

# DANVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Annual Report 2021







# Table of Contents

03	Message from the Chief	16	Operations Division Summary
04	Our Mission, Vision, and Values	17	Shifts' Year in Review
05	Our History	20	Technical and Support Services
08	Organizational Chart	22	Community Risk Reduction
09	Promotions	24	Training and Safety
10	New Hires	25	Emergency Communications
11	Retirees	27	The Ladies Up Front
12	2021 Data Snapshot	28	Thank You
13	Stations		



# Message from the Chief

With 2021 came numerous challenges and new opportunities. This time last year, most of us were thinking that the pandemic would be in our rear-view mirror by now. Unfortunately, nothing could be further from the truth and most of what we did or anticipated in 2021 was preceded by, "because of the pandemic." While COVID-19 created obstacles, in true firefighter fashion, we made lemonade with the basket of lemons we received.

Our City Manager, Ken Larking, took the lead in our region and secured the former JCPenney's building to host a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for our citizens. The Danville Fire Department was responsible for operations and logistics to meet the day-to-day requirements of the vaccination clinic. Thanks to a collaborative effort between the DFD, the City, SOVAH Health, and Averett University, the City of Danville's vaccination campaign became the model that many communities in our region replicated.

As the pandemic waxed and waned, the DFD adjusted accordingly. Many of the larger training events we had scheduled were still accomplished by scaling down to adhere to the applicable CDC recommendations.

In a world full of evolving policies and procedures surrounding the pandemic, we took the opportunity to look internally at our own. We enlisted the help of a third party to review, make recommendations, and edit all of our policies and procedures ensuring they are compliant with national and state standards as well as industry best practices.

We were very fortunate to have been awarded several grants in 2021 making it possible to achieve some of our department goals. First, we used funds to expand our Swift Water Rescue Team that was just started in 2020. We purchased two motors, a spare lower unit, and the required ancillary equipment to complete our program. An additional grant financed the purchase of vehicle extrication equipment that will be placed on three of our engines.

2021 proved to be our busiest year with a slightly over 10% increase in our call volume. We responded to 9,342 calls for service. Surprisingly, amidst the pandemic, medical responses only increased by about 4%. To make that possible, our Emergency Communications Center processed 47,190 emergency 911 calls, and an additional 100,263 administrative phone calls.

The year was bittersweet with five senior members retiring and two younger firefighters resigning for greener pastures. It is always sad to see longtime co-workers retire but we wish them the very best in their new chapters of life. Movement at the top is always met with excitement at the bottom as the opportunity for advancement is made available. With that opportunity there were many promotions made.

Though the pandemic has created many changes in our lives and workplace, one thing that has remained unchanged is the unwavering commitment and dedication of the men and women of the Danville Fire Department and the service we provide this great community. A workforce I am truly proud to be a member of.

Yours in service,



Fire Chief David Coffey







# Our Mission, Vision, & Values



## Mission

The Danville Fire Department reduces the risk to life and property through professional response and community engagement.



## Vision

The Danville Fire Department is dedicated to continuous improvement through innovation, inclusion, and fostering a safe community.

## Values



Diversity and Inclusion



Professionalism



Integrity



Safety



Accountability



Customer Service



# Our History



Above: "Little Mary"

1884

Danville instituted the community's first paid (professional) fire department on January 1, 1884. Records indicate the first apparatus inventory consisted of one Button fire engine, two Ainsleys, one hose reel, and four horses. Prior to 1884, services were provided by two private fire companies.

1896

The annexation of Neapolis in 1896 prompted construction of a headquarters on Patton Street, where the Municipal Building stands today, as well as a second station just north of the Main Street Bridge which came to be known as the North Main Station.



1903

Of historical note, the "Wreck of Old 97" occurred on September 27, 1903. The southbound Southern Railway passenger train No. 97 derailed and plunged into a ravine below the Stillhouse Trestle, killing eleven persons according to some accounts.

1924

In 1924, a Seagrave ladder truck was added to the department's inventory, equipped with solid rubber tires, a tiller, and a 75-foot hand-operated ladder. This replaced the hook and ladder, the last piece of horse-drawn equipment in the city.

1926

1926 saw the Patton Street station relocated to a new building on Bridge Street. This served as the fire headquarters until the construction of the new station on Lynn Street in 2014. A third "West End" station, designed for horse-drawn apparatus, was also constructed in the early 1900s less than one block off Main Street.



*At right: A major fire occurred in Danville on June 30, 1927, as the Main Street Iron Bridge burned. The wooden floor of the bridge caught fire when a tar wagon overturned. The steel girders buckled from the intense heat and finally collapsed, separating the north and south sides of Danville.*

1950

A two-way radio communication system was installed in 1950, which allowed the Station One telephone switchboard to centrally receive fire calls and dispatch suppression services. The chiefs' vehicles had two-way radios installed, but radios were not required in the engines.

1951

A 1951 annexation required an additional station to serve the Schoolfield community around Dan River Mills. Station Four was initially located at the West Main Street and Augusta Avenue intersection and was rented from the textile company. The same annexation prompted construction of a northside station on Third Avenue.

1957

Station Five opened in 1957 and came to serve as the agency's training center with a five story training tower and drafting pit.





1971

In 1971, the station on North Main Street was relocated to its current home on Piney Forest Road to provide better response to the western portions of the city.

*At right: In 1971, a lightning strike hit Moffett Memorial Baptist Church on North Main Street which sparked a large fire that destroyed the sanctuary.*



1978

In the summer of 1978, Station Three was relocated to Industrial Avenue near the intersection of South Main Street.

1988

Danville's annexation of approximately 27 square miles of Pittsylvania County in January 1988 more than doubled the department's area of responsibility. As a result, Station Four was relocated to its current home on West Main Street, plans were made to add two stations, and six engine companies were added.

1990

August 1990 saw completion of Station Seven on Airport Drive, adjacent to the city's regional airport and within sight of US Highway 58. Around this time, OSHA's endorsement of the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Standard prompted the state of Virginia to establish, fund, and train 12 regional Hazardous Material Response Teams. This resulted in an agreement with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and ultimately the creation of a Regional Level III Response Team, which became operational in December 1990.

1991

Station Six was opened in August 1991 on the corner of Westover Drive and Beech Avenue to service the north and west end of the city.

1997

Beginning in 1997, the department began training personnel to the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level of certification. City Council authorized formation of a Fire Marshal's Office in 1998. This led to the creation of a Fire Prevention and Education Bureau and sworn officers with legal authority to investigate fires and enforce city fire code.

2000

In 2000, Danville Fire Department (DFD) teamed up with Pittsylvania County Firefighter's Association and applied for a grant from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. The award served as the primary funding for a burn building, which is now the centerpiece of the area's Regional Training Center at 658 Stinson Drive.

2014

The Danville Fire Department Headquarters and Emergency Communications center relocated to the new facilities on Lynn Street.

2015

The Danville Fire Department earned International Accredited Status from the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

2018

The department's ISO rating improved to be a 1 rating. In 2020, the department successfully became accredited again.





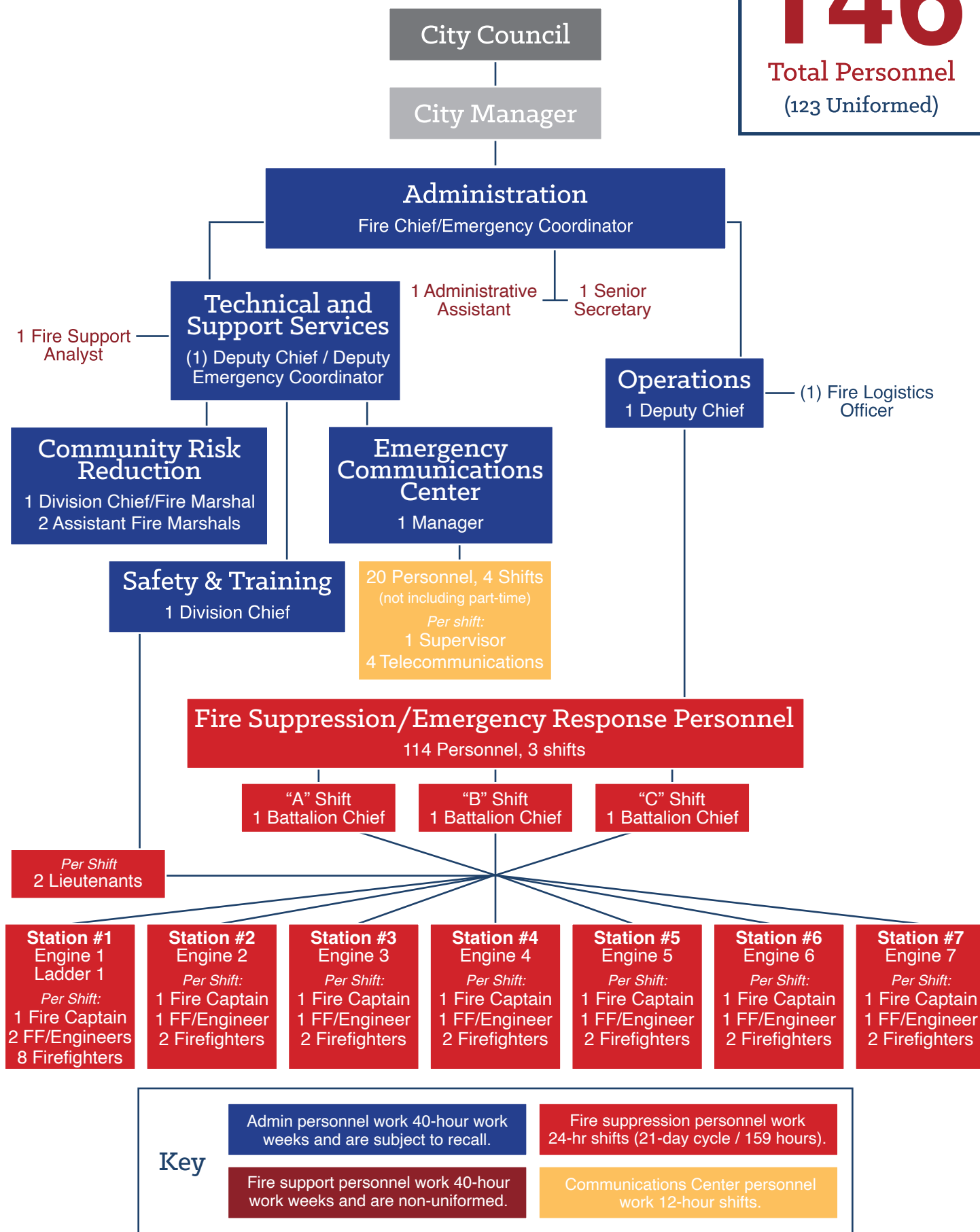




# Organizational Chart

# 146

Total Personnel  
(123 Uniformed)



# Promotions 2021

**Thomas Napier**

Battalion Chief

**William Smotherman**

Battalion Chief

**Jared Collins**

Captain

**Paul Tom Collins**

Captain

**Kenneth Doss**

Captain

**Delano Goad**

Captain

**Eric Minter**

Captain

**Travis Poteat**

Captain

**Travis Buchanan**

Lieutenant

**Brandon Collins**

Lieutenant

**James Yeatts**

Lieutenant

**Joshua Stowe**

Lieutenant

**Charlie Trey Belcher**

FF Engineer

**David Brooks**

FF Engineer

**Tyler Capps**

FF Engineer

**John Epps**

FF Engineer

**Zachary Lyons**

FF Engineer

**Trevor Moyer**

FF Engineer

**Tyler Shields**

FF Engineer

**Stephen Vernon**

FF Engineer

**Teresa Plummer**

Telecommunicator Supervisor

**Heather Eakin**

Senior Telecommunicator/ TC II

**Kristen Smith**

Senior Telecommunicator/ TC II



*S. Vernon was promoted to Engineer in July of 2021.*

*D. Goad was promoted to Captain in October of 2021.*







# New Hires

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FIREFIGHTERS

Ryan Bass

Matthew Lewis

John Whitlow

Dylan Alvis

Kaden Lewis

Jesse Morris



*New Recruits pose with Ladder 1 truck.*



*New Recruits sit in class with M. Jefferson.*

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## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Lauren Meehan

Steve Sutton

Jamie Frazier



*Lauren Meehan participated in the CPR class.*

# Retirements 2021

**Gregory Setliff**

35 Years of Service

**Michael Jefferson**

34+ Years of Service

**Marcus Vincent**

34+ Years of Service

**Christopher Key**

33+ Years of Service

**Darryl Turpin**

33+ Years of Service

**Brian K. Alderson**

33 Years of Service

**Dennis Beamon**

31 Years of Service

**Steven Decker**

28+ Years of Service

**Randall Barrett**

23+ Years of Service

**David Newell**

21+ Years of Service



*We appreciate our Retirees for their service. We are thankful for all the work and dedication they have shown our community.*

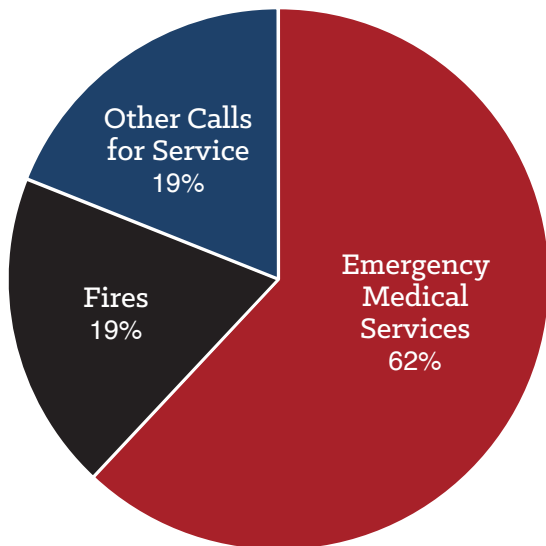






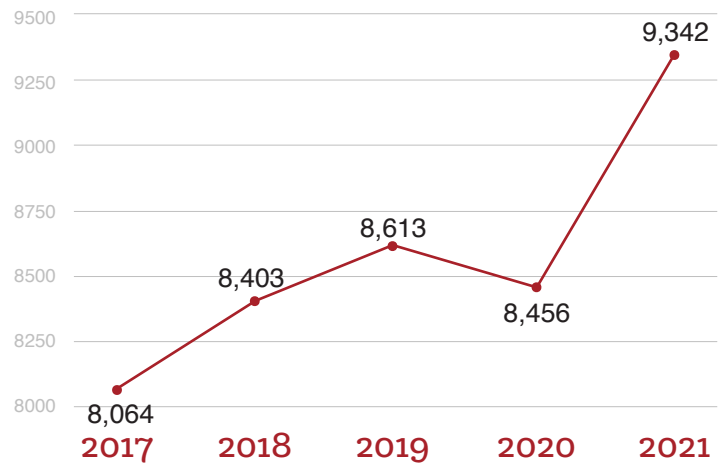
# 2021 Snapshot

**9,342** TOTAL CALLS  
IN 2021

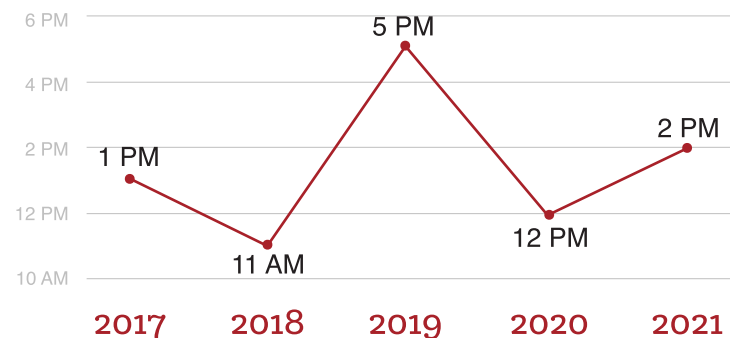


**37** WORKING  
FIRES

## CALLS THROUGH THE YEARS

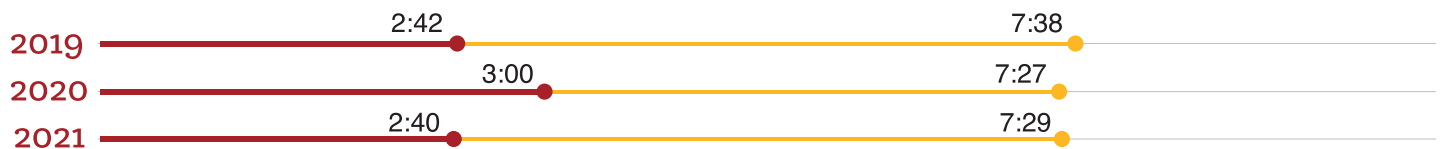


## DEMAND BY HOUR OF THE DAY



**90<sup>th</sup>** PERCENTILE TURNOUT  
TIME ALL CALLS

TIME FROM DISPATCH UNTIL ENROUTE



**90<sup>th</sup>** PERCENTILE TOTAL  
RESPONSE TIME ALL CALLS

TIME THE CALL IS ANSWERED UNTIL UNIT ON SCENE



## RESPONSE COUNT BY FRONTLINE APPARATUS

<b>E1</b> 2,210	<b>E5</b> 2,133	<b>E3</b> 1,934	<b>E2</b> 1,934	<b>L1</b> 1,554
<b>E4</b> 1,196	<b>E7</b> 711	<b>E6</b> 708	<b>BAT1</b> 688	<b>HAZ2</b> 602

TOTAL PROPERTY VALUE SAVED =  
TOTAL PROPERTY VALUE — TOTAL PROPERTY AND CONTENT LOSS

TOTAL SAVED  
**\$21,162,352**

TOTAL VALUE  
**\$23,301,387**  
TOTAL LOSS  
**\$2,139,035**

# Stations



## Fire Station No. 1 / Headquarters

600 Lynn St.

Fire Station Number 1 is the newest fire station in the City of Danville. Built in 2014, this station houses Engine 1, Ladder 1, Tower 1, the Battalion Chief's vehicle, and other support vehicles.

## Fire Station No. 2

250 Piney Forest Rd.

Fire Station Number 2 houses Engine 2 and Ladder 2. Ladder 2 is department's reserve aerial.



## Fire Station No. 3

1315 Industrial Ave.

Fire Station Number 3 houses Engine 3 and reserve apparatus Engine 9.

## Fire Station No. 4

2152 W. Main St.

Fire Station Number 4 houses Engine 4, Tender 4, and Brush 10.







# Stations



## Fire Station No. 5

**114 Third Ave.**

Fire Station Number 5 houses Engine 5 and the Tactical Rescue Trailer.



## Fire Station No. 6

**3165 Westover Dr.**

Fire Station Number 6 houses Engine 5 and reserve apparatus Engine 8.



## Fire Station No. 7

**423 Airport Dr.**

Fire Station Number 7 houses Engine 7 and the Hazardous Materials Response Team Trailer. The facility also has a large classroom used for training.



## Dispatch Center

**600 Lynn St.**

The City of Danville Emergency Communications Center is structured within the Danville Fire Department. The Communications Center is the vital link to excellent care in emergency management, police, fire and medical emergencies.







# Operations Division Summary

2021 saw some significant changes in the Operations leadership. After 34 years of service, Deputy Chief Mike Jefferson announced his retirement to focus on family and both Battalion Chief Brian Alderson and Battalion Chief Chris Key, with 35 and 33 years respectfully, decided to leave the DFD for greener pastures. Those three alone took with them 102 years of experience, not to mention the 7 other retirements and two resignations, our frontline saw quite a change. To put in perspective, losing 12 of our firefighters is almost 10% of our workforce!

It has been said that the two things firefighters hate the most is the status quo and change. Which meant the retirements were met with mixed emotions, while we were saddened by the loss of our long-time co-workers, there was the accompanied excitement of promotions. The higher up the vacancy, the greater the movement through the ranks.

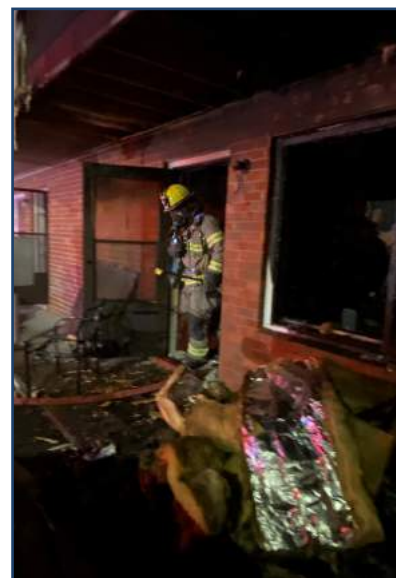
With the aid of two different grants, the DFD purchased two additional outboard motors and a spare lower unit, as well as much of the smaller necessities, to enhance our Swift Water Rescue Team. We also were successful in obtaining three full sets of vehicle extrication equipment through a grant that will significantly enhance the service we provide our community.

The groundwork was laid to host our first Advanced-EMT class in house. This entailed applying to the State to become an accredited agency, writing a policy and then solidifying relationships to provide patient contact hours. This was a collaborative effort between several people starting with Chief Jefferson and ending with Captain Travis Poteat, with several others in between. Our first class is scheduled to start in July 2022. Again, this will enhance the service we provide our community.

One of the most significant additions we made to 2021 was that of a Logistics Officer. Captain Thompson was promoted to this position and has proven to be a valued asset relieving some of the responsibilities shared by the Ops Chief and Battalion Chiefs. Steve hit the ground running and started by getting our supply chain organized and more efficiently distributed. Additionally, enhancements were made in our request for service system, Fire Domain, that has made it more user friendly which everyone appreciates.

We took receipt of the new Engine 4 in early October allowing for a third engine to be placed in reserve. The final spec was finished on the new Engine 1 and the order was placed in January. Current build times have increased to 14 to 16 months from the date the order is placed which adds a new dynamic to planning and budgeting.

*Several members completed water rescue training on the Dan River.*





# "A" Shift Year in Review

Battalion Chief Thomas Napier

## QUICK GLANCE

**3,124** CALLS DURING 2021

**11** WORKING FIRES

To say that 2021 was a busy year, might just be an understatement!! The Danville Fire Department responded to 9,432 calls for service, the most in our history, not to mention all the company based training, pub-ed events, promotions and retirements.

2021 started off just where 2020 left off with Covid-19 affecting numerous personnel with exposures and positive test results. Many days we are short staffed and require overtime from off duty personnel to staff the apparatus. Thank You to everyone that answers the call for staffing apparatus on each shift. "A" shift was on duty when Danville PD Officer Bonnie Jones was airlifted due to Covid. Personnel from "A" shift as well as Asst. FM Richie Guill and Deputy Chief Tim Duffer stood to show support along with members of the Police Dept.

"A" shift welcomed lateral hire employees, Dylan Alvis and Kaden Lewis, we look forward to working with you and mentoring you with your careers. Congratulations to Battalion Chief Brian Alderson, Captain Daryl Turpin and Captain Randy Barrett on their retirement. Each of these great men have served this fire department and the citizens of our city for a combined total of 89 years. Their many years of experience and friendship will be greatly missed. ENJOY, because it is well deserved!!!! Congratulations to all personnel that received promotions this year as well. You all were chosen for a reason, so continue to progress in your career and mentor others as you have been.

Station 3A completed the painting and upgrades to the apparatus bay. It looks great and the time and effort that was put in to make it shine is greatly appreciated!!! The DFD apparatus fleet has welcomed new E4 into service. Thanks goes out to Captain Travis Poteat for his assistance, while on light duty, for the research and in-service class on Narcan that was placed on apparatus during December. Firefighters Scott Birney, Aaron Turner and Matt Abbott completed the Instructor I class held at the DFD. Captain Dave Gunnell completed his Battalion 1 training and has filled in when needed. Congratulations to Captain Jamie Satterfield and Captain Travis Poteat on completing their CFAI Fire Officer certification. Numerous personnel attended Rope Operations class held at the DFD and other various training classes throughout the year. Thank you all for participating and obtaining the skills to advance our department.



*A Shift members Engineer Farris and Engineer Epps were on the scene of an outside fire.*





# "B" Shift Year in Review

Battalion Chief William Smotherman

## QUICK GLANCE

**3,118** CALLS DURING 2021 **14** WORKING FIRES

B Shift has had a year to remember! We had a total of **14 working fires**. One such fire was at a residential hotel, Heritage Towers. The fire was small, but the evacuation was significant. We also had many other fires to hone our skills, and B shift represented the best of us, in **skills and motivation**.

The department seemed to remain in a constant state of flux with veteran members retiring and new members being recruited; however, personnel strived to maintain a **sense of stability and camaraderie**. We endeavored to provide our best to our community, and that involved many people stepping up and filling vacancies. All members have continued to give more of themselves and sacrifice for their community, and their dedication is appreciated!

We obtained our new turnout gear by Morning Pride. We purchased the equipment in February and received it in March, and it has been a blessing to our department and continues to help us protect ourselves and our community.

B Shift companies were called to multiple vehicle crashes. We had a tractor trailer flip onto its side on the expressway, entrapping the driver. The extrication quickly followed to free the driver. Great work to all involved!

This year also brought with it an excess of motor vehicle crashes involving structures. Just a friendly reminder to those that need it the most: **Always buckle-up, don't drink and drive, and put those phones on silent when traveling.**

*At Left, B Shift members were on the scene at a fire on Freeze Road in February 2021.*



# "C" Shift Year in Review

Battalion Chief Dean Fowler

## QUICK GLANCE

**3,100** CALLS DURING 2021 **12** WORKING FIRES

As we look back on the year, we have been extremely busy with emergency responses. C-shift responded to 12 working fires this year. Seven vehicles vs structures, two water rescues just name a few.

We have had the privilege to see five members retire from the department and begin a new chapter in life. Captain, Greg Setliff, Engineers, Chris Bass, Dennis Beamon and Marcus Vincent and Firefighter Steve Decker. We continue to miss them and wish all of them a long and healthy retirement.

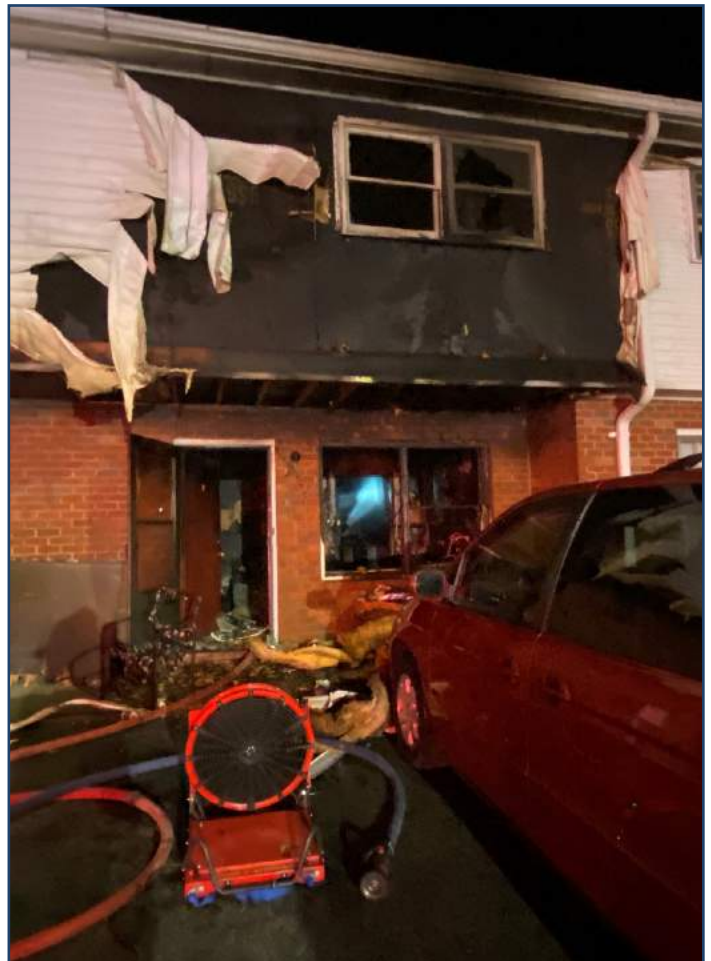
We've experienced the joy of seeing some of our people promoted with Tyler Capps, Taylor Vernon, Zach Lyons, and Tyler Shields to Engineer. Travis Buchanan to Lieutenant and Travis Poteat to Captain.

We have added some new personnel to the C-Shift family with firefighters Zane Elder, Josh White, Tyler Mcpherson and John Whitlow. These guys have come in and are doing a great job at starting a wonderful career.

We have been blessed with a safe year and look forward to a safe and successful year ahead.



*Below, C Shift members were on the scene at a working fire on Shannon Drive in April 2021.*







# Technical and Support Services

Deputy Chief Tim Duffer

As we started the second year of the COVID 19 pandemic. Danville Fire Department was part of the efforts to control the virus and to support the city as an all hazards department. Danville Fire Department was part of a team to lead the vaccine efforts in the city. The team included SOVAH health, Averett University, Virginia Department of Health, Parks and Rec, Danville Life Saving Crew, and Danville Police Department. This team was able to support several vaccine clinics in the city. We also partnered with VDEM and a private contractor to support a state-run vaccine clinic in the old JCPenney building at the Danville Mall site. This site was setup to vaccinate 3000 people a day if needed. Danville Fire Department was tasked by the city to get the building ready and to support the private contractor at both the mall and remote sites, such as large industry locations. The Vaccine team done an outstanding job during this time. We were able to learn from each event and meet the goals set by the team and the city. During the initial vaccine efforts, **more than 40%** of the city population was **vaccinated**.



*The Danville Fire Department was part of a team to lead the vaccine efforts in the city. During the initial vaccine efforts, more than 40% of the city population was vaccinated.*

This year we also asked for several grants to support the Department. Danville Fire Department received the following **grants** during 2021:

- **Assistant to Fire Fighter Grant.** This grant was for **\$126,897** and will support placing extrication equipment on three fire trucks.
- **Fire Prevention and Safety Grant.** This grant was for **\$132,184** and will support buying extinguishers that are placed under kitchen hood fans in low-income housing. It will also support buying a training system to teach fire extinguisher training to the underserved communities.
- **Emergency Shelter Upgrade.** This grant was for **\$102,200** and will support placing a generator at Bonner Middle School.
- **State Homeland Security Grant.** This grant was for **\$31,692** and will support replacing tools for the Regional Haz-Mat team.



We also received **more than \$60,000 in grants** to support the Regional Swift Water program. These grants come from both local and state funds.

## The Danville Haz-Mat Team:

The team had an active year for both city and regional calls. Two of these calls were regional calls located in Chatham Virginia and Campbell County. Both calls required the efforts from multiple agencies working together to stabilize the incident.

*The Danville Haz-Mat Team was on the scene to stabilize this incident of an overturned tanker truck.*



*Captain Ken Jones spoke about his experience going to New York during 9/11 at the DFD 20th anniversary of 9/11 ceremony.*





# Community Risk Reduction

## Fire Marshal Shelby Irving

### INSPECTIONS

The Fire Prevention Division provides a full range of services to protect our citizens, and visitors, to our community. We inspect and educate local businesses and their employees safety values against the loss of life and property through effective and innovative public safety services. The Division applies a proactive approach to fire prevention and encourage all to practice safety daily.

To keep our staff safe and healthy, we suspended in-person inspections for about three months in during the first quarter, due to the lingering of COVID 19.

The Fire Marshals completes inspections along with plan reviews of all public buildings throughout the City of Danville. We are required to inspect all educational, day care, adult homes, and institutional facilities annually and many cases twice a year. These inspections rely primarily on educating occupants / owners on inspection items that need to be repaired to meet compliance to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the current Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. When these codes are not met, fines and fees may be issued to bring these occupancies up to compliance. Our goal is to get resolution through voluntary compliance through education and understanding by the building's owners and occupants. We are also able to generate revenue through fire inspection efforts by charging businesses a fee through 27-98 of the Code of Virginia & Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code 107.10.

In 2021, the Danville Fire Department signed up with a private company (Brycer The Compliance Engine) at no cost to the City to send out notifications to businesses to inform them when their fire protection systems are up for testing. Once the business has their system tested, the company doing the testing sends in the records to the Compliance Engine and they notify us of the results. The Company also will do follow up letters if the businesses don't take care of their systems and have them tested in a timely matter. If there is a deficiency in the protection system, the company will also send a letter to make sure the problem is corrected. By using the Compliance Engine, we have already noticed that businesses are keeping up with maintenance and inspections. However, we will not see the full effect of this until after January of 2022. With being on board with the Compliance Engine, we will be able to see the status of a business fire protection systems prior to arriving on location for an inspection.

The citizens of Danville voted in 2020 to allow Caesars Casino to build a large gambling casino, with a 500-room hotel, with several restaurants, and entertainment venues. Since the passing of the casino the Fire Department has seen an increase in building or renovation permits. With the increased permits, plan reviews have increased. Plan review projects

range from large commercial projects to small tenant renovations. The large building or renovations require a lot of time looking at alarm and sprinkler plans to make sure they follow the NFPA and local fire codes.

Engine companies continue to conduct pre-incident surveys. The information obtained from the surveys is kept on a Records Management System using iPads. The information is always available to firefighters. The survey consists of contact information, sprinkler systems, alarm panel locations, hydrants, electric panels, and general information that may be needed after hours of operation.

As of writing this document in early 2022, fire prevention and inspection activities have largely **returned to normal** practices, albeit with mask and social distancing practices still observed.



*During the "Battle of the Badges" Blood Drive held in July 2021, the Danville Fire Department came out on top with the most blood donations received.*



## INVESTIGATIONS

All fires in the City of Danville are investigated by either the Company Officer, or the Fire Marshals. In the event a Company Officer cannot determine origin and cause, or the fire is suspicious in nature, or injury or death has occurred the Fire Marshal on duty is notified to respond. The Fire Marshal's Office is staffed with **three full time Fire Marshals** who are certified by the Virginia Fire Marshals Academy. The Fire Marshals work a rotating schedule allowing a Marshal to be on duty 24 hours a day to respond to fires when needed.

In 2021 The Fire Marshals **investigated 31 fires** in the City including **9** that were determined to be the **result of arson**.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

The Community Risk Reduction (CRR) section is comprised of a dedicated staff which reaches out to the public to teach various fire, health, and safety programs. Instruction on properly functioning smoke alarms, evacuation planning, preparedness, and fire extinguisher use, are just a sampling of the programs offered. The CRR section is led by Chief Shelby Irving and assisted by Lieutenants Richie Guill and Jay Thornton. Together, they spearhead the education inspections, investigations, and prevention of the Danville Fire Department on matters pertaining to fire, health, and safety. **122 smoke alarms** were installed, **72 batteries** installed, **30 child safety seats** were installed. The Fire Department currently have **seven technicians certified** through Safe Kids providing car seat safety checks for residents of Danville. Car seat inspection numbers were down in 2021 due to suspension of the program for part of the year (COVID). Technicians and Instructors are required to successfully complete the recertification process before current certification expires.

The Danville Fire Department firefighters provides fire and safety education to all schools, civic groups, churches, business, housing, and apartment complexes as needed or by request. An important part of education revolves around hands on training, with the fire extinguisher simulator, Fire Safety House, station tours, and videos.

October 2021 Fire Prevention Month was limited in schools and other groups due to the guidelines by Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The Fire Marshal delivered National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) educational material to the schools including videos, stickers, coloring books, posters, and activity sheets to the elementary schools and childcare centers. The NFPA theme was **"Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety"** therefore my message was for the students to recognize the sounds of a smoke and carbon monoxide alarm.

In 2021 when it was safe to do so the department became more active in the community. We decided that the best way to understand and connect with the needs of the communities is to establish a community relationship. The Fire Department joined forces with the Police Department and the Inspection Division to go out into the community and become available to the residents, this was a time to give back to the community.

Several activities were held beginning in the summer with car shows, motorcycle shows, Community Engagement Walks, Heart Walks, National Night Out, 911 Remembrance Ceremony, Back to School programs, Halloween Monster Mash, a First Responder and Veterans BBQ lunch, and Badges and Toys drive. These events gave us the opportunity to meet with residents and show our equipment, answer safety questions, hand out safety literature, and speak on careers in public safety.

During the beginning of 2021, the Danville Fire Department was tasked with assisting with the vaccine shots with the Virginia Department of Health. Firefighters assisted with setting up clinics, monitoring patients, and registration. These events occurred at factories, malls, community venues, churches, and universities. Additionally, members of the fire department committed to engaging in some of these activities on their off time from the fire department. We take pride in being an integral part of the community we serve.

## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

Jay Thornton attended the Environmental Crimes

Chief Coffey received his 1031 Certification for Inspections



*DFD held their Badges and Toys event and met with community members.*



# Training & Safety

## Battalion Chief Jon Yeaman

The Training Division started the year off in full speed with a recruit academy already underway. The Training Division worked with eight recruits five days a week for almost 10 hours a day through the end of March to complete the five-month academy. At the conclusion of the academy the department started the annual agility testing. The shift Battalion Chiefs organized this testing and with the help of the Division Chief of Training, were able to successfully test every member of the organization. The agility times were some of the best in the history of the agility testing. This proves the physical fitness level of the organization is improving.

At the conclusion of the annual agility testing the Training Division began rolling out class after class for the organization. These classes started with the SCBA

bus maze rotating station to station allowing individuals to practice and hone their SCBA skills. Company based skills were conducted at the conclusion of the SCBA maze. These company-based skills allowed companies to arrive at the training center and proceed through two real-world evolutions with very little input from the Training Division. This training although very physical was a tremendous hit with department members. When the weather turned hot, we moved inside to conduct joint training with the Danville Life Saving Crew (DLSC). This allowed members of our department to interact with members of the DLSC in fire stations as well as classrooms located at the Danville Area Training Center thus improving the relationship between the two organizations. After the EMS training the new company officer training began. This class



*Training Academy Live Burn at the Regional Fire Training Center on Stinson Drive*

was developed by combining and updating several older classes and used to develop aspiring company officers with leadership / communication expectations as well as basic fireground strategy and tactics. Training for 2021 wrapped up during the months of November and December with the annual SCBA mask fit testing / MAY-DAY / EMS training.

The Training Division went through a remodel during the year 2021 with four of the six lieutenants getting promoted to the rank of Captain. Lieutenants Poteat, Goad, Minter, and T. Collins were all promoted to Captain during the year. We were able to quickly promote four great lieutenants to take their place. Engineers Buchanan, Yeatts, Stowe, and B. Collins were promoted to take these individuals places. These four guys have hit the ground running and are already actively working to make the Training Division better.

The Training Division plans to keep moving forward in the year 2021 with the start of our next recruit academy February 1st and development of new training courses as well as continuing with building upon our training facilities and mobile equipment.





# Emergency Communications

Kasey White

## QUICK GLANCE

**47,190** PROCESSED 911 CALLS  
DURING 2021

**100,263** ADMINISTRATIVE  
CALLS

The Danville Fire Department Emergency Communications Center processed a total of 147,453 phone calls during 2021. 47,190 of those were 911 calls, and the remaining 100,263 were administrative phone calls.

We were very blessed to only have two employees resign during 2021. One employee to resign was Telecommunicator Supervisor Daryle Harris in April. Telecommunicator Teresa Plummer was selected to take his place and officially began her new role in June.

We were approved for a new position, Senior Telecommunicator / Telecommunicator II, beginning in Fiscal Year 2022. This



is a position between Telecommunicator and Telecommunicator Supervisor that anyone can obtain if they meet certain training qualifications and have at least three years of service. Telecommunicator Heather Eakin was the first person to meet all qualifications and promote to the new position. Several others are working to obtain the needed training and are expected to promote in 2022.

As mentioned in the 2020 Annual Report, we received a \$3000 PEP Grant to be used during Fiscal Year 2021. We originally planned to use it for state conference attendance, but all conferences were cancelled due to Covid-19. Instead, we spent the money on hosting Emergency Medical Dispatch, Emergency Fire Dispatch, and Emergency Police Dispatch classes at Station 1. We had instructors come in from North Carolina and Maryland, and students attend from Danville and several neighboring jurisdictions.

We were awarded another \$3000 PEP Grant for FY22. Approximately half of that was spent for 911 Manager Kasey White and Telecommunicator Stephen

Sutton to attend the APCO/NENA/Interoperability Conference at the Hotel Roanoke in October. The conference was two and a half days of classes and networking with others from across Virginia in the 911 industry. We hope to use the remainder of the money for the APCO/NENA conference in Virginia Beach in May 2022.

911 Manager Kasey White attended the NENA National Conference in Columbus, Ohio in July. This was the first time anyone from our center has attended a national conference in many years, but we are hopeful that we will be able to attend these regularly in the future as staffing allows.

We were able to send several employees to train at the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training







Academy in Martinsville in 2021. Supervisor Brian Cochran attended First line Supervisor School in January. Four of our newest telecommunicators attended Basic Dispatch School in May (a required class through the Department of Criminal Justice Services). Shift Supervisor Brian Cochran and Telecommunicator Heather Eakin attended General Instructor School in August which gave them the needed skills to teach at future Basic Dispatch Schools. Shift Supervisor Teresa Plummer, and Telecommunicators Stewart Moore, Marian Vagts, and Kristen Smith attended another First Line Supervisor School in December.

To expand our Quality Assurance program, we offered QA training to three more employees. Supervisor Brian Cochran received QA training in Emergency Medical

Dispatch. Telecommunicator Stewart Moore received QA training in Emergency Fire Dispatch. Finally, Telecommunicator Marian Vagts received QA training in Emergency Police Dispatch. They will work with Supervisors Darlene Foster and Jamie Doss to ensure we are providing the most appropriate service on every call.

We upgraded our telephone system to be compatible with Next Generation 911 (NG911) in May. NG911 will bring enhanced data service to our Emergency Communications Center, allowing us to receive video and picture messages, as well as receive better location accuracy and ease of transfer to other 911 centers. We were originally scheduled to make the transition to NG911 on the ESInet in November, but it was pushed back to the first quarter of 2022 due to a scheduling conflict with some of the involved telephone companies.

In September, 911 Manager Kasey White was appointed to serve on the Virginia Department of Emergency Management PSAP Regional Advisory Committee representing Region 6. This committee includes a representative from all seven regions in Virginia, as well as citizen representatives and representatives from several other public safety agencies and companies in Virginia. The committee is working to find solutions for common problems in the PSAP and make recommendations to the 911 Services Board.

On a fun note, we participated in several community engagement activities throughout the year. Telecommunicators Pepper Travis, Marilu Barnett, and Latrice Garland-Stamps were featured on River City TV to highlight what happens in the Emergency Communications Center when a 911 call is placed. Teresa Plummer and Latrice Garland-Stamps visited with students at Rivermont School to talk about possible careers with 911. Multiple employees assisted with Christmas parade preparations and helped at the Ballou Park Holiday Light Show. In addition, several employees attended various neighborhood community engagement activities along with the Danville Police Department.

Overall, 2021 was a great year for the Emergency Communications Center. We are hopeful that 2022 will be even better!



*Supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month, A Shift poses with ECC Manager Kasey White and Darla.*



# The Ladies Up Front

The Recruit Academy graduated outside, due to COVID guidelines, at the Carrington Pavilion on April 23rd with 8 graduates that were split up between several stations and shifts to begin in their new role as firefighters. We also honored 3 retirees and firefighter engineer Greg Thomas at the event that were unable to be recognized in a group setting due to previous COVID restrictions.

We hosted a blood drive on June 2nd in honor of our wonderful telecommunicators. Steve Sutton was the spokesperson for the event and provided Erika Saunders with materials to have an informational slideshow for donors to watch while donating. The drive collected 31 units of blood. We then challenged the Danville Police Department in a Battle of the Badges blood drive event to see who can get the most donors. This took place July 29-30 and, of course, WE WON! We collected a total of 71 units of blood.

Our First Annual Service Awards Luncheon was held at Station 1 in the Training Room acknowledging 25 employees who reached milestones for their years of service. This totals to 360 years of dedicated service to the Danville Fire Department.

The 2020 Awards Banquet was greatly delayed due to COVID restrictions but was ultimately held at the Stratford Conference Center Friday, August 20th of 2021 at 6:00 PM. After so long, it was nice to be able to finally get together and enjoy each other's company. We were very excited to be able to have plaques made for the first time ever for Firefighter of the Year, Telecommunicator of the Year, and those that received the Citizenship Award.

The ceremony for the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 took place in front of Station 1. The Danville Fire Department Honor Guard did the posting of colors. Speakers from our department included Chief Dave Coffey, Captain Ken Jones, and Firefighter and Pastor John Epps.

The first annual Santa at the Station was held at Station 1 on December 16th for employees and their families to share in the joys of the holidays over hot cocoa and cookies.

We participated in the Holiday Light Show with the Danville Sheriff's Office and the Danville Police Department to display a red, white, and blue themed display to demonstrate "United Together." We also participated in the Christmas Parade on

December 4th with the Safety House, a float carrying firefighters and their families, and the Tower carrying Santa himself!

*At left, Administrative Assistant April and Senior Secretary Erika pose with Darla.*







**SPECIAL THANKS  
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