



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & TRAFFIC

October 5, 2021 at 5:00 PM

Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall (3rd Floor)

Members: Aldermen Barry, Gamache, Stewart, Long, Terrio

AGENDA

The Chairman calls the meeting to order.

The Clerk calls the roll.

1. Presentation by the Fire Department on the Squad 1 Community Response Unit.
2. The Traffic Division has submitted an agenda which needs to be addressed:
RIGHT TURN ONLY
On Frederick Street at Second Street
Alderman Barry
COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES PROHIBITED
On Garlact Avenue between Lake Shore Road and Hartt Avenue
Alderman Sharonov
Gentlemen, what is your pleasure?
3. Special events update from the Police Department, if available.

If there is no further business, a motion is in order to adjourn.

MANCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT



SQUAD 1

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The origination of Squad 1 comes from several years of increasing change in the landscape of Emergency Services in the City of Manchester. The beginnings of these changes dates back to 2014 when the City saw a flood of Synthetic Marijuana-based substances known as “Spice” hit the streets causing a drain on the services available. This flood then rolled into an even larger (and still current problem) of opiates and opioid variants.

Due to an underwhelming availability of accessible services for substance use and misuse the Manchester Fire Department began the “Safe Station” program. This program created a judgement and stigma free way for people suffering from substance use disorder to get access to treatment programs. Since the inception of the Safe Station program in 2016 over 8000 people have come through the doors of the Manchester Fire Department and been connected to the resources they need to help with their addiction issues. Now that the system in place in Manchester is more robust and encompassing, the Safe Station program is transitioning from a “brick and mortar” version to a more mobile version.

When initially conceived in 2019, the concept of Squad 1 was to assist the Manchester Fire Department and American Medical Response with low acuity medical calls for service. The Squad would also be tasked with providing assistance with public education and demonstrations, assist with quarterly school drills and inspections, and be “the face of the Fire Department” on the streets of Downtown. Then in late 2019 SARS-COV2 (Covid) struck the country and the original plans were adjusted. The immediate need arose to be able to reconnect the homeless with services after the Homeless Shelter was hit hard with Covid.

By partnering with the Community Outreach teams from Families in Transition and Greater Manchester Mental Health Center the homeless encampments around the City were quickly identified and services were coordinated to ensure that just because they were now displaced from the Shelter they still received the substance abuse and mental health help they needed. Problems were identified, obstacles were removed, and a safe living environment was monitored by daily interactions and building of trust by the members of these organizations.

Now with needs arising in different areas, the Squad is carrying a different mission while still providing and fostering the relationships and trust built over the last year. Five days a week from 09:00-15:00 hrs Squad 1 provides outreach service support, emergency medical assistance, fire scene support, and community education. The Squad has become the busiest unit in the City, averaging 7 calls for service during their 6 hour shift. The variety of responses made and continued level of trust the citizens have in the members of Manchester Fire have shown that this mission is the right one for these times of significantly increased call volume.

MANCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

SQUAD 1

OUTLINE AND WORK PLAN

PURPOSE: (short term) to provide Community Outreach services in conjunction with normal MFD operations and City Departments to the residents and visitors to Manchester

(long term) to become a normal deployable resource of the MFD and expand the daily capabilities of the MFD with regards to Community Outreach and Disaster Support

FUNDING: (short term) utilization of Opioid Grant and Outreach Grant provided by State for use in accordance with expenditure parameters (total grant award: \$487,720 over 2 years)

(long term) if program/unit proves to be successful, inclusion in yearly funding to Department provided by City

MANNING: (short term) 2 MFD personnel hired through Crewsense (or current hiring software), one of which should be an officer

(long term) permanent MFD personnel on a “shift bid” process to operate at an ALS level

EQUIPMENT: existing MFD vehicle equipped with functioning and connected MDT

ALS kit

Active Threat Kit (x2)

Community Naloxone kits

Homeless Shelter information

Pamphlets on services available through Health Dept, Shelter, Welfare

Filing box/system

First In bag

INITIAL TASKS:

1. Safe Station Intakes, regardless of station
2. Provide first-due medical care to calls when in immediate area and within scope of training
3. Low Acuity Medicals when ambulance transport is not required (when known at time of dispatch)
 - a. Fall/Lift Assist
 - b. Standing by for MPD arrival at Code-10s
4. Deployment with Manchester Health Department Community Vehicle to assess homeless and at-risk population
 - a. aid with connection to "211" service in field
 - b. assist in medical assessment of willing participants (basic physical assessment)
 - c. instruct on Naloxone usage, hands only CPR, safe needle disposal
5. Assignment as RTF in event of an Active Threat

FUTURE TASKS:

1. 3 Months from Deployment

Assignments on Fireground provided by scene IC as needed within scope of training of those assigned
2. 6 Months from Deployment

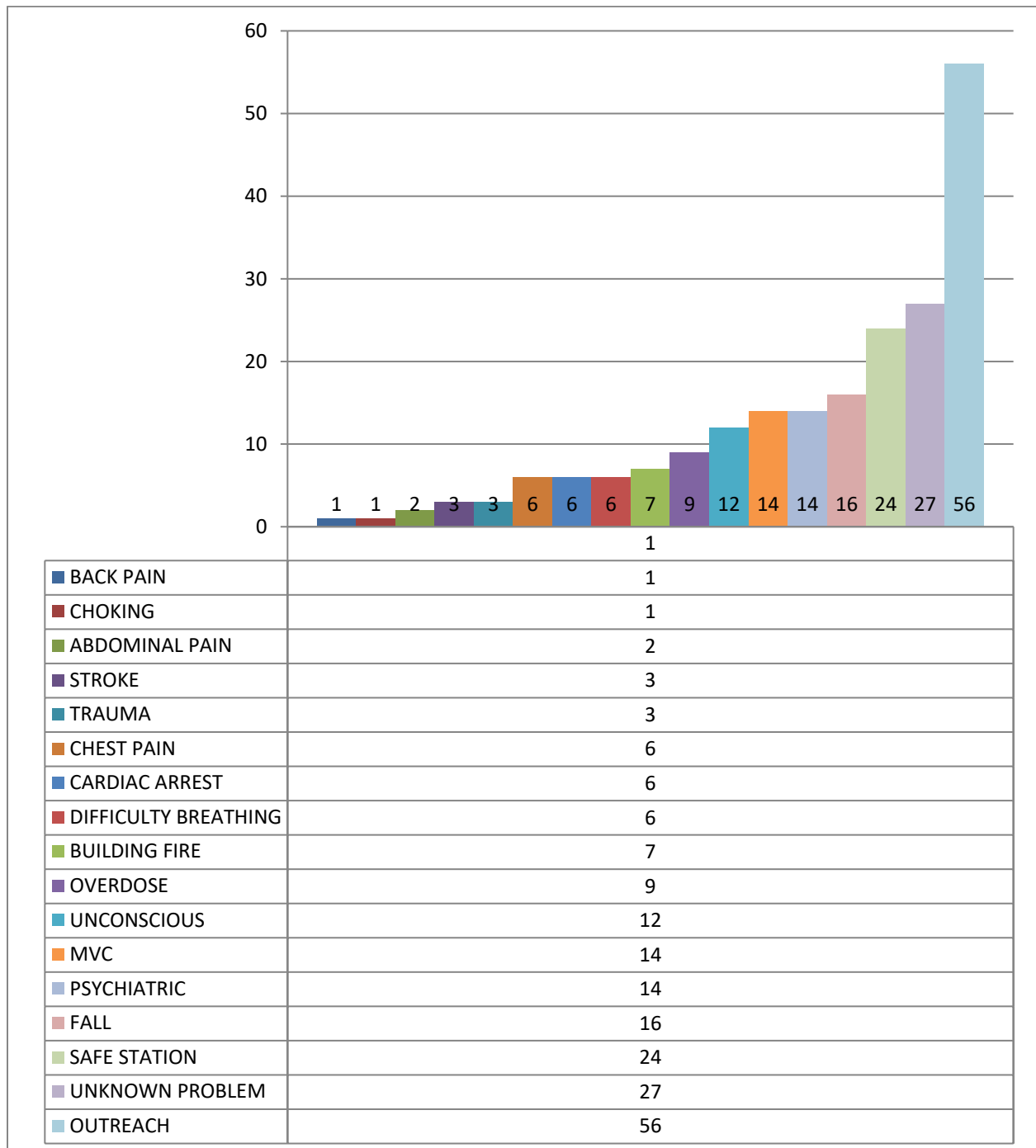
Inclement Weather homeless encampment checks with City Fatality Prevention Team

 - a. in conjunction with FiT/New Horizons outreach workers
 - b. utilization of GPS marked known encampments
3. 1 Year from Deployment for FY2023-2026
 - a. incorporate vehicle used into being a transportable Type-1 or Type-3 ambulance
 - b. expansion and undertaking all previously listed tasks
4. Constant assessment, data review, and revisions to job tasks and responsibilities will be made in addition to those phased in "Future Tasks" described above

MANCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

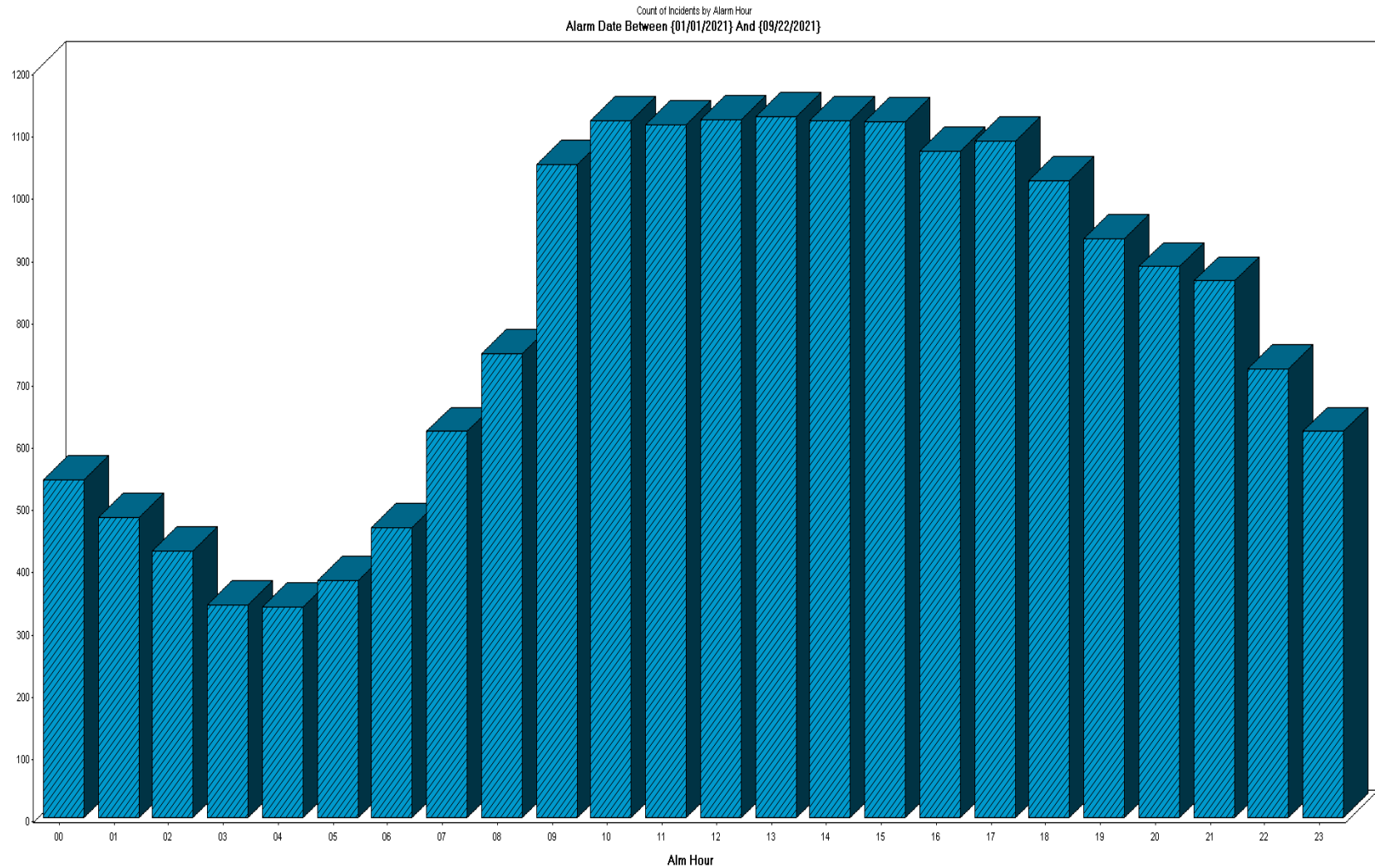
SQUAD 1

CALL VOLUME BY TYPE



MANCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2021 911 MFD Call Volume (average per hour)



MANCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Heat Map of 911 Responses (2020 Calendar Year)

