



Racine Fire Department
810 Eighth St, Racine WI 53403

May 24, 2021

Honorable Members of the
Racine Police & Fire Commission

Dear PFC,

Respectfully, the fire department is an *ALL HAZARDS* agency dedicated to being a multi-versatile tool you can depend on when emergencies strike your community. A Swiss army knife if you will. However, over the last several months the fire department has been challenged with the elimination of nine firefighting positions which is having an impact on Fire and EMS operations as we approach summer.

When the 2021 budget was enacted by vote of the Common Council in November of 2020, as of January 1, 2021, we needed to change how the fire department responds to the community. The most noticeable change impacted Fire Station 6. The staffing in that station was reduced from 12 members (4 per shift) to 9 members (3 per shift). With that reduction Engine 6 is no longer a front-line fire company due to staffing reductions; however, the ambulance known as MED 6 is now staffed 24/7/365. With this one change due to staffing reductions we are now seeing many challenges with daily fire and EMS responses in Racine.

The second change was by Mayoral directive. Ambulances known as MED 1, MED 3 and MED 4 are now two-person ambulances where before January 1, 2021, they were a three-person ambulance. What this means is as a department we must send two units, a MED unit and first responder, on Advance Life Support (ALS) and Advance Life Support Critical Care (ALS1) calls where in the past we typically only would send one ambulance with a crew of three. Our State of Wisconsin medical operational plan requires two paramedics to be on scene before paramedic interventions can be initiated and with the current staffing we do not always have two paramedics on MED 1, MED 3 or MED 4. Attached to this update are reports we are generating which show how our emergency unit availability has gotten worse since January 1 compared to the last two years (2019 & 2020). This translates into one of two scenarios. Scenario 1, it takes longer to respond to emergency calls. Scenario 2, we must call for mutual aid from outside of Racine when our units are on other calls. All this is still a work in progress with many moving pieces.

On the brighter side of things, we are working to secure funding to implement home vaccinations through our Mobile Integrated Health program. There is funding available through the American Rescue Plan to cover the costs. In addition, we continue to work with the City of Racine Health Department to provide personnel at the recently announced



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vaccination clinics at Tyler Domer, MLK and Festival Hall. Our EMTs and Paramedics are fully capable of giving vaccines as our city residents come in.

The Racine Fire Department has hired eight new members based on the hiring list approved by the Police and Fire Commission. After a few bumps in the road our eight new recruits are now on the line as they begin their new career with the fire department.

We are in the process of hiring three additional firefighters to fill out our roster. In addition, we have started the next recruitment process and are screening applications along with scheduling written examinations in the very near future. It should be noted, it is getting harder and harder to find qualified individuals to apply. This is a nationwide issue and not unique to Racine.

What do our calls look like – Call Volume?

What follows is a report from the Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) showing the various calls for January 1 through May 20, 2021, vs the same time period in 2020. The call volume has remained somewhat steady with the largest decrease associated with the Mobile Integrated Health Care (MIH) calls. Due to COVID 19 the department discontinued in-person home visits and is doing follow up care by telephone for now. Once the COVID 19 restrictions relax or end we will then resume home visits. They, by far, are the most productive and helpful way of following up with patients discharged from the hospital.

Red text color represents mainly a fire response, blue text represents mainly an Emergency Medical assistance call and black text represents other calls.

CFS Code - Description	2020	2021	Difference
	01/20 - 05/20	01/21 - 05/21	
ACCPI - Accident Personal Injury	139	173	34
ACCPT - Accident - Persons Trapped	23	26	3
ALS - Advanced Life Support	922	1020	98
ALS1 - ALS with First Responder	1565	1567	2
ASI - Active Shooter Incident	0	0	0
BLS - Basic Life Support	678	837	159
CANCEL - Call Cancelled	89	83	-6
CRBMON - Possible Carbon Monoxide	56	46	-10
DROWN - Drowning/water Accident	0	1	1
EMERAS - Emergency Assist	4	13	9
FIRE - Structure Fire	109	107	-2



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FIREA - Fire - Supervised Alarm S	84	123	39
FIREO - Single Engine Response	64	82	18
HAZMAT - LOCAL HM RESPONSE	1	0	-1
INVASS - Invalid Assist	161	162	1
MABAS - Mutual Aid Box Alarm	0	3	3
MIH - Mobile Integrated Healthcare	194	1	-193
NGLEAK - Reported Natural Gas Leak	35	43	8
PNB - Pulseless, Non-Breathing	76	96	20
RAO - Recip Aid Out of Municipality	0	1	1
Total :	4200	4385	185

There are no disciplinary issues to report.

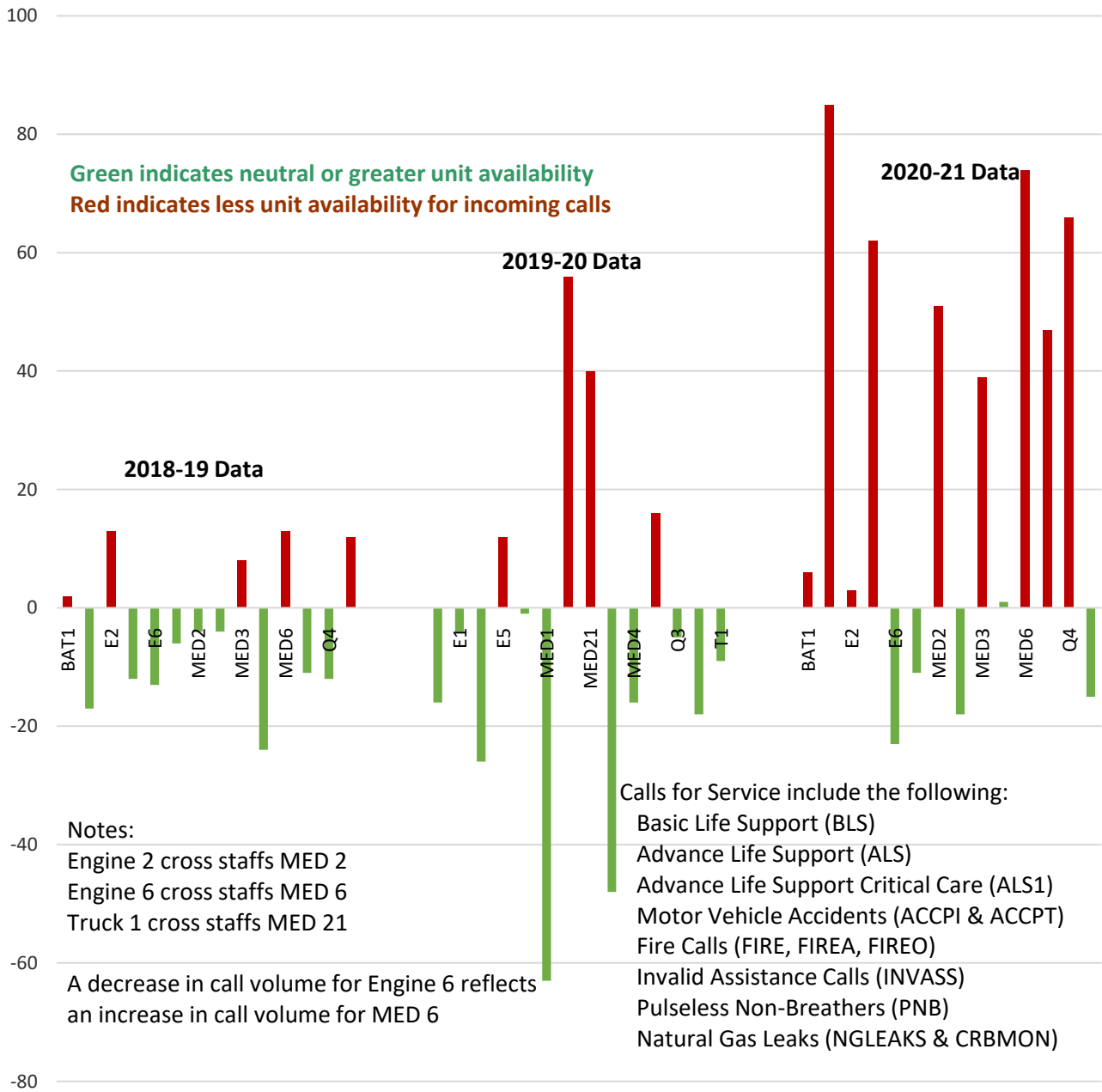
Fiscal Note: non

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief

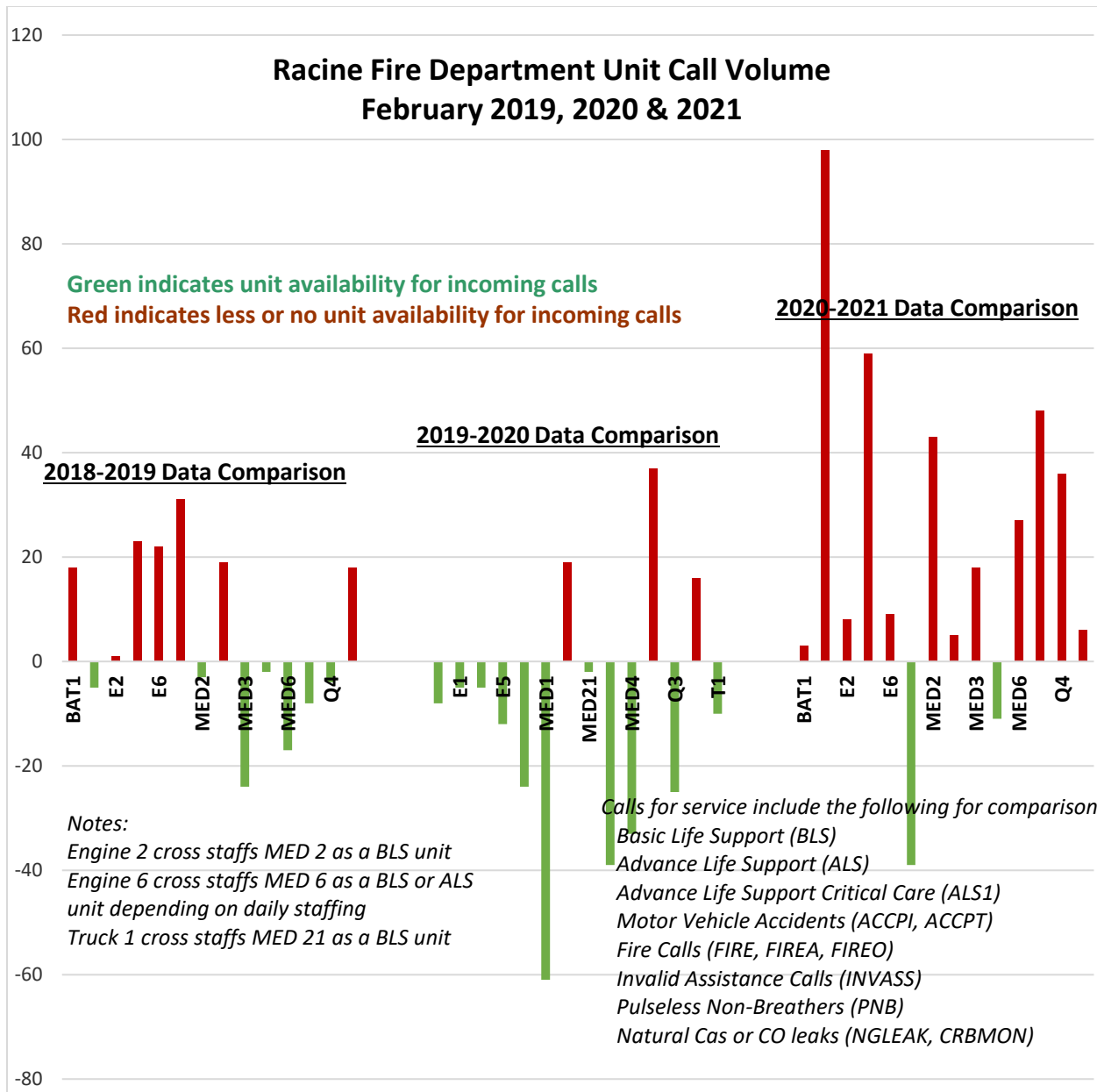


**Racine Fire Department Unit Call Volume Change
 January 2019, 2020 & 2021**



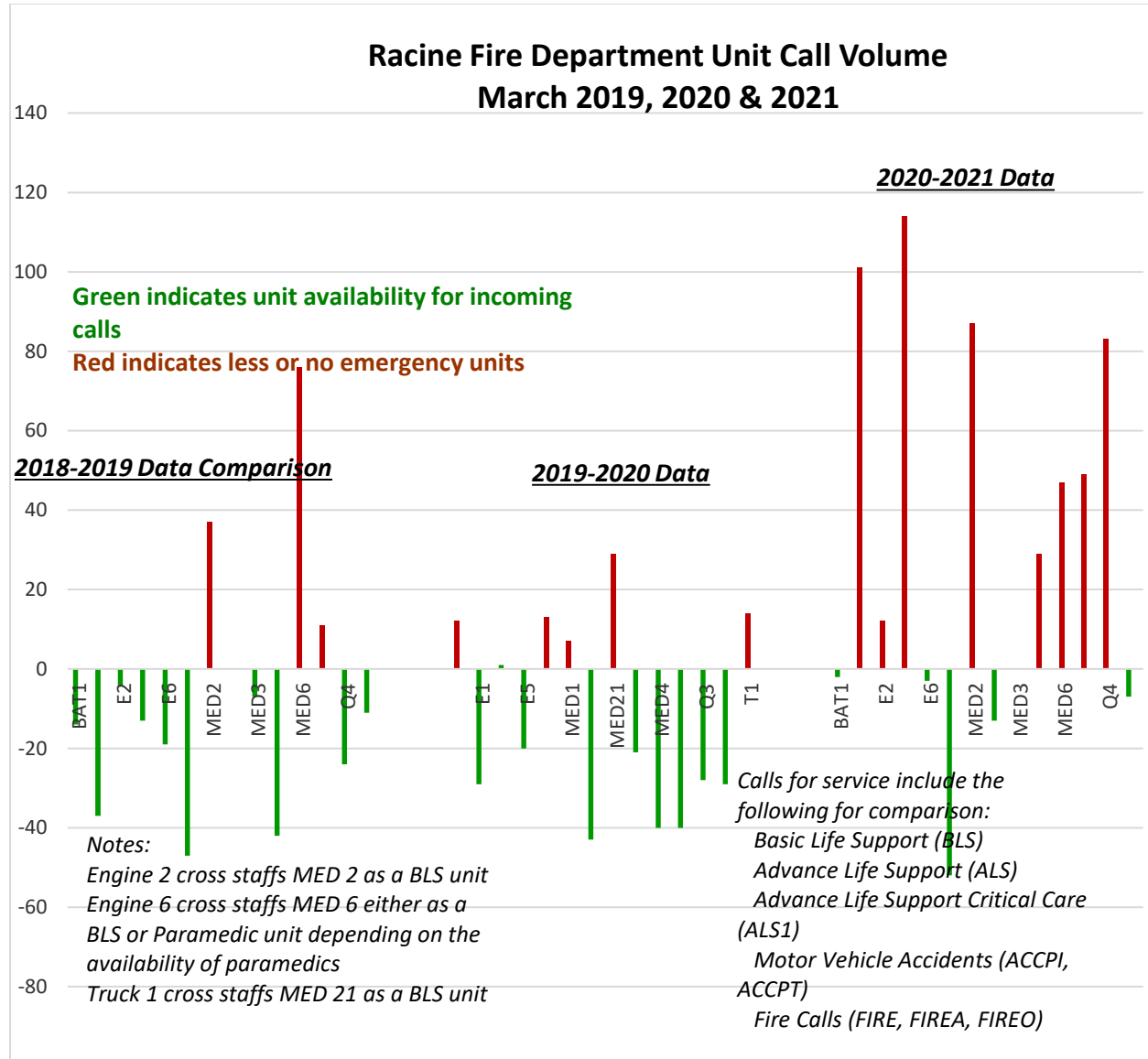


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**Racine Fire Department Unit Call Volume
 April 2019, 2020 & 2021**

