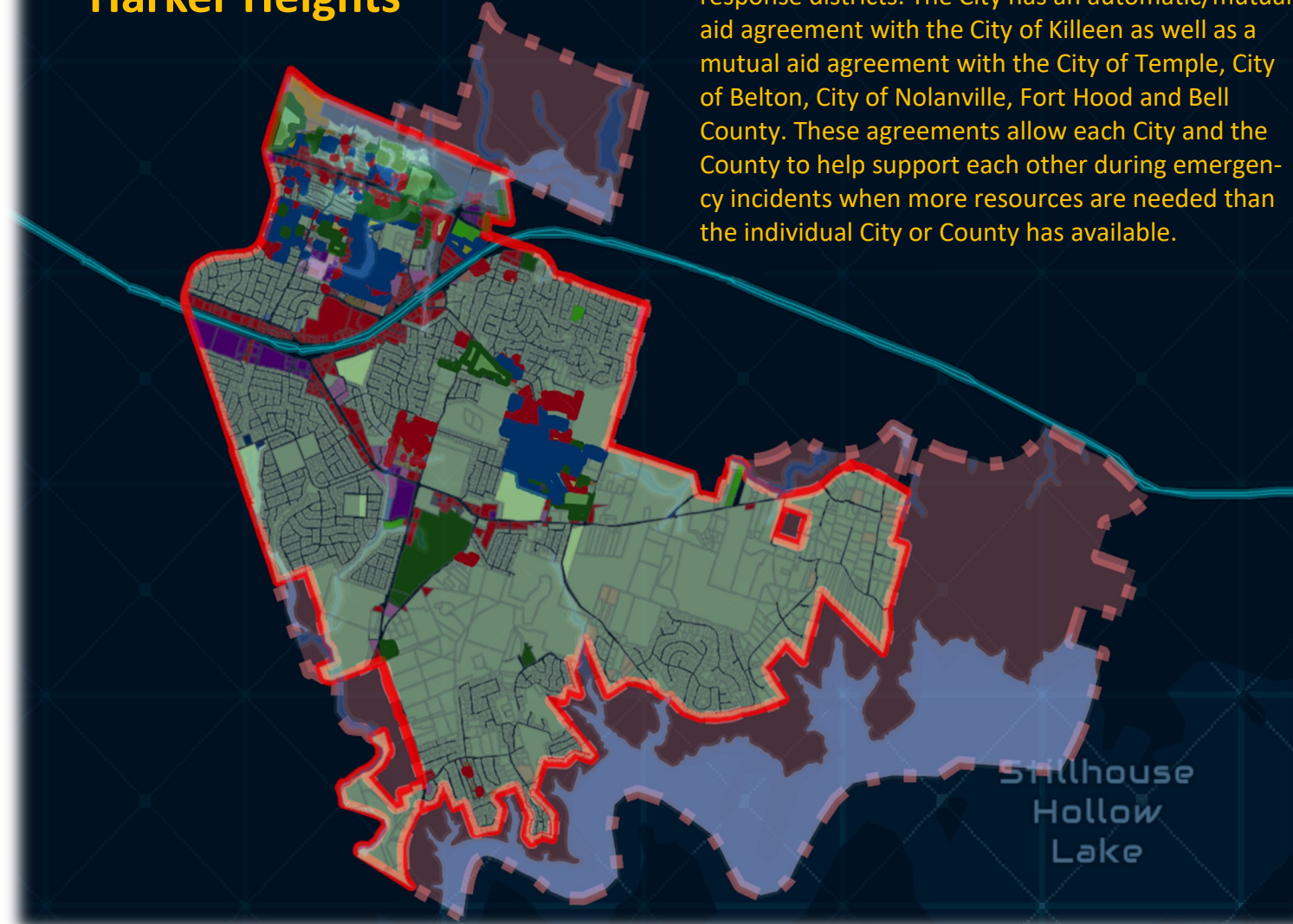
EMS Responses by Day of the Week

Jan 1, 2021 - Dec 31, 2021



City of Harker Heights

The City of Harker Heights encompasses 15.6 square miles and is divided into three fire response districts. The City has an automatic/mutual aid agreement with the City of Killeen as well as a mutual aid agreement with the City of Temple, City of Belton, City of Nolanville, Fort Hood and Bell County. These agreements allow each City and the County to help support each other during emergency incidents when more resources are needed than the individual City or County has available.



Type of Incident	# of Incidents	% of Incident Type
Structure Fire	33	27.5%
Fire, Other	9	7.5%
Fire in Mobile Property Used as a Fixed Structure	4	3.33%
Mobile Property (Vehicle)	17	14.17%
Natural Vegetation Fire	34	28.33%
Outside Rubbish Fire	16	13.33%
Special Outside Fire	7	5.83%
Total Fire Responses	120	



Central Station
401 Indian Trail
Harker Heights, TX 76548



Station #2
3207 Stillhouse Lake Rd
Harker Heights, TX 76548

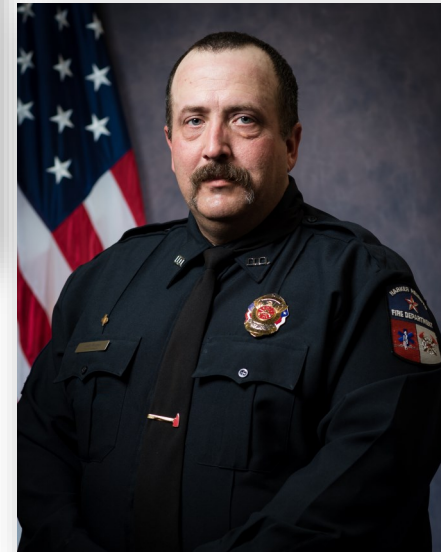




**Lieutenant
Megan Leighman**



**Battalion Chief
Matthew Truitt**



**Lieutenant
Matt Hogan**

A-Shift Updates and Accomplishments:

- Former Lieutenant Matthew Truitt was promoted to Battalion Chief.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Hogan was selected for Firefighter of the Year by our Public Safety Committee.
- Firefighter/EMT Nathan Elliott completed his Paramedic Class
- Firefighter/EMT Tanner Fleet completed his one year phase training.

A-Shift

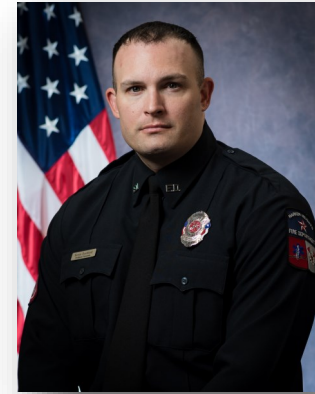
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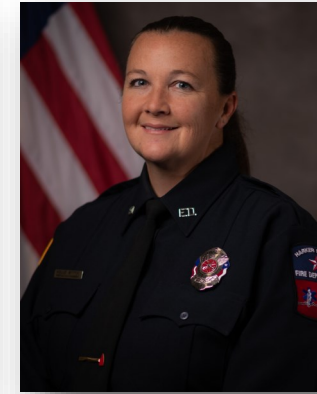
**Driver/Operator
Damon Sprouse**



**Driver/Operator
Justin Lewis**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Kevin Rochford**



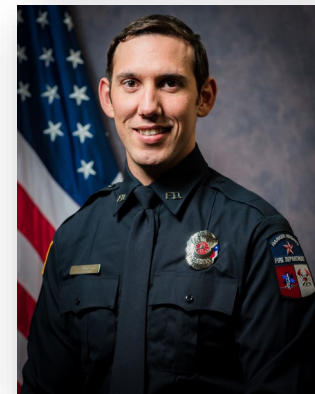
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Kellie Mozek**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Johnny Caraway**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Justin Elliott**



**Firefighter/EMT
Jonathan Gutz**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Kaleb Sparkman**



**Firefighter/EMT
Tanner Fleet**



**Battalion Chief
David Ayer**



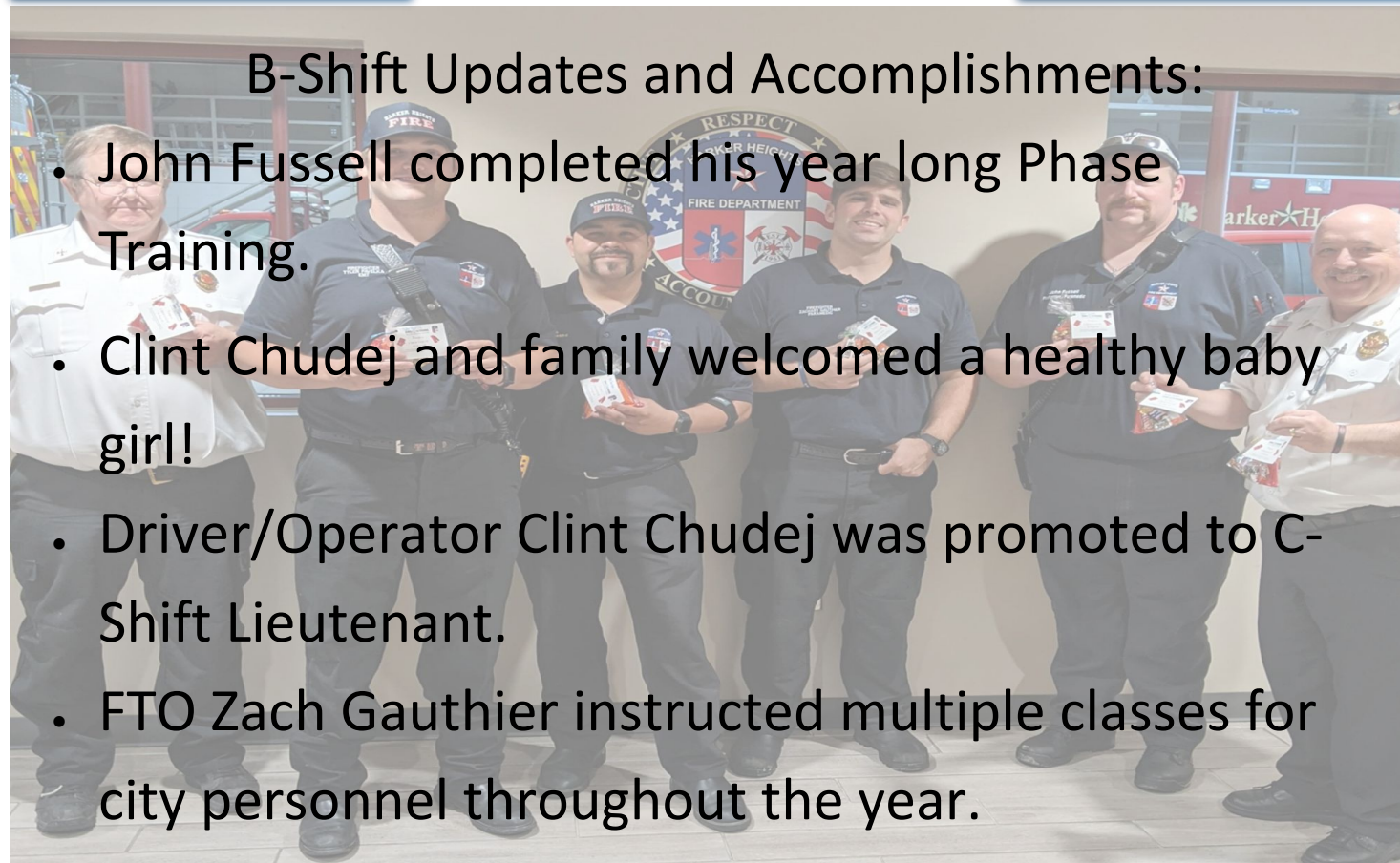
**Lieutenant
Matt Truitt**



**Lieutenant
Ray Gandara**

B-Shift Updates and Accomplishments:

- John Fussell completed his year long Phase Training.
- Clint Chudej and family welcomed a healthy baby girl!
- Driver/Operator Clint Chudej was promoted to C-Shift Lieutenant.
- FTO Zach Gauthier instructed multiple classes for city personnel throughout the year.



B-Shift

D-Shift



**Driver/Operator
Cody Newman**



**Driver/Operator
Clint Chudej**



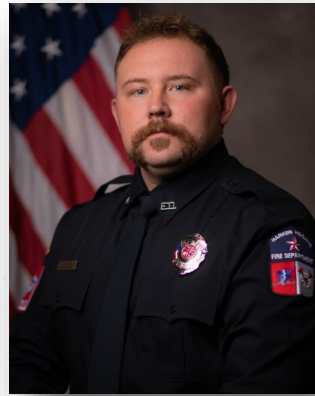
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Joseph Byrne**



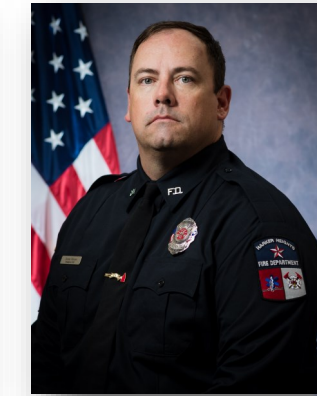
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Zachary Gauthier**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Charles Brummett**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Casey Baugh**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Jason Moore**



**Firefighter/EMT
Tyler Pavelka**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Tanner Read**



**Lieutenant
Aaron Dunnam**



**Battalion Chief
Jimmy Carson**



**Lieutenant
Jacob Cardona**

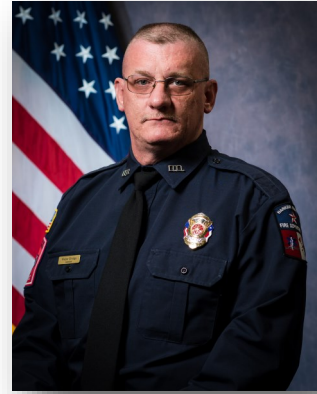
C-Shift Updates and Accomplishments:



- Lieutenant Dunnam was promoted to Battalion Chief of Training.
- The Cardona's welcomed a healthy baby boy!
- Firefighter/EMT Nathan Elliott and Hunter Ringo completed their one year phase training.

C-Shift

C-SHIFT



**Driver/Operator
Walter Elvidge**



**Driver/Operator
Anthony Combs**



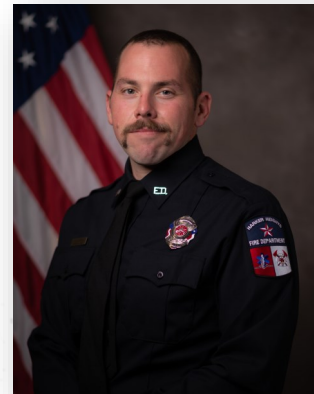
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Mike Licavoli**



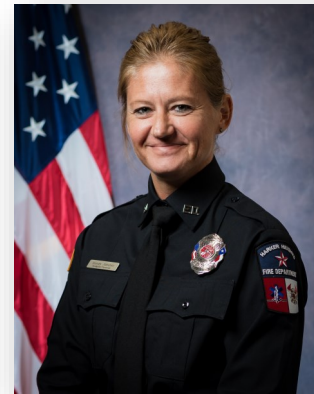
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Rene Fernandez**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Jordan Clopton**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Stuart Kiefer**



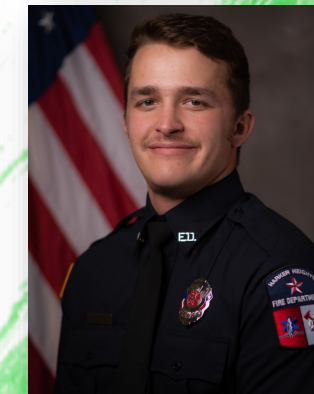
**Firefighter/Paramedic
Mandy Jimenez**



**Firefighter/EMT
Nathan Elliott**



**Firefighter/Paramedic
Alyssa Schwindt**



**Firefighter/EMT
Hunter Ringo**



Engine 1 is a 2014 Ferrara MVP Pumper Truck. It can store up to 750 gallons of water and pump 2000 gallons per minute. It carries up to 768 cubic feet of equipment. The truck is approximately 34' long and 10' in height.

Quint 2 is a 2005 E-One Typhoon Ladder Truck. It can store 360 gallons of water and pump 2000 gallons per minute. 75ft 360 degree aerial ladder.





Our ambulances have a carrying capacity of 2 people, but can be increased if needed. As a Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU). We are prepared to treat/stabilize and transport patients in almost any medical emergency.

Feature Equipment:

- Video Laryngoscopy - Digital video that assists in airway management.
- Lifepak 15 - State of the art mobile cardiac monitoring system.
- Doppler - Detects fetal heartbeats and peripheral arterial blood flow.
- Powerlift Stretcher - Hydraulic assisted lifting system that keeps patients stable.





Brush Trucks are designed to move quickly through areas that other fire apparatuses cannot. They can store up to 400 gallons of water and can be used for light rescue, initial attack or medical support. Our trucks are also equipped with a remote controlled nozzle, which enables the vehicle to fight fire while on the move.

Battalion 1 is operated by the Shift Commander and is used to respond to various events and incidents as a mobile command post. It is equipped with a wide variety of equipment to ensure communication and coordination are performed at the highest efficiency.



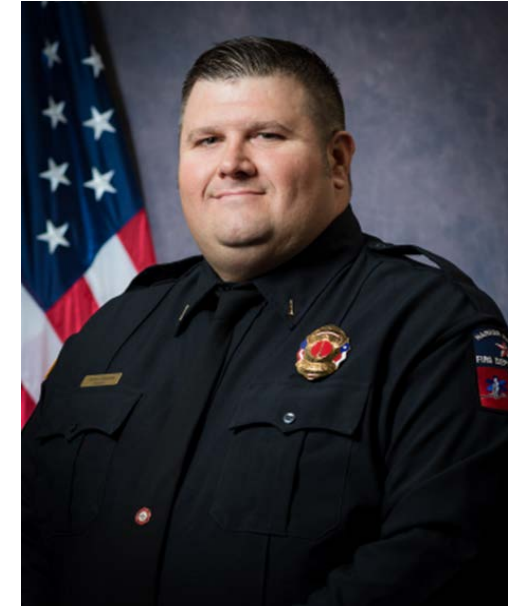
Training Division

*“Training today for safety
and survival tomorrow.”*

- Unknown

In **2021**, the fire department completed over 3600 hours of fire and EMS training. This training was completed through:

- Target Solutions
- Fire training: hands on training in extrication, rescue, pump operations, hazmat and fire scenarios
- Mutual aid training through live fire scenarios
- EMS training: classroom, hands on with the simulation mannequin , hands on emergency airway training with Dr. Ratcliff, Medical Director, PHTLS with Ft. Hood.
- Stop the Bleed Program (public and City employees)
- Take 10 CPR
- Fire Extinguisher training to citizens and City employees
- Online programs in Fire Instruction, Fire Officer, and Driver Operator training
- College hours in Fire service and EMS
- TEEX fire training through Texas A & M on HazMat liquid, pipeline, and industrial emergencies
- TML training
- Coordinated training with CTC, Paramedic School
- Blue Card training scenarios with all Firefighters
- Hazardous materials incident commander training/certification
- NAEMT instructor certification
- TIFMAS (Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System) training and TIFMAS Conference



Aaron Dunnam is the Battalion Chief of training and coordinates both Fire and EMS training for the Department. Aaron has been with Harker Heights Fire Department for over 10 years.

Training Vision for 2022

Certification through TCFP as a training sight utilizing IFSTA Resource One
Increased documented hours for Fire and EMS using the Target Solutions online platform

Increase community training with “Stop the Bleed” and “Take 10 CPR”

Individual College Degree plans for Fire Science, through CTC

Fire Scenario computer training, using the Simushare system

TIFMAS task book training and deployment readiness

Certifications

The following certifications are earned and issued through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection

Firefighter Levels

Master 10
Advanced 17
Intermediate 9
Basic 10
Fire Investigator 8

Instructors

Instructor III 1
Instructor II 11
Instructor I 16

Wildland Firefighters

24 personnel

Driver Operators

31 personnel

Arson Investigators

5 personnel

Inspectors

8

Fire Officer

FO I 7
FO II 9
FO III 0
FO IV 4

Hazardous Materials Technician

5 personnel

EMS certifications through The Texas Department of State Health Service

EMT Paramedics 38
EMT Basics 6

- 100% of the department members are dual certified in Fire and EMS



Certificate of Promotion



Matt Truitt to Battalion Chief
Aaron Dunnam to Battalion Chief
Anthony Combs to Lieutenant
Clint Chudej to Lieutenant
Rene Fernandez to Driver/Operator
Charles Brummett to Driver/Operator



RETIREMENT

Martin Mercado retired in June 2021 from the Harker Heights Fire Department after faithfully serving for over 21 years. His dedication to the service was exemplary as he was a pillar of hard work and expertise that was unmatched within the Department.



New Employees



Nicholas Olson
Firefighter/Paramedic



Eunice Myers
Secretary



Fire Prevention Division

The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) is tasked with preventing and/or reducing the incidence of fire, explosions, and other hazards that may cause harm to the residents, visitors and businesses of the City of Harker Heights. We strive to accomplish this goal through quality public education, construction plan reviews, fire and life safety inspections, application of the fire code, fire cause and origin examinations, and criminal investigations.

Our dedicated and highly trained personnel actively participate with our community, by striving to provide safety information, by attempting to serve as role models, by effectively and efficiently utilizing all resources made available, and by providing excellent customer service to the citizens and visitors to the City of Harker Heights, Texas



Top 10 Violations Found

- ◆ Improper clearance to electrical equipment.
- ◆ Improper or no required signage on exit doors.
- ◆ Portable fire extinguishers that haven't had an annual inspection.
- ◆ Exit signs and/or emergency lighting not working on battery back-up.
- ◆ Fire Alarm systems that haven't had an annual inspection.
- ◆ Commercial kitchen vent hoods that require cleaning.
- ◆ Failure to acquire proper permits or city business registration.
- ◆ Updated keys needed for the location's Knox Box.
- ◆ Unsecured or Improperly secured compressed gas cylinders.
- ◆ Storage in electrical and mechanical rooms.

Fires and Investigations

Various Fire Responded to	30
Working Fire Investigated by FMO	15
Accidental or Undetermined cause	24
Suspected Incendiary (Arson) Fires	6
Arson Arrests	4



Community Programs



Fire safety education programs for the public are a valuable resource for our community. Our team works hard to educate the public about fire safety. Our firefighting crews are committed to providing educational instruction on fire safety to members of the local community, including at schools, daycare facilities, and community gatherings.

The Harker Heights Lions Club and the Fire Department coordinate an annual Thanksgiving and Santa Pal Basket to help families during the holidays. We appreciate all the generous donations for businesses, community members and all others that make this event possible each year!



Firefighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God,
wherever flames may rage,
give me strength to save a life,
whatever be its age.

Help me embrace a little child
before it is too late,
or save an older person from
the horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert,
and hear the weakest shout,
quickly and efficiently
to put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling,
to give the best in me,
to guard my friend and neighbor,
and protect his property.

And if according to Your will
I must answer death's call,
bless with your protecting hand,
my family one and all.



Firefighter/Paramedic Hunter Ringo helps a child down from the Firetruck at the Library's Fire Safety Day.

“Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety” is the national campaign theme of this year’s Fire Prevention Week, supported by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This year’s theme strives to educate everyone about the important sounds smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms make. Knowing the difference and when you must act quickly can save you, your family, and your home.





Firefighter of the Year

Matt Hogan is a Firefighter/Paramedic at the Harker Heights Fire Department. Lieutenant Hogan is a dedicated member of the Harker Heights Fire Department, which he has been serving since 2005. However, he started his career in the Emergency Medical Services in 2001 and the Fire Service in 2005. Before that, LT. Hogan was employed by Rural Metro Ambulance and ETMC EMS.

Matt holds a Master Structure Firefighter Certification that was acquired in May 2019, owing to his remarkable ability to analyze and solve intricate issues. On September 26, 2021, he acted as a Battalion Chief and courageously led the biggest and most multifaceted wildland fire in the city's history. Over a hundred firefighters and fifty apparatuses were present, putting dozens of houses at Comanche Gap Road and Lakefront Drive in jeopardy. Thankfully, with the efficient use of resources, there was no harm done to either people or properties.

In his leisure time, LT. Hogan enjoys going for hikes, and is an enthusiast for collecting and trading model trains and air soft.



2021 Mission: Lifeline® EMS Recognition

The American Heart Association proudly recognizes

Harker Heights Fire Department
Harker Heights, TX

Mission: Lifeline® - EMS - GOLD PLUS

Achievement Award - EMS Agency

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association recognizes this EMS provider organization for demonstrating continued success in using the **Mission Lifeline®** program.

Thank you for applying the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve patient care and outcomes in the community you serve.*

Nancy Brown
Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association

Donald M. Lloyd-Jones, MD, ScM, FAHA
President
American Heart Association

*For more information, please visit [Heart.org/MissionLifeline](https://www.heart.org/MissionLifeline)





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