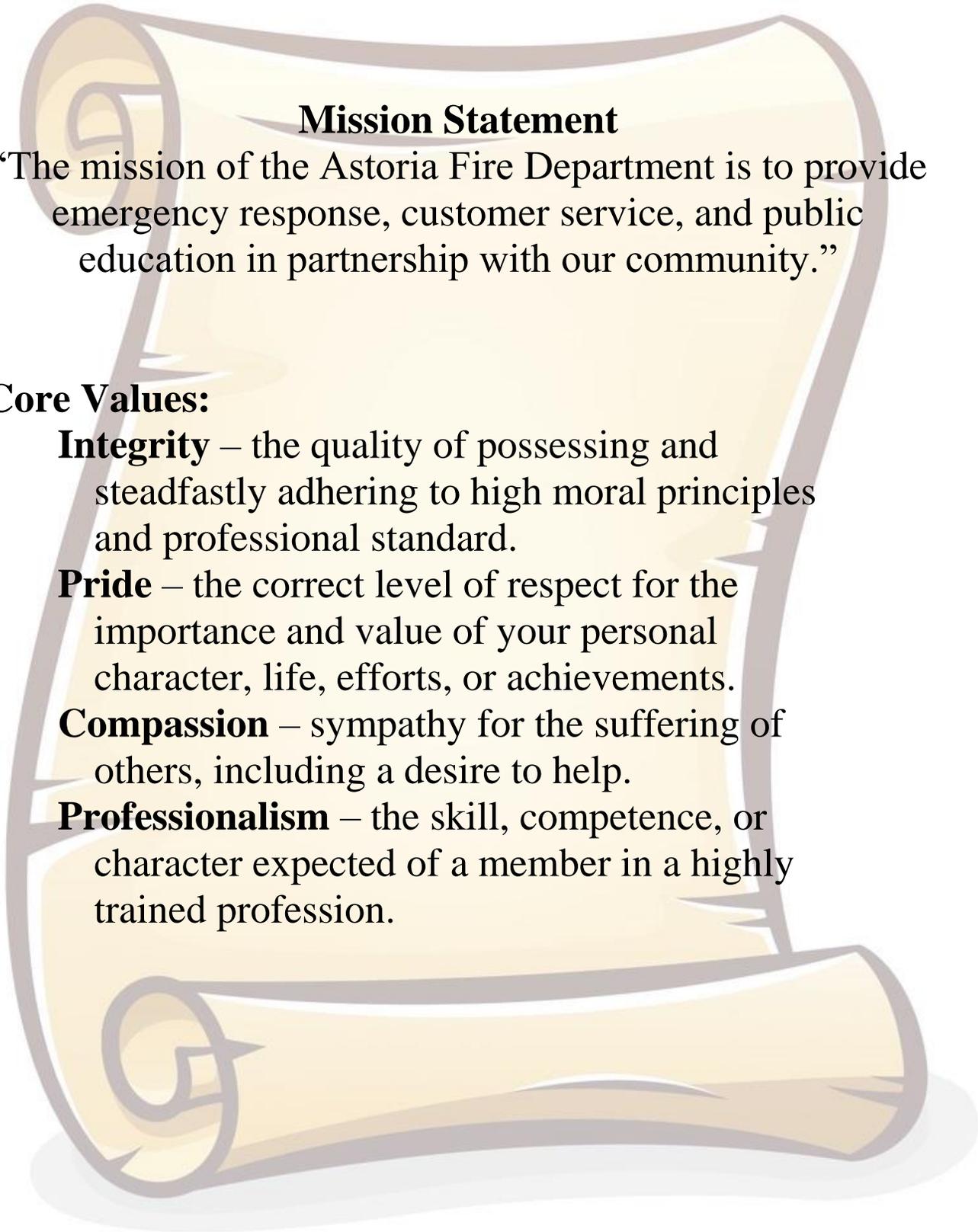


# **ASTORIA FIRE DEPARTMENT**



## **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**



## **Mission Statement**

“The mission of the Astoria Fire Department is to provide emergency response, customer service, and public education in partnership with our community.”

### **Core Values:**

**Integrity** – the quality of possessing and steadfastly adhering to high moral principles and professional standard.

**Pride** – the correct level of respect for the importance and value of your personal character, life, efforts, or achievements.

**Compassion** – sympathy for the suffering of others, including a desire to help.

**Professionalism** – the skill, competence, or character expected of a member in a highly trained profession.



CITY OF ASTORIA  
Founded 1811 • Incorporated 1856

555 30<sup>th</sup> Street  
Astoria, OR 97103

City of Astoria  
**Fire Department**  
*Fire / Rescue / EMS / Prevention*



Phone: (503) 325-2345  
Fax: (503) 325-2346

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We had a very busy 2023 and we are excited to share a few of the highlights. Our small team of well trained and hard-working firefighters has been busier than ever providing emergency response, public education and community service that improves the livability of our city and this community. We have increased our efforts in the area of disaster preparedness and look forward to seeing progress during 2024.

Our fire department members enjoy serving our community and its visitors. We strive to be part of community events and deliver high quality customer service and demonstrate professionalism through our work. We will always do our best with the resources we are provided but we also will continue to look for ways to improve. I am very proud to be a member of the Astoria Fire Department and serve along-side the dedicated members of this department.

Daniel C. Crutchfield, Fire Chief  
Astoria Fire Department

# Administration



## **Chief of Astoria Fire Department Dan Crutchfield**

Chief Crutchfield joined Astoria Fire Department in March 2019 and oversees the overall operations of the Astoria Fire Department. He sets policy and works with other city officials to develop a budget that he administers. Chief Crutchfield directly supervises Deputy Chief Terry Corbit, Deputy Chief Brian McCarthy, and Administrative Assistant Casey Litwin. Chief Crutchfield is a member of the Office of State Fire Marshal Hazmat Team 11, is the chairperson of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and also serves as the Clatsop County Fire Defense Board Chief.



## **Deputy Chief of Operations & Training Terry Corbit**

Terry was hired by the City of Astoria as a Firefighter in May of 1990 and took on the role of Deputy Chief in June 2019. Terry is currently the fire department's training officer. Terry supervises the three Lieutenants, represents management on the department safety committee, and investigates accidents/incidents that occur within the organization. He is also the department's quartermaster and is responsible for pump testing.



## **Deputy Chief, Fire Marshal & Emergency Manager Brian McCarthy**

Brian joined the Astoria Fire Department in October of 2021 and is the department's Fire Marshal and the Emergency Manager for the City of Astoria. Brian oversees all fire prevention efforts for the fire department. As Emergency Manager, Brian ensures that the community is prepared for emergencies through planning and education.



## **Administrative Assistant Casey Litwin**

Casey joined the Astoria Fire Department in December of 2022. She is the community liaison completing records requests, tracking burn permits, and answering general questions from the public. Casey codes and tracks all billing/budget information, and purchases operational supplies. She completes any other tasks asked of her, such as scheduling physicals, note-taking, or organizing/creating forms and reports, to help with the day-to-day running of the department.

## A – Shift

A-Shift is led by Lieutenant Wade Mathews. In addition to emergency response, personnel assigned to A-Shift manage several operational programs. These responsibilities include: Hazardous Materials Team, Wildland Firefighting, Intern Firefighter Program, Communications Equipment, Fire Hose and Testing, Ladders and Testing, Small Engine Maintenance, Life Safety Rope, and Personal Protective Equipment.



**Wade Mathews**  
Lieutenant  
Start Date: September 2000\*



**Zach Plant**  
Engineer  
Start Date: July 2016\*



**Gage Piguet**  
Engineer  
Start Date: September 2019\*

\* Indicates previous experience as an Astoria Volunteer Firefighter

## B – Shift

B-Shift is led by Lieutenant Tom Jaworski. In addition to emergency response, personnel assigned to B-Shift manage several operational programs. These responsibilities include: Fire Boat Program, Confined Space Rescue Program, Physical Fitness Equipment, Fire Extinguisher Program, Equipment Inventory and Maintenance, Building Maintenance, and Apparatus Maintenance.



**Tom Jaworski**  
Lieutenant  
Start Date: November 2013\*



**Jake Rummell**  
Engineer  
Start Date: August 2005\*



**Royce Cone**  
Firefighter  
Start Date: July 2021\*

\* Indicates previous experience as an Astoria Volunteer Firefighter

## C – Shift

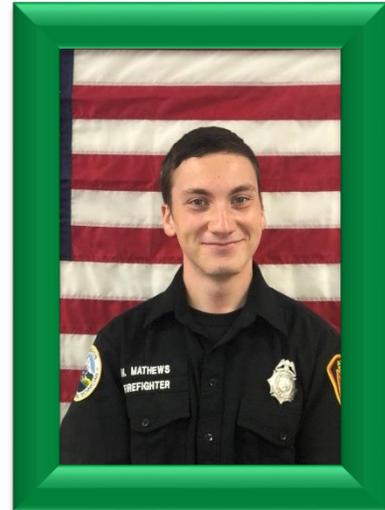
C-Shift is led by Lieutenant Brett Bishop. In addition to emergency response, personnel assigned to C-Shift manage several operational programs. These responsibilities include: Fire Prevention and Education, Air Monitoring Equipment, Emergency Medical Services, Janitorial Supplies and SDS, Maps, Pre-fire Plans, Elite Reporting System, Logbook, EnRoutePro, and Respiratory Protection Program.



**Brett Bishop**  
Lieutenant  
Start Date: July 2007



**Carlos Gomez**  
Engineer  
Start Date: August 2017\*



**Nolan Mathews**  
Firefighter  
Start Date: September 2021\*

\* Indicates previous experience as an Astoria Volunteer Firefighter

# Volunteers

## Intern Firefighters



**Justice Watson**  
Intern Firefighter  
June 2021-June 2023



**Kenny Netherton**  
Intern Firefighter  
January 2023-November 2023



**Jeray Greene**  
Intern Firefighter  
July 2023-July 2023



**Trent Stephens**  
Intern Firefighter  
July 2023



**Kalle Goforth**  
Intern Firefighter  
July 2023-January 2024

## Volunteer Firefighters

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**Alex Karns**  
Volunteer Firefighter  
March 2017



**Jason Pollack**  
Volunteer Firefighter  
February 2018



**Ruslan Polivenko**  
Volunteer Firefighter  
May 2021



**Alex Padgett**  
Volunteer Firefighter  
October 2022-February 2023



**Marcus Rasmussen**  
Volunteer Firefighter  
September 2023-September 2023



**Cobalt Sjögren**  
Volunteer Firefighter  
September 2023

## Volunteer Chaplain

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**Bruce Holt**  
Volunteer Chaplain  
November 2022

Our Chaplain serves multiple agencies, both fire and police, throughout Clatsop County. He is available for counseling, both religious and secular, for any member feeling the need to discuss difficult calls, work issues, home issues, etc. Our chaplain is also a resource for community members. He can be called to sit with or speak with family members whose loved ones were involved in an emergent call. In order to be most effective in his counseling, a big part of the Chaplain's time is spent building relationships with agency members.

## Change in Staffing

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### **New Hires:**

Kenny Netherton	Intern	January, 2023
Jeray Greene	Intern	July, 2023
Trent Stephens	Intern	July, 2023
Kalle Goforth	Intern	August, 2023
Marcus Rasmussen	Volunteer	September, 2023
Cobalt Sjögren	Volunteer	September, 2023

### **Resignations:**

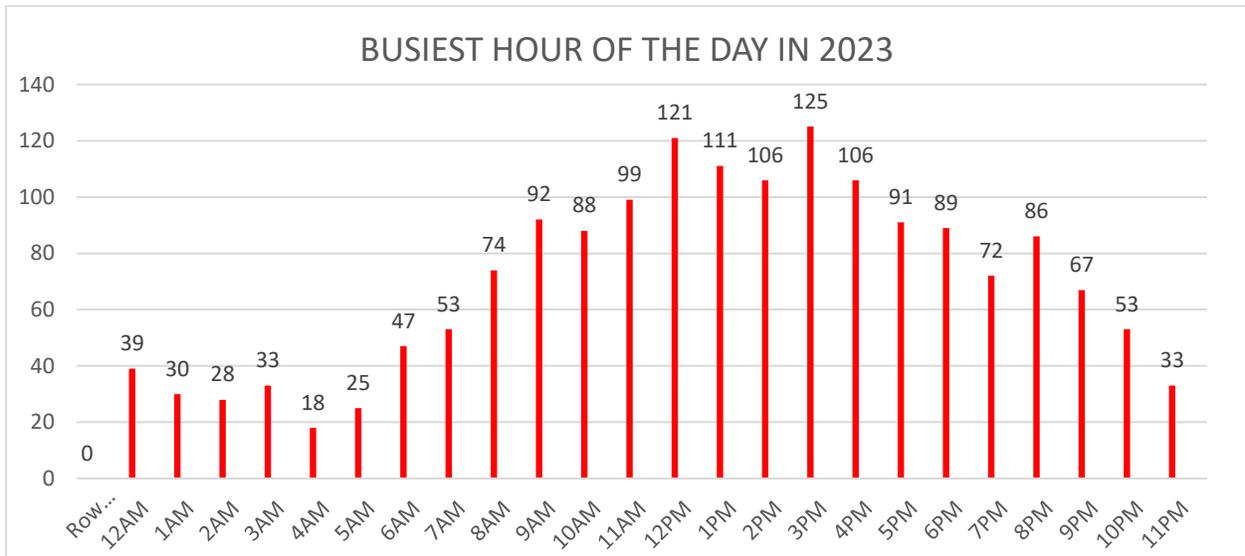
Alex Padgett	Volunteer	February, 2023
Justice Watson	Intern	June, 2023
Jeray Greene	Intern	August, 2023
Marcus Rasmussen	Volunteer	September, 2023
Kenneth Netherton	Intern	November, 2023

# Operations Division

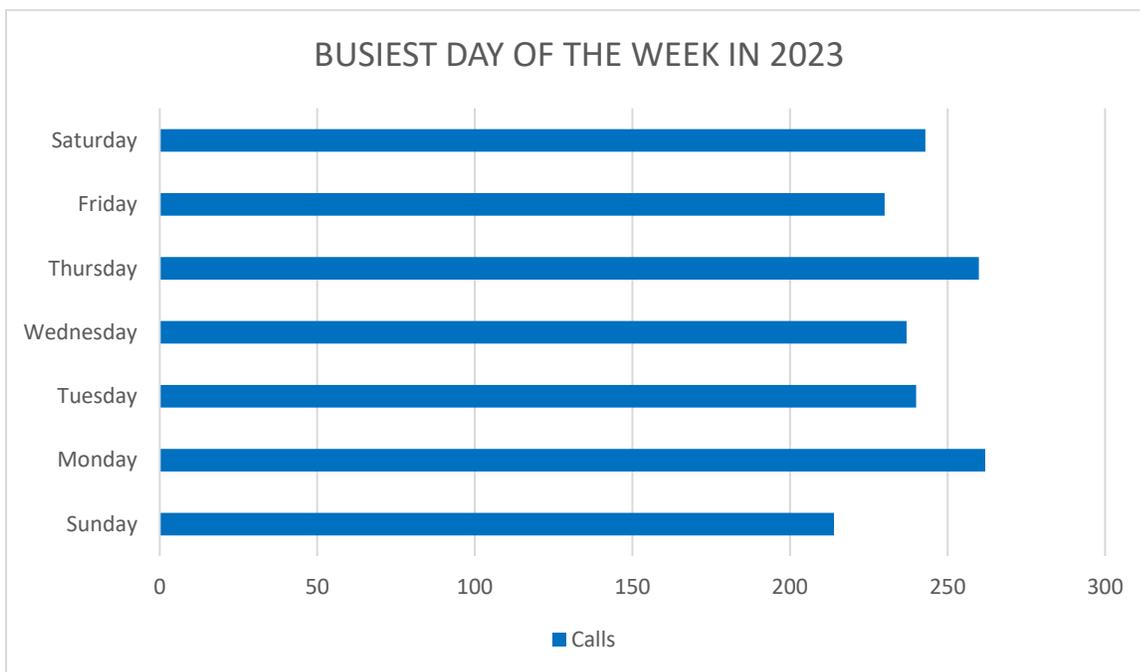
## Emergency Response

The Astoria Fire Department had a total of **1701** emergency responses in 2023. This represents an average of **4.67** responses each day.

These calls are tracked by hour, day of the week, and month of the year. The calls' distributions are represented in the charts below.



The busiest hour of the day for calls in 2023 was between **3 pm and 4 pm with 125** emergency responses.

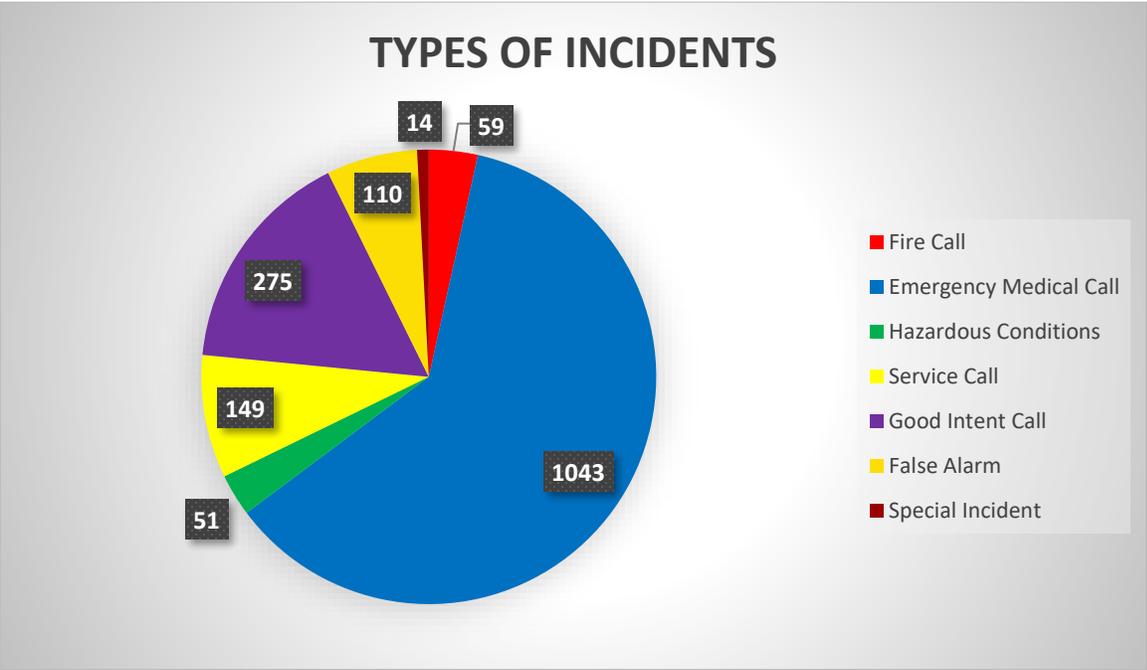


The busiest day of the week for calls in 2023 was **Monday with 262** emergency responses.

2023	
MONTH	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
January	141
February	115
March	146
April	143
May	151
June	138
July	127
August	155
September	146
October	158
November	149
December	132

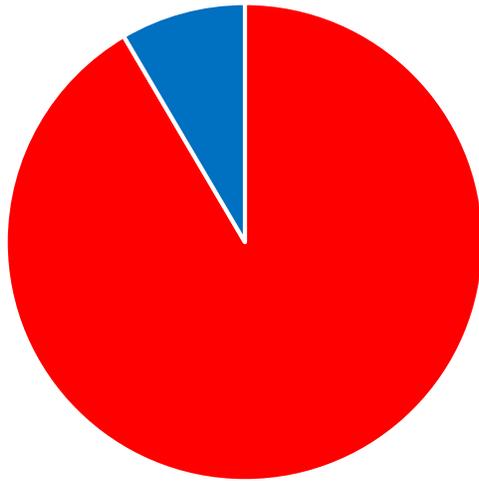
The busiest month for calls in 2023 was **October with 158** emergency responses.

The Astoria Fire Department also tracks its calls by Types of Responses, Transient related calls, and how many calls occurred at the same time. This data is represented in the charts below.



The most common call that we responded to was medical-related calls. These incidents totaled **62%** of our call volume. The other **38%** of calls are broken down in the chart but were fire calls, hazardous conditions, service calls, good intent calls, and false alarms.

### TRANSIENT RELATED CALLS FOR SERVICE

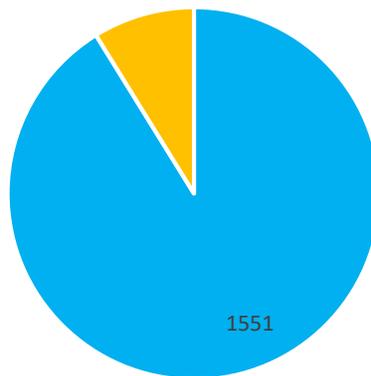


■ Non-transient related ■ Transient related calls ■ ■

A total of **144** transient related calls were documented for the year. This would represent about **8.50%** of our total calls.

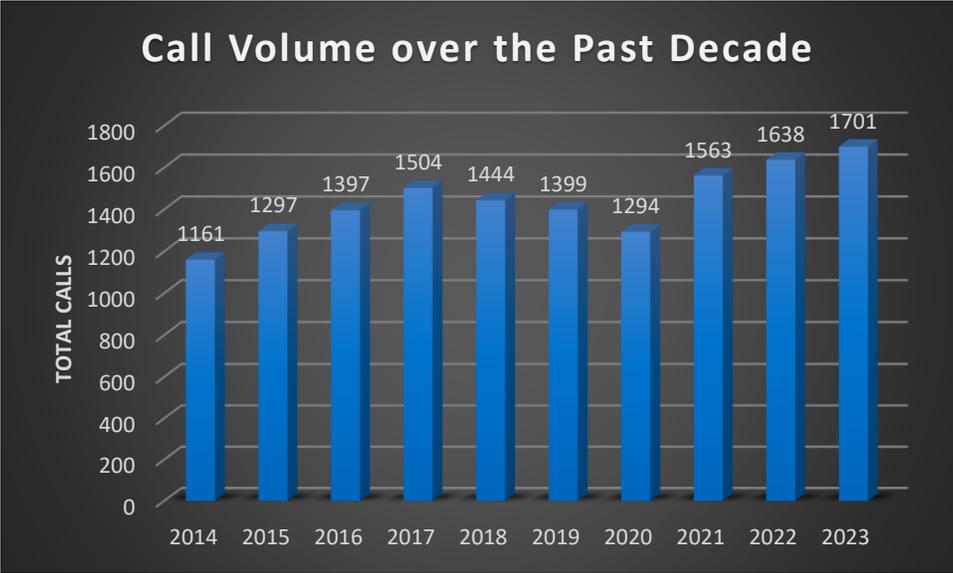
In 2023, a total of **150** times we had more than one call at the same time. This would represent about **9%** of our calls. This is challenging for us because we only staff one engine with two to four firefighters each day. When multiple calls happen at the same time, we rely on administrative staff and volunteer firefighters for assistance. In 2022, this number was at **2.3%** of the time.

### MULTIPLE CALLS FOR SERVICE AT THE SAME TIME



■ Single call ■ Multiple calls

This was the highest call volume in the history of the Astoria Fire Department. We experienced a 4.2% increase in calls from last year. Since 2014, this is a 46.5% increase in call volume for Astoria Fire Department.



## Top Responses of the Year

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6/7/2023 2545,26,03,01, to 1674 Franklin Structure Fire

6/7/2023 2526,22,01,03,51 to 100 39<sup>th</sup> Fire – Trestle Fire



8/21/2023 2526, 03, to the Megler Bridge Car Fire – Extinguish



## Top Mutual Aid Responses of the Year

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2/14/2023 2545 to 41535 Old HWY 30 Structure fire – Ventilate

3/1/2023 2526 to 92111 Highlife Rd. Structure fire - Overhaul



6/1/2023 2526, 51 to 1283 SW Ridge Rd. Structure Fire - Extinguish

6/5/2023 2526 to 71233 Highway 47 Structure Fire – Extinguish



6/6/2023 2526 to 92107 Maki Rd. Structure Fire – Extinguish



7/24/2023 2526, 51, 03 to MP 5.5 HWY 202 MVA – Extrication

8/5/2023 2526, 01, 02 to Pipeline Brush fire – Extinguish

9/1/2023 2545 to 88916 Youngs River Rd. Structure Fire – Extinguish



9/3/2023 2545, 26, 03, 71 to 1060 King Salmon Pl. Structure Fire – Extinguish



# Conflagrations for the Year

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Task Force 12

Golden Fire



Task Force 19

Pre-Positioning in Jefferson County



Task Force 26

Pre-Positioning in Lane County



Task Force 26

Lookout Fire



# Operations Division

## Apparatus/Equipment

---

### Fire Engines

2526



2015 Pierce Arrow XT  
54,512 miles  
6,670 engine hours

2523



2009 HME/Ahrens-Fox  
29,293 miles  
2,857 engine hours

2522



1999 Central States/HME  
52,731.6 miles  
10,636.7 engine hours

### Ladder Truck

2545



2016 Pierce  
8,632 miles  
1,112 engine hours

Our ladder truck is a fire truck with a water tank, fire pump, fire hose, ground ladders, and an aerial device (ladder) that is 105 feet long.

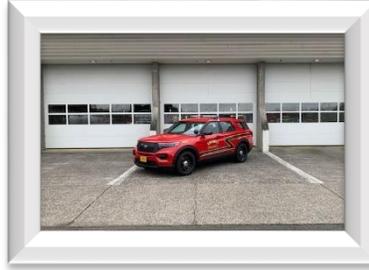
## Support Vehicles

2571



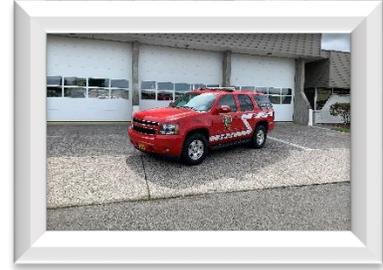
2008 Ford F450  
Wildland Vehicle  
55,562 miles

2561



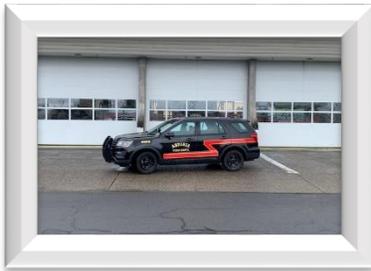
2022 Ford Explorer  
Command Vehicle  
13,527 miles

2562



2014 Chevrolet Tahoe  
Command Vehicle  
86,092 miles

2566



2015 Ford Explorer  
Utility Vehicle  
107,539 miles

2551



2020 Ford F350  
Utility Vehicle  
10,889 miles

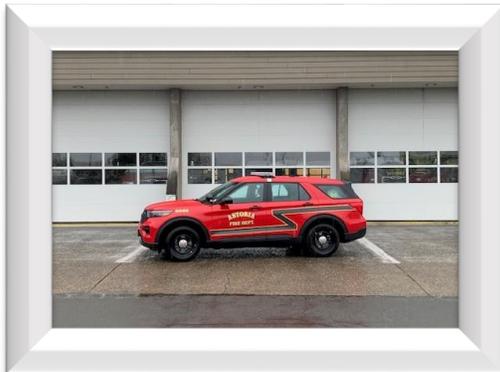
2591



2018 Polaris  
Side by Side  
613 miles

## New Support Vehicle

2565



2023 Ford Explorer  
Command Vehicle  
3523 miles

## New Rescue Unit

2552



2005 Ford F450  
Rescue Vehicle  
157,004 miles

## Retired Support Vehicle

2014 Chevrolet Tahoe  
Command Vehicle  
122,705 miles

# Operations Division

## Regional Hazardous Materials Team

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Astoria Fire Department has been contracting with the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office to provide Hazardous Materials response since the early 1990's. The Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) team is a partnership with the vast majority of the funding coming from specific fees assessed to all vehicles carrying cargo in Oregon. Astoria is one of several teams throughout the state, our designation is Hazmat 11. All of the equipment is based out of Astoria Fire Department's main fire station which is located in Uppertown. In 2023, our team consisted of eight career firefighters from Astoria, one from Knappa Fire District, and one from Lewis & Clark RFPD. It also includes the Astoria Deputy Police Chief.



The general response area for HM 11 is Clatsop County and Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District. Our response area consists of mostly narrow winding roads with waterways nearby and many small communities.

We have the potential for several types of emergencies within our response area. At fixed facilities, our most significant threat is large quantities of chlorine for water treatment and anhydrous ammonia for cold storage. As with many other teams, our greatest potential for a hazmat incident comes from the transportation industry. US Hwy 30 and US Hwy 26 are major travel arteries for commerce to the northwest coast of Oregon.

The main function of our Hazmat team is to provide emergency response but another function of the team is to provide training for other emergency response agencies. To complete this function our members attempt to travel to all agencies within our response area every two years. Our team members also partner with local training associations to provide instructors for state-required training for new firefighters.

We are a part of two LEPC's which include Clatsop County and Columbia County. An LEPC is a community and industry-driven group that aids in emergency response when a major release of hazardous materials happens. Planning for this included gathering information on which organizations and groups have potentially hazardous materials, and which organizations or groups have resources to help with response if there is an incident.

Due to our limited team size, our team strives to have all of our members trained to be able to perform any function within the team at a hazardous materials incident. The initial training that all members must complete before joining the team consists of a 160-hour course. Members are also required to do continuing training as long as they are on the team. In 2023 team members completed over 150 hours of training. This training consisted of regular drills, as well as several members attending a statewide training.



In 2023 the following individuals completed training and received certifications for:

**Royce Cone:** EMT Advanced & EMT Intermediate

**Nolan Mathews:** EMT Advanced & EMT Intermediate

**Ruslan Polivenko:** NFPA Firefighter I & Type 2 Firefighter

**\*Justice Watson:** NFPA Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator  
& NFPA Apparatus Equipped with a Pump



**Astoria Fire Department hosted the following training events:**

Main Street Firefighting

Beyond the Door

Coordinating Ventilation

Supporting Extinguishment & Survivability

Confined Space Operations & Refresher

Traffic Incident Management System

**Astoria Firefighters also attended the following outside training events:**

MFSA Technician Training

OSFM Hazardous Materials Conference

Northwest Leadership Conference

DPSST Extrication

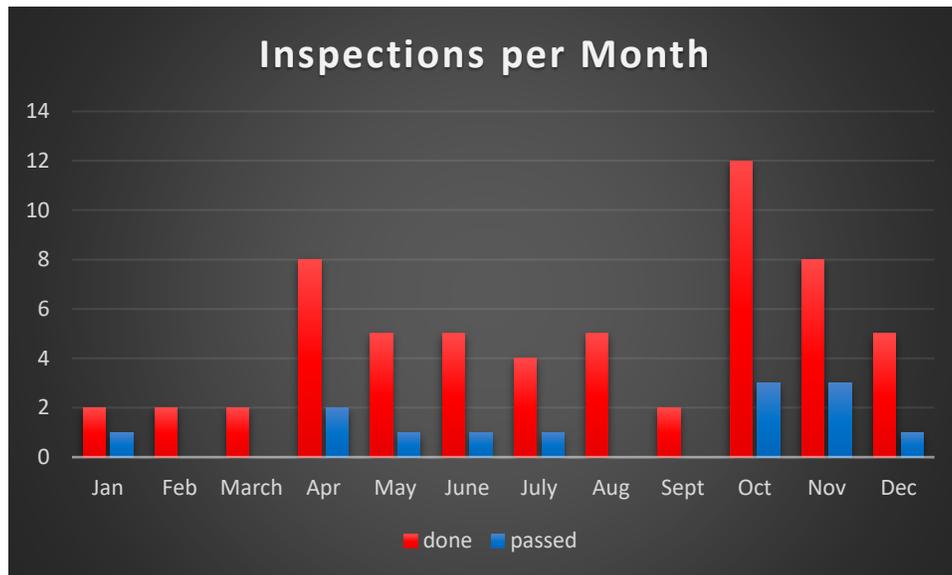
As a department, a total of 3,195 training hours were recorded in 2023.

# Fire Prevention

## Inspection Program

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2023 saw the implementation of our new Inspection Program. Throughout the year, a total of approximately 100 inspections were conducted. This includes construction, business, and liquor license inspections. Of the 100 inspections, 60 were business inspections carried out by either our Fire Marshal or Fire Crews. 12 businesses had no violations. 48 businesses had opportunities to learn about fire code requirements and improve their location's safety for the public. Of these 48 businesses, 20 have corrected any violations. Many of the outstanding violations are related to electrical issues. Our fire Marshal is working with business owners to correct these electrical issues as they are able to afford them.



## Smoke Alarm Program

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Astoria Fire Department participates in the Oregon State Fire Marshal's smoke alarm installation program. This program provides fire agencies with smoke alarms to install in residences without them. Residences must be single-family homes that lie within the city limits of Astoria. Astoria Fire Department installed 37 smoke alarms in 2023 and 197 smoke alarms since the inception of the program in 2019.



## Public Education

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Educating the public on issues of fire safety is an important role of Astoria Fire Department. We were able to man booths at both the Health Fair in July and the Clatsop County Fair in August to disseminate information.

Aside from attending fairs, we were able to put on many of our own events in order to reach out to our community:

- In May, we hosted a local Cub Scouts Troup for a tour of the station.
- We taught CPR/AED to city employees
- We hosted our Annual Open House on August, 26!



- We put on “Fire Prevention Week” at the Elementary Schools 10/9/2023 – 10/12/2023



- Holiday Food Parade 12/5, 12/6, 12/7/2023



This year’s Food Parade collected 4,340 pounds of food and \$653 for families in need.

## Community Outreach

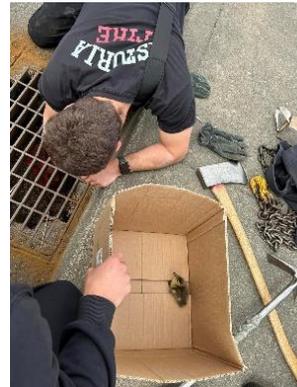
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Sometimes our contact with the public is educational, sometimes it is just to be a positive and helpful presence in the community. Here are some of the ways AFD participated in the Astoria Community in 2023:

- Acted as witnesses for Wedding 2/24/2023



- Grilled at BBQ for Domestic Violence Month 4/15/2023
- Saved ducklings in storm drain 5/27/2023
- Veterans Back 40 Adventure Escort 6/8/2023



- Participated in the Regatta Parade 8/12/2023
- Gave out over 800 bags for downtown Trick-Or-Treating 10/31/2023
- Delivered Candy and Glow Sticks to nighttime Trick-or-treaters 10/31/2023



# Emergency Management

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## Secondary EOCs:

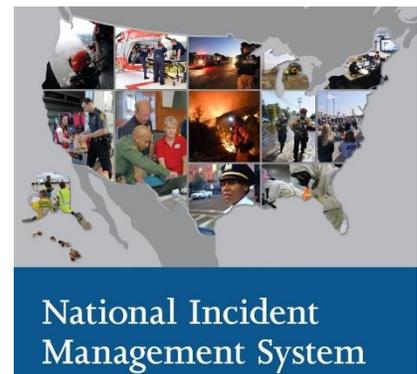
Conversations have taken place with Clatsop Community College and Columbia Memorial Hospital. The College has a conference room that we are planning to look at for a backup EOC. Some equipment may need to be purchased to make the space usable. More to follow. We are working with CMH to create radio connections in the hospital's EOC electrical room which will allow us to hook up radios during an emergency. CMH has also stated that conference rooms will be made available to the City if a full EOC is needed. More to follow.

## Emergency Operations plan:

A grant to write a new Emergency Operations Plan was unsuccessful for the City. Clatsop County has offered some money from their grant for the EOP update. The City will be responsible for a portion of the cost. The County Emergency Manger will be soliciting RFP's in late February/early March for this project.

## NIMS/ICS trainings:

Astoria Fire Department has been working with all City Departments to track and become compliant in our required NIMS/ICS trainings. Human Resources is working to make these trainings part of the onboarding process so that all city employees A training schedule for 2024 has been established with Clatsop County EM. ICS training will be offered throughout 2024 for City staff and our elected officials.



## Cots/blankets at emergency sites:

A cache of emergency sheltering supplies for 50 people has been created at the Astoria Armory. Budget funds were requested for additional cache sites to be created. DC McCarthy is currently working with other county agencies to apply for a Resiliency Grant from the State. More to come.

# Annual Awards

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Each year we recognize firefighters' dedication to the AFD either through longevity or through outstanding leadership, production, attitude, etc. This year, the following awards were given:

**5 years of service:**

Firefighter Jason Pollack

**10 years of service:**

Lieutenant Tom Jaworski



**Volunteer Firefighter of the year:  
Ruslan Polivenko**



**Intern Firefighter of the year:  
Trent Stephens**

**Employee of the year:  
Carlos Gomez**



**Chief's Award: Bruce Holt**