



SPOKANE FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Trust  Mutual Respect  Integrity  Empathy  Transparency  Equality



TABLE OF CONTENTS

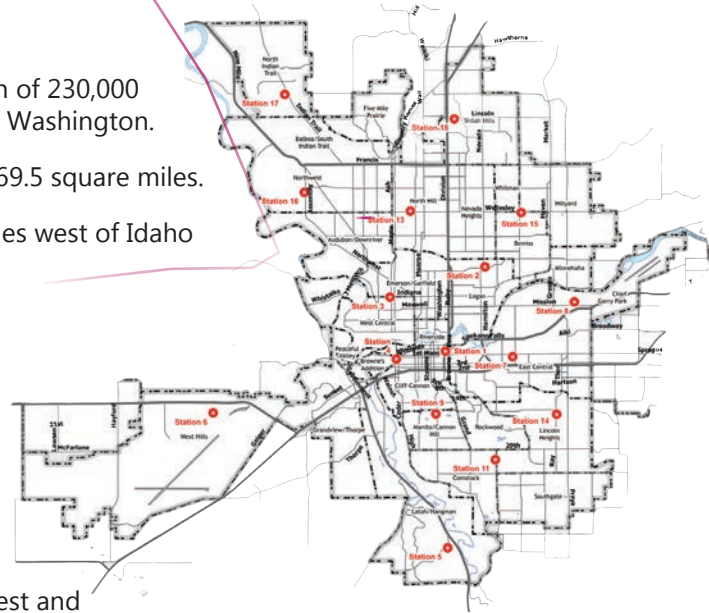
Spokane Fire Department 2023 Annual Report

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF.....	4-5
ABOUT SPOKANE FIRE.....	6-7
OUR PEOPLE.....	8-9
SFD HISTORY	10-13
FINANCE.....	14-15
EVERY SECOND COUNTS	16-17
PERFORMANCE MEASURES.....	18-19
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	20-21
SPECIAL OPERATIONS.....	22-25
NEW HIRES AND RETIREMENTS	26-27
HEALTH CARE INNOVATIONS.....	28-31
TRAINING DIVISION.....	32-33
FIRE PREVENTION.....	34-37
LINE OF DUTY DEATHS.....	38-40



OUR CITY - SPOKANE, WA

- Spokane Fire Department protects a population of 230,000 making it the second largest city in the state of Washington.
- Spokane Fire Department provides services to 69.5 square miles.
- Spokane is in Eastern Washington about 20 miles west of Idaho and 110 miles south of the Canadian border.
- The heart of the city is the Spokane River and its beautiful upper and lower falls, which run through the Downtown area and bisect the city. The Spokane area can be characterized by hills, plains, prairies, and coniferous forests. Mount Spokane is the highest peak near the city.
- Spokane's climate is impacted by its location between the Cascade Mountain Range to its west and the Rocky Mountains to the East and North. The mountains shield the city from weather patterns experienced in other parts of the Pacific Northwest. The region sees more distinguishable four seasons than the western part of Washington state. The area averages 16.5 inches of annual precipitation, 48 inches of snow during the winter, and 80–90-degree temperatures during the hottest summer months.



MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF JULIE O'BERG

It is my pleasure to present the Spokane Fire Department's Annual Report for 2023. The information included will provide you with history, activities and statistical information for the Spokane Fire Department.

2023 saw the department respond to 51,1997 incidents. The dedicated women and men of your fire department respond to fires of all types, emergency medical calls, behavioral crisis, hazardous materials incidents, water rescues and technical/collapse incidents. In addition, these professionals provide fire prevention, public education, and fire inspection services to the community.

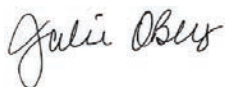
A concerning trend we continued to see was an increase in calls related to the crushing opioid crisis. Spokane Fire Department will embark on expanding our response to this crisis by expanding our Behavioral Response Unit (BRU) and our CARES team. The BRU and CARES are better equipped to meet both the mental health aspect and the social system needs of this population. By providing the right resource to these rising incidents, it ensures that we have improved reliability to the other emergent needs of the community.

The Spokane Fire Department continues to adapt and meet challenges head on, the continued budget constraints will be challenging to navigate into 2024, however, the members of the Spokane Fire Department strive to be trustworthy fiscal stewards. We continue to challenge the status quo in every area of our operations to ensure the return on the investment that the community entrusts to us is most effectively and efficiently managed.

The Spokane Fire Department is staffed with professional and resilient members who are prepared for any emergency and able to respond to changes. In early 2024 those changes included wishing our Fire Chief Brian Schaeffer a happy and healthy retirement. Chief Schaeffer served the Spokane community for 20 years and his innovative and progressive vision for the fire service will leave a lasting legacy for years to come. In addition, Deputy Chief Rex Strickland also retired after serving the department and overseeing the Training Division for over 5 years. Chief Strickland had a long and respected career prior to joining the Spokane Fire Department in 2019. His time here as the Training Deputy ensured the next generation of Spokane Firefighters had a strong foundation on which to serve the community for years to come. We are grateful to both respected professionals.

I am proud and honored to have been appointed by Mayor Brown and confirmed by a unanimous council, to serve the community and the women and men in the Spokane Fire Department. I am grateful to have such exemplary members that respond and adapt everyday to make Spokane safer.

Sincerely,



Fire Chief Julie O'berg





ABOUT SPOKANE FIRE

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Spokane Fire Department (SFD) has existed as a fire protection agency within the State of Washington since 1884. The fire department is a division of the City of Spokane general government as required of first-class cities under Chapter 35.22 RCW. The City of Spokane is the second-largest city in the State of Washington, located adjacent to the Idaho border. It has a Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (equivalent to the Insurance Services Office) rating of three (3).

The Spokane Fire Department's service area is approximately 69.5 square miles and consists of a mix of urban, suburban, industrial, and wildland areas.

The primary services provided by the Spokane Fire Department include:

- Emergency Response for Fire, EMS, HAZMAT, and Rescue situations
- Fire Prevention (Enforcement, Education, Engineering, Economic Incentives)
- Training; Oversee training for all aspects of the job.
- Special Operations; Marine, Technical and Collapse Rescue, Hazardous Materials



SFD QUICK FACTS

SERVICE POPULATION	230,000
RESPONSE AREA	69.5 Square Miles
CALL VOLUME	51,977
BATTALIONS	2
FIRE STATIONS	16
FIRE ENGINES	14
LADDER TRUCKS	3
QUINTS	2
ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE UNITS (ARU)	3
BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE UNIT (BRU)	1
BRUSH TRUCKS	8
FIREFIGHTERS	369
2023 BUDGET	72,523,372

MISSION

We enhance your quality of life, always earning your trust, by saving lives, preventing harm and protecting property with compassion and integrity.

VISION

Service and Protection Through Excellence

VALUES

Trust - Mutual Respect - Integrity - Empathy - Transparency - Equality

The Spokane Fire Department's most prized resource is our people. They respond with professionalism and compassion to make someone's worst day better. They're the kind of people you'd like living next door.

Here is our make up for 2023.

Fire Chief	
Assistant Fire Chief	
Deputy Fire Chief	3 FTE
Division Chief	1 FTE
Battalion Chief	8 FTE
Captains	26 FTE
Lieutenants	76 FTE
Fire Equipment Operators	84 FTE
Firefighters	157 FTE
Deputy Fire Marshal	10 FTE
Civilian Support Staff	25.63 FTE

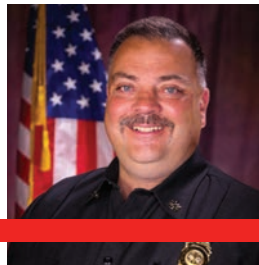


OUR PEOPLE

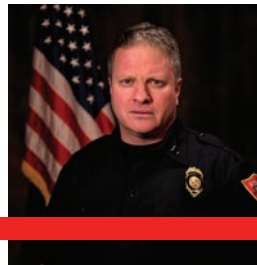
COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF



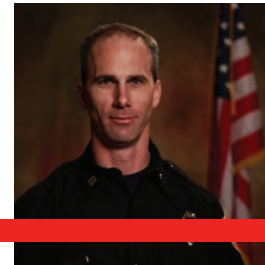
Julie O'Berg
Fire Chief



Tom Williams
Assistant Fire Chief



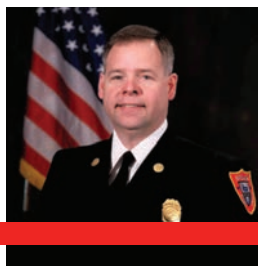
Darin Neiwert
Deputy Chief
Operations



Ryan Redding
Deputy Chief
Training & Safety



Lance Dahl
Deputy Chief
Prevention



David Stockdill
Division Chief
Logistics



Anne Raven
Manager
Integrated Emergency
Medical Services



Justin de Ruyter
Public Information
Officer



SPOKANE FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

140 Years of Service.

We are proud of our history and mindful that we stand on the shoulders of the men and women who came before us.

1881- Spokane Falls is incorporated.

January 10, 1883- The first known fire in the newly formed town occurred in weather conditions of 26 degrees below zero. A bucket brigade of male citizens quickly organized to fight the flames, resulting in the loss of five businesses and several buildings near the intersection of Howard and Front Streets.

August 24, 1884- SFD was first organized as a volunteer department with the first reading of the ordinance creating the fire department for the City of Spokane Falls presented on October 1, 1884. The first companies were hose carts that weighed nearly 1500 pounds and were pushed by hand through the streets by the firefighters, Rescue Hose No. 1, and Spokane Hose No. 2.

1887- The Tiger Hook and Ladder Company was added to the volunteer fire department.

September 14, 1888- As the town's population was nearing 12,000, a fire in the center of town at Howard and Main destroyed 22 businesses.

1888- The first fire company on the north side of the river was formed, the Washington Hose Company

August 4, 1889- The Great Fire of 1889 burned the entire business district, including two of the three hose company's firehouses.

December 18, 1889- An ordinance establishes a full-time paid fire department, creating a force of 26 firefighters, two chief officers, and an annual budget of \$33,000. The first firefighters worked 24 hours a day, six days a week, and were allowed to be with their families on the seventh day.

1891- The department was quickly growing and by the end of 1891, SFD could boast of 46 firefighters, three Silsby steam engines, three chemical engines, two hose wagons, two hose carts, two hook and ladder trucks, four stations, and 27 horses.

December 1896- All the apparatus in the city was now horse-drawn.

1897- The first overhead and underground signal systems for both fire and police were installed, and by 1899, there were 42 fire alarm boxes in the city.

January 24, 1898- The most devastating fire in PNW history at that time occurred at the Great Eastern Building in downtown Spokane. Over 150 people were asleep in the building when the fast-moving fire erupted, killing one man, four women, and three young girls.

June 1910- The department purchases six pieces of motorized apparatus, the first of their type in the region and the first fire trucks introduced to the department.

1914- The two-platoon staffing model was developed, increasing the department's size to 192. The system was repealed by voters later that year, forcing the firefighters back to a single-platoon system in 1915.

1916- Local No. 29 is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

April 17, 1917- The International Association of Firefighters Local 29 firefighters' union is established to represent Spokane firefighters.

July 10, 1917- The end of the horse-drawn era was over, as the last horse was retired from service at Station 6. Over half of the fire autos in service during this time were hand-built by Spokane Firefighters.

1918- The firefighter's work week was changed to seven days on and two days off.

1925- The first drill tower was built at Station No. 2.

1927- A second shift platoon was established, allowing firefighters to work one day on and one day off.

1931- Depression-era economics forces the layoffs of 26 firefighters and the closure of Station No. 1, which had been in service for 42 years.

1933 to 1940- Monthly efficiency tests for firefighters are mandated. New fire codes authorized mandatory fire drills for downtown businesses, schools, and factories that employed people who worked above two levels, or in basements.

1936- The department's Inhalator Squad saved 27 lives. Fire inspections number 22,795 buildings this year.

December 27, 1944- A second-alarm fire in a warehouse at Wall and Railroad killed one firefighter and injured six.

1948- The Inhalator Squad responded to 292 calls for service and was responsible for saving the lives of 47 children under 15. The department also began to focus on teaching fire prevention.

1951- City council budgets for a new drill tower built at Greene and Mission.

1955 to 1971- The department grows from 14 stations with 230 firefighters to 17 stations and 320 firefighters. The training and fire prevention programs during this time were considered top-notch.

June 2, 1956- Captain Doyle of Station 4 is killed in the basement of the Peyton Building in a fire that sent 17 firefighters to the hospital and prompted the treatment of 25 firefighters at the scene.

August 19, 1957- A fire that gutted a building at Riverside and Post also injured 14 firefighters.

1958- A three-platoon shift schedule is implemented.

January 14, 1966- Firefighter Mackey is killed in a backdraft in the basement of Saad's Shoe Store at Main and Wall, which also injures nine other firefighters. Mackey had been hired to replace Captain Doyle, who had died in the line of duty ten years earlier.

1971 to 1981- Major achievements are an accelerated training program, fire prevention, company survey, becoming involved in the national EMS program to include paramedics, Class 2 Fire Insurance Rating, updated apparatus and safety equipment, new headquarters station and administrative office, county-wide hazardous materials plans, and the promotion of the 911 telephone system.

March 3, 1980- Captain Hanna of Ladder 7 dies at a fire in the Zukor Building when the front of the building collapsed and struck him while he was operating in the bucket.

July 1981- The department consists of 337 firefighters.

September 12, 1982- FF Heidenreich was killed when the roof of the Tri-State Building failed with a large volume of fire below. The fire also injured eight other firefighters that night.

Spokane Fire Department 2023 Annual Report

1989- Voters pass the largest fire bond in the city's history for \$14,950,000, providing much-needed funding for improvements to fire apparatus and modernization of the city's 14 fire stations. Nine fire stations were rebuilt, eight being moved, while five others were remodeled. All new apparatus purchased were ordered in a red and white color scheme, ending the previous run of yellow. The bond also allowed for the purchase of the fire training grounds and the purchase of the first Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

September 1989- History was made when Sherryl Dodge, Tammy Tibbles, and Andrea Walters became the first women to become permanent firefighters in the department, leading the way for a number of others to follow.

October 16, 1991- Wind gusts in excess of 60 mph sweep across eastern Washington resulting in 92 fires that destroy 114 homes and cause one death in the region. This event would lead to the passage of the State Mobilization Act.

October 1992- The Children's Fire Safety House is dedicated to teaching children basic fire safety skills.

January 1993- A four-platoon shift schedule is implemented.

1993- A complete fireworks ban is enacted within the city.

January 1, 1998- The Combined Communications Center (CCC) began providing service from the SFD dispatch center for all of the county fire agencies.

1999- With the expiration of the 1989 bond, a new bond measure of \$21.4 million is approved by voters allowing SFD to purchase eleven fire engines, a 100' aerial ladder truck, a rescue unit, a HAZMAT unit, and several brush trucks. Additionally, new personal protective equipment and thermal imaging cameras were purchased. Station 18 was moved further north to deal with increased call volumes and Station 4 was relocated to the entrance of Browne's Addition to improve access to I-90 and provide needed space for the new tillered ladder and growing technical rescue resources.

July 16, 1999- A major fire later determined to be arson ripped through the Mars Hotel and Casino located at Bernard and Sprague, displacing 100 tenants from the Fairmont Apartments.

April 1, 2000- Spokane is lowered from a Class 2 to Class 3 Insurance Rating which is had held for over 20 years. This is due to the reduction in fire stations, number of staffed apparatus, and on-duty strength that had occurred since the last evaluation.

Late 2003- A 16,000 sq ft training center is built for firefighters.

2004- The new Combined Communications Building (CCB) was opened, as SFD took on its new role of providing fire and EMS dispatch services throughout the county. The building combined the CCC, Spokane Police dispatch, SCSO dispatch, and 9-1-1 call takers all in one building.

2004- Faced with the upcoming expiration of the previous six-year EMS levy, citizens once again pass another levy saving the loss of 60 positions.

2005- Budget cuts force the layoffs of 29 firefighters, this is one year after the loss of 12 positions.

Spring 2007- The first awards ceremony in the department's modern history was held.

2012- Fire Station 6, which serves the West Plains, opens.

2015 - Fire and EMS service to the Latah Valley is enhanced with the opening of Station 6.

2020 - The COVID 19 pandemic presents significant challenges to the department.

SAVING LIVES, PREVENTING HARM AND PROTECTING PROPERTY WITH COMPASSION AND INTEGRITY

We are committed to upholding the public trust, which includes responsibly managing our finances. We prioritize efficiency and effectiveness, utilizing data-driven analytics to ensure that our decisions are productive.

In 2023, our Fire Department Budget totaled just over \$72.5 million. On a per capita basis, this translates to just under \$315.22 per resident.

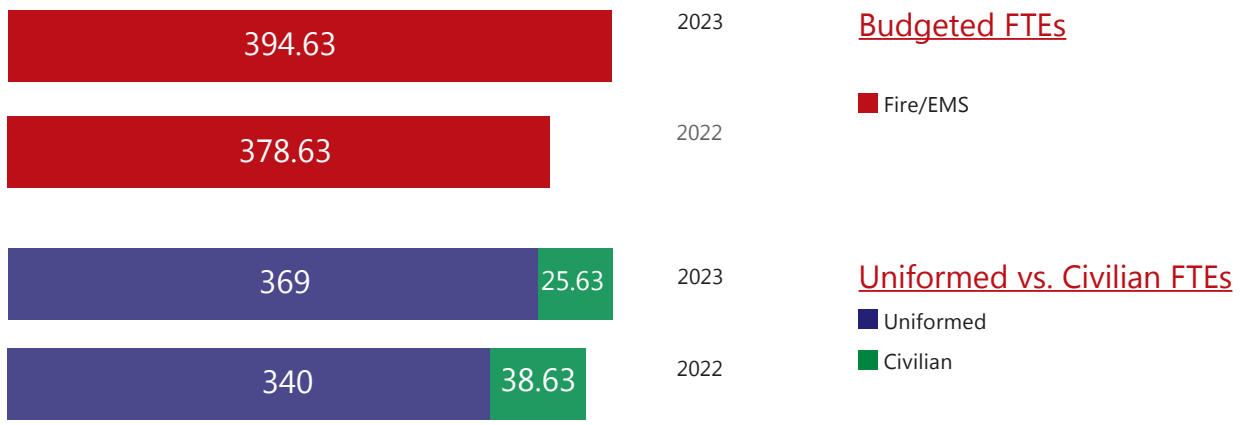
Our services encompass Fire and Emergency Medical Services, which include Advanced Life Support (ALS) First Response. Furthermore, we offer support through Special Operations Teams, covering areas such as Hazardous Materials, Technical and Collapse Rescue, Water Rescue, PedMed, and Wildland. Additionally, we are dedicated to providing Prevention and Public Education services to enhance life safety for residents, businesses, and visitors in our community.



FINANCE

SPOKANE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
Salaries and Benefits	52,441,584	61,087,963
Supplies	1,564,180	2,812,493
Other Services and Charges	1,808,183	4,176,480
Interfund Payment for Services	3,493,699	4,378,316
Reserve for Budget Adjustment	723,108	
Other	108,379	68,121
Total by category	60,139,133	72,523,373

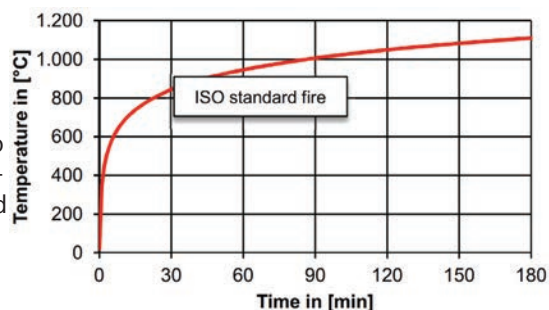




EVERY SECOND COUNTS

CASCADE OF EVENTS

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) has defined response time elements as a cascade of events. This cascade is similar to that used by the medical community to describe the events leading up to the initiation, mitigation, and ultimate cardiac arrest outcome. It is imperative to keep in mind that certain intervals described, such as turnout and travel time, can be directly influenced by the fire service via station locations and design, staffing levels, as well as local rules and procedures for a response. Other factors, such as the alarm interval, can be influenced indirectly through public education and engineering initiatives. The fire service can also affect the call-processing interval through its ability to define standards and compel performance by its dispatch centers



TIME TEMPERATURE STANDARD

The “time-temperature curve” standard is based on data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Insurance Services Organization (ISO), which have established that a typical point source of ignition in a residential house will “flash over” at some time between five and ten minutes after ignition, turning a typical “room and contents” fire into a structural fire of some magnitude.

CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVAL

In communities where the fire service is the principal provider of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) first response, the goal is for basic life support (CPR and defibrillation) to be available to the victim of a cardiac arrest within four minutes of the event, advanced life support (paramedic service) should be available within eight minutes or less of the event. Early notification, distribution, and concentration of emergency response services are thus paramount to successful resuscitation efforts.

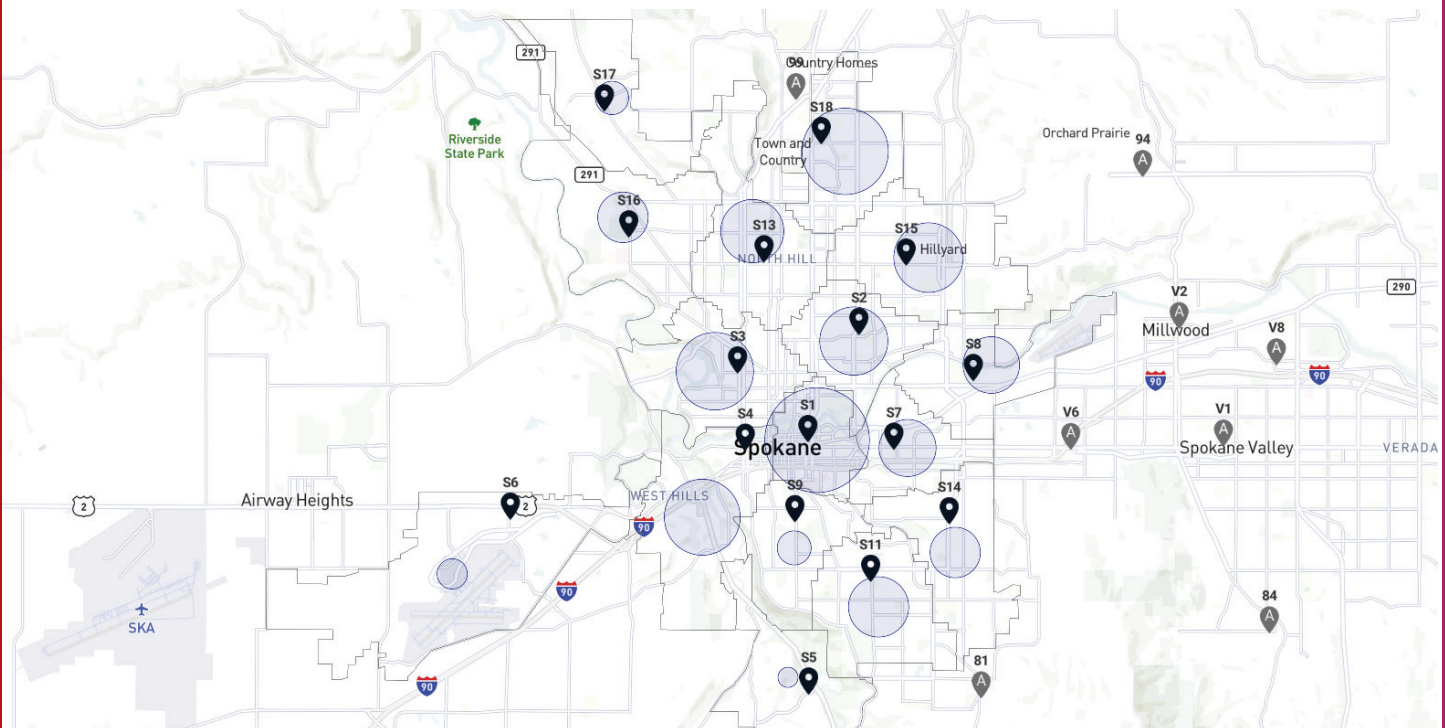
In trauma events, the golden hour is the historic benchmark applied to victims with significant critical traumatic injuries. The golden hour reflects the concept that survivability decreases significantly if the patient isn't in the operating room within one hour of receiving a critical traumatic injury. applied to victims with significant critical traumatic injuries. The golden hour reflects the concept that survivability decreases significantly if the patient isn't in the operating room within one hour of receiving a critical traumatic injury.



We work to place our resources in the most strategic locations.



As our city changes and the response densities change, we adapt. We're constantly analyzing the most efficient ways to respond to your emergency quickly.



PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Spokane Fire Department 2023 Annual Report

Critical EMS Turnout Time

Time unit assigned to en route

Spokane Fire Department turnout time standard is 60 seconds, 90% of the time.

Year	% Turnout Time Met
2023	63.0%
2022	59.8%
2021	62.5%

Critical Structure Fire Turnout Time

Time unit assigned to en route

Spokane Fire Department turnout time standard is 90 seconds, 90% of the time.

Year	% Turnout Time Met
2023	42.5%
2022	33.0%
2021	36.3%

First Arriving Unit at Structure Fire

Fire Dispatch call received to on scene

Spokane Fire Department response time standard for the first arriving engine at a fire response is 8 minutes 30 seconds, 90% of the time.

Year	% Response Objective Met
2023	99.5%
2022	93.5%
2021	95.0%

Basic Life Support Unit

Call received by Fire Dispatch to on scene

Spokane Fire Department response time standard for the arrival of the first unit to a Non-Life Threatening Incident is 11 minutes, 90% of the time.

Year	% Response Time Met
2023	87.3%
2022	86.3%
2021	85.8%

Emergency Call Volume

Spokane Fire Department calls from 911

Year	Emergency Calls Responded to by SFD Units	% Increase
2023	51,997	-2.0%
2022	53,053	6.1%
2021	50,004	15.1%
2020	43,457	-0.3%

Year	Emergency Calls In Spokane City Limits	% Increase
2023	52,253	-1.5%
2022	53,041	6.0%
2021	50,032	14.8%
2020	43,592	0.4%

Full First Alarm Assignment Met

Time unit assigned to on scene

Spokane Fire Department response time standard for full first alarm response (14 firefighters) when responding to a fire is 11 minutes, 90% of the time.

Year	% Response Time Met
2023	93.8%
2022	90.5%
2021	89.3%

Advanced Life Support Unit

Call received by Fire Dispatch to on scene

Spokane Fire Department response time standard for the arrival of the first unit to a Life Threatening Incident is 8 minutes 30 seconds, 90% of the time.

Year	% Response Time Met
2023	93.5%
2022	91.5%
2021	93.3%



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

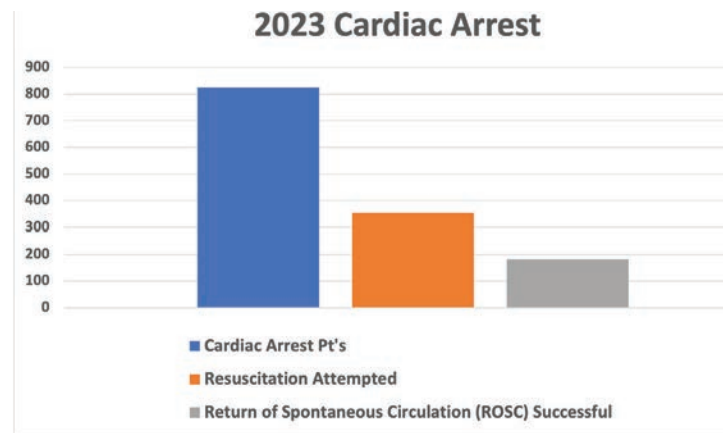
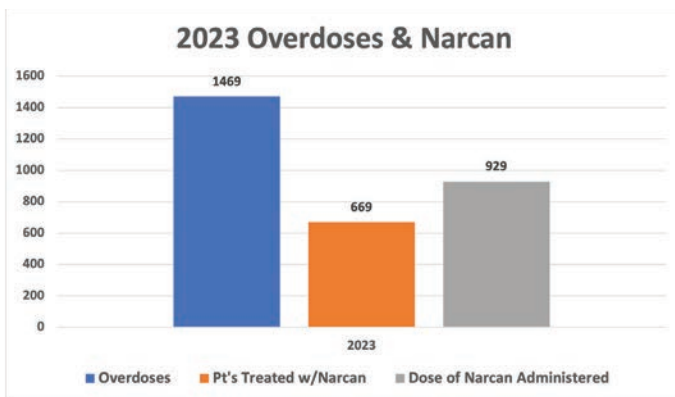
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Medical Service Office has been exceptionally active over the past year, mainly due to the dedicated efforts of Captain Chris Maehren and Lieutenant Dillon Russel. Captain Maehren has focused on updating the EMS supply tracking system, while Lieutenant Russel manages EMS data and electronic health records. Together, they have collaborated to provide thorough training and skills assessment for our department. Our paramedics have had the opportunity to practice intubation at Sacred Heart's OR, and we've prioritized sending providers to cadaver labs to enhance their life-saving skills.

The MSO's office plays a crucial role in overseeing the certification process for newly hired firefighter EMTs and Paramedics, as well as the recertification of all providers at the State and National levels. This year, they prioritized visiting every station and conducting training sessions at kitchen tables and the Fire Training Center. They are also actively involved in the initial training of our academy cadets, ensuring they are well-prepared for their future roles.

The MSO's Office represents Spokane Fire EMS with City, State, and regional stakeholders. It provides training, serves on committees, and holds leadership positions on councils and boards. Anne Raven's election as the EMS Council Chair is also a significant honor.

They also contribute to the Community Risk Reduction team by assisting with the ACT to Save a Life training program. Moreover, they have collaborated with the jail to provide training on emergency procedures and strategies for recognizing impending emergencies. Furthermore, they work with CARES to support high-utilizers and individuals with complex medical needs.





SPECIAL OPERATIONS

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous materials encompass chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear substances that threaten people, the environment, and property. The Spokane Fire Department's (SFD) Hazardous Materials Team is responsible for responding to incidents involving such materials within the City of Spokane. Additionally, they are available regionally to assist other agencies with their hazardous material incidents.



At the site of a hazardous material incident, the SFD HAZMAT Team performs various operations, including rescuing endangered individuals, identifying and isolating the hazard, stabilizing the situation, providing decontamination procedures for personnel and equipment, and offering technical advice to incident commanders. Their response priorities consistently focus on Preserving Life, Protecting the Environment, Safeguarding Property, and Stabilizing Dangerous Situations.

All team members undergo thorough training upon assignment and continuous training to maintain proficiency and enhance safety during hazardous material incidents. The Hazmat Team, comprised of 52 members across three fire stations, operates daily.

In 2023, the team responded to over 25 incidents, including a notable mutual aid response with the Spokane Valley Fire Department to an incident at the Inland Empire Paper Company, which spanned multiple days. Training highlights for the year included sending four members to a HAZMAT Technician class in Anniston, Alabama, and conducting an in-house 80-hour HAZMAT Specialist class, completed by twelve members. Additionally, the team developed a Standard Operating Guide for firefighters' response to electric vehicle fires, emphasizing the hazards associated with battery systems and the toxic runoff resulting from these vehicles being exposed to fire and damage.

The team received a grant for \$60,000 from the Department of Ecology in 2023 which were used to purchase 740 gallons of environmentally friendly firefighting foam to support training and our foam trailer that can be used on Class A and Class B fires, as well as both alcohol and petroleum-based products. They also purchased the foam trailer that included a 520-gallon tank, generator, foam transfer pump, foam application nozzles, and transfer hose and fittings

TECHNICAL RESCUE

The Technical Rescue Team of the Spokane Fire Department was established in the early 1990s to handle rescue situations beyond standard fire companies' capabilities. They operate within the City of Spokane and throughout Spokane County. Over the past 20-plus years, the team has tackled numerous challenging and high-profile incidents, such as building collapses, confined space rescues, trench/excavation emergencies, machinery rescues, and high and low-angle rope rescues.

Comprising 40 highly trained personnel with specialized gear, the team operates out of Station 4 and 15. Team management is overseen by the captains of these stations, with program administration handled by a Battalion Chief under the supervision of the Deputy Chief of Operations.

The SFD's Technical Rescue Team is part of the Region 9 Technical Rescue Team, which includes members from Spokane Valley Fire Department and Spokane County Fire District 9, totaling 94 members. This regional collaboration allows for a robust mutual aid program, enabling the team to respond to emergencies across the greater inland northwest region and provide borderless auto-aid responses within the three jurisdictions.

In the current year, the regional team secured a \$222,000 grant through the Homeland Security Grant Program to acquire additional rescue equipment. This grant supports the implementation of the National Preparedness System, aiming to achieve the national goal of a secure and resilient nation.

In 2023 alone, the Technical Rescue Team responded to 32 requests, including nine high-angle rope rescues, one confined space rescue, and one extraction from machinery



WATER RESCUE

The Spokane Fire Department Water Rescue Team is the primary responder for all water-related incidents within the City of Spokane. Collaborating closely with the Spokane Valley Fire Department Water Rescue Team and Spokane County Sheriff's Dive Team, they extend their emergency response services throughout Spokane County. This highly skilled team, comprised of 40 technicians, is equipped to handle swift water rescues on the Spokane River, as well as emergencies involving ponds, ice, and flooding.

Operating from two strategically located stations – Station 2 in the Logan Neighborhood and Station 3 in the West Central Neighborhood – the team utilizes a range of specialized equipment including jet boats, rafts, and kayaks to carry out their rescue missions. The Captains of Stations 2 and 3 oversee the management of the water rescue team, while program administration falls under the purview of a Battalion Chief, who operates under the supervision of the Deputy Chief of Operations.

In 2023, the team sent four members to a jet boat class hosted by the Swiftwater Safety Institute and certified seven members in a class hosted by other team members. The responded to 33 Marine Rescue calls in 2023 and in August they assisted the Department of Ecology in removing Lime Scooters from the downtown river section.



2023 NEW HIRES AND RETIREMENTS



Academy Class 2023-1 (02/21/2023)

Brown, Carson
Butler, Corbin
Cruz, Jose
Delateur, Robert
Denke, Luke
Ferris, Randy
Fisher, David
Groth, Tyler
Khouja, Nyle
Klinke, Matthew
Lord, Erik

Lyons, Kekoa
Martin, Caleb
Motzny, Jacob
Musser, Jayln
Nakamoto, Luke
Nunley, Chris
Roraback, Ryan
Rosenau, Damon

Academy Class 2023-2 (07/24/2023)

Finneran, Ryan Thomas
Reily, Liam M
Stetler, Kenneth Thomas
Fujita, James Edward
Rivera, Manuel Cruz
Moore, Brandon A
Barker, Kyle Edward
Slater, Blake Anders
Starling, Zachary Christo-
pher
Lockwood, Dylan M

Czarapata, Gage J
Polley, Scott J
Lean, Grant C
Francovich, Elijah N
Jewell, Cailin Elizabeth
Plowman, Noah T
Talkington, Gunner Patrick
Beard, Blake Austin
Briner, Lucas R
Kuolt, Connor M



Retirements

Shoemaker, Jody
Oliver, Thomas
Cole, Lawrence (Kurt)
Carr, Dean
Butler, Scott
Dawson, Mike
McCann, Scott
Luby, Bridget
Phebus, Brett
Lease, Jerry

Civilian Hires

de Ruyter, Justin (Information)
Sleizer, Jeff (IT)
Dixon, Braedin (IT)
Gow, Nathan (IT)
DeLoza, Rosendo (Deputy Fire Marshal)
Risley, Michael (Deputy Fire Marshal)
Wiggins, Jamie (Community Risk Reduction)



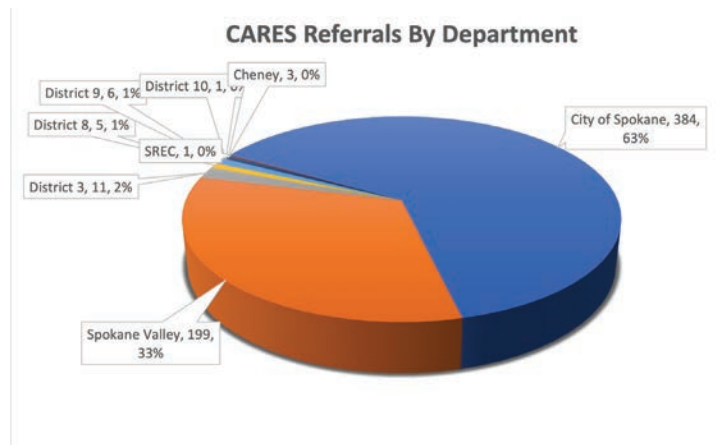
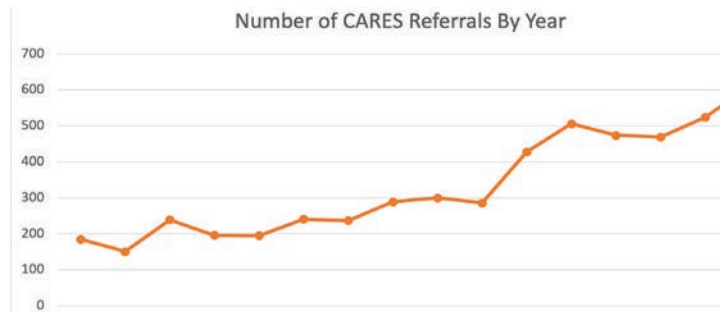
HEALTH CARE INNOVATION

CARES TEAM

The CARES Team is the Fire Department’s social response team. Many times, Fire Department personnel encounter an individual who has significant needs apart from their physical health needs. When they encounter these situations, Fire Department EMS providers make a referral to the CARES Team requesting a follow-up visit. The CARES Team advocates on behalf of the client and assures that connections are in place to help the client improve their quality of life. The primary goal of the program is to improve quality of life and reduce unnecessary use of the emergency health care system through addressing needs based on the social determinants of health.

Most of the referrals are sent to the CARES Team due to concerns related to aging, such as declining health, decreased mobility, chronic disease management, ability to perform activities of daily living, and other health issues. The Spokane Fire Department CARES team works with some of the most vulnerable populations in the City and County of Spokane.

The CARES Team will outreach to every referral received from the fire department personnel. Once contact has been made with an individual, the team will complete an assessment of individual needs. The CARES Team ensures that the individual has services that are sufficient to meet the needs that the firefighters identified in the referral, or the team will assist in connecting to the appropriate resources.



In 2023, the CARES Team:

- Received **610** referrals from Spokane Fire Department EMS providers. This represents a **16% increase** in the number of referrals managed by the CARES Team in comparison to 2022.
- Worked with **378** individuals or families to ensure their connection to services or resources.
- Provided resources that allow vulnerable citizens in our community to remain in their home in a stable, safe and healthy environment.



The CARES Team continues to track 911 calls for three months after closing a referral. At the three months post-closure date the CARES team will evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention provided. The CARES Team will review 911 calls three months prior to the team's involvement and then three months after the referral has been closed.

SPOKANE
C.A.R.E.S



3 Month Post Closure 911 Call Reductions

	Average 911 Calls Pre-CARES	Average 911 Calls Post-CARES Closure	Reduction in Calls
2023 Quarter 1	3.45	1.07	70.0%
2023 Quarter 2	3.61	0.97	73.1%
2023 Quarter 3	3.48	1.28	63.2%
2023 Quarter 4	3.12	1.31	58.0%

BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE UNIT

The Spokane Fire Department has implemented an integrated co-response program that brings together first responders, mental health professionals, and social services. The aim is to provide a more comprehensive approach to care for individuals with behavioral health concerns than what traditional 911 services typically offer. When individuals contact 911 regarding behavioral health issues, they receive assistance from the regular emergency responder team and the Behavioral Response Unit (BRU), consisting of a paramedic and a licensed mental health professional provided through a partnership with Frontier Behavioral Health.



The BRU responds to various types of 911 calls, including well-being checks, opioid overdoses, suicide attempts, ideation, and other behavioral and psychiatric emergencies. The BRU is equipped with Advanced Life Support (ALS) drugs and emergency medical equipment, the BRU team also carries a breathalyzer and an i-STAT device for point-of-care laboratory testing. This allows the team to obtain critical lab values and determine if the patient can bypass the Emergency Department and be directly admitted into definitive mental health and substance abuse disorder care when appropriate.

With expanded training and protocols, BRU paramedics can administer Suboxone to patients who have been revived with Naloxone after an overdose and exhibit withdrawal symptoms, scoring greater than seven on the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS), and consent to Suboxone through the Spokane Paramedic Intervention and Referral into Treatment (SPIRIT) Study.

2019: 226 calls with unknown number of diversions

2020: 412 calls with unknown number of diversions

2021: 223 calls with 111 diversions

2022: 396 calls with unknown number of diversions

2023: 632 calls with 173 diversions



TRAINING CENTER

TRAINING DIVISION

In 2023, the Training Division graduated 38 firefighter recruits. They achieved this through the efforts of skilled instructors from Operations who volunteered to mentor the new generation of firefighters. The Training Division conducted two consecutive 22-week recruit schools, a notable feature being the inclusion of EMT training for the first time in recent SFD history.

Throughout the year, the Training Division organized a variety of training programs. These included live fire and wildland refresher training, as well as forcible entry, search and rescue, and Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) training. Competency-based testing and fireground survival training were also part of the curriculum. These efforts amounted to over 50,000 hours of documented on-the-job training, alongside nearly 40,000 hours of recruit school training.

The Training Division facilitated local, regional, and national training opportunities. This involved sending personnel to courses at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, and other certification-level training sessions to foster professional development within the department.

Furthermore, the Training Division spearheaded the replacement of soon-to-be condemned structural personal protective equipment (PPE) with the latest and safest options available in the market. They also played a crucial role in supporting the rehabilitation of injured firefighters. Additionally, the Training Division collaborated with Civil Service in managing recruitment, hiring of recruits, and conducting promotional exams.





FIRE PREVENTION

FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION

The Spokane Fire Department Prevention Division has a wide range of responsibilities aimed at reducing community risks and enhancing public safety. These include education, inspection, engineering, fire code enforcement, fire investigations, wildland fuels mitigation, and conducting special inspections for temporary events.

In 2023, the Fire Marshal's Office worked to establish a new inspection process of performing annual inspections in all 1,700 apartment buildings in the City of Spokane. We also worked to establish inspection cycles for all 6,300 commercial buildings. Depending on the hazard classification, each commercial building will be inspected on a one-, two-, or three-year basis. In 2023, we completed 2,300 of this type of inspection.

Looking ahead to 2024, as this new inspection process becomes better established, we will meet our goals to perform inspections in 100% of the apartment buildings in the City of Spokane, and all commercial buildings within their designated inspection cycles.

Presently, the Fire Prevention Division is comprised of one Fire Marshal, one Assistant Fire Marshal, ten Deputy Fire Marshals, a Captain of Fire Investigations, two Lieutenant Fire Investigators, a Community Risk Reduction Manager, a Community Risk Reduction Specialist, two Fire Protection Engineers, a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Planner, an Office Manager, and three dedicated administrative staff members.

Our operations are governed by the 2018 International Fire Code, which has been adopted by both the State of Washington and the City of Spokane. This code sets forth the legal requirements for safeguarding property from fire, explosion, and other hazardous conditions in both new and existing structures, ensuring a minimum level of safety for occupants and emergency responders.

In 2023, the Division was active in conducting various inspection activities, totaling 17,547 site visits or plan reviews, reviews of submitted reports and inspection activities. These activities encompassed a range of services, including the inspection of private hydrants, range hood services, fire alarm and sprinkler systems, standpipe services, extinguishing systems, and paint/spray booth services.

There were 8,085 site visits for our new inspection program, and to renew annual operating permits for activities involving more hazardous operations. We completed 160 site evaluations and 359 plan reviews for special events, approved 1,567 plan reviews by our Fire Protection Engineers, and conducted 351 construction related signoffs.

Additionally, we oversee the monitoring and maintenance of above-ground tanks (AST) and the replacement of single-wall underground storage tanks (UST) in Spokane. We work closely with property owners to ensure compliance with regulations and the installation of code-compliant double-walled tanks when necessary.



Smoke/CO Installs

775



Children Educated on Fire Safety

6,891



Inspections Completed

17,547



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Educational programming through the Prevention Division provides data driven, fire and life safety information to our community. Various community programs are offered with increased emphasis placed on the national Community Risk Reduction priority populations: older adults, people living with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, families with young children and low income households. Examples of programming include: smoke alarm installation, home safety visits for low income households, preschool and grade school fire safety curriculum, first responder interaction for refugees and immigrants, and fire and fall prevention programming for older adults.

SMOKE AND CO ALARMS: The Spokane Fire Department installed **391 smoke and carbon monoxide alarms** as part of its Fire Prevention Week Install Blitz on October 7, 2023, with ongoing installations.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: The department participated in **42 large community events**, facilitated by the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) office.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: There were **38 public presentations** on fire and life safety.

GRADE SCHOOL OUTREACH: The Spokane Fire Department's grade school instructor team visited 16 elementary schools, delivering lessons to 171 classes and educating over **3,648 1st-4th graders** using a nationally recognized grade school fire safety curriculum.

Investments in Community Risk Reduction Office: In 2023, The City of Spokane and Spokane Fire Department invested in the Community Risk Reduction Office by revamping the grade school fire safety program, enhancing The Children's Fire Safety House, and hiring a second full-time staff member, the Community Risk Reduction Specialist.

WILDLAND FIRE RISK REDUCTION

The Wildland Resource Planner for the Spokane Fire Department has been extensively involved in wildfire prevention efforts this year. In 2023, we successfully completed over 300 acres of Forest Health/Wildland Fire Fuels Reduction Treatments aimed at mitigating the risk of catastrophic wildfires. This involved thinning small diameter conifer trees (8 inches and smaller), pruning remaining trees to reduce ladder fuels, and disposing of cut materials through chipping or mastication.

Furthermore, in 2023, the Spokane Fire Department secured a \$1.5 million grant from the US Forest Service's Community Wildfire Defense Grant, with additional contributions from partners bringing the total to \$1,875,000. These funds are earmarked for fuels reduction projects within and adjacent to city-owned areas. Additionally, we applied for another \$1.5 million grant for similar projects in 2023, with notifications of grantees expected in summer 2024.

Moreover, we provided consultancy services to the City of Spokane Parks Department, leveraging our relationships and forestry expertise to assist in the disposal of hundreds of Bark Beetle-infested trees on city golf courses. Not only did this save the city money, but it also enhanced safety by reducing the risk of insect and disease-related tree mortality in Spokane.



SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

In 2023, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) experienced a decrease in the number of fires by 10, bringing the total to 155. Collaborating closely with the Spokane Police Department and the Major Crimes Division, the SIU aided in the arrest of eight individuals involved in arson. Unfortunately, fires resulted in three fatalities in 2023, which not only take a toll on firefighting crews but also on the investigators tasked with examining them. Our partnership with the ATF continues to be integral in handling significant events.

Following the lifting of COVID restrictions, training for investigators intensified in 2023. One full-time investigator and two part-time supplemental investigators underwent initial training as fire investigators. Additionally, several courses, both online and in person, were completed by investigators through the International Association of Arson Investigators. Unit members also participated in federally funded courses at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD.

The SIU regularly assesses fire incidents and provides education to fire officers on the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). This system gathers essential data to track the type and location of incidents, required resources for mitigation, and pertinent details necessary for understanding the nature and cause of fires.

Current full-time Investigators include Capt. Lee Venning, Lt. John Goodman, and Lt. Shane Sanders.

Current supplemental Investigators comprise Lt. Ethan Verduin, Lt. Adam Knapp, Lt. Ed Miller, Lt. Jesse Ayotte, Lt. Cal Lindsay, and Deputy Fire Marshal Frank Sandall.



SPOKANE FIRE DEPARTMENT LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

Captain George T. Chapman, MAY 25, 1894

Fell 63' off a ladder during a training exercise, instantly fracturing his neck.

Firefighter John F. Lynch, OCTOBER 3, 1902

Fell from a second-floor window while attempting to climb to the third floor with a pompier ladder.

Firefighter Herman A. Mero, MARCH 6, 1905

Slipped and fell 45' during a maintenance operation.

Firefighter Henry J. Maynard, JULY 25, 1909

Died after being crushed when Hose Wagon 5 struck the back of Ladder 1 after the horses pulling Ladder 1 slipped and fell.

Firefighter E.G. Deardorf, SEPTEMBER 21, 1914

Died from a skull fracture during a training exercise after falling from a pompier ladder.

Lieutenant Warren S. Willis, JANUARY 11, 1920

Died at Station 5 after falling through the pole hole on the 2nd floor in the middle of the night, unable to see in the darkness.

Firefighter William A. Hutchinson, MAY 3, 1924

Died while responding to a fire when the steam engine he was riding on skidded and hit a curb, throwing him into a curb hitting his head.

Alarm Operator Charles Bunnell, OCTOBER 6, 1930

Died of a heart attack while on duty in the Alarm Room at Station 5.

Firefighter Thomas E. Sparrow, JULY 13, 1939

Died at the scene of a house fire from heart failure.

Alarm Operator Jesse L. Booher, FEBRUARY 25, 1942

Developed serious heart issues after a fire four years earlier and was re-assigned to the alarm board. He died at his post after feeling ill earlier in the day.

Captain Walter F. Gustafson, DECEMBER 27, 1944

Died of smoke inhalation at the scene of a second-alarm fire with multiple other firefighters injured.

Alarm Superintendent George. T. Stewart, FEBRUARY 2, 1947

Electrocuted while trying to secure a power line that had fallen across fire department alarm system wires during a windstorm.

Captain Leonard W. Doyle, JUNE 2, 1956

Killed in the Peyton Building when the first floor collapsed sending him and six other firefighters into the basement below. Seventeen other firefighters were hospitalized and 25 were treated at the scene from injuries incurred during the rescue operation.

Firefighter Leroy A. Mackey, JANUARY 14, 1966

After being hired to replace Captain Doyle's position ten years earlier, he died in a basement fire at Saad's Shoe Store at Main/Wall Street. Firefighter Mackey and other firefighters were caught in a backdraft, resulting in his death and nine others being hospitalized.

Captain Robert G. Hanna, MARCH 3, 1980

Killed in the bucket of Ladder 7 when a wall of the Zukor Building fell after the fire had been mostly extinguished. Captain Hanna was died from head injuries after being hit by a piece of the falling cornice.

Firefighter Paul J. Heidenreich, SEPTEMBER 12, 1982

Died after a roof collapsed with heavy fire below. Through a superhuman effort, two other firefighters with him were rescued through a window, while it would be another few hours before they were able to reach FF Heidenreich's body. Eight additional firefighters were injured that night.

Firefighter John Knighten, JUNE 30, 2013

Died after a battle of occupational related cancer.

MEMBERS WHO PASSED IN 2023

February 12, 2023- **Firefighter/Paramedic Mickey Reynolds**, Badge #994, Served from 4/1/1991 to 2004

February 17, 2023- **Lieutenant/Paramedic Dave Shank**, Badge #831, Served from 4/1/1976 to 2001

April 12, 2023- **Lieutenant Roy Mediaty**, Badge #465, Served from 4/16/53 to 1987

4/20/2023- **Captain Bob McGowan**, Badge #498, Served from 6/23/1957 to 1982

September 28, 2023- **Captain Mike Epler**, Badge #762, Hired 4/13/1973

October 13, 2023- **Firefighter Dave Batty**, Badge #903



MISSION

We enhance your quality of life, always
earning your trust, by saving lives,
preventing harm and protecting property
with compassion and integrity.

Chapter 35.103 RCW: Revised Code of Washington Chapter 35.103 was passed into law during the 2005 legislative session (House Bill 1756). This law mandated certain response criteria be established and measured by fire departments across the State of Washington beginning in 2007 with an analysis of responses in 2006. The requirement was passed and is now the law for all substantially career fire departments. The purpose of this law is to report to the Governing Body of each fire jurisdiction, as well as to the residents of any given area, how the fire department is doing in meeting its established emergency response standards. These standards take into consideration a number of response types: A) Fire Suppression, B) Emergency Medical Services - Basic Life Support (BLS), C) Emergency Medical Services - Advanced Life Support (ALS), D) Special Operations (i.e. Hazardous Materials response and Technical Rescue response), E) Aircraft rescue and firefighting, F) Marine rescue and firefighting, G) Wildland firefighting.

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