

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



*Honour, Brotherhood, Pride, & Dedication*

**February 22, 2021**



@PictureButteFireDept



@PButteFire

# Picture Butte Emergency Services: 2020 Annual Report

## Message from the Fire Chief

As we reflect on the past year and the unforeseen challenges that 2020 brought to our province, country, and in fact the entire world, I am honoured to speak about the resilience of our community and the importance of our emergency services. Despite the disruption that the coronavirus pandemic brought to our lives in 2020, Picture Butte Emergency Services continued to serve our community and adapt to the emerging threat of COVID-19. This past year challenged our organization to find ways to prepare for and protect ourselves from the pandemic while still responding to and mitigating vast number of risks and emergencies that impact our community everyday. For the majority of 2020, our members found themselves on the frontline of the pandemic response providing emergency medical care to our citizens coping with effects of the coronavirus, while simultaneously executing rescues and suppressing fires. I am extremely proud of the work and dedication delivered by the members of Picture Butte Emergency Services throughout 2020 and commit that we will continue to rise to whatever challenge faces the Picture Butte community in 2021. We have enjoyed the support and comraderie of our neighbouring emergency services partners this past year and look forward to continuing our progressive collaboration into the future.

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2020 Annual Report on behalf of our members and dedicate this report in honour of the courage that they have shown this past year.

Sincerely,

*Fire Chief Frank West*

Director of Emergency Services

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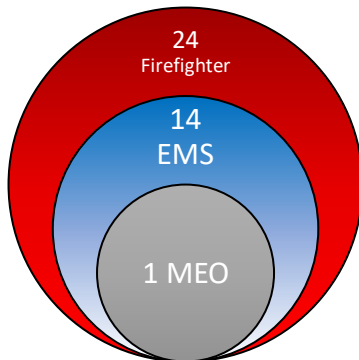
# Mission

To the best of our ability, protect the life and property of all residents and visitors of the Town of Picture Butte and surrounding area by providing professional fire, rescue, and emergency medical services.

## Overview

### Our Most Valuable Asset

In 2020, Picture Butte Emergency Services was comprised of 3 full-time, 2 part-time, and 24 volunteer staff members, who logged a total of **2430 volunteer hours** responding to emergencies. Our organization was able to grow this past year with 2 successful recruit classes.



## Background

Since 1960, Picture Butte Emergency Services has been providing fire protection to the citizens of Picture Butte and Lethbridge County. In 1998, the EMS Division was formed to fill the growing need for emergency medical services in our community and surrounding area. After several different models of municipal enforcement over the years, the Bylaw Services Division was formed in 2019 to provide bylaw enforcement within the Town of Picture Butte.

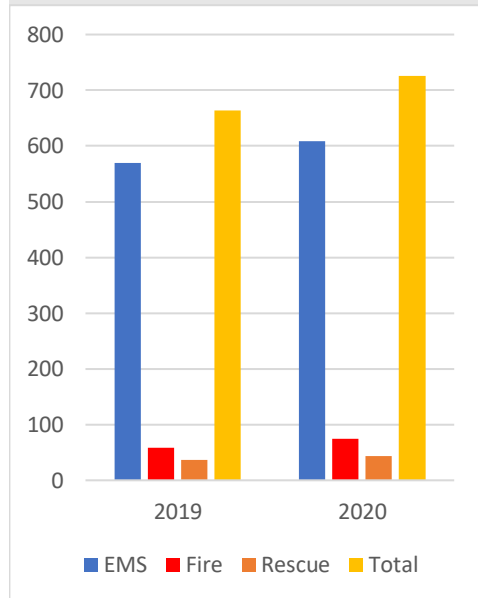
### OUR RESPONSIBILITY

	People Served	Calls Answered
PICTURE BUTTE	1,810	280
LETHBRIDGE COUNTY	5,500	257
CITY OF LETHBRIDGE	101,482	96
NOBLEFORD	1,278	45
VULCAN COUNTY	3,984	26
BARONS	341	10
OTHER COMMUNITIES	---	12
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>726</b>

Picture Butte Emergency Services is the primary responding agency for the Town of Picture Butte and 1100 km<sup>2</sup> of the surrounding Lethbridge County. Through regional partnership with Lethbridge County, the towns of Coaldale, Coalhurst, and Nobleford, as well as the Village of Barons, our members provide fire and rescue assistance as well as emergency medical services throughout the region. Since 2009, Picture Butte Emergency Services has contracted ambulance services to Alberta Health Services as part of the provincial EMS system which sees our ambulance utilized throughout southern Alberta.

## 2020 AT-A-GLANCE

- ▲ 9% OVERALL EMERGENCY EVENTS
- ▲ 12% MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS
- ▲ 7% EMS EVENTS
- ▲ 30% FIRE EVENTS
- ▲ 16% RESCUE EVENTS
- ▲ 11% VOLUNTEER HOURS
- ▼ 44% CODE RED RESPONSES
- ▼ 33% FALSE ALARMS

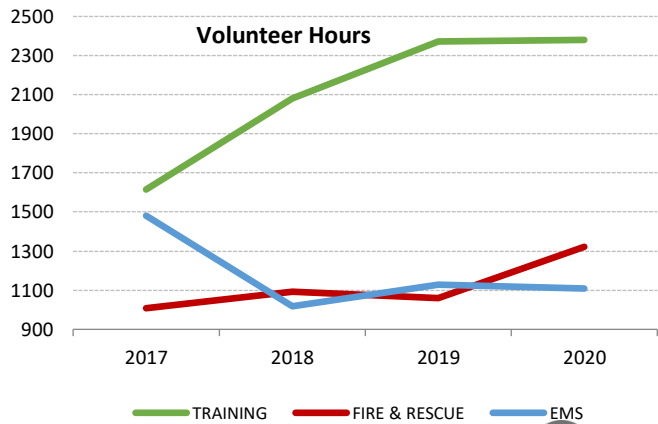


# Fire Services

Picture Butte Emergency Services provides fire suppression, motor vehicle rescue, hazardous materials response, emergency medical services, and several specialty rescue services including ice, rope, and confined space. We provide these services with 6 fire apparatus out of our Fire Station in Picture Butte.

## Volunteer Firefighters

Our volunteer firefighters logged 3702 hours responding to emergencies and training. Our firefighters do not receive any compensation for their time except for lost wages when they leave their places of employment. This equates to \$151,152.66 of savings to the citizens of the Town of Picture Butte based on the average firefighter's wage in Alberta. \*1



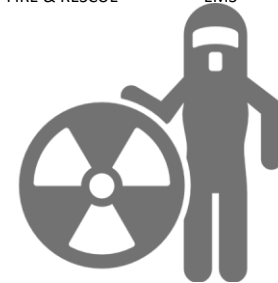
**Over \$150,000 in tax-savings from volunteer firefighters!**



**9 Structure Fires**



**29 Collisions**



**8 Hazardous Materials**

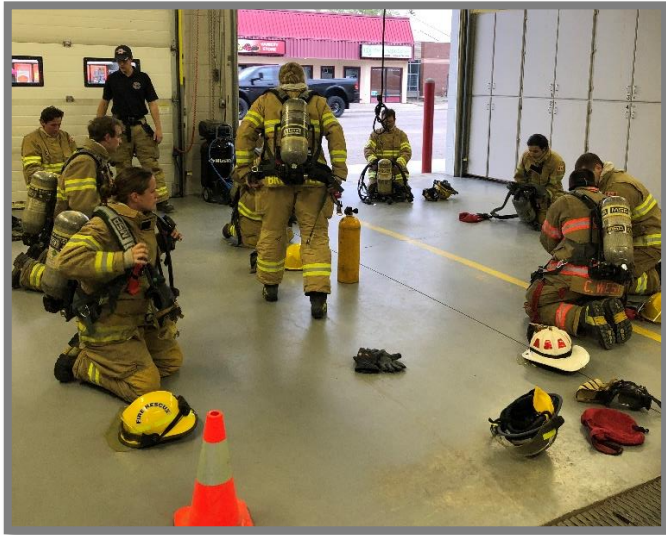


**39 Wildfires & Outside Fires**



\*1 Data from the Alberta government of \$40.83 per hour

# New Recruits



We ran 2 successful recruit classes in 2020, adding 11 new members to our organization.

## 2020 Spring Recruit Class

- Tim Harder
- Hope Lowe
- Jordan MacPherson
- Kody Moody
- Brad Leishman
- Kathy Kelly
- Katie West

## 2020 Fall Recruit Class

- Dylan Derick
- Stephanie Dunsbergen
- Brittany Hiltz
- Layton Vande Stroet

The recruits complete a 36-hour orientation program before being assigned to a platoon to complete their probationary period.



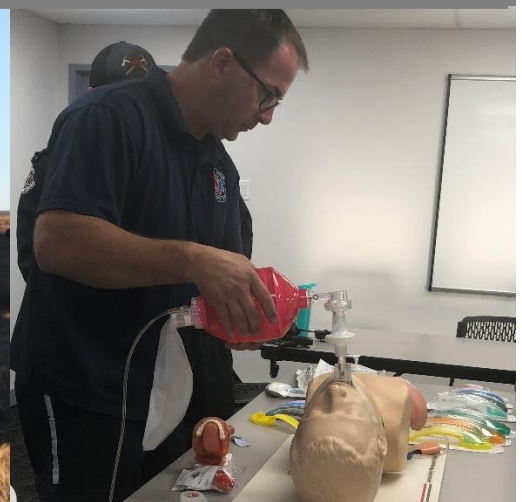
# Emergency Medical Services



## 2020 EMS Event Types

Transfers	Omega	Alpha	Bravo	Charlie	Delta	Echo
20	8	180	120	211	175	12
Least Severe						Most Severe

While 2020 brought a diversity of issues for our EMS Division to deal with including a 7% increase in events, the year will always be marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our EMS staff had to adapt to the new reality of being on the frontlines of a global pandemic that at times was hitting our community quite hard. While most of the year was spent interacting with our patients behind a gown and face shield, our staff remained committed to providing quality health care to our community no matter how high the case count was. Our EMS staff spent countless hours disinfecting the ambulance and preparing the supplies for the next call after every COVID-19 patient. 2020 also brought the completion of a new frontline ambulance unit that arrived in October. The COVID-19 pandemic has strained our organization in many ways, but we have grown much stronger this year because of it!



# Bylaw Services

2020 was the first full year of our Bylaw Services division after being formed in 2019. We saw a lot of change this past year with 3 different officers in the Municipal Enforcement Officer position. Our newest member Officer Mosby began his role at the end of the year.

## Keeping Picture Butte, Picture Perfect!

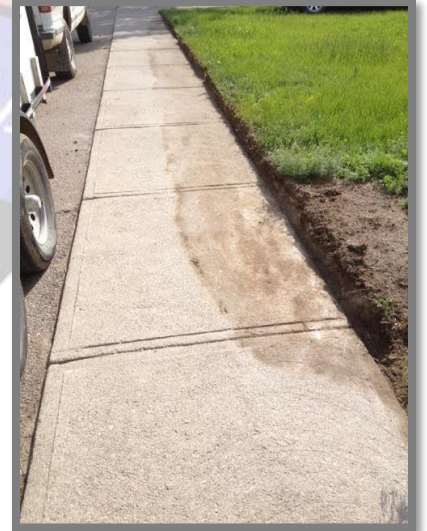
Picture Butte Bylaws	2020 Totals
Dog Control Bylaw	38 files
Traffic Bylaw	83 files
Noise Bylaw	4 files
Unsightly Premises Bylaw	272 files
Public Information	24 files
Business License Bylaw	2 files
Animal Regulation	8 files
Fire Protection Bylaw	2 files
Utility Bylaw	2 files
Land Use Bylaw	3 files
<b>Total</b>	<b>438 files</b>

Enforcement of the Unsightly Premises Bylaw was a large focus of 2020 with Bylaw Services endeavouring to ensure that the Picture Butte sidewalks are kept in a safe and efficient manner for all citizens to use. Other enforcement issues dealt with in 2020 included unattached trailers on streets and, dog and animal regulation.

### Sidewalk Enforcement

Before

After



# Emergency Management

Our Municipal Emergency Management Agency was quite active in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the Emergency Coordination Centre being activated for 56 days. The Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) is located in the basement of the Fire Station/Administration Building and houses key members of the Town of Picture Butte staff and volunteers during the response to a municipal emergency. We were fortunate to have recently completed a renovation to the ECC in early 2020 as part of a joint project between Emergency Services and the Municipal Library which uses the space for programming throughout the year. The main focus of the Emergency Management Agency in response to COVID-19 was to ensure that all staff members of the Town of Picture Butte had the necessary personal protective equipment to safely perform their essential work, which at times was very hard to procure, and to ensure the continuity of essential municipal services. This involved devising plans to separate our municipal workforce to ensure that an outbreak would not affect all of our workers at once and implementing several public health measures throughout our municipal facilities.



Renovated ECC room



## Future Projects



Picture Butte Emergency Services looks forward to our future of continuing to serve the citizens of Picture Butte and Lethbridge County. We have 3 capital projects currently in progress that will be continuing in 2021.



We currently have a new fire engine under construction at the MetalFab Fire Trucks factory in New Brunswick. The new fire engine will replace our existing Engine 107 with a new, efficient fire engine to serve Picture Butte and Lethbridge County for the next 20 years. The fire engine is scheduled to arrive in June 2021.



Approved in the 2021 Capital Budget is the replacement of our 1991 command unit C101. The new unit will add more versatility to our incident commanders and better support fire operations. The unit is scheduled to be complete by April 2021.



Picture Butte Emergency Services has been working on a multi-year design and development project for a major renovation to our existing fire station. Beginning in 2019, we have been working with Alvin Reinhard Fritz Architect Inc. on a long-term redevelopment of the existing facility to meet the needs of Picture Butte Emergency Services over the next several decades. We are excited to see this design phase being completed, with the full growth study report and design being released this spring. Construction is currently scheduled to begin on the first phase in 2022.

