

CONSOLIDATED FIRE DISTRICT #1

2021 END OF YEAR REPORT



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Note from the Chief

It is with great pleasure I present the first year-end report for Consolidated Fire District 1 of Douglas County. 2021 saw the culmination of the efforts of many to create a new Fire District in Douglas County to better serve the public and its members. Five independent fire departments came together to form the new District; each with its own unique challenges and successes. The result was the fulfillment of two major goals in the creation of the new District: Increase service to the public and increase firefighter safety.

Through unification, CFD1's lowered on scene time and increased number of responders to the scene, and enhanced services provided to the public. Also, as a result of consolidation, a new District wide Command structure and annual training plan were put in place resulting in increased firefighter safety and skill sets.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the work and support of the Townships and Districts which came together to fulfill the vision of what CFD1 would become. And, at the heart of who we are, is the selfless dedication of our volunteers and their families, spouses, and significant others. Without them, CFD1 would not be able to complete its mission. The volunteers and their families are the backbone of our organization. The volunteers dedicate many hours to serving the public. Their families, spouses and significant others support the District by giving up time with their loved ones (our volunteers) so they may serve the public, at a great sacrifice to their own circumstances; time which our volunteers would otherwise be dedicating to them.

The success of the District also comes from the unwavering support of the County Commissioners and all of the County staff members that work hard supporting what we do. They have been instrumental to all that CFD1 has accomplished.

Lastly, I would like to thank FF/EMT Danielle Peterson for all her dedicated hard work in helping to put this report together. Through research, meetings, and collaboration, she dedicated multiple hours ensuring that the critical data from operations in 2021 were captured and shared in this report.

We look forward to 2022 and all that it holds for CFD1 and the citizens we serve. CFD1 will continue to strive for excellence in service to the public and to our firefighters, and we will continue to enhance the services we provide.

Mike Baxter, Fire Chief
Consolidated Fire District #1



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Introduction

CFD #1 Vision

The Consolidated Fire District #1 aspires to be recognized by its community as a model of excellence.

CFD #1 Mission

The Consolidated Fire District #1 will strive to maintain and improve the quality of life of all who live, visit, work, or invest in the communities in which it responds.

CFD #1 Motto

NON SIBI SED OMNIBUS - "Not for one's self, but for all"

CFD #1 Core Values

Professionalism- Consistently demonstrate a high standard

Integrity- Partnerships based on trust, respect, and accountability through service

Leadership- Providing guidance and support throughout community and department

Tradition- Preserving and carrying forward the legacy of those who served before us

Commitment- Achieve a standard of excellence in every endeavor

Overview

In 2020, the fire departments of Wakarusa, Eudora, Kanwaka, Lecompton, and Clinton Townships began to merge their planning and operative efforts with the intent of fully unifying activities the following year. These departments fully integrated in 2021 and conducted their first operational year of the Consolidated Fire District (CFD) #1. Post consolidation, the District covers 228 square miles within Douglas County with a total of 10 stations and 39 fire apparatus throughout its jurisdiction.



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Calls

Consolidated Fire District #1 personnel contributed a total of 2,557 hours - nearly 107 days - to incident time throughout 2021. The following graph and table illustrate the breakdown of all calls received in 2021.

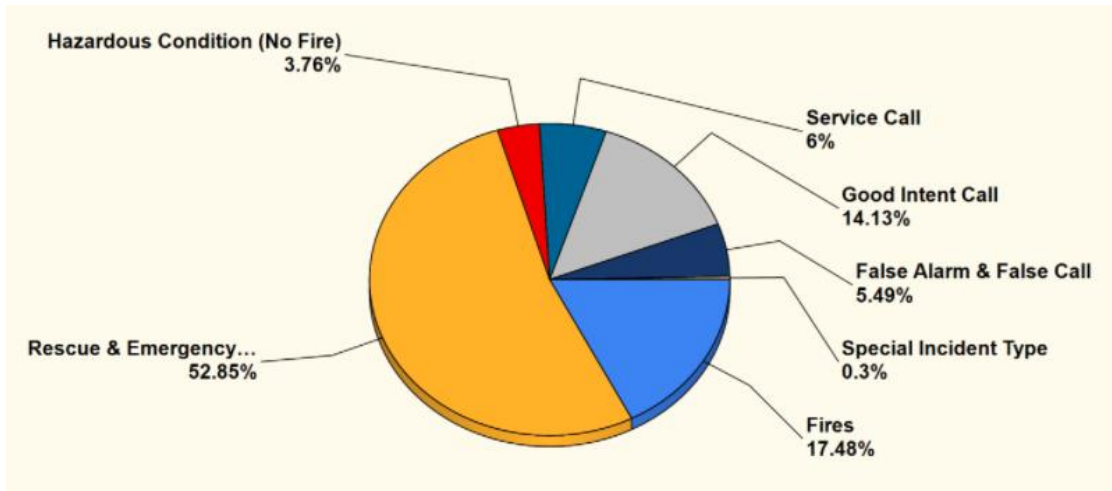


Figure 1: Call Breakdown by Major Incident Types - Pie Chart

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	172	17.48%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	520	52.85%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	37	3.76%
Service Call	59	6%
Good Intent Call	139	14.13%
False Alarm & False Call	54	5.49%
Special Incident Type	3	0.3%
TOTAL	984	100%

Figure 2: Call Breakdown by Major Incident Types - Table

Among the fire calls ran within the District, there were a total of:

- 133 brush/grass fires,
- 19 vehicle fires, and
- 12 building fires

CFD #1 will continue to prioritize training in these fire response areas to best prepare its members to respond to such incidents in the following years.

Similarly, in 2021, the District responded to eight water rescue calls, which highlights the need for specialized training covering this type of incident. The CFD #1 Training Division plans to expand the District's Water Rescue Program beginning in 2022.



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Training

Training Overview

CFD #1 devoted over 1,000 hours to various training initiatives throughout 2021. Although some of the individual township departments started training together in 2020, the Consolidated Fire District #1 prioritized training in its first operational year. CFD #1 established a Training Division that analyzed the current training program and began to revamp many training structures and operations. In addition to monthly internal training, CFD #1 hosted a variety of external training sessions that were open to other fire departments and the public.

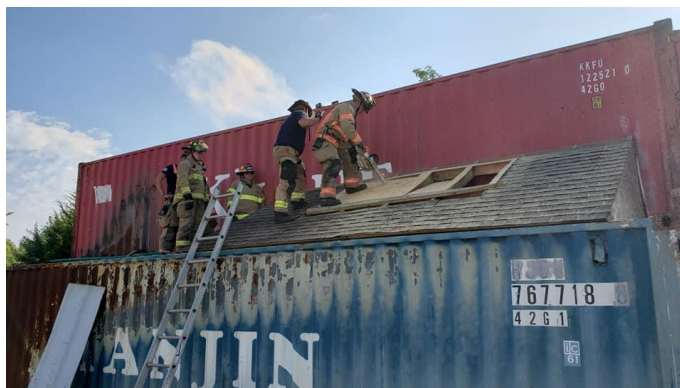
Training Types and Attendance

The 2021 CFD #1 Annual Training Plan (ATP) incorporated quarterly company standards, officer development, specialized training, operational scenarios, certification courses, and promotional preparedness. In addition to standard training opportunities, the District included specialized training for technical rescue and the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). Many of these training opportunities included CFD #1 recruits, firefighters, and officers with the intent of enhancing the rescue and operational capabilities of members across the District.

CFD #1 also prioritized professional development for current and future officers within the department. Officer development tracks were offered at a minimum bi-monthly with additional opportunities for outside development throughout the year.

Special Trainings

In addition to its internal training program, the District hosted several external training sessions throughout the year. These trainings were open to other fire departments, companies, and the public, which allowed CFD #1 to provide its community with valuable information regarding a variety of topics. Some of the trainings held include:



Task Force 1 Rural Fire Attack

This course was presented by the Task Force 1 Company, which focuses on specialized training for fire departments. The course included a combination of classroom and hands-on training dedicated to fire ground operations with a limited number of resources.



Figure 3: Live Fire Training



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Figure 4: Task Force 1 Training – Venting Operations



Figure 5: HazMat Training

HazmatIQ

This course, which was created and is taught by Federal Resources, provides warehouse and plant operators and first responders a means of quickly identifying hazardous materials so that individuals may efficiently respond to a HazMat incident.

Driver/Operator: Pumper Training

CFD #1 hosted a Driver/Operator: Pumper Training course taught by the University of Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute designed to better the driving and pump operations skills of Engineers at CFD #1 and surrounding fire departments. Attendees of the course received their Driver/Operator certificate after completing the course.

NWCG 130/190 Wildland Training

The District conducted the annual National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) 130/190 refresher required for all Wildland firefighters. These courses, along with the successful completion of a physical agility test, enables firefighters to obtain their National Wildland Firefighting certification. In addition, CFD #1 held basic training for Wildland fire suppression, ensuring that CFD #1 personnel and other fire department members possess the necessary skills to contain grassfires throughout Douglas County and the surrounding areas.



Figure 6: Task Force 1 Training - Pumping and Fire Attack



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Deployment: Nebraska Wildfires

According to a 2021 report by the National Interagency Coordination Center, parts of the United States experienced the most expansive and intense droughts this century, with over half of the Western region in extreme to exceptional droughts. As a result, states and territories throughout the United States experienced tens of thousands of wildfires throughout 2021.¹ In response, Federal, state, and local agencies across the country supplied additional resources to the areas most affected. While many of the wildfires ravaged areas far from Douglas County, such as Colorado and California, surrounding states also experienced detrimental wildfires that proved difficult to contain. The Consolidated Fire District #1 joined in this response when it participated in a deployment to Nebraska after a fire south of Crawford quickly spread out of control.

In one day the wildfire grew from 500 to 5,000 acres, quickly overwhelming local response crews. The wildfire in Crawford consumed 5,544 acres before responders successfully contained the incident. More than 300 personnel responded to the fire from a variety of local, state, and Federal organizations. Residents from Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Oregon responded on the ground with additional air support from the Nebraska National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, and a contracted single-engine air tanker based out of Chadron, Nebraska.²

The District led a task force in response to this incident, which consisted of 26 personnel and 13 fire apparatus from CFD #1, Eudora City, Olathe, Stranger Township, and Mitchell County/Cloud County. In addition to staffing the task force lead, CFD #1 supplied three Brush Trucks, one Tender, and nine task force members. The task force deployed to Crawford, Nebraska on September 18th and returned on September 22nd.



Figure 7: Nebraska Deployment Task Force

¹ https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/intelligence/2021_statssumm/intro_summary21.pdf

² <https://chadronradio.com/news/fire-update-immediate-evacuation-recommended/>



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Community Events

Throughout 2021, Consolidated Fire District #1 hosted and participated in a variety of community events. Through these functions, the District supported and strengthened its relationship with the community. CFD #1 devoted a total of over approximately 215 personnel hours interacting with the Douglas County community in 2021. Several of these events are discussed in more detail below.

COVID-19 Vaccination Drive

Douglas County Public Health hosted several vaccination drives during which community members could easily receive COVID-19 vaccinations at no cost. Many of these drives took place at the Douglas County Fairgrounds and required a significant number of personnel to operate smoothly. CFD #1 volunteered members during the last clinic, held on April 28, 2021, which allowed the District to support Douglas County Public Health while also serving its community.



Figure 8: COVID-19 Vaccination Drive Support

Touch-A-Truck Events

The District participated in several Touch-A-Truck events in 2021. These activities allow the community to meet CFD #1 personnel, interact with fire apparatus and equipment, and learn more about the District's mission. Additionally, these events took place throughout all of Douglas County, including:

- Home Depot
- First Church of Nazarene
- Lecompton Territorial Days
- Lecompton Santa in the Park



Figure 9: Halloween Event with Just Us League

Halloween with Just Us League

CFD #1 partnered with the Just Us League to pass out candy during the 2021 Halloween season. The District participates in this event every year and contributes several fire apparatus, District members, and candy.

Demolition Derby

The District provided fire and medical coverage at the 2021 Demolition Derby held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. This event, hosted by the Douglas County Fair Board and Pay Up Suckers



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Promotion, not only allowed the District and its members to interact with the community but also ensured the safety of community members during a dynamic event.

Jet Ski Races

The District also provided fire and medical coverage at the 2021 Nauti Water Racing Jet Ski races held at Clinton Lake. Throughout this two day event, CFD #1 interacted with the community and ensured the safety of participants and spectators.

Adopt-A-Family

In 2021, the members of CFD #1 selected one family to support during the Holiday Season. In total, the District donated nearly \$2,500 to purchase gifts and essential items for the family. Several CFD #1 members dropped off these gifts in the Fire Engine from Station 111, which allowed the family a personal Touch-A-Truck event, and included a surprise visit from Santa Claus.



Figure 10: Adopt-A-Family Present Delivery



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Plans for 2022

Consolidated Fire District #1 plans to further mature its operations throughout 2022. The District contains several focus areas for the upcoming year that will drive its mission and vision. In addition, these efforts will help strengthen the skills and abilities of its personnel, which will enhance the District's community response. The following section highlights several key programs CFD #1 will continue to develop throughout 2022.

Water Rescue Capability Enhancement



Figure 11: New CFD #1 Watercraft

In 2022, CFD #1 will expand its Water Rescue Program through the acquisition of a watercraft, with delivery scheduled for Spring 2022. This vessel will allow expanded rescue capabilities and will provide advanced training opportunities for the District. Historically, personnel from CFD #1 have trained for shore-based water rescues, with an average of two to three rescues per year. In 2021, the District saw an increase of water rescue incidents, totaling eight water rescues. Given these numbers,

CFD #1 recognizes the need to enhance the rescue operations for the community members and visitors who populate Clinton and Lone Star Lake. In 2022, the Shift Officers at Station 111 will complete an Ice Water Rescue Technician course and all CFD#1 personnel will receive specialized training in Swift Water Rescue and Boat Operations to prepare for seasonal waterway usage throughout Douglas County.

Training Division Expansion

The Training Division will continue to advance the training opportunities offered both internally and externally to the District. The Training Divisions will continue assessing the needs for expanding and enhancing training opportunities in order to ensure capabilities are at the highest standards across the District.

In addition, in 2022, the Training Division will assume responsibility of program delivery for the CFD #1 Recruit Academy. The Recruit Academy is crucial to recruiting and retaining new members of CFD #1 and will continue to



Figure 12: 2021 Recruit Academy



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reinforce the consolidation by standardizing training throughout the District.

Partner Agency Collaboration

In addition to external training opportunities, CFD #1 will increase its collaboration with partner agencies, to include local law enforcement bureaus, Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical, and other rural and township fire departments. In 2022, the District intends to work collaboratively with its partner agencies. CFD #1 aspires to conduct joint training and develop a broadened and unified response with its partner agencies across Douglas County.

Resource Management Operations

CFD #1 also plans to emphasize resource management, which will allow the District to provide a better response matrix and accountability for resources during special events, critical fire weather days, and high-risk incidents. Throughout 2021, the District expanded its internal resource management practices and capabilities. CFD #1 added several resource tracking boards and matrices at Station 111 to monitor personnel and fire apparatus responding during high-incident days within its jurisdiction. Additionally, the District created office space for the Lawrence-Douglas County dispatch to use during special events and high-incident days throughout the area. This will enable additional collaboration and will improve communication between dispatch, CFD #1, partner fire departments, and law enforcement agencies during crucial events.



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Summary

Throughout its first operational year, the Consolidated Fire District #1 strengthened its internal processes, provided aid during national emergencies, and supported the local community through a number of events. The District grew substantially during this time in terms of volunteers, fire apparatus, and jurisdiction area and will continue to mature throughout the next several years. As discussed in the “Plans for 2022” section, CFD #1 has established several avenues to improve its response time and capabilities on calls, expand its training opportunities, and mature its operations throughout the District.