



Annual Report 2023



Message from the Chief

In the preceding year, the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District exemplified an unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional service. Noteworthy achievements include being honored as the Special District of the Year by the Florida Association of Special Districts and receiving prestigious accolades for our personnel, who were named Manatee County Firefighter, Inspector, and Chief Officer of the Year by the Manatee County Fire Chiefs Association. Additionally, our Fire Marshal received well-deserved recognition at Florida's 16th Congressional District Fire and Rescue EMS awards for demonstrating "Dedication and Professionalism" in the Fire Service.

In response to the heightened frequency of active hurricane seasons in recent years, our focus in 2023 shifted towards intensive technical rescue training. Collaborating closely with neighboring departments, this training ensures our team is well-prepared to handle various natural disasters.

The Fire Prevention Bureau personnel have consistently achieved remarkable milestones, enhancing our overall service delivery and response to residents and visitors in the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District. Particularly noteworthy is the diligent research and implementation of Transient Public Lodging Establishment inspections. This initiative will enable us to showcase the full spectrum of services we provide, from non-emergency to all-hazard emergency services.

Our primary objective is to maintain a roster of professional, well-trained, and fully equipped personnel capable of delivering top-notch fire protection, suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services to our community. As we anticipate several officers retiring in the coming years, it is crucial to develop a comprehensive succession plan. This ensures the transfer of knowledge from seasoned employees to the incoming generation, preserving the wealth of experience within our ranks.

We remain acutely aware of our responsibility to provide the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District with unparalleled service. Upholding the principle that "We cannot lead from the rear if we wish to be recognized within and beyond our community as a fire department of Excellence," we are committed to continuous improvement and excellence in all aspects of our operations.

Ben Rigney
Fire Chief

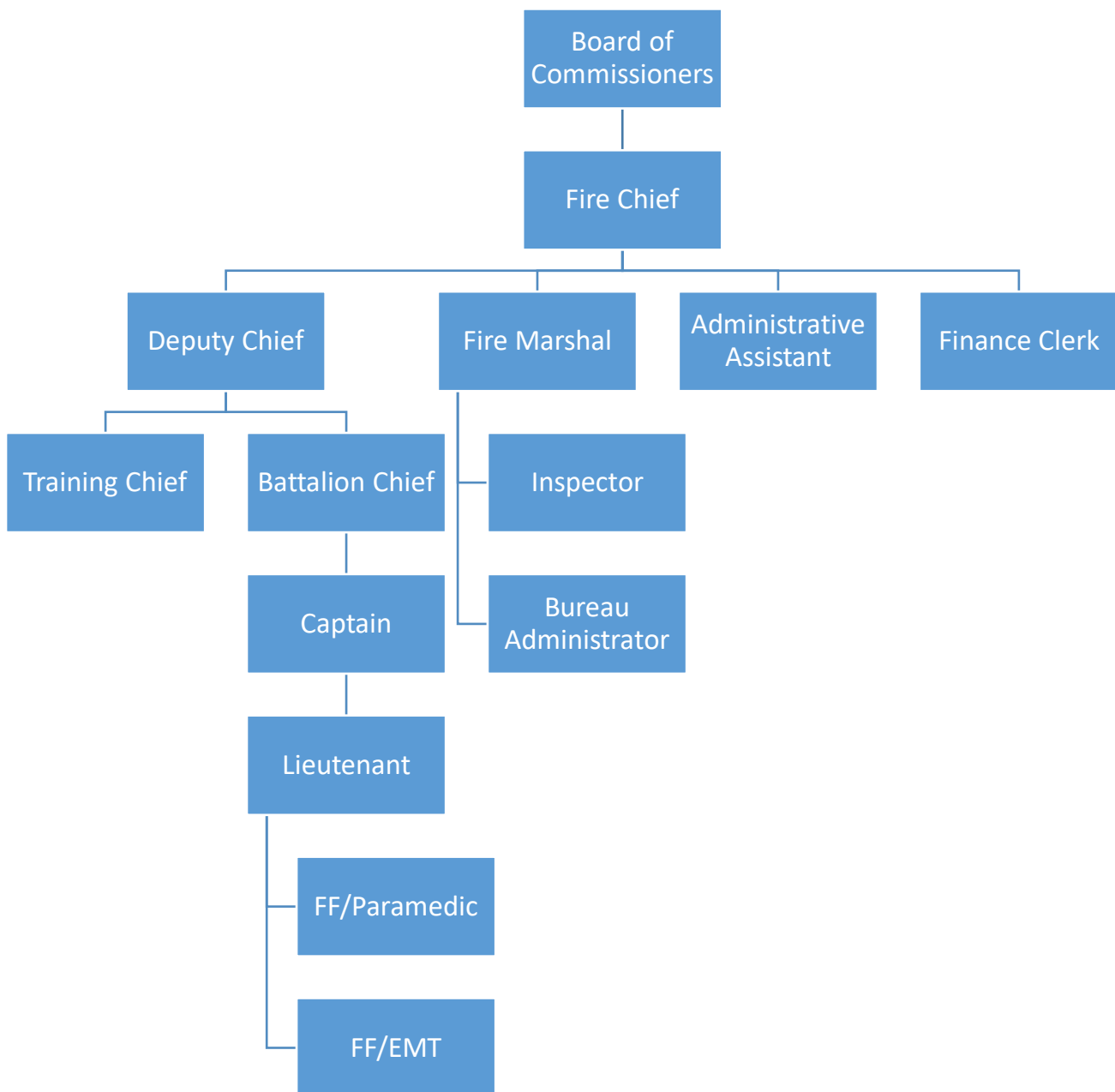
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Agency Background

West Manatee Fire & Rescue District is an Independent Special Fire Control District located in western Manatee County, Florida. Within the District are the Cities of Anna Maria, Bradenton Beach and Holmes Beach as well as unincorporated areas of Cortez, Tidy Island, Palma Sola, West and Northwest Bradenton. The resident population of the district is approximately 27,733 with an additional seasonal influx of approximately 13,000 non-residents and close to 969,300 visitors.

WMFR employs 53 full-time personnel, of which 42 are suppression personnel divided equally among three shifts that work a 24/48 shift schedule which amounts to a 56-hour work week. 2023 saw the addition of 6 new firefighter positions to aid in manpower throughout the district. The Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Fire Marshal, training chief, fire inspectors and administrative support personnel are located at the administration building. All non-suppression personnel are assigned to 40-hour workweek schedules.



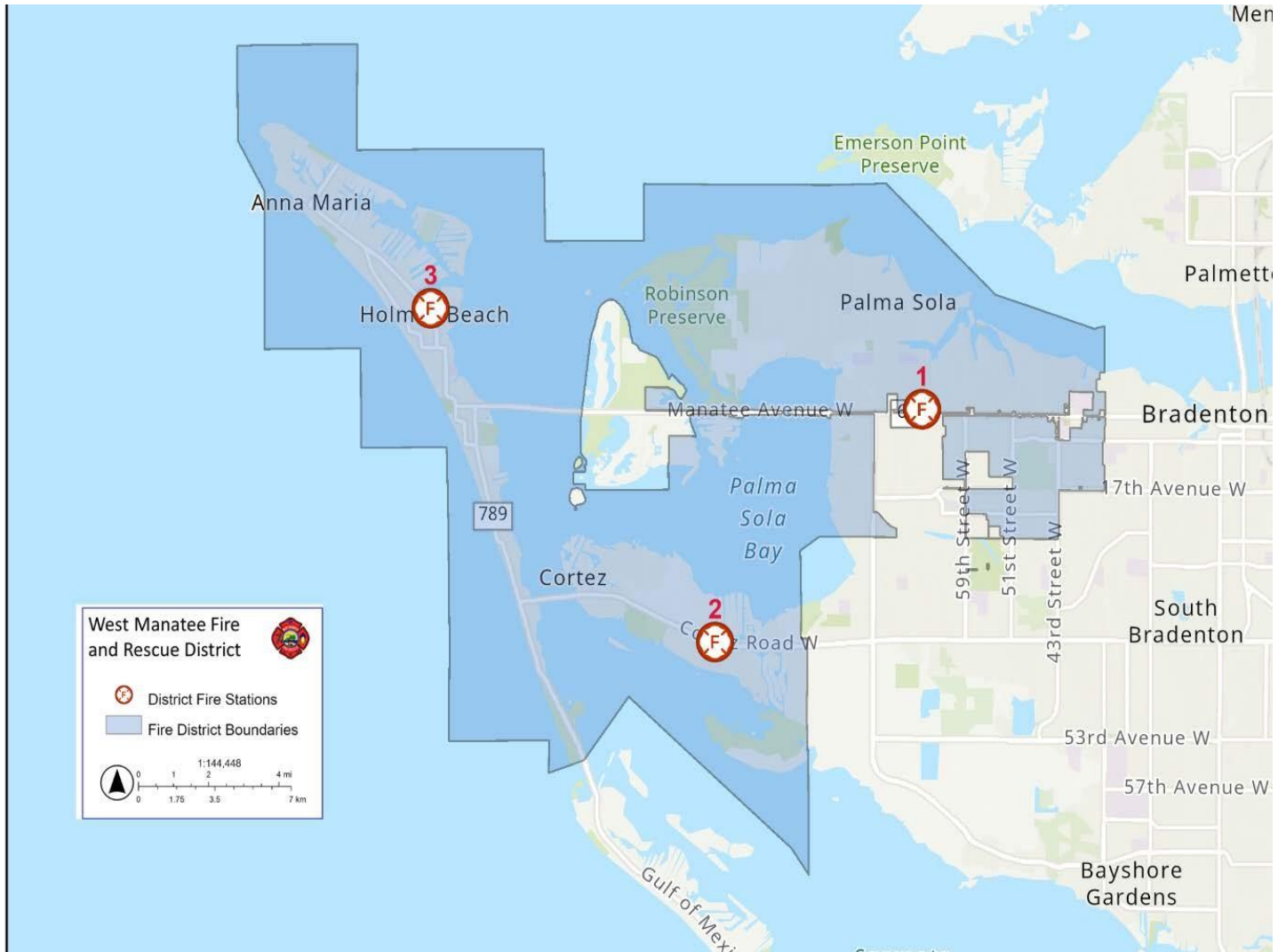
WMFR District Boundaries:

Northern Boundary: Manatee River and Tampa Bay.

Eastern Boundary: The area of 32nd Street West along the city limits of Bradenton.

Southern Boundary: A line that borders the City of Bradenton, Cedar Hammock Fire district and the Town of Longboat Key.

Western Boundary: The Gulf of Mexico.



Residential development has continued within the district as Hunters point in Cortez has added a new sustainable housing development as well as a new housing development on 9th Ave NW. A new storage facility opened its doors next to station one on Manatee Avenue and fire prevention has begun short term rental inspections throughout the district.

West Manatee Fire Rescue is committed to providing professional services essential to the safety and well-being of the community. This is accomplished through quick and prepared response, life safety education, prevention, and other related services.

OUR VALUES:

In order to exceed the expectations of the community that places their trust in us, we will hold one another accountable for carrying out our mission, living our values, and seeing our vision become reality.

OUR COMMITMENTS:

TO OUR RESIDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY:

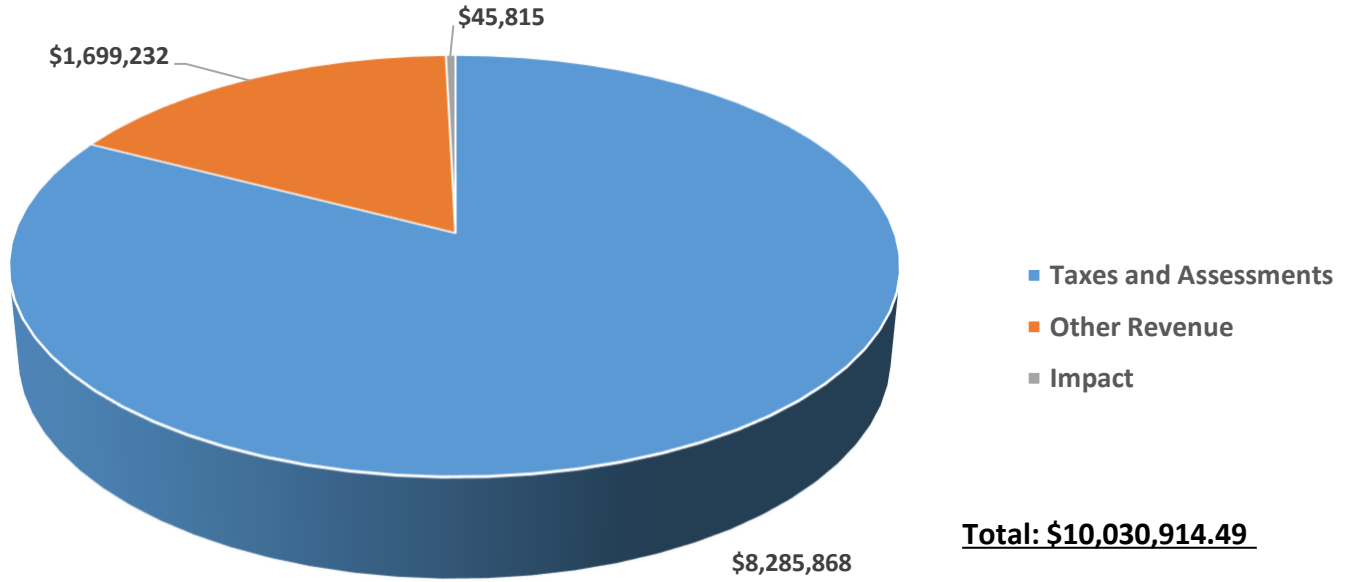
We, the local fire department, are committed to excellence in serving our community with unwavering courage, compassionate care, and steadfast commitment. Upholding these core values, we dedicate ourselves to ensuring the safety and well-being of every individual, embodying the highest standards in every aspect of our service.

TO OUR EMPLOYEES:

To our dedicated team, we pledge a focused commitment to you rooted in excellence, courage, and compassion. Your safety and professional development are our priority, and we strive to deliver a work environment characterized by these core values. Together, we will face our future challenges with bravery, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to excellence.

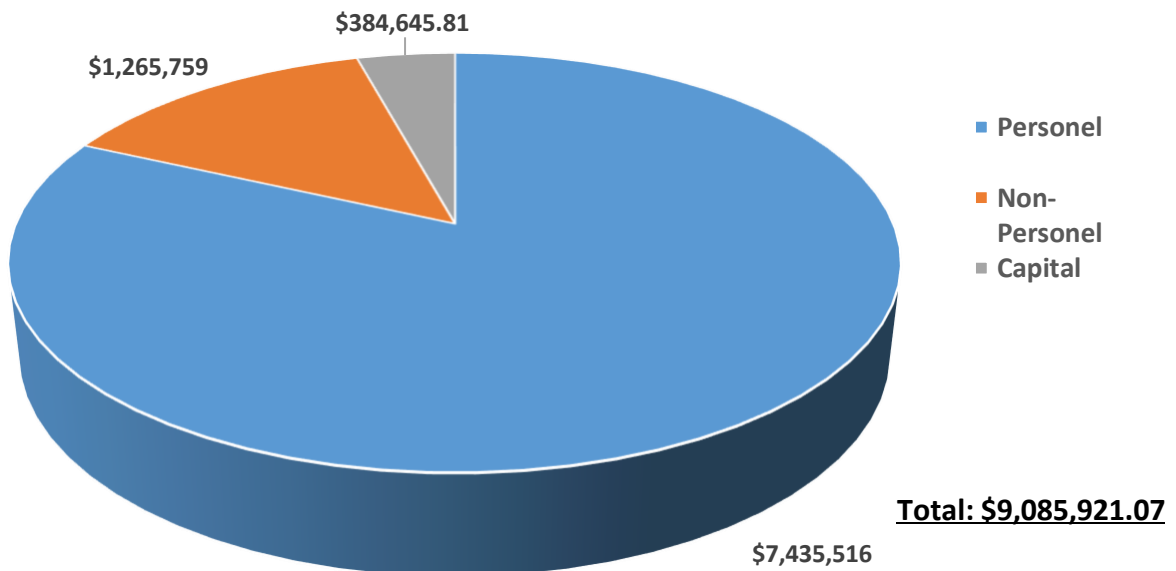
Revenues

FY22/23 Revenue



Expenditures

FY 22/23 Expenditures



Operations

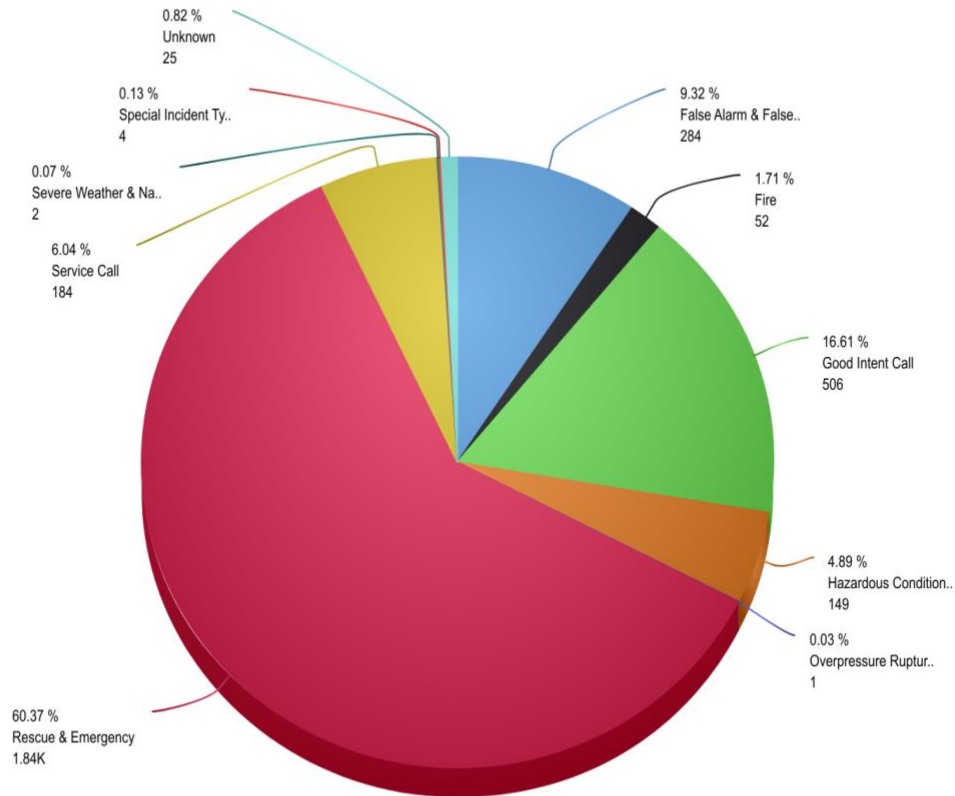
RESPONSE ACTIVITY

The Operations Division of West Manatee Fire Rescue is responsible for managing the Emergency and Special Operations Divisions. Currently, forty-two (42) personnel are assigned with 14 on duty per 24-hour operational shift. Personnel are tasked to respond to calls for service which include structure fires, emergency medical services, vehicle accidents, water and beach rescue, hazardous materials spills and releases and marine fire and rescue responses. The operations division responded to 3046 incidents in 2023 and 3278 incidents in 2022. Approximately 60.37% of those incidents were emergency medical responses in 2023 and 58.9% were medically related in 2022.

Analysis by Incident Type (Exposure 0)

01/01/2023-12/31/2023

- False Alarm & False Call
- Fire
- Good Intent Call
- Hazardous Condition (No Fire)
- Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat(no fire)
- Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident
- Service Call
- Severe Weather & Natural Disaster
- Special Incident Type
- Unknown



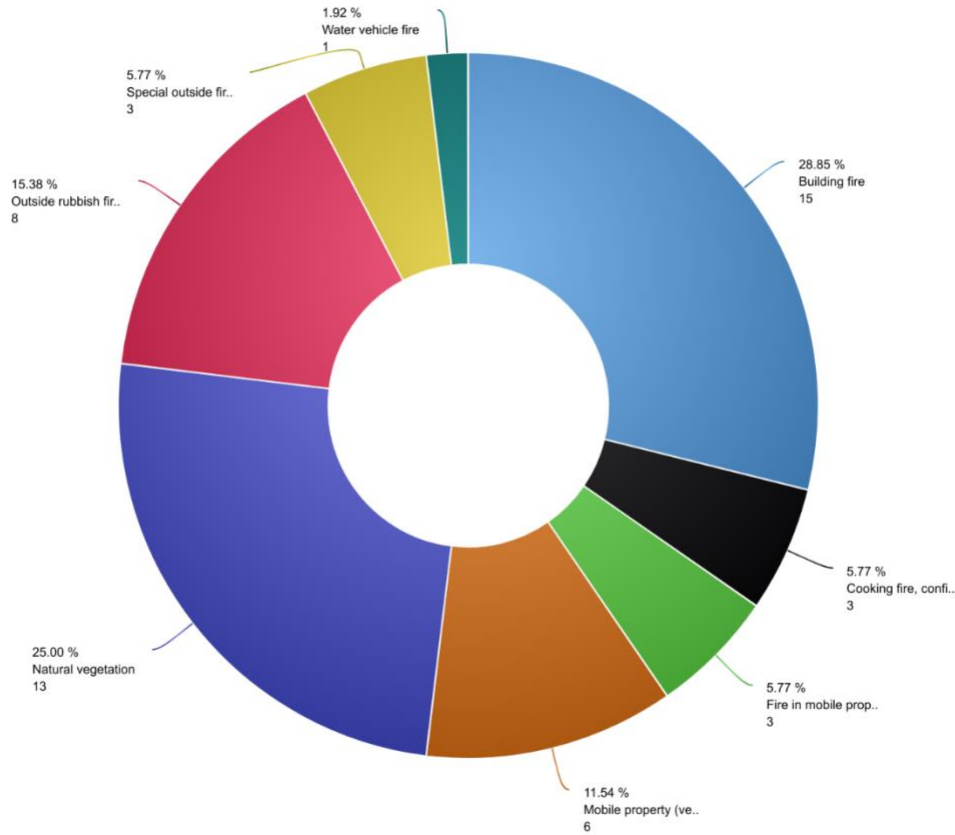
Total of Incident Type: 3,046

Fire Incidents by Category:

In 2023 the district responded to 52 incidents categorized as fire incidents with 15 building fires. In 2022 the district responded to 66 fire related incidents with 16 building fires.

- Building fire
- Cooking fire, confined to container
- Fire in mobile prop. used as a fixed struc., other
- Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other
- Natural vegetation fire, other
- Outside rubbish fire, other
- Special outside fire, other
- Water vehicle fire

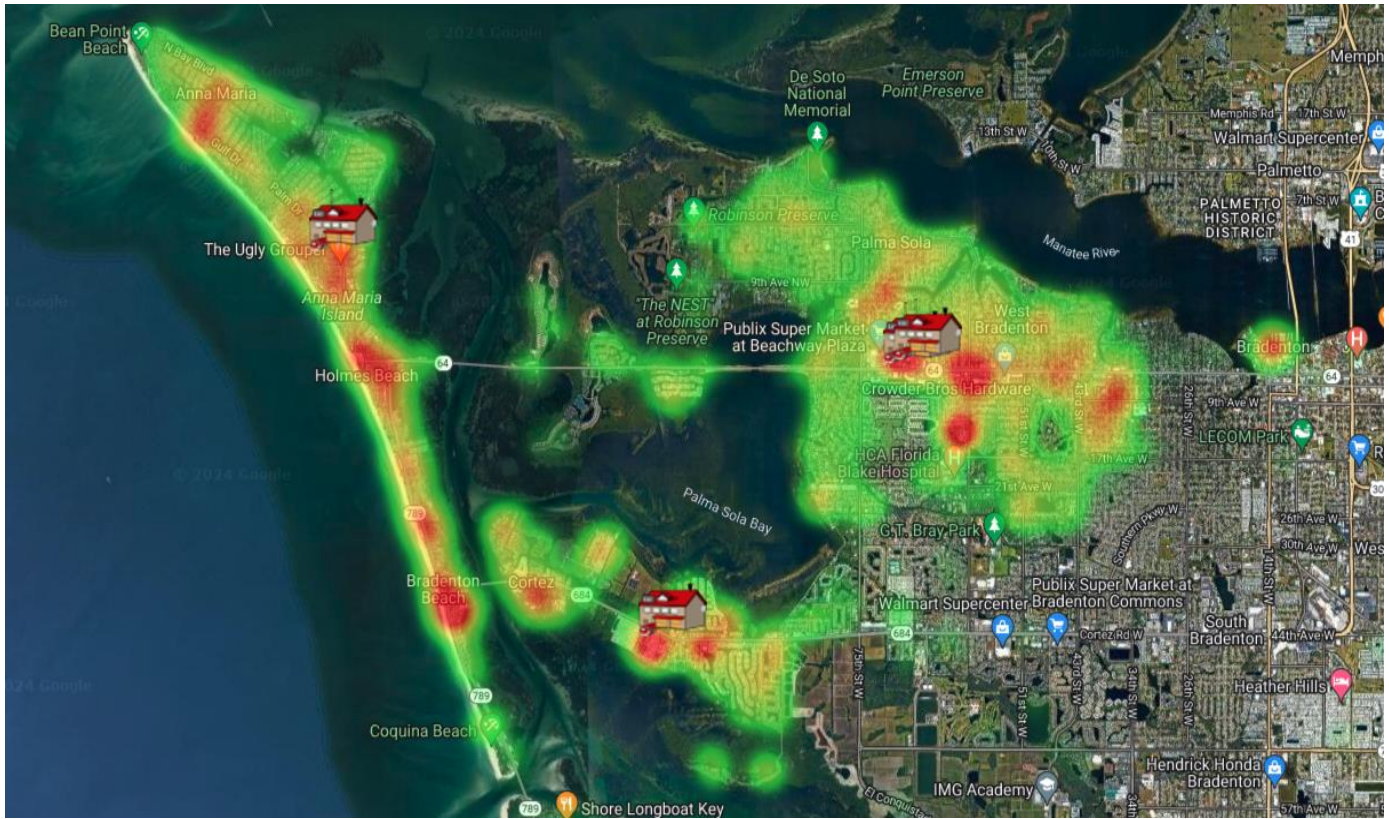
Fire



Total of Detailed Incident Type: 52

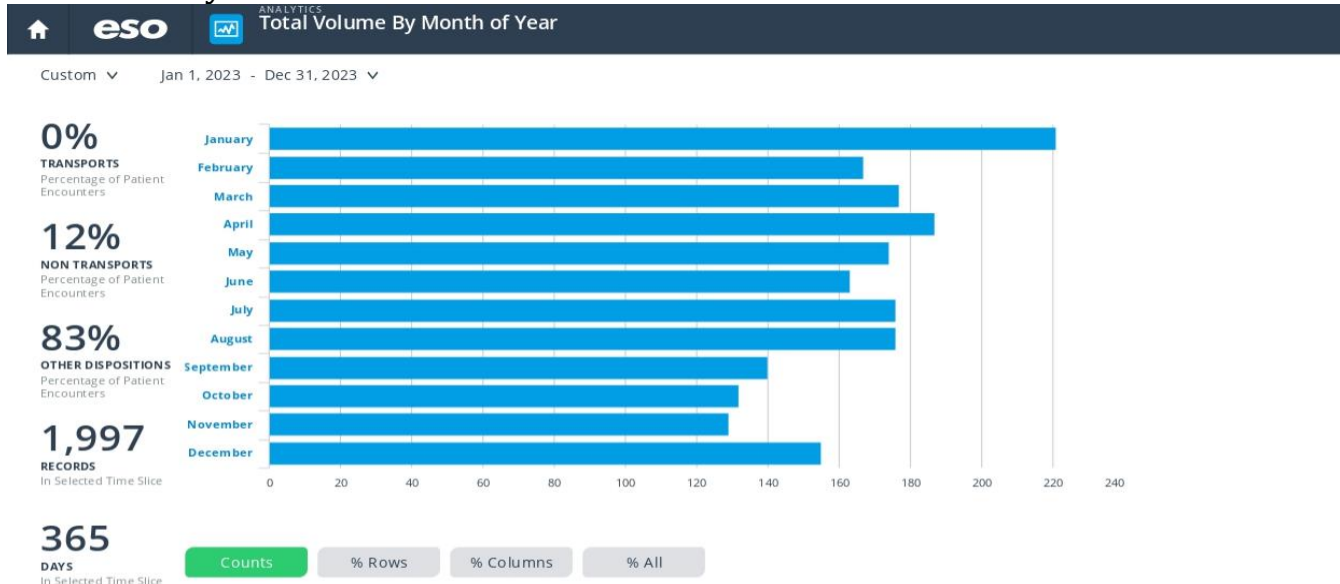
All Incident Heat Map

The map below illustrates collaborative call volume by geographic area regarding all incidents. Red indicates the heaviest call areas for 2023.



Medical Call Volume 2023

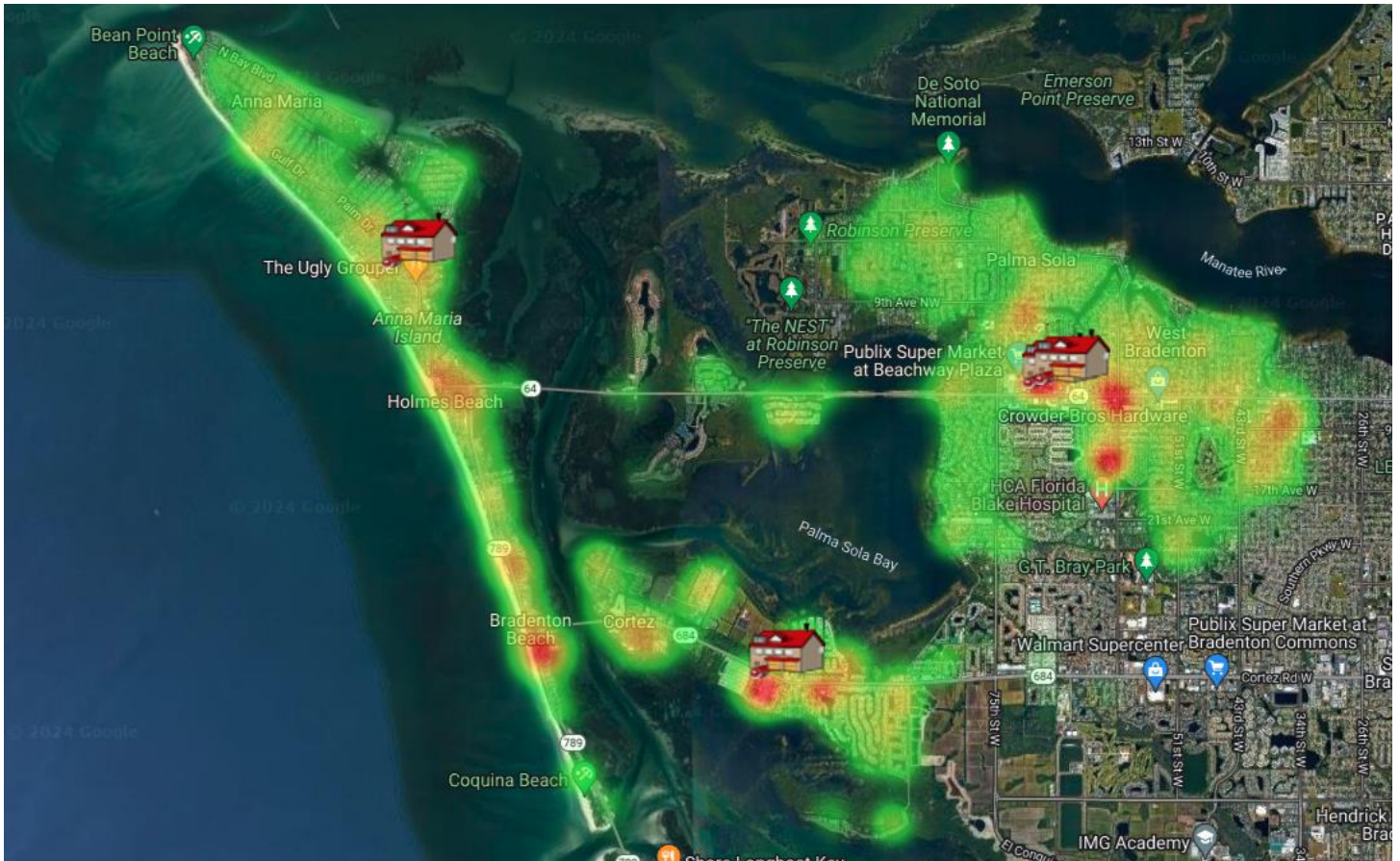
Below is a breakdown of the medical calls for the year 2023. The upward trend continues as it did last year.



	Jan '23	Feb '23	Mar '23	Apr '23	May '23	Jun '23	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Total
January	218											3		221
February	1	166												167
March			177											177
April				187										187
May				1	173									174
June						163								163
July						1	175							176
August								176						176
September									140					140
October									1	131				132
November										1	128			129
December											2	153		155
Total	219	166	177	188	173	164	175	176	141	132	130	156		1,997

EMS Heat Map

Response personnel responded to 1,997 emergency medical incidents and provided care in 2023. The map below depicts the EMS call volume by geographic location for 2023. The dark red areas indicate high call volume in the designated locations. In 2022, there were a total of 1,971 emergency medical calls.

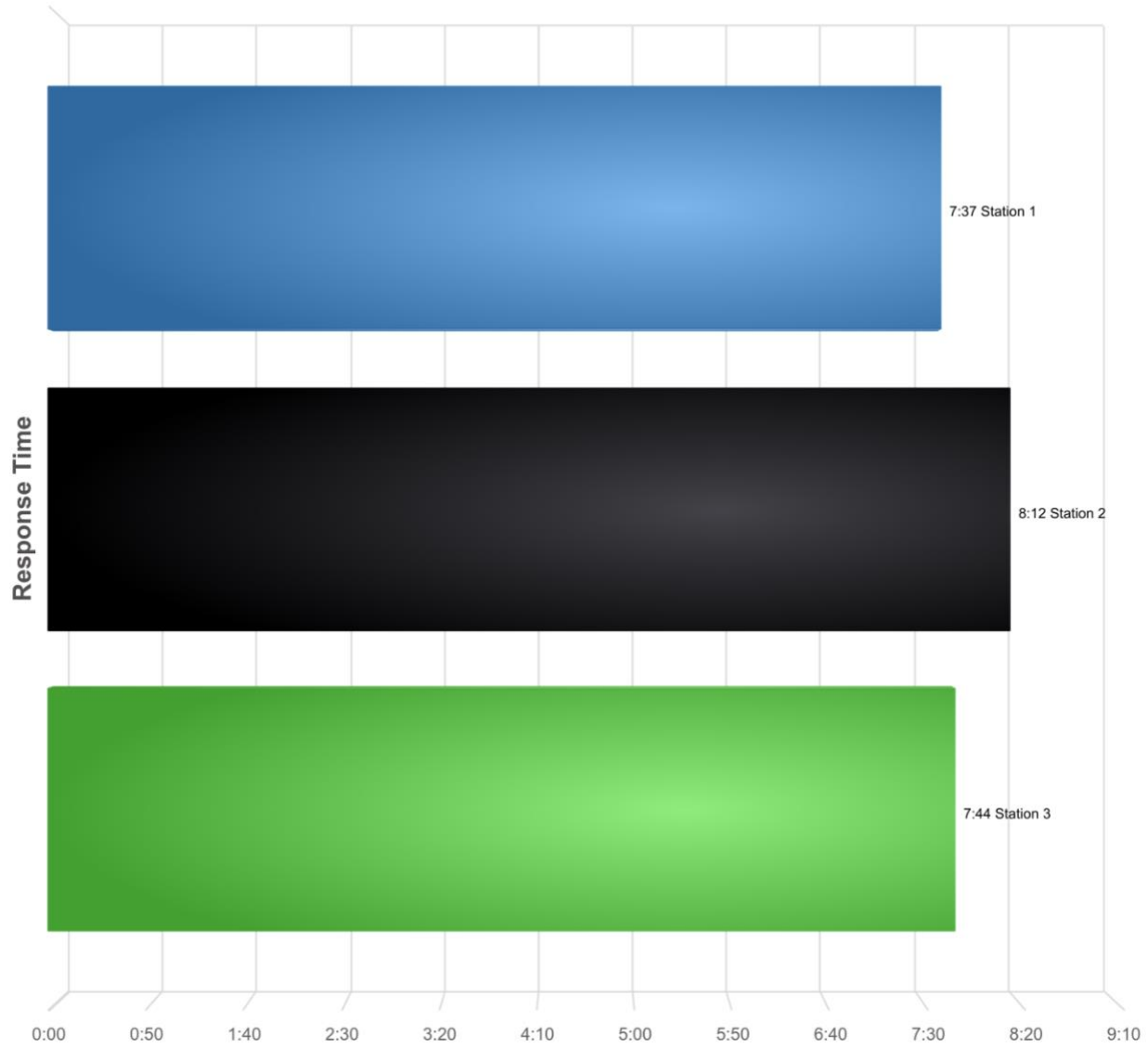


2023 Response Times

- Station 1
- Station 2
- Station 3

90th Percentile Response Time (Alarm-> First Unit Arrival)

01/01/2023-12/31/2023



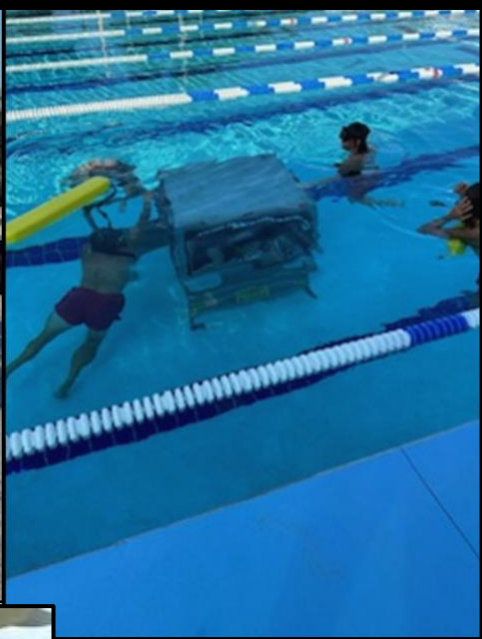
Training

We are excited to share some recent developments and achievements from the West Manatee Fire Rescue Training Division during 2023. Our training programs and collaboration efforts in the emergency response medical training and fire training fields are outstanding. Our training building is now fully operational, and it has played a crucial role in facilitating various training programs. We have built and created a roof simulator where we can use power tools to cut the roof for ventilation purposes. Additionally, we received a donated home for training purposes before it was demolished, and all the shifts took advantage of doing different types of training.

We are pleased to announce the successful completion of the largest hiring group for the fire department. The addition of new members strengthens our workforce and reinforces our ability to respond effectively to emergencies within our community. We held an advanced auto extrication course where the manufacturer came and gave us a class, so we could teach the rest of the department, using the necessary tools and techniques to remove somebody who is trapped in a vehicle. The entire department participated in water rescue training, where we used a car prop placed in the water, and the crews needed to extricate the victim under the water.

Our commitment to excellence is demonstrated through our advanced airway training program. Utilizing tracheas from pigs, we have implemented innovative methods to enhance the proficiency of our team members in managing complex airway situations. One of our noteworthy achievements is the introduction of a pediatric platform named "Handtevy." This program underscores our dedication to providing specialized training for handling pediatric cases, ensuring that our team is well-prepared to respond to the unique challenges associated with pediatric emergencies.

In collaboration with Blake Hospital, we have conducted trauma rounds rotations showcasing our commitment to ongoing education and real-world experience. Additionally, our team has actively participated in rotations within the catheterization lab, further expanding our expertise in medical interventions. There are many more things that will take place in the years to come, and this is just a snapshot of time. These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team members. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing the highest level of emergency response and medical care to our community. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to further collaborations and advancements in the future.





ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Fire & Life Safety Bureau

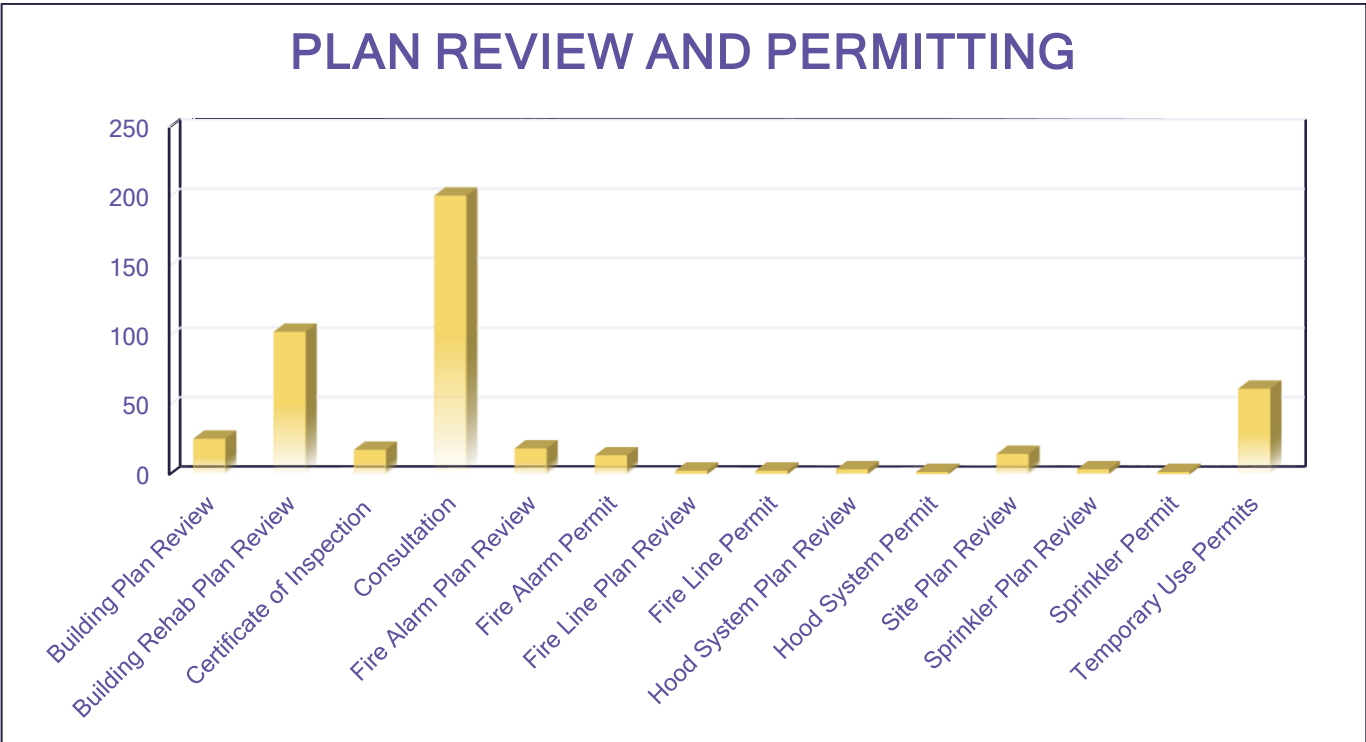
"Excellence through Engineering, Education and Enforcement"



ENGINEERING

Plan Review and Permitting:

- Building Plan Review: 26
- Building Rehab Plan Review: 103
- Certificate of Inspection: 18
- Consultation: 201
- Fire Alarm Plan Review: 19
- Fire Alarm Permit: 14
- Fire Line Plan Review: 3
- Fire Line Permit: 3
- Hood System Plan Review: 4
- Hood System Permit: 2
- Site Plan Review: 4
- Sprinkler Plan Review: 4
- Sprinkler Permit: 2
- Temporary Use Permits: 62
- **Total Plan Reviews and Permits: 476**



EDUCATION

As the year comes to a close, we are pleased to present a comprehensive overview of the public education initiatives undertaken by our district. The focus has been on fostering safety and awareness, with a particular emphasis on elementary schools, preschools, mobile home parks, homeschool organizations, and the broader community.



Elementary Schools:

- Anna Maria Elementary: 191 students
- Stewart Elementary: 435 students
- Palma Sola Elementary: 398 students
- ***Total Elementary Aged Students: 1,024***
 - The engagement with elementary schools has been significant, with a total of 1,024 students across three schools. This effort involved delivering age-appropriate fire and life safety messages to ensure that children are equipped with essential knowledge to protect themselves and their families.

Preschool Outreach:

- Number of Preschools: 12
- **Total Preschool Students: 670**
 - Our outreach extended to 12 preschools throughout the district, reaching a total of 670 students. This early education initiative is crucial in instilling safety habits from an early age, setting a foundation for a lifetime of responsible behavior.

Fire Extinguisher Training:

- **Number of Residents Trained: 120**
 - Empowering residents with the knowledge of fire extinguisher usage is a pivotal aspect of our mission. This year we successfully trained 120 residents across the district, enhancing their ability to respond effectively to potential fire hazards.

Mobile Home Park Initiatives:

- Number of Mobile Home Parks Visited: 3 (Sandpiper, Paradise Bay, Sara Bay RV Park)
- **Residents Educated: Approximately 125**
 - Engaging with the community directly, we conducted fire and life safety classes in three different mobile home parks, covering topics such as smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, tripping hazards, and cooking safety. Approximately 125 residents benefited from these sessions.

Fire Watch Procedures:

- **Number of People Trained: 19**
 - Training individuals in fire watch procedures is crucial for ensuring a swift and coordinated response to potential emergencies. This year, we successfully trained 19 people in these procedures, enhancing the overall safety infrastructure within the community.

Homeschool Organizations:

- **Number of Students Reached: 90**
 - This year marked our inaugural outreach to local homeschool organizations, with a turnout of 90 students. Collaborating with homeschooling communities further expands our reach, ensuring that a diverse range of students receives essential safety education.

Annual Open House:

- Number of Residents Reached: Approximately 1500
 - The annual open house was a resounding success, with an outreach to approximately 1500 residents. This event provided an excellent platform for disseminating fire and life safety information, fostering a culture of safety within the community.

Social Media Engagement:

- Fire and life safety messages have been consistently posted on a social media platform, ensuring a continuous and widespread dissemination of crucial safety information.

Collaboration with Red Cross:

- Teaming up with the Red Cross, we undertook a proactive initiative in Sunny Shores mobile home park. Approximately 180 smoke alarms were installed, accompanied by education on the importance of regular testing and maintenance.

Florida State Courses:

- In 2023, we facilitated two state courses: "Codes and Standards" and "Construction Documents and Plan Review." A total of 30 students from across the state participated, gaining comprehensive insights into building regulations, industry codes, and the intricacies of construction document examination.

“We remain committed to our mission of ensuring the well-being and safety of all residents”

Conclusion:

The collaborative efforts with schools, preschools, mobile home parks, homeschool organizations, and community events have collectively contributed to a safer and more informed community. As we reflect on the accomplishments of the year, we remain committed to our mission of ensuring the well-being and safety of all residents in our district.

ENFORCEMENT

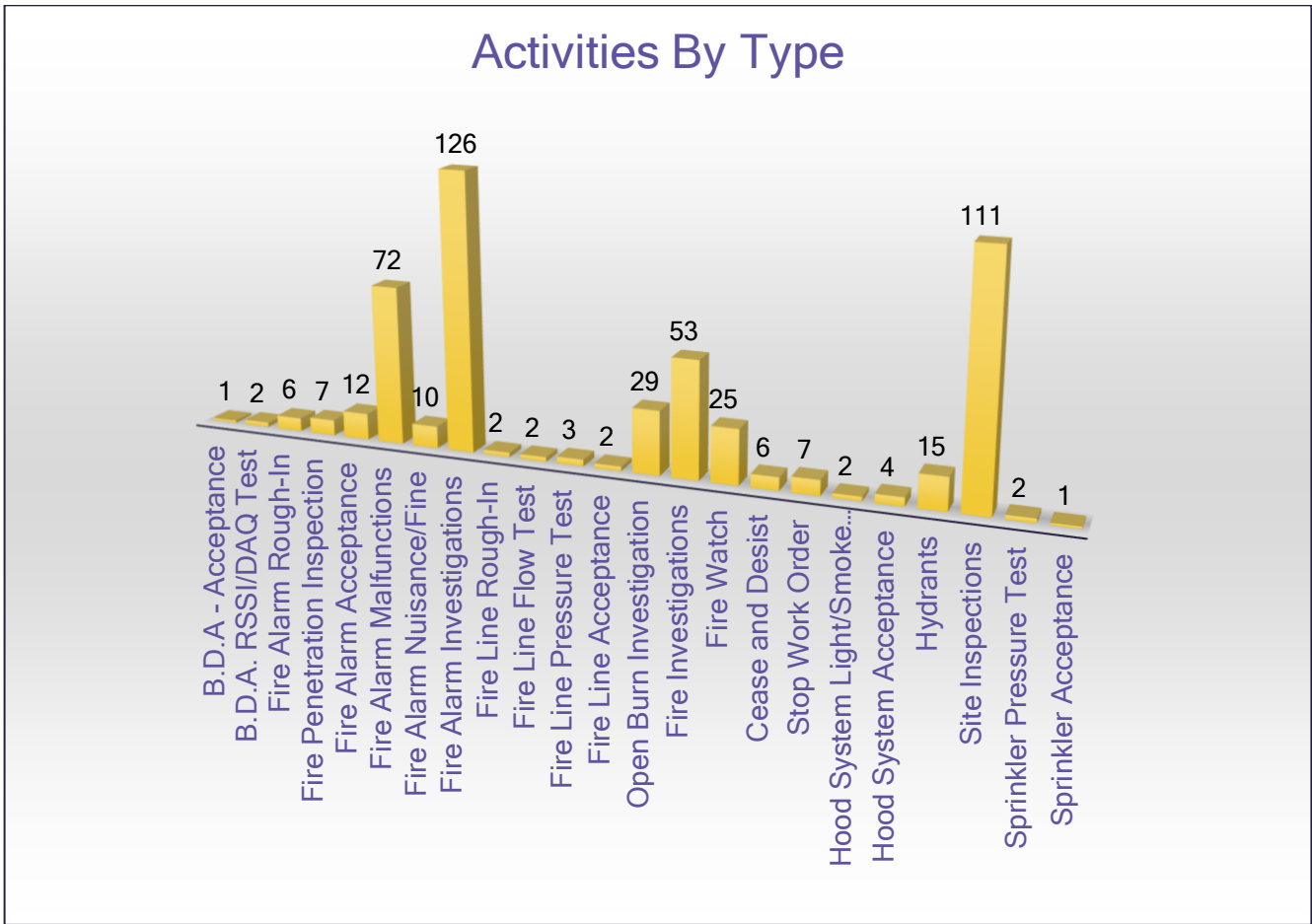
Annual Inspections:

- Annual Inspections: 1283
- Re-inspections: 540
- Total Inspections: 1823

Permit-Driven Inspections:

- B.D.A. Acceptance: 1
- B.D.A. RSSI/DAQ Test: 2
- Fire Alarm Rough-In: 6
- Fire Penetration Inspection: 7
- Fire Alarm Acceptance: 12
- Fire Alarm Malfunctions: 72
- Fire Alarm Nuisance/Fine: 10
- Fire Alarm Investigations: 126
- Fire Line Rough-In: 2
- Fire Line Flow Test: 2
- Fire Line Pressure Test: 3
- Fire Line Acceptance: 2
- Open Burn Investigation: 29
- Fire Investigations: 53
- Fire Watch: 25
- Cease and Desist: 6
- Stop Work Order: 7
- Hood System Light/Smoke Test: 2
- Hood System Acceptance: 4
- Hydrants: 15
- Site Inspections: 111
- Sprinkler Pressure Test: 2
- Sprinkler Acceptance: 1
- **Permit-Driven Inspections Total: 500**





• Pg. 7

Recommendations and Actions Taken

- Identified areas of non-compliance were addressed promptly through coordination with property owners and relevant authorities.
- Educational outreach programs were conducted to raise awareness about fire safety measures among the community.
- Collaboration with stakeholders to implement preventative measures and emergency action plans.

Future Initiatives:

- Identify, prioritize and define specific risks pertaining to West Manatee Fire Rescue District.
- Continued investment in resources to reduce community risk
- Develop and implement practices for capturing and documenting tasks completed.
- Continue to work with stakeholders in fine-tuning our scheduling process as it applies to TPLEs
- Continue to find new ways to engage the community and foster a culture of safety and preparedness.

Conclusion:

The Fire & Life Safety Bureau is committed to being the primary advocates for public and first responder safety. This is completed through the use of Engineering, Education and Enforcement. We continue to find new ways of preventing and mitigating fire-related risks and look forward to a safe year to come.



INVESTIGATION

100 Series

This report provides a detailed analysis of National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) 100 series codes received by West Manatee Fire Rescue District for the year 2023.



- Building Fire (Code 111)
 - In 2023, there were 12 building fires located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District with 4 mutual/automatic aid given, which is a total of 16 building fires.
 - 25% of mutual/automatic aid given calls are residential and 75% of mutual/automatic aid given calls are commercial.
 - 83% of building fires located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District are residential and 17% of building fires are commercial.
- Contained Cooking Fire (Code 113)
 - In 2023, there were 2 cooking fires located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District with 1 mutual/automatic aid given, which is a total of 3 cooking fires.
 - 100% of mutual/automatic aid given calls are residential.
 - 100% of cooking fires located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District are residential.

- Fire in mobile property used as a fixed structure (Code 120)
 - In 2023, there were 3 mobile property fires located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District with 0 mutual/automatic aid given, which is a total of 3 mobile property fires.
 - 100% of mobile property fires were located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District.
- Fire in Mobile Property (Fixed Structure) (Code 130)
 - In 2023, there was 1 fixed structure fire located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District with 2 mutual/automatic aid given, which is a total of 3 fixed structure fires.
 - 33% of fixed structure fires were located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District and 67% of fixed structure fires were mutual/automatic aid given.
- Water Vehicle Fire (Code 134)
 - In 2023, there was 1 water vehicle fire with 0 mutual/automatic aid given, which is a total of 1 water vehicle fire.
 - 100% of water vehicle fires were located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District.
- Natural Vegetation Fire (Code 140)
 - In 2023, there were 11 natural vegetation fires located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District with 2 mutual/automatic aid given, which is a total of 13 natural vegetation fires.
 - 85% of natural vegetation fires were located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District and 15% of natural vegetation fires were mutual/automatic aid given.
- Outside Rubbish Fire, other (Code 150)
 - In 2023, there were 8 outside rubbish fires in West Manatee Fire Rescue District with 0 mutual/automatic aid given, which is a total of 8 outside rubbish fires.
 - 100% of outside rubbish fires were located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District.
- Special Outside Fire (Code 160)
 - In 2023, there were 3 special outside fires in West Manatee Fire Rescue District with 0 mutual/automatic aid given, which is a total of 3 special outside fires.
 - 100% of special outside fires were located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District.

Conclusion:

- The total number of 100 series calls was 50 calls in West Manatee Fire Rescue District with 8 mutual/automatic given, which is a total of 58 fire calls.
 - 83% of fire calls were located in West Manatee Fire Rescue District and 17% of fire calls were mutual/automatic aid given.

700 series

This report provides a detailed analysis of National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) 700 series codes received by West Manatee Fire Rescue District for the year 2023. 2022 has been included for analysis

- Malicious Calls (Code 710)
 - In 2022 and 2023, there were no malicious calls.
 - Variance: 0
 - Percentage variance: 0%
- Malfunction (Code 735)
 - 2022 -WMFR responded to 98 malfunction alarms. 95 were in our district.
 - Variance: -3
 - Percentage variance: -3%
 - 2023 -WMFR responded 116 malfunction alarms. 112 were in our district.
 - Variance: -4
 - Percentage variance: -3%
 - Total call comparison between calendar year 2022 and 2023 (Including mutual aid)
 - 2022: 98
 - 2023: 116
 - Variance: +18
 - Percentage variance: +18%
 - Total call comparison between calendar year 2022 and 2023 (excluding mutual aid)
 - 2022: 95
 - 2023: 112
 - Variance: +17
 - Variance: +17%
- Two Malfunctions within 48 hours (Code 730)
 - 2022 - WMFR responded to 10 malfunction alarms within 48 hours. All 10 were in our district.
 - 2023 - WMFR responded to 7 malfunction alarms within 48 hours. All 7 were in our district.
 - Total call comparison between calendar year 2022 and 2023
 - Variance: -3
 - Percentage variance: -30%

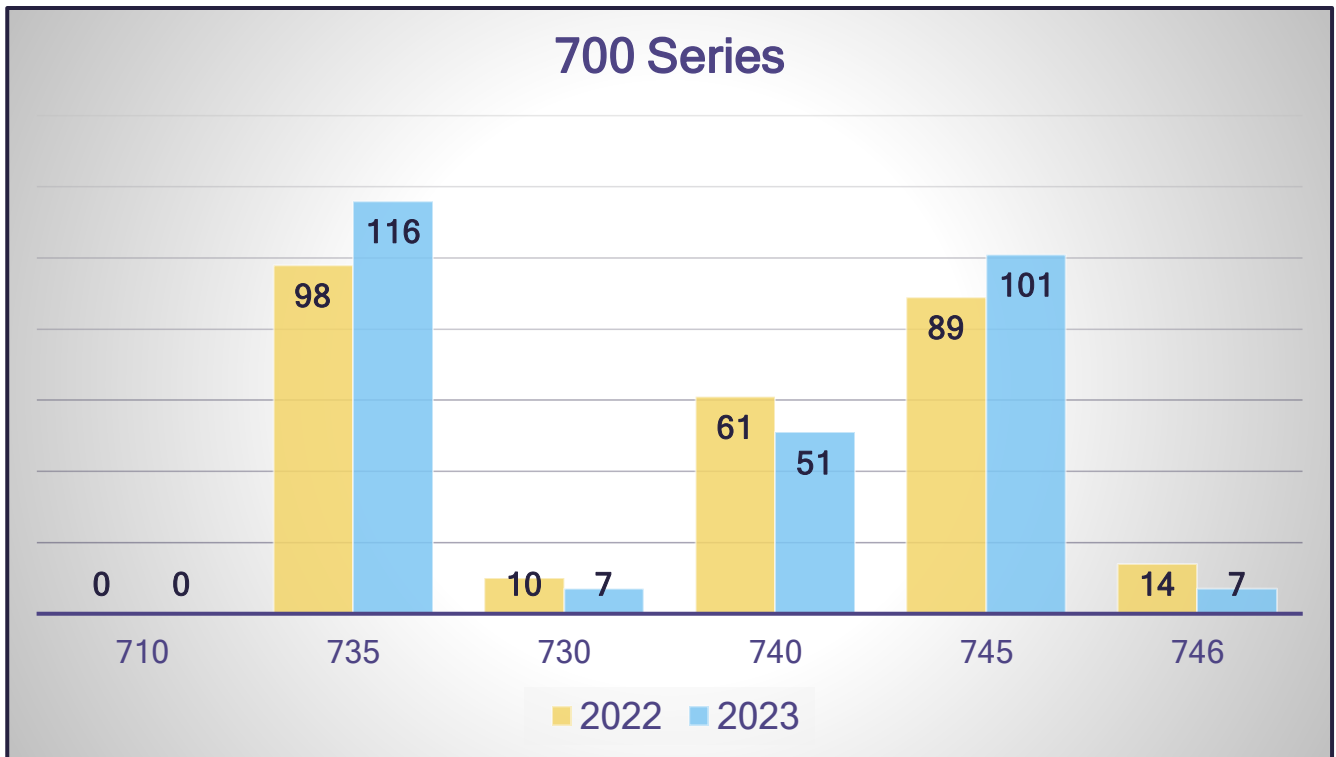
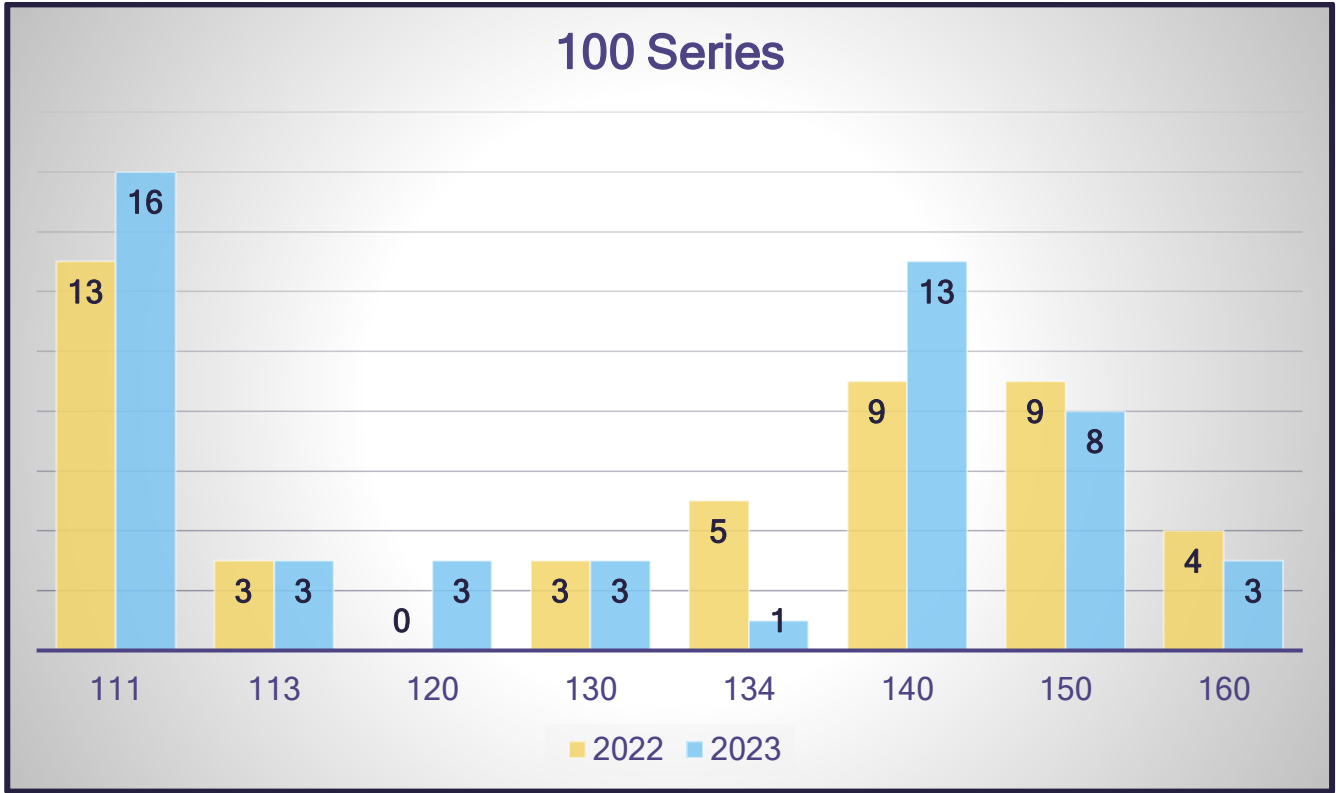
- Unintentional Transmission of alarm (Contractor activated) (Code 740)
 - 2022 - WMFR responded to 61 alarms activated by contractors. 60 were in our district.
 - Variance: -1
 - Percentage variance: -2%
 - 2023 - WMFR responded to 51 alarms activated by contractors. All were in our district.
 - Total call comparison between calendar year 2022 and 2023 (Including mutual aid)
 - 2022: 61
 - 2023: 51
 - Variance: -10
 - Percentage variance: -16%
 - Total call comparison between calendar year 2022 and 2023 (excluding mutual aid)
 - 2022: 60
 - 2023: 51
 - Variance: -9
 - Percentage variance: -15%
- Alarm system activation, no fire -Unintentional (Code 745) Malfunction
 - 2022 -WMFR responded to 89 unintentional alarms. 87 were in our district.
 - Variance: -2
 - Percentage variance: -2%
 - 2023 -WMFR responded to 101 unintentional alarms. 97 were in our district.
 - Variance: -4
 - Percentage variance: -4%
 - Total call comparison between calendar year 2022 and 2023 (Including mutual aid)
 - 2022: 89
 - 2023: 101
 - Variance: 12
 - Percentage variance: +13%
 - Total call comparison between calendar year 2022 and 2023 (excluding mutual aid)
 - 2022: 87
 - 2023: 97
 - Variance: 10
 - Variance: 11%

- Carbon monoxide detector activation (Code 746)
 - 2022 -WMFR responded to 14 carbon monoxide alarms. All 14 were in our district.
 - 2023 -WMFR responded to 7 carbon monoxide alarms. 7 were in our district.
 - Total call comparison between calendar year 2022 and 2023
 - 2022: 14
 - 2023: 7
 - Variance: -7
 - Percentage variance: -50%
- Combined 700 series mutual/automatic aid given.
 - 2022: 6
 - 2023: 8
 - Variance: +2
 - Percentage variance: +33%
- Total number of fire alarm calls WMFR responded to: (Including mutual/automatic aid)
 - 2022: 272
 - 2023: 282
 - Variance: +10
 - Percentage variance: +3%
- Total number of fire alarm calls WMFR responded to: (Excluding mutual/automatic aid)
 - 2022: 266
 - 2023: 274
 - Variance: +8
 - Percentage variance: +3%

Conclusion:

The Fire & Life Safety Bureau at West Manatee Fire Rescue District seeks to eliminate unnecessary 700 series alarm responses. A fire apparatus running "hot" places the community and first responders at risk. To that end, considerable effort has been made at educating alarmed building owners and property managers of their responsibilities. Additionally, the bureau has made tracking and trending 700 series calls a priority. Despite an overall increase of eight (8) 700 series responses in 2023 compared to 2022, we are highly encouraged by the consistency in our measuring metric and data outcome. We are committed to continued improvement and will spend training efforts in the first quarter of 2024 addressing the 700 series.

Charts:



District Buildings

Station 1

407 67th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34209



Fire Station # 1 was opened in the fall of 2016. The facility was engineered to withstand hurricane force winds.

Station 2

10350 Cortez Road West
Bradenton, FL 34210



Fire Station # 2 was re-modeled in 2014. The re-model included a complete tear down and rebuild of the living quarters to current building and wind code. In 2023 there was a new roof installed as well.

Station 3

6001 Marina Drive
Holmes Beach, FL 34217



Fire Station # 3 was originally constructed in 1983. In 2019 the interior spaces were re-modeled to provide privacy and better sleeping arrangements for personnel.

Administration Building

701 63rd Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34209



The Administrative Headquarters was completed in 2021, allowing the command staff a safe building to perform daily tasks and facilitate operations during severe weather and catastrophic incidents.

Emergency Response Apparatus

2020 Pierce Enforcer, E111



2014 Pierce Impel, E121



2016 Pierce Enforcer Aerial, L139



2023 Rescue 138



2019 Command Vehicle, B1



2016 Fire Boat 136



Contact Information

Administrative Headquarters
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Bradenton, FL 34209
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