

WHEELING FIRE DEPARTMENT

QUARTERLY REPORT

1ST QUARTER 2021



1st QUARTER CALLS FOR SERVICE

Fire – **24**
Explosion/Overheat (no fire) – **11**
Medical/EMS – **1,211**
Hazardous Condition – **25**
False Alarm – **142**

Service Calls – **266**
Good Intent Calls – **125**
Severe Weather – **1**
Special Type/Other – **0**

TOTAL Calls: 1,805

WINTER FIRES



Date: Sunday, January 3
Location: S. York St. – Whg Island
Platoon: A
Cause: Incendiary



Date: Sunday, February 7
Location: Lane H – East Wheeling
Platoon: C
Cause: Accidental

NEW L-1

After more than a year in the making, the new Ladder 1 was delivered to fire headquarters on February 2! The new truck is similar to the current ladder truck.

The new Ladder 1 is a 2020 Sutphen SPH 100 and equipped with a 100-foot aerial platform, a 300-gallon tank, LED lighting features, and can pump 2,000 gallons per minute.

The purchase was made using funds from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

This truck will replace the 1973 ladder truck that currently is housed at Station 10 in the Edgewood neighborhood.



WFD WELCOMES NEW RECRUITS



The department welcomed three new firefighters to the force at the beginning of the year.

Kalen Spencer, Zach Hazinakis, and Eric Burdette started their basic training January 11.

The department expects to hire more probationary firefighters in 2021. The city expects to hold a civil service test this spring.

CHIEF CLIFF SLIGAR 1933-2021



The Wheeling Fire Department mourns the loss of retired Fire Chief Cliff Sligar, who died March 17 in Wheeling. Chief Sligar joined the WFD in June 1955. He served as its Chief from 1971 until his retirement in 1995. After leaving the WFD, he was elected to serve as a city councilman for eight years. In all, he gave close to five decades of public service to the City of Wheeling.

Current Fire Chief Larry Helms has fond memories of Sligar. "He was a firefighters Chief. He always had your back; and to me, he always will be the Chief of the Wheeling Fire Department."



Former Fire Chief Steve Johnston, succeeded Sligar as chief in 1995, serving until his own retirement in 2007. "He was my professional father. He trusted me enough to hire me, and for that, I am eternally grateful. He always made himself available and never turned down a phone call. There was no one more committed to the WFD than Cliff Sligar," said Johnston.



Sligar was met with several challenging emergency situations. In January 1988, an oil spill in the Ohio River contaminated the city's water supply. A letter to Sligar from then City Manager Mike Nau said in part, "I want to take a moment to tell you how impressed I was with your handling of the recent water crisis. I was dependent upon you throughout this crisis, and you certainly maintained my confidence level in dealing with this situation. I have heard many times how fortunate the City of Wheeling is to have such a compatible and qualified individual protecting the public safety of our citizens. I certainly owe you a debt of gratitude."

Sligar shaped the WFD to what it is today. He was instrumental in the department's paramedic program and updating tactics and strategies on how firefighters would approach several fire and emergency situations (just to name a few).



In 2019, Chief Sligar was honored by Mayor Glenn Elliott at his annual State of the City address. Mayor Elliott said in part, "For 40 years, including 24 as chief, Cliff came to work at the Wheeling Fire Department to keep us safe. As chief, he was instrumental in bringing Emergency Medical Services to the Fire Department. Under his leadership, the Department's investigation division was launched, and the Police and Fire Departments combined their communication systems...I have no doubt that our community is safer today thanks to the efforts of Chief Sligar."

