



Summit Fire & EMS 2019 Annual Report





The year 2019 will go down as a monumental one for Summit Fire & EMS, marked by significant landmarks in our development as a professional, all-hazards response organization – and

by the heartbreak of the first line-of-duty death in our organization history, with the loss of Firefighter Ken Jones in December.

“Jonesy,” a 20-year veteran of the department, fell from a roof while battling a chimney fire in Copper Mountain. We still are coming to terms with the loss of our quiet colleague and friend, but this tragedy has served only to draw us tighter together as an organization and a family. I am proud of how our crews and staff have responded with professionalism and dignity, and I am confident that we will honor Ken and remember his mark on our department forever.

Before that big shadow was cast over us, we at Summit Fire & EMS had seen a year of historic achievements.

In March, we gained international professional accreditation from the Center of Public Safety Excellence, reflecting a years-on effort to examine and justify every aspect of our work and responsibilities and ensure that we are performing efficiently, purposefully and smartly. We are honored to be one of only 270 accredited agencies in the world. This designation marks less of an achievement unto itself as much as a commitment to improve our work constantly, with goals and reviews conducted annually and a daily dedication to excellence throughout our ranks.

In collaboration with Summit County, we merged operations with the Summit County Ambulance Service on July 1, integrating medical crews with firefighting crews in a process that has drawn the two organizations ever closer over the years. On January 1, that merger was to become formal, with the county handing off all management and overhead to Summit Fire & EMS.

And also in July, we cut the ribbon on our new administration building in the County Commons complex, bringing together under one roof, which includes our senior administration staff, ambulance and all-hazards response divisions, billing and Community Risk Division inspectors and fire marshal. This structure was a successful collaborative effort between Summit Fire & EMS and Summit County government.

Finally, in consultation with our publicly elected Board of Directors, I have submitted my intention to retire in July of 2020 after 40 years in the Summit County fire service, including five years at the helm of Summit Fire & EMS and its predecessor, Lake Dillon Fire-Rescue. It has been my esteemed honor to have served in this job, surrounded by dedicated, skilled professionals, all working to promote safety and to help our residents and visitors when they are having bad days. Our new Purpose Statement – “Our Family Serving Your Family” – will continue to guide us forward. I have no doubt that this organization will continue to serve our community with honor and distinction, and you will be proud to have Summit Fire & EMS as your community first responders.

-- Chief Jeff Berino

OPERATIONS/EMERGENCY RESPONSE



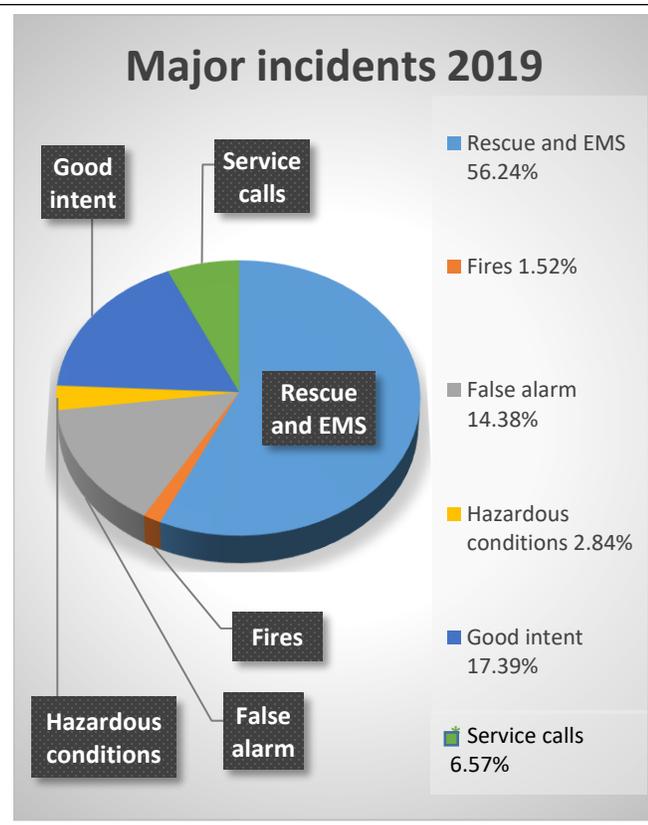
A tractor-trailer hauling lentil beans collided with three other vehicles coming down Interstate 70 from the Eisenhower Tunnel on Oct. 9. Summit Fire & EMS crews cared for the driver, who suffered minor injuries and extinguished the burning wreckage. No one else was injured.

Beginning in 2019, Summit Fire & EMS combined forces with the Summit County Ambulance Service in a single emergency-response organization.

Emergency crews from four round-the-clock stations – in Copper Mountain, Dillon, Frisco and Keystone – are supplemented with part-time coverage from an ambulance depot in Summit Cove.

Summit Fire & EMS crews responded to 3,402 calls for assistance in 2019, a 39 percent increase over the previous year.

Losses due to fire were limited to \$79,900, with more than \$11.3 million in associated property saved.



OPERATIONS/EMERGENCY RESPONSE



As part of our community-outreach efforts, each year we teach dozens of Summit High School students how to perform hands-only CPR. Here, SF&EMS Clinical Practice Coordinator Jenn Oese demonstrates the life-saving skill in May.

Summit Fire & EMS established a goal of achieving patient-satisfaction scores better than 93 percent on medical calls; in 2019 the organization reached 99 percent.

In fact, Summit Fire & EMS was named a top-five agency in the country in 2019 by a national performance-consulting group for achieving the highest levels of EMS patient satisfaction and engagement.

Additionally, Summit Fire & EMS won the American Heart Association's silver medal for high-quality CPR in its Mission: Lifeline program, awarded jointly with the other EMS agencies in Summit County – a rare achievement for a first-year application.

Each year, Summit Fire & EMS response crews train, practice and prepare for everything from wildfires to hazardous-materials responses, vehicle crashes to ice

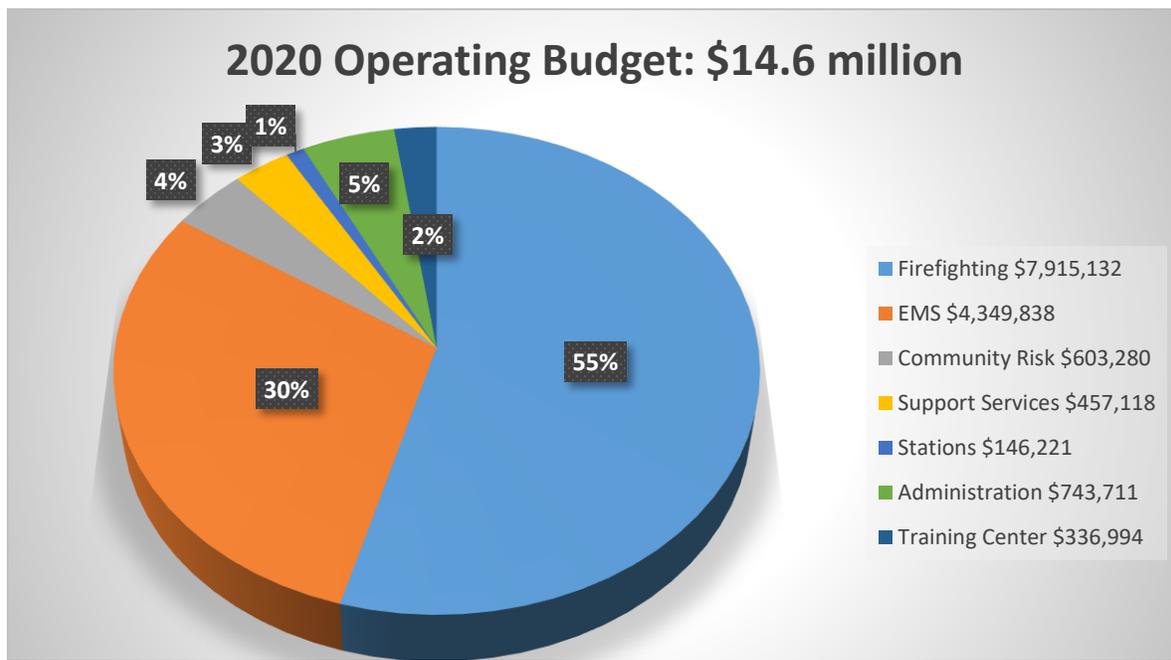
rescues, medical calls to severe-weather incidents

Together, engine and ambulance crews participated in more than 1,700 training opportunities in 2019, entailing a cumulative 10,700 hours in an ongoing effort to provide the highest-quality emergency-response capabilities.

In addition to moving EMS overhead staff to the new administration building, Summit Fire & EMS began major renovations at Station 2 in Frisco to add sleeping quarters, medical supplies and workspace for an ambulance crew and EMS Supervisor.

The medic division also was awarded 50 percent matching funds for a new ambulance, expected to be delivered in May, which will be the fourth in a fleet of nine to incorporate the latest industry standards for crew and patient safety.

FINANCE



The Summit Fire & EMS operating budget for 2020 is projected to be \$14.6 million, which is a 57 percent increase over the previous year, predominantly due to the merger with Summit County Ambulance Service that took place on Jan. 1.

Summit Fire & EMS is funded primarily through property taxes designated for the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District and the Copper Mountain Consolidated Metropolitan District. For 2020, Lake Dillon taxpayers will contribute \$7.7 million, and Copper Mountain taxpayers will contribute \$2 million.

Emergency medical services are projected to generate \$5.5 million, offset by expenditures of \$4.2 million, and revenue from permit fees is projected at \$500,000.

Summit Fire & EMS ended 2019 financially sound and with no debt incurred. The department's reserve fund stands at

\$1.8 million, or 18.6 percent of total expenditures.

Summit Fire & EMS employs 63 career firefighters, 22 full-time medics, 22 part-time medics and 16 full-time civilian staff members including Community Risk Division inspectors and a fire marshal.

For 2020, Summit Fire & EMS has budgeted \$75,000 for capital expenditures, notably for a down payment for a wildfire engine, upgrades to computer and software systems and a new sign for Station 1 in Copper Mountain.

Estimated reserves at the end of 2020 will be \$2.7 million, which would cover an estimated three months of expenditures based on current spending, not including the EMS operations.

Summit Fire & EMS adheres to conservative budgeting principles and is audited annually.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Summit Fire & EMS Chief Jeff Berino – who announced his pending retirement for July of 2020 – accepts the Fire Chief of the Year Award in October from the Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association after a momentous year for the department that included gaining full professional accreditation, completing a new administration building and merging with the Summit County Ambulance Service among other achievements.

In 2019, Summit Fire & EMS welcomed the following employees: Firefighters **Chris Cuculis, Aaron Baker and Mark Piller**; Fleet Technician **Tom Baumgarten**; Training Center Division Chief **John Hall**; Firefighter/Medics **Karen Hilton and Shauna Rial**; Paramedics **Corey Okes and Jacob Love**; and Emergency Medical Technicians **Sarah Bennett and Christopher Smith**.

At the annual Summit Fire & EMS Awards luncheon, the Community Service Awards were presented to **Bill Jackson and Eric White** of the Dillon Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service; the **staff and leaders of Dillon Community Church**; and the **Developmental Disabilities Resource Center** and SF&EMS HR Manager **Matt Scheer**. Firefighter/Medic **Adam Anderson**, Capt. **Brian Schenking** and

Firefighter/Inspector **Jim Farquhar** were presented with the Chief's Award. The Unit Citation Award was presented to **Schenking**, Engineer **Joe Fava, Anderson**, Firefighter **Jason Bell** and Capt. **Ryan Cole**. The Leadership Award was presented to Lt. **Lou Laurina**. And **Nick Pollard** was named Firefighter of the Year.

Meanwhile, Fleet Services Manager **Randy Miller** and **Farquhar** were recognized for 10 years of service; Engineers **Tom Adams** and **Jeremy Antemesaris**, Lieutenants **Doug Beeler** and **Cole** and Fire Corps volunteers **Jim** and **Maggie Cox** were recognized for 15 years; and Training Captain **Tyson Houston**; **Bell**; Engineer **Mark Nielsen**; and Captains **Todd Hebebrand** and **Schenking** were honored for 20 years of service.

SUPPORT SERVICES



The historic 1942 Sterling fire engine – sold to Summit Fire & EMS for \$1 from the Summit Historical Society – made its last journey to its display area at the new administration building in October.

The Support Services division oversees building and facility maintenance, fleet services, information technology, communications equipment and coordinates the volunteer Fire Corps.

Highlights in 2019 included completion of the new administration building in Frisco, installation of a station-alerting system at Station 1 in Copper Mountain, upgrades to the vehicle-exhaust systems at Station 2 in Frisco and Station 11 in Keystone, renovation of Station 2 to accommodate EMS crews and an EMS supervisor, conversion of computer networks and phones for the inclusion of the ambulance service in the organization, replacing external station sign at Station 2 in Frisco and supporting Summit County 9-1-1 upgrades to the VHF digital radio system.

The organization's in-house Snake River Fleet Services performed 217 vehicle services on Summit Fire & EMS vehicles and another 154 vehicle services for other agencies, including Breckenridge-based Red, White & Blue Fire and the Summit Fire Authority.

Significant facilities projects planned for 2020 include re-roofing of Station 2 in Frisco, upgrading the station-alerting system to include medic quarters at Station 11 in Keystone, development of a plan for a potential new response station in Silverthorne along with evaluating opportunities for temporary housing of a fire engine there in the interim, and putting up external station signs at Station 1 in Copper Mountain and Station 8 in Dillon.

COMMUNITY RISK/FIRE PREVENTION



The primary function of the Community Risk Division is to protect lives and property through risk reduction and planning. Division staff, under the direction of the fire marshal, includes five full-time fire-safety inspectors, one full-time community-risk officer/public educator and one full-time permit technician.

Some 529 permits were issued in 2019 for projects such as new construction, life-safety systems and business remodels. That generated \$798,784.66 in fees, a 104 percent increase over 2018.

Additionally, Summit Fire & EMS issued 116 defensible-space permits for new homes and expansions, generating \$14,400.00 in fees. Inspectors completed 283 inspections to ensure that adequate defensible space was created around new construction, as is mandated under Summit County ordinance.

A major achievement of this past year was coordinating with the towns and Summit County on the adoption of the updated International Fire Code.

Among the larger construction projects in 2019 were the Wintergreen employee housing and West Hills housing in Keystone; Sail Lofts and Uptown 240 condos and Dillon Homewood Suites in Dillon; Fourth Street Crossing project, Sky Ranch and Retreat on the Blue in Silverthorne; Frisco Medical Office Building; and the Sky Chutes employee housing and Element 29 hotel in Copper Mountain.

Summit Fire & EMS offers free wildfire consultations for homeowners, child car-seat inspections for parents and care-givers and fire-extinguisher training to businesses and civic groups. Additionally, CPR training, school visits and station tours also can be scheduled at (970) 262-5100.



Clockwise from upper left: The end of an era came with the move of the offices from the old Lake Dillon (and previously Silverthorne) Fire Station No. 10 to the new Summit Fire & EMS administration building in July; a brand-new wildfire engine, Wildland 11, got pressed into duty just after it had been fully outfitted with equipment, and it served on wildfires in California and Colorado, giving Summit Fire crews invaluable experience; Summit Fire was fully accredited by the Center For Public Safety Excellence in March, the culmination of a years-long process to review, document and justify all of our actions, procedures and operations; and one of the annual events we always enjoy is the Safe Summer Kickoff in Silverthorne, where we encourage kids heading off on summer break to take into account safe practices such as wearing helmets and knowing when to call 9-1-1 and when just to call mom.

On the cover: The ribbon-cutting on the new administration building in the County Commons near Frisco in July; visiting the elementary schools during annual Fire Prevention Week; and providing free fire-extinguisher training to a local workplace.

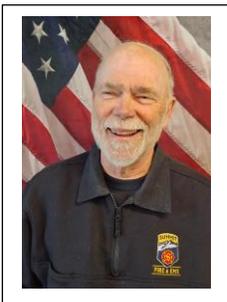


In Memoriam



On Dec. 7, while responding to a condominium fire in Copper Mountain, veteran Firefighter Ken Jones fell from the roof to his death. “Jonesy,” who had been with the department and its predecessors for nearly 20 years, left a wife and two young children – as well as the entire Summit Fire & EMS family. We have pledged to honor the memory of our colleague and friend by carrying on our duties as professionally and capably as Ken did, serving our community day in and day out, and never forgetting his contributions, his compassion and his kind nature.

Summit Fire & EMS is governed by a five-person publicly elected board of directors. Three representatives come from the Lake Dillon Fire Protection District: President Jim Cox, Treasurer Lori Miller and Jim Lee. Two representatives come from Copper Mountain: Vice President Dave Steele and Ben Broughton.



Cox



Steele



Miller



Lee



Broughton