



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

WE SERVE WITH COMPASSION AND PROFESSIONALISM WITHIN AN ATMOSPHERE OF INNOVATION, PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DIVERSITY.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF MIKE KENNEDY



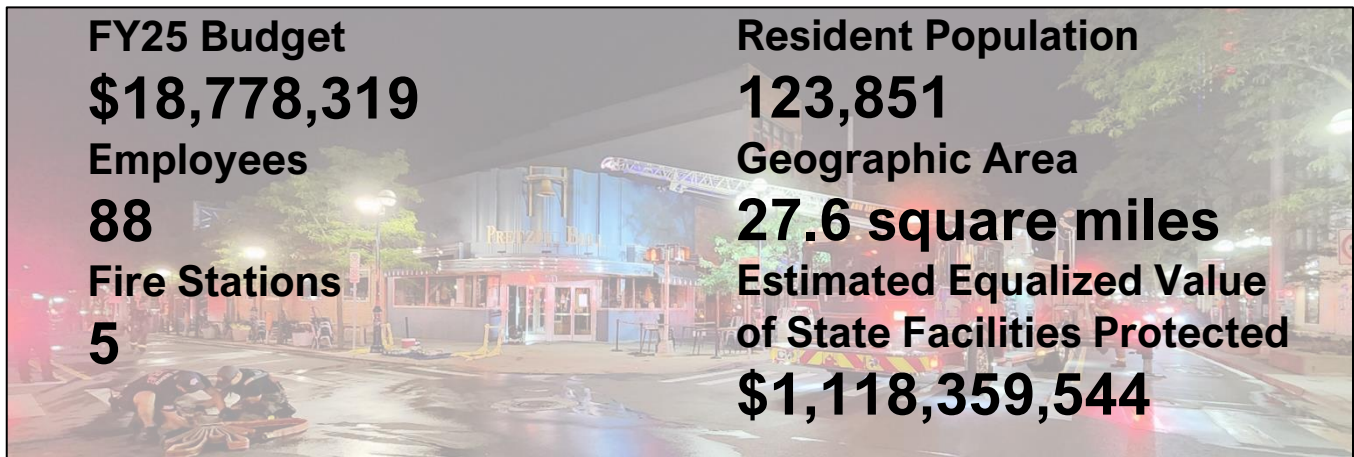
It is my pleasure to present the 2024 Ann Arbor Fire Department Annual Report. Calendar year 2024 started off strong with the University of Michigan Football National Championship — which brought the spotlight, and thousands of revelers, to our city — and continued with challenges and successes throughout the year. We are grateful for the support from Mayor Taylor, City Council, City Administrator Milton Dohoney Jr., Interim Deputy Administrator Marti Praschan, 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 2025.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Ratification of a four-year collective bargaining agreement with IAFF 693
- Planning and response to the University of Michigan National Championship Football game and resulting celebratory fires and related incidents. This was followed by planning for the victory parade in freezing temperatures and the potential for power outages due to a forecast wind event.
- Fire recruit program continued with hiring of the fourth class. Four recruits have transitioned to firefighter positions.
- The third annual Blaze and Blue Camp with AAPD introduced opportunities in public safety career to local young females. Thirteen participants attended the four-day camp.
- New fire boat was placed into service. This boat responded to numerous rescues in the Huron River this summer and significantly improved our ability to respond to river incidents.
- Hosted regional training on high-rise operations with instructors from the Chicago and Evanston fire departments
- Conducted Election Day tabletop exercise that 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.
- Established ambulance transport cost recovery process with Medicount. This also involved establishing an agency with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- Second ambulance purchased and placed in service with ARPA funds
- Construction started on new Ann Arbor Emergency Operations Center with APRA funds
- Planning, coordination and response to numerous dignitary visits ahead of the 2024 Presidential Election. VPOTUS rally at Burns Park.
- Planning, coordination and emergency operations center activation for the 2024 election.

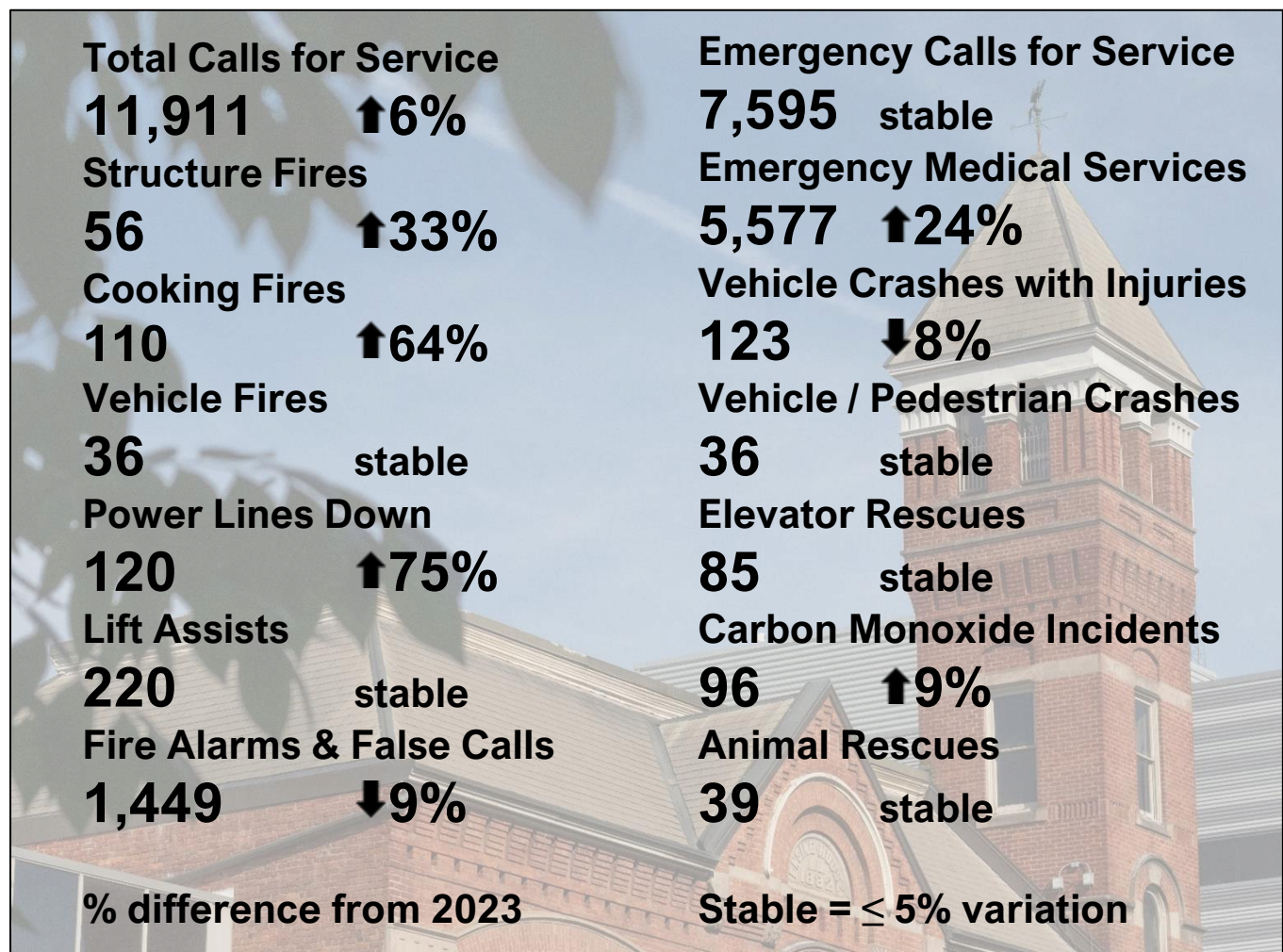
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BY THE NUMBERS



FY25 Budget	Resident Population
\$18,778,319	123,851
Employees	Geographic Area
88	27.6 square miles
Fire Stations	Estimated Equalized Value of State Facilities Protected
5	\$1,118,359,544

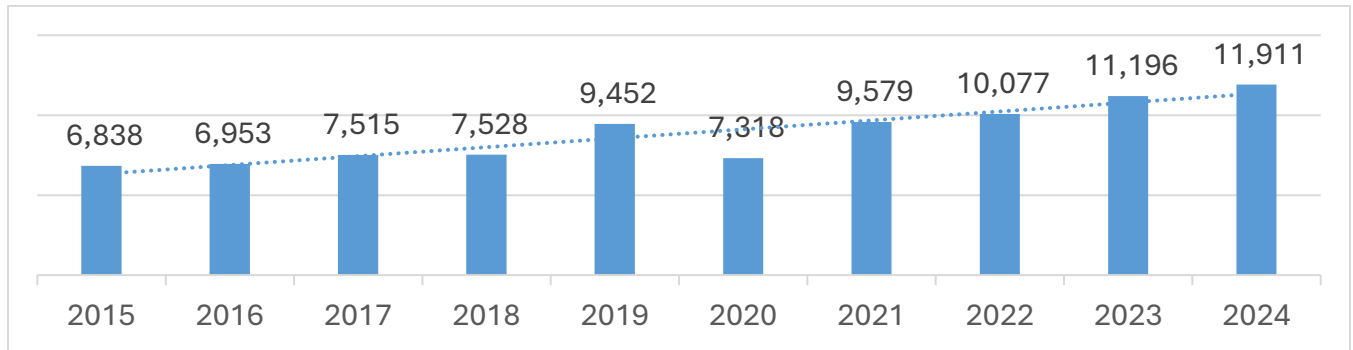
CALLS FOR SERVICE



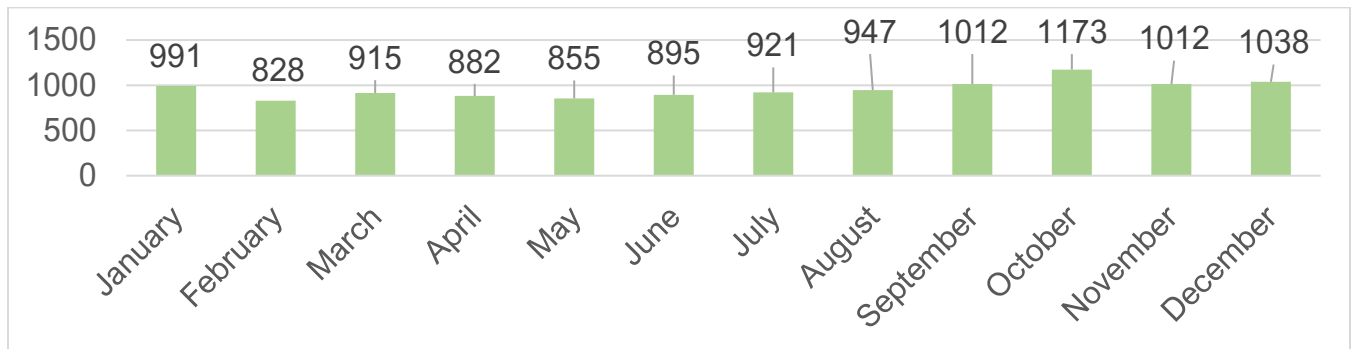
Total Calls for Service	Emergency Calls for Service
11,911 ↑6%	7,595 stable
Structure Fires	Emergency Medical Services
56 ↑33%	5,577 ↑24%
Cooking Fires	Vehicle Crashes with Injuries
110 ↑64%	123 ↓8%
Vehicle Fires	Vehicle / Pedestrian Crashes
36 stable	36 stable
Power Lines Down	Elevator Rescues
120 ↑75%	85 stable
Lift Assists	Carbon Monoxide Incidents
220 stable	96 ↑9%
Fire Alarms & False Calls	Animal Rescues
1,449 ↓9%	39 stable
% difference from 2023	Stable = ≤ 5% variation

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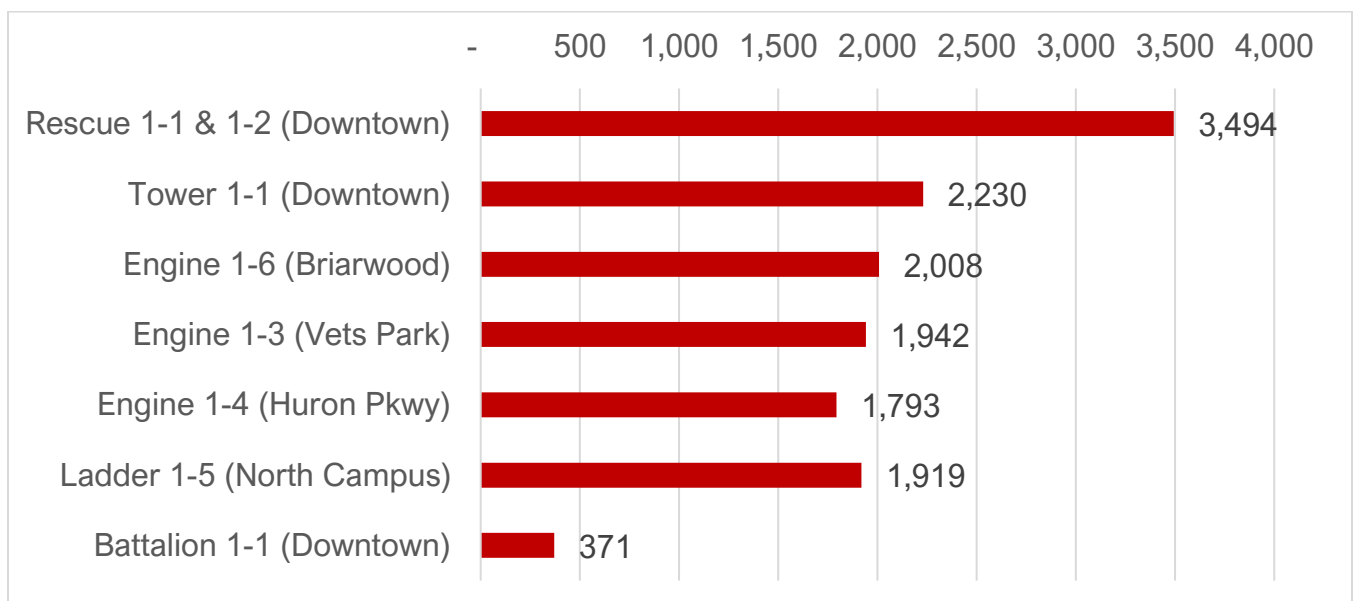
ANNUAL INCIDENTS



INCIDENTS BY MONTH

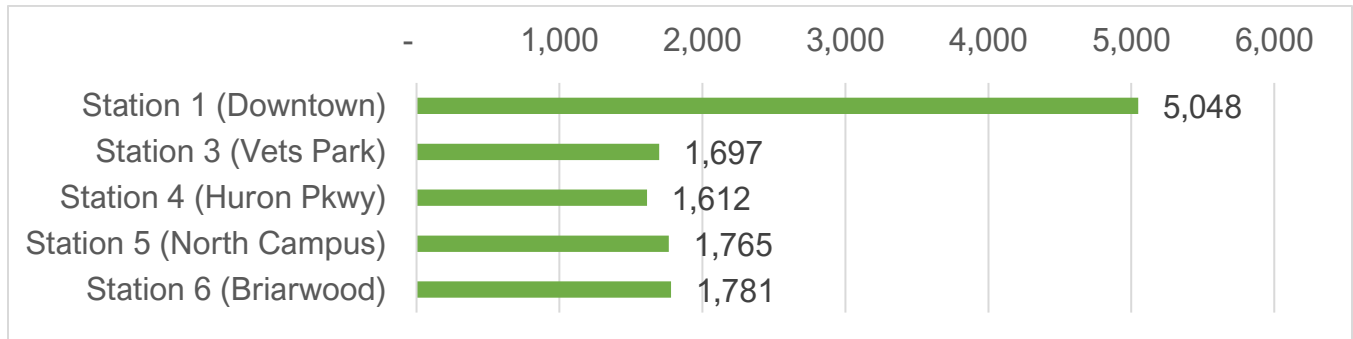


INCIDENTS BY UNIT

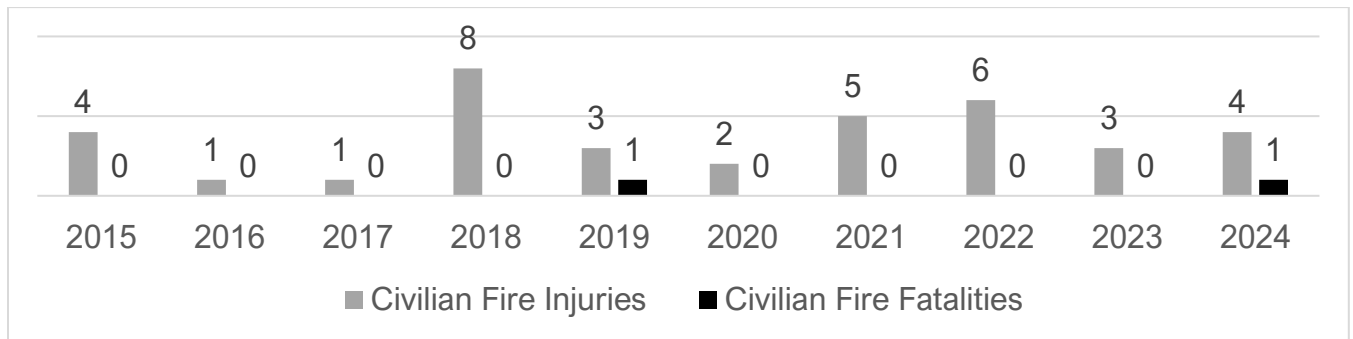


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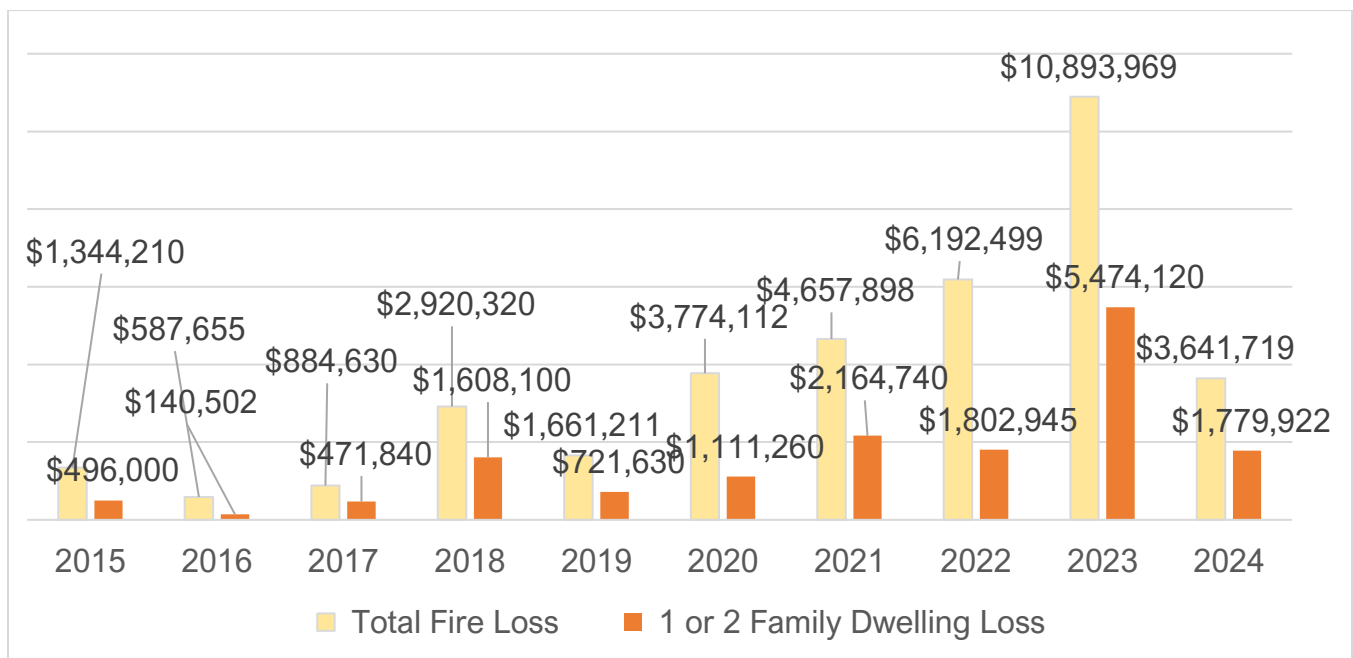
INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT



CIVILIAN FIRE INJURIES AND FATALITIES



FIRE LOSS (PROPERTY AND CONTENTS)



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CITYWIDE INCIDENT RESPONSE: TURN OUT TIME¹

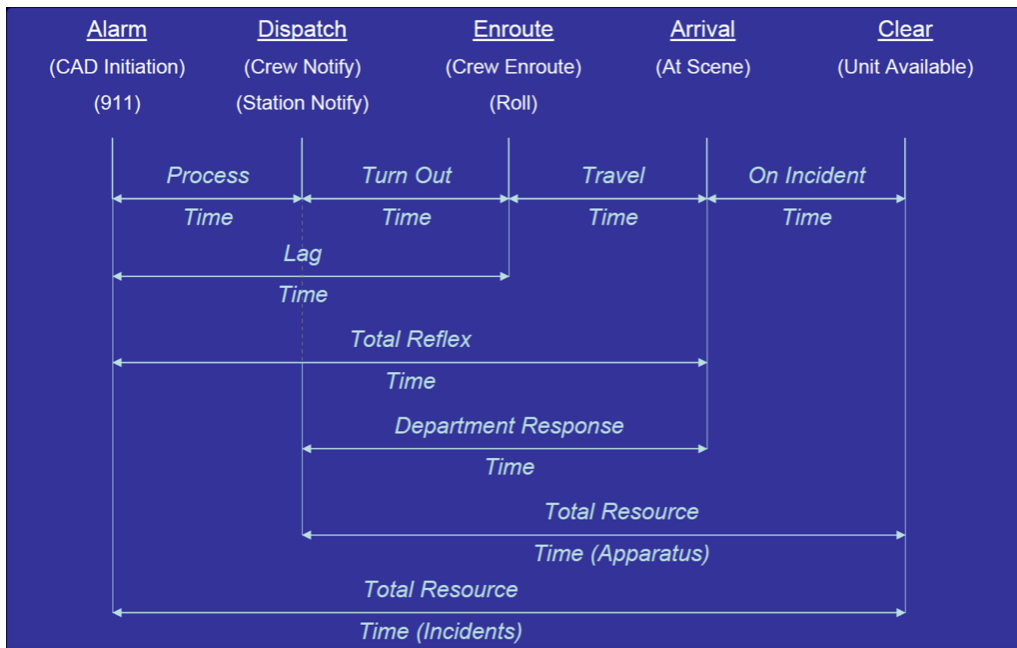
Number of Incidents	Average Time (MM:SS)	Median Time (MM:SS)	90th Percentile (MM:SS)
5,771	1:58	1:58	3:7

CITYWIDE INCIDENT RESPONSE: TRAVEL TIME²

Number of Incidents	Average Time (MM:SS)	Median Time (MM:SS)	90th Percentile (MM:SS)
5,715	4:02	3:35	6:33

CITYWIDE INCIDENT RESPONSE: DEPARTMENT RESPONSE³

Number of Incidents	Average Time (MM:SS)	Median Time (MM:SS)	90th Percentile (MM:SS)
5,760	6:00	5:33	8:47



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.

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MAJOR INCIDENTS

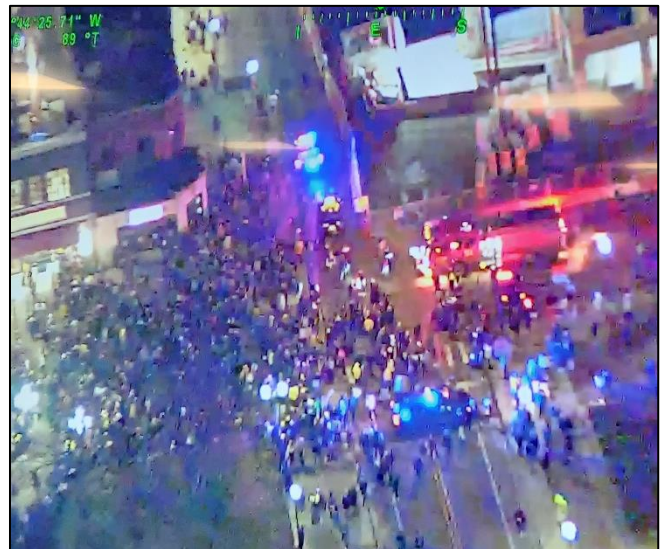
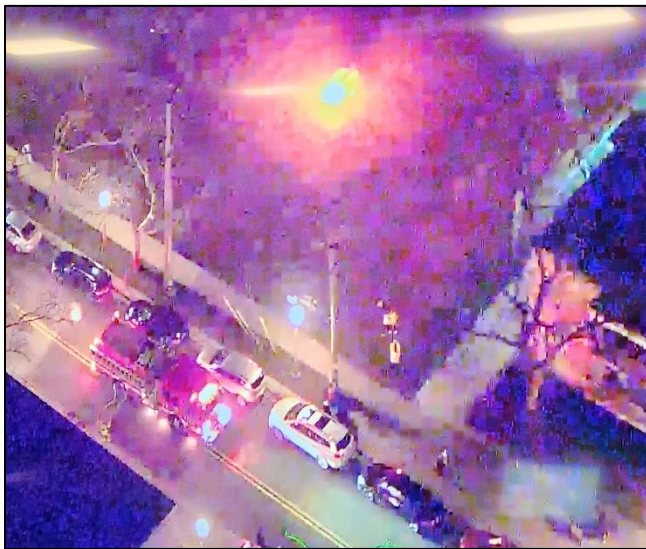


APARTMENT FIRE – January 8, 2024, at 2:03 AM – Shift 1 responded to 106 Packard – Baker Commons (Housing Commission) for a structure fire. Firefighters encountered a second-floor apartment fire and removed one female occupant from the fire unit. Unfortunately, this occupant was pronounced deceased on scene. Additional firefighters performed a ladder rescue of another occupant from the second floor. AAPD assisted with evacuation of residents. Due to the number of residents involved, the incident was upgraded to a second alarm. However, the fire was rapidly extinguished, and mutual aid fire departments were quickly released. Besides the deceased, there were no injuries. The fire was determined to be unintentional.

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MAJOR INCIDENTS (continued)

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATORY INCIDENTS – January 9, 2024 – In preparation for the National Championship game, AAFD staffed an engine company and additional ambulance. There were 21 fires between the end of the National Championship game and 3:22 AM. Although the deliberate burning of couches or other debris is unacceptable, it was appreciated that firefighters encountered no issues or resistance with any of the crowds. No vehicles or structures were damaged.



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MAJOR INCIDENTS (continued)



HOUSE EXPLOSION - February 19, 2024, at 6:06 AM – Shift 1 responded to a house explosion / fire at 6:06 AM at 701 South 7th (corner of 7th and Princeton Ave). Firefighters arrived to find a single-family residence completely leveled from an explosion, with significant fire threatening the house to the south side. The sole occupant of the house that exploded was ambulatory with non-life-threatening injuries; this occupant was transported by HVA to University of Michigan Hospital. Firefighters’ quick actions prevented the house on the south side from catching on fire. The main body of fire was knocked down within 20 minutes. Firefighters were on scene with hot spots until 12:00 PM. One firefighter slipped on ice, with minor injuries. The source of the explosion was two 20-pound propane tanks that were being used for heating. Due to the extent of the damage, the ignition source was unable to be determined.

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MAJOR INCIDENTS (continued)



APARTMENT FIRE - April 14, 2024, at 1:27 PM – Shift 3, responded to an apartment fire in the 2600 block of Adrienne Drive. Firefighters arrived to find a well-involved fire on the rear of a two-story apartment building with six units. The fire had already traveled into the attic. Firefighters were able to keep the fire damage limited to two units along with the attic. Due to damage to the attic, shut-off of gas and power and smoke spread, the building was unable to be reoccupied. There were no injuries to residents or firefighters. The fire was held to a first alarm with automatic aid from Scio Township FD with Ann Arbor Township FD and Pittsfield Township FD covering numerous incidents while AAFD was on scene. The fire was caused by a candle placed too close to combustibles.

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MAJOR INCIDENTS (continued)

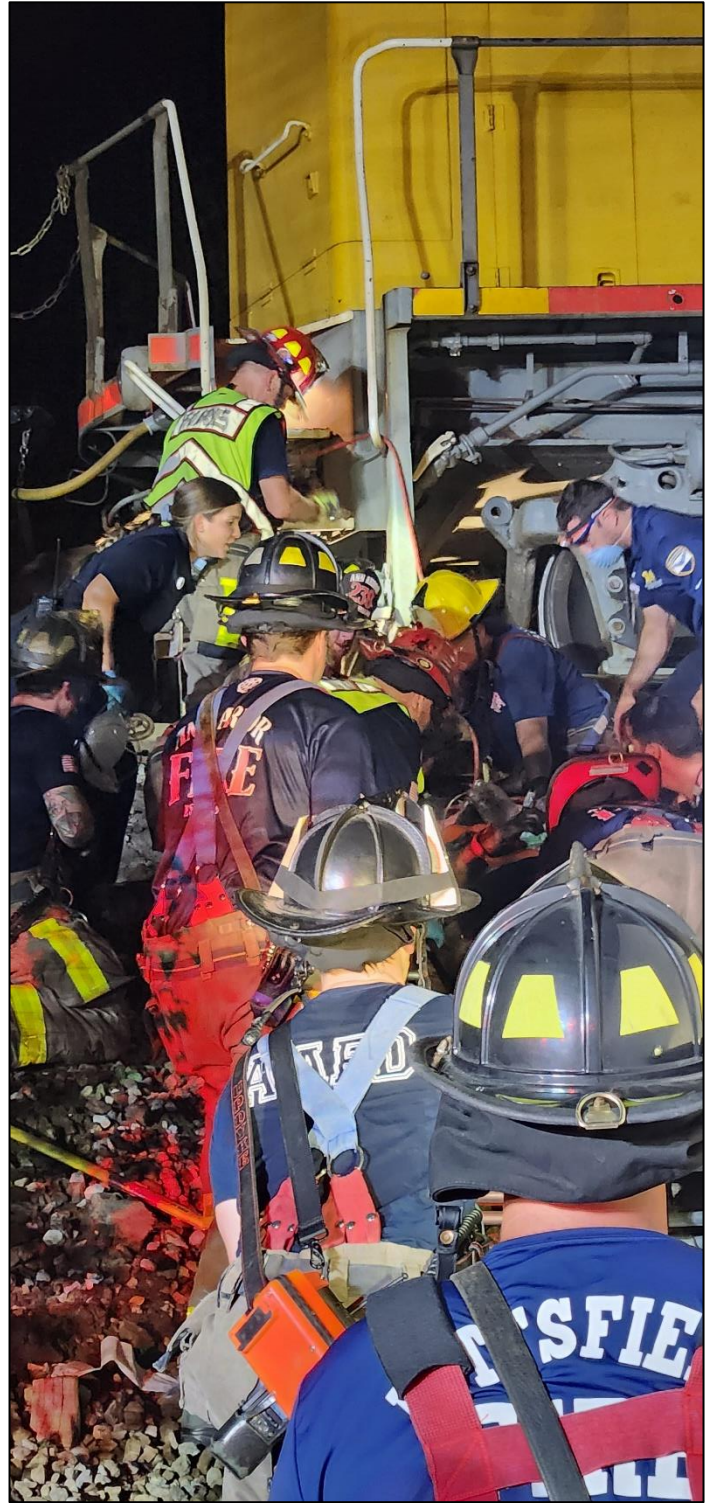
TECHNICAL RESCUE - PERSON STUCK

UNDER TRAIN - August 26, 2024, at 9:37 PM, AAFD – Shift 2 responded to the Ann Arbor Railroad tracks between Huron and Miller. Firefighters arrived to find a 20-year-old male patient who had been sleeping on the tracks when a northbound AARR freight train ran over him. The train was traveling at a very slow speed and was able to stop within a relatively short distance. The patient’s left hand was entangled in the rear axle of the lead locomotive. The hand was pinned between the wheel, axle and wear gear. The patient was lying in between the rails under the locomotive. Shockingly, the hand injury was the only major trauma. Due to the patient’s location, combined with strength of the metal of this part of the locomotive, extrication efforts were incredibly challenging. As the incident approached the one-hour mark, AAPD drove out the flight crew from Survival Flight along with a surgical team from U-M Department of Surgery in preparation for a possible field amputation. At the 110-minute mark, extrication was successful. The patient was transported by HVA to U-M Hospital in stable condition.

This was a once-in-career incident for those involved. Normally, person-versus-train incidents are fatal. This was a true team effort.

Agencies assisting:

Ann Arbor Police Department
Huron Valley Ambulance
Michigan Medicine Survival Flight
Michigan Medicine Department of Surgery -
Division of Acute Care Surgery
Pittsfield Township FD



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PERSONNEL

Fire Chief

Mike Kennedy

Assistant Chief

Marc Tyler

Matthew Hughes

Emergency Mgmt. Coord.

Sydney Parmenter

Administrative Manager

Chantel Jackson

Battalion Chief

Chris Buscemi – Shift 1

Mark Luick – Shift 2

Kirk Hedding – Shift 3

Fire Marshal

Michael Reddmann

Training Officer

Brian Schotthoefler

Logistics Officer

Temp. Jon Lukosavich

Captain

Tim Karolak – Shift 2

Kris Lussenden – Shift 1

David Cue – Shift 3

EMS Coordinator

Martin Anderson

Fire Inspector

Ryan Newkirk

Chris Brown

Temp. Erin Atkins

Emergency Mgmt. Specialist

Michaelyn Rogers

Management Assistant

Leslie Herter

Lieutenant

Danielle Lalonde

Benjamin Zahn

Stephen Potbury

Jeremy Flack

Mark Hanselman

Robert Porter

Christopher Nielsen

Christopher Taylor

John Maguire

Jason Gravelle

Shane Doyon

George Allard

Nick Kaczor

Christopher McGlothin

Neil Boes

John Crowell

Robert Vanderkarr

Driver / Operator

Jeremy Torres

Bryce McAllister

Ronald Robbins

Matthew Gaken

Matthew Barbarich

Leo Susick

Julian Gross

Kenway Hensley

Nicholas Foren

Johnathan Fotopoulos

Kenny Richmond

Chris Roy

Tracy Youell

Jared Zygmuntowicz

Blake Vershum

Andrew Gignac

Jason Miller

Blake Wingler

Firefighter

Zane Kingsbury

Christopher Warden

Cody Eddington

Visar Gjetaj

Jacob Wing

Michael Rudolph

Brittany Hoak

Taylor Buchanan

Marc Bandy

Christian Cousar

Blake Vershum

Michael Updyke

Taylor Hansen

Tyler Wagner

Matthew Brown

Eric Harms

Sean Duffy

William Pritula

Patrick Deneau

Adam Creech

David Box

Taylor Falkey

Peyton Stevenson

Tracey McCoy

Probationary Firefighter

Peyton McEllis

Tyler DeWeese

Anthony Jaime

Branden Henry

Gabriel LaPean

Jack Schultz

Lucas Vallory

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PERSONNEL ADVANCEMENT

New Hires

Emergency Management Specialist

Michaelyn Rogers

Probationary Firefighter

Peyton McEllis

Tyler DeWeese

Anthony Jaime

Branden Henry

Gabriel LaPean

Jack Schultz

Lucas Vallory

Retirements

Logistics Officer

Jake Corrado

Cliff Blackford

Captain

Jim Tiernan

Driver / Operator

Matt Francis

Promotions

Logistics Officer

Cliff Blackford

Captain

David Cue

Lieutenant

Casper Vanderkarr

Driver / Operator

Andrew Gignac

Jason Miller

Blake Wingler

Firefighter

Taylor Falkey

Peyton Stevenson

Tracey McCoy

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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 uses non-traditional fire service partnerships to address community needs. This community-based approach leverages partnerships to understand, assess and provide inclusive solutions to community safety issues. During 2024, 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 78 community events. These events reached over an estimated 7,827 residents.

- 15 fire station tours
- 5 block parties
- 55 fire truck visits
- 2 parades



(above Fire Recruits Vally and Jaime)

Fire Recruit (FR) Program

The third class of fire recruits started in January 2024. Both recruits started EMT, with one recruit continuing to the fire academy in the fall. FR Jaime had previously obtained firefighter training and was able to transfer to a firefighter position. During the summer and fall of 2024, the recruitment, application and hiring process for the fourth round of fire recruits occurred, with two recruits scheduled to start in January 2025.

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OPERATIONS DIVISION



Assistant Chief Matthew Hughes 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.

Highlights

- Received 2024 State of Michigan Firefighter Turnout Gear grant for \$234,500. This will be split between FY25 and FY26. The first 34 sets of firefighter turnout gear were ordered at an expense of \$130,785.76
- Collaboration with city, county and state officials regarding potential methane release from abandoned garbage dump off Dhu Varren Road
- Part of the planning team for mass casualty event full-scale exercise in 2025
- Work with Ann Arbor Public Services on spill response protocols and training for Huron River
- Coordination and implementation of National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS 3.5) EMS report writing software with IT and care providers
- Participated in an advisory group that conducted research on numerous other cities along with a site visit for tractor-drawn aerial (tiller) specifications and recommendations (pictures below)



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FIRE PREVENTION



The Ann Arbor 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.

Fire Safety Inspections	1,415	Fire Inspection Cost Recoveries	\$273,316
Square Feet Inspected	5,152,873	False Alarms Fees	\$155,050
Fire Investigations	15	Hydrant Flow Tests	39
Building Radio Coverage Tests	4	Site Plan Reviews	68
Sidewalk Occupancy Permits	172	Knox Box Installations	29
Fire Watch Orders	48	Special Events Reviews	87
Site Compliance Permits	55	Land Division Reviews	13
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests	258		

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TRAINING DIVISION



The training 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 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.

Total Training Hours

9,149 (59% over target)

Emergency Medical Services Training Hours

2,090

Fire, HazMat, Tech Rescue, HR, & City Safety Hours

7,059

Top Training Hours – Craig Sidelinger Award

Lt. Mark Hanselman - 278.8 hours

D/O Matt Barbarich - 247.7 hours

Captain Kris Lussenden - 221.2 hours

Apparatus Certifications

Engine: 4

Ladder: 3

Tower: 2

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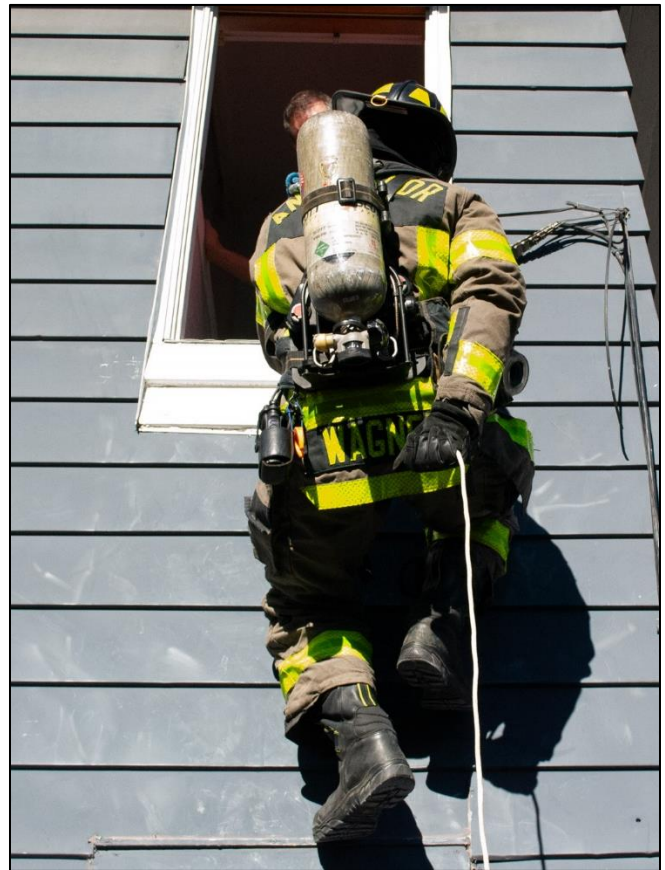
TRAINING DIVISION (continued)

Highlights

- In May, we hosted one of the foremost international experts in high-rise firefighting. Captain Jimmy Davis with the Chicago Fire Department conducted two days of lecture and practical evolutions.
- Officer development training – 2,565 hours
- High-rise operations training – 550 hours
- Live burn training – 179 hours
- Fire victim removal training – 85 hours
- Vehicle extrication training – 101 hours
- Acquired structure training – The 5 Points – 337 hours



(above) November 2024 – Rescue training



(above) November 2024 – Bailout training

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EMS DIVISION

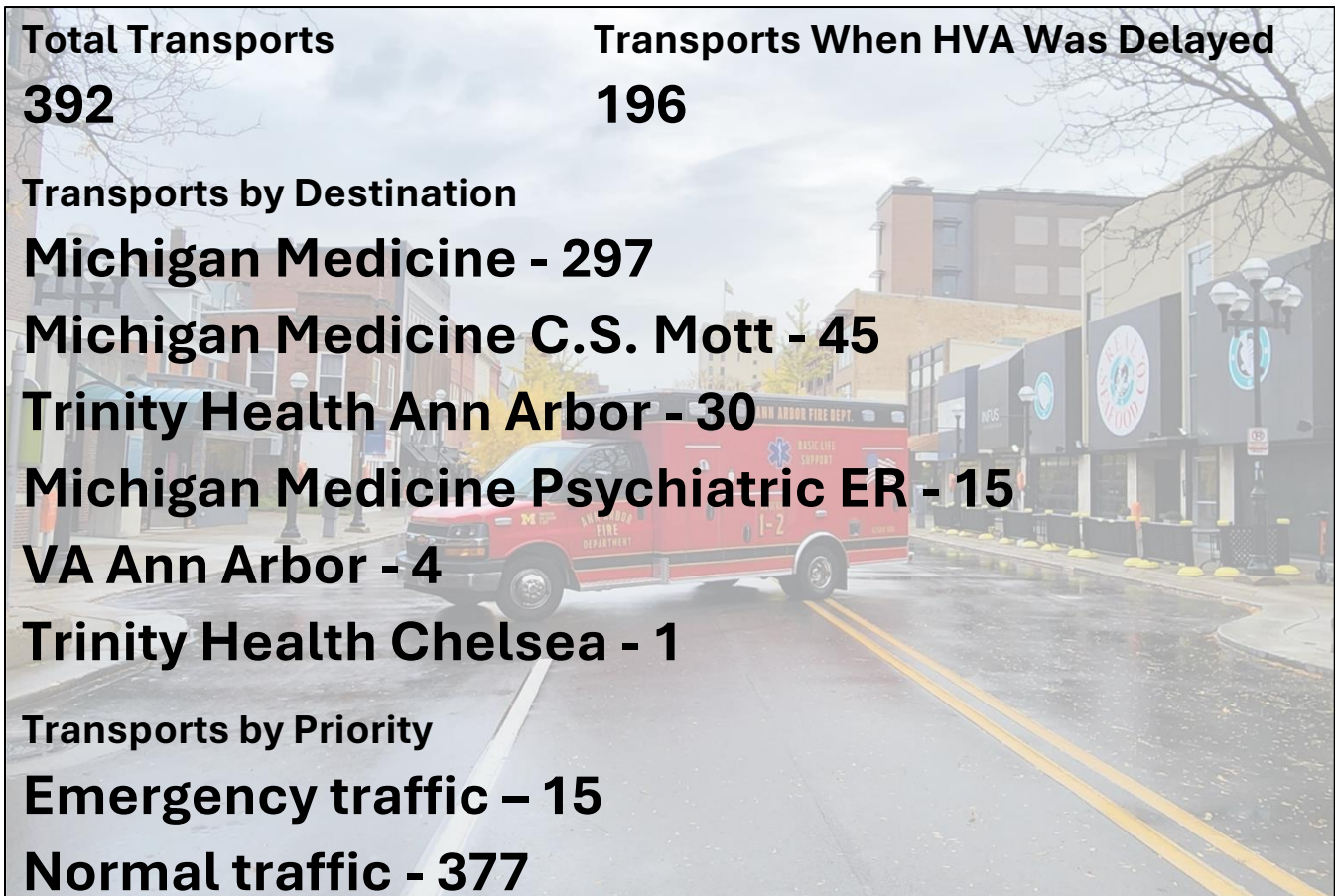


The EMS division, led by EMS Coordinator Martin Anderson, is integral to the Ann Arbor Fire Department’s commitment to providing exceptional pre-hospital care to both residents and visitors. In 2024, the department achieved a significant milestone with the addition of a second ambulance to our fleet. Through ongoing training and the implementation of quality improvement practices, the division maintains the highest standards in emergency medical services.

In compliance with regulations set forth by the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the EMS division upholds the department’s licensure for basic life support, non-transport and transporting emergency medical services. This includes rigorous adherence to the educational, quality improvement and system requirements outlined by the State of Michigan and the Washtenaw/Livingston Medical Control Authority.

Additionally, the EMS division is responsible for the procurement, inventory management and oversight of all medical equipment, supplies and personal protective equipment. This comprehensive approach highlights our unwavering commitment to not only meeting, but exceeding regulatory standards, ensuring the highest level of care and safety for our community.

Total Transports	Transports When HVA Was Delayed
392	196
Transports by Destination	
Michigan Medicine - 297	
Michigan Medicine C.S. Mott - 45	
Trinity Health Ann Arbor - 30	
Michigan Medicine Psychiatric ER - 15	
VA Ann Arbor - 4	
Trinity Health Chelsea - 1	
Transports by Priority	
Emergency traffic – 15	
Normal traffic - 377	



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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 2024, 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.

In September, Michaelyn Rogers was hired as an emergency management specialist. This has been a long-sought-after addition to assist with numerous facets of emergency management.

Planned Events

Presidential Primary Election Day - February 27

- Activated virtual emergency operations center

Ann Arbor Art Fair - July 18 to 20

- Hosted a pre-event safety planning meeting
- Conducted a first day of Art Fair safety walk-through with AAPD, AAFD, Art Fair directors and city engineering; this was the first time this was done.
- Created a barricade plan and annex to the Art Fair Emergency Operations Plan.
- Coordinated the A2 Art Fair notification opt-in process
- Conducted daily safety briefings

Harris - Walz Presidential Campaign Rally - October 28

- Partial emergency operations center activation

Election Day - November 5

- Partial emergency operations center activation including Ann Arbor Public Schools and U-M Emergency Operations Center AAPS and U-M EOC

Exercises / Drills / Seminars

Michigan Department of State - April 4

- Participated in election tabletop exercise

Joint Information Center - April 18

- Coordinated tabletop exercise

Presidential Election Tabletop Exercise - August 28

- Coordinated tabletop exercise

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Dam Tabletop Exercise – October 16

- Participated in annual exercise hosted at the Ann Arbor Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and included WTP staff, AAFD, AAPD, communications, public works and parks

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (continued)

Projects

Elections Preparedness

- Updated elections emergency operations plan.
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency security assessment of Ann Arbor Election Center and Lacrom City Hall
- Presented City of Ann Arbor’s planning and exercising regarding elections at the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk’s (MAMC) conference in Traverse City

StormReady Community

- Recognized by the National Weather Service as a StormReady community. This is a voluntary program offered as a means of providing guidance and incentive to communities interested in improving their hazardous weather operations.

Construction of New Emergency Operations Center

- Created specifications and coordinated with multiple vendors for build-out of new emergency operations center. Expected to be online first quarter calendar 2025

Dams

- Updated evacuation map and guidance for residents in inundation zone
- Application submitted and approved for FEMA FY25 Planning for Dam Emergencies Collaborative Technical Assistance Program. Exercise will occur in summer 2025.

City of Ann Arbor Emergency Operations Plan Updates

- Assisted public works with development of a new debris management plan.
- Updated the city’s Snow Emergency Ordinance – developed snow emergency operations plan (public services led)

Outdoor Warning Sirens

- Conducted monthly tests March through November
- System upgrades completed: fail-safe activation point at AAPD and new siren computer
- Siren relocated from the roof of Bursley Hall on U-M campus to Upland Drive

Reunification / Family Assistance Planning with Ann Arbor Public Schools

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

Environmental Protection Agency - Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Grant

- In partnership with the Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovation, submitted a grant application to enhance our resilience work by building a resilience network and additional resilience hubs. Received \$1 million award

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FIREFIGHTER PROMOTIONS



(Above) July 2024 – Firefighter Taylor Falkey was officially sworn in.



(Above) July 2024 – Firefighter Peyton Stevenson was officially sworn in.

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FIREFIGHTER PROMOTIONS (continued)



(Above) July 2024 – Firefighter Tracey McCoy was officially sworn in.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



(above) July 2024 – The spray park has become an annual tradition, hosted in conjunction with the State Street District on Maynard Street.



(above) May 2024 – The public safety open house featured a vehicle extrication demonstration. This is a joint event with the Ann Arbor Police Department.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (continued)



(left) September 2024 – Tübingen, Germany is a sister city to Ann Arbor. A delegation from Tübingen visited Ann Arbor as part of the bicentennial. Part of this group was a firefighter named Fabian Fröhlich who spent time riding along with various AAFD crews and learning about the US fire service.



(right) July 2024 – 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) May 2024 – Firefighters participated the Glacier Highlands Neighborhood Association Memorial Day Parade and ceremony.

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BLAZE & BLUE CAMP



(entire page) June 2024 – AAFD held the third 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.

