

20  22

ANNUAL
REPORT

Message From The Fire Chief

As we welcome 2023, I am honored to have this opportunity to share with you the progress we have collectively accomplished through 2022. This report highlights our improvements as we work daily to keep Anne Arundel County residents and visitors safe in our communities.

Staffing- I am proud of our growth since becoming your Fire Chief, but we still have more to accomplish. Over the past year, we have improved our sworn and civilian staffing levels and will continue to make staffing enhancements. We are committed to the continuous growth of a diverse and inclusive Fire Department in the County.

Health & Wellness - Our people's mental and physical well-being has proven to be essential for longevity. The department recognizes this and has made great strides this past year to adopt sound wellness initiatives, including a new customized wellness app for our members.

New Apparatus - The department purchased two new 50' Metal Shark Defiant Fireboats that will go into service in 2024. Additionally, six new medical transport units were ordered to replace old units throughout the County along with one tower truck to replace an outdated tower at our West Annapolis Station. Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company also purchased and placed a new squad into service that replaced their old and obsolete squad.

New Stations - The new Jacobsville Fire Station 10 officially opened its doors this past year and construction of the new Crownsville Fire Station is scheduled to begin in early 2023. Plans are currently in motion to upgrade the Cape St. Claire Volunteer Fire Company and the Jessup Volunteer Fire Department in the next year.

I am proud of the perseverance and dedication the members of our Fire Department have consistently demonstrated in their service to our communities. As your Chief, I am excited for what the future holds as we continue to work together to ensure every resident and visitor to Anne Arundel County can experience why we are "The Best Place – For All."

Sincerely,



Trisha L. Wolford
Fire Chief

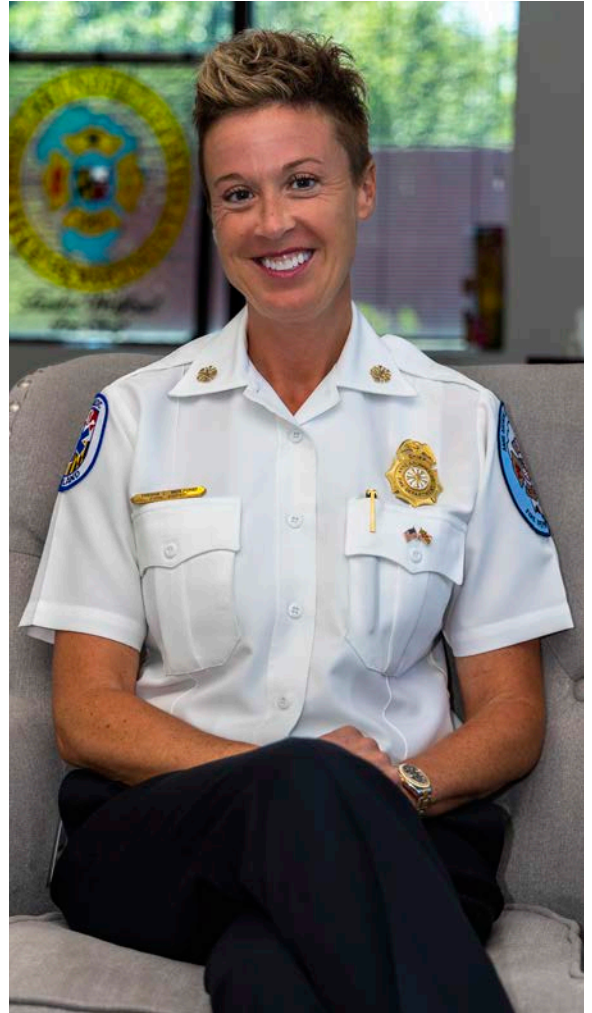
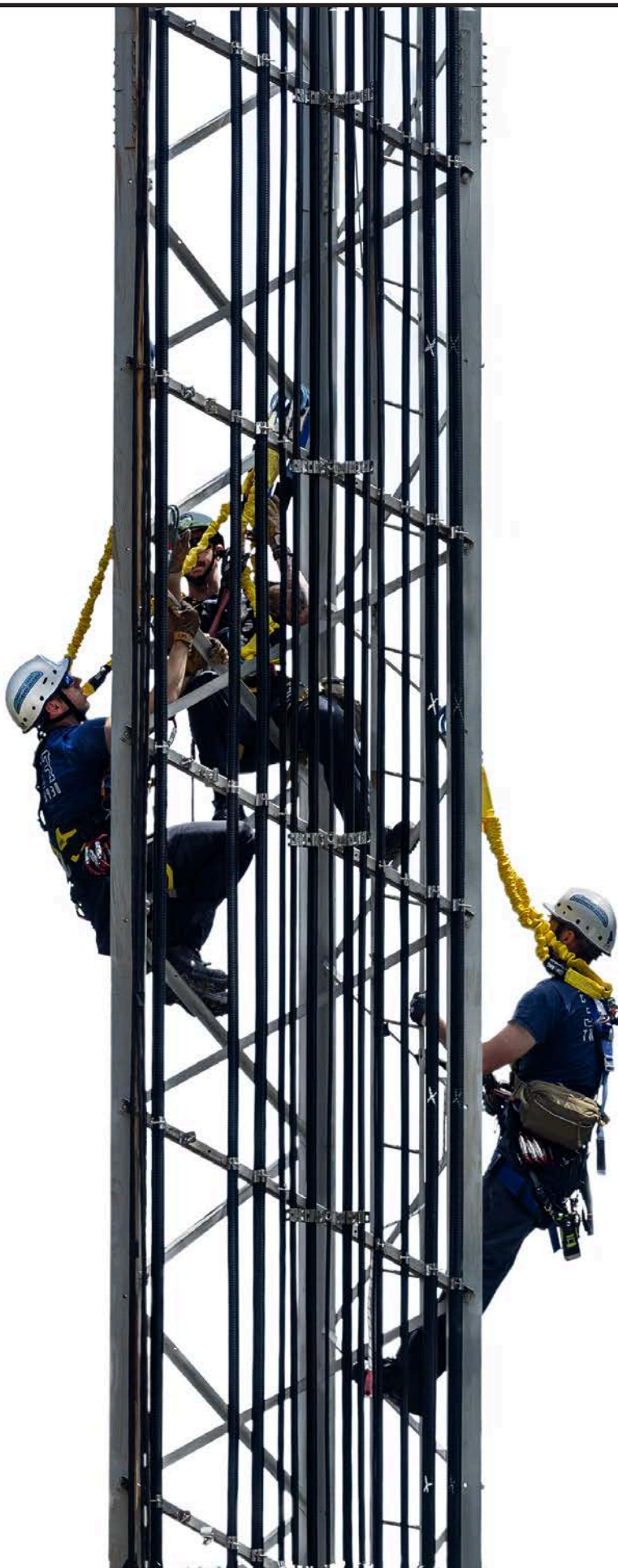
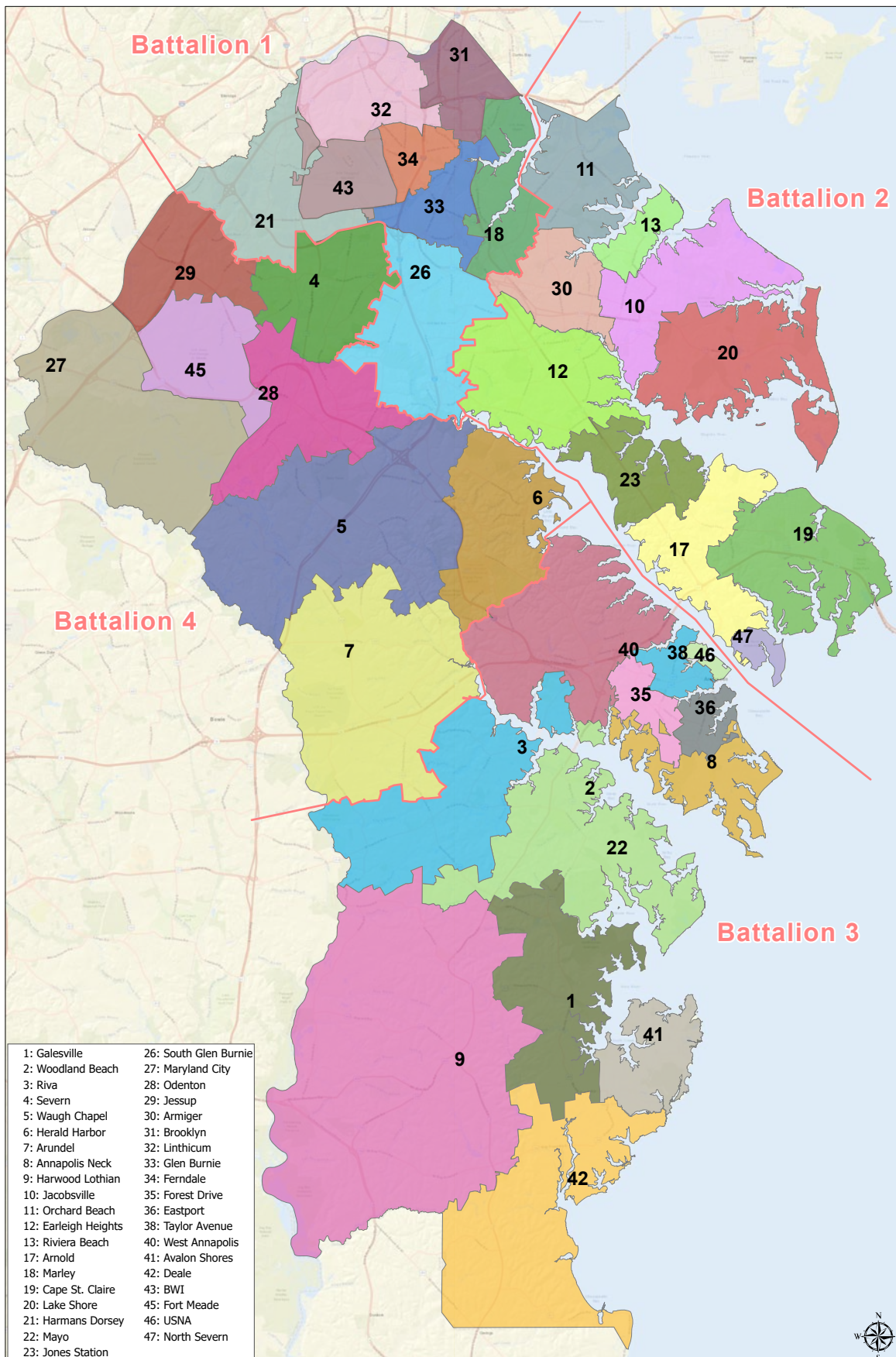


Table of Contents

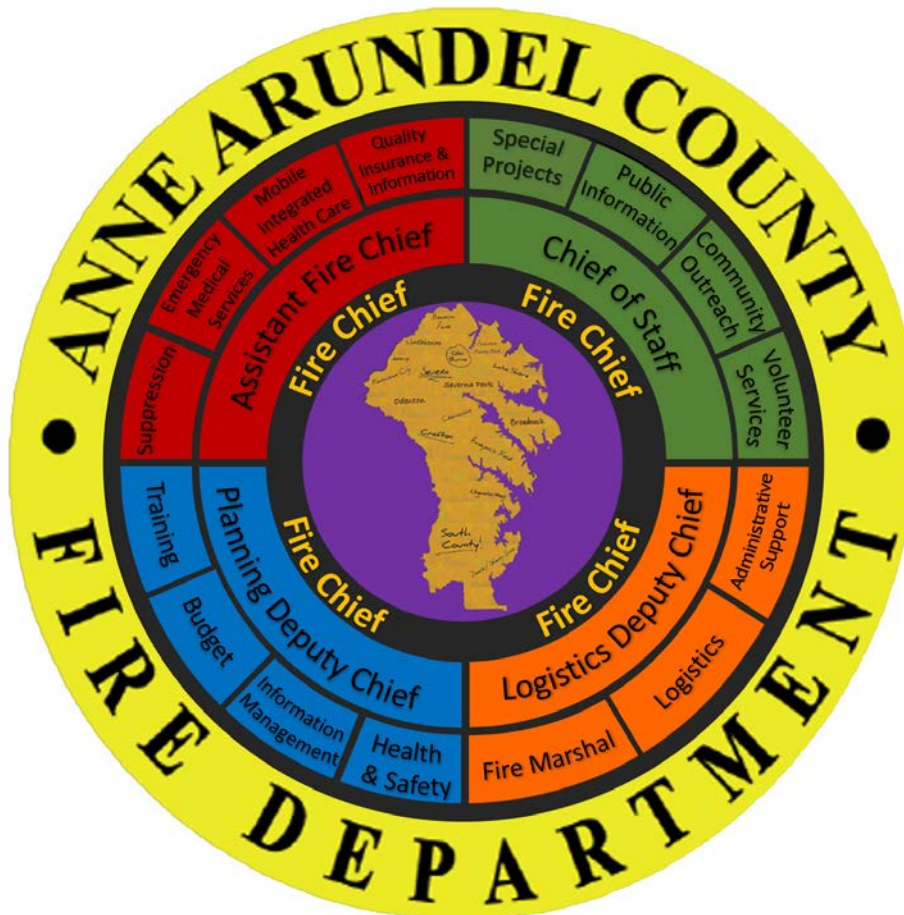
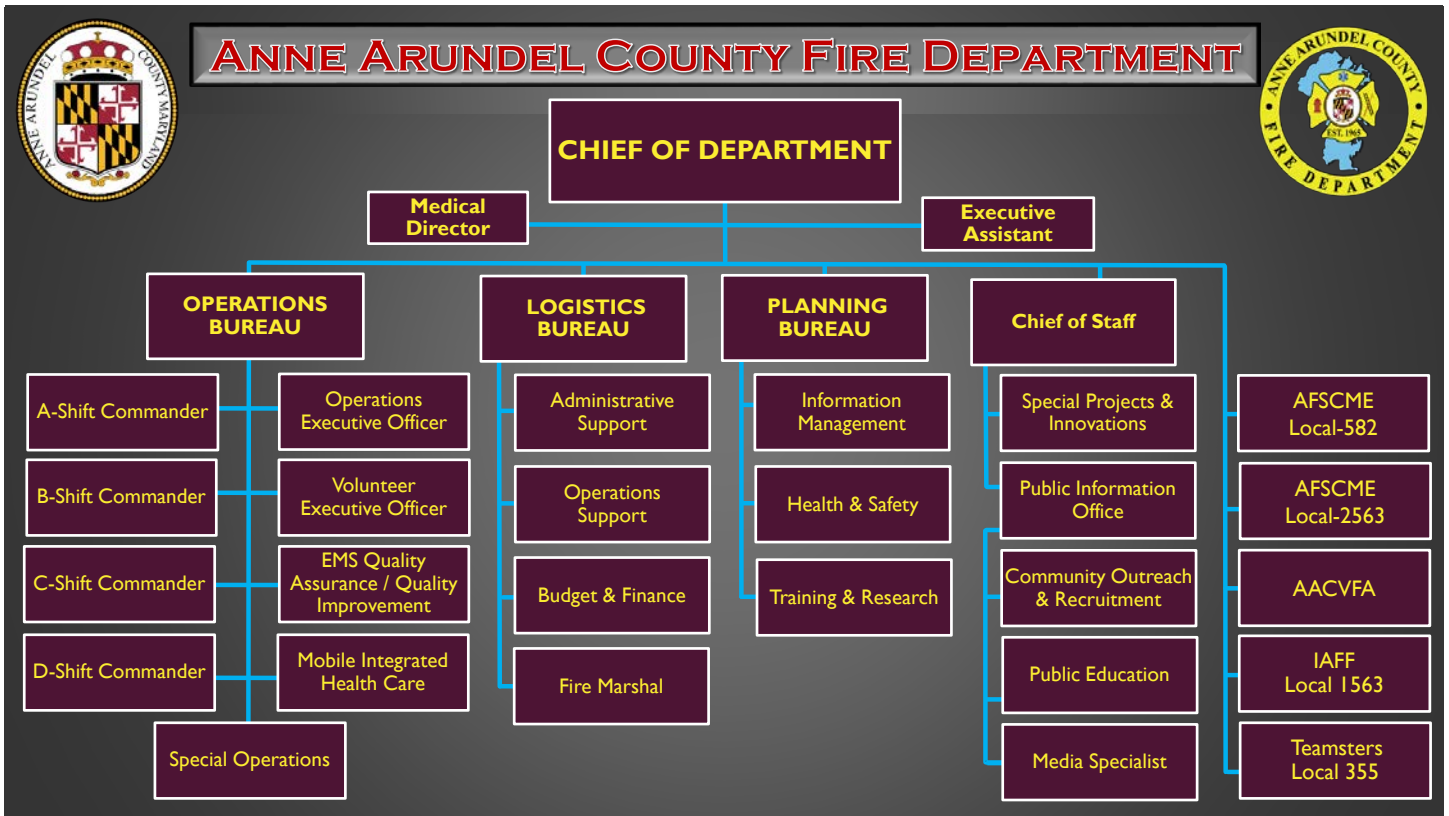
Map of Stations & Battalions	4
Organizational Chart	5
Budget Staffing and Data	6
Operations Bureau	7
Operations Data & Statistics	8
Emergency Medical Services	9
EMS Data & Statistics	10
Logistics Bureau Support	11
Fire Marshal Investigations	12
Fire Marshal Code Enforcement	13
Planning Bureau IMD	14
Health & Safety	15
Training	16-17
Chief of Staff Volunteer Services	vv18
Public Information Office	19
Professional Standards	20
A Look Back at 2022	21



Map of Stations & Battalions

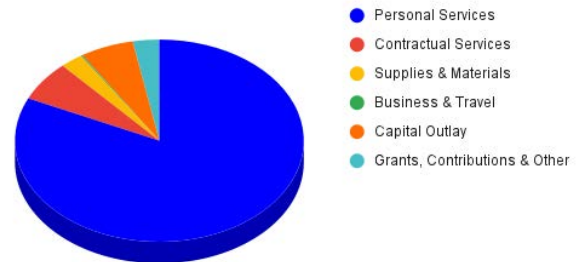


Organizational Chart

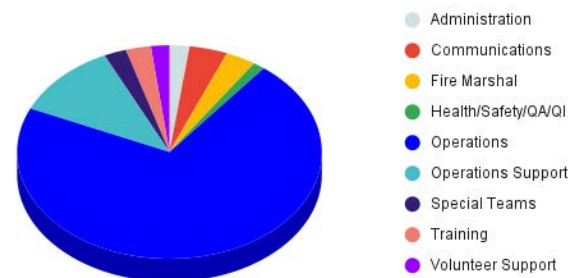


Budget and Staffing Data

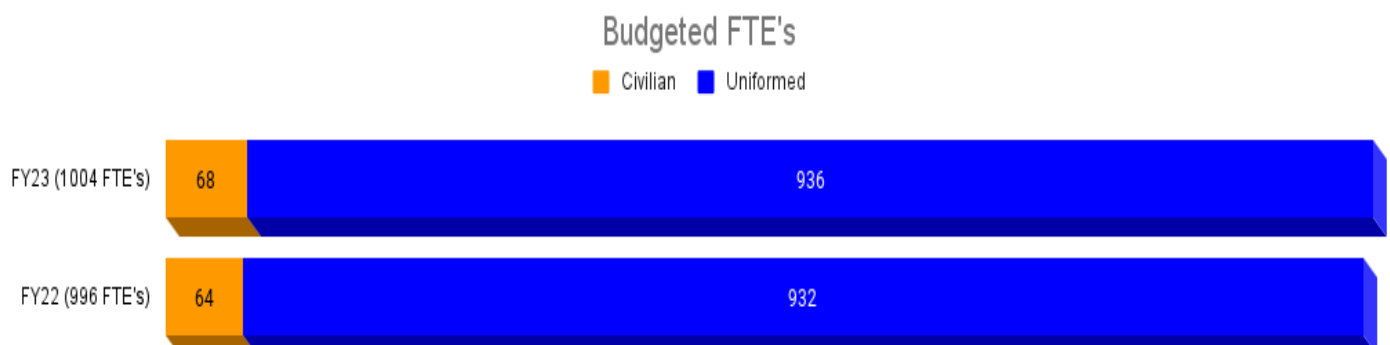
<u>Budget Category</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2023</u>
Personal Service	\$125,597,900	\$133,013,400
Contractual Services	\$10,801,200	\$10,442,600
Supplies & Materials	\$3,501,000	\$4,137,100
Business & Travel	\$263,500	\$320,100
Capital Outlay	\$6,598,300	\$9,726,200
Grants, Contributions & Other	\$3,304,700	\$4,821,400
Grand Total	\$150,066,600	\$162,460,800



<u>Business Unit</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2023</u>
Administration	\$3,042,500	\$3,443,700
Communications	\$6,040,700	\$6,586,800
Fire Marshal	\$4,636,200	\$5,205,200
Health/Safety/QA/QI	\$2,858,800	\$2,036,900
Operations	\$105,851,800	\$115,434,600
Operations Support	\$18,428,300	\$18,360,800
Special Teams	\$854,300	\$3,860,800
Training	\$5,193,600	\$4,338,100
Volunteer Support	\$3,160,400	\$3,193,900
Grand Total	\$150,066,600	\$162,460,800



The Anne Arundel County Fire Department has 936 sworn uniformed personnel and 68 civilian employees. The majority of our personnel are assigned to the Operations Bureau, responding to calls for service. The remainder are assigned to support operations including the fire marshal's office, communications, logistics, training, health, safety and volunteer support.





Lawrence Schultz
Assistant Fire Chief

Operations Bureau

The Operations Bureau is responsible for the daily staffing of thirty-one (31) stations located throughout the County, staffed by over 900 career and 400 volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. We are proud that all personnel are nationally certified at their rank in accordance with National Fire Protection Association standards.

Currently, the Department operates twenty-eight (28) Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport units, fifteen (15) Basic Life Support (BLS) transport units, thirty-one (31) engine companies (nine of which are paramedic engines), ten (10) ladder companies, and eight (8) squad companies.

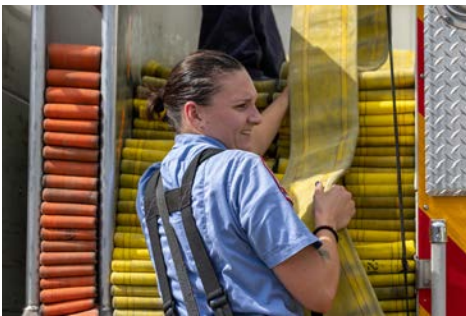
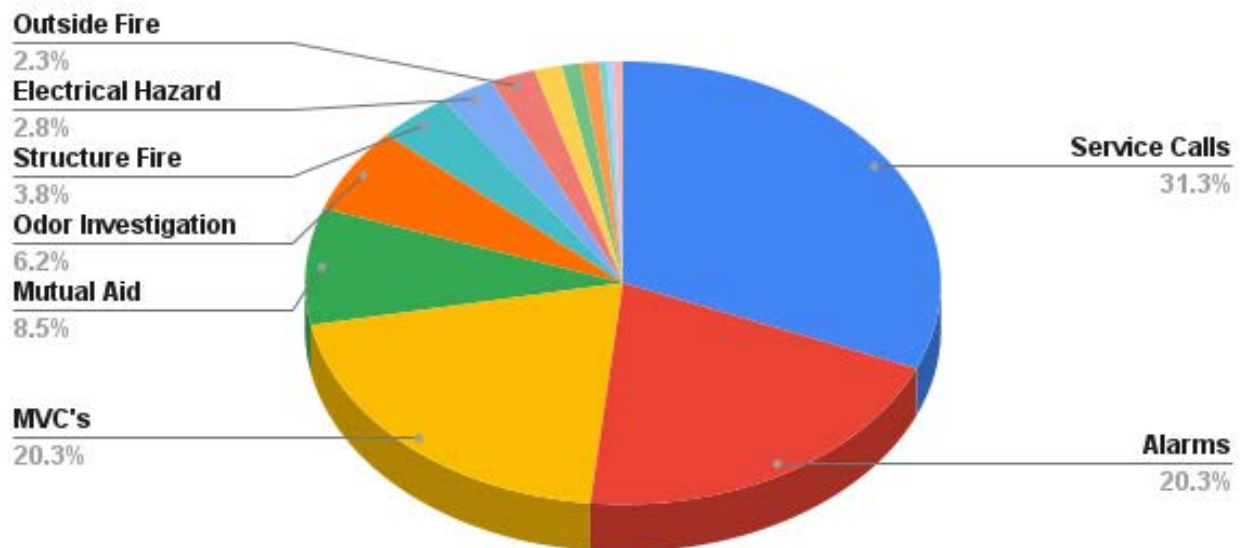


The Department provides fire protection, BLS, ALS, hazardous materials response and mitigation, collapse rescue, confined space rescue, dive rescue, and marine operations. The Department continues to evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of our residents. We are always looking to the future to reduce risks and minimize the devastating effects of man-made and natural disasters.

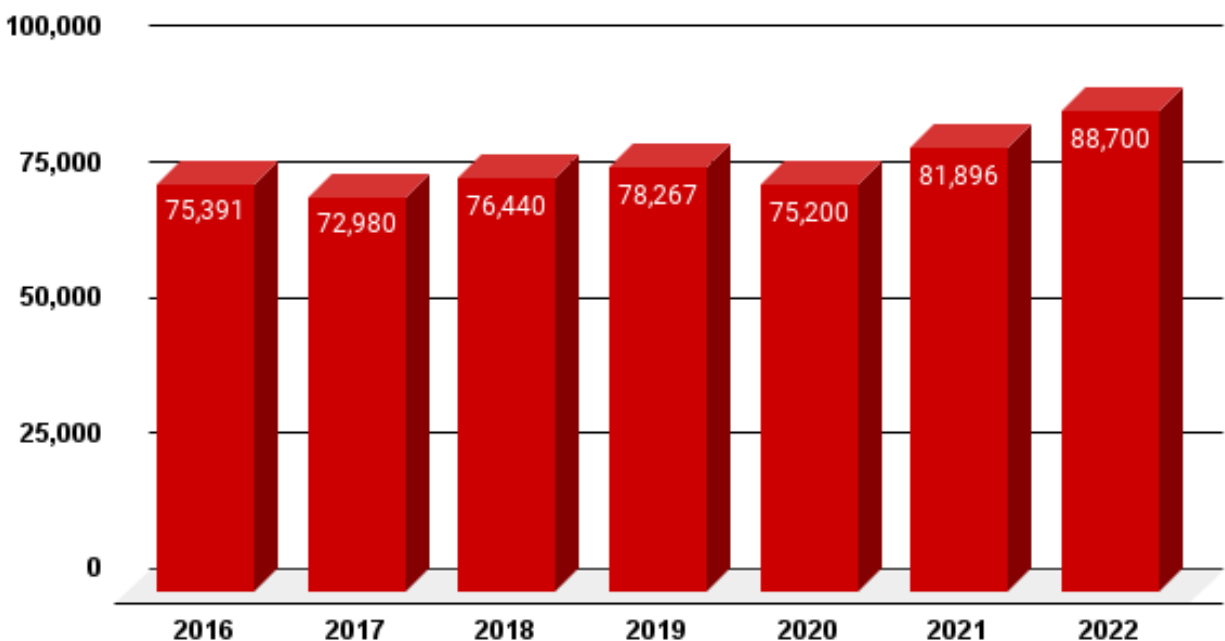


Operations Data & Statistics

Fire Responses By Nature



Total Incidents 2016 - 2022





Emergency Medical Services

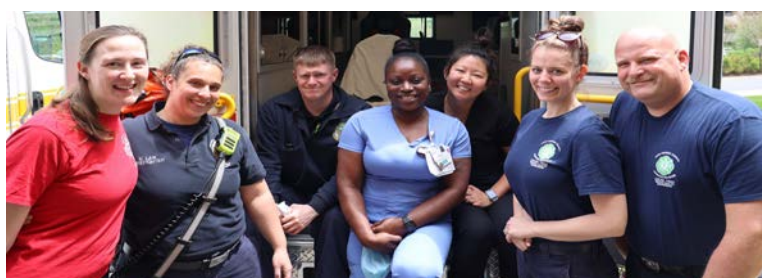
Robert Vaccaro

Battalion Chief

The Anne Arundel County Fire Department has a robust Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division consisting of Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedics, with over 1000 clinicians throughout the county. The department utilizes a fleet of 28 ALS units and 15 BLS units to transport the sick and injured. In addition, ALS personnel staff 9 medic engines equipped with ALS equipment which are supported by three 24 hour EMS Supervisors.



Utilizing advanced equipment and superior training, the EMT's and Paramedics of the department can provide life-saving treatment at a moments notice around the clock. BLS skills provide patient stabilization and are carried out by everyone responding to an incident, while ALS clinicians continue and upgrade care via heart monitors (EKG), initiating IV access, providing medications, and airway stabilization (intubation).



The office of EMS Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement (QA/QI) constantly monitors the efforts of our personnel and performs a 100% review of all medical responses. This is accomplished through field EMS Supervisors and QA/QI leadership at headquarters including an actively engaged Medical Director, along with an associate Medical Director. All clinicians provide care based on the Maryland State Protocols as set forth by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). Personnel are proactive in the community and work with County agencies to provide care and connect citizens to appropriate resources.

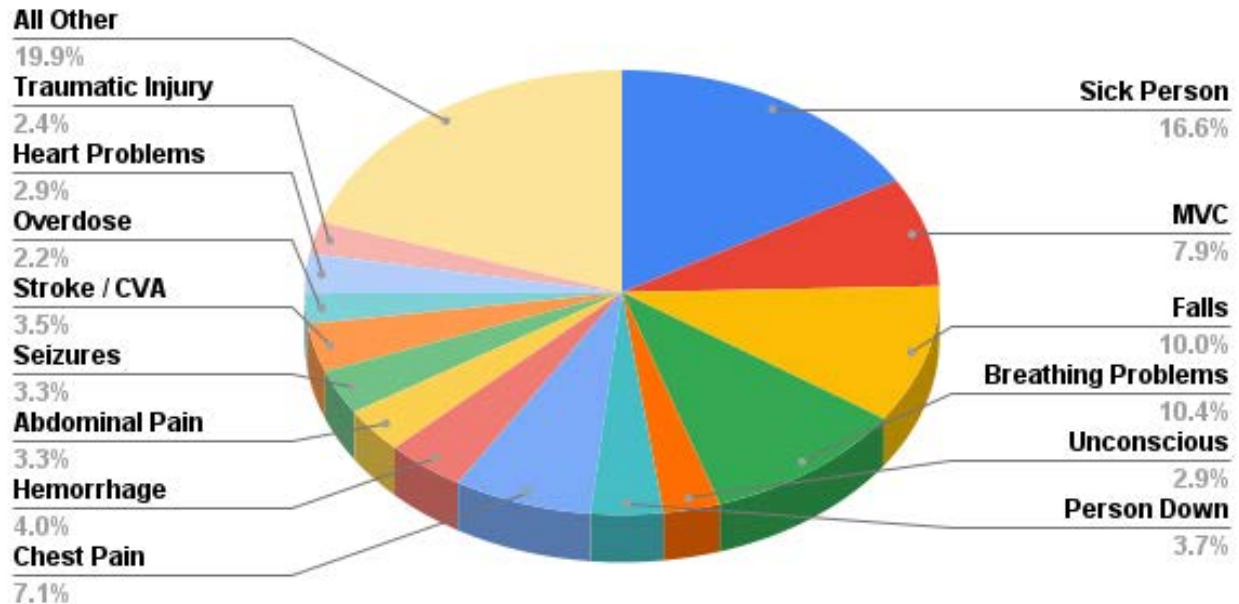


MICH

The Department's Mobile Integrated Community Healthcare Program (MICH) has been successfully operating since 2020. This collaborative effort between the Fire Department, Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities, Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center and University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center intends to decrease avoidable 911 utilization and emergency room visits by aligning residents with appropriate resources to better manage their healthcare needs. The team has provided interdisciplinary case management, home-bound vaccines, remote patient monitoring, disease education, telehealth appointments and connection to county resources for almost 500 individual referrals since inception.

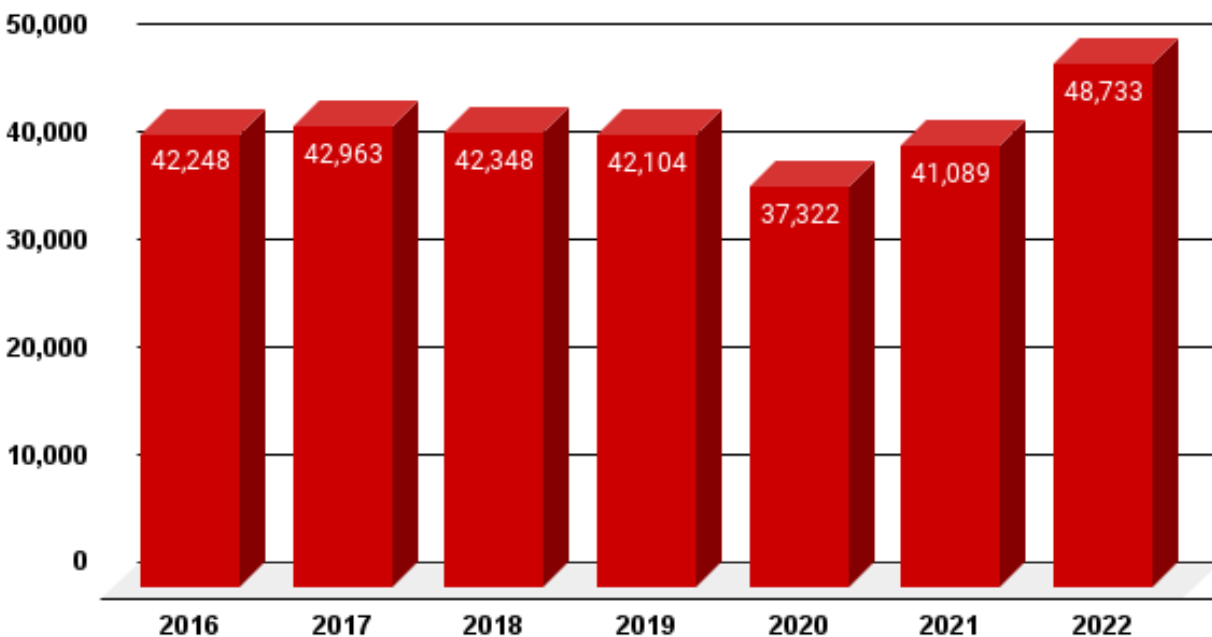
EMS Data & Statistics

EMS Responses By Nature



In the past year, our units were called for EMS service over 71,000 times and transported over 48,000 patients to various hospitals. These transports are based on patient criticality and need. In some cases, patients are transported to specialty cardiac, stroke, trauma, and pediatric centers utilizing ground (medic unit) or air transport via the Maryland State Police Aviation Command and US Park police. All of these patients receive the highest quality care available and many of our clinicians have been recognized both locally and at the state level for their life-saving interventions and dedication to the practice of pre-hospital medicine.

Patients Transported 2016 - 2022



Logistics Bureau

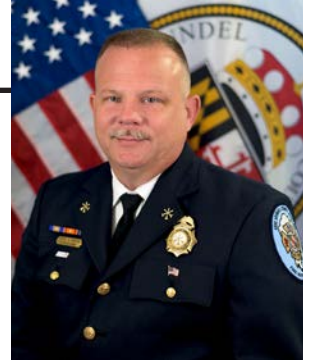


Ross Dinkel
Deputy Fire Chief
Logistics

Deputy Chief Ross Dinkel oversees the department's Logistical Bureau, which encompasses the Operational Support Division and the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Operations Support

Greg Novak
Division Chief



The Operations Support Division supports 31 fire stations, all sworn uniformed personnel, and civilian employees. Services include:

- The procurement, receiving, warehousing, issuance/delivery of all uniforms, personal protective equipment, medical supplies, office & janitorial supplies, tools, and equipment necessary for fire department operations.
- Coordination of repairs for 22 county-owned fire stations, 5 support and administrative facilities, along with generator & exhaust removal service for 9 volunteer-owned stations.
- Coordination of all services for county and volunteer-owned front-line and reserve fleets.
- Approval of specifications for all apparatus purchased (county & volunteer owned) and the coordination process for the final purchase of county-owned vehicles.



New vehicles in service:

- Freightliner/Pierce 3000-gallon tanker
- 3 Freightliner/Horton medic units

Vehicles currently under construction:

- 4 E-One engines
- 1 Seagrave/Aerialscope towers
- 2 Metal Shark 50' Defiant Fireboats
- Munson 26' PackCat Landing Craft
- 6 Freightliner/Horton medic units
- 1 Ford Special OPS utility-body trucks
- 3 Ford pick-up trucks (Fire Investigation)
- International/EVI Air Wagon
- Ford F350 brush truck
- 12 SUVs
- 2 Ford Escape Hybrids
- Ford F350 dry freight body (Mobile Air Shop)

Current vehicles we maintain:

- 65 engines/pumper-tankers
- 16 trucks/towers
- 58 ambulances and medic units
- 9 rescue squads
- 18 brush trucks
- 6 specialty vehicles (mass casualty bus, mobile command & control unit, technical rescue pod hauler, dive unit, air wagon, and coffee wagon)
- 6 fireboats and rescue boats
- 51 support vehicles

Other enhancements to services:

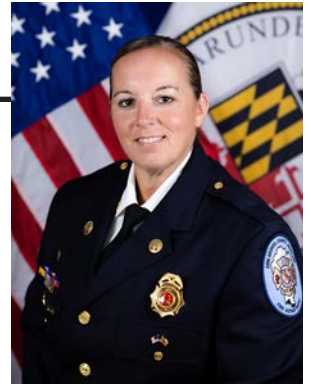
- Continued upgrade of automated chest compression devices in the county (Lucas 3).
- Stryker Powerload Systems installed to three medic units (21, 30, & 33).
- Hydraulic hose coupling machine.
- MX4 and Tango gas meter docking stations added to two fire stations (10 & 29).



Fire Marshal | Code Enforcement



Donna McGuire
Captain



The Office of the Fire Marshal, Code Enforcement Bureau, is primarily focused on the protection of the lives and property in Anne Arundel County, through enforcement of the Fire Laws of Maryland, provisions of the Maryland State Fire Prevention Code, and the Anne Arundel County Fire Prevention Code.



The Code Enforcement Staff consists of 1 Captain, 4 Lieutenants, 9 Civilian Inspectors. The core responsibilities of FMO are divided into 4 groups; new construction, in-service inspection programs, plan review, and administration. Many other inspections are conducted including; daycare, adoptive care, foster care, food trucks, fireworks, tents, carnivals/fairs, liquor license approvals, multiple dwelling licenses, special events, crowd control, complaint investigations, and on-call responses.



The New Construction group completed 1,951 acceptance tests of new sprinkler systems, standpipe systems, fire alarm systems, fire pumps, hood and ventilation systems, fixed suppression systems, underground water-mains, underground drafting tanks, bi-directional amplifiers, and emergency generators.

The in-service group coordinates the fire and life safety inspections of existing businesses. Our office distributed 2,742 inspections to field units and an additional 1,333 existing business inspections were completed by Code Enforcement staff.

The Plan Review group approves the site development plan for every new commercial building and new residential communities in Anne Arundel County. These reviews along with variance and modification requests totaled just over 1,000 for 2022. Additionally, our group performed 70 inspections on Mobile Food Trucks.

The Administration group works to ensure the Code Enforcement Bureau is prepared to enforce the provisions of the codes, as well as any future challenges facing the people who live, work and visit Anne Arundel County.





Fire Marshal | Investigations

Jeffrey Halpern
Captain

The Fire & Explosives Investigation Unit, otherwise known as FIB, is charged with the responsibility of investigating all fires and explosive related emergencies within Anne Arundel County with unknown causes. FIB investigates approximately 400 fire incidents and 100 explosive related incidents annually.

There are multiple aspects of the investigation including scene examination, evidence collection, photography, interview & interrogation, and effecting an arrest when appropriate. During large scale or more complex investigations, multiple investigators, supervisors, and Fire Investigation Units from surrounding jurisdictions may respond to the incident.

The Fire Investigation Unit also conducts new hire background investigations, internal investigations, burn/explosive injury investigations and offers assistance to neighboring agencies requesting fire investigation services.



Fire Investigators are sworn police officers who enforce fire and explosive laws of the State and County. The Fire Investigation Unit is responsible for:

- The enforcement of the fire and explosives laws of the State of Maryland and Anne Arundel County
- The reduction/elimination of arson, bombings, and other fire service related crimes
- The determination of origin and cause of all fire and/or explosive incidents within the County
- Bring to justice all violators of the fire and explosive laws of the State and County



The Fire Investigation Unit also operates an accelerant detection canine team. The accelerant detection canine is certified by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATF). Canines can detect minute traces of accelerants often used in fires, and can lead investigators to a specific location where physical samples can be taken, analyzed and confirmed by special forensic laboratories.

Fire Investigation Stats

Fire Investigation Unit 2022

- # responses **527**
- # cases **199**
- # cases closed **128**
- # cases closed by arrest **22**
- # fatalities **7**



Dollars loss Building: **\$8,023,625** Contents: **\$2,565,510**



Planning Bureau

Lisa Mayers

*Deputy Fire Chief
Planning*

Deputy Chief Lisa Mayers oversees the department's Planning Bureau, encompassing the Training & Research Division, Office of Information Management, and the Department's Health and Safety Division.

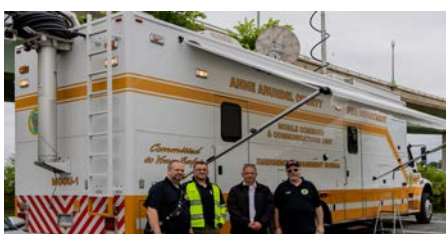
Information Management

James Wilkison

Division Chief

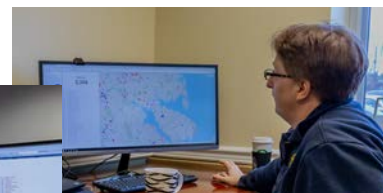
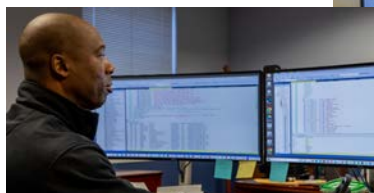


The Information Management Division (IMD) is the control center for the Fire Department. Anne Arundel County has expanded its technology and resources over the last several years to support first responders and provide the best customer service to our community members. IMD supports technology services during preplanning, when a 911 call is placed, while units are responding, when the call for service is being mitigated, and post-incident analysis. In 2022, IMD has:



- Implemented a paperless fire inspection program, a new records management system, and put a pre-planning application in service. This allows for systematic processing of inspections and ensures businesses are safe and allows for firefighters to pre-plan responses to safely and efficiently mitigate emergencies.
- Upgraded the computer aided dispatch (CAD) to Nextgen911. Our system is now able to communicate CAD to CAD with other jurisdictions in the National Capital Region improving our mutual aid responses.

- Station alerting systems were installed in 22 stations allowing for faster dispatch and responses.
- Our medical units and suppression apparatus have been upgraded with iPads to give real time, vital information and mapping.
- The mobile and portable radio system is currently being upgraded to ensure effective communication during calls for service and with mutual aid jurisdictions.

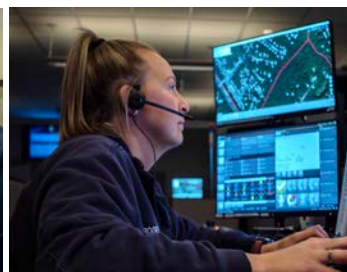
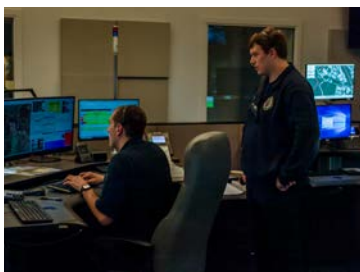


Sean Simon

Captain

The Anne Arundel County Fire Communications Center, better known as "Fire Alarm," provides fire and emergency medical dispatch communications for Anne Arundel County, the City of Annapolis, BWI Airport and the U.S. Naval Academy. For 2022, the center received and dispatched an average of 257 emergency calls per day, for a total of 101,224 emergency calls resulting in 94,033 incidents. Thirty-two Fire Communications Operators (FCO) and eight lieutenants staff Fire Alarm on a 24/72 shift schedule alongside a QA/QI lieutenant and supervising Captain.

Fire Alarm



Health and Safety



Russ Davies
Battalion Chief



The mission of the Health and Safety Division is to control and eliminate recognized workplace hazards, attain an acceptable level of risk and promote the wellness of workers. This is accomplished with a continuous proactive process of anticipating, identifying, designing, implementing, and evaluating risk-reduction strategies.

Departmental Safety Officer

The policy of the Anne Arundel County Fire Department is to operate with the highest possible levels of safety and provide an occupational safety and health program that seeks to comply with NFPA 1500 for the goal of prevention and reduction of accidents, injuries, and occupational illnesses. The designated departmental Health and Safety Officer works to maintain a safe and healthy working conditions, establishes operating practices and procedures, and complies with all Federal, State, and Local Laws, as well as, applicable consensus standards.



The Incident Command System (ICS)

The ICS provides for responder safety by giving the Incident Commander (IC) the ability to appoint and use an Incident Safety Officer (ISO). While the Incident Commander retains the overall responsibility for the safety of responders, the Incident Safety Officer is responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards and unsafe situations and developing measures to ensure personnel safety in individual incidents. The department operates a 24-hour duty safety officer supplemented by on-call and volunteer safety officers.

- In 2022 the duty Safety Officer responded to more than 1300 incidents, with the on-call and volunteer Safety Officers handling an additional 200 incidents.

In addition to monitoring and assessing hazards, the Safety Officer also ensures that responders follow safe practices, including:

- Wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Working in teams in hazardous areas
- Having back-up personnel available to react to an unexpected event
- Using an accountability system to track personnel
- Following departmental and recognized safety practices

Vehicle Collision Review Board

The Vehicle Collision Review Board aims to reduce vehicle collisions by analyzing how they occur and recommending actions that may reduce the risk of a recurrence.

Occupational Safety and Health Workgroup

The Occupational Health and Safety Workgroup is to conduct research, develop recommendations, and study and review matters about occupational health and safety within the Fire Department.

Wellness/Fitness Program

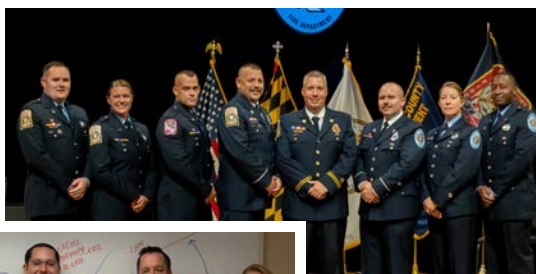
The Wellness and Fitness Division works to improve all members' physical and mental health. These efforts include administering the department's Wellness and Fitness program. Efforts in this area include providing NFPA physicals and fitness assessments to members on an annual basis and managing the Peer Support Team.



Training



Michael Pfaltzgraff
Division Chief



The Training and Research Division provides training opportunities for all career and volunteer emergency responders. This includes the initial training of all career fire recruits, continuing fire education for incumbent firefighters, initial paramedic education, Advanced and Basic Life Support continuing education and quality assurance/quality improvement training. Initial training for volunteer firefighters is coordinated by the Training Division through the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute.



Recruit Class #62 graduated 36 recruits on September 19, 2022 from Anne Arundel County and BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. The program included 603 instructional hours and provided recruits the training to meet eleven Maryland Fire Service Personnel Qualifications Board certifications.



Training



In 2022 the Training division hosted the departments first ever **Youth Fire Academy**.

Over the course of a week, two groups of children from throughout the county participated and experience everything that being a firefighter / EMT entails, including getting certified in CPR.

The paramedic training program saw 42 firefighters enter the program in 2022 and 12 students who entered in 2021 graduate and earn their paramedic licenses.



EMS continuing education reached 1,300 students across in-person and online training mediums totaling 33,350 training hours. The Academy also manages a cadre of over 100 CPR instructors who taught CPR to 603 students in 75 classes.





Mr. Paul Cruz
Chief of Staff

Mr. Paul Cruz is the department's Chief of Staff and oversees the Public Information Office, the Public Education Office, the Community Outreach and Recruitment Office, the Media Specialist, the Volunteer Services, and all other Special Projects .

Chief of Staff

Volunteer Happenings

As the premier combination fire department in the state of Maryland, the Anne Arundel County Fire Department has a strong volunteer component. At the end of 2022 our volunteer members responded to over 12,500 incidents showing once again that working together our uniform and volunteer personnel provide a great service to our community.



Our volunteer component as of the end of 2022 consisted of 1574 members that operate in 19 different stations throughout the county. Of those over 700 are operational members while the remaining include administrative members, ladies auxiliary and the Alarms Association.



While operational members provide direct rescue, suppression and EMS to the citizens of the county, our administrative volunteer members provide direct support to their companies by holding fundraisers, promoting fire prevention and providing community outreach in different events throughout the county.

Volunteer companies placed the following equipment in service in 2022:

Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company (Company12)

- Rescue Squad 12
- Engine 122

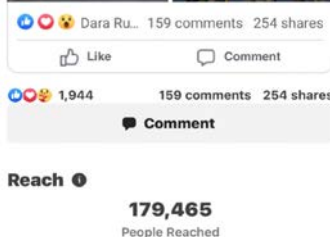


Public Information Office

Jennifer Macallair
Captain



Serving as a conduit between the Department and the Communities we serve, the Public Information Office fosters communication strategies designed to inform, educate and connect residents to our public safety mission. Through our partnerships with various media platforms, we offer real-time community safety information during critical events and serve as a resource in sharing the positive impact our members have every day in Anne Arundel County. Through social media efforts, we interacted and connected with over 3 million users in 2022.



As the Department's custodian of records, the Public Information Office is charged with the maintenance and dissemination of department records in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act as well as state and federal law. Records process roughly 2000 individual actions a month resulting in roughly 25,000 records processed and documented a year.

The Public Education and Community Outreach Offices is committed to preventing injury and loss of life through awareness and education. We promote understanding of regulations and available technologies that can improve safety within the homes, businesses, and institutions of our County residents.

To better engage our communities this year, we continued to offer virtual presentations, and we also resumed in-person activities. Between in-person and virtual, we educated 8,327 individuals and attended 118 different events. That is more than double the number of individuals and events from the previous year. We also conducted large-scale smoke alarm canvases in at-risk communities. We visited well over 1000 homes and installed over 250 alarms.



Professional Standards

Glenn James II
Battalion Chief



Office of Professional Standards

The Department understands the importance of cultivating and maintaining a positive and professional organizational culture and standard of beliefs with its members. The Professional Standards Office is responsible for maintaining good order and discipline throughout the Department by delivering various programs intended to train, educate, and bring awareness to all Department members.

Policies & Procedures

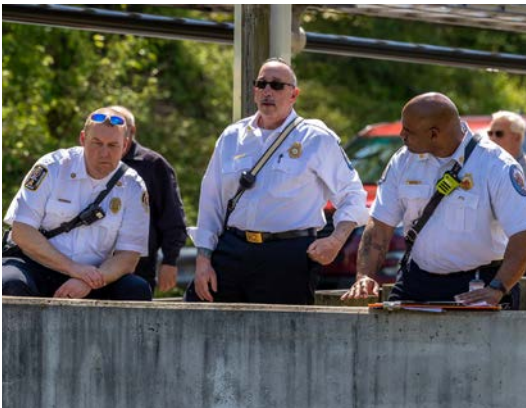
In 2020, the Department made a huge stride in completing the much-needed project of updating its Rules & Regulations, and Policies. Several hundred work hours and countless discussions were invested into updating the R&Rs, which has resulted in a transition from “Rules & Regulations and Operational Procedural Manuals” to a singular group of “Policies & Procedures.” A new format and cataloging system have been developed and implemented, which groups policies according to subject areas. Capitalizing on PowerDMS, Department’s web-based document management system, we can publish and assign updated policies and procedures, providing accessibility and accountability to all member



Investigations

The Professional Standards Office works with the EEO team to investigate any credible allegations of unprofessional behavior or misconduct by Fire Department members on and off duty. The Fire Chief may authorize an internal administrative investigation relating to allegations of harassment, discrimination, workplace bullying, or criminal and civil charges which call the member’s character or conduct into question. This may include alcohol or drug-related offenses, assault, restraining orders, and other criminal charges.

This past year, The Professional Standards Office has researched professional standards software to assist with tracking and best practices. Recently, the department purchased Blue Team a front-line software professional standards management tool. The integrity and professionalism of our public safety employees are crucial to community trust and engagement.



A Look Back at 2022



“THE BEST PLACE FOR ALL”



We stand ready as an all-hazards organization to assure the safety of our communities. We respond to calls for service, fires, medical and other emergencies as well as promote fire prevention strategies and life safety programs. The Anne Arundel County Fire Department enforces fire code compliance to ensure that buildings and properties are safe.

Email: FireChief@aacounty.org

Phone: 410.222.8200

Address: 8501 Veterans Hwy, Millersville, MD

Connect With Us

@AACoFD



Contact Us For More Information
Email: fdcpr@aacounty.org or
Call: 410.222.8337



www.aacounty.org/departments/fire-department