



# HILLSBORO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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## END OF YEAR REPORT



# 2020

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# FIRE CHIEF

## BRIAN GAUDET

Dear Residents of the Hillsboro Fire Protection District,

It is my honor and privilege to present the 2020 Annual Report of the Hillsboro Fire Protection District. In this report you will find details of the Department's Daily activities, including all aspects of planning, prevention and response. The year of 2020 presented challenging times for all of society with a raging global pandemic and the Hillsboro Fire Protection District was right in the middle of planning and response to the pandemic. I could not be prouder of our staff for the dedication of providing emergency response during uncertain times. Never once did our staff waiver from the mission of the Hillsboro Fire Protection District to save lives and property.

Your Board of Directors continue to work hard to ensure the staff of the Hillsboro Fire Protection District has the tools and equipment to handle the pandemic and all other aspects of our job.

Your firefighters continued throughout the pandemic to train hard to prefect our craft and logged thousands of hours of training throughout the year of 2020. The Community Services Division still found ways to engage with the community and provide fire and emergency education to our residents throughout the year.

The Hillsboro Fire Protection District had yet another record-breaking year responding to 1022 calls for service. Our call volume continues to increase and is up over 74% in the past 15 years. As more and more people make the decision to call Hillsboro home, we have no reason to think there will be any type of a noticeable respite in calls.

We received our biggest news of the year in September of 2020 when we were awarded a FEMA Grant to staff our station 2, 24 four hours a day, 365 days a year for at least the next 3 years. This was a huge accomplishment for the district and the residents of the Hillsboro Fire Protection District now enjoy the peace of mind knowing that 4 people are on duty every day to protect our citizens and community.

The future is bright for the Hillsboro Fire Protection District and we strive everyday to ensure you receive the very best service possible.

We hope you find this report educational and informative. As always, my office door is always open for questions or concerns regarding the Hillsboro Fire Protection District.

Yours in Service,

*Brian Gaudet*

Fire Chief  
Brian Gaudet

# MISSION

Our mission at the Hillsboro Fire Protection District is to provide emergency services and fire prevention education to the citizens we serve. Our mission shall be accomplished through the use of a pro-active force of firefighters that are trained in fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical care, and education.

# VISION

The Members of the Hillsboro Fire Protection District will:

- Strive to be role models in the community and leaders in our profession.
- We will be accountable to those we serve, each other and any fire service organizations we interact with.
- We are committed to providing the best public service through innovative training, education and equipment.
- We will take the fire department into the future through productive teamwork, open and honest communications and participative decision making throughout our organization.
- We are committed to our values, mission, and dedicated to our fire service profession.
- Our organization is driven to provide a cost effective and efficient fire department while honoring our values, accomplishing our mission and achieving our goals.

# CORE VALUES

Honesty, Integrity, Teamwork, Commitment to Excellence,  
Knowledge and Respect



# HILLSBORO FIRE DISTRICT

## DEMOGRAPHICS

The Hillsboro Fire Protection District (HFPD) is located in the City of Hillsboro in Jefferson County Missouri, which is located 29 mi. south of St. Louis. Our first due response area is 44 sq. miles. We have large areas of open undeveloped land, large, wooded areas, scenic lakes, large educational complexes, residential areas, and government buildings. Our first due population is approximately 16834. We also have written/automatic mutual aid agreements with all 16 Fire Departments in our county increasing our response area to 664 sq. miles and a population of 220,209. We are a 24/7/365 combination fire district, comprised of 9 full time members and 20 volunteer members. Our 9 fulltime FFs are certified at NFPA1001 levels of FF1 & FF2 and as EMTs.

We have 14 volunteers FFs certified at FF1 & II and the remaining balance of our volunteers are currently in those training classes. The HFPD requires all new members to be certified to NFPA1001 FF1 & FF2 levels by the end of their first year. Our district is compliant with all current mandated NIMS requirements. We provide all fire suppression, technical rescue, hazmat, water rescue, non-transport BLS medical assistance, fire prevention programs, commercial building inspections, and public assistance.

## STATIONS AND EQUIPMENT

### Station 1

120 5th St  
Hillsboro, MO 63050

2020 pumper 1500gpm/1000gal.  
2016 Tanker 1000gpm/3000gal.  
2017 4x4 brush truck  
220gpm/250gal.  
2019 4x4 command vehicle  
2012 4x4 command vehicle  
2013 4x4 utility vehicle

### Station 2

5750 State Rd. B  
Hillsboro, MO 63050

2004 pumper 1250gpm/1000gal.  
2001 pumper 1250gpm/1000gal.  
1995 4x4 brush truck  
100gpm/300gal.

## Response Area Hazards

The Hillsboro Fire Protection District has responsibilities for the following Critical Infrastructure in our first due area:

- 2- large Ameren UE Electrical Substations
- AT&T Battery Building 1,095 gals. Sulfuric acid & 11,628 lbs. of lead stored at this facility.
- NG regulator and boosting pumping station Propane Distribution Center 30,000 gals. propane storage
- 1 radio tower that is 1301' tall
- County 911 Communications Tower – 490'
- 1 Adult correctional facilities housing 355 inmates and staff
- 2 Juvenile correctional facilities housing 60 inmates and staff.
- Missouri DNR Chemical Drop Facility/Chemical Storage – housing numerous chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine (Eastern Missouri Storage Center) all chemicals seized from meth labs for the eastern half of Missouri are stored here.
- Jefferson County Court House and numerous other government buildings on the State and Local levels
- Jefferson College with approximately 3000 students
- Hillsboro School District with numerous school buildings and 3400 students
- State Rt. 21 a 4-lane highway with large amounts of truck traffic and hazmat traffic
- Numerous residential subdivisions
- Several miles of the Big River
- Several large Lakes and Lake Communities
- Thousands of Acres of Wild-land Urban Interface

- The Hillsboro Fire Protection District spent many hours assisting the Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management during the early days of the pandemic filling various roles at the Emergency Operations Center.
- The Hillsboro Fire Protection District was able to maintain a healthy staff throughout the pandemic without decreasing staffing levels and maintaining the same level of service to the community.
- In the summer of 2020, the Hillsboro Fire Protection District increased its service to the community by purchasing 2 boats to better handle water rescues. All crews were trained in boat operations and water rescue techniques.
- In July of 2020, the Hillsboro Fire Protection District purchased a UTV to help combat brush fires, assist with land rescues, and assist with public relations events.
- In March of 2020, the Hillsboro Fire Protection District purchased 1.8 acres of land from the Hillsboro R-3 School District as a future building site for a new firehouse.
- In June of 2020, the Hillsboro Fire Protection District was awarded a grant from FEMA for approximately \$22,000.00 to purchase personal protective equipment to respond to pandemic related emergencies to protect our firefighters and to be able to better provide care to our patients with COVID-19.
- In September of 2020, the district was notified by FEMA that we were awarded \$1,011,000.00 to hire 6 full time firefighters to staff our station 2 located at 5750 State Road B, Hillsboro MO, 63050.
- The Hillsboro Fire Protection District was able to add approximately \$83,000.00 to the Pumper and Equipment fund for the purchase of future apparatuses.



2020  
HIGHLIGHTS





# 2020 GRANTS RECEIVED

The Hillsboro Fire Protection District applied for three FEMA grants in 2020. The district was successful in two of the three attempts.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program – Operations and Safety: applied for new hose and nozzles. Rejected

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program – COVID-19

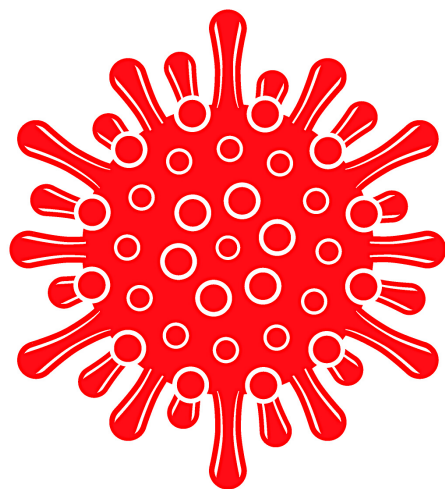
Supplemental: applied for SCBA face adapters and filters to be used during COVID events and during overhaul of structure fires. Awarded – Federal Share \$22,529.52 Local Share \$1,126.48

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER):

The district applied for funding to hire six new firefighters for three years. Awarded Federal Share \$1,011,600.00 Local Share \$0.00

Missouri Employers Mutual Grant:

Awarded \$4,800 matching grant to put the new deck gun on 6514.



# COVID-19

## CORONAVIRUS

The Hillsboro Fire Protection District was faced with our greatest challenge of modern times dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic. By mid-March of 2020, it became very apparent that COVID-19 was going to affect our everyday lives and the lives of our citizens. Our mission had to instantly shift to ensure we were able to continue to provide the best emergency care to our citizens during a pandemic.

Our operational approach to handling everyday emergencies had to change very quickly. We had to ensure we kept our staff safe and healthy so we could continue providing exceptional emergency services. Along with keeping our staff safe, we wanted to ensure we were protecting our citizens also by not spreading the virus to them. We quickly learned that proper Personal Protective Equipment became the way we could keep our staff and our citizens safe. Personal Protective Equipment was very difficult to find. It was required of us to wear gowns, eye protection, masks and N95 respirators, which we did not have enough of these items in stock. We adapted, overcame, and worked tirelessly to ensure we could acquire the proper PPE to protect our first responders and our citizens we serve. One thing was certain, from day one of this pandemic we were not going to change the level of service we provided to our citizens. Our staff never waived from our mission and continued to provide exceptional service to our customers.

Early in the pandemic many Hillsboro Community Leaders came together and decided we needed a mechanism to get food, supplies and other commodities to our residents.

Within a few days the Hillsboro Supply Depot was up and running. The Hillsboro Fire District, Hillsboro R-3 School District, Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce and Hillsboro Title Company along with many other awesome volunteers came together to ensure community members were given the necessary supplies to survive the pandemic. The citizens of Hillsboro and surrounding areas are by far the most helpful people you could ever meet, and we thank everyone from the bottoms of our hearts for helping to make this happen.

Many other things had to be temporarily adjusted. We had to limit the number of staff together at one time to ensure we did not spread anything to each other. We became masters of Zoom meetings and trainings. Our staff continued to train throughout the entire pandemic to ensure we continued to master our skills. Public Relations events changed. We had a blast participating in all the birthday parades! We had to host Fire Prevention Week activities outside for all the kids. We continued to offer CPR training to our local daycares and other essential businesses that could not shut down.

While the pandemic is still very prevalent in our world today, we are extremely hopeful that 2021 brings a return to normal. We learned a lot of very valuable lessons over the past year that we can pass on to future generations of emergency responders. We again thank everyone for your support over the past year.

# Alarm Statistic Overview

For the year of 2020, the Hillsboro Fire Protection District ran 1022 calls for service compared to 1014 calls for service in 2019. 47.95% of our calls were for life threatening medical emergencies. There were 92 motor vehicle accidents which accounted for 9% of our call volume. The Hillsboro Fire Protection District ran 117 fires which include brush fires, structure fires, vehicle fires and other types of fires. 117 Fires accounts for 11.45% of our call volume. 64 of those fires were building fires with the balance being vehicle fires, brush fires, and other types of fires. Comparing 2019 to 2020 there was a substantial increase in the amount of fires the Hillsboro Fire Protection District responded to. In 2019 the district responded to 86 fires. This represents a 36% increase in the total amount of fire calls the district ran in 2020.

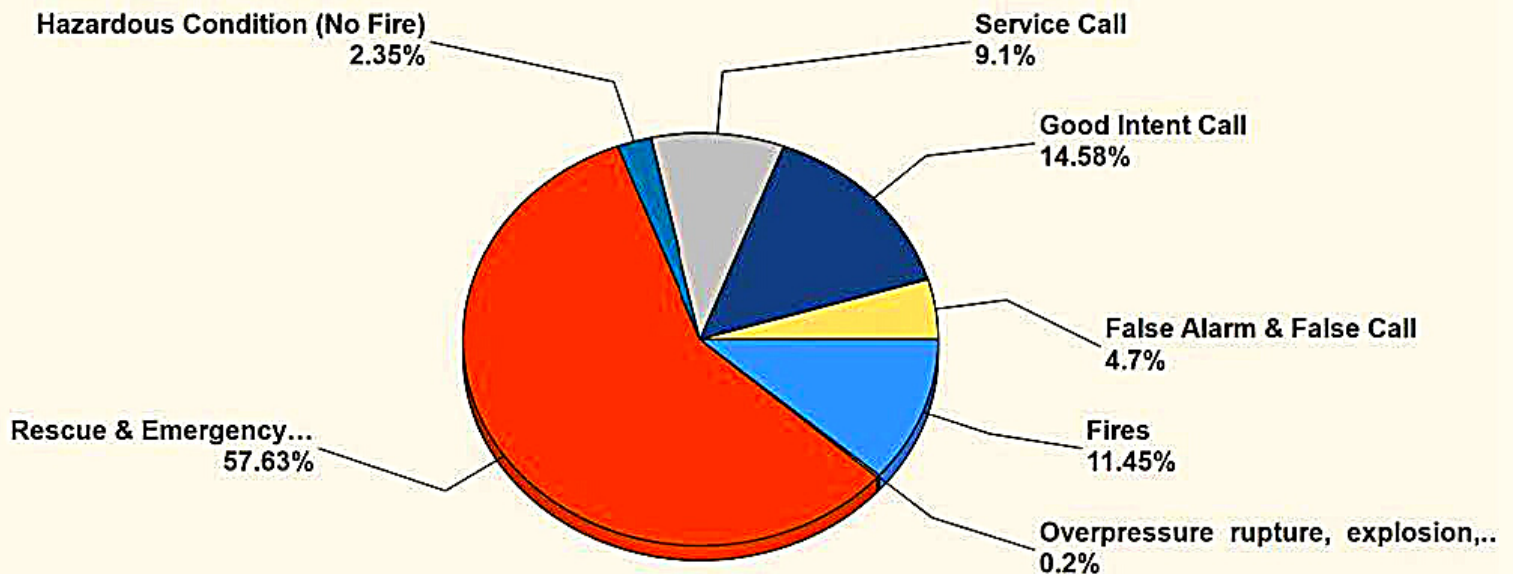
Our busiest months of 2020 were March with 102 calls, July with 101 calls and October with 101 calls for the month. Our busiest days for calls were August 10th, 2020 with 10 calls, March 8th with 9 calls and March 17th with 9 calls. Our busiest day of the week is Monday. There were 167 calls on Mondays in 2020 or 16.34% of our calls happen on a Monday. Our slowest day of the week is Fridays, with 138 calls in 2020 on a Friday or 13.21% of our total calls. Our busiest times of the day is between the hours of 4:00 P.M. and 6 P.M. with 140 of our total calls happening between those hours or 13.7% of our calls. Our slowest hours of the day are between 12:00 A.M. and 2 A.M. with 39 calls happening between those hours or 3.82% of our calls.

## Alarm Subcategory

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>
Fires	117	11.45%	86	8.48%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	2	0.20%	3	0.30%
Life Threatening EMS Calls	490	47.95%	490	48.32%
Motor Vehicle Accidents	92	9.00%	103	10.16%
Other Rescue	7	0.68%	5	0.49%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	24	2.35%	32	3.16%
Service Call	93	9.10%	86	8.48%
False Alarms and False Calls	48	4.70%	60	5.92%
Good Intent Call	149	14.58%	145	14.30%
Sever Weather and Natural Disaster	0	0	2	0.20%
Special Incident Type	0	0	2	0.20%
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>1022</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>1014</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

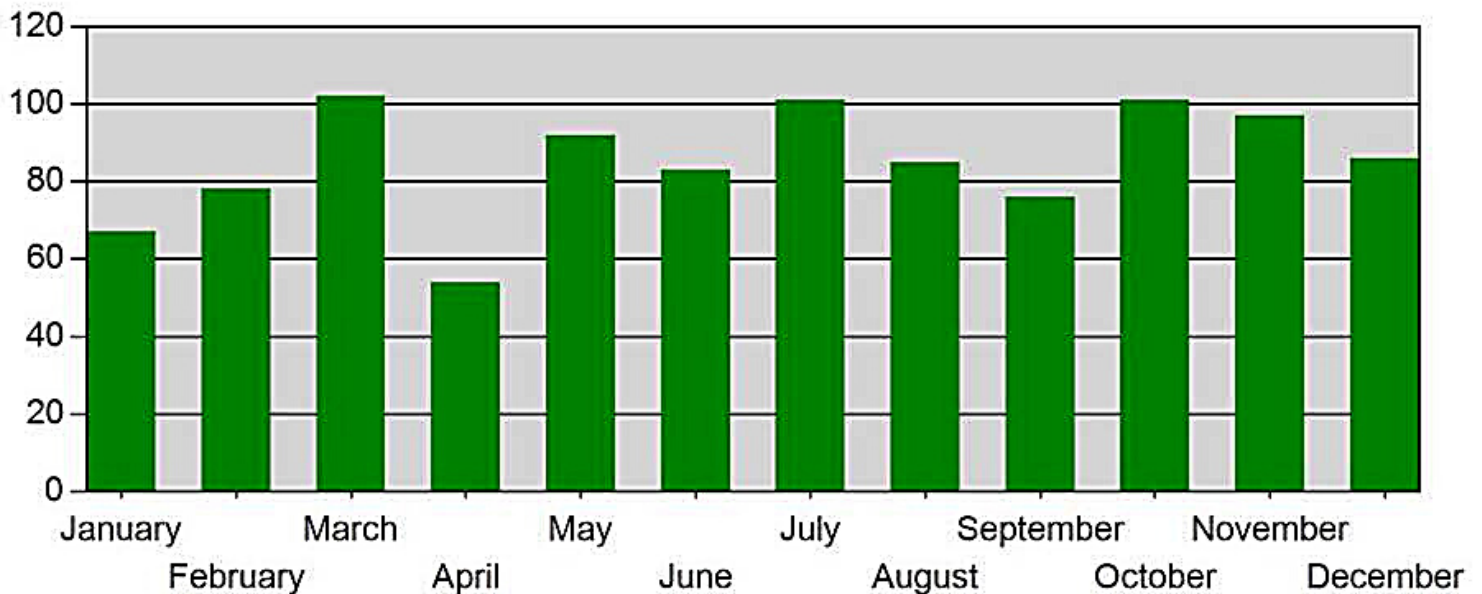


# BREAK DOWN BY MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE



## INCIDENTS PER MONTH

Below you can see a break down of total calls for service per month.



# Incident Count by Weekday and Hour

Hour	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Hour	Total per Hour	Percent
00:00	6	3	3	3	2	1	2	00:00	20	1.96%
01:00	1	4	1	2	2	2	7	01:00	19	1.86%
02:00	6	3	0	3	1	3	4	02:00	20	1.96%
03:00	2	2	8	7	2	2	2	03:00	25	2.45%
04:00	4	4	5	2	6	2	0	04:00	23	2.25%
05:00	2	3	5	3	1	4	2	05:00	20	1.96%
06:00	3	5	1	9	2	5	6	06:00	31	3.03%
07:00	4	5	6	3	9	6	7	07:00	40	3.91%
08:00	5	6	5	6	4	8	10	08:00	44	4.31%
09:00	9	11	6	4	4	4	4	09:00	42	4.11%
10:00	4	11	7	3	10	6	8	10:00	49	4.79%
11:00	5	11	11	5	5	7	2	11:00	46	4.50%
12:00	12	8	8	10	9	12	4	12:00	63	6.16%
13:00	6	12	6	7	11	9	10	13:00	61	5.97%
14:00	6	15	9	13	11	7	8	14:00	69	6.75%
15:00	5	8	10	13	4	5	7	15:00	52	5.09%
16:00	12	12	7	14	12	7	6	16:00	70	6.85%
17:00	10	10	13	10	10	6	11	17:00	70	6.85%
18:00	6	8	8	9	7	9	11	18:00	58	5.68%
19:00	4	6	8	9	11	8	7	19:00	53	5.19%
20:00	7	9	5	8	10	5	6	20:00	50	4.89%
21:00	5	3	6	5	5	8	3	21:00	35	3.42%
22:00	10	6	1	4	6	4	4	22:00	35	3.42%
23:00	4	2	3	4	2	5	7	23:00	27	2.64%
Total Responses for Day	138	167	142	156	146	135	138	Total	1022	100.00%
% of Responses for Day	8.70%	8.98%	9.15%	8.97%	8.22%	8.89%	7.97%			
% of Responses for Week	13.50%	16.34%	13.89%	15.26%	14.29%	13.21%	13.50%			



# NEW EQUIPMENT



**6514**

2020 Sutphen Monarch Rescue/Pumper, 1500gpm Hale Pump, 1000 poly water tank, 5 man cab, 314 cubic square feet of storage. This truck is the first out truck for station 1. It responds to all fires, vehicle accidents, medical calls, hazardous incidents, etc.

**6589**

2020 Polaris Ranger 1000 with a QTAC 85 skid unit holding 85 gallons of water to help extinguish fires in otherwise inaccessible areas. There is also a mount for a stokes (EMS) basket on the skid used to evacuate anyone injured on any of the trails that Hillsboro Fire covers.



**6599I/6599R**

Spring of 2020 we purchased two boats. One 12' inflatable with a 25 HP motor for use of swiftwater flood rescue. The second is a Blazer 40 HP jetboat for use on the Big River and local community lakes. Both boats will also be used to assist other districts with water emergencies.





Training in 2020 was yet another challenge that Hillsboro Fire faced with the pandemic. Training is ingrained in the fire service and as the Hillsboro Fire Protection District is an all hazards response agency there is no shortage of emergencies we must prepare for. At the start of the year training continued as normal, once the pandemic hit we limited the number of personnel to maintain health and safety of the firefighters, while still providing the best service we can provide for our community. In the fire service training is essential for the lives of our citizens and our own. During the height of the pandemic we switched to virtual training through multiple online resources. Once the CDC Guidelines changed we changed how we train together by limiting numbers and training three days a week to ensure all crews are training the same, while still maintaining a safe and healthy environment. The tax payers should take comfort in knowing no matter the circumstance, their firefighters continue to strive to provide the very best service available.



# TRAINING



# 3252

Combined total training  
hours for all personnel at  
Hillsboro Fire Protection  
District.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The Community Outreach Division started out the year of 2020 strong by participating in great programs such as the #LikeAGirl program with the intermediate school. We had an Open House planned for our community and a Smoke Detector Blitz, and then the Covid-19 lockdown started and all of our Community Outreach plans were put on hold.

However, Hillsboro Fire found a way to continue to help our community by assisting the Hillsboro R-3 School, the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce and Hillsboro Title in the organization of the Hillsboro Supply Depot that served as a resource center for community members to obtain food and toiletries that they couldn't otherwise find or afford due to the shutdown.

Throughout 2020 and its many challenges, Hillsboro Fire continued to assist our local businesses such as daycares that are required to maintain their CPR certifications, certifying 90 community members. Hillsboro Fire was victorious in 2020 for the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive against Cedar Hill Fire. We collected 85 units of blood for the Red Cross in total for 2020. That equals to 255 potential lives saved.

Every year, the month of October is Fire Safety Education Month and every year, our firefighters visit the schools and daycares to share the importance of fire safety with the children. This year looked a little different than others. We were able to visit the schools and daycares, outside, while maintaining social distancing to teach the children about fire safety. We also made videos that were sent out to the children who were attending school virtually.

The Fire Prevention Division is tasked with ensuring our commercial buildings meet the intent of the 2015 International Fire Code. The Fire Prevention Divisions goal is to prevent fire deaths through proactive fire code enforcement prior to a fire happening. The Fire Prevention Division issues permits for all commercial construction projects within the jurisdiction of the Hillsboro Fire Protection District. The Hillsboro Fire Protection District also issues an operational permit for all Firework Retail Stands.

#### **2020 Permits Issued**

Building Permits – 7  
Firework Stands – 3  
Business Occupancy Permits - 5

#### **Inspections Performed**

Total Inspections Performed – 71  
Violations Found – 56  
Violations Corrected – 56

The Fire Prevention Division also ensures all our K-12 Schools are inspected annually and Jefferson College is inspected annually. All daycares within the Hillsboro Fire Protection District are inspected annually as well. We commend all our educational facilities to their commitment to fire safety!



The Fire Prevention Division also tracks fire losses for the year within the jurisdiction of the Hillsboro Fire Protection District. Fire losses are as follows:

#### **Pre-Incident Values**

\$1,990,700.00

#### **Property vs. Content Loss**

Total Property Lost: \$373,750.00  
Total Contents Lost: \$20,000.00  
Total Fire Loss 2020: \$393,750.00

#### **Property and Contents Saved**

\$1,596,950.00

## **2020 FIRE LOSS AND CAUSALITY REPORT**

#### **Causality Report 2020**

Civilian Fire Injuries: 0  
Civilian Fire Deaths: 1  
Line of Duty Firefighter Injuries: 0  
Line of Duty Firefighter Deaths: 0

One citizen lost their life in the jurisdiction of Hillsboro Fire Protection District due to being severely burned from a fire in April of 2020. The fire was accidental.



As of December 31st, 2020, the Hillsboro Fire Protection District has 17 dedicated volunteer firefighters and 2 junior firefighters. Our volunteers range from 6 months to 20+ years of service with Hillsboro Fire. 2020 was a challenging year, but our volunteers were able to pull together for our community and overcome all the challenges we have faced. We would like to congratulate three of our volunteers as they have moved into career firefighting roles with Hillsboro Fire as of February 2021. We would also like to give a huge thank you to our volunteer staff. Your commitment and dedication to Hillsboro Fire Protection District and the community is much appreciated.

