



**AGENDA  
CITY OF CEDAR FALLS, IOWA  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022  
5:10 PM AT COMMUNITY CENTER, 528 MAIN STREET**

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The City is providing in-person and electronic options for this meeting. The City encourages in-person attendees to follow the latest CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

The meeting will be accessible via video conference and the public may access/observe the meeting in the following ways:

- a) By dialing the phone number +13126266799 or +19292056099 or +12532158782 or +13017158592 or +13462487799 or +16699006833 and when prompted, enter the meeting ID (access code) 962 7287 1738.
- b) iPhone one-tap: +13126266799,,96272871738# or +19292056099,,96272871738#
- c) Join via smartphone or computer using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/96272871738>.

**Call to Order by the Mayor**

1. Public Safety Director Position and Public Safety Model.  
(1 Hour 40 Minutes, Public Safety Director Jeff Olson, Assistant Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Craig Berte & Assistant Director of Public Safety/Fire Chief John Bostwick)

# Public Safety Services



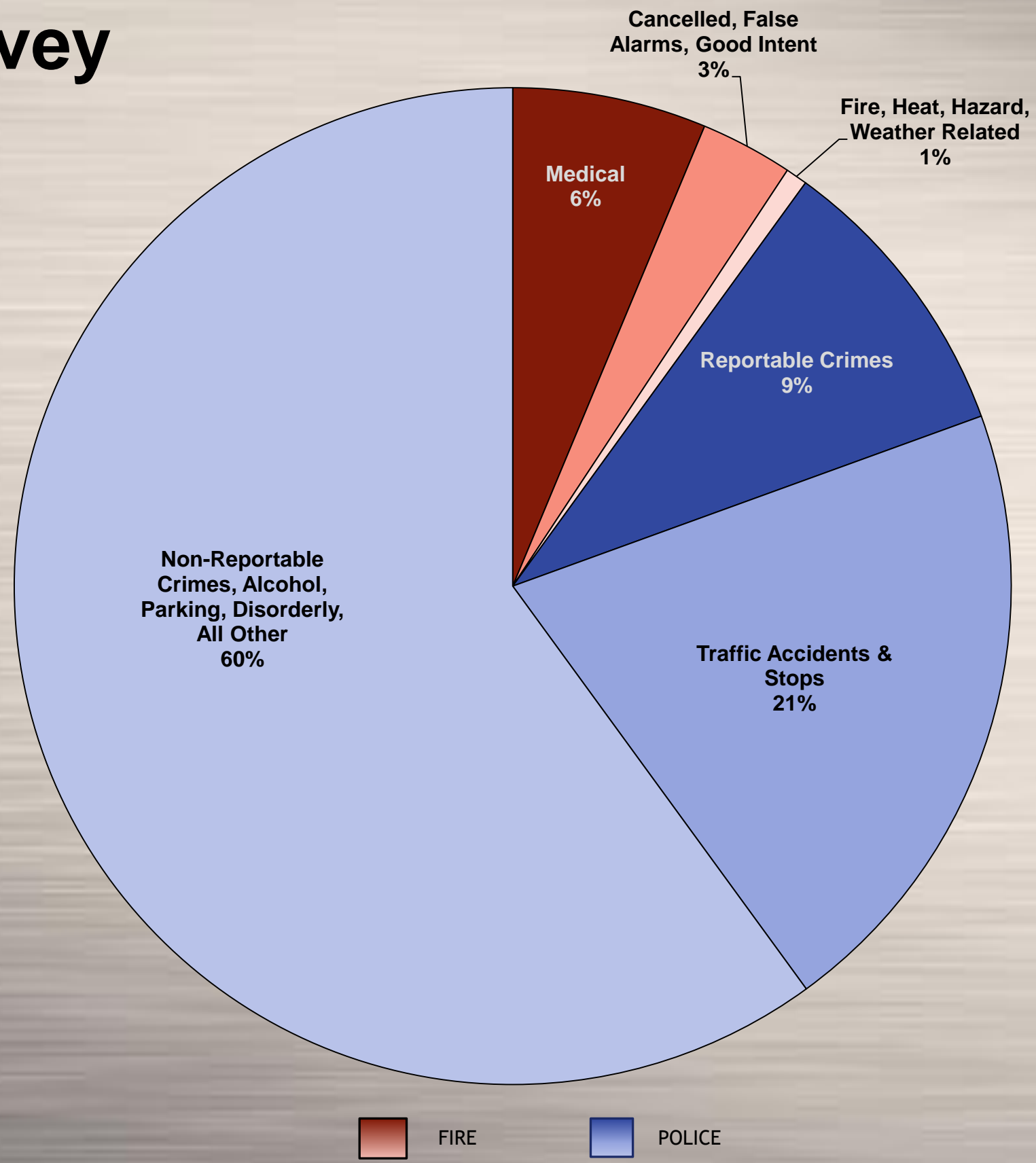
# Public Safety Overview

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- Police responded to 19,312 calls in 2021
- Fire responded to 2,299 calls in 2021
  - 1,418 (62%) were medical calls assisting paramedics.
  - Cedar Falls had 6 serious structure fires in 2021.
  - Average 4-8 serious structure fires per year.
  - Nationally; fire calls down 60% in 40 years.



# Cedar Falls Public Safety Experience Survey



# Public Safety Research

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- Kalamazoo, MI
- Woodbury, MN
- Bloomington, MN
- Eastern Iowa Airport (CR)
- Sunnyvale, CA
- Michigan Cities
- Iowa Cities (Auto response, WDM-Clive-Urbandale)



# Other Cross-trained Professions

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- All members of National Guard and Reserve military forces.
- Firefighters cross-trained as Paramedics.
- 2/3 of all firefighters in the United States are volunteer or Paid on Call Firefighters with a different occupation / profession.



# How does it work?

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- Two separate divisions within the PS Department.
- Full-time firefighters work traditional 24 hours shifts in 2 fire stations.
- Full-time police officers work (3) 8.25 hour shifts.
- Nearly all PS staff are cross-trained.
- Police carry fire gear in SUVs and respond to fire calls.
- Increases number of firefighters at emergency scene.
- Provides for additional staff at emergency police scene.



# What HAS NOT changed with our transformation to a Public Safety Department?

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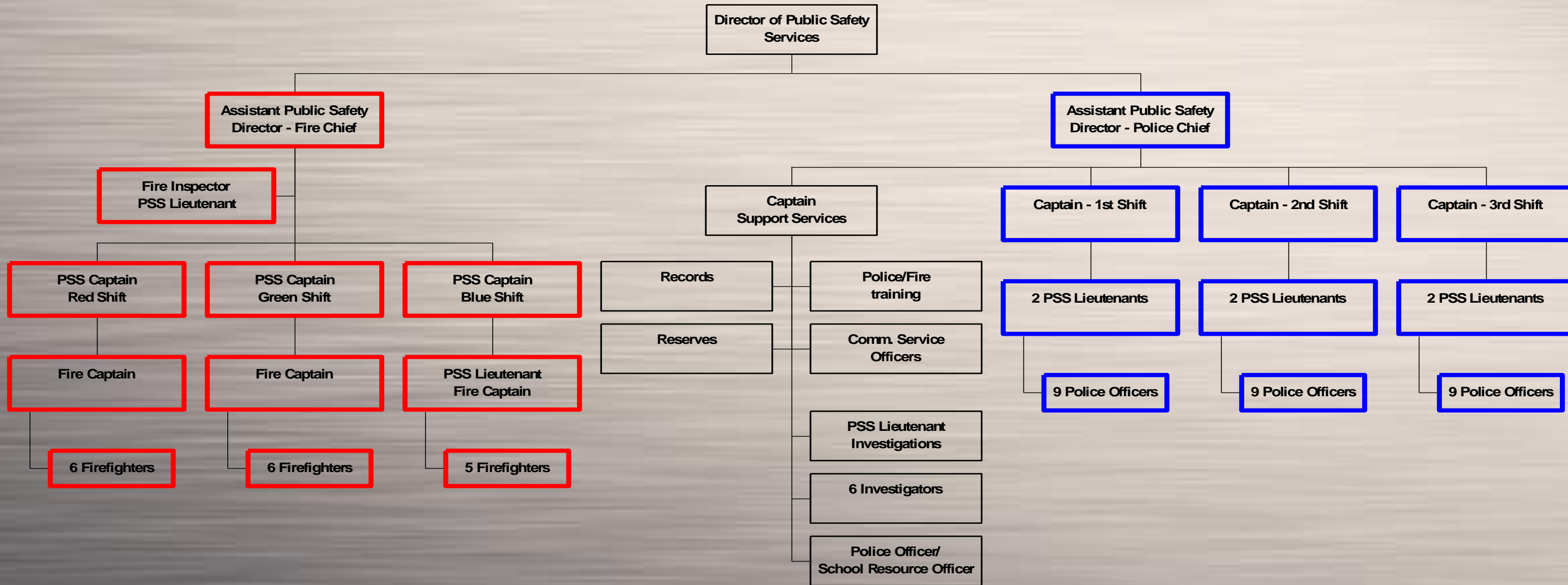
- The staffing of 8 on fire shift and 6 on duty has not changed since 2014.
- There are firefighters on duty 24/7 at both fire stations.
- The locations of the fire stations has not changed in 15 years.
- The number of fire trucks remains the same, except for the addition of a 2<sup>nd</sup> tanker truck in 2021 to improve capabilities in areas not served with fire hydrants.
- The EMS agreement with MercyOne Cedar Falls has not changed in over 40 years.
- The Black Hawk County Dispatch Center has not changed since 1995.
- The types of calls; Police, Fire, Rescue, EMS has not changed.





# Organization Chart

## City of Cedar Falls Public Safety



# Do we have Professional Firefighters?

- To become a Professional Firefighter in the State of Iowa requires 160 hour class and no State of Iowa certification.
- Cedar Falls Professional Firefighter requirements:
  - In-house academy that consists of 160 or more hours of instruction.
  - Firefighter 1 (State of Iowa certification)
  - HAZMAT (State of Iowa certification)
  - Firefighter 2
  - Driver/Operator
  - Other Certifications: Fire Officer 1 & 2, Fire Instructor, Rope Rescue, Incident Command, Grain Bin, Technical Rescue.



# Are They Trained?

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- On-going Annual Training
  - In-service training.
  - On-line training.
  - Shift training.
  - State Fire Training Bureau (Burn Trailers, SCBA Trailer)
  - Hazmat Regional Training Facility.
  - Police In-Service training.
- 6,875 hours of fire training in 2020.
- 6,676 hours of fire training in 2021.



# Response Levels

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- Before Public Safety - Fire had a minimum staffing of 6.
- After Public Safety the average responding to calls is 12.
  - ISO says 10.6 working 24/7.
- Officers on police shifts arrive first.
  - Scene size up – report observations to in-coming fire trucks.
  - Evacuate structure and/or nearby structures.
  - Hydrant location, flush hydrant and prepare for connection.
  - Put on fire gear, assist in fire ground operations.
  - CAF system (may be option for small exterior fires).



# When and how do PSO's respond to fire calls?

*PSOs carry their fire gear in their police vehicle and respond to fire calls as needed.  
Fire Supervisors can request PSOs for any calls. Cedar Falls has few fires (6 serious fires per year).*

<b>2019</b>		<b>Fire</b>
Mar. 4	House Fire	6
Mar. 15	Oven Fire	8
Apr. 2	Kiln Fire (UNI Campus)	7
Apr. 15	Mobile Home Fire	7
July 26	Garage Fire	7
Sept. 12	Kitchen Fire	7

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<b>2019</b>		<b>Fire</b>	<b>PSOs</b>
Mar. 4	House Fire	6	7
Mar. 15	Oven Fire	8	15
Apr. 2	Kiln Fire (UNI Campus)	7	16
Apr. 15	Mobile Home Fire	7	8
July 26	Garage Fire	7	5
Sept. 12	Kitchen Fire	7	9

# When and how do PSO's respond to fire calls?

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<b>2019</b>		<b>Fire</b>	<b>PSOs</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mar. 4	House Fire	6	7	13
Mar. 15	Oven Fire	8	15	23
Apr. 2	Kiln Fire (UNI Campus)	7	16	23
Apr. 15	Mobile Home Fire	7	8	15
July 26	Garage Fire	7	5	12
Sept. 12	Kitchen Fire	7	9	16

# What would it cost to provide the same response levels w/separate Police and Fire?

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- Costs to achieve the same staffing response to fires (12) and assist police operations.
  - Add 21 firefighters (7 per shift) - \$2,100,000.
  - Add 9 police officers, (3 per shift) - \$900,000.
- Annual Total cost: \$3,000,000





# Cedar Falls Response Examples

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- **80 Apartment Complex Fire (2021)**
  - 22 on-duty personnel responded.
  - Fire put out quickly, excessive smoke in hallways a serious hazard.
  - Dozens of handicapped residents assisted (some carried) from building. (Wheelchairs, stair chairs and walkers - Elevators out of service due to fire.)
  - Numerous pets removed from complex and reunited with owners.
  - Callback re-staffed police and fire for additional calls.



# Cedar Falls Response Examples

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- **Shooting victim / Armed standoff (2022)**
  - Shooting (1 victim) – 6 hour standoff.
  - Fire PSO rode in ambulance with victim and interviewed victim in police capacity at hospital.
  - Fire Captain (PSO) supervises police and fire during callback. (Non –shooting related calls).
  - Fire Lieutenant (PSO & SWAT member) activates and supervises activation of SWAT until they arrive at scene.



# Cedar Falls Response Examples

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- **College Street Shooting (Homicide Investigation)  
(February 6, 2022)**
  - Three shooting victims, dynamic scene on College Street and at Sartori Hospital.
  - Fire PSO rode in ambulance with one victim and served in police capacity at Allen Hospital.
  - Fire PSO who provided medical treatment to gunshot wound then assisted with Crime Scene Investigation - interviewing witnesses, documenting evidence, protecting crime scene.



# Cedar Falls Response Examples

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- **Social Justice Protests (2020)**
  - Firefighters assisted staffing police shifts, Cedar Falls PD was able to commit to assist Waterloo PD.
- **College Hill / Downtown (2020-current)**
  - Larger pool of certified police officers to provide extra staffing on weekends to prevent/deter violent crime.
  - In previous years only choice was to hire Sheriff's Deputies - No longer necessary.



# Advantages of Public Safety

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- Fire personnel (PSOs) assist police when police shifts busy.
  - Calls on hold.
  - Citizens at front counter.
- Cross-trained duties (Keeps police on shift, Fire conducts during down time)
  - Forensic cell phone / computer / tablet examination
  - Marijuana testing
  - Armor / maintenance of weapons (over 100 weapons) (shotgun, patrol rifle, pistol, TASER)
  - Drug Recognition Expert



# Disadvantages / Challenges of Public Safety

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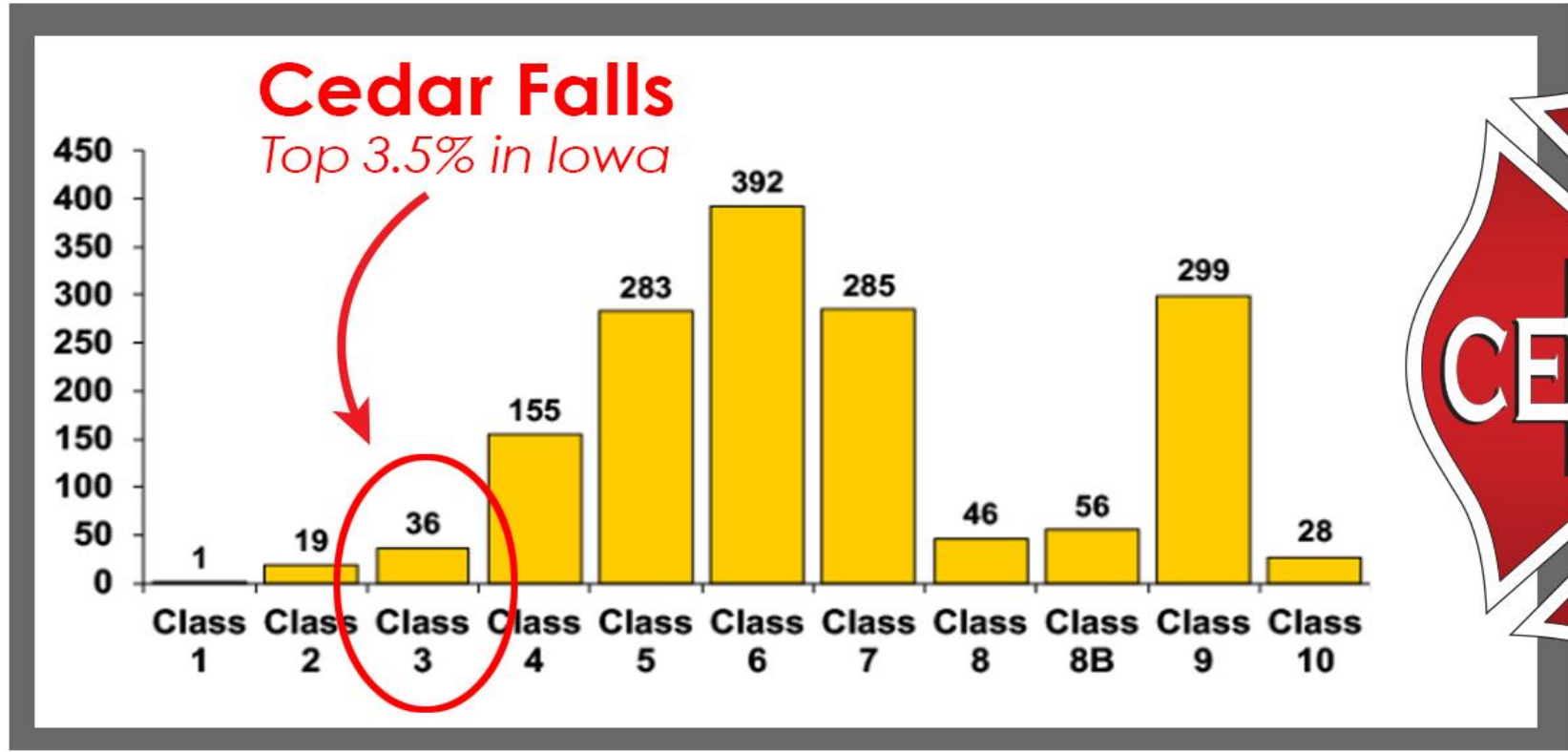
- Schedule and document annual and monthly training requirements required for Firefighter and Police Officer certifications.
- Maintain the uniforms, gear and equipment for cross-trained employees.
- Increased training time for new employees.



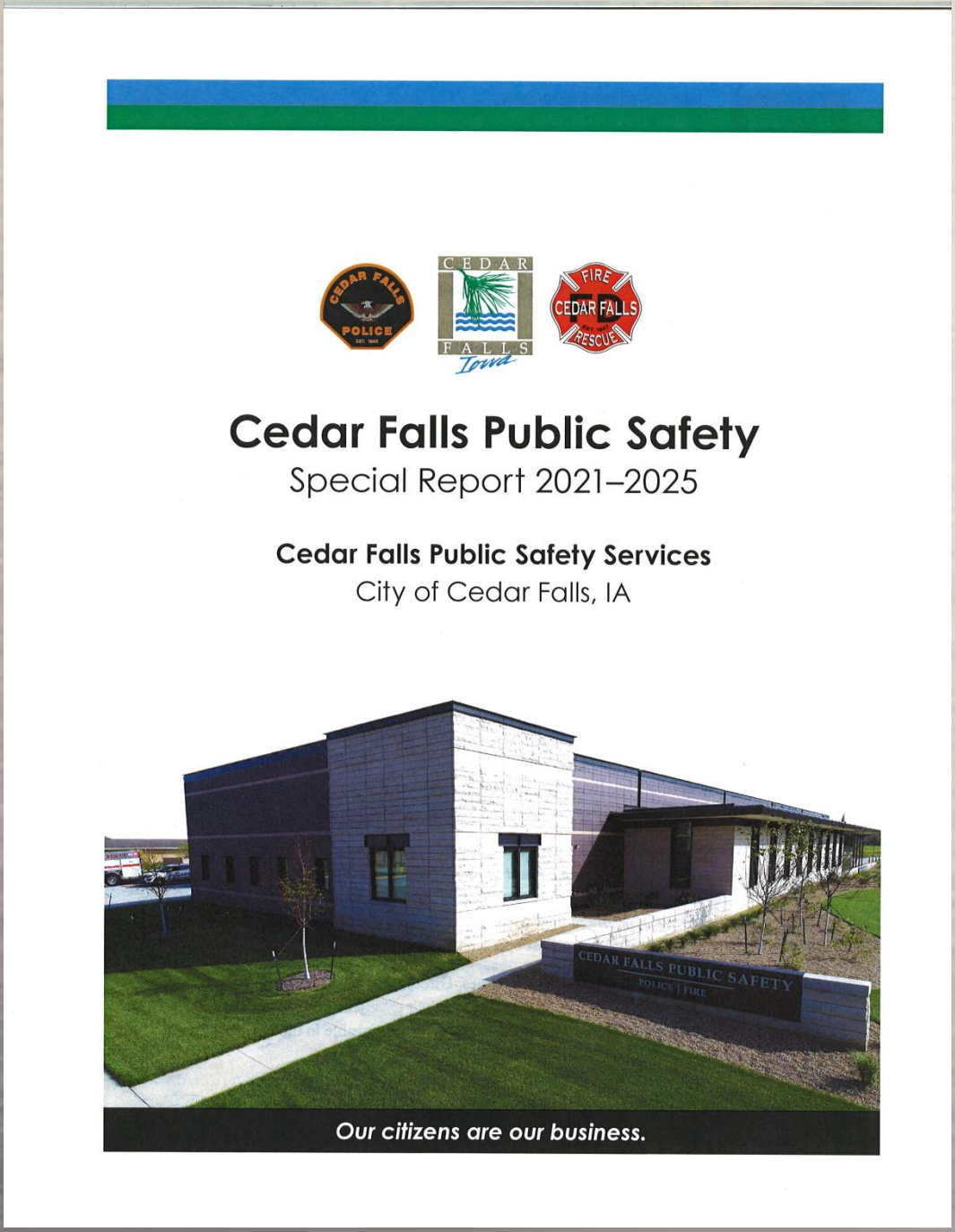
# Third Party Review

## ISO Fire Rating: **IOWA**

*Third Party Review*



# Cedar Falls Public Safety Special Report



- Study began summer of 2020 with report submitted to Mayor Green for review beginning of 2021.
- Reviewed all facets of Public Safety with SMART strategies and goals.





# End Result

- Same fire/police certifications and training.
- Increased police capabilities during major events.
- Outside ISO evaluation (3<sup>rd</sup> party review).
- Larger pool of trained responders to draw from for emergency operations (fire or police).
- Increased number of on-duty firefighters responding scene - (2x).
- Ability to handle routine police issues at Public Safety Facility by firefighters in building.



# Cedar Falls Public Safety Special Report

## 7 Goals

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- 1.** Achieve Optimal Staffing
- 2.** Improve Departmental Practices
- 3.** Train and Certify Comprehensively
- 4.** Effectively Manage Department Facilities
- 5.** Field New Equipment and Vehicles
- 6.** Creatively Engage the Community
- 7.** Support Officer Well-Being



# *Public Safety Services*

