

# Borough of Emmaus Fire & Ambulance Departments

## End of Year Annual Report



2022



## Introduction

Greetings,

The year 2022 continued to be one that Borough of Emmaus' Emergency Services and the rest of the world will not soon forget. The third year of a pandemic that seems to have no plan on leaving, unrest in eastern Europe and continued supply shortages have made for a challenging year.

The year also brought other challenges as we've been officially displaced while a multimillion-dollar renovation to the station is underway, while inconvenient at times the departments have worked hard to show little impact to the quality of service and ensuring a timely response. We've also onboarded new leadership for the ambulance department, Adam Priest who is so no stranger to the Borough and its residents, with decades of experience in emergency medicine.

The ongoing supply chain issues have continued to delay delivery of a new ambulance, that we hope to see in service this coming summer. We continue to strive to maintain the right pace in the Ambulance department and continue to provide the best levels of care and service to the community.

The one thing that was not challenging for the departments is the commitment to exceptional service to the community, its visitors, and the surrounding communities. We continue to thank the residents and elected officials for their trust, commitment, and dedication to our organizations past, present and future.

Thank you.

John H. Price

Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief

Keith A. Miller

Deputy Director of Emergency Services

Adam Priest

Assistant EMS Chief



## **Response Areas**

The Emmaus Borough Fire Department's primary response area is within the Borough of Emmaus, with areas expanding for automatic and mutual aid including Upper Milford Township, Salisbury Township, Macungie Borough, Lower Macungie Township and the city of Allentown. Other areas where our aide was requested include Upper Macungie Township and even Hellertown Borough.

The Ambulance Department responds to the Borough of Emmaus municipal boundaries as well as portions of Lower Macungie Township to the west, Salisbury Township to the north and half of Upper Milford Township to the south and east.

The response areas of both departments are diverse with areas ranging from more urban in type including the city to more rural areas found in the townships. The response area reflects communities of all socioeconomic classes and varying ages and demographics. The community has many different hazards including a major railway which effectively divides the area in half. There are also large educational establishments, manufacturing businesses and multiple elderly care facilities.

The Emmaus Ambulance Department primarily transports patient to 2 primary facilities for definitive care, Lehigh Valley Health Network and Saint Luke's University Network. These facilities are located outside of the Borough in adjoining municipalities and are capable handling all types of medical and trauma cases.

The ambulance department provides and is provided mutual aide primarily through two agencies, The Macungie Ambulance Corps and Cetronia Ambulance. However, it is not uncommon for the Borough residents to be assisted by the City of Allentown Paramedics, Upper Saucon Ambulance, Medevac and Saint Luke's Transport Unit.





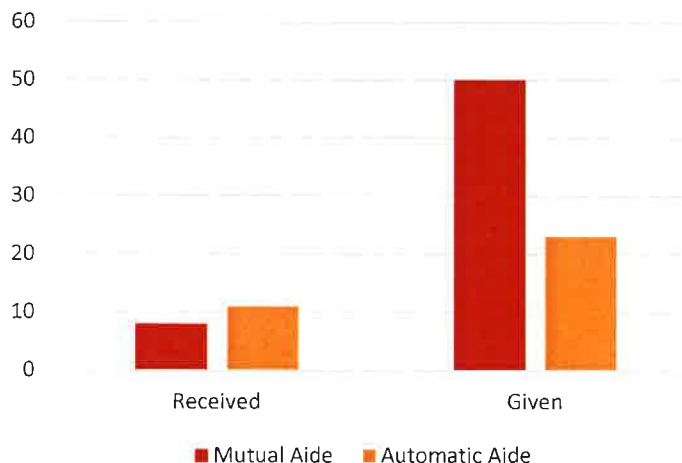
## Fire Call Volume and Data

In 2022, both departments saw an increase in call volume as the world attempts to return to normal. The fire department saw a 12.9% increase in calls for 2022 ending the year with 1129 responses, with a 5-year increase in 2017 from 451 or 150%. This included 34 structure fire responses which represents 33% of all fire incidents for 2022. The EFD was also giving aid to our neighboring departments 73 times in 2022 while receiving aid into the Borough 19 times.

YEAR	TOTAL RUNS
2022	1129
2021	1000
2020	837
2019	660
2018	545
2017	451



Mutual/Automatic Aide Given and received



Type	Mutual Aide	Automatic Aide
Received	8	11
Given	50	23

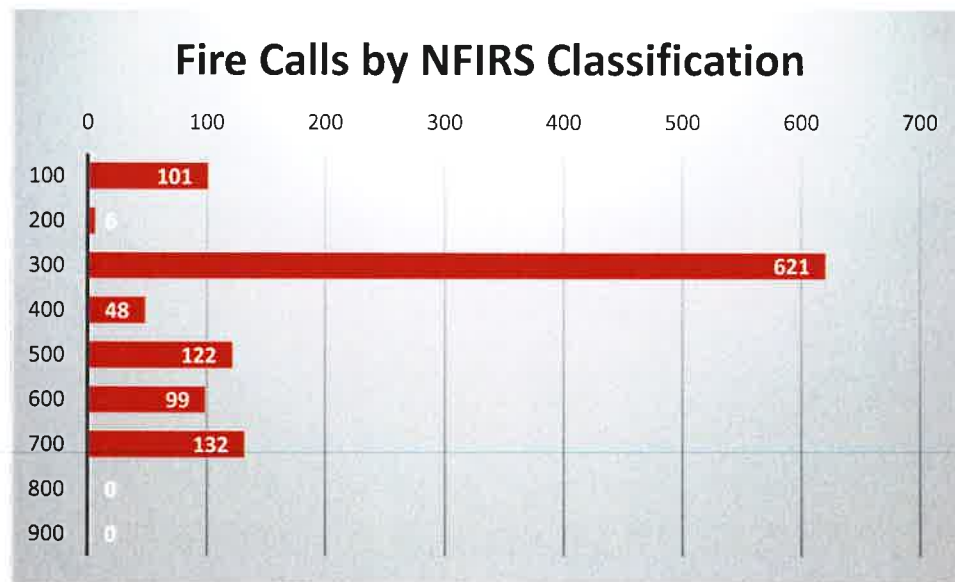
Additional Structure Fire Responses	
Second Alarm Assignments	6
Third Alarm Assignments	1
Special Requests	2

\*Mutual Aide is aside from normal response areas, automatic aide is normal first alarm response procedures.

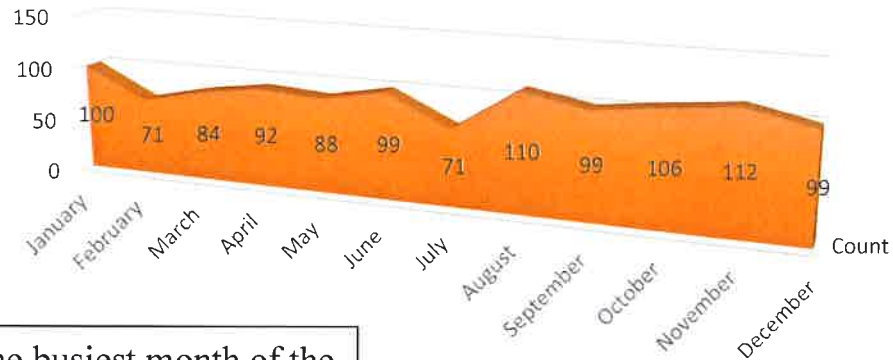


**2022 Fire Call types**

NFIRS Code	Description	Count	% Change 2021-2022
100	FIRE (All types of structure, cooking, outdoor, vehicle)	101	62.90%
200	Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion or Overheat (without Fire)	6	20.00%
300	Rescue and Emergency Medical Services	621	4.90%
400	Hazardous Condition (Spills, Haz-mat, Wires Down)	48	14.30%
500	Service Call (Lift Assists)	122	4.30%
600	Good Intent Call (Steam mistaken for smoke)	99	17.90%
700	False Alarm Call	132	37.50%
800	Severe Weather & Natural Disasters	0	-100.00%
900	Special Incident Type	0	0.00%

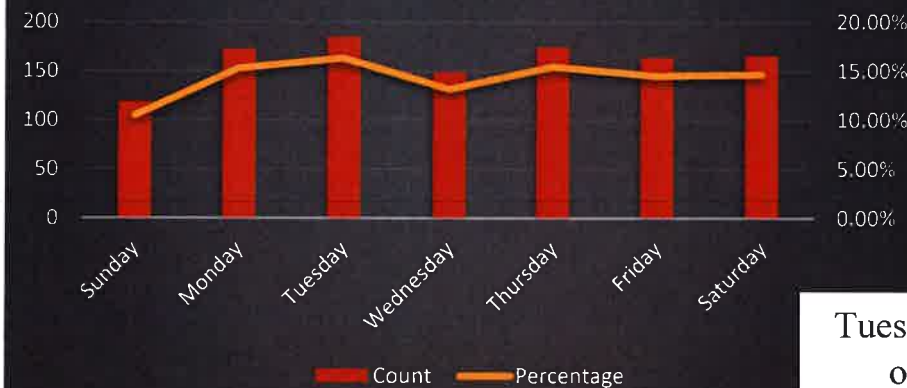


### Fire Run Totals by Month



November the busiest month of the year with 112 responses.

### Fire Runs by Day of the Week



Day of the week	Count	Percentage
Sunday	119	10.52%
Monday	173	15.29%
Tuesday	185	16.35%
Wednesday	149	13.17%
Thursday	175	15.47%
Friday	164	14.50%
Saturday	166	14.67%

Tuesday was the busiest day of the week with 185 responses on Tuesdays.

#### Average Fractile Response Time

3:58

#### Average Response Time

4:56



#### Smoke Detectors Installed

21

#### Average time at Scene

21:04

#### Hours of Training

737.5

### Fire Runs by Time of Day



11am was the busiest time of day for responses with 77 or roughly 7% of all calls.

### Estimated Fire Loss versus Property Saved by Dollar





## EMS Call Volume and Data

Year	Calls
2022	2617
2021	2541
2020	2020
2019	2508
2018	2540

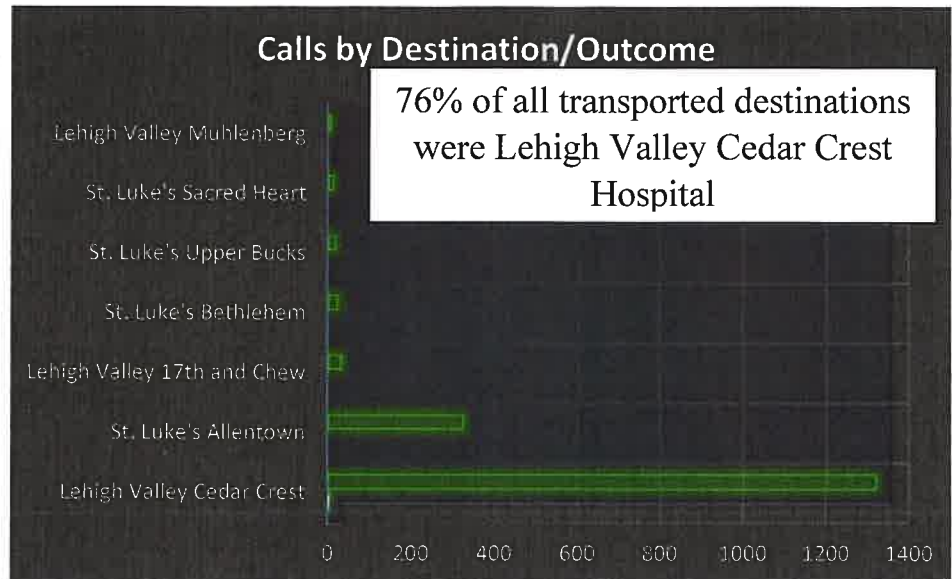


Municipality	Count	Percentage
Alburtis	2	0.1
Allentown	200	7.6
Coopersburg	6	0.2
Emmaus	1164	44.5
Lower Macungie	121	4.6
Lower Milford	28	1.1
Macungie	32	1.2
Milford (Bucks)	4	0.2
Salisbury	551	21.1
South Whitehall	17	0.6
Upper Macungie	6	0.2
Upper Milford	316	12.1
Upper Saucon	122	4.7





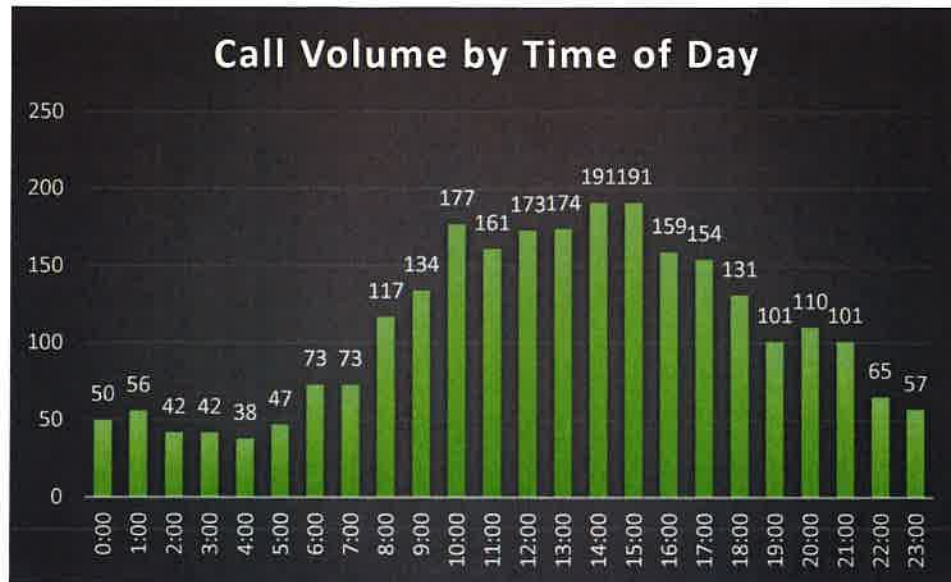
Receiving Facility	Amount
Lehigh Valley Cedar Crest	1320
St. Luke's Allentown	325
Lehigh Valley 17th and Chew	31
St. Luke's Bethlehem	22
St. Luke's Upper Bucks	17
St. Luke's Sacred Heart	12
Lehigh Valley Muhlenberg	6



Day/Night	Count
Day	1777
Night	840

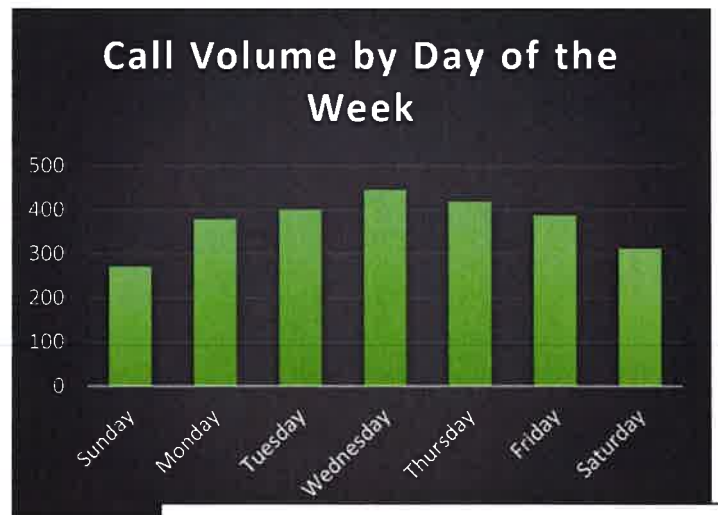
Dayshift handled 67% of all calls for service





2pm-3pm was the busiest time frame

Day	Call Volume
Sunday	271
Monday	379
Tuesday	401
Wednesday	446
Thursday	419
Friday	388
Saturday	313



Wednesday was the busiest day of the week



# Emmaus Emergency Services Annual Report

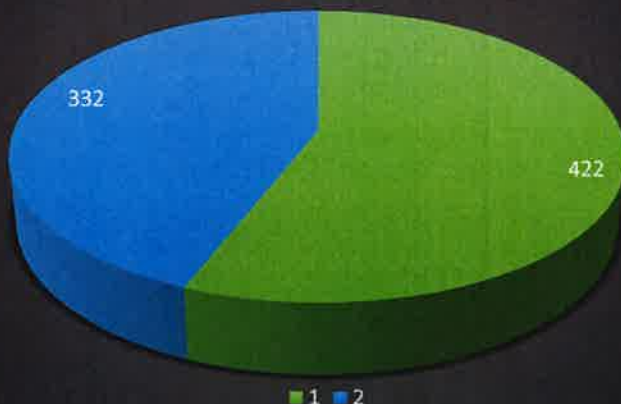
2022

Group	Count	Pct
Abdominal Pain	84	3.2
Airway Obstruction	1	0
Allergic Reaction / Anaphylaxis	10	0.4
Allergies	1	0
Altered Mental Status	36	1.4
Animal Bite	2	0.1
Assault	23	0.9
Back Pain	49	1.9
Behavioral	26	1
Bleeding	57	2.2
Breathing Problems	160	6.1
CO Poisoning / Hazmat	6	0.2
Cardiac Arrest	24	0.9
Chest Pain	122	4.7
Choking	8	0.3
Class V/D.O.A.	9	0.3
Convulsions / Seizure	23	0.9
Dehydration	5	0.2
Diabetic Problem	41	1.6
Eye Problem	1	0
Fall Victim	292	11.2
Fire Scene StandBy	45	1.7
Football Standby	10	0.4
GI Problem	2	0.1
Headache	11	0.4

Group Continued	Count	Pct
Heart Problems	30	1.1
Heat/Cold Exposure	1	0
Hemorrhage/Laceration	4	0.2
Ingestion/Poisoning	8	0.3
Medical Alert Alarm	59	2.3
Not Entered	267	10.2
Poison / Overdose	38	1.5
Pregnancy / Childbirth	2	0.1
Psychiatric Problems	124	4.7
Respiratory Distress	18	0.7
Seizure	24	0.9
Sick Person	539	20.6
Stab/Gunshot Wound	1	0
Standby Event	15	0.6
Stroke/CVA	38	1.5
Traffic Accident	98	3.7
Transfer / Interfacility / Palliative Care	78	3
Trauma, Level 1	4	0.2
Trauma, Level 2	7	0.3
Trauma, Level 3	3	0.1
Traumatic Injury	71	2.7
Unconscious / Fainting	65	2.5
Unknown Problems	71	2.7
Vomiting	4	0.2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2617</b>	

Sick Persons and Fall Victims were the most prevalent call types

## Wheelchair/ Ambulette 2021 vs 2022



Year	Wheelchair Transports
2021	422
2022	332*

\*Reduction reflects staffing shortages





**Infrastructure****Staffing**

The fire department is currently staffed by two full-time career chief officers, 30 part-time career members, 4 volunteers, and one administrative assistant. During 2022, 5 new career fire personnel were brought into the department with 4 departing the department for other opportunities. The department currently maintains a staffing of 3 personnel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week that handle roughly 95% of incidents autonomously. The department also utilizes a “call back” for additional personnel when an incident warrants it.

The ambulance department is currently staffed by an Assistant EMS Chief, 4 full-time paramedics as well as 29 part-time career Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and paratransit van operators. The department also shares the fire department’s administrative assistant and has a volunteer Medical Director. The department currently staffs one 911 dedicated ALS ambulance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The department, when possible, also staffs a second paramedic ambulance during the daytime hours that also handles 911 calls for service but also routine transportation, in addition to a paratransit van for wheelchair transportations.

Nationally, the emergency medical services world is facing a shortage of paramedics and EMTs. The Emmaus ambulance department is active in recruitment and retention and is working on long term solutions for this challenge. The fire department is also active in recruiting and retaining staff both career and volunteer and developing programs in conjunction with the ambulance department to develop and train the future first responders for the Emmaus Borough community and its neighbors.



### **Facilities**

This past year has certainly been a unique one for the Emmaus Fire and Ambulance Services with a massive construction project uprooting our home, which began in March of 2022. This involved the entire removal of personnel and contents from the living, sleeping and office areas of Central Station. The \$5 million-dollar project meant a much needed but cumbersome renovation and addition to the station located on North Sixth Street, with only the apparatus bays being able to be utilized most of the time. This led to the erection of two trailers on the soon to be renovated Lions Field Park, which, while nice facilities led to and continues to be tight quarters for the 5-8 personnel working at any given time.

The future is everything! Central Fire Station, which was built in 1980, has served its purpose well in the last forty years and was in need of modernization and expansion. The new Central Fire Station is slated to be finished near the end of the spring or early summer of this year. The renovation will include some much-needed additions like locker rooms, a large training classroom, additional storage and new office space to help allow for a better working environment. In addition, it will provide for a safer work environment by adding fire suppression systems, diesel exhaust capture system for the apparatus, isolated turnout gear storage and a dedicated decontamination area outside of the “living space.” Lastly, the new design of the station is centered around the complete integration of both departments into one open house.

The departments intend to welcome the public in an open house at the completion of construction and the furnishings/equipment is back in place.



### **Fleet**

The Emmaus Fire Department fleet currently consists of several types of specialty vehicles. This includes: 2 Command Vehicles, 2 Engines, 1 Rescue Engine, 1 Ladder Truck, 2 support vehicles and one fire police van with an average of the vehicles being purchased in 2006. In 2021 the Borough replaced one of its aged 1998 Fire Engines, in 2023 the extensive process for replacing the department's rescue engine will begin with an anticipated ordering date in 2024 and a delivery due to supply chain issues and shortages up to 24-36 months later.

The Emmaus Ambulance Department fleet currently consists of 3 licensed transporting ambulances which are licensed to the Basic Life Support, Intermediate Life Support and Advanced Life Support levels and can be staffed by EMTs, AEMTs, Paramedics and Prehospital Registered Nurses. In addition, the departments Assistant Chief is assigned a Command Vehicle that also has the capability to provide quick response services. The department also maintains a paratransit van. The department has a new ambulance ordered to replace one of the two older ones, but due to supply chain issues as mentioned above, it is estimated to be delivered in the summer of 2023 and will be placed in service in the fall.





### **Capital Projects**

The Emmaus Fire Department has recently obtained additional Rescue Equipment in 2022 for the purposes of further expanding our capabilities and obtaining our “heavy” rescue certification through PA State fire commissioners office. This equipment included some rope rescue equipment, and to replace unrated and outdated chains for vehicle extrications and other technical rescue situations. The department has also replaced the Chief’s command vehicle and added rehab capabilities to our existing squad vehicle. The department also upgraded headlights on our primary response vehicles to increase visibility, operate more efficiently and promote a better culture of safety. Similarly, the department placed “binder lifts” on the first out apparatus. The fire department has taken over lift assist calls from the police department in recent years, the binder lift devices help the firefighters safely lift our residents from multiple positions with greater safety and ease.

The Emmaus Ambulance Department in 2022 obtained vehicle safety upgrades, new portable suction units, new “scoop” stretchers and ALS kits. The vehicle safety upgrades included GPS cameras for every ambulance department’s vehicles and command vehicles. The portable suction units replaced outdated and underperforming units which were at the end of their service life. The scoop stretchers were also replaced due to being at the end of their service life and visibly showing wear and tear from years of service. The ALS kits were replaced to promote more efficiency and bring important patient treatment equipment to the patient. The Assistant EMS Chief was also given a vehicle that was “handed down” from the fire department with the replacement of the Fire Chief’s Command Vehicle. These capital improvements continue to improve the quality of service provided to our citizens and stakeholders.



## Community

The Borough of Emmaus community is a strong, proud and resilient cooperation of people. They take great pride in their emergency services and support them whenever possible. It is the intention of both departments to continue to serve the community and meet the expectations of a profound, professional level of continued service. The Borough Emergency Services is constantly preparing for the next unforeseen event, just as we were tested, strained but not broken by the 2019 Covid pandemic. The community's trust ensures that we are steadfast in our dedication to the community and its neighbors.

The Borough's community continues to grow with multiple real estate projects underway or planned, and Emmaus Emergency Services stands committed to the expansion of services to these new sections of our community. Accordingly, we are constantly striving to have a strong presence in community outreach. From bringing Santa to the triangle, the Halloween parade, visiting schools, the community hero's day, and national night out we strive to make familiar faces a part of the community.

The current construction of the newly renovated Central Station is underway, and it has been a challenge to maintain the level of the fire station being the open to the community. We look forward to the completion of the building and being able to welcome the public back into their firehouse.

The Kiwanis club was gracious to the Emergency Services this past year and donated a commercial grade ice maker for the new station to be utilized for firefighter rehab during the hot summer months/days. The Borough's Emergency Services have received donations from many different individuals and organizations over the years and the staff and management greatly appreciate the support.





### **Upcoming Challenges/Opportunities/Conclusion**

The world has certainly been a different place since 2019 and the challenges that emerged have continued and, in some sense, gotten better but at the same point some gotten worse. We continue to have concerns with the supply chain for certain things although it seems to be getting slightly better. After the lockdowns, it has made recruiting personnel difficult, and the hazards of the profession are more prevalent which leads to a lesser pool of people willing to undertake this line of work. The leadership of the department's are actively working hard to overcome this challenge which leads to some difficult but exciting opportunities.

A great opportunity we have to explore goes with the new construction at Central fire station. Once completed, the fire station will house a larger and more modern training room from which we hope to start an EMS training center. This will not only allow us to "open" the doors to the public again for various trainings for the public and neighboring departments, but also to continue to maintain our own professionals' certifications and skillset. Furthermore, an opportunity arises to train our own EMTs to ensure that we always have personnel available that we can personally make the best providers for the community.

In conclusion, the leadership team would like to say thank you one more time, for the overwhelming support from this community. Without the love, support and most importantly trust in our ability to serve the community we could not be successful. We would also like to wish everyone, a stable, healthy and prosperous 2023. Thank you.



### **Contact**

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