



Photo by Amber Rishavy, Pixel Dust Photography

HOPKINS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

To the Hopkins City Council, Hopkins City Manager, and citizens of Hopkins:

I submit the annual report for the Hopkins Fire Department for the year 2020. This year in review compares the past 12 months with previous years. Fire Departments across the nation and the State of Minnesota are no longer just responding to fires, and the Hopkins Fire Department is no exception. *(For a full list of the services the department provides, see page 4.)*



The year 2020 was unique, to say the least. The Hopkins Fire Department played a large role in the City's management of the coronavirus pandemic, which kept department staff busy throughout the year. Pandemic related duties included:

- Activation of the Emergency Operations Center to provide daily situation reports to City employees
- Working with mutual aid partners, and the Hennepin County and the State of Minnesota emergency operation centers to stay informed on the latest pandemic-related updates
- Building an eight month cache of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the police and fire departments
- Applying for federal grants for assistance with the purchase of PPE and other medical supplies
- Staffing 24-hour duty crews to assist with any medical calls
- Working with local Hopkins businesses to help with reintegration plans as restaurants and other small businesses were allowed to re-open after the governor's "Stay Home" executive order
- Assisting City departments with re-integration plans once facilities re-opened
- Working with all City departments to provide the proper PPE and necessary sanitizing supplies
- Assisting the City Clerk with sanitizing polling locations for the primary and general elections
- Establishing a COVID-testing procedure for all Hopkins public safety personnel
- Participating in birthday patrols, a Halloween drive-thru event and Thanksgiving meal delivery.

The department faced additional challenges in 2020. Due to budget restrictions, the fire department was unable to hire any new firefighters. While allotted a total of 42 staff, the fire department currently employs only 32, with two retirements anticipated in 2021.

However, good news in 2020 included receiving a \$192,000 federal grant to help in recruiting new firefighters and retaining our current department members, and being honored with the City of Excellence Award from the League of Minnesota Cities for the fire department's participation in the Sound Off Fire Safety Program. The department is one of 10 throughout the country to participate in the Sound Off program, which provides fire prevention education to local grade schools.

Outside of the pandemic, training continued to be a focus for the department in 2020. Thanks to the work of Assistant Chief of Operations Mike Wenshau, Training/Hazmat Chief Jim Scanlon, Training Captain Paul Odden and Lieutenant Derek Mann, highly skilled firefighters serve the Hopkins Fire Department. Our training covers firefighting, all types of rescue, medical, hazardous materials and other special skills. The members and officers of the department devote additional time and effort in developing firefighting, leadership and management skills to more effectively lead the department. In addition, the department's State Chemical Assessment Team (CAT) continues to train and be ready for response to any incidents in our response area, thanks to the efforts of Assistant Chief Jim Scanlon. The team responded to eight calls in 2020, three to the City of Minneapolis during the period of civil unrest.



2020 was difficult for everyone, so above all, I would like to express my utmost thanks to the members of the Hopkins Fire Department, who carry out dedicated and effective service day and night, many in addition to their full-time jobs. They provide unselfish and dedicated response, training and prevention 24 hours a day. It is the efforts of this group, combined with the efforts of others, that have allowed us to accomplish the goals set by this department.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the families of the members of the Hopkins Fire Department. They are the true heroes of our department. They sacrifice as much, if not more, than our members do, and for that we are thankful.

I would also like to express thanks to our administrative specialist Courtney Pearsall for her dedicated efforts that happen behind the scenes and may go unnoticed, and to the City Council and all City staff who have been so supportive and have assisted the members of the fire department in our accomplishments.

The personnel of the Hopkins Fire Department continue to perform their duties with the highest regard. Continuing dedication by the personnel to both training and emergency response provides the highest quality emergency response for the citizens of the City of Hopkins.

Even though 2020 was a challenging year, we were still able to provide our service in a professional manner, and share our messages of fire safety and prevention with the businesses and residents in our community.

We are looking forward to seeing what 2021 has in store for us and are excited to do great things for the City of Hopkins.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Specken
Hopkins Fire Chief
February 2020

CITY OF HOPKINS DEMOGRAPHICS



Population	18,500
Area	4 square miles
Community Parks	15
Total Housing Units	8,390

Unique Areas/Businesses

- Regional Trail – LRT
- Hopkins Center for the Arts
- Multiple special events
- Historical Society
- Adult care facilities
- Pavilion
- Nature areas

Total Schools.....7

Public (2)

- Alice Smith Elementary
- Eisenhower Elementary

Private (5)

- Adult Options
- Chesterton Academy
- Harley Hopkins
- The Blake School
- Ubah Medical Academy

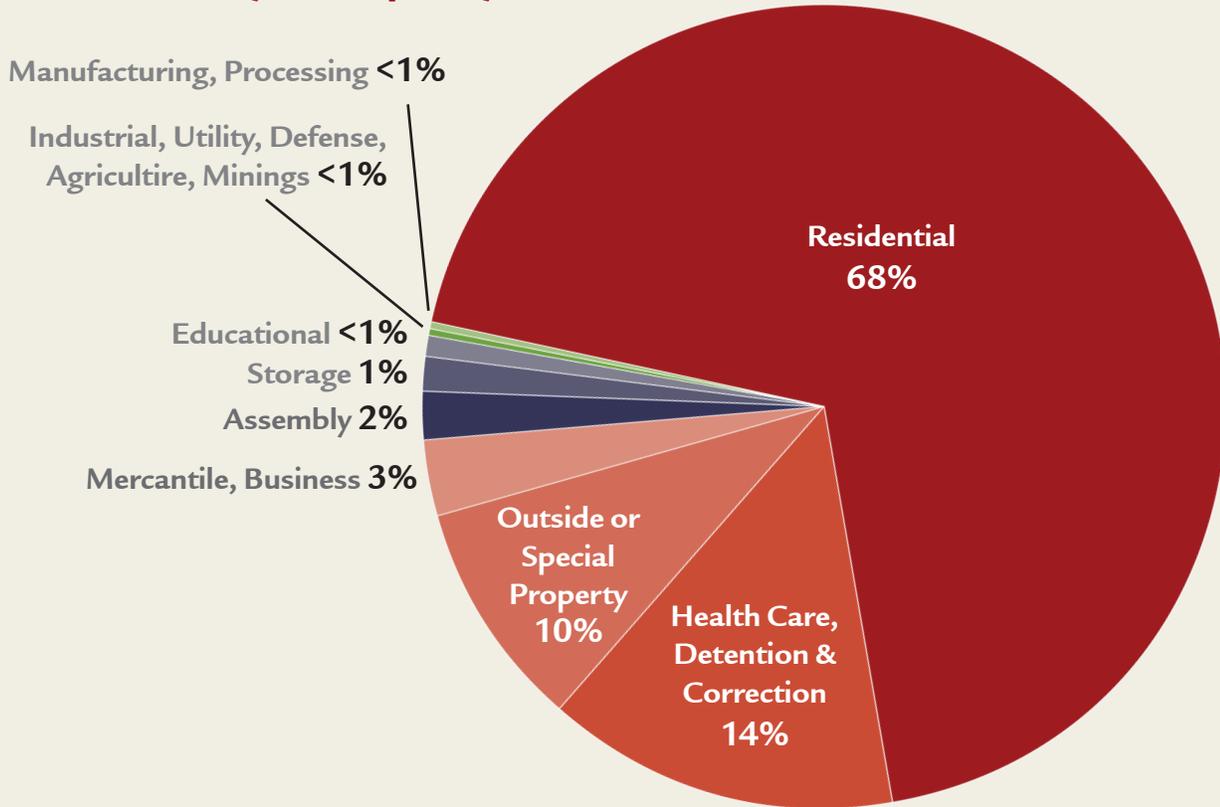


FIRE SERVICES INCLUDE:

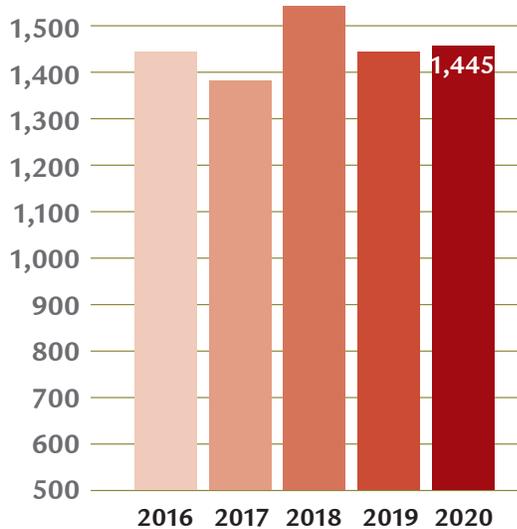
- Response – Fires, emergency medical services (EMS), personal injury crashes, hazardous materials, natural disasters, heavy rescues, terrorism, grass fires, mass casualties, high angle rescues, and confined space rescues
- Investigations – Fire cause and origin, arson investigation
- Fire Code – Adoption, inspection, plan review, enforcement, education
- Public Education – Working with children, schools, homeowners, elderly, business owners
- Public Relations – Parades, open houses, National Night Out, Citizens Assist
- Planning – Emergency preparedness, pandemic flu, anti-terrorism, special events

In 2020, the Hopkins Fire Department responded to fires, fire alarms, gas leaks, gas line breaks, smoke, and downed or arcing wires. The data for fire call responses is listed below and detailed in the charts on the following pages.

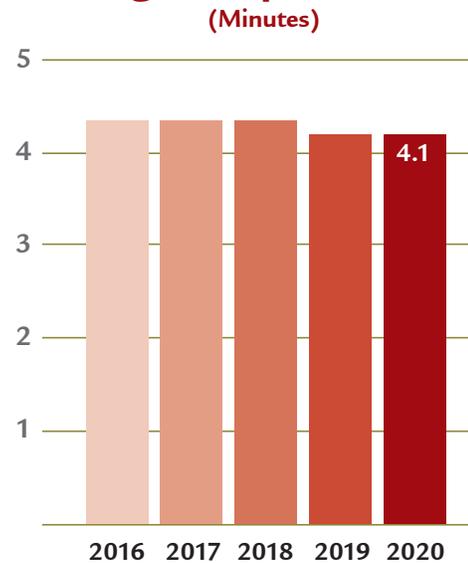
2020 Fires by Occupancy



Total Calls



Average Response Times



SUPPRESSION - RESPONSE BREAKDOWN

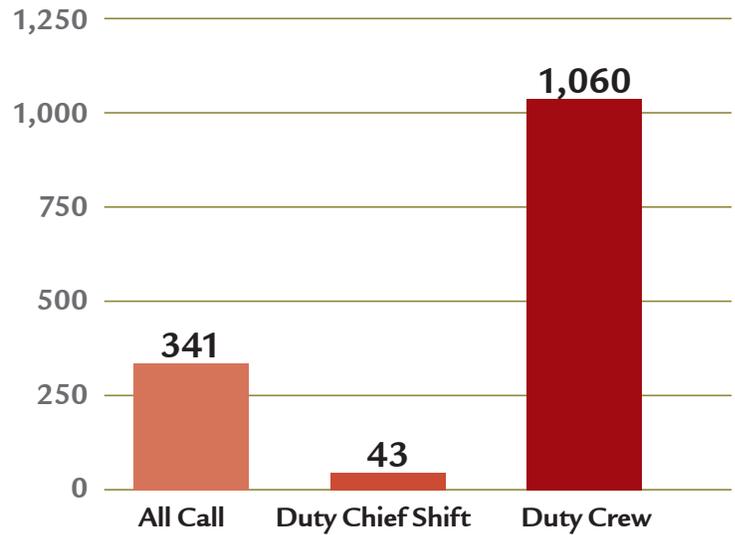


The Hopkins Fire Department responded to medical calls and crashes, and provided personnel to ride along in the ambulance with critical patients.

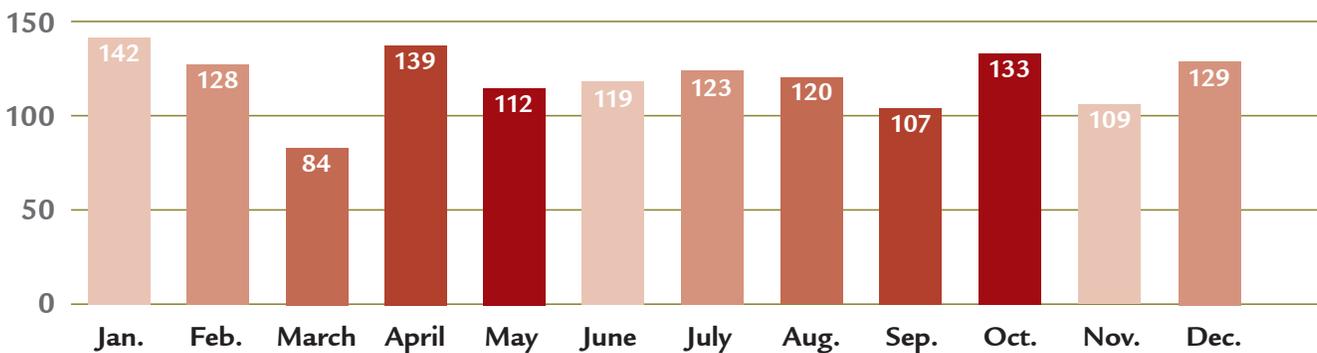
It also assisted police departments when additional personnel was needed to provide lift assist to citizens and responded to mental health incidents.

The fire department provides duty crew response Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday night from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m., and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Incidents by Shift



Incidents by Month



SPECIAL RESPONSE

In addition to fire and medical calls, the Hopkins Fire Department provided **weather stand-by** at the fire station and responded to **incidents resulting from severe weather**. It also responded to **missing persons** and **hazmat incidents**, including gas spills, leaks and carbon monoxide alarms.

Additionally, the Hopkins Fire Department responded to mutual aid and auto aid calls for assistance to other cities and agencies.

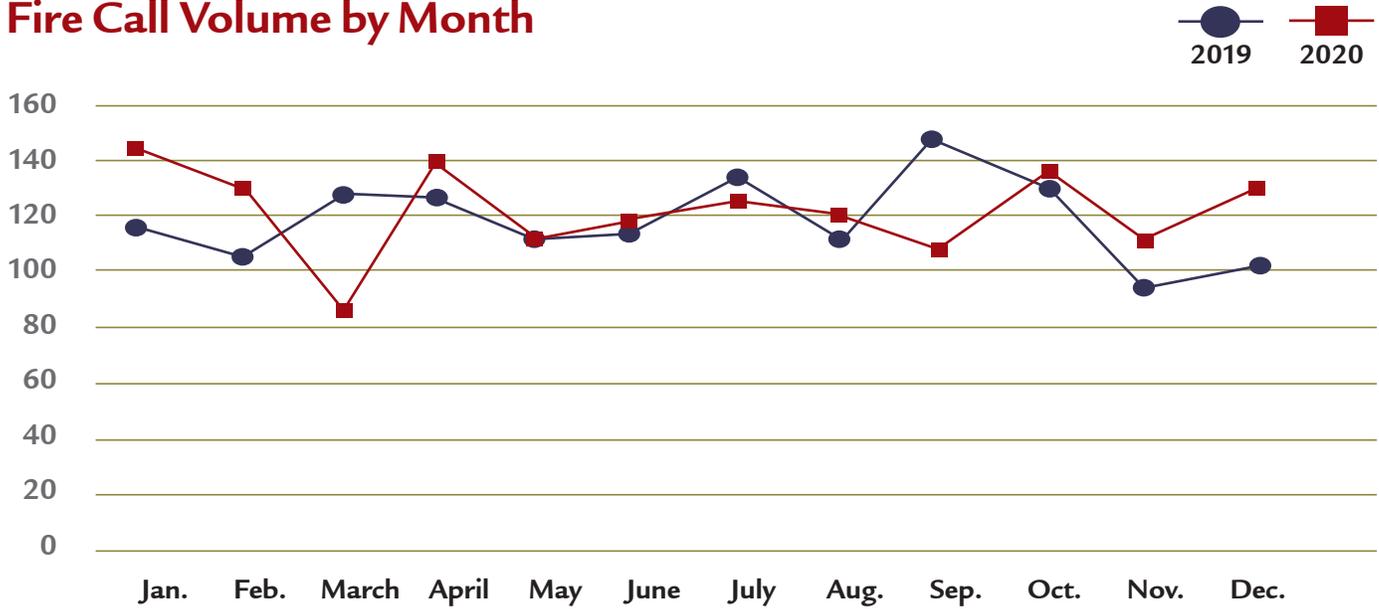
Mutual Aid

■ Mutual Aid Given
■ Mutual Aid Received

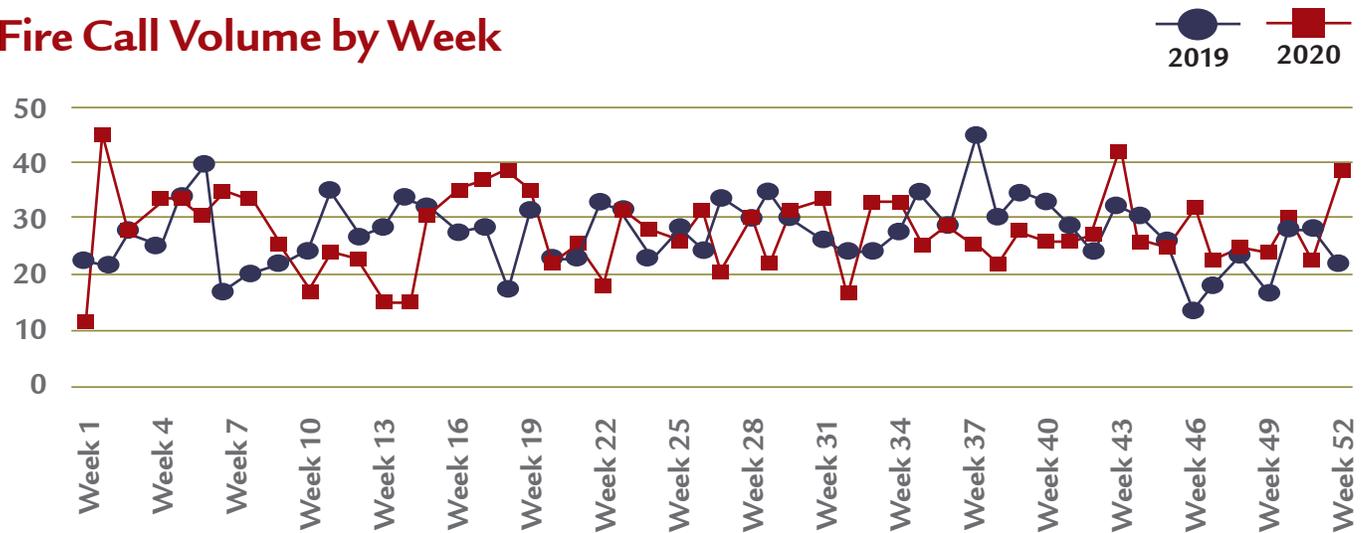


SUPPRESSION - CALL VOLUME

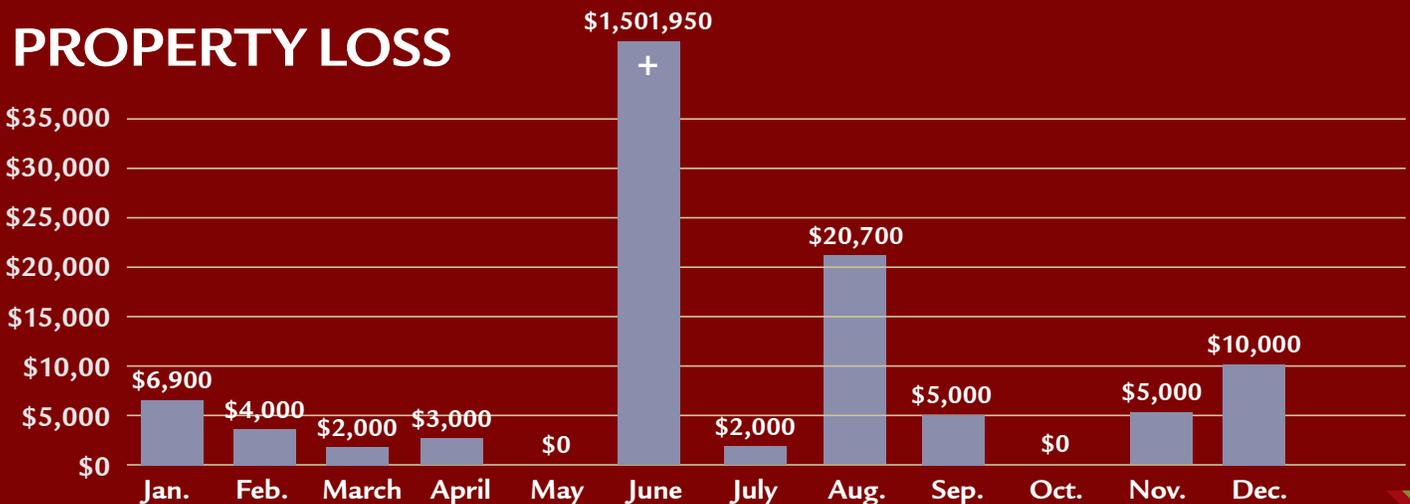
Fire Call Volume by Month



Fire Call Volume by Week



PROPERTY LOSS



PREVENTION



In 2020, the Hopkins Fire Department's prevention activities included coordinating and conducting the following events and activities:

- Virtual Fire Department Open House
- Virtual training in the schools
- Station tours
- Public education CPR classes
- Fire investigations
- Home fire safety inspections
- Fire extinguisher training for the public
- Virtual life safety classes:
 - Scout badges
 - Fire safety
 - First aid
- Business/industry fire and life safety training.



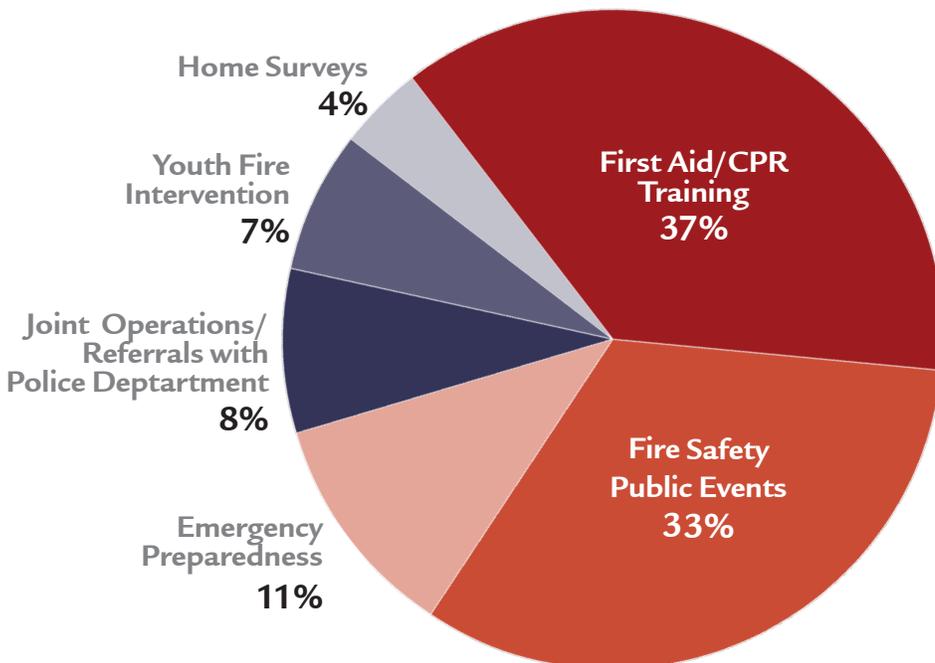
Due to the coronavirus pandemic, many of the annual events that the Hopkins Fire Department typically participates in were canceled in 2020 or held virtually.

However, the department continued to develop special event plans for those events requiring more strategy and was able to participate in the following special events:

- Birthday Patrol
- Boy Scout/Girl Scout Tours
- Virtual CPR/AED Training for Business and Public
- Firefighter Day at the Capitol
- Fire Prevention VIP Events
- Funerals
- Halloween Drive-Thru Event
- Juvenile Firesetters Program
- MN Fallen Firefighter Memorial at the State Capitol
- National Night Out
- Raspberry Festival Parade
- Santa for Seniors Program
- Thanksgiving Meal Delivery
- Virtual Fire Department Open House
- Virtual School District Activities.



2020 Public Relations — By Category



TRAINING



The Hopkins Fire Department is committed to training in all areas of service. In 2020, the department:

- Developed and implemented both a virtual and in-person training plan
- Planned and conducted weekly drills for 12 months
- Attended virtual conferences and sectional schools to enhance firefighter, leadership, and technical rescue skills and abilities
- Conducted Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) refresher training
- Developed and conducted specific fire officer training
- Conducted annual medical surveillance and fit testing for all firefighters
- Conducted hazmat, bloodborne pathogens and confined space awareness training
- Conducted pumps training
- Conducted training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Conducted driving drills to maintain and enhance emergency vehicle operations
- Developed and conducted new elected officials orientation for new council members
- Conducted fitness and safety training, and promoted fitness improvement
- Participated in Incident Management Team (IMT) training
- Coordinated and sent members to outside of department training
- Participated in Joint Operations Training.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Strategic efforts to be prepared for emergency situations continued in 2020. These activities included:

- Activating the City's Emergency Operations Center virtually for COVID-19
- Providing daily Situation Reports for the City Council and City staff for COVID-19
- Assisting with a reintegration plan for the City for COVID-19
- Providing COVID-19 testing for City staff
- Participating in South West Emergency Management Group meetings and Hennepin County Emergency Management meetings
- Serving in a coordinator role with police in the area emergency management program
- Delivering overall emergency management orientation to newly-elected officials
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact training and coordination with the state
- Participating in the All Hazards Incident Management Training
- Conducting monthly training for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Developing a Mitigation Strategies Plan for the City of Hopkins for the Hennepin County Mitigation Plan
- Continuing the assessment and completion of an effective Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This included:
 - Purchasing equipment to create effective operations in the room
 - Conducting ongoing testing of operations in the EOC
 - Coordinating and conducting awareness training for administrators and public works staff on EOC set-up and operations.



In 2020, Hopkins Fire Department Administration continued to forge partnerships with other cities and associations, secure grants, manage budgets and personnel, and keep the department prepared and fit to provide excellent public safety service for the citizens of Hopkins. Specific activities included:

- Conducting four business meetings with Hopkins Fire Department personnel, both virtually and in-person
- Developing and operating within the 2020 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program
- Developing the 2021 Operating Budget and Equipment Replacement Budget
- Researching, evaluating and managing personnel issues
- Finalizing and implementing the updates to the Standard Operating Procedures/Standard Operating Guidelines for the Hopkins Fire Department
- Participating in multiple community meetings that included cities, businesses, schools and community associations, most done virtually
- Coordinating and participating in multiple public safety meetings with area fire, police and EMS teams
- Providing development and delivery of training with the Hennepin County Fire Chiefs Association
- Participating in Hennepin County Life Safety Unit meetings and equipment upgrades
- Reviewing mutual aid agreements with local, regional, state and national areas
- Assisting other agencies with the recruitment and promotional process
- Conducting a recognition event for firefighters
- Attending state and local meetings
- Participating in the following associations:
 - Hennepin County Fire Chiefs
 - S.W. Joint Operations Group
 - Metro Fire Chiefs
 - Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association
 - Minnesota Fire Department Association
 - South West Emergency Management Group
 - Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers
 - Southwest Fire Marshals Group
 - South Emergency Managers Group
- Implementing enhanced communications within and outside of the fire department by:
 - Utilizing a weekly email update to the firefighters
 - Conducting monthly officer meetings
 - Problem-solving and developing operational improvements for the department's computer systems
- Attending funerals of retired Hopkins Fire Department firefighters, retired firefighters' family members and community members
- Participating in meetings with the Joint Powers Agreement for turnout gear and self-contained breathing apparatus.

**THE HOPKINS
FIRE DEPARTMENT
WILL PROVIDE
QUALITY FIRE RESPONSE,
PREVENTION SERVICES,
EMERGENCY MEDICAL,
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
THAT MAKE A POSITIVE
DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY.**