

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



NASSAU COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

1194 PROSPECT AVE
WESTBURY, NEW YORK 11590

NASSAU COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

FIRE MARSHAL

2021

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REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE MARSHAL

Report of the Chief Fire Marshal Michael F. Uttaro

The Nassau County Charter created the Office of the Fire Marshal in 1938 and the first Fire Marshal, George Clough, was appointed on March 6, 1939. Since then, the Fire Marshal's office has established itself as a partner in its cooperation with the Nassau County Fire Service and Police Department for its recognition as a leader in the field fire prevention and arson investigation. I have great pride in being the 10th Chief Fire Marshal of the County of Nassau.

The year 2021 has been filled with challenges as the nation was in the second year of the COVID-19 Pandemic. My staff was challenged with enforcing the Fire Codes of Nassau County and the State of New York along with Mandates of the New York State Executive Branch. All staff members performed their duties in exemplary fashion to move us past those obstacles. In addition, Fire Marshal personnel were on hand to assist the county during the major weather events that occurred during the year. The Fire Police Emergency Medical Services Academy Administrator Donald Hudson was a key part in keeping the Nassau County Fire Departments informed on the ever-evolving State and County COVID Status. All staff of the Nassau County Fire Commission were on duty in facility during the pandemic to assist the Nassau Fire Service and residents of the County.

In 2021 some previous publications were revamped and reinitiated. The Fire Chief's Handbook and Fire Commission Handbook were updated and printed as a reference guide to all Fire Chiefs and members of the Fire Commission. The Fire Service Directory was reconstituted as a printed document as reference guide containing the equipment of all the Nassau County Fire Departments. The Fire Communications Division (FireCom) started a much-needed upgrade to its Computer Aided Dispatch system to bring it to the 21st century standards.

The County Fire Coordinator program was started to assist the Command Post and Commanding Officers at major fires, in addition the Fire Marshal Rehab Unit was automatically dispatched at any major fire in the County to assist Firefighters.

2021 saw the retirement of 6 members of staff:

Chief Fire Marshal Scott Tusa

ACFM FRS Timothy Placilla

Division Supervisor Warren Ramskill

Fire Marshal Richard Lerner

Fire Marshal Arthur Kraft

Fire Marshal Mark Deluca.

Sadly, the office lost:

Fire Communications Dispatcher Ronald Kahan to COVID

Arson Bomb Squad Detective Christopher Randazzo

Past Fire Commission Chairman William Swift

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to County Executive Laura Curran, Deputy County Executive Tatum Fox, and the members of the Nassau County Legislature for their support and cooperation throughout the year. I look forward to working with our new County Executive Bruce Blakeman to improve the fire safety of the residents in the county.

In closing I would like to thank all members of the staff of the Fire Marshal's Office, FIRECOM, the Fire Police EMS Academy and the members of the Fire Commission for their cooperation and assistance during the year. We collectively look forward to an even better 2022.

FIRE MARSHAL'S STAFF

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

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CHIEF FIRE MARSHAL

Michael F. Uttaro

ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE MARSHALS

Theodore A. Horishny - James Hickman - Richard A. Magee (Part Time)

FIRE MARSHAL III's - DIVISION SUPERVISORS - CAPTAINS

Andrew G. Schmitt - Bohdan J. Pilczak - Michael W. Mennella - Kevin Lang - Gregory Smith

FIRE MARSHAL II's - SUPERVISORS - LIEUTENANTS

Frank Dubins – Gary W. Smithing – David Emmel
John Kelleher - John T. Madden - David Maickel - Marc Seibert - Robert Teetz

FIRE MARSHALS

Joseph Battaglia
Kristin Bradley
Robert Brinsley
Dominic Buffolino
Joseph Capuano
Robert Chernow
Matthew Colgan
Kevin Collins
Nicholas Corrado
David Encarnacion
Stephen Foran

Daniel Giardino
Martin Golden
Paul Hartje
James Hoepelman
Matthew Kerin
Steven Kern
Richard Lehrman
Michael Marciano
Michael Mastrangelo
Kyle O'Brien
John O'Brien III

Bryan O'Malley
Dominic Pignataro
Keith Rabinowitz
Matthew Rochon
Daniel Roe
Edward Roth
Robert Schurr
Thomas Talento
Thomas Tsaktsirlis
James Valente

SECRETARIAL STAFF

Michele Grigonis, Secretary to the Fire Marshal
Christiana Rozea, Administrative Assistant
Barbara Lang Part Time Secretary
William Maricondo Laborer

FIRE MARSHAL'S STAFF

(Cont'd.)

NASSAU COUNTY FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

PHONE: 573-9800 1194 Prospect Avenue, 1st Fl, Westbury, NY 11590 FAX: 573-9078

ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE MARSHAL

James Hickman

ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL FOR FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

(Vacant)

FIRE COMMUNICATIONS TECH III - DIVISION SUPERVISOR

Marc W. Bodnar

FIRE COMMUNICATIONS TECH II - SUPERVISORS

Joseph Balletta
Gregg Spaulding

Michael P. Capozziello
Brian Tomeo

Frank Passanisi
Bryan Vogeley

FIRE COMMUNICATIONS TECH I - DISPATCHERS

James Allen
Thomas Cinque
Besnick Gjonlekaj
Patrick Madden
Victor Sowinski
Neil Velasco

Robert Brancat
Chris Fotopoulos
Cathy Jones
James Prince
Craig Stewart
Pedro Vera

Michael Brinkley
Michael Gibaldi
Joseph Luckman
Howard Riegler
Nicole Unger
Paul Walters

SECRETARIAL STAFF

Secretary (Vacant)
Laborer (Part Time)

Nassau County Fire-Police EMS Academy

Nassau University Medical Center

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East Meadow, NY 11554

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Contact@ncfpaems.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chief Fire Marshal Michael F. Uttaro, *NCFM, Chairman*

Commanding Officer, Chris Airey *NCPD-EAB*

Anthony Boutin, MD, FACEP *Medical Director*

Administration

AMT/C Paul Divver, EMT-P Donald Hudson, EMT-P, NRP

Assistant Administrator

Scott Silvers, EMT-P

Faculty

Brett Bachman, EMT-CC

Maura Fiore, EMT-CC

Will Merrins, EMT-P

Willie Bedoya, EMT-P

John Flynn, EMT-P

Kevin Newman, EMT-P

Gary Benedict, EMT-P

Ernest Heeren, EMT-P

Kevin O'Hara, EMT-P

George Choy, EMT-P RN

Richard Husch, EMT-P

Albert Parillo, EMT-P

John Delaney, EMT-P

Jackie Johnston, EMT-P RN

Marc Pollack, EMT-P

Tim Devine, EMT-P

David Kaldor, EMT-P

Barry Rigney, EMT-P RN

John Episcopo, EMT-P

Mitchell Levine, EMT-P

Andrea Schriefer, EMT-P

Andrew Festa, RN, EMT-P

Charles Mackie, EMT-P

Matthew Sanfilippo, EMT-P

Kathy Martinez-Walsh, EMT-CC

Jay Boorum, EMT-CC, Maintenance

AGENCY SUMMARY

The Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office was created by the County of Nassau and the Nassau County Fire Commission in 1938. The mission of the Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office is to provide support services to the 71 Fire Departments protecting the 1.5 Million residents of Nassau County, and to conduct inspections and other activities necessary to insuring the safety of those who live, work, and play in Nassau County.

Mission

The Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office enforces the Nassau County Fire Prevention Ordinance, and The Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes of New York State and referenced standards of the National Fire Protection Association regulating fire safety in the County of Nassau. The office performs fire inspections, oversees new commercial construction, performs plan review, inspects fire safety and fire protection systems, licenses certain businesses and contractors installing fire protection systems, and issues permits for both residential and commercial fire alarm systems. Inspection and enforcement activities are sub divided into three divisions, each with a responsibility by type of occupancy.

Personnel

The Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office is headed by the Chief Fire Marshal, Michael Uttaro who has ultimate command over the department. Chief Uttaro has 2 Assistant Chief Fire Marshals, each of which oversee branches of the office. Each Inspection / Enforcement Division, as well as the Hazardous Materials Response Division, and the Fire Investigation Division are commanded by a Division Supervisor (Captain). Each Division Supervisor(Captain) is responsible for their division and its members. Assisting the Division Supervisors(Captains) are a total 8 Supervisors (Lieutenants) who directly supervise the day-to-day activities of Fire Marshals in the field and office.

All Nassau County Fire Marshals (regardless of Division assignment) are trained to the highest level possible in several disciplines. Each is a NYS Code Enforcement Officer, NYS Hazardous Materials Technician or Specialist, NYS Emergency Medical Technician, NYS Confined Space Rescue Technician, and all have specialized training in Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents, Incident Command / NIMS, and courses of instruction offered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, and Department of Defense. Members of the Fire Investigation Division have additional training in Fire and Arson Investigation, Advanced Arson for Profit Investigation, Crime Scene Photography, Evidence Collection, and Interview and Interrogation training. Members are required to refresh this training on a regular and ongoing basis.

All Nassau County Fire Marshals assigned to the Enforcement and Hazardous Materials Response Divisions of the office are uniformed, armed law enforcement personnel. All Fire Marshals assigned to the Fire Investigation Division are armed law enforcement personnel in business attire. All Nassau County Fire Marshals are New York State Peace Officers. Nassau County Fire Marshals write Court Appearance Tickets, have subpoena power, and make arrests in connection with their duties. Members are often required to give testimony in court on criminal and civil cases as a result.

General Inspection Division

Is tasked with insuring fire safety in all public assembly, mercantile, business, and multiple dwelling occupancies. In addition, the division reviews plans for the installation of fire safety equipment in these occupancies. The General Division is called upon to assist other law enforcement agencies to provide expertise in matters of public assembly fire safety.

Industrial Division

Is tasked with insuring fire safety in all industrial and manufacturing occupancies. In addition, the division reviews plans for the installation of fire safety equipment in these occupancies. With the film and TV industry expanding into Nassau County, unique challenges to provide fire safety to the employees and audience of these various productions have arisen. The Industrial Division has provided expertise in guiding the production crews and studios to ensure fire safety for the workers and audience.

Special Facilities

Is tasked with insuring fire safety for health care facilities, private schools, daycare, and custodial residences. The division provides technical expertise in reviewing plans for the installation of fire protection and detection systems as these occupancies have requirements differing from other construction. The division works with local, state, and national accreditation agencies to ensure fire safety in these occupancies. In addition, the division provides fire safety training as an outreach program to workers in healthcare and custodial residences.

License and Permits Division

The License and Permit division is tasked with issuing all Licenses and permits as well as testing and issuance of Certificates of fitness for persons working in Nassau County on Fire Safety systems and other hazardous occupations where fire safety is a primary concern.

Hazardous Materials Response Division

The Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office maintains a Level 1 Emergency Hazardous Materials Response Team manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for response to emergency situations requiring hazardous materials technical and operational support. The Haz-Mat Division works directly with the Fire Service, as well as local, state, and federal agencies. They maintain a highly trained response ready posture always. The Hazardous Materials Division is an integral part of the County's overall domestic preparedness plans and procedures. When not on assignment, the Haz-Mat Team on duty assists other divisions as necessary providing additional manpower. In addition to emergency response, the Haz-Mat Division works to protect the environment by enforcing regulations and laws concerning the illegal discharge of oils, fuels, and other substances onto the roadways or into the waterways of Nassau County

Fire Investigations Division

The Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office also provides fire and arson investigation services through the Fire Investigations Division who also operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week responding to the scene of fires to assist the local fire department in determining the origin and cause of the fire. Fire Investigation Division members work directly with the Nassau County Police Department Arson / Bomb Squad, State and Federal authorities in investigating cases of suspected arson. In addition, the division has two accelerant detecting K9's. The dogs and handlers are trained by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and are available to respond regionally.

Fire Communications Division

As a branch of the Nassau County Fire Commission, the bureau provides fulltime communications for the 71 Nassau County fire departments and the Fire Marshal staff and dispatch services to 40 fire departments and 4 ambulance corps in the county of Nassau. All operators are Emergency Medical Dispatchers. Fire Communications can also provide on scene mobile communications with their Field Communications unit

Fire Police EMS Academy

Formed in 1978 as a partnership between the Nassau County Fire Commission, Office of the Fire Marshal, and the Nassau County Police Department to ensure the uninterrupted high-level training for our EMS providers. Training is provided by a team of instructors from both the Fire Commission and NCPD Emergency Ambulance Bureau. The Nassau County Fire Police Academy continues to be recognized as the finest EMS training facility in the state.

The following are the yearly activity reports of the divisions:

GENERAL INSPECTION DIVISION

One (1) Captain

One (1) Lieutenant

Eight (8) Fire Marshals (Field)

The General Inspection Division of the Nassau County Office of the Fire Marshal is charged with the inspection of Assembly (A) occupancies, Business (B) occupancies, Mercantile (M) occupancies, Residential (R) occupancies (excluding 1 and 2 family dwellings), and certain Utility (U) occupancies as defined in the Building Code of the State of New York. Fire Marshals are New York State Code Enforcement Officials and are required to maintain a minimum of 24 hours of in-service training annually to retain this certification. In addition, Fire Marshals are New York State Peace Officers and must attend an annual 8-hour firearms and deadly physical force requalification, as well as non-lethal annual training with OC Spray and Batons. As New York State Emergency Medical Technicians, a minimum 64-hour recertification course must be taken and passed. Division Fire Marshals also serve as Fire Code Liaison to the following professional organizations: IKECA (International Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning Association), NYFAA (New York Fire Alarm Association), LIAA (Long Island Alarm Association), NYFED (New York Fire Equipment Distributors), New York Fire Sprinkler Coalition, B.I.A.N.C.O. (Building Inspectors Association of Nassau County), I.C.C. (International Code Council), and NFPA (National Fire Protection Association)

The General Inspections Division provides a 4pm to 12am Fire Marshal to perform after hour inspection duties in addition to emergency response after normal business hours. We also provide an on-call response for weekends, holidays, and during the overnight hour's weekdays. A second Fire Marshal is added to the "night tour" from October through the end of the year to augment the "duty" Marshal. These two Fire Marshals perform "Holiday Safety" inspections throughout the County every workday evening and weekends during this time frame.

The General Inspections Division conducts night safety inspections of places of public assembly on every Friday night to ensure the life safety of the occupants. These facility inspections ensure that the occupants may exit safely, that the premise is not overcrowded and that all fundamental fire safety systems are operational. These inspections have disclosed many unsafe conditions in the field that did endanger the public safety. This office has issued forthwith orders to comply and appearance tickets at these premises, which resulted in unsafe conditions being corrected and significant fines being imposed. In addition, the division routinely participate in various Police, State Liquor Authority and Building department details.

The Division provides outreach and conducts site visits to the regulated community to ensure the fire safety of both newly constructed and existing buildings within the County of Nassau by overseeing the installation and maintenance of required fire protection systems.

To ensure minimum competency of various trades, the General Inspections Division generates and administers tests for the licensing or certification of the following: Servicing of portable fire extinguishers, installation and servicing of automatic extinguishing systems for commercial kitchens, installation of grease hood and duct exhaust systems, cleaning and maintenance of grease hood and duct exhaust systems, fire sprinkler and standpipe installers, and fire sprinkler inspection, testing and maintenance.

The Division also provides a liaison to First District Criminal Court and Nassau County TPVA for Fire Marshal issued appearance tickets and summonses. Our liaisons conference with attorneys and defendants

before arraignment in District Court. Compliance is assured before tickets can be adjudicated, and fines are recommended to the court.

2021 saw another year of construction and renovation of buildings throughout Nassau County. Ongoing major projects include the Garvies Pointe, and Downtown projects in Glen Cove, the renovation of the Source Mall in Westbury, Country Pointe in Plainview, 4 Story Office Building in Manhasset, Multiple Residence in Glenwood Landing, Selby Beechwood Hotel and Apartments in Westbury, Meadowbrook Pointe Gardens and Country Pointe Condominiums in East Meadow, Harbor Isle Apartments, Island Park, Woodcrest Apartments, Oceanside, Self Help Senior Housing, Freeport, Additionally, the Oceanside, Island Park, North Massapequa and Massapequa Fire Departments are all conducting renovations to add additional space, renovate existing space and or update outdated buildings including repairs for damage sustained from a fire at the North Massapequa Fire Department Headquarters building. Several other properties in Hempstead Village have substantial large-scale renovations or modifications being performed involving Fire Alarm and or Fire Sprinkler systems that are in various stages of construction. In addition, several projects in Glen Cove, Port Washington, Hempstead, Uniondale and Glenwood have been finished, and the fire safety systems have been commissioned allowing occupancy. The new Nassau County Police Academy is completed with conditional sign offs for completed portions of the building (due to supply chain issues from the COVID 19 pandemic) with the remaining parts of the building to be completed as soon as possible.

In addition to the ongoing construction projects and renovations within the County that the staff has kept moving towards completion, the Chief Fire Marshal as per request from the County Executive added another facet to the duties of the staff in 2021 which has continued into year 2022. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the County Executive requested that the Fire Marshal Staff be the enforcing agency to enforce the New York State Governors Executive Orders for shutdown and restrictions set forth

by the governor during the height of the pandemic. All staff took the new task in stride along with schedule changes, required overtime shifts and worked tirelessly answering and responding to complaints received to date in excess of 8000 received via the County complaint websites, shutdownenforcement@nassaucountyny.gov and reopensafe@nassaucountyny.gov. During this time the staff issued hundreds of Forthwith Orders to Remove Violations and Numerous Appearance tickets to those violating the Executive Orders. Upon completion of the COVID 19 enforcement assignment the Fire Marshal Staff assisted the health department in multiple facets of post COVID 19 pandemic assignments. These assignments included vaccination site security, vaccination site registration, COVID test kit distribution and COVID test kit distribution site security.

New projects planned for 2022 have started or are scheduled to break ground including a new PDQ restaurant in Westbury, A new proposed multi building multiple residence in Roslyn, The Seasons: a multi tower, mixed use residential apartment complex in Long Beach, CarMax car dealership, Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow and a new Carvana multi story car type vending building / showroom in Garden City, Hilton Garden Inn, Woodcleft Ave., Freeport, a new four-story apartment complex at 555 Stewart Ave., Garden City and a new four story apartment building at 5 Freer Street, Lynbrook.

New members of service (Fire Marshal Trainees) have completed their respective probation periods, required trainings, and are now functioning as Fire Marshals. All of the new members have been permanently assigned to various divisions within the office and settled into their respective assignment duties. The senior members of staff were very instrumental with the new members training, acting as "field training officers". As the new members move to their respective assignments the senior staff continue to assist with plan review and code interpretation. I am sure that they will be an asset to the

Office. I am confident the new members of service assigned to the General Inspections Division will allow the General Division to operate more productively and efficiently.

The members assigned to the Divisions performed the following activities during 2021:

- **1346** - The review of new and revised plans for site review, automatic fire extinguishing systems, hoods and ducts, fire sprinkler systems sprinklers, standpipe systems, fire alarm and smoke detection systems as well as clean agent systems.
- **903**- System performance and acceptance tests for Fire Alarm Systems, Fire Sprinkler Systems, Standpipe Systems, Automatic Extinguishment Systems and Hood and Duct Systems were conducted in the presence of fire marshal staff as a result of the installation of new systems for fire suppression and detection as well as re-testing of existing systems where problems were found during inspections.
- **797** -Emergency generator and light tests were witnessed in General Inspection Division assigned buildings (*2356 Conducted Office wide*) as required by the Nassau County Fire Prevention Ordinance.
- **1308**- General building inspections were conducted at new and existing facilities.
- **941** - Night safety inspections of public assembly locations were conducted.
- **242**- Holiday safety inspections of retail establishments were performed between October and the first week of December.
- **616**- Complaints were received and investigated through site inspections and enforcement. This number reflects fire marshal related complaints received during the COVID pandemic responses.
- **17** – Police Details to assist Nassau County Police Department, Hempstead Police Departments, Garden City Police Department, Floral Park Police Department and Lynbrook Police departments with inspections of problematic locations within these jurisdictions on a scheduled or emergency call out basis.
- **177**- Appearance tickets issued by the members of the General Inspections Division. 156 - NCFPO, 6 - Penal Law. (*520 - Issued Office wide*).
- Members of General Division attended many hours of ongoing, annual recertification and training in the 2021 calendar year. Topics included, but were not limited to firearms, code compliance, emergency medical technician, hazardous materials, and specialized equipment operations.
- The Division also spent many hours on miscellaneous items such as processing permits and licenses, computer entry, motor vehicle activity and at State and International Code hearings.

Respectfully Submitted

Submitted by Captain Gregory G. Smith

Division Supervisor

General Inspections Division

INDUSTRIAL DIVISION

The Nassau County Fire Marshal Industrial Division is one of three inspection divisions within the Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office.

Staffing:

The Industrial Division was staffed with 9 Fire Marshals during the 2021 calendar year. All marshals work an eight (8) hour tour Monday through Friday. All Fire Marshals are assigned to a rotating night shift. The rotation is approximately once every 9 weeks.

There was one Captain assigned to the division working an eight (8) hour tour Monday through Friday. There was one Lieutenant assigned to the division during the 2021 calendar year.

Activities:

The Industrial Division is responsible for the inspection of all industrial occupancies in the County of Nassau. These occupancies include but are not limited to, flammable and combustible liquid storage facilities, oxidizer storage and distributing locations, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) facilities, storage, factory and manufacturing facilities, application of flammable finish facilities, compressed gas storage, waste treatment plants, marinas, auto repair and body shops.

The Division is also responsible for the review and approval of system plans for: fire alarms, fire and smoke detection systems, sprinkler systems, stand-pipe, flammable finish spray booths, automatic extinguishing systems, flammable/combustible liquid storage, flammable gas facilities, fire pumps and emergency generators. Acceptance tests and site inspections are performed to ensure code compliance and the operational capabilities of the systems reviewed

Industrial Division members perform inspections of vehicles transporting hazardous materials for the enforcement of fire prevention codes, federal hazardous material regulations and vehicle and traffic laws.

Persons who handle or sell propane gas or oxidizers, install or maintain automatic extinguishing systems, cut or weld using a torch, and those who install and test fire sprinkler systems, are tested and certified as competent by the members of the Industrial Division.

Members of the Industrial Division are also responsible for fire safety on motion picture and television shoots. Over 100 inspections were made to the county's three studios and numerous locations where shoots took place around Nassau County. Members of the Motion Picture Production Unit conducted numerous safety inspections were instrumental in the safe production of all the films involving pyrotechnics and fires.

The members of the Industrial Division have participated in over 750 hours of extensive in-service training over the past year including weapons training, hazardous materials, and NYS Code enforcement to name just a few of the topics covered.

Members of the Industrial Division administered the tests, processed the applications and fees, and issued COF's to over 200 test takers who had successfully completed the different kinds of exams.

Industrial covered the HazMat truck 150 hours for 2021.

Considering all that is listed above, through the efforts and dedication of the members of the Industrial Division, the overall performance of the division maintained in 2021. These increases are a testament to the work ethic of the staff of the Industrial Division.

During the 2021 calendar year the Industrial division reviewed 653 plans and conducted 1346 general inspections. The Industrial Division also conducted 845 test inspections.

Additionally, the Industrial Division conduct COVID-19 enforcement inspections throughout the year.

Concerns/Forecast:

The Industrial Division continued to be hampered by severe manpower limitations during 2021, a condition common throughout the Fire Marshal’s office. The Industrial Division continued over the past year, to attempt to keep up with voluminous amounts of activity throughout the County. It is not uncommon for the members of the Division to be assigned multiple responsibility within the county. That being said, the members of the Division performed admirably and handled numerous major industrial complex construction projects in addition to the routine industrial matters that occur year in and year out in the County.

Numerical Data:

Plan Review		Test Inspections	
Automatic Extinguishing Systems	53	General Inspections	769
Closed Circuit TV	8	Emergency Lighting Tests	453
Self-serve conversion	19	5-year sprinkler function tests	89
Site plans	42	Fire Alarm tests	60
LPG Installation	305	Automatic Extinguishing Tests	43
Fire Alarm	122	Sprinkler/Standpipe Tests	54
Sprinkler/Standpipe	79	Self-service inspections	8
Hood & Duct	6	Pyrotechnic Displays	28
Flammable Finish	19	Site Visits	58
		Sprinkler Head Relocation Tests	12
Permits / License		Hood and Duct Inspections	4
LPG Storage	70	Complaints	577
LPG Truck	50	LPG Safety Inspections	6
Selling storing oxidizers	68	LPG Truck Inspections	52
Hood & Duct	6	Closed Circuit TV	7
Fire Alarm Rough Out	109	LPG Installation	35
Fire Alarm	100	Bulk Tank Foam	8
Sprinkler/Standpipe Rough Out	50	Loading Rack Foam	6
Sprinkler/Standpipe	60		
Sprinkler Relocate	60		
Flammable Finish	151		
Pyrotechnic	18		
AES	53		

Submitted by Captain Andrew Schmitt Shield #10

Division Supervisor Industrial Division

SPECIAL FACILITIES DIVISION

The Nassau County Fire Marshal Special Facilities Division is one of three inspection divisions of the Fire Marshals' Office.

Special Facilities is responsible for inspections, fire protection system plan review, and fire protection system testing at locations which are classified as Institutional (I) occupancies or Educational (E) occupancies by the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code. Such locations include Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Day Care, Schools, and Detention Centers. Colleges and Universities (Business Occupancies) are also within the prevue of the Special Facilities Division.

The uniqueness of these locations presents special challenges to fire prevention, code enforcement, and protection of life and property. Occupants at these facilities are very often incapable of self-preservation or evacuation because of their physical or mental condition, age, or detention status.

Staffing:

The Special Facilities Division was staffed with six (6) Fire Marshals for 2021. Five of the Fire Marshals are qualified to complete fire protection system plan review. One of the Fire Marshals is beginning to learn the complexities of plan review.

All members of the Special Facilities Division are assigned to a Monday through Friday, five-day work week, eight-hour tour.

All six (6) Fire Marshals also were assigned to a rotating night tour. Each Marshal worked a 1600-2345-hour night tour, was "on-standby" from home from 2345-0800 hours and 24 hours the over the preceding weekend. Each Marshal was assigned to nights every sixth week.

There is one Division Supervisor who works a standard eight-hour day tour Monday through Friday to oversee the administrative aspect of the division, ensuring that all the division's responsibilities are met.

This position has also been tasked with managing the department budget, purchasing, and grants. Additionally, this position has been overseeing the training of all new members, annual EMT refresher training, annual firearm requalification training, annual medicals, and acting as liaison to the Office of Emergency Management.

The combination of managing the division and other related duties is time consuming and does not allow for full attention to be given to any single area.

Activities:

Over the 2021 calendar year the Special Facilities Division reviewed 225 Fire Protection System Plans. A 17.8% increase over the previous year. 1,291 tests and inspections specific to the division were conducted. A 15.6% increase from the previous year. Of particular note is the increase in Annual School Inspections. Inspections of this category have increased from 96 to 248. This is a 158.3% increase. It is suspected that this is largely due to the addition of the sixth Fire Marshal during the 2020 calendar year. This Marshal was specifically assigned to assist with school inspections. Fire Marshals assigned to the Special Facilities Division have also been routinely outsourced to other divisions to assist with testing and inspections.

The Special Facilities Division is also responsible for the licensing and certificate of fitness issuing Grease Hood/Duct Systems and Portable Fire Extinguishers. These administrative tasks are split between two Fire Marshals. Having these assignments done by Fire Marshals reduces their time to conduct

inspections and complete enforcement. These administrative tasks would be better suited for civilian staff.

In addition to its fire prevention duties, the Special Facilities Division has participated in REHAB response, covered the front desk assignment, provided for HazMat tour coverage, and staffed the Emergency Operations Center Fire Desk when activated.

Numerical Data:

➤ General Building Inspections	- 448
➤ Emergency Lighting Tests	- 367
➤ Annual School Inspections	- 248
➤ Complaints	- 97
➤ Fire Alarm Tests	- 47
➤ Sprinkler System Tests	- 32
➤ 5-year Sprinkler Function Test	- 42
➤ Automatic Extinguishing System Test	- 3
➤ Sprinkler Head Relocation Test	- 7
➤ Portable Fire Extinguisher COF	- 162
➤ Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning COF	- 69

Assessment/Forecast:

As a division, the staffing for 2021 has proven to be adequate with six (6) fire marshals. Continuing to staff this division with six Fire Marshals would be recommended to maintain the progress which has been made over the last year.

With each passing year the department has been tasked with new assignments. Daily activities no longer include solely fire prevention activities. Department responsibilities have been expanded to include response to weather related events, staffing of warming centers, REHAB response, High Axle Vehicle staffing, among other assignments.

The overall department head count is inadequate to keep pace with the workload.

Without increasing the staffing of the uniformed and civilian staff, resources become increasingly stretched. This will cause demands for service not being able to be met appropriately. The current level of productivity will likely not be able to be maintained due to work overload.

Submitted by Captain Bohdan J. Pilczak

Shield # 12

Division Supervisor

Special Facilities Division

LICENSE AND PERMITS DIVISION

The License and Permit Division was brought back as a separate division in October of 2021. The reorganization of the division's functions and consolidation of all license and permit issuance as well as testing and issuance of COFs will fall under the division. 4 staff were assigned 1 who retired as of December 31, 2021, Leaving an Acting Division Supervisor, a Supervisor and 1 Fire Marshal.

Prior to the reorganization Issuance of Permit, Licenses, and COFs were assigned to various members of other divisions.

The Division is also responsible for Foil requests, Front Desk operations, sending renewal letters and for completed Licenses, permits and COFs, oversight of the file room as well as additional assignments of the Supervisory Staff.

In 2021 and currently 9 staff members across the divisions are responsible for the issuance of Licenses and permits as well as COF testing and Issuance. These tasks will gradually be assumed by the L&P Division in 2022.

In 2021 there were a total of 15635 Permits, 571 Licenses, and 1552 COFs were issued.

Permit Type	Issued
Fire Alarm Permit	13483
Tent Permit	1403
Sprinkler Head Relocation Test Permit	155
Fire Alarm System Rough Out Work Permit	273
Sprinkler System Rough Out Work Permit	87
Fire Alarm System Relocation Permit	27
LP Gas Storage Permit	77
Location Permit for Selling or Storing Oxidizers	70
LP Gas Truck Permit	43
Pyrotechnic Display Permit	17
Total For Permits	15635
License Type	Issued
Flammable Finish License	181
Sprinkler System Installation License	104
Sprinkler System Inspection, Testing & Maintenance License	91
Portable Fire Ext License	61
Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning License	43
Hood & Duct Installers License	30
Board-Up and Restoration License	22
Automatic Fire Extinguishing System Installers License	24
Clean Agent AFES License	9
Automatic Fire Suppression System License	6
Total For License	571
Certificate Type	Issued
Sprinkler Certificate of Fitness	440
Welding And Cutting Certificate of Fitness	837
Servicing Of Portable Fire Extinguishers Certificate of Fitness	161
Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning Certificate of Fitness	68
Board-Up and Restoration Certificate of Fitness	46
Total for COF	1552
Total	17758

The License and Permit Division has been assisted by the Secretary to the Fire Marshal, and Administrative Assistant who were also able to help with the Division's work a few hours each week.

They are a tremendous asset, but in spite of their abilities, speed, and efficiency, the increase in their workload and having fewer hours each week to work on permits than in past years, the division was not able to keep up with the volume of work. It takes much more time to issue a new fire alarm permit than to renew an existing permit.

Productivity continues to be at it's maximum, and there is a lot of other related work that needs to be done while we concentrated on issuing new and renewing expiring fire alarm permits. The Division needs several Secretaries, to accomplish the work that has been put on hold for lack of personnel, and to maintain the current volume of work. the current number of assigned staff will not be able to keep up with the workload.

The issuing process for many of the fire alarm permit applications was delayed again during 2021 in part because of a backlog caused by COVID and because so many applications were submitted with important information missing or with wrong information that had to be corrected. These nuisance problems cause us to have to spend so many extra hours checking and verifying the information on every application received and having to obtain missing information and correct the errors on so many of the applications before the permits can be issued. We cannot issue the permits without first verifying the accuracy of the information provided. Verifying correct information to assure proper fire department response to these automatic alarms is our primary purpose.

We continue to receive calls from so many people who complain about the fire alarm permit fee, and many of them anonymously refuse to renew their permits because of the fee. They know that the fire departments will not refuse to respond for lack of valid permits. Collecting the permit fees has always been and will continue to be a problem under the present circumstances.

We still do not have the personnel to go after all of the residents and the businesses that do not have current valid fire alarm permits, and there are many locations throughout the County where fire alarm systems have been installed but fire alarm permits have never been applied for.

Foil requests have also been on the rise to date this year we have received 624 as opposed to the same period last year where we received 543.

Year	# Of Requests
2021	4001
2020	3324
2019	3586
2018	2942
2017	2474

Foil requests are required to be acknowledge within 5 days and the requested information is required to be provided in 20 days. This is a time-consuming task.

In 2021 43,781 pieces of mail were sent including renewal letters and completed items. This is also a daunting undertaking in that the printing and stuffing to prep it for the mail room where postage is applied and then sent consumes substantial amounts of time. Fortunately, with the new MFP printers the time has been slightly reduced.

Overall, we are back logged primarily on the entering of permits and renewals and the addition of an administrative assistant, and 1 or 2 added Fire Marshal Staff may allow the division to stay current with its assigned tasks.

Submitted by Lieutenant Gary W. Smithing

Acting Division Supervisor

License & Permit Division

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE DIVISION

- (1) Captain,
- (5) Lieutenants,
- (5) Fire Marshals

The Fire Marshal Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division is a highly trained and respected influence in Nassau County and around the State. The Division is always response ready 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Covering the entire 285 square miles of Nassau County land and 50 miles of shoreline, the Division provides an essential service and technical support to the 71 Nassau County fire departments, 6 Ambulance Corps and all County, State and Federal agencies. The HazMat Division also directly assists the residents of Nassau County.

2021 was a year that brought significant changes to the HazMat Division with the reassignment of multiple personnel in the first month of the year. (4) Fire Marshals that had never served in the HazMat Division were promoted to Lieutenant and transferred into the Division. A week-long “HazMat Academy” was held for these personnel which culminated in a large-scale exercise that reached other Divisions of the Agency. The acquisition of additional hazmat training props complimented the “Academy” as well as the extensive training schedule that the Division adheres to. To supplement the annual training, the HazMat Division hosted (2) deliveries of the National Fire Academy’s Chemistry for Emergency Response course. This challenging, 80-hour course is known as the most difficult course in the fire service and the students found out that moniker was accurate. The entire HazMat Division as well as a number of other NCFM personnel successfully completed this course. Also, the NYS OFPC HazMat Team Accreditation program continues, with the Nassau County Fire Marshal’s Office Hazardous Materials Response Division remaining the only Type 1 hazardous materials response team in Nassau County which is the highest designation available.

The coronavirus pandemic continued throughout 2021 which once again brought challenges to the entire Nassau County Fire Marshal’s Office and to the Hazardous Materials Response Division as well.

During the 2021 calendar year, the division handled 587 HazMat incidents, down from 685 incidents in 2020. Of the total, 344 were requests for immediate assistance.

The HazMat Division performed many building fire safety inspections, but due this task was again limited by the coronavirus pandemic:

Inspections

2020: 389 2021: 203 GBI + 24 Oxidizer

Order to Remove Violations Forthwith issued

2020: 709 2021: 419

Orders to Conduct ELT: 50

A new task was also added to the Hazardous Materials Division assignment list in 2020. This involved the enforcement of Article 11 of the NCFPO regarding Board Up and Restoration Companies. At the request of the Fire Investigations Division the Hazardous Materials Response Division now responds to every signal 10 / working fire in Nassau County on a 24 hour/day basis for the purposes of enforcing the provisions of Article 11 of the NCFPO. In the second year of this program over 100 fire scenes have been responded to that has resulted in a great deal of interaction with both licensed and unlicensed firms and

personnel. The Fire Service has now come to expect NCFM personnel at their fire scenes and has welcomed their presence. NCFM personnel are often tasked to assist in other ways at fire scenes including liaison, resource gathering and command post assistance.

The Division Staff maintained staffing levels at minimum manning in 2021. In order to maintain a ready response Team 24/7 we utilize a 15 person work chart but it has been many years since all positions in the chart have been filled. Staffing shortages are made up by overtime assignments, restricting time off and reassigning personnel from other Divisions. These “solutions” create additional problems but we continue to do what must be done to complete whatever task we are given.

We are hopeful for the future with the steady flow of new staff members that the HazMat Division’s staffing levels will increase.

Training & Events

Training for HazMat and WMD is always ongoing. HazMat Division personnel have continued their training. Each member is required to complete a training of a least 2 hours during EVERY night shift. Multiple hazmat training props were purchased and delivered in late 2019 and HazMat Division personnel have been trained in the use of these props so we can facilitate training for ourselves as well as other agencies in the County.

In 2020 the HazMat Division continued to improve training with the creation of a “Task Book” that follows the Job Performance Requirements (JPR’s) that are listed in the NFPA Standards for the HazMat Technician/Specialist. This has allowed us to improve the tracking of training of Division members in 2021 and enabled a program to be rolled out to the entire Agency to facilitate hazmat refresher training.

All members of the HazMat Division completed their required 24 hours of Code training in 2021.

(2) deliveries of the 80-hour, NFA Chemistry for Emergency Response course were delivered in-house, without any cost to the Agency. This course was delivered to 25 NCFM personnel total, including the entire HazMat Division.

The HazMat Division continues to build relationships and network with other Agencies. Division Supervision met and operated with the new command staff from the 24th Civil Support Team for HazMat/WMD of the US National Guard from Brooklyn, NY as well as the FBI’s NY Field Office WMD Coordinator. Friendships and professional alliances were formed and/or continued during these operations that will serve us well in the future.

Equipment

With the cooperation of the NCFM Administration and the availability of Homeland Security funding, the HazMat Division has been able to continue the acquisition of equipment and vehicles that is improving many things both for the Division and the County residents.

The long awaited replacement of the FTIR Chemical Identifiers was completed in 2021 through the use of UASI grant funds. All HazMat personnel received an all-day manufacturer training on this item. This equipment will allow the HazMat Division to maintain the capabilities required of the Type 1 hazmat team for the future.

Submitted by Captain Michael Mennella

Division Supervisor/HazMat Specialist

HazMat Response Division

FIRE INVESTIGATION DIVISION

One Assistant Chief Fire Marshal / Investigator

One Captain / Investigator

Three Fire Marshal Investigators

Two Fire Marshal Investigators / K-9 Handlers

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The Fire Investigation Division is the division of the Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office tasked with the investigation of fires within the County of Nassau. The mission of the Fire Investigation Division is to offer the finest technical and investigative assistance available to the fire service, residents, and those who do business or own property in the County of Nassau. The Division remains on the cutting edge of new technology and advanced techniques in the field of fire investigation and holds the distinction of being a pioneer in the "teamwork concept" of fire investigation. Fires are investigated in cooperation with the Nassau County Police Department Arson / Bomb Squad, headquartered within the Fire Marshal's Office, as well as with State and Federal law enforcement agencies. The Division also maintains close contact with both private and insurance investigators as well as the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, to ensure that every aspect of each investigation has been fully explored.

Fire Marshals selected to become Fire Marshal Investigators receive intense specialized training from a variety of sources. New Investigators must attend New York State mandated basic training at the New York State Fire Academy located in the western region of New York State. At the academy, they are instructed in fire dynamics, fire behavior, building construction, fire origin and cause determination, evidence collection, fire scene photography, interviews and interrogations, report writing, and court testimony. Through a combination of NYS sponsored courses, Federal sponsored courses and privately funded professional organizations, investigators continue their training into focused areas such as the investigation of electrical fires, appliance fires, vehicle and vessel fires. In addition, they are taught advanced investigative techniques in cases involving arson for profit, and insurance fraud. Limited training was conducted by the NYS Fire Academy in 2021, Investigators completed approximately 155 hours of training at the NYS Academy of Fire Science located in Montour Falls, NY.

Staffing for the Fire Investigation Division is the top concern and priority as emergency response is required as part of the division's duties, and not an option. Investigators must respond to the scene when requested by the Fire Service or Police in order to maintain continuity and preserve chain of custody when collecting evidence. In addition to determining the origin and cause of the fire, Fire Marshal Investigators conduct criminal "on scene" and follow up investigations when necessary. The Division also investigates burn injuries countywide, to determine and track their cause, and conducts background checks of Firefighter applicants. Members of the Division, in addition to their regular duties, are responsible for hours of ongoing refresher and recertification training in order to be recognized as an expert to testify in court. The Marshals assigned to the division are regularly subject to Subpoenas from

County Criminal Court, the State Supreme Court and many additional hearings and depositions. NYS mandated that all Fire Investigators be ProBoard certified. All Nassau County Fire Marshal Investigators are currently ProBoard Certified. These are all in addition to the normal continuing education requirements that all Fire Marshals are subject to.

Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) Program

The Division has two specially trained K-9 accelerant detection teams, which are deployed when investigating fires where ignitable liquids are suspected at their point of origin. The teams are certified annually by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and are part of the ATF National Response Team. Our teams respond on a 24-hour basis to serve the needs of the Fire Service of Nassau County. Additionally, they provide back-up assistance to Suffolk and Westchester County and respond on a mutual aid basis to assist New York City Police Department Bureau of Arson and Explosion. Both ATF accelerant detection canine teams are part of the ATF National Response Team and can be activated at request when needed anywhere in the country. In 2021 one ADC Team was requested and did respond to a call for assistance from West Chester County. When not actively deployed, the K-9 teams conduct training exercises, and perform educational outreach to schools and the public. Fire Marshal Canine Handlers also respond to and carry a full case load of fire investigations. In the 2021 calendar year the Division had two canine teams recertify their credentials.

Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program

In 2021 the Division continued to deliver the Juvenile Fire setter Intervention Program. The problem of Juvenile related fires in Nassau County remains an issue, and the members of the Division are doing their part to help address this problem by working directly with youth fire starters and their families. The Division has partnered with Nassau County Family Court, Nassau County Probation Department, the Nassau County Attorney's Office and several private counseling and service agencies in the delivery of this important program. The risk assessment tool implemented by the Division has now been adopted by the County's juvenile justice system and relied upon in the screening and disposition of juvenile fire and false alarm cases. Marshals specially trained for Juvenile work carry such cases on top of their regular caseload. The program can be delivered in both English and Spanish through our inter-agency partnership with Nassau County C.A.S.A. The program is the first of its kind offered in the County of Nassau and has received widespread praise for its development and implementation. In the division there is currently one investigator trained as a level 2 Juvenile Fire setter Intervention Specialist and four investigators trained as level 1 Juvenile Fire setter Intervention Specialists.

Internship Program

The Division continues to offer an Intern program to college students who are studying Fire Science and Forensic studies. This program has developed throughout the years and has a well-known reputation for providing an excellent learning opportunity. The program typically is extended to local colleges and universities, but our reputation has grown such that we have had applicants from else where in the state and from adjoining state universities. Applicants, following their course curriculum, are required to attend between 90 and 200 hours of training. The applicants not only learn about fire investigations but also spend time learning other aspects of the Fire Marshal Office and spend time at the Nassau County Medical Examiner Laboratory and the Nassau County Police Arson Bomb Squad. Currently one previous intern has been hired by the Nassau County Fire Marshal Office and is currently assigned to the Investigations Division.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drone Program)

The Nassau County Fire Marshals Office started a UAS program to assist the Investigations Division with aerial photos of large and remote fire scenes, the Hazardous Materials Division with aerial photos of large and remote scenes, reconnaissance of hazardous materials, scene safety and the Nassau County Fire Departments with scene size up, thermal imaging. Members of the Investigations Division have been tasked with writing policies and procedures, maintaining equipment, maintaining training records. The office currently has four pilots with seven more staff members taking the certification exam in 2022. The drone unit flew 7 missions in 2021.

In conclusion, for the calendar year 2022 the Division will operate with five investigators in a weekly rotation to cover the weekend, evening, and overnight hours. Additionally, we have two certified canine teams that are dividing the canine response and education details on a weekly availability basis. The two certified canine teams are counted in the five total investigators for the division and are in the weekly rotating chart.

With the increased requirements to maintain NYS certification as a Fire Investigator and ProBoard Certified Fire Investigator continue to put additional demands on the Division, and the continued NYS Bail Reform Act, the demands on the members have increased exponentially with substantial time restrictions to provide all required information concerning criminal cases to the courts. It is more important than ever to fortify the manpower of the Division to meet these ever-increasing demands and for the Investigators to attend additional training to increase their knowledge base to stay at the forefront of a rapidly changing field.

During the year of 2021 we accomplished the following items:

Conducted 422 Investigations which are comprised as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 271 - Accidental Fires | 12 - Diners/Pubs/ Restaurant |
| 54 - Incendiary Fires | 4 - Churches |
| 87 - Undetermined Fires | 6 - Schools |
| down from 117 the previous year | 1 - Other Institutions |
| 3 - Natural Fires | 3 - Office Buildings |
| 7 - Other Investigations | 4 - Garage / Public auto showroom |

As a result of these fires there were:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 194 - With Smoke Detectors Present | 8 - Private Garages |
| 136 - Smoke Detectors Functioning | 2 - Warehouses |
| 49 - Smoke Detectors Present Not Functioning | 24 - Misc. Buildings |
| 4 - Smoke Detectors Present Unknown If Functioning | 6 - Brush |
| 132 - Smoke Detectors Not Present | 3 - Hotel / Motels |
| 63 - Canine Responses (One to Westchester County) | 6 - Club House |
| 50 - Civilian Aided fire | 1 - Barn |
| 79 - Civilians Aided | |
| 27 - Firefighter Aided fires | |
| 40 - Firefighters Injured | |
| 9 - Fatal fires | |
| 12 - Fatalities | |
| 15 - Cases closed with an arrest (27.7%) | |
| 6 - Juvenile Fire setter Intervention | |
| 218 - One family Dwelling | |
| 26 - Two Family Dwellings | |
| 2 - Dwelling (room and board) | |
| 24 - Apartment Houses | |
| 4 - Stores with apartments | |
| 15 - Stores with no other occupancy | |
| 1 - Department Store | |
| 3 - Nursing homes | |
| 6 - Industrial Locations | |
| 43 - Vehicles | |

The Division processed:

- 550 - Foils
- 39 - Burn Injury Reports
- 269 - Fire Fighter Background Checks
- 7 - Court Subpoenas
- 5 - Court Appearances

The Division provided:

- 12 - Canine Demos
- 10 - Fire Service Education Presentations

Additionally, the members of the division conducted:

- 69 - Emergency Lighting Tests
- 58 - General Building Inspections
- 65 - Complaints
- 1 - AES Test
- 2 - Studio Inspections

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain Kevin C Lang

Division Supervisor

FIRE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Mission Statement

Nassau County Fire Communications are the first of the first responders. We are committed to answering all emergency and non-emergency calls with professionalism, integrity and compassion while efficiently dispatching fire and emergency medical services to the residents of Nassau County.

Our mission is to provide accurate information to the fire departments and emergency medical services in Nassau County and to ensure their safe and timely response to all emergencies. Most importantly, to ensure the safe arrival and return of all our fire & EMS service first responders' day in and day out.

Description Of Services

We provide full-time dispatch services to 38 fire departments and 3 ambulance corps out of the 71 fire departments and 6 ambulance corps within Nassau County. Firecom provides initial alerting, back-up dispatching and emergency call-taking services for the other 33 fire departments and 3 ambulance corps. Firecom provides all communications for the Fire Marshal's Office. Firecom can also provide on scene fireground communications with our Field Communications Units.

We continue to provide accurate and professional fire and rescue alarm handling and communications. As membership in the volunteer fire and rescue service continues to decrease, more and more departments are modifying their dispatch procedures to maximize the use of existing manpower and supplementing it with mutual aid. We work closely with these departments in reaching their goals even though it requires more complex operations on the part of our staff. The success of these programs is an ongoing tribute to the dedication of our staff.

Firecom Total Alarms Processed for 2021

72,939

Phone Statistics

Firecom operates without the benefit of separate call takers; our dispatchers handle both call taking and radio dispatching simultaneously.

This chart shows 5.93% increase in the amount of phone calls received by Firecom in 2021 from the previous year.

Total Phone Calls Processed – 2021

168,378

Facilities

Through a capital project we continued to build out our UHF paging repeater sites in 2021 and are looking to add additional UHF repeater sites throughout the county in the coming future.

Through a series of NYS PSAP grants Firecom was able to build out a Zetron back up radio console system in our dispatch center. We are looking forward to continuing this project in 2022. This provides a much need redundancy for our radio system.

Moving forward, the remote transmitter sites will need to be upgraded to hardened shelters with backup generators and redundant connections to the PSC.

With the cooperation of the Nassau County Information and Technology Department we will continue to strengthen the redundancy of our radio network by upgrading the remote transmitter infrastructure by replacing end of life equipment and upgrading our voted audio receivers and finish the projects that were delayed by the pandemic.

We were able to begin in January 2021 the installation of the TYLER computer aided dispatch system with many planning and training meetings and sessions. The installation and training of the Firecom staff was completed and the new TYLER CAD system went live on Tuesday September 28th, 2021. The system is working well, we are having issues with GIS mapping and Nassau County IT, Supervisor Frank Passanisi and the Tyler support staff have been working to correct these issues and have made good progress as of this report.

Staffing

- 1 Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Fire & Rescue Services – **Vacant**
- 1 Fire Communications Technician 3 - (Division Supervisor)
- 6 Fire Communications Technician 2 - (Supervisors) – **1 Vacant Position**
- 18 Fire Communications Technician 1 - (Dispatchers) - **7 Vacant Position**

In 2021 Firecom Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Fire & Rescue Services Timothy Placilla retired, and the untimely passing of Dispatcher Ronald Kahan have created more vacancies that will need to be filled.

Firecom now has **7 Vacant Fire Communication Technician 1** positions and **1 Vacant Fire Communications Technician 2** position and **1 Vacant Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Fire & Rescue Services** position.

We are anticipating at least 1 Fire Communications Technician 1's retirement in 2022.

It should also be noted that since 1993 Firecom has operated at the same staffing level of 5 Dispatchers and 1 Supervisor per shift, while alarms have **increased 70.48%** through 2021. It is obvious that we require additional staffing in the future to handle the increase in alarms.

Milestones and Accomplishments – 2021

Firecom saw an increase in requests for our Fieldcom units in 2021 with a total of 12 alarm responses and participated in 5th & 8th battalion drills at the Fire Service Academy and at the new LIRR UBS station. We anticipate more requests in 2022. The usefulness of the Fieldcom units as part of the incident command system has proven itself time and time again. With the addition of Command Boards onto our units the fire service has found these to be a useful asset and have used them numerous times.

Fieldcom 2 had a recording unit installed to record all radio transmissions while the truck is in operation. It also had a video camera and mast installed to use at scenes to provide better situational awareness of the scene and area to the incident command staff.

The new Tyler CAD system hardware is scheduled to be installed in both Fieldcom units in 2022.

Fieldcom refresher trainings had all but come to a halt in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic safety policies and staffing issues. We plan to restart these sessions in 2022.

The 911 Initial alerting program continues. We currently have 8 departments participating and we have been approached by several other departments requesting to participate.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Mutual Aid Mobilization drills with the FDNY as well as other regular scheduled events such as the Oyster Fest and fire prevention details had to be cancelled.

A Program initiated for the pandemic response that continues is Firecom staff have been gathering and entering Fire & EMS agency response and COVID-19 specific totals daily into a shared data base with the OEM Fire Desk to track Fire & EMS alarms.

I am very proud of the way the Firecom personnel have responded to the difficult working conditions that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented. Our dedicated staff has been willing and able to accomplish any task that has been asked of them. I cannot say enough about the dedication that these fine individuals have for the Fire & Rescue services and the residents of Nassau County.

Summary and Conclusion

As we move forward in 2022, we are confident that Firecom will continue to provide professional fire and rescue alarm service. Our staff members are motivated by a love for the fire and rescue service and a real commitment to public safety.

As we look back on 2021, we stand proud of our accomplishments and are anxious and eager to continue to deliver the best service we can to the fire and rescue services of this County whom we have sworn to serve.

Respectfully Submitted

Marc W. Bodnar

Division Supervisor

NASSAU COUNTY FIRE-POLICE EMS ACADEMY AT NUMC

Year in Review- 2021

Completed projects / Accomplishments for 2021

- Despite the COVID pandemic, FPA was **one of the few EMS educational institutions in the entire State that was able to continue classes uninterrupted**. This required new policies and procedures that continued to evolve to keep up with the changing Federal, State and Local guidance.
- FPA is the **largest course sponsors in NYS** of the “EMT-CC to Paramedic Bridge Program” under NYS EMS. This allows EMT-CC to transition up to the Paramedic level of care at minimal cost (borne by the student), thereby securing a higher level of care to the patients that we serve.
- Continue to work cohesively to **support NUMC in the provision of required training/skills**. NUMC utilizes the Academy space and Instructors on a weekly basis.
- Continue to certify Nassau County Police Officers in CPR and First Aid via the American Heart Association.
- License all Police Recruits (County and Village) to the level of NYS Certified First Responder (CFR).
- While also running the Academy, the Administrator is the **County EMS Coordinator and NYS EMS Liaison** and continues to work with OEM and other County and State entities as needed. Provide substantial support to the Regional EMS Council (REMSCO), Regional Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC), and Fire Commission as well as directly to all EMS Agencies.
- Implemented for-a-fee **American Heart Association classes** to the response community / public. The fees generated will fund both instructors and equipment as outlined below- no cost to the County.
- Provide free “Stop the Bleed”, “CPR Anytime” and “Opioid Overdose / Narcan” training to any organization in Nassau County.
 - Sponsor the following toward NYS EMS Certified Lab instructor (CLI) / Certified Instructor Coordinator (CIC). Completed:
 - Gary Benedict
 - Andrea Schriefer
 - Scott Silvers
 - John Delany
 - Monthly snapshot of activity at the Academy

Fire Police Academy Year End Summary of Students- 2021												
<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Monthly Average of students for 2021</u>
74	99	187	147	155	268	131	93	174	217	215	162	160

Future Initiatives for 2022

- **Modernize simulation equipment** to meet changing education needs / expanded scope of practice of providers. As in the past, the Paramedic Program educational fund will allow these upgrades at no cost to the County.
- Expand the availability of **National level EMS classes** to the Nassau region. Our County is currently underserved by these classes which are used by providers to meet National EMS Education Standards / CME recertification.
- Reinforce the **oversight / guidance provided** by State and Local boards (SEMSCO / REMSCO) via the County EMS Coordinator position to maximize the sharing of resources and streamlining cooperation amongst the Fire, Police and EMS entities of our County. Work with NYS Bureau of EMS (NYSEMS) and State EMS Council (SEMSCO) to mold the future of the EMS system and conform / exceed National standards.
- Continue to support the **EMT-CC to Paramedic Bridge** for transition of providers from this level of care which has reached sunset by NYS EMS. Expand the provision of AEMT level classes. Together, assuring the availability of ALS to our residents.
- Utilize the State funded NassauEMS.org web portal to **maximize information flow** and availability of training opportunities directly to each provider / agency within the Nassau EMS system.
- Continue to cooperate with State and Local entities for the response, vaccination and recovery from the **COVID pandemic**.
- In cooperation with NUMC, continue to provide the only municipal **Paramedic Original Program** in the Nassau region.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald Hudson

Administrator / County EMS Coordinator

