



compassion  
courage  
commitment



# Park Forest Fire Dept 2023 Annual Report





# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the men and women of the Park Forest Fire Department, we are proud to present the 2023 Annual Report. The PFFD is committed to providing community risk reduction and all hazards emergency response to the residents of Park Forest and the numerous visitors to our community. It is our hope this report will provide you with information about how the PFFD is a resource to help all members of our community. You will note the complexity of today's fire service has drastically changed from the time we just responded to structure fires. Today, our members are also trained in EMS (paramedic), hazardous material operations, technical rescue operation, water rescue, fire investigations and incident command (Blue Card) to name a few. Each of these disciplines require our members to complete mandatory continuing education for each topic. The knowledge, skills, and abilities, as well as the mental and physical training required to ensure operational readiness in the form of professional service, risk reduction, rapid response, and compassionate care to the community is foremost on the department's list of priorities.

As Park Forest continues to evolve and transform over time, your fire department has undergone changes as well. There is an ongoing effort to improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of our services to ensure the needs of our community are met. In my career, I have seen our call volume double. Because of the increased call volume and the increased job scope, our organization developed a strategic plan to increase staffing. Working collaboratively with Village Administration, staff started a re-organization project. The project started three ago when the department secured a SAFER grant from FEMA which allowed the hiring of two additional firefighters. With this increase, and the transfer of our daytime/administrative lieutenant back to shift, the department was able to increase daily minimum staffing from five to six firefighter/paramedics. Additionally, the department created and promoted a lieutenant on each shift. Strategically this now allows the department to be staffed daily with a shift commander, a three-person Engine Company, and a two-person advanced lifesaving ambulance. In 2023 the department completed the project to restructure the organization when we filled our Deputy Chief position which had been vacant for the past two years.

The highlights in this report would not be possible without the efforts put forth each day by the 28 men and women who are dedicated to Professionalism, Responsibility, Integrity, Dependability, and Empathy. Thank you for the privilege and honor to serve our great community.

*Sincerely,  
Chief Tracy Natyshok*



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**RESPECT  
TRUST  
LOYALTY  
INTEGRITY  
TEAMWORK  
HONESTY**

**CORE  
VALUES  
&  
MISSION**

**The men and women of the Park Forest Fire Department are highly trained and skilled individuals dedicated to serving the citizens of Park Forest by protecting lives and property from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies, and hazardous conditions.**



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

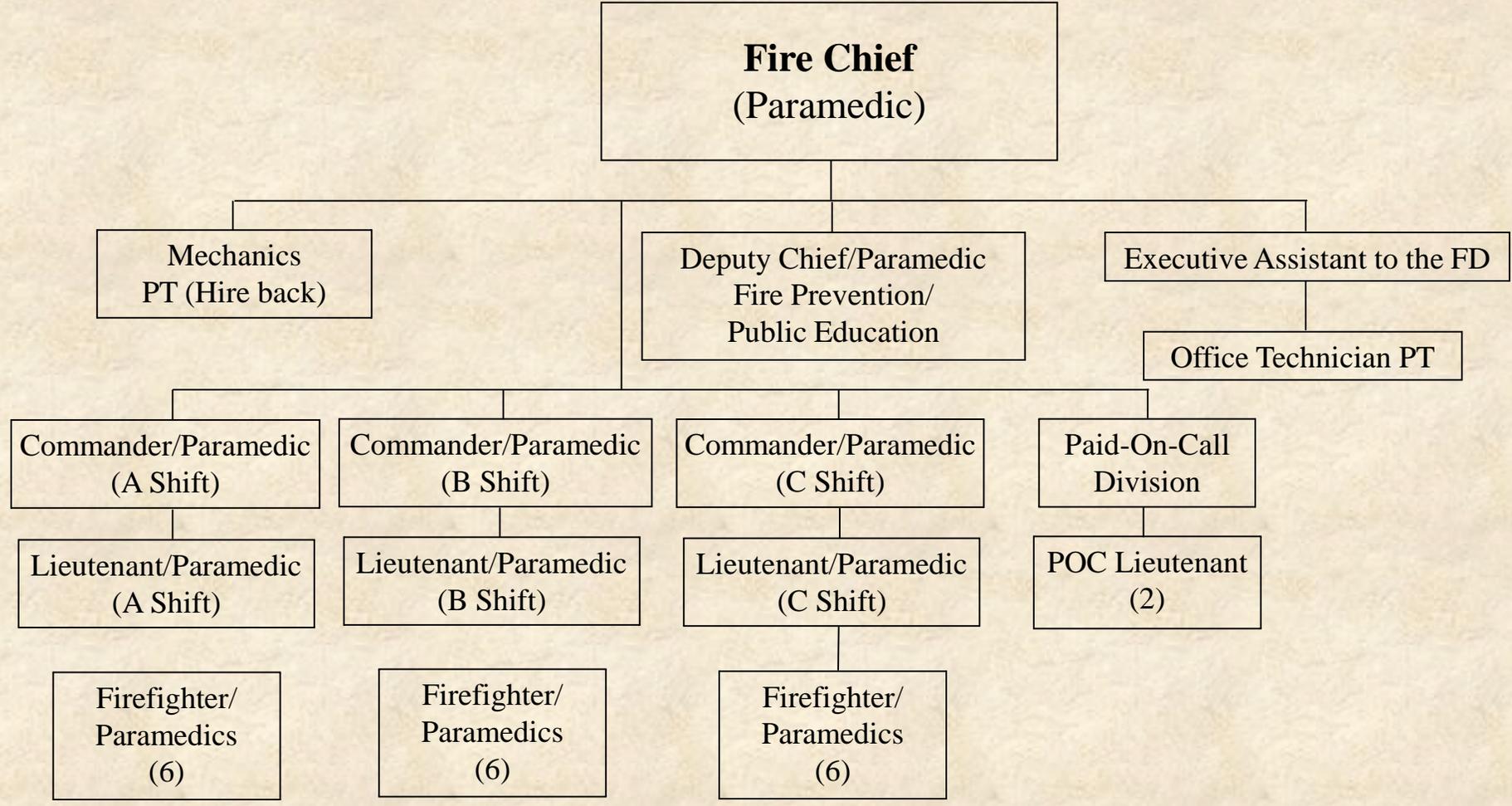


## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Park Forest Fire Department is a combination department, employing career and paid on call personnel.

In 2023, the career division consisted of 28 members including the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, a full-time Executive Assistant to the Fire Department, a part-time Office Technician & 24 shift members. The paid on call division currently has 2 members.





# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



No history of the Fire Department would be complete without mentioning its darkest moment.

On February 8, 1963 the Department recorded its only "Line of Duty Death". Captain Adolph "Shorty" Pfeifer sustained fatal injuries in a fall while fighting a fire at a commercial building under construction.

In honor of "Shorty's" ultimate sacrifice, the Department dedicated its Training Site in his memory on October 2, 1965.

57 years later this facility is still in use, training a new generation of firefighters, and remains a tribute to our fallen comrade.

# NEVER FORGET





# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# Highlights

**April 3, 2023:  
Pub Ed Presentation  
South Suburban SDA Christian School**

**March 4, 2023:  
Polar Plunge for Special Olympics of Illinois**



**February 7, 2023:  
100 Club of Illinois  
Therapy Dog Visit**





2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# Highlights



**May 15, 2023:  
Swearing-in of FF/P Jonas Campbell**



**July 17, 2023: Swearing-in of  
Lieutenant Michelle Paradise,  
Shift Commander Taylor Bordewyk and Deputy Chief Mark Cotrano**



**July 17, 2023:  
Retirement Resolution for  
Captain Phillip Myers**



PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# Highlights



**July 21, 2023:**  
**Captain Phillip Myers retires after  
30 years of service to the PFFD**



**December, 2023:**  
**Chief Tracy Natyshok & FF/P Bess Vlahakis  
attend training at the National Fire Academy**

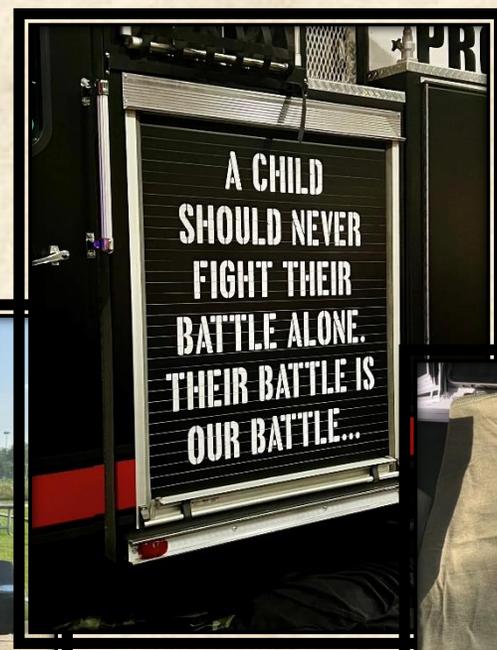


# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Park Forest Fire Department is proud to support Project Fire Buddies.



Project Fire Buddies, Inc.





# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Park Forest Fire Department is proud to support the South Suburban Humane Society.



**May 6, 2023:**  
Current and former PFFD members attend the SSHS 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Spotlight Gala



**October, 2023:**  
T-Shirt Fundraiser to support SSHS



**October 10, 2023:**  
SSHS Dinner at the Fire House



PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# Milestone

## SERVICE AWARDS

**James Baum**  
**Michelle Paradise**  
**10 Years of Service**



**Nathan Marconi**  
**15 Years of Service**



**Phillip Myers**  
**30 Years of Service**





# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**Award  
Ceremony**

**02/04/23**



**Firefighter/Paramedic Joseph Spanier  
2022 Firefighter of the Year**



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### Park Forest Fire Department 2022 Award Recipients

#### Meritorious Unit Commendation

This award will be presented to those individuals or units who performed and exhibited exceptional skills in a coordinated action.

- ◆ J. Baum, J. Chavez, S. Dees, P. Hisel, N. Marconi, E. Vlahakis
- ◆ T. Bordewyk, P. Hisel, C. Lopez, N. Marconi, T. Marconi, E. Vlahakis
- ◆ J. Chavez, S. Dees, P. Hisel, C. Murdoch, M. Paradise, E. Vlahakis
- ◆ R. Miller, D. Sparks
- ◆ D. Sparks, K. Zelhart
- ◆ J. Boren, K. Meredith

#### Unit Citation

This award will be presented to a unit that exhibited exceptional professional skill and conduct during a coordinated action with personal risk on an emergency incident.

- ◆ J. Boren, M. Cotrano, K. Grove, N. Grove, T. Marconi, M. Paradise, T. Triemstra, E. Wright
- ◆ M. Cotrano, N. Grove, T. Marconi, R. Miller, M. Paradise, D. Sparks, E. Wright, K. Zelhart
- ◆ T. Bordewyk, J. Boren, K. Grove, S. Krivanec, K. Meredith, C. Murdoch, J. Spanier, T. Triemstra
- ◆ J. Baum, T. Bordewyk, S. Dees, P. Hisel, C. Lopez, E. Vlahakis
- ◆ J. Baum, C. Lopez, R. Miller

### PRIDE - HONOR - DUTY

#### Life Saving Medal

An award given to a member of the Department for an act in which the life of another is saved.

- ◆ K. Grove, S. Krivanec, K. Meredith, J. Spanier, T. Triemstra, K. Zelhart
- ◆ T. Marconi, R. Miller, M. Paradise, K. Zelhart

#### Firefighter of the Year

This award will be presented to the Firefighter who best exemplifies by his/her performance the principles and purposes of the fire service and the Park Forest Fire Department. The Committee, when considering nominees shall review the record of the nominee with special attention given to the preceding year.

- ◆ Joseph Spanier



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**Award  
Ceremony**

**02/04/23**



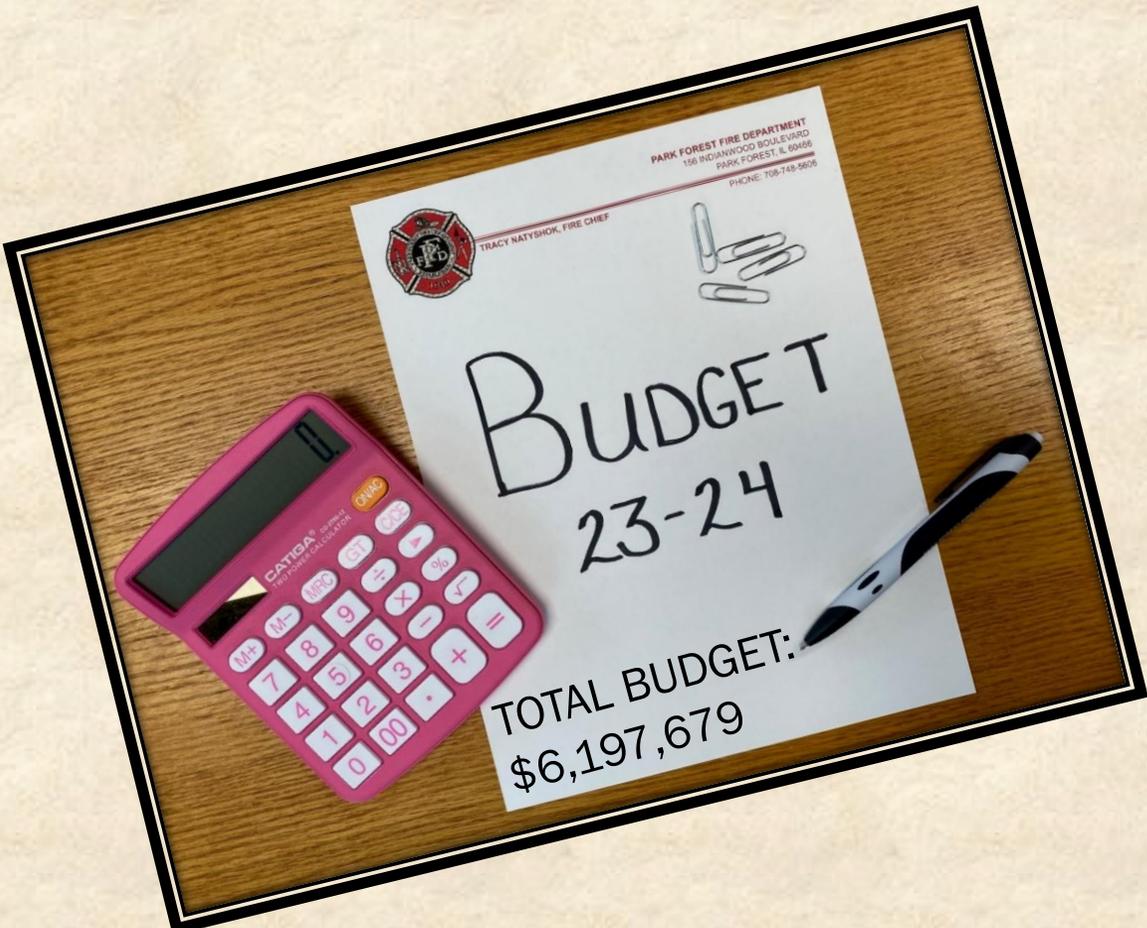


# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### BUDGET



Personnel Services	• \$3,242,122
Insurance	• \$ 525,087
Employee Support (including pensions)	• \$1,691,447
Professional Services (SouthCom Dispatch)	• \$ 115,773
Operating Supplies	• \$ 72,454
Maintenance	• \$ 28,000
Capital Outlays	• \$ 91,200
Miscellaneous Expenditures	• \$ 2,600
Leases/Rentals (Vehicle Services)	• \$ 418,996
Utilities	• \$ 10,000



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**Citizen Complaints:** In 2021, the Fire Department began to track citizen complaints. All complaints that include any allegation of misconduct, poor job performance, breach of duty, or violation of policy or procedures are investigated by administration and each case is closed with one of the following dispositions:

**Unfounded** - when the investigation discloses the alleged acts did not occur or did not involve a department member.

**Exonerated** - when the investigation discloses the alleged acts occurred but the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.

**Not Sustained** - when the investigation discloses there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the member.

**Sustained** - when the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish the act occurred and it constituted misconduct.

PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN COMPLAINTS					
YEAR	TOTAL COMPLAINTS	OUTCOME			
		UNFOUNDED	EXONERATED	NOT SUSTAINED	SUSTAINED
2023	2			2	



# ANATOMY OF A 9-1-1 CALL



**INCIDENT**

community member has an emergency



**CALL**

community member calls 9-1-1



**CALL PROCESSED**

9-1-1 center processes the call



**DISPATCH**

9-1-1 operator dispatches the fire dept.



**TURNOUT**

time from when the unit is dispatched until the crew is dressed and in the vehicle



**TRAVEL**

time from when the unit starts moving until it arrives on scene

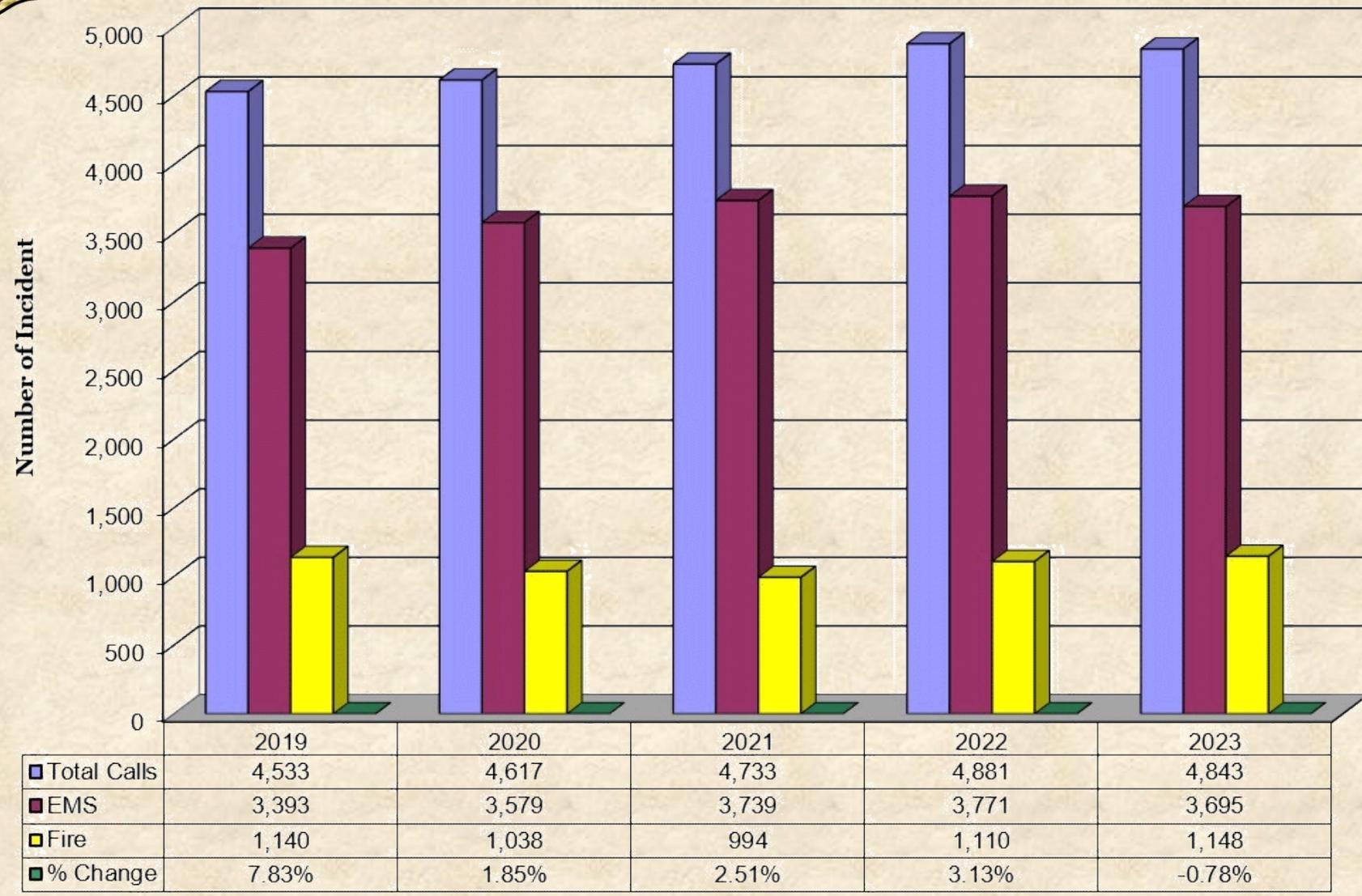




# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**ALARM  
ACTIVITY  
BY  
CALENDAR  
YEAR**



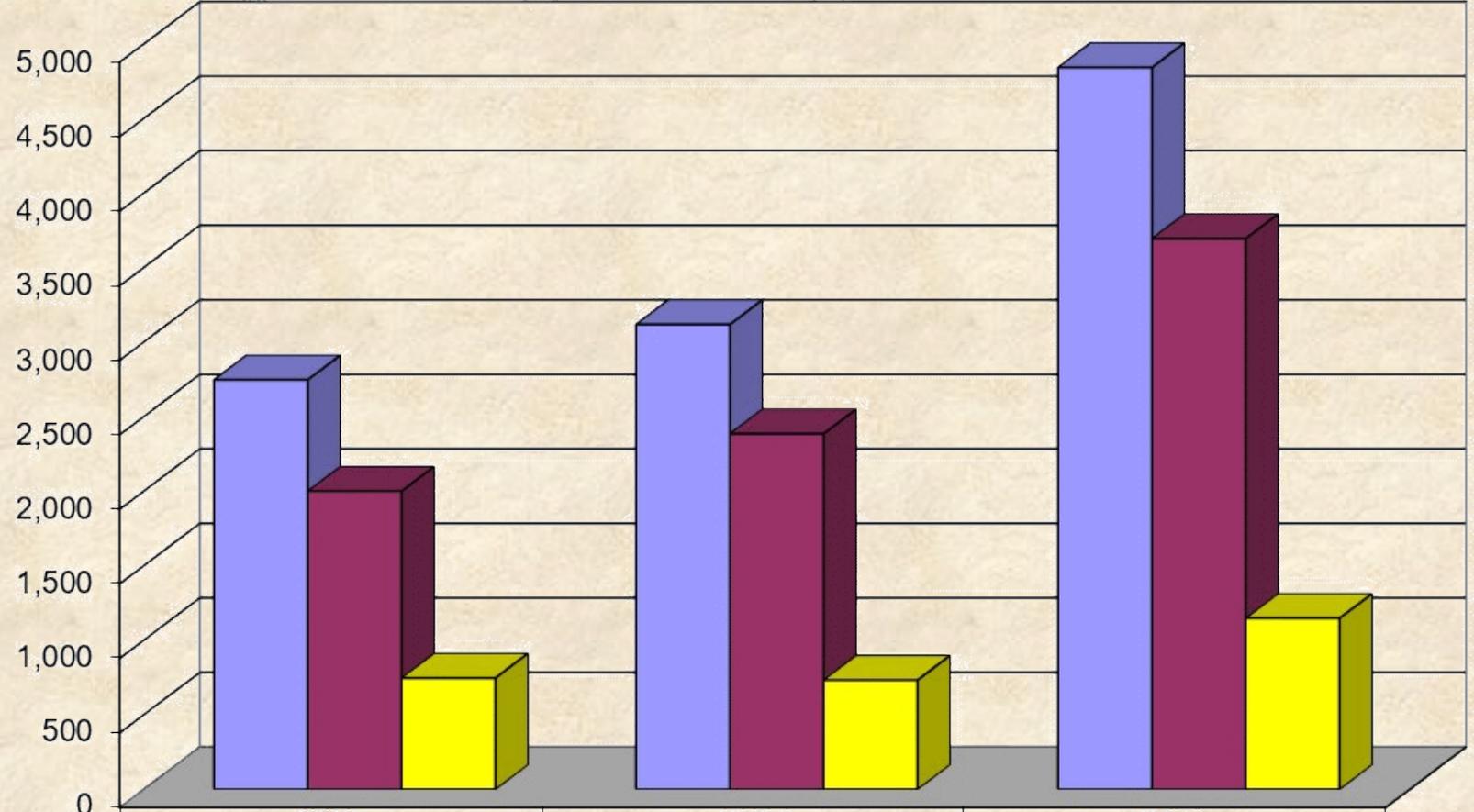
# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**ALARM  
ACTIVITY  
BY  
CALENDAR  
YEAR  
20 YEAR  
COMPARISON**

Number of Incident



	2003	2013	2023
Total Calls	2,748	3,119	4,843
EMS	2,001	2,386	3,695
Fire	747	733	1,148



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### AID GIVEN

**Fire: 308 EMS: 112**

### AID RECEIVED

**Fire: 80 EMS: 129**

Note: we received aid on 80 separate fire incidents. It should be noted on each incident we have multiple departments responding. If we tracked aid received by department, as opposed to by incident, the number would be much higher. For the 80 incidents on which we received aid in 2023 there were likely closer to 400+ department responses.



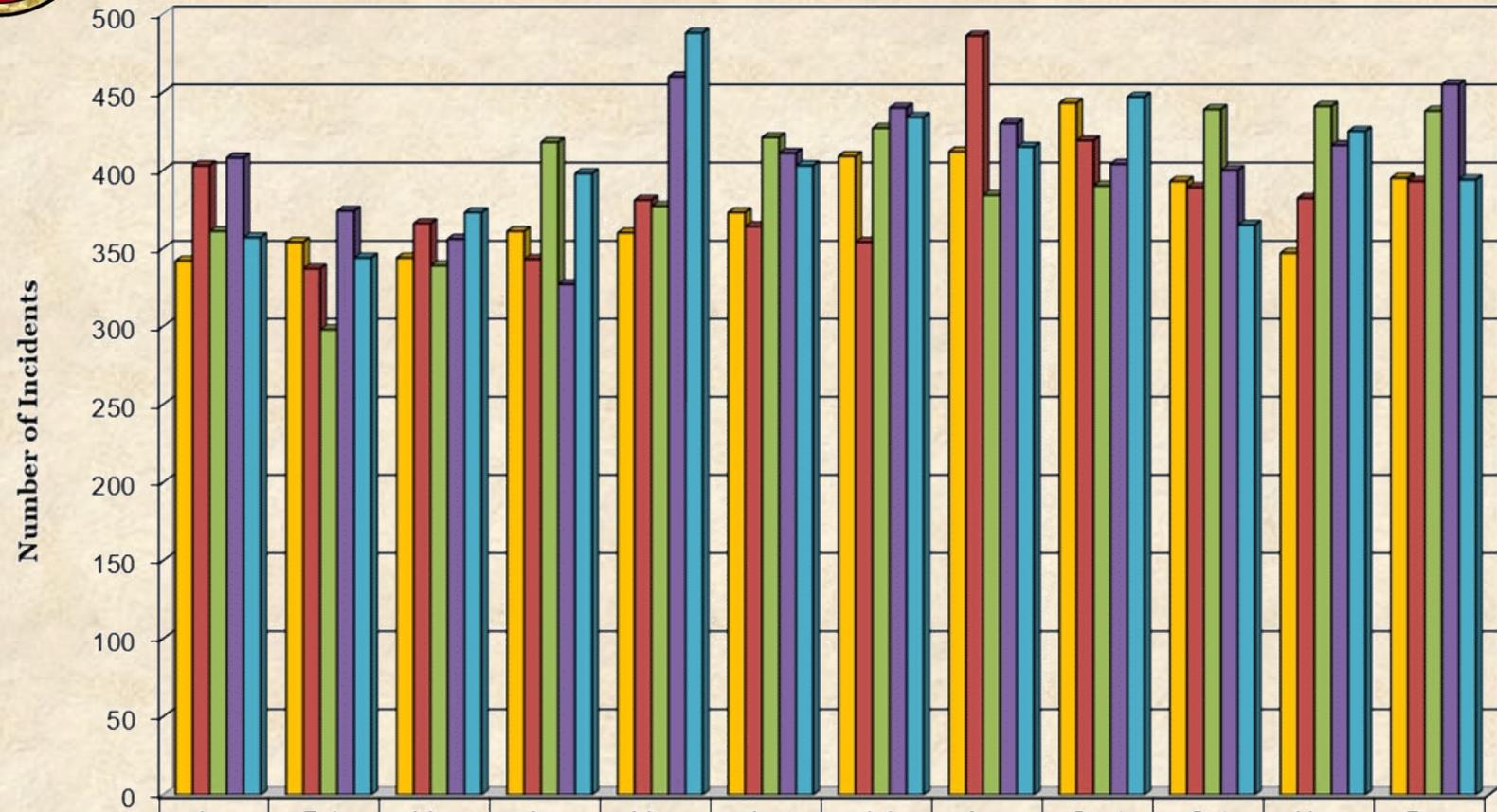
<b>MUTUAL/ AUTOMATIC AID ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN</b>
<b>TOTAL AID 629</b>



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	342	354	344	361	360	373	409	412	443	393	347	395
2020	403	337	366	343	381	364	354	486	419	389	382	393
2021	361	298	339	418	377	421	427	384	390	439	441	438
2022	408	374	356	327	460	411	440	430	404	400	416	455
2023	357	344	373	398	488	403	434	415	447	365	425	394

**ALARM  
ACTIVITY  
BY  
MONTH**

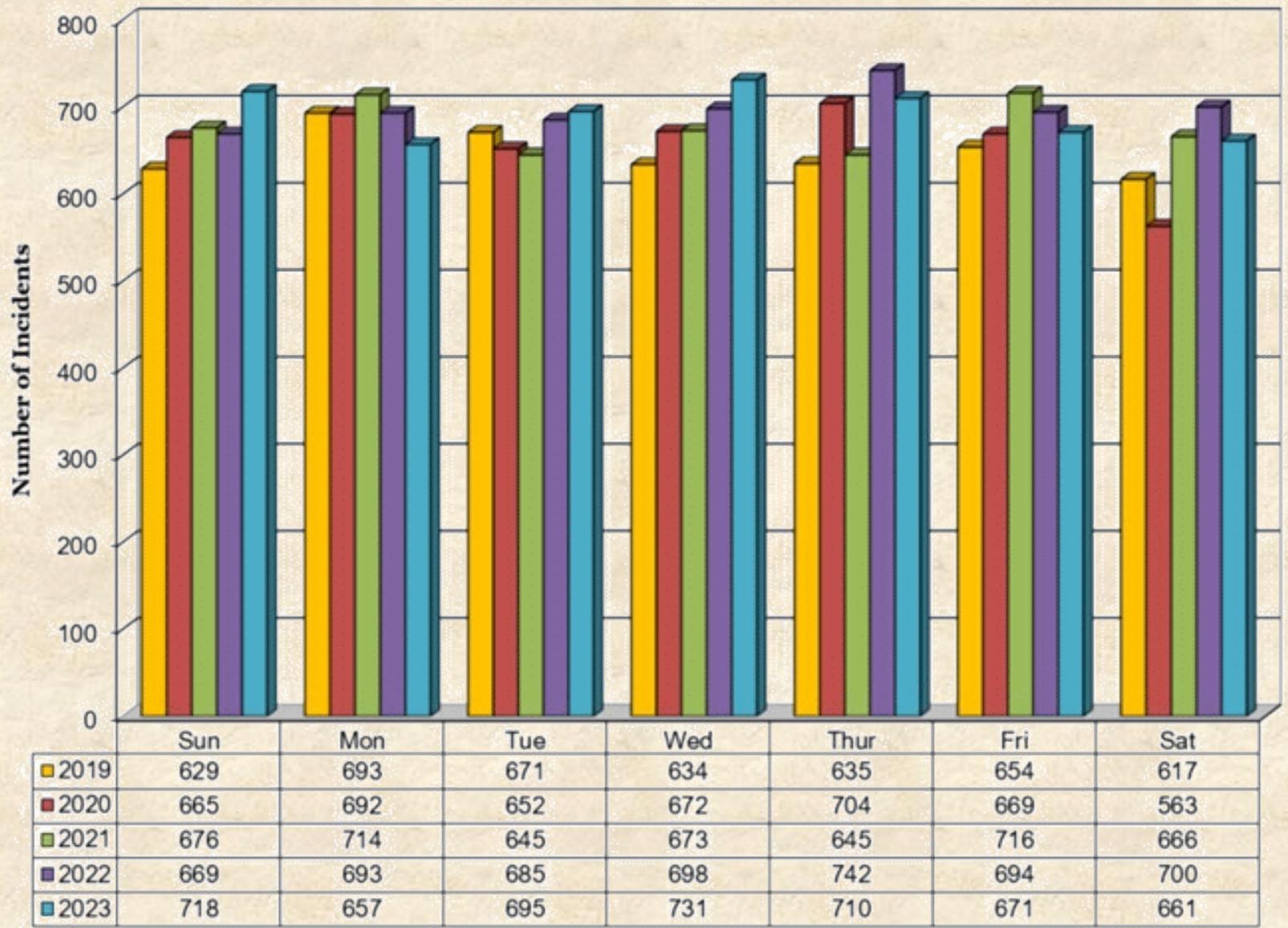


# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**ALARM  
ACTIVITY  
BY  
DAY OF WEEK**

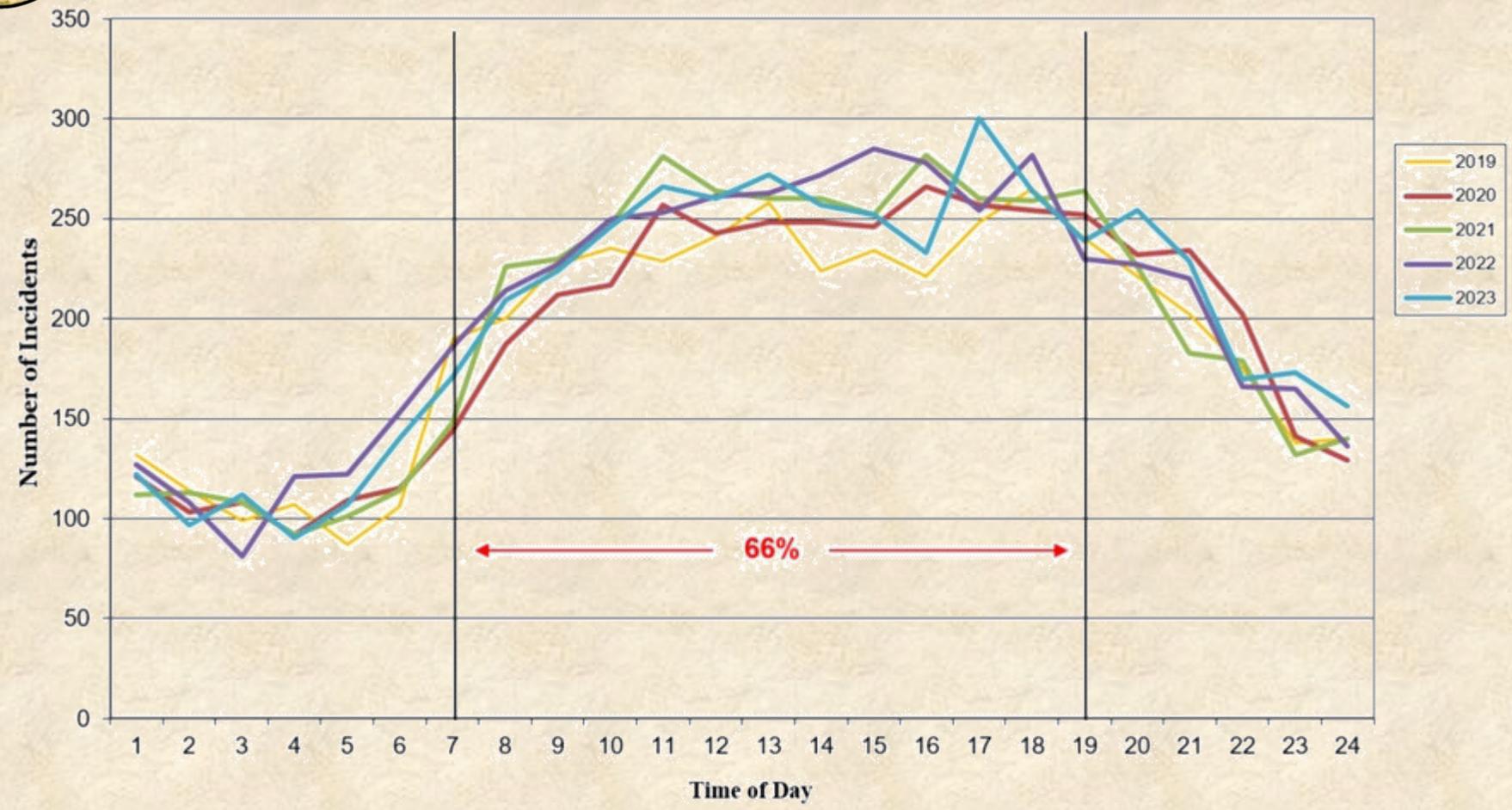




# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**ALARM  
ACTIVITY  
BY  
TIME  
OF  
DAY**

66% of our call volume occurs during the time period of 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. (the time frame where Paid On Call members have limited or no availability due to their full-time job commitments).

It should also be noted the most deadly and damaging fires occur between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**4,843  
CALLS FOR SERVICE**



**(just 38 calls  
behind 2022)**



**1,148  
TOTAL  
FIRE  
RESPONSES**

**2023 CALL VOLUME  
AT-A-GLANCE**



**3,695  
TOTAL  
EMS  
RESPONSES**

**BUSIEST  
MONTH OF THE YEAR  
MAY  
488 CALLS**

**BUSIEST  
DAY OF THE WEEK  
WEDNESDAY  
731 CALLS**

**BUSIEST  
TIME OF DAY  
5 P.M. – 6 P.M.  
300 CALLS**



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**1,148 FIRE CALLS**



**HAZARDOUS  
CONDITIONS**

**121**



**FIRES**

**99**

***Good  
Intent***

**359**

**SERVICE  
CALLS**

**141**

**FALSE  
ALARM**

**428**

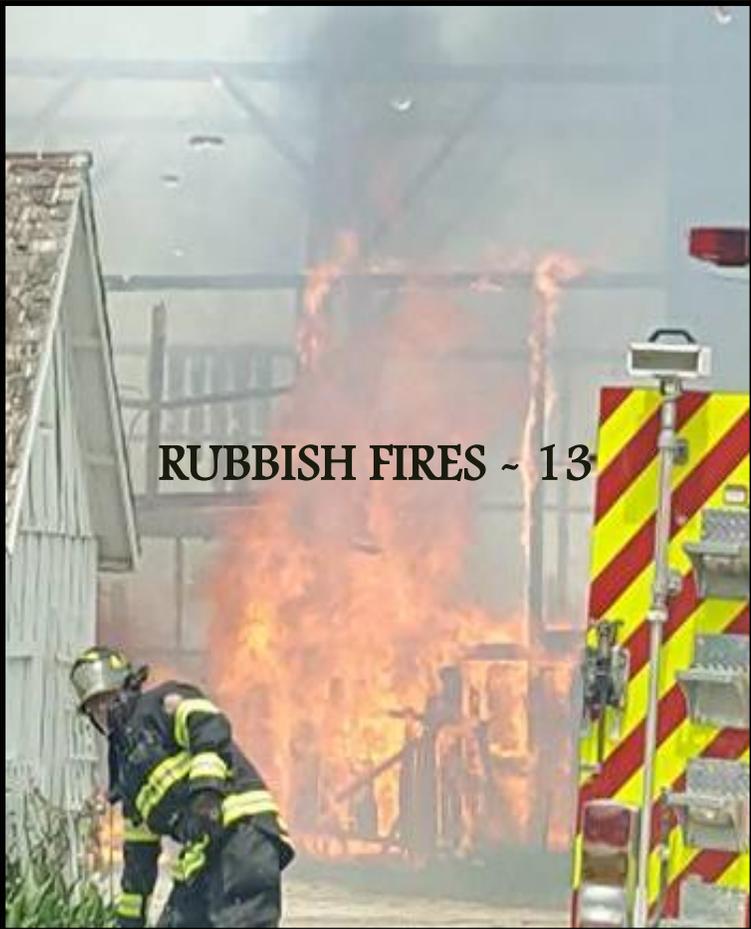
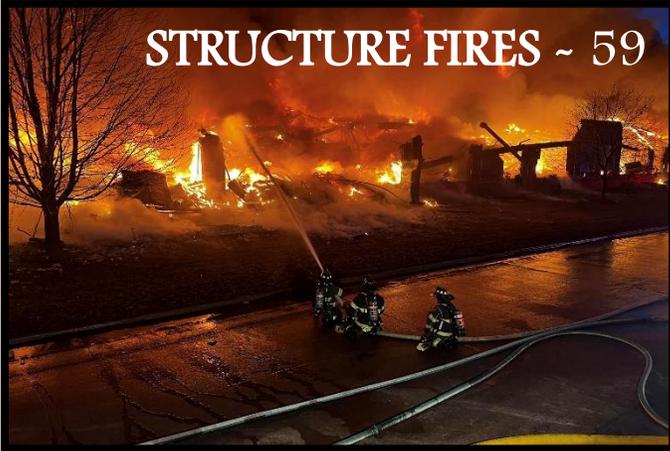


# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### FIRE CALL BREAKDOWN





# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

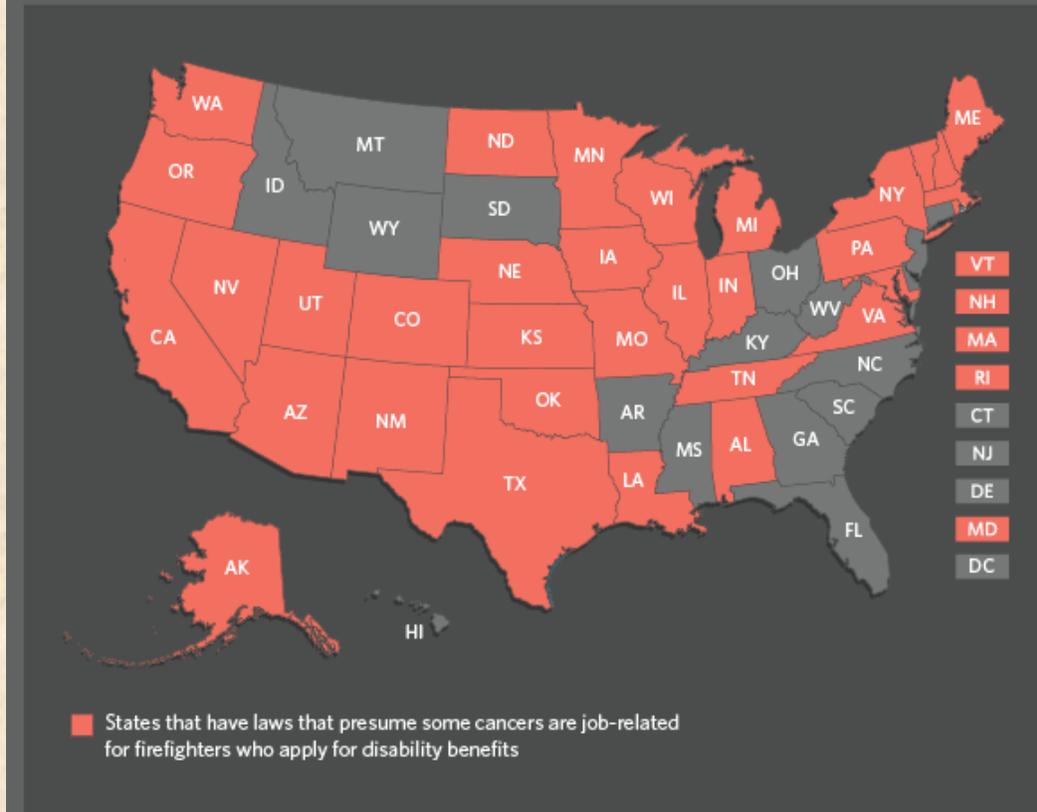


Mission: To assist firefighters and EMS providers and their immediate families diagnosed with cancer by providing badge to badge support, training and guidance.



### Firefighter Cancer Laws

At least 33 states have some type of law that presumes certain types of cancer are a job-related illness for firefighters who apply for disability benefits. Arkansas has a law that provides death benefits to the family, but only if it is recommended by a state-appointed review panel.



Source: The International Association of Fire Fighters  
© 2015 The Pew Charitable Trusts

### Firefighters face cancer rates substantially greater than most Americans

- Testicular cancer - 2.02 times greater
- Multiple myeloma - 1.53 times greater
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma - 1.51 times greater
- Skin cancer - 1.39 times greater
- Brain cancer - 1.31 times greater
- Malignant melanoma - 1.31 times greater
- Prostate cancer - 1.28 times greater
- Colon cancer - 1.21 times greater
- Leukemia - 1.14 times greater

The most likely causes are the chemicals emitted from regular household products when they burn.

Source: Firefighter Cancer Support Network | facebook.com/benspraguebangor | @bensprague

JANUARY IS  
**Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month**

Fire fighter occupational cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths in the fire service.

Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month is brought to you by the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network.



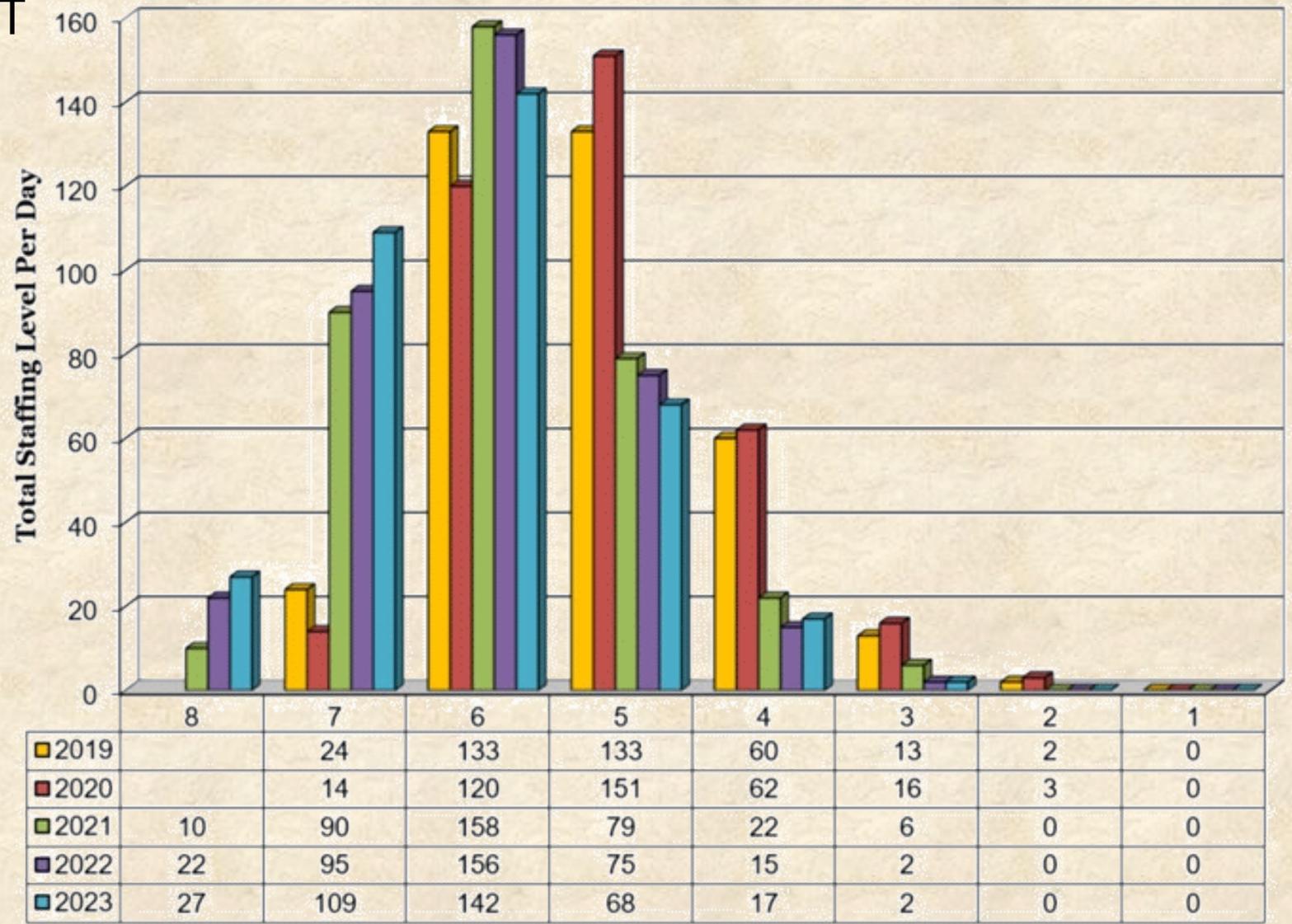
## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### DAILY STAFFING LEVELS

The daily minimum staffing level has been at 5 since the late 1990s. In 2021, thanks to a SAFER Grant, we were able to increase shift staffing from 7 to 8 and daily minimum staffing from 5 to 6.

On any day where there are less than 6 shift members present, the department is required to pay overtime to bring the minimum staffing level to 6.

In 2023 this occurred 87 times; a decrease of 5 occurrences over the 92 in 2022.



Shift Personnel on Duty Per Day

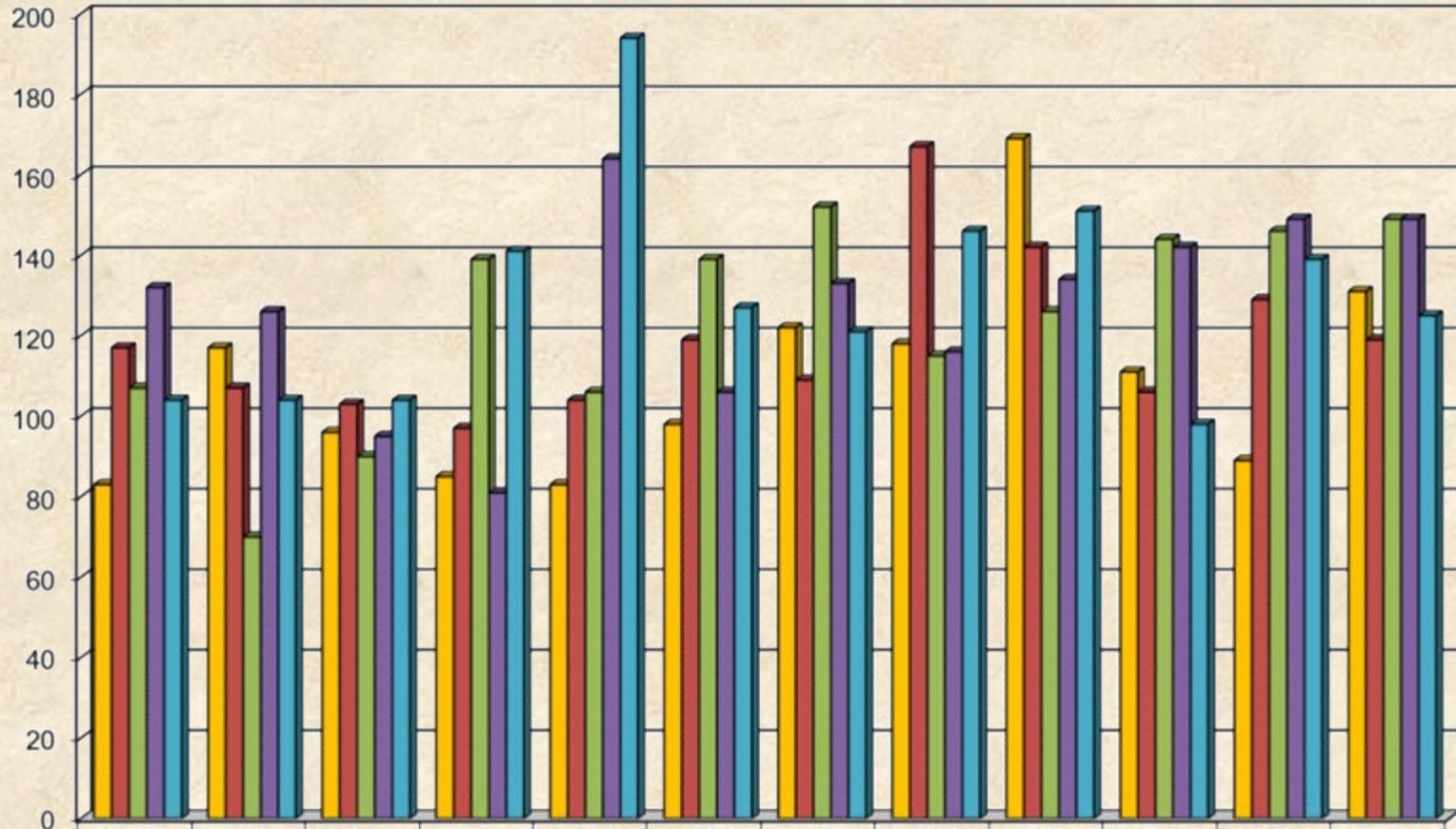


# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Number of Incidents



**CONCURRENT  
CALLS  
BY MONTH  
1,554 INCIDENTS**

Of the 4,843 incidents the fire department responded to in 2023, 1,554 of them (or 32%) were concurrent/overlapping calls.



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### EMS DIVISION

Firefighter/Paramedic Elizabeth Vlahakis, oversees the Department's EMS Division. The EMS Division is responsible for the licensure and equipping of ambulances, and the advanced life support engine, as well as overseeing the licensing of all of the Department's paramedics in cooperation with the South Cook County Emergency Medical System.



FF/P Bess Vlahakis  
EMS Coordinator

#### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Paramedics are required to complete over 100 hours of continuing education in every licensing cycle. The EMS division develops and delivers the monthly shift training required for recertification.
- The Park Forest FD continues to lead the division as a teaching department. We have welcomed students in EMT and Paramedic school from multiple colleges with a busy and approachable environment to complete their mandatory field ride time for EMS certification.
- Our paramedics frequently teach at EMS programs, sharing their honed skills and knowledge with students.
- June/July: FF/P Vlahakis took over the CPR Program previous run by retiring Captain Myers. CPR Manikins replaced, added a CPR dog manikin, updated AED trainers.
- Began dedicated EMS training at the end of each month for each of the three shifts.
  - \* October – due to increased incidences of pediatric trauma falls the first training focused on pediatric full arrest management and pediatric stress on calls.
  - \* November – members attended a cadaver training for advanced airway techniques.
  - \* December – began extending invitations to area departments to participate in the monthly EMS trainings.

In 2024 the goal remains to be keeping quality, hands-on EMS training at the forefront.



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### EMS DIVISION - TRAINING



**EMS TRAINING**  
Patient Packaging Drill

**WHEN**  
Jan 29 - RED  
Jan 30 - GOLD  
Jan 31 - BLACK

**9am - 12pm**

**WHERE**  
Park Forest Fire Dept.  
156 Indianwood Blvd, Park Forest, IL 60466

**TOPICS** At PFD, we have a variety of patient packaging devices at our disposal. Choosing the most appropriate device does not have to be overwhelming. Basic in-courses on device available, and communicative-heavy drill promoting crew integrity and efficiency will be offered.

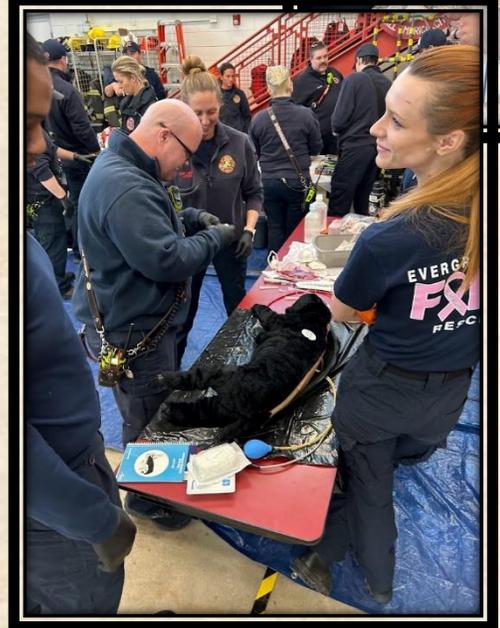
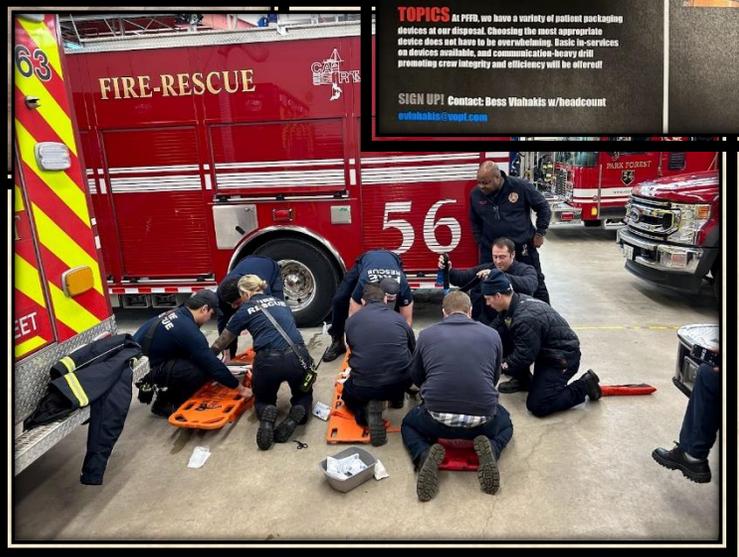
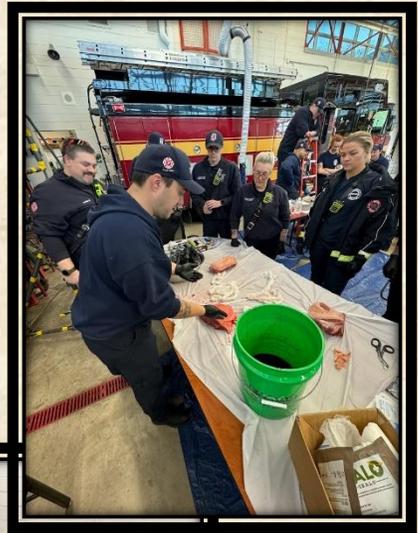
**SIGN UP!** Contact: Bess Vlahakis w/headcount  
vvlahakis@vpfd.com

**COST: FREE! CE OFFERED!**

Part 1: Patient packaging skill drill "Old school vs. New School" Bess Vlahakis

Part 2: In-service on all patient restraint options. Stew Dees

Part 3: In-service on TBI patient plus devices. Drew Sparks

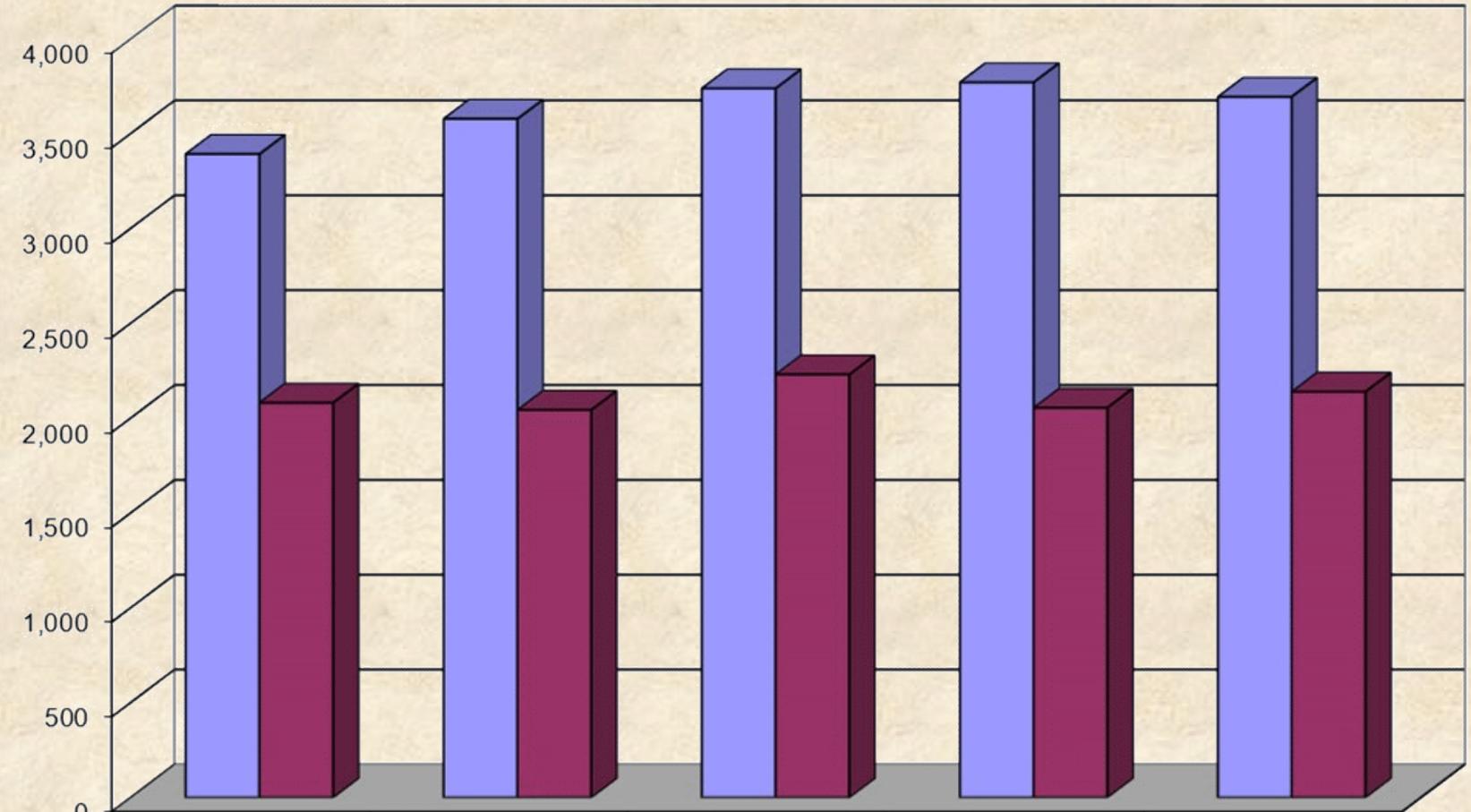


# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**TOTAL  
AMBULANCE CALLS  
VS.  
AMBULANCE  
TRANSPORTS**



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Ambulance Calls	3,393	3,579	3,739	3,771	3,695
Total Ambulance Transports	2,082	2,044	2,231	2,056	2,140

Note: 57.9% of the total ambulance calls resulted in the transportation of a patient to the emergency room.



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**2,140 AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS**

**MEDICAL EMERGENCY**  
1327

**TRAUMA**  
46

**CARDIAC ~ 118**

**PSYCHIATRIC**  
235

**ACCIDENT**  
122

**PREGNANCY ~ 10**

**CHEMICAL ABUSE**  
12

**MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT - 73**

**OTHER**  
197



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### PHYSICAL FITNESS



The International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) worked together to create the Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative's Peer Fitness Trainer Program. This program provides a certificate program through the American Council on Exercise (ACE). The purpose of the IAFF/IAFC/ACE PFT certification program is to provide a fitness training standard consistent with the health and fitness needs of the Fire Service throughout the United States and Canada. The Park Forest Fire Department has a three certified Peer Fitness Trainers on shift.





# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### TRAINING DIVISION

Required Classes	Hours
Basic Operations Firefighter <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Courage To Be Safe</li><li>• NIMS 100 and 700</li><li>• Hazardous Materials Awareness</li><li>• Technical Rescue Awareness</li></ul>	360 Hours
Rope Operations	40 Hours
Confined Space Operations	40 Hours
Fire Service Vehicle Operator	24 Hours
Hazardous Materials Operations	40 Hours
Blue Card Command	64 Hours
EMT-Basic	96 Hours
EMT-Paramedic	950 Hours



Lexipol provides a unified solution - content, policies and training - for fire departments. Their Fire and Rescue solution provides a full library of customizable, state-specific policies as well as thousands of hours of online learning content - all accessible 24/7 through station computers or smartphones. With constitutionally sound, continuously updated policies and training from Lexipol, The Park Forest Fire Department can face our challenges with the confidence that our firefighters are following best practice guidelines.



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### TRAINING DIVISION

The Blue Card online training program is a 40 to 50 hour course that teaches the cognitive portion of the Blue Card Incident Command certification program. The online program is based on the Fire Command curriculum package.

The training material is organized around the IC's checklists and the professional qualifications of the Blue Card Incident Command standard. All of the online content has been developed in a manner to support, compliment, and integrate with NIMS.



### FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

A well-trained firefighter is a safer, more effective firefighter. That's why TargetSolutions has created the industry's most powerful fire department training system.

With TargetSolutions, you can track employee training records, save time and reduce costs. This program will simplify the delivery of training to all personnel. TargetSolutions provides hundreds of prepared courses, covering critical EMS training, emergency vehicle operations and NFPA approved content. It also tracks all training hours in one location for ISO and Accreditation and allows other fire departments using TargetSolutions to share training materials.



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

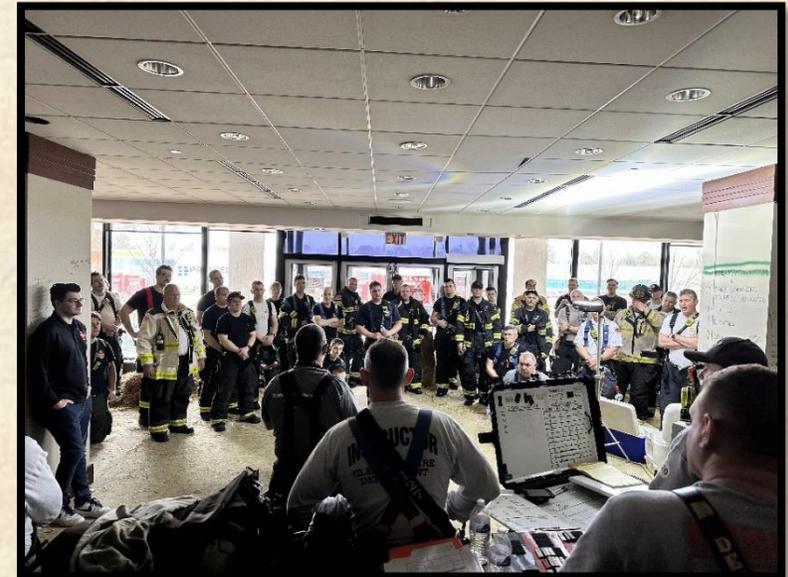


### TRAINING DIVISION

## SOUTH SUBURBAN COMBINED AGENCY TRAINING (SSCAT)



The Park Forest Fire Department completed the process to enter into the South Suburban Combined Agency Training Enterprise. This organization consists of 12 Departments who conduct monthly multi-company training exercises. These drills allow our members to complete mandatory continuing education that would be difficult to conduct without the other departments.



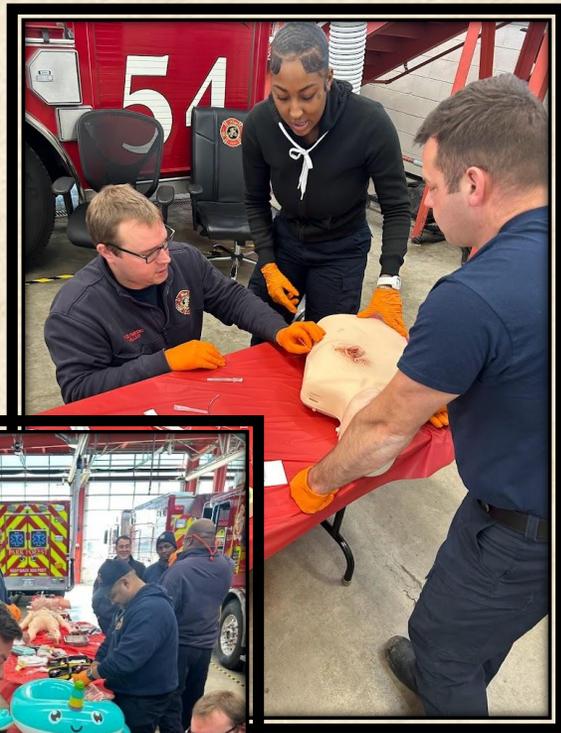


## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

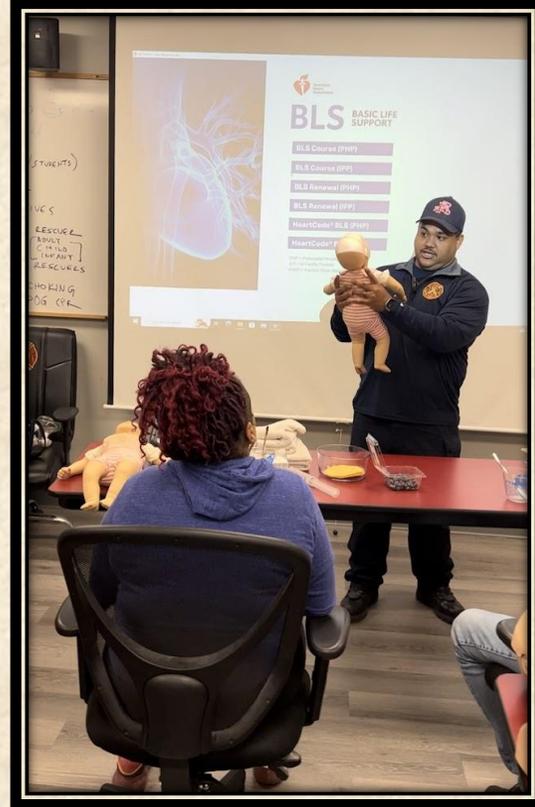
### TRAINING DIVISION



EMS Training



Rescue Training



CPR Class

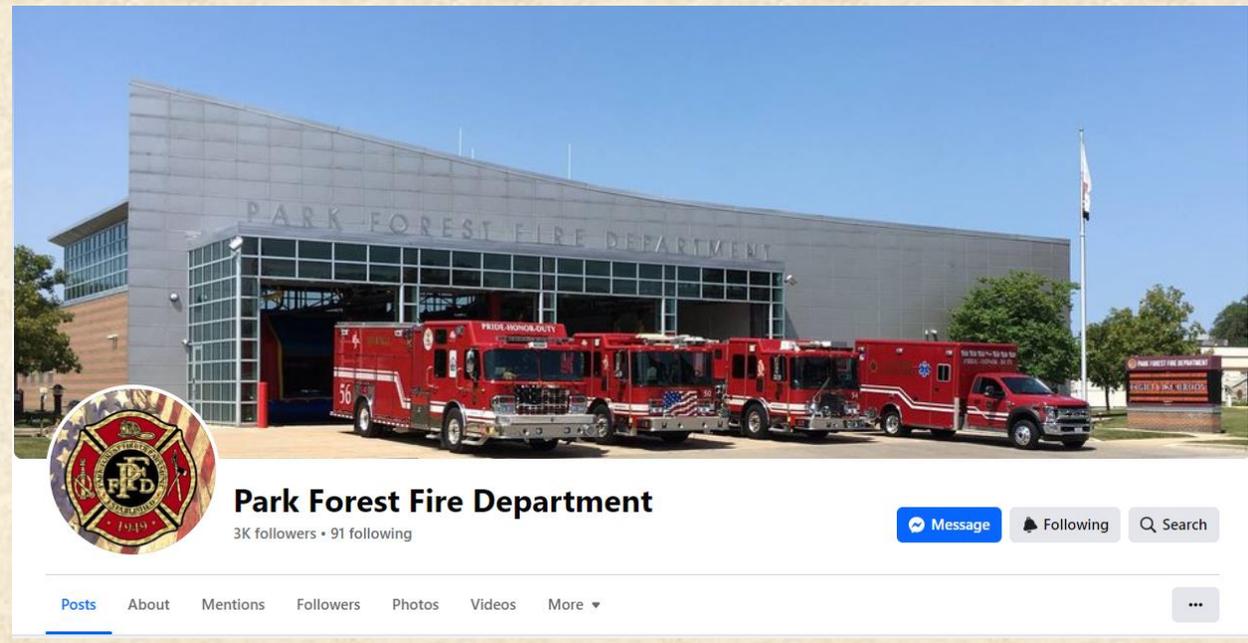
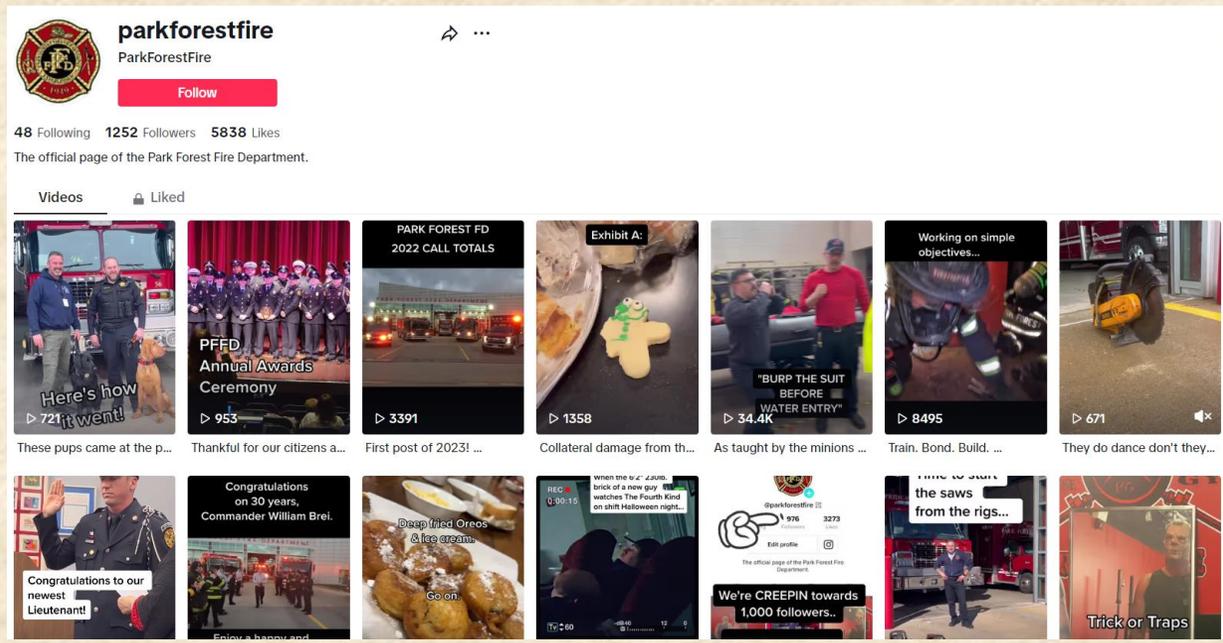


# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Department goal: Develop and implement outreach programs for residents needing special services in order to meet mission objectives. Staff concentrated outreach and educational programs to coincide with events such as Main Street Nights, Open House, and the Farmer’s Market. The Department increased messages on social media platforms and our public educators participated in multiple zoom classes with local students.

The Department’s Facebook page has 3,025 followers.  
The Department’s TikToc account has 1,252 followers with 34.4K views on our most popular post.



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

Department goal: Maintain fire prevention inspectional activities to include minimally one original inspection for all businesses each year, with high hazard & assembly properties inspected a minimum of twice each year, to safeguard current businesses from the threat of fire.

**Total number of inspections completed in 2023 = 221.**

Department goal: Assist Community Development activities by providing timely technical support and plan review of prospective businesses.

**All Internal Plan Reviews were completed within 10 working days in 2023.**





# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

## Fire Prevention Week October 8-14, 2023 Open House

**Park Forest Fire Department**

**Cooking safety starts with YOU.**  
Pay attention to fire prevention.

**Fire Prevention Week Open House**  
Friday, October 13, 2023  
4:30 - 8:00 p.m.

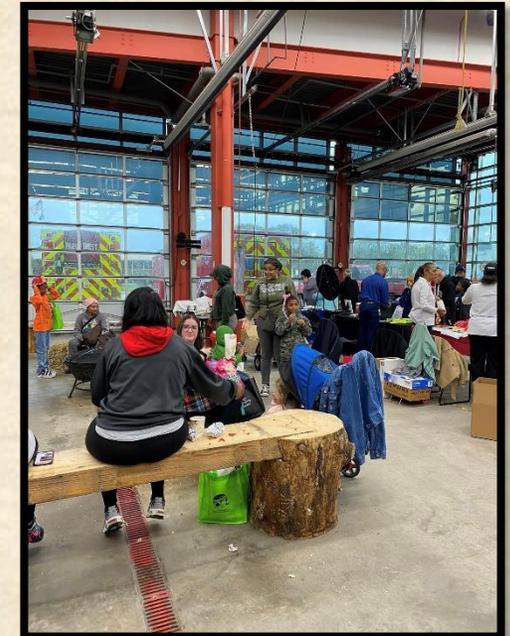
Come out and join us to celebrate Fire Prevention Week!

Activities from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. include:

- \* Demonstrations with the safety trailer
- \* Bounce house
- \* Station Tours
- \* Touch-a-truck
- \* Giveaways
- \* Camp Fire
- \* S'mores
- \* Popcorn

Vendors: ComEd, Nicor, PF Library, SouthCom, South Suburban Humane Society (with dogs for adoption), PFPD, PF Sustainability Office, PF Recreation, Parks & Community Health, and more!

**CINEMA**  
At 6:45 pm we will be showing a movie (The Cat in the Hat Knows a lot About Camping) on the big screen and serving popcorn!





# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### GRANTS



The Department received a \$3300 grant from FM Global to assist with the purchase of a new camera and accessories intended to improve documentation of fire scenes during investigation.



## FEMA

2023 was the final year of the SAFER grant, which began in January, 2021, and covered salary and benefit costs for the hiring of two new firefighters for a 3-year period. This grant was funded at \$785,748 and the match obligation was waived by FEMA. This grant was successful in helping to increase staffing and the department will apply again for future funding in this area.



The Department hosted a regional grant to improve/replace mobile and base radio stations for the Matteson, Park Forest, and Richton Park Fire Departments. In total, this grant was worth over \$520,000 and assisted with improving communications as many dispatch agencies move to new frequencies.



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Shift Commander Patrick Hisel serves as the Department's Emergency Management Coordinator. 2023 highlights:

- Attended numerous meetings for both Cook and Will Counties.
- Began the process for our Municipality Certification; a new certification that will take more than a year to complete.
- Began and prepped for the 2024 Cook County Hazard Mitigation Plan (this happens every 4 years).



### Important Information About Tornado Sirens



Sirens are for OUTDOOR warning purposes and are not meant to be heard indoors.

Hearing a siren is a signal to get indoors and seek additional information.

It does **NOT** mean the threat has ended when the sirens stop sounding.

Sirens are activated by city or county officials, not the National Weather Service.

Park Forest has 4 outdoor weather warning sirens:

- Talala School
- Winnebago (near the dog park)
- Western Avenue (at the railroad tracks)
- Western Avenue at Steger Rd.

The sirens are tested on the first Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. Don't worry if you aren't able to hear them indoors. The sirens are used to alert people outside that severe weather is coming and to seek shelter indoors.



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### MAINTENANCE DIVISION



The Park Forest Fire Department prides itself on readiness. Just as our firefighters must be in peak condition to respond to emergencies, so must our vehicles and equipment. All members are trained and efficient in routine inspections of equipment, with additional members skilled in advanced repairs.



The department employs four career members on a hireback basis to fulfill the role of “maintenance personnel” to work on the vehicles, small tools, equipment, and building. Shift Commander Taylor Bordewyk heads up the maintenance team assisted by Firefighter/Paramedics Ryan Miller, Joseph Spanier, and Kyle Zelhart. These members work additional hours outside of their assigned shifts to keep the department ready to deploy. They are responsible for the management of the department fleet, fire and rescue equipment, and contribute to building and grounds issues.



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Vehicle maintenance duties include oil changes, preventative maintenance, troubleshooting/diagnostic, obtaining NFPA required pump testing on all fire engines, and coordinating repairs with outside maintenance contractors.

In addition to vehicle maintenance, hireback members perform and coordinate repairs and inspection on fire hose, power tools, hand tools, SCBAS, air compressors, generators, extrication equipment, and many other pieces of mission critical equipment.

The maintenance division continues to oversee the progress of the Department's purchase of a new fire engine expected to be delivered in 2025. This new engine will be a smaller, streamlined apparatus, designed for use in areas of limited access in Park Forest such as the co-op parking lots. This will allow us to better serve our residents in times of emergencies.





## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM



#### Mission Statement

“MABAS-Illinois serves local fire agencies, MABAS Divisions, State of Illinois Departments, and Cook County UASI-DHSEM by providing a systems-based resource allocation and distribution network of robust traditional and non-traditional fire-EMS-rescue and special operations teams for emergency and sustained response within and outside of the State of Illinois. Accomplishment of services requires cooperation, standardization, reliability, partnering, brokering and ongoing communication and compliance with customer specifications and expectations. Customer trust and reliance on the MABAS system is built upon personal relationships, credibility, and ongoing customer support.”



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### SPECIAL TEAMS



#### Mission:

The Combined Agency Response Team (CART) exists to provide highly trained responders to specialized rescue incidents in a quick, efficient manner. CART responds to rescue incidents with a multi-million dollar cache of member owned and CART supplemented equipment to support the efforts of the technical rescuers. There are over 400 Rescue Technicians who are annually tested by the CART organization.





## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### SPECIAL TEAMS



Members of the MABAS 27 Hazardous Materials Response Team are responsible to be trained and certified to the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal Hazardous Materials Technician B level. The team is comprised of approximately 40 members and advisors.

This team is responsible for responding to hazardous materials incidents and acts of terrorism in the South Suburbs, when called upon by a department of MABAS 27 or 24.

The purpose of the Haz-Mat Team is to provide a team of personnel with specialized hazardous materials training and equipment when the need arises. The team is capable of responding to hazardous materials incidents in order to contain and/or control the incident and to prevent further damage to life and property.



# PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### SPECIAL TEAMS



The mission of the MABAS Division 27/24 Dive Team is to provide a professional response to water rescue and/or recovery incidents to the Villages located within both Divisions.

Due to the variety of waterways in the area (lakes, rivers, ponds, drainage ditches, etc.) the Dive Team must be prepared for multiple types of water rescue situations.

- Evidence Recovery - assist law enforcement agencies in crime scene investigations and evidence recovery operations.
  - River Diving - rescue or recovery of victims using underwater search patterns in a moving water environment.
- Surface Water Rescue - rescue of accident victims while they are still on the surface of lakes, ponds, and other types of still water.
  - Swift-water Rescue - rescues performed anywhere near rivers and other types of moving water.
- Underwater Rescue - SCUBA divers performing underwater search patterns to locate near-drowning victims.



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### SPECIAL TEAMS



The Mission of the AFFI Honor Guard shall be to promote the Associated Firefighters of Illinois, the Locals therein, and the fire service as a whole, to the public, in a positive and proper fashion. To provide, as a line of duty death benefit, dignified, honorable services for fallen AFFI members, their surviving family members, and union brothers and sisters through organization of and participation in funeral and memorial services.





PARK FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**SPECIAL TEAMS**



The primary goal of the Will-Cook-Grundy County Fire Investigation Task Force is to provide training, education, support, and assistance to local municipalities by investigating and determining the origin and cause for large loss fires, multiple fire fatalities and providing staffing assistance within stricken jurisdictions throughout Will, Cook and Grundy County.