

## 2021 MFD BOAT/DIVE TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

There were 38 water rescue calls for service of which 17 included both the Dive and Boat Teams. Those figures are down slightly from 2020, most notably due to the pandemic restrictions being reduced, and the number of Hoan Bridge incidents being less. Year 2021 came with its own challenges including continued COVID-19 restrictions, and a packed training calendar. That said, the team was able to adapt and overcome adversity, managing to bring five individuals to full-pilot status.

### Notable Emergency Responses

- The MFD Boat Team, in collaboration with the North Shore Fire Department, Shorewood Police Department, and the DNR, successfully rescued two missing paddle boaters who were drifting out into Lake Michigan off of Atwater Beach after watching the fireworks on July 4. The missing boaters were able to use their cell phone and provide a GPS location to Shorewood Police Department who used their drone to locate and guide the DNR and MFD Fireboat Trident crew to the missing boaters, successfully bringing them safely back to shore.
- The Fireboat Trident responded to a boat crashing into the outside of the break-wall straight off Discovery World at about 3:30 am, August 15. The Boat Team was dispatched alone and given no information other than the situation was located near Veterans Park. The crew discovered a boat on the outside of the break-wall stuck on the rocks with three people onboard, one which had gone through the windshield and had significant head trauma. The Trident crew was able to get all three victims onto the vessel, and the Coast Guard cleared the way to the Discovery World dock for transport to the hospital.
- On August 24, unexpected straight-line winds overturned a small fishing boat inside the harbor and left two fishermen stranded on top of the break-wall. They were successfully rescued and safely brought back to shore.

### Training/Community Outreach

- Four members attended a shipboard firefighting class in Sturgeon Bay leading up to a full-scale exercise on Lake Michigan.
- Money was secured for 12 members to receive 40 hours of NASBLA training for new pilots and certification.
- Assisted with getting participants on and off boats for a “Fishing Has No Boundaries” event. This event offers fishing opportunities for those with disabilities.
- The team provided a flare demonstration and fire extinguisher training at the South Shore Yacht Club, along with apparatus displays at the Milwaukee Sailing Center, all to promote water safety.
- Provided an apparatus display for ***Discovery World's Big Machines Day***.