



Edwin P. Aldan  
Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan

**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMS**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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Raymond T. Dela Cruz, Jr.  
Resident Deputy Commissioner

## WHO WE ARE?

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS), Tinian, Station 7 was created on the year 2015 by Public Law 18-73. Our department consists of a Resident Deputy Commissioner, 2 Administrative Staff and 21 Firefighters.

The U.S Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) consists of 14 islands in an archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean with the total population based on the 2010 Census of 80,000. However, the predicted population of the CNMI has surpassed this population number. The CNMI lies at about 1,250 miles south-east of Tokyo, Japan and east of Manila, Philippines and about 3,800 miles due west of the Hawaiian Islands. The three islands with the greater percentile of the population of the CNMI are Saipan, Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan and the Municipality of Rota.

The Northern Marianas Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services are dedicated personnel that represent the diversity of our community. We are committed to highest standard to protect the lives and property of the people of Northern Marianas from fires, natural disaster, and hazardous material incidents; saving lives by providing emergency medical services; to prevent fires through prevention and education programs. A timely delivery of these services enables our department to make significant contribution to the safety of our community.

The Tinian Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services will continue its efforts in providing leadership by developing, promoting and coordinating programs influencing public and private policies, and increasing public awareness on both land and marine law enforcement and safety.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

•Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Statistics include medical evacuations and periodic medical appointment services/transport; retrieval of bodies from residential and on scene.

Number of Medical Responses:	153
Oct 2019-Dec 2019	49
January 2020	12
February	22
March	21
April	7
May	2
June	9
July	6
August	11
September	14

Public Services:	51
Public Announcement	3
Medic Standby	31
Transport to Shelter	1
Locked Vehicle	3
Hearse	2
TETRIS	2
Road Clearing	1
Stuck Vehicle	2
Flush Down	4
Fire Alarm	3

•Fire Prevention & Arson Investigation: Annual smoke alarm inspections and installation; monthly fire watch (Head Start, Tinian Elementary and Tinian Jr/Sr High School) *\*suspended until further notice due to COVID-19 pandemic crises.* •Fire Alarm responses as per resident request (3 total).

Burning Permits	28
Fire Code Inspection	23
Firebreaks (Residential/Farm/Pasture)	38

•Suppressions and Wildland (October 2019-September 2020): Grass fire 45; Vehicle Fire 1; Structural Fire 1; Stand by for Assistance 10.

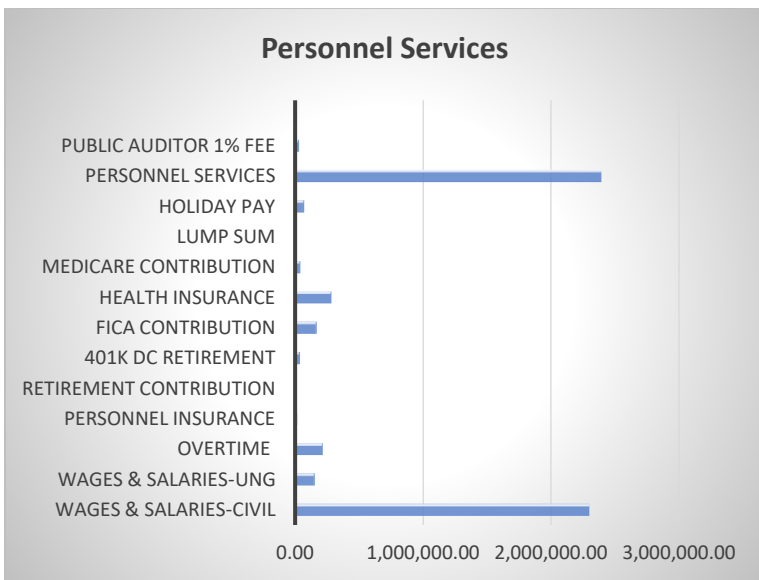
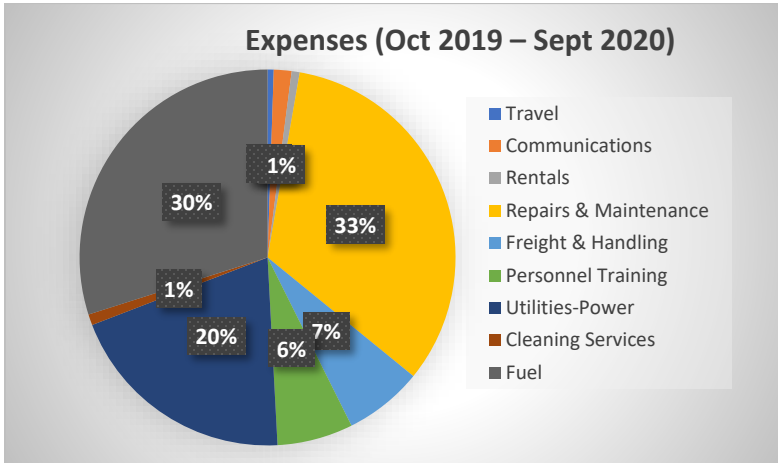
•Search and Rescue Unit (SARU) Year 2020: Distress call 2

•HAZMAT/CBRNE: UXO (shelter in place) 3. Last Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) activity was on November 27, 2018. *\*Detonation of unexploded World War II ordnances.*

# WHAT ARE THE REVENUES AND EXPENSES?

Current funding balance as of September 30, 2020:

Department Business Unit	1351A	\$18,000
Fire Code Revolving Account	3563B	\$35,082
Ambulance Fee Revolving Account	1954	\$8,226



## WHAT'S NEXT?

### CHALLENGES AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

- **PERSONNEL TRAINING –**

- **13<sup>TH</sup> Fire Cycle Academy:** In the beginning of calendar year 2020, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the Department of Labor-Workforce Investment Agency collaborated to provide employment opportunities to career seeking, vibrant community members as Fire Cadets. Unfortunately, Sars-Cov-2 (Covid-19) worldwide pandemic occurred in the early stages of the academy training resulting in suspended operations. This action prompted each municipality to recall its cadets for in-house training and exercises. Funding to further secure the cadets halted due to our government's financial constraints impacted severely from the tourism generated revenue.
- **Pro-Board Certifications:** Each firefighter, as sworn personnel, must uphold all state and federal laws applicable to their duties and responsibilities. Aside from these laws, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services must ensure maintenance of required certifications for personnel to continue rendering life-saving methods and skills to the injured or sick members of the community. Certifications are also required for continued services, such as Search and Rescue missions on land and sea, hazardous materials response and handling for Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) and other DFEMS compliances.
- **OFFICE SPACE -** The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services currently employs 23 personnel, and our office space is very limited. The administration office is shared amongst the Resident Deputy Commissioner, two administrative personnel and the Operations Commander. Division office is shared with Officers-in-Charge for Hazmat, Fire Prevention, Logistic and Support, EMS and Search and Rescue. The administrative section must be relocated.

DFEMS is currently housed at the Tinian Department of Public Safety Compound with equipment and supplies stacked up to the ceiling. It was built in the early 1990s and is prone to severe leaking during heavy rains. The apparatus bay is wholly inadequate to completely and safely protect our life saving apparatus and equipment, contributing to their rapid deterioration. We need to aggressively identify resources for a dedicated Fire House so that our life saving apparatus and equipment are secure from the ravages of our unpredictable weather.

- **OPERATIONS, APPARATUS/EQUIPMENTS**

- **Bunker Gears Shortage:** Traditionally all Fire Cadets are issued their own tailor-made bunker gear upon graduation, but with down turn of the CNMI economy, we have had to make use of hand-me-downs or sharing gears across shifts. We need to identify resources to ensure that all fire fighters are properly outfitted to minimize injury and maximize productivity at emergency incidents.
- **Ambulance:** The municipality of Tinian has one ambulance in good working condition and one that has multitude of issues that keep arising due to severe weather inundation (Super Typhoon Yutu). Multiple mechanics had advised us that the cost of full repair will be greater than price of a new one. We need to identify resources to purchase another ambulance to ensure that critical services are uninterrupted due to an ambulance going out of service.
- **Fire Trucks:** At the present, the municipality has a 1,000 gallons pump and roll fire truck as well as a rapid response 350-gallon mini pumper for wildfires. Adequate for single story family dwellings. Totally insufficient for multiple fires or high-rise buildings. We need to identify resources for an additional mini pumper to alleviate the work load on the 1,000 gallons pumper to prolong its service life.