



Umatilla County Fire District #1 2023 Annual Report

UCFD #1 is devoted to protecting the communities we serve by providing the highest quality of compassionate and professional services.



Table of Contents



~~3~~

A Letter from Chief Stanton

~~5~~

Operations Division

~~7~~

EMS Division

~~11~~

Training Division

~~15~~

Prevention Division

~~17~~

Accomplishments

~~18~~

Photos of the Year

A Letter from Chief Stanton

To Our Community,

The year 2023 brought many challenges and successes to the men and women of Umatilla County Fire District #1. The most noted challenge we had to overcome at District 1, and adapt to is the supply chain issues, increased costs of station renovations, and not having enough staff to cover all the calls. Yet, in 2023, we did see many wins and triumphs such as our first full year with our new shift schedule and the completion of Station 24's renovation and seismic upgrade.

In June we had our biggest wildland fire of the year. The fire began near the entrance to Hat Rock Road when a vehicle towing a trailer had mechanical issues and sparks started a fire in grass along Highway 730. With the heat and winds of the day the fire quickly grew to several hundred acres shutting down Highway 730 and evacuating residents in the area. Unfortunately, we were unable to contain the fire and it jumped the highway near Sand Station Park and ended up burning over 15,000 acres and into the State of Washington before the next morning. A state conflagration was enacted which brought resources in from around the state as well as an incident management team to oversee the containment and eventual extinguishment of the fire. Many fire departments throughout Umatilla, Morrow and Gilliam Counties, including partners from the state and federal governments helped to fight the initial fire.

The Fire District also set new records for calls for service in emergency medical calls and in total calls in 2023. At over 6,300 calls for service, we continue to see records every year. The high point was being able to fully implement our EMS only single role employees on a 24-hour basis to handle medical emergencies. While this is only part of the solution it will help to reduce delays in responses to calls.

UCFD #1 started our strategic planning process in the fall of 2019 and completed it in June 2020. This strategic plan gives the district direction and action items to implement for calculated growth and stability as we move forward. We continued with a review of the plan and extended it to 2024. We hope to review and build a new plan in 2024 to lead us into the next three to five years.



The Fire District's three biggest challenges currently are:

- General funding of additional personnel to handle the increasing calls of service
- Prioritizing bond expenditures as costs and inflation have outpaced our bond revenues
- Recruiting and retaining all levels of personnel from career to volunteers.
- NFPA 1720 Standard for Deployment and Staffing was only met 14% of the time and the standard is 80%. This is due to not having enough firefighters and running more emergency calls

2023 saw many challenges and wins for the District but as we look forward we are reminded we still have work to be done. At UCFD #1 our priority is to take care of our people so that they are healthy both physically and mentally. With the help of a new contract with Community Counseling Solutions we have our own in-house counselor, who also teaches resiliency classes to all employees. This was a huge step in the right direction to combat the mental health issues facing first responders today.

As always we are thankful for our Board of Directors and the support we get from them and our communities. It is my honor to serve as your Fire Chief and I am so proud and thankful of all the staff and citizens that make this an incredible community to work and live in.

Thank you,

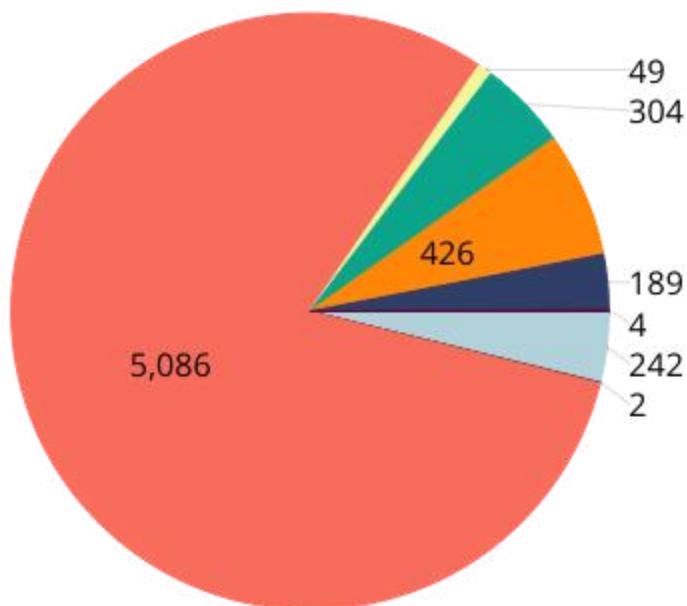


Operations Division Report

Deputy Chief James Davis

2023 Incidents by Type

6,302 Calls for Service



- Fire
- Overpressure Rupture
- Rescue & EMS
- Hazardous Condition
- Service Call
- Good Intent Call
- False Alarm
- Special Incident Type

Calls by Shift:

A-Shift

▼1492



B-Shift

▼1424



C-Shift

▼1629



D-Shift

▼1505



INCIDENTS BY MONTH	COUNT
January	311
February	423
March	543
April	543
May	550
June	560
July	546
August	570
September	523
October	531
November	493
December	505

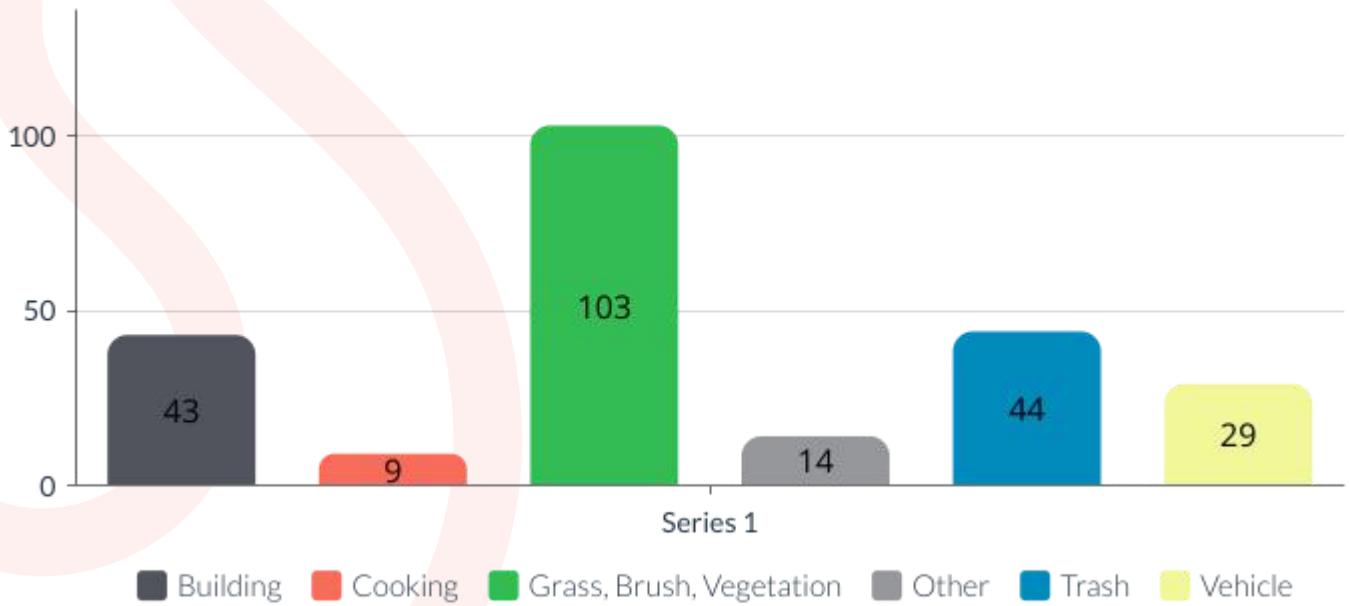
3.11%

2023 Call Volume: 6,302

This was a 3.11% increase in calls from 2022's call volume which was 6,125.

2023 Fires by Type

242 Incidents



EMS Division Report

Division Chief Corey Gorham

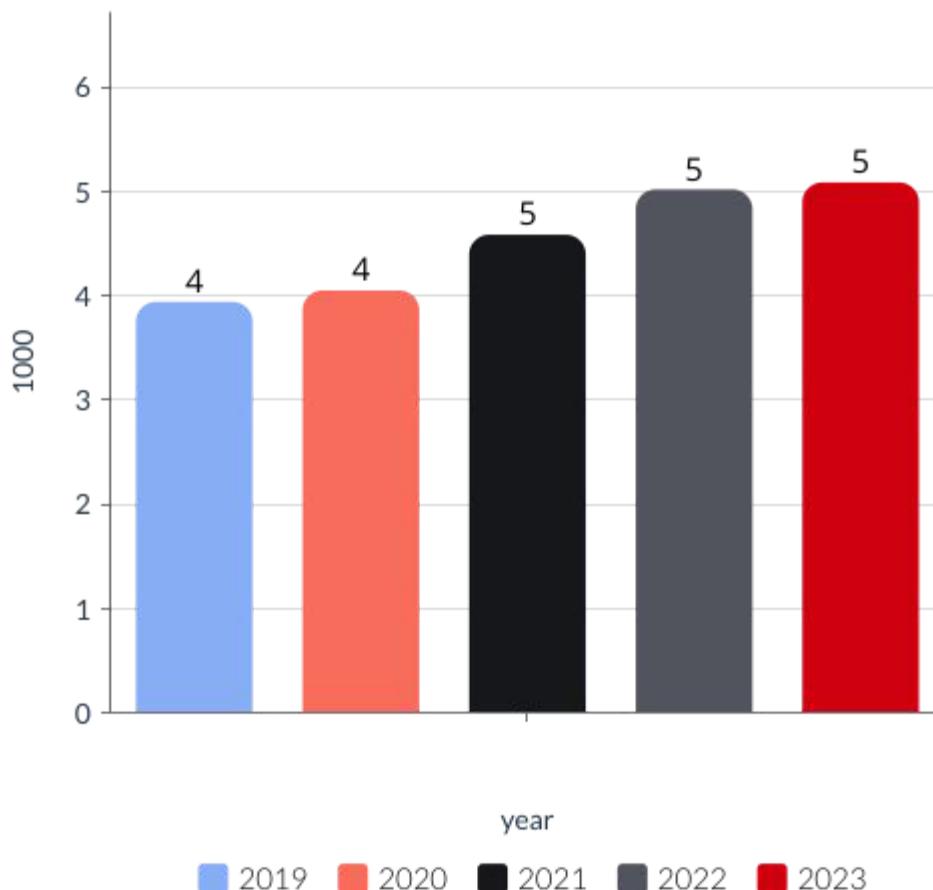
Umatilla County Fire District #1's Firefighter/Paramedics and EMTs responded to 5,086 medical emergencies in 2023, an average of 13.93 calls per day. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) call volume steadily increases and makes up almost 80% of the Fire District's calls for service. In 2023 the EMS call volume increased by one percent compared to 2022.

UCFD #1 deploys two medic units, staffed 24 hours per day, which respond to 911 calls for service and transports patients to Good Shepherd Medical Center as well as a specialized cardiac center in Washington. We have six medic units that are in service and certified and we also have one reserve medic unit that can be deployed if there is a spike in emergency calls for service. In addition to 911 calls, UCFD #1 also provides Interfacility Transports (IFT's) that transports patients from Good Shepherd Medical Center to specialized care in Portland, Spokane, Boise, Bend, and other areas.

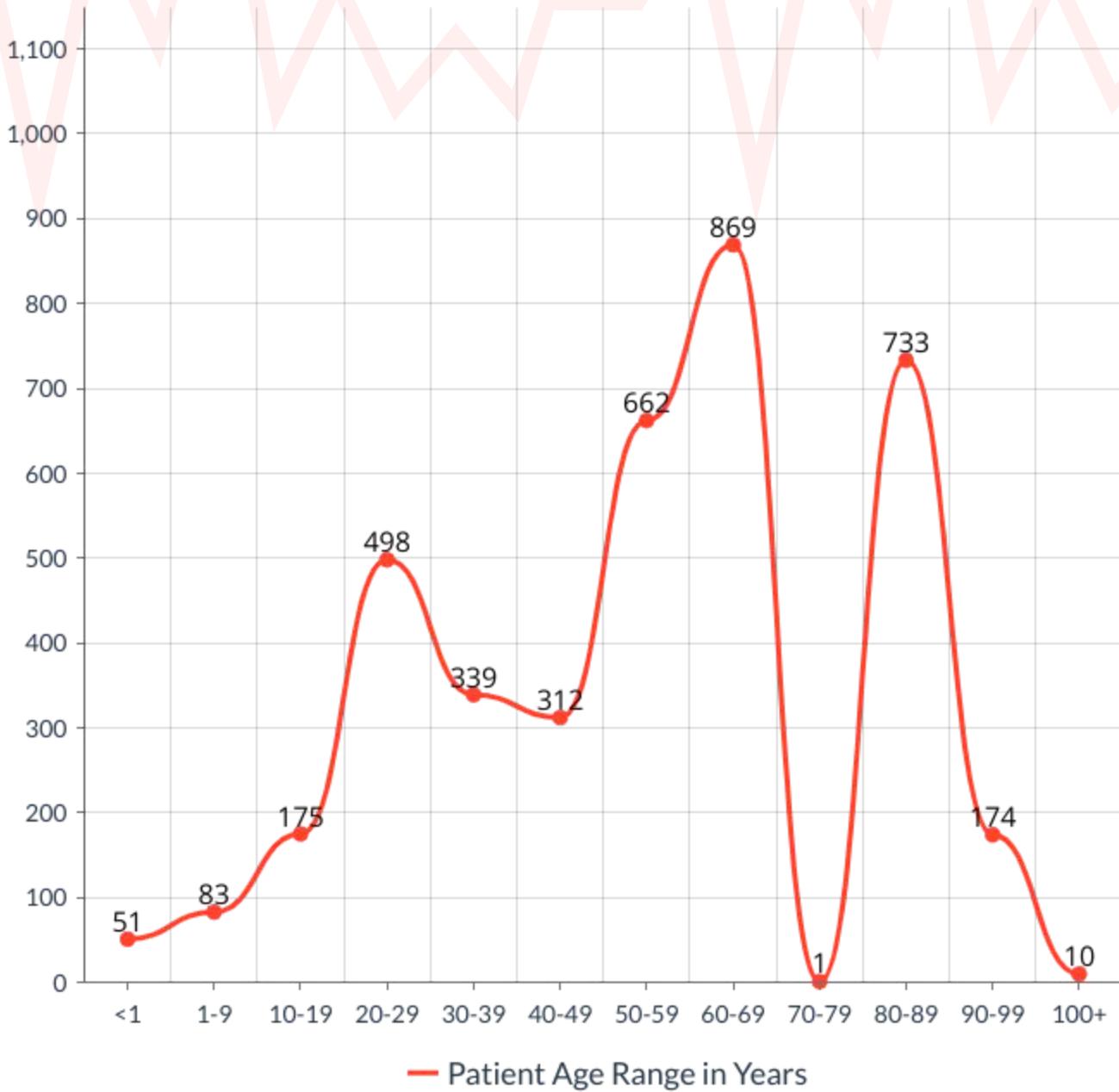
Thank you,

Corey Gorham
Division Chief of EMS

EMS Incidents by Year



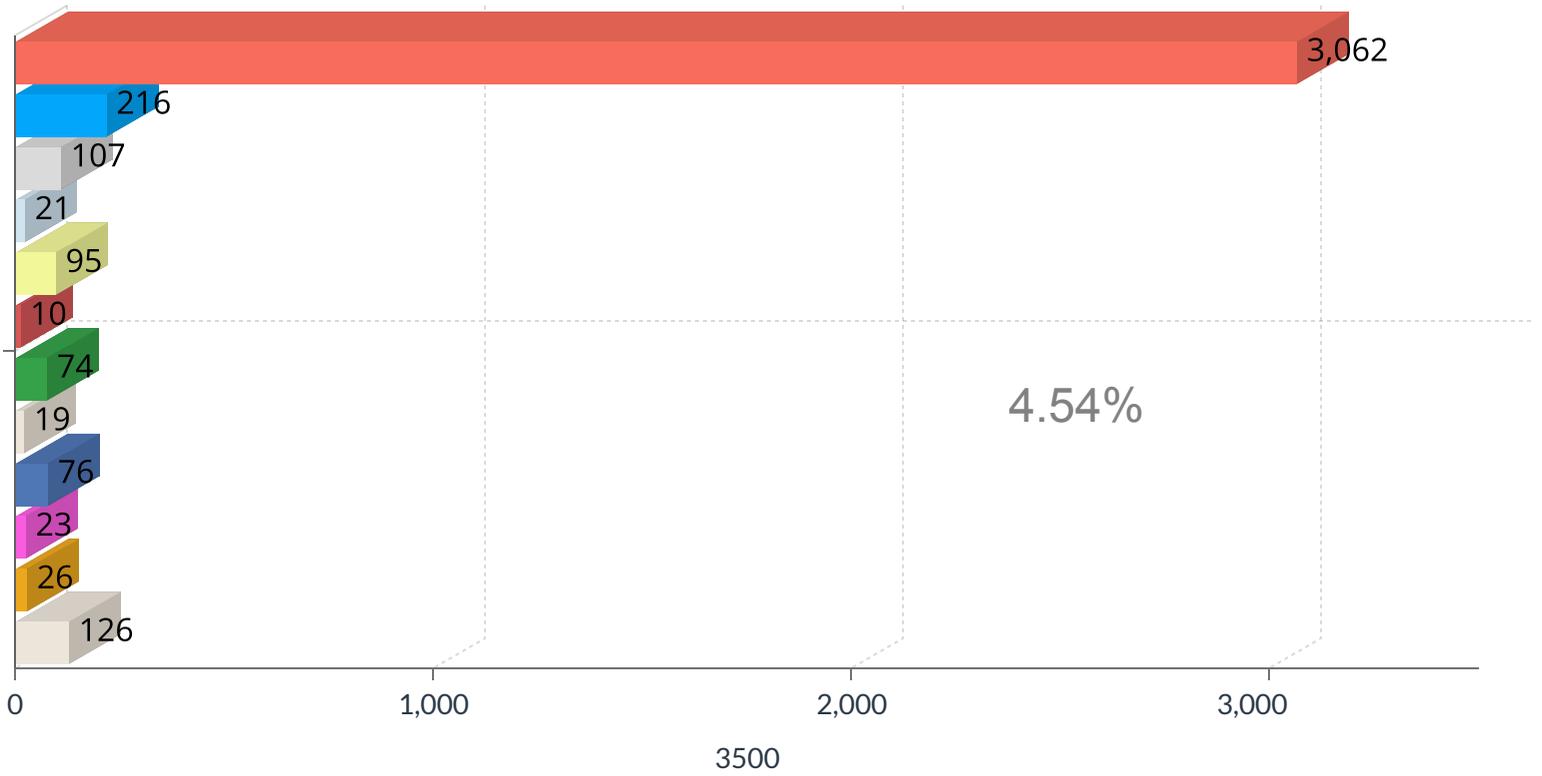
2023 Age of 4,953 Patients Treated



HOSPITAL TEAM ACTIVATIONS		2023
Type of Activation		Count
Biological/Infectious Precautions		13
Cardiac Arrest		9
Other Activation		44
Stemi		22
Stroke		61
Trauma Activation		31
Total		180

2023 Patients Transported

4,953 Patients Treated; 3,855 Transported



- Good Shepherd
- Hermiston Airport
- Kadlec Regional
- Legacy Emanuel
- Not Reported
- OHSU
- Other Facility
- Providence St. Mary
- Regency Nursing Home
- Sun Terrace
- TRCI
- Trios Southridge



Rescue & EMS Call Breakdown	2023
Type of Rescue & EMS Call	Count
Emergency Medical Service, Other	3,938
EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident with Injury	9
Extrication	3
Lift Assist with Patient Care Report	112
Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew	4
Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries	103
Motor Vehicle/Pedestrian Accident	9
Rescue or EMS Standby	30
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other	7
Search for Person	1
Swift Water Rescue	1
Total	5,086

Calls in Progress	% of Occurances
0 Calls in Progress	4.54%
1 Call in Progress	24.45%
2 Calls in Progress	35.62%
3 Calls in Progress	22.46%
4 Calls in Progress	8.99%
5 Calls in Progress	2.85%
6 Calls in Progress	0.79%
7 Calls in Progress	0.22%
8 Calls in Progress	0.04%
9 Calls in Progress	0.02%
10 Calls in Progress	0.01%
Total	100%

The chart to the left shows the amount of calls we had in progress when another call for service came in.



Training Division Report

Deputy Chief Richard Cearns

What We Do

Umatilla County Fire District #1 is devoted to protecting the communities we serve by providing the highest quality of compassionate and professional services. With that, the training division has many charges. Foremost among these is the continual facilitation of the ongoing training needs of the busiest emergency service system in Eastern Oregon. The District continued to try and meet the minimum training standards as set by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, Special Districts, Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, National Fire Protections Associations, Insurance Services Office, National Wildfire Coordinating Group and Oregon Health Authority. We were successful in meeting some of the standards but not all. Our District employs firefighters dually trained in emergency medicine and firefighting. Most of our employees are certified as Paramedics and thus subject to strict training requirements outlined by the State of Oregon. We hold our Firefighters to state mandated standards in highly technical areas, each with their associated training requirements. Some of the areas of training include firefighting tactics and strategy, fire attack, emergency driving, personnel management, hazardous materials, rope rescue operations, wildland, and medical care for the sick and injured.

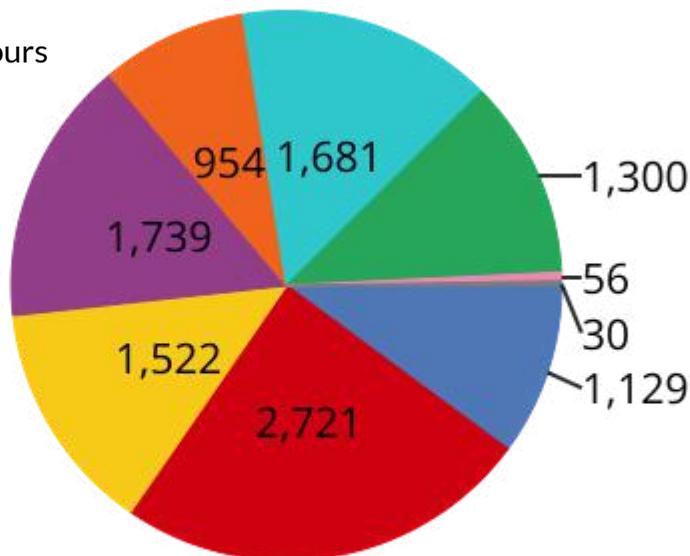
Training

Every two years, the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) requires its fire service agencies to complete Maintenance Re-certification for the retention of fire service professional certifications. At the end of every two-year cycle (even years) the training division must certify all members of the organization.

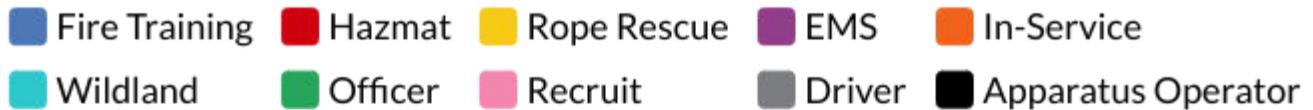
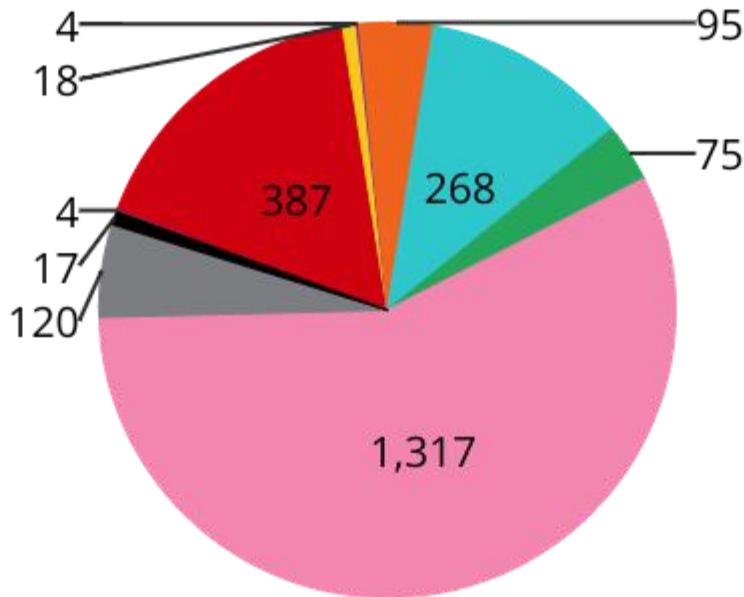
Along with the maintenance training for line crews, the training division is responsible for recruitment, hiring, training, quality improvement, health and safety, and retention of Resident Interns and paid-on-call members.

11,130.88 Total Training Hours

- 7,592.44 Fire Training Hours
- 3,238.44 EMS Training Hours



Training Hour Breakdown



Moving Forward in 2024

2024 is proving to be a great year in training for our organization. The Training Division is gearing up for several tasks. First, we will be working on an in-service program for our new tower ladder (Tower 21) afforded to us by the bond. Second, we will be working on an in-service program for our new grant funded wildland interface engine. Third, we will be developing a new 12-week academy for all new members of the organization. Lastly, we will be working on rejuvenating our probation at all levels and our Acting in Capacity (AIC) program.

2024 will be another action-packed year in meeting our training goals and mission. Along with continuing to develop and implement our new programs, 2024 is also an Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) recertification year. Fire certification holders will be recertified by the State of Oregon in December. This entails 120 hours of didactic learning and hands on skill verification. Recertification will not be an issue because continued education and drills in fire topics occurs monthly to ensure our members are up to date on current standards to provide the best service to those in need.

2023 Accomplishments

- Onboarding one new career Firefighter/Paramedic and three Firefighter/EMT's to include two, four-week academies.
- Onboarding three new RI's to include one, four-week academy
- All emergency responder staff certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- Purchased and put into service seven (7) new Zoll X-Series Advanced cardiac monitors
- Purchased and implemented case review (case review is a quality assurance program)
- Relicensed all our emergency responders to their EMS level

Below you will find some of the Training Division goals for 2024:

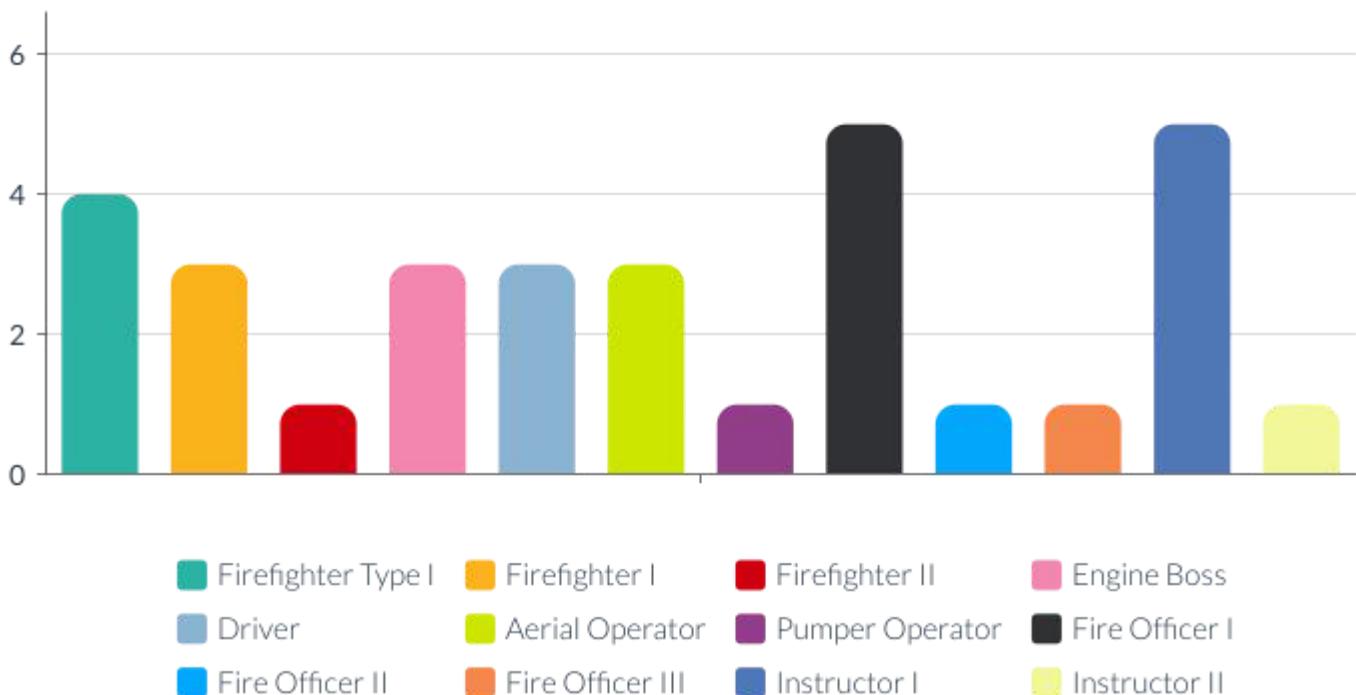
- Continue to motivate members with high quality training
- Grow and expand our in-house and regional training capabilities
- Develop and implement training standards based on industry best practices
- Establish and implement a vibrant career development program to guide the entire department's employees
- Maintain an accurate training calendar based on the two-year training plan; topics are identified, and supported utilizing interested and motivated instructors providing quality training in a positive learning environment
- Maintain training compliance with the following organizations:
 - OR-OSHA
 - DPSST
 - ISO
 - SDAO
 - NWCG
- Successful completion of DPSST recertification for all our members
- Continue to foster and grow our Resident Intern and Paid-on-Call programs
- Continue a collaborative relationship with BMCC Fire Science/EMS program
- Expand training partnerships with our surrounding communities
- Develop, foster, and grow relationships with stakeholders

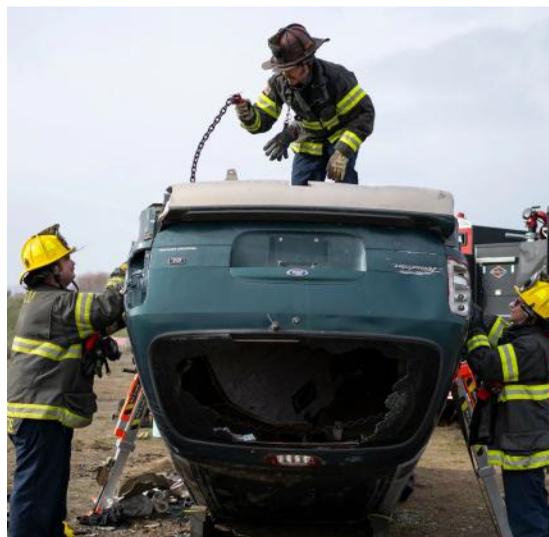
Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not recognize and thank the incredible people who make the Umatilla County Fire District #1 such a special place to work. The District fosters an open and welcoming environment for a diverse range of employees and volunteers who all contribute in unique ways. From the Board of Directors, the Fire Chief, Leadership, Career, Paid-on-call, and the Resident Interns- it takes all of these valuable individuals to create the 'who' of our district. Everyone is dedicated to serving the community with the highest level of dedication and professionalism as indicated in the training hours last year. Without your help and support the Training Division would not be able to accomplish half of what it did in 2023! The Training Division looks forward to growth and development within our District as we continue to build our organization's structure.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Cearns
Deputy Chief of Strategic Services

2023 Certifications





Fire Prevention Division Report

Fire Marshal Scott Goff



2023 remained a busy year for the Fire Prevention Division for Umatilla County Fire District #1.

The Fire Prevention Division has 1.25 Positions assigned. This includes a full-time Division Chief/Fire Marshal, and Paid-on-Call Fire Inspector, Safety Educator, and Fire Investigator. In the Fall of 2023 Umatilla County Fire District #1 received a 3-year capacity grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office for \$285,000.00 to add a full-time Deputy Fire Marshal to the Prevention Division. A hiring process was completed in November, and the position will be filled in January 2024.

Officer Erickson, our Safety Educator, returned to the elementary school classrooms at the elementary schools in Hermiston. She continues to come up with innovative ideas for projects for the kids to complete during her classroom sessions that result in safety messages being taken home to parents.

The prevention division conducted 31 plans reviews for new construction within the Fire District in 2023.

25 Smoke Alarms were installed throughout the fire district that were a combination of purchased and donated alarms. Donated alarms have come from the American Red Cross. Many of these were installed in coordination with our Community Paramedic who visits numerous homes throughout the Fire District and includes a smoke alarm check as part of the services provided by that program.

There were 62 inspections conducted throughout the year that were a combination of State Licensing, Complaint, and Fire Code Inspections. Many of these were completed through the Oregon Company Inspector program adopted by the Fire District. This is a 1-day training course that has allowed for staff to return to work sooner following injury or illness with work restrictions that do not allow for fire and EMS duties to be conducted.



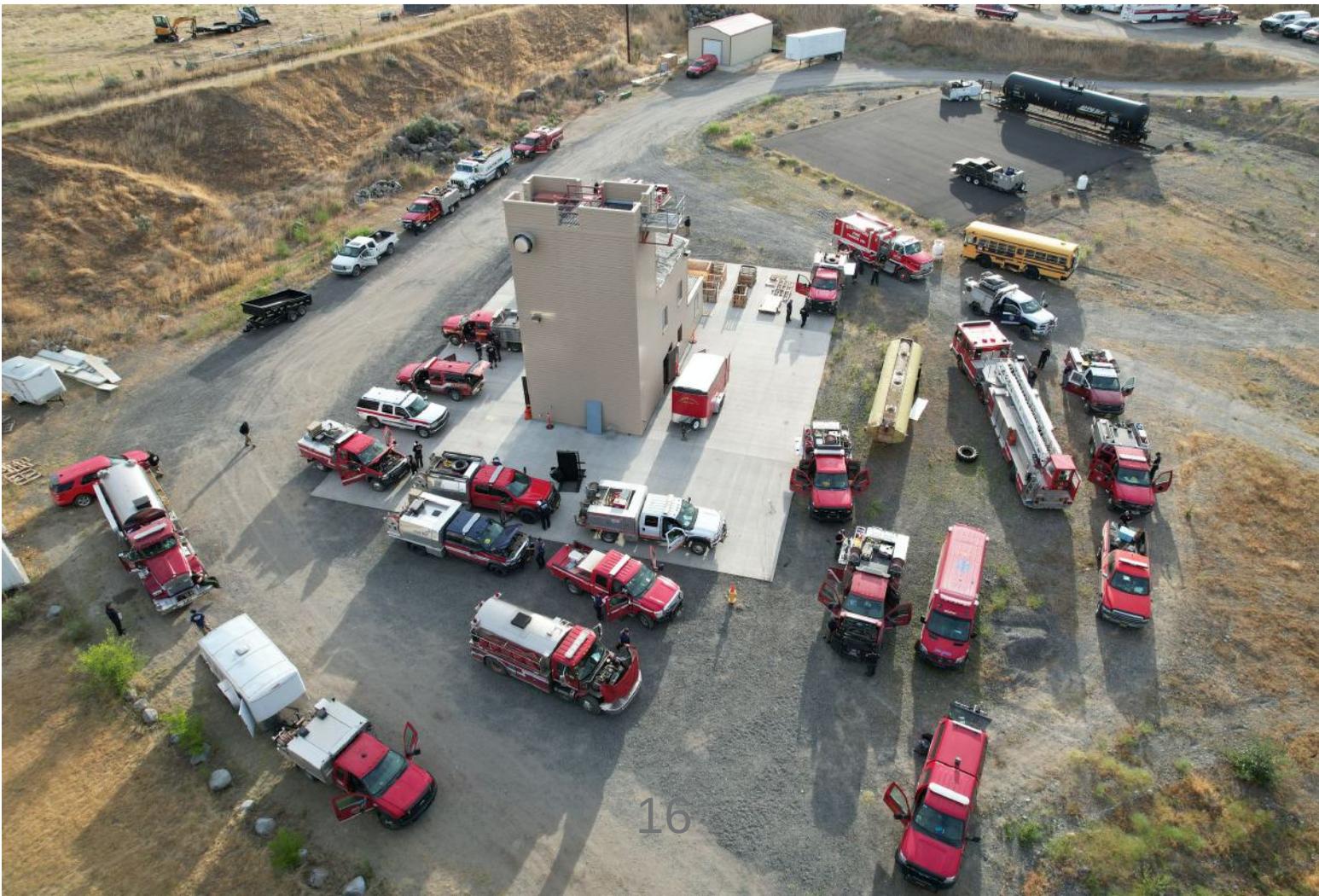


28 fire origin and cause investigations were conducted in 2023 including 2 large wildland fires that resulted in a Governor declared conflagration. In coordination with the Oregon State Fire Marshal, Fire Department resources were mobilized from across the State to assist with containment and extinguishment of these fires. This also included aircraft that were able to fill from the Columbia River and drop this water at the front of the fire to slow or stop fire progress. Umatilla County Fire District #1 worked with the Bureau of Land Management on 5 separate fire investigations that either started on or moved onto lands protected by the agency.

The largest of these fires burned over 15,000 acres, pushed by West winds, and burned into the State of Washington. This fire was caused by the failure of a wheel bearing on a trailer being towed along Highway 730. The tire separated from the trailer and traveled across the lanes of Highway 730 igniting fire on the South side of the highway. The axel was drug along the pavement causing sparks and hot parts to ignite fire along the North side of Highway 730. Winds were blowing out of the West at 22 miles per hour with gusts pushing the fire East along the Highway. All combined it was very challenging fire for all involved.

Thank you,

Scott Goff
Fire Marshal



2023 District Accomplishments

- Implemented a 24 hour EMS-Only ambulance.
- UCFD #1 honored employees at the Annual Awards Banquet. The recipients were:
 - Gaige Phillips - Firefighter of the Year
 - Paul Diaz - Rookie of the Year
 - Melissa Griffin - Medic of the Year
 - Ed Clark - Fire Officer of the Year
 - Wes Blood - Excellence in Training
 - Whitney Sitton - Chief's Award
 - Nickolas Oatley - Chief's Award
- Our stairclimb team raised \$17,152 for the 32nd Annual LLS Firefighter Stairclimb.
- Completed the seismic retrofitting and renovation of Station 24 in Stanfield, OR.
- Deputy Chief Jim Forquer retired.
- New Engine 21 was put in service.
- Two new heavy brush trucks were put in service.
- Awarded a grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal for a Type-3 Engine.
- Awarded the Fire Service Capacity Grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal for a Deputy Fire Marshal.
- Awarded a grant from Roundhouse Foundation for the Resident Intern Program.



2023 PHOTOS OF THE YEAR





Pride, Honor & Dedication



Stay updated by following Umatilla County Fire District #1's social media channels!

@firedistrictone



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