



STILLWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Stillwater Fire Department

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STILLWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT



From the Desk of Fire Chief Stuart Glaser

2023 Annual Report: Message from the Fire Chief

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Stillwater Fire Department Annual Report. Stillwater Fire is honored and proud to serve each citizen and visitor to our community with **P**rofessionalism, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**edication and **E**xcellence - **P.R.I.D.E.!**

2023 saw the highest call volume in Stillwater Fire's history. The Department responded to 2,409 calls for service. The increase in call volume continues to grow as Stillwater maintains its highly attractive regional popularity as a destination city and the tourism industry flourishes in the downtown district.

2023 Highlights:

- Hired two new volunteer paid-on-call personnel.
- Began implementing recommendations from the 2022 Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover study.
- Took delivery and placed new 28 foot Stanley Fireboat in service.
- Developed specifications for technical rescue/command vehicle for purchase in 2024.
- Conducted numerous hours of training and education throughout the year.
- Advertised and posted for two full-time career Firefighter/Engineer positions for hire in 2024.

As Stillwater Fire enters 2024 many projects and activities are already in process. Several large construction projects and developments are moving forward requiring code and plan review services. Special events continue to provide fun and enjoyment for residents and visitors to our community. Long term strategic planning and working to implement the City Council's vision of our community continues. The fire department will provide input and help the Council meet these goals.

I look forward to continuing to serve the City of Stillwater and our surrounding communities and am extremely proud of all the dedicated men and women of Stillwater Fire who are committed to protecting our citizens.

Sincerely,

Stuart W. Glaser

Stuart W. Glaser

Fire Chief

COMMUNITIES SERVED

CITY OF STILLWATER

Mayor

Ted Kozlowski

City Council

Ryan Collins
David Junker
Larry Odebrecht
Mike Polehna

City Administrator

Joe Kohlmann

City Clerk

Beth Wolf

CITY OF GRANT

Mayor

Jeff Huber

City Council

John Rog
Jeff Giefer
Tom Carr
Bob Tufty

City Clerk

Kim Points

MAY TOWNSHIP

Township Supervisors

John Pazlar
Steve Magner
Don Rolf

Town Clerk

Bobbi Hummel

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP

Township Supervisors

Shelia-Marie Untiedt
Tim Sinclair
Robert Geisen
Alan Robbins-Fenger
Jim Riehle

Township Clerk

Barbara Riehle

Response Area - 53 Square Miles

Highway 36 - Southern Border

150th Street - Northern Border

St. Croix River - Eastern Border

Keats Avenue North - Western Border

Demographics

Historic Downtown
Stillwater

Law Enforcement
Center

Adult care facilities

Single / multi-family
residential

High-rise

Commercial

Industrial

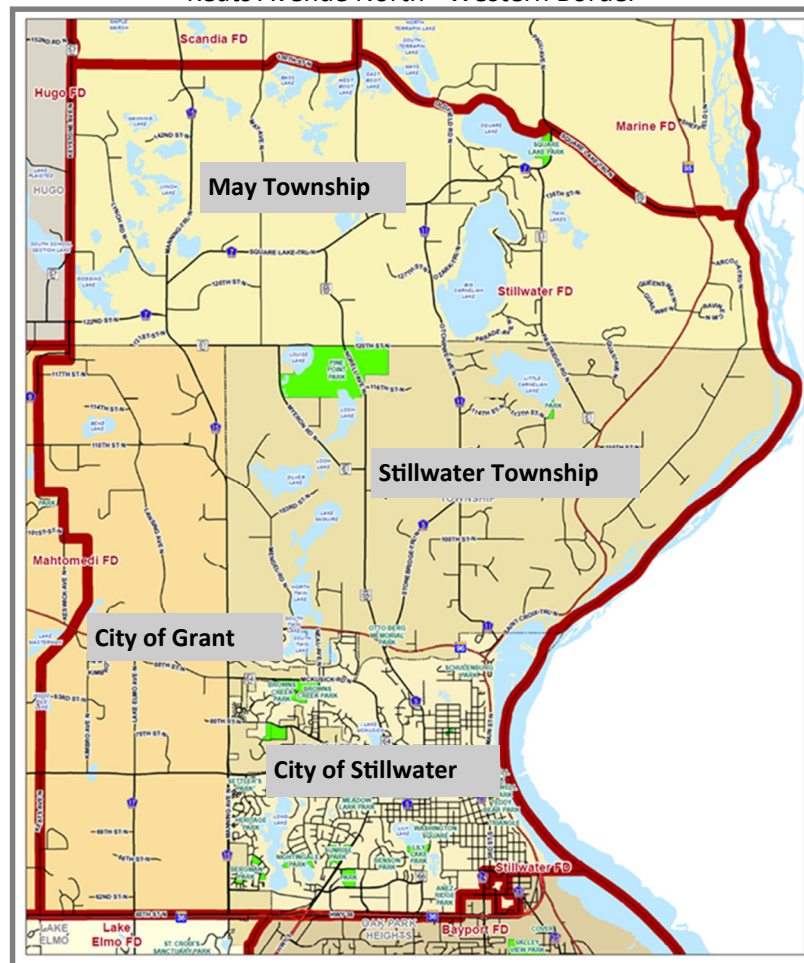
Schools

Clinics

Hospital

Senior assisted living
facilities

Nursing homes



Geography

Bluffs

Cliffs

Ravines

Railways

Highways

Rivers

Lakes

Swamps

Agricultural

Forested areas

Recreation trails and
parks

FIRE SERVICES PROVIDED

Fire Suppression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure - Residential/Commercial • Wildland/Urban Interface/Grass • Marine • Auto 	Technical Rescue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto and Machinery Extrication • High Angle Rope Rescue • Confined Space Rescue • Collapse • Hostile Event Response • Terrorism
Basic Life Support (BLS) Non-Transport Emergency Medical Services (EMS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Emergencies • CPR and AED Certified • Advanced Airway Placement • Assist Lakeview EMS • Blood Pressure Wellness Checks 	Water & Ice Rescue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ice Rescue - Swift Water Rescue • Dive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Washington County Fire Dive Team • Boat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - River and Lakes
Code Enforcement/Inspections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Construction • Commercial • Multi-Family Residential • Daycare/Foster Care • Special Events 	Hazardous Conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Spill/Gas Leak • Powerline Down • Electrical wiring • Lightning Strike
Fire & Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-service training for businesses; fire extinguisher, AED and CPR • Drills and exercises - conduct drills, exercise and re-view emergency plans for assisted living facilities, schools and area businesses 	Fire Prevention & Life Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Visits and Activities • Open House • Senior Center Presentations • General Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safety Presentations
Community Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Events • Station Tours • Child Safety Seat Inspections 	Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Station - Maintain building, grounds, and mechanical equipment • Trucks and response equipment - Daily inspections and inventory of apparatus and equipment

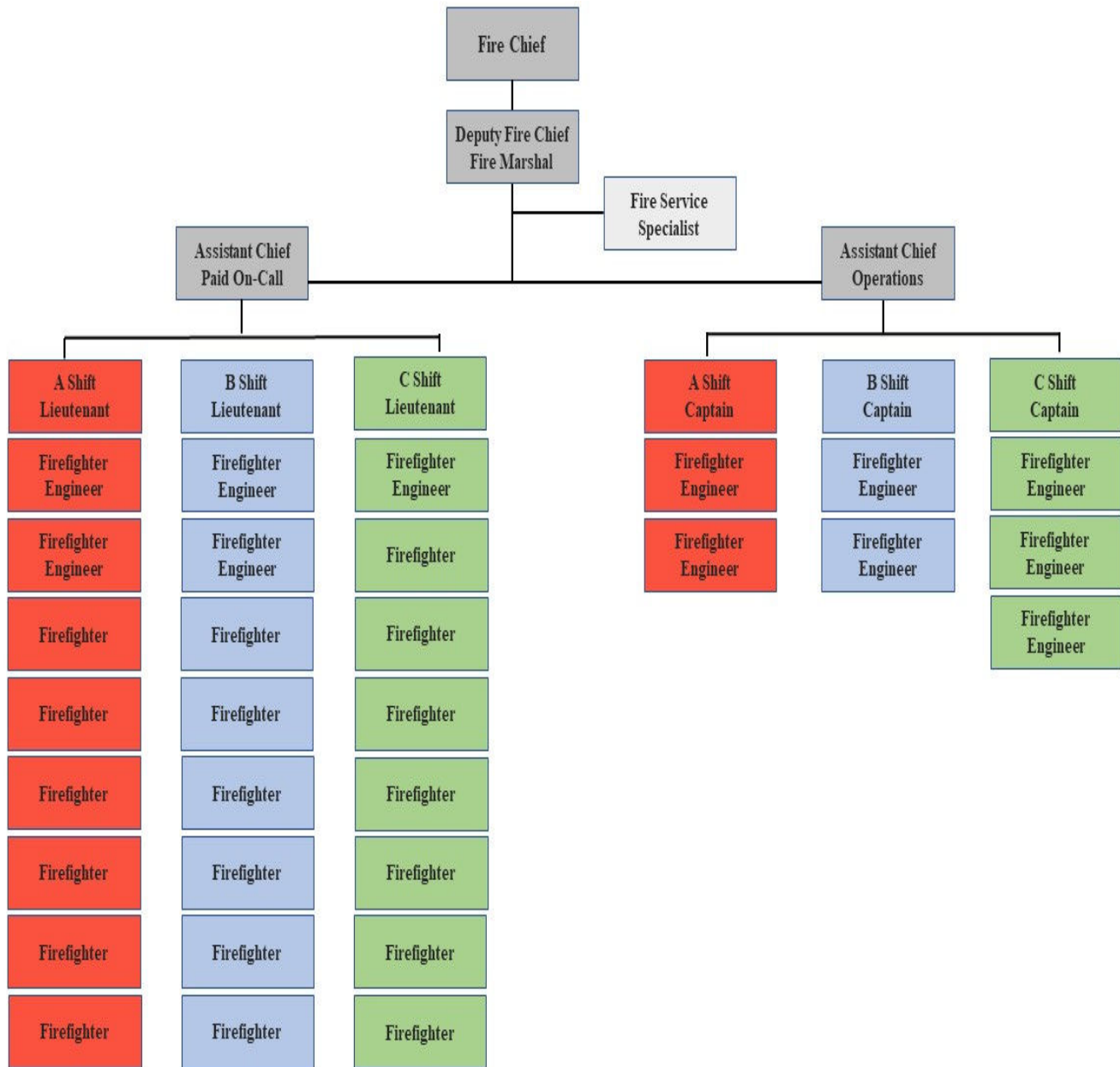


Training - House Burn



Rappelling at SFD Open House

STILLWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



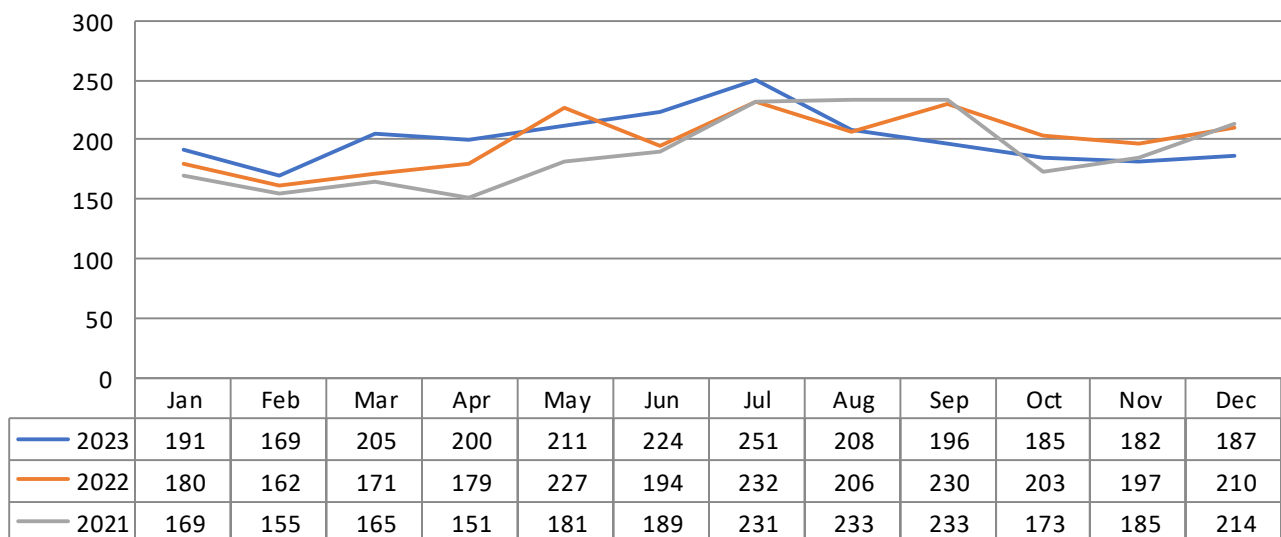
Stillwater Fire Department is a combination Department consisting of 13 career fire personnel and up to 30 volunteer paid-on-call firefighters. Career staff consist of the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal, Assistant Chief of Operations, three Captains and seven Firefighter/Engineers. The Department is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days per week with a minimum of two personnel on duty at all times.

Volunteer paid-on-call personnel respond to incidents when they are paged. In 2023, 189 incidents were toned for volunteer paid-on-call firefighters to assist on calls. Stillwater Fire had eleven vacancies in their volunteer paid-on-call positions in 2023. Personnel shortages have coincided with a significant increase in the role of fire departments in emergency response over the decades. Calls for service have expanded to include medical calls, hazardous materials response, pandemic response and active shooter incidents.

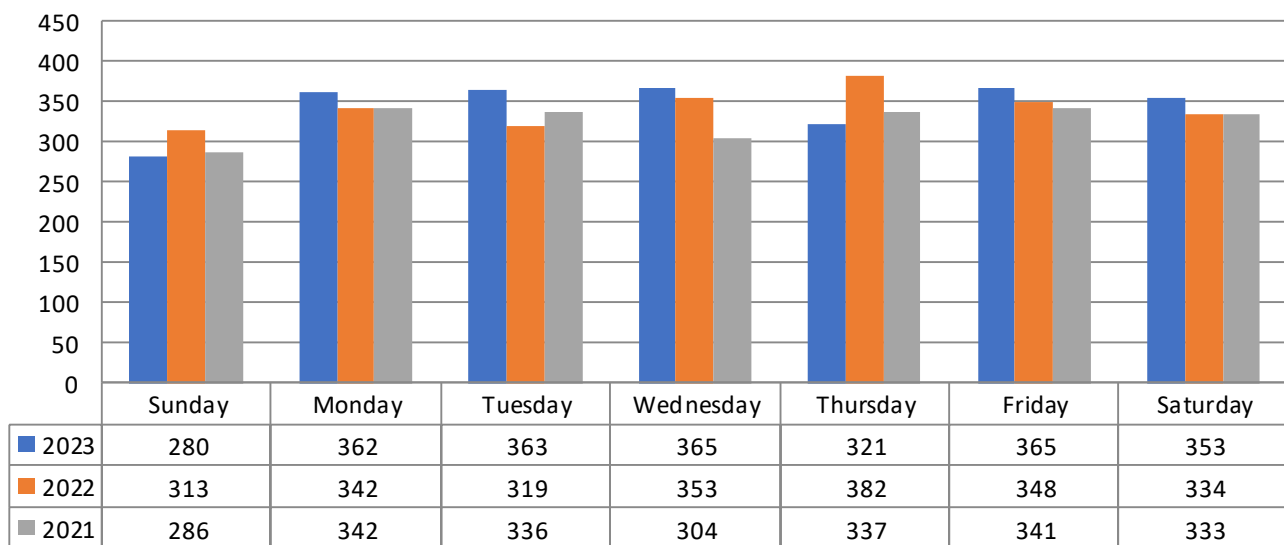
Call volume continues to increase and more demand is put on the volunteer paid-on-call to respond to calls which at times is difficult due to family commitments, their full-time employment, and life in general.

2023 RESPONSE SUMMARY

Fire Call Volume by Month

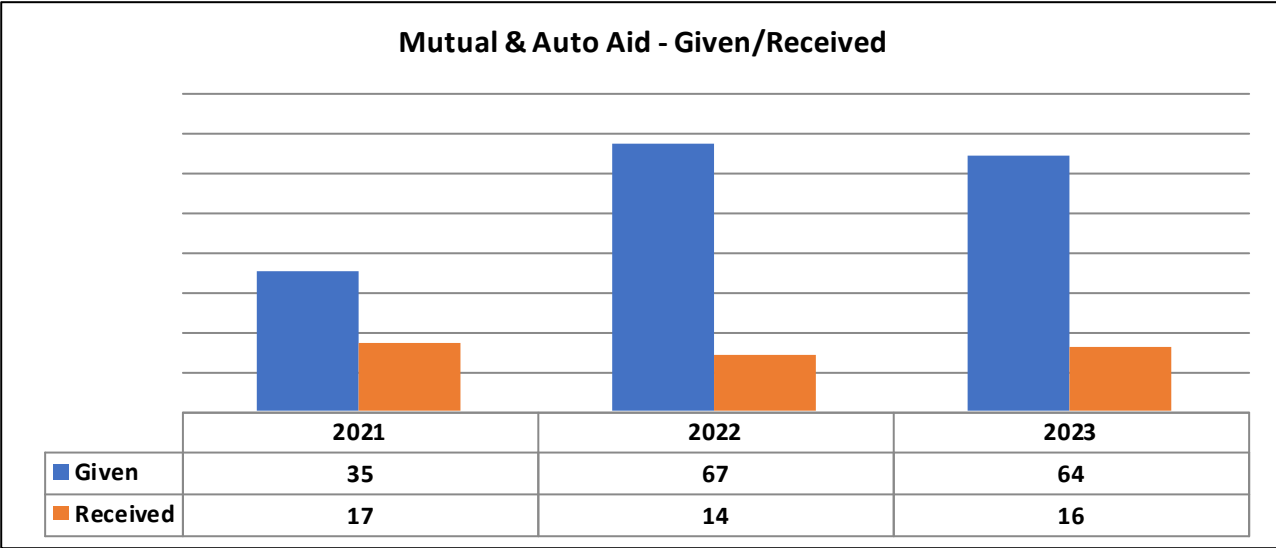
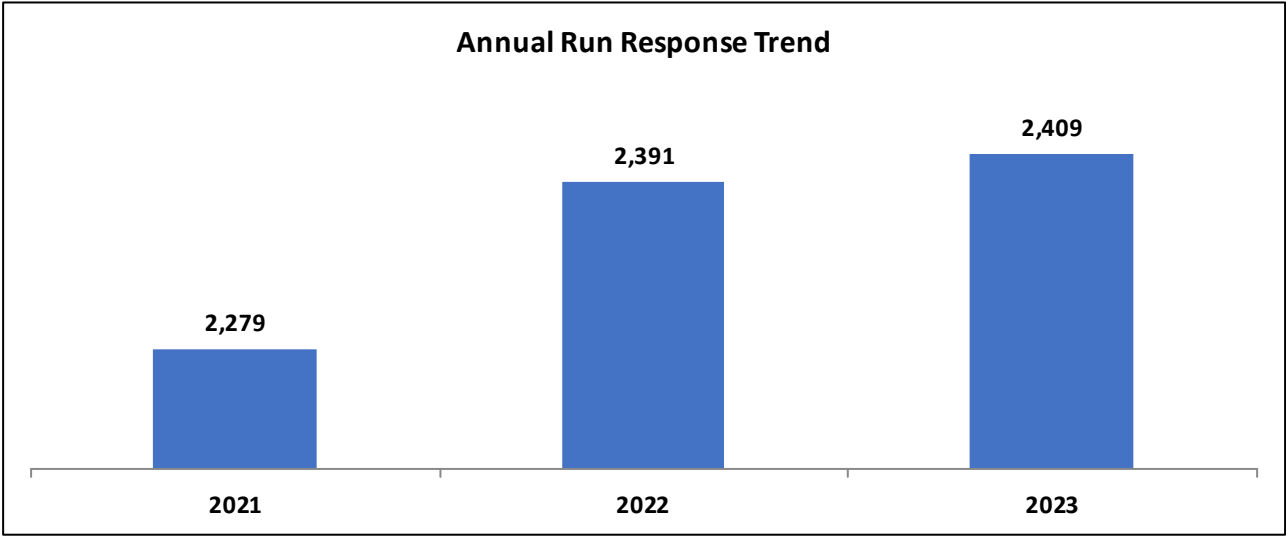
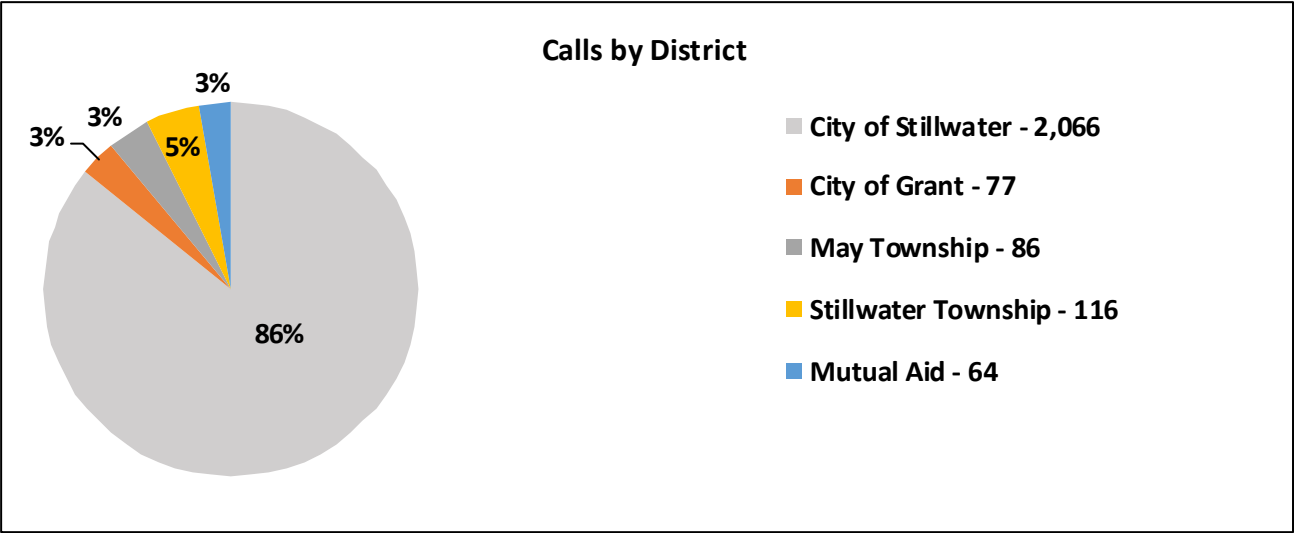


Fire Call Volume by Day of Week



William Street Incident



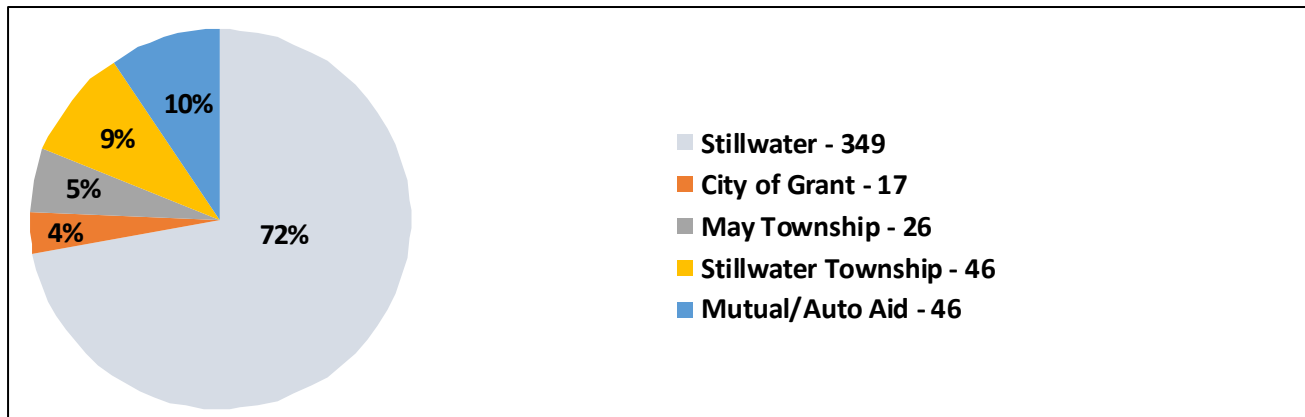


2023 RESPONSE DETAIL

* CITY OF STILLWATER, CITY OF GRANT, MAY TOWNSHIP, STILLWATER TOWNSHIP

FIRES	CITY OF STILLWATER	CITY OF GRANT	MAY TOWNSHIP	STILLWATER TOWNSHIP	MUTUAL/AUTO AID GIVEN	DISTRICT TOTAL
Structure	9	1	4	2	10	26
Vehicle	5	2	0	1	6	14
Brush/Other	8	0	0	3	3	14
Motor Vehicle Accidents/Extrication	52	1	7	6	18	84
Technical Rescue	27	1	1	2	9	40
Alarms	119	7	6	6	0	138
Hazardous Materials	43	1	3	4	0	51
Electrical	21	3	0	5	0	29
Power Line	32	0	3	9	0	44
Smoke	20	1	1	5	0	27
Carbon Monoxide	13	0	1	3	0	17
TOTAL FIRE CALLS	349	17	26	46	46	484
SERVICE CALLS	CITY OF STILLWATER	CITY OF GRANT	MAY TOWNSHIP	STILLWATER TOWNSHIP	MUTUAL/AUTO AID GIVEN	DISTRICT TOTAL
Assist Invalid	122	1	2	3	0	128
Assist Police/Sheriff	4	0	0	1	1	6
Public Assist	109	2	2	5	5	123
Controlled Burn	7	8	3	19	0	37
Cancelled Enroute	46	6	2	2	9	65
TOTAL SERVICE CALLS	288	17	9	30	15	359
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) CALLS	CITY OF STILLWATER	CITY OF GRANT	MAY TOWNSHIP	STILLWATER TOWNSHIP	MUTUAL/AUTO AID GIVEN	DISTRICT TOTAL
EMS	1,370	40	50	40	2	1,502
EMS Cancelled	59	3	1	0	1	64
TOTAL EMS CALLS	1,429	43	51	40	3	1,566
DISTRICT TOTALS	CITY OF STILLWATER	CITY OF GRANT	MAY TOWNSHIP	STILLWATER TOWNSHIP	MUTUAL/AUTO AID GIVEN	DISTRICT TOTAL
*District total includes Mutual and Auto Aid Calls	2,066	77	86	116	64	2,409

District Related Fire Calls 484 - Total Includes Mutual & Auto Aid

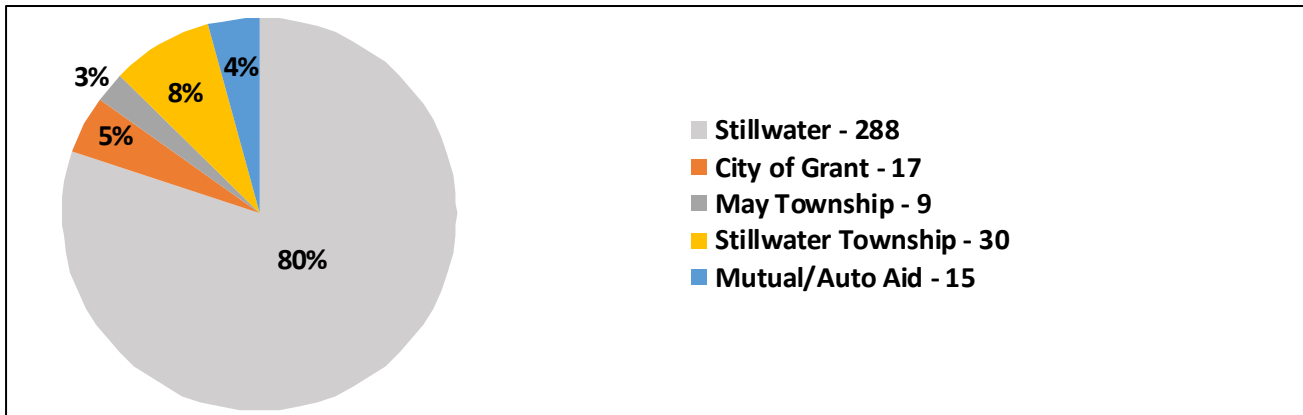


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Technical Rescue	27	1	1	2	9	40
Alarms	119	7	6	6	0	138
Hazardous Materials	43	1	3	4	0	51
Electrical	21	3	0	5	0	29
Power Line	32	0	3	9	0	44
Smoke	20	1	1	5	0	27
Carbon Monoxide	13	0	1	3	0	17
TOTAL FIRE CALLS	349	17	26	46	46	484



Mutual Aid Structure Fire

District Related Service Calls 359 - Total Includes Mutual & Auto Aid

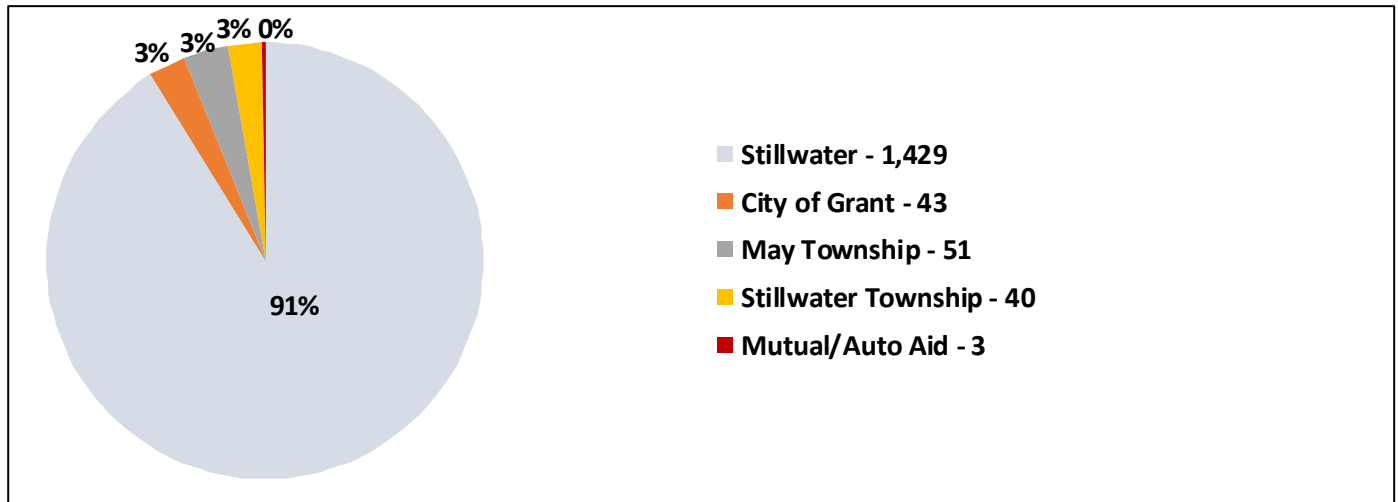


SERVICE CALLS	CITY OF STILLWATER	CITY OF GRANT	MAY TOWNSHIP	STILLWATER TOWNSHIP	MUTUAL/AUTO AID GIVEN	DISTRICT TOTAL
Assist Invalid	122	1	2	3	0	128
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Public Assist	109	2	2	5	5	123
Controlled Burn	7	8	3	19	0	37
Cancelled Enroute	46	6	2	2	9	65
TOTAL SERVICE CALLS	288	17	9	30	15	359



Motor Vehicle Crash - Curve Crest Boulevard and Washington Avenue North

District Related EMS Calls 1,566 - Total Includes Mutual & Auto Aid

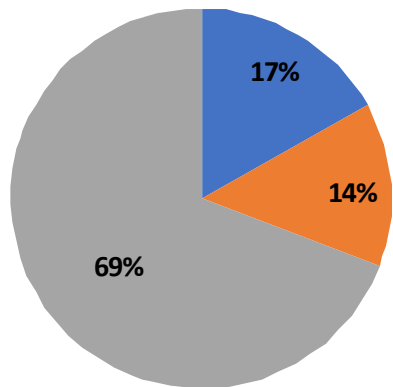


EMS CALLS	CITY OF STILLWATER	CITY OF GRANT	MAY TOWNSHIP	STILLWATER TOWNSHIP	MUTUAL/AUTO AID GIVEN	DISTRICT TOTAL
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EMS Cancelled	59	3	1	0	1	64
TOTAL EMS CALLS	1,429	43	51	40	3	1,566



Dive Training Drill

City of Stillwater - 2,066 Calls



- Fire Calls - 349
- Service Calls - 288
- EMS Calls - 1,429

FIRE CALLS	
Structure	9
Vehicle	5
Brush/Other	8
Motor Vehicle Accident/ Extrication	52
Technical Rescue	27
Alarms	119
Hazardous Materials	43
Electrical	21
Power Line	32
Smoke	20
Carbon Monoxide	13
FIRE CALLS	349

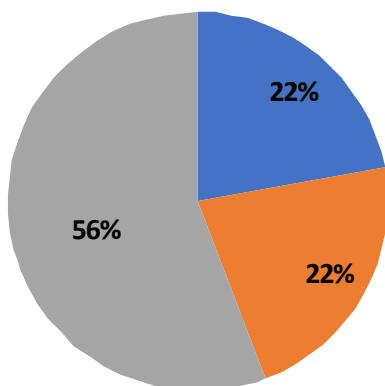
SERVICE CALLS	
Assist Invalid	122
Assist Police/Sheriff	4
Public Assist	109
Controlled Burn	7
Cancelled Enroute	46
SERVICE CALLS	288

EMS CALLS	
EMS	1,370
EMS Cancelled	59
EMS CALLS	1,429



Structure Fire - 3rd Street

City of Grant - 77 Calls



- Fire Calls - 17
- Service Calls - 17
- EMS Calls - 43

FIRE CALLS	
Structure	1
Vehicle	2
Brush/Other	0
Motor Vehicle Accident/ Extrication	1
Technical Rescue	1
Alarms	7
Hazardous Materials	1
Electrical	3
Power Line	0
Smoke	1
Carbon Monoxide	0
FIRE CALLS	17

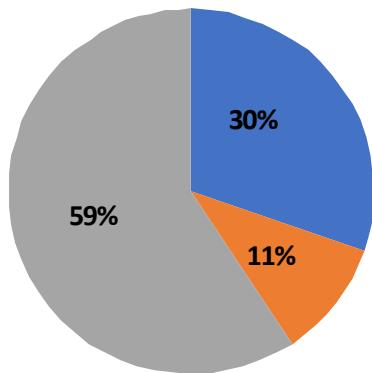
SERVICE CALLS	
Assist Invalid	1
Assist Police/Sheriff	0
Public Assist	2
Controlled Burn	8
Cancelled Enroute	6
SERVICE CALLS	17

EMS CALLS	
EMS	40
EMS Cancelled	3
EMS CALLS	43



Motor Home Fire - Jamaca Avenue North

May Township - 86 Calls



■ Fire Calls - 26
 ■ Service Calls - 9
 ■ EMS Calls - 51

FIRE CALLS	
Structure	4
Vehicle	0
Brush/Other	0
Motor Vehicle Accident/ Extrication	7
Technical Rescue	1
Alarms	6
Hazardous Materials	3
Electrical	0
Power Line	3
Smoke	1
Carbon Monoxide	1
FIRE CALLS	26

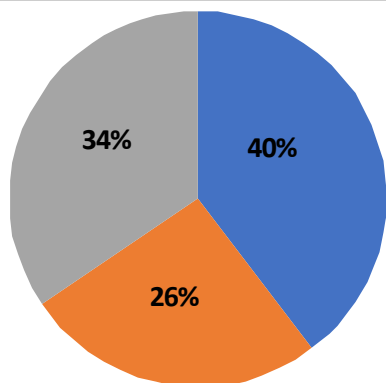
SERVICE CALLS	
Assist Invalid	2
Assist Police/Sheriff	0
Public Assist	2
Controlled Burn	3
Cancelled Enroute	2
SERVICE CALLS	9

EMS CALLS	
EMS	50
EMS Cancelled	1
EMS CALLS	51



Vehicle Fire - Norell Avenue North

Stillwater Township - 116 Calls



- Fire Calls - 46
- Service Calls - 30
- EMS Calls - 40

FIRE CALLS	
Structure	2
Vehicle	1
Brush/Other	3
Motor Vehicle Accident/ Extrication	6
Technical Rescue	2
Alarms	6
Hazardous Materials	4
Electrical	5
Power Line	9
Smoke	5
Carbon Monoxide	3
FIRE CALLS	46

SERVICE CALLS	
Assist Invalid	3
Assist Police/Sheriff	1
Public Assist	5
Controlled Burn	19
Cancelled Enroute	2
SERVICE CALLS	30

EMS CALLS	
EMS	40
EMS Cancelled	0
EMS CALLS	40



Structure Fire - Arcola Trail North

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Stillwater Fire Department personnel conducted over 200 inspections in 2023. Inspections consisted of new construction, commercial business, multi-family residential, daycare providers, special event reviews, general company fire inspections of existing structures and short term home rentals.

Fire prevention education is the first step in the Department’s commitment to protecting the lives and property of its citizens, visitors, and neighboring communities. The Department strives to achieve this mission through programs which include life safety, plan review, code compliance and annual inspections.

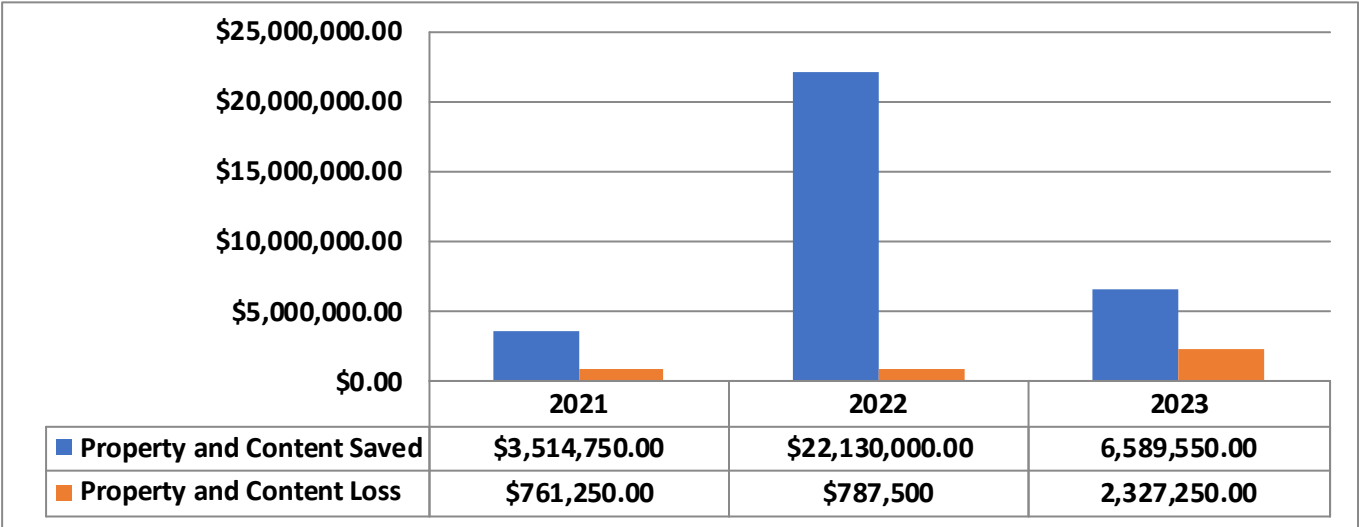
2023 continued to be a busy year conducting inspection of large projects within the City. New construction included Sandhill Shores, 105 Bridgewater Way; Miller Apartments, 200 East Chestnut and Curio Dance Studio, 1655 Washington Avenue.

Remodels and reuse locations include Washington County Sheriff’s Office, 15015 62nd Street North, Herberger's Building, 2001 Washington Avenue, Lakeview Hospital, 927 Churchill Street West, and Zephyr Theatre, 601 Main Street.

PROPERTY AND CONTENT SAVED

Both the State and National Fire Incident Reporting System require that property values (known as pre-incident values) and estimated losses are reported following fires. Fire loss includes contents damaged by fire, smoke, water and overhaul. Subtracting the loss from the pre-incident value can show how much of the property involved in the incident was saved thanks to fire department intervention. The cost benefit of a well staffed and trained fire department is vital for a safe community.

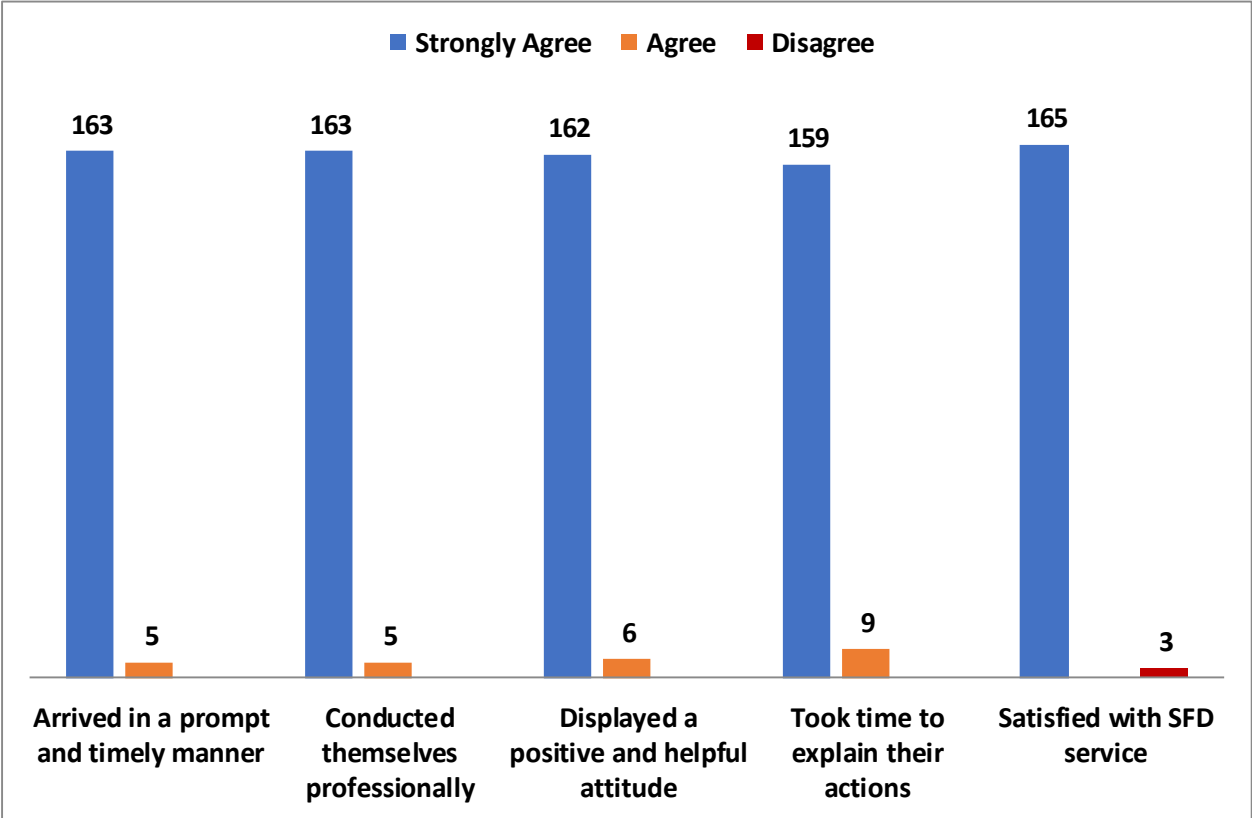
The chart below indicates the total property and content saved versus loss over the last three years.



Property and content values are based on Washington County property tax records and insurance estimates.

PERFORMANCE SURVEY RESULTS

The Stillwater Fire Department mailed surveys to 668 customers SFD responded to in 2023. The surveys provide valuable feedback and helps evaluate the level of service received. The return rate was 25%. Surveys are not sent to nursing homes, group homes, assisted living, cancelled enroute, controlled burns, motor vehicle crashes / extrications, power line down or the law enforcement center.



RESPONSES

- “We are very pleased and impressed with the fire department and grateful for all their work in saving our home.”
- “We are very impressed with the personnel. They arrived amazing quickly and were pleasant and professional. They were understanding of the situation where they might justifiably been angry (false alarm).”
- “One fireman even cleaned up my kitchen floor and cabinets where my sauce went flying when I fell and had my plate in my hand. “
- “Can’t think of anything – they did an amazing job. Very fortunate to have such a professional fire department in our community.”

WHAT ADDITIONAL SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE SFD TO PROVIDE

- Fire safety walk through for residences if funding allows – if not, charge a fee.
- Educational event on fire safety in our neighborhoods.
- Smoke alarm and carbon monoxide program.

TRAINING



Training evolution at Washington County Jail.



Training for fire department personnel is integral to the operations of the department, competent service delivery to the community, and the safety of our personnel in the work they do. Throughout the year, members of the Department trained and practiced life saving skills.



Winter ice dive training.

SFD personnel hold the following certifications:

- Firefighter I
- Firefighter II
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Advanced EMS Certification
- Hazardous Materials Operation Level
- Terrorism Awareness Training
- Fire Apparatus Operator
- Technical Rescue
- Vehicle Extrication
- Confined Space



TRAINING HOURS

FIRE TRAINING:

2,238
Hours

EMS TRAINING:

479
Hours

TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING

320
Hours

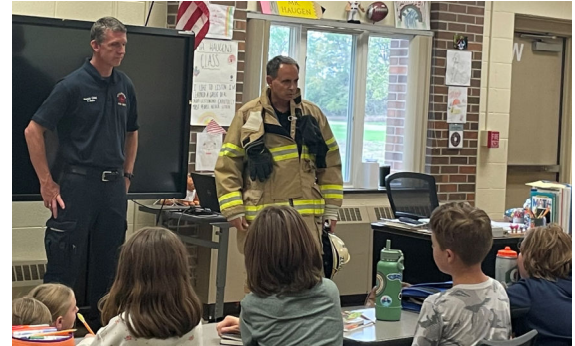
FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The best way to stay safe from fire is to prevent them from happening. This year, the theme for Fire Prevention Week was, “Cooking safety starts with YOU.” Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. During Fire Prevention Week, SFD visits the local schools and meets with students in grades kindergarten, first and fifth to discuss fire safety.



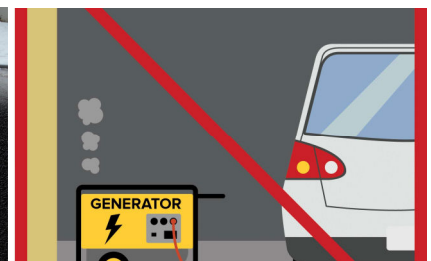
The Department also participated in Night to Unite, escorting high school sports teams, Stillwater Township Picnic, Washington County Fair, Memorial Day Parade, school patrol picnic, Harvest Fest and Lumberjack Days Parade.

If you are interested in learning Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillation (AED), first aid, Stop the Bleed or fire extinguisher training, please contact the Stillwater Fire Department.



Social media plays an important role in communicating with the community. The Department uses this media to inform residents and visitors about how to reduce their risk from fire and life safety hazards. Thousands of individuals have received a variety of safety messages including smoke alarm checks, holiday safety tips, winter weather awareness and much more.

Like us at <https://www.facebook.com/StillwaterMnFireDepartment>



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The annual Stillwater “Let’s Give Hunger the Business” B2B meal packing event had 26 area businesses compete to see who could pack the most meals in exactly 30 minutes.

On May 18, Stillwater Fire took on the Police Department in Battle of the Badges! SFD packed 2,454 meals and won this year’s Challenge by packing 30 bags more than the PD.

The meal-packing provides flavorful, fortified meals to local food shelves within the St. Croix Valley.



UPGRADES AND IMPROVEMENTS



Pilothouse of Stillwater Fireboat 1.

When it comes to fire and rescue missions, having a reliable and durable boat is essential.

- One of the biggest advantages is the shallow draft of the vessel which allows us to safely navigate in shallow waters and hard to reach areas.
- The vessel is equipped with a hydraulic bow gate that provides a stable platform for dive operations, patient recovery and the ability to lower the ramp onto the beach areas for crews.
- The vessel incorporates advanced cameras for visual and infrared imaging. This provides another layer of safety and allows crews to remotely survey and assess areas during poor visibility.
- Mounted forward of the wheelhouse is a 500 gallon per minute fire pump with an electronic master stream nozzle and hose line capabilities with water being directly pulled from below the vessel providing a constant and readily available supply of water.



Several pieces of rope rescue and dive rescue equipment purchased in 2023.

Stillwater Fire purchased life safety equipment for the Rope Rescue Team and Dive Team. These purchases were made with donations from local organizations.

The Rope Rescue Team was able to replace rescue helmets and gloves for each member of the team along with new anchor straps, swivel carabiners and ascenders that assist with securing our rappelling lines so we can access a patient safely.

The Dive Team replaced a faulty BCD (buoyancy control device), a valuable scuba diving equipment which is worn by the diver to establish neutral buoyancy underwater and positive buoyancy on the surface when needed. Also purchased was a replacement 36" ice chainsaw for winter rescues.

This equipment is critical for each of our specialty operations teams within the Fire Department. We are very thankful for donations and commitment to Stillwater Fire.

Years of Service Recognition



Todd Kockelman
Firefighter / Engineer
10 Years



Jake England
Firefighter / Engineer
5 Years



Anthony Harrington
Firefighter
5 Years



Ryan Sarner
Firefighter / Engineer
5 Years

New Hires



Erick Arreola

Stillwater Fire welcomed two new volunteer paid-on-call Firefighters July 16, 2023. The Department is excited to have these individuals on board and look forward to their contributions for many years to come.



Devin Cates

Retirement



Congratulations to Firefighter/Engineer Jeff Roettger on his retirement. Jeff joined Stillwater Fire Department on November 1, 1999 and rose through the ranks to Lieutenant. During his 23 years with SFD, Jeff was dedicated to serving the community. Jeff's last day with SFD was January 1, 2023.

Certificate of Excellence



Volunteer paid-on-Call personnel are required to meet minimum quarterly run response requirements. Firefighter/Engineer Ryan Sarner responded to 119 of 189 all calls for service and went above and beyond and averaged 63% call response for the year. Ryan was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for the Highest Run Percentage made in 2023. Congratulations and thank you Ryan for your dedication to the Stillwater Fire Department and the citizens we serve.

Promotions

SFD promoted four volunteer paid-on-call the rank Firefighters to Firefighter/Engineer. Firefighter/Engineers play a crucial role within the Department driving and operating all SFD apparatus and equipment. Congratulations to Firefighter/Engineer George Burns, Lucas Hoffmann, Brad Junker, and Joshua Knodle.



George Burns
Firefighter/Engineer



Lucas Hoffmann
Firefighter/Engineer



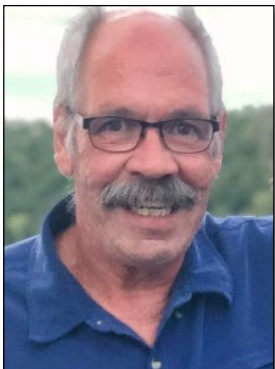
Brad Junker
Firefighter/Engineer



Joshua Knodle
Firefighter/Engineer



Honoring our Fallen



John Peltier passed away September 10, 2023. John served the Department for six years before moving out of state to pursue other ventures. John served alongside his father and several siblings during his service to the Stillwater community.



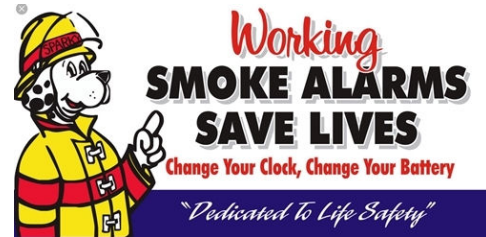
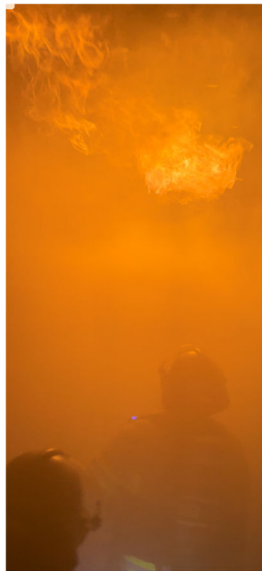
John Buckley passed away on November 11, 2023. John served the Department for 31 years in numerous capacities and retired in 2012 as an Assistant Fire Chief. John contributed his knowledge and expertise in vehicle maintenance and assisting in design and purchase of new apparatus for the Department.



Kevin Charlsen passed away on January 20, 2024. Kevin served the Department faithfully for 26 years and retired in 2000. Kevin survived the tragic Brine's fire of 1982 where two other firefighters lost their lives. Kevin remained a dedicated servant of the community and will be missed.



Daniel Mosiman passed away on January 21, 2024. Dan served the Department as a career Firefighter/Engineer for 15 years and retired in 1989. Dan was a committed City employee who served with pride and dedication throughout his career.



Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, Excellence

P.R.I.D.E.!