



# 2021 Annual Report

*"Pride in Service"*  
Since 1960

**Picture Butte Emergency Services**



@PictureButteFireDept



@PButteFire

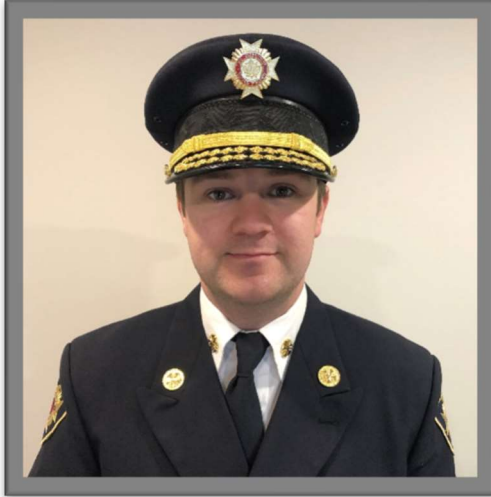


@picturebutteemergencyservices

# Message from the Fire Chief

## The Mission of Picture Butte Emergency Services

*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.*



**Fire Chief Frank West**

## Continued Perseverance

The year of 2021 felt very much like the sequel to 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic still very much effecting every aspect of our lives. It was a year that required continued perseverance to the ebb and flow of consecutive waves of COVID-19 and public health measures. The firefighters and paramedics of Picture Butte Emergency Services exemplified that perseverance through their continued dedication to serve the Picture Butte community in 2021. Our department, like many across the province, are being stressed to meet the historical level of emergency medical services demand that has existed for many years, but highlighted by the new challenges of the pandemic. Our members, have answered this call for service with outstanding professionalism while also being prepared for and responding to many fire and rescue emergencies throughout 2021.

This past year brought some unique challenges for our firefighters and paramedics, many with successful outcomes. Whether it was searching the river valley for a missing child with our regional partners or promptly extinguishing a fire in an elementary school or rescuing an injured dirt biker rider from over 400 feet down a steep embankment, our members were able to effect real change in the community in 2021, while still spending hundreds of hours preparing for the next emergency. It is this work that I am most proud of and best displays the values of our organization.

On behalf of the members of Picture Butte Emergency Services, it is my pleasure to present our 2021 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

*Fire Chief Frank West*

*Director of Emergency Services*



**Deputy Fire Chief  
Casey West**

## *Honour, Pride, Brotherhood, Dedication*

*The core values of Picture Butte Emergency Services*

# 2021

## A Year in Review



**16 Motor Vehicle Collisions**

**11 Structure Fires**

**26 Wildland/  
Outdoor Fires**

**5 Vehicle Fires**

**5 Technical Rescues**

**23 Tender Responses**

### Record breaking Call Volume

For the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Picture Butte Emergency Services has responded to a record number of emergency events. 2021 saw a 42% increase in call volume with firefighters and paramedics responding to 1030 emergency events. This is the first time in department history that call volume has surpassed 1000 events.

### Engine 31 Delivery

Picture Butte Emergency Services took delivery of our new frontline fire engine in September of 2021. Manufactured by MetalFab Fire Trucks in Centreville, New Brunswick and delivered by Safetek Emergency Vehicles, this completed the 18-month capital project funded 50% by the Town of Picture Butte and 50% by Lethbridge County. Engine 31 will serve Picture Butte and Lethbridge County as the frontline fire engine.

### Command Truck Replacement

The command unit was replaced with a 2018 GMC Sierra, upfitted with lighting from Wired Tech Inc in Coaldale, AB and decaling by Zircon Graphics in Lethbridge, AB. The existing command unit was retained in the department fleet and redesignated as Utility 3 for support work on emergency scenes and logistics support for the department.



**1030 Events**

**1324 Unit Responses**

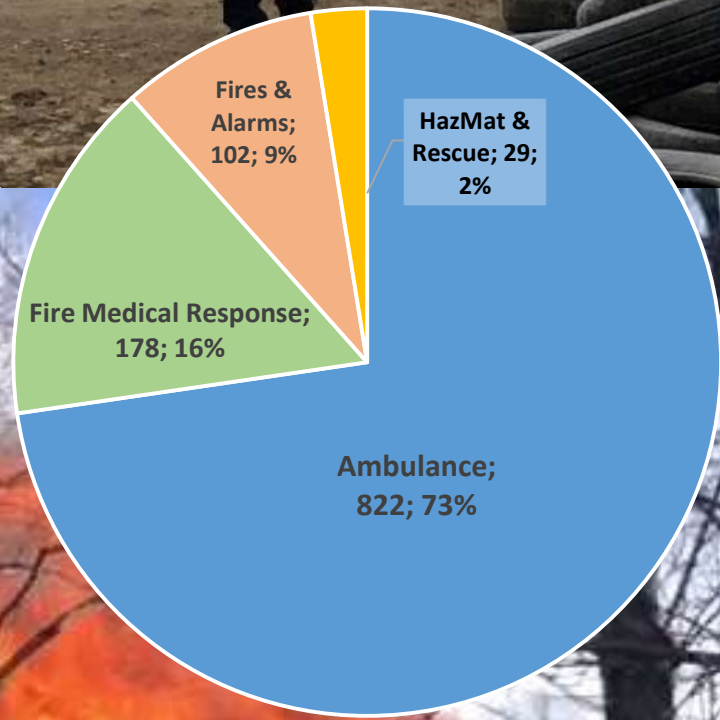
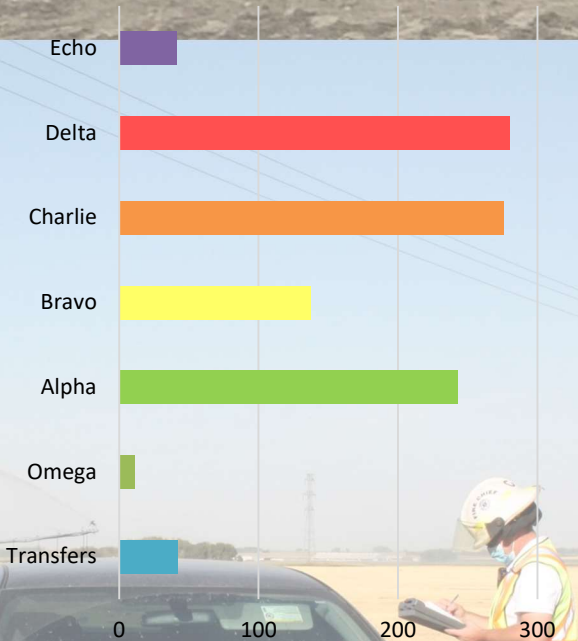
### Emergency Events

Picture Butte Emergency Services responds to a variety of emergency events including fires, medical emergencies, motor vehicle collisions, trapped or injured persons, and hazardous materials spills.

- Omega = Public service call
- Alpha = Single unit cold response
- Bravo = Single unit hot response
- Charlie = Multiple unit response
- Delta = Multiple unit hot response
- Echo = Imminent life-threatening situation

\*Transfers from health facilities to living facilities

### 2021 Event Priority



### Communities Served by Picture Butte Emergency Services in 2021:

- Picture Butte (350)
- Lethbridge County (281)
- Lethbridge (280)
- Nobleford (52)
- Barons (13)
- Coalhurst (12)
- Coaldale (11)
- Vulcan County (31)
- MD of Willow Creek (5)
- MD of Taber (2)



**Your Picture Butte firefighters at work in 2021!**



# 2021

## A Year in Review

**16%** **\$0.16 of every Picture Butte tax \$1.00 goes to emergency services**



**\$22.99** **Cost per citizen to operate emergency services.**

**Tax dollars saved thanks to volunteer firefighters**

**\$168,138**

## Emergency Services Funding

Firefighting, rescue, bylaw, and emergency management services in the Town of Picture Butte are funded by the municipal tax support of the home and business owners within the town. We could not provide the services we do without the support of our community.

## Lethbridge County Agreement

The Town of Picture Butte provides fire and rescue services to Lethbridge County under a fee-for-service. Picture Butte Emergency Services has seen serving the citizens of Lethbridge County for over 70 years. Picture Butte Emergency Services protects the largest geographical district of Lethbridge County and provides assistance to our regional partners in all areas of the county.

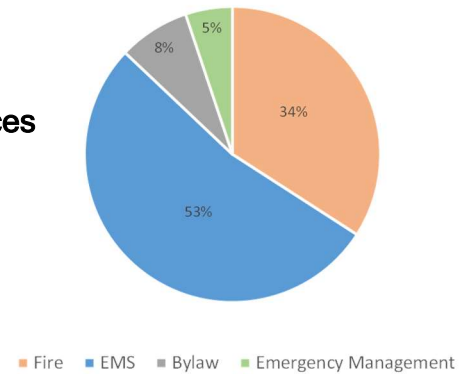
## Alberta Health Services Contract

Picture Butte Emergency Services has contracted our Basic Life Support ambulance to Alberta Health Services since the province assumed responsibility for emergency medical services in 2009. In 2021, the funding received from AHS covered 70% of the expenses to operate the EMS division.

## EMS Invoicing

The other 30% of EMS operating expenses not covered by the AHS contract were recovered through invoicing for ambulance services. Invoices are sent for every ambulance call to either a provincial program like Alberta Blue Cross, a third-party health benefits provider or the patient directly. This allows the Picture Butte area to have a community-based EMS service without an impact on municipal taxes.

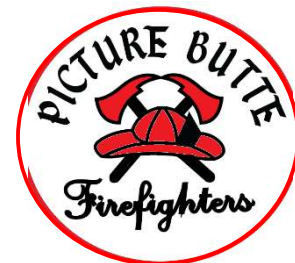
Emergency Services Operating Budget



A sister-organization to Picture Butte Emergency Services is the Picture Butte Firefighters Association. The Firefighters Association is a registered society made up of past and present members of the fire department. The goal of the Firefighters Association is as a fundraising source to support projects of both Picture Butte Emergency Services and the community itself.

Projects funded by the Picture Butte Firefighters Association include:

- Jaws of Life extrication equipment
- Defibrillator/cardiac monitor
- Thermal imaging cameras
- Breathing apparatus compressor
- Lions Park playground
- Picture Butte outdoor arena
- North County Recreation Complex ice resurfacers
- Many more



# 2021

## A Year in Review

**4118 Volunteer Hours**

**3 Certification Courses**

**62 Training Sessions**

**22 CPR Recertifications**

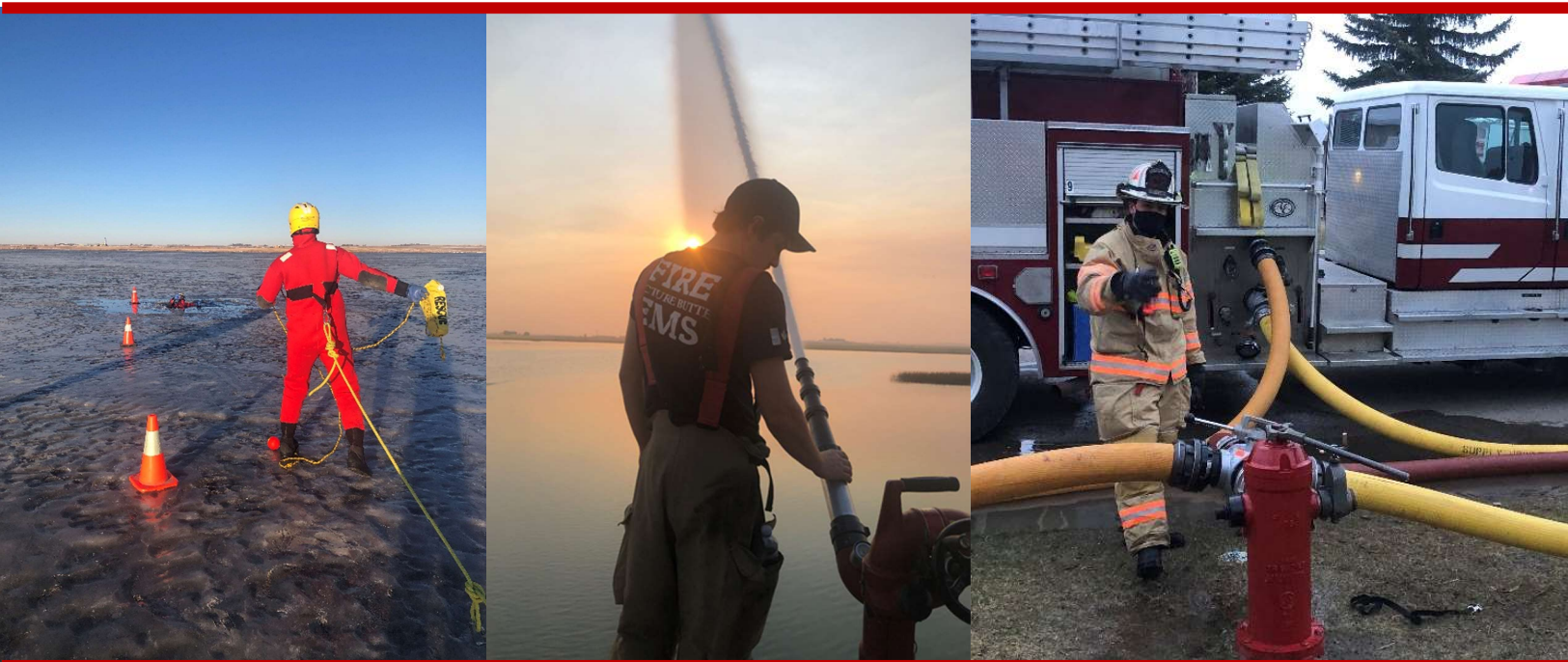
## Your Picture Butte firefighters are always training!

Picture Butte Emergency Services' firefighters and paramedics spent over 2500 hours collectively training in 2021!

Our members train at least once weekly, every Thursday night, with additional evenings and weekends during our recruit program and certification courses.

In 2021, we certified 11 firefighters to the NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighter 1 standard and 5 firefighters to the NFPA 1006 Technical Rescue Awareness standard.

Three of our firefighters also completed training to enter the EMS Division. Congratulations to Firefighter Katie West on completing her Primary Care Paramedic certification and Probationary Firefighters Kathy Kelly and Kailey Jakober on completing their Medical First Responder program.



Picture Butte Emergency Services completed 1 recruit intake in 2021, adding 3 new recruits to the team!

We welcome probationary firefighters:

- Taylor Curtis
- Kailey Jakober
- Shawn Graham

# 2021

## A Year in Review

**19** Fire code compliance inspections

**7** Public education sessions

**18** Fire investigations



**349** Bylaw Enforcement Files

**197** Development Files

## Striving for a safe community through prevention and education

Picture Butte Emergency Services provides fire and life safety education through fire inspections, school visits and tours of the fire station, and fire extinguisher training. Our safety codes officers are able to educate building owners on their requirements under provincial fire code and the Safety Codes Act.

The Bylaw Services division provides education and enforcement of the Town of Picture Butte's bylaws. The Bylaw Officer also fills the role of Assistant Development Officer for the Town of Picture Butte and is the first point of contact for anyone looking to build and change property in the town that requires a development permit.

Officer Ryan Mosby regularly patrols the town to proactively identify bylaw infractions as well as responds to complaints received from the public. Anyone in Picture Butte that notices a bylaw infraction that requires attention by the Bylaw Officer please contact Officer Mosby as below.



### Bylaw Officer Contact:

Office: (403)-732-4555

Cell: (403)-894-9400

Email: [bylaw@picturebutte.ca](mailto:bylaw@picturebutte.ca)

## Bylaw Quick Tip

Town of Picture Butte Traffic Bylaw 852-16

*Section 9.5 No person shall park a commercial vehicle or a heavy vehicle within the municipal boundaries of the Town in areas designated in the Land Use Bylaw as residential zones unless permitted under Section 9.3.*

What this means is that commercial vehicles including semis (with or without trailer), vehicles over one tonne capacity or any heavy equipment cannot be parked in residential areas of the town. Truck parking is designated on town property east of the UFA.



# Beyond 2021

A Look to the Future



## Fire Station Construction

After 3 years of extensive planning Phase 1 construction of our Fire Station expansion has been approved by Picture Butte Town Council. Construction will begin in the spring of 2022, adding 3 additional double-bays to the west side of the existing building. This addition will provide parking space for all the department's support apparatus that are currently stored outside as well as allow the larger apparatus to pull out into the parking lot instead of onto the highway. The new space will alleviate the main health and safety issue in the existing fire station by having adequate space around the apparatus for firefighters to work.



## Technical Rescue Team

Through grant funding received at the request of a local business, Picture Butte Emergency Services will be implementing a Technical Rescue Team under our Fire Rescue Services Division. The Technical Rescue Team will provide additional services in rope, confined space, heavy vehicle and equipment, trench and water rescues. The Team will be operational and ready for deployment in 2022.

## SCBA Replacement

Another scheduled capital project taking place in 2022 is the replacement of our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). This equipment is replaced on a 15-year cycle and is being upgraded from a 30-minute to 45-minute breathing air system. This equipment is vital to the work our firefighters do on the scene of a fire.



# 2021 Annual Report



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