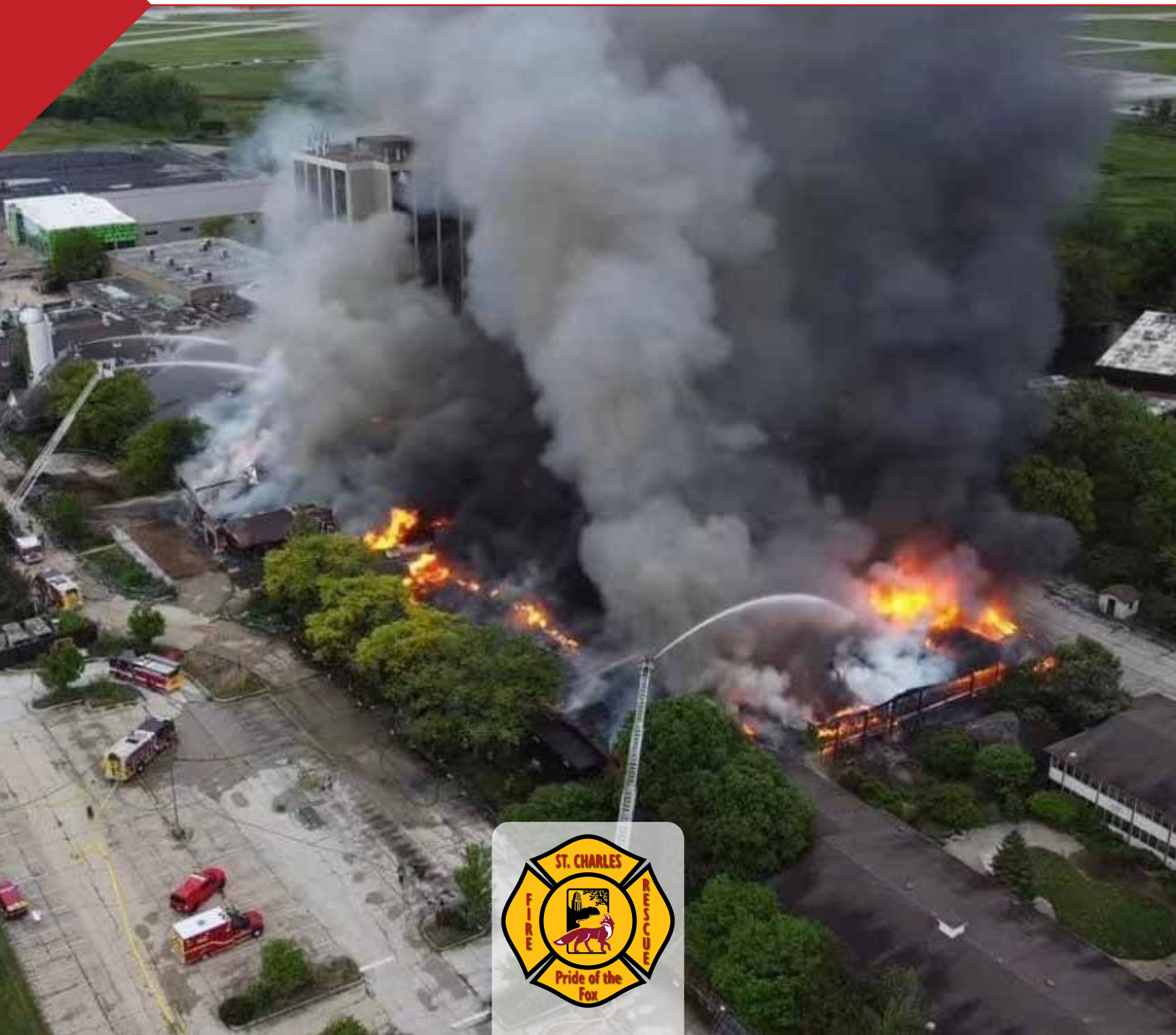


St. Charles Fire Department

2022 Annual Report





A Message from The Chief

I am extremely honored to have served as the Fire Chief of the St. Charles Fire Department during 2022. This was the 180th year of fire service in the City of St. Charles. Since the founding of the volunteer LaFayette Fire Company in March of 1842 the City of St. Charles has been protected by a fire department. In 1888, the fire department officially transitioned into the St. Charles Fire Department. Throughout this past 180 years, a multitude of members have proudly served the citizens of St. Charles, a tradition that continues to this day.

The St. Charles Fire Department is a high-performance organization and this was on display throughout the exceptionally challenging year of 2022. The year began with four structure fires in the first month. The most significant was a structure fire at 215 West Main Street. The evening exceedingly cold, with temperatures below zero and a significant wind bringing dangerous wind-chills. The fire was challenging, in a century old building interconnected with structures on each side. The fire was contained to the rear section of the building and all structures were saved and remain standing.

Following our latest Insurance Services Office (ISO) evaluation, the St. Charles Fire Department was again recognized in 2022 with a Public Protection Class Rating of ISO Class 1. When the St. Charles Fire Department originally earned the ISO Class 1 honor in 2015, it represented a significant milestone in our history, becoming only the fourth Fire Department in the State of Illinois to achieve this prestigious status. While a few more fire departments have attained Class 1 status over the subsequent years, retaining this classification keeps the St. Charles Fire Department in the top 1.5% of fire departments in Illinois and uppermost 1% in the United States.

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In May, the SCFD confronted an extensive fire event at the former Pheasant Run Resort facility. This was the single largest fire in the history of St. Charles. The SCFD requested the assistance of two dozen surrounding fire departments during the suppression efforts throughout the afternoon and evening. The tremendous efforts of the firefighters contained the fire damage to the central areas of the complex and preserved approximately seventy-five percent of the structures.

The culmination of several years of work came to realization with the Push-In Ceremony, placing our new 2022 Pierce 100-foot aerial ladder truck in-service on July 30th. This ladder truck is an investment that will be utilized to serve and protect the community for the next two decades.

The Department also experienced three retirements when Captain Chip Voelsch, Battalion Chief Jim Kurczek, and Lieutenant Mike Schaben, with a combined 88 years of service, concluded their careers between July and September. The SCFD initiated a more formal promotional and new hire Swearing-In Ceremony in September when eight members of the department were formally installed in their new ranks.

The year 2022 also challenged the members of the St. Charles Fire Department through the number of requests for our service. The year concluded with 5618 incidents handled, by far the busiest year for calls in our 180-year history of service.

While this is only a summary of some of the events and challenges of 2022, it clearly shows that the St. Charles Fire Department and all of our members are ready, willing, and able to respond when called upon. Being a high-performance organization, we understand as John Wooden stated, "When opportunity comes, it is too late to prepare."

I wish to say thank you to everyone that contributed to the successes of the past year. This is only possible with the support of the citizens, elected, and appointed officials of the City of St. Charles.

Finally, I wish to recognize and thank all the members of the St. Charles Fire Department. Only through all of our combined efforts and dedication could we have achieved and successfully handled everything over the past year.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott G. Swanson
Fire Chief



Operations



By Deputy Chief Tony Cavallo

The Operations Division is charged with enhancing the quality of life to our community. This is done by providing a safe and healthy environment through our responses to a multitude of incidents we are dispatched to. The members of the Operations Division are dedicated and proud of having the responsibility of fulfilling their obligation to the citizens, business owners, and visitors who find themselves in need of our assistance. The services that the Operations Division provide are fire suppression & extinguishment, rescue operations, emergency medical responses, vehicle extrication, dive rescue, swift water rescue, building collapse, hazardous material incidents, trench rescue, rope rescue, and confined space entrapment throughout the community. The St. Charles Fire Department operates out of three strategically located

fire houses throughout the city. Each station has a designated fire district. The department is organized into two Engine companies, one Truck company, two ambulance companies, and one Command vehicle every day of the year. All fire apparatus are staffed by professional, full time firefighter/paramedics. These firefighter/paramedics dedicate themselves to continual training in order to maintain their knowledge and skills. A substantial number of these professionals are certified at a technician level by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The St. Charles Fire Department responded to a total number of 5618 of calls in 2022. Department personnel kept extremely busy responding to average number of 15.39 per day.

The Department responded to 71 various types of fire incidents.

2022 St. Charles Fire Department Calls by Incident Type

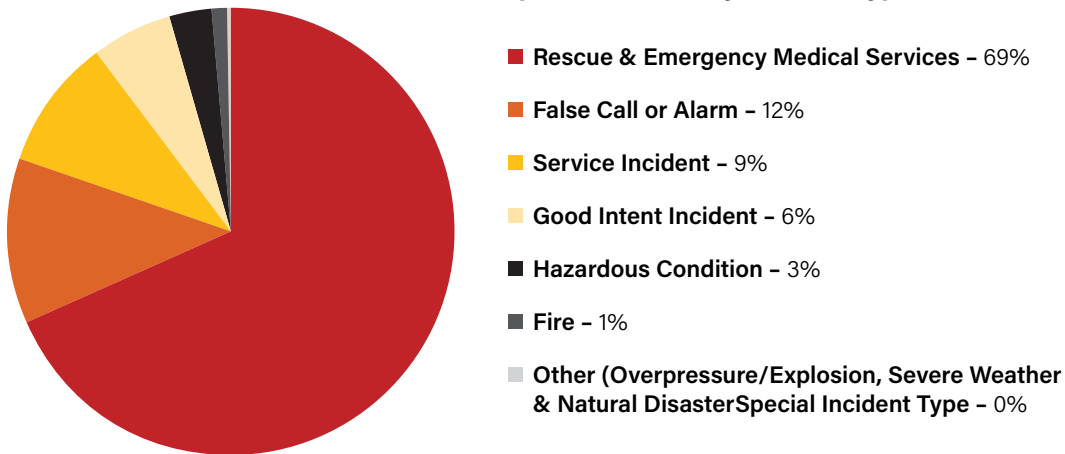
Incident Type	Number
Fire	71
Overpressure/Explosion	2
Rescue & Emergency Medical Services	3,853
Hazardous Condition	167
Service Incident	534
Good Intent Incident	327
False Call or Alarm	661
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	3
Special Incident Type	0
Total Incidents - 2022	5618
Average Calls per Day Throughout Year	15.39

Type of Fire Incident

Incident Type	Number
(10) Fire, Other	2
(11) Structure Fire	44
(12) Fire in Mobile Property used as a fixed structure	2
(13) Mobile Property (vehicle) fire	7
(14) Natural vegetation fire	10
(15) Outside rubbish fire	5
(16) Special outside fire	1
Total Fire Incidents - 2022	71



2022 St. Charles Fire Department Calls by Incident Type



The Department responded to 3,853 EMS & Rescue incidents in 2022.

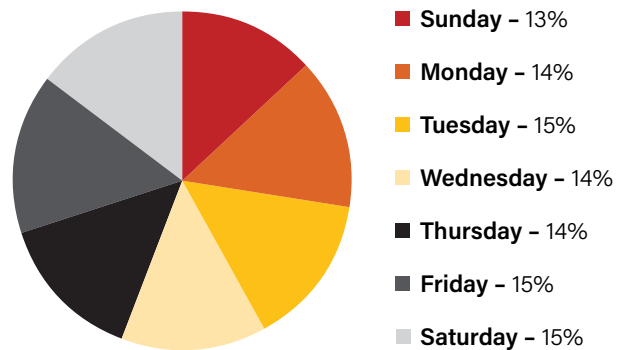
Type of Rescue Incident

Rescue Incident	Number	Rescue Incident	Number
(30) Rescue, Emergency medical call (EMS), other	2	(35) Extrication, rescue	21
(31) Medical assist	82	(36) Water or ice-related rescue	2
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	3,720	(38) Rescue or EMS Standby	26

2022 Incidents by Day of Week

Day of the Week	Total Incidents	Average Daily Incidents
Sunday	747	14.37
Monday	801	15.40
Tuesday	820	15.77
Wednesday	772	14.85
Thursday	804	15.46
Friday	855	16.44
Saturday	819	15.45

2022 - Incidents By Day of Week



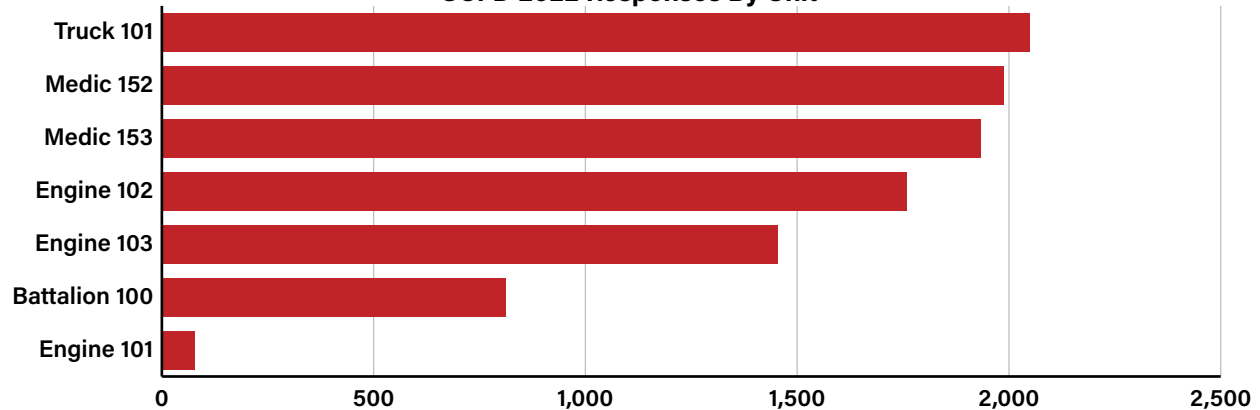


Truck 101 was again the busiest company in the Department responding to 2048 incidents.

2022 - Responses by Unit

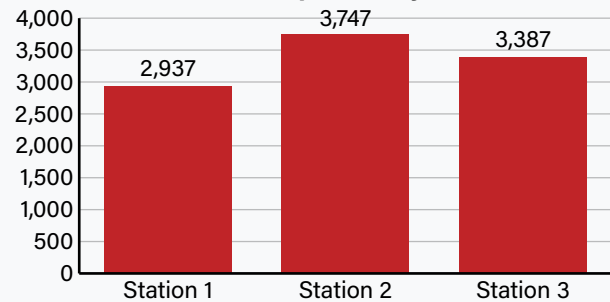
Unit	Number	Unit	Number
Truck 101	2,048	Engine 103	1,453
Medic 152	1,988	Battalion 100	811
Medic 153	1,934	Engine 101	78
Engine 102	1,759		

SCFD 2022 Responses By Unit



Fire Station #2 remained the busiest Station in 2022, responding to 2127 incidents

2022 - Unit Responses by Station





Stations & Personnel Assignments as of December 2022



Fire Station #1 – 112 N. Riverside Ave.

Central Station – Downtown

Truck 101-Engine 101-Battalion 100

Battalion 100

BLACK SHIFT

Battalion Chief
Tony Centimano

Lt. Guy Gresser
Lt. Wes Gosser
FFPM Ben Gore
FFPM Mario Garza
FFPM Austin Wolf

RED SHIFT

Battalion Chief
Jeremy Mauthe

Truck 101

Capt. Dave Chmelar
Lt. Steve Rehak
FFPM Scott Sulak
FFPM Brandon Paus
FFPM Chris Overland

GOLD SHIFT

Battalion Chief
Jason Peterson

Lt. Steve Dries
Lt. Brad Wilton
FFPM Brian Hansen
FFPM Andrew Kidd



Stations & Personnel Assignments as of December 2022

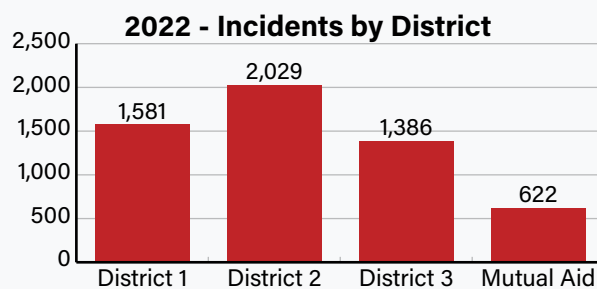


Fire Station #2 – 2900 Production Drive
East Side

Engine 102

BLACK SHIFT	RED SHIFT	GOLD SHIFT
Capt. Jeff Tarro FFPM Don Fruland FFPM Drew Perry FFPM Kevin Kasperek	Lt. Mike Pyzyna FFPM Kelly Malone FFPM Megan Funk FFPM Matthew Mols	Lt. Al Wade FFPM Trevor Kelly FFPM Ryan Gleason FFPM Jacob Johns
PM Samantha Hernandez PM Valerie Bullock	Medic 152 PM Sydney Breitenfeld	PM Melissa Ruel PM Michael Frazier

Fire Station 2 remained the busiest station in the District, responding to 2,029 incidents.





Stations & Personnel Assignments as of December 2022



Fire Station #3 – 2901 Campton Hills Road
West Side

Engine 103

BLACK SHIFT

Lt. Clifford Lo
FFPM Patrick Lacey
FFPM Steve Siwy
FFPM Daniel Kray

PM Steve Williams
PM Maria Ambion

RED SHIFT

Lt. Chad Tinsley
FFPM Nick Marqui
FFPM Robert Sheehan
FFPM Dan Mortensen

Medic 153

PM Breahna Wessel
PM Russell Brophy

GOLD SHIFT

Capt. Rainier Galliano
FF Phil Kuhn
FFPM Chris Thomas
FFPM Andrew Cichon

PM Michelle Hanks

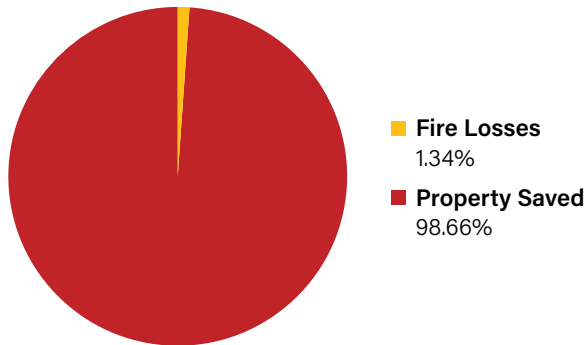




2022 Property Saved and Fire Loss

Year 2022	Amount	Percentage
Value of Property	\$132,295,750.00	100%
Fire Losses	\$1,776,555.00	1.34%
Property Saved	\$130,519,195.00	98.66%

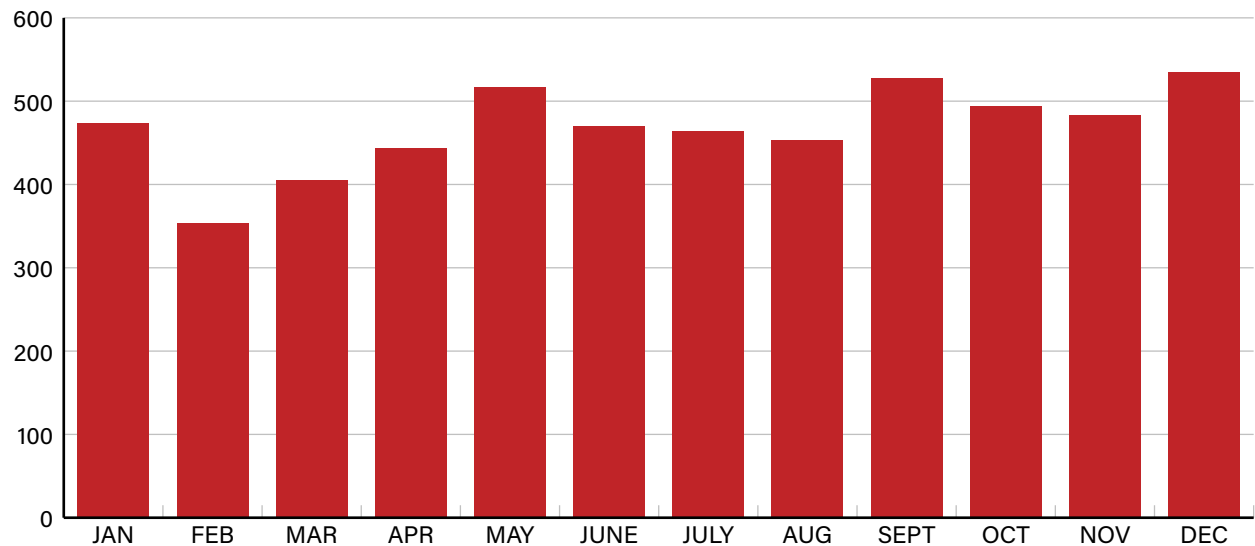
2022 - Property Saved and Fire Loss



SCFD 2022 Incidents by Month

SCFD 2022 Incidents by Month	Number	SCFD 2022 Incidents by Month	Number
JAN	473	JULY	464
FEB	354	AUG	453
MAR	405	SEPT	527
APR	443	OCT	494
MAY	517	NOV	483
JUNE	470	DEC	535

SCFD 2022 Incidents by Month

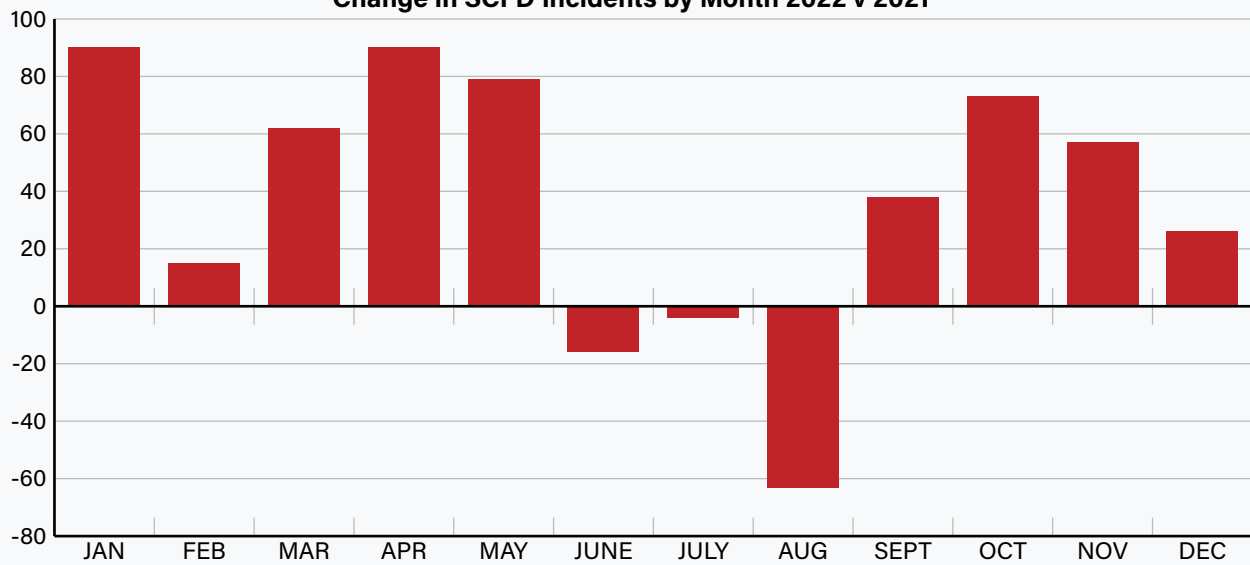


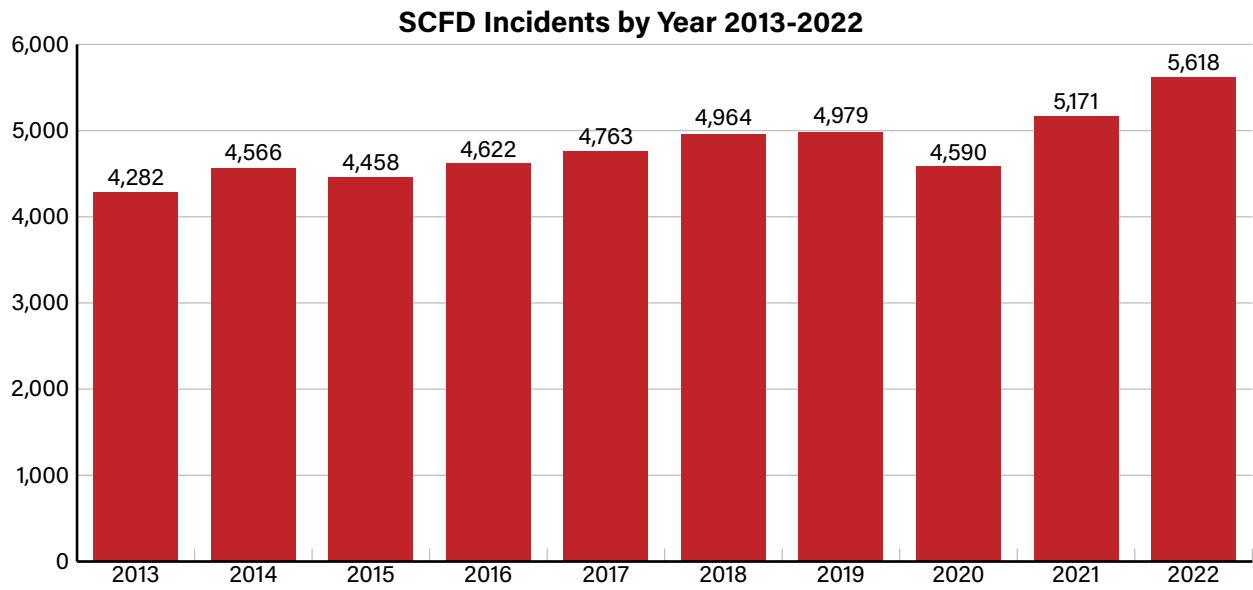


SCFD 2022 Incidents by Month

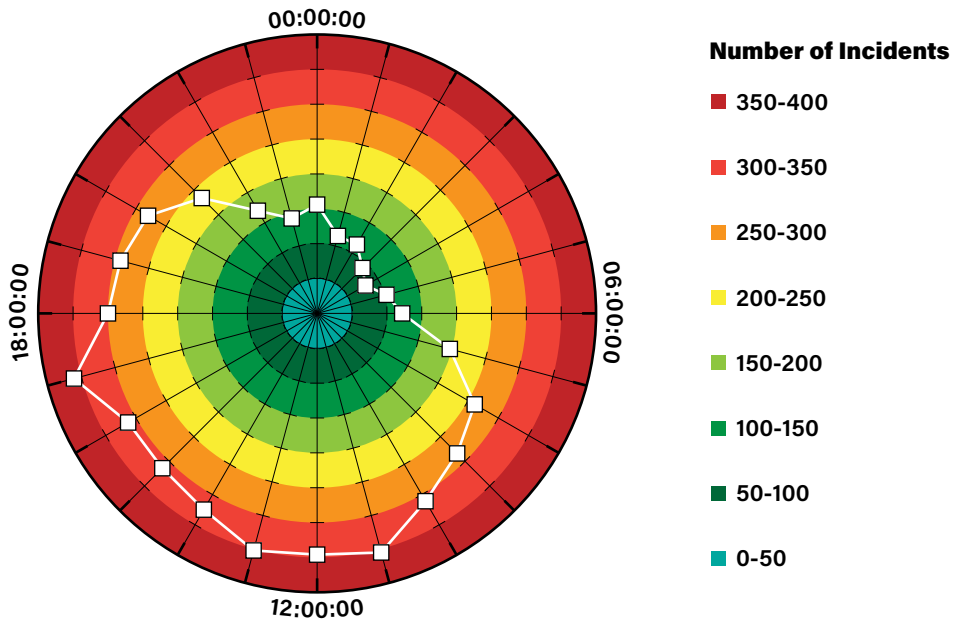
Change in SCFD Incidents by Month 2022 v 2021	Difference	Change in SCFD Incidents by Month 2022 v 2021	Difference
JAN	90	JULY	-4
FEB	15	AUG	-63
MAR	62	SEPT	38
APR	90	OCT	73
MAY	79	NOV	57
JUNE	-16	DEC	26

Change in SCFD Incidents by Month 2022 v 2021





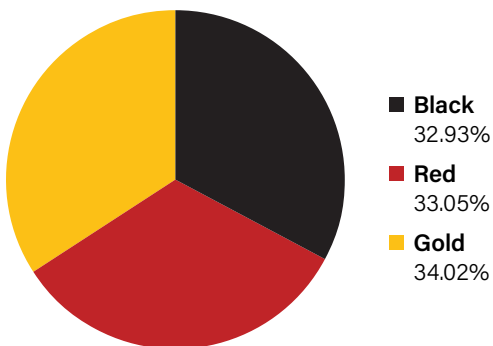
2022 - Total Incidents by Time of Day



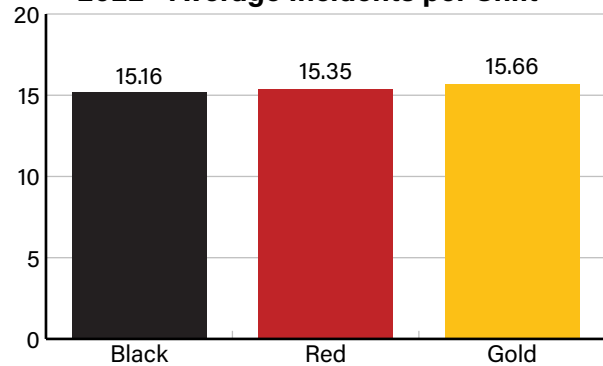
2022 - Total Incidents by Time of Day

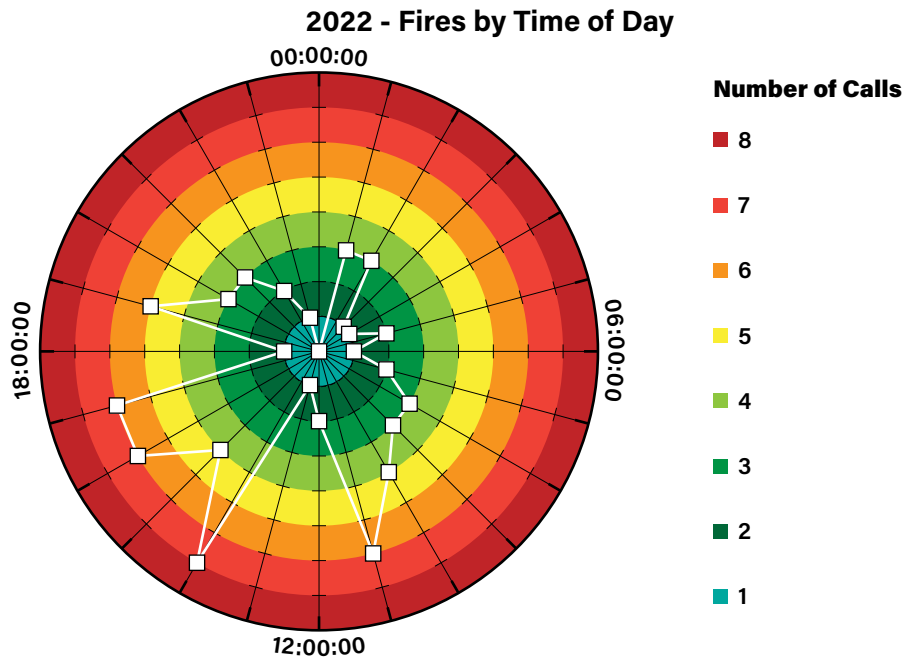
Time of Day	# of Calls	Time of Day	# of Calls
00:00:00 - 00:59:59	156	12:00:00 - 12:59:59	346
01:00:00 - 01:59:59	115	13:00:00 - 13:59:59	352
02:00:00 - 02:59:59	114	14:00:00 - 14:59:59	325
03:00:00 - 03:59:59	92	15:00:00 - 15:59:59	314
04:00:00 - 04:59:59	80	16:00:00 - 16:59:59	313
05:00:00 - 05:59:59	103	17:00:00 - 17:59:59	361
06:00:00 - 06:59:59	122	18:00:00 - 18:59:59	300
07:00:00 - 07:59:59	197	19:00:00 - 19:59:59	292
08:00:00 - 08:59:59	261	20:00:00 - 20:59:59	280
09:00:00 - 09:59:59	284	21:00:00 - 21:59:59	234
10:00:00 - 10:59:59	311	22:00:00 - 22:59:59	170
11:00:00 - 11:59:59	355	23:00:00 - 23:59:59	141
Total Incidents - 2022		5618	

2022 - Incident Breakdown By Shift



2022 - Average Incidents per Shift

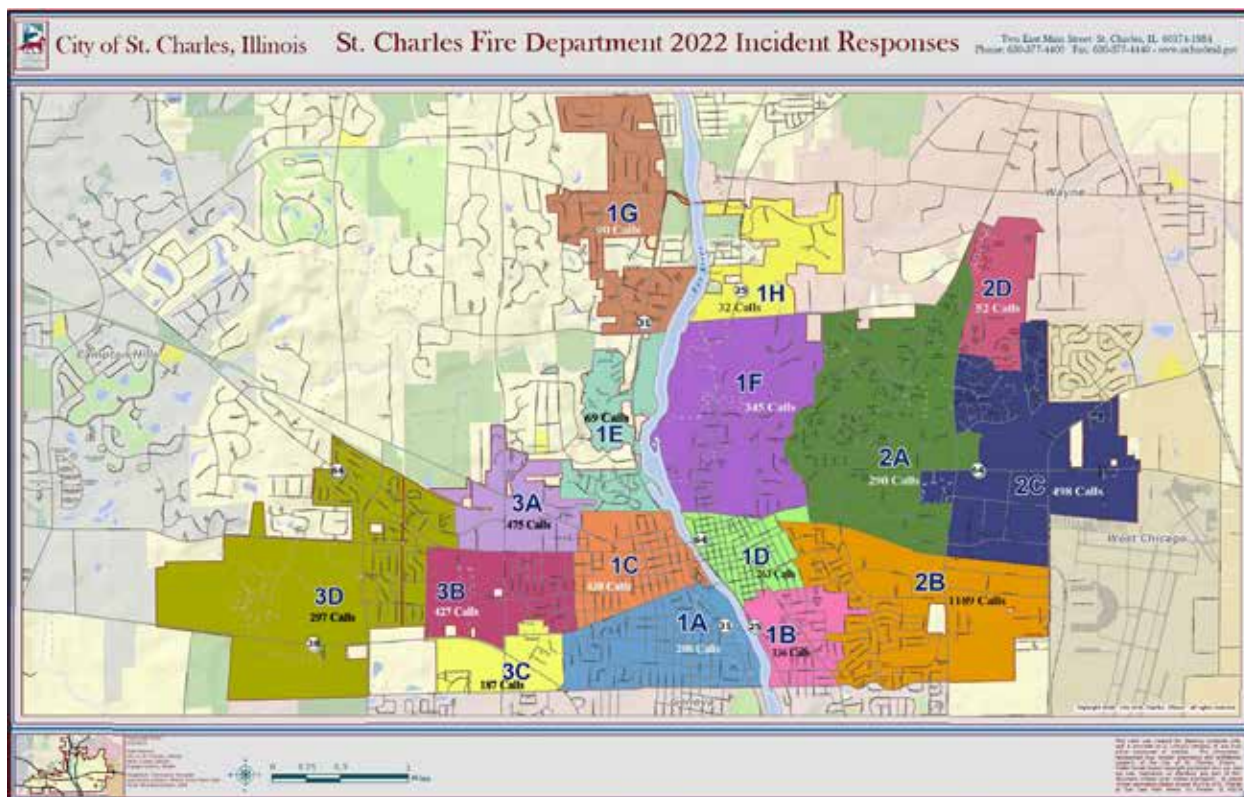




2022 - Fires by Time of Day

Time of Day	# of Calls	Time of Day	# of Calls
00:00:00 - 00:59:59	0	12:00:00 - 12:59:59	2
01:00:00 - 01:59:59	3	13:00:00 - 13:59:59	1
02:00:00 - 02:59:59	3	14:00:00 - 14:59:59	7
03:00:00 - 03:59:59	1	15:00:00 - 15:59:59	4
04:00:00 - 04:59:59	1	16:00:00 - 16:59:59	6
05:00:00 - 05:59:59	2	17:00:00 - 17:59:59	6
06:00:00 - 06:59:59	1	18:00:00 - 18:59:59	1
07:00:00 - 07:59:59	2	19:00:00 - 19:59:59	5
08:00:00 - 08:59:59	3	20:00:00 - 20:59:59	3
09:00:00 - 09:59:59	3	21:00:00 - 21:59:59	3
10:00:00 - 10:59:59	4	22:00:00 - 22:59:59	2
11:00:00 - 11:59:59	6	23:00:00 - 23:59:59	1
Total Calls - 2022			70





2022 Incidents by Response Zone

Station District	Response Zone	Incidents in 2022
1	1A	208
	1B	136
	1C	438
	1D	263
	1E	69
	1F	345
	1G	90
	1H	32
2	2A	290
	2B	1189
	2C	498
	2D	52
3	3A	475
	3B	427
	3C	187
	3D	297



The Pheasant Run Resort Fire



The once prosperous and widely recognized Pheasant Run Resort had been an iconic facility in St. Charles for nearly six decades. The resort originally opened around 1963 and by 2020, the complex experienced hard times for a variety of reasons and finally ceased operations in March. At the time of the fire on Saturday, May 21, 2023, the complex was vacant and the physical condition of the structures had substantially deteriorated.



At about 4:40 that afternoon, the first of a multitude of calls flooded into Tri-Com Central Dispatch Center. The St. Charles Fire Department was dispatched within a minute and units were enroute rapidly thereafter. Large plumes of black smoke could be seen coming from the complex as the first fire companies left their stations enroute to the fire scene. The response was upgraded to a 1st level MABAS Box Alarm while the initial units were still enroute.



Engine 102, the first arriving unit, reported a large fire in the central area of the complex. The fire was engulfing the A and B wings of rooms, two-story wooden sections built in the early days of the resort.



The fire was also in the lobby area and already spreading east into the Bourbon Street section of the complex.



The firefighters immediately went to work trying to flank the flames and stop the spread to the west through the complex. As the remaining companies on the General Alarm response arrived, the incident was upgraded again, this time to a 2nd level MABAS Box Alarm. These additional fire companies were set up at the north and northeast sections of the fire area.



As the Box Alarm fire companies began to arrive, those units were assigned to supply water, for support of the units already on scene, and detailed to the south side by the tower building. With the arrival of additional units, they were then directed to the southwest region of the fire area. With these positions the fire was now surrounded, but far from under control. The incident was upgraded a final time, this time to a 3rd level MABAS Box Alarm response.

The incident required the cooperation and assistance of many other departments from the City of St. Charles. The police department provided security of the widespread scene while controlling traffic and handling an extremely large crowd of spectators gathered near the incident. The water department staff assisted in providing the tremendous amount of water that was

needed throughout the afternoon and evening. They controlled valves, pumps, and storage facilities to provide the millions of gallons of water utilized in our operations. City Electric personnel also worked to render the scene safe for fire operations by shutting down all electric into the Pheasant Run site.

The fire companies spent most of the next 8 hours assuring the fire was contained and pouring tremendous quantities of water on the massive flames consuming the central inter-connected sections of the structures within the complex. The effort worked diligently to prevent further easterly spread of the difficult blaze toward the old barn, formerly housing Zanie's and the Harvest restaurant, also to the kitchen and theatre portions.





To assist with making this stand, several ladder towers were readied for service and elevated in position for use. We also brought in a contractor with a large construction trackhoe excavator machine. This machine was utilized to demolish parts of the buildings just west of the barn and kitchen area. The machine was right on the edge of the fully-involved structures as it proceeded to make a fire break from the front to the tower building at the south side of the fire. The firefighters had to keep handlines on the machine as they worked to keep it cool while exposed to the flames and radiant heat.



The trackhoe excavator was finally moved to the southwest section of the site. There the machine working with firefighters utilizing several hoselines demolished the remaining portions of the E-wing that were still on fire. The firefighters employed their hoselines to both cool the excavator at work and douse the remaining flames in that area.

As the perimeter was maintained and the spread of fire was greatly contained, the incident was slowly de-escalated and units from the mutual-aid fire departments were gradually released to return to their communities. During the course of the incident, 25 fire departments were utilized to assist during the firefighting efforts. After several hours of adjusting the remaining resources, the St. Charles Fire Department was the only agency still engaged in the firefighting operations. We remained of the scene throughout the entire night.



The St. Charles Fire Department fire personnel and apparatus remained on the scene extinguishing the persistent hot spots and concealed fires for the next several days. Each of the three shifts spent time working on the scene. The firefighter's efforts eventually concluded when last fire company finally returned to quarters after 8:30 pm on Tuesday, May 24th.

This incident was the largest fire event in the 180 years history of the St. Charles Fire Department. Although greatly challenged by such a massive blaze, the firefighters and the St. Charles Fire Department demonstrated they were up to the test. While the entire complex was threatened by the conflagration, through the combined efforts of everyone involved, the loss of structures was contained at 110,000 square feet, only a quarter facility, out of the total 450,000 square feet within the Pheasant Run Resort.

Activity related to this incident continued for many months. The SCFD Fire Investigation Team, led by Investigator Chris Thomas, worked with detectives and investigators from the St. Charles Police Department, ATF, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The investigation was extensive and eventually resulted with charges be filed against four individuals.

In recognition of this huge and historic fire event, the Chief authorized the creation of a special service bar to acknowledge the efforts of each SCFD member in combatting the unprecedented fire incident.



EMS



By Battalion Chief Tony Centimano

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

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

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

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

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

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

Emergency medical response comprises over 60 % of Fire Department emergency activity. The Saint Charles Fire Department provides 24-hour response coverage for Emergency Medical Services to the City of Saint Charles. Personnel are trained to deliver advanced life support, (ALS) services. The Department is providing response times of within six minutes 85 % percent of

the time as represented by the Department Standard of Coverage. In order to minimize travel times, the Department provides ALS capable primary response units in each firehouse.

The total EMS response capability includes:

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

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

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

In 2022, the COVID-19 Pandemic was reduced to endemic status and the community returned to "normal." This has resulted in an increase in routine emergency medical responses as people are returning to the healthcare system for regular medical needs. The continued increase in responses to behavioral health emergencies continues to grow; not only in the community but also nationally. In 2022, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline changed its phone number (988) and mission to become more readily available



to those experiencing a behavioral healthcare crisis. Additionally, the State of Illinois passed legislation, The Community Emergency Services and Support Act (CESSA), which aims to create response teams for persons in a behavioral health crisis. Though this legislation affects counselors, EMS and law enforcement in content; it lacks much in the way of guidance which has slowed the implementation. The St. Charles Fire Department remains dedicated to our role in the community and as stakeholders in the area of emergency behavioral healthcare. We continue to partner with law enforcement, the EMS System, and the Association for Individual Development (AID).

With an increase in demand for service it was a welcome return of the on-demand transport ambulance (Medic 252). This ambulance is a force multiplier during periods of time when the Tri-Cities experiences a higher demand on the need for EMS responses. The community experiences more call volume than its neighbors; Geneva and Batavia, and requires the use of Medic 252 routinely. Additionally, Medic 252 relocates from western Geneva when both Medic 152 and 153 are responding to incidents. Combined with the ALS non-transport vehicles and personnel, the community can count on quicker responses, treatments and transports to the area hospitals.

In the past few years the community has increased its assisted/skilled living facilities and the population is maturing. Additionally, staffing at these types of facilities has also been subject to shortages that are affecting numerous industries nationwide. This increase in population and decrease in skilled faculty have impacted EMS responses. The EMS Division is meeting with stakeholders to identify and discuss solutions to the growing demand for service. The goal of this approach is to take meaningful action for these community members while still providing excellent service to all community members.

Finally, in 2022 the St. Charles Fire Department completed the 2022-2027 Strategic Planning process for the agency. This process included internal and external stakeholders who came together over 5 days to identify, discuss and provide guidance on many areas impacting the community and the fire departments role. Specifically, EMS is the subject of Goal 6 "Ensure continuous high-quality and professional EMS services to enhance the safety, security and well-being of the community." This goal and several others have created the guidance to explore and act in a meaningful way in areas of EMS. With this plan we will continue to monitor our progress, community needs and tailor our programs and services to meet those demands.

Emergency Management Agency



As the year began, the efforts of the St. Charles Emergency Management Agency (SCEMA) during the year was focused on the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery, and the resumption of normal operations. This meant that all of the special events and festivals resumed, and that our Team got "back-to-basics" in service to the community.

Team members welcomed the resumption of their normal meeting and in-house training schedules after COVID restrictions were lifted. As the year wore on, many members also attended on-line training events to further their education and experience in the Emergency Management field. Many Team members took advantage of outside training to broaden their education, and to learn new abilities on how to perform their duties better, and better serve the public.

For calendar year 2022, SCEMA personnel responded to 51 call-outs or requests for service. Almost half of these events involved special events related responses or activities, but we again assisted both the Police Department and Fire Department with emergency response activities such as downed wires, structure fires, a river rescue and traffic accident reconstructions. Some of the more notable responses included:

- In January and February, the Fire Department was busy with a number of structure fires. Team members assisted with rehab duties, as well as traffic control at these incidents. We continued these services throughout the year at many other fires the Fire Department responded to.
- In late February, Team members assisted the Police Department with an evidence search, and then in August we also assisted at the scene of a large truck roll-over.
- In March, St. Charles was the location for a motion picture filming produced by Netflix. Team members provided a wide variety of assistance for this endeavor.

- Team members provided staffing at an early-year COVID "pop-up" vaccination clinic.
- Our Team answered the requests of our EMA partners to provide mutual-aid services to other agencies for call-outs and special events.
- In what was determined as one of the largest structure fires in St. Charles history, Team members provided manpower and assistance for three days when the vacant Pheasant Run hotel and conference center was ravaged by fire.

Unfortunately, due to various professional and personal reasons, we again saw our Team member numbers decline due to resignations. At the close of the year, our roster currently is at 70% capacity, and we are currently in the hiring process for personnel. We wish our departing members well, and look forward to welcoming new members to the Team.



As we move into the new year, we anticipate the need for more providing and requesting mutual aid help from our EMA partners, due to global staffing numbers of all the agencies. However, we as a Team look forward to the challenges and forging better relationships with our partners.



Technical Rescue Team



By TRT Coordinator Steve Siwy

The St. Charles Technical Rescue Team traditionally consists of 10 members of various ranks, spread among the three shifts on the Department. Due to attrition over the last few years, the Team had a roster of 7 in 2022. The Team was able to conduct quality training with the other Teams in MABAS Division 13. This allows the team to remain ready and able to respond to incidents in an effective and efficient manner. Unfortunately, the Team also lost its longest participating member as Capt. Walter Voelsch retired from the Fire Department.

The first drill of the 2022 year was a drill that served couple of purposes. A new Team Leader was appointed to MABAS 13, so the first part of the drill was to familiarize the Division Teams with the new leadership, as well as discuss the direction that the Division is planning to go. The second part of the drill was a hands-on assembly of the Western Shelter that is used by the Division Team in the event of a deployment.

The second drill for 2022 was focused on the Collapse Discipline, specifically concrete. This drill allowed members to utilize tools and teamwork to tackle various scenarios with concrete as an obstruction to overcome. This drill was held at the Southern Kane County Training Site.

In between quarterly drills, the Water Rescue Team conducted a river rescue drill in Yorkville, to which the Technical Rescue Team's Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator were invited to try out some new rigging equipment and techniques. This drill was beneficial for inter-team communication and cooperation.

The third drill for 2022 was held in Aurora at the Hollywood Casino Parking Garage. This drill was focused on high-angle rescue. The Team was able to practice rappelling with our equipment as well as utilizing some of the equipment that we were planning on purchasing and some demo equipment that we had yet to be exposed to.





This final drill of 2022 was in October and was back at the Southern Kane County Training Site. This drill was a scenario based Confined Space drill. The Division teams broke into several groups to accomplish a several rescues with limited visibility and atmospheres that simulated an oxygen deficiency. This resulted in the use of Supplied Air and Communication Systems that our Team owns and is proficient in using.

The Open House saw the Fire Department getting back to a more traditional experience for our City. The Team was able to set up and ladder jib to showcase our ability to utilize tools in new ways to accomplish our needs. We were able to engage many residents and visitors and spent the day answering questions about the Teams capabilities.

Several pieces of new equipment were placed in service and a new procedure was implemented for using the Ladder Truck in rescue scenarios. We are continuing to anticipate the needs of the City and the residents that we serve and developing more techniques and procedures to ensure that we will be able to respond when needed.

The Team is also planning to conduct several in-house drills in 2023 in addition to our Quarterly MABAS 13 training. Several members have been tasked to become experts in a particular discipline and develop training scenarios, along with the Deputy Coordinator, to hone the skills of the Team.

Lastly, the Team is actively recruiting to bring the membership back up to 10. We plan on bringing at least 1 member on in 2023, and the remainder in 2024.



Hazardous Materials Team



By Hazardous Materials Team Leader Joe Davila

2022 was an active year for the St Charles Hazardous Materials team. We had several calls for service throughout the year which was handled by on duty crews. There were two significant incidents which called upon our team members to respond as part of the MABAS 13 Hazardous Materials response team.

On April 17th 2022 the Aurora fire department was called to a local retention pond for a substance floating on top of the water. Upon investigation, it was found that a waste oil tank had failed causing approximately 500-600 gallons of used motor oil to spill on the floor of a quick oil change facility. The oil found its way to an ejector pit which then ejected the oil into the storm drain system and subsequently into the retention pond. Due to the size of the pond and two interconnected ponds, the MABAS 13 HMRT was summoned and provided containment of the oil together with Aurora divers. The spill was contained and turned over to Illinois EPA for cleanup. St Charles responded with technicians and equipment.

On December 15th 2022, the Aurora fire department once again requested the response of the MABAS 13 HMRT for an acid spill/leak that had injured employees at a chemical facility as well as two Aurora first responders. St Charles provided technicians and equipment and collaboratively as a team, investigated then mitigated the problem safely. None of the St Charles responders were injured and the injuries sustained by the employees and Aurora fire personnel were minor in nature.

Members of the St Charles Hazardous Materials team added to their training this year by participating in four MABAS 13 HMRT training sessions. Each session is four hours in length and covers topics from atmospheric monitoring to full scale scenario-based training which gives technicians the opportunity to hone their craft.





2022 saw the return of statewide response readiness exercises after a three-year hiatus due to COVID. The MABAS 13 HMRT was tasked for this large, 2-day exercise spread out over four different sites. Our deployable and credentialed members responded to the Tinley Park site and performed two separate, entry level scenarios. These exercises are paramount to evaluating the response readiness of state certified Hazardous Materials team of which three members of the St Charles fire department are a part of.

We wrapped up the year by having all of our members receive the required annual hazardous materials technician physicals. Health Endeavors is our vendor that provides the physicals for our hazmat team technicians, we were able to secure them to come out in December and provide the annual physicals for our members which maintains their ability to operate in a fully encapsulated level A suit.

The department atmospheric meter program continues to be administered by Firefighter/Paramedic Wes Gosser. Wes provided calibrations of all department meters and coordinated repairs of meters as needed. He was also part of the budgeting team to assure we have the proper funds to maintain the meters, purchase calibration gas and to provide a long-term equipment replacement plan.

Lt Davila provided the annual testing of our level A vapor suits. On an annual basis these very specialized suits are required to be tested to assure adequate protection from exposure to a wide range of chemicals. These suits are pressure tested and rigorously inspected to assure that the material has not degraded. Through the budgeting process, we were able to replace the chlorine "A" kit as a capital purchase. This kit is essential for providing a means to stop an actively leaking chlorine cylinder. The existing kit was close to twenty years old and would not work with the new DOT cylinders used today.

As we look forward to 2023, we are hopeful to continue to provide quality training opportunities to better educate our members and our ability to protect our residents and the environment. I share a great sense of pride for the commitment our team members make to protect this community from the effects of Hazardous Materials. They remain vigilant to provide the highest level of service and readiness to mitigate any incident that would pose harm to our community or environment. We are very much looking forward to continuing to serve this community.

Hazmat Team Members

TEAM LEAD

Lt. Joe Davila

Capt. Rainier Galliano

Lt. Wes Gosser

Lt. Clifford Lo

Lt. Steve Rehak

FFPM Megan Funk

FFPM Ryan Gleason

FFPM Matthew Mols

Water Rescue Team



*By Water Rescue Team Leader
Lt. Michael Neumaier*

The St. Charles Fire Department Underwater Rescue and Recovery team is currently made up of Ten divers, all of which are certified Paramedics. Team members are certified at the Public Safety Diver level, with Ice diving and Swift Water Rescue certifications. At this time, we are well equipped and trained to handle most any type of water related incidents in the area that we serve with a high degree of professionalism and safety for our personnel.



The Trident

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

Training

In 2022 the team participated in six team training exercises, ranging from pool skill drills, classroom and open water dives.

- In February the team participated in Ice Dive training at the pond adjacent to the Hilton Inn Gardens in St. Charles. Training topics were surface ice safety, establishing an entry point, search patterns and diver/tender communications.





- In April the team conducted a pool training drill at the Norris Recreational Center to test new equipment. New equipment included helmets with attached lights, underwater metal detectors and exhaust valves installed in the dry suit hoods.



- In May the Water Rescue team along with members of the Technical Rescue team traveled to Yorkville for Swiftwater training at the kayak course adjacent to the dam.



- In July the team practiced boat operations on the Fox river utilizing the airboat and the Mercury inflatable. Evolutions included anchoring and stabilizing boats for diver search patterns and diving patterns in a current.





- In August the team was back in the Fox river practicing evidence recovery with our new underwater metal detectors.



- In October the team conducted open water dives in the Fox river concentrating on search patterns and equipment familiarization.



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

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

STCFD FIRE INVESTIGATIONS TEAM



By Captain David Chmelar

The Fire Investigations Team has the responsibility of investigating all fires within the St. Charles Fire Departments jurisdiction on behalf of the Fire Chief. Fire Investigators attend initial training through an Office of the State Fire Marshal approved course. This course is delivered in three 40-hour modules and is based on NFPA 1033, the Standard of Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, and NFPA 921, the Guideline for Fire and Explosion Investigations. Additionally, each Fire Investigator is to participate and demonstrate proficiency through continuing education and experience to re-certify with OSFM. The continuing education training can consist of hands on experience, quarterly in-house training, and outside class/online courses. The total amount of hours needed in a four-year period is 100. The team investigates all significant fires of an accidental and incendiary nature.

Our team deployment model provides, at minimum, one trained investigator assigned to each shift. The Investigations team is pleased to say we have added three new investigators to the team. FF/PM Scott Sulak, FF/PM Ryan Gleason, and FF/PM Andrew Cichon completed their OSFM training and are now functioning on shift as certified fire investigators. The addition of these three members to the team brings the team roster to eight members:

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

Some of the team training courses for 2023 will consist of fires involving the increasingly popular electric vehicles. The team will need to fully understand how these systems operate to properly investigate an incident that may involve one of these vehicles. Also scheduled for 2023 training will be proper documentation of an incident to ensure that all members are documenting incidents correctly using the new format now being used by investigators on the new ESO software platform. This has proven to be beneficial in that all investigation records are now being stored electronically and the data/report can be accessed easily. This also negates having to file a paper copy of investigation reports within the file.

The Fire Investigators perform several functions during the course of a cause and origin investigation to include scene security, safety, analysis, photo documentation, and preparing documentation. Furthermore, fire investigators are occasionally required to work with third party private investigators, law enforcement officials, the Coroner's Office and attorneys who work on the civil and criminal/legal aspects of fire cause and origin determinations.

During 2022, the Fire Investigations Team responded to and conducted 21 separate fire investigations. Fires occurring in buildings, vehicles and appliances are a few examples of the types of fires investigated. All reported and investigated fires are considered significant. A thorough investigation allows the Fire Department to better understand the threat of fires in the community and proactively take steps to ensure the safety of residents, business owners and visitors. It can also be a source of information should there be a heightened perception that fires are posing a significant risk in the community. The Fire Department can then educate the community on risks and how we are proactively mitigating them through fire codes, code enforcement, public safety education, and incident responses.

The city of St. Charles experienced its largest fire in the history of the city in 2022. On May 21st the department responded to 4051 East Main street, the former Pheasant Run Resort, and subsequently battled what would be a massive 3rd alarm fire. That fire resulted in the near total destruction of the resort. The departments fire investigation began even while firefighters worked to extinguish the flames, led by Investigator FF/PM Christian Thomas.

Through the joint efforts of the St. Charles fire Department, the St. Charles Police Department, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Office of the State Fire Marshall, on July 25th, 2022 the DuPage County States attorney officially charged four juveniles with crimes ranging from arson to trespassing. These charges are the direct result of the collaborative efforts of all involved and their tireless efforts to piece together the events of this fire.

The professionalism and dedication of all throughout this two-month investigation should be commended.

Honor Guard



By Lt. Chad Tinsley

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

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

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

Fire Department Ceremonies & Events

- Retirement "Walk-Out" Ceremony for BC Kurczek, July 10th
- Truck 101 "Push-In" Commissioning Ceremony, July 30th
- Retirement "Walk-Out" Ceremony for Captain Voelsch, July 31st
- Retirement "Walk-Out" Ceremony for Lieutenant Schaben, September 4th
- Annual 9/11 Ceremony, September 11th
- Promotion & Swearing-In Ceremony, September 19th
- Annual Elgin Area Firefighter Memorial, November 5th
- Veterans Day Ceremony, November 11th

Honor Guard Team Drills for 2022:

- January: Annual Meeting, Flag Posting & Flag Folding
- March: Drill & Ceremony
- May: Memorial Day Parade Preparation
- September: 9/11 Ceremony Preparation

The Honor Guard completed the purchase and installation of Memorial Bunting for all three Fire Stations. We are currently in the process of doing the same for our Fire Department Memorial Monument. We would like to thank Fire Administration for their continued support of the team as well as the Foreign Fire Tax Board for assisting with past purchases of team equipment.

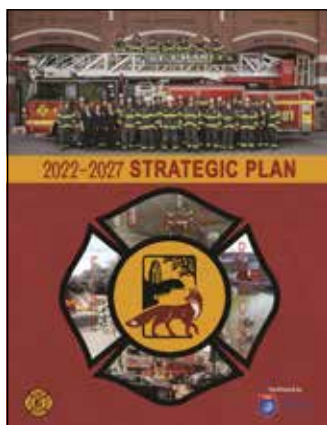
Lastly, the Team would like to congratulate Jason Peterson on his promotion to the rank of Battalion Chief. Battalion Chief Peterson was a founding member of the SCFD Honor Guard in 2015; responsible for leading Department personnel during our Fire Department Ceremonies. We will always be grateful for his leadership and guidance over the years!

Honor Guard Members

- Lieutenant Tinsley (HG Commander/Team Leader)
- Lieutenant Rehak (Deputy Commander/Team Deputy)
- Deputy Chief Cavallo
- Lt. C. Lo
- Lt. M. Pyzyna
- FF/PM C. Thomas
- FF/PM P. Lacey
- FF/PM S. Siwy
- FF/PM Mols



The St. Charles Fire Department 2022-2027 Strategic Planning Process



As the year 2022 began, the St. Charles Fire Department's current 5-year strategic plan that served the department well from 2016 through 2021, required an update. To create a new plan, the St. Charles Fire Department brought in assistance from the Technical Advisor Program (TAP) from

the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) in April. Two experienced personnel from the TAP group were assigned to lead our strategic planning process.



Understanding what the customer desires is vital to the success of any organization. In the case of the fire department, our customers are anyone within the City of St. Charles. Regardless of whether a citizen, business owner, employee, visitor, or other, the community wants a fire department that is ready to serve their needs when a difficulty arises and provide the protection for them to have a sense of safety.

The community-driven strategic planning ensures the community remains a focus of the fire department's direction and community feedback is at the center of the deliberations and development of our new 2022 – 2027 strategic plan. Thirty people outside of the fire department agreed to participate in the process by providing their input, thoughts, concerns, needs, and perceptions. The entire first day of the four-day strategic planning process involved the input from outside the SCFD.



The SCFD stakeholder team, made up of members from all levels and areas within the department, spent the next three days working toward the successful completion of the planning process. The team defined the mission, values, vision of the department.

The SCFD Values

Commitment – to serve the community

Integrity – to do the right thing

Courage – to act and persevere

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



The process involved a genuine discussion and review of all aspects of the SCFD. A SWOT analysis was performed. Programs and services provided or needed, critical issues, and service gaps were assessed.

As the process continued, the SCFD team developed

six strategic initiatives. From these, in order to continuously achieve the mission of the SCFD, realistic goals and related objectives were created. As we go forward, teams will be assigned to each goal and attain the associated objectives to accomplish the goals set forth in the strategic plan by 2027.



The members of the St. Charles Fire Department participating in the strategic planning process.

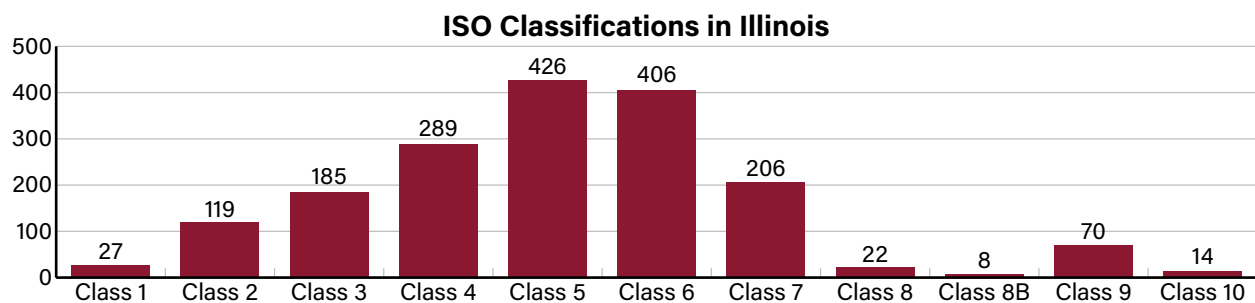
ISO



The St. Charles Fire Department was extremely honored to retain the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Class Rating of ISO Class 1. The distinction is effective as of June 1, 2022. Having first achieved the ISO Class 1 honor in July 2015, this is the second time the St. Charles Fire Department has received the highest rating possible for our fire protection services. This rating was achieved after a thorough ISO review of the fire protection services, infrastructure, preparation, and function of the three broad areas that have a positive effect on fire protection in each community. The ISO evaluation process includes multiple subsections in each area to provide a thorough review of the fire protection capabilities and actual performance. The three general areas incorporate:

Emergency Communications & Dispatch	10%
Fire Department & Performance	50%
Water Supply & Systems	40%

Since even the best fire department cannot do everything, the three areas are included to incorporate the components of a successful fire protection approach. The fire department is unable to respond if it is unaware of the fire and unable to communicate needed information. Once the fire department arrives, without the water necessary to quench the flames, even the best apparatus and personnel are limited in their effectiveness. Only when all three components are integrated together can fire protection achieve a superior level of safety and protection. The ISO Class 1 rating is therefore only achieved through the combined efforts and cooperation of Tri-Com Central Dispatch, the Public Works Water Division, and the St. Charles Fire Department.



Protection classes are graded on a scale from 1 to 10, with Class 1 being the best rating possible. St. Charles is honored to continue with our rating as an ISO Class 1 fire department. At the time of the rating, this placed St. Charles in the top 27 out of the 1772 fire departments in Illinois, or the top 1.5% rating. Nationwide, St. Charles is one of only 411 fire departments in the United States to achieve ISO Class 1, placing us in the top 1% of the 39,200 fire departments in the country for PPC classification.

Communities with better fire protection ratings generally have lower insurance premium costs, according to ISO. The insurance losses bear out the relationship between excellent fire protection, as measured by the PPC program, and lower fire losses experienced by the residents and businesses within a community.

Fire Prevention Bureau



By Deputy Chief Kevin Christensen

The function of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to manage all fire prevention and life safety programs. The bureau's activities include the enforcement of codes,

standards, plan reviews and inspections. The Fire Prevention Bureau reviews and inspects all projects from simple remodels to new building construction. Fire company personnel inspect all occupancy spaces and buildings annually. This process ensures compliance with all adopted codes and applicable standards.

The Fire Prevention Bureau follows the International Code Council (ICC) 2021 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC) with local amendments and the 2021 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code by ordinance.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is managed by Deputy Chief Kevin Christensen who oversees two Lieutenants assigned to the bureau – Lieutenant Mike Neumaier, Lieutenant Rainier Galliano (January-September), Lieutenant Joe Davila (September-December).

The Lieutenants assigned Fire Prevention Bureau concentrate on plan reviews and inspections (fire alarm, sprinkler system, kitchen suppression, above/below ground hydrostatic test, underground flush, hydrant flow test, final occupancy, etc.) related to remodels and new construction. All School Community Unit School District 303 buildings are inspected annually by the Lieutenants assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau in conjunction with representatives from the Kane County Regional Office of Education. In addition, occupancies classified as target hazards (hotels, nursing homes, assisted living, etc.) are also inspected by the bureau quarterly.

Fire company personnel are assigned monthly property maintenance inspections for occupancies located in each of the three still districts. These inspections rotate annually between the three shifts therefore different personnel inspect these occupancies each year.

All inspection personnel use an electronic tablet and software to schedule, track and complete their inspections which provides real-time reporting, accuracy in data collection and reduction in paper filing.

The following is the inspection activity for calendar year 2021-2022.

Company Fire Inspection Activity

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

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



Fire Prevention Bureau Activity

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

**Not previously reported*

Public Education



By Lt. Mike Pyzyna

2022 was finally began to show more normalcy as we were able to return to almost normal operations with all of the Public Education Programs.

The annual open house was held again this year with the plan to be 90% outside. The day was met with great weather and a fantastic turnout.

Fire Prevention month school assemblies within the schools resumed for the 22/23 school year. Everyone was really excited to be back and doing the assemblies again.

In 2022 the St. Charles Fire Department teamed up with the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and developed a Senior Citizen Smoke Detector Program. This program was implemented in October of 2022. The department took this a step further and also incorporated an optional home safety inspection to teach issues to look out for to prevent accidents such as tripping, fire safety, and make sure that there were enough detectors in the home.

The fire department was able to have another fantastic showing at the holiday lights parade for its return. This year with the delivery of new Truck 101 the pub-ed team was able to use our new reserve Truck 102. This let us blend both fire units typically in the parade into one. Sparky was still present but left his home this time. The fire department also earned the Community Award given at the December City Council Meeting for the parade entry.

In person classes for CPR resumed to normal capacity with each monthly class being taught. Extinguisher training went up slightly from 3 classes to 10 classes as many companies are still on a soft pandemic lock down. Hopefully 2023 will resume back to the normal 20 or so classes.

The community was out in full force on Halloween enjoying the weather. Department members were met with a very positive reception while out delivering treats, a pub-ed message and a warm greeting.

Hope everyone has a Healthy, Safe, and Happy 2023!!

2022 Other SCFD Events



The SCFD personnel participate in many other events and activities throughout the year.



The SCFD personnel reminding everyone to use caution because school was back in session.



The Firefighters participating in the Annual Reverse Trick or Treat program on Halloween.



The SCFD 9-11 Ceremony at the Firefighter Memorial.



The Fire OPS 101 program was held for the first time in September.



The St. Charles Fire Department hosts The annual Veteran's Day Ceremony



The Annual SCFD Open House event was held once again, in October.



The SCFD participating in the Annual Christmas Light Parade.

Occupational Safety and Health Committee



By Deputy Chief Kevin Christensen

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

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

The 2022 Occupational Safety & Health Committee members were represented by the following individuals:

Current Members:

Fire Chief Scott Swanson
Deputy Chief Kevin Christensen
Deputy Chief Tony Cavallo
Battalion Chief Jason Peterson
Captain Jeff Tarro
Captain Dave Chmelar
Captain Rainier Galliano (September-December)
Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Gleason (May-December)

Former Members (2022):

Battalion Chief Jim Kurczek Ret.(January-June)
Captain Chip Voelsch Ret. (January-August)
Firefighter/Paramedic Brad Wilton (January-April)

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

- Review workplace recommendations on possible hazards to safe and healthy job assignments and workplace conditions.
- Review department accident and injuries to discuss the reasons why the incident occurred and provide recommendations to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

- Review the safety aspects of apparatus, equipment and protective clothing with the goal of improving safety and operations within the department.
- Overseeing periodic inspections of fire department facilities, apparatus, protective equipment, protective clothing and other equipment related to safety.

Fire Department Work Related Injuries

For calendar year 2022, the committee reviewed (4) fire department employee work-related injuries resulting in a total of (7) days of lost time at work and a total of (99) days assigned to transitional duty.

The previous year, the committee reviewed (2) fire department employee work-related injuries resulting in a total of (10) days of lost time at work and a total of (18) days assigned to transitional duty.

Fire Department Employee Work-Related Injuries

Year	Number of Employee Injuries
2021	2
2022	4

Fire Department Work Related Vehicle Accidents

For calendar year 2022, the committee reviewed (2) fire department employee vehicle accidents. The previous year there were (6) accidents.

Fire Department Work-Related Vehicle Accidents

Year	Number of Vehicle Accidents
2021	6
2022	2

Training



By Battalion Chief Jeremy Mauthe

Training is the backbone of any successful fire department. This concept is widely understood and practiced in St. Charles. The Training Division is responsible for the continued effort of providing purposeful, rigorous, and up-to-date training opportunities to challenge the department members for all situations they may encounter when responding to emergencies.

Training Division responsibilities include the following:

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

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



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

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

This ISO training credential is strictly related to firefighting activities. Department personnel also participate in monthly Emergency Medical Services (EMS) training. Additionally, various personnel train in areas such as technical rescue, vehicle and machinery extrication, active shooter response, surface/subsurface water and ice rescue, outside schools, etc.

Department members completed a combined total of 14,112 hours of training in calendar year 2022, compared to a total of 13,239 hours of training in calendar year 2021.



Members attending outside classes attained the following certifications in calendar year 2022:

Office of the State Fire Marshall

Cichon, Andrew	Fire Investigator
Davila, Joe.....	Advanced Fire Technician
Funk, Megan.....	Fire Service Instructor I
Garza, Mario.....	Rope Operations
Gleason, Ryan	Fire Investigator
Kasperek, Kevin	Rope Operations
Lacey, Pat.....	Incident Safety Officer
Mols, Matt.....	Vehicle & Machinery Technician & Swiftwater Technician
Sulak, Scott.....	Fire Investigator
Sheehan, Robert.....	Swift Water Technician
Wolf, Austin	Fire Apparatus Engineer & Advanced Technician Firefighter

National Fire Academy

Cavallo, Tony.....	New Executive Chief Officer
Centimano, Tony.....	Command and Control Decision Making at Multiple Alarm Incidents
Galliano, Rainier.....	Command and Control of Incident Operations
Tarro, Jeff	Command and Control of Incident Operations



Romeoville Fire Academy

Centimano, Tony.....	Command Officer Academy
Chmelar, Dave.....	Command Officer Academy
Galliano, Rainier.....	Command Officer Academy
Gleason, Ryan	Fire Department Incident Safety Officer & Fire Company Officer Academy
Gosser, Wes	Fire Department Incident Safety Officer & Fire Company Officer Academy
Rehak, Steve.....	Fire Company Officer Academy
Tarro, Jeff	Command Officer Academy
Wilton, Brad	Fire Department Incident Safety Officer

Illinois Fire Service Institute

Wilton, Brad..... Fireground Company Officer

Fire Prevention

Neumaier, Mike..... NFPA 13 2019 Updates &
NFPA Fire Pump Class

Water Rescue

Sheehan, Robert..... Swiftwater I & Swiftwater II

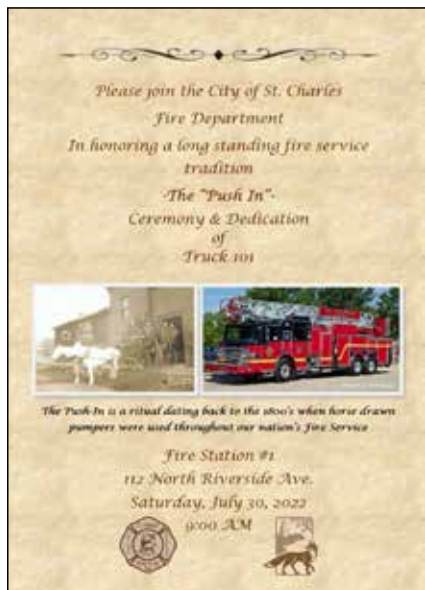
Pubic / Peer Education

Kasperek, Kevin ... IL Firefighter Peer Support Workshop
Wade, Al IL Firefighter Peer Support First
Responder Mental Health Symposium



The St. Charles Fire Department hosted a number of training events with our automatic aid departments in 2022. One noteworthy event was a three-day Cornerstone Training event in June. This training, presented by the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI), took full advantage of a large 3 level office building that was scheduled for demolition. Prior to demolition, participants in this training were afforded multiple opportunities to perform hoseline advancement, search and rescue functions, fire suppression, and truck company operations. Participating agencies included members from the Geneva, Elburn & Countryside and Batavia Fire Departments.

Push-In Ceremony for New Truck 101



The St. Charles Fire Department continued our tradition of welcoming a new piece of fire apparatus with a formal Push-In Ceremony. This ceremony officially recognizes and announces the new fire apparatus is being placed into service to serve and protect the citizens of our community.

On Saturday, July 30, 2022 the St. Charles Fire Department officially placed the new 2022 Pierce 100-foot aerial ladder truck into service at Fire Station #1 as Truck 101.

The ceremony was attended by members of the community as well as current and retired members of the Department. The ceremony consisted of:

- Dedication Ceremony Begins
- Welcoming Remarks by Chief Scott Swanson
- *Wet Down Ceremony
- *Drying of New Engine 101
- Placing of Retiring Engine 101 into Reserve
- Blessing of New Engine 101
- Push In New Engine 101
- Tri Com: SC General Alarm Toned
- Refreshments at Fire Station 1



The Ceremony at Fire Station #1



The Wet Down Process Followed by Drying the Apparatus Down



Passing the Water from the current Truck to the New Truck



Retired SCFD Members Placing the Current Truck into Reserve



Current Members of the SCFD Pushing the New Truck into Service

The new Truck 101 is an investment that will benefit the citizens of St. Charles over the next twenty plus years. All the members of the St. Charles Fire Department

wish to thank the citizens, elected, and appointed officials of the City of St. Charles for their support of the SCFD allowing us to serve and protect the community.

Fleet



By Battalion Chief Jason Peterson

2022 was a busy year for the Fleet Division. Battalion Chief Jim Kurczek retired in July which led to the Segway for his replacement, Battalion Chief Jason Peterson. The Fleet division is made up of four primary Mechanics. Fleet Supervisor Adam Szalkowski, John Emma, Adrian Corona, and Kyle Schultz. Adam has implemented a new Google spreadsheet system to enhance the tracking and documentation of all repairs completed on Fire Department and EMA vehicles. This new tracking method has streamlined the preventative maintenance program by updating the vehicle mileage on a weekly basis. A rigorous preventative maintenance program has continued under the current Fleet Department. All major repairs have been completed in an expedient manner which has kept the time the apparatus has been out of service to a minimum. Unfortunately, we are not exempt from the supply chain issues and have had several small repairs lingering due to the delay in getting certain parts.

We had the pleasure of adding a new 2022 Pierce 100' aerial ladder truck to the fleet in July of 2022. With

the addition of the new Truck 101, the current frontline truck, (2010 Pierce) was moved to the reserve status and reassigned the designation of Truck 102. As we replace our fleet, we must retire and dispose of our older apparatus as they pass from front line service to reserve status and finally to retirement. Our oldest Truck in the fleet, the 1997 Seagrave, was retired from the St. Charles Fire Department and was sold to the Batavia Fire Department where they utilize it as a reserve truck for their City.

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

The frontline vehicles have all been equipped with an in-cab air filtration system that runs anytime the vehicle is operational. These filtering systems are designed to clean out any impurities in the cab environment to aid in the health and wellness of our members. This is the first step the Department is taking to move to a (Clean Cab) environment.

Facilities



By Battalion Chief Jason Peterson

The St. Charles Fire Department has three fire stations that are maintained by the City's Facilities Department. There is never a shortage of repairs to be done due to the aging outline Stations that were built in the mid 1980's. The City's Facilities management team consists of A.J. Reineking, Max VanDeMark, Tony Whittaker, Scott Ludke, Steve Slivka, and Cory Hallahan. They make up a phenomenal team that works to keep our buildings in pristine working order by managing the daily repairs and forecasting and budgeting for the capital projects.

The planning has been in place for several years for the kitchen remodels at Station's 2 and 3. We are finally

moving forward with the architects to get a concept plan together for the remodels. The plan is to start on Station 2 in the Spring of 2023 and follow up with the Station 3 renovation in the Summer of 2023.

Station's 2 and 3 had new carpeting installed in the front offices, bunk rooms, and training rooms. This update was much needed and gave a fresh look to the areas where the original station carpet had occupied.

The biggest upgrade to the stations in 2022 was the installation of illuminated Station numbering and Maltese Crosses at both satellite stations. In addition to the illuminated signs on the hose towers, the front apparatus bay doors were painted red and lettered to identify the apparatus that responds from that station.



Foreign Fire Insurance Board



By Lt. Mike Pyzyna

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

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

2022 was a year where things finally started to turn back to normal for meetings and attendance. Several notable purchases were approved by the board in an effort to support our special teams and supplement the department's budget with specialized purchases.

With the arrival of new Truck 101 the largest purchase of the year came with purchasing a full complement of Hurst E-Draulic Extrication Tools which came in at just under \$34,000.00. This set of tools or similar to ones currently on the department but have better batteries and can be used up to 11 feet under water.

The Board also approved \$15,000.00 in 2021 to add signage and lights to Stations #2 and #3. The signs were installed in April of 2022.

Notable purchases made in the 2022 budget year include:

- A full complement of Hurst E-Draulic tools for new Truck 101
- New Paratech Strut System for Engine 101
- RFID Inventory system for tools on department apparatus
- Rescue equipment for all frontline apparatus

2022 Foreign Fire Insurance Board members include:

- Lt. Michael Pyzyna - Board Chairman
- Deputy Chief Anthony Cavallo - Vice Chairman
- FF/PM Andrew Kidd - Secretary
- FF Phil Kuhn - Treasurer
- Lt. Guy Gresser- Trustee
- FF/PM Steven Rehak - Trustee
- Fire Chief Scott Swanson - Trustee

The 2022 Swearing-In Ceremony



The St. Charles Fire Department expanded our tradition with the second annual Swearing-In Ceremony. The ceremony was held at Fire Station #1 on Monday, September 19, 2022.

It was great to see the families and friends be present and able to share in the ceremony recognizing each of the members accomplishments as they received their promotion to the higher rank they earned.

The ceremony included the promotions to the new rank of Deputy Chief.



Deputy Chiefs

Deputy Chief Kevin Christensen



Deputy Chief Tony Cavallo





Battalion Chief

Battalion Chief Jason Peterson



Captains

Captain Jeff Tarro



Captain Dave Chmelar





Captains Continued

Captain Rainier Galliano



Lieutenants

Lieutenant Steve Rehak



Lieutenant Brad Wilton





Lieutenants Continued

Lieutenant Wes Gosser



Completed Probation

Firefighter/Paramedic Austin Wolf



Firefighter/Paramedic Jacob Johns





After completing their swearing in and having their new badge pinned on their uniform, each member proceeded to ring the SCFD Ceremonial Bell. This acknowledged their acceptance of the duties and responsibilities of the new rank and their commitment to carry those out to the best of their abilities.

Congratulations to all the members sworn in during the ceremony on September 19, 2022.

Good luck and best wishes in your new rank duties and responsibilities.





Newly Hired and Milestones in 2022



Newly Hired Personnel in 2022

EMA Technician Doug Bauder	March 24, 2022	Records Specialist Natalie Hodson	August 1, 2022
EMA Technician Tim Muzzey.....	March 24, 2022	EMA Technician Steve Arrambide	October 15, 2022
FF/PM Christopher Overland	June 6, 2022	FF/PM Daniel Kray.....	November 7, 2022
EMA Technician Aaron Dirck.....	July 15, 2022	FF/PM Derek Mortensen	November 7, 2022
Medic Michael Frazier	July 15, 2022	Medic Valerie Bullock.....	November 27, 2022
EMA Technician Teddy Mapp	July 15, 2022	TCA Administrator Trent Moser	December 19, 2022
Administrative Assistant Tara Strachan.....	July 20, 2022		

Service Milestones in 2022

35 Years of Service



Deputy Chief Kevin Christensen



Fire Chief Scott Swanson

25 Years of Service



Lt. Mike Neumaier



Lt. Guy Gresser

20 Years of Service



Lt. Cliff Lo

10 Years of Service



FF/PM Patrick Lacey



Lt. Brad Wilton

5 Years of Service



FF/PM Andrew Kidd



FF/PM Ben Gore

Best Wishes and Retirements in 2022

We wish you all
the best

Best Wishes

TCA Administrator Stephanie Hanson
EMA Technician Daniel Antczak
Medic Sydney Breitenfeld
Medic Anna Grainge

EMA Technician Mike Harrig
EMA Technician Joe Johnson
EMA Technician Joe Linder
Administrative Asst. Chris Schukas

Retirements in 2022



Battalion Chief James Kurczek

July 10, 2022



Captain Walter "Chip" Voelsch

July 31, 2022



Lieutenant Mike Schaben

September 4, 2022

Special Thanks

Everyone at the St. Charles Fire Department would like to thank John Tulipano, JLT Photography for our Department portraits, photographing our events and catching our first responders in action.

We appreciate your time and talent capturing the countless activities involving the St. Charles Fire Department each year.

**"A PICTURE
IS WORTH
A THOUSAND
WORDS"**



2022 Department Roster

Administration

Fire Chief Scott Swanson
Deputy Chief Kevin Christensen
Deputy Chief Tony Cavallo

Sr. Administrative Assistant Carole Murphy
TCA Administrator Trent Moser
EMA Coordinator Mark Chmura

Support Services/Fire Prevention Bureau

Lieutenant Mike Neumaier
Lieutenant Joe Davila

Records Specialist Natalie Hodson
Administrative Assistant Tara Strachan

Black Shift

Battalion Chief Tony Centimano
Captain Jeff Tarro
Lieutenant Guy Gresser
Lieutenant Clifford Lo
Lieutenant Wes Gosser

Firefighter/Paramedic Don Fruland
Firefighter/Paramedic Patrick Lacey
Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Siwy
Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Perry
Firefighter/Paramedic Ben Gore
Firefighter/Paramedic Mario Garza

Firefighter/Paramedic Kevin Kasperek
Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Kray
Paramedic Steve Williams
Paramedic Samantha Hernandez
Paramedic Maria Ambion

Red Shift

Battalion Chief Jeremy Mauthe
Captain David Chmelar
Lieutenant Mike Pyzyna
Lieutenant Chad Tinsley
Lieutenant Steve Rehak
Firefighter/Paramedic Kelly Malone

Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Marqui
Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Sulak
Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Paus
Firefighter/Paramedic Megan Funk
Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Mols
Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Sheehan

Firefighter/Paramedic Austin Wolf
Firefighter/Paramedic Derek Mortensen
Medic Breahna Wessel
Medic Sydney Breitenfeld
Medic Russell Brophy
Medic Valerie Bullock

Gold Shift

Battalion Chief Jason Peterson
Captain Rainier Galliano
Lieutenant Al Wade
Lieutenant Steve Dries
Lieutenant Brad Wilton
Firefighter Phil Kuhn

Firefighter/Paramedic Trevor Kelly
Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Hansen
Firefighter/Paramedic Christian Thomas
Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Gleason
Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Kidd
Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Cichon

Firefighter/Paramedic Jacob Johns
Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Overland
Medic Melissa Ruel
Medic Michael Frazier
Medic Michelle Hanks

EMA

Paul Pfothauer
Edgar Arevalo
Steve Arrambide
Doug bauder

James Colbert
Aaron Dirck
Teddy Mapp
Mike Mustard

Tim Muzzey
Brian Schmitz
Gerald Schmitz
Doug Simmons



**St. Charles Fire Department
Annual Report 2022**

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stcharlesil.gov/departments/fire