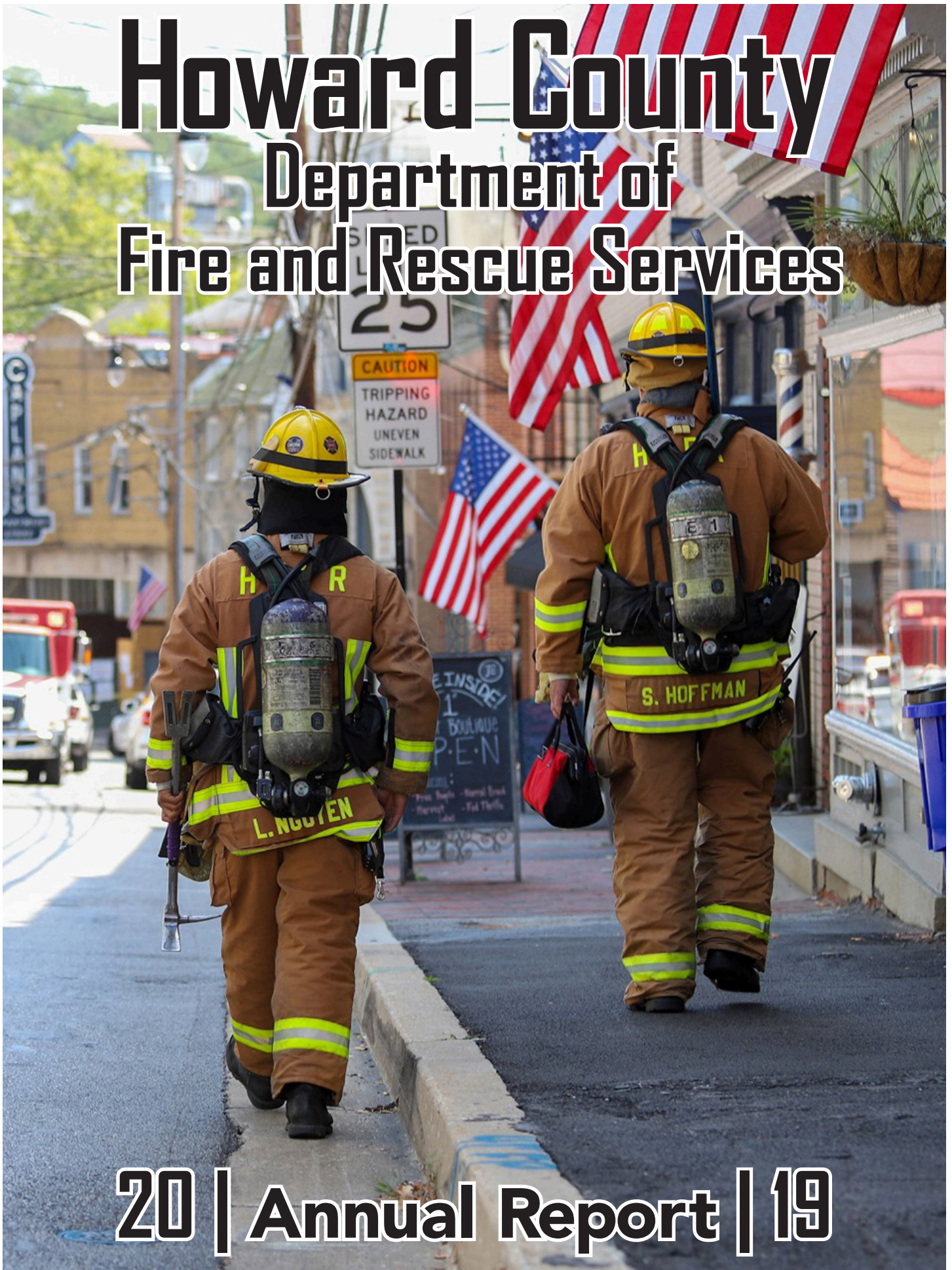


Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services





From County Executive Calvin Ball:

We are fortunate to have one of the best fire departments in the nation, right here in Howard County. Our firefighters are dedicated, hardworking members of our community dedicated to keeping all our residents safe and out of harm's way.

This past year was marked by progress and expansion of the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services with increased staffing, the groundbreaking of a new fire station in Jessup, and the opening of a new station in Downtown Columbia - all steps to creating a safer and engaged community. I'm also grateful for the progress to ensure the safety and longevity of our firefighters and paramedics through a carcinogen reduction plan, which includes implementing clean cab engines into the fire department fleet.

As a resident and parent in Howard County, I am thankful for your efforts to consistently improve the department, adapt to our growing county population, and cultivate positive relationships within our county.

I look forward to supporting Howard County Fire and Rescue in another year of creating a safe environment for all by protecting, educating, and serving all our residents and visitors.

CALVIN BALL
County Executive

A LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services continues to be a model of success for emergency services on a national level. I was honored to be named Fire Chief by Howard County Executive Calvin Ball in 2020, and I plan to continue the hard work and impactful changes put in place by recently retired Fire Chief Christine Uhlhorn. Chief Uhlhorn served the department for more than 30 years and set a standard for inclusion and safety that this department will continue to foster.

Our annual report for calendar year 2019 will summarize our department's teamwork and dedication to educate, protect, and serve Howard County on the highest level. We are proud of the work we have accomplished during this year and plan to prioritize what we have identified as areas of improvement.

A major highlight from this report is the enhancement of staffing on front-line fire apparatus, allowing us to be compliant with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. We are increasing live fire training by utilizing fireground safety and survival evolutions, acquired structure training, and company officer training. We have also enhanced the command, supervisory, and emergency medical services capacity by expanding staffing hours of a paramedic battalion chief unit from eight to twelve hours a day, seven days a week.

When it comes to safety in the fire service, we want to do everything we can to protect our providers. We will continue annual physicals, to include a stress test, and cardiac and pre-cancerous screenings. We will ensure the availability of both our peer fitness trainers and our Peer Support team. Statistically, cancer is the number one cause of firefighter death, both during a career and after retirement. We continue to set a higher standard for firefighter safety through our carcinogen reduction plan. With the hood and glove exchange program, the second set of turn out gear, the purchase and planned outfitting of station extractors, the on call fireground support decon/air unit we have enhanced decontamination opportunities on the scene of a working fire and after an incident. We have placed multiple "clean-cab engines" in service to limit the exposure of our firefighters and paramedics to deadly carcinogens while on the job.

I want to thank Howard County Executive Calvin Ball for his leadership and commitment to firefighter safety and allowing my team to provide the best service to Howard County.



WILLIAM ANUSZEWSKI
Fire Chief



Pictured, L-R: Firefighter Rick High salutes the flag during the September 11 Memorial Service; crews train during an auto extrication exercise; (top) Trainee Class 31 during the official swearing-in process; Firefighter Kristin Walthall training at the American City Building; (top) the grand opening of Station 14; Fire Chief Christine Uhlhorn's swearing-in ceremony.

YEAR IN REVIEW

FIRST FEMALE FIRE CHIEF: Christine Uhlhorn was named Howard County's first female fire chief in December 2018. The pinning ceremony took place in January 2019 at the newly occupied HCDFRS headquarters in Marriottsville. Chief Uhlhorn also became the Metro Fire Chiefs' Chairperson.

OPENING OF STATION 14: The department opened Station 14 (Merriweather) in downtown Columbia as an additional resource to ensure increased response times as the population of Columbia grows. Low emissions Ambulance 145 began 24-hour shifts, increasing from 12 hours.

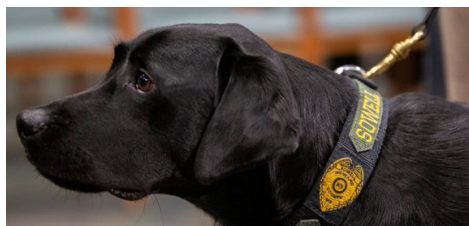
LIVE FIRE ACQUIRED STRUCTURE TRAININGS: The Howard Hughes Corporation, as well as Taylor Properties, provided the department with the opportunity to conduct Live Fire Training Evolutions that delivered a unique fire training experience seldom available to the fire service over an eight-week period. Live fire exercises, search and rescue, and tactical responses were performed, along with Joint Rescue Taskforce training with the Howard County Police Department.

MOBILE INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH: The department is working with several partners in the community to include the hospital, the Health Department and Office of Aging and Independence to provide a home-based multi-disciplinary team to visit residents, establish patient-centered plans for improvement, and assist those most needing of care in getting appropriate care.

CARCINOGEN REDUCTION PLAN: Engine 141, Engine 91, Engine 11 and Engine 61 now feature clean cabs that are designed to store firefighters' and paramedics' contaminated turnout gear and self-contained breathing apparatus in outside compartments which reduce the spread of carcinogens inside the cab and, ultimately, from person to person. Other initiatives include: the hood and glove exchange program, the second set of turn out gear, the purchase and planned outfitting of station extractors, and the on-call fireground support decontamination/air unit.

NEW RESOURCES: EMS/BC3 is an added resource that helps to serve the ever-growing Howard County community. This unit operates seven days a week from 7am - 7pm, is comprised of two shifts, and is stationed out of Station 13 (Glenwood). EMS/BC3 is staffed with one battalion chief and one paramedic officer per shift.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION'S "MISSION: LIFELINE® EMS GOLD PLUS AWARD": HCDFRS was selected for this prestigious award for the third year in a row for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience cardiac emergencies. HCDFRS was the first in Maryland to receive this award in 2017. Annually, over 250,000 people experience a type of heart attack, known as a STEMI, or ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction, which is caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart. This life-threatening emergency requires timely intervention to restore blood flow to the heart. This award honors those emergency responders whose efforts advance STEMI systems of care and the quality of life for these patients.



Pictured, L-R: Station 12 groundbreaking, retired Battalion Chief Chuck Ridgely pins newly promoted Lieutenant Conrad Burgess; Community Outreach participates in Huddle for 100 with the Baltimore Ravens teaching CPR; Captain Craig Matthews poses with arson accelerant detection canine Sowell; Sowell's swearing-in ceremony; Fire Ops 101; Engine 91 during an emergency response.

YEAR IN REVIEW

LIEUTENANT NATHAN FLYNN HONORED: Lieutenant Nathan Flynn, who died in the line of duty on July 23, 2018, was honored during several firefighter tributes, including: Fallen Heroes Day Ceremony at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation's Fallen Hero Memorial Service in Annapolis, Maryland, International Association of Firefighters Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The department also held the first annual Lieutenant Nathan Flynn Memorial Training Day in-house, covering basement fire safety. A road at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center was named Nathan Flynn Way.

GROUNDBREAKING FOR STATION 12: The Waterloo station will be located near Port Capital Drive and Washington Boulevard in Jessup, Maryland. Howard County was able to purchase the land from the State of Maryland for \$1. The saved funds will go towards flood mitigation.

FIRE OPS 101: Local 2000 hosted a program for elected and appointed officials known as Fire Ops 101. During this daylong event, attendees experienced hands-on firefighting and rescue operations under the controlled supervision of Howard County's firefighters and paramedics. The workshop demonstrated many aspects of fire and emergency medical service operations, from suiting up in the proper protective gear to putting out fires.

INCREASED STAFFING: Engine companies were staffed to a minimum of four firefighters. The National Fire Protection Association recommends a minimum of four personnel assigned to each engine company. This increase was implemented after the findings and suggestions from the Fire Department Emergency Services Staffing Joint Study Group.

SOWELL'S SWEARING-IN CEREMONY: Sowell (pronounced "so-well"), is a certified and operational arson accelerant detection canine handled by Captain Craig Matthews. Sowell and previous arson accelerant detection canines, have been provided through a grant from State Farm Insurance. State Farm was eager to have Howard County stay in the accelerant detection program and the department agreed to a seat in this year's training program. The team will be used as a regional asset and may travel to outside jurisdictions to provide fire investigation services. Jet, the department's former arson accelerant detection canine, retired in January 2020.

LINE OF DUTY DEATH REPORT RELEASED: Immediately following Lieutenant Flynn's untimely death, HCDFRS established an Internal Safety Review Board (ISRB) comprised of uniform personnel from inside the department, personnel from neighboring fire departments and outside agencies. The ISRB was charged with investigating factors that contributed to Lieutenant Flynn's death as well as looking beyond the immediate causes to discover all aspects that impacted the event. The report was released publicly in July 2019.



Pictured, L-R: Old Annapolis Road house fire; Glenwood barn fire.



Pictured, L-R: Corporate Court walkway collapse; Stanford Boulevard gas explosion.



NOTABLE INCIDENTS OF 2019

HARNES COURT RESCUE: JANUARY 18

The occupant of the home called 911 and stated there was a fire in the house, and that he was unable to get out. Firefighters arrived to find a fire on the first floor and were able to quickly rescue the lone occupant from the second floor via a ground ladder. The fire was quickly extinguished, and the resident was transported to Howard County General Hospital in stable condition.

OLD ANNAPOLIS ROAD HOUSE FIRE: JUNE 4

Due to heavy fire and smoke conditions coming from the garage and main structure, command immediately called for a second alarm. Additional personnel from Carroll, Montgomery, and Frederick counties assisted with extinguishing the fire. The fire took approximately two hours to place under control.

GLENWOOD BARN FIRE: JULY 15

Crews found heavy fire conditions in two, approximately 50' x 100', barn structures. There were no civilians, no chemicals, and no animals inside the structures. Due to the size of the fire, a massive smoke plume was visible for miles into neighboring jurisdictions.

CORPORATE COURT WALKWAY COLLAPSE: AUGUST 7

A section of a second-floor walkway in front of a business collapsed in Ellicott City, injuring one adult. Crews assisted with evacuation and temporary shoring of the walkway.

STANFORD BOULEVARD GAS EXPLOSION: AUGUST 25

Units responded to a report of a gas leak in a parking lot. Upon arrival, HCDFRS immediately evacuated everyone in the surrounding area, ensured the building was vacant, and requested assistance from Baltimore Gas and Electric. An explosion occurred inside the building, causing significant structural damage. There were no injuries reported.



OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

Fire Chief Christine Uhlhorn

The Office of the Fire Chief is comprised of personnel responsible for developing initiatives, providing oversight of daily activities, data analysis, and completing projects as directed by the Fire Chief. The Deputy Chiefs oversee specific areas of the department but work cooperatively across all facets. Each Deputy Chief reports directly to the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief and the Deputy Chiefs maintain effective communication regarding department business.

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Provides oversight of emergency and non-emergency medical clinical practice, training, planning, policies, and programs.



Pictured: (above) Medical Director Dr. Matt Levy administers field surgical training; (below) Station 10 (Rivers Park) in Columbia; (L - R) Chaplain Steve Stone at the annual Honor and Remembrance ceremony; Maryland State Police Trooper lands on Route 70 for transportation of a patient to Shock Trauma.



OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

Represent various faiths as they participate in departmental and regional ceremonies, assist in making death notifications, and provides moral support and comfort to HCFRS members and residents.





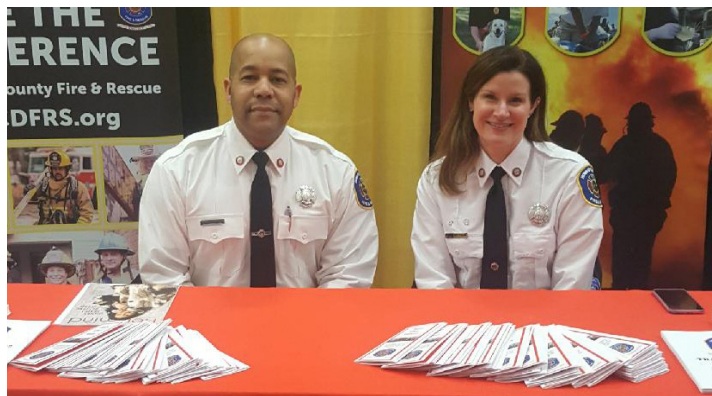
FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION COMMAND

Deputy Chief Louis Winston, Jr.

Finance/Administration Command ensures the efficient and effective function of departmental finance and administration, including policy and order alignment, consistent and equity-driven human resource systems, payroll, and budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

Responsible for administrative policies, human resources, legal coordination, grants and fiscal management, budget development, timekeeping, family hardship issues, procurement, corporate volunteer administrative processes, recruitment, and general administration.



Pictured, top to bottom: Captain Warren Porter and Lieutenant Amy Breznak during a recruitment event; Trainee Class 32 on their first day.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING BUREAU

This bureau is responsible for developing and administering education and training programs, compliance programs, officer development programs, trainee classes, and the maintenance of training records.

Training sections include all-hazards, emergency medical services, and community health, command, and leadership programs.

Trainee Class 32, which began on September 16, 2019, consists of 45 individuals with a variety of diverse backgrounds. Of the 45 trainees, 18% are female, 33% minorities (people of color), 20% bilingual, 29% military veterans, 27% paramedics, and 36% have other Advanced Life Support certifications. In addition, these trainees have higher educations ranging from a doctorate degree to some college credits.



Pictured, top to bottom: Active assailant training; live fire acquired structure training at Sheppard Pratt in Ellicott City.



OPERATIONS COMMAND

Deputy Chief Gordon Wallace

Operations Command ensures the efficient and effective provision of field emergency and non-emergency operations, including fire, rescue, EMS, and all-hazards services.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUREAU

Delivers safety-focused emergency services as well as develops, implements, and maintains emergency service policies and best practices, including Emergency Medical Services Operations, Mobile Integrated Community Health, Fire Suppression operations, Special Events and Mass Gathering operations, Emergency Operations Center support.

THE HOWARD COUNTY VOLUNTEER CORPORATIONS

These corporations have an elected or appointed Volunteer Fire Chief, volunteer operational officers, and volunteer members who are operationally authorized by the Fire Chief. The Volunteer Fire Chief and volunteer officers are responsible for the activities of the applicable corporation and are integrated into the department's emergency services operational chain of command. Each volunteer corporation has an elected or appointed president and board of directors who manage the corporate affairs of their respective corporation.

Pictured, L-R: A Special Operations team member performs swift water rescue training; Captain Craig Matthews and arson accelerant detection canine, Sowell, searching for potential accelerants.



OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

Develops and administers the Fire Code and enforcement programs, as well as fire cause and origin determination. The Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for fire investigations, code enforcement and inspections, plans review and code development, and hazardous materials inspections.

2019 by the numbers:

3,197 Code Enforcement Inspections

1,949 Contractor Portal inspections

73 Fire Investigations

515 Fire Investigator Notifications

62 Canine Responses

148 Hazardous Materials Inspections





LOGISTICS COMMAND

Deputy Chief William Anuszewski

Logistics Command ensures the efficient and effective function of departmental logistical support, including ground support, facilities, and apparatus.

LOGISTICS BUREAU

This bureau coordinates fleet rightsizing and maintenance, fire station and facilities maintenance, department capital budget projects, supplying uniforms, and personal protective equipment. The bureau maintains the Ground Support Unit, equipment, supply unit, and the self-contained breathing apparatus unit.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & MEDIA AFFAIRS

Manages public contact in terms of Public Information Act requests, community outreach and engagement, social media, media affairs, marketing, and special events. Coordinates with the County Public Information Office and provides the on-scene Public Information Officer function during emergency incidents. This office also develops and delivers comprehensive community risk reduction and outreach initiatives.



Pictured, L-R: Firefighter Tim Sinz teaches fire safety to an elementary school class; the staff of the Office of Emergency Management, Deputy Chief William Anuszewski, County Executive Calvin Ball and Chief Administrative Officer Lonnie Robbins; Paramedic 145 responds to an emergency.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In conjunction with the designated County Emergency Manager, this office is responsible for ensuring that the Emergency Operations Center is in a constant ready-state and continually prepares and maintains an Emergency Operations Plan, and other programs, in accordance with county, state, federal laws, and directives. The office is responsible for response and logistics, planning and accreditation, training and exercise, continuity and mitigation, and finance and corrective actions.





PLANNING COMMAND

Deputy Chief John Jerome

Planning Command ensures the efficient and effective function of departmental planning, including data analysis, process improvement, and budgetary projections for operational and capital initiatives.

BUREAU OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Administers physical and emotional health programs. Additionally, develops safety, health and wellness programs, and related policies. Creates and facilitates prevention and educational programs including Occupational Safety, Health and Wellness, Risk Management coordination, mental and physical fitness, Nutrition Behavior Program, the Peer Support Team, and the Peer Fitness Team.

This year continues the efforts from 2018 of a great partnership between Education and Training and BOSH. BOSH developed and provided a 32-hour comprehensive physical and behavioral health and wellness educational program to the latest Trainee Class.

BUREAU OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Manages systems related to the Howard County Police Department 911 Communications Center, information technology, and other technology-based systems. Additionally, manages technology-based physical inventories, associated programs, policies, as well as performance standards.

2019 by the numbers:

2,379 Information Technology requests

43,635 Fire/Rescue/EMS-related calls to the Howard County 911 Center

Pictured, L-R: Fire Chief Christine Uhlhorn presents Captain Trish Harris with a Unit Citation for her work as part of the Peer Support Team; EMS/BC3 with Battalion Chief Rick Leonard and Battalion Chief Evan Mason.



ANNUAL AWARDS

The department recognizes its members that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. The awards ceremony honors firefighters and paramedics for their roles in high profile incidents throughout the calendar year.



Fire Officer of the Year
Lieutenant Josh Burchick



Firefighter of the Year
Firefighter Andrew Hoffman

Quality of Care: *Firefighter/Paramedic Christina Castro, Captain/Paramedic Thomas Gerber*

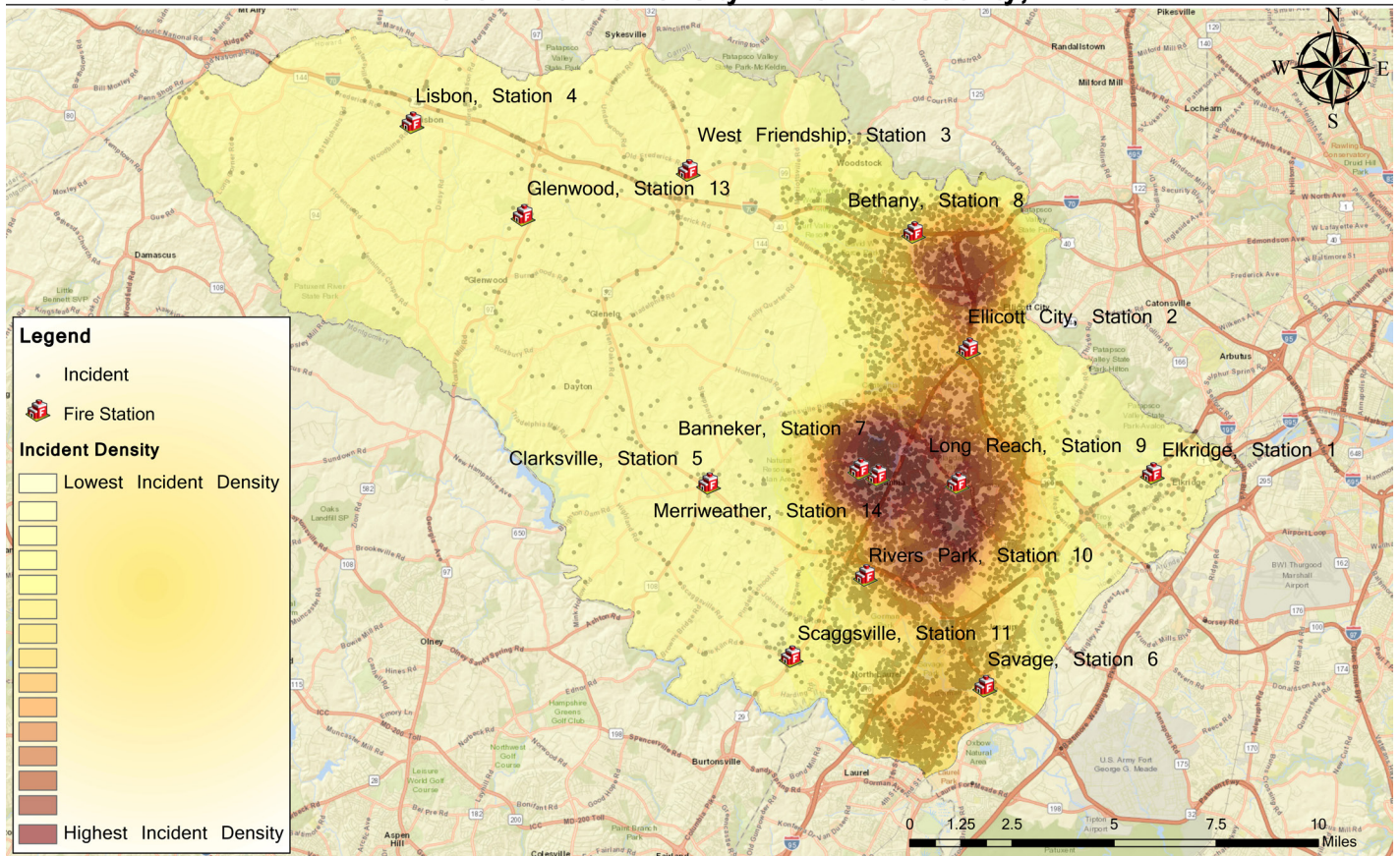
Meritorious Service: *Firefighter Gamaliel Baer*

Bronze Medal of Valor: *Deputy Chief Gordon Wallace, Master Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Proctor, Firefighter Mitchel Frances, Firefighter/Paramedic Ashley Weber, Lieutenant/Paramedic Paul Hill, Firefighter John Rouillard*

Gold Medal of Valor: *Truck 7, Captain James Love, Firefighter Carlos Brown, Firefighter Minh Nguyen, Engine 71, Lieutenant Josh Burchick, Firefighter Andrew Hoffman, Firefighter Joseph Alessandrini, Firefighter Sam Brogi*

STATISTICS

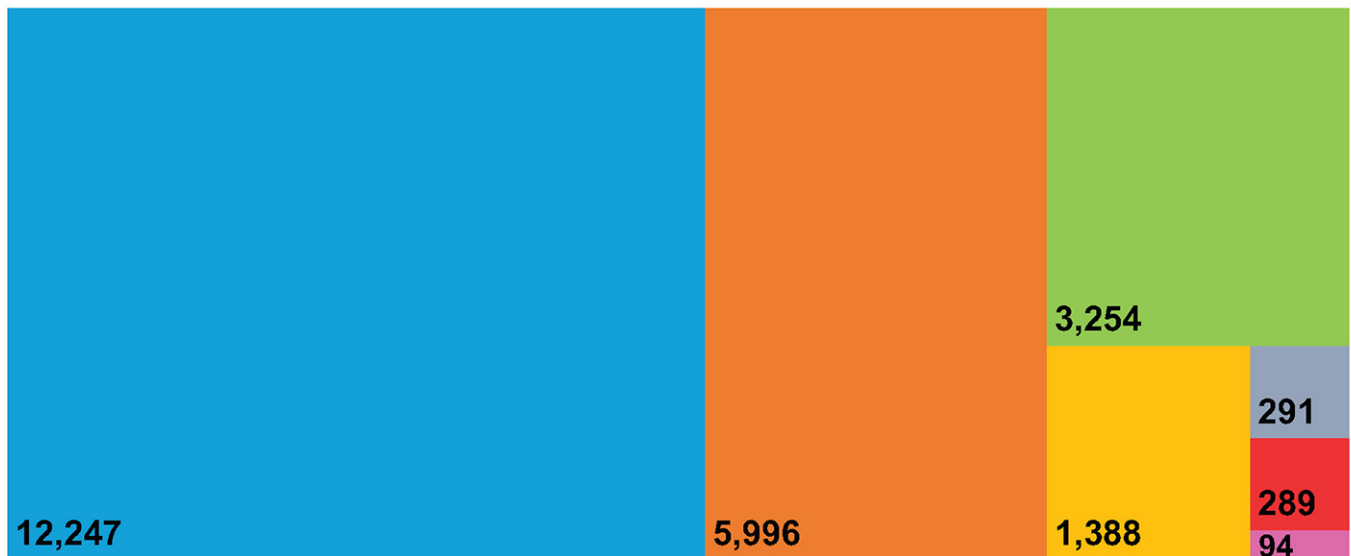
2019 Incident Density in Howard County, MD



All incident data was collected through Computer Aided Dispatched (CAD) system. The CAD system a highly-specialized application that allows for the coordinated communication, assignment and tracking of department resources in response to calls-for-service.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2019: INDIVIDUALS EDUCATED

- Community CPR
- Stop the Bleed Training
- Naloxone Training
- Fire Safety Presentations
- Home Safety Visits
- Safety House Visits
- Car Seat Installation



STATISTICS CONTINUED

INCIDENT VOLUME BY STATION

Station 1 - Elkridge

2013: 2,358
2019: 3,292
Change: 39.6%

Station 2 - Ellicott City

2013: 4,632
2019: 5,742
Change: 24%

Station 3 - West Friendship

2013: 1,232
2019: 1,909
Change: 55%

Station 4 - Lisbon

2013: 811
2019: 1,152
Change: 42%

Station 5 - Clarksville

2013: 1,038
2019: 1,401
Change: 35%

Station 6 - Savage

2013: 3,400
2019: 4,978
Change: 46.4%

Station 7 - Banneker

2013: 5,213
2019: 5,832
Change: 11.9%

Station 8 - Bethany

2013: 1,765
2019: 2,388
Change: 35.3%

Station 9 - Long Reach

2013: 5,089
2019: 5,750
Change: 13%

Station 10 - Rivers Park

2013: 2,063
2019: 2,458
Change: 19.1%

Station 11 - Scaggsville

2013: 1,423
2019: 2,139
Change: 50.3%

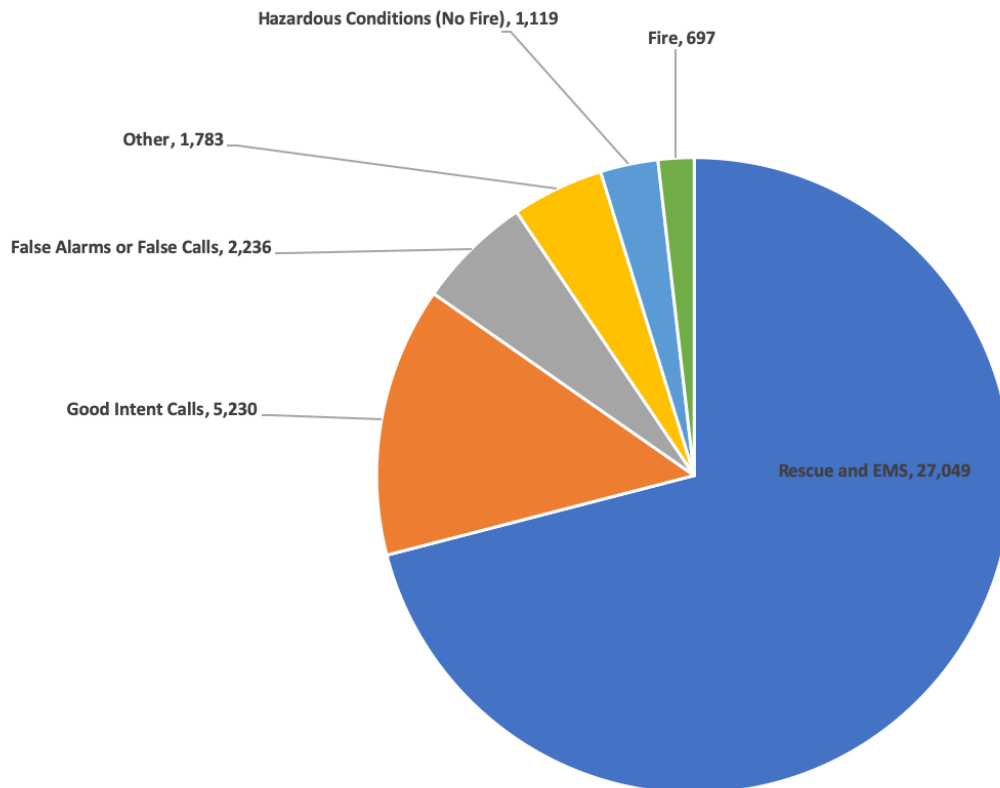
Station 13 - Glenwood

2013: 548
2019: 665
Change: 21.4%

Station 14 - Merriweather

2019: 290
*Opened August 2019

2019 Incident by Type



2019 FACTS AT A GLANCE

It is the mission of the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services to educate, protect and serve all Howard County residents, employees and visitors, as well as the surrounding region.

FIRE AND RESCUE

Organized	1971
Fire Chief	<i>Christine Uhlhorn</i>
Uniform Personnel	490
Civilian Personnel	37
Special Operations Team Members	106
Volunteer Members	489
Peer Support Team Members	45
Peer Support Team Interactions	823
Peer Fitness Team Members	12
Fire/EMS Calls into the 911 Center	43,635
FY19 Fire Fund Budget	\$104,364,935

HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Founded	1851
County Executive	<i>Calvin Ball</i>
Population (US Census)	321,113
Area	251 square miles
County Seat	<i>Ellicott City</i>
FY19 General Fund Budget	\$1,140,607,821
Chief Administrative Officer	<i>Lonnie Robbins</i>
County Council	<i>Liz Walsh</i> <i>Opel Jones</i> <i>Christiana Mercer Rigby</i> <i>Deb Jung</i> <i>David Yungmann</i>



**HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
*EDUCATE, PROTECT, AND SERVE.***

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