

MUSCATINE FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022
Annual
Report



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A Message from Fire Chief Jerry Ewers

I am pleased to share our 2022 Muscatine Fire Department Annual Report. This year marks our 10th anniversary of providing an annual report. Inside, you will find not only statistics about our responses but also some insight into what we do and how that relates to our city and department goals of providing effective municipal services and excellent customer service that improves the quality of life in the community.

The 48 dedicated uniformed men and women of this department responded to 5,909 incidents in 2022, which is a historical record of emergencies. The response data breakdown for these incidents include 817 fire responses, 3,545 ambulance calls, and 1,341 out-of-town ambulance transports that are classified as inter-facility transfers from our local hospital to another hospital in a different community.

Some of the major activities and accomplishments in 2022 included leadership training for staff, driver/operator training and certification, replaced aging fleet, promotional assessment center testing, awarded grant to purchase a fire gear washer, held two recruit fire academies, and sending staff to college to obtain their EMT-Paramedic certification.

Even though Muscatine County saw our first case of COVID-19 on March 19, 2020, we are still encountering COVID patients, treating and transporting sick patients with influenza, and treating and transporting critical pediatric patients with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) plus, we are still seeing and reacting to supply chain issues, price increases, and extended build times for fire apparatus and ambulances. We are also actively engaged in improving our recruitment efforts and retention of our highly trained and experienced employees. Additionally, these efforts directly tie into City Council goals for a safe and healthy community.

Finally, we continually look for ways to positively impact this great community on a daily basis. Whether that is by saving someone's life, treating their medical problem, extinguishing a fire, pulling someone out of the river, installing a smoke detector, or simply helping a stranded motorist, we are here 24/7 to serve our residents and visitors of Muscatine. Our trained staff are truly professionals and live by our philosophy of "service and protection with pride, honor, loyalty, courage, compassion, respect, teamwork, and safety."

As Fire Chief, it's been a pleasure and honor leading this great fire department. As always, I want to personally thank ALL of our staff members and their families for their continuous dedication and commitment to this fire department, and our city. I also want to thank Carol Webb, our City Administrator, Mayor Dr. Brad Bark, and the City Council Members for their continuous support and recognition of our members and fire department.

Enjoy the annual report and stay safe!

*.....we continually
look for ways to
positively impact this
great community on a
daily basis.*

Mission Statement, Core Values and Philosophy

Mission Statement

It is our mission to safely provide quality emergency services to the community through protection of life, property and the environment from the effects of medical emergencies, fires and other hazards and to reduce these threats through fire prevention and public education.

Vision Statement

Members of the Muscatine Fire Department, through commitment to service, innovation, and excellence, will strive to be leaders in emergency services, and be the model of a successful fire-based ambulance service.



Core Values

Members: We promote an atmosphere of trust and respect that encourages individual growth, participation, creativity and acknowledges the achievements of our members.



Organization: We support an organization built on a foundation of initiative, collaboration and commitment to efficiency, consistency and results, while attaining the goals of the organization.

Customer Service: We are dedicated to providing superior customer service.



Strategic Management: We plan for change and develop management strategies to meet the challenges of our future.

Regional Cooperation: We promote, encourage and participate in partnerships that provide all communities and organizations with the highest level of service and training.

Philosophy

Service and protection with Pride, Honor, Loyalty, Courage, Compassion, Respect, Teamwork, and Safety.

We accept:

- Great personal risk to save another person's life.
- Moderate personal risk to save another person's property.
- No personal risk to save what is already lost.

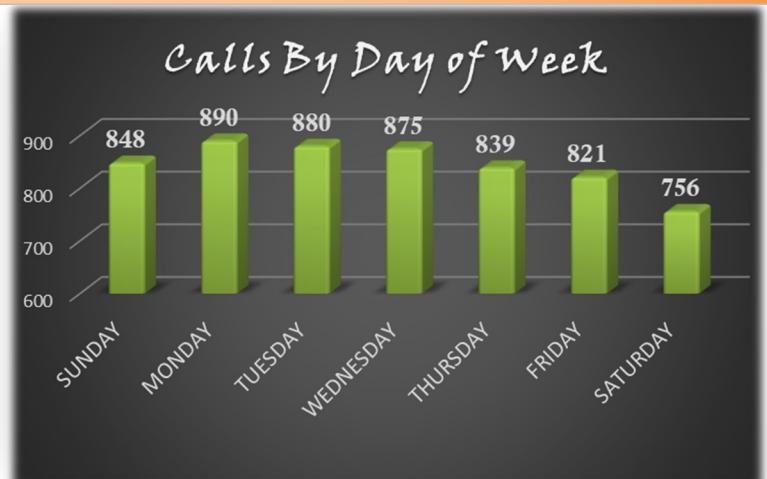
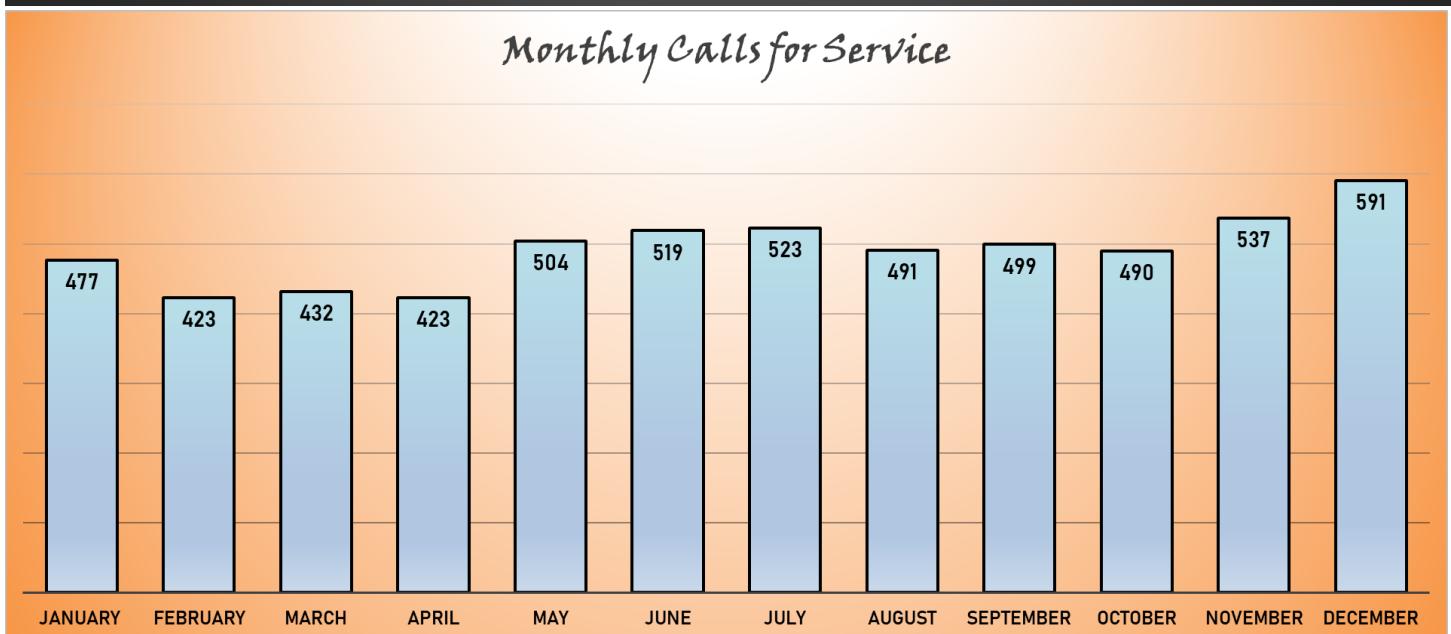
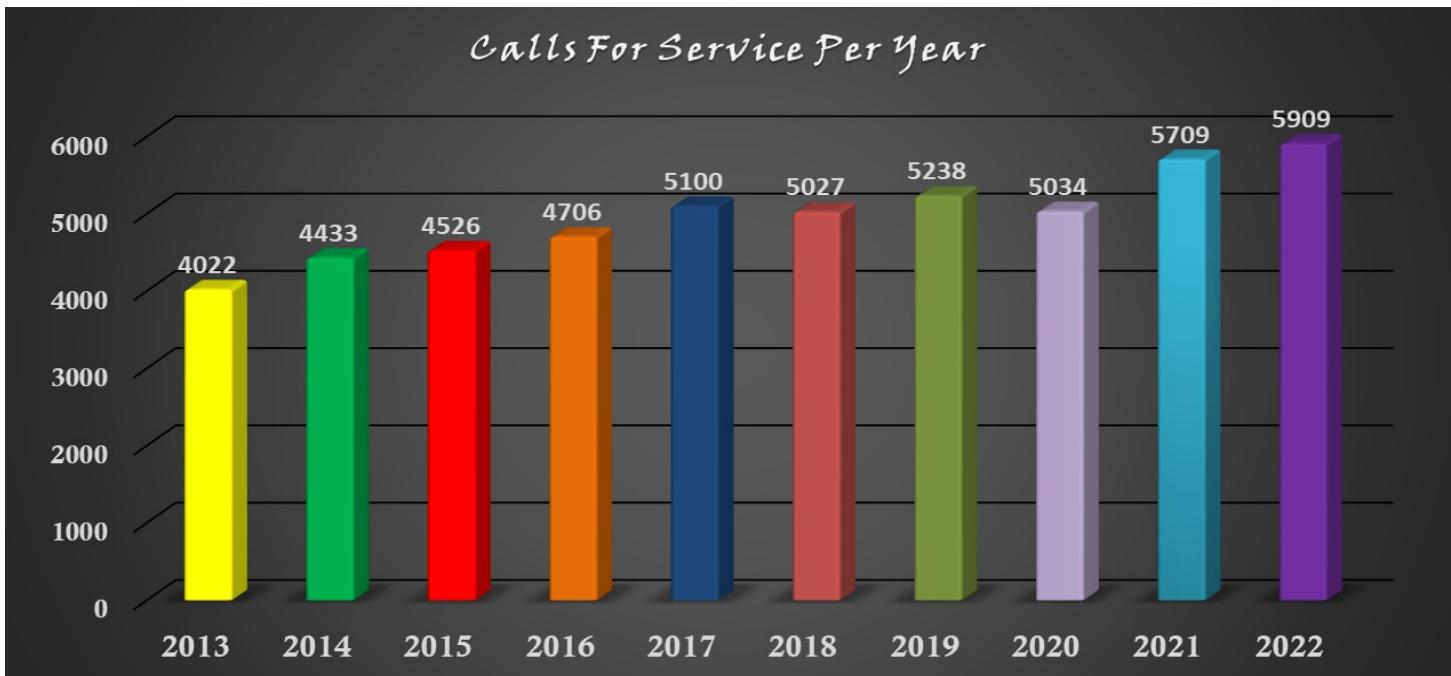
2022 Organizational Chart

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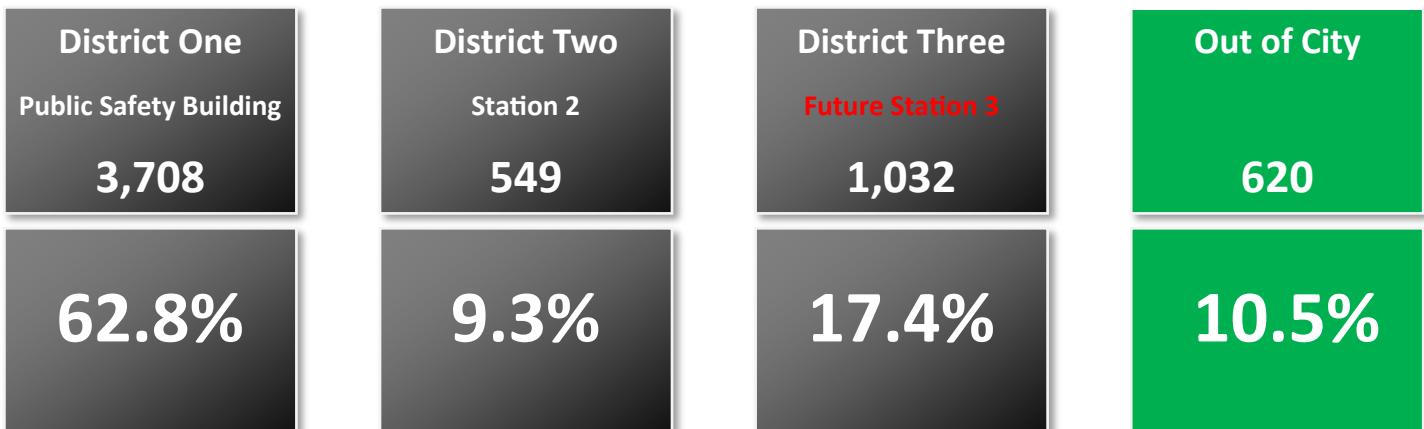


Calls For Service Report

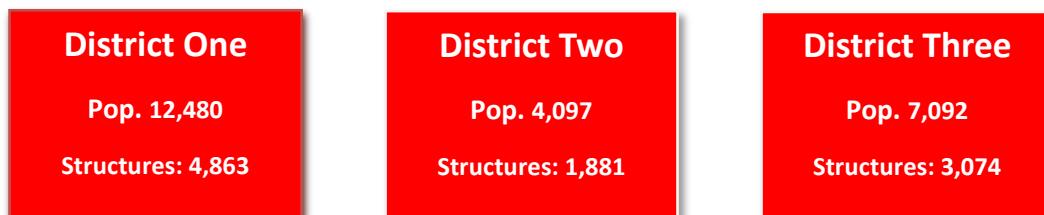
In 2022 we set records for run volume in one year and posted the five highest per-month totals. May, June, July, November, and December were the record months with more than 500 calls. For the year we averaged 16.2 calls per day, during our busiest month of December we averaged just over 19 calls per day.



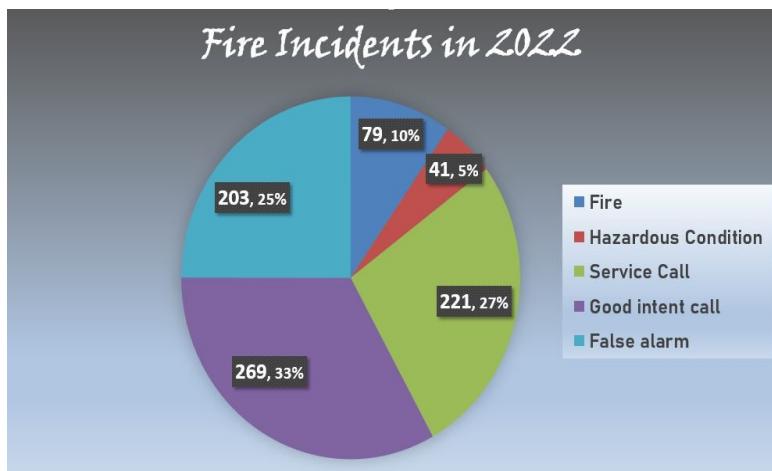
Calls by Districts Within the City



Population and Structures serviced by District



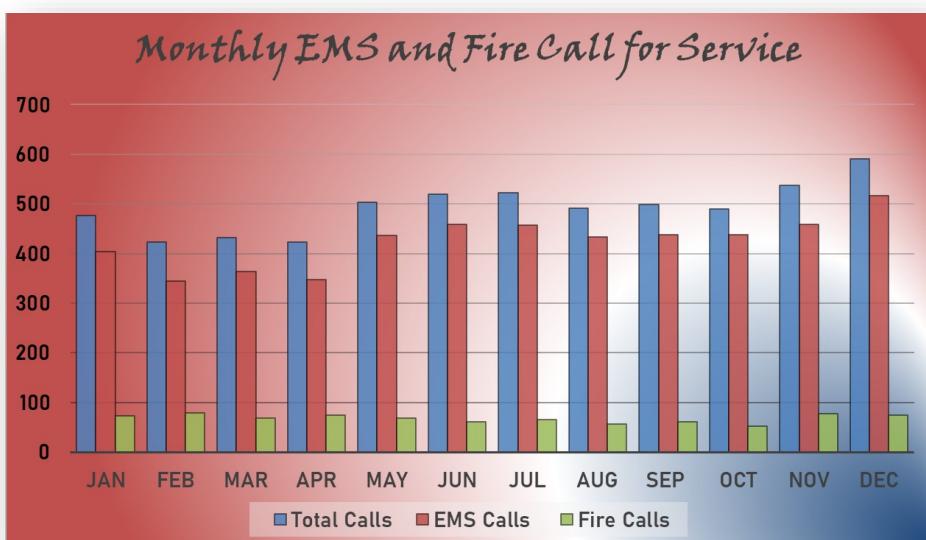
*Currently District One covers all calls in District Three.



5,909
Annual Calls

86.2% of
Calls are EMS

Average
16.2
Calls a Day



Fire Response Report

We review fire-related calls on an ongoing basis to identify areas for improvement. This year we were up in almost every fire call category, including the most building fires in the last 10 years. This illustrates the need for us to increase our public education and an increased need for additional community outreach.

TOP 5 FIRE RESPONSES FOR 2022

STRUCTURE FIRES	VEHICLE FIRES	VEGETATION FIRES	TRASH FIRES	COOKING FIRES
 51	 15	 15	 11	 7



Dollar Loss by Month



*Muscatine Fire is responsible for the protection of \$1,703,858,422 worth of structures in Muscatine.

EMS calls are classified as 911 calls, transfers, and refusals. Each group has unique features—for instance we average about 2 1/4 hours for a transfer call vs. about 45 minutes for a 911 call. Refusal calls include a situation where the patient decides they do not want to be treated or when we treat them on scene and they do not want to go to a hospital.

ANATOMY OF A 911 CALL FOR SERVICE

CALL



CITIZEN CALLS 911 AND REPORTS INCIDENT TO 911 DISPATCHER

DISPATCH



911 DISPATCHER PROCESSES CALL AND DISPATCHES APPROPRIATE APPARATUS AND PERSONNEL TO THE INCIDENT

TURNOUT

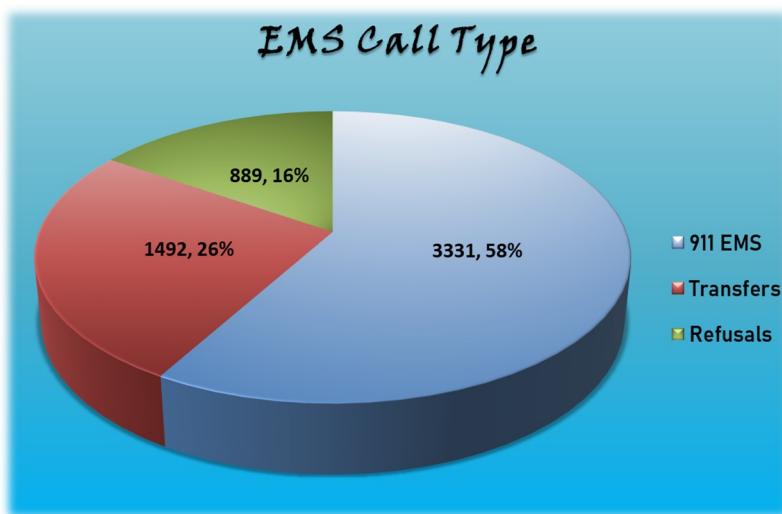


THE TIME FROM WHEN THE PERSONNEL ARE DISPATCHED TO WHEN THE PERSONNEL ARE DRESSED IN APPROPRIATE GEAR AND IN THEIR ASSIGNED UNIT

TRAVEL

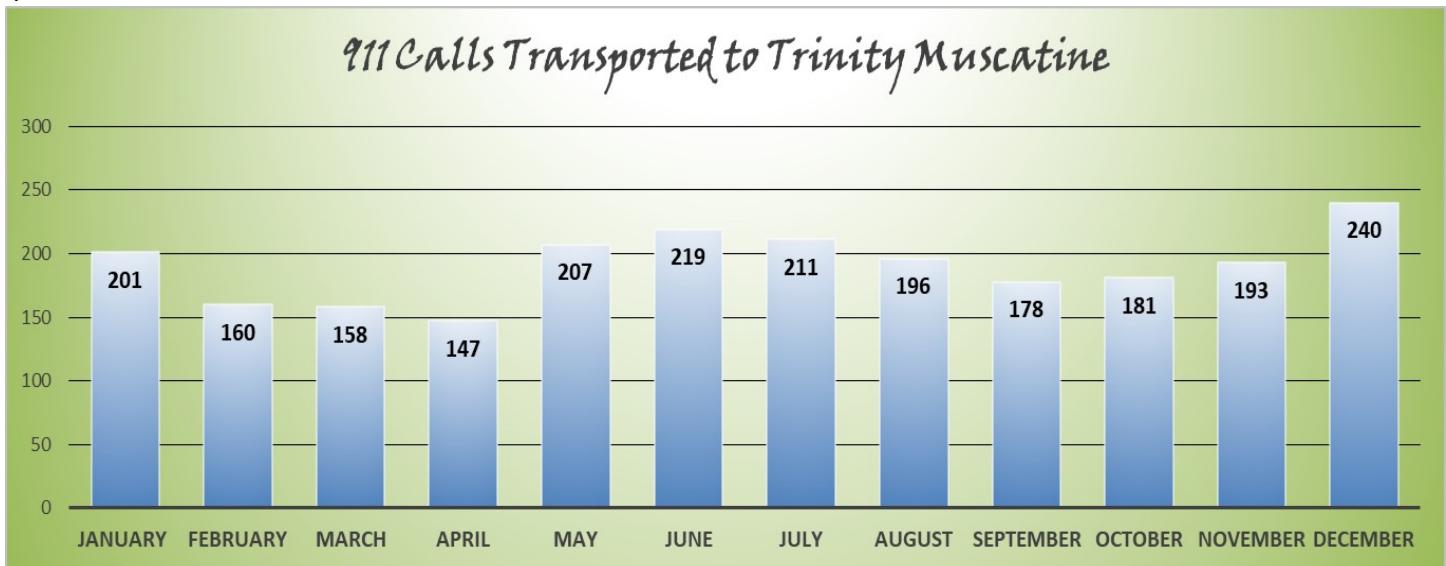


THE TIME FROM WHEN THE APPARATUS AND PERSONNEL LEAVES THE FIRE STATION TO WHEN THE APPARATUS AND PERSONNEL ARRIVES AT THE INCIDENT

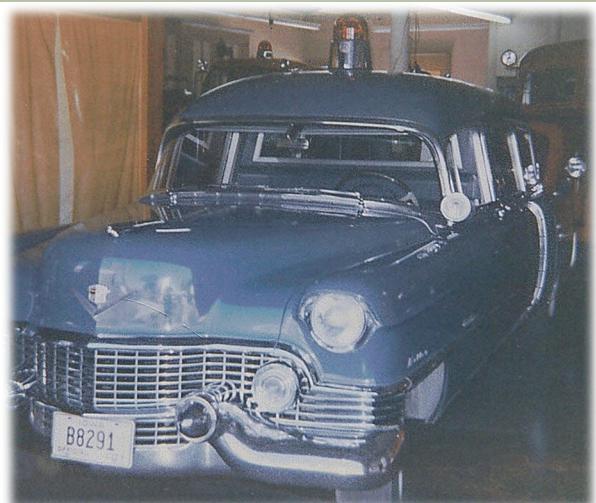
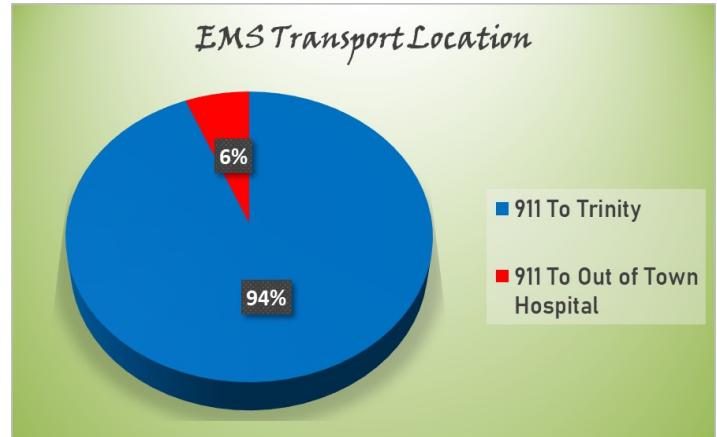
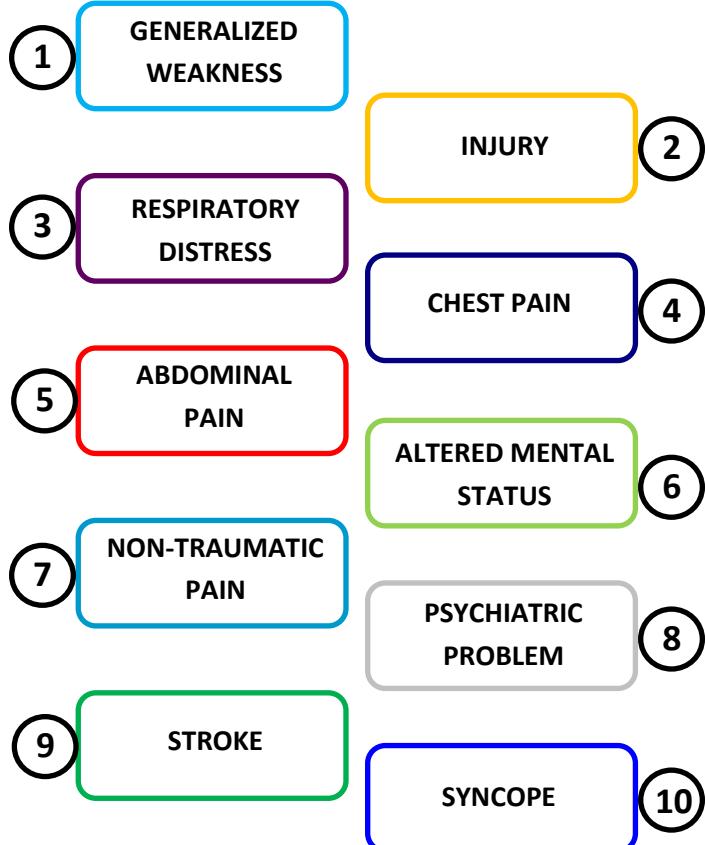


EMS Transport Report

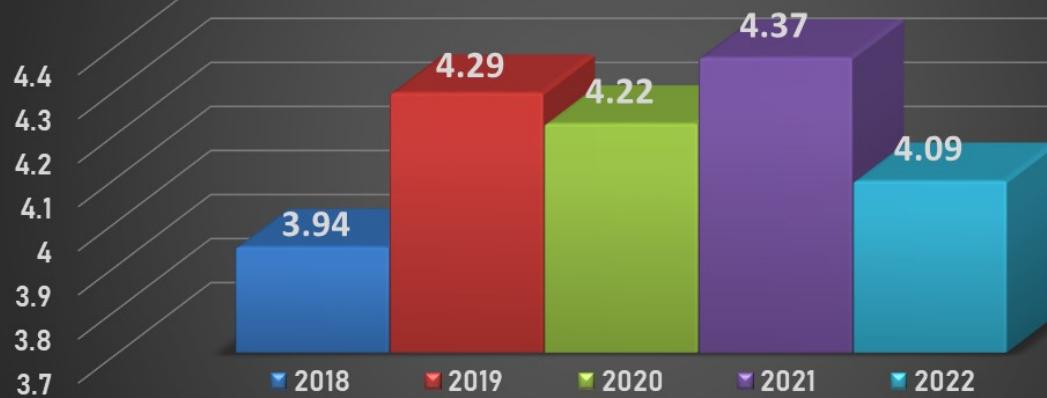
In addition to emergent and scheduled non-emergent transfers to out-of-town hospitals, we also transport 911 calls out of town. Most often this is due to the need for services that are not available locally, such as OB services, specialized cardiac needs, or complicated orthopedic situations. The impact on workload for our crews with these 911 calls is similar to a transfer—the trip will take a couple of hours on average. By looking at the top reasons for our medical calls we can identify areas to focus our training and public education efforts. As an example, if we see that falls are a problem we can focus our efforts on fall prevention.



Top Ten Patient Chief Complaints



Average Out-of-Town Drop Offs Per Day



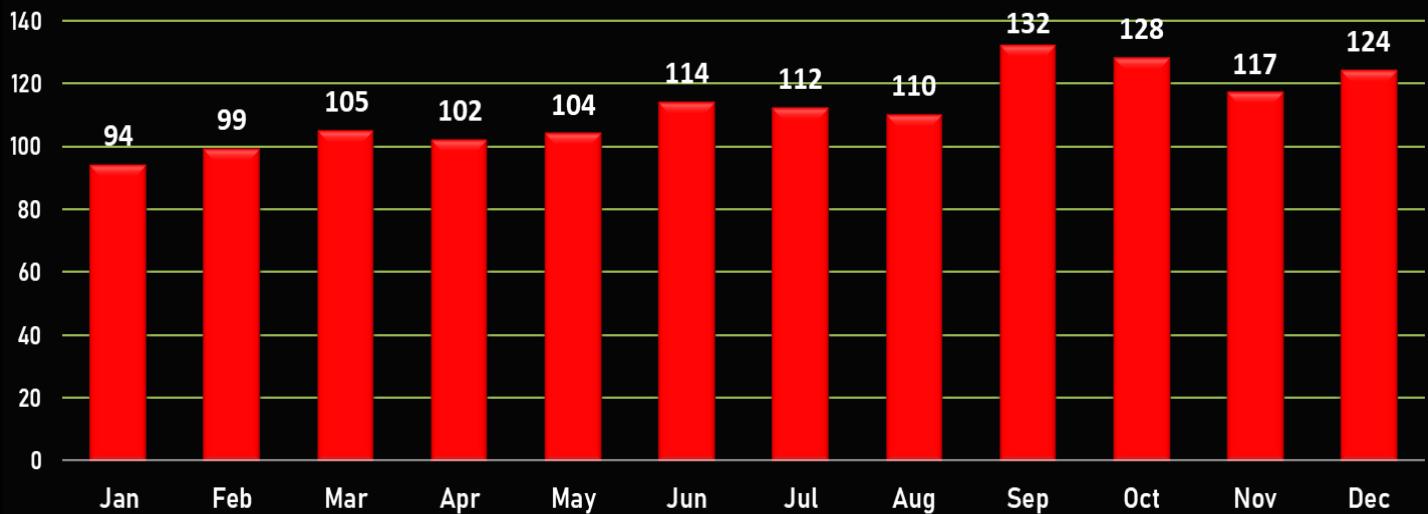
In addition to 911 emergency medical calls, we also provide treatment and transportation from Trinity Muscatine to hospitals outside of town. This happens when a patient needs a higher level of care or they need a service that is not offered in Muscatine. In addition to those transports we also transport to out-of-town hospitals for certain conditions such as someone having a cardiac event that requires immediate catheterization.

In 2022 we transported a patient to a hospital outside of Muscatine an average of 4.09 times per day. The length of these calls vary by complexity and destination, but we average over 10 hours per day on transfer calls.

These transports are staffed by the crews working on that day and includes critical care paramedics, paramedics, and EMTs. We do call back for overtime if needed and have a part-time on-call program to help fill the need for transfer crews. It takes at least two staff members for these transports. More complicated calls often require three staff - especially those where our critical care paramedic is caring for a critical patient, such as one who requires a ventilator.

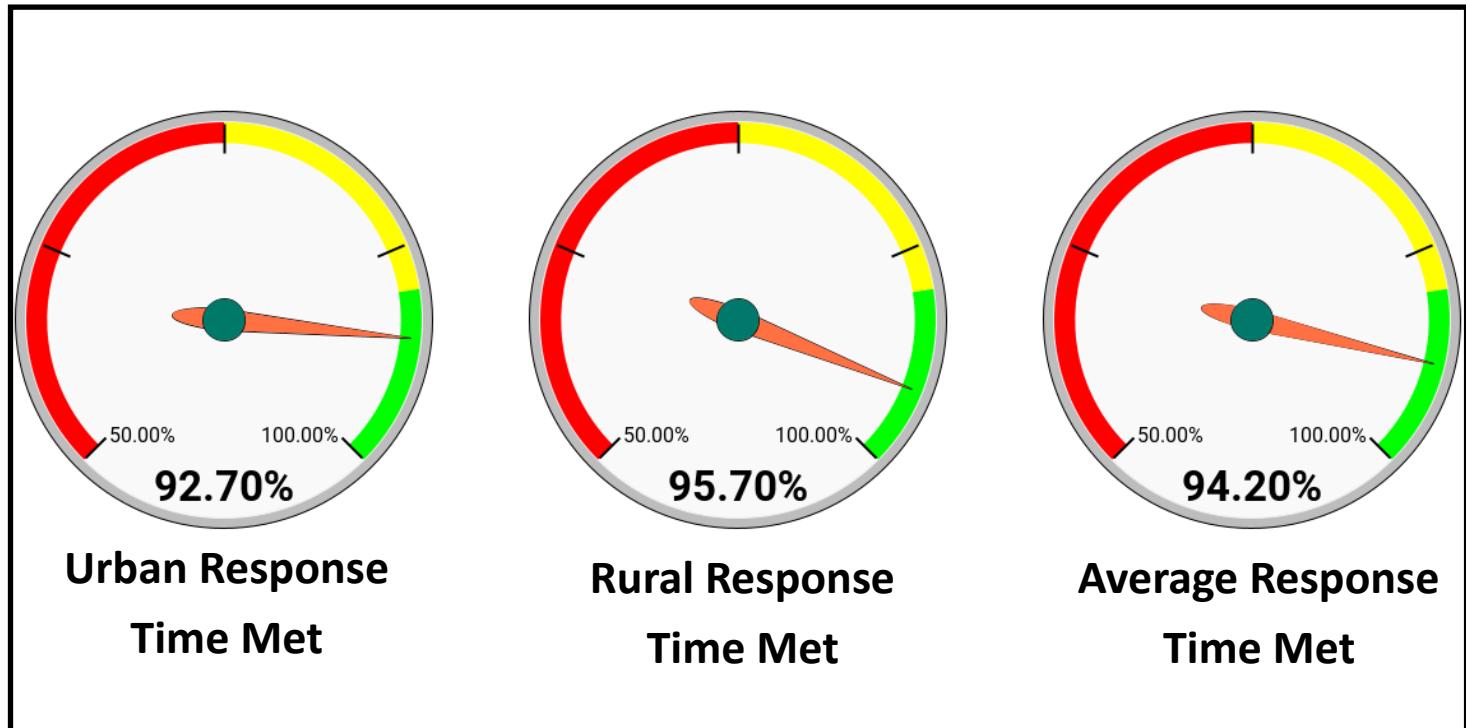


Total Out-of-Town Transfers

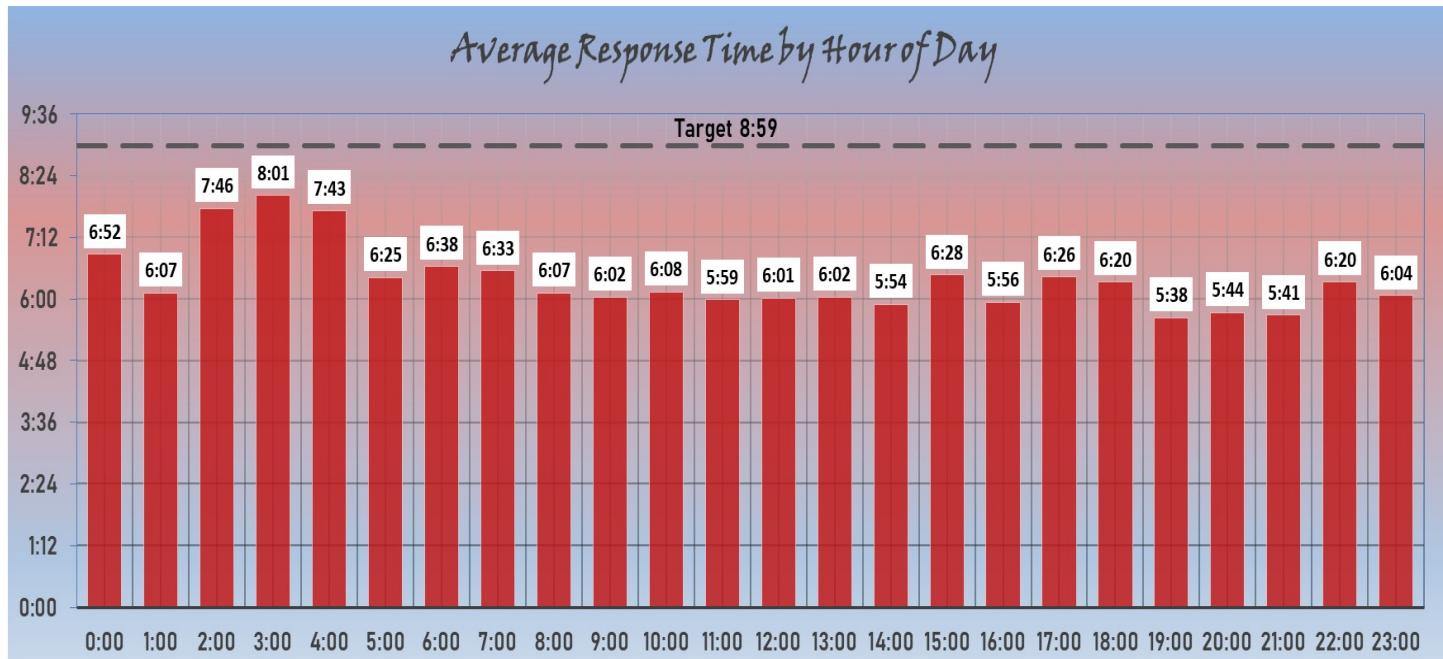


EMS Response Time Report

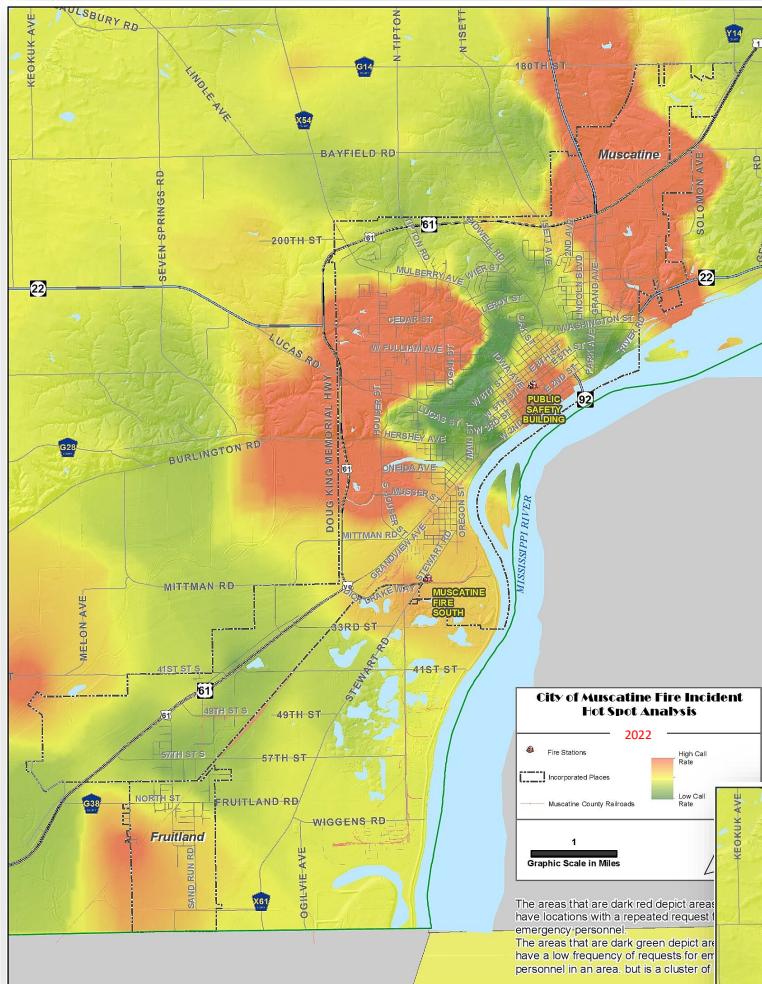
The Muscatine Fire Department strives to provide a rapid response that arrives on scene in a safe and efficient manner. Depending on the nature of call and the location of the response, different response time goals are set. A standard followed throughout the nation is to arrive at an emergency medical call in urban areas (within the City) in 8 minutes and 59 seconds or less at least 90% of the time. For calls outside the City limits the standard set is to arrive in 14 minutes and 59 seconds or less at least 90% of the time. Response time starts from the time of the 911 call and goes until the first unit arrives on scene.



*Response times have been impacted by infrastructure improvement projects.



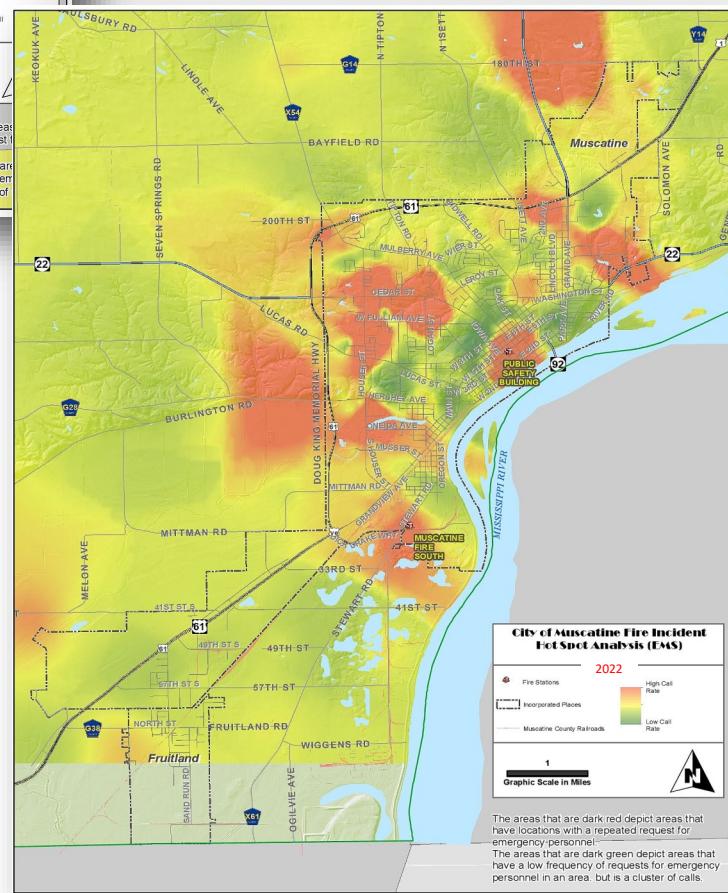
The following diagrams were produced with assistance from the Muscatine Area Geographical Information Consortium (MAGIC), and they help to illustrate where we have a high demand for our medical services. Common major hot spots include the hospital and facilities with a high population of elderly, such as nursing homes and assisted living locations. These 'hot spot' areas are fairly consistent from year to year.



Fire Incident Hot Spots



EMS Incident Hot Spots

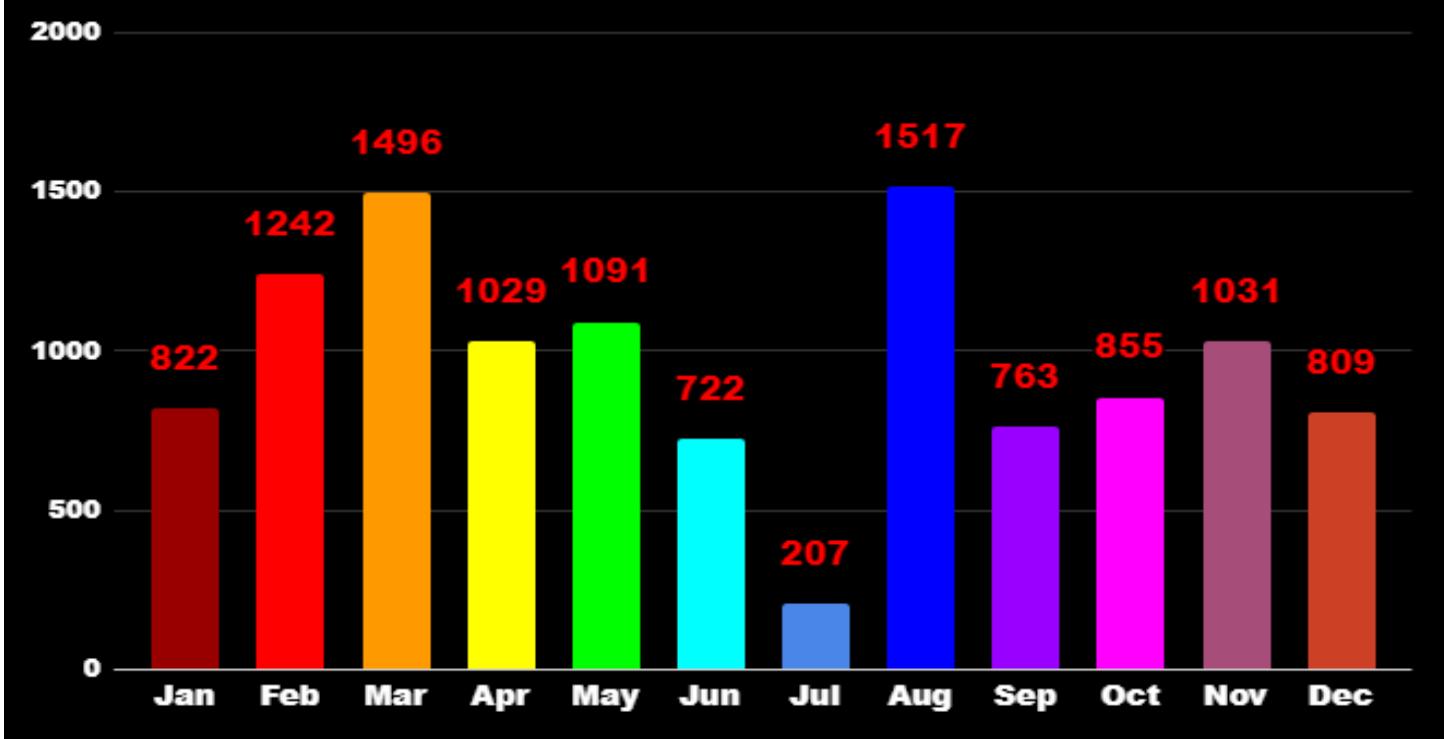


Training Report

Training for emergencies is our highest priority outside of emergency response. Your fire department needs to know exactly how to best handle emergencies as they arise and training helps us to do just that. We are responsible for response to a myriad of 911 calls, including EMS, rescues calls (high angle rope, water, ice, trench rescues), hazardous materials, the whole gamut of fire emergencies, violent scenes, and many other miscellaneous events. It is the goal of our training to make sure we are ready when the alarm sounds, regardless of the nature of the emergency.



Training Hours by Month 2022

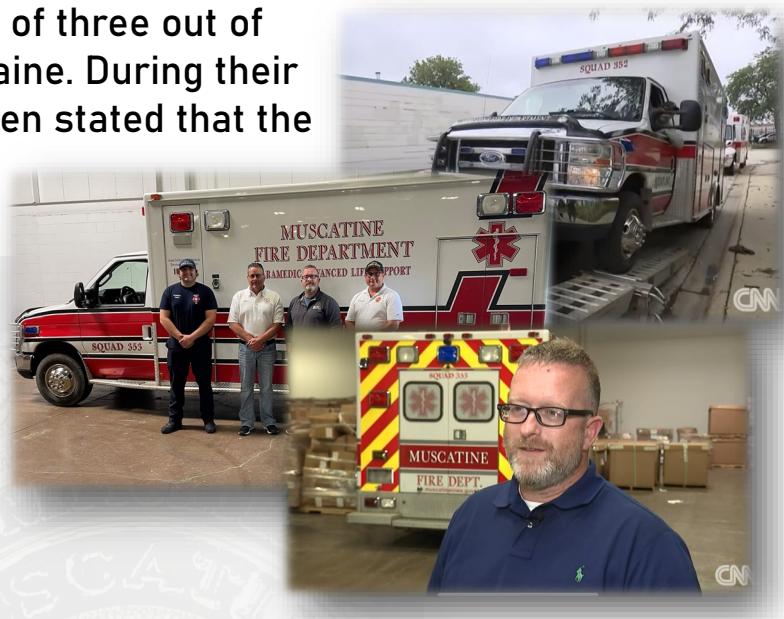




Fire Department Community

In July of 2022 with assistance of Illinois resident Chris Manson the Muscatine Fire Department was able to donate and get a total of three out of service ambulances to the Ukraine. During their trying times in Ukraine it has been stated that the countries EMS services are losing on average seven ambulances a day. Muscatine Fire and the City of Muscatine were beyond proud that there was a way we could help even if it be a small gesture.

Ukraine In Need



Day of Caring



On September 29, 2022, children from Muscatine Schools decorated the sidewalks around the Public Safety Building for "Chalk the walk", this all part of the Day of Caring. Firefighters were able to join in and help the children draw some amazing artwork on the front apron of the station.

Meals on Wheels

The COVID Pandemic brought trying times and made it hard for some to have access to a full meal. In 2022 members of the Muscatine Fire Department in connection with the long-term health care facilities in Muscatine, began providing assistance to Meals on Wheels; staffing a route roughly 50 times and delivering about 750 meals



Apparatus Report

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<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Description</u>
Ambulances	
Ambulance 351	2018 Ford E450 Medix Type III
Ambulance 352	2021 Ford F450 4X4 Wheeled Coach Type I
Ambulance 353	2021 Ford E450 Wheeled Coach Type III
Ambulance 354	2022 Ford E450 Wheeled Coach Type III
Ambulance 355	2016 Ford E450 Medix Type III
Ambulance 356	2019 Ford Transit Medix Type II
Fire Engines	
Engine 311	2013 Pierce Station – 1 Front Line Engine
Engine 312	2006 Alexis Station – 2 Front Line Engine (Refurbished Once)
Engine 313	1988 Smeal Engine – Station 1 Reserve Engine (Refurbished Once)
Engine 314	1993 Pierce Engine – Station 2 Reserve Engine (Refurbished Once)
Specialized Apparatus and Support Vehicles	
Truck 310	2018 Pierce Arrow XT 100' Ladder Truck
Haz-Mat 321	2005 Chevy Duramax C8500 w/ 2004 Mickey 16 Bay Trailer
Chief's Vehicle	2019 Chevy Tahoe
Asst. Chief's Vehicle	2018 Chevy Silverado 1500 Crew Cab
BC Command 333	2008 Chevy Tahoe (used police vehicle)
Truck 331	2019 Chevy Silverado 2500 Ext Cab - With plow attachment
Staff Car 335	2011 Ford Crown Victoria (used police vehicle)
Mule 350	1997 Side-by-Side Off-road Utility Vehicle (used police vehicle)
Air Trailer	Three Bank Pull-Behind Air Trailer
Boat 332	2017 Inflatable rescue boat with 25hp Evinrude Outboard Motor



Due to supply chain issues,
Squad 352, 353 and 354 were all
replaced with new ambulances
manufactured by Wheeled Coach
in 2022

Fire Explorer Program

2022 was a good year for the Explorers at our Muscatine post. After not running the program during the COVID era we were able to start it back up at the beginning of this year. Blue Shift started recruiting at area high schools, had some local news coverage and started building a new program from scratch. We now have a handful of very active members that are excited to not only be involved in the program but also look to educate themselves outside of our meeting nights. We have two meetings a month on the first at third Sundays from 7-9pm. The first Sunday is medical training and the third Sunday is fire related.

This year our medical training nights have gotten the group basic first aid skills along with being certified in CPR and Stop the Bleed, which are both nationally recognized. In our fire training we have outfitted them with decommissioned bunker gear and focus on practical skills used on the fire ground. We run training scenarios that challenge them at the same standards as a career firefighter. Some of the trainings we have covered so far included ladder deployments, search and rescue operations, fire behavior and forcible entry. The group was also able to use donated fire extinguishers to train on proper use and techniques using live fire. We have trained on some special operations topics as well. On one of our more popular training nights, the Explorers rappelled out of the third floor window of our training tower. In addition, down at Station 2 the group set up a mock hazardous material incident where they donned different levels of PPE and set up a decontamination area.



Firefighter Ben Barrett
Fire Explorer Advisor



The next step for our members is to be able to participate in ride-a-longs, which would give them real world experience and insight into day-to-day operations in the Fire and EMS fields. After participating in the program, and having certain skills checked off, they are able to come in and ride on the Engine to observe firefighters and paramedics at work. We are very pleased with how the last year has turned out and are excited to continue building the Muscatine Explorer program.



Assistant Chief Report



Assistant Fire Chief - Mike Hartman

There were many changes in 2022. As a department we have been working hard to have our staff trained for the emergencies we may face; over the last year we have made a concerted effort to extend that training to developing our leaders and supporting our staff. In order to provide the highest quality of service to the community we need a leadership mindset that will support the community, our staff, and show real leadership in service. Department-wide we have been learning how to better interact, communicate, and lead. As we improve those skills we will be more effective and efficient at service our community.

Service to the community goes beyond offering public education classes to schoolchildren. We are expanding to spread safety messages through increased use of the City communications team and system, by offering to provide education outside the traditional classroom format, and increase our presence in the community by attending more community events. Every interaction with the public is a touchpoint that can help remind everyone to be safe. Developing servant leadership inside the walls of the station leads to servant leadership for all of our staff when outside those walls. Leading by example, focusing on the community as a whole, and seeking to serve others are all elements we utilize to support those around us.

One aspect of safety that often gets overlooked is code enforcement. Even though that term has a negative connotation, it is certainly a positive action! We are unable to know in advance when and where we will have fires, so it is critical to the safety of everyone that we ensure the safety measures required by code are in place and operational. This is especially true in locations where someone may not be able to immediately recognize and respond to a fire—such as when someone is sleeping in their home. Smoke detectors are required in all residential locations and carbon monoxide detectors are required in all residences where there is a device that uses gas (such as a hot water heater). Residential locations of a certain type and size are also required to have sprinklers—which is the quickest, best, and most effective way to respond to modern fires. To illustrate the impact of modern furnishings please search for the UL FSRI Home Furnishings video; it will illustrate why fire is becoming more of a threat!

Critical to supporting our staff to lead in this way is the need to support them. The job is great most of the time, but there are situations and times when what our staff experience is very challenging. For a couple of years we have had a core group begin to develop a peer support group. This is a small number of responders who listen to those who need to process the more challenging aspects of the profession. Not only is this the right thing to do for our staff, it shows how we help each other out and prepares us for the next emergency call. Industry-wide the topic of supporting our peers is becoming more important; your fire department is all in on helping each other. During the next year the police department will form their team and we will begin to support each other. It is an exciting time to be an emergency responder, and the peer support group is just another example of how we really are a family!

Green Shift Battalion Chief - Darrell Janssen

Green Shift has the responsibilities of fire department operations and the department's internal training program. Operations include fire responses and what we do when we arrive at a fire. This includes planning for our response utilizing standard operating procedures, preparing for response through training, preparing for the response through ensuring we have the right equipment and it is in good condition, and reviewing what we do on a regular basis to find areas for improvement. Green Shift also has responsibilities for other non-EMS emergencies such as rescue and hazardous materials calls for service. Our rescue calls can include many different things, including ice rescue, water/river rescue, confined space situations, rope rescue, and rescues that require expertise in all of those areas. Rescues do not happen very often, but they are high stress and high impact events when they do occur. This makes it critical that we prepare for these operations.

Our department provides hazardous materials response to five counties. Fortunately chemical releases and spills are not very common. It is good that we don't have many HazMat events, but it also underscores the need for proper preparation and planning. This includes not only having the right equipment, but maintaining the equipment and making sure we have the correct training and procedures so that when an uncommon call with a large impact comes in—we are ready for that. Our department has revived our special operations team—the Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) and worked hard to get this group of specialists ready for the big yet uncommon events. One benefit to the department-wide team is that each shift now has someone specially trained to handle unique situations; if a rescue is needed on a certain shift then the HIRT member who is assigned to that shift can lend expertise and help us to resolve the situation in a safe and efficient manner.

The focus for training is to continue with the 2-year plan that is in place and to complete the skills for proficiency. The subjects outlined in the training plan include fire training, EMS, hazardous materials response, rope rescue and confined space rescue. In late summer of 2022, the department was given a unique opportunity to use a house on Cedar Street that was donated for live fire training. Although we were not able to burn the structure down due to surrounding exposures, we were able to conduct many different search and rescue evolutions and a one-day "live" burn session with several live fire situations. These opportunities do not come available very often so we were able to take advantage of a solid structure and generous timeline to complete the training.

Operations includes a responsibility that has a direct impact to department effectiveness in purchasing equipment. We ordered the capital items from the new budget year and evaluated the condition of current equipment. There were two capital equipment items in the budget, a power-driven hose roller for our large diameter hose and a forcible entry door prop for training. These have been purchased and placed in service for use. We also researched items to help with new budget preparations in November and December. We are also coordinating the completion of a new fire engine, and anticipate it will arrive in early spring of 2023. These are the tools that help make our staff effective!





Blue Shift Battalion Chief - Ted Hillard

This past year was a productive and challenging year for Blue Shift. We were fortunate to be the temporary home of four acting lieutenant positions, where a firefighter is placed into the lieutenant position so they can show their abilities to fill the role full time. The acting position is important so that the firefighter can gain work experience with command and control and provide the chance to learn a new skill set of being a Company Officer overseeing critical emergency scenes with different personality types in the south fire district. The feedback and personnel evaluations received from these acting positions were all very positive and the shift personnel got an opportunity to work with the different potential Lieutenant candidates' management styles. Spencer Ripperger was promoted to Fire Lieutenant on Blue Shift and has been doing a great job moving the shift and department forward.

Blue Shift has a critical responsibility in the area of Community Risk Reduction (CRR). Community Risk Reduction includes not only public education, but also requires addressing the fire problem in multiple ways. In 2022 our programs included fire inspections, Explorers group, Freddy shows, station tours, public outreach events, and our usual public education offerings.

Fire Inspections: We have been working on improving the fire inspections program by dividing monthly fire inspections into groups by designated districts. This will allow personnel to focus on a specific area instead of having monthly inspections spread out throughout the city. An Inspector 1 class was held in 2022; Blue Shift now has 11 certified fire inspectors total. Having the knowledge from the fire inspector class is critical to our mission, and this certification is actually required for anyone who wishes to move up the career ladder in our department.

Public Education: With the COVID 19 pandemic our Public Education Program was placed on hold. Although it limited our interaction with students it did allow us to review the entire program. In 2023 we will restart the Public Education Program and have developed a new outline that covers materials for students from Kindergarten through 4th grade. The basics of this new material will be taught to all fire personnel to ensure all public education visits receive a consistent delivery and so our entire department is able to underscore educational topics when they interact with the public.

Explorers Group: FF Ben Barrett has worked hard to restart the Muscatine Fire Explorers Program. This program is tailored to youth between ages 14 and 21 and covers topics related directly to what our staff do on a daily basis. The group meets every 1st and 3rd Sundays to go over fire, EMS, & rescue topics. It is a wonderful program that allows us to teach young people about emergency response and gives them a chance to see if this is a career they would like to explore further. Anyone who may be interested is welcome to stop in for any of our meetings!

Shows and Tours: A big part of reducing risk is to bring the youngest members of the community in for an educational visit. Many children leave the station with an understanding that we put out fires and also provide EMS and rescue services. They learn about "calling 911" and "Stop, Drop, and Roll". Freddy the Fire Truck is always a big hit and we have added new songs and learning tips to help interact with the students. All shifts are trained to operate Freddy to keep consistency with all visits, regardless of the shift working the day of the visit.

Community Outreach: This is a newer emphasis for the department, and includes going to numerous job fairs, speaking at the high schools, attending public events in the community, and being an active member of the community. This helps establish our community presence and commitment and is a great benefit for our staff. Our commitment is to continue to provide superior community risk reduction services and build an outreach to other areas of need in the community.

Red Shift Battalion Chief - Gary Ronzheimer

The year 2022 was a challenging year for the department as a whole with the highest call volume to date. This volume averaged out to around 16 calls a day. Like the other shifts, Red Shift was able to also complete projects related to ambulance operations and complete many hours of training. For Red Shift, this would not have been successful without the strong leadership of Captain Joe Timmsen, who oversaw and led many training sessions and ensured that the shift was prepared for the hazards that would come down the line. During this past year challenging calls included critical pediatric calls, several fires and rescues. Captain Timmsen also took upon himself to recognize individuals on a monthly basis, this recognition was in the form of an EMS or Fire pen given to the top performers of the month. The personnel who received this pen were nominated by their peers for their performance on EMS and Fire related calls for their outstanding performance.



Some changes were worked through and implemented as well. Protocols were revamped in 2022 and are currently being finalized; intravenous (IV) pumps and special transport ventilators will be added to equipment used by our ambulance personnel to provide higher quality care. A huge part of EMS operations is ordering supplies and maintaining inventory of medications and equipment. Overall we ordered over \$80,000 in supplies and equipment to keep our operations running. This was done in conjunction with running calls, training, and station duties. A big shout out to our firefighters for keeping ambulance operations running, we could not have done it without them and their attention to details.

This past year our second paramedic class graduated and passed their National Registry Exams for Paramedics and have become certified in both Illinois and Iowa. Our department coordinated with the University of Iowa to host their special Simulation Lab. This includes a semi trailer that can be moved to different locations to provide special medical-related simulation training on site. The sim lab was another outstanding training opportunity for our personnel to test their skills in a controlled and productive environment.

During this coming year our shift plans to continue to provide the EMS coordination for the department. We will continue to look at areas where EMS personnel can improve care to the citizens in Muscatine and implement changes that come our way as well as staying up to speed on the newest technology and procedures. Firefighters on shift this year will follow the motto: "Brilliance on the basics"

Our people are our greatest strength. Our job as leaders is to ensure every firefighter knows that we want them to succeed, and that we value their service, talent, skill, and dedication. We must make every effort to prepare our firefighters for success from Day One, and to continuously create the right conditions for that success being Brilliant on the Basics creates a solid foundation upon which every successful career is launched and provides a road map for success. We will focus on physical fitness, training, mentorship, leadership, and recognition. As a shift we want to make sure that all our personnel are ready for any emergency we are called upon and to make sure that our firefighters have the physical and mental tools to perform their duties and recover from the strain those may take on their personal well-being.

Being properly trained, ready for action, and in the right state of mind will support our shift mission to being the best at what matters most.

"In the heat of the battle you don't remember very much. You don't think very fast. You act by instinct, which is really training. So you've got to be trained for battle so that you will react exactly the way you did in training"—Admiral Arleigh Burke, US Navy





New Full-Time Employees



Firefighter/ EMT

John Peters

Hire Date: February 7, 2022



Firefighter/ EMT

Yoshio Vo

Hire Date: February 7, 2022



Firefighter/ EMT

Marissa Janssen

Hire Date: August 8, 2022



Firefighter/ Paramedic

Aaron Meredith

Hire Date: August 8, 2022



Firefighter/ EMT

Skylar Duncan

Hire Date: August 8, 2022



Firefighter/ EMT

Chad Whitehall

Hire Date: August 8, 2022



Firefighter/ Paramedic

Eric Joslyn

Hire Date: December 15, 2022

New Part-Time Employees



Part-Time EMT

Gary Savona

Hire Date: September 7, 2022



Part-Time EMT

Vanessa Lopez

Hire Date: September 7, 2022



Spencer Ripperger

Firefighter to Lieutenant

July 29, 2022

- Coordinated and implemented increased community presence through the annual public safety open house, trunk or treat activities, and additional community events – leading to thousands of individual interactions with the public.
- Held two academies for seven new hires, resulting in nearly 1,200 hours of recruit training.
- Held two entry-level firefighter application/assessment processes to maintain a current Civil Service list for new hires and added several staff on as part time ambulance attendants.
- Held a promotional assessment for the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain, and Battalion Chief. This assessment included a formal assessment center which utilizes chief officers from other fire departments as evaluators for a practical testing coordinated by an industry expert. This style of advancement testing has been used in the state for many years and has received excellent reviews from departments that utilize this assessment center testing model.
- Utilized an outside leadership consultant to help develop leadership abilities of department members and lead to more effective management and service delivery. This has resulted in measurable improvement in department morale during the past year.
- Hosted and instructed State certification training and testing for Driver/Operator certification at the IFSAC/ProBoard standard. This was done in-house with no cost for the classroom portion of the course.
- Purchased and placed into service one new Type I (truck chassis) ambulance and two new Type III (van chassis) ambulances to provide better service and improved comfort for patients. One purchase was due to unacceptable lead times for a refurbishment of a used ambulance and the other two ambulances were earlier purchases that were delayed due to supply chain issues.
- Continued to develop a peer support program to provide additional support to our members. The group has been utilized to assist our members and consists of specially trained fire staff, local fire chaplains and a therapy K9. The program has also begun integration of a partnership with the MPD Peer Support program to increase training opportunities, share lessons learned, provide a cross-agency option for service delivery, and enhance support for both departments .
- Utilizing a think tank model the department has made changes to daily work schedules which have resulted in better rested staff. Open discussion with the hospital has also resulted in changes in late night inter-facility transfers that have enhanced patient and firefighter safety.
- Successfully obtained grant funding to provide a gear washer for station 2, which enhances our ability to clean gear of the staff at that station and our new recruits during training. This decreases contamination which may lead to health issues later in a firefighter's career.

We look forward to the challenges and opportunities in 2023 and we wish to thank you for your continued support.



Muscatine Fire Department

312 East 5th Street

Muscatine, IA 52761

Emergency Phone: 911

Phone: 563-263-9233

<http://www.muscatineiowa.gov>



A special thanks to FF Chelf for his work on this annual report.