

Sycamore Fire Department



Annual Report

CY 2023

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Guiding Principles

Mission Statement

The mission of the Sycamore Fire Department is to selflessly serve our community with the highest quality professional fire and emergency medical service.

Our Values

Preparedness

Our members strive to be best prepared through physical fitness, continued training, and equipment readiness in order to operate in the safest way possible

Dedication

Our members take great pride and honor providing a loyal service to the community, while respecting the traditions of our profession

Honesty/Integrity

Our members perform their duties honestly and ethically striving to maintain the trust given to us by the community

Teamwork

Our members work together to achieve a common goal through mutual trust, respect, and loyalty

Selflessness

Our members are bravely willing to sacrifice our needs to serve the needs of the community in the course of performing our duties

Fire Chief's Message

It is with pleasure that we present to our leaders and citizens the Sycamore Fire Department CY 2023 Annual Report. This report should provide the reader with a strong sense of the activities of the Sycamore Fire Department over the past fiscal year.

Before any other information is presented, the Fire Department would like to dedicate this report to the memory of Firefighter/Paramedic Bradley Belanger who passed away in December of 2023 after a courageous battle with cancer. Brad provided 23 years of dedicated service to the City of Sycamore and DeKalb County.

Below are some of the selected highlights from CY 23:

- Engine 2 was replaced by a 2018 Rosenbauer engine from Utah after it failed its annual inspection and was deemed unsafe to operate.
- A new ambulance went into service, and another was ordered with the expected delivery date of 2025.
- The process to replace the 67-year-old Station 1 was initiated.
- New portable and mobile radios were purchased replacing the current 25-year-old radios we use today.
- The department patch design was updated to better reflect the community and give a more modern appearance.
- Computers were installed in all frontline vehicles to improve responsiveness to emergency incidents.
- The position of Battalion Chief was created to maintain a permanent command presence at all large calls.
- Daily minimum staffing was increased by one person to accommodate the new Battalion Chief position.
- Apprentice program was reinstated.

This report would not have been possible without all of the valuable assistance provided by Fire Department Office Manager Natalie Nelson.

On behalf of all of us at the Sycamore Fire Department, we appreciate the support and confidence of our community leaders and the community members we serve as we strive to provide the best fire and emergency response possible.

Sincerely,



Bart Gilmore
Fire Chief



National Annual Events Recognized

EMS Appreciation Week

5/21/23-5/27/23

Fire Prevention Week

10/08/23 - 10/14/23



Tribute to Brad Belanger

September 1, 2000

First shift on duty

October 15, 2022

Last shift on duty

December 18, 2023

Motorcade Honor Transport home, escorted by Sycamore Fire Department Medic 4 and crew members, and greeted by dozens of fire departments, agencies, businesses, and individuals.

December 22, 2023

Line of Duty Death announced

January 5, 2024

Funeral Services at Sycamore Park District Community Center



Shift #2			
	F	A	
Lt Kessler (PD)	1/C	FS	
Lt Prather	"	0200	0700
FF Pritchett	E	1/H	
FF Marcukowski (VD)	1		
FF Belanger	4	AD	0700
FF Hapke	3	Asst	
<hr/>			
I-73 To Peace @ Freed	SA	1712 934	1732
I-73 To 1616 < Stu's house	SA	1740 940	1819
E-5 To 920 W Hillcrest	FS-F	1807 (941)	1820 1830

2000 245th day - 121 days follow

FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER



Tribute to Brad Belanger

It is with heavy hearts and profound sorrow that we announce the passing of one of our own, a valiant firefighter who fought not only the flames, but also battled courageously against cancer. Today, we gather as a community to remember and honor the life of firefighter Bradley Belanger, who selflessly devoted his time and energy to safeguarding our community for the last 23 years.

As we mourn the loss of a beloved firefighter, let us remember the moments of bravery, the sacrifices made, and the impact Brad had on the Sycamore community. Brad's legacy will forever be etched within our fire department's history.

In this time of grief, our thoughts and deepest condolences go out to the Belanger family, his friends, and his colleagues. Let us unite as a community to offer support and comfort to those who mourn, reflecting the camaraderie that he embodied throughout his service.

May he rest in eternal peace, surrounded by the gratitude of a community forever indebted to his courage and sacrifice.



Annual Requests for Emergency Services 2,866

Total Emergency Medical Responses: 2,410 (84%)

Level of Care Provided

- Basic Life Support 1,360 (55%)
- Advanced Life Support 1,099 (45%)

Patient dispositions

- Transports 1,565 (64%)
- Non-transport (patient refusals) 894 (36%)
 - Patient received care 206 (23%)
 - Patient refused care 679 (76%)
 - No patient contact 9 (1%)

Motor Vehicle Accidents 187

- Extrications 4

Total Fire Suppression Responses 70 (2%)

- Buildings & Other Structures 36
- Vegetation (brush, grass, woods, crops) 14
- Trash, Rubbish, and Other Material 11
- Vehicles & Other Mobile Property 5
- Cooking (confined to container) 2
- Outside Equipment 2

Non-fire Responses 386

- False / Malicious Alarms 168
- Good Intent 101
- Burning Complaints 34
- Hazardous Conditions 80
- Service Calls 21

Mutual/Auto Aid Incidents 248

- Given 117 (47%)
- Received 131 (53%)

Department Overview

The first fire company of the Sycamore Fire Department was officially organized in 1860, just a year after the Town of Sycamore was incorporated in 1859. The Sycamore Town Board approved a \$250 expenditure in May 1860, to buy ladders, hooks, chains, axes, ropes, and buckets necessary to complete the organization of a Hook and Ladder Company. In March 1871, a Special Council Meeting was held to buy land (16' x 62') for \$200 to build a brick firehouse with a \$200 bond sold to fund the building. Later, an appropriation was approved for \$1,500 to fund the firehouse, carriage, ladders, hoses, and rubber buckets for the Hook and Ladder Company.

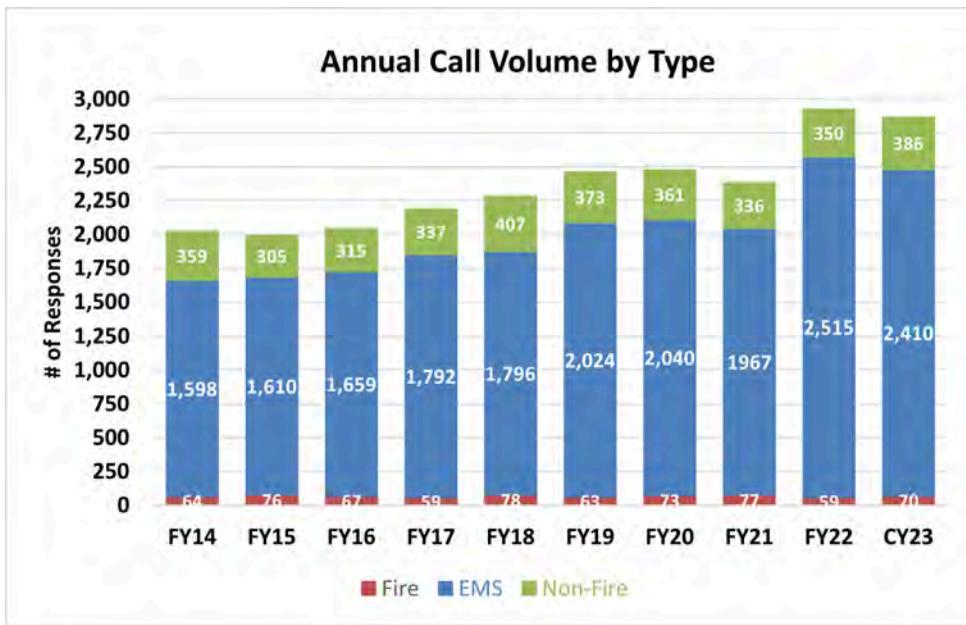
The Sycamore Fire Department provides Fire Suppression, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials First Responder, Fire Prevention, and Public Education services to approximately 20,000 citizens. This service area includes the City of Sycamore (18,519) and the Sycamore Fire Protection District (approximately 2,500). Overall, we service an area of approximately 62 1/2 square miles (City of Sycamore - 9.74 square miles).

The Department is divided into two divisions; an administrative division and an operations division. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) 2023 rating for the City of Sycamore is a **Class 4** and the ISO rating for the Sycamore Fire Protection District (unincorporated area outside the city) is a **Class 4Y**.

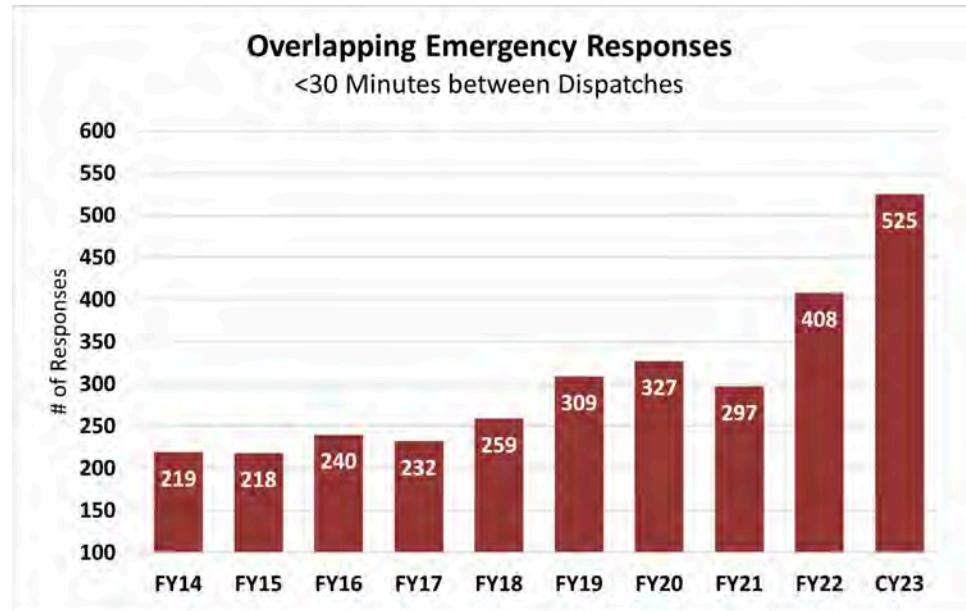


Department Overview

Between 2022 and 2023, the total call volume **decreased by 1.9%**; however, in the same period, the number of medical-related calls **increased by 4.6%**.

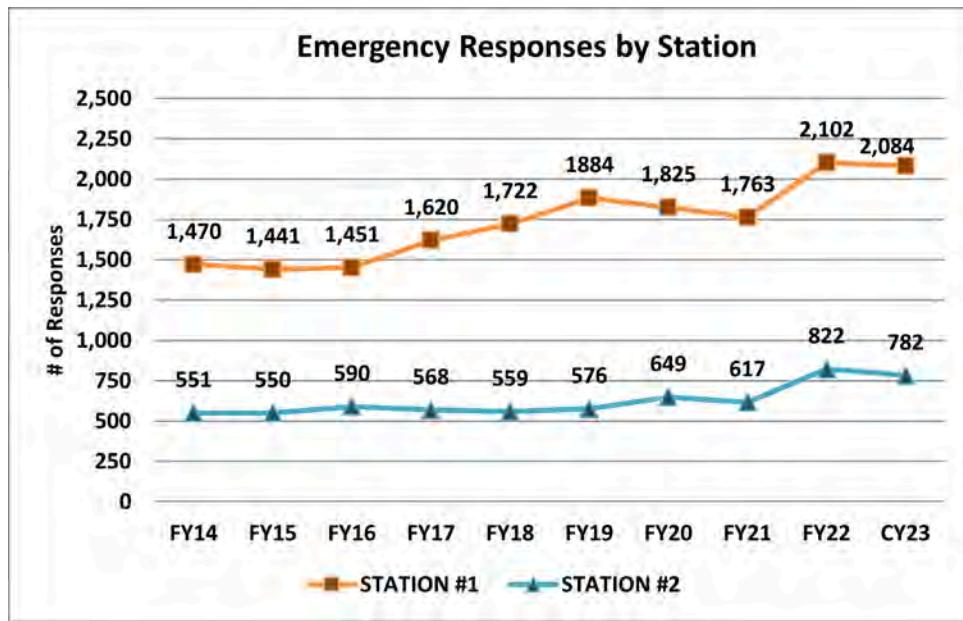


Meanwhile, the frequency of overlapping calls--less than 30 minutes between dispatches--increased by **28.6%**. To ensure at least one full crew is ready to respond to emergencies, whenever a crew from one call has not returned to the station when a second call comes in, off-duty personnel are “recalled” to voluntarily report for duty and earn overtime.



Department Overview

Total call volume decreased by **58** calls (-1.9%) between FY22 and CY23. Station #1 continued to respond to the majority of requests for emergency services (72.7%). Emergency responses were evenly distributed among the three personnel shifts: Black (32.8%), Red (33.3%), and Gold (33.9%).



Response time is measured from the time dispatch relays the call to SFD to the time the first SFD vehicle arrives on the scene. For calls within the Sycamore Fire Protection District, the average response time was **3 minutes and 40 seconds**. The average mutual/auto aid response time is 7.4 minutes. longer due to the increased distance traveled.

Call duration is measured from the time dispatch relays the call to SFD to the time the last SFD unit is cleared. For calls within the Sycamore Fire Protection District, the average call lasted **37 minutes and 45 seconds**. The average mutual/auto aid call lasted 55 minutes and 23 seconds.

The **monthly** average call volume was **239 calls**.
 The **daily** average call volume was **8 calls**.
August was the busiest month: **294 calls**.
Thursdays were the busiest days/nights: **457 calls**.
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM was the busiest time: **190 calls**.

Facility Maintenance

Deputy Chief Jim Ward oversaw station maintenance in 2023. With the new fire station project commencing, the Fire Administration is trying to limit expensive repairs to Station 1. When Station 1's air conditioning failed in early June of 2023, it was determined that the recommended replacement of the rooftop unit would be approximately \$15,000. Fire Administration decided to buy portable A/C units to be placed throughout the living quarters of Station 1 in the hopes that this would get the department through the next two years until a new station went into service. The most noteworthy activities during 2023 were:

- Facilitated required annual Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM) boiler inspection at Fire Station #1.
- Completed required annual service on emergency generator at Fire Station #2.
- Completed required annual testing of sprinkler system at Fire Station #1 and #2.
- Completed required annual testing of fire alarm system at Fire Station #1 and #2.
- Completed required annual testing of the wheelchair lift system at Fire Station #1.



Station 1



Station 2

Apparatus



“New” Fire Engine in Emergency Service

Following the discovery that Engine 2’s frame had essentially rotted away and was not repairable and, therefore, unsafe for emergency responses, Fire and City administration worked together to find a suitable used fire engine to purchase to replace Engine 2. A 2018 Rosenbauer engine was located in Logan City, Utah. The City Council allocated \$500,000 to make the purchase of this engine. After negotiating a lower price of \$425,000, the engine was retrieved by Fire Lieutenant Eric Walker and Firefighter/Paramedic John Pink and driven back to Sycamore.

SFD Fleet Vehicles

- 4 Fire Engines (1 “new” in 2023)
- 4 Ambulances (1 new in 2023)
- 2 Chief Cars (both new in 2023)
- 3 Command Cars
- 2 Brush/Grass Fire Units
- 1 Heavy Rescue Squad
- 1 Utility Vehicle
- Water Rescue Boat & Trailer
- 1 Reserve Command Vehicle

Most frequently used Ambulance

Medic 1

1,747 responses
(60,835.82 minutes)

Most frequently used Engine

Engine 1

412 responses
(11,904.00 minutes)

Personnel

The composition of the Fire Department, in both the Administration and Operations divisions, changed significantly in the past year, due to four retirements, seven new hires, nine promotions, and two new apprentices. Additionally, the rank of Battalion Chief was instituted.

Sworn Personnel

1 Fire Chief
1 Deputy Chief
3 Battalion Chiefs
7 Lieutenants
18 Firefighters
2 Apprentices

Civilian Personnel

1 Office Manager

Administration

Personnel typically work eight-hours on weekdays. The Fire Chief and Deputy Chief take turns as the on-call Chief to respond to multi-vehicle responses after business hours and on weekends.

Operations

Personnel are assigned to one of three regular shifts--Black, Red, and Gold--or the Swing Shift. Regular shift personnel are on duty for 24 hours, followed by 48 hours off duty. Swing shift personnel schedules vary but always include eight on-duty shifts each 27-day cycle, the majority of cover regular shift personnel's scheduled absences. When scheduled or unscheduled absences cause a day's staffing to fall below the required minimum, and swing shift personnel are unavailable, overtime personnel fill in.



Years of Service

Total - **364 years**
Average - **12 years**

Ages by Rank

Firefighters/Paramedics - **35 years**
Lieutenants - **46 years**
Battalion Chiefs **45 years**

Administrative Division

The Administrative Division consists of the Fire Chief, one Deputy Fire Chief, and one Office Manager. With the creation of the Battalion Chief's position, the department was reorganized so that the responsibilities of the second Deputy Chief were taken over by the Battalion Chiefs. The Administrative Division provides the support for the Operations Division activities which include operation budget preparation and administration, grant application and administration, emergency vehicle and equipment repair and maintenance, fire station facility repairs and maintenance, fire and emergency medical service continuing education training, computer system and related software support, fire prevention programs including public fire education, and special event planning.

The Fire Department Administration has been reorganized from a three-chief system to a two-chief system with the three new Battalion Chiefs taking over some administrative duties such as building and vehicles, scheduling, training, and inventories. We are still in development in our organization and expect there may be adjustment to these duties as time progresses.

Retirements



Becky Hepker
Administrative Assistant
(10/3/96-9/1/22)



Art Zern
Assistant Fire Chief
(8/20/12-9/9/22)



Pete Polarek
Fire Chief
(5/1/10-5/1/23)

New Hires



Natalie Nelson
Office Manager
(08/08/22)



Bart Gilmore
Fire Chief
(06/01/23)
Deputy Chief
(09/12/22)

Promotion



Jim Ward
Deputy Fire Chief
(10/4/22)

Administrative Division

Activities

SFD underwent the labor- and time-intensive process of a renewal ISO Assessment, compiling and presenting years of data and records, resulting in an unchanged score.

Fire Administration personnel, City Hall personnel, and others participated in Kluber Architects' New Station Study, as the first step in determining whether the current 66-year-old Station #1 building should be repaired or replaced. The costs to renovate the current building to be ADA compliant, remove asbestos, repair heating and cooling systems, and resolve multiple other functional issues are prohibitively high and do not address the insufficient space needed for modern engines.

Deputy Fire Chief Jim Ward performed annual Food Truck Inspections and administered the Residential Knox Box Program.

Grant Awards



Delivery and installation of four new battery-powered stretchers and power loading systems were delayed until mid-2023, due to supply chain and scheduling issues. The 2022 FEMA grant award of \$235,000 covered 95% of the total cost.



SFD received a generous \$1,000 Community Safety Grant from Meijer to purchase multiple combination Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detectors for at-need residents. These funds also helped purchase a new training AED and infant CPR mannequins.

Technology Improvements

Pace Scheduling Software

FlowMSP Preplan Software

Desktop Computers

Laptops in Vehicles

Viking 8000 Portable & Mobile Radios



RedShift 2-Station 1																															
ID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
BC Person:																															
LT Powers	0104	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
FFPM Ruby	0111	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
LT Saxon	0121	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
0124	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Support	+2	+2	+2	+2	LW	LW	LW	+2	+5	+5	+5	+2	+2	LW																	
Extra Shifts:	07-09-07-09	FFPM 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	07-10-07-09	Liaison	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Operations Division

New Firefighters



FF/P Tylor Lampkins
(11/28/22)



FF/P Logan Wright
(04/03/23)



FF/P Sean Peek
(04/03/23)



FF Harold Halstead
(10/02/23)



FF/P Tyler Barton
(10/02/23)

Retirement



Lt. Dan Marcinkowski
(10/05/92-10/05/23)
31 years

Apprentices



Farrell Kuhn
(05/15/23)



Nolan McCaffrey
(05/15/23)

Operations Division

Battalion Chief Promotions



Shaun Penn
(08/04/23)



Ryan Gustafson
(08/08/23)



Adam Honiotes
(08/08/23)

Lieutenant Promotions



Scott Flatter
(10/20/22)



Andy Powers
(08/08/23)



Brian Thompson
(08/08/23)



Eric Walker
(08/08/23)



Eric Saxton
(10/5/23)

Activities

In order to maintain emergency responses and to ensure an “all hazards” response to calls for service, the Sycamore Fire Department remains committed to the following programs and teams. Each of these teams and committees is comprised of Chiefs, Officers, and Firefighters who specialize in and maintain respective programs, equipment, and personnel to ensure the highest level of service to public calls for assistance.

Special Teams

- Hazardous Materials Response (HazMat)
- Technical Rescue Team (TRT)
- Fire Investigations
- Fire Prevention / Public Education

Maintenance Teams

- Vehicle / Apparatus (Mechanic Team)
- Building Maintenance (BMAST)
- Tool Maintenance (TMAST)
- Technology Team



Other Teams and Committees

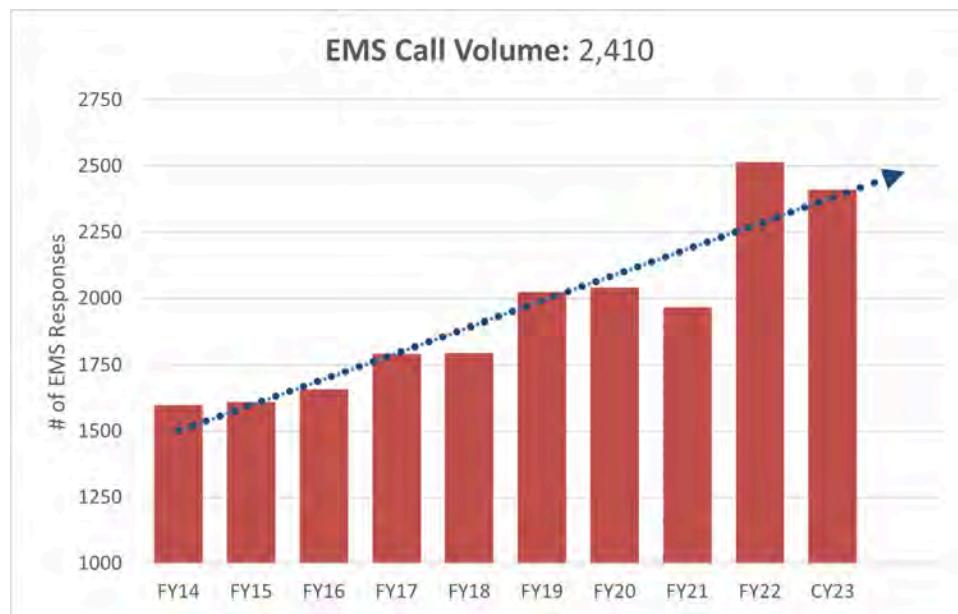
- Physical Health / Cancer Prevention
- Mental Health Improvements
- Training Committee
- Quartermaster



Emergency Medical Service

More than **84%** of all requests for emergency services during 2023 were for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Nearly half (49%) of all patients seen by SFD paramedics were ages 65 years and older. The remaining 51% of patients' ages were 0-17 years (7%), 18-35 years (14%), 36-49 (11%), and 50-64 (19%).

The most common *Patient Complaints*, as recorded by the dispatch center during the 9-1-1 call, were **Sick Person** (23%), **Traffic Accident** (21%), and **Fall** (13%). The most common *Primary Impression*, as recorded by paramedics upon patient contact, were **No Complaints or Injury/Illness Noted** (18%), **Generalized Weakness** (6%), and **Patient Assist Only** (6%).

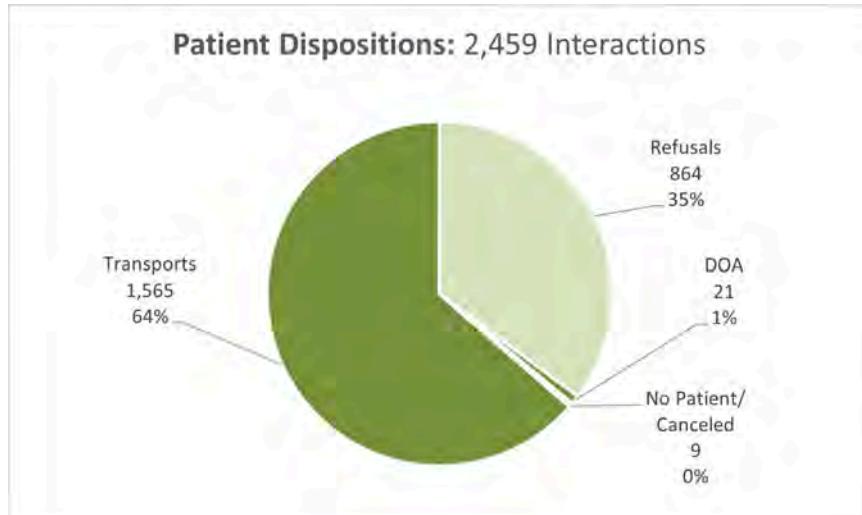


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Emergency Medical Service

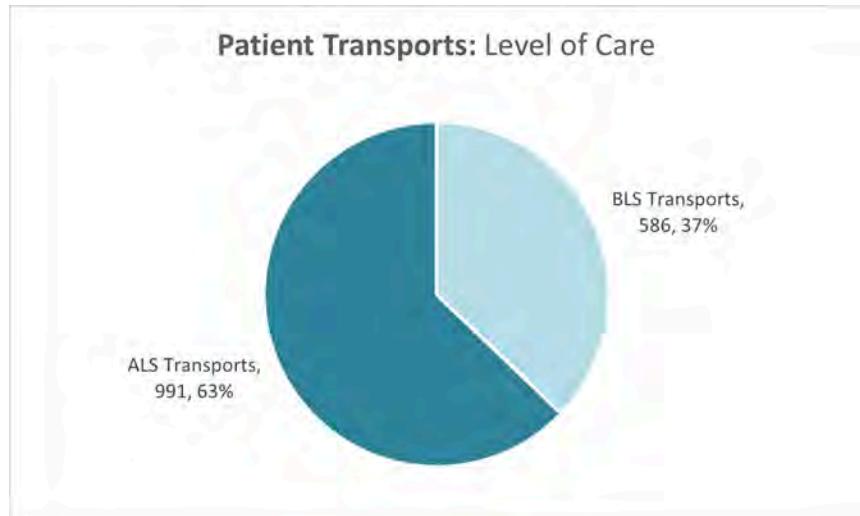
Patient Transports

Nearly two out of three EMS calls result in transporting one or more patients by ambulance to Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital's Emergency Department. All patients transported are billed at the same basic rate, residents and non-residents alike. Most billable trips (76%) were for residents of the Sycamore Fire Protection District (SFPD); non-residents account for 24% of billable trips.



Levels of Care

Paramedics provided **Advanced Life Support (ALS)** to 63% of patients and **Basic Life Support (BLS)** to 37% of patients. **Less than 1%** of EMS calls involve unsuccessful resuscitation of deceased patients. Occasionally, patients receive ALS-level care but ultimately decline transportation to the hospital. This can occur when patients experience sudden symptoms of known medical issues (asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.) that paramedics can help resolve quickly with medication.



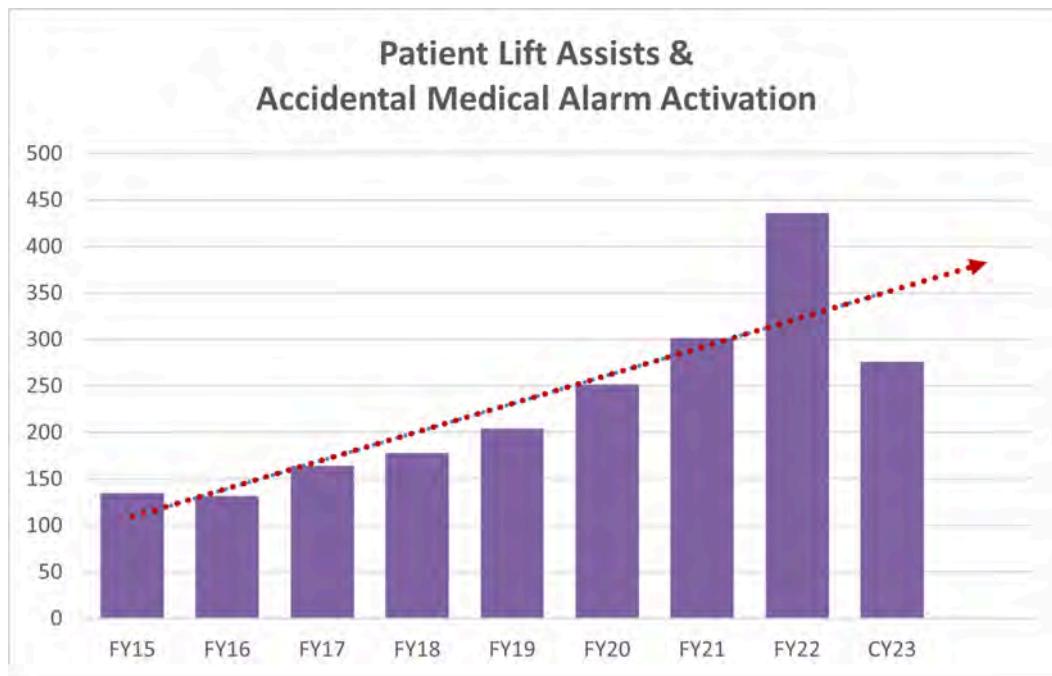
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Emergency Medical Service

Patient Refusals

Paramedics also respond to EMS calls to provide services that are not billable (12%). One example of this type of call is a **Lift Assist** for slip or fall victims who are neither injured nor ill. Oftentimes, these patients have physical limitations that prevent them or their caregivers from safely moving them. Another example is an **Accidental Medical Alarm Activation**, when an individual with personal medical alert pendant triggers an emergency response by accidentally pressing a button.

Paramedics respond to each of these types of calls prepared to treat and transport patients. If necessary, they also refer patients and caregivers to other agencies that provide essential services to help elderly and/or disabled citizens remain in their own homes.



Motor Vehicle Accidents

Another scenario that may result in multiple patient refusals is motor vehicle accidents. Paramedics are dispatched to all motor vehicle accidents, regardless of the severity of the collision. Upon arrival, paramedics attempt to assess each driver, passenger, and/or pedestrian to determine if emergency medical care is necessary. When vehicles sustain minor or no damage, patients may refuse assessment and/or ambulance transportation to the hospital. In 2023, paramedics responded to **187** motor vehicle accidents and performed **four** extrications.

Fire Calls

In 2023, SFD responded to a total of **70 fire-related calls**, of which **49 were in-district** (within the SFPD boundaries) calls, and **21 were out-of-district** Mutual Aid calls, to assist neighboring communities. No SFD fire-related deaths occurred.

Incident Type	In-district	Out-of-district	Totals
Building fire	14	19	33
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	9	0	9
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	4	0	4
Fire, other	3	0	3
Fires in structure other than in a building	3	0	3
Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	3	0	3
Cooking fire, confined to container	2	0	2
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	2	0	2
Natural vegetation fire, other	2	0	2
Passenger vehicle fire	2	0	2
Cultivated grain or crop fire	1	1	2
Outside equipment fire	1	1	2
Forest, woods or wildland fire	1	0	1
Outside rubbish fire, other	1	0	1
Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1	0	1
TOTALS	49	21	70



Fire Calls

The total in-district fire loss in 2023, was calculated as **\$393,950**, most of which was attributed to one building fire.

- **Building/other structure fires** make up **51%** of all fire responses.
- **Fires occurring in natural areas**, such as crop fields, forest, and brush make up **20%** of all fire responses.
- **Other outside fires**, including rubbish/trash/waste and outdoor equipment, account for **19%** of all fire responses.
- The remaining **10%** of all fire responses were **vehicle fires** (7%) and **cooking fires** (3%).



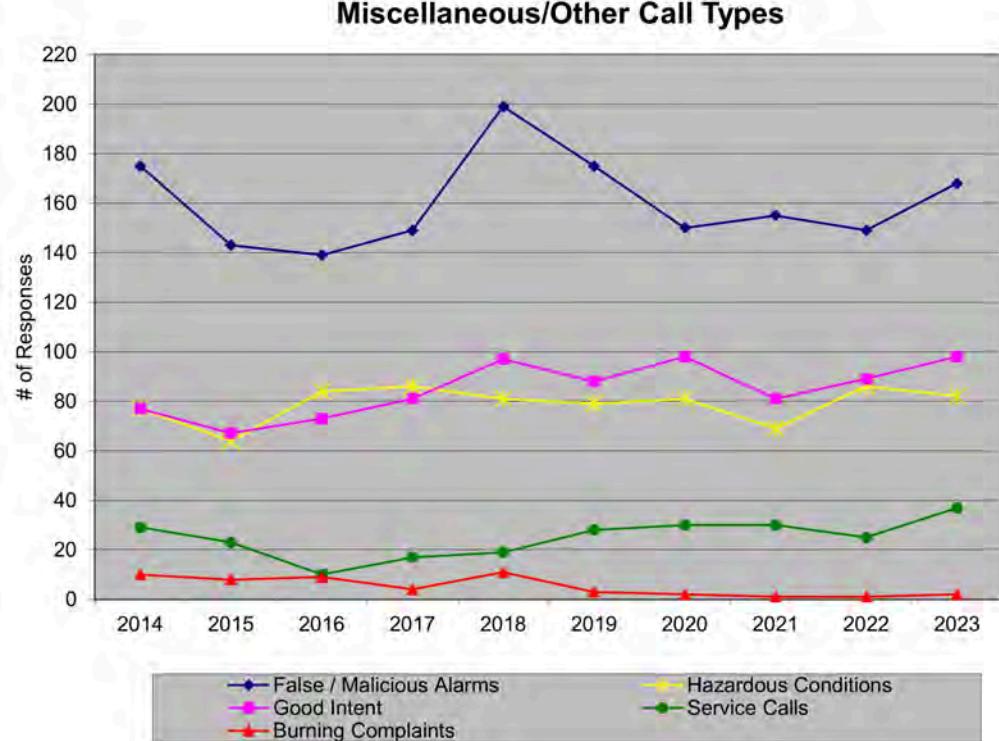
Fully Involved Vehicle Fire



Stutz Antique Fire Engine, then and now

Other Call Types

SFD responds to all emergency calls, prepared to handle whatever developments occur, whether fires, medical calls, or a variety of other types of calls. Between 2022 and 2023, the number of responses to **False/Malicious Alarms**, **Good Intent Calls**, and **Service Calls** increased. During the same period, **Burning Complaints** responses remained steady while **Hazardous Condition** responses decreased.



Notable Incidents

January 25, 2023

At 2:24 in the morning, SFD responded to a Mutual Aid request from Genoa-Kingston Fire for a barn fire on the 12000 block of Whipple Road in Sycamore (outside SFPD boundaries).

The weather was very cold and wet, which reduced visibility and made for slick surfaces. Due to the lack of fire hydrants in the rural area, water was transported to the scene, and tender shuttles were established.



This response lasted nearly two hours, including on-scene and travel time.



November 20, 2023

At 2:12 in the morning, SFD was dispatched to a fully involved fire in a residential building on the 2700 block of Glidden Road in Clare.

Due to the size of the fire, assistance from multiple Mutual Aid agencies was requested. Responding fire departments/districts included DeKalb, St. Charles, Malta, Kirkland, Hampshire, Maple Park, Burlington, Genoa-Kingston, Cortland, Batavia, Elburn, Huntley, Somonauk, Sugar Grove, and Waterman. Due to the lack of fire hydrants in the rural area, water was transported to the scene, and tender shuttles were established.

Fortunately, no one was living in the home at the time of the fire, so no occupants required rescue and medical attention.

The total call time was nearly five hours, including on-scene and travel time.



Other Duties



Emergency Management Planning



“Rescuing” Animals



Educating the Next Generation of EMTs



Supporting the Community



Welcoming
Visitors



Disinfecting
Ambulances

Training & Drills

In 2023, SFD members participated in **6,467 hours** of training. Training occurs every day and looks different depending upon the training goals. For example, some skills are learned and mastered on-the-job, during EMS continuing education classroom instruction, and at facilities like Elgin Community College (ECC), Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFS), and other locations. Fortunately, several SFD members are certified Fire Instructors, so their colleagues can receive internal training in specialized areas, such as Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue. Whenever possible and practical, and to make the most of unique experiences, Sycamore and DeKalb Fire Departments plan joint training opportunities.

Over the course of the year, Melissa Joseph, MSW, LCSW visited several times to help members learn how to protect their mental health and manage expected and unexpected challenges that come with being a firefighter/paramedic.



Training & Drills



Extrications



Aerial Ladder Fire Suppression



Live Fire Simulation



Hose Operation



Power Tool Operation



School Presentations

Elementary School Fire Prevention Week
High School Driver Education
High School Operation Prom
Middle School Safety Video Contest
Preschool/Child Care Center Visits

Events & Activities

Turning Back Time Car Show
National Night Out
Back to School Bash
Fire Prevention Week
Powder Puff Football Game
Food Donations
Treats for Troops
Pumpkin Fest & Parade
Station Tours
Nursing Home Visits
Coffee & Conversation (Chamber of Commerce)
CPR & First Aid presentations
T-shirt Campaigns for Community Causes (Autism Awareness, Breast Cancer, etc.)

Safety Reminders

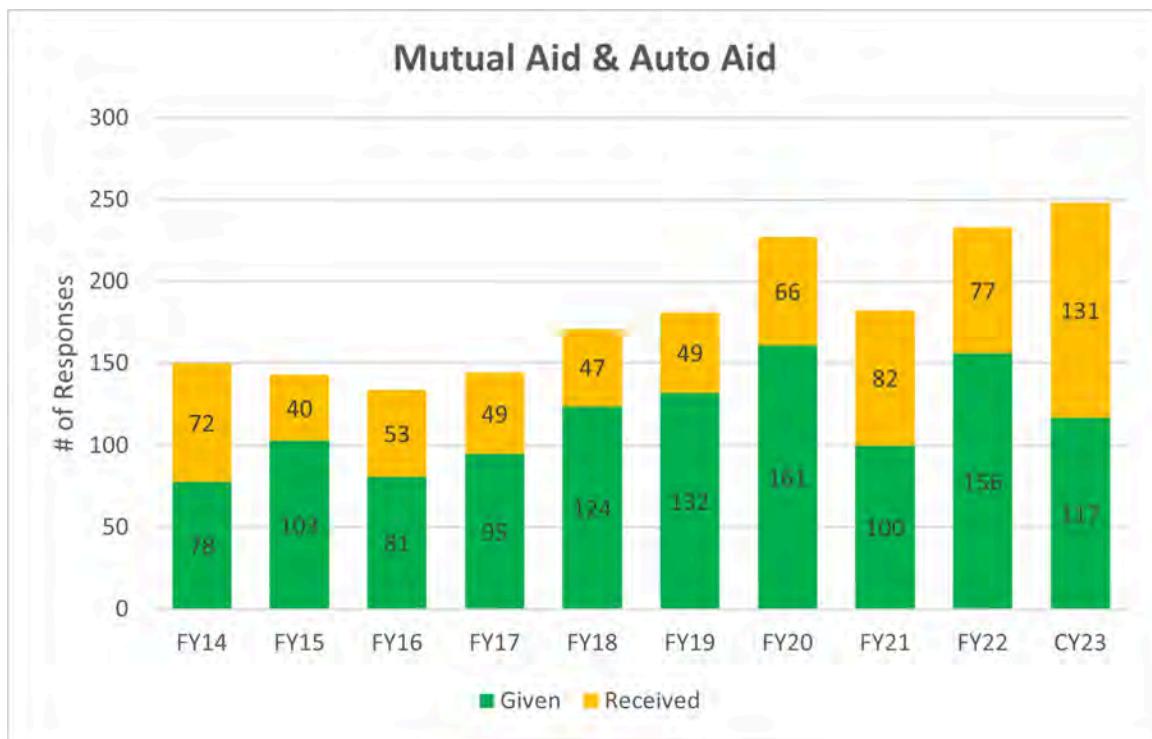
Firework Injuries
Heat Stroke/Cooling Centers
Pool Safety
Outdoor Grilling Safety
Check your Detector Batteries
Red Wreath
Christmas Tree Safety
Winter Weather/Warming Centers

Mutual Aid & Auto Aid

Reciprocal Mutual Aid (MA) and Auto Aid (AA) agreements between SFD and neighboring communities allow us to request assistance from participating fire departments/districts as needed. In return, SFD responds to their requests for assistance, providing apparatus and personnel when available.

The most common reasons for requesting aid include, but are not limited to **structure fires**, **motor vehicle crashes** with significant damage/injuries, and **multiple consecutive overlapping calls** that on-duty and off-duty recalled personnel cannot manage in a timely manner. SFD typically gives more aid than it receives; however, in 2023, SFD received more aid than it gave.

When SFD gives aid, the average response time is **7.4 minutes**, due primarily to distance traveled to the incident scene outside the Sycamore Fire Protection District boundaries. SFD responses to aid requests lasted an average of **55 minutes and 23 seconds**, likely because more serious incidents trigger aid requests.



Emergency Response Heat Map

DeKalb County's GIS Department created the Heat Map below to visibly demonstrate where the greatest volume of calls occur within the City of Sycamore. The vast majority (approximately 74%) occur south of Illinois State Route 64 (State Street). The current Station 1 is on the northern edge of the 4-6 minute response area. The location of the future fire station sits in the center of that response area making our responses quicker and more efficient. The map below represents 2,690 calls. The balance of our calls occurred either in our fire protection district or responses to other communities from MABAS requests.

