

Fitchburg Fire Department NEWSLETTER



SHARED REVENUE UPDATE:

With the preparation of fund distribution in 2024, we are following shared revenue closely. As law makers were advancing the bill and as legislation was passed, we were encouraged by the acknowledgement of funding needs in public safety. Unfortunately, as municipal budgets are being approved for 2024, we have not observed a marked change in funding priorities for public safety improvements (staffing, equipment, and infrastructure). Further, we are waiting to see what direction is provided about the innovation fund provision of shared revenue.

With home rule, many municipalities are exercising their ability to use shared revenue to fund other projects - which deviates from the initial intent of lobbying and legislative efforts. This issue is especially troubling in municipalities that have been hobbled by expenditure restraint and levy limits. Emergency services have not been able to grow commensurate to the increased demands that have resulted from community development. It's a broken system when communities rely on increases in net-new construction to avoid staff reductions – we are doing more with less.

The Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association is working with its lobbying coalition to identify where the sense of urgency was lost and what needs to be done to communicate and advocate for funding prioritization. We are grateful that a portion of surplus funds have been shared (we know that it's a work in progress); however, we must not falter in our efforts to explain the criticality and urgency of our request – especially in light of a staffing crisis (already being experienced in portions of Wisconsin).

Newsletter Editor:

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CHIEF'S MESSAGE

In September, the State of Wisconsin Legislature voted to indefinitely suspend the adoption of the 2021 ICC codes (effecting Wisconsin's Commercial Building Code). This has an impact on prevention and inspection - as we continue to refer to an obsolete (2015) standard to review plans. The building construction industry is constantly innovating its processes, products, and technology. Some of the items that are being used in construction today are not adequately addressed in the 2015 ICC standard.

I am actively reaching out to other organizations that are similarly affected by an incomplete Commercial Building Code. Fire Inspectors, Building Inspectors, and other regulating agencies have expressed interest in developing a plan for appropriate code updates. This is going to be a deliberate process that needs to acknowledge the powerful lobbying effort of the building industry.

We anticipate that the indefinite suspension of code adoption is heading into the judicial branch of government. As Fitchburg continues to develop, this will be an important topic that effects safe building practices.

We hope that an updated code will keep pace with with technological advances and current construction practices.

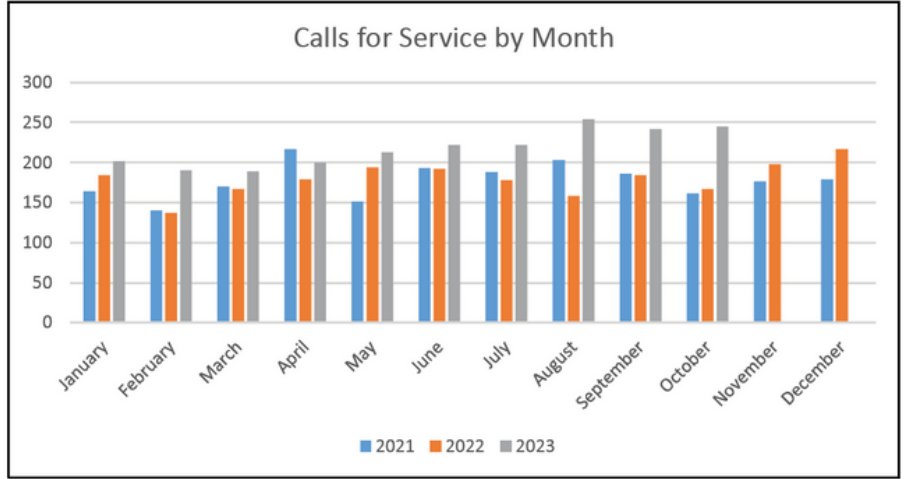


OPERATIONS



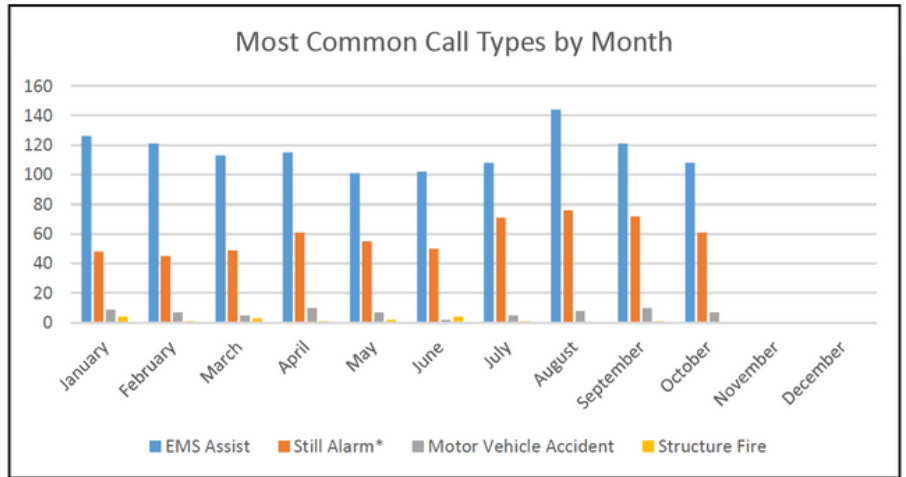
Calls for Service by Month

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	222	16%
July	188	178	222	25%
August	203	158	254	61%
September	186	184	242	32%
October	161	167	245	47%
November	176	198		
December	179	217		
Total	2128	2155	2179	127%
Projection			2323	

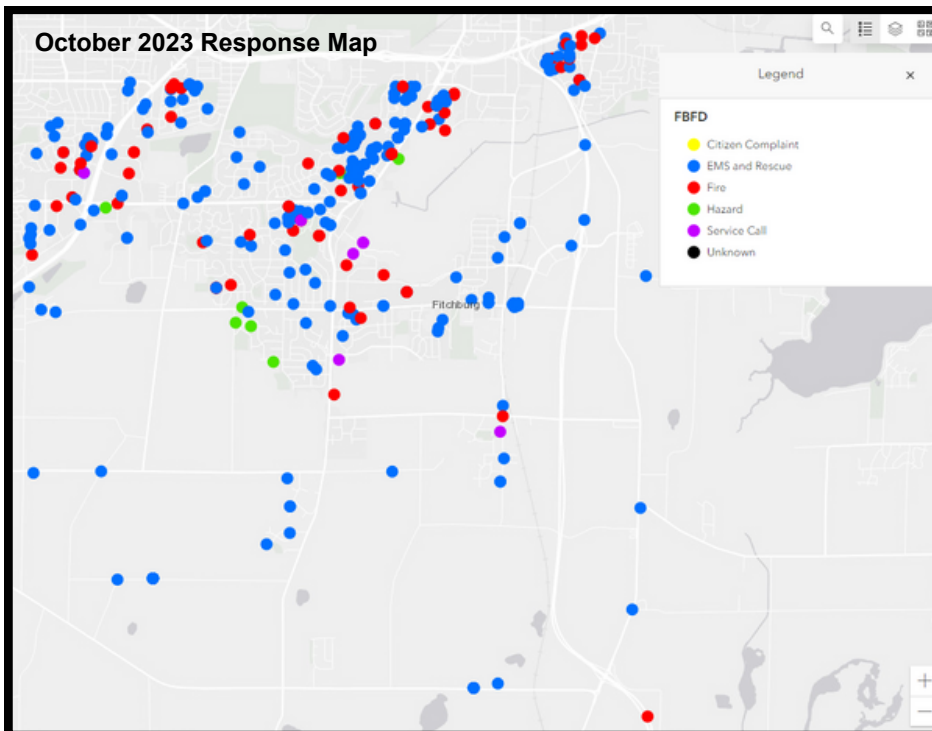


Most Common Call Types by Month

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	102	50	2	4
July	108	71	5	1
August	144	76	8	0
September	121	72	10	1
October	108	61	7	0
November				
December				



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

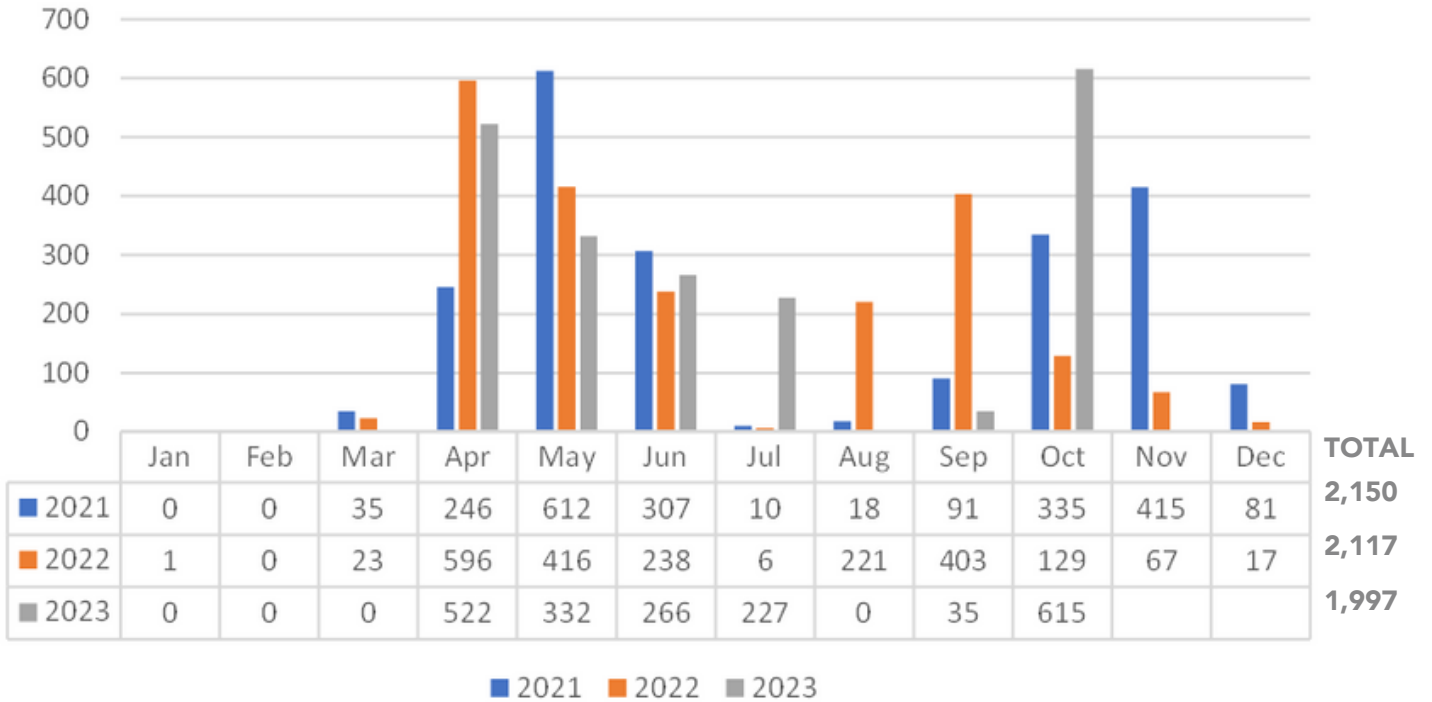


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PREVENTION AND INSPECTION



INSPECTIONS COMPLETED BY MONTH:



1997
INSPECTIONS

70
CORRECTED
VIOLATIONS

120
RE-INSPECTIONS

Help us spread the word!
IT'S CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS MONTH!

National Carbon Monoxide Awareness Association

Beat the Silent Killer

Make sure YOUR household is safe from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Ensure all fuel-burning appliances and vents in your home are inspected annually. Find a registered contractor at COsafety.ca

Install and regularly test carbon monoxide alarms

OVER **65%** of all carbon monoxide deaths and injuries in Ontario occur in homes

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu without the fever

It is often referred to as The Silent Killer

No Odour No Colour No Taste

Many Ontario homes have on average **4-6 fuel-burning appliances** that produce carbon monoxide

OCTOBER 2023

PREVENTION AND INSPECTION



November already? Wow. Where does the time go? With lots of fall topics to discuss for fire safety, cooking fires top the list.

Did you know that the most common place for a fire is in the kitchen? Nationally and here in Fitchburg, cooking-related fires make up the majority of fires in both single-family homes and apartments. In fact, each year, more people are injured or killed by cooking fires than any other cause. Further, unattended cooking is the single highest cause of cooking fires.

Want to hear the craziest fact of all? **COOKING FIRES 100% PREVENTABLE.**

Read that again: **COOKING FIRES 100% PREVENTABLE.**

A common phrase about cooking is “Food is love”, meaning that the simple act of cooking for someone else can be considered an act of affection. Well then, if preparing food for others is indeed an act of affection, then cooking safely could also be considered an extreme act of friendship, fellowship, and love. Right?

The holiday season is the time of year when we spend the most time in the kitchen, cooking for our loved ones. Fitchburg Fire wants you to remember a few easy tips and practices to keep you and your family safe:

1. NEVER leave the kitchen when you are cooking. Unattended cooking allows a fire to start and grow without you even knowing until it's too late.
2. Keep only the pot or pan you are using on the stove and turn the handles so they don't stick or get bumped.
3. Keep a small fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it! Hint: remember **P.A.S.S. (Pull the Pin, Aim the nozzle or hose, Squeeze the trigger, Sweep from side to side)**
4. NEVER store items on an unused stove or range top. NO EXCEPTIONS.
5. Make sure all burners or oven controls are OFF as soon as you are done cooking.

COOK WITH CARE

Be alert; if you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the oven or stove top.

Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.

When simmering, baking or roasting, check the food regularly; remain in the kitchen while cooking and use a timer.

Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stove top.

Have a working kitchen fire extinguisher and know how to use it.

SAFETY BEGINS BETWEEN THE EARS... ...MAKE SAFETY A PART OF YOUR HOLIDAY!

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STAFFING REPORT



STAFFING AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2023

	Authorized Headcount	Current Number of Members	Light Duty / On Leave	TOTAL	+/- Headcount
Career Staff	18			19	
Chiefs	4	4	0	4	0
Lieutenants	3	3	0	3	0
Firefighters	10	11	0	11	1
Support Staff	1	1	0	1	0
Part-Time Staff	66			42	
Chiefs	2	2	0	2	0
Lieutenants	3	0	0	0	-3
Firefighters	45	26	1	27	-18
Intern Staff	6	6	0	6	0
Support Staff	10	7	0	7	-3
Total	84	60	1	61	-23

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	11 / 0	0	2	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	22 / 4	0	0	0	1
Intern Staff	5 / 1	1	0	0	0
Support Staff	6 / 1	0	0	1	0
Total	53 / 7	1	3	1	1

PERSONNEL NOTES

- Leave of Absence: Stewart
- Resignation received from: Doberstein and Wernet

RECRUITMENT

- No new recruitment

PROMOTIONS

- No new promotions

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	37	6	27	70
Jul	27	6	34	67
Aug	23	5	17	45
Sep	39	6	13	58
Oct	20	6	6	32
Nov				
Dec				

PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTER OVERTIME

Month	Overtime Hours
Jan	282.5
Feb	581.75
Mar	199
Apr	530
May	422.25
Jun	508.75
Jul	434.25
Aug	407.75
Sep	271.5
Oct	334.25
Nov	
Dec	

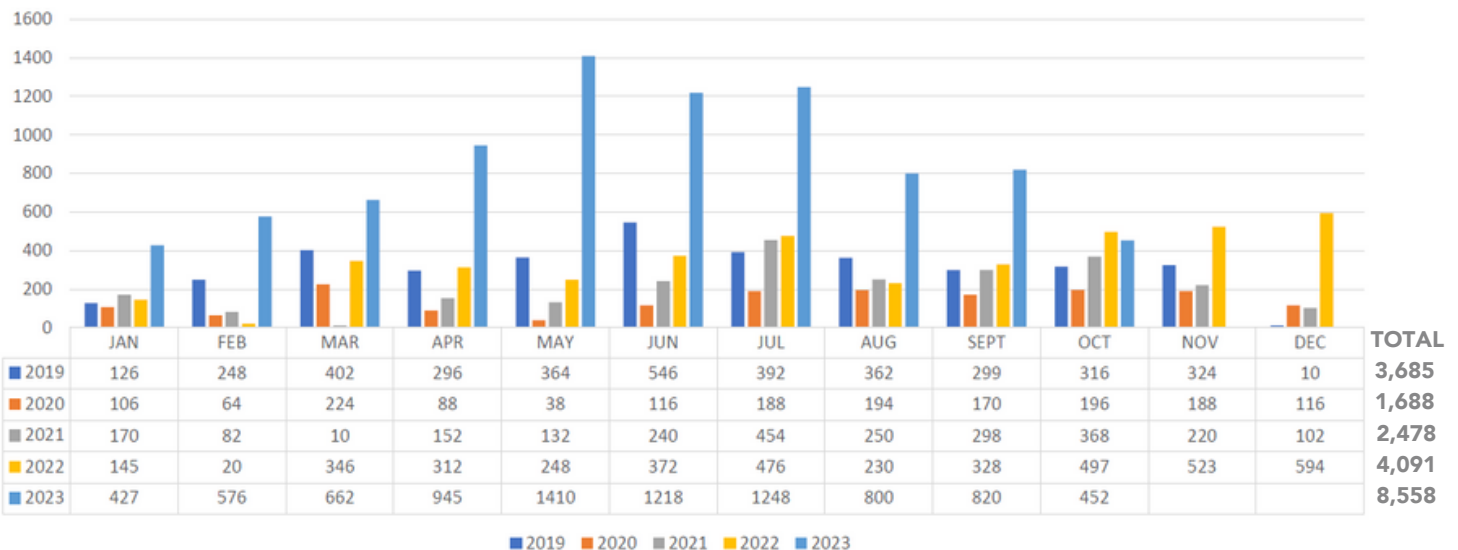
VOLUNTEER SHIFTS VS MANDATED SHIFTS FOR CAREER

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	70	6	76
Jul	67	6	73
Aug	45	6	51
Sep	58	2	60
Oct	32	1	33
Nov			
Dec			

CAREER FIREFIGHTER OVERTIME (HOURS)

Month	Voluntary Hours	Mandated Hours	Total Hours
Jan	393	34	427
Feb	576	0	576
Mar	632	30	662
Apr	814	131	945
May	1358	52	1410
Jun	1102	116	1218
Jul	1170	78	1248
Aug	708	92	800
Sep	786	34	820
Oct	428	24	452
Nov			
Dec			

OVERTIME, BY MONTH AND YEAR



NOVEMBER 2023 PERSONNEL



BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER:



**Peter Gander,
November 2**



**Scott Westphal,
November 3**



**Bryan Balzano,
November 7**



**Chad Grossen,
November 22**



**Tori Mielke,
November 22**

ANNIVERSARIES IN NOVEMBER:



**Stephen Block,
November 18th (25 years)**



**Dale Struckmeyer,
November 18th (25 years)**

OCTOBER 2023

OTHER ITEMS



On Monday, October 2nd, we were fortunate enough to swear in our newest Career Firefighter, Bryan Balzano.



On Tuesday, October 3rd, we recognized and celebrated our new hires, promotions, anniversaries, and life saving awards at the Fitchburg Fire Department's 2023 Recognition Ceremony. The ceremony was hosted at Fire Station 1.



OCTOBER 2023

OTHER ITEMS



As a part of Fire Prevention Week, our crews had the opportunity to go out into our community and talk a bit about fire safety. Our firefighters were able to talk about our equipment and fire trucks while also teaching important lessons on fire safety



We ended our Fire Prevention Week with our annual open house to teach our community about fire safety and allow people to meet their local fire department. Although this event has not taken place in a few years due to COVID, we were happy to be able to bring it back! Thank you to everyone who braved the cold and rainy weather to come out to Firehouse 1!

