



GOLDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

YEAR IN REVIEW
2021



An Introduction from Fire Chief Stricker

“Thanks to a core group of three GFD staff known as the Infection Control group, we were able to navigate the continual changes in public health COVID guidance and orders and even make allowable adjustments to GFD to keep us in service to our citizens.”



With the COVID pandemic and all the variants existing in the full year of 2021, the year was no less challenging than 2020. Thanks to a core group of three GFD staff known as the Infection Control group, we were able to navigate the continual changes in public health COVID guidance and orders. We even made allowable adjustments within GFD to keep us in service to our citizens. We took some definitive actions in testing and/or isolating members as necessary in such a way that we were able to keep a reasonably consistent minimum level of staffing throughout the year.

There were other challenges throughout the year highlighted by staffing changes as four staff members left GFD for various reasons. The positions included the Fire Chief down to firefighter and all were valuable team members who lead in various ways from the positions they held. We have been able to refill three of the four positions and have incorporated the Fire Mechanic position into the Fleet Shop with our previous Fire Mechanic transitioning to fill the open Firefighter position.

We also hired a new Deputy Fire Chief of Operations to replace the Operations Captain who left GFD. As I write, we have a conditional offer into a Fire Marshal candidate and are scheduling an interview with a Deputy Fire Marshal candidate, both to replace departed or promoted staff in those positions. We were also able to get a second fire inspector/investigator to help keep up with the community risk reduction efforts in fire inspections and investigations.

We have also been authorized to hire seven operational staff for more consistent staffing at Station 24. We are planning to hire four firefighters and three company officers as career staff there with the intent of at least a third person at both Station 21 and 24 for an apparatus staffed with a minimum of three and ideally four with the third and fourth being opportunities for our primarily volunteer force in our combination department. We submitted a SAFER grant to fund the equivalent of seven firefighter positions allowed in the grant. The grant awards will be announced in the fall 2022 and funding beginning in 2023. These positions are currently planned to be funded even if we are not awarded the SAFER grant.

I would be remiss if I did not mention at least three important accomplishments for GFD in 2021. First, we established our first official GFD Strategic Plan 2021-2023 in the spring of 2021. We have started its implementation and documented regularly as to how we are progressing in alignment with the City Council's established success factors for the community. You will see these noted throughout this report. Our staffing changes and continued pandemic challenges were factors in keeping up with our goals for 2021; however, this is a living document that we continually evaluate for adjustment as needed in pursuit of these goals through 2023 and beyond.

Second, we completed our 2021 Community Wildfire Prevention Plan update to the original 2007 plan. This was part of the process for Golden's participation in the Jefferson County Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The plan does not replace the 2007 plan but supplements it to highlight and establish best practices in a CWPP based on lessons learned from research and incidents over the years. Our plan was in its final draft form in mid-December and just before the devastating Marshall Fire. However, its basic strategies are generally aligned with addressing some of the early lessons of the Marshall Fire that we will certainly pay attention to as we engage with the community in 2022 to implement this plan.

Lastly, we participated in the completion of a Cooperative Services Study with our auto aid partners at both Fairmount and Pleasant View Fire Districts as it relates to consolidating fire services. City council evaluated the report and has decided that for now they would step back to see how we can improve internal to the city. We will continue as GFD to do what we have been doing with these auto aid partners in 2021 and prior which is continuing to coordinate and integrate in major emergency response aid and in training together to prepare for effective response.

I will close by saying that I have only highlighted the bigger picture things we have done in 2021 with a dedicated team of career and volunteer members of GFD. In the following pages you will be able to see more of what the details of how these dedicated individuals contributed to our overall success in a change-oriented 2021. I am honored to be able to help lead GFD alongside our team of dedicated individuals.

Jerry Stricker, Fire Chief

DEPARTMENT

MISSION & VALUES

MISSION

The mission of the Golden Fire Department's dedicated professionals is to enhance the quality of life for the Golden Community through fire and injury prevention, education and the protection of life and property.

CORE VALUES

Integrity
Loyalty
Accountability
Service
Trust

CITY & DEPARTMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

10.4 - Square Miles

20,740-Population

\$2,935,591 Annual Budget

ISO Rating: 2

Uniformed Personnel	92
Civilian Personnel	2
Fire Stations	2
Engines	4
Ladder Truck	1
Tower Truck	1
Rescue Truck	1
Brush Trucks	2

VISION STATEMENT:

To be the Best combination fire department in the country.

"To Serve in the Face of Adversity"

STATISTICS

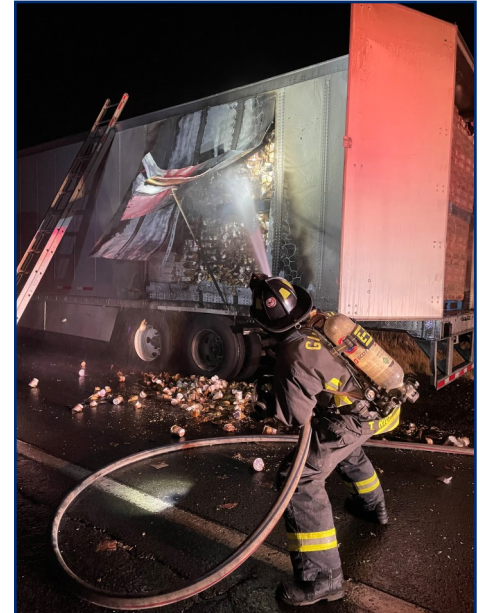
Number of Fires/10,000 Residents: .0075

Fire Loss/capita: \$15.58/capita

Injury rate of FFs/Fire: .013

Civilian Fire Injuries/Fire: .027

EMS Calls/1,000 Residents: 60.90



Strategic Plan Goal 2: Preserve the community's natural resources by adopting and implementing sustainable practices and procedures that minimize the Department's environmental impact.

GFD worked with the Building Division to contract Anchor Point to develop a Wildland Interface program according to our demographics. A draft was ready in December 2021 and presented to City Council in January 2022.

Strategic Plan Goal 4: Reduce barriers to affordable living in Golden implementing and maintaining an effective community risk reduction program.

While we can't reduce the actual barriers to affordable housing in Golden we consistently provide effective community risk reduction through existing programs.



The Bathroom remodel was delayed in 2021 due to COVID supply and demand issues and began work, actually, in 2022. It will be completed and again ready for paid/volunteer staffing by March/Apr of 2022.

RESPONSE STATISTICS

Busiest Time

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Busiest Day

Friday

Busiest Station

Station 21

Average Response Time

6:38

Average On Scene Time

21:27

Auto/Mutual Aid Given

141

Auto/Mutual Aid Received

263

Wildland Fires

23

Steep Slope Evacuation

8

Vehicle Crashes

263

Strategic Plan Goal 13:

Provide the highest possible level of public safety by delivering services that meet or exceed our community's expectations and are fiscally responsible.

We are keeping on track with apparatus replacement schedules for health of fleet. Provide active annual/bi-annual testing of SCBA, hose, ladders and hydraulic lifts as well as all preventive maintenance on all apparatus/vehicles and PPE equipment.

Incident by Type	2020	%	2021	%
Fires	61	3.05	75	3.23
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion	18	0.9	30	1.29
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1086	54.25	1263	54.39
Hazardous Conditions (no fires)	71	3.55	58	2.5
Service Call	90	4.5	152	6.55
Good Intent Call	453	22.63	537	23.13
False Alarm & False Call	200	9.99	199	8.57
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	2	0.1	5	.22
Special Incident Type	21	1.05	3	.13
Total Incidents	2002		2322	
Total Calls by District	2020		2021	+/-
District 1	851		966	+115
District 2	946		1046	+100
Out of District Other	205		310	+105



In September we hired Deputy Chief of Operations, Kasey Beal.

MORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACHIEVED IN 2021

- Purchased eleven new sets of bunker gear.
- Purchased six portable radios and six pagers.
- In cooperation with volunteer members we purchased Conex training trailers and storage unit.
- Training Division purchased two manikins for fire and rescue training and a propane tank prop.
- Target Solutions went live in January 2021.
- Station 24 bathrooms remodel plans approved. Started in January 2022.
- Station 21 offices and living quarters were freshly painted and some new flooring in the crew quarters installed.
- Purchased additional wildland gear.
- Purchased a new rescue raft boat.
- Purchased new emergency lights for seven vehicles to help with highway safety.
- Purchased two replacement AEDs.
- Reorganized three offices to accommodate increased staffing.



In 2021 the new Rescue Truck was designed by the committee and ordered. In February this year the GFD members : JJ Risch, Kyle Raley, and Ben Moline went to Wisconsin to complete the final inspection. "It is looking great and will be a tremendous addition to our Department" Ben said.



In February 2021 Stadium Medical a new Ambulance was Christened by Chief Welch and pushed to its new home Station 21.



Strategic Plan Goal 12: Provide the highest quality of emergency services through the recruitment, development, empowerment, physical and mental well-being, and retention of an inclusive, service-oriented workforce.

We have added Cancer and Heart trust programs for all paid firefighters through CO State. We also provide Mental Health Services through an approved city vendor whether paid employee or volunteer. Instituted a brand new Peer Support group to include 40 hrs/person training to assist peers through difficult times. Provide free gym participation at the City gym for physical fitness.

TRAINING DIVISION

2021 Training Division Hours

Type of Training	Hours
EMS	1593
Driver Operator	838
Fire Academy	7614
Fire Instructor	129
Fire & Life Safety	45
Fire Officer	436
Fire Operations	2289
Hazardous Materials	240
Safety & Health	740
Technical & Water Rescue	1862
Wildland & Firefighting	387
Total Training Hours	16,173

Specific tasks, deliverables:

During 2021 we conducted a full fire academy with 20 recruits in addition to a modified academy for three lateral firefighters. All 23 successfully graduated to become Golden Firefighters.

In February 2021 we hired a part time Fire Academy Coordinator to oversee fire academy delivery.

Assess the use of federal and state grants to acquire needed safety equipment and gear. We wrote for a State Safety Grant, AFG and SAFER grant this year.



Golden Fire Academy 24 was completed in 2021 amidst challenges of the COVID pandemic. Twenty new Probationary Volunteer Firefighters joined the GFD ranks with their graduation in June. Four Lateral Firefighters also completed the testing and training process to become Golden Volunteer Firefighters.



Golden Fire hosted Dive Rescue International for the Swiftwater Rescue Series 1, 2, and Trainer. Golden Firefighters as well as firefighters from around the country participated in 10 days of rescue training on Clear Creek.



Firefighters participated in numerous live fire trainings with Fairmount and Pleasant View Fire as well as simulated fire trainings in acquired buildings in the city.



University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus



Ten members completed advanced driver training and are completing the testing process to become Colorado State Driver Operators for Utility, Rescue, Pumper, and Aerial apparatus.



Six members completed Ropes Level I Certification. Five members completed Ropes Level III Certification.



Firefighters are committed to physical and mental fitness by exercising on each shift. They also incorporate training while exercising. For the first time we also implemented and trained our own peer support group, Never Alone, with neighboring agencies.

Golden Firefighters participated in a "First Responder and COVID Study" with CU Anschutz through a series of lab tests over several months.

Strategic Plan Goal 5:
Enable business success by providing the tools, education, and support necessary to allow Golden businesses to thrive.

We began work on a new plans permitting program called Accela which allow customers the ability to submit plans online and keeping with the City's Sustainability Goals .

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

PLAN REVIEW ACTIVITY

Fire Permit Plans	
Reviews	155
Building Permits/	
Plan Reviews	105
Operational Permits	
Plan Reviews	20
Total	280

INSPECTIONS ACTIVITY

Construction Permit	128
Inspections	148
Maintenance/Spot	
Inspections	437
Total	713

Total Work Hours 14,556

OTHER DIVISION ACTIVITIES

Acting on Citizens	
Complains	258
Development/	
Construction Meetings	97
Alarm Response	25
Special Events	24
Fire Origin & Cause	
Investigations	16
Knox Box Updates	42
Fire & Life Safety Division	
Staff Training Hours	209

Strategic Plan Goal 3: Create and maintain strong connections with our community, among our members, and with all our partners by leveraging technology.

We implemented Pulse Point for our community to connect to Fire Emergency calls. It works like a scanner of sorts but links the community that wish to sign up, to our incidents. It doesn't give exact locations but nearby a certain area so we still keep our responders safe from unwanted visitors on site.



The Fire and Life Safety Division is responsible for ensuring that all buildings meet applicable fire codes.



Our volunteer members and department staff donated money to purchase toys and donated to the Miracle Shop for children Christmas gifts.



Fire Inspector/Investigator Jonathan Priestly is looking for the fire origin and cause in the fire debris.

\$323,165
Total Property Dollar Loss

\$82,856,477
Total Property Dollar Saved



Our firefighters deployed to the Marshall Fire to provide mutual aid on structure protection.



In November 2021 we hired a new Fire Inspector/Investigator Gary Wilmes to support the Fire & Life Safety team.



Despite COVID limitations we continued strong community engagements presenting our apparatus to Elementary School students and continuing station tours for small groups.



Specific tasks, deliverables:

Enhance fire department presence in the community by increasing outreach through social, print, and digital media.

This was successfully achieved through Virtual Safety Days, increased social media posting on safety issues related to seasons and NFA seasonal reminders.

Strategic Plan Goal 10:
Enhance our community's safety and well-being by building trusting relationships with residents, businesses, and other city agencies through practicing transparency, engagement, and collaboration.

We work closely with the Community through our posting on Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram, and City Website. Since the implementation of the CWPP we have interacted more frequently with our actual HOA communities to give safety instructions.

MEDIA REPORT

Followers	2020	2021
Facebook	3028	3558
Instagram	1171	1424
NextDoor	7864	8988
Twitter	2871	3562

Strategic Plan Goal 7:
Enable people to feel comfortable and welcome in Golden and in our Department by providing an inclusive environment that respects and values all individuals and treats them equitably.

We are keeping with our agreed upon Mission which is I-LAST Integrity, Loyalty, Accountability, Service and Trust through everything we do. We do a monthly stand-up and point out those who have done the above and beyond to reward proactive, leadership type behaviors.



Thank you Engineer Craig Weimer for 30 Years of Service to the Golden Fire Department and Golden community.



Engineer Brandon Dobson was nominated by his peers for Firefighter of the Year and Training Division Appreciation Award for his outstanding performance and knowledge in developing the Probationary Firefighter Task Book training program, playing a lead role in the Active Shooter trainings and the development of the Active Shooter "Go-Bags". For his role model of professional development in obtaining the following certifications: State Hazmat Technician, State Driver Operator Pumper, State Fire Instructor 1, Acting Company Officer, and EKG Course Completion.



Engineer JJ Risch was presented with Award of Honor for her dedication as a "behind the scenes" work as a go to member for continued shift coverage in support for career staff training, consistent call response for resilience in simultaneous calls or additional resources needed. Also, for her work in improving rescue operations by developing Utility 21 as valuable rescue response apparatus, supporting community outreach and city special events, and lastly, for the thankless job of provided station drinks and kitchen food related items.



Firefighter Brittne Weiler was presented with Award of Honor for her commitment to the department by volunteering nearly 2000 hours in support of our customer service goals and mission highlighted by her completion of 148 shifts where her skills and abilities on many significant incidents were demonstrated. Also, for mentoring newer members to set them up for success by leading probationary task book checks and EMS training. Leaders help lead at all levels in quality organizations and she is one of them.



Firefighter Hayden Holland was recognized for his outstanding performance as the Probationary Firefighter of the Year for 2021.



Lieutenant Marc Staley was presented with Training Division Appreciation Award for his outstanding commitment to Firefighter Technical Rescue Training and continued development of the Golden Fire Ropes Levels 1, 2, and 3 course instruction and manual."



Lieutenant Jason Mulari was presented with the Award of Honor for his passion and commitment as the GFD EMS Coordinator in guiding GFD through the uncertainty of the COVID Pandemic as well as his continued support of EMS training for GFD members particularly in CPR and patient care reporting. Also, for his continual work in onboarding, training, and integrating our newest EMS transport partner at Stadium Medical. In addition, for his commitment and support of the GFD Driver Operator training and certification program.



Engineer Rocco Snart was nominated by his peers for the Jack Harvey Award for his outstanding contribution to firefighters at the local, the state, and national level to include: refining and presenting the curriculum for S390 fire behavior beginning with GFD, developing the large fire growth indices for the Colorado Front Range, working on the development team for Colorado Multi-Mission Aircraft program, his contribution as a board member for the All Hazards Incidents Management Association and National Wildfire Coordination Group fire behavior subcommittee work. Lastly and most notably for his servant leadership in volunteering for coverage for Joe's VFD when they needed it most to grieve in the wildfire LODD of one of their members.

2022 Golden Fire Department Staff

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jerry Stricker, Fire Chief
Kasey Beal, Deputy Chief of Operations
Scott Case, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal
Debbie Testroet, Administrative Coordinator
Deputy Fire Marshal TBD
Jonathan Priestly, Fire Inspector/Investigator
Gary Wilmes, Fire Inspector/Investigator
Jeanette Kehoe, Training Captain
Tom Young, Administrative Captain
Lori Brill, Recruitment Coordinator
Dan Watters, Quartermaster/Firefighter
Anna Trzeciak, Administrative Technician
Mark Testroet, Fire Chaplain

OPERATIONS COMMAND

Bob Burrell, Deputy Chief
Joe Gross, Battalion 21
Aaron Giesick, Battalion 22
Dan Roozen, Battalion 24

LIEUTENANTS

Amelia Engelmann
Kyle Diethorn
Kris Nagy
John Templeton

CAPTAINS

Neville Dewitt-Pierrat, Station 24
Tina Gustafson, Station 24
Ben Moline, Station 21
Will Moorhead, Station 24
John O'Connor, Station 21

SHIFT OFFICERS

Jeff Hulse, Lieutenant
Jason Mulari, Lieutenant
Marc Staley, Lieutenant

SHIFT FIREFIGHTERS

Tony Orlando, Engineer
Kyle Raley, Engineer
Will Watts, Engineer

FIREFIGHTERS

Chris Ames, Firefighter
Joe Anderson II, Engineer
Jamie Baker, Firefighter
Santino Boscia, Firefighter
Andrew Buijs, Firefighter
Nicholas Carter, Firefighter
Charlie Charbonneau, Firefighter
Christophe Cheroret, Firefighter
Harry Christman, Firefighter
Broderick Coe, Firefighter
Case Collard, Firefighter
Andrea Crass, Firefighter
Andrew Crawford, Firefighter
Brandon Dobson, Engineer
Christopher Enright, Firefighter
Steven Flexser, Firefighter
Evan Ford, Firefighter
Canaan Forslund, Firefighter
Damon Gentrup, Firefighter
Nathan Globosky, Firefighter
Daniel Glynn, Firefighter
Richard Gonzales, Engineer

Jacob Harris, Firefighter
Scott Hofmann, Engineer
Hayden Holland, Firefighter
Ryan Hyde, Firefighter
James Jmieff, Firefighter
Pete Jones, Firefighter
Cody Kalb, Engineer
Stas Koptev, Firefighter
Lauren La Bella, Firefighter
Alexander Leininger, Firefighter
Braden Lipker, Firefighter
Charlie Mann, Firefighter
Matthew Mason, Firefighter
Jason Miller, Firefighter
Matthew Murphy, Firefighter
Truc Nguyen, Firefighter
Larry Ogden, Firefighter
Michael Palmer, Firefighter
Calob Perry, Firefighter
Wes Polk, Engineer
Penny Reed, Firefighter
Tyler Richards, Firefighter

JJ Risch, Engineer
Penny Rogers, Firefighter
Matt Seligman, Firefighter
Ryan Smith, Engineer
Rocco Snart, Engineer
Jason Soronson, Firefighter
George Stern, Firefighter
Michael Strabala, Firefighter
Chad Sullivan, Firefighter
John Templeton, Engineer
Scott Washburn, Firefighter
Jackson Webber, Firefighter
Ryan Wegner, Firefighter
Brittnie Weiler, Firefighter
Craig Weimer, Engineer
Jacob Wilmes, Firefighter
Crystal Wilson, Firefighter
Jonathan Zoetewey, Firefighter

"To Serve in the Face of Adversity"



*"To be the Best combination
fire department in the country."*