

St. Charles Fire Department

2023 Annual Report





Table of Contents

3	A Message from The Chief	30 - 45	Administration Division
4 - 20	Operations Division	30 - 31	Fire Prevention Bureau
4 - 14	Operations	32 - 33	Public Education
15 - 16	Emergency Medical Services	34	Occupational Safety and Health Committee
17 - 18	Emergency Management Agency	35 - 36	Training
19 - 20	Tri-City Ambulance	37	Fleet
21 - 29	Special Teams	38	Facilities
21 - 22	Technical Rescue	39	Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board
23 - 24	Hazardous Materials	40 - 41	Newly Hired and Milestones in 2023
25 - 26	Water Rescue & Recovery	40	Newly Hired Personnel, Promotions, Retirements
27 - 28	Investigations	41	2023 Department Roster
29	Honor Guard		



Many Thanks to John Tulipano, JLT Photography

Department Photographer
Photographer of the STCFD 2023 Annual Report cover photo

We are grateful for your talent and passion you show when capturing the Fire Department both candidly and the remarkable portraits as well as all your patience.

Your photos continue to exceed our expectations and will always be part of the history of St. Charles.



A Message from The Chief

On behalf of the members of the St. Charles Fire Department, I am pleased to present our 2023 Annual Report. This report highlights our organizational commitment to excellence providing remarkable all-hazards response to the citizens of St. Charles.

The St. Charles Fire Department has been proudly serving the community since the founding as the La Fayette Fire Company in 1842. The present St. Charles Fire Department is a full-time professional all-hazards fire department. We are proud to be an Internationally Accredited and Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 1 fire department, placing us in an exclusive group of only 122 agencies, and establishing us in the top one quarter of one percent of fire department in the nation.

The culmination of several years of work came to realization when two new Chevy Tahoe SUVs were placed into service, one as Battalion 100, the command SUV for functions of the on-duty Battalion Chief. The other was assigned to the Deputy Chief of Operations and also serves as the back-up command SUV.

The Department experienced three retirements when Deputy Chief Kevin Christensen, Lieutenant Allen Wade, and Firefighter/Paramedic Kelly Malone, with a combined 74 years of service, concluded their careers in June, May, and November during 2023. The retirements led to promotions, including Jeremy Mauthe to Deputy Chief, Dave Chmelar to Battalion Chief, Mike Pyzyna to Captain, and Patrick Lacey and Ryan Gleason to Lieutenant. Three members, Chris Overland, Daniel Kray, and Derek Mortensen completed their probation. We also welcomed Mike Compton and Ryan Thomas as probationary firefighter/paramedics.

The year 2023 continued to challenge the members of the St. Charles Fire Department through the number of requests for our service. The year concluded with 5830 incidents handled, the busiest year for calls yet in our 180-year history of service.

While this is only a summary of some of the events and challenges of 2023, it clearly shows that the St. Charles Fire Department and all of our members are ready, willing, and able to respond when called upon. Being a high-performance organization, we understand Excellence is nothing more than doing the common things uncommonly well.

Once again, I say thank you to everyone that contributed to the successes of the past year and throughout the history of the St. Charles Fire Department. This is achieved through the support of the citizens, elected, and appointed officials of the City of St. Charles.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to all the members of the St. Charles Fire Department. Only through their efforts, dedication, and commitment could we have achieved and successfully handled everything over the past year.

It is my honor to continue to serve the citizens of our community and lead the St. Charles Fire Department as we prepare for and successfully overcome the challenges each year brings. The St. Charles Fire Department and all of our members are proud to continue our contributions in making St. Charles a safe and remarkable community that continues to be the "Pride of the Fox."

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott G. Swanson
Fire Chief

Operations



JLT
photography



By Deputy Chief Tony Cavallo

The men and women of the operations divisions of the St. Charles Fire Department are proud to have the privilege and responsibility to provide emergency

and non-emergency services to the citizens, business owners, and visitors who find themselves in need of our assistance. Among the services provided by the St. Charles Fire Department include fire suppression, rescue operations, emergency medical responses, and special team functions.

The St. Charles Fire Department was dispatched to a total of 5836 incidents during 2023. The personnel from the St. Charles Fire Department handled an average of 16 incident responses each day throughout 2023. This was a 4% increase in daily call volume over the

previous year. Incidents that require a fire response are diverse in nature, but the St. Charles Fire Department is thoroughly trained to respond following policies and guidelines to ensure the most appropriate and effective protection methods are used for the community we serve. The St. Charles Fire Department operates out of three strategically located fire houses throughout the city. Each station has a designated fire district. The department is organized into two Engine companies, one Truck company, two ambulance companies, and one Command vehicle every day of the year. All fire apparatus are staffed by professional, full time firefighter/paramedics. These firefighter/paramedics dedicate themselves to continual training in order to maintain their knowledge and skills. A substantial number of these professionals are certified at a technician level by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

2023 St. Charles Fire Department Calls by Incident Type

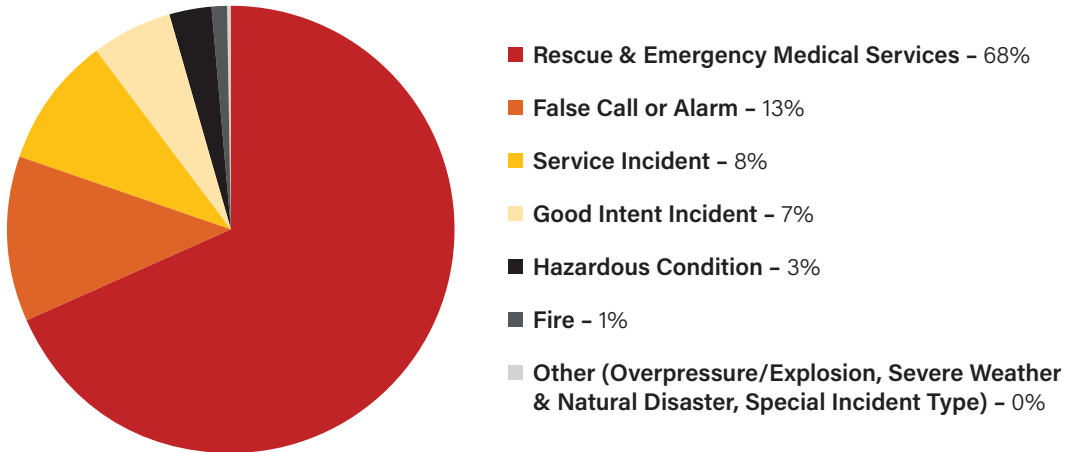
Incident Type	Number
Fire	87
Overpressure/Explosion	0
Rescue & Emergency Medical Services	3,954
Hazardous Condition	176
Service Incident	450
Good Intent Incident	394
False Call or Alarm	772
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1
Special Incident Type	2
Total Incidents - 2023	5,836
Average Calls per Day Throughout Year	15.99

Type of Fire Incident

Incident Type	Number
(10) Fire, Other	2
(11) Structure Fire	48
(12) Fire in Mobile Property used as a fixed structure	0
(13) Mobile Property (vehicle) fire	6
(14) Natural vegetation fire	19
(15) Outside rubbish fire	8
(16) Special outside fire	4
Total Fire Incidents - 2023	87



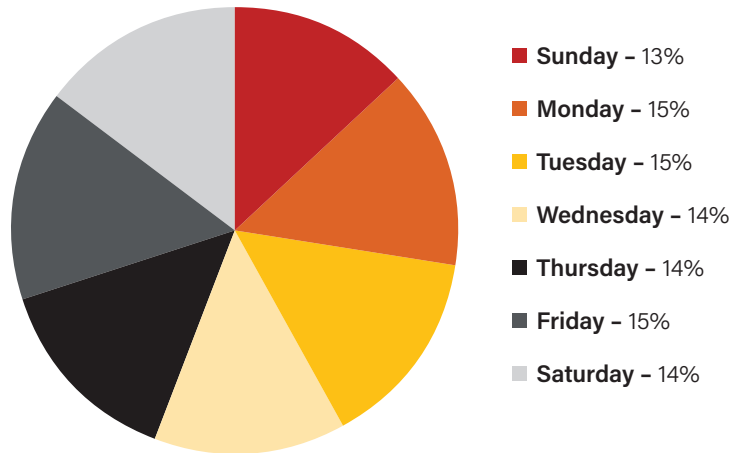
2023 St. Charles Fire Department Calls by Incident Type



Type of Rescue Incident

Rescue Incident	Number	Rescue Incident	Number
(30) Rescue, Emergency medical call (EMS), other	10	(35) Extrication, rescue	15
(31) Medical assist	27	(36) Water or ice-related rescue	3
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	3,882	(38) Rescue or EMS Standby	16
(33) Lock-In	1		

2023 - Incidents By Day of Week

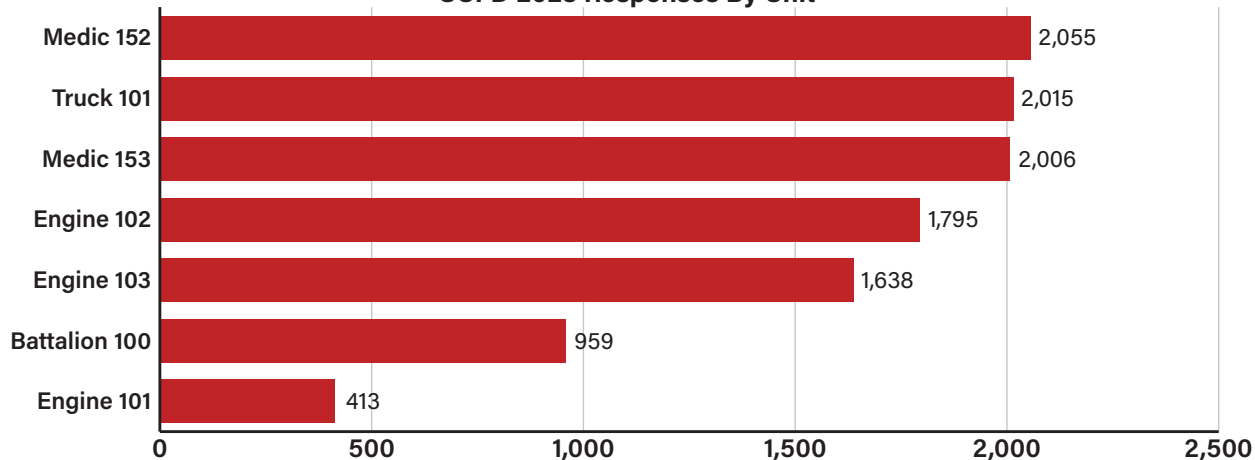


2023 Incidents by Day of Week

Day of the Week	Total Incidents	Average Daily Incidents	Day of the Week	Total Incidents	Average Daily Incidents
Sunday	774	14.88	Thursday	815	15.67
Monday	856	16.46	Friday	867	16.67
Tuesday	866	16.65	Saturday	847	15.98
Wednesday	811	15.60			



SCFD 2023 Responses By Unit

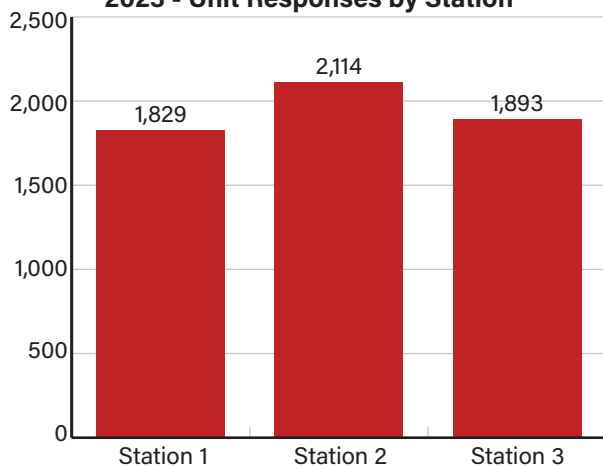


2023 - Responses by Unit

Unit	Number
Medic 152	2,055
Truck 101	2,015
Medic 153	2,006
Engine 102	1,795

Unit	Number
Engine 103	1,638
Battalion 100	959
Engine 101	413

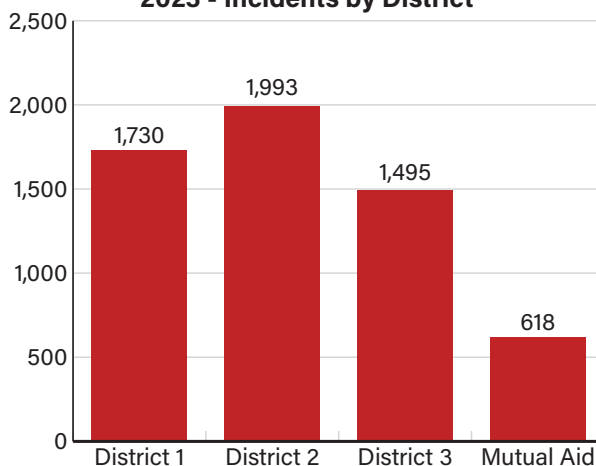
2023 - Unit Responses by Station



2023 Unit Responses by Station

Station	Number
Station 1	1,829
Station 2	2,114
Station 3	1,893

2023 - Incidents by District



2023 Incidents by District

District	Number
District 1	1,730
District 2	1,993
District 3	1,495
Mutual Aid	618



Stations & Personnel Assignments as of December 2023



Fire Station #1 - 112 N. Riverside Ave.
 Central Station - Downtown
 Truck 101-Engine 101-Battalion 100

Battalion 100

BLACK SHIFT	RED SHIFT	GOLD SHIFT
Battalion Chief Tony Centimano	Battalion Chief Dave Chmelar	Battalion Chief Jason Peterson
Lieutenant Guy Gresser FF/PM Scott Sulak FF/PM Ben Gore	Truck 101 Captain Mike Pyzyna FF/PM Steve Siwy FF/PM Brandon Paus	Lieutenant Steve Dries FF/PM Brian Hansen FF/PM Andrew Kidd
Lieutenant Wes Gosser	Relief Officer Lieutenant Patrick Lacey	Lieutenant Ryan Gleason
FF/PM Kevin Kasperek	Relief Firefighter FF/PM Austin Wolf	FF/PM Chris Overland



Stations & Personnel Assignments as of December 2023



Fire Station #2 - 2900 Production Drive
East Side

Engine 102

BLACK SHIFT	RED SHIFT	GOLD SHIFT
Captain Jeff Tarro FF/PM Donald Fruland FF/PM Mario Garza	Lieutenant Steve Rehak FF/PM Megan Funk FF/PM Matthew Mols	Lieutenant Brad Wilton FF/PM Trevor Kelly FF/PM Jacob Johns
FF/PM Daniel Kray	Relief Firefighter FF/PM Derek Mortensen	FF/PM Ryan Thomas
Paramedic Stephen Glatstein Paramedic Sandra Cheatham	Medic 152 Paramedic David Harrison —	Paramedic Brian Mayer Paramedic Kaitlyn Kennamer



Stations & Personnel Assignments as of December 2023



Fire Station #3 - 2901 Campton Hills Road

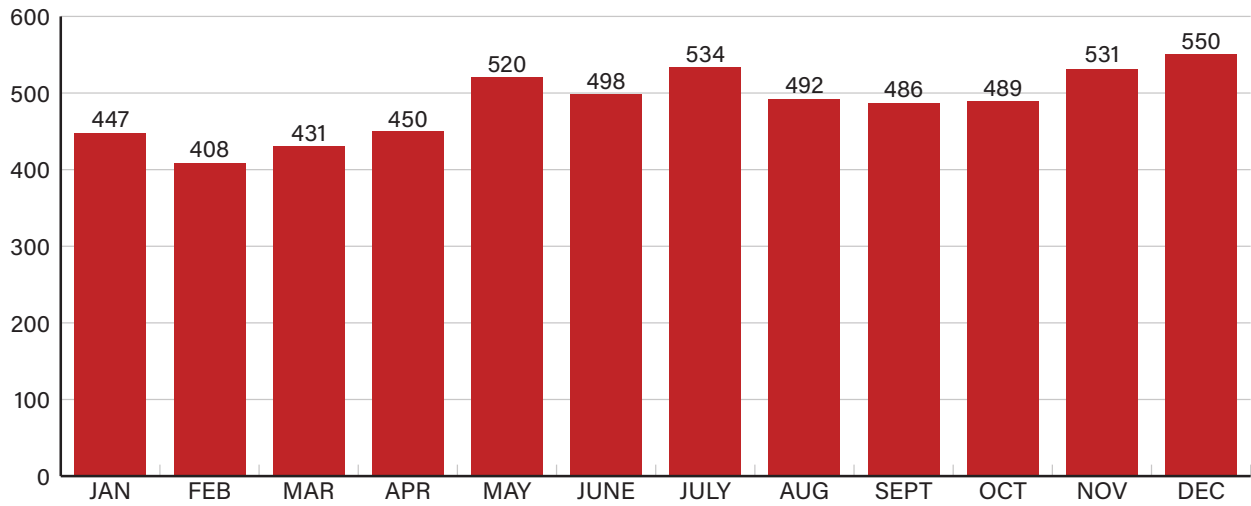
West Side

Engine 103

BLACK SHIFT	RED SHIFT	GOLD SHIFT
Lieutenant Clifford Lo FF/PM Christian Thomas FF/PM Andrew Perry	Lieutenant Chad Tinsley FF/PM Nick Marqui FF/PM Robert Sheehan	Captain Rainier Galliano Firefighter Phil Kuhn FF/PM Andrew Cichon
—	Relief Firefighter FF/PM Michael Compton	—
Paramedic Steve Williams Paramedic Clinton Lawler	Medic 153 Paramedic Heather Scionti Paramedic Michelle Hanks	Paramedic Emily Murphy Paramedic Breahna Noyes



SCFD 2023 Incidents by Month



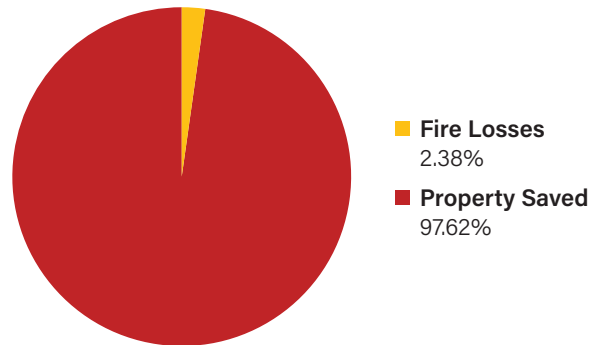
SCFD 2023 Incidents by Month

SCFD 2023 Incidents by Month	Number	SCFD 2023 Incidents by Month	Number
JAN	447	JULY	534
FEB	408	AUG	492
MAR	431	SEPT	486
APR	450	OCT	489
MAY	520	NOV	531
JUNE	498	DEC	550

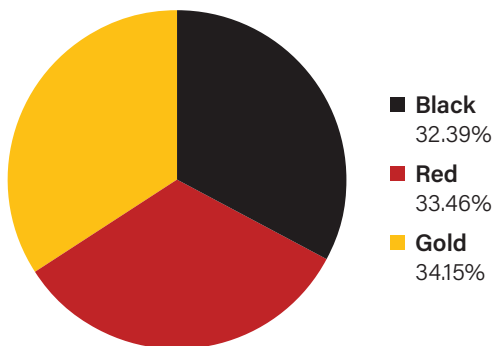
2023 - Property Saved and Fire Loss

2023 Property Saved and Fire Loss

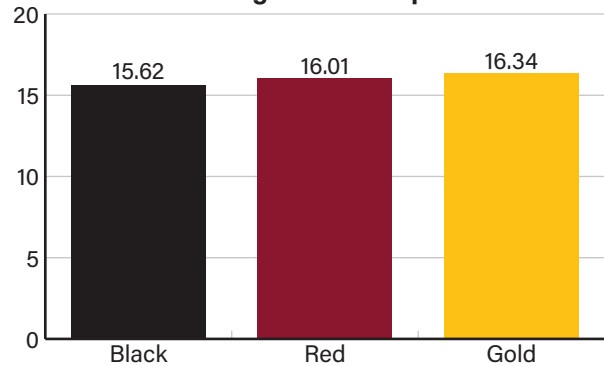
Year 2023	Amount	Percentage
Value of Property	\$45,821,835.00	100%
Fire Losses	\$1,089,840.00	2.38%
Property Saved	\$44,731,995.00	97.62%



2023 - Incident Breakdown By Shift

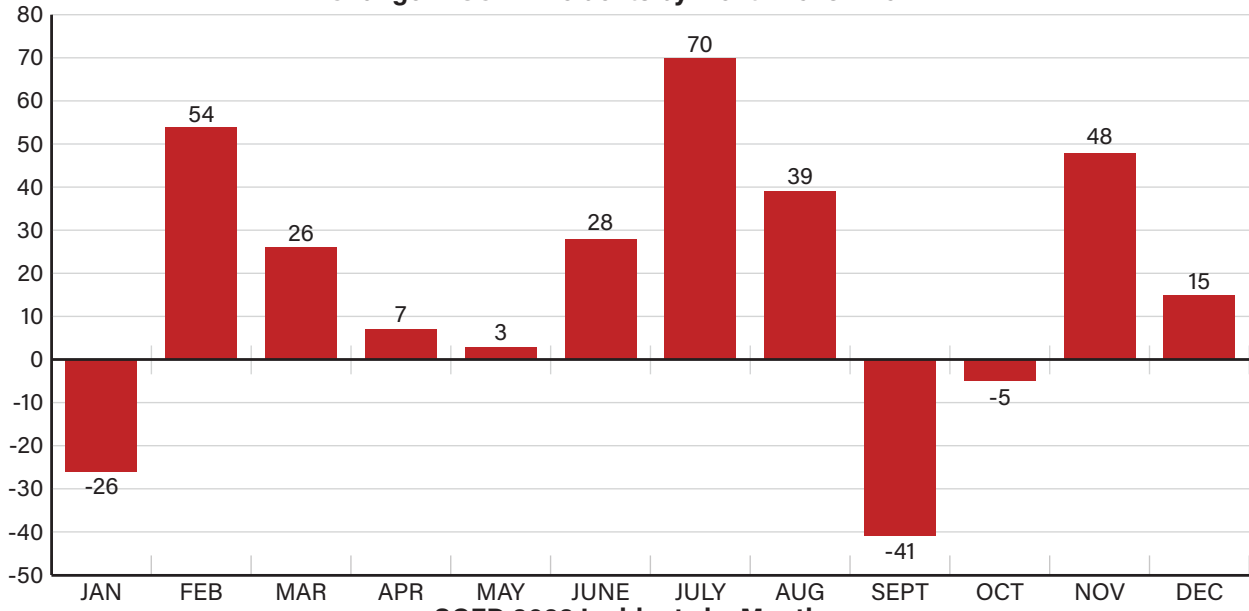


2023 - Average Incidents per Shift





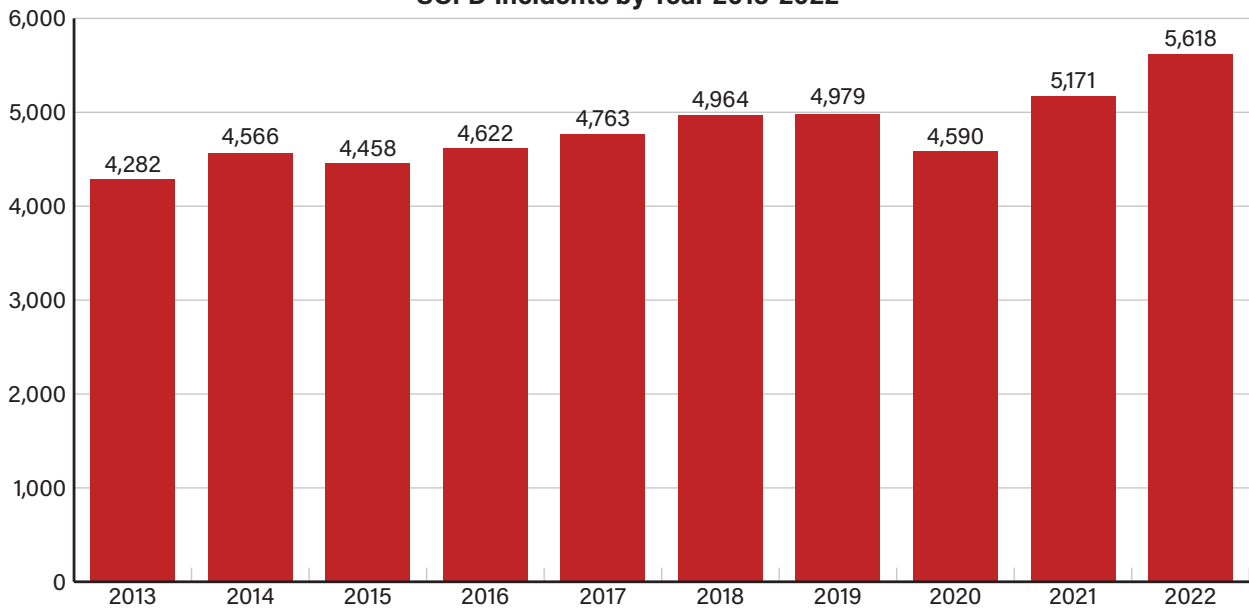
Change in SCFD Incidents by Month 2023 v 2022



SCFD 2023 Incidents by Month

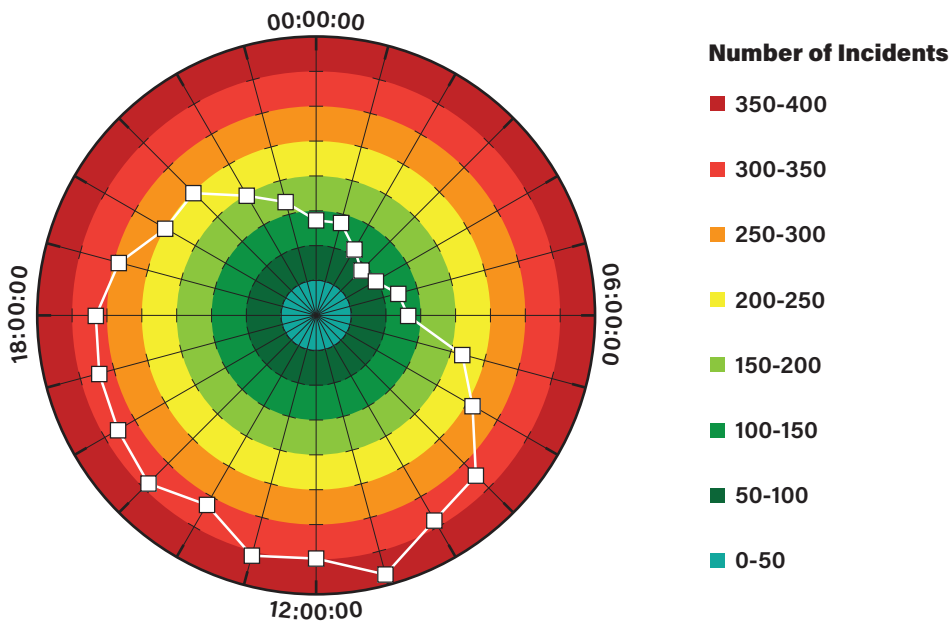
Change in SCFD Incidents by Month 2023 v 2022	Difference	Change in SCFD Incidents by Month 2023 v 2022	Difference
JAN	-26	JULY	70
FEB	54	AUG	39
MAR	26	SEPT	-41
APR	7	OCT	-5
MAY	3	NOV	48
JUNE	28	DEC	15

SCFD Incidents by Year 2013-2022



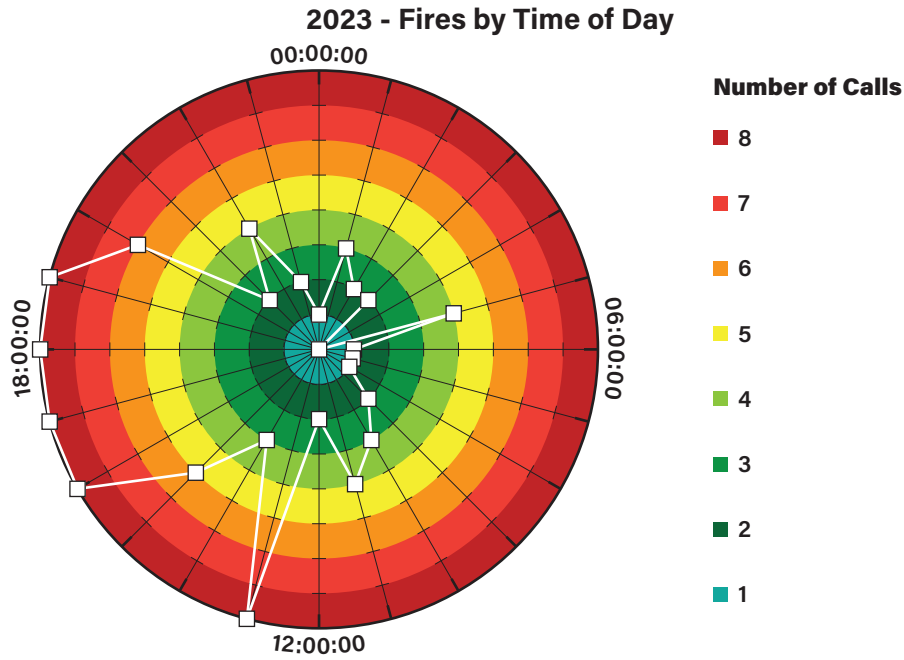


2023 - Total Incidents by Time of Day



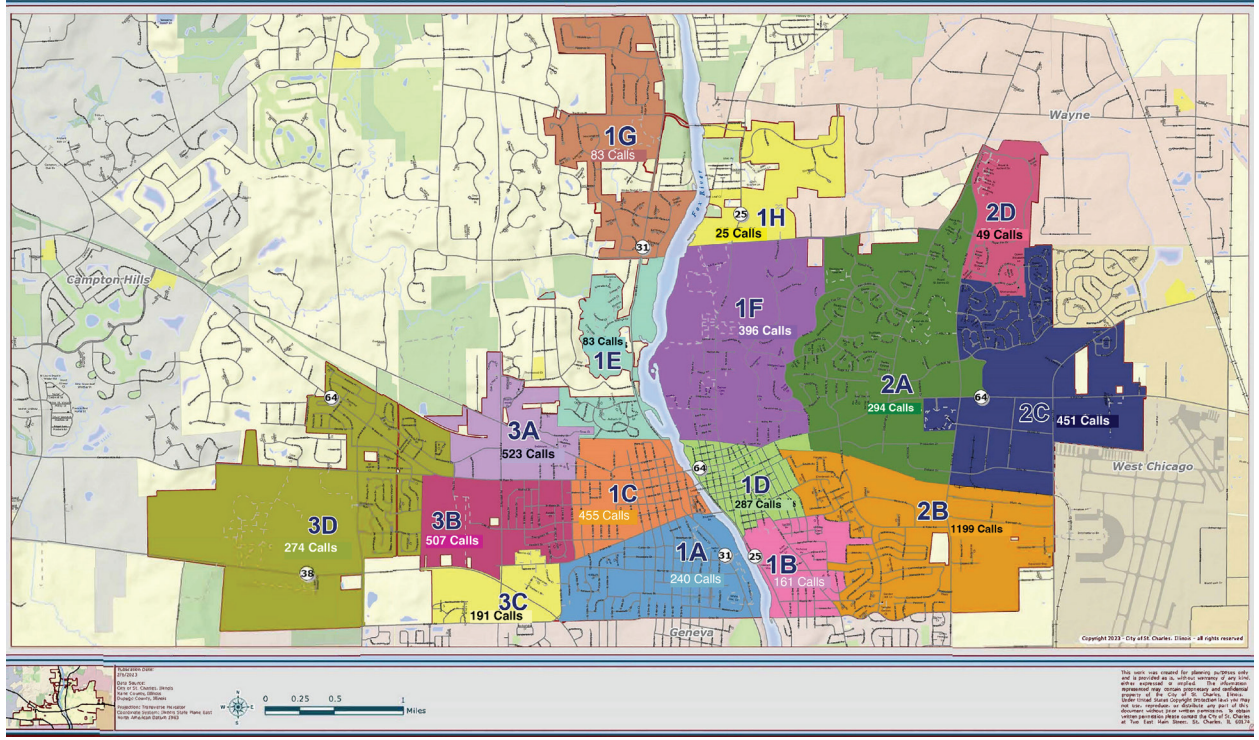
2023 - Total Incidents by Time of Day

Time of Day	# of Calls	Time of Day	# of Calls
00:00:00 - 00:59:59	137	12:00:00 - 12:59:59	348
01:00:00 - 01:59:59	138	13:00:00 - 13:59:59	356
02:00:00 - 02:59:59	110	14:00:00 - 14:59:59	313
03:00:00 - 03:59:59	92	15:00:00 - 15:59:59	340
04:00:00 - 04:59:59	99	16:00:00 - 16:59:59	328
05:00:00 - 05:59:59	122	17:00:00 - 17:59:59	322
06:00:00 - 06:59:59	132	18:00:00 - 18:59:59	316
07:00:00 - 07:59:59	217	19:00:00 - 19:59:59	293
08:00:00 - 08:59:59	259	20:00:00 - 20:59:59	250
09:00:00 - 09:59:59	324	21:00:00 - 21:59:59	249
10:00:00 - 10:59:59	339	22:00:00 - 22:59:59	199
11:00:00 - 11:59:59	384	23:00:00 - 23:59:59	169
Total Incidents - 2023			5,836



2023 - Fires by Time of Day

Time of Day	# of Calls	Time of Day	# of Calls
00:00:00 - 00:59:59	1	12:00:00 - 12:59:59	2
01:00:00 - 01:59:59	3	13:00:00 - 13:59:59	8
02:00:00 - 02:59:59	2	14:00:00 - 14:59:59	3
03:00:00 - 03:59:59	2	15:00:00 - 15:59:59	5
04:00:00 - 04:59:59	0	16:00:00 - 16:59:59	8
05:00:00 - 05:59:59	4	17:00:00 - 17:59:59	8
06:00:00 - 06:59:59	1	18:00:00 - 18:59:59	8
07:00:00 - 07:59:59	1	19:00:00 - 19:59:59	8
08:00:00 - 08:59:59	1	20:00:00 - 20:59:59	6
09:00:00 - 09:59:59	2	21:00:00 - 21:59:59	2
10:00:00 - 10:59:59	3	22:00:00 - 22:59:59	4
11:00:00 - 11:59:59	4	23:00:00 - 23:59:59	2
Total Calls - 2023			88



2023 Incidents by Response Zone

Station District	Response Zone	Incidents in 2023
1	1A	240
	1B	161
	1C	455
	1D	287
	1E	83
	1F	396
	1G	83
	1H	25
2	2A	294
	2B	1,199
	2C	451
	2D	49
3	3A	523
	3B	507
	3C	191
	3D	274

Emergency Medical Services



By Battalion Chief Anthony Centimano

The St. Charles Fire Department provides the community of St. Charles with a high level of out-of-hospital emergency medical care.

Personnel are trained to deliver advanced life support, (ALS) services. To maintain acceptable travel times for service, the Department provides ALS capable primary response units in each firehouse. The total EMS response capability includes: two ALS ambulances, two ALS engine companies and one ALS truck company.

Department policy requires medical personnel to adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures, (SOP) established by the Southern Fox Valley EMS System (SFVEMSS). These SOPs include the requirements of service, of the following:

- Illinois Department of Public Health. EMS Systems Act (210 ILCS 50/1 Chapter 111).
- Illinois Administrative Code. Title 77 – Part 535.

Responsibility for medical control rests with the Southern Fox Valley Emergency Medical Services System, based at Delnor Hospital in Geneva Illinois. Citizens access the system primarily through use of an enhanced 911 telephone system located at Tri-Com Central Dispatch.

The Saint Charles Fire Department's standard operating procedures requires this agency meets it's staffing, response time, apparatus and equipment deployment objectives for each type of emergency medical incidents.

Emergency medical response comprises 68 % of Fire Department emergency activity. The Saint Charles Fire Department provides 24-hour response coverage for Emergency Medical Services to the City of Saint

Charles. Personnel are trained to deliver advanced life support, (ALS) services. The Department is providing response times of within six minutes 85 % percent of the time as represented by the Department Standard of Coverage. In order to minimize travel times, the Department provides ALS capable primary response units in each firehouse.

The total EMS response capability includes:

- Two ALS Ambulances
- Two ALS Engine Companies
- One ALS truck company.

St. Charles Fire Department staffing, apparatus and equipment demonstrate the municipal government's commitment to delivering excellent levels of EMS care to residents. Department policies, practices and agreements establish not only paramedic ambulance companies, but also ALS capable engines and a truck company. ALS companies are maintained at all times in each district as call volume allows. This allows efficient utilization of available resources while adhering to State Statutes, IDPH Rules and Southern Fox Valley EMS System Regulations.

At least once a year an annual report is generated and examined to determine the impacts of the Emergency Medical Services Program. During this evaluation period the department uses the System Protocols, department SOPs, Commitment Papers and our Scope of Practice to evaluate performance. With our 42 EMT-P and 5 ALS non-transport vehicles, the department is staffed and equipped well to service our citizens.

In 2023, the agency had a notable increase in call volume to skilled nursing and senior residential facilities, including urgent care facilities. These facilities make up approximately 5% of the total call volume. The increase in these facilities to the community



coupled with various other factors have created a challenge for the agency and an opportunity to engage stakeholders in discussions to fully serve these facilities and the community at-large. The continued increase in responses to behavioral health emergencies continues to grow; not only in the community but also nationally. In 2023, the Illinois legislature began working on refining and defining the Community Emergency Services and Support Act (CESSA). This has been a slow process as medical, emergency, law enforcement, behavioral health providers and other stakeholders begin the arduous tasks of applying the General Assembly's intent. The St. Charles Fire Department remains dedicated to our role in the community and as stakeholders in the area of emergency behavioral healthcare. We continue to partner with law enforcement, the EMS System, and the Association for Individual Development (AID).

Finally, in late 2023 the agency began working on the goals and objectives outlined in the agency's Strategic Plan. The EMS Committee was identified and filled out with people who have a desire for continuous improvement in EMS. Deputy Chief Cavallo, Battalion Chief Centimano, TCA Administrator Trent Moser, PSI Coordinator Steve Glatstein and FF/PMs Gore and Garza will begin tackling the goals and objectives outlined. Specifically, EMS is the subject of Goal 6 "Ensure continuous high-quality and professional EMS services to enhance the safety, security and well-being of the community." This goal and several others have created the guidance to explore and act in a meaningful way in areas of EMS. With this plan we will continue to monitor our progress, community needs and tailor our programs and services to meet those demands.



Mission Statement:

The mission of the St. Charles Fire Department is to promote a safe and secure community by delivering excellent services to enhance community well-being.



Emergency Management Agency



By Mark Chmura – EMA Coordinator

This has been a year of transition and growth for the St. Charles Emergency Management Agency (SCEMA). Not only at the local level, but at the State level as well. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency announced early in the year that they have added the designation of Office of Homeland Security to their charter, making their new name the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS). This brought more opportunities and responsibilities to the local partners. They also announced that they were updating their Administrative Rules to reflect this, as well as revising their standards and benchmarks for accreditation of local agencies. This will bring changes on how Emergency Management does things in the future. Finalization of these changes will become effective in mid-2024.

In April, SCEMA received its most recent re-accreditation from IEMA-OHS after an extensive review and revision of our Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Assisting in this endeavor was an emergency management degree intern from Western Illinois University that SCEMA hosted the first third of the year. Our intern was invaluable in completing the required research and documentation needed to prepare the EOP for presentation. He also gained so much education and experience in the field of emergency management that he chose to become an official member of the SCEMA Team after his internship expired. He remains a very valuable member.

Also achieved this year was the City of St. Charles received recertification as a "Storm Ready Community" by the National Weather Service (NWS). This was again achieved with hard work and documentation to the NWS in proving that we meet their standards.





Training continues to be a vital part of our activities. We continue to expand and broaden our training activities to expose the Team to topics and education that are now a part of a wider scope of duties in emergency management and homeland security. There is a more attentive effort being put forth to offer outside training opportunities to the Team, by the creation of a sole-source location in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the form of a dedicated training classes binder. The year saw more attention to training with our mutual aid partners as well.

For calendar year 2023, SCEMA personnel responded to 50 call-outs or requests for service. These calls for service encompass special events related activities, as well as assisting both the Police Department and Fire Department with emergency response activities such as downed wires, structure fires, major gas leaks, searched for missing individuals, and traffic accident road management and reconstruction. Some of the more notable responses included:

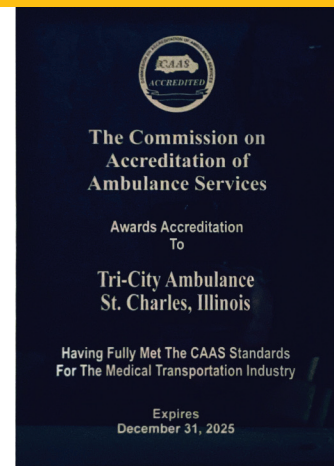
- January ~ responded mutual aid to Elgin for the major natural gas leak
- March & April ~ major severe weather outbreak, including an EF 0 tornado just north of St. Charles on March 31st
- March & August ~ searches for missing individuals
- June & August ~ mutual aid assistance to Kane County Emergency Management for traffic control from large motorcycle rally's
- July ~ another severe weather outbreak

In September, SCEMA brought on five new Emergency Preparedness Technicians (EPT) to bring us up to full-staffing for the first time in a few years. The quality of the new EPTs has been impressive, and they have already brought great growth to the Team.

SCEMA added our own light tower to the fleet in April. In the past, we shared a light tower with Public Works, but now have our own to respond to emergencies or situations where lighting is needed. We also took possession of two "arrow boards" from Public Works that we use for traffic control during special events and emergency call-outs. In the latter part of the year, efforts were initiated for SCEMA to purchase a drone for emergencies and special event use. Much effort has been put into the program so far, and a purchase is expected to be made by mid-2024.

As we move into the new year, we expect even greater calls for service and need for our duties to be performed. As always, we as a Team look forward to those challenges, and are ready to answer the call.

Tri-City Ambulance



By Trent Moser - TCA Administrator

In 2023, Tri-City Ambulance continued to provide high quality patient care to the citizens and visitors of the Tri-Cities with a total population of 86,964 within the five agencies.



The request for assistance continued to increase from 2022 with medic 152 being the busiest of all six front line ambulances.

Response/Origin of Service	Front Line Ambulances						Total
	152	153	251	252	51	52	
Geneva/City	34	136	993	353	16	125	1657
Geneva Twnshp	0	2	9	2	2	4	19
Batavia/City	4	9	102	66	1166	1353	2700
Batavia Twnshp	0	0	2	5	22	65	94
St Charles/City	1810	1499	185	79	28	26	3627
St Charles Twnship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Out of District	2	6	3	1	18	36	66
Total Amb Resp	1850	1652	1294	506	1252	1609	8163
Fire Responses	23	11	251	70	277	332	964
Total Responses	1873	1663	1545	576	1529	1941	9127
ALS Patients	1322	1096	715	301	783	1138	5355
BLS Patients	669	606	500	162	472	511	2920

Hospital Distribution	152	153	251	252	51	52	Total
Delnor	1443	1064	843	348	937	1278	5913
CDH	1047	48	12	12	20	13	1152
Mercy	1	1	5	2	26	38	73
Copley	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
St Joes	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
MSU	9	14	8	3	14	10	55
Sherman	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Total Transports	2501	1127	870	365	999	1339	7201
Non-Transports	264	245	328	118	232	278	1465
Treat/No Transport	24	17	16	1	13	15	86
Total Pts Seen	2789	1389	1214	484	1244	1632	8752
COQ to Geneva	2	118	0	2	44	92	258
COQ to St. Charles	0	0	0	171	0	0	171
COQ to Batavia	0	0	0	107	0	0	107
Total COQ	2	118	0	280	44	92	536



During 2023 Tri-City Ambulance had two reviewers from Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) for a site visit. They interviewed many of the staff along with leadership management of Paramedic

Services of Illinois. During their visit they traveled to all Tri-City stations with staffed ambulances along with Tri-Com and Fire Service Inc. TCA was awarded a full accreditation with a certificate until December 2025.

During the site visit one deficiency was Tri-City Ambulance needed a Strategic Plan in place with goals to improve in different parts of the organization.

The areas that the strategic plan focuses are.

1. Planning
2. Standard Operating Procedures
3. Staffing
4. Training
5. Capital Replacement/Improvement
6. Public Relations

The strategic plan was presented to the Fire Chiefs of all three cities and then approved by the Tri-City Ambulance Board.



New medic 52 was placed in service in the spring of 2023.

With a build, out time of two years and needing to keep replacement status inline the decision was made to order two new ambulances to replace Medic 152 and Medic 251 with a estimated arrival of spring of 2025.



Batavia Medic 51 and 55 gets an upgrade:

Batavia medic 51 had the Ferno cot removed and replaced with a Stryker PowerLoad system along with a Stryker electric cot. Medic 55 had the Ferno cot removed and replaced with a Stryker electric cot.

With that project done all Tri-City ambulances are equipped with the Stryker equipment with one spare cot currently being housed in St. Charles.

Technical Rescue Team



By Steve Siwy - TRT Coordinator

The St. Charles Technical Rescue Team traditionally consists of 10 members of various ranks, spread among the three shifts on the Department. The past few years

has seen the Team's ranks slowly decreasing, but we are now moving in the other direction. We had an opportunity to secure a spot on the MABAS training roster, which allowed us to add FF/PM Mario Garza to the team. This gave the team a roster of 8 for 2023. The Team was able to conduct quality training with the other Teams in MABAS Division 13, as well as conducting additional in-house drills. This allows the team to remain ready and able to respond to incidents in an effective and efficient manner both by ourselves, and in concert with our Brothers and Sisters from the surrounding communities.



The first two drills of the year were focused on the Confined Space discipline. The in-house drill allowed the team to focus on their individual line-management and equipment handling skills. The MABAS drill consisted of a rescue scenario from the top of an elevator shaft into an adjoining "service" room. This required the combination of several techniques, as well as team-work between all of the MABAS personnel.

The second MABAS drill for 2023 was a trench drill held in Batavia. This drill had the team working on 2 different types of trenches and provided an extra challenge with some very wet ground and rain passing through. The team was able to effectively recover the mannequins from the trenches in a timely manner, and in the process, identify some areas of needed improvement and also some equipment that should be replaced in the near future.

The second in-house drill date was used to get the team together to work on our trailer. We removed some equipment that was no longer of use to the team, cleaned the trailer, and moved some equipment to new locations. The team is working on ideas to refit the trailer with new and updated equipment and storage to make deployment and the tracking of inventory more efficient.

The third MABAS drill was held at North Aurora Station 1. This drill had the teams reviewing and practicing with seldom used tools and equipment. Some MABAS assets were found and redistributed to free up room in other team's trailers.

The third in-house drill had the team working on their vertical rope skills. From working on comfortability in our harnesses hanging on rope, to self-rescue applications, to techniques for rescuing others, the team spent the drill reviewing and demonstrating many skills that don't get used regularly.



This final MABAS drill of 2023 was in October and was back at the Southern Kane County Training Site. This drill was focused on building collapse. The teams worked together to breach into a structure and then provide shoring for various situations once inside. We were able to secure some lumber to build shores, as well as using pneumatic shores.

The fourth in-house drill was also focused on shoring using pneumatics, specifically the resources in our own trailer. We pulled out some seldomly used equipment practiced on some alternate techniques then are traditionally used. We were able to determine several applications for existing equipment that allow the team to be even more versatile than ever.

The Open House created a challenge again in 2023, as inclement weather caused us to host the event indoors. The team didn't let that stop us from having fun and educating the public, while also entertaining them. We set up some ropes in the hose-tower and demonstrated rappelling, inverting, and climbing ropes.

The team has put in some requests for equipment to retro-fit the supplied air-carts to change over from the old Draeger system to the MSA systems that we currently use. We have also put in a request to replace some PPE that is expiring in 2024. We are also creating proposals to replace some aging equipment with newer and more versatile options.

After a successful year of training, the team is planning to continue participating in the Quarterly MABAS training, as well as conducting four in-house drills to hone and maintain our skill levels.

Lastly, the Team is actively recruiting to bring the membership back up to 10. We plan on bringing on 2 members in 2024 and a 3rd in 2025.





Hazardous Materials Team



*By Lieutenant Joseph Davila,
Hazardous Materials Team Leader*

2023 was a moderately active year for the St Charles Hazmat team. We had several calls for service throughout the year which were handled by on-duty crews. There was one significant incident which required the response of our Hazmat team members to respond as part of the MABAS division 13 Hazmat response team.

We started the year off with an Audit performed by MABAS Illinois. Because we are members of the MABAS division 13 Hazmat team and carry State issued assets on our hazmat trailer, we were included in the audit which looked at our equipment readiness and training records. I am happy to report that we passed the audit with no recommendations made by MABAS.

On February 7th 2023, the Geneva Fire Department responded to a reported explosion at 411 Union Street,

Olon Industries. Upon arrival, Geneva Fire found that a chemical explosion did occur causing damage to part of the structure and was producing a heat releasing and toxic vapor cloud. A request was made for the MABAS division 13 Hazmat team to respond and assist in controlling the incident. St Charles responded with Truck 101, Battalion 100, Medic 153, several Hazmat team members as well as our Hazmat trailer. The incident evolved as the chemical reaction caused enough heat to start a fire. There were several evacuations that needed to be made as the toxic cloud was drifting into a residential area in downtown Geneva. After performing a risk analysis, Truck 101 was utilized to knock down the vapor cloud in order to minimize the travel of the toxic vapor. Hazmat crews evaluated the products involved and due to the ensuing fire, took a defensive approach in mitigating this incident. Hazmat team members provided atmospheric monitoring of the area and set up containment of the run-off from the water being used to contain the vapor cloud. Hazmat crews remained





on site with Kane County Emergency Management Agency and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency until the incident was secured. No injuries were reported during the three-and-a-half-hour incident.

Members of the St Charles Hazmat team participated in the required, four MABAS 13 HMRT training sessions. Each session is four hours in length and covered a variety of topics from atmospheric monitoring, science and incident command priorities to several full-scale scenario-based training sessions which allowed technicians the opportunity to hone their craft and work with technicians from other departments within the MABAS 13 division.

The Hazmat team welcomed a new member in 2023, Firefighter Jacob Johns. Due to a vacancy in our allotted membership staffing level, Jacob volunteered to become a member of the Hazmat team. He was promptly placed on the training roster for MABAS division 13 which allows for reimbursement from the Illinois Terrorism Task Force to attend technician school. Firefighter Johns will be attending technician school in 2024 to become a certified Hazmat technician.

We wrapped up the year by having all of our members receive the federally required annual hazardous materials technician physicals. Health Endeavors once again provided the physicals for our technicians in December which maintains their ability to operate in offensive activities and in fully encapsulated level A suits.

The department atmospheric meter program continues to be administered by Firefighter/Paramedic Wes Gosser. Wes provided calibrations of all department meters and coordinated repairs of meters as needed. The department added two additional four-gas atmospheric monitors to the fleet for the Fire Prevention Bureau inspectors who also serve as incident safety officers on fire scenes.

There were no capital expenditures for the Hazmat team in 2023, consumables were either replaced or downgraded to training as needed throughout the year.

As the year came to an end, MABAS division 13 was requested to provide five members to participate in a joint effort between the City of Chicago, Department of Homeland Security and the FBI in an effort to provide anti-terrorism duties for the Democratic National Convention in 2024. Lieutenant Joe Davila will be heading up this initiative which will include intensive specialized training, acquisition of specialized monitoring equipment which will be provided by the Federal Government and active involvement in Chicago during the week of the DNC. We were also advised of a joint MABAS readiness exercise that will be taking place in April 2024.

It has been our pleasure serving this community and protecting it, and the environment, from the effects of Hazardous Materials. Through continuing education and training, we strive to maintain our readiness to respond to the challenges and threats that surround us.



Water Rescue Team



By Lt. Michael Neumaier - Water Rescue Team Leader



The St. Charles Fire Department Underwater Rescue and Recovery team is currently made up of Ten divers, all of which are certified Paramedics. Team members are certified at the Public Safety Diver level, with Ice diving and Swift Water Rescue certifications. At this time, we are well equipped and trained to handle most any type of

water related incidents in the area that we serve with a high degree of professionalism and safety for our personnel.

The Trident

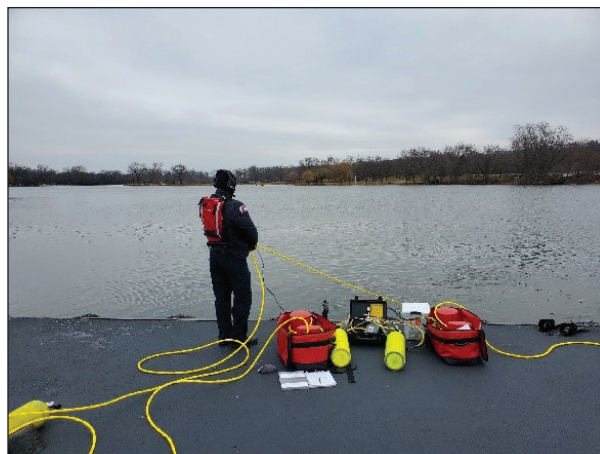
The Public Safety Diver Trident is a pin that is worn on the diver's class A uniform and represents that the diver has been certified in the three main disciplines of the water rescue team, Public Safety Diver, Ice Diver and Swift Water Rescue. It typically takes several years of training to achieve these certifications.

Training

In 2023 the team participated in eight team training exercises, ranging from pool skill drills, classroom and open water dives.



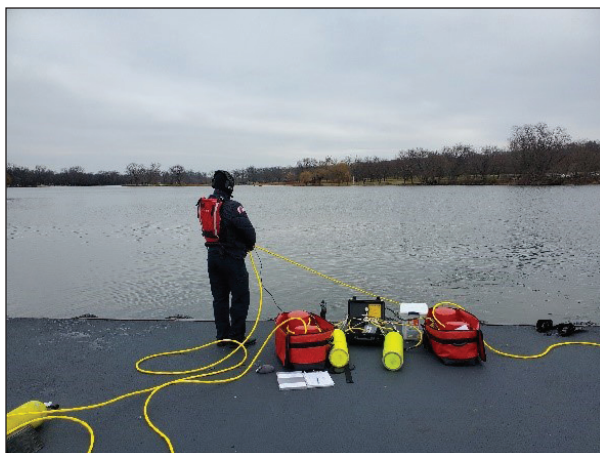
- In January the team conducted an open water training dive in the Fox River at the Boy Scout Island ramp. Diver deployment, current diving, search patterns, diver tending and victim recovery were the focus of the drill.



- In February the team was back in the Fox River working on proficiency at pattern work for search and recovery.



- In April the team held a classroom session focused on emergency gear removal and diver first aid.
- In May the team traveled to Yorkville for Swift Water training utilizing the Marge Cline Whitewater Course.



- In August the team traveled to Crystal lake for a joint training dive with Elgin Fire Departments water rescue Team.
- In September the team was back in the Fox River at Boy Scout Island practicing evidence search and recovery techniques.



- In October the team traveled to Deep Quarry Lake in Bartlett for a joint training dive with teams from MABAS divisions 1 and 12.
- In November the team completed the required annual International Association of Dive Recue Specialists swim qualification.

A special thank you to the following agencies that have assisted our team in its success:

- City of St. Charles
- St. Charles Fire Department
- St. Charles Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board
- Hilton Garden Inn
- St. Charles Park District
- Illinois Institute of Diving
- Norris Recreation Center
- DJ's Scuba
- Otter Cove Water Park
- Swanson Pool



FIRE INVESTIGATIONS TEAM



By Battalion Chief Dave Chmelar

It is the responsibility of the Fire Investigations Team to ensure that all fires are investigated within the jurisdiction of the city of St. Charles on the behalf of the Fire

Chief. Fire Investigators attend initial training through an Office of the State Fire Marshall approved course. This course is typically delivered in three 40-hour modules and is based on NFPA 1033, the Standard of Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, and NFPA 921, the Guideline for Fire and Explosion Investigations. Once certified, all Fire Investigators must show proficiency in their skills by participating in the OSFM recertification process. This recertification process documents the continuing education training members complete, as well as hands on field experience. Continuing education consists of quarterly department team training, online courses, as well as outside classes team members may attend. Recertification is required every four years and is based on a point system, with members providing documentation to the OSFM showing proof of a minimum of 100 hours of education /experience in that four-year period.

The Fire Investigations team is structured to provide, at a minimum, two certified fire investigators per shift. With the addition of 3 investigators in 2022, the team is currently operating with eight investigators. This provides for the minimum two per shift goal, with two additional investigators on the team to ensure staffing levels are sustained. In conjunction with the departments commitment to provide for future needs of the functional areas of the fire department, two additional department members have been approved to attend the OSFM certification courses, bringing the Investigations Team staffing level to 12 members. This will account for future retirements of members, while providing mentorship for the two members joining the team. Currently the team members are:

Team Leader B/C David Chmelar, Assistant Team Leader FF/PM Christian Thomas, B/C Tony Centimano, Lt. Steven Rehak, Lt. Ryan Gleason, FF/PM Nick Marqui, FF/PM Scott Sulak, and FF/PM Andrew Cichon.

In 2024 the team will be continuing efforts to provide our members with PPE (personal protective equipment) designed to provide our investigators with the best protection possible. This equipment ranges from outer wear to get our investigators out of their contaminated turnout gear after a fire and into clean outerwear, to new scene lighting for use while conducting a fire investigation. The subsequent investigation after a fire has been extinguished can be as hazardous as the initial fire itself regarding the contaminated atmosphere that the investigators are required to work in. Clean clothing, breathing respirators, and proper scene ventilation help to minimize these hazards. The process of identifying our needs and then submitting the request for purchase is ongoing. The Investigations team continues to be fully supported by the administration and the city in this initiative, and it is greatly appreciated.

Training for the team continues to be at the forefront of the teams 2024 agenda. With the recent rise of solar power in both the commercial and residential setting, the team will be working with the departments training division to create awareness in this area, as well as identify the proper way to process a scene for investigation purposes. This will ensure a safe and thorough investigation is completed.

Another training initiative for the members in 2024 is the continuing use of the department investigation reporting system that was put into place in 2023. This platform has proven extremely beneficial, and the team will continue to hone its use to ensure that our investigations are documented properly and that members are submitting all the necessary information into the ESO investigation report.

The fire investigations team members perform several functions during a cause and origin fire investigation. These functions include scene security, safety analysis, photo documentation, and creating the written investigation report. Fire investigators will also on occasion be required to work with outside entities such as law enforcement, OSFM investigators, ATF, County Coroner Office, and third-party investigators. The St. Charles Investigations Team has diligently



worked to cultivate good working relationships with these entities, which has proven to be beneficial when investigation questions or needs arise.

For the 2023 calendar year the Fire Investigations Team responded to and conducted 31 fire investigations. Fires occurring in structures, vehicles, and appliances are all examples of fires that are investigated. All reported fires are considered significant. A thorough investigation of the incident does more than just determine the cause and origin of the fire. The investigation also allows the Fire Department to better understand the threat of fires in the community and proactively take steps to ensure the safety of residents, business owners, and visitors.

Investigations can assist in developing trends and identifying fire prevention needs. For instance, if after reviewing fire investigation reporting data, the department identifies there is an increase in fires involving juveniles within the community, the department can then tailor the needs of its fire prevention program to make a concentrated effort to educate children of the hazards associated with improper use/handling of flammables. Investigation reporting is also valuable when evaluating the effectiveness of the city fire code and code enforcement, as well as determining the effectiveness of the Fire Departments response to incidents.

Vision:

The St. Charles Fire Department: A professional fire service organization committed to compassionate duty and an example of integrity and courage in the community.



Our vision is that, by 2027, we will continue to be known as an ISO Class 1 and internationally accredited fire service organization. We will have clearly demonstrated our commitment to our citizens through enhanced external relationships and superb fire and EMS delivery. This service will be provided by a healthy and fit workforce, further supported by a world-class training program. Our daily tasks will be more efficient and effective with improved use of our most valuable assets - our workforce. Efficiencies in all of our processes will be realized by enhanced internal communication and workforce development and management programs designed to enhance the quality of life of those who serve within this organization.

We endeavor to live our purpose and values as we deliver our mission, accomplish our goals, and bring this vision to fruition.

Honor Guard



By Lt. Chad Tinsley

The Honor Guard is used to promote our Department and the fire service, to the public in a positive and proper fashion.

The City of St. Charles FD

Honor Guard, founded in January of 2015; provides a dignified, honorable service for fallen members, their surviving family members, and our brothers and sisters through organization/participation in funeral and memorial services. Also, the SCFD Honor Guard is most frequently used to represent our FD in our City Parades and Fire Department Promotion/Retirement Ceremonies in order to maintain the traditions of the fire service.

In addition to the above, the Fire Department Honor Guard is responsible for the planning and participation of our 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony which takes place annually the morning of September 11th at the St. Charles Fire Department Memorial.

Fire Department Ceremonies & Events for 2023:

- Memorial Ceremony for Retired FF/PM Tim McCarthy, May 2nd
- Retirement "Walk-Out" Ceremony for Lt. Al Wade, May 6th
- Annual Elgin Area Firefighter Memorial, May 20th
- Retirement "Walk-Out" Ceremony for Deputy Chief Kevin Christensen, June 9th
- Promotion & Swearing-In Ceremony, September 5th
- Annual 9/11 Ceremony, September 11th
- Veterans Day Ceremony, November 11th
- Retirement "Walk-Out" Ceremony for FF/PM Kelly Malone, November 26th

Honor Guard Team Drills for 2023:

- January: Annual Meeting, Flag Posting & Flag Folding
- March: Drill & Ceremony
- May: Memorial Day Parade Preparation
- August: Drill & Ceremony Training for All Department Personnel
- September: 9/11 Ceremony Preparation

We would like to thank Fire Administration for their continued support of the team as well as the Foreign Fire Tax Board for assisting with past purchases of team equipment. Also, we would like to give a special "Thank you" to the Wreath Company, Two Inspire You located at 761 N. 17th Street who made and donated our new Fire Department Wreath.

Honor Guard Members

- Lieutenant Tinsley (HG Commander/Team Leader)
- Lieutenant Rehak (Deputy Commander/Team Deputy)
- Deputy Chief A. Cavallo
- Captain M. Pyzyna
- Lieutenant C. Lo
- Lieutenant P. Lacey
- FF/PM C. Thomas
- FF/PM S. Siwy
- FF/PM M. Mols
- FF/PM K. Kasperek
- FF/PM C. Overland (Joining 2024)

Fire Prevention Bureau



By Deputy Chief Jeremy Mauthe

The function of the Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) is to manage all fire prevention and life safety programs. The Bureau's activities include the enforcement of codes, standards, plan reviews and inspections. The FPB reviews and inspects all permitted projects from basic remodels of existing properties through all new building construction. Fire company personnel inspect all commercial, retail, warehouse, and factory occupancy spaces/buildings annually. This process ensures compliance with all adopted codes and applicable standards. The Fire Prevention Bureau follows the International Code Council (ICC) 2021 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC) with local amendments and the 2021 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code by ordinance.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is managed by Deputy Chief Jeremy Mauthe, who oversees two Lieutenants assigned to the bureau - Lieutenant Mike Neumaier and Lieutenant Joe Davila. The Lieutenants assigned to

the FPB concentrate on plan reviews and inspections (fire alarm, sprinkler system, kitchen suppression, above/below ground hydrostatic test, underground flush, hydrant flow test, final occupancy, etc.) related to remodels and new construction. Additionally, all Community Unit School District 303 buildings are also inspected annually by the Fire Prevention Bureau, in conjunction with representatives from the Kane County Regional Office of Education. Occupancies classified as target hazards (hotels, nursing homes, assisted living, etc.) are also inspected by the FPB quarterly. Fire company personnel are assigned monthly property maintenance inspections for occupancies located in each of the three still response districts. These inspections rotate annually between the three shifts to ensure that different personnel inspect these occupancies each year. All inspection personnel use an electronic tablet and software to schedule, track, and complete their inspections. This provides real-time reporting, accuracy in data collection, and reduction in paper filing.

The following are the inspection activities for calendar year 2021-2023:

Company Fire Inspection Activity

Inspection Activity	2021	2022	2023
Annual Occupancy Inspections	1,742	2,787	2,646
Annual Occupancy Re-Inspections	926	*	*
Totals	1,851	2,787	2,646

**Annual occupancy inspections & re-inspections combined for 2022*



Fire Prevention Bureau Activity

Inspection Activity	2021	2022	2023
Plan Review	337	331	365
Final Occupancy Inspection	104	100	105
Quarterly Fire Inspection	51	75	93
Annual Occupancy Inspection	43	87	103
Complaint Inspection	23	36	49
Event Inspection	3	0	0
Fire Drill	19	19	17
Consultation	32	8	10
Fire Alarm Testing	81	61	76
Above Ceiling Inspection	32	19	17
Kitchen Suppression System Test	8	4	8
Aboveground Sprinkler Piping Hydrostatic Test	44	31	36
Sprinkler System Piping 24-hour Air Test	5	2	4
Underground Sprinkler Piping Hydrostatic Test	8	10	28
Underground Sprinkler Piping Flush	12	6	19
Fire Pump Test	9	9	7
Water Flow Fire Hydrant Testing	6	3	7
Electric Shunt Trip Test	4	1	3
Kitchen Hood & Duct Inspection	9	7	4
Knox Box Installation/Key Lock-up	8	2	5
Occupancy Load Calculation	2	0	0
Tent Inspection	*	2	0
B.A.S.E. Inspection	*	3	8
Violation Notices	*	*	406
Totals	840	816	1,370

**Not previously reported*

Public Education



By Captain Mike Pyzyna - Public Education Team Leader

2023 was the first back to normal operations with all of the Public Education Programs since the beginning of COVID.

The annual open house was held again this year with the plan to be 50% outside due to some bad weather forecast. However, the weather for the most part held off during the actual open house and again had a near record turn-out.

Fire Prevention month school assemblies within the schools continued for the 23/24 school year. Everyone was really excited to be back and doing the assemblies again.

In 2023 the St. Charles Fire Department learned that the South Elgin Fire Protection District was selling their fire safety smoke trailer that we have used at our open houses almost every year. Through the efforts of the Public Education Team and the Foreign Fire Tax Board we were able to purchase the trailer from South Elgin. The purpose of the trailer is to demonstrate fire safety in the home, how to stay low and get out of the house in smoky conditions and the importance of a meeting place. The trailer arrived at the end of February and had some minor improvements made to it along with a newer updated exterior wrap. The plan is to incorporate this unit into our school programs and to develop a program around the trailer itself.

The fire department was able to have another fantastic showing at the holiday lights parade for its return. Sparky was still present but left his home for the second year in a row. The fire department also earned the Community Award given at the December City Council Meeting for the parade entry.

In person classes for CPR resumed to normal capacity with each monthly class being taught. Extinguisher training resumed to normal levels as well.

The community was out in full force on Halloween even during the crazy snow storm that hit. Department members were met with a very positive reception while out delivering treats, a pub-ed message and a warm greeting.

The fire department also started to keep track of how many activities the department does for public education and how many people we have had the pleasure of educating. The new tracking started in late August so next year we will have higher numbers to keeps tabs on. The 2023 year is shown as follows:

- FD Open House approximately 350 people
- Bring Your Student to Work Day (30 students & 22 adults)
- Park District Touch a Truck approximately 300 adults and kids
- Safety Event at Meijer
- Ice Cream Social at River Glen
- Holiday Lights Parade
- Fire Safety Event at Lowes'
- 3 - 4th of July Parades
- 8 - Block Parties
- 16 - CPR Classes (12 monthly, 2 for Tri-Com, 2 for PD)
- 17 - Preschool Visits (780 kids 4-5 years old)
- 4 - Fire Prevention Week Elementary School Visits
- 7 - Fire Extinguisher Training Classes



- 1 – Job Shadow
- 1 – Lunch with the Chief
- 1 – FD Escort for Cal's Angels Bike Ride
- 1 – Recruitment
- 12 – Senior Smoke/Safety Checks (26 smoke, 2 CO, 8 batteries)
- 19 – Station Tours
 - 6 – Girl Scouts
 - 2 – Boy Scouts
 - 5 – School Groups
 - 3 – Birthdays
 - 3 – Walk-ins
 - Kids 0-5 years = 42
 - Kids 5-10 years = 113
 - Kids 10+ years = 20
 - Adults = 80

Hope everyone has a Healthy, Safe, and Happy 2024!!

Values



COMMITMENT
to serve the community



INTEGRITY
to do the right thing



COURAGE
to act and persevere

Occupational Safety and Health Committee



By Deputy Chief Jeremy Mauthe

The Occupational Safety and Health Committee meets monthly and is comprised of both union and management members who are responsible for discussing matters

relating to the health, safety, and welfare for members of the department.

The 2023 Occupational Safety & Health Committee was comprised of the following individuals:

Fire Chief Scott Swanson, Deputy Chief Jeremy Mauthe, Deputy Chief Tony Cavallo, Captain Jeff Tarro, Captain Rainier Galliano, Captain Mike Pyzyna, and Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Gleason

The committee is responsible for discussing the following actions throughout the year:

- Review workplace recommendations on possible hazards to safe and healthy job assignments and workplace conditions.
- Review department accidents and injuries to discuss the reasons why the incident occurred and provide recommendations to prevent similar occurrences in the future.
- Review the safety aspects of apparatus, equipment, and protective clothing with the goal of improving safety and operations within the department.
- Overseeing periodic inspections of fire department facilities, apparatus, protective equipment, protective clothing, and other equipment related to safety.

Fire Department Work Related Injuries

For calendar year 2023, the committee reviewed three (3) fire department employee work-related injuries resulting in a total of six (6) days of lost time at work and a total of one (1) day assigned to transitional duty.

The previous year, the committee reviewed four (4) fire department employee work-related injuries resulting in a total of seven (7) days of lost time at work and a total of ninety-nine (99) days assigned to transitional duty. Below are the total number of fire department employee work-related injuries for 2021-2023:

Fire Department Employee Work-Related Injuries

Year	Number of Employee Injuries
2021	2
2022	4
2023	3

Fire Department Work Related Vehicle Accidents

For calendar year 2023, the committee reviewed four (4) fire department employee vehicle accidents. Below are the total number of fire department employee work-related injuries for 2021-2023:

Fire Department Work-Related Vehicle Accidents

Year	Number of Vehicle Accidents
2021	6
2022	2
2023	4



Training



By Battalion Chief David Chmelar

In the 2023 year the St. Charles Fire Department again dedicated significant time to complete training in all areas of fire department operations, ranging from fire prevention and data analysis to emergency medical care. The Training Division is responsible for creating a program that challenges our personnel to stay current with the latest in both firefighting and emergency medical services. The department has structured daily training to ensure our personnel are ready to respond to the call for help, whatever emergency they may be called to mitigate.

Training Division responsibilities include the following:

- Management of the department training program
- Coordination of specialty team training (Technical Rescue, Water Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Fire Investigations, Public Education, and Honor Guard)
- Liaison with ancillary training organizations (Illinois Fire Service Institute, Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors, Illinois Fire Inspectors Association, Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System)
- Evaluation of annual training program effectiveness
- Maintenance of Training Records and Reports

The Training Division is also responsible for developing and distributing a monthly training calendar identifying the schedule and objectives to be completed each month. Company Officers are responsible for the training program delivery for each of their members.

The department utilizes a records management software program to record and track assigned training for the year. The monthly training is developed and entered into the software program to ensure compliance with the Insurance Service Office (ISO) training standards. An ISO training credential is assigned annually to department members based upon each individual's job classification for the calendar year. There is a minimum of 240 hours of annual training assigned to the credential. These hours are further broken down into the following categories:

• Company Training Hours	192
• Facilities Training.....	18
• Officer Training.....	12
• Driver Training.....	12
• Hazardous Materials Training.....	6

In addition to ensuring members are in compliance with the ISO training requirements, the Office of the State Fire Marshall now requires that members who achieve OSFM certifications show proof of competency through a recertification process that is based on personnel completing tasks or job performance requirements (JPRs) for the certifications they have earned. These training records are then documented using the same software program used for ISO training documentation. This process ensures personnel retain the knowledge and skills they learned when initially certified in a given area.

Department members completed a combined total of 13,375 hours of training in the calendar year 2023.



Members attending outside classes attained the following certifications in calendar year 2023:

Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy

Megan Funk..... Vehicle and Machinery Technician
 Ben Gore Company Fire Officer
 Ben Gore Tower Rescue Technician
 Mike Pyzyna..... Command Officer Academy

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

Chad Tinsley..... Advanced Fire Officer
 Brad Wilton..... Advanced Fire Office

Romeoville Fire Academy

Andrew Cichon..... Company Fire Officer
 Patrick Lacey..... Company Fire Officer Academy
 Michael Pyzyna..... Command Officer Academy

Illinois Fire Service Institute

David Chmelar..... Training Program Manager
 Michael Compton Fire Service Vehicle Operator
 Mario Garza..... Trench Rescue Technician
 Mario Garza..... Rope Rescue Technician

Fire Prevention

Joe Davila Public Life Safety Educator
 Joe Davila Understanding Fire Alarms/Plan Reviews
 Joe Davila Fire Inspector II
 Joe Davila Advanced Fire Sprinkler Plan Review

Specialty Courses

Tony Cavallo Data Analysis and Presentation for Fire & EMS
 Tony Cavallo Nicor Gas Fire School
 Tony Cavallo IPELRA, (Illinois Public Employer Labor Relations Assoc.)
 Tony Cavallo IPELRA - Legislative Update
 Tony Cavallo Kent Law Conference
 Natalie Hodson Data Analysis & Presentation for Fire & EMS
 Jeremy Mauthe..... IPELRA (Illinois Public Employer Labor Relations Assoc.)
 Matt Mols IAFF Peer Fitness Trainer
 Steve Rehak Nicor Gas Fire School
 Steve Rehak Kent Law Conference
 Steve Siwy..... Kent Law Conference
 Scott Swanson IPELRA Legislative Update
 Chad Tinsley..... Nicor Gas Fire School

The Training Division continued to build on structured multi-company drills with our neighboring community departments as well. These training evolutions constitute a significant investment by the department in order to provide the best service possible to our residents as well as the surrounding communities that the St. Charles Fire Department assists as needed. This also is completed to fulfill OSFM requirements, maintain best practices, and continually evaluate our training program.

2023 proved once again the Training Divisions dedication and commitment to provide our personnel with the most relevant and beneficial training opportunities available. The city has fully supported the department in both training and education, which in return provides the city with an extremely competent and professional Fire Department.

Fleet



By Battalion Chief Jason Peterson

The Fleet division is staffed by City mechanics that operate out of the main public works complex at 1405 S. 7th Ave. The Fleet department is made up of four primary Mechanics. Fleet Supervisor Adam Szalkowski, John Emma, Adrian Corona, and Kyle Schultz. Adam implemented a Google spreadsheet system in 2022 to enhance the tracking and documentation of all repairs completed on Fire Department and EMA vehicles. This tracking system has streamlined the preventative maintenance program by updating the vehicle mileage on a weekly basis. This tracking system also has the entire fleet on one spreadsheet for easy viewing and navigation. A rigorous preventative maintenance program has continued under the current Fleet Department. All major repairs have been completed in an expedient manner which has kept the time the apparatus have been out of service to a minimum. Unfortunately, we are not exempt from the supply chain

issues and have had several large repairs lingering due to the delay in getting certain parts. The most notable being our reserve Ladder Truck which was out of service for almost 6 months due to rear suspension issues and delays in receiving custom parts.

The fire department had the pleasure of adding two new 2023 Chevy Tahoes to the fleet this year. These vehicles replaced the aging Deputy Chief Car 112 and the Battalion 100 vehicle. As we replace our fleet, we must retire and dispose of our older apparatus as they move from frontline service to either reserve status or surplus. The replaced 2014 Tahoe's were sent to the City Fleet Department to get repurposed by another department in the city or sold as surplus.

The fire department is still in the process of putting a barcode system in place that will streamline equipment and apparatus checks with the aid of an electronic scanner. This system will enhance the daily apparatus inventory accuracy and allow the crews to be more efficient with their daily routine.



Facilities



By Battalion Chief Jason Peterson

The St. Charles Fire Department has three fire stations that are maintained by the City's Facilities Division. There is never a shortage of repairs to be done due to the

aging outline Stations that were built in the mid 1980's. The City's Facilities management team consists of A.J. Reineking, Max VanDeMark, Tony Whittaker, Scott Ludke, Allen Kane, and Cory Hallahan. They make up a phenomenal team that works to keep our buildings in pristine working order by managing the daily repairs and forecasting and budgeting for the capital projects.

Scott Ludke retired in May of 2023 after serving the Buildings and Grounds Division in the City for 30 years.

The kitchen projects for Stations 2 and 3 took huge steps in 2023 even though no physical work was completed on the kitchen remodels. There was a lot of behind the scenes work going on in preparation for the remodels to kick off in early 2024. The prints were finalized, cabinets and appliances were ordered, and bids went out for the contractor work. Both kitchen remodels should be completed by the end of 2024.

The West facing apparatus doors and bunk room windows at Fire Station 1 had reflective tinting installed on the windows to allow for added security and aid in keeping the Station cooler during warmer temperatures.

The aging garage door openers on all seven front line bay doors were replaced to avoid costly repairs and add dependability to the opening systems. Along with

the new openers, six-foot light curtains were installed on all seven doors for added safety for all employees and the public. The light curtains took the place of the outdated Miller strip bottom door sensors and the photo eye sensors. The older door safety devices became unreliable and caused several mishaps with vehicles due to them malfunctioning.

To assure better communication and awareness in each firehouse, six new status boards were added to the stations. These monitors were added to the workout rooms and front offices at all three stations for improved communication, monitoring, and awareness of emergency responses in progress and incoming. This was a joint effort between the 2% Board for purchasing the monitors, Buildings and Grounds for installing the monitors, and finally the Meter Department for putting it all together and making everything work.

To provide added security at crucial entry points at Station 1, four new card readers were added to the following locations. The SCBA Room, rear patio door, apparatus floor foyer door, and the South exterior entrance door. This project would not have been possible without the assistance of our IS and Meter Departments in the City.

In order to make the exterior space more usable at Station 2, a 20 ft. x 10 ft. patio extension was added to the East patio area. This allows for adequate room for seating as well as accommodations for the grills and smoker that are stored on the patio. This project was orchestrated by the Buildings and Grounds Department in a timely manner through the City.



Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board



*By Lt. Guy Gresser -
Board Chairman*

The Foreign Fire Insurance Board (the "Board") consists of six (6) full-time, sworn members of the Department elected by their

peers in addition to the Fire Chief by virtue of rank. It is the mission of the Board to receive and account for revenues from the tax on fire insurance policies sold by foreign (out-of-state) insurance companies and to use such funds for the maintenance, use, and benefit of the Department.

In 2023, the Board approved several purchases to improve the "house" part of the firehouses. The stations got some new cooking utensils and small appliances for the kitchen, air purifiers for the sleeping areas, and Station 1 received a picnic table and outdoor furniture for the patio area behind the building.

The Foreign Fire Fund helps pay for a professional fitness trainer to coordinate physical exercise and workouts. This helps the firefighters maintain good physical conditioning needed for their job and, hopefully, helps reduce the likelihood of injury. New stretching equipment was added to the weight rooms also.

Some new monitors were added for training and additional Status Boards were installed in the stations. These Status Boards display a map of the area showing current fire and police incidents, as well as the location of the units. This helps improve response times, provides information on the incident, and shows the location of the closest unit.

The Board also purchased a drone for the fire department. Once delivered, some department members will be trained and licensed to fly it. This project should be completed in 2024.

Current Foreign Fire Insurance Board members include:

- Lt. Guy Gresser - Board Chairman
- Deputy Chief Anthony Cavallo - Vice Chairman
- FF/PM Andrew Kidd - Secretary
- FF/PM Kevin Kasperek - Treasurer
- FF Phil Kuhn- Trustee
- FF/PM Ben Gore - Trustee
- Fire Chief Scott Swanson - Trustee



Newly Hired and Milestones in 2023



Newly Hired Personnel in 2023

FF/PM Mike Compton – 8/7/2023
 FF/PM Ryan Thomas – 9/18/2023
 Paramedic Kaitlyn Kenamer – 1/7/2023
 Paramedic Brian Mayer – 8/30/2023
 Paramedic Clinton Lawler – 10/9/2023
 Paramedic Emily Murphy – 12/19/2023

EMA Technician Ryan Brazda – 2/10/2023
 EMA Technician – Steve Spradling – 4/10/2023
 EMA Technician Keegan Dziubinski – 5/1/2023
 EMA Technician Sarah Bowen – 8/28/2023
 EMA Technician Sean Madison – 8/28/2023
 EMA Technician Tim Schaefer – 8/28/2023
 EMA Technician AJ Siddiqui – 8/28/2023

Promotions in 2023



DC Jeremy Mauthe
7/10/2023



BC Dave Chmelar
7/10/2023



Capt. Mike Pyzyna
7/10/2023



Lt. Patrick Lacey
7/10/2023



Lt. Ryan Gleason
7/10/2023

Retirements in 2023



DC Kevin Christensen
6/9/2023
36 years of service



FF/PM Kelly Malone
11/26/2023
20 years of service



Lieutenant Allen Wade
5/6/2023
23 years of service



2023 Department Roster

Administration

Fire Chief Scott Swanson
Sr. Administrative Assistant, Carole Murphy
Deputy Chief Tony Cavallo

TCA Administrator Trent Moser
Deputy Chief Jeremy Mauthe
EMA Coordinator Mark Chmura

Support Services/Fire Prevention Bureau

Lieutenant Mike Neumaier
Lieutenant Joe Davila

Records Specialist Natalie Hodson
Administrative Assistant Tara Strachan

Black Shift

Battalion Chief Anthony Centimano
Captain Jeff Tarro
Lieutenant Guy Gresser
Lieutenant Clifford Lo
Lieutenant Wes Gosser
FF/PM Donald Fruland

FF/PM Christian Thomas
FF/PM Scott Sulak
FF/PM Andrew Perry
FF/PM Ben Gore
FF/PM Mario Garza
FF/PM Kevin Kasperek

FF/PM Daniel Kray
Paramedic Steve Williams
Paramedic Stephen Glatstein
Paramedic Sandra Cheatham
Paramedic Clinton Lawler

Red Shift

Battalion Chief Dave Chmelar
Captain Mike Pyzyna
Lieutenant Chad Tinsley
Lieutenant Steve Rehak
Lieutenant Patrick Lacey
FF/PM Nick Marqui

FF/PM Steve Siwy
FF/PM Brandon Paus
FF/PM Megan Funk
FF/PM Matthew Mols
FF/PM Robert Sheehan
FF/PM Austin Wolf

FF/PM Derek Mortensen
FF/PM Michael Compton
Paramedic Michelle Hanks
Paramedic Heather Scionti
Paramedic David Harrison

Gold Shift

Battalion Chief Jason Peterson
Captain Rainier Galliano
Lieutenant Steve Dries
Lieutenant Brad Wilton
Lieutenant Ryan Gleason
Firefighter Phil Kuhn

FF/PM Trevor Kelly
FF/PM Brian Hansen
FF/PM Andrew Kidd
FF/PM Andrew Cichon
FF/PM Jacob Johns
FF/PM Chris Overland

FF/PM Ryan Thomas
Paramedic Breahna Noyes
Paramedic Brian Mayer
Paramedic Emily Murphy
Paramedic Kaitlyn Kenamer

EMA

Paul Pfothenauer
James Colbert
Tim Muzzey
Edgar Arevalo

Aaron Dirck
Brian Schmitz
Reuben Arrambide
Teddron Mapp

Gerald Schmitz
Doug Bauder
Mike Mustard
Doug Simmons



**St. Charles Fire Department
Annual Report 2023**

St. Charles Fire Department
112 N. Riverside Avenue
St. Charles, IL 60174
630.377.4458



CITY OF
ST. CHARLES
ILLINOIS • 1834

stcharlesil.gov/departments/fire