2022 Annual Report

Elburn & Countryside
Fire Protection District
2022 Annual Report

Special points of interest:

- Chief Officer Reports
- Response data
- Fire Prevention
- Program Managers
- Chief Cluchey Closing Statement



Letter From Assistant Chief Mike Huneke



- **Officer Development**
- **Property Update**
- **Engine Purchase**

For our organization, this past year flew by. Our organization thrived during the year by focusing on succession planning as well as concentrating on long term financial goals and objectives. This time spent on creating these development programs is one that was focused on building the foundation of the organization for years to come.

Our first officer development program ran every Monday in January. The program was an extraordinary opportunity to help our current firefighters prepare for the upcoming promotional exam and allow our current officers the opportunity to develop themselves into incident commanders. 2022 was the first year holding a class like this and has set the groundwork to build the pillars of the future for our District.



Letter From Assistant Chief Mike Huneke (continued)

Early in 2022, we sold the property across from the new Fire Station 3, originally purchased as a possible Station 3 location or retention need. The proceeds from this sale will fund future stations for the Fire District. Later in the year we suffered a catastrophic lighting strike which caused us to replace and upgrade our security camera system at Station 1. During this upgrade we were able to add additional cameras to the parking lot and administrative areas of the building. The lighting damage also included three of our nine rooftop air handling units. 2022 also saw a shift of support services roles to Lt. Trevor Hall, who moved from training and newly promoted Lt. Stephen Coomes in his place as the Training Officer. This allowed me more time to continue to focus on long term and strategic planning of the District and take a step back from day-to-day support services roles.

Throughout the year I worked on the inspection, delivery and in-service of our newest engine for the fleet. By ordering as a tag-on to a previous purchase, we saved the district over two-hundred thousand dollars. The savings allowed us to update the extrication equipment, generators, and saws bringing us to two full compliments of eDraulic extrication tools and ventilation equipment.

"I look forward to the upcoming goals of 2023 which will allow us to continue to excel as an organization and continue to be leaders of our industry."

It was a tremendous honor to be elected to and serve as Area 3 Representative for the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association during 2022. I was also appointed to, and currently serve as a board member for the Kane County 100 Club, assisting area police officers' and firefighters' families with financial assistance in the event of a line of duty death. During the year I was afforded the opportunity to attend The National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, achieving certification as an Executive Chief Fire Officer. I continue to serve as the President of the District's Pension Fund which saw a transition to a new consolidated investment fund as mandated by the state. Several administrative tasks were taken on in order to accomplish this. Additionally, we undertook the steps to adopt the opportunity for members to participate in a self-funded/directed 115 healthcare savings retirement plan. This will allow every career member the opportunity to save for post-retirement healthcare costs.

Letter From Assistant Chief Matt Hanson



- **Data Specialist**
- **Future**

The past year has been another one of exciting developments. Our employee centered culture and mentorship modality has come full-circle and now is ingrained in our day-to-day operations. We continue to train and develop top quality Recruits, Firefighters, Company Officers, and more importantly send them home to their families at the end of a safe shift.

Early in 2022, we hired our first Data Specialist, who has been an incredible addition to our team. Maggie Walsh is a leader in the industry specializing in Fire Department Response Force Analytics, and has provided valuable data and planning that will allow us to continue to move the Fire District in a strategic path into the future.

This past year I have enjoyed contributing to *Firehouse Magazine*, and will soon have two additional editorials in *Fire Engineering*. Its my pleasure to write about the developments of our department and members. I believe we are on the forefront of learning how to provide mental health resources to firefighters and their families. Our Behavioral Health Initiative is gaining momentum and is the subject of an upcoming contribution to *Fire Engineering*. The program is also gaining publicity with other departments looking to model our example. All of this would not be possible without the support of our Board of Trustees and Local 4749.

It remains my pleasure to continue to serve on the Southern Fox Valley Paramedic Advisory Board and the Kane County Fire Chiefs Board as Treasurer.



This coming year will bring changes and re-structuring as we prepare to send Chief Cluchey off into a well-deserved retirement. Chief Cluchey has absolutely changed this department and placed all of us not only in a position to succeed, but to excel. Although he will be missed, the succession plan is exciting and ready to be implemented. We will use what he has given us everyday as we continue to empower our members, take care of each other, and move our organization forward.

"Our employee centered culture and mentorship modality has come full-circle and now is ingrained in our day-to-day operations. "

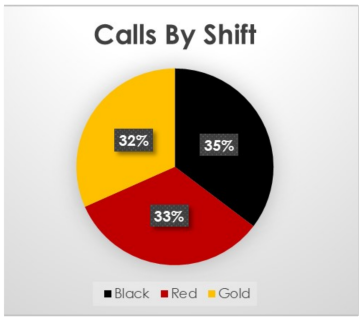
Data Reports: Maggie Walsh

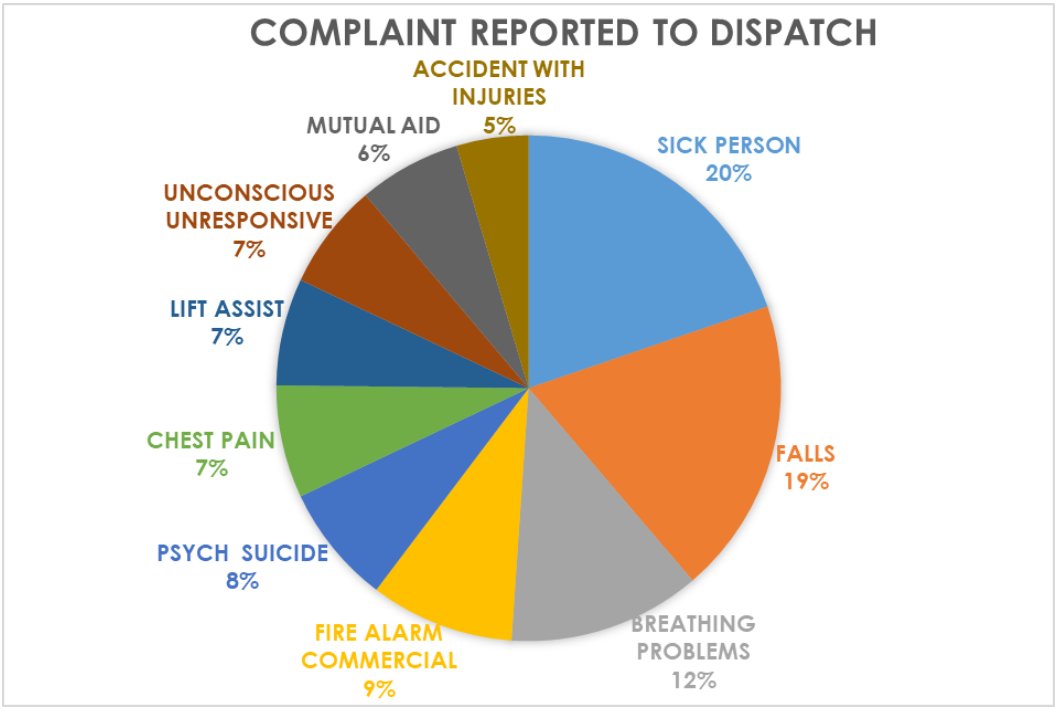
I was fortunate to have joined Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District at the start of 2022 and have enjoyed working with such a dedicated group of professionals. My decision to join the team was an easy one, given ECFPD's outstanding reputation for excellence, innovation and progress.

2022 was a year to identify what aspects of data and reporting were working for us, along with our opportunities for growth and change – all of which has been embraced by this team. The shared progressive mindset that evaluates data to guide decision-making is a part of what allows ECFPD to be proactive and evolve. I am grateful for the opportunity to support the department on the pathway to continued success.

2022 Year-To-Date Station Statistics

Station	EMS Calls	Fire or Service Calls	Total Calls	% EMS	% Fire or Service
Station 1	347	234	581	60%	40%
Station 2	844	324	1168	72%	28%
Station 3	325	96	421	77%	23%
TOTAL CALLS	**1516**	**654**	**2170**	**70%**	**30%**

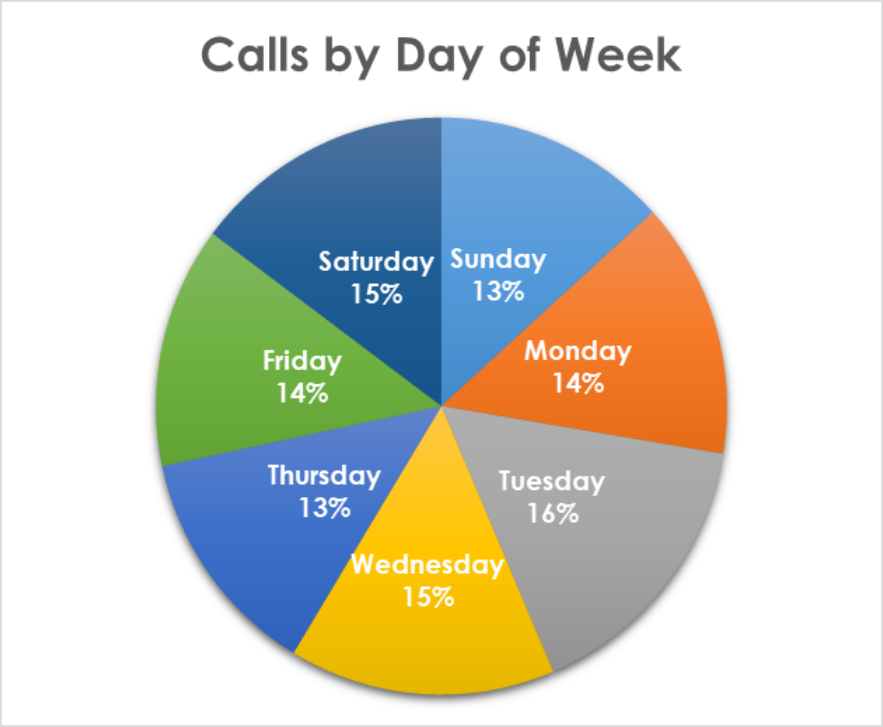




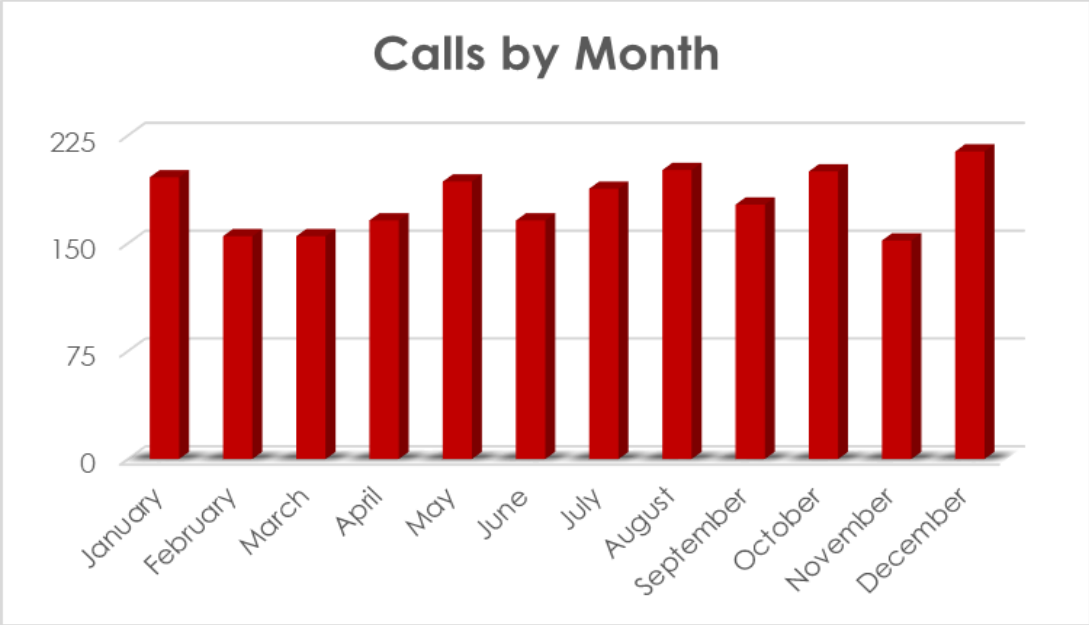
Data Reports

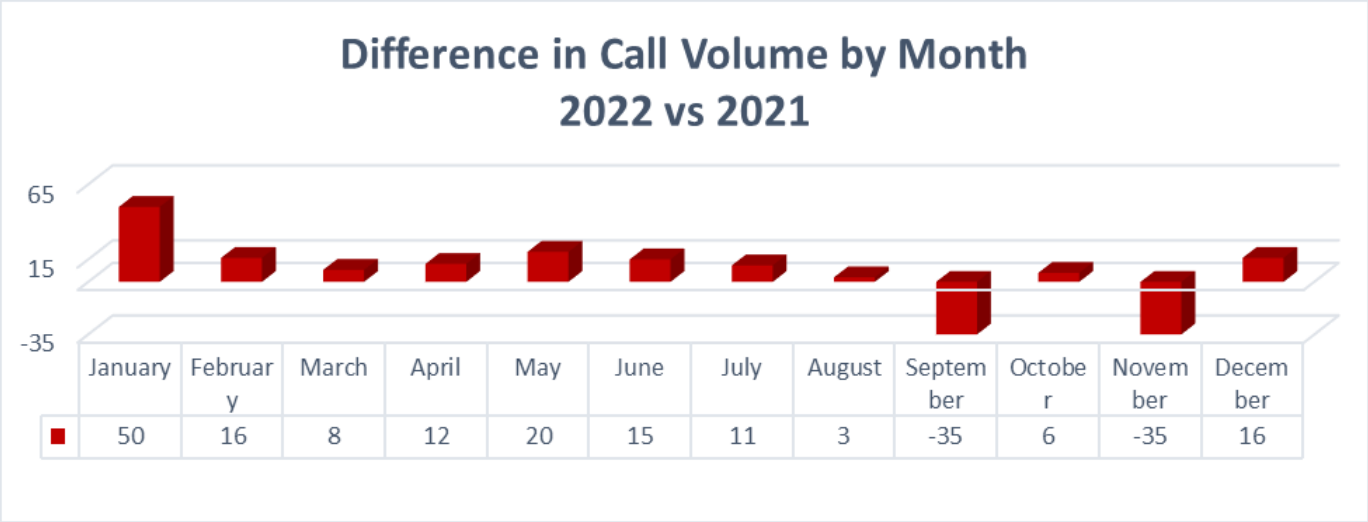
ECFPD provides varies emergency response services to the community at all times of the day and night, every day of the week.

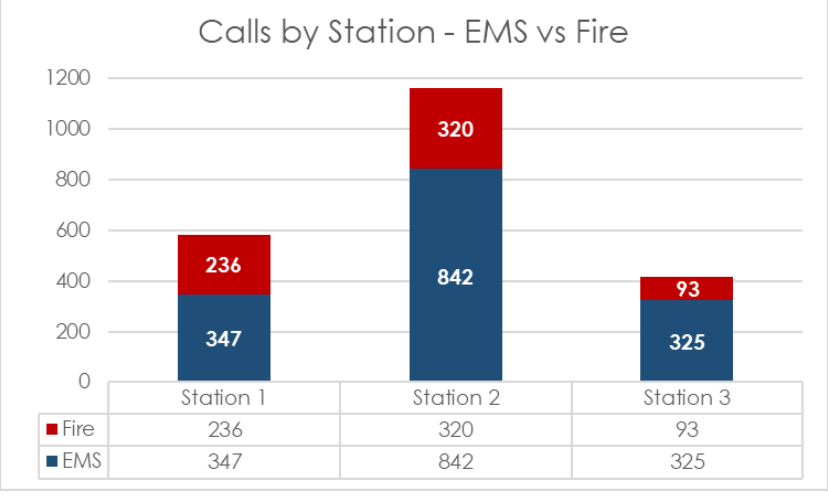
Incident Type	Total
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	1385
Dispatched and canceled en route	105
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	79
Cover assignment, standby, move up	60
Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	49
Building fire	40
Assist invalid	40
Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	29
Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	25
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	22



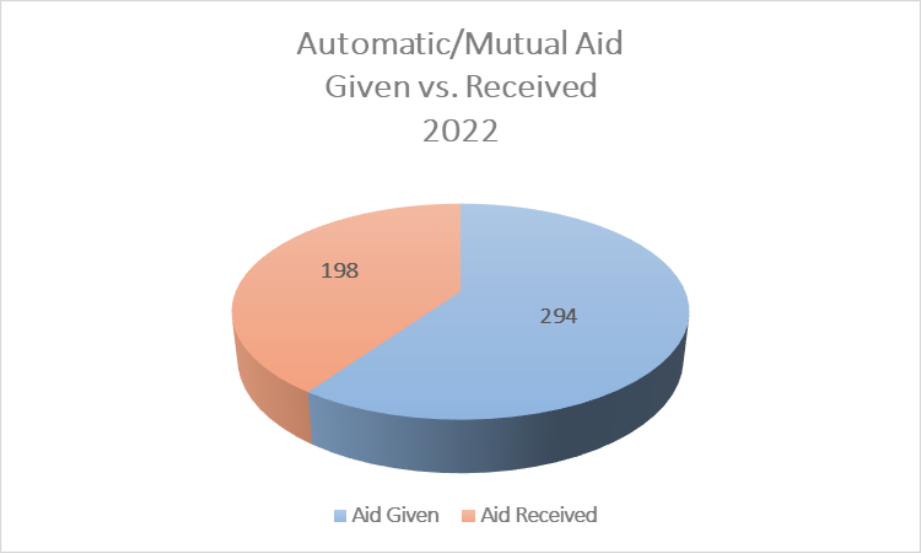
Data Reports



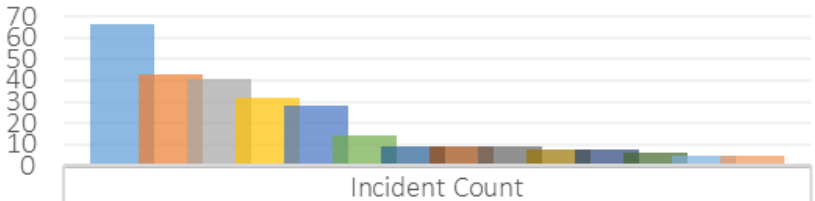




Data Reports

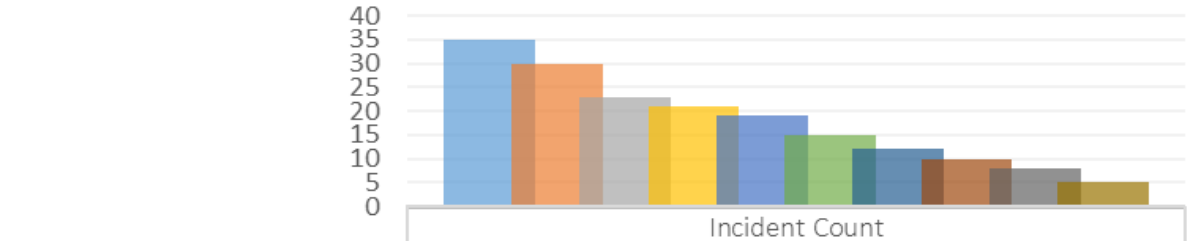


Automatic/Mutual Aid Given 2022

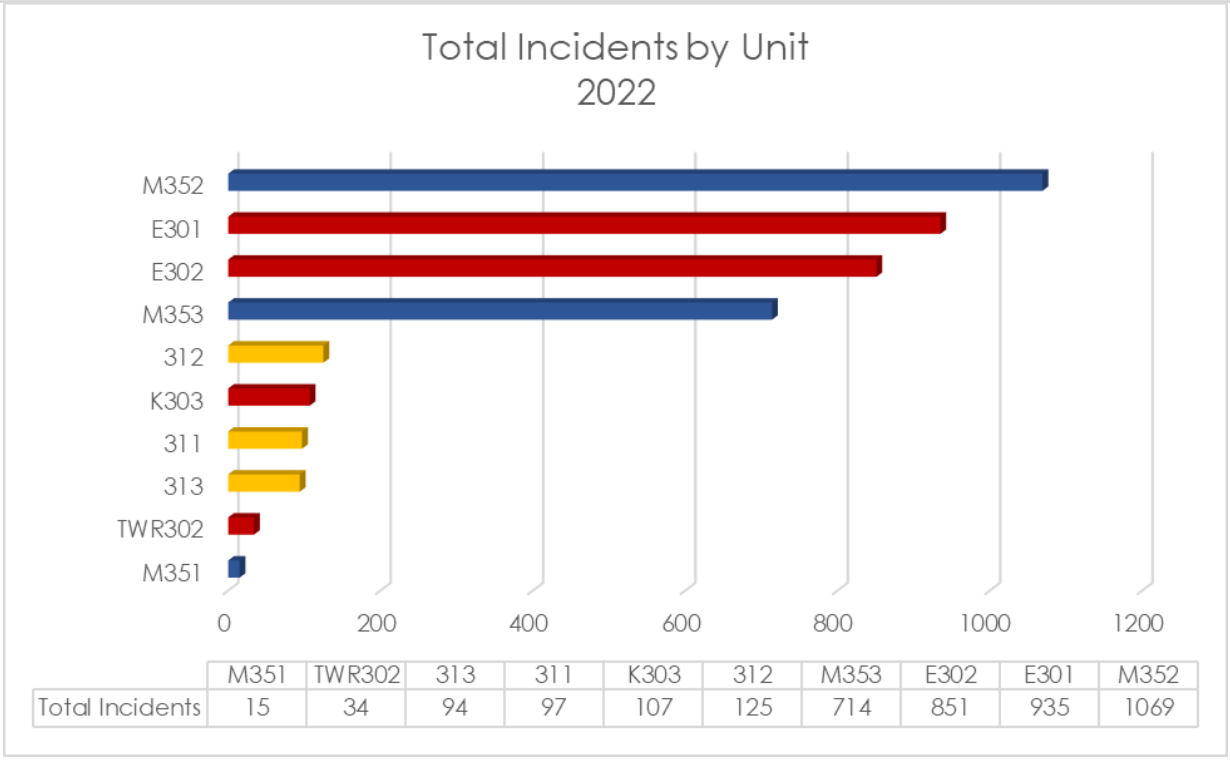


	Incident Count
Tri-City Ambulance	66
Fox River Fire and Rescue	43
Geneva Fire Department	41
Sugar Grove Fire Department	32
St. Charles Fire Department	28
Sycamore Fire Department	14
Hampshire FPD	9
Kaneville Fire Department	9
Batavia Fire Department	9
DeKalb FD	8
Maple Park Fire Department	8
Burlington Fire Department	6
Pingree Grove Fire Department	5
Big Rock Fire Department	5

Data Reports



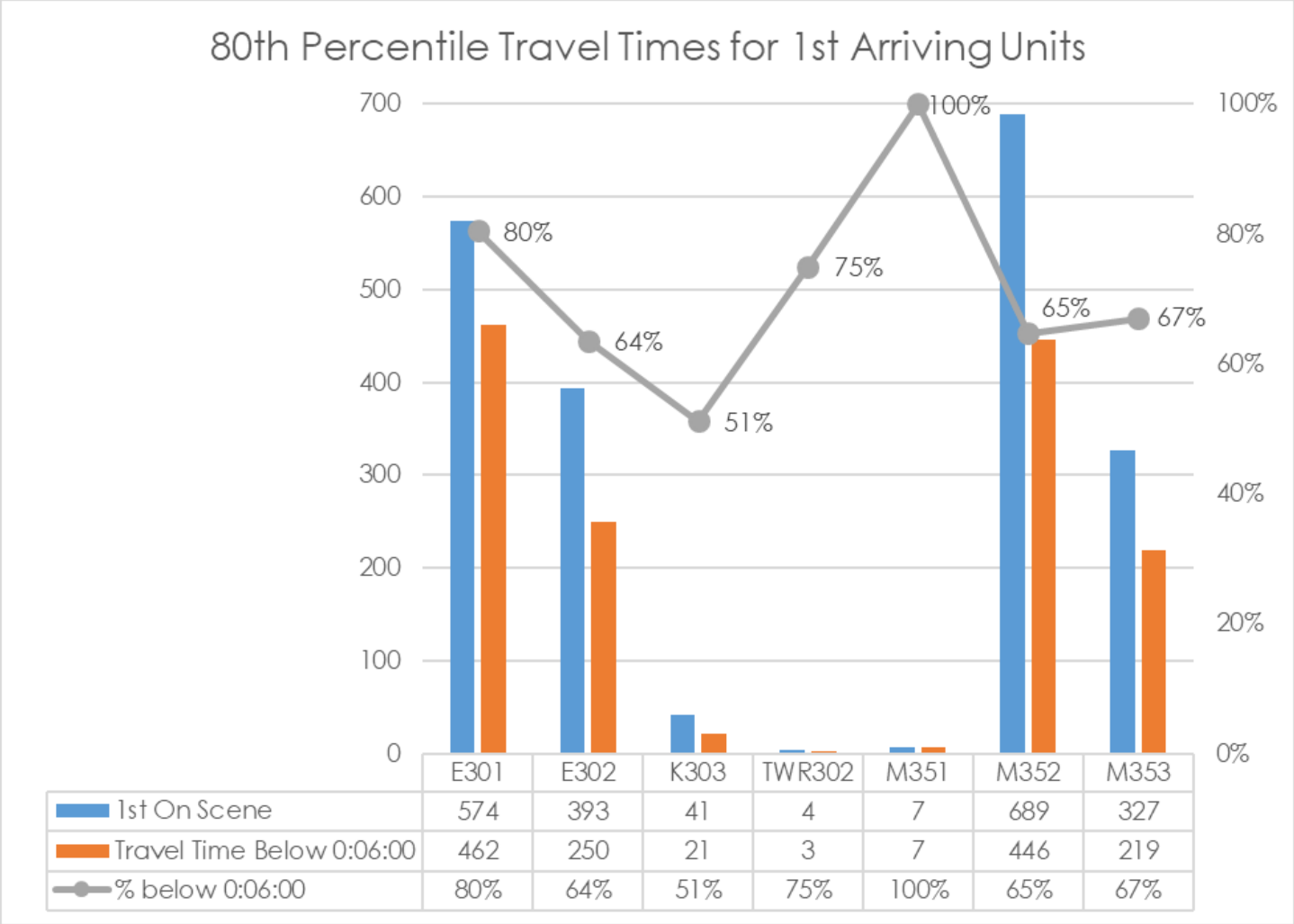
	Incident Count
Geneva Fire Department	35
Tri-City Ambulance	30
Fox River Fire and Rescue	23
Batavia Fire Department	21
St. Charles Fire Department	19
Kaneville Fire Department	15
Sugar Grove Fire Department	12
Maple Park Fire Department	10
Cortland FD	8
South Elgin & Countryside FPD	5



	M351	TWR302	313	311	K303	312	M353	E302	E301	M352
Total Incidents	15	34	94	97	107	125	714	851	935	1069

Data Reports

Service Delivery Objective: The ECFPD desires to have, an Initial Arriving Response Force, on scene in 6 minutes or less 80% of the time, to all areas of our district. The priority of the Initial Arriving Response Force will remain Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, Property Conservation and when needed, initiating ALS intervention. Initial Arriving Response Force of the ECFPD measures itself against this adopted service delivery objective. This is used as a "Target" response time for arriving units.



	E301	E302	K303	TWR302	M351	M352	M353
1st On Scene	574	393	41	4	7	689	327
Travel Time Below 0:06:00	462	250	21	3	7	446	219
% below 0:06:00	80%	64%	51%	75%	100%	65%	67%

Local 4749: President Mike Didenko



In 2022 Elburn Professional Firefighters Association Local 4749 had another great year. Our relationship has continued to grow stronger with the District along with the working relationship with the POC staff and Trustees.

In 2022 The Local had eight Members take the lieutenant's exam as well as participate and complete the first annual Leadership and Officer Development Program for the ECFPD. We were able to work with the District to promote three new lieutenants from that list to solidify leadership at Station 3.

Along with the promotions, we were able hire three of our APTs: Cece Hathaway (badge number 65), Stephen Bicos (badge number 66) and Henry Wimmer (badge number 67). We hope to continue to add more full-time members in the near future.

As we finished the year, we again worked hand in hand with the District to start the ground work on establishing a Battalion Chief's process and promotional exam that will lead us into 2023. We look forward to continuing all the momentum we had in 2022 into the new year and excited to usher in the new programs and positions that lie ahead.



Local 4749 Thanksgiving Turkey Bowl 2022

Promotions and Hiring



2022 brought multiple promotions and three new hires. We promoted four existing members to lieutenant: Lt. Chris Spitzock, Lt. Stephen Coomes, Lt. Ryan Seggebruch, and Lt. Kristy Suriano. We were also excited to add and welcome three full-time members, FF/PM Cece Hathaway, FF/PM Stephen Bicos, FF/PM Henry Wimmer.

Lt. Chris Spitzock, Lt. Stephen Coomes, Lt. Ryan Seggebruch



Lt. Kristy Suriano's promotional ceremony



Swearing in ceremony for FF/PM Cece Hathaway, FF/PM Stephen Bicos, FF/PM Henry Wimmer

Community Risk Reduction: Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp



CODE COMPLIANCE: In November of 2022, the International Building Code, International Existing Building Code, International Fire Code, International Residential Code, and International Solar Energy Provisions Code were updated to the 2021 Edition. All new construction and remodels submitted for permit after November 7, 2022, will be required to comply with the new codes.



INSPECTIONS: The engine and ambulance crews performed annual fire and life safety inspections at businesses throughout our fire district. Per the SDO for the FPO adopted in December of 2021, Self-Inspection Checklists were sent out to businesses that fell into the Moderate and Low Hazard Occupancy Risk Classification. The majority of businesses which were sent the Self-Inspection Checklist were very prompt in filling out and returning it. Fire Marshal Schopp completed inspections and witnessed testing on permitted projects. Inspections and testing include opening framing; above ceiling; firestopping; underground piping; sprinkler pipe and sprinkler head locations; fire alarm device locations; underground system flush; hydrostatic testing of wet and dry sprinkler systems; testing of every fire alarm component in the system; hood system testing; elevator testing; solar system final; and occupancy final. Meetings were held with Kane County Government, MA Center, Shodeen, and the Village of Elburn. The Fire Marshal attended Annual School Review Safety Meetings for Burlington School District, Geneva School District, and Kaneland School District.



PERMITS: In 2022 there were 52 permits issued for residential solar array systems in Mill Creek, the Village of Elburn, and unincorporated Kane County. Three of the solar array permits issued were for residential ground systems. Permits were also issued for new construction, remodels/alterations, fire alarm systems, hood systems, sprinkler systems and solar panel installations. The total amount of revenue generated from permits was $16,186.25. We do not charge other governmental entities for permits (i.e. Kane County Forest Preserve). Approximately 50 burn permits were issued in 2022 for ecological management of prairies, wetland and/or woodland property. Burn permits applications can be done on line or in person at any of the three stations. We do not charge for burn permits, carnival permits, food truck permits or tent permits. Pre-construction meetings were held for the majority of the projects in 2022 and for projects slated to submit for permits in 2023.

HYDRANTS: Duty crews flushed hydrants in the Village of Elburn, Mill Creek and Wasco. Specific hydrants were flow tested in the Village of Elburn, Mill Creek and Wasco. Flow testing provides information on water supply and performing this yearly helps to determine any changes in our water supply. Additional hydrants were flow tested for ISO. All dry hydrants were tested, flowed and had the yearly maintenance performed. In April of 2022, we adopted a new ordinance requiring all new hydrants to be fitted with a 5” Storz fitting on the steamer. This would include new construction and hydrant replacements that coincide with infrastructure improvements or which result from damage.

FIRE PREVENTION PUBLIC EDUCATION: Crews attended numerous public education

Community Risk Reduction: Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp (continued)



events for a total of 633.9 hours. The average amount of hours per member was 11.96. These events included: Block Parties, Parades, Station Tours, Elburn Days, Halloween Safety, CPR training for the public and our personnel, First Aid Training for Geneva School District employees and home school groups, Walk and Bike to School days at four of our schools, Fire Prevention Week at all five of our schools, Fun Lunches at Blackberry Creek and John Stewart Elementary Schools, Kaneland Fund Run at John Stewart Elementary School, National Night out with the Village of Campton Hills and the Village of Elburn, Elburn Christmas Stroll and Keep the Wreath Red, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Station Tours with safety talks on fire safety, health/first aid, and careers in the fire service. Fire safety training program, including calling 911, escape planning, kitchen safety, ambulance rides, and station tours with Mid-Valley 18-25 years old special needs students. Fire drills were performed at multiple locations across our district.



Fire Prevention Week theme for 2022 was "Don't Wait, Plan your Escape". Fire prevention programs were held at Blackberry Creek Elementary School, Fabyan Elementary School, Kaneland John Stewart Elementary School, Lily Lake Elementary School, and Mill Creek Elementary School. Multiple fire prevention demonstrations were also held at Creative Beginnings Preschool School. The fire safety messages discussed were Calling 911; Crawl Low in Smoke; Don't Play with Matches; Fire Extinguishers; Knowing 2 Ways Out; Stop, Drop and Roll; and Touch a Truck in the parking lots. We received free fire prevention materials from NFPA, including flyers, posters, and a large flag we hung up at every school when teaching fire prevention there. We were assisted at the Kaneland Schools by Kaneville Fire Protection District, Maple Park Fire Protection District and Sugar Grove Fire Protection District. We also assisted Sugar Grove Fire Protection District at John Shields Elementary School and McDole Elementary School.

The number and age of people reached for the year is:

- Under 5 859
- 5-9 6136
- 10-14 778
- 15-19 490
- 20-24 492
- 25-29 452
- 30-34 660
- 35-39 660
- 40-44 481
- 45-49 376
- 50-54 277
- 55-59 123
- 60-64 47
- 65-69 6
- TOTAL 11,837





The Fire Prevention Bureau purchased Hearing Aid Fire Alarms and Bed Shakers for children in our fire district with difficulty hearing. Information on children in need of these was obtained through the school districts. Training on the equipment was provided at the school for

Community Risk Reduction: Fire Marshal Lisa Schopp (continued)



the parents and children. Items purchased to give away (used to draw adults and children to our tables) were kids water bottles with a helmet on the top and safety messages imprinted on the bottles, and plastic fire helmets with the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District logo printed on the front. Training materials for Stop the Bleed Kits were purchased. Personnel were trained on the requirements to teach Stop the Bleed.

GOALS for 2022: Update to the new 2021 ICC Codes. Finish adding Firehouse data that did not transfer over from our preplans into ESO for all of our occupancies. Still working on entering data. Outfit all hearing impaired children in our fire district with a fire alarm aid. Implement a Stop the Bleed Program to train the public on Stop the Bleed techniques. These techniques can be used by people in numerous situations, including accidents that happen at work and at home. Interested members of the community include our schools, the Village of Elburn, and Town and Country Library.

Budget for new training equipment, including an inflatable safety house to replace our current Safety/Smoke House, and two Home Fire Safety Simulators to replace our wooden homes with flames in the windows. With two Home Fire Safety Simulators, we could have one at Station 1 and one at Station 2 to be utilized for not only public education events, but also on station tours.



Car Seats: FF/PM Joe Homon



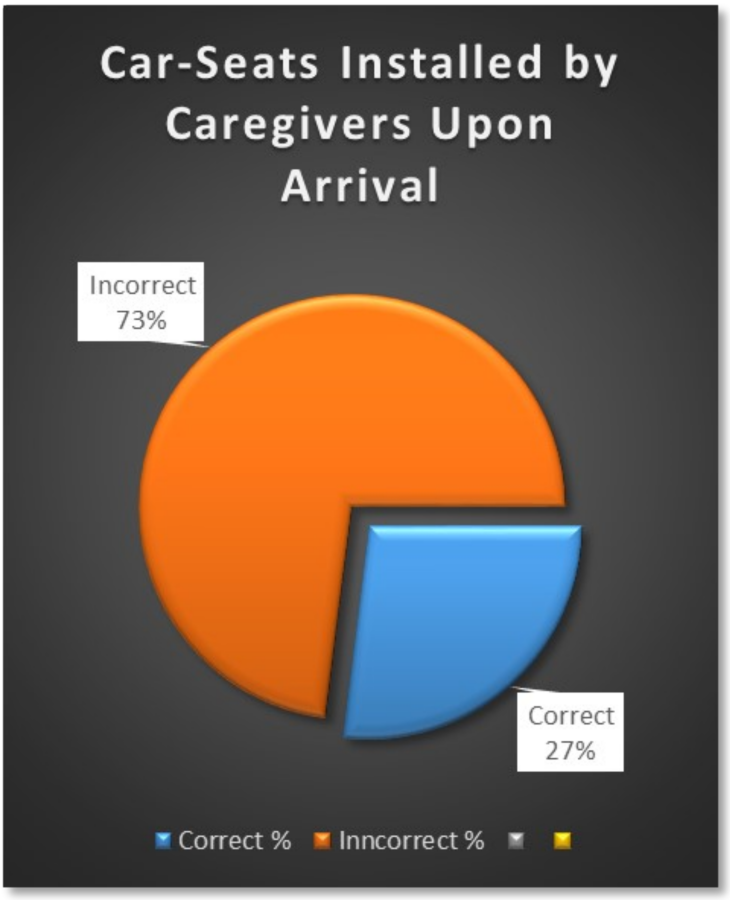
As a car-seat technician, my job is to educate and train caregivers about the proper use and installation of their child restraints. The process begins with the parent or caregiver's referral to our Department. Many times it is by word of mouth, referrals from Delnor Hospital, and through social media. I schedule the appointment and perform the car-seat safety check on our bay floor. I begin going over how to safely use their child restraint. I check their child restraint noting any errors with installation and if it's the correct restraint based on the child's age, height, and weight. I also check for the proper use of harnesses and seatbelts. After this we uninstall the child restraint and we document if anything is missing or broken. Model and serial numbers are documented to check for manufacturer recalls. I'll verify that the caregiver has registered the car-seat. I also check their vehicle for recalls especially because of defective airbags and anything else that could affect the child's safety. We equip the caregiver with the knowledge and psychomotor skills required to install their child restraint for each option available. Generally we convince the caregiver to install in the middle rear seat unless it is not possible due to multiple restraints or incompatibility. We install the seats in each way possible and eventually the caregiver becomes proficient enough to install the restraint themselves. Once the installation is complete I give them educational materials, answer questions, and document the caregiver's waiver forms. I've been using the infant CPR mannequin to show how to use the car seat, thanks FF/PM Joe Miller! I complete my documentation and scan the forms in onto the server. A digital form is also documented onto an online national database provided by the National Child Passenger Safety Board; in partners with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Safety Council, and Safe Kids Worldwide.

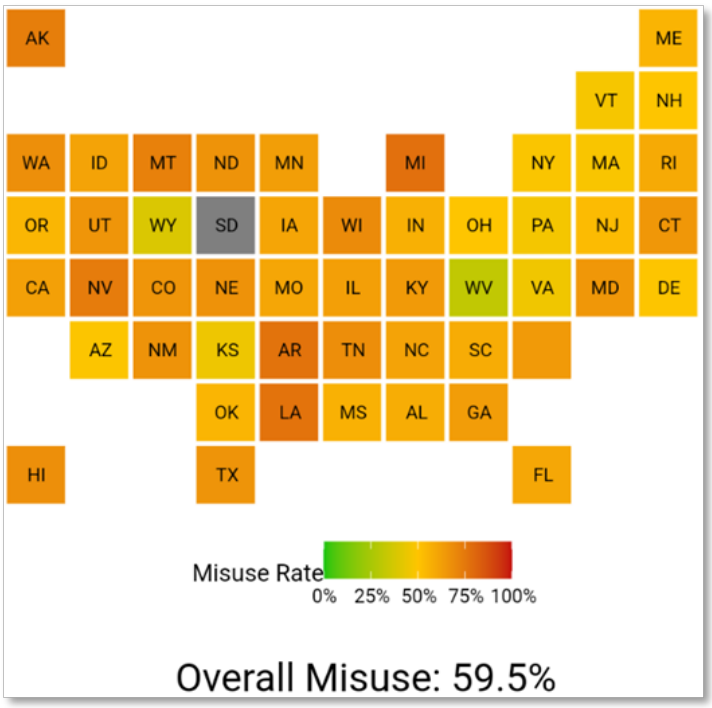
Here at ECFPD we have completed 18 total Car-Seat Checks this year in our Fire House. one out of three harnesses were utilized incorrectly to secure the child, one was too loose and another was not used at all. Only one third of the seats recline angle were correct. Latch was used incorrectly 78% of the time; either from being too loose or being used in the wrong locations. All of these errors negatively impact the child restraint capabilities during a motor vehicle collision. Because of our car-seat program dozens of children's restraints leave with fewer errors due to the knowledge and confidence caregivers receive from hands on training.

At ECFPD we have maintained our Car-Seat Program for almost 15 years. We must give special thanks to Lt. Dave Oliver, Lt. Steve Fuller, FM Lisa Schopp, FF/PM Alex Poynor, our Financial Specialist Merry Morris, and our former members for their past contributions to keeping our program alive. It's important to remember the objective of the program is not to specifically install car-seats for people. It's all about education and equipping the caregivers the ability and confidence they need to properly utilize and install their child restraint.

Last year there were no expenses or donations to report. My goals for the year 2023 is to recruit at least one volunteer. I plan to work with the administration to locate any potential improvements with scheduling, advertisement, and policy. I will look into purchasing dolls that are specifically for car seat installations. I will be recertifying my technician certification by the month of March. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping contribute to our program please inform me or FM Lisa Schopp, Thank you all very much and have a great year!

Car Seats: FF/PM Joe Homon (continued)





Emergency Medical Services: Lt. Dan Czaruk



- **New Cardiac Monitors**
- **Child Cot Car Seat**
- **Piloting eBridge**
- **Goals for future**

Our EMS Committee is dedicated to ensuring the community of the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District receives a standard exceeding level of prehospital care. Provider education, data driven decision making, and advancements in prehospital equipment are how we aim to make this possible. Accountability, dedication and professionalism are the foundational values that the committee is built upon.

Organization - The EMS Committee is comprised of Lt. Dan Czaruk, FF/PM Bryon Ferguson, FF/PM Travis Lange, and FF/PM Joe Miller. We are currently responsible for ensuring ECFPD is compliant with SFVEMS and IDPH rules and regulations. We report to Assistant Chief Matt Hanson, who serves as our Chief of EMS. The EMS Committee utilizes a decentralized management structure. All members assist in the completion of tasks and support the responsibilities of each member.

FF/PM Bryon Ferguson – EMS Equipment and ESO Station Check liaison; inventorying, evaluation and analysis of consumable, non-consumable equipment and PPE for transport and non-transport apparatus and station supply. ECFPD and SFVEMS policy and procedure evaluation. Member of the SFVEMS Local Review Board and SFVEMS Policy and Procedure Committee. Representative for EMS on the Standardization committee. EMT-B Instructor.

FF/PM Joe Miller – ePCR QA/QI. SFVEMS CE Facilitator. SFVEMS incident follow-up liaison. Decontamination and disinfectant SME. ECFPD CPR Coordinator. EMT-B Instructor.

FF/PM Travis Lange – EMS Equipment; non-consumable equipment inventorying and evaluation. Preventative maintenance and warranty SME. EMS technology SME.

Lt. Dan Czaruk – EMS budget proposal, implementation and compliance. ECFPD EMS policy and procedure evaluation, implementation and compliance. SFVEMS and IDPH licensure SME. SFVEMS CE Facilitator and education liaison. ECFPD representative on the SFVEMS Provider's Council.

The following statistics have been pulled from our ePCRs using ESO's Ad-Hoc Reporting. Please note that the total amount of ePCRs completed does not accurately reflect the total number of incidents or patients, due to incidents such as MPRs or Lift Assists. In overview:

- In 2022, ECFPD assisted a total of 1,686 patients; 125 more than 2021.
- ECFPD responded to a total of 1,607 EMS incidents; 164 more than 2021.
- M352 responded to 896 patients, while M353 responded to 590. When staffing allowed, M351 was staffed improving response times for the entire district. M351 responded to 11 patients.

Emergency Medical Services: Lt. Dan Czaruk (continued)

The EMS Committee conducted and successfully completed in-system testing for eight EMT-Bs. Two students completed this year's paramedic school curriculum and committed to Elburn to complete their field clinical time requirements here. FF/EMT Josh Kuefler and his Primary Preceptor FF/PM Michael Didenko and FF/EMT Justin Altmayer and his Primary Preceptor FF/PM Alex Poynor.



At the paramedic graduation ceremony pictured Left to Right: FF/PM Sam Ferris, FF/PM Sean Darlak, FF/EMT Josh Kuefler (recent graduate), FF/EMT Justin Altmayer (recent graduate), AC Matt Hanson, FF/PM Michael Didenko

Thank you to all the additional paramedic student mentors to help ensure the success of these students this year!

In April, we purchased four X Series Advanced cardiac monitors. These monitors replaced the four original X Series monitors and have been placed in service on E301, E302, M352 and M353. Aside from the more optimal performance, the X Series Advanced include the following features:

- TBI Dashboard.
- Real CPR Help for both Adults and Pediatric patients.
- Real-Time Ventilation feedback on both volume and rate.
- Bluetooth and live stream capabilities.

Emergency Medical Services: Lt. Dan Czaruk (continued)

After the acquisition of the monitors, Zoll sent out members of their training division to conduct a formal in-service training on the monitors for both seasoned and new members. This training was conducted over a 3 day period.

Emergency Child Restraints: In December, we replaced all of our varied and dated child safety seats in our ambulances with the Emergency Child Restraint system. The new system can accommodate any child between 4 and 110 lbs. The new system is also crash tested and exceeds the current NASEMSO guidelines.

eBRIDGE: ECFPD, along with Tri-City Ambulance, has been trialing an in-bound hospital report system called eBridge. This program allows crews to transmit a report to Delnor for BLS transports as well as the initial Stroke Alert and Trauma Alert for adult patients. As time goes on, the list of incidents we are going to be able to use it for will increase.

GOALS FOR 2023: Looking ahead, we have broken down our goals for this year in a similar fashion as this report has been presented; call performance, education, and equipment.

- Performance – Continued improvement in ALS skill success rates. Improved documentation in the flow chart, such as documentation of alert times, for better data reporting.
- Continue to strengthen our excellent relationship with SFVEMS.
- Establish guidelines for providing additional assistance to our community "after the call". Examples would be resources for senior services and drug and alcohol assistance.
- Education – Establish a standardized approach to in-house incident reviews using data from Zoll and ESO from the incident.
- Create policy that officially allows ECFPD to take on outside paramedic students for field clinical time.
- Equipment – Continue to standardize of all supplies across both transport and non-transport apparatus.
- Upgrade our suction equipment, our splinting equipment and our KED units.

Another busy year is in the books and we could not have done it without your hard work, your ideas and your commitment to excellence in EMS. We will continue to face a variety of challenges as our landscape continues to evolve. We continue to set the standard for EMS in our area and I cannot wait to see what is in store for us in 2023.

Grounds and Facilities: Lt. Trevor Hall



I took over Support Services from AC Mike Huneke in October of 2022. Station 1 had a lightning strike in August. This caused numerous issues that were not immediately known. Some of the issues that arose were; camera system, RTUs, Boiler, and Audio-Visual Equipment in the training room. The camera system has been replaced. The boiler has been repaired. Some of the RTUs have either been fixed or replaced. Due to the supply chain issues we are still waiting on the final RTU to be replaced. This unit should be replaced sometime in late February 2023 or March 2023. The training room audio-visual equipment has been fixed for the most part. The final step of the project entails reprograming of an AMX switch that controls everything should be completed in the first quarter of 2023.

Station 1 is finishing up other projects. Replacing the front window has been a lengthy task due to the glass company going out of business. In the spring of 2023 Laub construction will be trying to get to the bottom of the continued water leak in the front conference room. We have had on and off breakdowns of appliances throughout the year. The west garage doors continue to have issues when it is cold outside. I have found a second garage door company that works on these doors. Working with this company they will actually have door manufacture representative come out in February of 2023 listen to our concerns and address our continued issues.

Station 2 has had a continual issue with the sewer lines on the east side of the building. They have had some minor garage door issues. We had some preventative maintenance performed on them.

Station 3 had a garage door that had on and off issues. This issue appears to have been corrected.

The Annual Station walkthroughs were completed in November. I consider this a “Needs Assessment” of each station. This is to help us address issues that may have arisen over the past year and or plan for future improvements before they become issues or problems. This also helps us plan and budget for projects and updates.

Projects that are being looked into after the Annual “Station Needs Assessments” were done. All the project below will have a Project Proposal made by myself and given to the Chiefs and Trustees in the first quarter of 2023.

Station 1

- Dayroom window tinting (reduce the UV light causing damage to carpet, furniture and appliances).
- Lighting and switch issues
- Concrete issues in the parking lot

Station 2

- Man door replacement
- Painting
- Strip and Wax the floors

Grounds and Facilities: Lt. Trevor Hall (continued)

- Kitchen rehab/facelift
- Kitchen Appliances
- Roof
- Gear Lockers
- Concrete on front apron

Station 3

- Window tinting in the dayroom and privacy tint in bunkrooms
- Storage shelf/cabinet for the laundry room

Stations supplies are handled by a team being headed by FF/PM Andrew Oliver with FF/PM Cece Hathaway and FF/PM Stephen Bicos assisting and myself providing oversight.



My goals for the upcoming year are to find ways to save money, streamline the way we do somethings and how or when we replace or update things. As it relates to saving money I am actively working on our purchasing of supplies and continually looking for the best products at the best prices. I am working on meeting with our vendors to see where we can make changes. I am working with some of our contractors on ideas of where we can make improvements that will help us save on our utility usage. A cost benefit analysis will be completed before any project is proposed to the Chiefs and Trustees. I will be working hard on obtaining annual service agreements for certain services we need and use. I am also working on inputting data into our program so that our members or other staff, when needed can keep moving forward.

Thank you to all of our members for helping keep all the Stations and Grounds looking good for the people of our Fire District!

Safety Committee: Lt. Steve Fuller



The Safety Committee was able to purchase new first aid kits for Station 1 and Station 3. These are to be inspected monthly for proper supplies and quantity of supplies. We were able to get a flammable cabinet purchased and mounted to properly store items at Station 3. We also reviewed accidents for the year at our Safety Meetings. We met every month to discuss any upcoming issues as well as review accidents. Safety inspections were performed monthly at all of the stations and the results of the inspections were discussed at the monthly meeting.

The Safety Committee reviewed and discussed multiple accidents and incidents this year. We provide recommendations to members to aware of our surroundings when operating equipment, walking around on incident scenes, or even just doing things around the station.

The Safety Committee was able to sign a three year contract with TSI, our calibration and cleaning company for our SCBA fit tester, to have the calibration and cleaning performed for the next three years. While it's a small savings, every little bit helps build our future.

The biggest thing for Safety this year was the changing of leadership in the committee and bringing on some new faces to get more feedback and other perspectives when reviewing items. Lt. Steve Fuller is now the chair of the committee, FF/PM Austin Shingledecker, FF/PM Sam Ferris, and Lt. Trevor Hall have decided to come on board and offer their insight and assistance.

The Safety Committee is aware of PFAS, the cancer causing agent in all of our turnout gear. While this is something that is out of our control at this time, it is something that we've talked about and are looking at moving forward. We, and the District want what's best for all our members. We are working to provide guidance on wearing our gear for necessary trainings, and not for all the trainings that we used to wear it for in the past. This would potentially keep us from being unnecessarily exposed to the chemical, yet still complete training requirements. There will be more about this in the future.

The Safety Committee is hoping the 2023-2024 fiscal year is the year we have less accidents and injuries. We only have one body, and the goal is to retire with it being fully functional to enjoy whatever retirement brings, let's work to help each other achieve that.

Honor Guard: Co-Commander Lt. Stephen Coomes



The year of 2022 was a very active year for our department's Honor Guard. We were able to participate in many events such as the 2022 AFFI Honor Guard convention, Elburn BOF Academy Graduation, the swearing in/promotional ceremonies of Lt. Stephen Coomes, Lt. Chris Spitzock, Lt. Ryan Seggebruch, Lt. Kristy Suriano, FF/PM Cece Hathaway, FF/PM Stephen Bicos, and FF/PM Henry Wimmer, the Elburn Days Parade, our department's annual 9/11 memorial ceremony, and the push-in ceremony of our new Engine 302. In addition to our in-house events, our members regularly participate in Line of Duty Death funerals with the AFFI Honor Guard whenever we are called. We had two new additions to the Honor Guard in 2022 with Brother Steve Walter and Brother Sean Darlak getting inducted at the AFFI Honor Guard Convention in Bloomington.

Our goals for 2023 are to continue to be active in the department and community with multiple events already scheduled: 2023 AFFI Honor Guard Convention in Lombard, Elburn Days Parade, our annual ECFPD 9/11 memorial ceremony, and any other events that we are called upon to help. We are very grateful to have the ability to bring a professional Honor Guard to our Fire District and community and look forward to continuing to improve our skills and provide the most honorable service that we are able to.



Honor Guard marching in 2022 Elburn Days Parade

Training: Lt. Stephen Coomes



- Training Hours
- In-House Training
- ISO

2022 was a very good year for training in our department. This is the third year that we have training data for ISO Compliance for job specific classifications. The three job specific categories are Firefighter, Driver/Operator, and Officer. We strive for 100% compliance in each category. We had vast improvements over last year. Some members still needed to improve on their training documentation to get us to that 100% and a lot of the lower numbers are due to extended time off due to injuries, new hires during the year, etc.

I have also broken the total hours trained by each of the 3 classifications. For the ISO Officer Classification there was 3,996.9 hours of training. For the ISO Driver/Operator Classification there was 5,761.81 hours of training. For the ISO Firefighter Classification there was 5,947.24 hours of training. The grand total for training hours was 15,705.95 hours. Good job everyone!



In addition to our in-house department training, we also completed many different trainings with our mutual/auto aid departments, and specialty trainings including Metra train emergency training, and large animal rescue training with the Trail Riders of DuPage.



I am very excited for this upcoming year as the Training Division has many unique training opportunities to look forward to including our annual Leadership and Officer Development Program, Traffic Incident Safety Management class with IDOT, Live fire training at an acquired structure in our district, and many more fantastic training opportunities for our members. Our training division is always working to provide the best instruction and training for our members to help us maintain our commitment to excellence with our emergency service delivery.

Basic Operations Firefighter Academy: Lt. Ryan Seggebruch



The 2022 BOF academy had seven recruits and two members from outside departments. Our academy prepared and certified these recruits to become basic operations fire fighters. The Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM) certifications obtained by these recruits were Basic Operations Fire Fighter, Fire Service Vehicle Operator (FSVO), Courage to be safe, and Hazardous Materials Operations. All together these students were in class for 268 hours.



This year's academy was led by Lt. Stephen Coomes and Lt. Ryan Seggebruch. This was our first year taking over the academy from Lt. Trevor Hall. Lt. Trevor Hall was a big help to us and was only a phone call away or was already instructing along side us. This academy could not continue to run so successfully without our other instructors. Thank you to all that helped this past year.

We also had two recruits complete our fast track program. The fast track program is for members that come to Elburn with their OSFM Basic Operations Firefighter (BOF) certification. The fast track program is specific to Elburn's needs and ensures new members are ready to respond. Thank you to all that helped these members get to shift in a timely manner.

SCBA: Lt. Matt Linden



SCBAs were delivered right after Christmas! Over the course of the last 10 months Chief Cluchey diligently worked with Air One Equipment to make this happen. We completed our fit testing with sample masks, so we could get all the new masks with the new SCBAs when they were delivered. All our members have received their masks and mask bags. We did our in-service training with our Air One salesman on January 11, 12, 13 and then our members were given two weeks to train on shift with the new packs and get familiar with them. The new packs were placed on all the rigs on Monday, January 30, for our personnel to start using. New packs, and or cylinders, were also placed on the HAZMAT and TRT trailers for the team personnel to use at training or incidents.



In 2022, we were fortunate to acquire one of the only SCBA washing machines in the area. This washer allows us to remove more carcinogens and contaminants than the old scrub brush, hand wash, and rinse process we used in the past. This new SCBA washer will prolong the life of our equipment and reduce the exposures our employees are subject to when just riding in the rigs.

Although we applied multiple times for a grant to ease the financial burden on the district, we were not awarded any grant money to assist with this $431,630 purchase. We got the full 15 years out of the old equipment, and we're looking to get the full life out of our new packs, masks, RIT bags, and rechargeable batteries.

We look forward to using these new SCBAs and enjoying how much more comfortable they are than our old ones. The new ones have a waist band that is adjustable in height on the pack of the frame which gives our members a way to have the pack fit better to their bodies while operating in them. The shoulder straps are wider, and more padded, and more than one person has already commented on how much more comfortable these are to wear. The new packs also have a built in voice amplifier, enabling members to talk at a normal level, rather than raising their voices to overcome background noise. This will also allow members to save energy and air, because they won't be exerting themselves while trying to talk louder, so they can be heard at an incident wearing the SCBAs. The amplifier also eliminates background noise, enabling the person on the receiving side to hear what is being said better. We have the built in buddy breathers now on every pack. This will enable us to help our crew members, or ourselves, escape when we have ran too low on air.

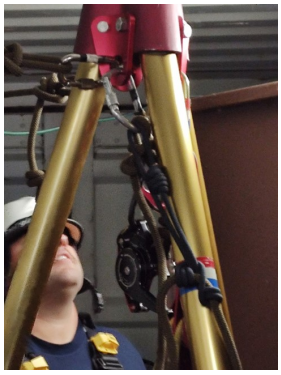
As always, we look forward to what the 2023/2024 year will bring as we start to put our new equipment to the test while training and working to be the best this community deserves.

Technical Rescue Team: Lt. Matt Linden

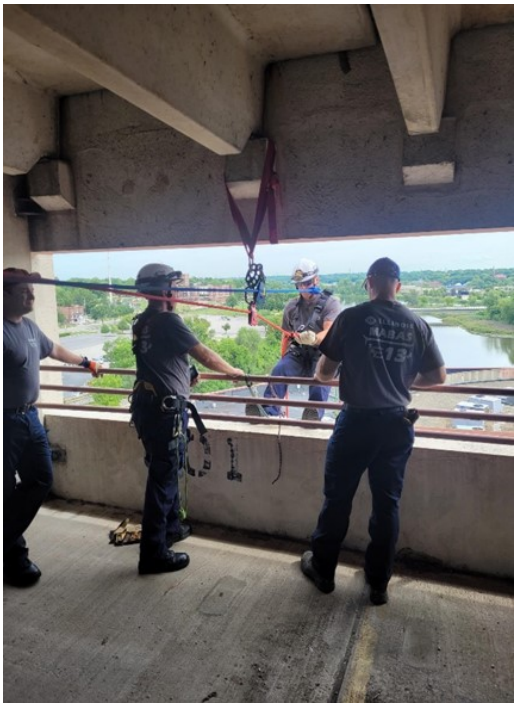


Calendar year 2022/23 saw the ECFPD TRT members participating in quarterly division drills with other Division 13 members and departments. Two of the four division trainings took place at the SKTCA in North Aurora, one at ECFPD station 1, and the other at the parking garage in Aurora by the riverboat. The trainings this past year consisted of setting up the Western Shelter at Elburn Fire Station 1, concrete breaching skills for structural collapse, rope rescue skills, and confined space rescue with a training mannequin.

The concrete training enabled us to get our hands on equipment that we don't have, or get to see on a regular basis. We performed lift outs by using a hydraulic powered chain saw, a STIHL partner saw, jackhammers, hammer drills, and different concrete anchors with other hand tools. The confined space and rope rescue training enabled us to set up anchor systems off of anchor points found on site. We were also able to hoist off the systems that were anchored to those points. We used tripods, different rappelling mechanisms and safety devices at the parking garage training that were brought out by a vendor. There are some very nice pieces of equipment available today that make our rescuing efforts safer and more effective. The confined space training simulated someone collapsed while cleaning a container. We had to rescue the individual using multiple personnel, supplied air, and rigging to lower a person into the container. That same rigging would be used to rescue the "victim" when they were removed from the area of entrapment and moved out for further care. We were also able to use the coms system, which is how we communicate with the team that's in the confined space while we're on the outside managing personnel and equipment.



We were able to welcome FF/PM Sean Darlak to the team and get him on the Division 13 training roster with MABAS. He has been able to train with us at Division drills. We had others express interest in joining the team, and we're going to invite them to our in-house trainings for the 2023/24 calendar year. This will enable them to get their hands on our equipment and be familiar with it before they get signed up for training classes through IFSI. Once our current training roster member finishes his classes, we can have one of the other members start their training in the specified disciplines. At this time we only have one training spot on the MABAS roster, and we're working on getting a second one so we can get more people trained up for the team.





This coming year, we're looking forward to our in house trainings, the Division 13 trainings, updating our equipment list of inventory, building the abilities and personnel of the team.

Hazardous Material Team: FF/PM Chris Mulvihill







This past year was a busy one for members of the Hazardous Material Response Team (HMRT). We began with teaching HazMat Ops for the 2022 Academy. In January, Hampshire FD had an industrial chemical explosion which resulted in one fatality. In April members of the Division 13 HazMat team from ECFPD participated in a massive multi agency disaster drill titled "Operation Festival Fury." There, Division 13 members faced an industrial accident involving a corrosive liquid spill. We impressed our evaluators when we located the homemade chemical weapons lab that was the epicenter of the Law Enforcement side of the drill by locating and isolating a strong radiation source. Meanwhile, in Elburn we had a several thousand gallon gasoline leak which resulted in a vast area of ground soil remediation. Elburn HazMat techs also responded to Aurora for a Waste Oil release which required to use of floating water booms to prevent downstream contamination to a series of interconnected retention ponds. Division 13 HMRT was successful in minimizing the environmental impact by containing the waste oil to the pond that suffered the initial release. We also responded to Batavia for a 55 gallon drum of industrial waste that was undergoing a chemical reaction causing the drum to swell. Members of HMRT were able to release the pressure in the drum before a catastrophic container failure occurred. This past year, Elburn FD HazMat team was instrumental in the rescue and recovery of a large number of pets from a residence that was deemed uninhabitable. Members of the ECFPD HazMat team assisted multiple government agencies in assessing and documenting the living conditions inside the residence. Our year closed with another response to Aurora for a corrosive vapor release which sent two members of AFD to the hospital. All members of ECFPD that responded on that MABAS callout got dressed out and made entry into the hot zone. In the upcoming year, it is my hope to increase our number of members.





Fire and Arson Investigations: FM Lisa Schopp



The Fire Investigation Team participated in training though CFI.NET, (Certified Fire Investigations IAAI). This year the Fire Investigation Team, again worked with other organizations on vandalism fires that were in our District along with other towns. The Fire Investigation Team utilizes BATS, the Bomb Arson Tracking System through ATF for fire reports. This system provides local, state and national data on up-to-date fire and explosive incident information. This helps to discover trends, patterns and leads. The Fire Investigation Team are members of the IAAI, International Association of Arson Investigators. Training and trends are provided through this membership. When a certain product (i.e. a hoverboard) has multiple fires in different areas throughout the state or nation, the collective data may result in a recall of the product.

The Fire Investigation Team conducts systematic investigations following NFPA 921, the national standard for fire investigations. Fire investigation includes scene examination and analysis; photograph and video documentation; evidence recognition and collection; diagrams; interviews; and reporting. In 2022 there were 17 building fires, 5 vehicle fires, and 5 equipment fires investigated. Goals for 2023 include adding more members to the Fire Investigation Team and training more members on becoming Juvenile Fire Setter Interventionists. Currently, the Fire Prevention Bureau has two members who are certified and participate in our Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program. This program is an educational intervention that targets at-risk youths who have expressed an interest or have been involved in fire-setting activities.



From CPSC, Consumer Product Safety Commission: Name of Product: Self-Balancing Scooters/Hoverboards

Hazard: The lithium-ion battery packs in the self-balancing scooters/ hoverboards can overheat, posing a risk of the products smoking, catching fire and/or exploding.

Remedy: Refund, Replace or Repair

Recalled Units: About 501,000

Quartermaster: FF/PM Mike Didenko



In 2022 as we continue to navigate shipping delays and uniform delays across the country our partnership with UAS (unique apparel solutions) continues to progress. The communication, tracking and data has been great.

In 2022 while maintaining the budget we were able to add multiple items to the uniform store to give our members more options for daily wear which has extended the life on uniforms including added moral to the members.

We were also able to continue with the fire gear replacement program this year and will keep that going forward for the next year. With the features that we have in place in 2022 going into the new year we will be able to identify additional cost saving measures to help us with the program as a whole and hopefully allow us to expand our capabilities even further.

Fitness Committee: Lt. Chris Spitzock





We were able to continue our partnership with Kineticz. Kinectiz provides group workouts for ECFPD members Tuesday to Thursday. This has been a great partnership with a lot of positive feedback from membership, Zak, the owner, focuses on functional fitness as well as custom workouts for any goal. With the help of membership we were able to install three pull up bars to use for workouts, as well as obtaining new foam rollers and battle ropes. ECFPD Fitness committee will continue to look for the best equipment for members to be prepared for any situation.

ECFPD members continued looking for events to challenge themselves and raise money for great Charities. Fitness committee member Lt. Dan Czaruk as well as Lt. Stephen Coomes, FF/EMT Josh Beaman and FF/EMT Kylie Hanks completed Fight for Air climb. This was Lt. Dan Czaruk's fifth climb of 93 stories and raising money for the American Lung Association! FF/PM Alex Poynor, Lt. Chris Spitzock, and AC Mike Huneke completed the Tough Mudder Infinity; an eight hour race with over 25 obstacles to complete. Tough Mudder raises money for the Wounded Warrior Project and supporting Veterans. The fitness committee will continue to look for new events for membership to challenge themselves and raise money for charities in 2023 and beyond.

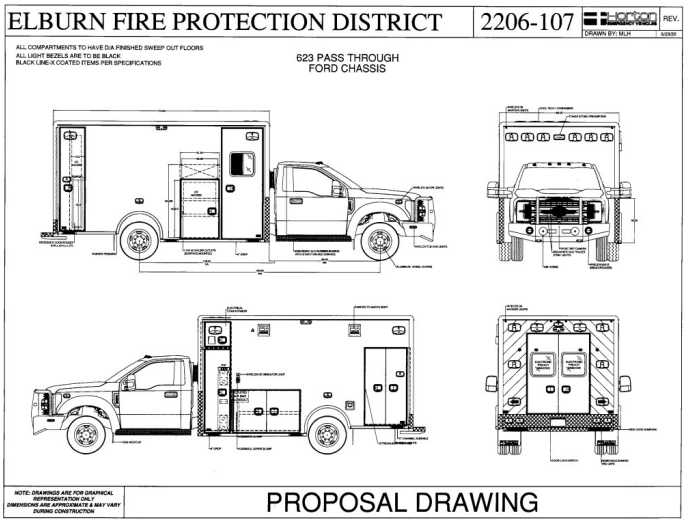


FF/PM Alex Poynor, Lt. Chris Spitzock, and AC Mike Huneke completed the Tough Mudder Infinity; an eight hour race with over 25 obstacles to complete.

Fleet Maintenance: FF/PM Eric Daffron



In 2022 the fleet maintenance program has continued to push ahead. Fleet maintenance has established relationships with vendors who are able to insure our vehicles stay on the road. This has been essential to our success as the supply chain still proves to be difficult. Fleet maintenance and EMS committee have worked together to build and order a new Ford F550 ambulance. This order was placed early to stay ahead as deliveries are now upwards of two years. Engine 1002 "Big Rich" was retired and sold after 25 years of service. Engine 1032, a 2022 E-One, was added to our fleet. 1032 is a near twin to 1027 in design. Our engine committee has spent numerous hours to create a design that best meets the needs of our district. These committees prove to be integral to fleet maintenance in designing and delivering the most practical and efficient vehicles possible. Fleet maintenance looks forward to assist in planning for future district needs and expansion of the fleet.







Foreign Fire Insurance Board: Chairman FF/PM Eric Daffron



The Foreign Fire Insurance Board consists of seven trustees. The District Fire Chief, who holds office by virtue of rank; and six members who are elected at large by the members. It is the mission of the Foreign Fire Insurance Board to receive and account for revenues from the tax on fire insurance policies sold by foreign (out of state) insurance companies, and to use such funds for the maintenance, use, and benefit of the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District.

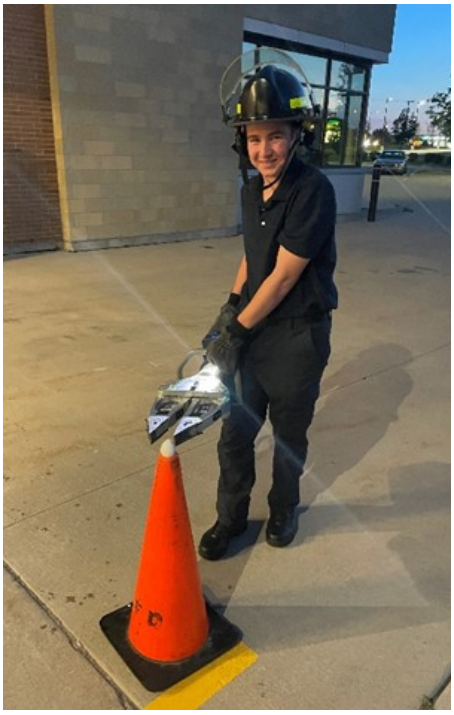
2022 proved to be another productive year for the foreign fire insurance board. The board acquired several large items to be used by our firefighters. 16 Sleep Number mattress were purchased and distributed amongst the three stations. These replaced 13 year old Sleep Number Mattresses. Sleep Number has held great value and the company continues to support us with a great warranty. A "Humbler" door training prop was purchased and has been placed into service to provide forced entry training for years to come. The board also continues to support our firefighter and stations with household furnishings, electronics, and kitchen supplies.



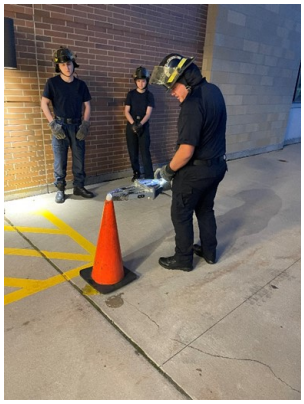
Cadets: FF/PM Cece Hathaway



The Elburn Explorer Post 1357 is officially the Cadet program. We are no longer affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America. Currently, we have six cadets and are looking to recruit more this year. The cadet meetings are the first, third, and fourth Thursdays of each month. This past year the cadets have been doing a variety of training such as donning and doffing SCBAs, search and rescue, ladders, hose deployments, rig familiarization, tool knowledge, forcible entry, vital signs, and medical and trauma scenarios. The cadets recently started doing PT the first meeting of each month. The cadets have enjoyed running the first aid tent at Elburn days and enjoyed participating in the Christmas stroll. We are excited to get the cadets more involved in Pub Ed this year. This year the cadets have become CPR certified. We are looking forward to bring back ride time for the cadets in the next couple of months. We are also excited for them to go to IFSI this summer. I am very proud of what our cadets have accomplished and can't wait to see what the rest of this year brings!

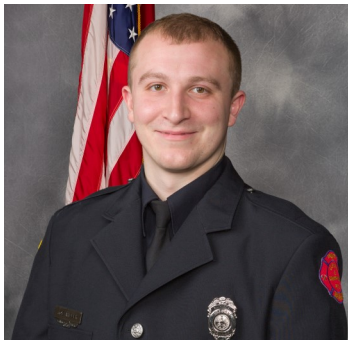








Fire Signs: FF/PM Joe Miller



"AC Mike Huneke originally had the idea of switching to a double sided, single sign for all addresses because they look nicer, are less expensive, easier to install, and display street names."

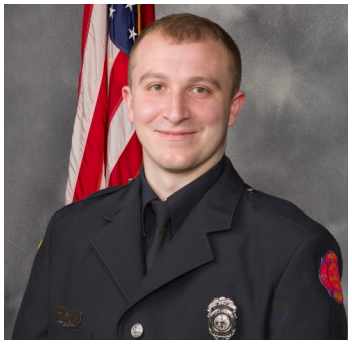
Over the last several years we have been revamping our entire fire sign situation. Years ago our fire signs district wide were recognized as being either in poor shape or on the road to being replaced. That being said, crews physically went out and graded every single sign in the district which all totaled approximately 3,433 signs. The grades used are as follows: "No replacement", "Still Readable", "Needs Repair", "Not Readable" and "Missing". Crews were also able to make notes via the Tricom Fire Sign App on pertinent information such as but not limited to: long lanes, Fire Sign locations (posts or mailboxes), landscaping corrections, hazards and long lane markers. Through tremendous amounts of work and time from duty crews, we have made a huge dent into replacing all signs.

AC Mike Huneke originally had the idea of switching to a double sided, single sign for all addresses; they look nicer, are less expensive, easier to install, and display street names. The new signs have also become very popular amongst citizens of the District, many have been calling to just get a "newer style" sign. The plan remains to eventually replace every sign in the district. Crews are also replacing signs and posts that are damaged or stolen as needed.

Our new budget in May will allow for even more signs to be ordered and replaced. Meanwhile, I cannot thank the crews enough for the time they put into this. This is not an easy task nor is it easy to dedicate resources to. Again, I applaud all crews, shifts and personnel for the time committed to this.



CPR: FF/PM Joe Miller



2023 BLS CPR Schedule

January 24

March 28

May 23

July 25

September 26

November 28

As the Program Manager for CPR, I oversee all of the public and in-house CPR classes taught at Elburn Fire. The current CPR instructors are: FM Lisa Schopp, Lt. Dan Czaruk, FF/PM Sean Darlak, FF/PM Stephen Bicos, Capt. Brian Schopp and myself. During the year 2022, we were able to complete the majority of our goals as well as plan future ones. One major goal completed was acquiring all new AEDs. The new AEDs are a lot more user friendly, offer a more realistic experience and include different languages. We have had several instructors retire as well as send new instructors to get certified. Another goal that is still currently being executed is obtaining more first aid equipment. One future goal I'd like to speak on is "phasing out" Waubonsee as a Training Center. After talking to Waubonsee staff, this will be a strategic, elongated separation rather than an immediate stop. It will allow us to act more freely, rely on less moving parts, and save money.

Through the help of our instructors we have taught the following number of students: 72 Basic Life Support Providers and 45 Heartsaver Providers. This does not include the department renewal which will add another 50-60 students. Going forward, we will have a big change for scheduling. For the year 2023, we will be teaching public BLS CPR classes every other month, the fourth Tuesday at 6:00 PM. We have done this in order to avoid scheduling conflicts with other classes. Heartsaver classes will remain "as-needed".

If you have interest in becoming a CPR instructor, please reach out to me to discuss.

American Heart Association
Learn and Live
AUTHORIZED
TRAINING
CENTER

Closing Remarks: Chief Joe Cluchey



The annual report you just read highlights how the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District members have worked diligently to meet the service delivery demands and to set the highest standards possible for serving the residents and visitors of our community during 2022. It is genuinely a privilege to serve others, especially when they are in some of the greatest needs in their lives.

We are incredibly proud of our members and the cohesive team developed over the last several years. The teammates range from our elected Fire District Trustees, their appointed Fire Commissioners, our appointed command and support staff, commissioned officers and members, our committed part-time members, Union members, our Tri-Com dispatch partners, our fire and police agency response partners, Southern Fox Valley EMS program leadership, and the members of our community.

As you have reviewed our activities and accomplishments from 2022, I hope you can see the efforts undertaken by our members to help safeguard you and our community. These activities come with the cost of these members sacrificing time with their families (especially during special days and events), and it comes with wear and tear on their bodies and minds. We are keenly aware of the risks that come with our profession, yet we sometimes forget its impact on the loved ones back at home while their firefighters are working. I ask that you remain mindful that our members have to temporarily place their family's needs on hold to attend to your family's needs and keep them in your thoughts and intentions.

My family has shared me with the fire service for over forty-two years, and the time is coming for me to devote more time to them and our interests. During the October 2022 Fire District Board of Trustees Meeting, I informed the Trustees of my intent to retire in October 2023. In light of this decision, I am writing the "Closing" of this annual report instead of the "Opening" introduction. I want you to know how appreciative I am for my family's support and sacrifices for so many years and the support I have received from my fire service family.

We are incredibly proud of our members and the cohesive team developed over the last several years.

2023 will be a year of transition for our department, and I assure you that we have taken the steps necessary to prepare our members for their new roles and responsibilities. We will continue acting on our succession planning efforts while keeping an eye on the future with our continued initiatives. We have internally begun transferring some of the responsibilities within our ranks and continue to work diligently in providing personal and professional development opportunities for our members to aid in a smooth transition. We will continue to be good stewards of the resources and support provided to us by our residents. You and your families are the reason we exist, and we will remain steadfast in earning and maintaining your trust through our committed efforts to provide you with outstanding service.

I look forward to my final months as Fire Chief for this incredible department, and I am even more excited to see how they make it better than how they received it after my retirement. I am grateful for the opportunity to help lead this department and serve this community over the past six-plus years. Still, the greatest honor by far has been the trust and support afforded to me by our members, staff, Trustees, Commissioners, and response partners.

THANK YOU!



Taken from the Elburn Way: "Regardless of your position within this organization, be GREAT in your role" -Chief Joe Cluchey