

# Richfield Volunteer Fire Company

2021 Annual Report



Station #2 Headquarters

4166 Hubertus Road

Hubertus, WI 53033

Phone: 262-628-1601

Website: [www.RichfieldFire.com](http://www.RichfieldFire.com)

Email: [Info@RichfieldFire.com](mailto:Info@RichfieldFire.com)

Facebook: [@RichfieldFireCompany](https://www.facebook.com/RichfieldFireCompany)



## Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Table of Contents</b>                 | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Message From the Chief</b>            | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Call for Volunteers</b>               | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Mission Statement</b>                 | <b>5</b>  |
| Mission Statement                        | 5         |
| Goal                                     | 5         |
| Objective                                | 5         |
| <b>2021 Year in Review</b>               | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Calls of Significance</b>             | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Service Area</b>                      | <b>17</b> |
| <b>Board of Directors</b>                | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Membership</b>                        | <b>19</b> |
| <b>RVFC Past and Current Fire Chiefs</b> | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Honorary Members</b>                  | <b>22</b> |
| <b>Training Review</b>                   | <b>23</b> |
| <b>EMS Update</b>                        | <b>24</b> |
| <b>Haz-Mat Update</b>                    | <b>25</b> |
| <b>RVFC Apparatus</b>                    | <b>26</b> |

## Message From the Chief

As 2021 came to a close, we finished our busiest year in the history of the fire company. Responses were broken down into 141 fire calls and 548 EMS calls, totaling 689 calls for service. This resulted in an increase of 55 calls over 2020's incident total of 634 calls for service. The RVFC's call volume has more than doubled in the past 20 years. This is consistent with recent local, state, and national trends regarding emergency services where call volumes continue to grow annually.

To help combat the increasing call volume and declining membership, we hired an additional full-time employee in December. That brings us to a total of five full-time employees. Starting January 2021, three of these employees work a 24-hour rotating shift with one being staffed in the fire station at all times. This allows for faster response times because there is a trained paramedic in the station going enroute to a medical emergency immediately at the time of call. During weekday daytime hours, two additional paid employees will respond with the ambulance from the station. For nights and weekend calls, two volunteers are responding to the scene to create a full ambulance crew.

This is a huge step forward. It supports the growing needs of our communities and our volunteer membership. However, future steps need to be taken to ensure this staffing model can support the requirements of the coming years. A five-year plan has been developed to build staffing levels and to distribute the call volume among our volunteer members. This involves hiring an additional full-time employee each year for the next five years. One additional full-time employee is needed to work the weekday daytime position, which is when very minimal volunteer staff is in town, to build staffing levels back up to pre-2022 staffing levels. Three additional employees are needed to work the rotating 24-hour schedules so that two full-time employees are at the station around the clock, along with one full-time equivalent employee to cover vacation and sick time on the rotating 24-hour shift. At the end of this plan only one volunteer will be needed for most first out EMS calls on nights and weekends, leaving remaining staff available for the growing occurrence of secondary EMS calls while the first ambulance is still on the first call.

We need your help. The RVFC is always in need of volunteers, especially now. If you have ever considered helping your neighbors in time of need, please contact the fire station to learn more about how you can join us. We pay for all training and equipment needed to obtain State of Wisconsin certifications in fire or EMS. We also pay hourly while volunteer members are on an emergency call. Also, this five-year plan may exceed tax levy limits. A referendum may be needed if municipalities' budgets are not able to support the needs of the fire company. With your help we can support the fire company, recruit new volunteers, and provide the best and fastest emergency services possible as we have been since 1900.

Tony Burgard  
Fire Chief  
Richfield Volunteer Fire Company

## Call for Volunteers

The Richfield Volunteer Fire Company needs more staff, especially volunteers, to continue fulfilling our mission. Our call volume has doubled over the last 20 years, while our membership has significantly decreased. We need your support to increase our staff. The most important way you can help is to volunteer.

Members are trained through local technical colleges where they learn State certified skills, ultimately resulting in State of Wisconsin certification for Fire or EMS classes. We pay for all training, and pay hourly while on a call. There are many options available to specialize in with further training or more certification classes, such as vehicle extrication, rescue and recovery dive, hazardous materials, fire inspections, or one of many other specialties.

We also welcome other skills where joining as an associate member may be the right fit for you. These community members have a passion to help others, but may not have the ability to serve in an active fire or EMS role. For example, skills such as advertising, event planning, grant writing, recruitment, accounting, business management, vehicle maintenance, etc.



*An RVFC membership photo taken in 2019*



## Mission Statement

### Mission Statement

The RVFC is dedicated to protecting life and property by providing the community with fire safety, safety education, and fire prevention programs; and providing the mitigation of fire, medical, and related emergencies with professionally trained personnel, using teamwork and the resources provided by the community.

### Goal

The goal of the RVFC is to minimize loss of life and property for the Village of Richfield and other contracted sections, from fires, natural disasters, life-threatening situations and to assist other emergency agencies.

### Objective

The objective of the RVFC is to perform these services in an efficient manner by maintaining effective fire prevention, emergency response, fire suppression and training.



*The RVFC's first motorized fire engine: a 1927 Studebaker outfitted by Peter Pirsch and Sons in Kenosha, WI was delivered to Richfield on February 18th, 1928*

## 2021 Year in Review

### 2021 RVFC Calls for Service

Fire: 141

EMS: 548

**Total: 689**

52% Increase  
over 2011's  
total of 452

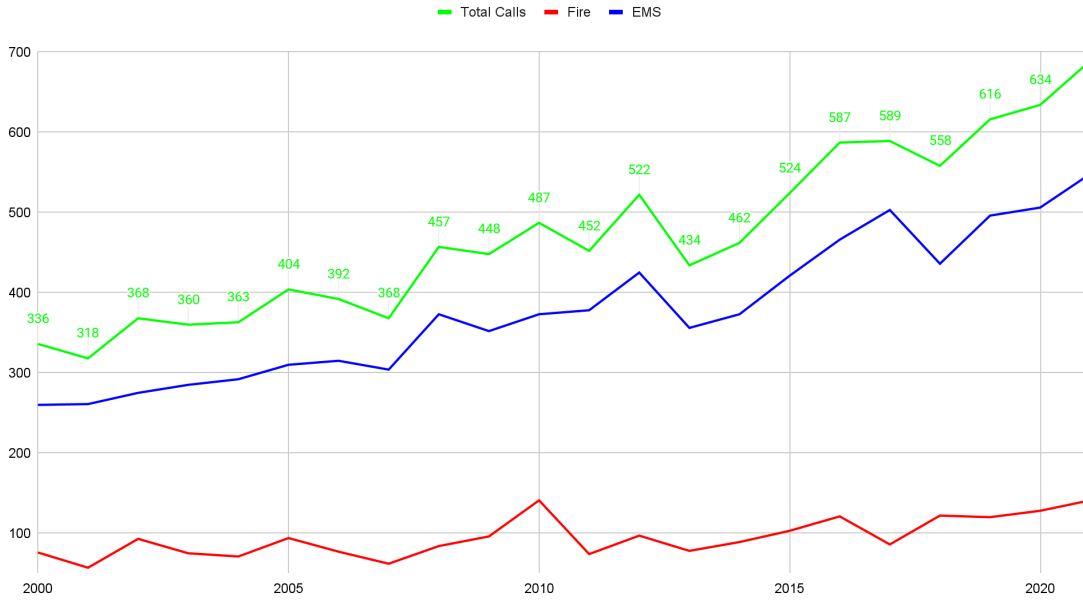
116% Increase  
over 2001's  
total of 318



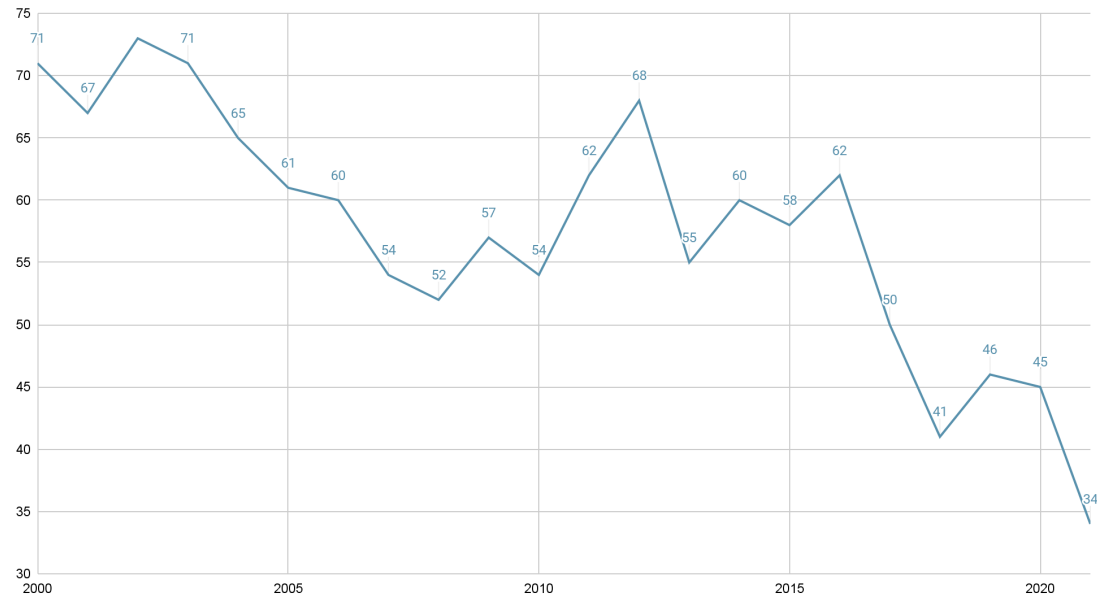
*Did you know that we must bring water to all fires via large trucks called Tenders. We deploy folding tanks, as shown in the picture above, fill the tanks with the tender's on-board water, then drive to a location such as a river or lake to be filled with water by another engine before returning to the fire to continue the process, so that the engine and working crews have a constant supply of water to extinguish fires.*

# Richfield Volunteer Fire Company 2021 Annual Report

## Call Trend: Years 2000 to Current

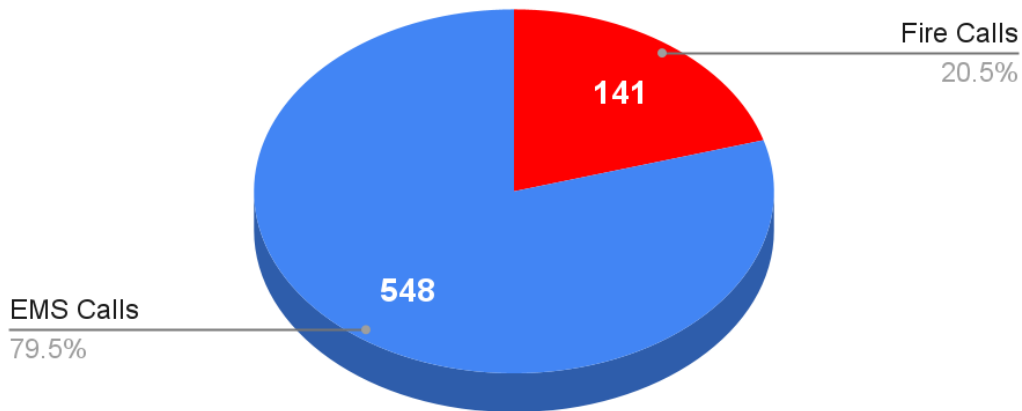


## Number of Volunteer Members: Years 2000 to Current



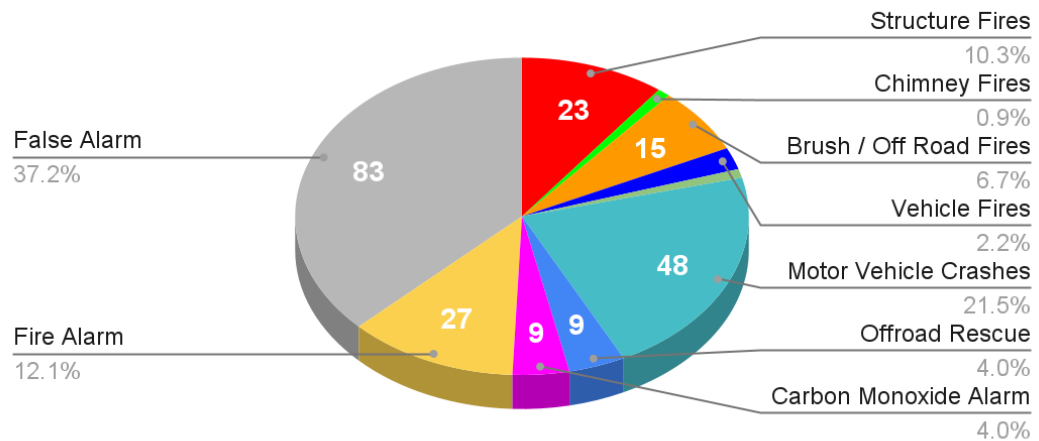
*Over the past 20 years volunteer members have dramatically decreased from 71 to 34, while the call volume have significantly increased from 336 to 689*

## 2021 Call Summary



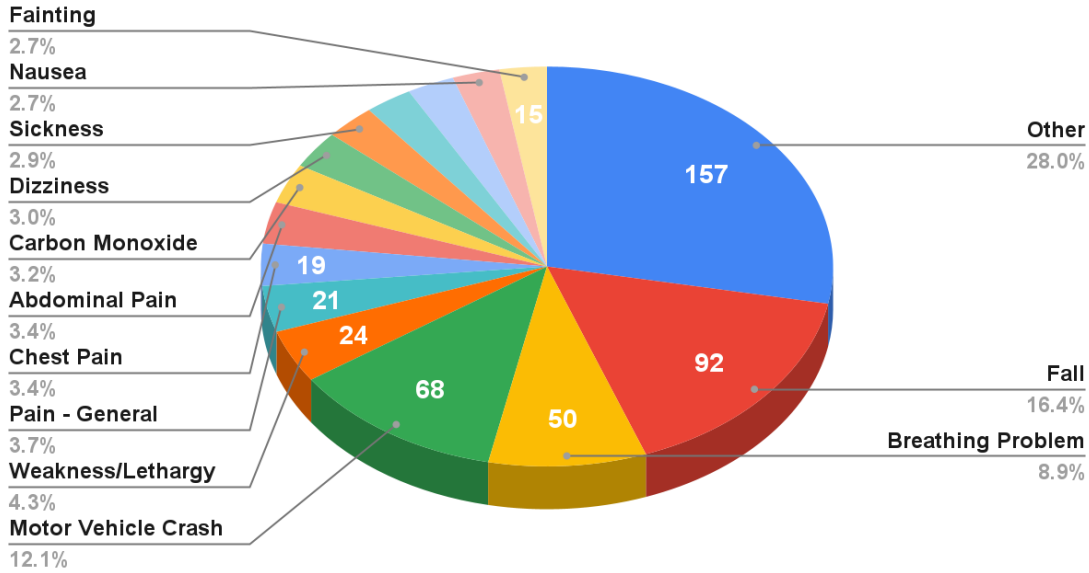
*Of the 689 total calls, 82 calls occurred while a crew was still on a previous call.*

## Fire Call Detail

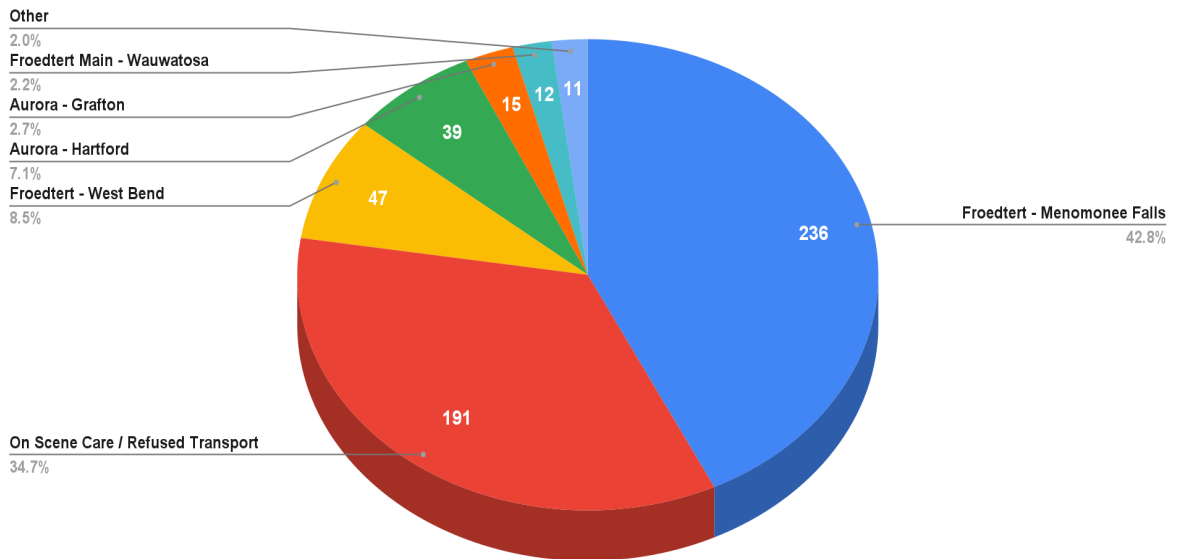


*In addition to the listed 141 fire calls, some remaining calls in this chart were deemed EMS in nature as a patient required medical care and/or transportation to a hospital.*

## EMS Call Detail




## Patient Transport Destination





## Calls of Significance


| Date      | Call Description  |
|-----------|---|
| 1/15/2021 | Report of the smell of gas at a building on Hwy 167. Crews found a broken gas line on the roof caused by a mass of sliding snow. Gas was shut off and the building was ventilated with fresh air.   |
| 2/3/2021  | Fire in a dust collection system on Helsan Drive. The building was evacuated, and filters inside of the collection unit were found to be on fire. The fire was extinguished and the building ventilated.  |
| 3/5/2021  | Two vehicle crash with one rollover on Hwy 164, South of Hubertus road. EMS care was provided to occupants in both cars. Hwy 164 was shut down for approximately one hour   |
| 3/18/2021 | <p>Report of a vehicle on fire next to a house on Debby Lane. Upon arrival the engine compartment of a truck was fully engulfed and spreading to the interior of the cab. A neighbor was attempting to control the fire with a garden hose. Responding crews rapidly extinguished the fire and prevented it from spreading to the house, located only 3 feet from the truck.</p>  |

## Richfield Volunteer Fire Company 2021 Annual Report


|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>3/30/2021</b> | <p>A grass fire growing out of control was called into 911 on Hwy 164, North of Hwy 167. Upon arrival the fire was rapidly growing due to high wind conditions. The brush truck and new UTV, along with two ground crews, successfully extinguished the fire before it spread to the Historical Park. The fire consumed in excess of 2.5 acres of land.</p>  |
| <b>4/2/2021</b>  | <p>A brush truck and tender provided mutual aid assistance to Menomonee Falls for multiple grass fires. Fire damage totaled approximately 400 acres and assistance was provided by over 30 mutual aid departments.</p>  |
| <b>4/21/2021</b> | <p>Slinger Fire Department requested assistance with several multi-vehicle crashes on I-41. A heavy rescue and a Chief provided extrication assistance for several hours. Multiple other mutual aid departments also provided assistance.</p>   |



## Richfield Volunteer Fire Company 2021 Annual Report



|           |   |
|-----------|---|
|           |   |
| 5/5/2021  | <p>A car was reported being on fire in the parking lot of a gas station on Hwy 167. Upon arrival a car was found to be on fire, located only 6 feet from the building. Employees used several fire extinguishers to try to control the fire. Crews rapidly extinguished the fire and prevented it from spreading to the building.</p>  |
| 5/7/2021  | <p>Crews responded for a single-vehicle roll-over on Hwy 164 near Pioneer Rd. Patients were extricated and EMS care was provided. Injured patients were transported to local hospitals.</p>   |
| 5/29/2021 | <p>A shed fire was reported on Pioneer Rd near Mayfield Rd, and a patient was reported to have burn injuries. Upon arrival the shed was fully involved and an</p>   |

## Richfield Volunteer Fire Company 2021 Annual Report

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
|                  | <p>off-duty paramedic from a surrounding fire department was providing care to the patient. Flight for Life was called to transport the patient to a hospital in Milwaukee with a burn specialty unit. Mutual aid assistance was provided by Germantown and Jackson fire departments.</p>                                     |
| <b>6/6/2021</b>  | <p>Five calls occurred within 8 hours of each other including: a house filling with smoke from shorting electrical equipment on Hill 'N Dale, a grass fire on Pioneer Rd near Ball Dr, a rescue call on Slinger Rd, a grass fire on Prairie Hollow, and a house with siding that started on fire on Hickory Hill Parkway.</p> |
| <b>6/23/2021</b> | <p>Two vehicle crash with a vehicle roll-over on Hwy Q near Hillside road. Fire and EMS responded, and the patient was transported to a local hospital.</p>    |
| <b>7/9/2021</b>  | <p>Fire crews responded to an underground gas line that was struck by a skid steer on Red Fox Circle. Several houses were evacuated due to the wind direction. WE Energies responded to shut off the gas line.</p>  |




## Richfield Volunteer Fire Company 2021 Annual Report


|           |  |
|-----------|--|
|           |    |
| 7/29/2021 | <p>A house was struck by lightning on Nob Hill, resulting in some melted electrical wiring and charring several outlets. A power pole was also struck by lightning on Bonnie View Lane resulting in a blown transformer.</p>    |
| 8/3/2021  | <p>Homeowners on Windemere Drive were woken by the smoke detectors alerting them to a fire in their laundry room. Occupants evacuated the home, and one homeowner discharged a fire extinguisher on the burning dryer. Fire crews quickly extinguished the remaining fire and removed the charred equipment. Overhaul of the laundry room was completed and the house was ventilated with fresh air.</p> |



## Richfield Volunteer Fire Company 2021 Annual Report

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
|                   |    |
| <b>8/11/2021</b>  | Crews responded to seven calls including: three rescue calls, two fire alarms, and two reports of power lines down due to weather / high winds.  |
| <b>9/27/2021</b>  | A report of smoke in a school on Hwy 167. Crews arrived to find a haze of smoke in the building, and ultimately located a fire in a turtle terrarium within a classroom. The fire was extinguished, a charred cabinet was removed, and the building ventilated.  |
| <b>10/16/2021</b> | Homeowners woke to the smell of smoke in their house on Scenic Rd. Crews arrived to find a coiled extension cord that was burning in the kitchen. The fire was extinguished and the house ventilated with fresh air.   |
| <b>10/20/2021</b> | A motor vehicle vs motorcycle crash was reported on Hubertus Rd, East of Hwy 175. The rider of the motorcycle was critically injured, and Flight for Life was requested to scene. One patient was transported via helicopter to a local trauma center.   |
| <b>11/28/2021</b> | Four calls for service occurred on this day including: a two-vehicle crash on Hwy 164 near Golden Dr, where several patients were assessed and transported to local hospitals along with assistance from Jackson Fire Department and Lifestar EMS. A fire crew responded to assist Sussex Fire Department with a structure |

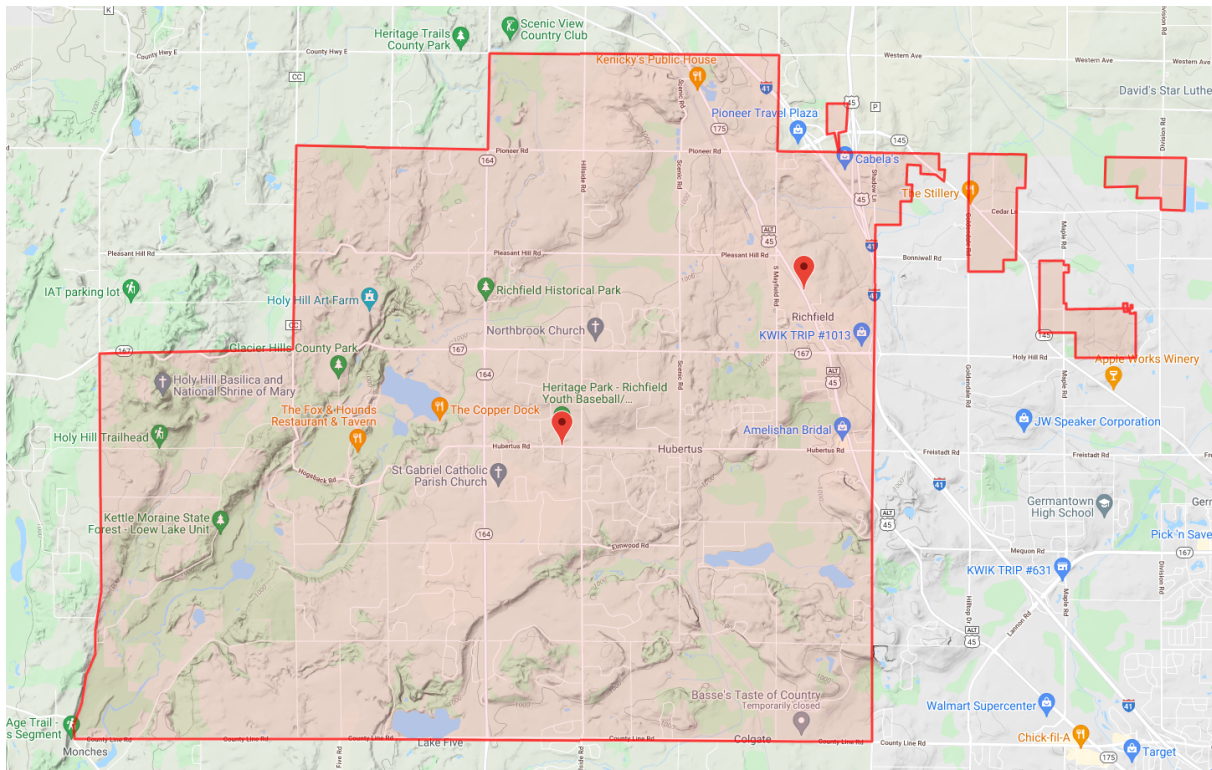
## Richfield Volunteer Fire Company 2021 Annual Report

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | fire on St James Drive. Later that evening a fire was reported in front of a house on Wolf Run Drive where some siding was charred by some burning bushes and grasses.   |
| <b>12/24/2021<br/>thru<br/>12/26/2021</b> | Sixteen calls occurred Christmas weekend including: 12 rescue calls, two motor vehicle crashes, one fire alarm, and one mutual aid call to Germantown Fire Department.   |
| <b>12/27/2021</b>                         | <p>Seven calls for service occurred on this day including: four rescue calls with transports to local hospitals, a downed power line on East Shore Dr, and a child that was struck by a pick-up truck resulting in requesting Flight for Life to transport the patient to Children's Hospital.</p>  |

## Service Area

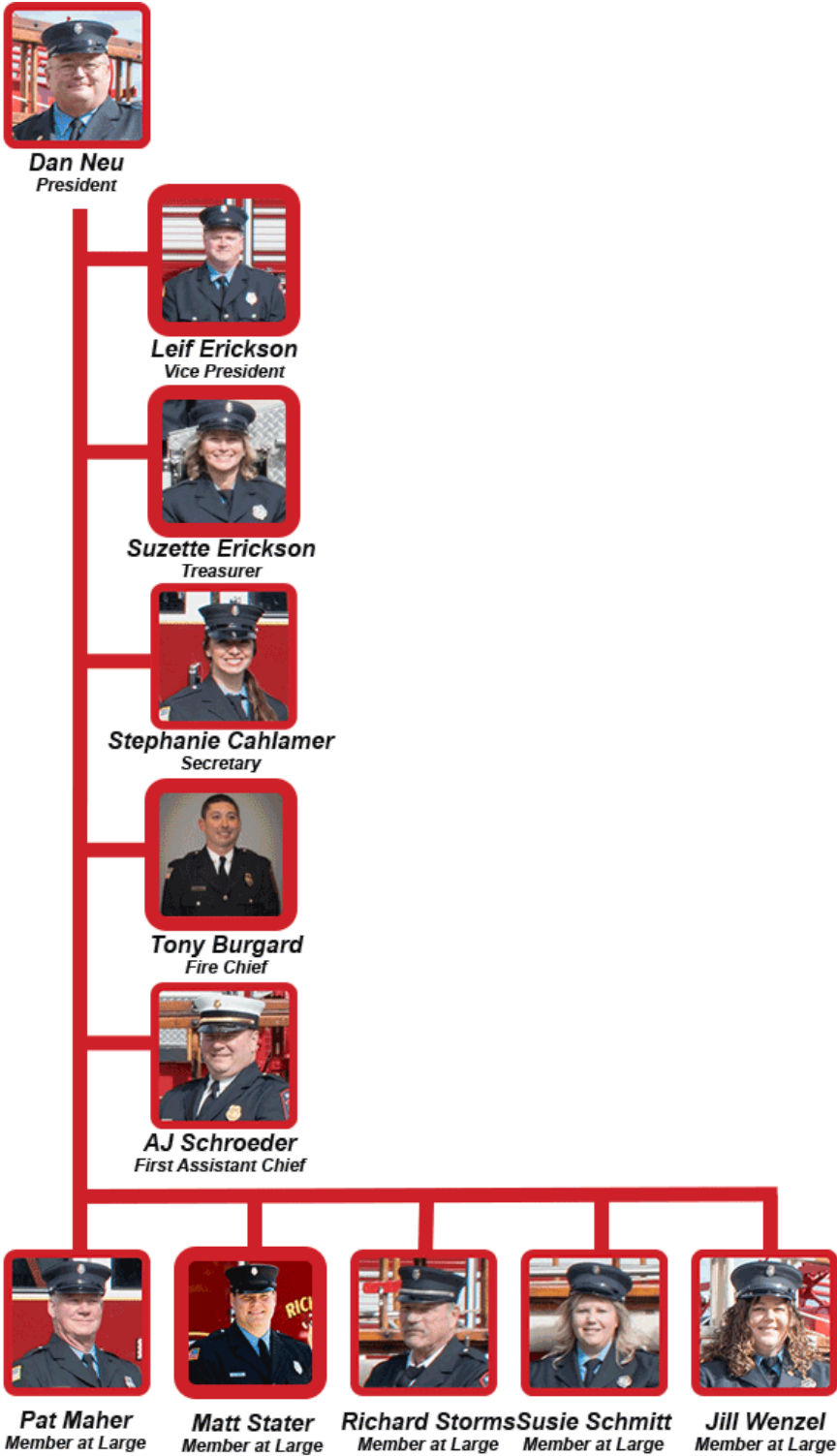
The Richfield Volunteer Fire Company's service area encompasses the entire Village of Richfield, 8 sections from the Town of Erin (south of Hwy 167 and East of Hwy K), 3 sections from the Town of Polk (South of Western Ave, between Hwy 164 and Mayfield Rd.), and the entire Town of Germantown.

We also regularly engage in Mutual Aid (MABAS) calls with neighboring fire departments when they call for assistance, as they provide assistance to us in return.



An interactive view of our service area can be found on our website at <http://www.richfieldfire.com/servicearea.html>

# Board of Directors



RVFC Board Member elections are held on the first Monday of December each year.

# Membership

|   |                           |                           |                             |                             |                             |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Fire Chief</b><br>Tony Burgard<br>(Full Time)    |                           |                           |                             |                             |                             |
| <b>Assistant Chief</b><br>AJ Schroeder<br>(Group 1) |                           |                           |                             |                             |                             |
| <b>Full Time</b>                                    | <b>Group 1</b>            | <b>Group 2</b>            | <b>Group 3</b>              | <b>Group 4</b>              | <b>Group 5</b>              |
| Acting Lt<br>Trevor Potkay                          | Lieutenant<br>Tod Hetzer  | Captain Richard<br>Storms | Lieutenant<br>Matt Stater   | Lieutenant<br>Dave Tuinstra | OIT Stephanie<br>Cahlammer  |
| Dan Domrois   | Acting Lt Brett<br>Sawdey | Mike Greffer              | OIT Matt<br>Myszka          | Lieutenant<br>Chad Kernats  | Lieutenant<br>Leif Erickson |
| Adam Mundt  | Pete Utecht               | Mandy Thiesen             | John Heim                   | Rick Bowen                  | OIT Charles<br>Porter       |
| Hailey<br>Ramstack                                  | Sarah Rublee              | Camron Zainer             | Diana Rosik                 | Joe Jaeger                  | Frank<br>Emmanuele          |
|   |                           |                           | Juliana Stuht               | Rick San<br>Felippo         | Suzette<br>Erickson         |
|   |                           |                           | Adriane Klumb               | Jennifer Hanson             | Jason Finley                |
|   |                           |                           |                             |                             | Ben Loosen                  |
| <b>Part Time</b>                                    | <b>Limited Service</b>    | <b>Chaplain</b>           | <b>Associate<br/>Member</b> |                             | Pat Maher                   |
| Jon Anderson  | Paul Chavez               | Jeff Nelson               | Cate Pfeifer                |                             | Matt Perkowski              |
| James Hauser  | John Hauser               |                           |                             |                             | Cali Peterlous              |
| Ben Hogan   | Diane Mosey               |                           |                             |                             | Kayla Porter                |
| Michael Kempf                                       | Dan Neu                   |                           |                             |                             | Steve<br>Schmittner         |
| JJ Quicker  | John Schultz              |                           |                             |                             | Josh Schupe                 |
| Randi Todorov                                       | Rob Stuesser              |                           |                             |                             | Jill Wenzel                 |
|   |                           |                           |                             |                             | Kate Krausser               |



New Members: Keith Gothard, Shana Hartman, Shane Ploetz, will be assigned to a duty group upon completion of their training.



## RVFC Past and Current Fire Chiefs

| Chief          | Years of Service        |   |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Edward Schwamb | 1901-1917               | Not pictured  |
| William Meyer  | 1917-1928               |    |
| Herman Wolf    | 1928-1970               |    |
| Ken Wolf       | 1970-1979               |   |
| David Haertl   | 1979-1991               |  |
| Roger Danner   | 1991-1993               |  |
| Terry Kohl     | 1993-2005,<br>2007-2017 |  |

## Richfield Volunteer Fire Company 2021 Annual Report

|              |                         |   |
|--------------|-------------------------|---|
| John Schmitz | 2005-2007,<br>2017-2019 |  |
| Tony Burgard | 2020-Present            |  |

## Honorary Members

The following honorary members dedicated a portion of their lives to the RVFC for at least 20 years of service before retiring. They built not only the physical buildings we operate out of, but also the mindset and fortitude which has been passed onto future generations. Please know that everything they did, and that every sacrifice they made to help, has not gone unnoticed. They have helped and supported the people who came after them to assure that the fire company would continue to grow. We greatly appreciate their dedication to helping others and building the RVFC to what it is today.

|                |                |                         |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Chris Ahl      | Terry Kohl     | Chris Pearce            |
| Pat Bartley    | Mike Krueger   | Pete Schellinger        |
| Darren Becker  | Don Leininger  | Larry Schmitt           |
| Marilyn Becker | Steve Licitar  | Susie Schmitt           |
| Pat Bowen      | Diane Mosey    | Jim Schmitz             |
| Roger Danner   | Mike Mueller   | John Schmitz            |
| Dave Frailing  | Bill Neu       | John Schultz            |
| Henry Groth    | Ken Neureuther | Rick (Carlos) Schneider |
| John Hauser    | Jeff Pagel     | Gerald Schwenke         |
| Bill Hennes    | Dave Palmer    | Rob Stuesser            |
| Bob Janzer     | Ann Palmer     | William Stuetngen       |
| Chuck Klumb    | Ron Pearce     | Steve White             |

## Training Review

The RVFC Training Committee is composed of six personnel from our membership. We try to keep subjects interesting, informative, and up to date while also covering mandatory National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) training requirements.

We hold approximately 36 training sessions per year, normally attended by half to three-quarters of our members. We strive to keep our members (EMS and Fire) at peak performance for our response area. Through training and practice we can use these skills and knowledge to better the outcome at all fire, accident and rescue calls.



*An EMS training held in the Historical Park on finding and removing an injured hiker.*

## EMS Update

Like most of the nation, Richfield responds to a majority of EMS calls. In 2021 we had 548 EMS calls out of a total of 689 calls. Our fire company has 1 Emergency medical responder (EMR), 16 Basic EMTs (EMT-B), 14 Advanced EMTs (EMT-A), 1 Intermediate EMT (EMT-I'12), and 7 Paramedic (EMT-P) level providers. As the licensure level increases, the knowledge required to practice safely and the skill complexity (the difficulty in acquiring and maintaining skill competency) increase. Each level provides important care for our community and is a needed part of our team. All training and continuing education is paid for by the RVFC.

An EMR provides care designed to minimize secondary injury and provide needed care while awaiting additional EMS resources. The EMT-B level is the minimum licensure level for personnel transporting patients in ambulances. The scope of practice is limited to basic skills that are effective and can be performed safely in an out-of-hospital setting. Some examples of their abilities are the insertion of simple airway adjuncts, assisting patients in taking their own prescribed medications, oral glucose for suspected hypoglycemia, aspirin for chest pain of suspected ischemic origin, stabilization and bleeding control for trauma care.

The EMT-A level possesses all of the abilities of an EMR and EMT-B with some additional responsibilities. An EMT-A has the ability to provide more advanced care. Some examples include more advanced medication administration, establishing and maintaining IV access, Inserting an advanced airway and administering glucagon and intravenous D50 to a hypoglycemic patient. At least one EMT-A or above is on all first out ambulances.

Intermediate and Paramedic level providers are able to provide advanced level care especially important for respiratory, cardiac and pain or trauma interventions. Some examples include inserting an endotracheal tube, advanced cardiac care monitoring with EKG interpretation, advanced medication intervention, and advanced pain management care. Advanced cardiac and pain management care is incredibly important for the safety and comfort of our community, especially due to the distance our community is from local hospitals. The ability to provide these levels of care in a timely manner while transporting to a higher level of hospital care is something the RVFC is incredibly proud to provide.

All of our EMS providers are involved in continuous education through the department as well as outside training. Every 3 years, each EMS provider must renew their certifications. Each level is required to meet educational requirements to renew their certifications. As of 2021, EMRs are required to have 18 hours, EMT-B 30 hours, EMT-A 42 hours, and EMT-I'12 & EMT-P 48 hours.



## Haz-Mat Update

Richfield has four Hazardous Materials Technicians, with an additional four members who will be completing their training in 2022. We are part of the Washington County Haz-Mat Team. There are four trainings during the year, one of which is the annual refresher, the other three are JPRs (job performance requirements).

The team is classified by the state as a Tier III level response team, where we can handle all known substances. Our team is presently getting ready for State revalidation. Response equipment is stored throughout the County, with large trailer-mounted resources coming from West Bend and Hartford.

There were two calls for service in 2021, both were minor and handled mostly on the local level.



*The Haz-Mat Tech class practices donning Level A protective gear at West Bend Fire Department*

## RVFC Apparatus

| Number | Duty                        | Specifications  |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1950   | Heavy Rescue                | 2007 Rosenbauer/Spartan, seats 6, extrication equipment   |
| 1951   | Heavy Rescue                | 1999 Marion/Freightliner, seats 7, extrication equipment, dive equipment, rope rescue equipment             |
| 1952   | EMS Rescue                  | 2010 Lifeline/Ford E-450, EMS first responding truck  |
| 1953   | Ambulance                   | 2015 Lifeline/Ford E-450, transporting ambulance  |
| 1954   | Ambulance                   | 2019 AEV/Ford F-450, 4x4, transporting ambulance  |
| 1960   | Engine/Pumper               | 1993 Marion/Spartan, seats 5, 350hp, pumps 1500 gpm, 1000 gallons of water                                  |
| 1961   | Engine/Pumper               | 2012 Pierce Impel, seats 6, 450hp, pumps 2000 gpm, 1000 gallons of water, 20 gallons of Class A foam        |
| 1962   | Engine/Pumper               | 2002 Pierce Dash, seats 6, 375hp, pumps 2000 gpm, 1000 gallons of water, 20 gallons of Class A foam         |
| 1981   | Brush Truck                 | 2015 Chevrolet 3500, 175 gallons of water, UHP pump   |
| 1990   | Water Tender                | 2015 U.S. Tanker/Kenworth, 3000 gallons of water  |
| 1991   | Water Tender                | 2005 U.S. Tanker/Mack Truck, 3000 gallons of water  |
| 1992   | Water Tender                | 2000 U.S. Tanker/Mack Truck, 3000 gallons of water  |
| UTV    | Brush Fire & Offroad Rescue | 2021 Polaris Ranger XP equipped with tracks, brush fire skid, 85 gallons of water, and rescue stokes basket |

