

Fitchburg Fire Department NEWSLETTER



A FIREFIGHTER'S GOT TO EAT... (SHOPPING AND READINESS):

Why do firefighters have to go grocery shopping with four people and a fire engine? Seems like a waste...

We hear this question and concern a lot. Shopping as a crew seems unproductive - especially when firefighting strategies and tactics are not taken into consideration.

It is important to note that we do not always shop as a crew. When we have additional staff in the station, we will task one person in a smaller fire department vehicle to go shopping. When staffing is tight, we send the crew for tactical reasons.

We never know when we are going to be dispatched to an emergency. The initial stages of an emergency incident are staffing dependent and require the crew to work closely with each other. If we split the crew for shopping, it can impact how quickly time-dependent procedures are accomplished (when time-to-task urgency is needed most).

Limiting the chaos and confusion of an already chaotic and confusing situation is the reason we choose to keep our firefighters together. Their readiness as a cohesive unit significantly impacts an immediate response to an emergency incident.

Newsletter Editor:

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CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Over the past month, the City of Fitchburg Fire Department started six new Paid on Premises (POx) firefighters. They are in the process of recruit training - so that they can best understand the nuances of FFD's policies and procedures.

Although it is great to see this level of interest in our organization, it is important to note that the recruitment of POx/ part-time firefighters is trending downward (nationwide). Our numbers over the past five years resemble the national trend.

We will continue to function as a combination fire department - for as long as we can; however, we are in the midst of developing a staffing plan that expresses the need to seriously consider a more robust career base. For the sake of staffing predictability and firefighter retention, we must work quickly to minimize burnout due to elevated overtime statistics. A significant investment - for our members, our organization, and our community.

Please reach out to my office if you have additional questions or concerns.

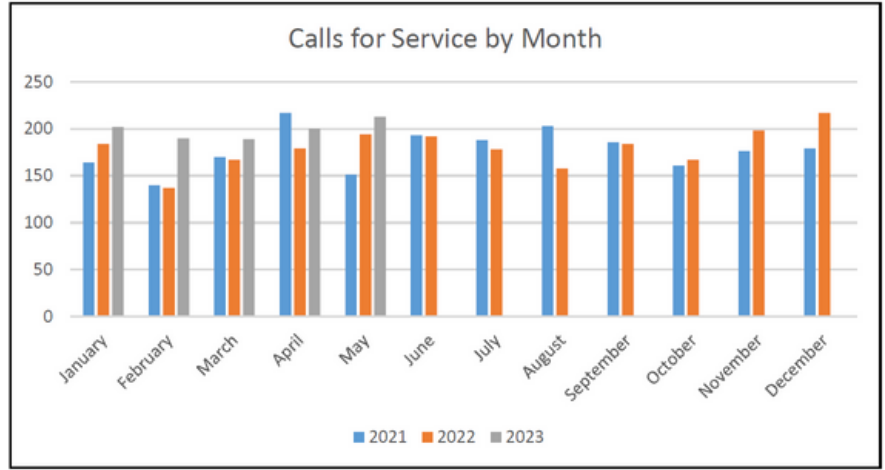


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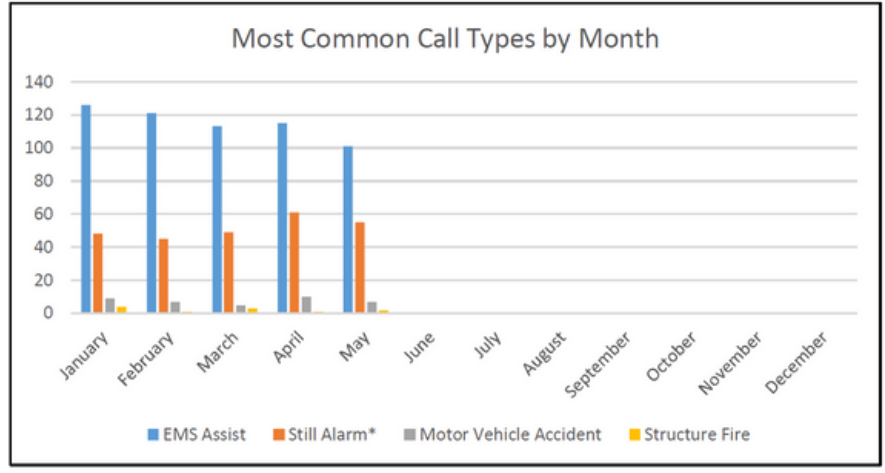
OPERATIONS



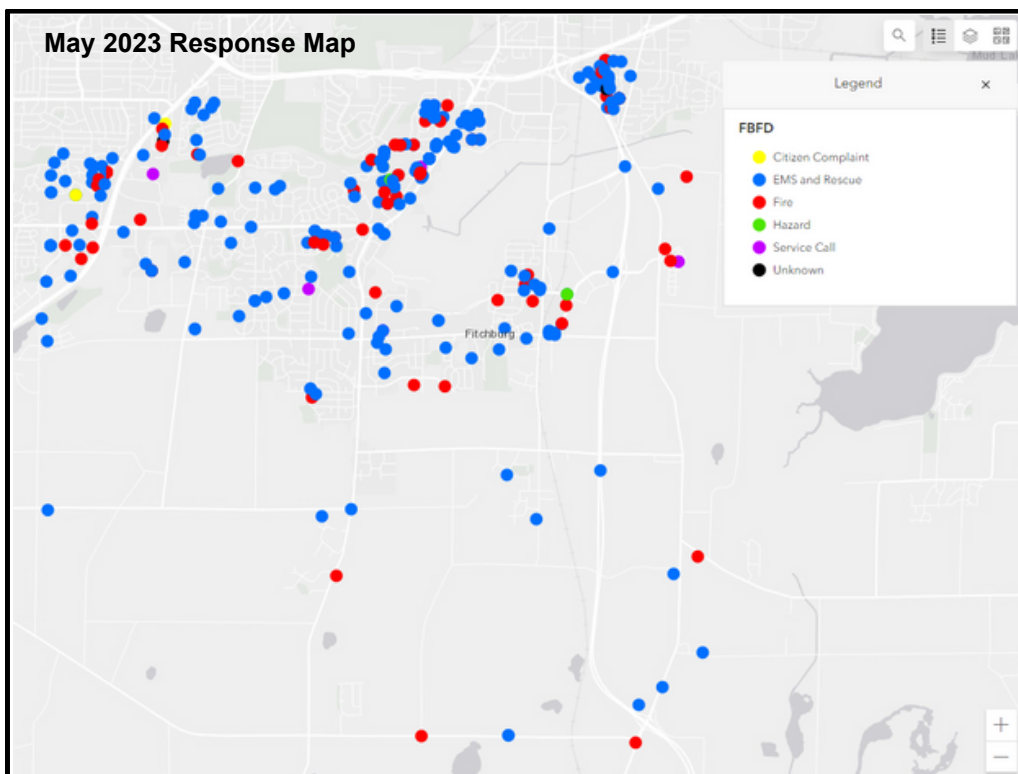
Calls for Service by Month				
Month	2021	2022	2023	Change
January	164	184	202	10%
February	140	137	190	39%
March	170	167	189	13%
April	217	179	200	12%
May	151	194	213	10%
June	193	192		
July	188	178		
August	203	158		
September	186	184		
October	161	167		
November	176	198		
December	179	217		
Total	2128	2155	994	127%
Projection			2323	



Most Common Call Types by Month				
Month	EMS Assist	Still Alarm*	Motor Vehicle Accident	Structure Fire
January	126	48	9	4
February	121	45	7	1
March	113	49	5	3
April	115	61	10	1
May	101	55	7	2
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				



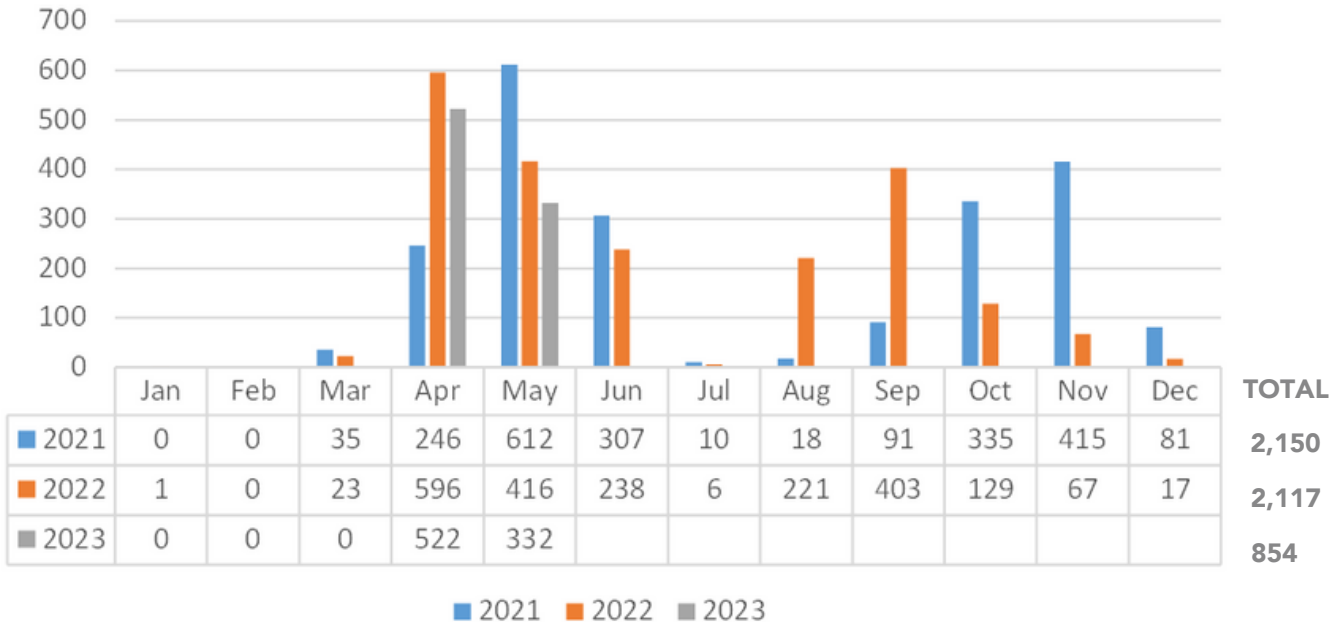
*Still Alarms include: Alarm Sounding, Car Fires, Odor Investigations



PREVENTION AND INSPECTION



INSPECTIONS COMPLETED BY MONTH:



332
INSPECTIONS

5
CORRECTED
VIOLATIONS

5
RE-INSPECTIONS

FIREWORKS: SAFETY FIRST AND WHAT IS LEGAL, WHAT IS NOT

As we celebrate our nation’s birthday, The Fitchburg Fire Department urges you to use extreme care, especially when incorporating fireworks as part of your celebration activities. Additionally, please be aware of the laws that govern fireworks in Wisconsin.

Safety first!

First and foremost. Leave the fireworks displays to the pros. There are plenty of professional fireworks displays around our area to view safely.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), roughly 250 people visit emergency rooms per day during the 30-day period surrounding the 4th of July because of fireworks-related injuries. Most of these ER visits are due to thermal burns to hands, fingers, and the head and face.

Did you know something as simple as a sparkler can cause severe burns? It happens all too often, as the average sparkler burns at approximately 2000° Fahrenheit. (Hot enough to melt some metals...)

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PREVENTION AND INSPECTION



FIREWORKS: SAFETY FIRST AND WHAT IS LEGAL, WHAT IS NOT (CONTINUED...)

Staying safe while celebrating is easy. Just follow these simple tips for the proper handling of fireworks:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them



Don't forget that fireworks are very scary for your pets.

When fireworks are in use, please keep all pets inside your house or in a safe familiar place where they feel secure. Each year, an increasing number of unintended victims of fireworks use are pets who get scared and run away.

Now...let's talk about fireworks and the law. In Wisconsin, the rule of thumb is that "if it goes up, or it goes boom, then it is illegal". Here is a rundown of the rules, straight from the Wisconsin Department of Justice:

Legal Without A Permit

State law allows the sale, possession, and use, without a permit, of sparklers not exceeding 36 inches in length, stationary cones and fountains, toy snakes, smoke bombs, caps, noisemakers, confetti poppers with less than ¼ grain of explosive mixture, and novelty devices that spin or move on the ground. Wis. Stat. § 167.10(1). There is no age restriction on the sale, possession, or use of these devices and the statute does not classify them as fireworks. Local ordinances may be more restrictive than state statutes and may prohibit any of these items or limit their sale or use. These are the only kinds of "fireworks," as that word is commonly used, that a person may use or possess without a permit or that may be sold to a person who does not have a permit.

Illegal Without A Permit

Possessing or using any other fireworks, including, for example, firecrackers, Roman candles, bottle rockets, and mortars, in Wisconsin without a valid permit is illegal. Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3). A commonly used rule of thumb is that a permit is required if the device explodes or leaves the ground. The sale of these restricted fireworks to a resident of this state without a valid permit is also illegal. Wis. Stat. § 167.10(2)

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PREVENTION AND INSPECTION



FIREWORKS: SAFETY FIRST AND WHAT IS LEGAL, WHAT IS NOT (CONTINUED...)

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And finally, failure to follow the fireworks law can land you in hot water!!

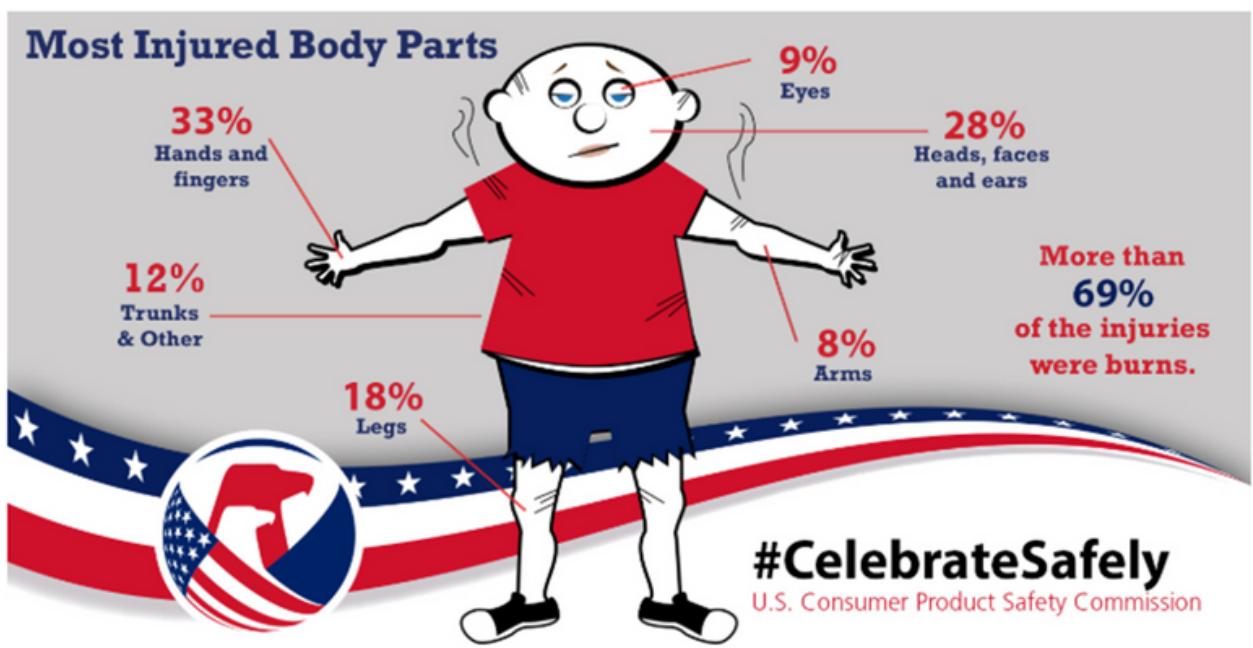
Penalties

A person who possesses or uses fireworks without a valid permit, or who sells fireworks to a person who does not have a valid permit, is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per violation. Wis. Stat. § 167.10(9)(b). Each firework illegally possessed, used, or sold may be a separate violation.

A parent or guardian who allows a minor to possess or use fireworks (not including those for which no permits are required) is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per violation. Wis. Stat. § 167.10(9)(c).

A city, village, or town may obtain an injunction prohibiting a person from violating Wis. Stat. § 167.10(8)(a). Violations of such an injunction are criminal misdemeanors, subject to up to 9 months in jail and a \$10,000 fine. Wis. Stat. § 167.10(9)(a).

The City of Fitchburg Code of Ordinances Chapter 44 Article VII. – FIREWORKS has adopted the above state statutes as they relate to the use, sale, possession, and use of fireworks.



STAFFING REPORT



STAFFING AS OF JUNE 19, 2023

	Authorized Headcount	Current Number of Members	Light Duty / On Leave	TOTAL	+/- Headcount
Career Staff	18			18	
Chiefs	4	4	0	4	0
Lieutenants	3	2	1	3	0
Firefighters	10	10	0	10	0
Support Staff	1	1	0	1	0
Part-Time Staff	66			45	
Chiefs	2	2	0	2	0
Lieutenants	3	0	0	0	-3
Firefighters	45	28	1	29	-16
Intern Staff	6	5	1	6	0
Support Staff	10	8	0	8	-2
Total	84	60	3	63	-21

FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING DEMOGRAPHICS

	M/F	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Two or More
Career Staff					
Chiefs	4 / 0	0	0	0	0
Lieutenants	3 / 0	0	0	0	0
Firefighters	10 / 0	0	1	0	0
Support Staff	0 / 1	0	1	0	0
Part-Time Staff					
Chiefs	2 / 0	0	0	0	0
Lieutenants	0 / 0	0	0	0	0
Firefighters	25 / 4	0	0	0	1
Intern Staff	5 / 1	1	1	0	0
Support Staff	7 / 1	0	0	1	0
Total	56 / 7	1	3	1	1

PERSONNEL NOTES

- Leave of Absence: Stewart
- Resignations received from: Schnelle, McCreary, Mielke, and Ritter

RECRUITMENT

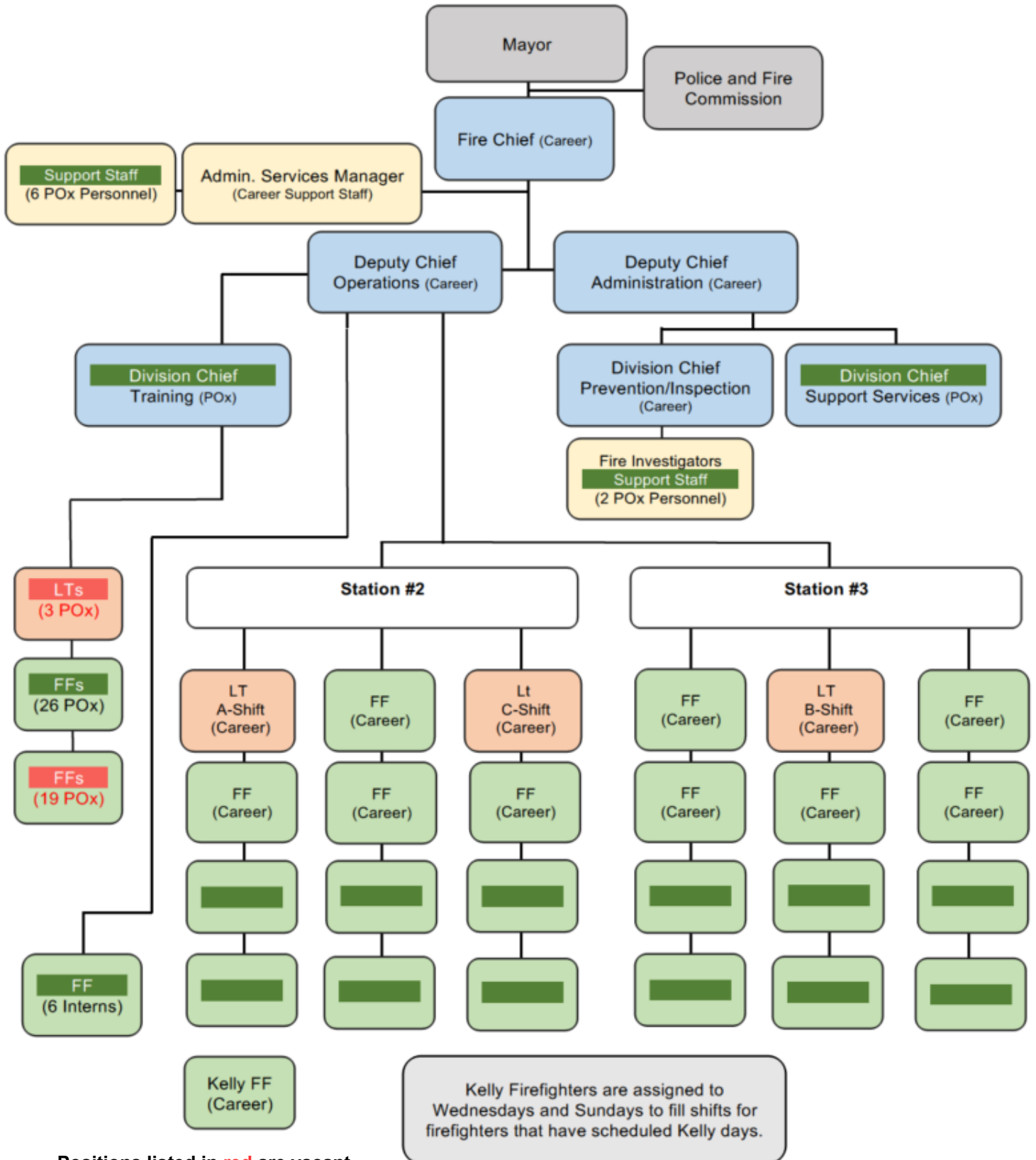
- POX Firefighter recruitment process
 - Recruit Class has begun
- Intern Firefighter recruitment process
 - New interns will start in June

PROMOTIONS

- No new promotions

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ORG CHART



Positions listed in red are vacant.

Kelly Firefighters are assigned to Wednesdays and Sundays to fill shifts for firefighters that have scheduled Kelly days.

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OVERTIME BREAKDOWN



OPEN SHIFTS TAKEN VOLUNTARILY BY CAREER

Month	# of 10 hour shifts	# of 14 hour shifts	# of 24 hour shifts	Total # of shifts
Jan	22	4	4	30
Feb	37	1	8	46
Mar	34	3	3	40
Apr	44	1	5	50
May	41	17	29	87
Jun				
Jul				
Aug				
Sep				
Oct				
Nov				
Dec				

PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTER OVERTIME

Month	Overtime Hours
Jan	282.5
Feb	581.75
Mar	199
Apr	530
May	422.25
Jun	
Jul	
Aug	
Sep	
Oct	
Nov	
Dec	

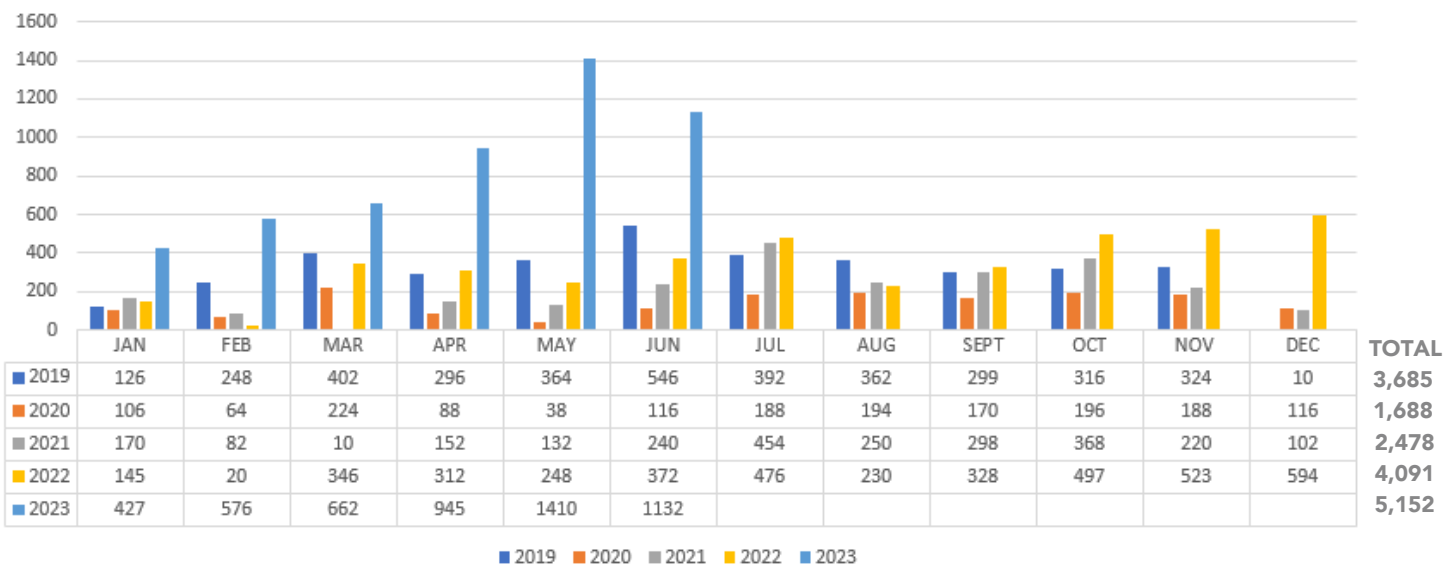
VOLUNTEER SHIFTS VS MANDATED SHIFTS FOR CAREER

Month	# of Voluntary Shifts	# of Mandated Shifts	Total # of shifts
Jan	23	2	25
Feb	45	0	45
Mar	40	3	43
Apr	50	8	58
May	87	3	90
Jun			
Jul			
Aug			
Sep			
Oct			
Nov			
Dec			

CAREER FIREFIGHTER OVERTIME (HOURS)

Month	Mandated Hours	Voluntary Hours	Total Hours
Jan	34	393	427
Feb	0	576	576
Mar	30	632	662
Apr	131	814	945
May	1358	52	1410
Jun			
Jul			
Aug			
Sep			
Oct			
Nov			
Dec			

OVERTIME, BY MONTH AND YEAR



JUNE 2023 PERSONNEL



BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE:



**Camden Parman,
June 2nd**



**Nabeel Qureshi,
June 5th**



**Matt Suchomel,
June 5th**



**Dale Struckmeyer,
June 6th**



**Lucas Hildebrand,
June 7th**



**Dave Berman,
June 18th**

ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE:



**Jason Ladwig,
June 1st (30 years)**



**Dave Berman,
June 1st (27 years)**



**Jeff Berman,
June 4th (22 years)**



**Corey Dahmen,
June 5th (5 years)**



**Dustin Roder,
June 7th (7 years)**



**Hans Schwoerer,
June 11th (5 years)**



**Derek Ruck,
June 16th (1 year)**



**Nick Arps,
June 20th (1 year)**



**Lucas Hildebrand,
June 20th (1 year)**



**Bryan Balzano,
June 21st (2 years)**



**Molly Schulz,
June 21st (2 years)**



**Matt Suchomel,
June 21st (2 years)**



**Austin Doberstein,
June 22nd (3 years)**



**Jacob Roche,
June 22nd (3 years)**

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OTHER ITEMS



Four of our Firefighters (Lt. Zuehlke, Lt. Berman, FF Ladwig and FF Wichmann) participated in Fire OPS 101, an event held at Madison College that allowed Mayor Julia Arata-Fratta and Alder Gabriella Gerhardt to attend and have a glimpse of what our own firefighters encounter on the job.



Fitchburg FF Suchomel (far left) and FF Balzano (second from right) attended the 99th Annual Fire College at Illinois Fire Service Institute to learn more about coordinated fire attacks.

