



MUSCATINE FIRE DEPARTMENT



**2023
Annual
Report**

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A Message from Fire Chief Jerry Ewers

It is my pleasure as Fire Chief to share with you the Muscatine Fire Department 2023 Annual Report. This report highlights the different operations, activities, accomplishments, personnel, and shares our overall statistics and interesting facts of what your fire department does for our community, businesses, and citizens. We take pride in being trained, ready, equipped, and able to respond quickly and efficiently to all emergency and non-emergency requests.

The Fire Department is staffed with 48 full-time personnel who provide fire protection and ambulance services to the City of Muscatine as well as fire protection and hazardous material response to contracted areas through automatic and mutual aid agreements. The ambulance service covers the City of Muscatine, surrounding townships, and Western Illinois. We exist to provide effective municipal services that improves the quality of life in the community.

In 2023, our department responded to 5,773 calls for service. These calls for service included all types of fires, medical emergencies, ambulance transports, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous material incidents, and specialty rescues on land and water. When not engaged in calls for service our staff is focused on training, preparedness, prevention, and educational activities. I am proud of the knowledge, skills, abilities, and professionalism our members have and continue to demonstrate each day. This is evident by the phone calls, letters, and cards we receive throughout the year thanking our staff and complimenting them.

As for our fleet and equipment, we have placed an order to purchase a new fire engine and a new ambulance, but due to supply chain issues and long lead times we won't see these new vehicles for a while. As for improvements in our ambulance operations we have purchased cot scales and software to accurately identify a patient's weight and administer medication dosages for critical patients according to their actual weight. This prevents our paramedics from either underdosing or giving too much of a medication while in the field, especially for our pediatric patients. As we continue to focus on community risk reduction (CRR) you will see fire department presence at community events, fairs, and gatherings. Community outreach training focused on Stop the Bleed and CPR training in 2023. We also focused on job fairs, our youth explorer program, and recruitment efforts. We will continue offering these outreach trainings in 2024.

Finally, I would like to thank the Mayor, City Council Members, and the City Administrator for their continued support of the Muscatine Fire Department. As Fire Chief, it has been an honor to lead this department, but the real credit and thanks goes out to the officers, firefighters, paramedics, and EMT's who work 24/7/365 putting out fires and saving lives. If you happen to see them out in public please say hello or let them know you appreciate what they do. I know I do.

If you have any questions about the annual report, the services we provide, or if you are interested in becoming a firefighter please email or call me. Enjoy the report and stay safe!

We take pride in being trained, ready, equipped, and able to respond quickly and efficiently.....

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.

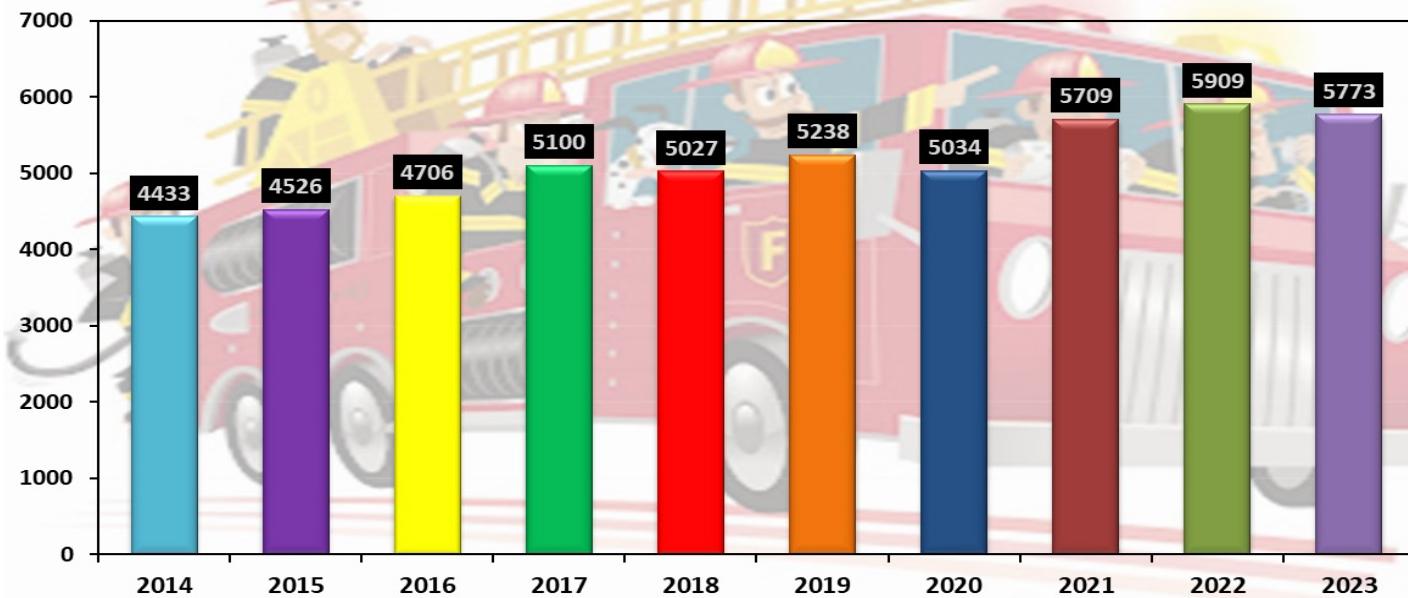
2023 Organizational Chart



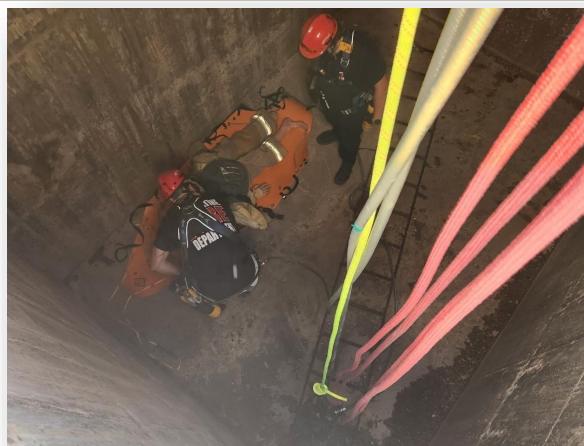
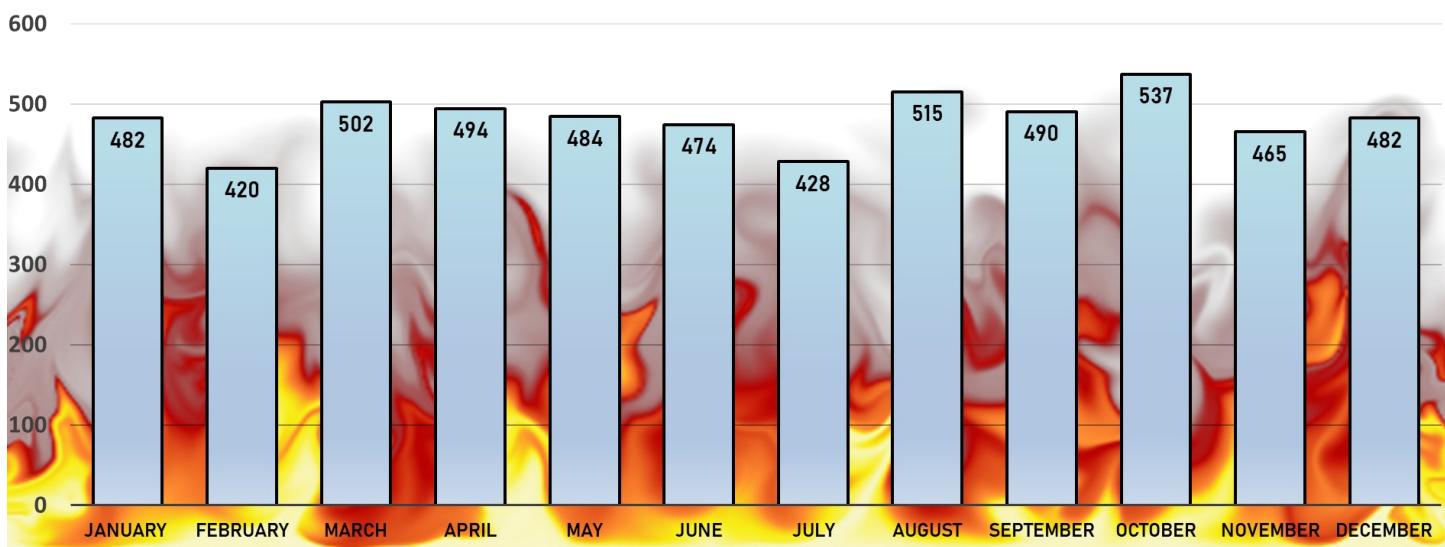
Calls For Service Report

In 2023, we set records for monthly run volume for 5 of the 12 months. January, March, April, August, and October were record months, with three of those tallying more than 500 calls each. For the year we averaged 15.8 calls per day. During our busiest month, October, we averaged just over 17.3 calls per day.

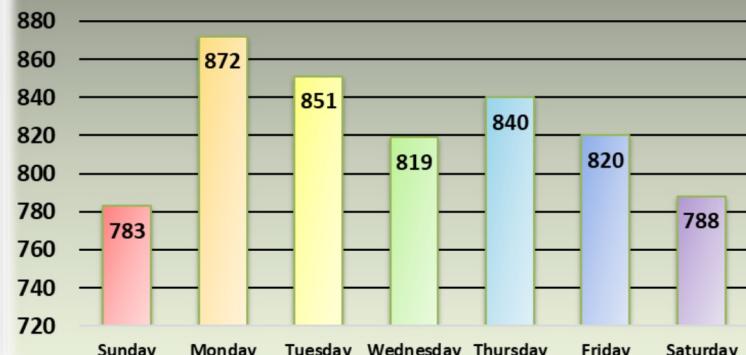
Calls For Service Per Year



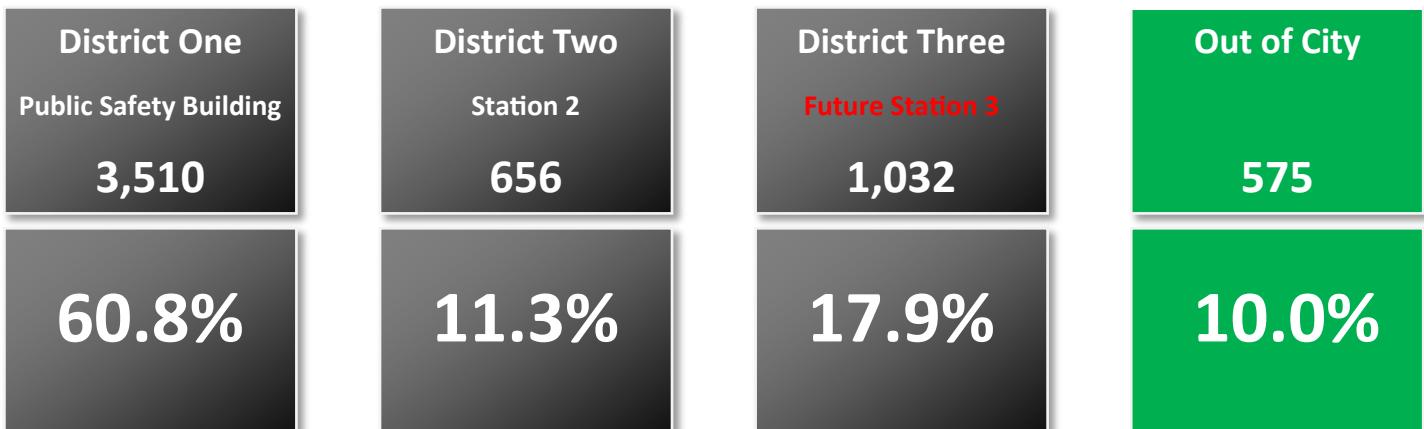
Monthly Calls for Service



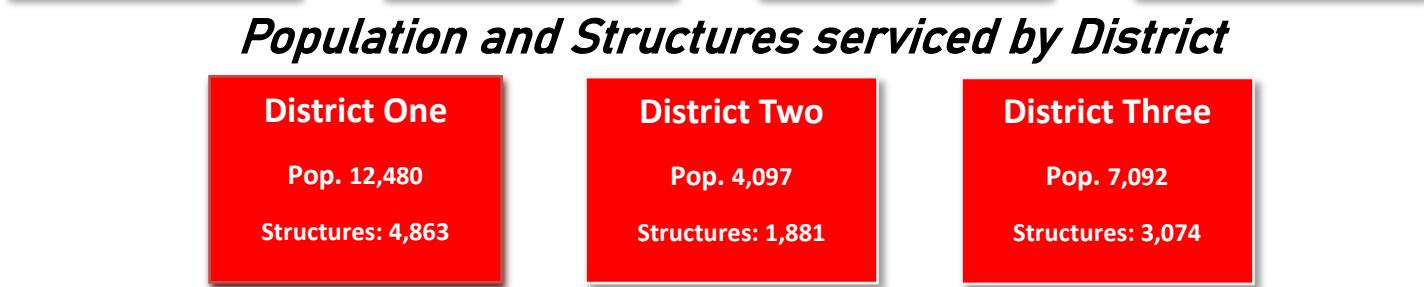
Calls By Day of Week



Calls by Districts Within the City



County Calls



Population and Structures serviced by District

District One

Pop. 12,480

Structures: 4,863

District Two

Pop. 4,097

Structures: 1,881

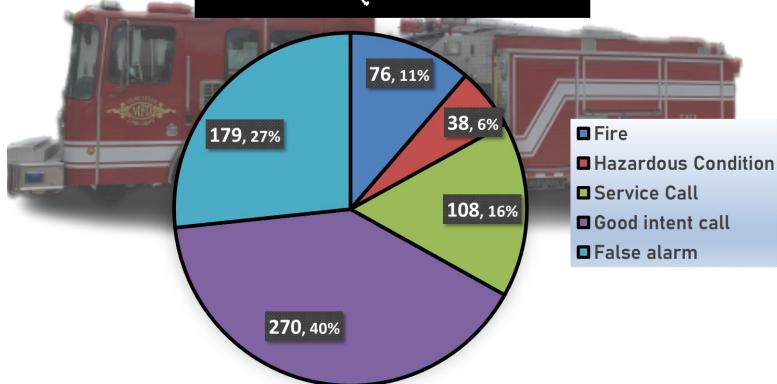
District Three

Pop. 7,092

Structures: 3,074

*Currently District One covers all calls in District Three.

Fire Incidents in 2023



5,773

Annual Calls

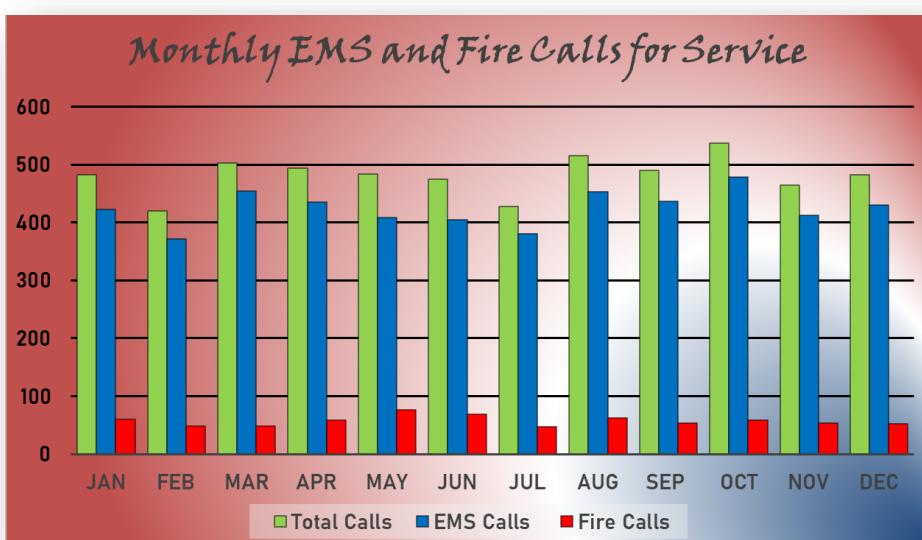
88% of

Calls are EMS

Average

15.8

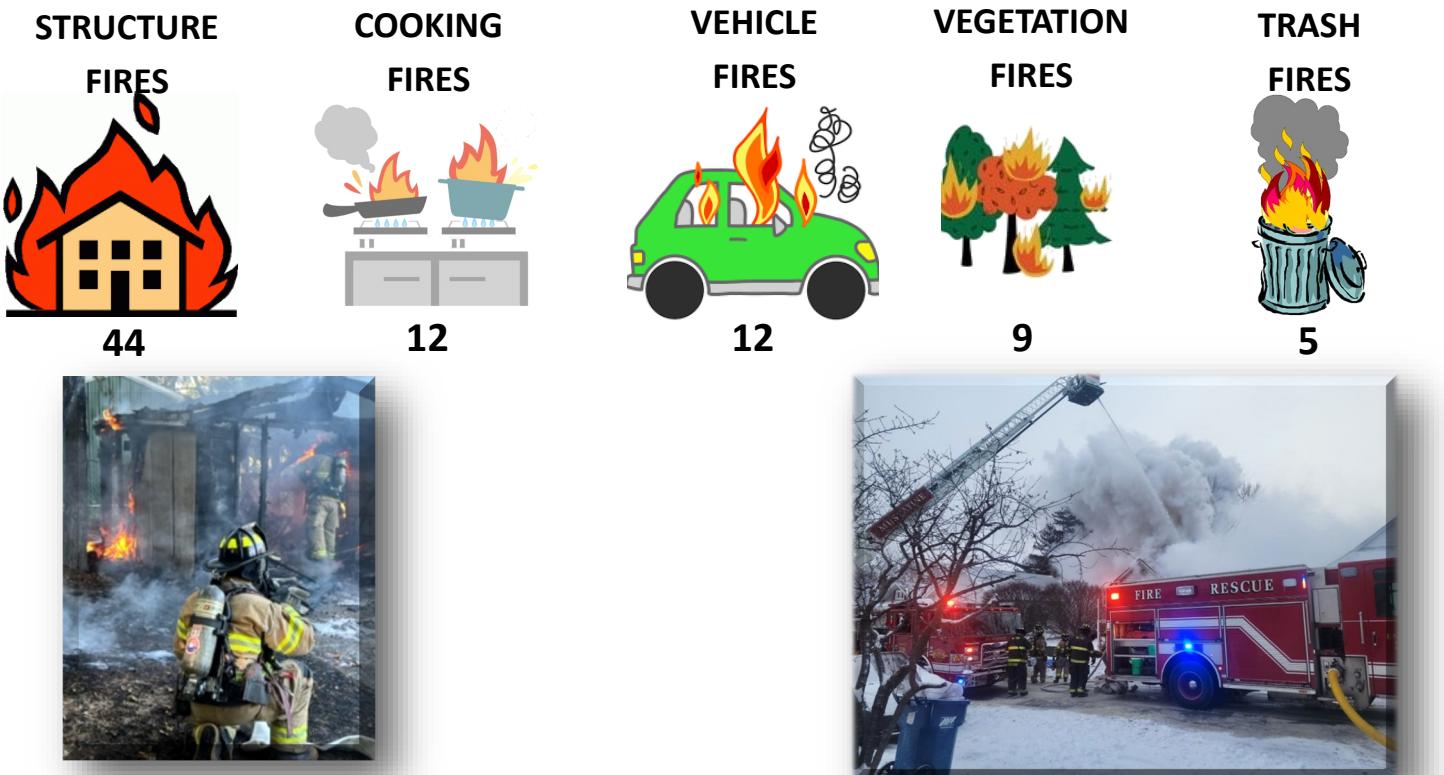
Calls a Day



Fire Response Report

We review fire-related calls on an ongoing basis to identify areas for improvement. This year the number of fire-related calls were down slightly, which can be used as an indicator that our public education efforts are making a difference. We use this information to help drive our education efforts, such as safety in the kitchen.

TOP 5 FIRE RESPONSES FOR 2023



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. In a refusal, the patient may or may not receive treatment, but ultimately refuses transport to the 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

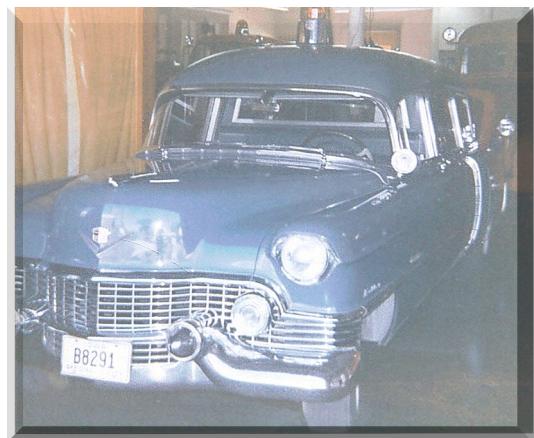
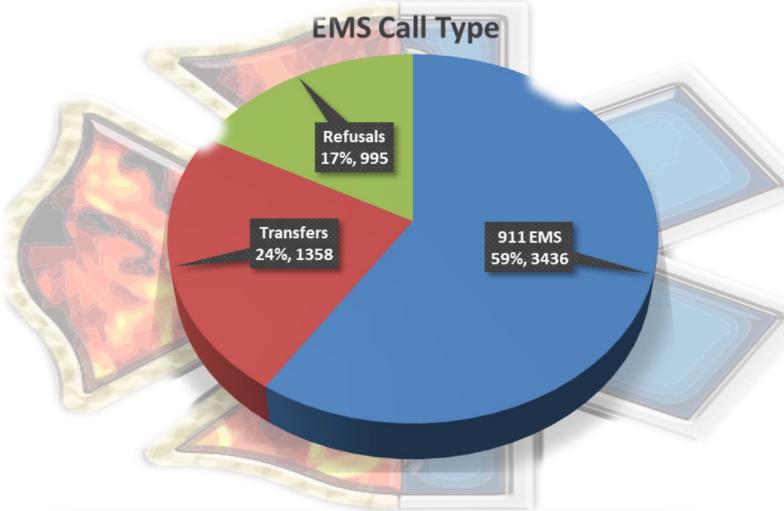


THE TIME FROM WHEN THE PERSONNEL ARE DISPATCHED TO WHEN THE PERSONNEL ARE DRESSED IN APPROPRIATE GEAR AND LEAVING THE STATION

TRAVEL

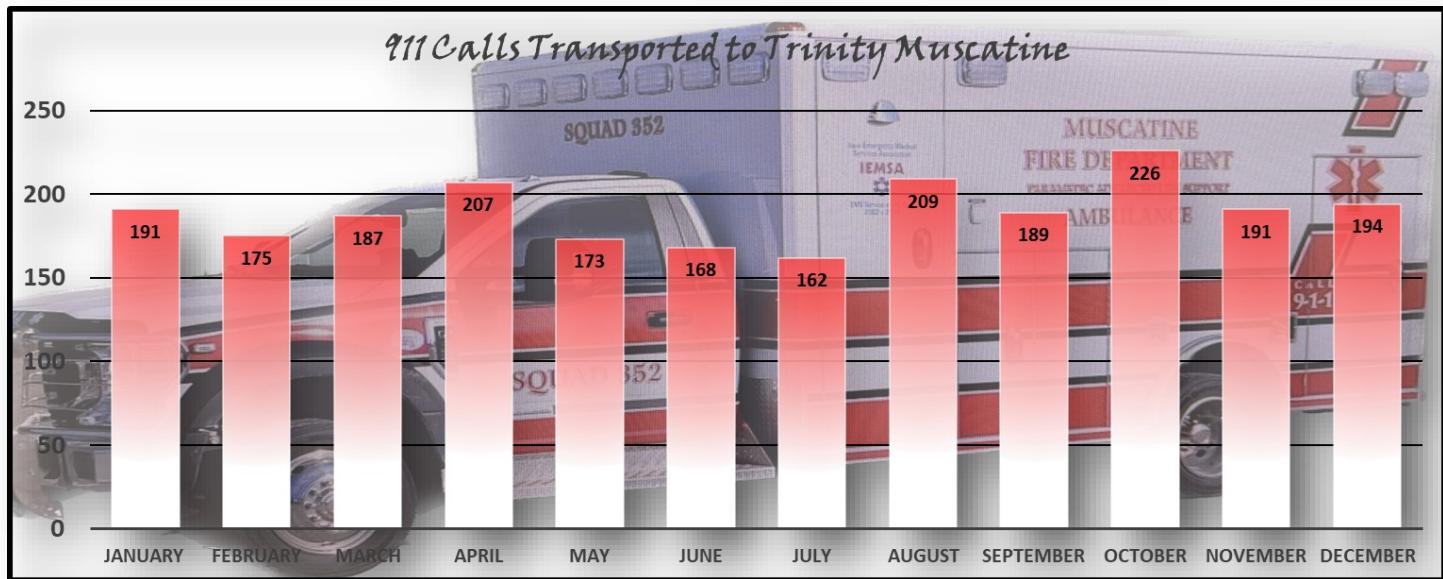


THE TIME FROM WHEN THE APPARATUS AND PERSONNEL LEAVES THE FIRE STATION TO WHEN THE APPARATUS AND PERSONNEL ARRIVES AT THE INCIDENT

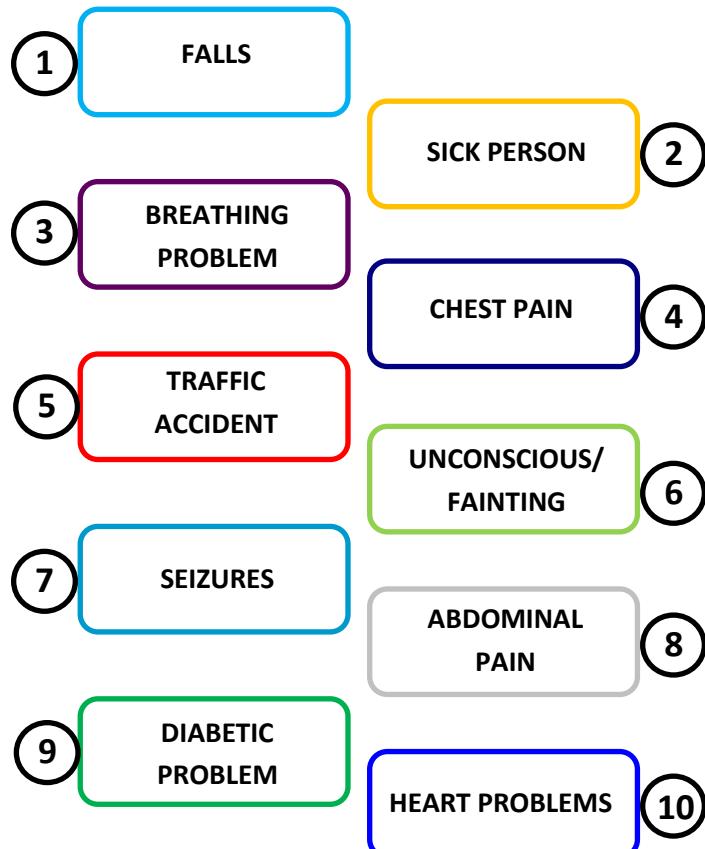


EMS Transport Report

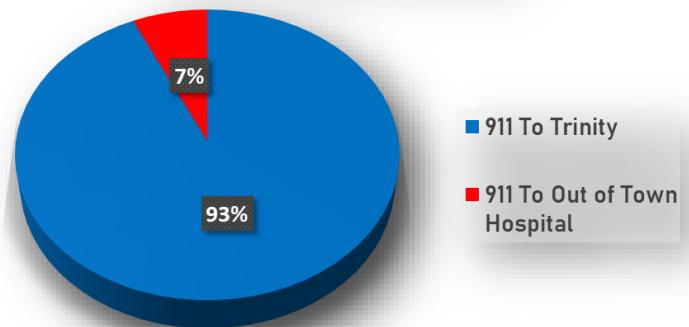
In addition to emergent and scheduled non-emergent transfers to out-of-town hospitals, we also transport 911 calls out of town. Most often this is due to the need for services that are not available locally, such as OB services, specialized cardiac needs, or complicated orthopedic situations. The impact 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, like slip, trip and fall prevention.



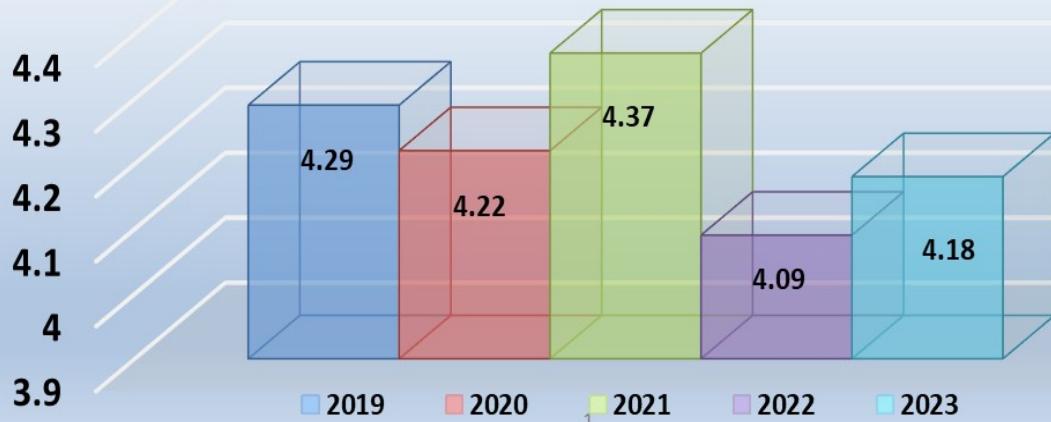
Top Ten Chief Complaints



EMS Transport Location



Average Out-of-Town Drop Offs Per Day

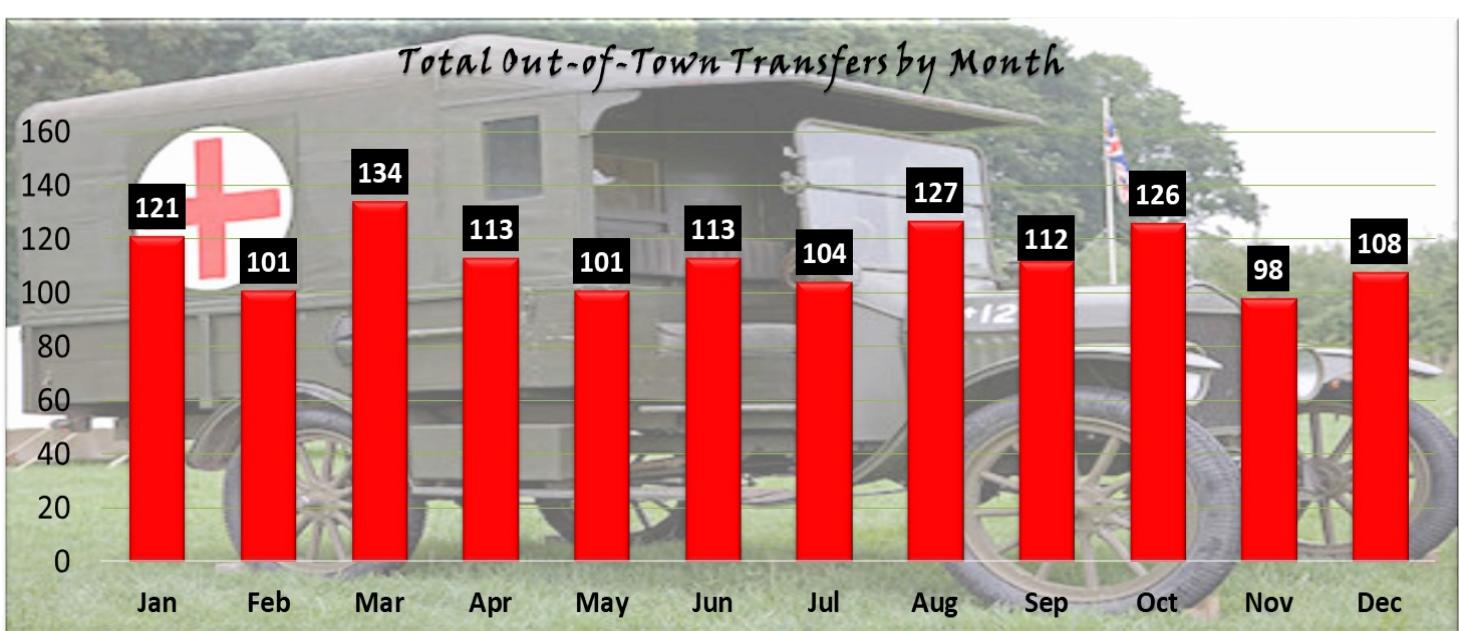


In addition to 911 emergency medical calls, we also provide treatment and transportation from Trinity Muscatine to hospitals outside of town. This happens when a patient needs a higher level of care or they need a service that is not offered in Muscatine. In addition to those transports we also transport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

In 2023 we transported a patient to a hospital outside of Muscatine an average of 3.7 times per day. The length of these calls vary by complexity and destination, but we average over 8 hours per day on transfer calls.

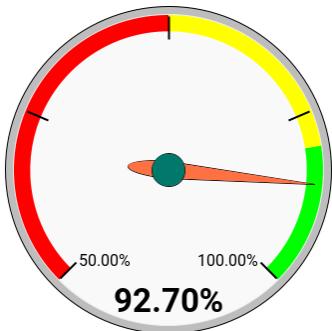
These transports are staffed by the crews working on that day and includes critical care paramedics, paramedics, and EMTs. We do call back for overtime if needed and have a part-time on-call program to help fill the need for transfer crews. It takes at least two staff members for these transports. More 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 by Month

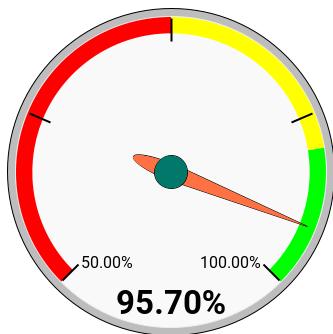


EMS Response Time Report

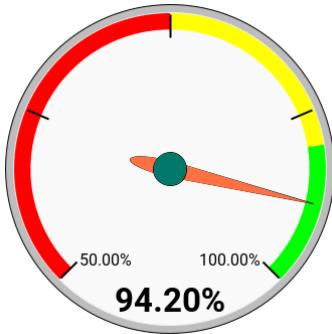
The Muscatine Fire Department strives to provide a rapid response that arrives on scene in a safe and efficient manner. Depending on the nature of call and the location of the response, different response time goals are set. A standard followed throughout the nation is to arrive at an emergency medical 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.



Urban Response Time Met

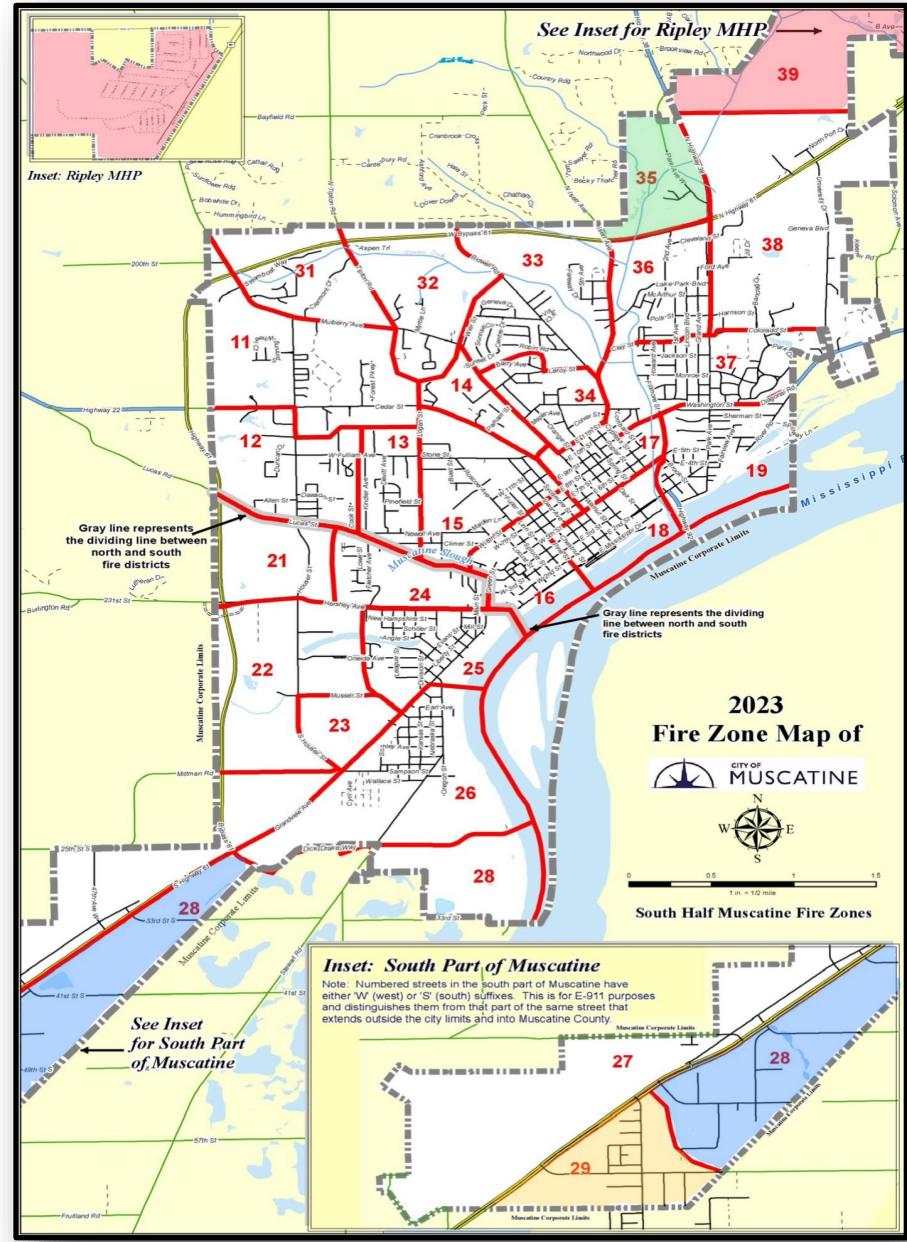


Rural Response Time Met



Average Response Time Met

Due to road miles and station placement we are unable to meet our established response times in zones 28, 29, 35 and 39.



Apparatus Report

Page 13

<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 (Waiting on delivery of new ambulance)
Ambulance 356	2019 Ford Transit Medix Type II
Fire Engines	
Engine 311	2013 Pierce—PSB Front Line Engine
Engine 312	2023 Pierce—Station 2 Front Line Engine
Engine 313	2006 Alexis – PSB Reserve Engine (Refurbished once)
Engine 314	1993 Pierce -- Station 2 Reserve Engine (Refurbished once, waiting on delivery of new engine)
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
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

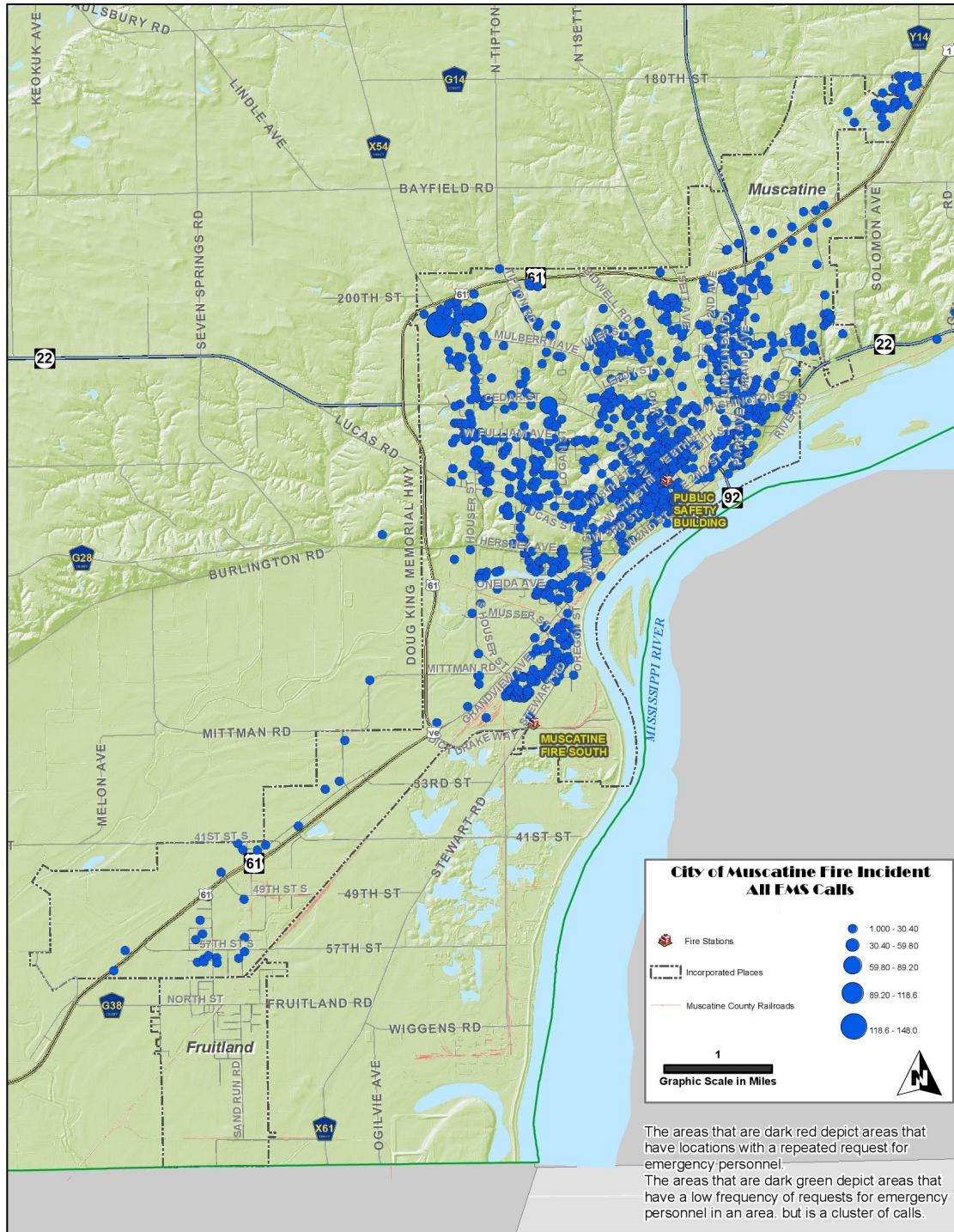


In 2023 we welcomed a new front line
Engine for Station 2, a 2023 Pierce Enforcer
from Reliant Fire Apparatus.

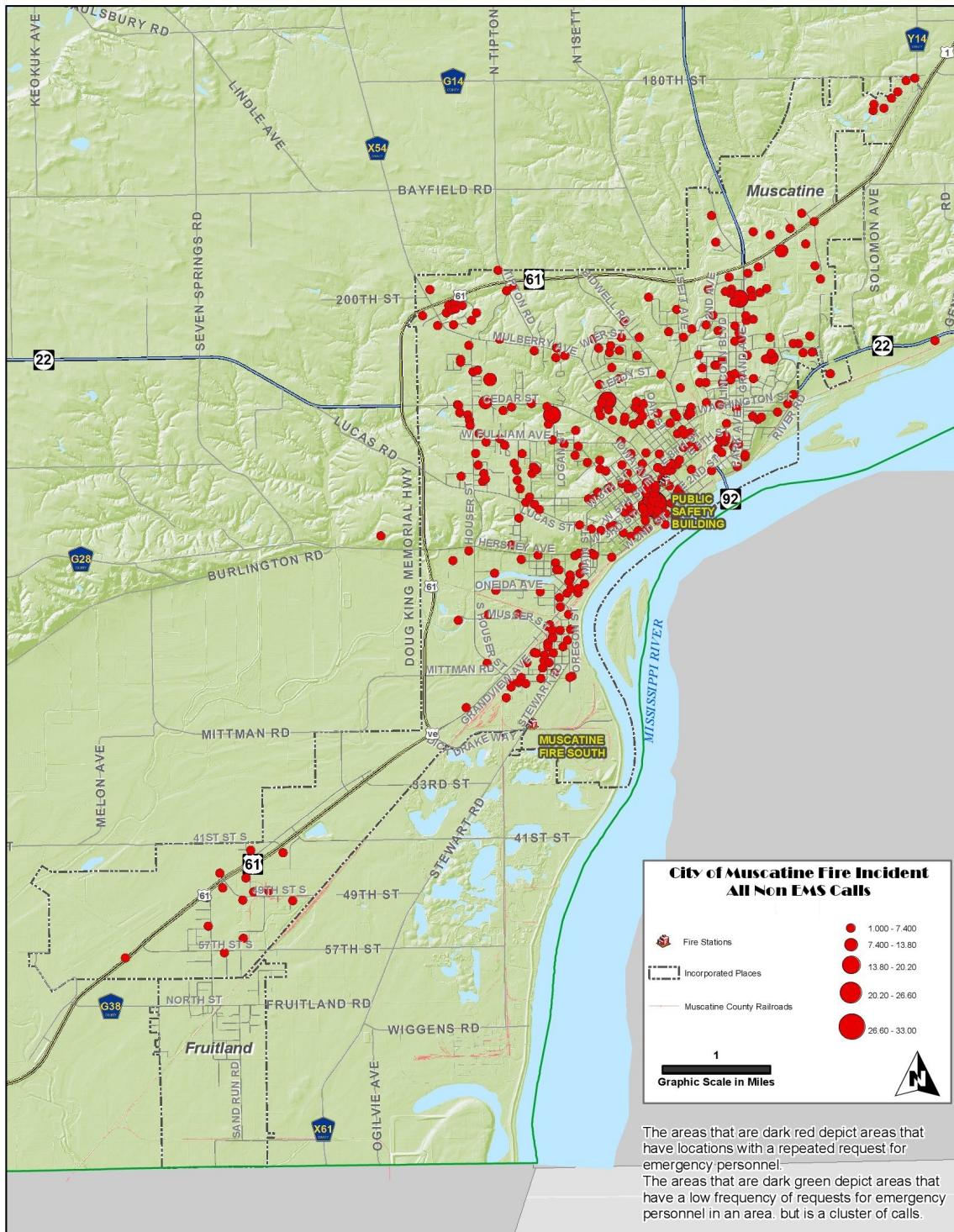
Plot Point Analysis

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

EMS Incident Plot Points



Fire Incident Plot Points

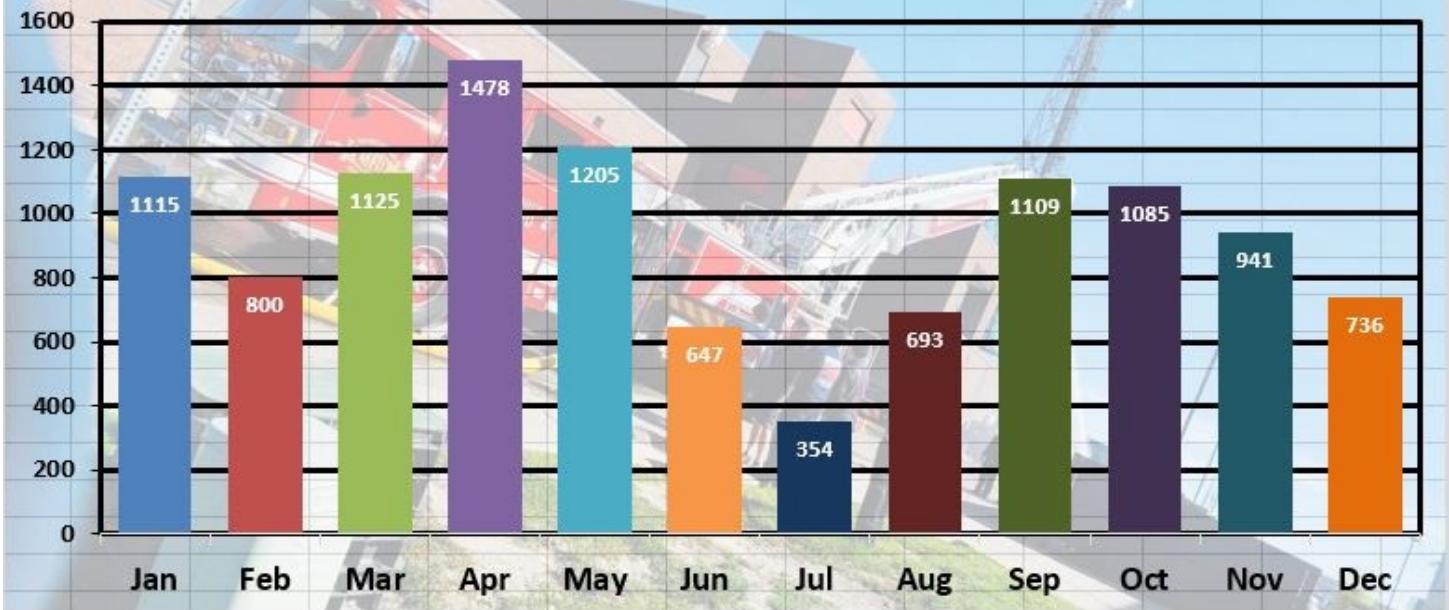


Training Report

Training for emergencies is our highest priority outside of actual emergency responses. Your fire department needs to know exactly how to best handle emergencies as they arise and training helps us to do just that. This year we were able to put together some shipping containers to enhance our training grounds. These containers are configured so that we can set up a number of different scenarios using 'live fire' to provide realistic experiences for our staff. We currently have four firefighters in year long paramedic course.



2023 Training Hours





Recruitment and Retention

The Fire Department created a committee to help address recruitment and retention, and in 2023, that group was able to develop and act on several initiatives. The committee consists of one line staff member from each shift and is coordinated by a chief officer. The present members include Lieutenant Ripperger from Blue shift, Firefighter Meredith representing Green shift, Firefighter Janssen who is the Red shift member, and Assistant Chief Hartman as the facilitator. A critical element of this committee is the inclusion of our line staff for idea generation and for assistance in implementation throughout the organization.

Recruitment efforts include a more active effort to increase the number of applicants. City Human Resources now spreads job postings to a larger audience and the number of applications has increased. The city council decision to extend the employee residency requirement to include portions of Illinois has also assisted in recruitment. The increased presence and outreach of our department staff has generated high quality local candidates. Community presence and event outreach — including job fairs — are items that Blue shift has stepped up to assist with as an element of their public education efforts.



The inclusion, coordination, and work of our line staff has been and continues to be critical in our efforts to recruit new members. Word of mouth is an effective and common tool within the emergency response community to encourage potential members to take that step to apply for a position.

There are several initiatives being implemented at this time. The most visible step has been an increased presence and activity through social media, specifically through Facebook. Two additional firefighters offered to step up to assist in this effort. FF Chelf and FF Colon have worked to help spread the word about the hard work of all of our staff.



The most recent project taken on by the committee is the development of a mentor program. This program has worked well in other fire departments. The basic premise is to provide an experienced firefighter who can act as a sounding board and help guide the new hire through their first year of employment. Having that resource makes the experience more impactful and enjoyable!

It is work like this from our amazing staff that make MFD a wonderful place to discover a fulfilling career!!



Fire Department Community

Life Saving Honor

During the City Council meeting Thursday January 5, 2023 Muscatine resident Ben Eversmeyer honored members of the Fire Department for saving his life. Eversmeyer stated he was happy to be alive wanted thank those who gave him another chance at life.



Grade A for Fire



Captain Andy Summitt accepted a new hose drying rack, designed and built by MHS welding class student Landon Castle. MFD was in need of a new hose rack for Station 2 and Castle delivered with A+ work. "The fire department had something that they wanted me to recreate, something that they were going to buy," Castle said. "So, I just copied the design, for the most part, from what they were going to purchase."

Donation to Ukraine

The 1988 Smeal Fire Engine was officially retired from service by the City of Muscatine on March 12, 2023. The engine was donated to U.S. Ambulances for Ukraine. This organization provides emergency response vehicles and equipment to the Ukraine people being impacted by war. This fire engine was driven to Chicago by Chief Ewers and Battalion Chief Ronzheimer and delivered to the founder of the organization, Chris Manson, and his daughter Lily. This donation in addition to the three former Muscatine ambulances that were donated in 2022.





Assistant Fire Chief - Mike Hartman

Flipping years on a calendar reminds us to reflect on the recent past as we look toward the future. In the fire service we often look critically at situations in order to identify areas for improvement. While this has much worth, it tends to set up our profession to look at situations from a negative point of view. Our department is one of the few statewide that has a robust data collection and assessment capability. Mark Twain famously included statistics as one of three kinds of lies, but by viewing trend data over time

and understanding anomalies when they pop up can help us gather more reliable data – and stay out of the crosshairs of criticisms like Mr. Twain's. Data is a powerful tool to help the fight against fire and for life safety; we are fortunate to have the information like what you see throughout this report to help us make decisions.

Information over time is critical to how we respond and how we address EMS and fire related activities and prevention. One example is smoke detector performance. In the last few years we have had a number of fires where smoke detectors have either not been placed or have not functioned. Sometimes this is due to improper placement, sometimes it is because a 9-volt battery was taken out for another purpose. In response to these situations a new battery has been developed – the ten-year battery – and is in many of today's detectors. That eliminates the ability to pull the battery to use elsewhere and decreases the yearly maintenance/replacement needs for the detector. In looking at recent fires in Muscatine we have found that pets have been more effective at alerting occupants of a fire than smoke detectors have been due to non-functioning smoke detectors. This led to more emphasis on detector placement and follow up —and you will see more of that messaging moving forward. Similarly, we are looking at options to improve our EMS system based on data. Within the next year we should be coordinating placement of AEDs in the community as we have solid information that early use of AEDs improves patient outcome.

As you look through this report, please keep in mind that we gather data not just to make this report look nice but also so we can use our limited resources more efficiently to better address the threats to our community. A popular phrase in the fire service profession is we have “Over 200 years of tradition unimpeded by progress”; in Muscatine we truly appreciate the history, but we certainly understand the need for change. Your fire department has been at the front of changes statewide for the last 20 years and with our focus on improving the efficiency and impact of our services we will continue to lead the way.

And if anyone is interested in the ‘boring’ process of digging into our data, let me know. We are always looking for ways to improve!

Green Shift Battalion Chief - Joe Timmsen

During 2023 Muscatine Fire added new apparatus, training props, personnel, and training. It's been a great year at MFD to learn new things, try new things, teach new things and find better ways to serve Muscatine.

We purchased a new Pierce Enforcer Fire Engine that was put in service at Station 2 in March of 2023. This allowed us to retire our oldest fire engine, a 1988 Smeal, and put our 2006 Alexis into a reserve status.



Through the hard work of our personnel we added a new confined space prop at our Station 2 Training Facility. This allows us to train for confined space rescue and simulate underground rescues. Also, we completed the first stage of our new live fire training facility. We can perform live burn training with a higher degree of safety for academies and experienced personnel alike. These props were done with the help of Hoffman Incorporated, Musco Lighting, TanTara Transportation Corporation, and County Materials from Iowa City. The community allowed us to make advances that saves the citizens money while advancing our training to serve the community.

We graduated six recruits from our six week Spring and Fall Fire Academies and four personnel did a partial academy to be continued in the 2024 spring academy. The recruits are trained in EMS, Fire, Auto Extrication, Rapid Intervention, just to name a few skills. They come out of the academy ready to test for Fire Certification but it's just the first step of training during their probationary year.

In total we spent 2,244 hours for EMS training, 5,060 hours performing fire training, 2,680 hours training personnel to become Paramedics and 305 hours of Technical Rescue. We train to be proficient in serving the Muscatine Community, to meet certification levels that can be measured by governing bodies such as International Organization of Standards, Iowa Department of Health, and peers such as local partners or to a national scale.

MFD hosted a Fire Instructor 1 certification class in conjunction with the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau.

At a Command level all department Officers took a 40-hour Blue Card Incident Management Class. This opened MFD to a different format than MFD's National Incident Management System we use. It allows us to assess different approaches to ensure MFD's Officers are evolving to provide the citizens the best protection we can offer, our personnel high levels of safety in a dangerous industry, and regional cooperation by looking at different ways other people and places do things in our industry.

Blue Shift Battalion Chief - Ted Hillard



Fire Inspections: Blue Shift Captain Pat Gingerich has really found his knack with the redevelopment and strategic scheduling for Muscatine Fire Departments Inspection Program. Shift inspectors have completed more inspections in 2023 than we have in many of the previous years, even with the daily run numbers and training hours going up. All MFD inspectors are multi-trained to include fire, EMS, confined space, hazmat, and other skills needed for daily Fire/EMS emergencies. The inspections are completed around emergency calls, training, projects, and other daily activities. Great work and a big "Thank You" goes out to all the MFD inspectors who made this program successful.

Public Education: In 2023 we have restarted the Public Education Program and have developed a new outline that covers materials from Kindergarten through 4th grade. Due to new protective guidelines and visitor restrictions still in place at many schools, the 2023 school year has mainly focused around students visiting the Muscatine Fire Department for their public education. This allows the kids to see the fire station, fire trucks, and ambulances first hand. MFD, MPD, MUSCOM, and MCSO joined forces again for the 2023 Public Safety Open House which continues to draw a large number of visitors to the Public Safety Building. We look forward to the 2024 Open House with bigger and better things to come.

Explorers Group: FF Ben Barrett and FF Michael Fleming have headed up The Muscatine Fire Explorers Program under the guidance of B/C Hillard and A/C Hartman. This has allowed inspiring youths who have interest in the Fire or EMS fields to meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays to go over fire, EMS, & rescue topics. In 2022 they became affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and recognized as National Post 4911. This was a big accomplishment and KUDOS go out to Ben and Michael for their dedication and hard work.

Freddy Shows and Tours: A big part of Community Risk Reduction is to bring the youngest members of the community (children in grades K-4) in for an educational visit. They learn about "calling 911" and "Stop, Drop and Roll". "Freddie" the Fire Truck is always a big hit and we have added new songs and learning tips to help interact with the students. We have found that fire department tours for the adults and children help to educate and keep our community more safe.

Recruitment Efforts: MFD continues to attend recruitment programs by going to numerous job fairs, speaking at the high schools, and attending public events in the community. This has also helped to establish our community presence and commitment. MFD has also stepped up in becoming more visible in the community by attending community events such as block parties, almost Friday events, and other requested invites. Many FF's have expressed the positive feedback from the community when attending these events. MFD won the Battle of the Badges in 2023, going up against Muscatine Police Department and Muscatine County Sheriff with supporting the Salvation Army in holiday bell ringing.

Our 2024 commitment is to continue to provide superior community risk reduction services and build an outreach to other areas of need in the community.

Ambulance Operations Report

Red Shift Battalion Chief - Gary Ronzheimer

The Muscatine Fire Department has worked through several changes in 2023. Red Shift saw the transition of Captain Timmsen to fill his new role as Battalion Chief, and Captain McSorley was promoted to Captain on Red Shift. We also had Mike Collins promoted to fire mechanic, and Joe Rymars was promoted to Lieutenant. Red Shift maintained EMS operations across the department. We have had several areas that needed focus, starting with each firefighter. The department has seen an increase in turnover, and new firefighters need to focus on training. In 2024 we will focus on individual and company-level training, short-term goals to finish auto extrication technician training, and Rope Rescue Level I and II training.



Along with training, shift firefighters have special projects. This year, Red Shift focused on increasing EMS public education. This outreach included hands-on CPR and Stop the Bleed training for the community. This training wrapped up in December with 34 community members trained in hands-only CPR and the Stop the Bleed program. Lt Rymars has been the officer responsible for this coordination and will set up the same program for 2024. We also set goals to better the EMS services that we provide. In early 2023, we finalized our new protocols and added IV medications Dopamine, Nitroglycerine, and Levophed to our medication profiles, which can be given through our new IV pumps. We updated department protocols and intubation equipment and added weight scales to our cots. We also added portable ventilators to all ambulances. All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the hard work of our members who spent countless hours rewriting and upgrading protocols, hours on new ideas and research, and getting these ideas brought up.

We continue to support the Muscatine Police Department and the Muscatine Sheriff's Office by providing Tactical EMS providers for their Muscatine Special Operations Response Team, (MSORT), Muscatine's SWAT Team. This year we were able to add three paramedics to the team. In the coming year these new tactical EMS providers will focus on a Tactical Emergency Care certification course and law enforcement MSORT training.

Our community has a great group of men and women dedicated to doing whatever it takes to reduce harm to our citizens. Our 2024 goals include evaluating the need and feasibility of a community paramedicine program, increasing EMS public education, and looking for ways to fund AEDs in our community.



Employee Recognition

Exemplary Service Award



Firefighter Edwards

FF/Paramedic Edwards received this award for his efforts to enhance and improve our investigation program. FF Edwards has spent many hours and has made himself available on his days off to respond and assist for fire investigation at all hours of the day or night.



Firefighter Rymars

FF/Paramedic Rymars was recognized for consistent excellence in the performance of his duties and for securing a grant for a gear washer for Fire Station 2.



Firefighter Danielson

FF/ Paramedic Danielson was recognized for his efforts in keeping EMS supplies ordered and organized.



Lieutenant McSorley

Lieutenant McSorley was recognized for his work to provide quality training to our department. He was the coordinator for our new recruit academy as well as being a driving force in getting and preparing the new shipping containers and confined space training props.



Life Saving Award

Michael Collins

Fire Mechanic/Paramedic Michael Collins who was presented the Scott County Sheriff's Office Life Saving Award Monday November 6th, 2023 for his life saving actions during an incident at the Donahue Days Celebration.



Firefighter Rudolph

FF/Paramedic Rudolph was recognized for his work and diligence overseeing the paperwork for our cardiac enzyme testing program. Due to his efforts there were zero deficiencies from the latest State audit of the program.



New Full-Time Employees



Firefighter/ EMT

Drake Hotz

Hire Date: January 3, 2023



Firefighter/ EMT

Griffin Wilder

Hire Date: March 27, 2023



Firefighter/ Paramedic

Dustin Bartels

Hire Date: March 27, 2023



Firefighter/ EMT

Samuel Martin

Hire Date: March 27, 2023



Firefighter/ EMT

Carter Hendrix

Hire Date: August 7, 2023



Firefighter/ EMT

Carter Dewey

Hire Date: August 7, 2023



Firefighter/ EMT

Thomas Davis

Hire Date: September 25, 2023



Firefighter/ EMT

Conner Christiansen

Hire Date: September 25, 2023



Firefighter/ EMT

Carter Lenning

Hire Date: November 27, 2023



Firefighter/ EMT

Tynan Numkena

Hire Date: November 27, 2023

New Part-Time Employees

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Part-Time EMT

Jennifer Wilson

Hire Date: November 1, 2023

Part-Time EMT

Alianiz Rivera

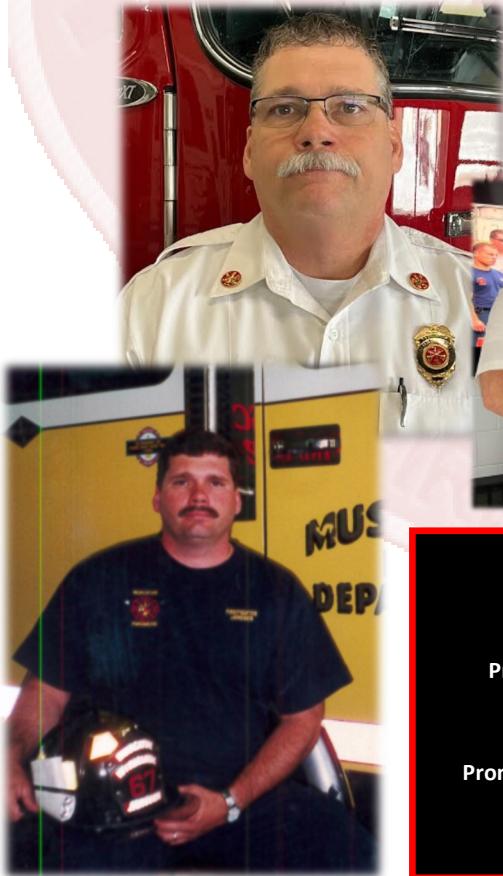
Hire Date: November 1, 2023

Part-Time EMT

Grayson O'Brien

Hire Date: November 3, 2023

Retirement



Darrell Janssen

Hired as Firefighter: October 24, 1997

Promoted to Lieutenant: January 1, 2007

Promoted to Captain: April 3, 2007

Promoted to Battalion Chief: January 21, 2013

Retired: June 30, 2023

Promotions



Joe Rymars

Firefighter to Lieutenant

June 1, 2023

Jason Verschoore

Fire Mechanic to Lieutenant

July 19, 2023

Andrew McSorley

Lieutenant to Captain

July 19, 2023



Joe Timmsen

Captain to Battalion Chief

July 16, 2023

Mike Collins Jr.

Firefighter to Fire Mechanic

October 16, 2023



- Constructed a live burn facility at our department training center and held a training class for department instructors to use the facility to train department personnel or host mutual aid partners for training. The facility was paid for using ARPA funds and includes four different variations for entrance points as well as training elements for transitional fire attack and ventilation scenarios. The department also received a donation of approximately \$20,000 in materials to construct a confined space rescue prop.
- Hosted an Incident Command Class with the Fruitland Fire Department to enhance safety, efficiency, and professionalism on emergency scenes. A total of 12 Fruitland members attended and were supported by seven MFD members and instructors.
- Completion of Blue Card Command Training by the department Officers. This looks at a different type of Incident Command structure, language, and some different tactics to ensure we are challenging ourselves to continually improve tactics, safety, and maintain customer service. Battalion Chiefs and Captains have completed the training and it is now being completed by Lieutenants.
- FD Staff provided instruction for an in-house Fire Instructor I certification class in cooperation with the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau. These nine students are completing their certification process and will be utilized for the upcoming new hire academy training.
- 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. The public education shift has made community presence a priority and will continue to increase these types of interactions.
- Held recruiting and selection activities in coordination with the police department in order to select three new tactical medics who serve with the MSORT tactical unit. These additions will help ensure a tactical paramedic is present for all MSORT activities, increasing safety for MSORT staff and providing immediate assistance for any injuries in these high-risk situations.
- Reintroduced and marketed our public education offerings, including Freddie shows, station tours, community requests, recruiting events, safety talks, smoke detector program, special occasion events, ride to school events, walk-in tours, parades, and other smaller community programs attended.

We look forward to the challenges and opportunities in 2024 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.