

ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

"We serve with compassion and professionalism within an atmosphere of innovation, professional growth and diversity."



2023

ISO CLASS



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF MIKE KENNEDY



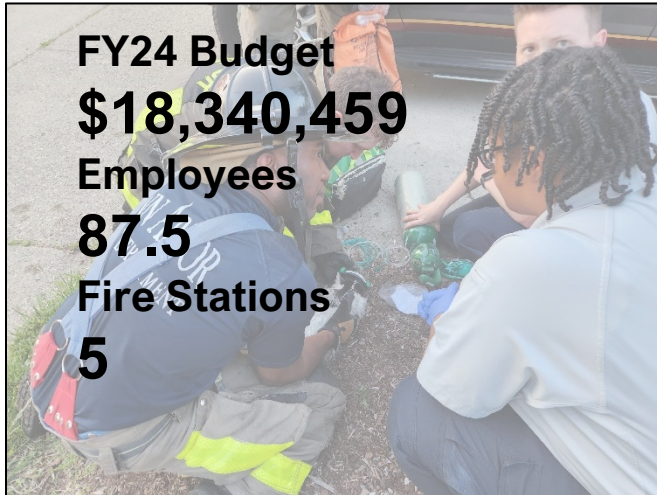
It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Ann Arbor Fire Department Annual Report. Calendar year 2023 was an exciting year with the addition of our first ambulance and the lowering of our International Organization for Standardization (ISO) rating. This can lead to reduced fire insurance costs for residents and businesses. We are grateful for the support from Mayor Taylor, City Council, City Administrator Milton Dohoney, Jr., Deputy City Administrator John Fournier, City Service Area Administrators, and various other City personnel. The Ann Arbor Fire Department (AAFD) is comprised of outstanding fire officers, firefighters, and personnel who work continuously to deliver outstanding service to the residents and visitors of the City of Ann Arbor. I am honored to serve as your fire chief, and I look forward to continued progress in 2024.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

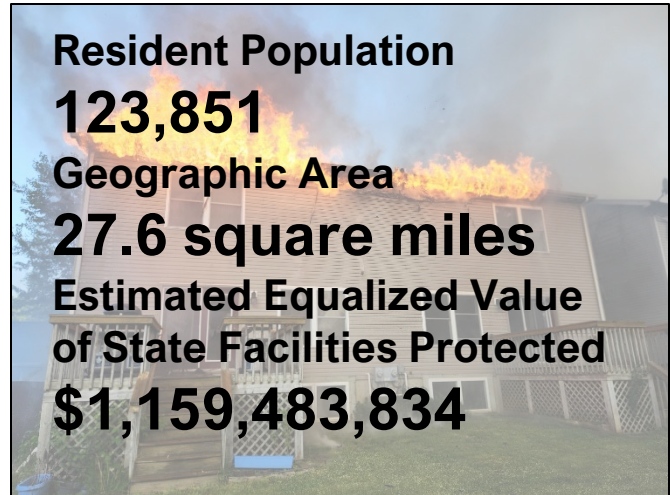
- Insurance Public Protection Classification (PPC) for the City of Ann Arbor was lowered from a 3 to a 2. AAFD is now one of 19 departments in Michigan and one of 1,729 in the United States with a 2 classification. PPC 10-point scale assigns 1 as the best, while a 10 essentially indicates no fire protection is in place.
- Purchased ambulance and became licensed basic life support transport agency. Over 100 transports have occurred since our self-licensure.
- Fire recruit program continued with hiring of our second class. Our first recruit has completed probation and has been promoted to the rank of firefighter.
- Renovation completed of Fire Station 1, which included: new administrative and prevention offices, dormitory, fire alarm, and City clerk space. Fire Station 2 has been vacated by the fire department for future City use.
- Held second Blaze and Blue Camp with Ann Arbor Police Department (AAPD) to attract young women to a public safety career. Thirteen participants attended a four-day camp.
- Hosted regional training on high-rise operations with instructors from the Toronto Fire Department, Canada.
- Response to February 22 ice storm with shelter activation, March 3 heavy snow event, and July 26 severe thunderstorms.
- Contract awarded to E-One for replacement of Engine 1-4.
- Architectural and construction plans completed for a new Fire Station 4. This is truly a “shovel ready” project and once funding is in place is ready to be completed.
- Partnered with the City Clerk’s Office to complete emergency training exercise with City, county, and state related to severe weather mitigation efforts during an election.
- Agreement executed with City of Dearborn for lease of fleet assets to mitigate potential vehicle shortages.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS




FY24 Budget
\$18,340,459
Employees
87.5
Fire Stations
5



Resident Population
123,851
Geographic Area
27.6 square miles
Estimated Equalized Value
of State Facilities Protected
\$1,159,483,834

CALLS FOR SERVICE

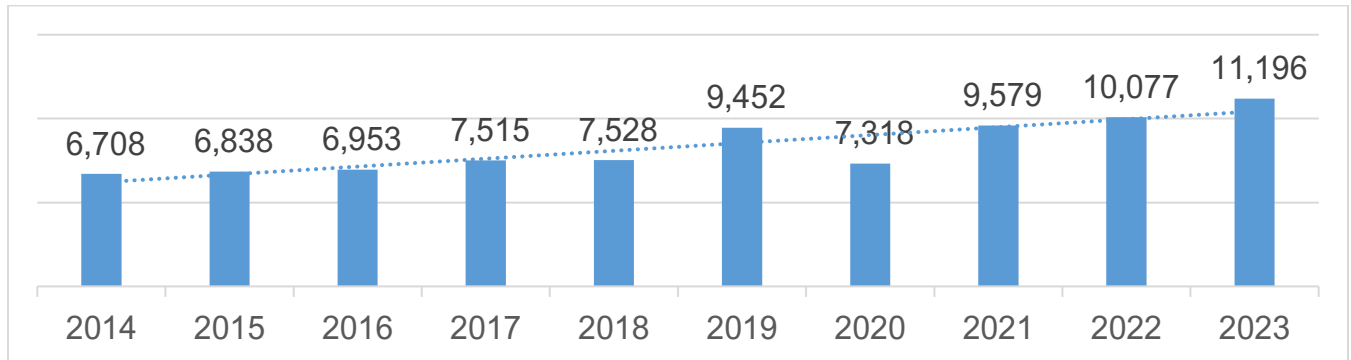


Total Calls for Service	11,196	↑11%	Emergency Calls for Service	7,272	↑12%
Structure Fires	75	↑33%	Emergency Medical Services	4,474	↑13%
Cooking Fires	172	↓76%	Vehicle Crash with Injuries	133	↑31%
Vehicle Fires	37	↑5%	Vehicle / Pedestrian Crash	37	↑54%
Power Line Down	488	↑508%	Elevator Rescue	86	↑7%
Lift Assists	230	↓17%	Carbon Monoxide Incident	88	↑49%
Fire Alarms & False Calls	1,589	↑22%	Animal Rescue	42	↑27%

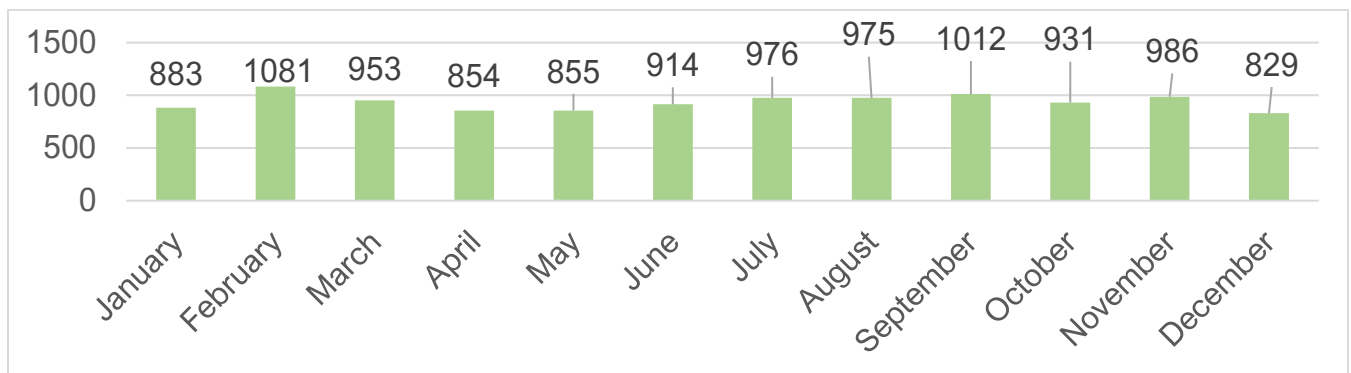
% difference from 2022

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

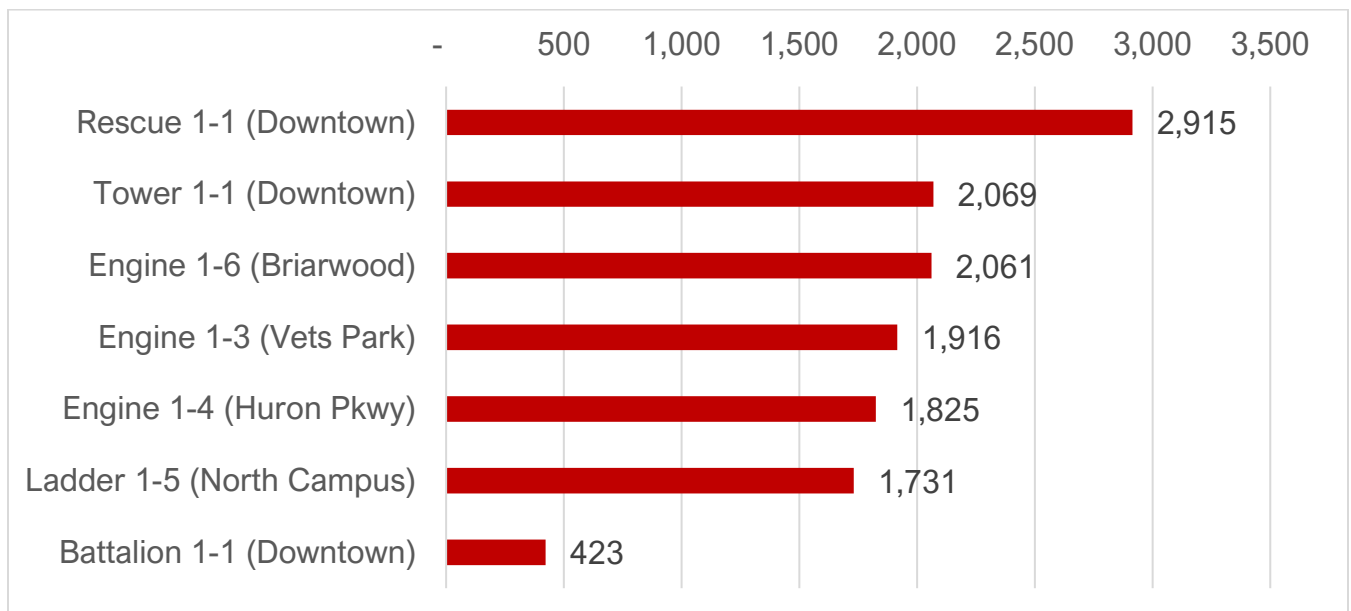
ANNUAL INCIDENTS



INCIDENTS BY MONTH

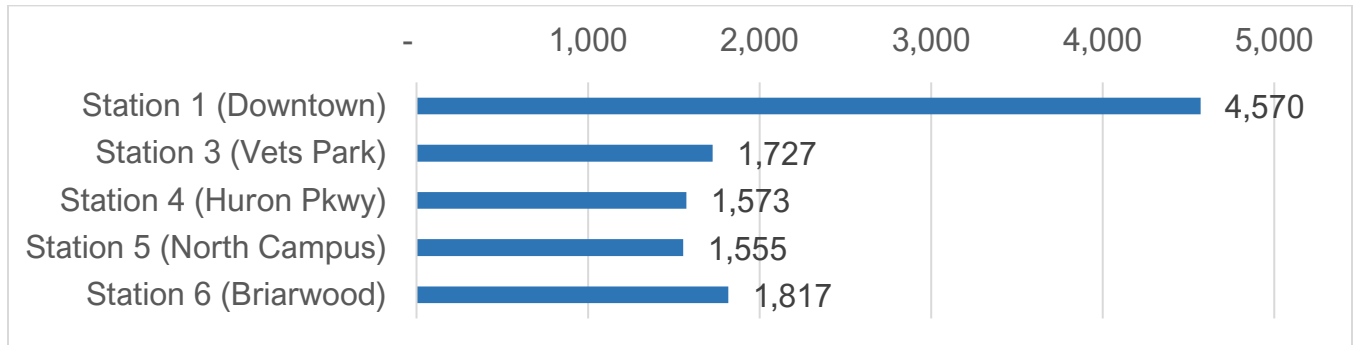


INCIDENTS BY UNIT

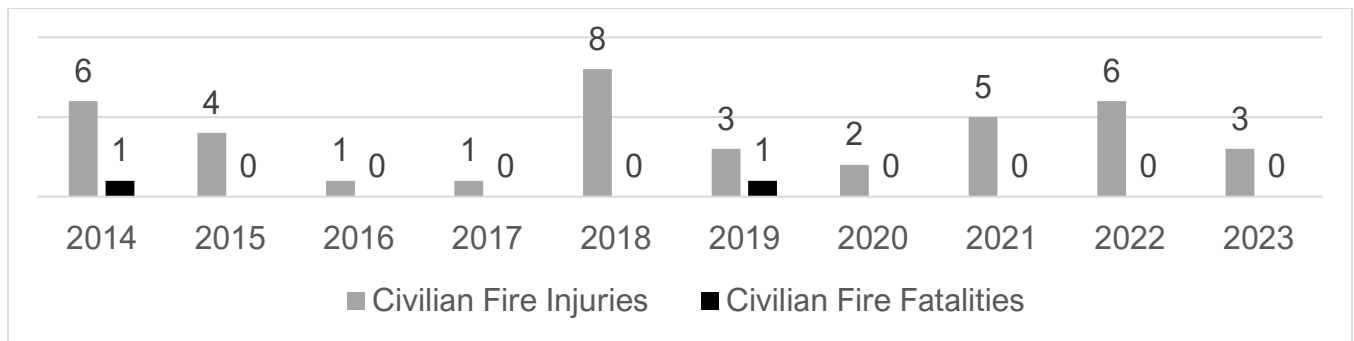


2023 ANNUAL REPORT

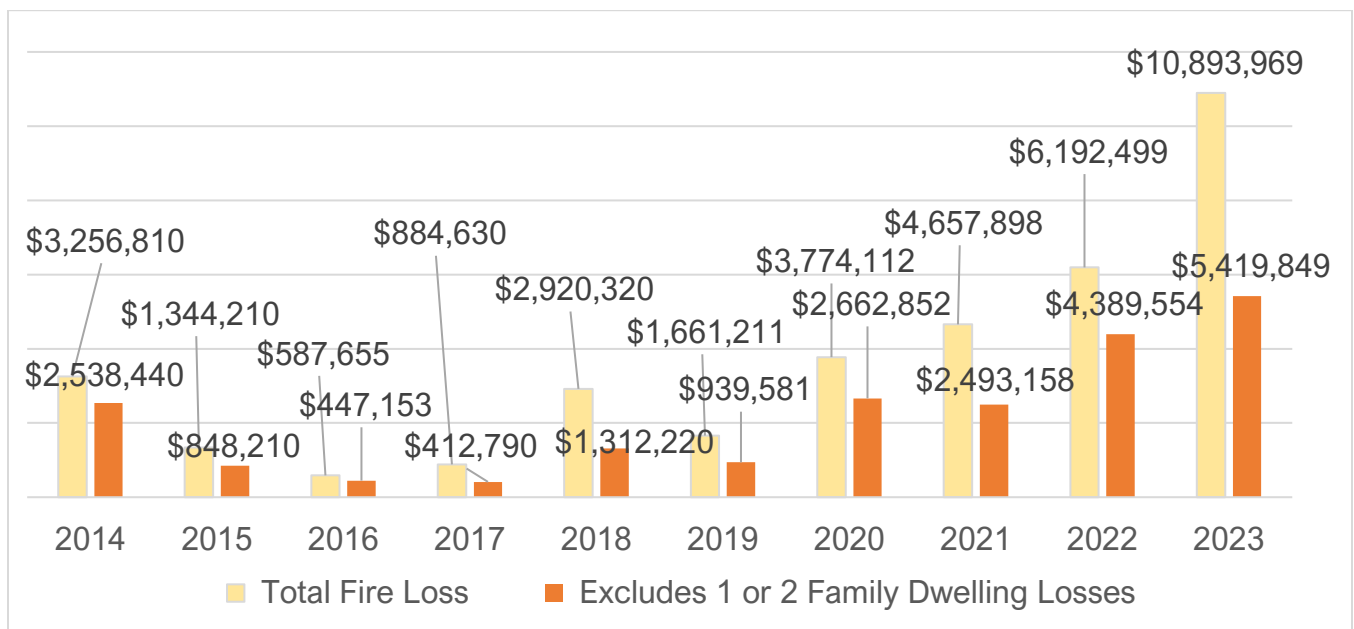
INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT



CIVILIAN FIRE INJURIES AND FATALITIES



FIRE LOSS (PROPERTY AND CONTENTS)



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CITYWIDE INCIDENT RESPONSE: TURN OUT TIME¹

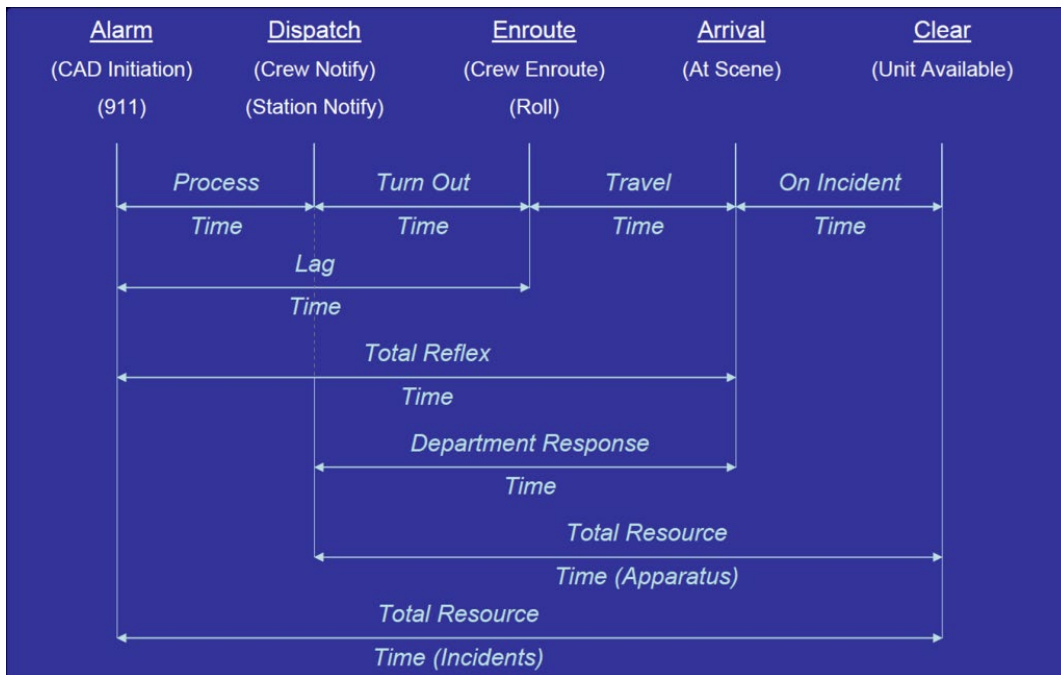
Number of Incidents	Average Time (MM:SS)	Median Time (MM:SS)	90th Percentile (MM:SS)
5,504	1:59	1:56	3:12

CITYWIDE INCIDENT RESPONSE: TRAVEL TIME²

Number of Incidents	Average Time (MM:SS)	Median Time (MM:SS)	90th Percentile (MM:SS)
4,441	4:00	3:32	6:42

CITYWIDE INCIDENT RESPONSE: DEPARTMENT RESPONSE³

Number of Incidents	Average Time (MM:SS)	Median Time (MM:SS)	90th Percentile (MM:SS)
5,498	6:01	5:34	8:50



¹ Filtered for emergency incidents, non-mutual aid, first apparatus arrival.

² Filtered for emergency incidents, non-mutual aid, first apparatus arrival.

³ Filtered for emergency incidents, non-mutual aid, first apparatus arrival.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MAJOR INCIDENTS

THIRD ALARM – January 20, 2023, at 6:50 a.m., shift 3, Tower 1-1 was dispatched for a "smoke investigation" in the area of the Maynard parking structure. Shortly after Tower 1-1's arrival, a significant fire was found in a single-story commercial building at 326 (Vape City) and 328 Maynard (Madras Masala). A second and third alarm were eventually struck. This was a deep-seated fire made more challenging by a roof collapse. Access was another huge constraint. This building only had access on Maynard Street, which limited tactical access.



THIRD ALARM STRUCTURE FIRE – May 29, 2023, at 5:51 p.m., shift 3 responded to a structure fire in the 800 block of North Maple Road. Engine 1-3 arrived to find one well-involved duplex with fire spreading to several vehicles and the second duplex immediately adjacent. Both duplexes had vinyl siding, which burns readily, and immediately spread fire into the attic space of each building. One occupant was transported for smoke inhalation. Two felines were transported by a neighbor to an emergency veterinarian.



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

PERSONNEL

Fire Chief

Mike Kennedy

Assistant Chief

Marc Tyler

Matthew Hughes

Emergency Mgmt. Coord.

Sydney Parmenter

Office Manager

Chantel Jackson

Fire Marshal

Michael Reddmann

Training Officer

Brian Schotthoefer

Logistics Officer

Jake Corrado

EMS Coordinator

Martin Anderson

Fire Inspector

Ryan Newkirk

Chris Brown

Management Assistant

Leslie Herter

Budget & Finance Spr.

Kim Buselmeier

HR Service Partner

Heather Koch

Senior IT Specialist

Jason McKinley

Battalion Chief

Chris Buscemi – Shift 1

Mark Luick – Shift 2

Kirk Hedding – Shift 3

Captain

Jim Tiernan – Shift 1

Tim Karolak – Shift 2

Kris Lussenden – Shift 3

Lieutenant

Danielle Lalonde

Benjamin Zahn

David Cue

Stephen Potbury

Jeremy Flack

Mark Hanselman

Robert Porter

Christopher Nielsen

Christopher Taylor

John Maguire

Jason Gravelle

Shane Doyon

Jon Lukosavich

George Allard

Nick Kaczor

Christopher McGlothin

Neil Boes

John Crowell

Driver / Operator

Jeremy Torres

Matt Francis

Bryce McAllister

Ronald Robbins

Matthew Gaken

Clifford Blackford

Robert Vanderkarr

Matthew Barbarich

Leo Susick

Julian Gross

Kenway Hensley

Nicholas Foren

Driver / Operator

Johnathan Fotopoulos

Kenny Richmond

Chris Roy

Tracy Youell

Jared Zygmuntowicz

Blake Vershum

Firefighter

Zane Kingsbury

Christopher Warden

Cody Eddington

Visar Gjetaj

Andrew Gignac

Jacob Wing

Michael Rudolph

Brittany Hoak

Taylor Buchanan

Marc Bandy

Jason Miller

Christian Cousar

Blake Vershum

Michael Updyke

Taylor Hansen

Tyler Wagner

Matthew Brown

Blake Wingler

Eric Harms

Sean Duffy

William Pritula

Patrick Deneau

Adam Creech

David Box

Erin Atkins

Probationary

Firefighter

Taylor Falkey

Peyton Stevenson

Tracey McCoy

Fire Recruit

Victoria Rankin

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

PERSONNEL ADVANCEMENT

New Hires

Probationary Firefighter

Taylor Falkey
Peyton Stevenson
Tracey McCoy

Fire Recruit

Victoria Rankin

Retirements

Assistant Chief

Andrew Box

Captain

Scott Peterson

Lieutenant

Ernie Close

Driver / Operator

Andrew Boonstra

Promotions

Assistant Chief

Matthew Hughes

Battalion Chief

Kirk Hedding

Logistics Officer

Jake Corrado

Captain

Tim Karolak
Kris Lussenden

Lieutenant

Jon Lukosavich
George Allard
Nick Kaczor
Christopher McGlothin
Neil Boes
John Crowell

Fire Inspector

Chris Brown

Driver / Operator

Blake Vershum

Firefighter

Will Pritula
Sean Duffy
Pat Deneau
Adam Creech
David Box
Erin Atkins



RETIREMENT - November 2023, Assistant Chief (AC) Andrew Box retired after 26-years of service with the City of Ann Arbor. AC Box started August 18, 1997, serving in the positions of driver / operator, fire inspector, and lieutenant before being promoted to assistant chief in 2018. Assistant Chief Box completed

numerous projects and initiatives during his tenure, including:

- Wrote successful FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for two washer extractors and dryers for cleaning firefighting turn-out gear to remove harmful toxins.
- Worked with several property development companies to acquire access for soon to be demolished buildings for firefighter training.
- Led the project to completely overhaul high-rise firefighting policies, training, and equipment.
- Wrote our first-ever internal professional development training program for the ranks of lieutenant, captain, and battalion chief. Approved by the International Association of Firefighters, this program is now part of the Department's promotional process.
- Supervised and coordinated the Department's transition to basic life support ambulance transport.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION



Assistant Chief Marc Tyler supervises fire prevention, logistics, and the fire recruit program. Additionally, he coordinates the Department's Community Risk Reduction (CRR) efforts. CRR is a doorway to the modernization of the fire service culture, utilizing a data-driven process to transform the delivery of services. CRR utilizes non-traditional fire service partnerships to address community needs. This community-based approach utilizes partnerships to understand, assess, and provide inclusive solutions to community safety issues. During 2023, the partnership with the City of Ann Arbor Supportive Connections program continued to grow. Supportive Connections has worked tirelessly to assist with addressing repeat customers experiencing substance abuse issues, mental health challenges, and housing insecurity. Another strong partnership is with the Washtenaw County Hoarding Task Force. This group provides assistance to address the mental health and logistics involved with hoarding cases. Residents who excessively call 911 for non-life-threatening issues are also referred to the Washtenaw County Mental Health CARES team.

Community Events

Personnel participated in seventy-three (73) community events, which is a 20% increase over 2022. These events reached over an estimated 6,500 residents.

- 21 fire station tours
- 3 block parties
- 44 fire truck visits
- 3 parades
- 2 other events

Fire Recruit Program

The second class of fire recruits started in January 2023. Both recruits started EMT, with one recruit continuing to the fire academy in the fall. The other recruit had previously obtained firefighter training. This recruit was able to transfer to a firefighter position in the spring of 2023.

During the summer and fall of 2023, the recruitment, application, and hiring process for the third round of fire recruits occurred with two recruits scheduled to start in January 2024.



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

OPERATIONS DIVISION



Assistant Chief Matthew Hughes was promoted in mid-December 2023. This position oversees operations, training, and information technology and is the liaison to Emergent Health Partners Fire Dispatch. Operations are organized into three shifts comprised of 24 firefighters, who work a 54-hour work week. Firefighters work a one day on and two days off (24/48) schedule. The Department staffs three engine companies, two ladder companies, one basic life support ambulance, and one battalion chief operating out of five fire stations. AAFD also provides fire service protection to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor campus. There are 72 budgeted suppression positions. Twenty-four firefighters are assigned to each shift with 18 firefighters as minimum staffing.

Basic Life Support Transport

On February 24, 2023, Rescue 1-1 became the fire department's first ever ambulance. The fire department is licensed as a basic life support transport agency by the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of EMS, and Trauma. This allows AAFD to independently use its own fire department ambulance to respond to medical incidents and transport patients when the patient meets certain criteria, Huron Valley Ambulance (HVA) has no units available, or during a mass casualty incident. During calendar 2023, Rescue 1-1 transported 123 patients.



Vice President Harris Visit

On January 23, 2023, Vice President Kamala Harris visited the University of Michigan Rackham Auditorium. AAFD worked with the United States Secret Service on several operational and logistical aspects of her visit.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

TRAINING & EMS DIVISION



The training and EMS division is led by Training Officer Brian Schotthoefer. This division facilitates ongoing training, drills, and exercises that reflect the real-life experiences encountered in the field by firefighting crews. The overall mission is to prepare employees to be successful in their careers by providing the tools and blueprint to succeed through the administration of training exercises aligned with existing policies and industry standards. Compliance is also ensured via federal, state, and city training mandates; new hire orientation; fire officer training; and driver / operator certification program. This division also maintains the Department's basic life support, non-transport emergency medical services licensure through the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. As part of this medical licensure, this division maintains compliance with education and quality improvement requirements set forth by Washtenaw / Livingston Medical Control Authority. This group is also responsible for ordering and inventory of all medical equipment and personal protective equipment.

Total Training Hours
8,901 (55% over target)

Emergency Medical Services Training Hours
1,104 (15% over target)

Fire, HazMat, Tech Rescue, HR, & City Safety Hours
7,798 (62% over target)

Top Training Hours – Craig Sidelinger Award
Captain Jim Tiernan - 428.6 hours
Lt. Mark Hanselman - 312.4 hours
Captain Kris Lussenden - 198.6 hours

Apparatus Certifications
Engine: 2 Ladder: 3 Tower: 2

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

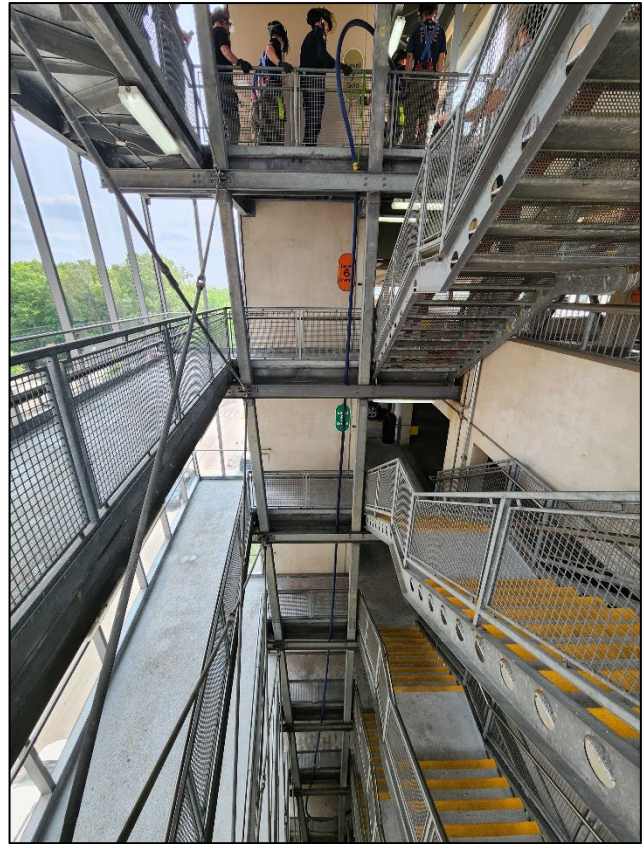
TRAINING & EMS DIVISION

Highlights

- In May, we hosted one of the foremost international experts in high-rise firefighting. Captain Brent Brooks, Toronto Fire Department (TFD), Canada, who is assigned to TFD's high-rise unit and teaches across the world. Captain Brooks was joined by Captain Maurice Doyle, a 41-year fire service veteran also with TFD. Both shared a wealth of knowledge to train and prepare for Ann Arbor's vertical growth. Firefighters from throughout Michigan and as far as Toledo also joined this valuable training.
- In January, Sam Clark, retired battalion chief from the City of Harrisburg, Penn., taught an elevator rescue training course. Chief Clark is a nationally recognized trainer on elevator emergencies.
- High-Rise operations - 1,232 hours.
- Professional development program for candidates for lieutenant, captain, and battalion chief - 1,501 hours.
- Live burn training at training trailer - 182 hours.
- Pump Apparatus Operator course - 328 hours.
- EMS practical continuing education credits on intentional mass casualty incident training, CPR renewal, ambulance in-service, Stryker Power Cot orientation, and continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) orientation.



(above) January 2023 - Elevator training.



(above) May 2023 - High-rise training.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

FIRE PREVENTION



The Fire Prevention Bureau is led by Fire Marshal Michael Reddmann. This Bureau maintains a robust fire prevention program that includes the elements of fire code enforcement, fire plan review, fire cause and origin investigation, and community risk reduction. Fire inspectors are responsible for conducting fire safety inspections of new and existing buildings, reviewing plans for fire code compliance, conducting fire and arson investigations, and coordinating a variety of community risk reduction education programs. The Bureau also manages Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) fire-related requests.

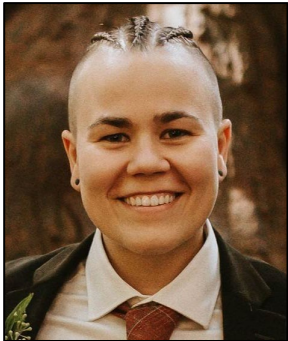
A new Ford Lightning was placed in-service for fire investigation and inspections. This is part of the City of Ann Arbor's green fleet initiative. This is the first new vehicle designed for fire investigation in over 20 years.



Fire Safety Inspections	1,083	Fire Inspection Cost Recovery	\$318,444
Square Feet Inspected	6,325,786	False Alarms Fee	\$178,500
Fire Investigation	24	Hydrant Flow Test	34
Building Radio Coverage Tests	4	Site Plan Review	66
Sidewalk Occupancy	132	Knox Box Installation	27
Fire Watch Order	43	Special Events Review	103
Site Compliance Permits	80	Land Division Review	9
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests	210		

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Sydney Parmenter serves as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Emergency management coordinates emergency planning for weather-related and other disasters, maintains an emergency operations center, conducts emergency preparedness training, and operates a citywide outdoor warning siren system. In 2023, there were eight outdoor warning siren tests, one per month, from March through October. All parts of the system, including the redundant systems, were used to activate the monthly tests.

Highlights

- The City of Ann Arbor joined the Oakland County Incident Management Team
- EMC Parmenter became a member of the Michigan Emergency Management Association Board of Directors.

Incidents

February 22 Ice Storm

- Activated the emergency operations center (EOC) virtually.
- Activated warming centers at AADL and Vets Park.
- Activated overnight emergency shelters at our Northside Community Center resilience hub and Westgate library. A special thank you to the Community Action Network (CAN) and Ann Arbor District Library for their partnership and the City staff that volunteered to staff these locations.
- Coordinated with Washtenaw County Emergency Management, University of Michigan (U-M) Emergency Management, and Ann Arbor Public Schools.

March 3 Snowstorm

- Activated the EOC virtually.
- Issued a snow condition yellow alert.

July 21 Severe Thunderstorm During Art Fair

- Activated the outdoor warning sirens.
- Successfully coordinated the evacuation of the Art Fair in partnership with the Art Fair Directors.
- Sent emergency alerts to those who opted-in to receive Art Fair emergency notifications.

July 26 Severe Thunderstorm +80 mph Wind Warning

- Activated partial EOC.
- Activated the outdoor warning sirens.
- Issued non-essential water restrictions emergency alert (first time in City history).

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Exercises / Drills / Seminars

Oakland County EOC Response to Oxford Highschool Shooting – April 11

- Oakland County Emergency Management staff presented to City EOC staff, Ann Arbor Public Schools, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, Livingston County EM, U-M Division of Safety and Security.

Annual City-Wide Emergency Alert Test – September 13

- 22,922 total messages were sent via Everbridge. All messages were received within 1 minute.

Midland County Dam Failure – September 18

- Midland County emergency manager presented lessons learned to City EOC and dam safety operators.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Dam Tabletop Exercise – October 4

- Developed in partnership with Stantec and the Water Treatment Plant.
- Hosted at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and included WTP staff, AAFD, AAPD, Communications, Public Works, and Parks. The scenario involved a dam failure upstream at Flook Dam.

FERC Dam Notification Drill – November 9

- Updated the Dam Failure Community Partners group in Everbridge with test message.
- Exercised notification to them during an emergency.

Election Day Emergency Tabletop Exercise – December 5

- Winter weather event causing widespread power outages on the Feb 27 Presidential primary election day.
- Exercise was attended by the City EOC team, Washtenaw County Clerk's Office, U-M, the State of Michigan Bureau of Elections, and the Michigan Department of State.



(above) December 2023 - Election Day tabletop exercise.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Projects

Art Fair

- Hosted a pre-event safety planning meeting with AAPD, AAFD, Art Fair Directors, HVA, U-M DPSS, and dispatch.
- Conducted a first day of Art Fair safety walk-through with AAPD, AAFD, Art Fair Directors, and Engineering; this was the first time this was done.
- Created a barricade plan and annex to the Art Fair Emergency Operations Plan.
- Created the A2 Art Fair Notification Opt-In Process – 1,357 opt-ins (~500 more than 2022).
- Conducted daily safety briefings.

Outdoor Warning Sirens

- Conducted monthly tests March through November.
- West Shore Services conducted annual maintenance in July.
- Made upgrades to the system including new computer, updated control box, and a new easy button in AAPD for redundancy.
- Opened a project with Westshore and U-M to move the Bursley Hall siren.

Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant

- Submitted a FY23 BRIC grant to fund a microgrid at Fire Station 3 and Vets Memorial Park in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI).

Storm Response and Resilience Reports

- Submitted two reports to City Council related to storm response and resilience work.
- Met with Public Services to develop an action plan from the storm report.
- Hosted meeting with DTE to discuss areas for improvement.

Outreach and Engagement

- Participated in six events to promote household emergency planning and emergency kits.
- Hosted a preparedness event at Washtenaw County Community College and distributed 30 emergency kits.
- Hosted the A2ZERO Ambassadors at Fire Station 1 during their community resilience training session.
- Partnered with OSI to develop the Nourishing Neighborhood program and hosted a pilot project to identify ways we can enhance neighborhood resilience and preparedness.

Reunification/Family Assistance Planning with AAPS

- Assisted AAPS in the development of their district-wide family assistance plan.

EPA Environmental Justice Government to Government Grant

- In partnership with OSI, submitted a grant application to enhance our resilience work by building a resilience network and additional resilience hubs. Received \$1-million award.

Disaster Debris Management Planning

- Hosted brainstorming sessions with public works, City administrator's office, Washtenaw County EM, Ypsilanti public works, and Washtenaw County Road Commission.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

FIREFIGHTER PROMOTIONS



(Above) May 2023 – Firefighter Will Pritula was officially sworn in.



(Above) May 2023 – Firefighter Sean Duffy was officially sworn in.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

FIREFIGHTER PROMOTIONS



(Above) September 2023 – Firefighter Adam Creech was officially sworn in.



(above) September 2023 – Firefighter Pat Deneau was officially sworn in.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

FIREFIGHTER PROMOTIONS



(above) September 2023 – Firefighter David Box was officially sworn in.



(above) November 2023 – Firefighter Erin Atkins was officially sworn in.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



(above) July 2023 – The spray park has become an annual tradition hosted in conjunction with the State Street District on Maynard St.



(above) May 2023 – The public safety open house featured a vehicle extrication demonstration. This is a joint event with the Ann Arbor Police Department.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



(left) December 2023 – AAFD participated in the “Midnight Madness” shopping event, which was sponsored by the State Street District. Firefighters handed out hot chocolate and popcorn to shoppers.

(right) July 2023 – The Ann Arbor Art Fair is the annual seminal downtown event for the City of Ann Arbor. Over 100,000 people attend daily. Months of planning, coordination, and logistics go into Art Fair by fire prevention and emergency management.



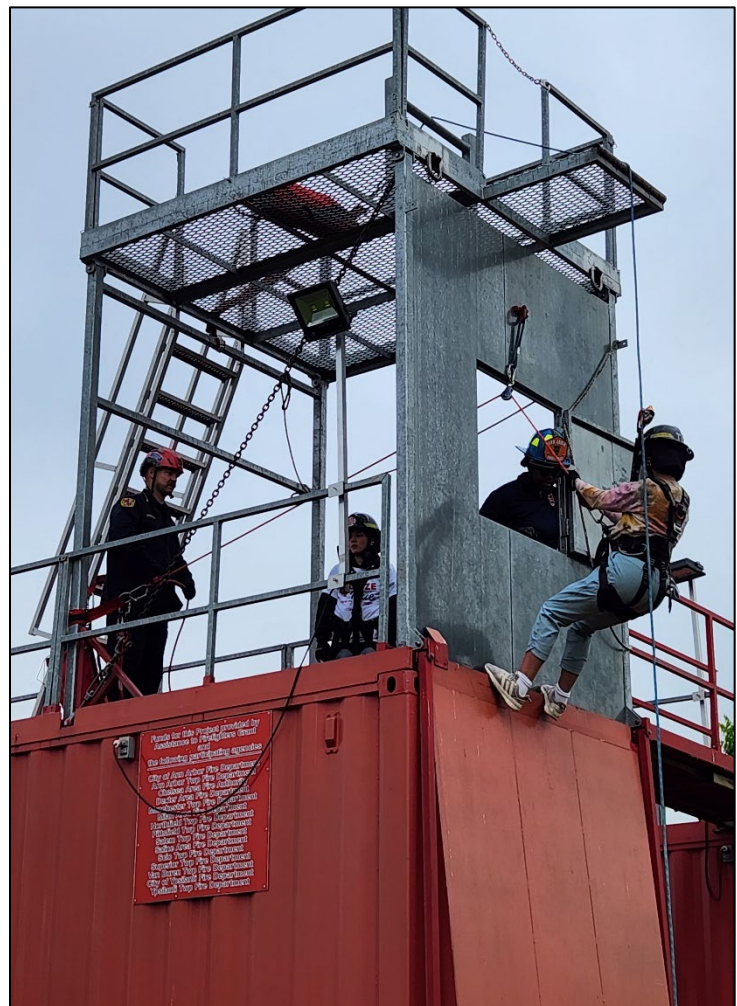
(above) June 2023 – Firefighters participated in several end of school year events where students had the opportunity to run through streams of water.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



(entire page) June 2023 – AAFD held the second Blaze and Blue Camp with the Ann Arbor Police Department to interest young women in a public safety career. Thirteen participants attended a four-day camp. Two days focused on fire service activities and two on law enforcement.





111 North Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-1405
(734) 794-6961
a2gov.org/fire

Follow us!



@a2fire



@a2fire