



Darryl E. Jones PhD, CFO, EFO
Chief, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire

PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF FIRE 2020 Annual Report

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Without a doubt, 2020 has proven to be the most challenging year in my 34-year career as a firefighter and my 14-year tenure as Chief of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire. Challenges included, but were not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, and the untimely death of a beloved young firefighter. All of this in addition to the high-risk/high-frequency incidents to which we respond.

Through it all, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire has demonstrated unparalleled resiliency in managing each crisis. Through partnerships with labor, our sister agencies in the Department of Public Safety, non-governmental organizations such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army, and other stakeholders, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire met each challenge with confidence, professionalism, and integrity. Through lessons learned from the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in Canada in 2003, the H1N1 outbreak in the United States in 2009, and the threat of Ebola in 2014, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire along with International Association of Firefighters Local #1 formed a COVID-19 Task Force, which led to collaboration on policies and procedures which created a reduction in risk to Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire employees and the public. It was lessons learned from Ferguson Missouri, in August of 2014 and Baltimore Maryland, in April of 2015, which led to our preparations and planning to respond to civil unrest.



Firefighting is an inherently dangerous task. The risks to Pittsburgh Firefighters are increased because the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire is an all-hazards organization, which responds to more than fires. It is impossible to make the firefighting profession risk-free. In an effort to set the goal for risk reduction in the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire, I have continually promoted the acronym ALARA, which stands for As Low As Reasonably Achievable. To this end, efforts to mitigate risks included facilities management, information management, acquisition of personal protective equipment (PPE), effective communications, and cost recovery.

No matter the incident or the event, as the Chief Executive Officer of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire, I set the following objectives as a minimum:

- Provide timely and accurate information to citizens, stakeholders, and responders throughout the duration of the incident or event
- Order needed resources in a timely manner
- Plan and prepare for the duties and responsibilities of public safety assets
- Implement strategies and tactics that limit the potential for harm to Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire employees, other first responders, and the public

I am grateful to the Administration, IAFF Local #1, our sister agencies, and private partners who have demonstrated patience, perseverance, and understanding as we navigated a very challenging and unprecedented time. I am confident with the proliferation of a vaccine, renewed stability in our federal government, and a vigorous justice system, we will move towards recovery and begin operations in an era defined as the new normal.

Sincerely,
Darryl E. Jones PhD, CFO, EFO
Chief, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire

OVERVIEW

Mission

It is the mission of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire (PBF) to protect life, property, and the environment by providing effective customer and human services related to fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazard mitigation, emergency management services, and domestic preparedness.

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire encourages all personnel to take a proactive role in reducing the impact from emergencies by providing programs related to fire prevention, public education, community relations, risk reduction, disaster planning, homeland security, and operational training. All services provided to the residents and visitors of the City of Pittsburgh, the County of Allegheny, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be delivered in the most professional manner, to the best of our ability.

Personnel Stats

- 626 total firefighters in the field
- 24 recruits in the academy will graduate in February
- 30 vacancies

Incident Stats 01/01/2020 to 12/31/2020

- 160 structure fires
- 687 Other fires (car, trash, etc.)
- 2,149 Hazardous condition calls
- 4,736 False alarms
- 14,380 Emergency Medical Calls
- 7,775 Good intent calls
- 5,367 misc. calls
- 33,710 total calls to the dates above

Overview

The roles and responsibilities of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire as related to public safety include emergency medical care, fire investigation, code enforcement, training, logistics, and suppression. Suppression and emergency medical services are the largest functional area in terms of responsibility and resources. The suppression function is the activity of containing and extinguishing a fire. The goals of the suppression division are to protect lives, property and the environment. The Pittsburgh Fire Bureau holds an ISO Class 1 Rating. To place this in perspective, there are approximately 40,000 fire departments in the United States. Only 373 hold an ISO Class 1 Rating. The PBF expanded its emergency medical service capabilities by becoming a licensed emergency medical care provider issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Bureau provides these services through the following four divisions:

Administration - Provides managerial and administrative services for the Bureau. This activity includes but is not limited to budget and finance; payroll; employee relations, strategic planning; record and data gathering.

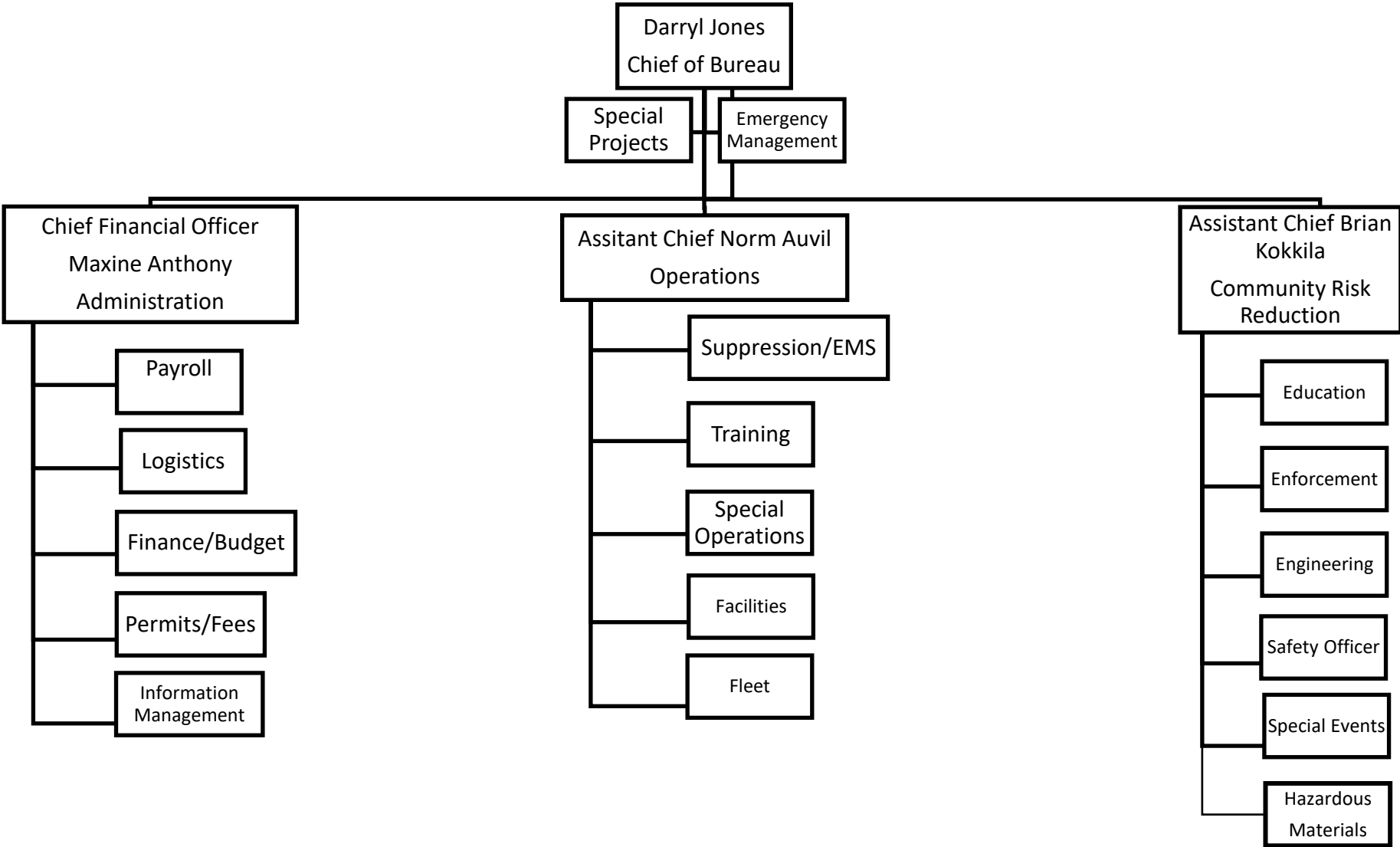
Operations - Provides emergency incident response to protect the lives and property of city residents and visitors. In addition to extinguishing fires, controlling hazardous material emergency incidents, flood response, and emergency management, the personnel in this service area are responsible for providing emergency medical care to sick and injured individuals. The Fire Bureau responds to approximately 20,000 emergency medical calls each year.

Planning and Training - Provides training, communications, and logistics for the Bureau of Fire. The Training Academy implements employee development programs for fire suppression personnel, including recruit firefighter, firefighters, company officers, and chief officers. The programs consist of fire suppression, apparatus driving operations, emergency medical responder, hazardous material, technical rescue, vehicle rescue, and disaster response topics. The PBF expanded its role in disaster preparedness and response, which includes increased capabilities to provide swift-water rescue, as well as taking a proactive role in planning and preparation for a disaster involving crude oil being transported by rail through the City of Pittsburgh, and other transportation emergencies. All new recruits must complete 32 weeks of basic training before being assigned to a permanent station within the PBF. In addition to recruit training, continuing education is required for all members of the PBF. The PBF provides public education to various community organizations and City programs such as the Civic Leadership Academy.

Risk Management - Enforces the City's hazardous material code, the International Fire Code, investigates complaints of life-threatening and unsafe conditions, and conducts fire investigations. It is also responsible for the health and safety of Bureau employees through preventive and corrective measures.



2020 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020

PANDEMIC

Starting in early 2020, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire (PBF) was the tip of the Department of Public Safety's spear. Early warning, early action and a solid network have been key to our management of the impacts of COVID 19.

The other key to our success – partnerships. The early formation of the IAFF/PBF COVID19 Task Force opened solid dialogue, problem solving and collaboration between Labor and Management. As a Bureau, we would not have weathered the impacts without communication and coordination. The partnership has solidified our relationship and serves as the basis for future endeavors.

Our relations with industry also benefitted the City and the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Tasked with ensuring adequate protection for employees, we worked with contacts in multiple industries to source and procure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), cleaning products, and disinfection supplies. Our comprehensive network was key to keeping PBF and partner DPS Bureaus in PPE supplies. We also became the sole COVID supply distribution point, designing and building a warehousing, ordering and real-time dashboard to monitor our inventories. All of this was accomplished with in-house talent.

Where we could not procure supplies – we manufactured it. Faced with a disinfectant shortage and no available supplier, the PBF sourced, planned and executed the manufacture of bleach solution for the DPS. Again, all of this was accomplished with in-house talent and a network of resources for components. The same with hand sanitizer –through relationships developed by Deputy Public Safety Director Lee Schmidt, the PBF partnered with local distilleries to find the components needed to make hand sanitizer. Our network again shined – we built primary and back-up streams to maintain force protection for all DPS Bureaus.

CIVIL UNREST

The civil unrest of 2020 engaged PBF as a support entity to our Law Enforcement partners. Tasked with solving a logistics gap in support of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (PBP) and law enforcement partners we built a supply network to provide safe staging areas for officers on the front lines. We rapidly procured PPE to protect officers from control agents, established a food and water distribution network, and provided support services. We staffed Unified Command roles to manage the various complex events protecting the rights of free speech and support of the law enforcement assets.

The countless hours dedicated by Command staff in support of our law enforcement partners included 30+ day stretches of continuous work cycles. Our law enforcement partners have learned to rely on PBF to support and solve complex issues in collaborative fashion.

Recognizing the damage civil unrest can cause to the social, political, and economic systems– which are the foundation of every community–the PBF formed a Civil Unrest task force. This task force consisted of elements from the Fire Bureau, Police Bureau, EMS Bureau and the Department of Public Works. If lawful and peaceful protest devolved into rioting where fire was weaponized and used in the destruction of property, the Civil Unrest task force would respond to the area, control the fire, and prevent further damage.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The PBF has emerged as the lead agent in the modernization and enhancement of the City of Pittsburgh Hazardous Materials Response Team. We are working with our sister agencies while we update equipment, reimagine our response model and solve complex situations. Our Training Academy is prepared to provide Technician Level training and certification opportunity for all Department of Public Safety Bureau members. We have located and rehabilitated multiple hazardous materials response assets and equipment. We have developed and constructed identification and testing packages – standardizing the equipment across the Hazardous Materials Response Team.

We continue to prepare for the shifting threats traveling through our City by road, rail and river – preparing for the annual transportation increase of shale gas derivatives. We recognize the potential impacts and are constantly preparing to manage and mitigate complex scenarios – in the protection of citizens, infrastructure and the environment.

In the midst of a Global Pandemic, we prepared and completed a multi-year certification evaluation, securing a provisional certification while we await an in-person exercise evaluation site visit from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. We have modernized the practice, administration and organization of the team, establishing the foundation for future improvements in our response readiness and response model. We continue to work cohesively with Department of Public Safety Bureaus in our efforts.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Again exercising our adaptability, we continue to deliver community risk reduction education via online delivery platforms. In 2020, Lisa Epps-Cuda, our Fire Prevention Educator, was the focus of a national campaign, delivering her fire safety education program. Her dynamic education style was featured on a national stage to educate school age children in Fire Safety.



FLEET

Faced with a decimated fleet we continue our focus of modernizing and standardizing our fleet. Through standardization, we eased the transition and education requirements for apparatus operators. We also benefit by reducing the various spare part components needed to be maintained on hand. We have made calculated adjustments to the new vehicle stock – adding requirements for corrosion resistant frames, stronger suspension systems and adding in automatic systems to keep chassis suspension components lubricated.

Preparing for consistent threats we have designed and have procured Foam Tenders to replace an aged and failing foam pumper. The design of the foam tenders capitalizes on efficiency and adaptability. Designed on all wheel drive chassis, the vehicles will be able to access rugged terrain along railways.

We continue to work to modernize our fleet and maintain the assets under our purview to maximize their effective life span.



SWIFT WATER AND FLOOD RESPONSE

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire Swift-Water/Flood Response unit is one component of the swift water assets in the Department of Public Safety. 38 city firefighters are trained and certified at the technician level under the program. The Pittsburgh Fire Bureau team is the only team within the City of Pittsburgh which meets the credentialing standards of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as a Type IIIA team. The Type-III A certification makes the team compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) standards for resource typing. In addition, the Type IIIA certification qualifies the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau team to be a regional assets that can be deployed outside of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County for flash-flood and disaster relief. The new certification is recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Services and the Office of the State Fire Commissioner.



SUMMATION

In presentation of our annual Bureau achievements, we emphasize our flexibility, resourcefulness and collaboration. We recognize the value of our partnerships, relationships and network to solve complex situations for the Bureau, the Department of Public Safety and the City of Pittsburgh.

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

Darryl E. Jones – Fire Chief



Chief Darryl Jones began his career with the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau on July 9, 2007. Prior to joining the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau, he served with the Aliquippa Fire Department for 20 years. As the Fire Chief, he is responsible for the leadership of over 656 uniformed personnel and all the operations of the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau. He also serves as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Pittsburgh.

Chief Jones is committed to the safety and training of Pittsburgh firefighters and the citizens of Pittsburgh. Under his leadership, and in cooperation with the American Red Cross, the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau has expanded its Free Smoke Detector Program. Working in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau initiated the Risk Watch program in the schools. Risk Watch was a safety program that taught safety techniques to students grades K-6 as part of the health curriculum. The Pittsburgh Fire Bureau has 100% of its personnel certified to the Firefighter II level. Chief Jones started initiatives to modernize firefighters' personal protective equipment and the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau's apparatus. Because of fire safety education, improved firefighter training, and the upgrading of equipment, as well as apparatus, the ISO rating for the City of Pittsburgh improved from a Class 4 fire department to a Class 1 fire department. It is Chief Jones' goal to develop the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau into an all-hazards emergency response service, thus making it the premier public safety bureau in the City of Pittsburgh.

Chief Jones earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management from Carlow University in 1991, a Masters of Public Management from Carnegie Mellon University in 1994, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Safety from Capella University in 2013. In addition, he is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, as well as the Harvard School of Public Health and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's National Preparedness Leadership Initiative. Chief Jones holds several certifications including Chief Fire Officer Designation through the Commission on Professional Credentialing, Fire Officer IV, Fire Instructor III, Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator, and Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic. Chief Jones is certified as an Advanced Emergency Management Coordinator by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). Chief Jones serves on the Regional Advisory Committee for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III, which includes Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Washington D.C., Delaware and Maryland. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fire Protection Association, and the International Codes Council.

Chief Jones is an instructor who teaches Public Administration, Emergency Management, Fire Science, and Leadership courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He teaches courses nationally and internationally, including as a contract instructor for the National Fire Academy. Chief Jones is an accomplished author and a polished lecturer.



Norman G. Auvil, Assistant Fire Chief, Operations

Assistant Chief Norman Auvil's experience, training, and education within the fire service, Emergency Medical Services, and Emergency Management have allowed him to parallel his public safety positions over the past 37 years. He holds a B.S. Degree in Management. Chief Auvil is married to Diane, of 38 years; they have 2 sons, Nathan, a Forensic Investigator with the City of Newport News Police Department Virginia; and Ryan, a Police Officer with the Murrysville Police Department Pennsylvania. He truly enjoys his two daughters-in-law and his grandson Ryker who just turned 23 months old. Chief Auvil and Diane reside in the City of Pittsburgh, the Stanton Heights neighborhood.

His current certifications include being a Pro-Board-Certified Firefighter II, Fire Officer II, Hazardous Materials Incident Commander and Technician, Fire Instructor II, Structural Collapse Rescue Technician I&II, Trench Rescue Technician I&II, and Vehicle & Machinery Rescue Technician Level I. Chief Auvil also holds an active PA-DOH Paramedic License, and all related National Incident Management Systems certifications, including ICS-300 and ICS-400.

With all this above, Chief Auvil appreciates and enjoys his family time, his chance to grow personally and professionally, and his family and co-workers support to succeed. He feels that you need to learn something new every day to make it all worthwhile.



Brian Kokkila, Assistant Fire Chief, Community Risk Reduction

Assistant Chief Brian Kokkila is a 28 year veteran of fire and emergency services – currently serving as Assistant Chief of the Pittsburgh (PA) Bureau of Fire. He is the Task Force Leader of Pennsylvania Urban Search & Rescue – Strike Team 1 and a (20) year veteran (retired) of the Peters Township Fire Department. Chief Kokkila has been a paramedic since 2002. He has a Bachelor’s degree in fire science with certificates in occupational safety and emergency management and is a graduate of the National Fire Academies – Executive Fire Officer Program. He has an extensive background in fire apparatus and comprehends the challenges of fleet maintenance, apparatus design and specification development. Chief Kokkila’s background includes industrial and transportation hazardous materials mitigation. He has participated in the development and execution of dynamic solutions to complex situations. Additionally, he is an emergency services instructor, delivering fire, rescue, and hazardous materials courses to responders and industrial personnel.



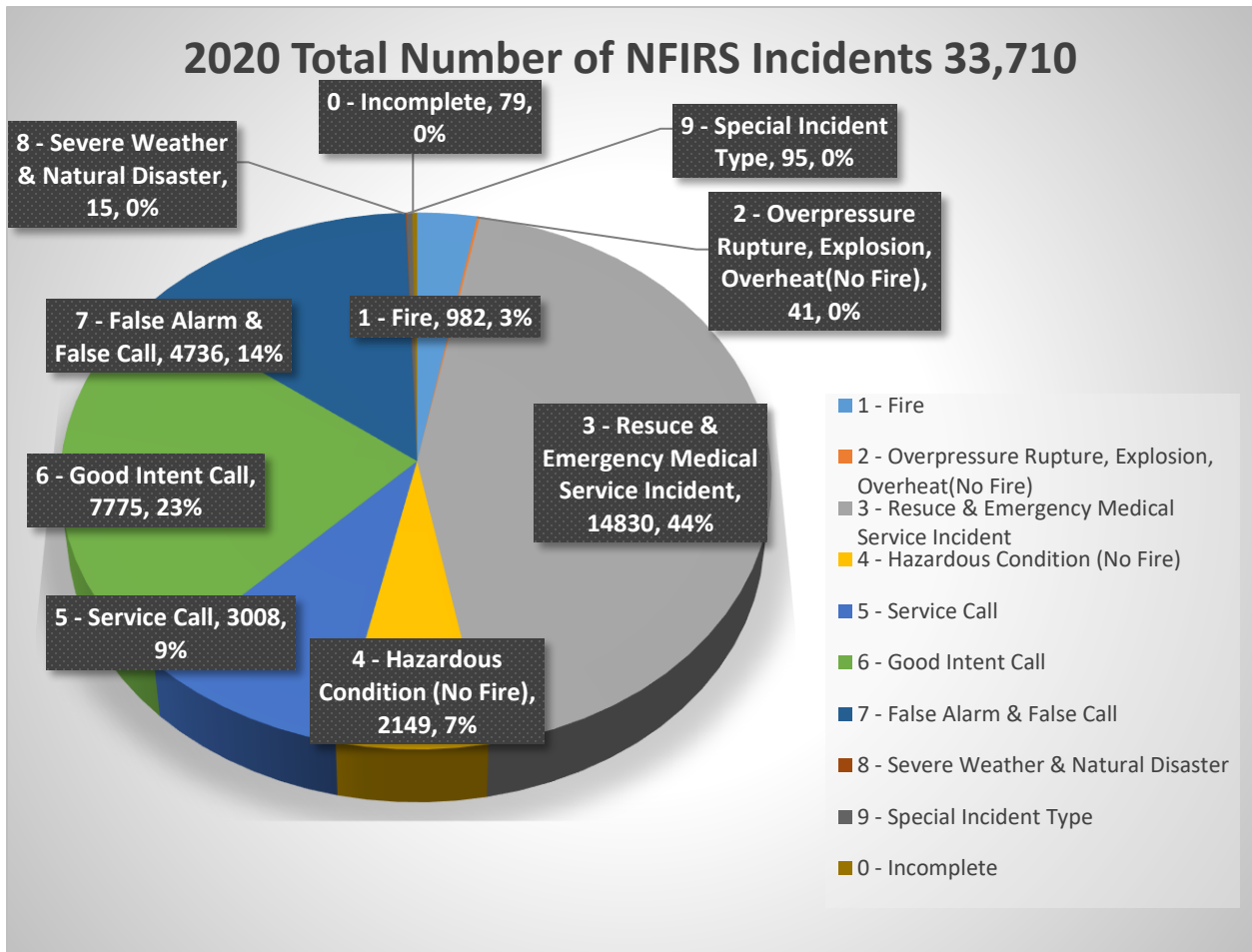
Maxine Anthony, Department Business Administrator

Maxine's career with the City of Pittsburgh began in September of 1980 when she was hired as a clerical assistant for the Department of Personnel & Civil Service. From 1980 to 1987 through a lot of hard work, she quickly moved up through the department to a supervisory position. In August of 1987, Maxine accepted the Chief Clerk position in the Fire Bureau. Since accepting this position she has worked with (5) Fire Chiefs and Command Staff.

Through these many years, Maxine has enjoyed being the "go-to person" in the Bureau. Her duties include making sure the day-to-day administrative operations in the Fire Bureau run smoothly. Maxine has definitely made a difference through her dedication and contributions to the Bureau.

Incidents

1 - Fire	982
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat(No Fire)	41
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	14830
4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2149
5 - Service Call	3008
6 - Good Intent Call	7775
7 - False Alarm	4736
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	15
9 - Special Incident Type	95
0 - Incomplete	79



2020 Total Number of NFIRS Incidents 33,710

