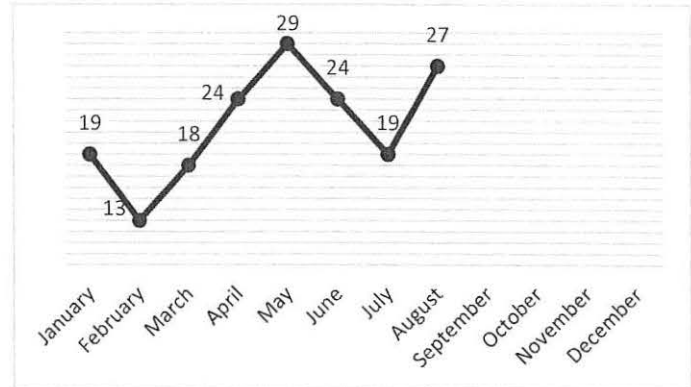


City of Houston, Alaska
Fire Department



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

Fire – Local	9	Fire – Aid	10
Rescue	0	Comm Service	1
EMS	7	Landing Zones	0
TOTAL CALLS -		27	
CALLS TO DATE – 2021			173



July and August were busy times for public service and operational readiness. Every apparatus in our fleet has now been cycled through the Borough's DES Fleet Maintenance and all have clear bills of health. Although all needed tires at a huge expense because they were all over a decade old, and many needed some items repaired or replaced to bring them up to industry standards, at no time was any apparatus taken out of service due to neglect or life-safety failures.

Houston Founders Day had a very strong attendance this year despite direct competition from Alaska State Fair for the first time in the event's history after the State Fair changed their opening weekend. There were two minor medical emergencies that occurred on property, but neither required ambulance to treat or transport the individuals and were handled by FD first responders. It seemed that residents really enjoyed a community event, and the fire department has received no negative comments at all.

One item of note is the log jam building at the Parks Highway bridge over the Little Susitna River. This concern has already been raised to the State of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources and Department of Transportation & Public Facilities. A huge impedence are salmon habitat regulations that prevent the use of equipment to remove the hazard, so the appropriate stakeholders are looking at options and intend to take action this year before freeze as much as law will allow.

When reviewing data for each year to plan for the next one, one thing we try to track is trends so that we can identify best practices and times to staff up and help with budgeting. Things we hear often from people are questions about how accurate those predictions are, given the nature of unpredictability of emergencies and disasters. Here is a break down of this year and the three prior years to show how predictable some things actually are. We have a good idea of how many calls we will have in a year based on history: which is amazing considering how much the population of Houston and our automatic aid area has increased based on US Census Bureau data that we have seen.

