

We Care for You.

2022



YEAR IN
REVIEW



BY THE NUMBERS

42,106

TOTAL EMERGENCY CALLS

28,993

TOTAL MEDICAL CALLS

57

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

1/2

FIRE FATALITIES/
CIVILIAN FIRE INJURIES

\$7,904,603

TOTAL FIRE PROPERTY
DAMAGE

\$123,544,107

PROPERTY SAVED

74

DAILY POSITIONS

292/28.5

SWORN/CIVILIAN

5:40

AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME

63/1941

VOLUNTEERS/HOURS

7,538

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

3,808

PLAN REVIEWS

\$57,931,010

FY21-22 BUDGET

\$58,252,493

FY21-22 BUDGET W/GRANTS

\$55,619,254

FY22-23 BUDGET

\$55,824,920

FY22-23 BUDGET W/GRANTS

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

The men and women of Scottsdale Fire Department lived up to their sworn oath of Caring in 2022 amidst significant societal instability both locally and nationally. Scottsdale remains an international destination location because of our lifestyle, geography and mass gathering events. 2023 will continue to challenge the organization's capacity to respond to increased calls for service with limited resources.

The forthcoming attrition of more than half of our personnel offers significant challenges and great opportunities to shape the future of all-hazards fire service delivery in the City of Scottsdale. Our focus in 2023 will be to solidly establish the skills replacement plan and the strategic direction for the next three years. Education of policy makers, practitioners, and citizens regarding the attrition challenge and the feedback received will guide our path forward.

The most valued asset of the department remains our staff, whose professionalism and commitment to the health and well-being of our



citizens and visitors assure our success. Keeping them safe, well trained, and healthy must continue to be our top priority.

The Fire Department joins the Police Department and Emergency Management as the triad of public safety for the city. As such, coordination between these disciplines will remain a focal point.

Finally, civil discourse in society has become an unreliable commodity. Scottsdale Fire Department remains committed to the dignity and respect that all citizens, visitors, and public service providers deserve. Our most basic function is to Care and we will do that in every way we provide services.

We are proud to serve you and want to hear your feedback. Let us know how we are doing by sending an e-mail to fire@ScottsdaleAZ.gov or call (480) 312-8000.

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

Aug. 22 - At 5:17 am, the Northeast Deputy arrived on scene of a large working residential structure fire and established Dynamite Command. Smoke was showing from the west and north sides of the structure. Occupants stated all people were out of the home.

Engine 614 arrived on scene and was assigned interior. Engine 613 established water supply and joined interior. Ladder 615 was tasked with obtaining a 360-degree view of the house and to secure utilities. An all clear was given by interior crews.

The fire was located in a bathroom attic area and was extinguished. As crews were working on overhaul, more fire presented itself in the common attic area.

Fire quickly spread through the attic. The incident was upgraded to a first alarm and defensive operations began.



The fire was extinguished with L615 aerial operations supported by North, East, and West sectors flowing large diameter hose lines from the exterior.



Sept. 21 - Scottsdale Fire technical rescue teams rescued a dog from the Tom's Thumb Trailhead. The female hiker was located on the trail 3/4 of the way from the trailhead with 2 dogs. The large dog pictured was showing signs of heat exhaustion. Scottsdale Paramedics started cooling and rehydration for the dog named "Diego". He is a 125 lbs German Shepherd. Crews carried him down a steep part of the trail and removed the hiker and the dogs utilizing an UTV. "Diego" was doing much better after 5 bottles of water. He got into the car under his own power.



Aug. 31 - Scottsdale Fire technical rescue crews were called out to a construction site for a worker who fell about 12-foot into a concrete vault. It was an open-air vault, which allowed SFD to downgrade the incident to an EMS assignment from a confined space. The construction worker was removed from the construction site and transported to local trauma center.



Oct. 18 - Scottsdale Fire arrived on scene of a two-story residential structure under construction. Fire crews quickly extinguished the fire coming from the attic area. Ladder crews were sent to the roof to confirm no extensions and start salvage operations.

OPERATIONS/RESOURCES

It was a busy year for staffing and special ops, which included a special eye to the record crowds coming out of the pandemic at signature events like Barrett Jackson, WMPO, Arabian horse show and Spring Training.

To protect and secure these events into 2023, SFD capitalized on grants to equip firefighters with specialty gear. The Urban Areas Security Initiative grant allowed SFD to purchase hazardous materials meters, Technical Rescue equipment and harnesses, and radios for the Terrorism Liaison Officers. The Securing the Cities grant, awarded by Maricopa County Emergency Management, was used to acquire personal radiation detectors, backpack detectors, and other identification devices.

In 2022, SFD welcomed 27 new probationary firefighters to the department. The Hazardous Materials Team added three new members and the Technical Rescue Team increased by four. Sixteen firefighters were trained to ARFF 139 standards.





AMBULANCE SERVICE

In 2022, Scottsdale Fire, with support from City Council and City Leadership, submitted a request for SFD ground ambulance service within COS boundaries. The fire department with the City Budget and City Manager's offices have completed estimates, projections, liabilities, and benefits of the projected system.

Scottsdale Fire was successful in application submission, cursory review, substantive review, and will soon go to rate review. The city has partnered with Kathy Steadman Esq. who has many years of experience with this process and AZDHS requirements, which should help finalize the efforts by the end of 2023.

EMS

Quality care and training are continuous concentration points for the EMS division.

This year, EMS deployed a new Electronic Patient Care Reporting system that aligns SFD with AZDHS and other valley fire department agencies. Additionally, 8,229 SFD EMS patient care records were reviewed related to Cardiac Arrests, Traumas, STEMI's, Sepsis, Stroke, and refusals. The focus of the reviews were quality assurance, compliance with local protocols, and overall care of our patients.

Scottsdale Fire drives training from QA/QI results. In 2022, EMS delivered 480 hours of face-to-face EMT and Paramedic training hours in cardiac care, trauma, pediatrics, pharmacology, and Labor and Delivery. In addition, 29 graduated from paramedic school, and SFD members instructed more than 1600 hours of paramedic education.



TRAINING

The Training Division is continuously providing training, ongoing education, and professional development to our current firefighters. The Division also ensures firefighter candidates can be appropriately selected during the recruitment process by assisting in the planning and implementation of a new video-based hiring platform. This resulted in sending 28 recruits to five regional academies in Phoenix, Chandler, and Glendale. Additionally, the Training Division facilitated the promotional processes for rank of engineer and captain.

The training team was involved in developing and implementing the annual training calendar that includes all rank-specific Continuing Education, as well as quarterly training, highlighting Wildland, Save Your Own, Firefighter Wellness, and Live Fire Training.

SFD continues to remain relevant in the region as a member of many regional committees such as the East Valley Steering committee and the Regional Operations Consistency Committee. This allows members to train with other fire departments in such areas as crew-based training, ladder regional training, command and control level training, hazardous material, and technical rescue training.

Training also supported citizen academies, including the Scottsdale Association of Realtors, Scottsdale Leadership, City of Scottsdale Insider, and Scottsdale Rising Young Professionals. These civilian specific academies, gives insight to "what we do" as a fire department.



NEW TRAINING ACADEMY

A voter-approved bond, passed by Scottsdale voters, is permitting SFD to construct a modern fire and medical training academy. This new academy will allow firefighters to train for a vast array of emergencies in the region.

The facility will feature offices, conference rooms, and classrooms for onsite training and support staff. The footprint includes area for drivers training, vehicle extrication, 2 state-of-the-art burn towers with the latest safety features, and a flashover chamber.

The academy includes a 167-seat, multipurpose auditorium to offer conferences, classes, and various events, such as academy and paramedic school graduations. The building also features a full working commercial kitchen and modern male/female locker rooms with showers that can accommodate 45 personnel.

The academy will have a gym for recruits and staff to meet the physical demands of the profession, along with cold tubs for rehabilitation. The sole function of the sauna is to reduce carcinogen exposures by sweating out deadly toxins after live fire training. There also is a two-truck apparatus bay to store academy trucks and equipment that will also double as an area for tactical simulations to train command staff or use in promotional processes.

PRESERVE PROTECTION

The Fire Prevention division continues its focus on protecting the Preserve and surrounding communities.

Five residential communities in Scottsdale were nationally recognized as Firewise Communities in 2022. A total of 20 Scottsdale communities are now Firewise, protecting more than 5500 homes.

Another 21 communities are in various stages of the process to become recognized.

FIRE SYSTEMS COMPLIANCE

We continue to utilize The Compliance Engine to ensure that the existing life safety systems in the City of Scottsdale are fully functional. Currently, 12,444 systems are being tracked, with 88% of those systems in compliance.

PLAN REVIEW/ INSPECTIONS

2022 recorded the highest number of fire plans reviewed and fire inspections completed since 2008. This is due largely to the extensive construction activity.

Additionally, building plan reviews and inspections are becoming more complex and time consuming.

Many new large residential/ hotel occupancies are now replacing land plots that previously had low populace.

This movement from low to high occupancy buildings will ultimately increase service demands.

FIRE CODE

The latest available 2021 International Fire Code was amended and adopted to continue the progressive efforts of fire code enforcement and safety in the City of Scottsdale.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management leads preparedness for the city. This includes coordinating employee training and multi-agency drills. Here are the highlights for 2022:

- Delivered four “EOC101” training sessions in the EOC to the Executive Team, their assistants, then division level supervisors and managers
- Arranged for a virtual V-402-NIMS for Senior Elected Officials training course for the Mayor and Council
- Coordinated travel and training for 22 Public Safety Leaders to attend five-day long Enhanced Unified Command training in College Station, Texas, at the TEEX Campus.
- Launched citywide new employee mandatory online NIMS training program.

The EM office completed the first year of a city-wide Vulnerability Task force, which now includes eight overlapping subcommittees. Additionally, staffing was supported by two ASU Emergency Management interns, a new fulltime EM Coordinator position and half-time Wildfire Fuels Coordinator position.

Fuels Mitigation efforts:

Scottsdale received a total of \$370K grant funds for reduction of high risk overgrown and invasive species wildfire fuels. This allowed us to complete the following:

- 14 miles of roadway right of way.
- Nearly 100 acres of mechanical chainsaw and chipping work.
- 155 acres of pre-emergent chemical treatment.
- 418 acres of land inside the Preserve.
- Included 4.5 miles of right of way along the west side of Scottsdale Road, which is in Phoenix.

EM is also coordinating fuel-mitigation strategy efforts with City Water Resources, Storm Water, Public Works, Planning, Community Services departments to encourage focus on the same goals and objectives.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The health and safety of our members remain top priority. Cigna continually is looking for ways to improve the *Your Call* benefit with a more in-depth look at the Firefighter’s sleep pattern. The effort provides modalities to improve sleep, which is crucial to a firefighter well-being.

Cigna also sponsored speaker Mike Carleton, former Tempe Police Officer, for quarterly training. The class provided an in-depth look at behavioral health for Emergency Responders with a focus on resiliency training, as well as providing options for professional counseling.

Cancer among firefighters continues to be a top killer. Scottsdale Fire received a FEMA assistance grant that will fund cancer screenings through Vincere Cancer Center located in Scottsdale. Our highest risk members, which is based on years of service and age, will have priority access to the screenings. It is our hope that if a member has cancer that we get the firefighter on the path for early treatment for the best survival rate.

WE CARE FOR YOU



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 **PODCAST**
Firewatch

