Annual Report Review

This SC State Fire Annual Report Review provides a "snapshot" of our accomplishments and achievements for Fiscal Year 2020.

We adapted to a "new normal" brought on by the COVID-19 public health emergency. Despite the challenges, the Division of Fire and Life Safety remained open for business. However, the way we conducted business changed to provide the safest environment possible for staff and customers.

Fire Portal

The Fire Portal is a useful tool for our customers. Two recent improvements allow a fire chief to view any outstanding invoices and make payments online.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Portal Usage</th>
<th>Individual Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY</td>
<td>Users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>15,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fire Portal usage has TRIPLED since 2015

Social Media

To increase exposure, showcase multiple accounts, and share real-time news, we utilize two types of social media platforms - Twitter and Facebook. To build a community of dedicated followers, these accounts highlight job openings, current events, course offerings, and safety tips. During the eight-week recruit school, they also showcase weekly training photographs and videos.

@SCStateFire  Followers: 8,511 (+20% more than FY19)

Most Popular Posts:
- July 11, 2019 - SC’s efforts supporting LA preparing for Tropical Storm Barry. This post was shared more than 170 times and reached more than 30,000 users.
- Recruit graduation videos are always popular. The Sept. 27 and Dec. 16 graduation videos reached nearly 15,000 each.

@SCFireAcademy  Followers: 1,413 (+45%)

Most Popular Post:
- March 23, 2019 - Showcased Bluffton FD in-house recruit FLAG class photos. This post reached more than 7,000 users.

@FireSafeSC  Followers: 2,495 (+51%)

Most Popular Post:

@SCStateFire  Followers: 3,206 (+14%)

Most Popular Post:
- July 3, 2019 - Shared fireworks safety tips. This post reached more than 10,000 users.
**State Fire & Our Fire Service**

**One Percent Fund**

To receive this one percent tax collected from fire insurance premiums, fire departments must submit quarterly inspection reports and their Annual Fire Equipment Certificate to State Fire.

**Local Inspections**

Total: 55,085 (across the state)
Violations Discovered: 61,930

76% of violations were corrected

**Fire Equipment Certificates**

Total: $880 Million

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 3 Equipment Types</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
<th>Total Estimated Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ariel/Ladder/Platform</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>$160 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine (Structural)</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td>$474 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanker/Tender</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>$89 Million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nearly $880 million of fire equipment in SC

**Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment (V-SAFE)**

This grant program assists volunteer and combination fire departments with firefighting and safety-related equipment purchases. The 2019 grant cycle had:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requests</th>
<th>Total Amount Requested</th>
<th>Total Awards</th>
<th>Total Amount Rewarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>151</td>
<td>$3.9M</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>$1,346,113.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Community Risk Reduction**

**Fire Fatalities/CLEAR Team**

The following statistics represent FY20:

- Fire Fatalities: **84**
- Fatal Fires: **76**
- Multiple Fatalities: **8**
- Deadliest Month: **February 2020 - 12 Deaths**

Age of Victims:

- <20: 4 (6%)
- 20-50: 26 (30%)
- >50: 53 (63%)

Gender:

- 70% Male
- 30% Female

*One victim from FY20 has yet to be positively identified.*

**Fire Safe South Carolina**

The first annual Fire Safe South Carolina Community awards were presented to more than **50** fire departments. These departments held **1,500** CRR events, educated more than **250,000** citizens, and engaged **344** community partners. Find the complete list of departments [here](#).
Community Risk Reduction

Smoke Alarm Program
In partnership with the American Red Cross, 51,714 smoke alarms have been installed in homes across SC, since 2015. In FY20, our statistics show:

- 2,762 homes made safer
- 9,507 smoke alarms installed
- 99 deaf/hard of hearing alarms installed
- 544 alarm batteries replaced

Additionally, in FY20, the smoke alarm program:

- Received 6,739 smoke, 414 combination, 1,101 carbon monoxide, and 162 deaf/hard of hearing alarms.
- Dispersed to 100 different local fire departments: 3,248 smoke, 584 carbon monoxide, 24 combination, and 207 deaf/hard of hearing alarms.

Code Enforcement
The COVID-19 pandemic caused an 18% decrease in face-to-face inspections. Thus, the average number of inspections completed per deputy also decreased. Virtual inspections were added in June 2020 to meet customer needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Inspections per Deputy</th>
<th>Inspections Completed</th>
<th>Total Violations Cited</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>579</td>
<td>3,878</td>
<td>8,686</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SC Fire Academy
The Academy provided 353 days of on campus and regional training. The Columbia campus was open 212 days (down from 269 due to COVID-19).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs Requested</th>
<th>Programs Completed</th>
<th>Pre-registered Students</th>
<th>Successful Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,515</td>
<td>1,806</td>
<td>27,910</td>
<td>19,051</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training
Regional staff attended 378 fire department meetings, trained 1,011 high school students in 33 schools, and supported 24 recruit schools with 340 graduates.
Resident staff provided 435 programs for 5,227 students.

Facilities (Maintenance/Cafeteria/Retail)
- 286 requests completed
- 19,057 meals served
- $24,750.91 retail sales
**SC Fire Academy**

### Production

The Academy printed **13,487** documents at a cost of **$34,293.54** with a savings of **$42,706.69** (compared to the SCDC print shop).

In June, staff introduced Live Instructor Led Virtual training for the 2153-ICS-300. Additional offers are coming in FY21.

### Accreditation/Testing/Certification

- **1,656** IFSAC Seals Issued
- **326** Pro Board Certificates Issued

### Emergency Response

#### SC-Task Force I

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Activities</th>
<th>Average Man Hours (per event)</th>
<th>Total Team Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>133</td>
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#### SC-Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (HART)

- **1st HART Academy**
  - Aug. 12-16, 2019

- HART completed **four** rescues **waterfall (2)** & **night time (2)**

#### Firefighter Mobilization

Firefighter Mobilization completed **six** mobilizations and a response to Hurricane Dorian. These mobilizations included large fires, wide area searches, tornado responses, and flash flood events.

#### Palmetto Incident Support Team (IST)

Palmetto IST completed its first ever deployment to Baton Rouge, LA sending **five** members in response to Hurricane Barry. The first in-state team (**20+ members**) participated in a deployment in response to Hurricane Dorian.