



YEAR IN REVIEW

2023

WE CARE FOR YOU



FAST FACTS

35,320

Total Emergency Calls

23,789

Total Medical Calls

6:67 minutes

Average Travel Time*

38

Fire Investigations

2/2

**Fire Fatalities/
Civilian Fire Injuries**

\$4,164,016

Total Fire Property Damage

\$22,370,984

Property Saved

7,799

Building Inspections

3,378

Plan Reviews

**Travel Time starts when the truck first moves and ends when the air brake is applied on-scene of an incident.*



157/5,987

Volunteers/Hours

74

Daily Positions

292/29

Sworn/Civilian

\$55,619,254

FY22-23 Budget

\$56,909,433

FY22-23 Budget w/Grants

\$64,767,849

FY 23-24 Budget

\$65,340,854

FY 23-24 Budget w/Grants

CHIEF'S MESSAGE - TOM SHANNON



Scottsdale Fire Department concluded 2023 with great resolve in preparing our next generation of firefighters and fire service leaders for new roles within the department. We launched an aggressive campaign of mentoring, professional development, and practical skills assurance at all levels of the fire department. We thanked several veterans of the city for their service as they enjoy a well-deserved retirement and welcomed dozens of new firefighters to the SFD to fill those positions and those associated with growth.

Our employees skillfully responded to more than 35,000 calls in 2023 with the sole mission of caring for our citizens and visitors. Scottsdale Fire is a premier contributor to the regional automatic aid system and will continue to the lead

the way in all areas of fire service delivery.

The fire department engaged the community in all areas of health and safety specifically wildland fire mitigation and public education. Our focus is to prevent as much injury and illness as possible in the execution of our mission.

I want to express special thanks to our employees and elected officials for their continued support and dedication to public safety. It is a great pleasure and privilege to serve our residents and visitors.

As always, we welcome your feedback as it pertains to the operation of the organization. Please e-mail your comments to fire@ScottsdaleAZ.gov or call 480-312-8000.

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATIONS

SUPER SEASON

Operations rang in the new year with the momentous task of preparing for the “Super Event Season” as Super Bowl LVII came to the valley. As a visitor destination, Scottsdale saw record crowds with its annual signature events starting with the Barrett Jackson Scottsdale Auction and then followed by the WM Phoenix Open that coincided with the Super Bowl.

Scottsdale Fire continued to be a leader as the greater Phoenix Region worked together to plan and provide for the safety of the many visitors that came to the valley.

SPECIALTY UNITS

The department relocated its Hazardous Materials Response team from Fire Station 606 to Fire Station 603 based on response data collected to increase its coverage of hazardous material incidents within the city. SFD additionally trained six new Haz Techs.

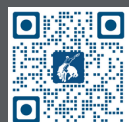
Scottsdale’s Technical Rescue Team began the initial development and deployment phase of the “Trail Access Vehicle” program that will decrease time to our patients that are located within the vast trail system of the preserve. SFD also added seven new Rescue Techs to the team.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Scottsdale Fire Department created a strategic plan for 2023-2026. Because SFD was created on July 1, 2005, many of the inaugural members are eligible to retire on July 1, 2025 – or much sooner. SFD is already seeing the trend begin with high numbers leaving now. With the departures goes leadership skills, experience and critical specialty training like paramedic, Technical Rescue and Hazardous materials that take months and years to replace.

SFD’s previous 3-5 years concentrated on workforce resiliency and ensuring quality services. The latest strategic plan initiatives are focused on continuing the long-time culture of impeccable emergency services to the residents and visitors to Scottsdale. Health and Wellness, Fostering Leadership, Strategic Recruitment are a few examples of initiatives that participating internal and external stakeholder partners found to be critical to the success of Scottsdale Fire.

**Visit the Scottsdale Fire website to download
a copy of the plan: www.ScottsdaleFD.com
Or email fire@scottsdaleaz.gov**



TRAINING

The training division is continuously providing training, ongoing education, and professional development to our current firefighters. Also, ensuring firefighter candidates can be appropriately selected during the recruitment process by assisting in the planning and implementation of a new computer/video-based hiring platform. This resulted in sending 27 recruits to the Glendale regional academy. The training division additionally facilitated the promotional processes for rank of engineer and captain.

Our training team was involved in developing and implementing our annual training calendar that includes all rank specific CE, as well as quarterly training, that includes Wildland, IAFF Sponsored Fire Ground Survival, 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 us 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. The division also collaborated on Regional Academy curriculum to ensure consistent regional academy content and hours for each recruit.

Construction broke ground on the long-awaited new Scottsdale Regional Training Center. This is a voter approved project that will bring our training academy up to modern national standards and technology allowing us to train current and future firefighters.





EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Continuous focal points for the EMS Division have been Quality patient care, EMS training, and obtaining a Certificate of Necessity (CON) from the Arizona Department of Health so that Scottsdale Fire can operate our own ground ambulances.

This year, the EMS division hired a Performance Improvement Coordinator who is responsible for reviewing patient care records related to Cardiac Arrests, Traumas, STEMI's, Sepsis, Stroke, overdoses, and all patient refusals. The focus of the reviews is for quality assurance, compliance with local protocols, data reporting to DHS, conformity to medical direction, and overall care of our patients with a total of approximate 9,730 time sensitive charts reviewed. Scottsdale Fire drives our emergency medical training from these quality assurance results.

In 2023, EMS delivered a total 480 hours of face-to-face EMT and Paramedic training hours in cardiac care, trauma, pediatrics, pharmacology, Labor and Delivery, etc. In addition, 25 of our members graduated from paramedic school.

The EMS division was able to purchase new training equipment such as I-Simulate and training manikins. These simulators and manikins allow the simulation of real time cardiac arrest, various cardiac and respiratory emergencies (including lung sounds), defibrillation, and cardiac pacing situations. In addition, SFD members are able to practice advanced skills, such as, airway intubation, I-gel airway placement, intravenous and interosseus catheter placements, respiratory and cardiac output monitoring, and high-performance CPR feedback.

PREVENTION

COMMUNITY GATE INSPECTIONS

There are more than 521 community access gates in Scottsdale. Many are used by the fire department for emergency response to fires and medical emergencies. Other city services and private vehicles use these gates to access communities.

Over the past year, Scottsdale GIS has been working with the fire department to inspect and consolidate the various

sources of Gate Codes on file.

To ensure the data was accurate, the Fire Department assigned a firefighter to complete extensive field inspections of all 521 gates across the city.

This ensured the codes were valid and the gates were operating and functioning appropriately for emergency and non-emergent access.

HIGH RISE DEVELOPMENT

Scottsdale's skyline is changing rapidly. As examples, where once was Don and Charlies, Maya night club and a vacant lot north of Fashion Square, all have now been replaced with multi-story hotels.

High rise structures can bring increased demand on city services, as well as higher fire risk profile due to the complexity of the structure and the number of occupants they contain. High-rises require much more time and attention at the many phases such as planning and development, building and fire plan review, fire inspections and fire/EMS operations.

SFD has worked diligently to coordinate all aspects to provide the safest structure possible before, during and after the building is complete and operational.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS FOR FIRE SAFETY

Fire prevention and fire suppression activities working together are crucial for ensuring the safety of Scottsdale. By actively preventing fires through education, inspection and quickly and efficiently suppressing fires when they do occur, we have significantly reduced the occurrence of fires, saved lives, and protected homes and businesses from devastating losses.

In 2023, Scottsdale's property loss by fire was 18.6 percent (loss value/property value), a fraction of the national average at 42.8 percent.

This collaborative effort of a professional firefighting force and aggressive fire prevention activities is essential in ensuring the well-being and security of Scottsdale.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The City of Scottsdale Emergency Management efforts were tested with two significant events in 2023.

The first was in January with events surrounding the Big Game. After facilitating ten months of training, preparation, and NIMS planning cycle operations for a City-wide Area Command center, the team enabled strategic level support to the operations at the Waste Management Phoenix Open, the Bird's Nest, ESPN Tailgate in Old Town, and other events related to Super Bowl LVII and WMPO throughout the entire city. This included hosting twice daily regional situational awareness briefings, which included local, state, and federal agencies

to maintain coordinated public safety in the region, allowing open communication and mitigation of any identified risks.

The second was managing the initial attacks on the Diamond Wildfire in the north Scottsdale area. COS Emergency Management team coordinated evacuation, response, and Emergency Operation Center support alongside Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management, and AZ Dept of Forestry and Fire Management during the firefighting operation. The collaboration continued through the subsequent Land Use Agreement for a Base of Operations at Fraesefield Trailhead for more than a week after. (See Significant Incident.)

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The health of our Firefighters remains on the forefront of our priorities in the department. So much so that “Wellness” is a Department Core Value and is a key to everyone’s journey at Scottsdale Fire.

To support this value, SFD received a grant from FEMA for cancer screenings for our members. Firefighters have a nine percent higher risk for developing cancer and a 14 percent higher risk of dying from cancer. The grant allowed us to send more than 220 members and a few retirees through Vincere Cancer Center.

The screening included the Galleri Test for members 45 years and older, full body MRI, Dermatology screening and review with Dr. Shukla. As a result of these screenings, four serious cancer diagnosis were found along with three skin cancers.

All of the Department’s cancer diagnosis were covered under Worker’s Compensation due to the States Presumptive Cancer Laws. We are committed to continually find funding for future screenings for our members.

In addition to screenings, Scottsdale Fire Department members volunteered to participate in the Firefighter Collaborative Research Project (FCRP) with the University of Arizona.

FCRP is a study that focuses on understanding how different lifestyle changes might be able to lower serum polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) levels as well as reduce cardiovascular risk and epigenetic age. The impact of this study would help firefighters find ways to reduce their risk of cancer.

RESOURCES

Four new ambulances were ordered and received in 2023. All supporting resources are being prepared for procurement and distribution as soon as the CON is passed. (See EMS.)

Three new replacement pumpers were placed in service as E603, E604 and E605. The specs have been completed for E612, L611, and the Support replacement truck; all to be delivered in October 2024. New UTV were ordered for delivery in July 2024 to assist with special events and mountain rescues.

Saunas have been placed in 601 and 602 in an effort to mitigate long-term health effects to firefighters associated with toxic chemical exposures. (See above.)

Finally, Scottsdale Fire began implementing a new tracking software called Operative IQ. The software will help track equipment and goods used in our department; including fleet maintenance and inventory, soft goods and disposables used in EMS, and enhance station ordering currently managed by RES.

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT

On June 27 at 4:34pm, a citizen in the area of 130th St. and Harper called 911 to report a "small fire in the desert north of the address."

Earlier that day, a red flag warning was announced and was in affect due to the high temperatures, low humidity, and gusty winds predicted for the late afternoon. (107 degrees, winds >10mph WSW, humidity < 5%).

As units responding to the brush assignment were driving to the fire, a large column of smoke could be seen in the distance. A fire department Type 6 brush truck arrived on-scene and established Harper Command of a 10 -12-acre brush fire with light fuels rapidly moving to the North towards structures. Fire crews deployed for structural protection and with the assistance of air assets provided protection without losing a single residence.

The balance of a 3rd Alarm Urban Interface Assignment was dispatched from Scottsdale and many of our regional, state, and federal partners responded in support to contain the fire.

This brush fire became known as the "Diamond Fire," which burned more than 1,900 acres.





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