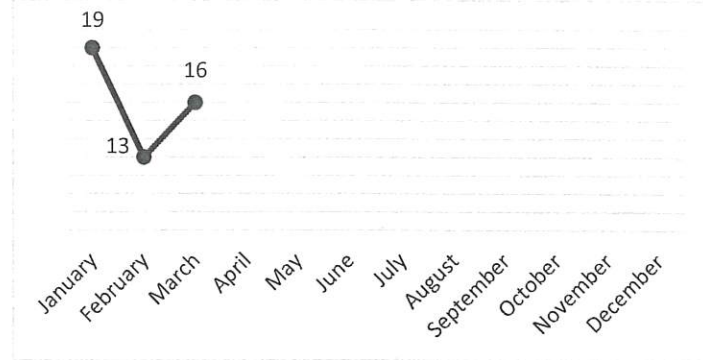




To: Honorable Mayor and Houston City Council
 From: Christian Hartley, Fire Chief *CA*
 Thru: Mayor Virgie Thompson *MT*
 Subj: Fire Chief's Report – March 2021



Fire – Local	3	Fire – Aid	5
Rescue	1	Hazard Material	0
EMS	7	Community	0
TOTAL CALLS -		16	
CALLS TO DATE – 2021		48	

2021 has been a welcome reprieve of the unpredictability of 2020. Many of the calls in March have been unremarkable with a few notable exceptions including one incident involving an Alaska State Trooper that experienced a rollover accident near the intersection of Parks Highway and Big Lake Road. The department is very much looking forward to the completion of that project for the safety of public safety and the general public.



Trooper car damaged in rollover accident

Our contract with the Borough has been a tremendous asset to the city for the protection and preservation of our fire trucks. With their help, we have fixed many maintenance issues that would have well exceeded the cost of the contract had we not had it in place. Having experienced mechanics with the requisite knowledge specific to these emergency vehicles is critical.

April and May will be heavily focused on fire prevention, especially in the “home ignition zone” area. This area surrounding residential homes is the area most at risk of igniting a home on fire in the situation of a wildfire. We will be providing chipping services on May 1 and an open house on May 8 to share information and hopefully decrease the risks of wildfires locally.

Costs have not decreased in any area for the fire department. Our budget request as submitted to the Mayor and Treasurer for review does request a moderate increase, but none of the requested items are an expansion of our services from those called for in code, and they do not take on new projects or tasks. The budget submitted is simply to fund the same level of services with the increased costs of operations accounted for.

As always, I am always welcome to council members calls or visits and can give a tour of our operations if you need one.