



2020 Annual Reports For Colfax Fire Department

Welcome to the Colfax Fire Department online annual report!

As Fire Chief of Colfax Fire Department, I am fortunate to lead a group of extremely dedicated firefighters. Without question, our personnel are some of the best firefighters that a Chief could be fortunate enough to serve with. Whether it is our volunteers, part time or career staff, they are each here to provide the best fire and medical service possible to our citizens and visitors of our community.

The department's focus over the past several years have been spent preparing our personnel and apparatus for the needs of the future. As an ISO Class 2 department, we are extremely proud of our accomplishments. Most days our personnel are in the community engaging to build trust and confidence with those that work, and reside in Colfax community.

In an effort to earn your trust, we invite you to get to know your firefighters by approaching them, and taking the time to understand what we do. Our fundamental values from our mission statement "The mission of Colfax Fire Department is to provide the citizens of Colfax Fire District, protection of life and property. This is accomplished through fire education, fire prevention, and fire suppression activities as well as first responder emergency medical care to the sick and injured" drive our operational

goals. Predicting, preventing, and preparing for risks in the community, has fostered an excellent record of safety for our citizens.

We are proud of our long-standing tradition which began in 1958 of being prepared no matter what the calling to serve you at a moment's notice. Taking care of our community either by preventing losses, or mitigating the emergency once it has happened, is our duty. Serving our citizens is our honor.

I thank the community for supporting our department as we work together to create a safer community.

Thank you for allowing me the honor to serve as your fire chief!

Dennis Robinson

Fire Chief's report:

Colfax Fire Department board of director's, volunteer members, staff, and citizens of Colfax community: Please accept this as the annual report of information and activities for the year 2020. This report is typically presented at the annual meeting of the membership and the board of directors, however with the current challenges of COVID concerns this shall serve as our annual report.

It is our pleasure to present you with a compilation of activities and statistics which occurred in 2020. In our past annual reports, I have spoken about how it seems that every year brings such unique challenges to the fire service nationwide, however nobody was able to forecast the challenges which 2020 presented. Inclusive of the challenges presented in 2020, thanks to the support and hard work of our personnel and community support, we have certainly had a very safe and productive year.

2020 afforded our board and personnel with several financial and capital opportunities, which I highlight within this report. The following projects were completed in the year 2020, or will soon be completed with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Please join with me in reviewing those special projects.

In 2020:

- After approximately 2 years of hard work by the Board of Directors and equipment committee, we took delivery of a new Rosenbauer pumper/tanker.
- We currently are in the process of replacing our reserve pumper with a unit that better serves our needs.
- We added a gear wash and decontamination room to our current storage building for the purpose of reducing carcinogens, which have proven to be harmful to our personnel. Personnel returning from calls, after a gross decontamination in the field, are able to complete their decontamination procedures prior to entering the fire station.
- Purchased a new gear washer allowing more sets of gear to be washed simultaneously.
- Personnel designed and built a new gear drier, which has significantly reduced the amount of time to get gear back in service.
- We have continued our PPE replacement program to remain on our plan of a ten-year turn out gear replacement, per NFPA recommendations.
- We began purchasing second sets of structural turnout gear to allow for proper decontamination of our contaminated gear after calls.
- Purchased new battery powered ventilation and chain saws.
- Medical fit for duty physicals, OSHA N-95 fit testing, and SCBA fit testing were performed, as an ongoing commitment to firefighter safety.

- We utilized a third-party agency for pump testing of our apparatus with all apparatus successfully passing.
- Continued working in an effort to keep our apparatus in the highest state of readiness. This certainly has been an expensive venture, but one that requires the highest commitment.
- Through the assistance of an AFG (Assistance to Firefighter Grant) we are in the final stages of installation of an exhaust capture system within our bays, to eliminate carcinogens from apparatus exhaust.

WOW, What a year of accomplishments for such challenging times!

Again, without the teamwork and support of everyone these accomplishments could not have been have become realities. Thanks to each who may have played any part into the numerous projects for your commitment!

Our department continues to face consistent challenges, just as other departments nationwide, of recruitment and retention of volunteer's and paid staff. The issue with the reduction of personnel, willing to become and/or remain as volunteer or paid firefighters is real. It is prevalent across the country in larger departments and it is prevalent in Colfax, North Carolina. The loss of volunteers is evident in our department as the days of being blessed with an abundance of volunteers has rapidly become a thing of the past. This is a common theme state and nationwide of having to increase paid staff to ensure the protection of our communities. Our Board and I are consistently discussing the increase of staff, to ensure we meet our community needs, while providing the highest level of fire and medical protection. To those of you who are still able to serve your community, you are the exception and Thank You for your ongoing commitment.

Currently our personnel roster consists of 38 personnel comprised of 21 volunteers, 8 part time and 9 career members. To each of you

I say Thank You for the commitment which you so diligently make to our department. In order to provide the highest level of protection to the citizens of the Colfax and Sandy Ridge Communities, the Board of Directors and I realize proactive relationships with our volunteer staff, paid staff and surrounding agencies is paramount to the future of Colfax Fire Department.

In 2020, station 16 and Engine 26, responded to 810 calls. In last year's report (2019), our call volume increased over the previous four years by 19.8 percent. If we go back eight years, our increase in call load was 42.6 percent. 2020 actually saw a decrease in calls by 4.7%, which is likely contributed to the COVID call response prioritizing for the safety of responders. Based on the second half of 2020, our call load has now rebounded to be at or higher than our 2019 responses. Of the 810 calls for service in 2020, 676 (83.5%) were for station 16 response and 134 (16.5%) were for E-26.

Year after year, our call volume proves much different than the national averages in the fact that of the 810 calls ran, 52.8 percent were fire related, with only 47.2 percent being medical related. This is certainly much different from most departments, as medical related incidents typically far outrank fire related responses in the fire service. This factor within itself justifies the need to continue increasing our staffing levels. As each of us know, often times while the on-duty staff is out on a call, we are seeing second (and sometimes third or fourth) calls for other responses, hereby solidifying the need for our volunteers.

In 2020, our average time spent on calls was 23 minutes & 44 seconds for a total of 321 hours and 34 minutes of on scene call response time. Our highest call volume was between the hours of 11:00 – 12:00 hours, with Wednesday being the busiest call volume day and Saturday having the least number of calls.

Thanks to the commitment of our personnel, the average number of firefighters on calls this past year were 7.23 overall and 9.5 personnel on structure fires within Colfax Fire District. This average is inclusive of E-26 personnel, if Engine 26 is in service. In 2020, the total number of staff hours spent on calls was 2,267 hours.

Our minimum on duty staffing at station 16 remains at three personnel 24/7, which means we must also rely heavily on all of our personnel for supplementing our responses. The Officers, Board of Directors and I have worked diligently to increase staffing levels, and will continue to do so. This has proven to be the best method of insuring continuance of providing the level of service the citizens of our community have come to know, expect and deserve.

In 2020 the value of property lost to the ravages of fire was a drastically low figure of \$22,200. This figure was in fact extremely low and this can be contributed to the fact, that fortunately, there were no commercial or large residential fire exposures or losses in 2020. The total value of property exposed to fire amounted to \$1,391,600 with salvage of \$1,369,400. Our fire loss amounted to 1.59% of that exposed, with an overall salvage rate of 98.41%. This salvage factor, I feel, is a direct reflection of the service which is consistently provided by members of this department. In addition, our average response time for our initial apparatus to emergency calls within Colfax Fire District was 5 minutes & 8 seconds, this is from dispatch to arrival. Additionally, I feel this is a direct correlation to our consistently high salvage rate.

Firefighter Safety remains an extreme priority of our safety committee and personnel. In 2020 there were no fire service personnel or civilian injuries or fatalities during responses. Our overall team consisting of our Board of Directors, Officers and Firefighters truly realize the importance of maintaining our apparatus and equipment to ensure the safety of our personnel. Each year there continues to be positive discussions between the Chief

and the Board regarding Firefighter Safety. As a reminder, ten years ago our Board of Directors made a renewed commitment toward firefighter safety. This commitment continues to remain at the forefront of our daily operations. Let's all work together ensuring this commitment carries on by each of us, both on and off the fire ground.

As this report indicates, our Board of Directors continue to be diligent in reviewing our projects for merit and justification ensuring that Colfax Fire Department continues providing the highest level of safety and protection to our personnel and the citizens of our community. To the Board of Directors, thank you for your time, guidance and support each of you selflessly give to the community, department, personnel, and myself as Chief.

Our officers, volunteers, part time and career personnel are to be commended for their commitment to training which will be reflected in our annual training report. Being aware that COVID concerns have created face to face training challenges, I encourage our training group to continue being proactive in the coming year by looking for newer technologies to enhance our jobs, and protect our citizens but above all, keep our personnel as safe as possible. I urge you to continue your track of professional development through your commitment, and always be assured that your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Each year we discuss how the community we serve, and our Department has changed. I think it is inevitable that we will continue to see significant changes and challenges in the future. Our Board of Directors, committee members, Officers and Firefighters have been, and must continue being, committed and pro-active, in meeting the challenges occurring within our fire district. 2021 will no doubt bring new challenges for our department, however together we will continue striving to maintain a department of the highest standard.

As stated at the beginning of this report, we have been and will continue to be very busy as a team, however let us be proud of our many accomplishments. They indeed are numerous!

In closing, I would like to thank each of you along with our Board of Directors, the officers and the members of this department for your consistent community based commitment. Colfax Fire Department and Colfax community truly has a substantial amount to be proud of, due to the ongoing the efforts of each of you.

It is with a great sense of pride and accomplishment that I present you with the 2020 Annual Report for Colfax Department. This report provides an overview of the department's accomplishments and challenges of 2020.

As indicated, responding to emergencies represents only a fraction of the total activities of the fire department. Functions such as: public education, EMS response, mutual aid and contractual response, community outreach, and fire prevention have become the foundations of the new fire service. All these responsibilities require us to be more aware, better trained, and more adept at planning for and responding to these ever challenging and rising demands.

I would like to acknowledge the dedicated members past and present of the Colfax Fire Department, for without their hard work and commitment, we would be unable to provide the departments' essential services and programs as we know them today. It truly is an honor and privilege to be a part of this department, and serve alongside such great men and women.

Respectfully submitted Dennis Robinson, Fire Chief

Equipment committee:

The new tanker is here and in service. Some minor setbacks occurred with production but all and all the truck is a great truck and has worked well for our needs so far. The Mack has been sold to Key Fire Hose We are in the process of finding a replacement pumper/tanker within the parameters set forth thru the committee and board of directors. This is an ongoing project.

Training Committee:

The framework for the 2020 Colfax Fire Department training program was set in January, with input from all ranks and member involvement levels. Training was planned to be classroom theory for each subject area followed up by highly intense hands on practical evolutions. With the arrival of COVID-19, CFD was rapidly thrust into an online platform for training delivery. Colfax Fire Department members were quickly able to adapt and developed a no-cost method to present relevant high-quality training materials via the Google platform. Online training materials proved to be a highly effective method to disseminate training materials for members, who could complete each section within a pre-determined timeframe.

In 2020, Colfax Fire Department Members accumulated a total of 7,390 training hours. These training hours encompassed the disciplines of: firefighter skills, officer development, hazardous materials, emergency medical and apparatus operator. Members were also able to complete hands-on multi-company drills with neighboring agencies to include: City of Greensboro, Town of Kernersville, City of High Point, Oak Ridge Fire Department, Beeson's Fire Department and Horneytown Fire Department.

Fire & Life Safety report:

Smoke Detector Program

- Installed (23) Smoke Alarm Batteries
- Installed (6) Smoke Alarms
- Installed (2) CO Alarms
- Installed (3) CO Alarm Batteries

Fire Prevention Materials/Handouts

Colfax Elementary School

- 100 Kids Plastic Fire Helmets
- 100 Kids Fire Prevention Pencils
- 100 Kids Fire Prevention Stickers
- 100 Kids Fire Prevention Coloring Books

Fire Prevention Safety Sign/ Media Announcement

October 2020

- Keep Matches and Lighters Out of Kids Reach
- 21,900 Contacts Daily
- 678,900 Contacts for the Month

Fire Prevention Safety Sign/ Media Announcement

November 2020

- Change Your Clock Change Your Smoke Alarm Batteries
- 21,900 Contacts Daily
- 657,000 Contacts for the Month

Fire Prevention Safety Sign/ Media Announcement

December 2020

- Turn Out XMAS Lights Before Bedtime
- Water Your Christmas Tree Daily
- 21,900 Contacts Daily
- 678,900 Contacts for the Month

Social / Fund Raising Committee:

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 we had to cancel both of the Fire and Life Safety Days at the Piedmont Triad Farmers Market.

Safety Report for 2020:

For the year 2020 we had one minor apparatus incident. The accident was no fault of our personnel. One is to many but all in all it was a very safe year. Thanks to all the firefighters for their efforts to be safe.

Reports have been respectfully submitted by the Fire Chief and the Chairpersons of the specific committees.