

# *Selah Fire Department*



## *2021 Year End Report*

*Prepared By: Fire Chief James Lange and staff*

# ***INDEX***

	Page
MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF.....	3
DEPARTMENT HISTORY.....	4
OUR RESPONSE AREA.....	5
ELECTED OFFICALS AND FACILITIES.....	6-7
MISSION STATEMENT.....	8
ORGANIZATION CHART.....	9
CALLS FOR SERVICE.....	10
PUBLIC EDUCATION.....	11-13
OTHER ACTIVITIES.....	14
TRAINING.....	15-16
FIRE MARSHAL/INSPECTIONS.....	17
APPARARUS.....	18
EQUIPMENT.....	19
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS.....	20

# *Message from the Chief*

On behalf of the career and volunteer members of the **Selah Fire Department**, it is my privilege to present the 2021 Annual Report. The Selah Fire Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations of our community. We protect lives and property through Public Education, Fire Suppression, and Emergency Medical Services. Each member of our department is dedicated to serving our community with honesty, integrity and respect for each other and all we serve. We are grateful for the continued support from our community, city and district administration, elected officials, and to all city departments that work to make our community great. Without your support, meeting our missions would not be possible.

As we looked to the future, we recognized several challenges for the operation and maintenance of the department. The first being funding to maintain our current level of service and second, staffing to meet the needs of a growing community. Early in 2019 the decision was made to put it to a vote of the people we serve. We were humbled when they overwhelmingly showed their support by passing a levy in the city and in the district of .35 per thousand of assessed valuation. Along with existing funding sources, this will assist the operation of the department for many years.

Our organization is focused on providing the safest work environment possible for your Fire/EMS responders. We diligently strive to be the most effective and efficient public safety organization while giving consideration to the ever changing environment and the necessary evolution of our service. As our community continues to grow, we embrace our responsibility of providing the highest level of care and service to meet the challenges and demands of our community.

Finally, I express a sincere “thank you” to all the members of the Selah Fire Department. I take great pride in representing such an outstanding group of individuals that continually demonstrate a commitment to the success of this department.

I would like to thank the commissioners of Yakima County Fire District 2 and the City of Selah Mayor and council for allowing me to serve as your fire chief.

Respectfully,

James R. Lange

# ***DEPARTMENT HISTORY***

On January 8, 1940, the Selah Town Council signed Ordinance #90, which provided for the organization, maintenance and regulation of a fire department in the Town of Selah, Washington. Thus was born the Selah Fire Department.

S.C. Justice was appointed as the Fire Chief of the new department consisting of 1 truck, 5 officers and 14 volunteer firefighters.

In 1946 a Rural Fire District (RFD) later to be known as Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 was formed and manned by the Selah Fire Department. This includes the area North of Lookout Point between Selah Heights and the Yakima River, North to Adobe Hill and the hill tops South of Wenas Lake Dam.

East Selah was annexed into Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 in 1960 and the upper Wenas Valley in 1975 creating a combined area 26 miles long and 7 miles wide at its widest point.

The City of Selah and Yakima County Fire Protection District #2 legally combined their fire departments in 1966 creating the department that now exists.

This move was one of the most progressive actions taken since the creations of both fire departments. It has saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars by eliminating duplication in administrative cost, equipment and building needs, operational costs and utilization of manpower.

From this simple beginning, the department now serves an area of 65 square miles and an estimated population of just over 20,000.

In 1940 the Selah Fire Department responded to 6 fire alarms, 4 of which were actual fires, with a total property loss of \$75.00. In 2021, the Selah Fire Department responded to 1,780 calls for service.

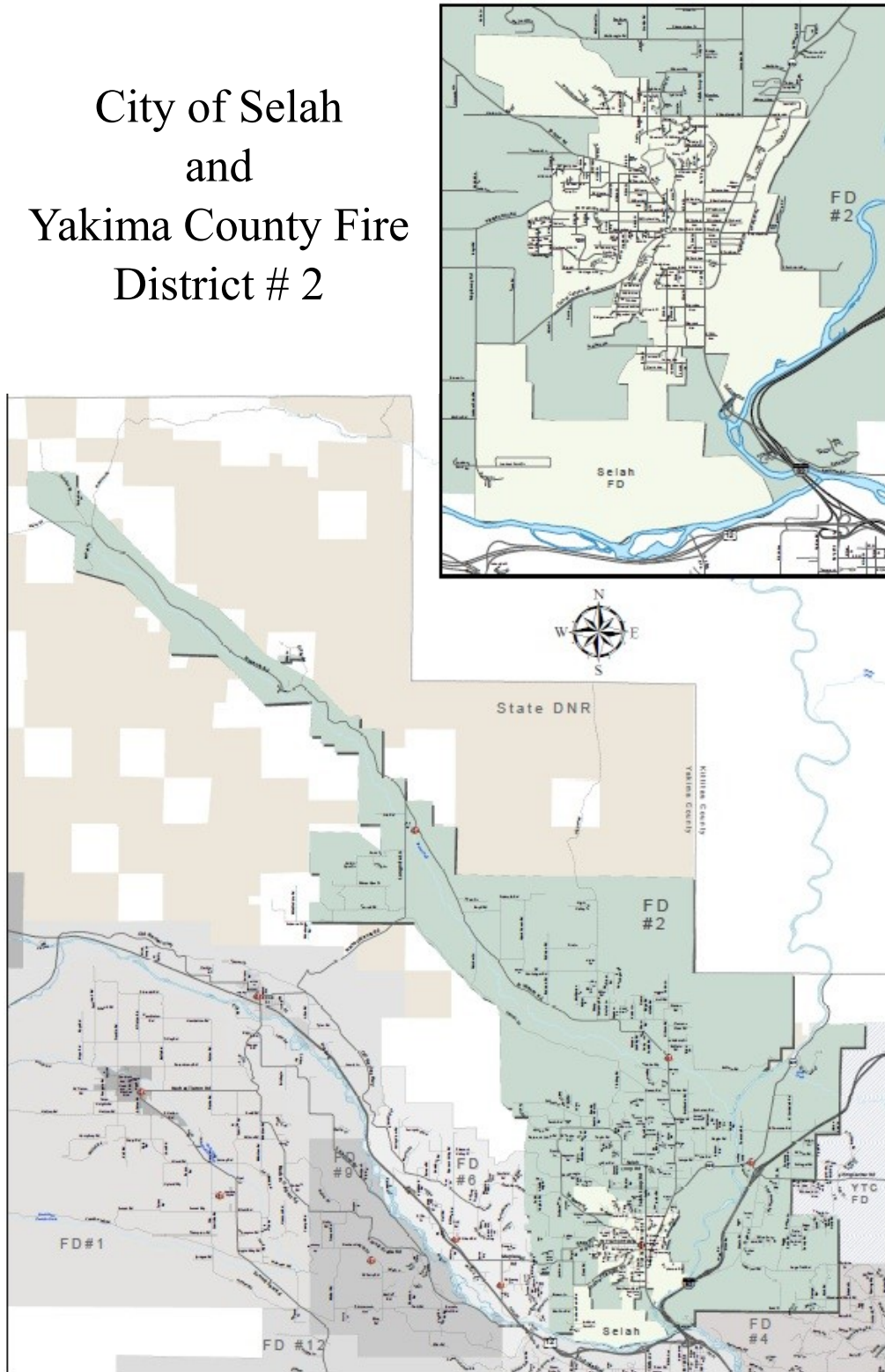


# ***SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE AREA***

City of Selah  
and  
Yakima County Fire  
District # 2

The Selah Fire Department response area covers approximately 65 square miles.

Roughly 5 square miles and a population of 8,300 within the city limits of Selah and 60 square miles and a population approximately 12,000 within Fire District #2.



# ***YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2 COMMISSIONERS***

**Chairman.....Brad Helms**

**Commissioner.....Dan Boyle**

**Commissioner.....Rex Reed**

**Secretary.....Christine Willis**

The Fire Commissioners form a board elected by the public to represent their fire district.

Yakima County Fire District 2 commissioners serve six-year terms staggered every two years. Any resident, 18 years or older, who lives within the district boundaries are eligible to run for an open position on the board.

All regular meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Station 21, 206 W. Fremont Avenue. Meetings are open to the public and offer residents an opportunity for citizen input.

## **SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT STATIONS**



**STATION 22**  
**1830 Harrison Rd.**  
**Yakima, WA 98901**

**STATION 24**  
**4251 N. Wenas Rd.**  
**Selah, WA 98942**



**STATION 26**  
**121 Fink Rd.**  
**Selah, WA 98942**



# ***CITY OF SELAH MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL***

## **Mayor**

**Sherry Raymond**

## **City Administrator**

**Joseph K. Henne**

## **Council Members**

**Kevin Wickenhagen**

**Jared Iverson**

**Elizabeth Marquis**

**Clifford Peterson**

**Roger Bell**

**Michael Costello**

**Russell Carlson**

**Selah has a strong Mayor, council  
form of government.**

## **SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT'S CITY STATION**



**Station 21  
206 W. Fremont Ave  
Selah, WA 98942**





# ***SELAH FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION, VISION AND MOTTO***

**OUR MISSION IS THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY, AND TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY AND MAGNITUDE OF PERSONAL TRAUMA AND PROPERTY LOSS. TO EFFECTIVELY MITIGATE THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN EMERGENCIES THAT WILL OCCUR**



## **VISION**

**To position the fire department securely (operationally, financially, and politically) through and beyond our current state of growth, while creating a predictable and sustainable future.**

## **MOTTO**

***Honesty - Integrity - Respect***

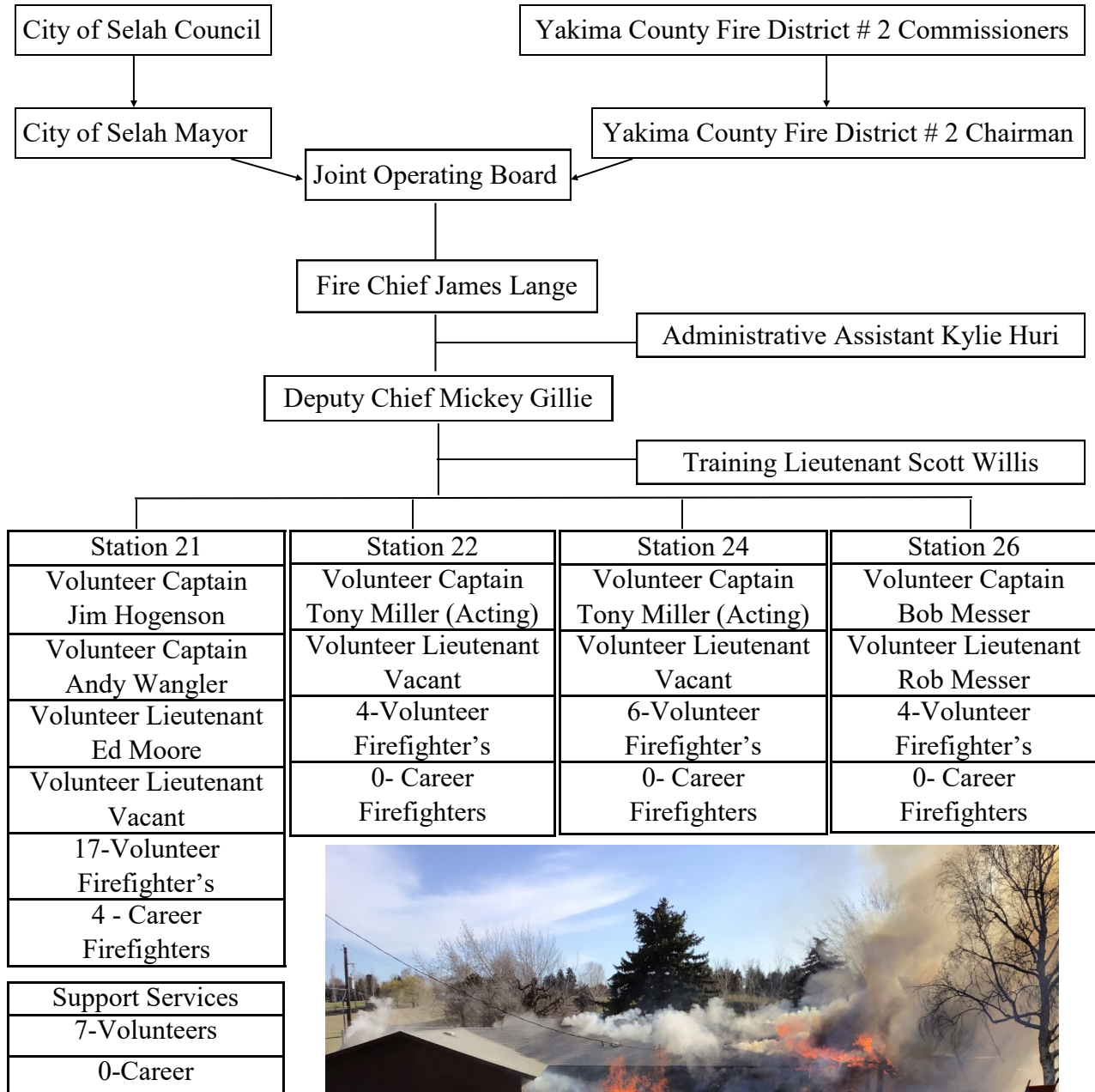
**We value the public's trust and are committed to honest and ethical behavior. We hold ourselves accountable to this value. We believe in a personal commitment to the organization and community. Self-discipline is the foundation for managing behavior.**

**We are a fire department family. We are committed and accountable to each other because our lives depend on it. We value the role each member plays in our organization. We respect those that came before us and will strive to make the organization better for those who follow.**

**In order to carry a positive action we must develop here a positive vision.**

**[Dalai Lama](#)**

# ***FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART AND STAFFING LEVEL***



**Only those who have  
learned the power of  
sincere and selfless  
contribution experience  
life's deepest joy:  
true fulfillment.**

***Tony Robbins***





# ***CALLS FOR SERVICE***

The Selah Fire Department Responded to 1780 Calls in 2021

## BREAKDOWN OF MAJOR INCIDENT TYPES

	Emergency Medical	Motor Vehicle Accidents	Fires in Structures	Grass/Brush Fires	Vehicle Fires	Other Fires	All Other Types	TOTALS	
City of Selah	580	39	3	2	4	3	115	746	41.9%
Yakima County Fire District #2	725	82	21	19	11	6	170	1034	58.1%
								1,780	4.88 per day



Overlapping Incident's	303	17%
Mutual Aid Received	5	
Mutual Aid Given	20	





# *Public Education/ Community Service*



*Prepared By:  
Firefighter  
Ron Cline*

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

Benjamin Franklin

# *Public Education/ Community Service*

## **Fire Safety classes and Station Tours**

2021 Fire Prevention and Public Education was once again limited. Fire Prevention Specialist Ron Cline was able to schedule time with the second graders in 2021, and present his safety message to 222 students at John Campbell Primary. Under the current health situation FPS Cline was able to follow school masking policies, and reach out to JCP teachers and spend 40 minutes in 15 different classes over a two week span. I will take what I can get.

FPS Cline was invited to Agapeland Pre-school to present his fire prevention safety class and a tour of the fire truck to 45 pre-school aged children. Also his crew was able to run a state required fire drill for the school.

The Selah Fire Department has built a partnership with the Selah High schools head athletic trainer and teacher, Courtney Peart. Together we have collaborated on many teaching opportunities, SFD teaches classes for her athletic training students and she teaches classes for our fire fighters relating to sports injuries. She also teaches the FD a sports emergency refresher, specifically relating to football injuries. This is an uncommon partnership, between a fire department and a high school, we train together to give the best possible care to student athletes and the people of Selah.

## **Exit Drills In The Home (E.D.I.T.H. House)**

EDITH House is a travel trailer configured into two sections. One half is for watching a fire prevention video from stadium like benches and fire prevention in the kitchen. The other half is where the children actually get to lay down on a bed, hear the smoke detector go off, crawl out of bed to the bedroom door, feel the door for heat, see the smoke coming from underneath the door, then crawl to the window to use their second means of escape. Students then proceed to the “neighbors” house where they call 911. Students use a phone that calls into the EDITH House operator where they are asked a series of question as if actually calling 9-1-1. The most important one being their address. This simulation gives the student the confidence in knowing that if there was an emergency they could call for help.

Unfortunately, EDITH, was **CANCELLED** again in 2021. The Selah Fire Department still could not grantee the safety of the children, teachers, and parents. With great regret, those second grade students did not get the experience of EDITH. That is two years in a row that vital exit drills has not been given to second grade students.

## **National Night out/Trunk or Treat**

National Night out has been the fire departments night to put on an extrication demonstration. The extrication equipment is used to cut apart a car. The roof of the car is removed in a matter of minutes and doors are pried open to allow emergency responder’s access to the injured patient. During this event the public is allowed to get an up close look at Engine 21, the department’s newest engine.



# *Public Education/ Community Service*

Trunk or Treat was **CANCELLED** again due to COVID.

## **Public/Fire Prevention Education**

2021 was a challenging year for Public Education. With limited access and not being able to guarantee the safety for our children and adults, Selah Fire Departments Fire Prevention Specialist Ron Cline had to get creative, contact was made with John Campbell Primary School, if the second graders could not come to the station to learn about EDITH House (Exit Drills In The Home), Then FPS Cline went to them, he was able to meet with 15 classes, 222 children and teachers, on safe ways to get out of their home if it was on fire, FPS Cline was able to spend 30 minutes in each class.

Agapeland Preschool invited FPS Cline and his crew to their school to also teach them about fire safety. He met with 45 preschoolers and teachers, emphasizing to the young children that the fire fighter in their bunker gear might look scary, but they are there to help them in the event of a fire. The Selah Fire Department was also able to perform for the school a state mandated fire drill.

The Selah Fire Department has been able to keep the great partnership with the Selah High School going strong as well. Sports Medicine instructor Courtney Peart invites the SFD to her class room to show her students what they “practice” in class, is what the fire department does on a daily basis. The partnership goes both ways, Ms. Peart comes to the fire department and teaches an annual sports injuries class, focusing on football injuries, that the football game stand by crew might have to help out with. Working together, building a relationship that ensures the best possible care for ALL student athletes in the Selah School district.

Covid 19 has made it challenging, but it cannot prevent the Selah Fire Department from teaching its citizens, young and old, how to stay safe in the event of an emergency. 2022 looks to be the year that we get up and running, inviting the students back to the fire station. More than ever, we need to do our part to bring a positive and much needed education to the people of Selah.

Through Education we can prevent fires and save lives.

***“It’s easier to prevent a fire than it is to put one out”***

***“Fire Prevention through Education Saves Lives”***

# *Other Activities*

## **BUILDING PROJECTS**

Planning and bid process of the construction project at Station 22 at 1830 Harrison Road was completed in late 2020. The new construction replaced a storage building that was removed for the expansion of the station the year prior. The completed project provided an adjacent building for training props and equipment storage.

## **HYDRANT INSPECTION AND TESTING**

The fire department inspects, tests, lubricates and exercises the valves on all of the 407 fire hydrants within the city and private systems within the district on an annual basis. We also conduct fire flow testing every 5 years or as needed when changes are made to the water system. These are necessary to determine the maximum flow the water system can provide in the event of a fire. These calculations are used to determine the maximum square footage of residential and commercial buildings in a given geographical area. They also provide hard data to the cities engineering firm to enhance their computer model of the cities water system.

## **PUMP AND FIRE HOSE INSPECTION AND TESTING**

Pump testing of our structural engines, and pressure testing, inspection and cleaning of fire hose is performed annually. These tests are performed to meet NFPA and WSRB requirements and to reduce the likelihood of failure in an emergency. The department has 6 structural engines and 3.5 miles of fire hose.



***Prepared By:**  
**Firefighter**  
**John Shipley***

It's all fun and games....Until you have to pick it up!



# *Training*

TRAINING IS A NEVER-ENDING  
JOURNEY IN A FIREFIGHTER'S  
CAREER OF SERVICE.

TO BE KNOWN AS A FIREFIGHTER  
IS A TITLE OF PRIDE, BORN OF  
ACCOMPLISHMENT, TRAINING,  
AND COMMITMENT TO OTHERS.



*Prepared By:  
Training Officer,  
Lieutenant Scott Willis*

# *Training*

In 2021, the members of the Selah Fire Department attended 4,384 hours of training. This training included; 48 Wednesday night department drills, 8 Officer meetings as well as 6 Officer Development drills, 4 quarterly safety meetings, 1 annual department meeting, several certified online trainings, 26 new recruit training classes, and 19 members still attended outside training courses, despite the limited offerings due to the COVID Pandemic.

The outside training consisted of:

3 completing the Yakima County EMT program, 3 attended the National Fire Academy Incident Safety Office course, 2 obtained their Firefighter II certification, 1 obtained their Firefighter I, certification which included Haz Mat Awareness and Operations, 3 attended the Crew Boss wildland course, 6 attended a National Fire Academy Strategy and Tactics class, 2 attended Followership to Leadership training, and 1 attended the Fire Prevention Institute Conference.

Department, local, state and federal mandates require us to facilitate annual training of 4 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) donning and doffing for time evolutions, SCBA fit testing, 6 EMS OTEP Modules and 3 EMS practical workshops, EVIP classroom refresher with a practical driving road course and rodeo, wildland refresher classroom and shelter throw practical, a fitness pack test for wildland red card holders, minimum of 2 personal protective equipment (PPE) inspections and washes, Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) training, and firefighter rescue (RIT/MAYDAY). All of these trainings were offered and attended. Selah Fire Department policy requires 50% drill attendance by its members. In 2021, 96% of all membership met this requirement.

The department hired 5 new volunteer firefighters this past year. They completed a 200 hour basic firefighter recruit school. This year's recruit school was conducted with online training, classroom lectures, and group practical evolutions. Selah Fire opened the recruit school to include 5 volunteers from the Naches area to reduce training costs, provide consistent training within the county, and to allow for manpower to facilitate realistic practical, hands-on training.

As volunteer numbers continue to decline nationwide, recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters becomes more and more challenging. We are working hard to improve our recruitment efforts, and I am optimistic as there have been several applications turned in for probationary firefighter positions for the 2022 recruit academy.



# *Fire Marshal*

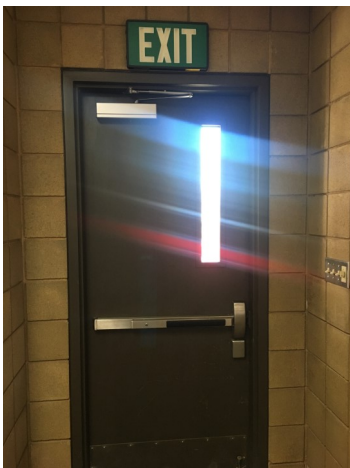
The Fire Marshal for the City of Selah is located at the Selah Fire Department, Station 21 on Fremont Avenue. Under the direction of this office; Fire and Life Safety Inspections are provided (at no charge) for all of the businesses in the City of Selah, plan review of developments and commercial construction are performed to meet standards of the International Fire Code, fire alarm-detection and suppression system operational tests are conducted, and pre-fire planning and fire department familiarization of our target hazard and populated locations are maintained.

In 2021 there were 238 businesses scheduled for annual Fire and Life Safety inspections within the city. Even through the COVID challenges and temporary closures of some businesses, 235 initial inspections were conducted and 143 re-inspections were completed for a total of 378 inspections performed. These inspections are accomplished by Fire Marshal and Engine Company visits. For new commercial construction inspections, the city's Fire Marshal and Building Inspector coordinate to perform inspections together, when available.

Fire department familiarization of target hazard locations are usually scheduled with local businesses during daytime hours on week days, and attended by career staff and any available volunteer members. For a few of our larger facilities, walk-throughs are scheduled during Wednesday evening drills and attended by all department members for preparation in case of an emergency.

These fire and life safety inspections are not only conducted to identify potential fire hazards, but also for the safety of employees and patrons. A few of the things we look at are:

have the fire extinguishers been serviced and are appropriately placed, are emergency lights functioning properly, are exits identified and clear of obstacles, and if fire alarm systems and fire sprinkler systems have been serviced and are operational.



*Selah Fire Department*  
*Working For a Safer Community*



*Prepared By:*  
*Deputy Chief/*  
*Fire Marshal*  
*Mickey Gillie*

# *Apparatus*

Our department operates and maintains 22 vehicles out of four stations consisting of:

3 - Command, 5 - Front Line Engines 1 Reserve, 1 - Rescue, 4 - Combination Brush/Rescues,  
2 - Brush, 3 - Water Tenders, 1 - Air Support/Rehab, and 2 - Utility

The Selah Fire Department maintains a fleet of 22 vehicles. Revenues obtained through the Public Safety Utility Tax and additional funding from Fire District 2 have provided us the ability to establish an amortization program for equipment replacement. With a life expediency of 10 to 25 years depending on the type of vehicle and volume of use, we will need to replace one or more vehicles every year to maintain a dependable fleet and stay in compliance with national standards. In 2021 we did not purchase any new vehicles. We used this year to help rebuild funds in the budget for our Capital Improvement Plan, which outlines replacement of an engine in 2022 with an aerial apparatus. This piece of apparatus will assist us with larger building fire events, rescue and will help to continue keeping insurance costs down. The process of an aerial purchase has already begun and we are excited to complete this project. The department annually updates our vehicle and equipment amortization plan, facility and personnel needs, overall health of the department and completes an assessment of what we anticipate for future needs.



The Selah Fire Department takes great pride in being fiscally responsible and working within the budget we have been entrusted.

We will continue to utilize your money wisely and work within the confines of our budget and provide all services that it allows.

Ultimately the citizens of our community dictate what is important to them and what level of service is acceptable.

# *Equipment*

## **EMS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**

Selah Fire Department responded to 1,305 calls for medical service in 2021 which is an increase of 199 calls for medical service over 2020. During these calls there are medical supplies and equipment that needs replaced and or repaired. Selah Fire Department was able to help our neighbors out with our transport capable rescue apparatus by transporting the occasional patient for them when there were no ambulances available to do so.

During the ongoing pandemic, we continued to rely on the Yakima County Department of Emergency Management to obtain personal protective equipment to continue to keep our responders safe while responding on medical calls. Personal protective equipment such as N-95 masks, gowns, eye protection, and gloves which helped us to better serve our community.

*Prepared By:*  
*Firefighter*  
*Jacob Stuker*

## **PPE AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

Selah Fire Department supplies personal protective gear for 46 members.

This gear includes structure helmets, structure coats, structure pants, structure boots, structure gloves and an SCBA mask. Also included is a wildland helmet, wildland shirt, wildland pants, wildland boots, and wildland gloves.

The structure gear has to be replaced every 10 years per NFPA standards. Our current replacement plan is 5 sets of structural gear every year. This equates to approximately \$14,000.00 annually. Currently we are working to replace outdated wildland gear as well.

Some of the things we are doing to make this possible is applying for a DNR 50/50 grant. With this grant, we were able to purchase wildland fire shelters to equip some of our structural fire engines, replace worn out wildland gloves, purchase class A wildland firefighting foam, and provide replacement wildland gear (pants and coats.) This year's focus has been working to replace worn out and cracked rubber structure boots. We were able to order 14 sets of rubber structure boots totaling approximately \$2500

Currently all of our gear meets NFPA standard and we are working hard to maintain that.

*Prepared By:*  
*Firefighter*  
*Cody Roberts*

# *Awards and Recognitions*

The annual Christmas and awards banquet for our members and their families was cancelled in 2021 due to COVID-19. This is the event where we usually hand out awards for the year, but some members were still recognized.

The following awards and recognitions were given.

## YEARS OF SERVICE

5 Years – Lane Berry

10 Years – Kevin Holland

20 Years – Ron Cline

25 Years— Ed Moore

Years of Service are recognized in 5 year increments.

## FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Chosen by the membership  
at each station.

Station 21 - no award

Station 22 - Chloe Gordon

Station 24 - James Hurlburt

Station 26 - Bob Messer

## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Chosen by the officers and given annually  
to the most outstanding new member.

**Austin Peyser**

## NEW MEMBERS COMPLETING PROBATION

**Aaron Everitt, Kyle Freeborn, Bobby Lakey,  
Ryan McNett and Austin Peyser**

## TOP RESPONDER

Member that responded to the  
most incidents.

**Jacob Cleveland**

## FIRE DOG GYM

Member that used the  
work out equipment  
the most.

**No award**



Winner of the Support Services Quilt Raffle, **no raffle**