

LAGRANGE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

'19





LAGRANGE FIRE
DEPARTMENT

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LAGRANGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

John Brant



2019 proved to be a very successful year for LaGrange Fire Department. We had many accomplishments and should be proud of our growth. We took a department that was in a good place and made it extraordinary. We continue to be an example for other departments to follow. As I have said it's easy to be great once but the real challenge is being great all the time. We must, as an organization, keep our foot on the pedal and continue to grow and develop our people and our organization.

Our goal at the LaGrange Fire Department is to continuously exceed the expectations of the community and our stakeholders. In 2019 we reached three major milestones. We added a fifth fire station that will provide quicker response to the northwest quadrant of the city. We added a training center that meets all our training needs. We maintained our ISO classification of 2 during our last audit. To have these two additions to our department within a single year is exceptional and to maintain our ISO classification was monumental. Each of these milestones helps us provide a better service for the citizens of LaGrange.

It is clear that the men and women of LaGrange Fire Department are dedicated to providing the utmost service. Whether by implementing new policies, adopting cutting edge technology or re-evaluating our programs, the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of LaGrange remains our number one priority.

As you review our progress, know the department is open to feedback and every stakeholder's perspective.

To our employees – Thank you for the outstanding job you do each and every day. I appreciate your dedication and outside thinking that keeps this department moving forward. Our personnel are truly our greatest asset and it is all of our jobs to ensure that each person is valued.

Sincerely,

John K. Brant

Fire Chief

LaGrange Fire Department

2019: LFD In Review

LAGRANGE FIRE DEPARTMENT AT A GLANCE

The LaGrange Fire Department had an extremely busy and eventful 2019. LFD hosted multiple events within the department throughout the year as well as participating in numerous events throughout the community. LFD hosted Rookie School #34 which began on March 11 and lasted 10 weeks with the graduation being held on May 10. At the conclusion of Rookie School #34, LFD was honored to welcome seven new firefighters into the LFD family. While 2019 brought many new additions to the LaGrange Fire Department, sadly we had to say goodbye to two longtime employees as they began their well-deserved retirement. FF Randall Heard retired after 28 ½ years of service and Deputy Fire Marshal Chris Bartlett retired after 32 years of service. Congratulations guys on two great careers! Deputy Chief Phillip Rice and Sergeant Chris "Smooth" McGhee both were honored this year by the presentation of their 30 Year Pin for their faithful service of 30 years to the City of LaGrange.

Throughout 2019, LaGrange Fire Department hosted events such as the Annual LFD Citizen's Day, LFD Family Christmas Dinner, LFD Family Fun Day, the 15th Annual Chief's Challenge 5k Run, Toys for Tots toy drive and the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb to honor the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. LFD participated in multiple boot drives to raise money for organizations such as the American Red Cross, MDA, and the Georgia Firefighter's Burn Foundation. LFD was also honored to host two promotional



American Red Cross and
MDA Boot Drive

2019 Summer Showcase
Award



ceremonies that saw seven employees take the next step in their fire service career. Congratulations to our new Sergeants Justin Robinson, Daniel Fogg, Charles Mallory, Lamar Casper and Derrick Ryner. New Lieutenant Lance Horne and newly appointed Deputy Fire Marshal Dennis Kilgore. LFD was proud to host the grand opening of Station 5 located at 1519 Vernon Rd. This station is staffed with an Engine Company along with the Deputy Chief.

LaGrange Fire Department was involved in many events throughout the community in 2019. LFD and the LaGrange Police Department joined forces to host the Annual Fire/Police Summer Youth Camp in the month of June. This camp gave kids a behind the scenes look into both departments and their day to day operations along with learning important safety values through fun and entertaining activities. LaGrange Fire Department also participated in the City of LaGrange's monthly litter pick up event "Leaving LaGrange Better Than We Found It". Each month LFD joined forces with fellow city employees and volunteers to pick up trash in different areas throughout the city. This event has been a huge success for the City of LaGrange and LFD is honored to be a part of it. LFD partnered with the surrounding Troup County Fire and Sheriff's Office, LPD, West Point Fire and Police and AMR to host the 1st Annual First Responder's Crisis Relief Fund Rodeo which was held in West Point, GA. This rodeo helped raise money to help our local first responders in their time of need.



Deputy Chief Phillip Rice and Sergeant Chris McGhee receive their 30 year service pin for the City of LaGrange.

2019 was very rewarding to the LaGrange Fire Department. LFD was honored to receive the Summer Showcase 2019 LaGrange City Favorite Business and Services Award. Multiple LFD employees earned awards during the 7th Annual Troup County Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards including the Life-Saving Award, the Gold Medal of Valor Award and the Purple Heart Award. LFD was also a stand out at the 2019 Ronnie Thames Foundation Silent Hero Awards that was held in Atlanta, GA at the Georgia Aquarium. LFD personnel were awarded the 2019 Teamwork Award for their work during the 2018 Labor Day structure fire on Revis St. Also during this ceremony, Chief Brant was awarded the 2019 Leadership award for his leadership and dedication to the LaGrange Fire Department.

The blistering hot temperatures that always accompany a Georgia summer allowed the LaGrange Fire Department to utilize their most requested and sought after service: the Fire Truck Wet Down! LFD was more than happy to accommodate everybody that requested a wet down. Throughout the spring, summer and into the fall, numerous schools, churches, daycare centers and various organizations all enjoyed a patented LaGrange Fire Department Wet Down!!



Citizen's Day 2019



2019 Annual Chief's Challenge
1st Annual First Responder's Crisis Relief Fund Rodeo



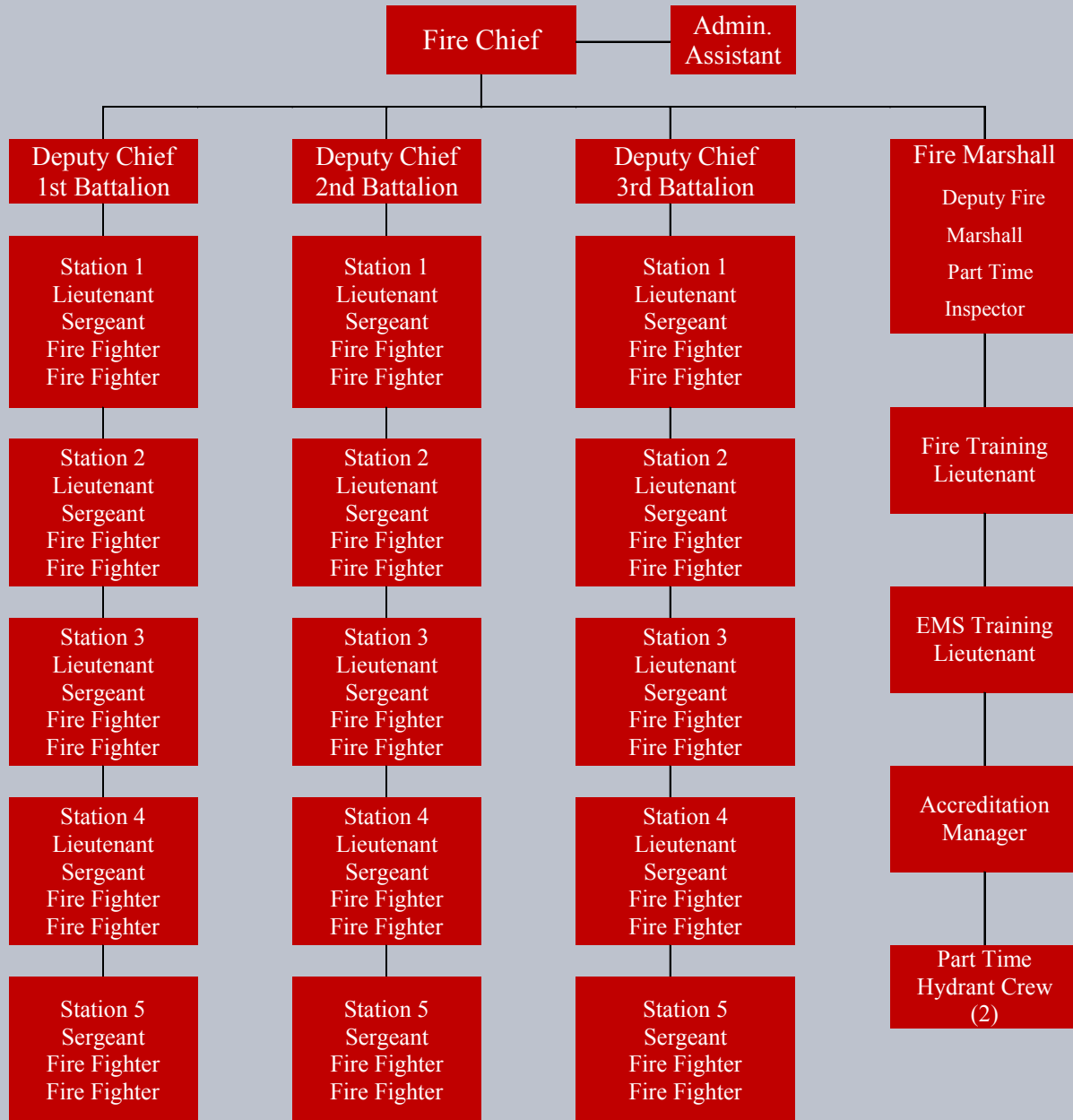
911 Memorial Stair Climb

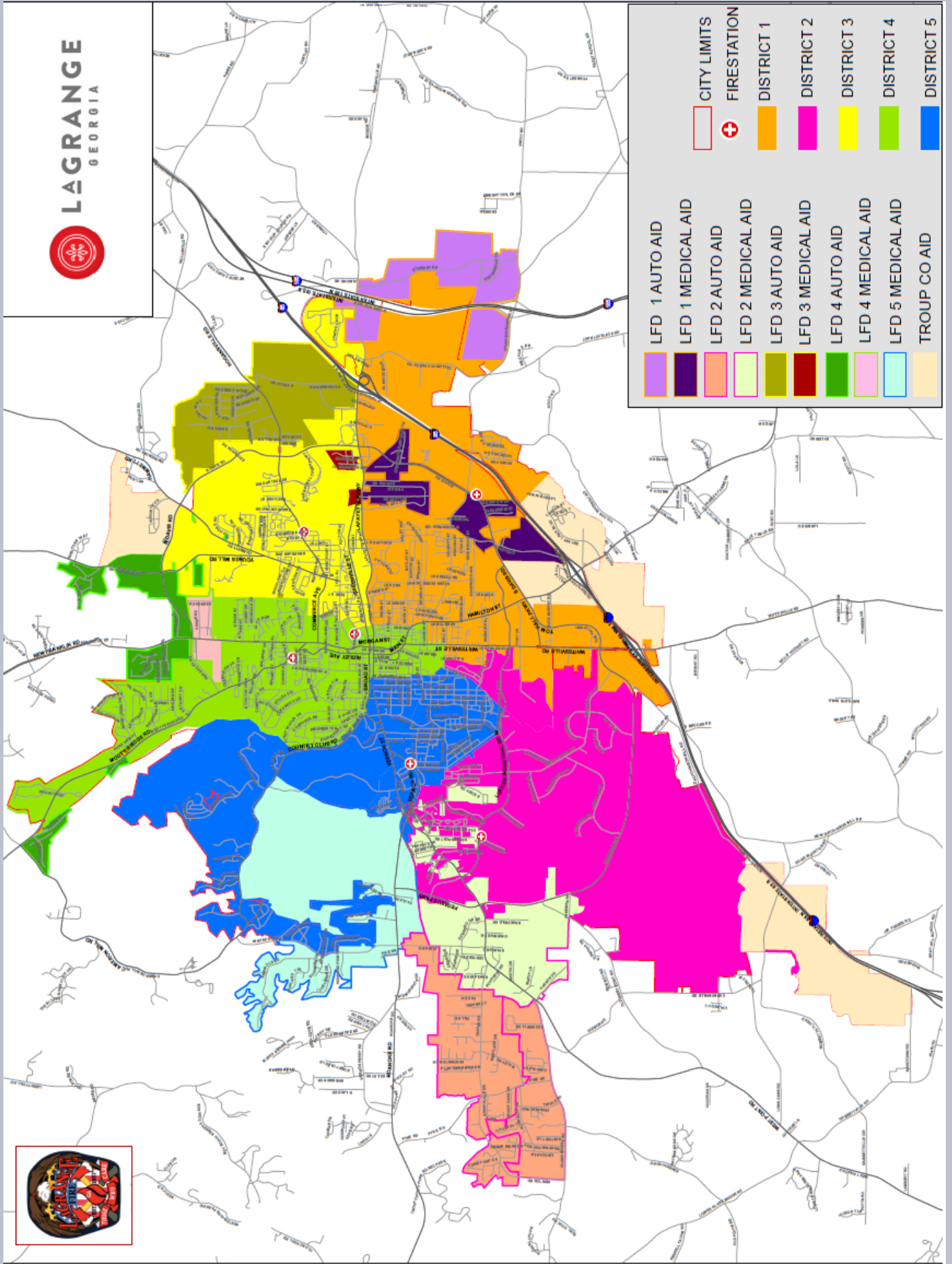


Leaving LaGrange Better Than We Found It
2019 Christmas Parade and LFD Christmas Dinner



Current Organizational Chart for LaGrange Fire Department





OPERATIONS

The Operations Division of the LaGrange Fire Department is comprised of three rotating battalions whose personnel work a 24/48 work schedule to ensure appropriate response to all calls for service. Each battalion is composed of 20 personnel, with additional support coming from staff personnel and off-duty call lists. In the case of a specific staffing/resource need; Automatic Aid / Mutual Aid Agreements with Troup County and Georgia Mutual Aid Group (GMAG) are in place for additional resources. The Automatic Aid Agreement provides for simultaneous response by both LaGrange Fire and Troup County Fire to specified locations throughout the City and Troup County. During the course of the year, LaGrange Fire Department received automatic aid from Troup County Fire Department on 38 occasions while providing mutual and automatic aid to Troup County on 168 occasions. The 90th percentile (arrival on scene 90 percent of the time) response time for incident responses in the city limits of LaGrange was 8:26 minutes and 8:37 minutes for automatic aid responses to Troup County.



The Operations Division provides medical incident response with an enhanced Advanced Life Support service. Members are licensed either as Emergency Medical Technician - Basic, Intermediate, Advanced or Paramedic level. An audit by the State Office of EMS for Georgia has certified the LaGrange Fire Department as a First Responder Service. The Incident Management System is utilized as standard practice on all incidents, regardless of size or intensity, and all personnel are required to undergo the completion of National Incident Management System (NIMS) Level 100, 200, 700, and 800 training. All officers and potential officer candidates are certified at NIMS Level 300 and 400.

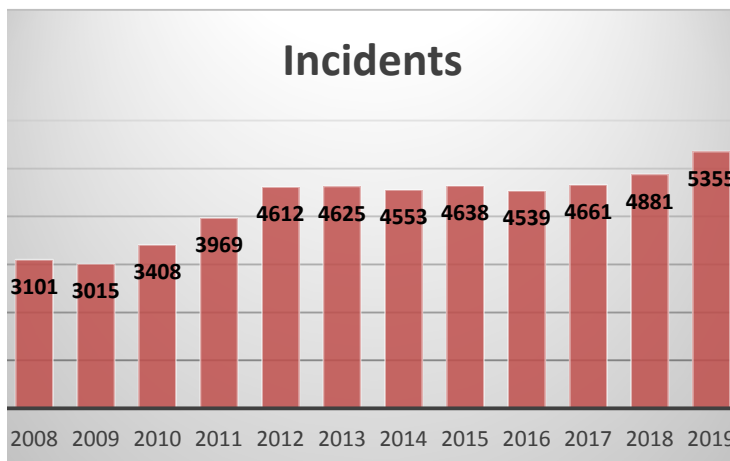
The City is currently divided into five territories, recently adding a fifth station. Stations One, Two, Four and Five house an Advanced Life Support (ALS) engine company. Station Three houses a 78' aerial company; which also responds to medical incidents as an ALS company. Reserve apparatus include three engines, an aerial and various support vehicles.

The Operations Division responded to 5,355 calls for service during 2019, with 83.6% being single company responses. In terms of delivery of services, 3.44% of the call volume involved actual fire conditions, while 72.56% involved medical responses. A majority of the incidents occurred between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. which corresponds with national trends. The leading cause of accidental fires was cooking related; other causes for fires include negligent acts, smoking materials, chimney fires, criminal acts, and electrical malfunctions. The department responded to 574 false alarms. These included inadvertent alarm activation, loss of water pressure or human error while testing systems, malfunctions in audible/visual components, incorrect codes, and tamper switch activation.

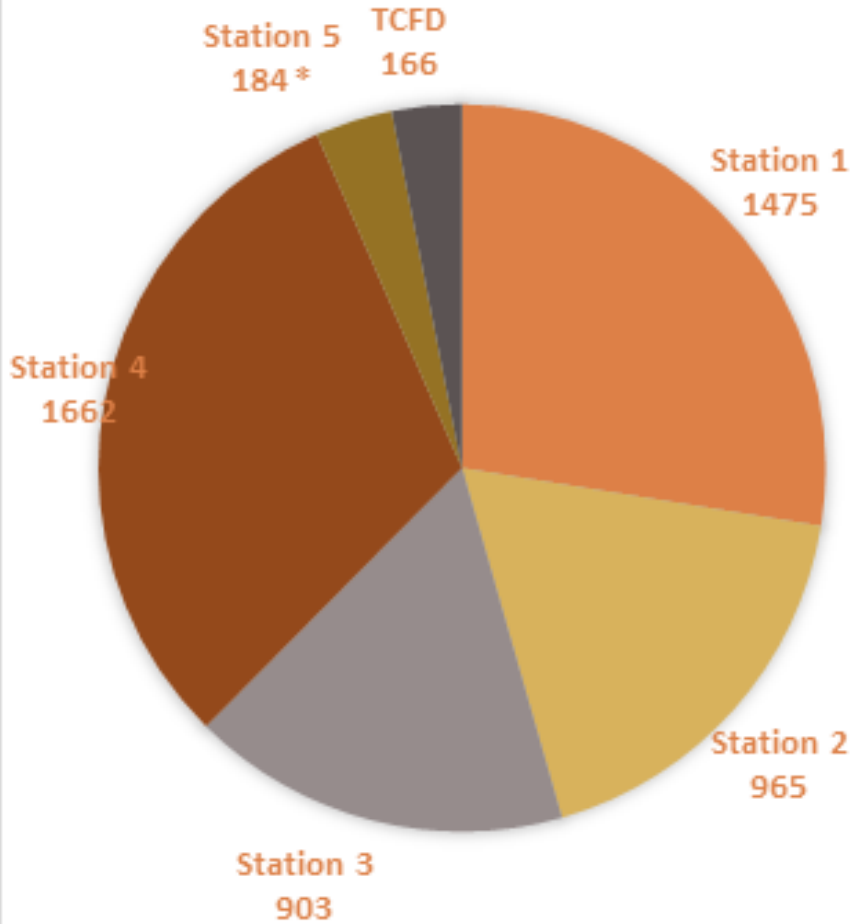
Response Times 90th Percentile



Incidents



CALLS FOR SERVICE



*Station 5 responded last quarter of 2019

LaGrange Fire Department Mission Statement:

The mission of the LaGrange Fire Department is to preserve the quality of life, protect property and maintain a stable environment through professional delivery of service.

LaGrange Fire Department Vision Statement:

The vision of the LaGrange Fire Department is to set the standards of excellence, guided by the principles of trust, integrity, loyalty, honesty and respect for all.

Value and Loss Analysis	2017	2018	2019
Total Fires	138	46	183
Total Property Value	\$27,664,284	\$4,359,127	\$12,143,909
Total Loss Value	\$979,615	\$396,877	\$1,461,332
Total Value Saved	\$26,684,169	\$3,962,250	\$10,682,577

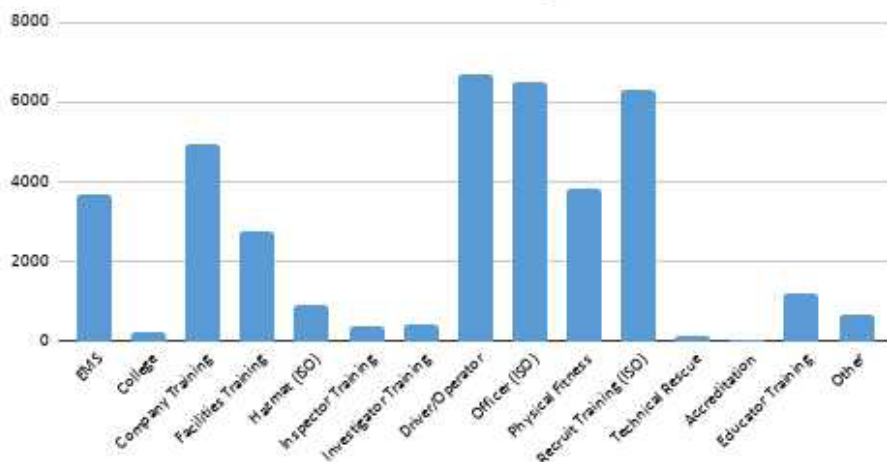
TRAINING

During the Year of 2019 the LaGrange Fire Department participated in 38,820 hours. Most of the training that was accomplished during the year was focused on driver/operator, EMS, Officer Development and Physical Fitness. The EMS portion for the year dealt with re-certification of Basic Life Support Providers, Advanced Life Support Providers, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support Providers in accordance with American Heart Association Guidelines. Along with EMS training the LaGrange Fire Department conducted its own in-house National Registry re-certification Program that included 30 hours of continuing education as well as instructing State Lead CEU hours. The LaGrange Fire Department in total conducted a 60 hour refresher course that re-certifies individuals to the level of Paramedic.

The highlights for the Year of 2019 were the Emergency Medical Technician class that Ended on February 25th, 2019. This was the first in house EMT class that the LaGrange Fire Department has ever conducted. The class had seventeen students with five being from within the organization and the rest being from outside. Also in March of 2019 the LaGrange Fire Department conducted its first in-house Advanced EMT program that concluded in June of 2019. This class included twelve students with the majority being from the department. Along with these classes the LaGrange Fire Department conducted Rookie School 34 that included both City of Lagrange and Troup County Fire Department recruits.

During the Month of June the LaGrange Fire Department Training Division conducted classes that included PICO (preparation for initial company operations), STICO (strategies and tactics for initial company operations), and DMICO (decision making for initial company operations). These classes were conducted in accordance with both the National Fire Academy and Georgia Public Safety Training Center Standards. These classes included members of the LaGrange Fire Department and personnel from twelve different agencies from across the State of Georgia.

2019 Annual Training Hours



Training Hours Breakdown:

EMS - 3,690 hours	College - 233 hours
Company Training - 4,967 hours	Educator Training - 1,188 hours
Facilities Training - 2,776 hours	Accreditation - 41 hours
Hazardous Materials Training - 937 hours	Inspector Training - 361 hours
Investigator Training - 426 hours	Driver/Operator Training - 6,715
Recruit Training - 6,314 hours	Officer Training - 6,504 hours
Technical Rescue Training - 147 hours	Physical Fitness - 3,830 hours
Other - 691 hours	

PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Division is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring the safety of all citizens in our community through code enforcement, inspections, pre-planning, public fire education, and engineering measures.

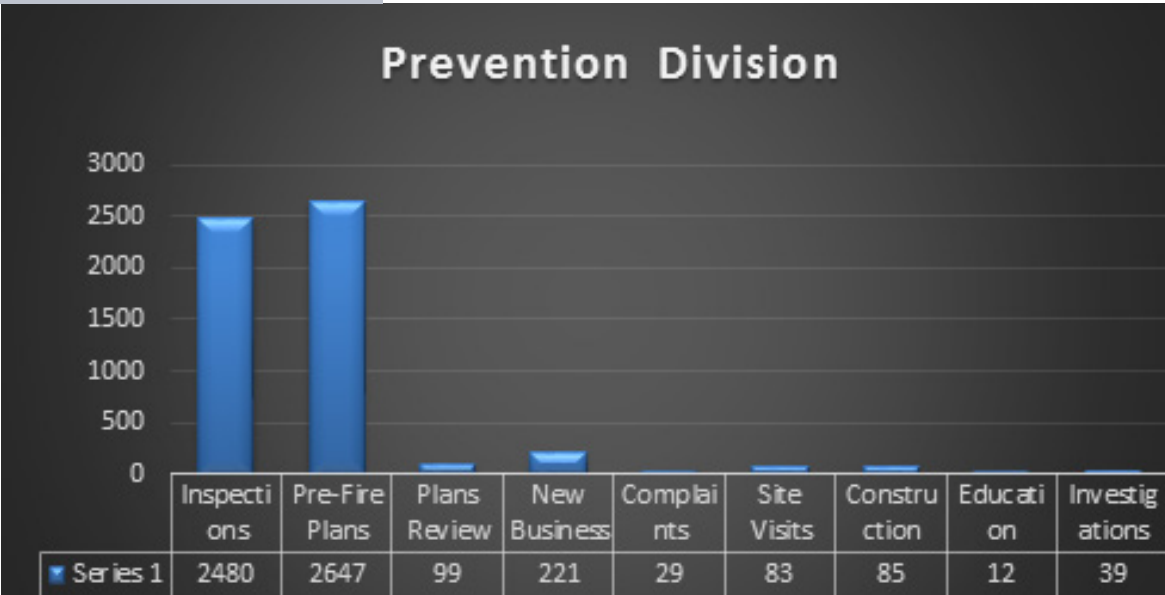
The division is headed by the local Fire Marshal. Other personnel within this division include one full-time Deputy Fire Marshal and one part-time Inspector, each with specific responsibilities and assignments. The Fire Prevention Division offers technical assistance to architects, engineers and contractors in reference to code interpretation, approval of blue prints, construction, occupancy requirements, passive and active fire protection features, permitting, and record keeping in the Harris System on all sprinkler systems.

During 2019 the Fire Prevention Division conducted 2,480 initial fire inspections and re-inspections. In conjunction with Operations personnel a total of 2,647 pre-plans and risk assessments were completed.

The Fire Prevention Division also conducts inspections of facilities that are under the jurisdiction of the State of Georgia Fire Marshal's Office (churches, assembly occupancies, general commercial, educational facilities, health care, and prison and detention centers). A total of 198 of these inspections were completed, with a monthly report detailing each sent to the State Fire Marshal's Office for review.

The Fire Prevention Division works very closely with the Building Department, issuing Certificates of Occupancy prior to the opening of any new business; which ensures that the business meets standard code compliance. A total of 221 Certificates of Occupancy for new business were issued in 2019.

The Division had an exciting 2019 with many new businesses opening, the retirement of a long time employee and the opportunity to be involved with the Fire Department's newest fire station. We are looking forward to the opportunities that await us in 2020.



Maintenance

This year we had a very productive year with the care and maintenance of our facilities. We had 42 repairs of various issues to include; bay door repair and maintenance, heating and air conditioner repairs, roof leaks and roof repairs, plumbing repairs, generator repair, keypad lock installation and repair, light repairs including bulbs and five new ballast, the solar water heater pump was replaced at Station 1 and also determined by their technician that Station #1's solar panels were only working at one-third capacity, one panel was reset and began to work at half capacity, one panel is at full capacity and one is not working at all.



All personnel chipped in and completed an interior cosmetic renovation to the Fire Administration building including 3,000 plus square feet of new Lifeproof vinyl flooring, base moulding, blinds and paint throughout. Station 4 installed a new thermostat controlled fan, an automatic door closure and a gear drying bar for the station's turnout gear room. Also, new territory maps were framed and placed at each station, a new display for our mini fire truck pedal car was made and a new pull up bar was installed at Station 4.



New projects and installations included two new 10 KW Generac Natural Gas Generators, one at Station 1 and one at Station 3; new gear extractors at Stations 1 and 4, twelve skylights were removed at the fire maintenance building and replaced with metal roofing and insulation, three new security lights were installed at Station 1 to light up the parking lot and provide security. Upgrades were made to Station 3's bay door remote system for the T32 rear bay door. A new bay sink and kitchen faucet was installed at Station 3.



Work on the training trailer began in September and the City electric department provided electricity to the trailer and a new meter was installed providing power to begin an extensive remodel of the doublewide trailer donated by Troup County Board of Education. The AC was serviced and repaired, the interior was gutted, the shed next to trailer was taken down and rebuilt reusing the existing tin and tying it into the trailer with a proper slope. Interior framing added four showers, a sink and one urinal, and all new walls were covered with sheetrock. Twelve new LED lights were installed replacing non-functioning fluorescent light fixtures and a deck was added to the exterior to include a handicap ramp. Plumbing was contracted out and has been tied into City sewer and is awaiting tie into the City main supply. All the plumbing "rough in" is complete including a tankless water heater. The gas department ran a gas supply to the trailer to provide gas for the on demand water heater to provide adequate hot water to the showers during periods of extensive use. This will also prevent wasted heating when not being used for extended periods. All new vinyl flooring and base moulding has been installed, and new paint applied to the ceiling and trim.

This year we maintained 1,541 hydrants, we flowed, tested, and serviced 1251 hydrants, painted 1,230 hydrants and 7 hydrants were placed out of service.



The LaGrange Fire Department Maintenance Division is made up of difference sections which consist of apparatus, small tools, janitorial supplies, hydrant maintenance and facilities maintenance. The maintenance division is assigned to one of the department Deputy Chiefs, but several sections are handled by designated department Lieutenants.

During 2019 the department apparatuses were inspected by department personnel and any issues were entered in the computer and forwarded to the Deputy Chief. These issues are prioritized from low to high and then compiled on a maintenance form. The City maintenance shop is contacted and the apparatus is scheduled for service, unless the issue impacted the operation of the apparatus. It is then immediately sent to the shop. The fire department and City shop personnel have always had a good working relationship together. The shop was able to designate more time, as well as personnel, to the fire department apparatuses in 2019. They sent two personnel to school and now they have two guys that are certified as Emergency Vehicle Technicians (EVT), Joseph Hughes (Jay) and Jackson Traylor. This was a great accomplishment for these guys as well as for our department. This lead to quicker turn around and less down time when our apparatus was in for repairs and service.

The department has three engines that are in reserve and are placed at difference stations in a reserve capacity. One of the reserve is now a front line apparatus and is labeled as Engine 5. The reserves have been placed in service several times throughout the year while other units were in the shop.

The department, over the next two years is in the process of purchasing three new apparatus with plans to receive the first one in late 2020. The first unit will be equipped with an air cascade system on it so our air packs can be filled on the fire scene. This unit will be stationed out of Station 5 which is the department's new station. The other two will be purchased over the next two years during the budget cycle. The department did purchase a new 2019 Ford F250 for the command staff. This vehicle will serve as the new command unit for the Deputy Chiefs to respond to calls on a daily basis.

2019 has been a good year for the maintenance division of the fire department. We were able to purchase one new vehicle during this budget cycle. We were also able to place one of our reserve trucks in service as a front line unit at the department's new Station 5. All of our trucks overall are in good condition and have held up to servicing the citizens of LaGrange.



Public Education

LaGrange Fire Department's public education is a team effort that utilizes fire companies from each station on every shift. We do our best to find and create opportunities to share fire and life safety messages with everyone in the community with the goal to prevent the loss of life and property. We also want everyone to know what to do in the event of a fire or medical emergency if one does occur. The department's public education outreach efforts throughout 2019 included fire safety education presentations, safety information publications, hands on fire extinguisher training, CPR and first aid instruction, residential smoke alarm installations, social media outreach and participation in local public service events. In 2019 the department participated in 45 public education events, resulting in 2,446 contacts and 79 public service events which resulted in an additional 2,143 contacts.

Fire safety presentations and publications are broken down into age groups so that each presentation is focused towards the information that would be most valuable to the attending audience. These presentations were given throughout the year at events such as the Police and Fire Summer Youth Camp, LaGrange Public Library safety events, and the department's annual Citizens Day that was held at LaGrange Mall.

The LaGrange Fire Department held 13 hands on fire extinguisher training classes for local citizens, city employees, and multiple local businesses and daycares. We also held these classes for students and faculty at THINC Academy and for members of the LaGrange Police Department's Explorers program. In total, 304 people were trained on how to properly use a fire extinguisher in the event of a home or workplace fire.

Sgt. Highland conducted multiple CPR and first aid classes where citizens learned CPR skills and what actions to take during other medical emergencies. These classes were open to the public and were also made available to city employees.

Three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms. The LaGrange Fire Department knows that smoke alarms save lives and we have used our smoke alarm program to make sure that those without working alarms are protected. In 2019 the LaGrange Fire Department installed over 111 smoke alarms to those who were unprotected.

We are also involved in many local public service events in the City. For instance, we offer weekly blood pressure checks at the Active Life Senior Center where we have checked over 1,104 blood pressures. We visited schools where fire fighters participated in career days and even read a few stories to the kids. We are involved in many local events and hope to reach as many people as possible in order to deliver fire and life safety messages to those we serve.

“Three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms.”

2446

During 2019, the LFD held 45 Public Education Events and made contact with 2446 citizens of LaGrange and Troup County.

2143

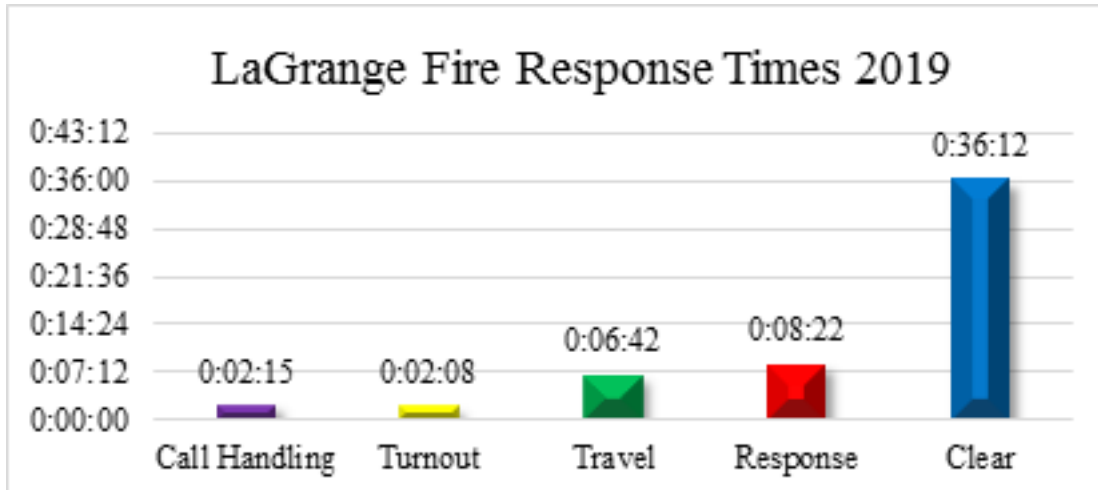
The LFD made contact with 2143 local citizens through 79 public service events held throughout the City of LaGrange.

1104

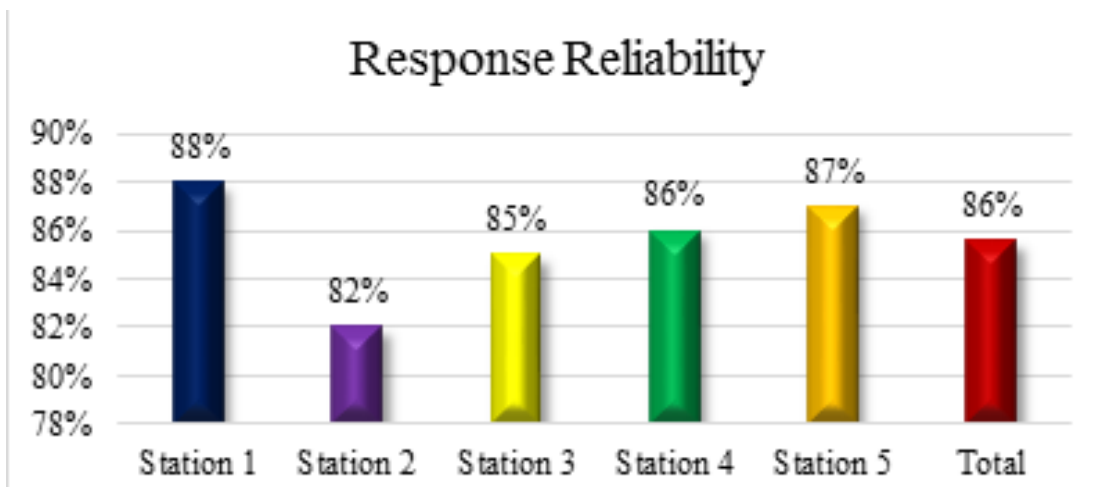
The LFD assisted members of our community by providing blood pressure screenings for 1104 participants at the Troup County Active Life Center in 2019.

Accreditation

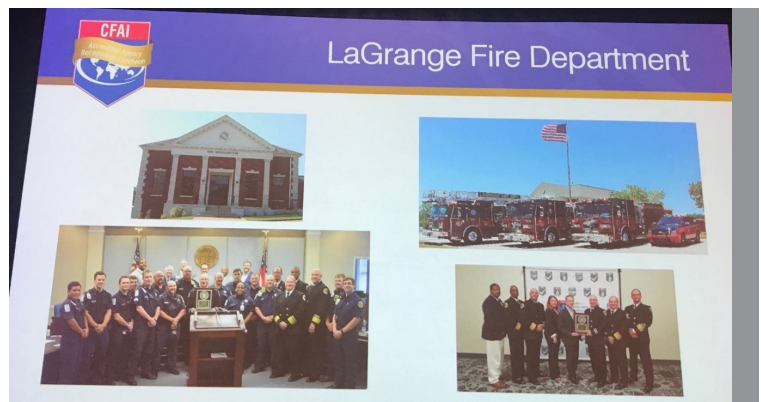
During 2019 the department had 5,355 calls for service, of those, 4,115 were emergency responses where at least one unit responded. The response times for the department are tracked monthly and reported out in the monthly report. All times are calculated at the 90th percentile, which means that a unit arrives within the times in the chart below nine out of ten times.



Response reliability measures the percentage of times a unit was on the scene in their first due territory before other units. The department as a whole had a response reliability of 86%. The chart below shows response reliability by station. Because of the addition of Station 5, due to territories being divided, and 10 weeks of Rookie School, the percentage for Station 2 was lower than the other stations.



The 2019 Excellence Conference was held in Anaheim, CA. during the month of March 2019. Sergeant Webb attended the four day conference, which gave him access to many classes that are geared toward accreditation managers and peer assessors. Sgt. Webb was able to acquire six hours of continuing education among the classes attended. During this conference the CFAI acknowledged all departments that were accredited during the August 2018 hearings. A luncheon was held where pictures submitted by these departments were shown.



Special Projects

Construction of LFD Station #5 began in October of 2018, but due to the heavy amount of rainfall that we received in the area during the months of November and December it delayed the actual start date until the first of 2019, with completion of the station taking roughly nine months by Principle Construction of LaGrange. Fire Station #5 will assist with providing coverage for the Western & Northwestern portion of the city. With the completion of Hills and Dales Farm Road, this greatly reduced the amount of travel time it would ordinarily take a for a Fire unit to reach that portion of the City. Many thanks to the Electric Department, Water Department and Public Works for their hard work at the site. The initial concept design of the station was performed by all the Chief Officers of the LaGrange Fire Department and then turned over to Skip Smith of the Smith Design Group for plans design. The station was designed to fit in with the design of the Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center. The station houses Engine 5 and the on duty Deputy Chief.

Fire Station 5



Training Center

The LaGrange Fire Department Training Center, located at 1111 Lukken Industrial Drive, was another design concept by the Chief Officers of the LaGrange Fire Department along with other individuals within the department that have a background in Firefighter Training. This concept design was again turned over to Skip Smith of the Smith Design Group for plans design. Construction of the Training Center began about the same time as Station #5, with the Burn Building being built off site in Illinois then trucked to LaGrange. The nearly 3,000 square foot burn building was designed to provide Firefighter Training on all four floors. This burn building and tower will greatly increase the amount and type of training that the LaGrange Fire Department can perform, from the basic firefighter to the seasoned veteran. It is the hope of the LaGrange Fire Department that our Training Center can become a regional Training Center for the Georgia Fire Academy, Georgia Public Safety Training Center and to provide off campus training to Fire Departments within the region. Over the next few years we will continue to add to, and expand our training center to meet the needs of the department and provide our Firefighters with the most advanced training in the State of Georgia. The LaGrange Fire Department would like to thank the Callaway Foundation for their contribution to this project.



Achievements



Throughout 2019, many achievements have been made by personnel within the department. Zack Domantay and Daniel Fogg completed and achieved Georgia Smoke Diver Certification. Both Lamar Casper and Lance Horne also completed F.L.A.M.E.S. Both courses are designed to test an individual firefighter's personal limitations when working in high stress situations.

LaGrange Fire Department hosted a closed P. O. D. exercise for city employees. This exercise is to simulate how a health crisis would be handled within the City of Lagrange.



All LFD personnel were outfitted with newly updated uniform badges. Our department patch and logo were also updated and designed by Alex Aleman.



Reboot for First Responders classes were held at different times and locations throughout 2019. These classes are designed to help public safety employees cope with PTSD and trauma experienced while on the job.



In May 2019, Firefighter Justin Robinson was recognized as the LaGrange Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year by the Troup County Optimist Club.



LFD members involved in the Labor Day fire on Revis Street in 2018 were awarded the Teamwork Award at the Ronnie Thames Silent Hero Awards. Chief Brant was given the Leadership Award during this ceremony as well.

Personnel were also honored at the Troup County Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards, winning multiple awards, including the Life Saving Award, Gold Medal of Valor Award and the Purple Heart Award.



Deputy Chief Willie Bradfield earned his Associate degree in Fire Science in 2019.

Deputy Chief Phillip Rice also earned his Fire Chief Certification in 2019.

New Hires, Promotions and Retirements



Rookie School #34

The LFD held it's 34th Rookie School in 2019, which was comprised of seven personnel from LaGrange Fire Department, and two from Troup County. Other new hires completed Firefighter training at Heard County and the Georgia Public Safety Training Center.



In September, Firefighters Justin Robinson and Daniel Fogg were promoted to Sergeant at a ceremony held at City Council Chambers. Another promotion ceremony was held in December for Sgt. Lance Horne, who was promoted to Lieutenant, Dennis Kilgore, who was promoted to Deputy Fire Marshal, and Firefighters Lamar Casper, Derrick Ryner and Charles Mallory who were all promoted to the rank of Sergeant.





Firefighter Randall Heard retired after a 28 1/2 year long career with the LaGrange Fire Department. A ceremony was held at Fire Department Headquarters to honor him for his years of service.



Chris Bartlett also retired in 2019 after 32 years with the LFD. Chris served in many capacities as a firefighter, sergeant, and ending out his career as Deputy Fire Marshal. A ceremony was held at the Callaway Conference Center to honor Chris for his years of service to the City of LaGrange.

LFD Staff 2019



