

# **NORTHVILLE – PLYMOUTH FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, April 6, 2020**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Meeting will be held On-Line at Zoom.us – Meeting Code 371 123 442**

**Zoom Meeting - <https://zoom.us/j/371123442> Password: 498156**

## **Statement on explanation of the reason why the public body is meeting electronically:**

On March 10, 2020 the Governor of the State of Michigan declared a State of emergency across the State of Michigan under section 1 of Article 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the Emergency Management Act, 1976 PA 390, as amended, MCL 30.401 – 421, and the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945, 1945 PA302, as amended, MCL 10.31 – 33. These sections provide the Governor with broad powers and duties to cope with dangers to this state or to the people of the state.

As a part of the response to the emergency, the Governor has deemed it reasonable and necessary to temporarily suspend rules and procedures relating to physical presence at meetings and hearings of public bodies and other governmental entities in Michigan. These public bodies and entities must continue to conduct public business during this emergency. Due to the emergency situation and the request of the Governor to not gather in groups of 10 or more it is necessary for some public boards to meet electronically.

- 1) **Roll Call** – Chairman Ken Roth, Vice-Chairman Marques Thomey, Members Pat Sullivan, Paul Sincock and Chief Robert Vogel
- 2) **Approval of Meeting Minutes** - NPFAB Meeting Minutes from January 6, 2020
- 3) **Personnel Staffing Report** – Chief Ott
- 4) **Run Volume Report** – Chief Ott
- 5) **Training Report** – Chief Ott
- 6) **First Quarter Fire Inspection** - Chief Ott
- 7) **Budget Presentation** - Chief Ott
- 8) **Review of Plymouth Station Response Times for January – February 2020** – Paul Sincock
- 9) **Informational Stories on Fire Services** – Paul Sincock
  - A. The Diverse Faces of the Novi Fire Department
  - B. CPR Pit Crew
  - C. Don't take volunteer fire fighters for granted
- 10) **Other Business** - That may come before the Northville – Plymouth Fire Advisory Board
- 11) **Next Meeting Date & Adjournment** –



# Northville Plymouth Fire Advisory Board

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Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 6, 2020 4:00 p.m.  
Northville City Hall

City of Plymouth  
201 S. Main  
Plymouth, Michigan 48170-1637

Phone 734-453-1234  
Fax 734-455-1892

## ROLL CALL

Present: Member Paul Sincock, Member Pat Sullivan, Member Robert Vogel

Excused: Chair Brian Turnbull, Vice Chair Marques Thomey

Others Present: Chief Steve Ott, Director Al Cox, Lt. J.C. Sicard

## APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Member Sincock made a motion, seconded by Member Sullivan to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2019 meeting.

**MOTION PASSED**

## PERSONNEL STAFFING REPORT

Chief Ott reported that there are 51 members of the department, with 22 assigned to station one, 28 assigned to station two, and one unassigned. One person left and another person joined the station one staff during the last quarter.

## RUN VOLUME REPORT

Chief Ott reported that there was a total of 1,638 runs in 2019, with 955 (58%) at station two and 683 (42 %) at station one. This compares with a total of 1,595 runs for last year.

## ROUTINE FIRE INSPECTIONS REPORT

Chief Ott reported that there were 23 new inspections at station one in the fourth quarter and seven new inspections at station two for the same period. The numbers for station two remain below expectations.

## TRAINING REPORT

Chief Ott presented a report on the fourth quarter training, which included 17 sessions for 615 personnel hours of regular training, two sessions for 32 personnel hours of individualized training and 8 sessions for 80 personnel hours of outside training. This equates to 727 total personnel hours of training. Ott commented that, due to the holidays, there were fewer training hours than normal. The department also trained on new EMS procedures for basic life support ambulances.

## REVIEW OF PLYMOUTH STATION RESPONSE TIMES

Chief Ott reported that the average response time for the NCFD Plymouth Station was 9:05 (minutes/seconds) from the time of the call to the arrival of the first fire unit on scene in October, and 9:11 in November. The average response time for the NCFD Plymouth Station year to date from January 1 through November 30, 2019 was 9:01 with

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the average for emergent calls 8:01 and the average for non-emergent calls 10:05. Information for the Northville station was provided; however, they are working on some dispatch issues with correctly logging types of calls. The chief reviewed the reported structure fires and some of the issues with dispatch misclassifying those calls.

#### **INFORMATIONAL STORIES ON FIRE SERVICES**

Sincock provided the board with informational articles including:

- a) Volunteer fire departments seeing a decline in ranks
- b) Lyon Township celebrates historic moment, hiring full-time firefighters at last
- c) Firefighter urges council to reinstate emergency medical services for area
- d) Grosse Pointe Shores fires reignite debate over public safety fire response
- e) Greenwood considers food and beverage tax to help fund police, fire departments
- f) Make Way device can warn drivers when an emergency vehicle is nearby
- g) The City of Portland wants to change the way it responds to 911 calls

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chief Ott announced that the Plymouth Rotary Firefighter of the Year is Lt. Tim Catalano. Matt Samhat was named the department's firefighter of the year.

The fire academy is continuing training.

The agency's EMS certification has been completed.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 6, 2020 at Plymouth City Hall.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Sincock made a motion, seconded by Sullivan, to adjourn.

**MOTION PASSED**

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Sincock, Recording Secretary

S:\MANAGER\Sincock Files\Northville - Plymouth Fire Board\NPFAB Minutes 1-6-20.docx

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# Northville City Fire Department

*Serving the Cities of Northville & Plymouth*

## PERSONNEL STAFFING REPORT

April 2, 2020

### Total Staffing

FF/Paramedic	7
FF/EMT	26
FF/MFR	7
FF	3
Paramedic	2
Specialist	1
EMT	4
Cadet	1
Total Personnel	51

### Unassigned

FF/EMT	1
Total Unassigned	1

### Station 1

FF/Paramedic	3
FF/EMT	13
FF/MFR	1
FF	1
Paramedic	1
Specialist	0
EMT	2
Cadet	1
Total Station 1	22

### Station 2

FF/Paramedic	4
FF/EMT	12
FF/MFR	6
FF	2
Paramedic	1
Specialist	1
EMT	2
Cadet	0
Total Station 2	28



# Northville City Fire Department

*Serving the Cities of Northville & Plymouth*

## JANUARY – MARCH 2020 RUN VOLUME REPORT

Total Runs:	375
Medical	276
Fire/Other	99

### Station 1

Total Runs	155	(41.3%)
Medical	100	
Fire/Other	55	

### Station 2

Total Runs	220	(58.7%)
Medical	176	
Fire/Other	44	

**NOTE:** Total runs for the first quarter of 2020 are down 11.6% over the same period in 2019. For the nine days in March following the Governor's order suspending certain activities, we responded to 29 runs, compared to 44 in the same period during January.



# Northville City Fire Department

*Serving the Cities of Northville & Plymouth*

## TRAINING REPORT FIRST QUARTER 2020

During the first quarter of 2020, the Department conducted or participated in 47 training sessions, devoting approximately 1,021 personnel hours to training activities.

### **Regular Department Training**

17 sessions; 651 personnel hours

Topics included:

Ladder operations, pump operations, initial fire attack, primary search, building familiarization, hose advancement, ropes and knots, basic skills drills, residential fire scenarios, SOP review, drivers' training, accountability and crew integrity, EMS skill competency checks, patient assessment, thermal imaging camera use, EMS transport considerations, patient hand-off to the hospital, EMS billing documentation, hose loads, radio communications, Incident Command System (ICS).

### **Individualized Department Training**

5 sessions, 22 personnel hours

Topics included:

Drivers' training, fuel pump class C operator training, probationary binder check-offs.

### **Outside Training**

25 sessions; 348 personnel hours

Topics included:

USAR (technical rescue) Team training, HMRT (Haz Mat) Team training, breaking and breaching, use of HMRT robots, Hazardous Materials Technician training, chemical testing, mental health first aid, State-wide MABAS engine strike team exercise, response to radiological incidents, fire inspector continuing education, structural collapse, shoring, Fire Instructor 1 class.

**NOTE:** Most training activity was suspended on March 18, 2020, as a part of our response to the COVID-19 situation.



# Northville City Fire Department

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## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION FIRST QUARTER 2020 REPORT ON ROUTINE FIRE INSPECTIONS

The Fire Prevention Division is headed by the Fire Marshal, who is assisted by four part-time, State-licensed Fire Inspectors. The Fire Marshal conducts plan reviews, meets with owners, contractors and other City officials, oversees the testing of fire suppression and fire alarm systems in new occupancies, and oversees the work of the Fire Inspectors.

The principal work of the Fire Inspectors is the conduct of routine business fire inspections. In addition, they may work with the Fire Marshal on suppression system and alarm tests, meetings with owners, contractors and other officials, assist in the conduct of pre-plan site visits and otherwise participate in the work of the Fire Prevention Division.

Routine business fire inspections consist of new inspections, and re-inspections, when the Fire Inspector returns to check on the status of violations noted during the new inspection. For the first quarter of 2020, the following routine business fire inspections were conducted:

Station 1 (Northville)

New Inspections      34

Re-Inspections      40

Station 2 (Plymouth)

New Inspections      42

Re-Inspections      5

**NOTE:** Routine fire inspections were suspended on March 18, 2020, as a part of our response to the COVID-19 situation. Notwithstanding, inspections in the first quarter of 2020 exceeded those in the fourth quarter of 2019 by 202%.

**Sincock, Paul**

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**From:** Sandi Wiktorowski <[swiktorowski@ci.northville.mi.us](mailto:swiktorowski@ci.northville.mi.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 9:50 AM  
**To:** Patrick Sullivan; Sincock, Paul; Scanlon, John; Steve Ott  
**Subject:** FY21 Fire Dept Budget  
**Attachments:** Fire Budget for Plymouth.pdf

Attached is the FY21 budget for the Fire Department. Overall the budget increases 3% from the prior year. Plymouth's contribution percentage changes from 59% to 58%. There are no planned equipment purchases for FY21. The shared equipment reserve expected at the end of FY21 is \$557,574. The savings from the radio grant was applied towards the future aerial-truck purchase reserve. If you would like to review the 20-year plan for the shared equipment reserve; let me know and I will send that to you. Chief Ott will be presenting the budget at the next NPFAB meeting. The full budget will be given to Northville City Council on April 6 with the review session scheduled for April 13.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sandi Wiktorowski  
Finance Director/Treasurer  
City of Northville  
248-449-9912  
[swiktorowski@ci.northville.mi.us](mailto:swiktorowski@ci.northville.mi.us)

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City of Northville  
Fire Department Budget  
FY2020

	Projected Budget FY2019-20			Proposed Budget FY2020-21			\$ Change	% Change
	Budget	Northville 41%	Plymouth 59%	Budget	Northville 42%	Plymouth 58%		
<b>Administrative</b>								
Wages - Administrative	87,415	35,840	51,575	88,880	37,330	51,550	1,465	1.7%
Training Wages	81,595	33,454	48,141	82,610	34,696	47,914	1,015	1.2%
Disability Insurance	6,095	2,499	3,596	6,095	2,560	3,535	-	0.0%
Uniforms & Clothing	9,500	3,895	5,605	9,500	3,990	5,510	-	0.0%
Cleaning Allowance	550	226	324	550	231	319	-	0.0%
Contractual Services	2,500	1,025	1,475	2,500	1,050	1,450	-	0.0%
IT Support & Software Maintenance	4,985	2,044	2,941	4,985	2,094	2,891	-	0.0%
Legal Services	200	82	118	200	84	116	-	0.0%
Employee Physicals & Drug Tests	5,400	2,214	3,186	17,400	7,308	10,092	12,000	222.2%
Medical/Certificate Renewals	300	123	177	450	189	261	150	50.0%
Phone & Internet Service	520	213	307	520	218	302	-	0.0%
Vehicle Allowance	6,000	2,460	3,540	6,000	2,520	3,480	-	0.0%
Conferences & Meetings	150	62	88	500	210	290	350	233.3%
Liability & Property Insurance	3,395	1,392	2,003	3,490	1,466	2,024	95	2.8%
Contingency	12,773	5,237	7,536	21,120	8,870	12,250	8,347	65.3%
Memberships & Dues	1,640	672	968	1,980	832	1,148	340	20.7%
Education & Training	9,170	3,760	5,410	13,700	5,754	7,946	4,530	49.4%
Fringe Benefits	58,800	24,108	34,692	60,800	25,536	35,264	2,000	3.4%
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance</b>								
Wages - Runs	441,750	181,118	260,632	447,485	187,944	259,541	5,735	1.3%
Wages - Mutual Aid	20,000	8,200	11,800	20,000	8,400	11,600	-	0.0%
Wages - Inspections & Station Coverage	63,715	26,123	37,592	78,675	33,044	45,631	14,960	23.5%
Supplies	48,585	19,920	28,665	48,885	20,532	28,353	300	0.6%
Fuel & Oil - Equipment	250	103	147	250	105	145	-	0.0%
Automotive Parts	2,000	820	1,180	2,000	840	1,160	-	0.0%
Radio Maintenance	2,700	1,107	1,593	1,700	714	986	(1,000)	-37.0%
Vehicle Insurance	6,645	2,724	3,921	6,840	2,873	3,967	195	2.9%
Automotive Service	21,000	8,610	12,390	21,000	8,820	12,180	-	0.0%
Fringe Benefits	69,905	28,661	41,244	72,490	30,446	42,044	2,585	3.7%
<b>Northville Only - Admin &amp; Operations</b>								
Wages - Northville Special Events	3,340	3,340	-	3,380	3,380	-	40	1.2%
Fuel & Oil - Vehicles	3,450	3,450	-	3,500	3,500	-	50	1.4%
Contractual Services	3,295	3,295	-	2,325	2,325	-	(970)	-29.4%
Mutual Aid/EMS Participation Fees	2,660	2,660	-	2,660	2,660	-	-	0.0%
Vehicle Insurance	18,080	18,080	-	18,620	18,620	-	540	3.0%
Hydrant Rental	10,145	10,145	-	10,145	10,145	-	-	0.0%
Fringe Benefits	420	420	-	425	425	-	5	1.2%
Unfunded Pension Contribution	12,035	12,035	-	12,880	12,880	-	845	7.0%
Retiree Healthcare Costs	13,525	13,525	-	14,110	14,110	-	585	4.3%
<b>Northville Only - Fire Academy</b>								
Wages - Instructors	19,000	19,000	-	-	-	-	(19,000)	-100.0%
Class Supplies	3,985	3,985	-	-	-	-	(3,985)	-100.0%
Fringe Benefits	2,280	2,280	-	-	-	-	(2,280)	-100.0%
<b>Plymouth Only - Admin &amp; Operations</b>								
Wages - Plymouth Special Events	20,030	-	20,030	20,280	-	20,280	250	1.2%
Mutual Aid/EMS Participation Fees	3,005	-	3,005	3,005	-	3,005	-	0.0%
Liability & Property Insurance	120	-	120	120	-	120	-	0.0%
Fringe Benefits	2,505	-	2,505	2,535	-	2,535	30	1.2%
Unfunded Pension Contribution	1,720	-	1,720	1,840	-	1,840	120	7.0%
Retiree Healthcare Costs	1,925	-	1,925	2,010	-	2,010	85	4.4%
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>1,089,058</b>	<b>488,909</b>	<b>600,152</b>	<b>1,118,440</b>	<b>496,703</b>	<b>621,740</b>	<b>29,382</b>	
5% Overhead	54,453	-	54,453	55,922	-	55,922	1,469	2.7%
Equipment Reserve	126,627	51,917	74,710	133,675	56,144	77,531	7,048	5.6%
Debt Service Payments	52,096	21,359	30,737	52,939	22,234	30,705	843	1.6%
<b>Total Contribution</b>	<b>1,270,138</b>	<b>540,826</b>	<b>729,315</b>	<b>1,308,037</b>	<b>552,847</b>	<b>755,193</b>	<b>37,899</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
				3.0%	2.2%	3.5%		

NORTHVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT / PLYMOUTH STATION

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3/16/2020

2:14 PM

RUN TIMES

2020 NCFD RUN #	DATE	LOCATION OF CALL	TYPE OF CALL	PCC TIME OF CALL	FIRE DISPATCH TIME	FIRE ENROUTE TIME	FIRE ARRIVAL TIME	CLEAR TIME	E / NE	FIRE RESPONSE TIME	NOTES	(YTD) 1/1/2020 -2/29/2020 ALL CALL - AVERAGE FIRE RESPONSE TIME	0:09:13
1	1/1/2020	Ford Ave	Medical	2:05:19	2:06:53	2:08:58	2:12:34	2:21:48	NE	0:07:15		EMERGENT CALL AVERAGE RESPONSE	0:08:04
2	1/1/2020	Auburn	Medical	14:16:32	14:16:37	14:23:41	14:26:42	14:28:39	NE	0:10:10		NON-EMERGENT CALLS AVERAGE RESPONSE	0:10:35
3	1/1/2020	Maria	Medical	21:09:00	21:10:36	21:17:43	21:19:46	21:24:34	E	0:10:46		AVERAGE CALL TO FIRE DISPATCH TIME	0:00:58
4	1/2/2020	S. Main	Medical	13:44:06	13:44:42	13:48:49	13:48:51	13:50:18	NE	0:04:45		AVERAGE FIRE DISPATCH TO ENROUTE TIME	0:05:52
5	1/2/2020	N. Sheldon	Fire Alarm	14:10:15	14:10:25	14:12:14	14:17:53	14:24:00	E	0:07:38		AVERAGE FIRE ENROUTE TO ARRIVAL TIME	0:02:34
6	1/3/2020	William	Medical	4:47:58	4:48:49	5:01:20	5:01:56	5:21:20	E	0:13:58		1/1/2020 -1/31/2020 ALL CALL - AVERAGE FIRE RESPONSE TIME	0:08:25
7	1/3/2020	S. Main	Medical	21:41:02	21:42:10	21:48:19	21:49:20	22:01:46	E	0:08:18		EMERGENT CALL AVERAGE RESPONSE	0:07:13
8	1/4/2020	S Sheldon	Medical	14:27:35	14:28:54	14:34:14	14:37:23	14:54:52	E	0:09:48		NON-EMERGENT CALLS AVERAGE RESPONSE	0:09:17
9	1/4/2020	W. Ann Arbor Tr	Fire Alarm	15:08:07	15:08:21	15:11:17	15:14:03	15:20:18	E	0:05:56		AVERAGE CALL TO FIRE DISPATCH TIME	0:00:53
10	1/4/2020	Deer Ct	Medical	19:56:46	19:58:19	20:08:09	20:09:57	20:23:19	E	0:11:38	2 min delay	AVERAGE FIRE DISPATCH TO ENROUTE TIME	0:05:05
11	1/5/2020	Plymouth Rd	Medical	14:14:48	14:15:44	14:25:38	Cancel	14:29:53	NE			AVERAGE FIRE ENROUTE TO ARRIVAL TIME	0:02:39
12	1/5/2020	Beech	Medical	19:10:00	19:11:57	Cancel	Cancel	19:18:59	NE			2/1/2020 -2/29/2020 ALL CALL - AVERAGE FIRE RESPONSE TIME	0:10:06
13	1/6/2020	Sheridan	Medical	2:29:56	2:30:50	2:46:23	2:48:15	2:48:48	NE	0:18:19	Non Emergent	EMERGENT CALL AVERAGE RESPONSE	0:09:19
14	1/6/2020	Forest/Wing	Wire Down	11:46:46	11:46:59	11:49:09	11:51:26	12:04:49	NE	0:04:40		NON-EMERGENT CALLS AVERAGE RESPONSE	0:10:45
15	1/6/2020	Haggerty	Medical	15:08:31	15:10:01	15:16:16	15:18:50	15:33:07	E	0:08:49	1.5 Minute Delay	AVERAGE CALL TO FIRE DISPATCH TIME	0:01:03
16	1/7/2020	Sheridan	Medical	3:55:23	3:56:31	4:05:50	4:07:27	4:22:38	NE	0:12:04	Non Emergent	AVERAGE FIRE DISPATCH TO ENROUTE TIME	0:06:44
17	1/7/2020	Plymouth Rd	Medical	12:02:51	12:03:03	12:14:24	12:17:30	12:33:08	NE	0:14:39	Non Emergent	AVERAGE FIRE ENROUTE TO ARRIVAL TIME	0:02:28
18	1/7/2020	Plymouth Rd	Medical	13:01:49	13:02:07	13:03:42	13:05:45	13:30:56	E	0:03:56			
19	1/8/2020	W. Spring	Medical	1:28:58	1:30:00	Cancel	Cancel	1:39:18	NE				
20	1/8/2020	W. Spring	ERROR	1:30:56	ERROR	ERROR	ERROR	ERROR				ERROR	
21	1/8/2020	W. Ann Arbor Rd	Medical	3:36:24	3:37:44	Cancel	Cancel	3:47:23	NE				
22	1/8/2020	W. Ann Arbor Tr	Medical	6:31:44	6:32:59	6:50:55	Cancel	6:52:42	NE		Train delay all 4 responde		
23	1/8/2020	Jener Place	Medical	9:15:06	9:15:41	9:23:27	9:25:22	9:44:22	E	0:10:16			
24	1/8/2020	Sheldon Rd	AMA to Ply. Twp.	19:46:04	19:46:14	19:47:35	19:50:50	20:42:15	E	0:04:46			
25	1/9/2020	Byron	Medical	7:45:47	7:46:56	7:56:37	7:59:10	8:10:39	E	0:12:14	1 min delay		
26	1/9/2020	Adams	Medical	8:13:41	8:14:14	8:14:37	8:16:57	8:29:21	E	0:03:16			
27	1/9/2020	N. Evergreen	Medical	10:30:57	10:32:13	10:32:41	10:34:36	10:44:06	NE	0:03:39			
28	1/9/2020	N. Main	Medical	13:10:54	13:11:54	13:12:23	13:13:57	13:28:11	E	0:03:03			
29	1/9/2020	N Main	Medical	13:55:46	13:56:39	13:57:21	13:59:00	14:11:18	NE	0:03:14			
30	1/10/2020	Plymouth Rd	Medical	9:28:57	9:29:59	9:37:05	9:39:28	9:44:05	E	0:10:31			
31	1/10/2020	Plymouth Rd	Medical	9:55:19	9:56:14	9:56:45	9:58:36	10:12:19	E	0:03:17			
32	1/10/2020	N. Sheldon	Medical	11:34:38	11:35:50	11:39:10	11:41:12	11:54:33	E	0:06:34			
33	1/10/2020	Blunk	Medical	19:15:59	19:17:18	19:17:58	19:20:16	19:43:51	E	0:04:17			
34	1/10/2020	Haggerty	Fire Alarm	19:19:46	19:22:11	19:25:55	19:36:32	20:03	NE	0:14:21	3 min delay/Non Emergent		
35	1/10/2020	S Main	Medical	19:52	19:53:13	19:53:28	19:55:11	20:17:45	E	0:03:00			
36	1/10/2020	N. Harvey	Medical	23:25:11	23:27:20	23:27:50	23:29:32	0:16:11	E	0:04:21			
37	1/10/2020	N. Harvey	ERROR	23:25:11	ERROR	ERROR	ERROR	ERROR				ERROR	
38	1/11/2020	Plymouth Rd/Haggerty	Medical	2:28:02	2:28:04	2:36:02	2:38:56	2:44:10	E	0:10:54			
39	1/11/2020	Adams	Medical	6:13:44	6:15:04	6:27:10	6:29:23	6:37:37	E	0:15:39			
40	1/11/2020	Commerce Center	AMA to Ply. Twp.	9:49:02	9:49:25	9:58:10	10:05:39	10:45:00	E	0:16:37		AMA Response to Ply. Twp	
41	1/13/2020	Haggerty	Medical	14:15:00	14:15:06	14:21:10	14:27:24	14:29:14	E	0:12:24		Train Delay	
42	1/14/2020	N. Main	Odor Investigation	12:49:08	12:49:21	12:52:35	12:52:48	13:03:13	E	0:03:40			
43	1/15/2020	Beech	Medical	7:33:37	7:34:36	7:47:35	7:50:16	8:08:49	NE	0:16:39	Non Emergent		
44	1/15/2020	Plymouth Rd	Fire Alarm	11:41:46	11:41:54	11:45:36	11:50:55	12:00:24	NE	0:09:09			
45	1/15/2020	N. Mill	CO Alarm	17:59:36	18:00:11	18:12:34	18:19:42	18:30:02	NE	0:20:06	Non Emergent		
46	1/15/2020	Haggerty	Medical	19:52:15	19:53:55	20:02:35	20:05:54	20:13:09	NE	0:13:39	Non Emergent		
47	1/15/2020	Haggerty	Medical	23:04:44	23:05:57	23:15:33	23:18:12	23:23:41	NE	0:13:28	Non Emergent		
48	1/16/2020	Deer Ct	Medical	12:49:25	12:53:40	13:03:43	13:05:21	13:31:48	NE	0:11:41	4 Min delay/Non Emergent		
49	1/16/2020	Sutherland	Medical	22:06:01	22:06:56	22:12:11	22:14:00	22:22:55	E	0:07:59			
50	1/17/2020	W. Ann Arbor Rd	Medical	11:48:58	11:49:55	Cancel	Cancel	12:01:25	E				
51	1/18/2020	Arthur	Medical	15:05:04	15:06:05	15:07:27	15:09:44	15:24:51	E	0:04:40			
52	1/19/2020	Haggerty	Medical	12:19:23	12:21:05	12:29:05	12:32:23	12:45:24	NE	0:11:18	2 min delay/Non Emergent		
53	1/19/2020	N Mill	Medical	21:29:16	21:31:20	21:37:29	21:38:58	21:55:28	E	0:09:42			
54	1/20/2020	Church	Fire Alarm	19:03:15	19:03:18	19:08:02	19:10:20	19:38:26	NE	0:07:05			
55	1/21/2020	S. Main	Medical	12:16:50	12:17:36	12:21:21	12:22:21	12:26:59	E	0:05:31			
56	1/21/2020	Sheridon/Farmer	ERROR	14:08:00								ERROR	
57	1/21/2020	Sheridon/AA Tr	MVC	14:47:02	14:47:09	14:50:50	14:52:32	15:19:14	E	0:05:30			
58	1/22/2020	Sheldon Rd	Medical	10:14:10	10:14:43	10:15:51	10:15:54	10:37:35	E	0:01:44			
59	1/23/2020	S. Union	Medical	20:39:54	20:40:01	20:40:37	20:42:14	20:58:23	NE	0:02:20			
60	1/24/2020	Eckles Rd	AMA to Ply. Twp.	1:20:19	1:20:31	Cancel	Cancel	1:35:42	E				
61	1/24/2020	Haggerty	Medical	23:07:57	23:08:24	23:15:23	23:18:39	23:33:54	NE	0:10:42			
62	1/26/2020	Haggerty	Medical	4:18:45	4:19:35	4:30:44	4:33:47	4:50:39	NE	0:15:02	Non Emergent		
63	1/27/2020	W. Ann Arbor Tr	Medical	9:51:57	9:52:53	9:58:15	9:59:35	10:41:30	E	0:07:38			
64	1/27/2020	N. Mill	Wire Down	21:56:39	21:57:40	22:07:01	22:09:31	22:15:48	NE	0:12:52	Non Emergent		
65	1/27/2020	Sheridan	Medical	22:23:17	22:23:36	22:24:39	22:27:50	22:43:44	E	0:04:33			
66	1/29/2020	N. Harvey St	Medical	5:55:35	5:57:52	Cancel	Cancel	6:08:16	NE				
67	1/29/2020	N. Evergreen	Medf	16:10:54	16:12:39	16:17:42	16:20:47	16:38:34	NE	0:09:53			
68	1/30/2020	S. Mill	MVC	10:14:36	10:14:57	10:16:06	10:19:24	10:31:16	E	0:04:48			
69	1/30/2020	S. Mill	Medical	12:04:36	12:05:10	12:09:09	12:11:09	12:25:19	E	0:06:33			
70	1/30/2020	Haggerty	Medical	12:47:15	12:48:12	12:49:37	12:52:19	13:29:00	E	0:05:04			
71	1/30/2020	S. Main	Medical	13:49:32	13:50:21	13:51:45	13:53:57	14:06:57	NE	0:04:25			

**NORTHVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT / PLYMOUTH STATION**  
**RUN TIMES**

3/16/2020  
2:14 PM

2020 NCFD RUN #	DATE	LOCATION OF CALL	TYPE OF CALL	PCC TIME OF CALL	FIRE DISPATCH TIME	FIRE ENROUTE TIME	FIRE ARRIVAL TIME	CLEAR TIME	E / NE	FIRE RESPONSE TIME	NOTES	(YTD) 1/1/2020 -2/29/2020 ALL CALL - AVERAGE FIRE RESPONSE TIME	0:09:13
1	1/1/2020	Ford Ave	Medical	2:05:19	2:06:53	2:08:58	2:12:34	2:21:48	NE	0:07:15		EMERGENT CALL AVERAGE RESPONSE	0:08:04
2	1/1/2020	Auburn	Medical	14:16:32	14:16:37	14:23:41	14:26:42	14:28:39	NE	0:10:10		NON-EMERGENT CALLS AVERAGE RESPONSE	0:10:35
3	1/1/2020	Maria	Medical	21:09:00	21:10:36	21:17:43	21:19:46	21:24:34	E	0:10:46		AVERAGE CALL TO FIRE DISPATCH TIME	0:00:58
4	1/2/2020	S. Main	Medical	13:44:06	13:44:42	13:48:49	13:48:51	13:50:18	NE	0:04:45		AVERAGE FIRE DISPATCH TO ENROUTE TIME	0:05:52
5	1/2/2020	N. Sheldon	Fire Alarm	14:10:15	14:10:25	14:12:14	14:17:53	14:24:00	E	0:07:38		AVERAGE FIRE ENROUTE TO ARRIVAL TIME	0:02:34
72	1/30/2020	Junction	Medical	14:13:49	14:13:53	14:14:02	14:15:25	15:04:36	E	0:01:36			
73	1/30/2020	Haggerty	Medical	21:47:43	21:48:58	21:49:21	21:53:07	22:10:38	NE	0:05:24			
74	1/31/2020	Haggerty	Medical	9:39:16	9:39:18	9:49:03	9:51:38	9:55:17	NE	0:12:22	Non Emergent		
75	1/31/2020	S. Main	Medical	11:21:37	11:22:24	11:23:06	11:24:00	12:09:30	E	0:02:23			
76	1/31/2020	S. Mill	Medical	12:28:50	12:29:47	12:30:03	12:32:13	12:54:29	E	0:03:23			
77	1/31/2020	N. Holbrook	Medical	14:11:08	14:11:53	14:16:52	14:18:35	14:33:45	E	0:07:27			
78	1/31/2020	Leicester	Gas Leak	20:22:45	20:24:01	20:33:20	20:37:26	20:49:28	E	0:13:25	2 min delay		
79	1/31/2020	Haggerty	Medical	20:48:30	20:48:34	20:49:32	20:54:15	21:13:56	E	0:05:45			
80	2/1/2020	W. Ann Arbor Tr	Fire Alarm	3:28:45	3:30:44	3:40:57	3:42:41	3:46:37	NE	0:11:57	2 min delay/Non Emergent		
81	2/1/2020	Sheridan	Medical	9:22:12	9:23:30	9:35:14	9:36:32	9:36:32	E	0:14:20			
82	2/1/2020	Plymouth Rd	Medical	9:58:26	9:58:36	9:58:52	10:01:24	10:15:09	NE	0:02:58			
83	2/1/2020	Haggerty	Medical	10:20:10	10:20:17	10:21:09	10:24:22	10:42:26	E	0:04:12			
84	2/1/2020	Deer Ct	Medical	18:34:54	18:36:18	18:47:02	18:49:56	19:06:40	NE	0:15:02	Non Emergent		
85	2/1/2020	W. Liberty	Medical	21:23:16	21:24:35	21:32:08	21:34:36	21:56:33	NE	0:10:01	1 min delay/Non Emergent		
86	2/2/2020	Coolidge	Medical	19:15:39	19:17:36	Cancel	Cancel	19:24:58	NE				
87	2/3/2020	Haggerty	Gas Leak	19:29:29	19:30:35	19:38:53	19:41:19	19:32:11	E	0:10:44	1 min delay		
88	2/5/2020	N. Holbrook	Fire	0:31:31	0:32:57	0:39:56	0:41:33	1:12:51	E	0:08:36	1 min delay		
89	2/5/2020	Cassady Place	Medical	3:37:28	3:38:22	Cancel	Cancel	3:47:35	NE				
90	2/6/2020	S. Union	CO Alarm	6:30:10	6:30:24	6:45:57	6:48:19	6:57:28	NE	0:18:09	Non Emergent/Train Delay		
91	2/6/2020	Forest	Medical	21:28:43	21:30:12	21:36:06	21:37:18	21:37:50	E	0:08:35			
92	2/6/2020	N. Evergreen	Medical	22:15:31	22:17:31	22:25:23	22:27:32	22:34:16	NE	0:12:01	Non Emergent		
93	2/7/2020	Rose	Medical	5:14:17	5:15:21	5:30:00	5:33:46	5:38:21	E	0:19:29			
94	2/7/2020	Haggerty	Medical	19:51:02	19:52:17	20:01:04	20:03:30	20:17:53	E	0:11:13	1 min delay		
95	2/7/2020	N. Territorial	Medical	20:16:02	20:17:57	20:18:06	20:19:33	20:44:45	NE	0:03:31			
96	2/8/2020	Penniman	Medical	1:48:57	1:48:31	Cancel	Cancel	2:03:52	E				
97	2/8/2020	S. Main	Gas Leak	9:49:12	9:49:26	9:59:47	10:02:21	10:18:55	NE	0:13:09	Non Emergent		
98	2/8/2020	Haggerty	Medical	10:19:15	10:19:56	10:23:44	10:26:35	10:47:15	E	0:07:20			
99	2/8/2020	W. Ann Arbor Rd	Smoke Odor	13:46:34	13:48:20	13:54:22	14:01:18	14:52:29	E	0:12:58	2 min delay		
100	2/8/2020	W. Ann Arbor Rd	ERROR	13:50:57	Error	Error	Error	Error					
101	2/9/2020	Sheridan	Medical	14:39:58	14:41:14	14:51:36	14:53:06	15:04:00	NE	0:13:08	Non Emergent		
102	2/9/2020	Virginia	Medical	19:15:57	19:17:00	19:25:28	19:28:53	19:37:23	NE	0:12:56	Slippery Roads		
103	2/9/2020	Hartsough	Medical	21:08:08	21:08:58	21:16:57	21:19:31	21:26:18	NE	0:11:23	Non Emergent/Slippery Roads		
104	2/9/2020	N. Harvey	Medical	23:05:58	23:07:14	23:13:55	23:14:49	23:23:32	E	0:08:51			
105	2/11/2020	S. Main	Medical	11:21:49	11:22:39	11:28:24	11:29:15	11:54:01	E	0:07:26			
106	2/11/2020	Plymouth Rd	Medical	13:49:31	13:49:35	13:58:20	14:00:51	14:13:52	NE	0:11:20	Non Emergent		
107	2/12/2020	Coolidge	Medical	14:00:18	14:00:55	14:08:46	14:11:37	14:35:29	E	0:11:19			
108	2/13/2020	Deer Ct	Medical	16:54:19	16:55:14	17:02:41	17:05:38	17:38:47	NE	0:11:19	Non Emergent		
109	2/13/2020	Linden	Medical	20:31:32	20:33:11	20:35:57	20:38:08	20:47:49	E	0:06:36			
110	2/13/2020	Sheridan	Medical	23:46:55	23:48:40	0:01:19	0:03:50	0:04:48	NE	0:16:55	Non Emergent		
111	2/15/2020	S. Main	Medical	20:52:51	20:54:06	21:04:41	Cancel	21:05:26	NE				
112	2/16/2020	McKinley	Medical	1:52:25	1:52:27	2:00:50	2:04:39	2:17:14	NE	0:12:14	Non Emergent		
113	2/16/2020	Maria Dr	Medical	5:52:28	5:54:06	Cancel	Cancel	6:11:32					
114	2/16/2020	Sheridan	Medical	6:54:59	6:55:02	6:56:30	6:58:46	7:06:57	NE	0:03:47			
115	2/16/2020	Sheridan	Medical	12:46:47	12:47:57	12:56:43	12:58:16	13:05:23	E	0:10:19	1 min Delay		
116	2/16/2020	S Sheldon	Medical	18:02:11	18:03:06	18:06:50	18:12:05	18:24:58	E	0:09:54			
117	2/17/2020	Haggerty	Medical	13:08:33	13:08:39	Cancel	Cancel	13:19:48	NE				
118	2/18/2020	Maple	Medical	8:51:46	8:52:20	9:03:30	9:05:03	9:26:33	NE	0:13:17	Non Emergent		
119	2/18/2020	Haggerty	Medical	14:34:05	14:34:55	14:42:46	14:45:19	15:21:56	E	0:11:14			
120	2/18/2020	Junction	Medical	16:13:42	16:15:46	16:22:38	16:24:00	16:55:13	NE	0:10:18			
121	2/18/2020	Deer Ct	Medical	16:13:41	16:15:04	16:19:12	16:21:21	16:40:33	NE	0:07:40			
122	2/19/2020	N. Harvey	Medical	10:37:17	10:38:04	10:39:45	10:41:10	10:57:02	E	0:03:53			
123	2/20/2020	Deer Ct	Medical	9:43:55	9:44:06	9:48:37	9:50:30	9:56:44	NE	0:06:35			
124	2/20/2020	N Territorial	Medical	11:16:51	11:17:29	11:20:26	11:22:36	11:36:51	E	0:05:45			
125	2/20/2020	Forest	Smoke Odor	12:14:02	12:15:40	12:17:37	12:18:38	12:36:36	E	0:04:36			
126	2/20/2020	S. Harvey	Medical	16:20:52	16:21:00	16:27:12	16:30:00	16:37:03	NE	0:09:08			
127	2/21/2020	Bryon	Medical	0:03:36	0:04:53	0:14:09	0:17:14	0:17:29	NE	0:13:38	Non Emergent		
128	2/22/2020	Farmer	Medical	22:28:30	22:30:06	22:35:36	22:37:40	22:50:50	E	0:09:10			
129	2/23/2020	Lexington	Medical	14:38:36	14:38:48	14:48:18	14:53:01	14:58:34	NE	0:14:25	Non Emergent		
130	2/24/2020	Virginia	Medical	18:51:45	18:51:52	19:02:24	19:05:30	19:16:13	NE	0:13:45	Non Emergent		
131	2/24/2020	S Main	Medical	19:22:52	19:25:26	19:26:15	19:28:40	19:41:13	NE	0:05:48			
132	2/24/2020	Haggerty	Medical	20:08:35	20:10:30	20:11:28	20:14:09	20:35:27	E	0:05:34			
133	2/25/2020	Plymouth Rd	Medical	13:17:37	13:17:45	13:25:30	13:27:23	13:49:21	NE	0:09:46			
134	2/26/2020	Irvin	Medical	9:32:53	9:33:22	9:41:16	9:43:23	9:59:04	NE	0:10:30			
135	2/26/2020	Plymouth Rd	Medical	13:44:26	13:45:14	13:55:14	13:57:55	14:01:26	E	0:13:29	Snow covered roads		
136	2/26/2020	Haggerty	Medical	22:06:13	22:07:53	22:09:28	22:13:09	22:45:55	NE	0:06:56	Snow covered roads		
137	2/27/2020	Sheridan	Medical	14:25:19	14:27:21	14:32:58	14:34:45	14:57:34	E	0:09:26			
138	2/27/2020	N. Mill	Medical	18:04:09	18:05:45	18:06:52	18:08:32	18:32:25	NE	0:04:23			
139	2/28/2020	S. Holbrook	Medical	6:27:39	6:28:06	6:37:19	6:39:52	6:50:03	E	0:12:13			
140	2/28/2020	Plymouth Rd	Fire Alarm	8:01:17	8:01:26	8:04	8:06:27	8:13:41	E	0:05:10			
141	2/29/2020	Haggerty	Medical	2:19:39	2:19:55	2:34:29	2:37:40	2:39:53	NE	0:18:01	Non Emergent/Time of Day		
142	2/29/2020	Church	Medical	10:37:44	10:39:01	10:48:57	10:50:48	10:53:27	NE	0:13:04	Non Emergent		
143	2/29/2020	A. Ann Arbor Rd	Medical	13:56:07	13:57:11	14:02:56	14:06:26	14:14:21	E	0:10:19			
144	2/29/2020	Haggerty	Medical	19:05:52	19:05:57	19:12:40	19:14:57	19:21:31	E	0:09:05			
145	2/29/2020	Haggerty	ERROR	19:06:01	Error	Error	Error	Error	E		Error		
146	2/29/2020	Haggerty	Medical	19:12:24	19:16:10	19:18:00	19:19:28	19:20:38	NE	0:07:04			
147	2/29/2020	W. Ann Arbor Rd	Medical	19:19:09	19:20:58	19:24:24	19:28:18	19:32:23	E	0:09:09			

# THE DIVERSE FACES OF THE NOVI FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Paid-on-Call Firefighters play vital role in keeping Novi safe

Jose Villanueva will never forget his first fire.

"It was a working structure fire, flames and smoke in the house. You can smell the house burning, the wood, furniture, the plastics. I climbed a ladder and knocked a hole in the peak of the roof, stuck a hose in and doused the fire. It wasn't a whole lot, but you never forget that," says Villanueva, 47, a Novi resident and father of three.

Ten years and hundreds of emergency calls later, the desire to assist others continues to inspire Villanueva as a paid-on-call firefighter in Novi.

"I think the most rewarding part

is being on the scene and helping," he said. "Giving back is a very big part of it."

Villanueva, a General Motors designer during the day, is one of 35 paid-on-call firefighters hired to support Novi's 18 full-time fire protection officers. Paid-on-call firefighters, along with a staff of 27 auxiliary firefighters, devote week-nights and weekends to serving the community.

"It's satisfying to give back and be able to help others in their time of need," said William McGary, 59, a veteran paid-on-call firefighter

CONTINUED ON PG 18

who also works as a security staffer at the Fox Run senior living community. "It's a way to work with others to achieve the goal of making your city a safer place to live."

Eric Leung, 38, designs wire harnesses at General Motors by day and works a weekly 12-hour night shift at one of four Novi fire stations.

"I enjoy having the knowledge to help people whether on duty or off," said Leung, a Novi father of two boys. "It's just a good feeling and I think it sets a good example for my kids. One of the most satisfying things I've ever done is helping people in their time of need. I don't think you get into a job like this without having that personality trait."

## JOB REQUIREMENTS

The City of Novi continuously recruits for paid-on-call positions, provides all necessary instruction in firefighting and emergency medical response, and pays recruits as they train.

Paid-on-call candidates must be at least 18 years old, live within five miles of the city limits, have a high school diploma, and pass a physical ability test before they are hired and begin fire academy and emergency medical technician (EMT) classes.

Requirements for paid auxiliary and paid-on-call positions differ in terms of training and geography. Auxiliary job candidates may live more than five miles from the city and must be trained, certified firefighters before being hired.

Paid-on-call firefighters earn \$9.65 per hour while taking their first level of training, and \$12.43 per hour while finishing their courses. Wages for trained, certified paid-on-call firefighters are \$21.11 per hour.

Matthew Osborne, 44, a Novi resident and father of three, views the training and wages as major benefits of the job.

"Some departments don't send you for training," he said. "They expect you to have the certification. I think it's a big deal Novi pays you to go through the training. It's a really big benefit when someone will pay you to get an education."

Osborne owns The 5th of Novi bar and manages car rental locations in four states for Avis Budget Group, but still finds time to work at least two paid-on-call shifts per month.

## JUGGLING SCHEDULES

Work shifts run from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. every day and from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends. Two paid-on-call firefighters are assigned to each shift, although additional help can be paged if needed. Shifts are scheduled months in advance, enabling firefighters like Tabitha Tejero, 37, of Farmington Hills, to plan her day job, family life, and her firefighting duties in Novi.

Tejero, a medical account executive for VTC Insurance Group, is married to an automotive engineer who works as a paid-on-call firefighter for the City of Farmington Hills.

"Being a part of the Novi paid-on-call system for nearly 10 years, at home we jokingly say our life is a juggling act, but we love it," she said. "This job has made us realize that family comes first. We don't like to put our daughter with a sitter so monthly we go over our schedules."

Firefighting is close to Tejero's heart. Her two brothers are full-time firefighters, her father was in the fire service, and her husband encouraged her to become a paid-on-call firefighter. As the first female firefighter in the family, she hopes to make them proud.

Tejero regularly works two Sundays every month and "calls dibs" on driving the fire truck when she's on duty. She enjoys

training to keep her skills sharp and her "motherly instincts" to guide and comfort young patients.

For McGary, becoming a paid-on-call firefighter 14 years ago fulfilled a long-held dream.

"I always wanted to be a firefighter, but I didn't think I could. I thought my family positions were available," she said. "I had a chance to talk with a firefighter who was passing out fliers in the neighborhood. He said you could become a firefighter. I was all in."

## EVOLVING DEPARTMENT

Novi's combination staffing model provides 24-hour coverage at its four stations with full-time fire protection on weekdays, and paid-on-call firefighters working nights and weekends.

Fire Chief Jeffrey Johnson says the "significant reduction" in response time in 2017, when 24-hour coverage was implemented at all four stations. Fire station 2 at 10 Mile and Wixom Road, staffed during daytime only, has a median eight-minute response time for emergency calls. Since 2017, it has shaved that time by approximately 2 1/2 minutes.

The Novi Fire Department's combination staffing model is



According to David Molloy, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police.

"Novi started out with a volunteer fire department. We have evolved over the years as the community has grown," Molloy said. "We have a lot of older adult housing and medical care facilities that necessitated an increase in our EMS service."

Rescue and emergency medical service incidents account for the majority of Novi Fire Department runs. In 2019, firefighters responded to 4,564 medical and rescue calls from Jan. 1 through Dec. 27, compared to 79 fires during that same period. A variety of other incidents, including hazardous conditions, false alarms, and weather-related events, made up the rest of the 8,143 runs last year.

"It evolved from a volunteer department to what I would consider one of the most professional combination departments that you are going to find," Molloy said. "We're constantly recruiting to bring people who are able to perform the training into the organization. We help pay for that training. We pay you along the way. It's our way of not only investing in the individual but we're looking for that individual to invest in us as well."

In addition to attending local fire academy and EMT courses, new hires also spend time

with a mentor, learning about apparatus, fire trucks, procedures and policies that are aimed to provide the best possible service to Novi.

## DIVERSE CAREERS

Many paid-on-call firefighters possess college degrees, certification in other fields, and have experience in professional careers.

"There is a great deal to be said for having that educational background," Molloy noted. "People with a formalized education are good communicators and they understand how to treat people. I believe there is a ton of value having individuals come to work understanding that this is what they are doing in addition to their day job. That speaks volumes to the level of professionalism they have in wanting to give back to their community on a part-time basis."

Some firefighters say the skills they use in their day jobs can strengthen their work as emergency responders.

Villanueva, for example, brings an "engineering mind" and a hands-on understanding of how tools work to paid-on-call firefighting.

"I worked as an automotive repair technician for a good portion of my career, so I've been working with my hands and tools. Your fire engine, that's just a rolling toolbox. It's chockfull of tools," he said. "Understanding tools and working with my hands certainly helps me as a firefighter."

Leung's experience in the auto industry gives him insight into vehicle construction and has helped him to understand "what to cut and what not to cut" when extricating an accident victim.

Both Osborne and McGary, a retired assistant regional manager for Michigan Secretary of State, understand the importance of delivering good customer service.

"On medical calls you have a customer and your job is to get them what they need and where they need to go," Osborne explained. "A lot of the (paid-on-call) firefighters with full-time jobs have customer service experience. I think that makes it a better experience for the patient."

On the flip side, Osborne said EMT training has enhanced his family life, making him better prepared to handle emergencies at home.

"Firefighting has made me more competent around my own kids," he said.

Added Leung, "For me, when I'm at GM or out and about, if anything happens, I know I have the ability to help if anyone needs it."

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## Modeled after a race track's pit crew, a new form of CPR helped Longmont Fire Department save more lives



Longmont Fire Lt. Troy Bohm tests equipment used at position 3 of the The Pit Crew model of resuscitating a cardiac patient last month at Station 1 in Longmont. The person manning position 2 tends to the patient's head and airway. The Pit Crew

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By **KELSEY HAMMON** | khammon@prairiemountainmedia.com |

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When a heart ceases to beat and a person's life hangs in balance, Longmont's fire department turns to an unlikely source for inspiration to restore its rhythm.

Just as a team of practiced pit crew members use speed, agility and organization to return a race car to the track, firefighters use a similar system that brings order to chaos and seeks to give patients a better chance at surviving. Aptly called the Pit Crew Resuscitation model, the Longmont Fire Department has used the life-saving method for the past five years. The team has been so successful in saving lives that other Boulder County operations have adopted the same model.

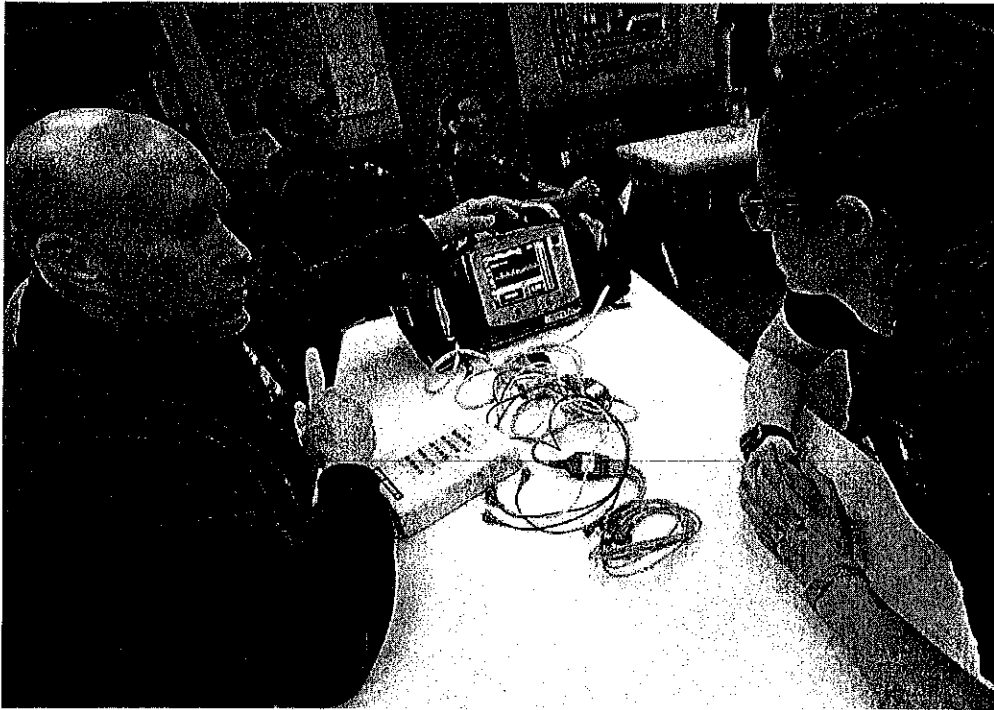
John Michael, the Longmont Fire Department's EMS operation lieutenant, first heard about the model while at an EMS conference in Dallas. A doctor told the audience about a conversation with NASCAR pit crew chief and how it steered him toward a revamped CPR model.

"It dawned on him then that he could use this system in EMS," Michael said.

Michael brought the idea back to his Longmont fire team. Since then, firefighters' use of the system has continued to save lives. In 2014, a person who experienced a medically induced cardiac arrest in Longmont had a 14% chance of regaining a pulse, which was comparable to the national rate, according to Longmont fire spokesperson Patrick Kramer. One year after the system's implementation, that number jumped to 24%; then to 38% in 2016; 43% in 2017; 46% in 2018 and more than 53% in 2019.

"(The Pit Crew) has had the biggest single impact on our job and our community," Michael said. "It's a huge emotional lift and confidence builder because we are giving someone the best chance of surviving this event anywhere in the nation (compared to the national average)."

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Longmont Fire Capt. Troy Reed, left, and AMR EMT Kelly Ingraham review and train on emergency response equipment last month at Station 1 in Longmont. Boulder County AMR recently implemented The Pit Crew Resuscitation Model after seeing how much Longmont Fire Department's resuscitation rate among cardiac patients improved while using the model. (Cliff Grassmick / Staff Photographer)

Before the Pit Crew model was implemented, only five responders arrived at a given scene. And while the tasks to resuscitate the patient were the same, there was no structure to guide them, Michael said.

The new model designates one of eight roles to the six firefighters and two paramedics who go to the scene. Each is critical to best attempting to revive someone experiencing cardiac arrest. The roles are designated based on the order first responders arrive at the scene.

The positions include compression, monitoring the airway and IV medications. In addition to watching the person's vitals, remaining first responders work to make sure the scene stays clear. A liaison is assigned to communicate with family or witnesses, gathering any pertinent information about the events leading up to the cardiac arrest and offering some comfort to them in the process. Kramer said this role is also an important one for keeping people out of the way of first responders' efforts.

Additionally, a scribe records information and tracks the team's status. Finally, a person working across assures the path to the ambulance is clear of any

For Michael the added organization, delegation of responsibilities and increase in personnel have made the model a success.

"We didn't change any of the medicine we are providing, just the efficiency of how we provide it has made it more effective," Michael said. "It allows people to focus on more task-oriented things, rather than dealing with the chaos."

The cost to have one more engine and a three-person crew at the scene of a cardiac arrest is about \$365 an hour.

"Given our phenomenal resuscitation success, the cost of sending a second engine company to a party in cardiac arrest has proven to be money well spent," Michael said.

At the same time they implemented the Pit Crew, firefighters also began using a new piece of equipment called an AutoPulse, which delivers mechanical chest compressions to the patient. According to the American Heart Association, CPR is to be administered for at least 30 minutes. For even a trained professional, delivering compressions by hand can be tiresome. A machine delivers consistent compressions and also frees up first responders to attend to other tasks to help the person in need. While the equipment has been a crucial development, Michael said it is still undoubtedly the work of the crew that is the difference between life and death in the patient.



Longmont Fire Lt. Troy Bohm tests equipment used at position 3 of the Pit Crew Resuscitation model last month at Station 1 in Longmont. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)

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Of Longmont firefighter's calls, 70% to 75% are medical related, according to Kramer. On average, the fire department responds to 50 to 60 medically induced cardiac arrests annually. Kramer said the Pit Crew model provides some consistency to a situation that is always unpredictable.

"You may be going into a third-story apartment or a basement apartment. You might be responding at 2 a.m. to a hoarder house. They may be trapped between the bed and the wall. I can't even tell you how many variables there are," Kramer said.

To better understand the model's success, the Longmont Fire Department also looks at the person's rate of survival once they reach the hospital. What they found is that of the more than 50% taken to the hospital with a pulse, roughly 36% are well enough to be released. Nationally, the rate of survival for cardiac patients after reaching the hospital is a little more than 10%, according to The American Heart Association.

First responders asked whether restoring a cardiac patient's pulse was enough to

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"Our crews are really smart and really insightful and they questioned whether this was a value or whether we were just racking up a bill for the family," Michael said.

If Longmont responders successfully get their patient to regain a pulse, their chances of survival increase drastically — less than 1% of people who have not regained a pulse before arriving at the hospital survive, Michael said. The chances of someone surviving a cardiac arrest are also greatly improved if the person who found the patient begins CPR before responders reach the scene. In more than 70% of the cardiac arrests in Longmont firefighters responded to, someone had been doing CPR, Michael said.

"That buys us time to get there," Michael said.

## Blazing a trail

Boulder Rural Fire, Boulder Fire and the Boulder County AMR adopted the Pit Crew model after seeing the Longmont Fire Department's success, Michael said.

"Most of the county is going to be doing it the same way and taking the lead from us on making it consistent across the county," Michael said.

Six months ago, Richard Estep, a training chief and CES specialist with American Medical Response Boulder, began using the Pit Crew Model. Estep said the move was "100%" influenced by the success seen at the Longmont Fire Department.

"Longmont's numbers are extremely impressive," Estep said. "It's impressive that pulses are regained more often and that more patients walk out of the hospital neurologically intact. It's good to get a pulse back, but it's better by far when that person goes home to hug their loved one."

Similar to Michael and Kramer, Estep said AMR had an organized approach to responding to cardiac arrests, but the Pit Crew Model fine-tuned it by standardizing the process, eliminating some of the stress involved.

Michael said he hopes Longmont's first responders are proud of what they have achieved using the new model.

"It really is indicative of how well we are doing that the agencies around us have taken note and said 'we want to be at the same level as Longmont,'" Michael said.

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# Don't take volunteer firefighters for granted

By James T. Sarazin **Baltimore Sun**  
Jul 09, 2012 | 12:25 PM

The other day, my wife and I were in Kent County when we saw smoke on the horizon. We went about our business for a little while, and then curiosity got the better of me, and I decided to go over and check out the fire. It turned out there was a brush fire that got out of control and grew from 25 acres to 100 acres.

I'm happy to say there was no loss of life or significant property damage. The fire did, however, come very close to homes. I was standing next to a man who had to be evacuated from his home and was not allowed to go back inside; the police were keeping him out. We could not feel the heat of the fire, but there was smoke all around us, and burned vegetation was blowing in the air.

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What struck me most about that day was the word "volunteer" written on virtually every piece of emergency equipment that I could see: tankers, fire trucks and ambulances. No one was getting paid to fight the fire that day. It was a perfectly glorious Sunday. The men and women who were out there fighting the fire were, for the most part, in their mid-twenties to early thirties. They were there because they chose to be, not because they had to be.

How many of us would wake up early one fine Sunday morning, get dressed in hot, bulky clothing and go risk our lives for no money and little reward? These folks do that all the time. They don't get a car they can take home, don't get to carry a gun, don't get to arrest anyone, and when they do their volunteer job, it's frequently uncomfortable and dangerous. In fact, one of the volunteers that day had to be evacuated for medical attention.

I live in a densely populated area, and my local fire department, like so many others, is volunteer. Most of the time when we see these individuals, it is generally either on the way to or back from an emergency. We also occasionally see them collecting money on the side of the road. With either boot or helmet in hand, they ask for donations to keep them in the latest

lifesaving equipment. Perhaps we give them \$5 or \$10 on those occasions. I think very few people give them the amount that's equal to, say, a basic cable bill. As busy Americans, we justify our blasé attitude. The truth of the matter is that there is no justification.

[\[Most read\] Coronavirus cases found in US will test a response developed during past outbreaks; precautions taken in Maryland »](#)

I'm a small business owner and a marketing guy. I think it would be a wonderful idea if one person was designated to ride along on the truck and knock on doors while the others were in the middle of fighting fires. I would start with the next-door neighbors whose houses they saved. I think you'd see a big rise in donations.

I really can't give these people enough credit, and I don't think that our communities do enough to honor the men and women who risk their lives and volunteer. At least, it doesn't seem like we do enough. If you ever lose your faith in people, as I do from time to time, follow one of these trucks to a disaster and watch who jumps off and what they do. I believe, in the end, you will walk away with a better feeling about the people in your community and be amazed by what total strangers are willing to do to protect you.

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