

2021 Firefighter of the Year, Fire Captain Erik Johnson

Through a year that has had many challenges, Captain Johnson has been a consummate professional and strong leader. His positive attitude has been extremely contagious and has made a huge difference in the overall disposition of his crew, and he has positively impacted everyone he comes in contact with. His attitude and influence are the model of what “right looks like” when it comes to all facets of service to the community, and in particular, patient care. This has been a very welcomed staple throughout this most challenging year.

Captain Johnson stepped up this year to aid in the recruitment process for the 2020 and 2021 academies. It began by recognizing a departmental need and made himself available by volunteering to assist with the background process for each of the three recruitments. This was highlighted when Captain Johnson assumed the lead Background Investigator’s role due to an injury to the member serving in that capacity. This required a greater time commitment which included the coordination of candidate communication, scheduling of medicals/psychological exams, and pre-academy equipment and uniform sizing.

Captain Johnson has also accepted a role as a shift PM Coordinator for our Department. He will be a great addition to our EMS Leadership Team. His paramedic experience and understanding of our system, along with his attitude and leadership will be a definite attribute to EMS program. As we look toward the future and the potentials our EMS Study reveal, Captain Johnson will be a vital component to the overall integration.

All of the attributes mentioned have been constants throughout Captain Johnson’s career, and are not something that he has turned on since becoming a Captain. He has consistently been a positive influence and impact and has made those around him better. It is his work ethic, attitude, and he is fully invested in seeing our Department improve and this has been most beneficial to facing our challenges this year.