



Harrisonburg Fire Department 2022 Annual Report

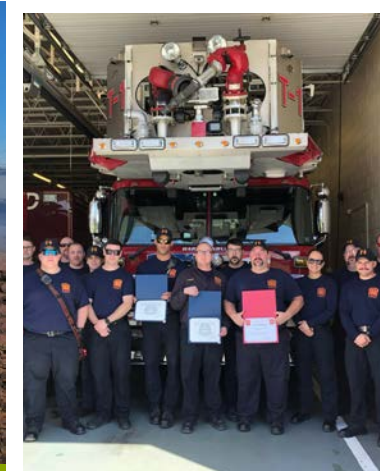


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MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

Mission:

The mission of the Harrisonburg Fire Department is to enhance the quality of life for the community by protecting their health, safety, and welfare through fire suppression, emergency medical services, prevention, and public education



Vision:

To be committed to providing a professional level of emergency service that continually enhances the quality of life, health, safety and welfare of the community we serve

Values:

Integrity: Consistency of actions and values, doing what is right

Professionalism: Skill, judgement, and behavior that is expected of those that are highly trained

Safety: Ensuring the health and well being of employees and customers

Teamwork: The actions of a group to achieve a common purpose

Excellence: The state of superior service

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



Welcome to the 2022 Annual Report of your Harrisonburg Fire Department! Although the incidence of fire continues to represent a relatively small component of our complete all-hazards approach to ensuring a safe community, its ever-present risk reminds us daily of the impact it can have. In 2022, the city experienced its first loss of life from a fire in over five years. Although many communities might consider us fortunate to have such a low frequency of loss of life, we are heartbroken when even one life is lost. Every life is a member of our community, and by extension a member of our family. We will never allow fire to be triaged as a lower priority. We are, first and foremost, a fire department, charged with preventing and combatting fires while protecting lives. We are resolute in our commitment.

As you read through the 2022 Annual Report, I would ask you to please pay particular attention to the accomplishments of our women and men. Data is extremely important, as it provides an objective measure of our efforts, but it's our people who make the difference. Whether achieving international designation (as in the case of Deputy Chief Stephen Morris) or the completion of the National Fire Academy's most prestigious program (as in the case of Battalion Chief Ben Zimmerman), or the numerous new members who have chosen to accept the challenge of becoming a Harrisonburg Firefighter, everything we do and everything we are is founded in our family.

However, do not forget the data! In 2022, 23 people whose heart stopped beating are alive today because of Harrisonburg firefighters, all of whom are cross trained as EMT's and many of whom are also paramedics. Saving lives is at the core of our mission and your chance of surviving a sudden heart attack is better in Harrisonburg than just about anywhere else in the United States. Our community-wide resuscitation rate is bolstered by incredibly dedicated professionals at the Harrisonburg Rockingham Emergency Communications Center and the equally impressive (and all-volunteer) Harrisonburg-Rescue Squad.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital Foundation, and a grant from the United States Department of Justice, our city is launching a Community Paramedic program. The goal of this program is to provide critical services to some of our most at-risk community members including those experiencing homelessness, substance dependency, mental health crises, and other chronic medical conditions. This program will be lifting off in 2023 with a cadre of full and part time providers who hold advanced experience as paramedics. This partnership has the potential to positively decrease unnecessary visits to the Emergency Department, keeping it clear for life-threatening emergencies.

Two of our most experienced and respected members "took up" in 2022, completing a combined 53 years of service to the citizens of Harrisonburg. Captain Bill "Wagon" Smiley and MFF Ray Aigner have left an indelible mark on our organization by living our core values. They have shown several generations "the way" to becoming a trusted member of the Department. They both have earned a long and healthy retirement and we wish them fair winds and following seas. We also expect them to show up occasionally and visit to share stories of our past and keep our history alive!

As we look forward into 2023, we know that more changes will come ... in staffing, apparatus, programs, promotional opportunities, designing a new fire station for the Park View section of the city, and so much more. We are committed to your safety, and the health of our community. We value our partnerships and deeply appreciate all of the support we receive. Most importantly, we are grateful to be a part of this family.

NEW MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILY



Quentin Gray



Cole Beathe



Jack Van Orden



Christine Hostetter

FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

NEW MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILY



Jared Cheifetz



Robbie Therrien



Joseph Whitesell



Grant Clark

PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sentara Foundation Supports the Harrisonburg Fire Department Community Paramedic Program:

The Harrisonburg Fire Department would like to express its deep appreciation to the Sentara Healthcare Foundation for its gracious and impactful award of \$180,000.00 in support of our new Community Paramedicine Program. The donation allowed the Department to purchase and fully equip a vehicle in support of this model program. Community Paramedics link the community to resources by working as a community liaison, outreach partner, care coordinator, accountability coach, resource to the community, health system, and 911 system. It is primarily focused on reaching the most vulnerable members of our community including the unhoused, those experiencing substance dependency, mental health emergencies and hunger. This program will partner with local law enforcement, as well as non-governmental organizations focused on providing support to at-risk populations.



NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



(L-R) Chief Zimmerman, Chief Tobia, and Chief Morris

Battalion Chief Ben Zimmerman Completes Executive Fire Officer:

The Executive Fire Officer Program (EFO) is offered through the United States Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy. It provides students with leadership skills that they can use to strengthen their organization and help make the community more resilient. The Executive Fire Officer Program is the pinnacle of the USFA's commitment to support the needs of fire and emergency medical services agencies in preparing executive officers to meet the ever changing demands of the dynamic communities they serve.

Deputy Chief of Operations Stephen Morris Receives Chief Fire Officer Designation:

The Chief Fire Officer designation is conferred by the Commission on Professional Credentialing, a division of the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Chief Morris is one of only 1,595 designees to earn this designation.

Paul Helmuth honored at JMU's Public Service Recognition Program

Paul Helmuth, Harrisonburg's deputy emergency coordinator and administrative officer for the Harrisonburg Fire Department, was recognized with the 2022 Public Service Award hosted by James Madison University's Master of Public Administration program. Helmuth was honored for his commitment to the Harrisonburg Community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Paul Helmuth

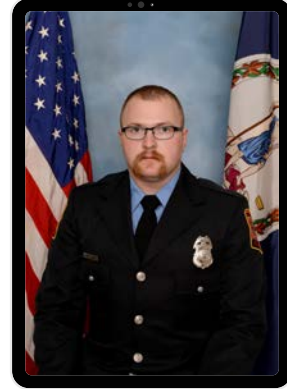
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Bauserman



Stephenson



Bradley

Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Awards Scholarships

Lt Matthew Bauserman, Firefighter II Cody Stephenson, and Firefighter II Joel Bradley were recognized at the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Conference for receiving academic scholarships to continue their college education. All three are pursuing bachelor's degrees. The Harrisonburg Fire Department had the highest number of recipients from a single department in the Commonwealth.



Baulch



Eagle



Tobia

Fire Inspector Certification

Firefighter II Mark Baulch, Firefighter II Ryan Eagle, and Fire Chief Matt Tobia became certified Fire Inspectors after completing the rigorous 3-week National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1031 Course through the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Bauserman

Virginia Chief Officer Academy and Virginia Fire Officer Academy:

Congratulations to Lt. Matt Bauserman who completed Virginia Chief Officer Academy, and Master Firefighter Robert Hilley who completed Virginia Fire Officer Academy.



Hilley

Master Firefighter Chris Daniels Earns Certification:

Master Firefighter Chris Daniels earned Child Passenger Safety Instructor Certification as a National Child Seat Instructor. National Child Passenger Safety Certification is a Program of Safe Kids Worldwide that began in 1997. Currently there are over 43,000 nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians with 1780 of them being Instructors.



Daniels



Fire Station 3 Recognized:

Randy Atkins, Dr. Kirk Sheap, and Wes Dove of the Fort Harrison Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presented Fire Station 3 with a Flag Recognition Certificate, in appreciation for their commitment to honoring the flag of the United States.

2ND ANNUAL HFD COAT DRIVE



HFD held its 2nd Annual Winter Coat Drive to benefit City of Harrisonburg School students. This year we were able to secure 257 coats which were distributed to the nine city schools.

Station 5 Update

HFD partnered with students from the James Madison University Mathematics Department to determine the most impactful locations for a new fire station in the Park View Section of the City. This group was led by professors Hala Nelson and Roger Thelwell.



NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fort Harrison Sons of the American Revolution Recognize HFD Employees

The Fort Harrison Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution awarded a total of 23 total certificates and medals to members of the Harrisonburg Fire Department for Heroism and Life Saving actions. In three notable incidents in 2022, firefighters saved multiple lives and provided selfless service to our community. The Heroism Commendation and Medal recognizes outstanding bravery and self-sacrifice in the face of imminent danger (i.e. acts which involve great personal courage and risk to the recipient.)

Andrew Bauserman, Stephen Morris, Joe Weaver, Larry Bennington, Chase Coffey, Jared Quesenberry, Tyler Phillips, Roy Garber, Brett Biddle, Tyler Burgoyne, Jon McKinney, Donnie Babb, and Morgan McComas were all presented with certificates and medals for Heroism and Life Saving.

Travis Karicofe was recognized with the Emergency Medical Services Commendation and medal for his work on the Community Paramedic program. This medal is presented to an individual for accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions in the area of emergency medical services. The award is intended for paramedics, certified Emergency Medical Technicians, and others in the emergency medical field who have performed an act or service beyond which is normally expected.

Chief Tobia was recognized for his support to the Fort Harrison chapter and was presented with The Fire Safety Commendation and Medal. This medal is presented to an individual for accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions in an area of fire safety and service. The award is not limited to firefighters. It may be presented to recognize a variety of fire safety and services that have evolved into a highly technical and skilled profession with constant study, development and involvement by numerous dedicated citizens with a single goal, which is protecting human life and property by preventing injuries or casualties due to fire and chemicals.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

202
Fire Department Assisted
with Patient Transport

522
Fire Department Provided
ALS Care

56
Cardiac Arrest
Resuscitation Attempts

23
Successful Cardiac Arrest
Resuscitations

5
Fire Department Assisted
with OB Related Events

The Harrisonburg Fire Department is the designated provider of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the City. All firefighters are trained to the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level, and an additional number of firefighters are trained at the paramedic level. EMT's provide life sustaining care while paramedics are trained to provide more invasive life saving measures.



HFD Sensory C.A.R.E. Bags: Communal Autism Redirection in Emergencies

In May, Harrisonburg City Public Schools service learning students presented their initiative to equip all Harrisonburg Fire Department engines with sensory bags to help patients with Autism encountered during emergencies. The students worked with HFD staff to advance their project from concept to implementation.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



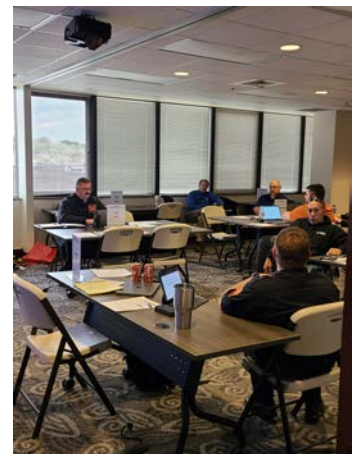
In 2022, Emergency Management in the City of Harrisonburg has added some new capabilities and is looking to expand the services provided. This includes:

- Standardized weather reporting for City staff
- Placement of 13 stream monitors throughout the city
- Start of quarterly tabletop exercise for City leadership and staff
- Approval for an Emergency Management Generalist position (to be filled in the Spring of 2023)

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) was officially recognized as a division of the Harrisonburg Fire Department by City Council , with specific duties to:

- Maintain an approved Emergency Operations Plan
- Develop and maintain a City-wide Continuity of Operations Plan
- Coordinate resources as needed across departments and with other jurisdictions
- Assist City departments to develop department emergency plans
- Manage Harrisonburg Fire Department grants as well as mitigation and preparedness grants for the City of Harrisonburg
- Provide ongoing training/exercises for City staff in relation to the emergency management system
- Coordinate the UAV/Robotics team

The City of Harrisonburg also became an official ambassador for the National Weather Service's Weather-Ready Nation. OEM plans to complete the National Weather Service StormReady Community application in early 2023.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



EARLY WARNING FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

In partnership with Public Works, we acquired flood sensors for placement around Harrisonburg. These are placed to assist in monitoring the water table during rain events. During the month of June, there were five days of storms that were monitored. There were enough storm activities to start to and create warning levels for the flood system, as outlined below:

Harrisonburg Stream Sensors				75%	85%	100%
Sensor	Location	Measurement Location	Measurement Level	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
298	Public Utilities	Water level at the bank	4 ft	36	41	48
301	Bridgeforth Stadium	Water level to the parking lot	7 ft	63	71	84
309	Paul St	Water level to top of bank	3ft	27	31	36
329	Madison St	Water level to road	3 ft 3.5in	29	33	39
330	Dutchmill Ct	Water level to road	7 ft 9in	70	79	93
331	Erickson Ave	Water level to road	6 ft 2 in	56	63	74
373	W. Water St	Water level to road	7ft 7in	68	77	91
374	Woodland Dr	Water level to road	6 ft-ish	54	61	72
375	South Ave	Water level to road	8 ft 1in	73	82	97
376	Linda Ln	Water level to road	9 ft 11in	89	101	119

UAV TEAM BOLSTERS ROSTER AND CAPABILITIES

The UAV/Robotics Team saw increased utilization over the year and expanded its capabilities with new aircraft and additional personnel. In the middle of 2022, the UAV team acquired a Skydio 2+. This UAV is 100% made in the USA and allows for use in areas that may be restricted from Foreign made UAV's. In addition, the team acquired 3 DJI Mavic Mini 2s that will enable improved flight indoors to assist the Police Department's Special Operations Teams.

The UAV team also hosted an FAA Part 107 class during the summer and had 10 new pilots graduate from the program. This joint class included students from Waynesboro Fire and Augusta County Emergency Management, providing a good partnership for future training.



PROMOTIONS



Firefighter II:

- Austin Collins

Master Firefighter:

- Brandon Dyer



MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



Tyler Phillips



Josh Holloway



Kim Smith



Josh Lohr

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



Luke Walker



Angela Phillips Larry Bennington



Robert Fulk



Andrew Crowley



Jon McKinney

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



Alan Wampler



Ben Thompson



Trevor Nelson



Nelson Dean



Jordan Lambert

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

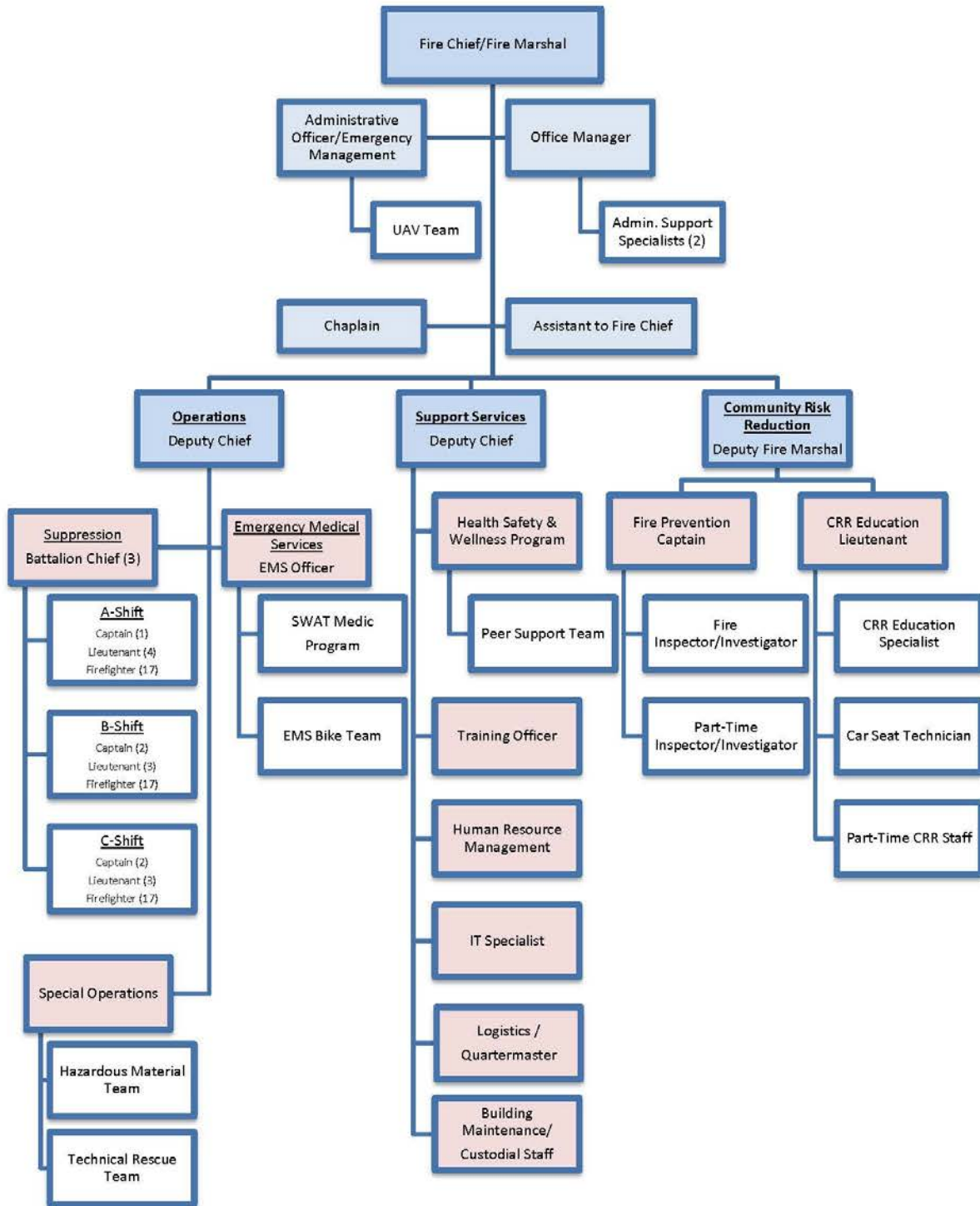


Glenn Beathe
20 Years of Service



Greg Coffman
25 YEARS OF SERVICE

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



DEPARTMENT SERVICES AND STATION LOCATIONS



Station 1:
80 Maryland
Avenue



Station 2:
380 Pleasant
Valley Road

- Fire Suppression
- Emergency Medical Services
- Special Operations:
 - Hazardous Materials Response
 - Technical Rescue
- Community Risk Reduction
 - Fire and Life Safety Education
 - Fire Inspections
 - Fire Investigations
- Emergency Management



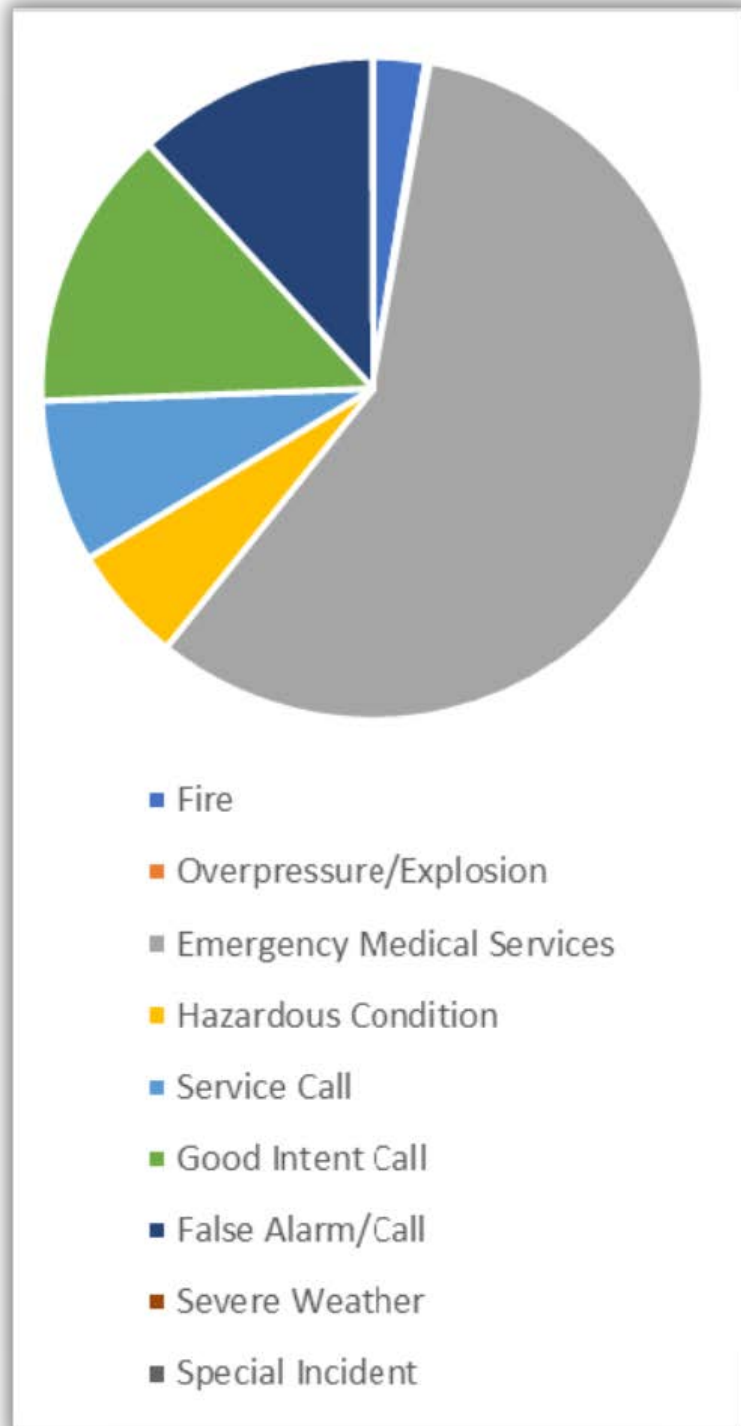
Station 3:
299 Lucy
Drive



Station 4:
210 East Rock
Street

BY THE NUMBERS: RESPONSE STATISTICS

NFIRS Incident Type	2022 Reported Calls
Fire	160
Overpressure/ Explosion	13
Emergency Medical Services	3,550
Hazardous Condition	530
Service Call	488
Good Intent Call	844
False Alarm/Call	723
Severe Weather	0
Special Incident	2
TOTALS:	6,350



BY THE NUMBERS: RESPONSE STATISTICS

Fire Loss by Occupancy Type	# of Fires	EST. Value Lost	Est. Value Saved
Assembly	2	\$20,100	\$14,442,500
Educational	0	\$0	\$0
Health Care/Detention	0	\$0	\$0
Residential	50	\$873,115	\$60,101,311
Business	5	\$31,500	\$882,100
Industrial	0	\$0	\$0
Manufacturing	4	\$753,000	\$50,035,900
Storage	1	\$10,000	\$16,092,200
Outside/Special Property	16	\$77,026	\$293,324
TOTALS:	78	\$1,764,741	\$141,847,335

BY THE NUMBERS: RESPONSE STATISTICS

Mutual Aid Given Responses	CY2022	230
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Casualties	CY2022
Civilian Deaths	1
Civilian Injuries	16
Firefighter Injuries	22
TOTALS:	39



OPERATIONS

Fire Station Alerting Implemented

In early spring of 2022, the Harrisonburg Fire Department, in conjunction with Rockingham County Fire Rescue and Harrisonburg Rockingham Emergency Communications Center, implemented the US Digital Designs Phoenix G2 Fire Station Alerting System. This system provides benefits from dispatch to the emergency units being dispatched. The automation of the system allows for reduced dispatch processing times, in essence reducing the time from 911 call to emergency units en route to the incident. Due to the automation and reduced dispatch processing time, emergency responders receive notification of the incident in more timely manner. This reduces the turnout time for responders, meaning the time from being alerted to an incident to the personnel and apparatus responding are reduced. The reduction in dispatch processing and turnout times correlates into emergency responders arriving on the emergency scene faster.

Another way the fire station alerting system benefits responders is by alerting them to emergency incidents in a calmer fashion. Traditionally responders were alerted to emergency incidents via pagers or loud horns or sirens sounding, which can be very abrupt in the middle of the night. Studies have shown that emergency responders awaken in a more progressive manner have reduced heart rates compared to traditional alerting. Fire station alerting uses ramping tones and softer lighting to achieve this progressive awakening.

First Due Pre-planning & Mapping

In the summer of 2022, the department began the build of First Due Pre-planning and Mapping modules. The departments previous pre-plan and mapping software had become outdated and the department contracted with First Due after an extensive search to bring the Harrisonburg Fire Department's pre-plan program and mapping into the next generation. First Due is a cloud based system that can be accessed from multiple platforms including responders cell phone and computers. It is a highly customizable software that allowed the department to design the pre-plan module to fit the needs of the City of Harrisonburg. The software can be shared across City departments allowing for a more effective interoperability and response.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Bureau encompasses a wide array of responsibilities within the fire department. In coordination with the Operations Bureau, the two divisions go hand in hand in providing Harrisonburg with the highest degree of emergency services. The sections making up Support Services include Health, Safety, and Wellness Program, Training, Information Technology, Human Resources Management, and Logistics.



Health, Safety, and Wellness Program

Our department is comprised of dedicated individuals who challenge one another to be physically fit. The fire service continues to promote the importance of work-out programs on and off-duty. An annual Work Performance Evaluation (WPE) is conducted to ensure personnel can perform functions and are physically fit for firefighting. The WPE is a vetted course consisting of carrying equipment, climbing, simulated search, hose line advancement, push/pull, a dexterity station, and Keiser sled. This is completed in two rotations, and all must be completed in under nine minutes without stopping.

In recent years, health and wellness practices have increased the focus on maintaining behavioral health through Firefighter Life Safety Initiative # 13, Professional counselors, and our Peer Support Team who assist personnel experiencing trauma negatively impacting their mental health and behavioral health. Continuing Education was provided for personnel by Michelle Albert (Igneous Solutions), a licensed therapist focusing on personal recognition of behavioral issues and avenues for assistance.

HFD now has a working group on all areas of NFPA 1500 (the Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program) and OSHA guidelines, establishing goals and strategies to ensure the health, safety and wellness is always the forefront of all personnel. Furthermore, the Department created a Cancer Risk Reduction group tasked with developing strategies for reducing the risks of carcinogenic exposures.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Training Division

One of the busiest areas of the department revolves around training. The Training Officer is tasked with ensuring firefighting, emergency medical, hazardous materials, and technical rescue skills are maintained and enhanced. This division also ensures newly hired personnel complete an orientation packet before entering the field; it also assists with Regional Recruit Academies and Advanced Academies, assigning instructors to provide technical knowledge to students.

HFD partnered with Blue Ridge Community College to offer Leadership Development for aspiring officers, newly promoted officers, and members already promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and Captain. This program is scheduled to be offered two times per year, providing three days of supervision/management courses in various topics each session. This is the Department's first concerted effort to provide professional development training for front-line supervisors within the Department.

As a reflection of genuine inter-departmental teamwork, Harrisonburg's Public Works Department has budgeted space in their new general services building, to be constructed in 2023-2024. This space will not only allow us to conduct training in proximity to our training grounds, but also host classes of larger size requiring increased seating capacity.

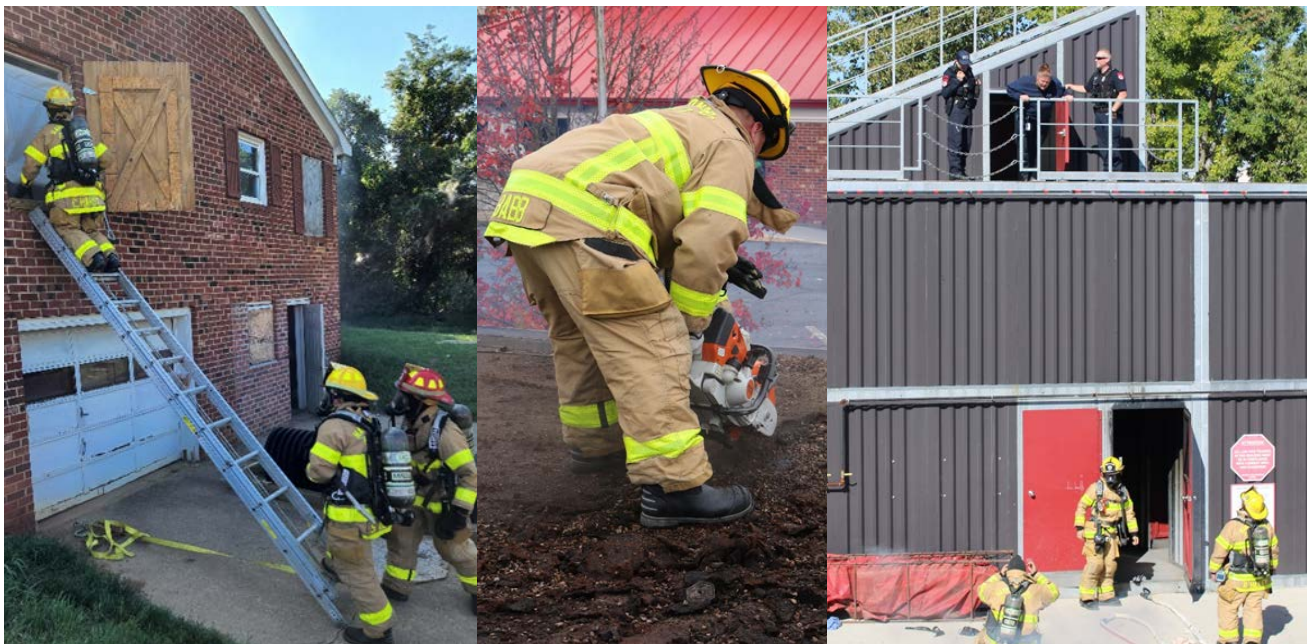


SUPPORT SERVICES

Training Activities

Members of the Harrisonburg Fire Department honed their knowledge, skills, and abilities through various on-shift training events including, but not limited to:

- Driver Pump Operator scenarios: both at the training grounds and at various locations throughout the city
- Firefighter self-survival skills advancing to firefighter rescues skills
- Vehicle extrication training involving passenger vehicles and buses
- Compassion Fatigue presented by Michelle Albert, LPC, CSOTP, with Igneous Solutions
- "Active Shooter" scenarios in conjunction with HPD and other area law enforcement agencies
- Search and rescue training pertaining to location and removal of victims in structure fires and also hazardous materials incidents
- Cybersecurity Awareness presented by Bud Ritchie, the City's Cybersecurity and Compliance Specialist
- Acquire Structure at 2455 S Main Street: Hose line evolutions, search evolutions, roof operations and forcible entry techniques
- Annual testing of fire hose, all ladders, and fire apparatus pumps
- Work Performance Evaluations

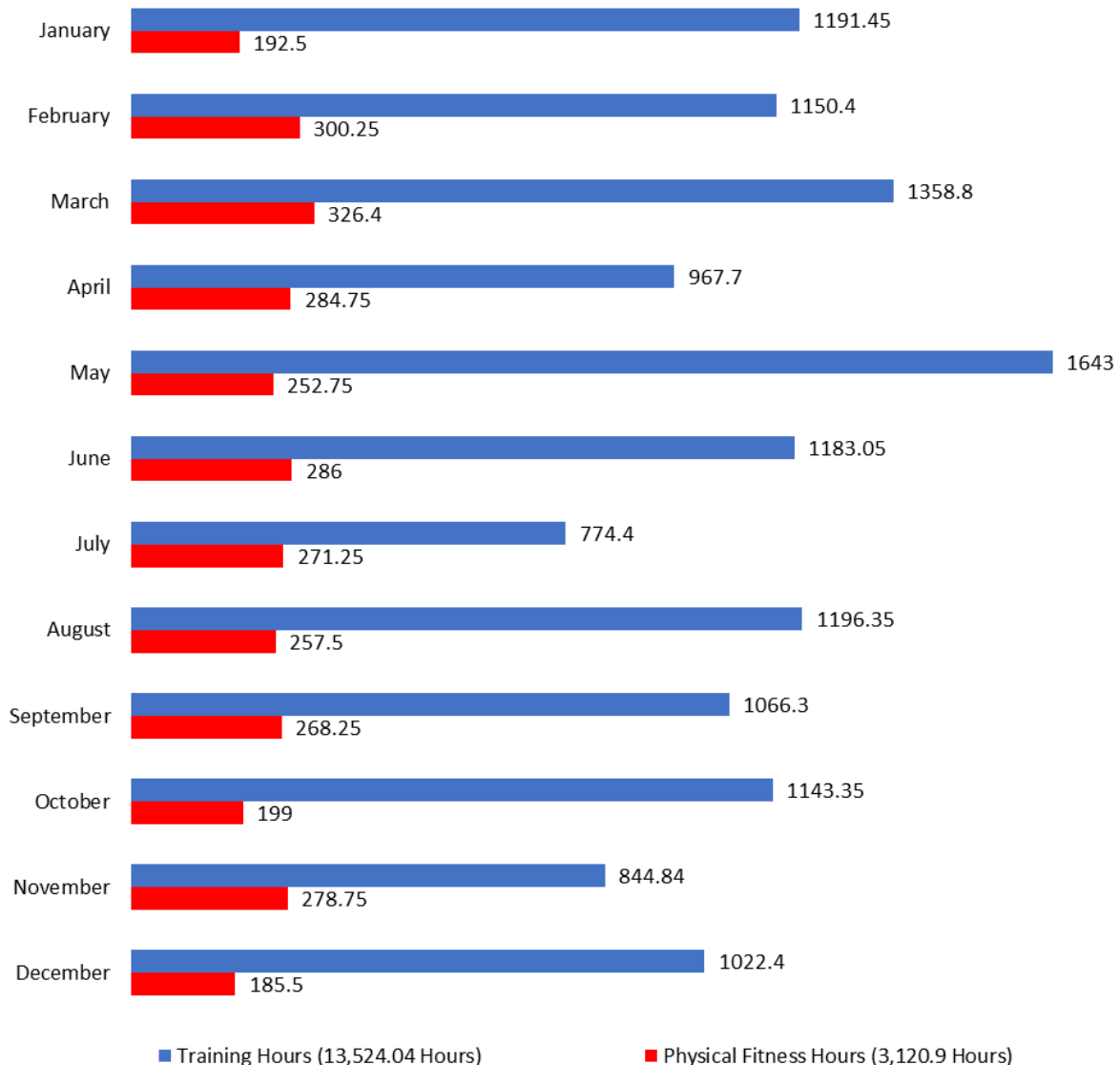


SUPPORT SERVICES

Training & Physical Fitness Hours

Time committed to training is direct reflection of the commitment by the women and men of this department! A total of 13,542.04 training hours and 3102.9 physical fitness hours were recorded in 2022.

Training & Physical Fitness Hours



SUPPORT SERVICES

Information Technology

Information Technology is another area of steadily increasing demand due to new programs, processes, and systems. The demands were heightened during the pandemic, when IT and Training were forced to adapt to once-in-a-generation challenge by working closely with one another to ensure all of the numerous training requirements were met while adhering to various restrictions. Although the majority of those restrictions have been lifted, IT and Training are still work closely together for the solutions that are still in use.



IT also maintains the process of ensuring the functionality of the programs utilized by the department to capture required data of incidents to be utilized in national, state and local reporting. IT also assists with measuring the success of the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) programs and providing analytical resources to different divisions within the department. IT manages all software and hardware related to station alerting to ensure that it is functioning properly, so that crews are notified of emergency events. There are many other software programs IT is responsible for maintaining and managing such as mapping systems that are updated through GIS with the enterprise IT department which is then used with the dispatch software for emergency calls, the program used by the ECC to dispatch calls and events to the fire companies are accurately plotting the location of resources to guarantee the fastest response possible by the closest suppression personnel.

IT is also responsible for ensuring the fleet of more than 200 technological devices comprised of desktop computers, laptop computers, windows tablets, apple tablets, data enabled devices (cell phones, air cards, and cradlepoints), printers, recording devices, networkable devices are functioning. IT plays a critical role in all divisions of our department day and night, in-house or behind the scenes.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION

PIZZA NIGHT SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM

2022 marked our 19th Annual Free Pizza/Free Smoke Alarm Night. Each year with the help of our partner Cici's Pizza and many volunteers, we are able to provide free pizza and free smoke/carbon monoxide alarms to Harrisonburg City residents. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), almost three out of five home fire deaths are caused by fires in properties with no smoke alarms (41 percent) or smoke alarms that failed to operate (16 percent). It is critical to the safety of our residents to have properly working alarms, as well as a fire escape plan to increase their chances of survival in a fire. We are proud to host this community event each year and keep our Friendly City safe!

Pizza Night Impact:

- **287** Residences Checked
- **827** Smoke Alarms Checked
- **72** Smoke Alarms Installed
- **51** Smoke Alarm Batteries Installed
- **70** Carbon Monoxide Alarms Checked
- **19** Carbon Monoxide Alarms Installed
- **1** Carbon Monoxide Alarm Batteries Installed
- **151** Owned Properties
- **136** Rental Properties



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION



**Rockingham Insurance
Fire Safety Contest**



In partnership with Rockingham Insurance, the CRR Division hosted the 14th annual fire safety art contest for Harrisonburg City elementary and middle school students. Each year the art contest is based on NFPA's fire prevention week theme. The contest continues to grow and in 2022, we had a record number of over 250 art entries, which is more than double what we have had in previous years. Winners and their families are invited to a banquet at one of the City's fire stations to celebrate their accomplishments. We look forward to receiving more entries in 2023!

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION



Public Education and Life Safety Activities	2022
Fire & Life Safety Education Classes	459
Number of Persons Reached	15,915
Smoke Alarm Inspections	1,288
Smoke Alarm Installations	159

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION

Camp L.I.T. 2022

2022 marked our 4th annual Camp L.I.T. Camp L.I.T. stands for leadership, integrity, and trailblazer and is designed for young women ages 14 to 16. It has been offered as a collaboration between the Harrisonburg Fire Department and Rockingham County Fire and Rescue. Camp L.I.T. provides a unique insight into life as a first responder in hopes of encouraging young females to consider a career in public safety. This includes first responder careers such as fire and rescue, emergency communicators and law enforcement. Throughout the week, campers participated in activities about being a firefighter like operating hose lines, search and rescue, and physical fitness. More than that, Camp L.I.T. focuses on leadership development, teamwork, empowerment, and self-confidence.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION

Sensory Friendly Events

In 2022, the CRR division hosted two sensory friendly events at fire station #1. The first occurred during National Autism Awareness Month in April and the second was a Halloween trunk or treat event. During both events, our stations were modified to reduce noise and lights to ensure a sensory friendly environment for children and adults to explore the fire station, apparatus, and other activities.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION

Community Fire Academy



This year was our second annual community fire academy. The purpose of the academy is to educate Harrisonburg City residents about how the Harrisonburg Fire Department operates and serves the community. The academy provided a unique and fun experience for all participants. Activities included Stop the Bleed, fire engine ride-alongs, fire prevention, search and rescue, and more.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION

According to the CDC, motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of injury and death for children under 18 years old. To help reduce these numbers, our full-time car seat technician, Bri Petit, teaches families how to properly restrain children in vehicles. Whether it's your first child or fifth, or if you are a grandparent transporting your grandchild, car seats and vehicles are continually changing. To help simplify the process, and ensure your child's seat is installed correctly, make an appointment with Bri today! In addition, our department participates in the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) free child safety seat program for income eligible children. We recommend you schedule an appointment by calling 540-810-0528 or via email Brianna.Petit@harrisonburgva.gov She generally has appointments Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Virginia law states that children must be in a proper car seat until 8 years old. However, we find that a lot of parents move their children out of boosters too soon because they assume it's based on height or weight. To help solve this issue, we applied for a mini grant through Safe Kids Worldwide, an organization dedicated to reducing child unintentional injuries and deaths in December 2022. We are hoping to receive the grant money in 2023 to purchase booster seats for families in our community.



2022 Child Safety Seat Program Outreach

- **259** Child Safety Seats Inspections
- **31** Child Safety Seat Problems Found
- **230** New Child Safety Seats Installed

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION

Code Enforcement and Investigation

- **1,914** Fire Inspections
- **2,459** Violations Cited
- **1,169** Pre-Fire Plans Conducted
- **49** Incidents Investigated



- **Fire Inspections:** The Fire Marshal's Office conducts fire and life safety inspections in a variety of buildings throughout the City including hotels, schools, nursing homes, restaurants, business offices, and manufacturing facilities.
- **Fire Pre-Plans:** Firefighters conduct routine pre-plans. These plans are not inspections, but rather a survey of the property from a safety standpoint. They are used to identify potential hazards to responders in the event of an emergency.
- **Fire Investigations:** The investigation of fires has a direct impact of the prevention of future similar incidents. The identification of the cause and origin of a fire allows for information sharing that can be used to educate our community in preventing similar events resulting from human error. This information can also be used to develop codes or ordinances that are designed to prevent such events.

TAKING UP... RETIREMENT

Master Firefighter Ray Aigner (A Shift)
retired in June, after serving 25 years with the City.
Thank you, Ray, for your service!



TAKING UP... RETIREMENT

Captain Bill Smiley retired after 28 years of service.
Thank you, Bill, for your service!



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