



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Sandy City Fire Department

(801) 568-2930

[www.sandy.utah.gov/fire](http://www.sandy.utah.gov/fire)

9010 S 150 E, Sandy, Utah 84070

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## Chief's Letter

Dear Mayor Zoltanski and Council Members,

It is my pleasure to present the Sandy City Fire Department's 2024 Annual Report. I consider it a privilege to serve as Chief of the Sandy City Fire Department and take the responsibility seriously. I am confident that we have a dedicated team that focuses on providing our community with high quality emergency services, as well as educational opportunities in life safety and fire prevention. The department strives to meet the needs of the community through the committed efforts of its 103 combat and administrative personnel. These dedicated individuals provide fire suppression, emergency medical care, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, as well as fire prevention and life safety education.



This past year has been another year of tremendous, needed growth. We are so excited to watch our new fire station taking shape and eagerly anticipate its completion this fall. The additional space for growth has been needed for years and before we know it, we will be packing up and moving. In addition to the new station, we have received two new engines and two new ambulances. You may have seen them driving around the city. Our fleet is aging, so the new apparatus has been needed. Additionally, we have received much needed equipment. Our hand-held radios have been replaced, we have upgraded our cardiac and Haz-mat monitors, and we have upgraded many important firefighting tools. I am also very excited that we have been able to increase our staffing levels to more closely reflect the recommendations of national standards. Not only does this increase our efficiency, but it also helps keep our firefighters safer while doing their inherently dangerous jobs. We recognize that all these additions have been made possible through citizen support and funding. We also appreciate the support and guidance of our Mayor and City Council.

While much of the annual report focuses on numbers and data, we recognize that our personnel are truly what make Sandy City Fire Department exceptional. I am confident that the dedicated service of our crew members makes Sandy City a safer place to live and work. We recognize the citizens that we serve and take our mission to prevent, mitigate, and respond seriously. We will continue to build on our prior achievements and strive to maintain the highest standards of public service.

Respectfully,

*Ryan McConaghie*

Ryan McConaghie  
Fire Chief





## VISION

At the Sandy Fire Department, we are committed to empowering our **PEOPLE** through advanced training and support, delivering an exceptional **PRODUCT** through innovative and reliable emergency services, and fulfilling our **PURPOSE** of ensuring the safety and well-being of our community with unwavering dedication.

## MISSION

**PREVENT** To prevent emergencies through public education and positive code enforcement.

**MITIGATE** To mitigate emergencies and disasters through proper planning and preparedness.

**RESPOND** To respond promptly and efficiently to all emergencies involving fire, medical or environmental concerns.

## VALUES

**TRUST** - We build trust through honesty, fairness, pride and accountability of all employees; we value loyal supportive and amiable personnel.

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP** - We encourage the challenge of new technology and change; we encourage resourceful self-motivation.

**EXCELLENCE** - We are committed to personal and professional development and encourage continuous training and education.

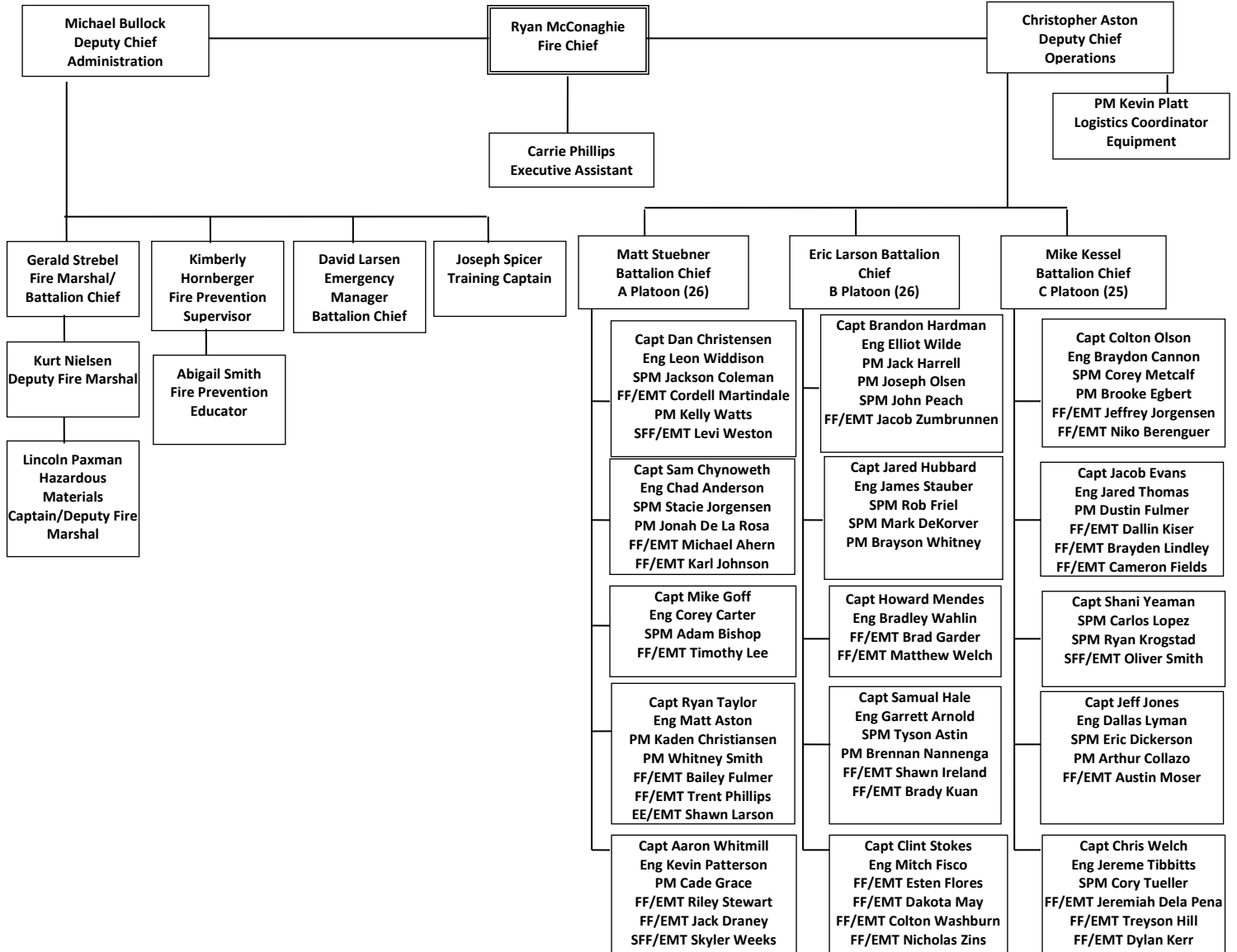
**TEAMWORK** - We encourage teamwork, while maintaining individual identities; none of us is effective alone.

**POSITIVE ATTITUDE** - We encourage a positive attitude toward the community, the city, and this department, which develops pride in our department and in the quality of our work. Our conduct, both on and off duty, is a reflection of our professional commitment.

**EMPLOYEES** - We support open communications, involvement and participation of all employees. We are committed to policies that encourage the mental and physical health of our employees. We value a safe working environment. We value good pay and benefits.

**HUMOR** - We encourage and enjoy good, appropriate humor. We support each other and encourage participation for the growth of all members.

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# 2024 PERSONNEL CHANGES

## Retirements

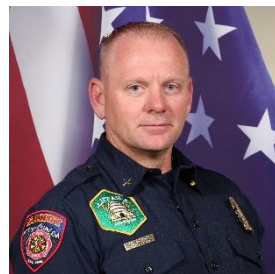


Jeffrey Bassett  
Fire Chief

## Promotions



Ryan McConaghie  
Fire Chief



Christopher Aston  
Deputy Chief of Operations



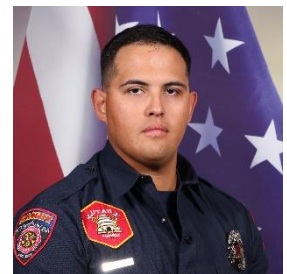
Michael Bullock  
Deputy Chief of Administration



Michael Kessel  
Battalion Chief – C Platoon



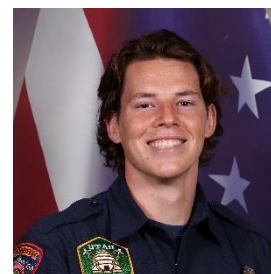
Colton Olson  
Fire Captain



Carlos Lopez  
Fire Engineer



Whitney Smith  
Paramedic



Brayson Whitney  
Paramedic



## New Hires



Shawn Larson  
Paramedic



Michael Ahern  
Firefighter/EMT



Karl Johnson  
Firefighter/EMT



Cameron Fields  
Firefighter/EMT



Nicholas Zins  
Firefighter/EMT

## Lateral Hire



Dylan Kerr  
Firefighter/EMT

## Senior Firefighter and Paramedics



Mark DeKorver  
Senior Paramedic



Eric Dickerson  
Senior Paramedic



Ryan Krogstad  
Senior Paramedic



Oliver Smith  
Senior Firefighter



Skyler Weeks  
Senior Firefighter



Levi Weston  
Senior Firefighter





Salt Lake City Fire Academy  
Class 53



Salt Lake City Fire Academy  
Class 54



Healing Fields



Station 31 Groundbreaking



Fire Prevention Events



Push In Ceremony for New Engines



# FIRE STATIONS AND APPARATUS

## Station #31 Administrative Headquarters



**9010 South 150 East  
(801) 568-2931  
Constructed: 1985**

### Apparatus

T 31	Front Line Tower	2019	Pierce
AMB 31	Ambulance-31	2024	Horton
BC 31	BC Unit	2013	Chevrolet
Res Amb 31	Reserve Ambo	2009	Horton
Res Engine 31	Reserve Engine	2006	Pierce
Res Engine 31 #2	Reserve Engine	2010	Pierce
Res T 31	Reserve Tower	1999	Pierce

## **Re-Build of Station #31**



**Concept Plan (Subject to Change)**

**Estimated Groundbreaking:**

April 2024

**Estimated Construction Completion:**

October 2025

## Station #32



**9475 South 2000 East  
(801) 568-2932  
Originally constructed: 1985  
Re-built: 2007**

### Apparatus

ME 32	Medic Engine	2013	Pierce
Reserve 32	Engine	2010	Pierce
632	Brush Truck/Plow	1997	Ford
Amb 32	Ambulance	2019	Ford F-450

## Station #33



**11270 South 2015 East  
(801) 568-2933  
Constructed: 1978**

### Apparatus

ME 33	Type 1/3	2024	Pierce
633	Grass Truck	2017	Ford F-550
HR 33	Heavy Rescue	1998	Becker
MC 33	Mass Casualty Trailer	1995	Wells Cargo
Wildland	Wildland Trailer	1977	Wells Cargo
Gator UTV	Canyon Rescue	2004	John Deere



## Station #34



**10765 South 700 East  
(801) 568-2934  
Constructed: 1993**

### Apparatus

ME 34	Medic Engine	2022	Pierce
AMB 34	Amb-34	2024	Horton
634	Brush Truck	2001	Ford
Reserve 34	Res Engine	2010	Pierce
AMB 34	Res Amb-34	2016	Ford

## Station #35

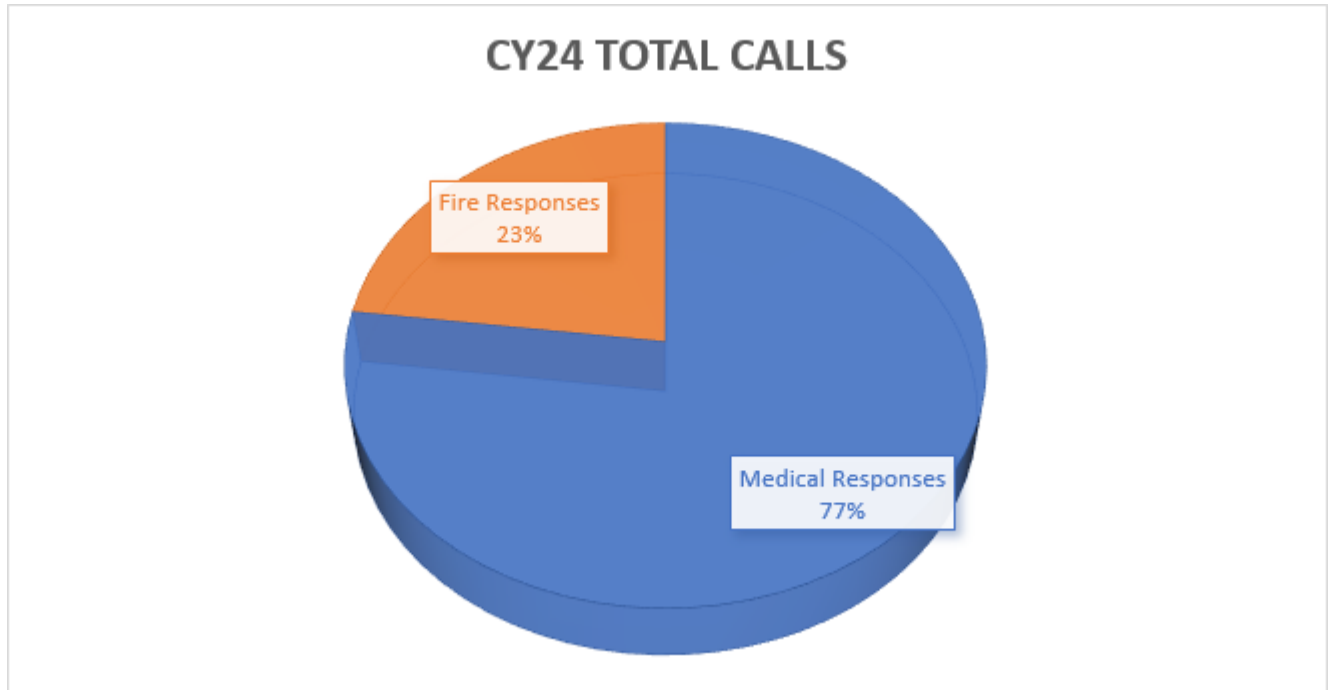


**8186 South 1300 East  
(801) 568-2935  
Constructed: 2001**

### Apparatus

ME 35	Medic Engine	2023	Pierce
AMB 35	Amb-35	2019	Ford
Haz-Decon	Decon Trailer	2002	Trailer
Haz-Mat 35	Haz-Mat	1997	Amtech

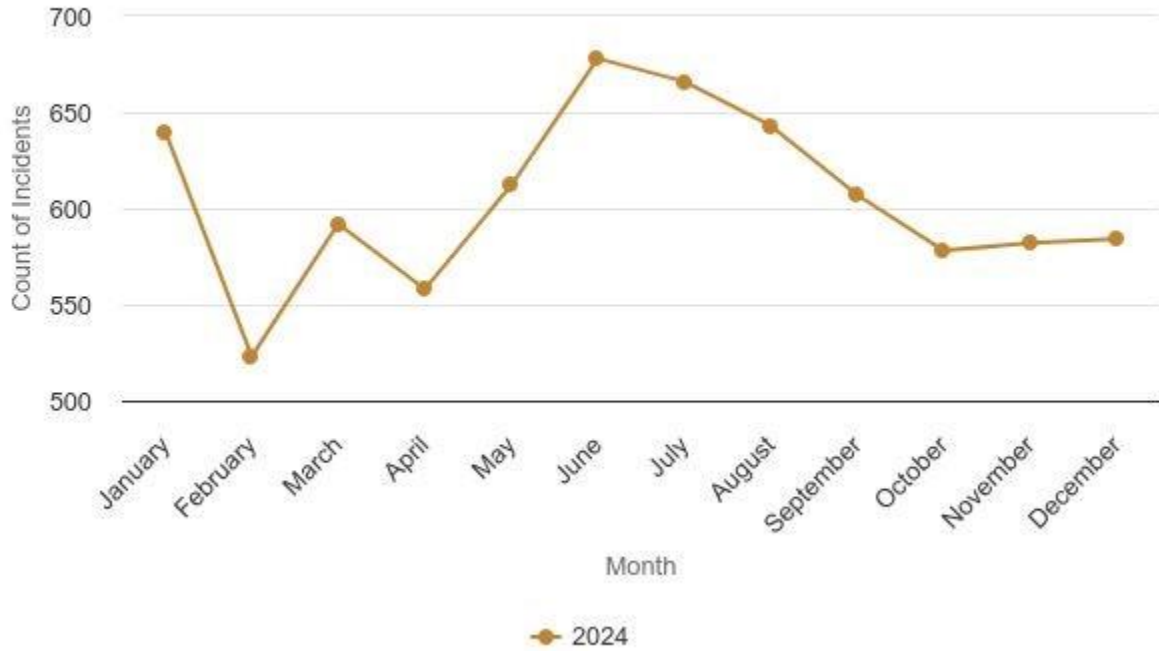
## Statistical Reports



Call Type	Total Calls
Medical Responses	7,263
Fire Responses	2,167
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,430</b>

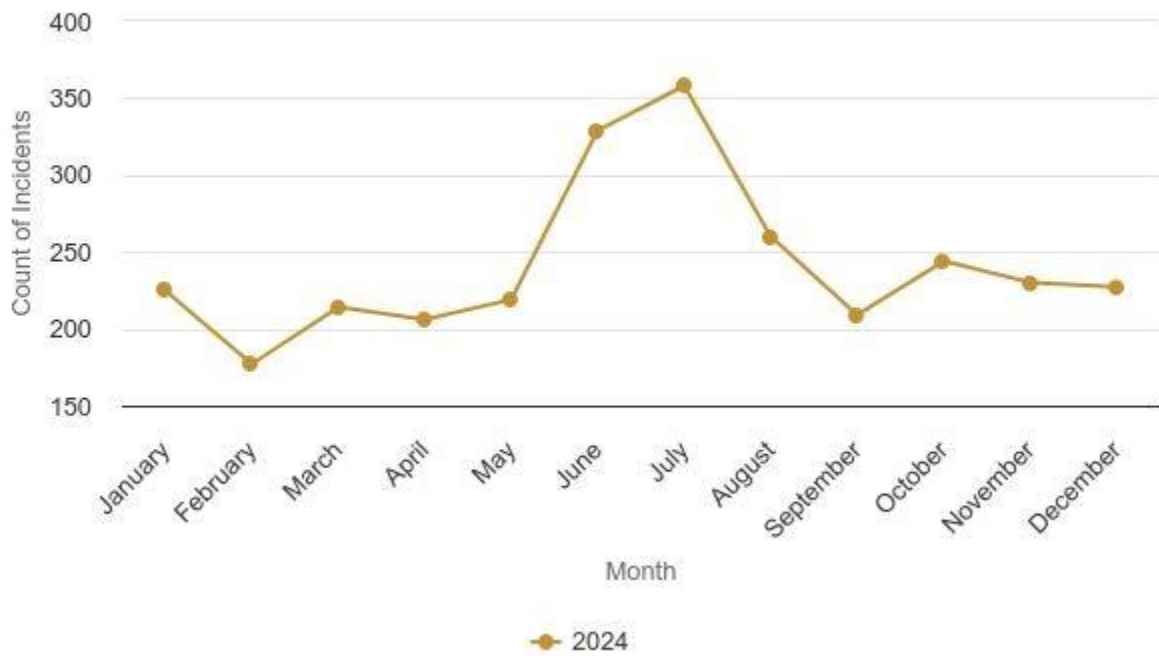
## EMS Call Volume by Month

Jan 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024

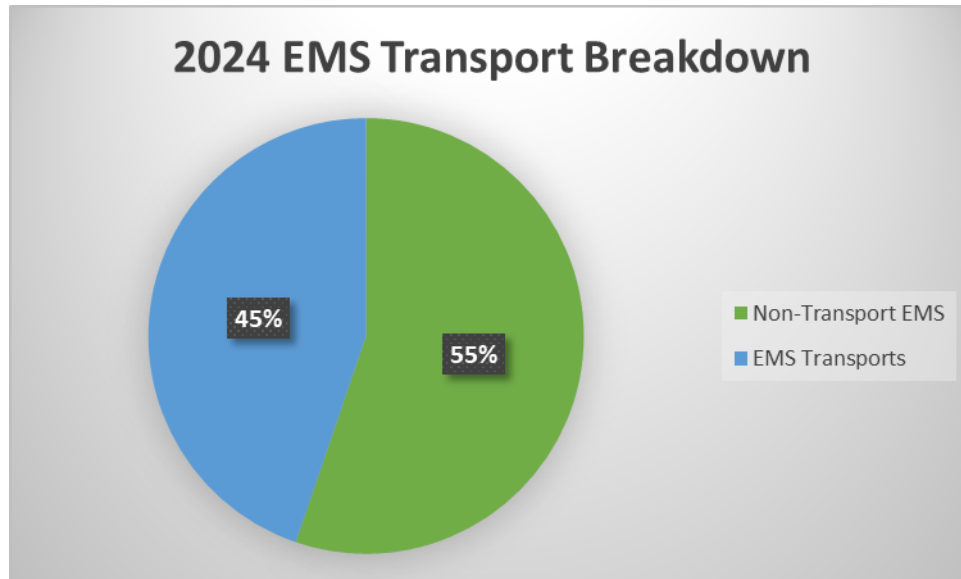


## Fire Call Volume by Month

Jan 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024

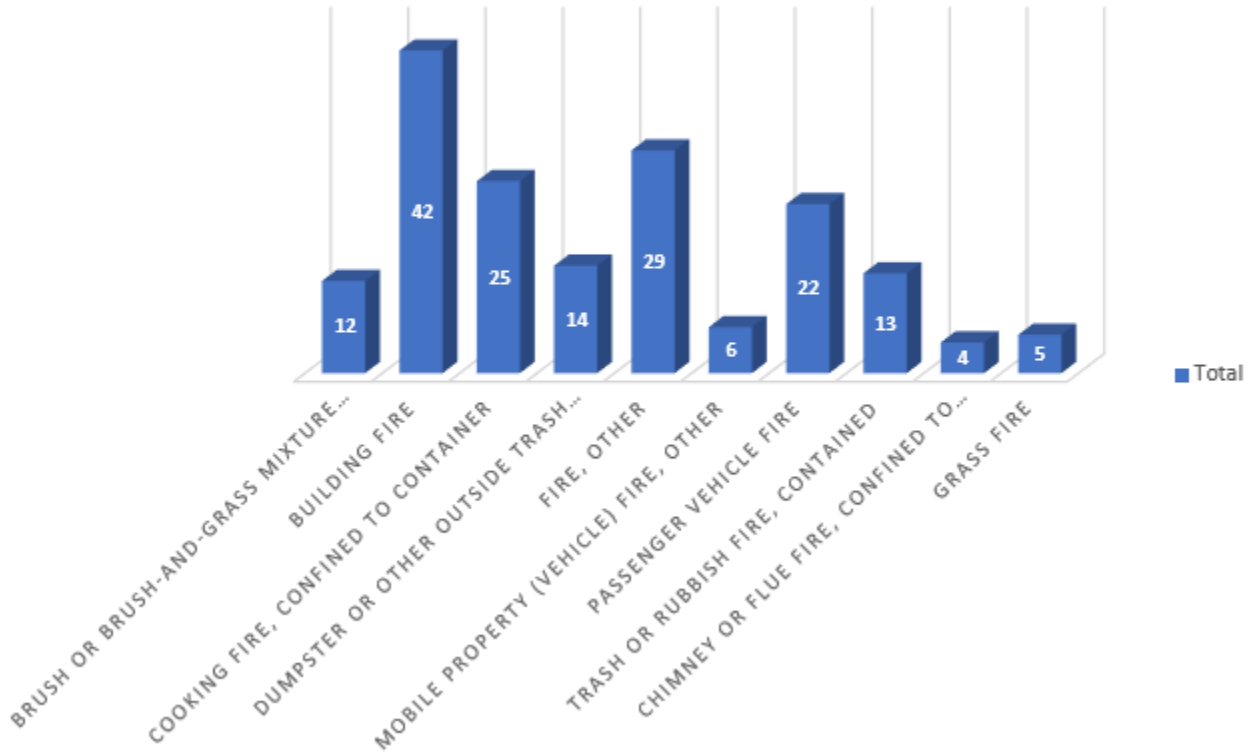


## Statistical Reports

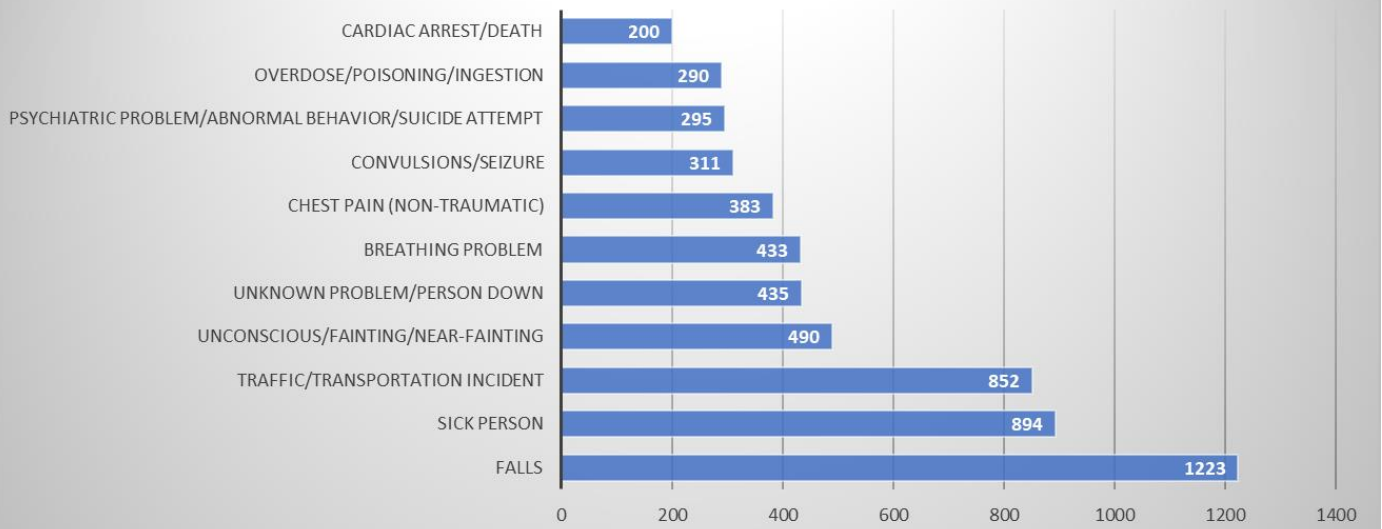


Call Type	Total Calls
Non-Transport EMS	4,012
EMS Transports	3,251
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,263</b>

### CY24 TOP 10 FIRE TYPES

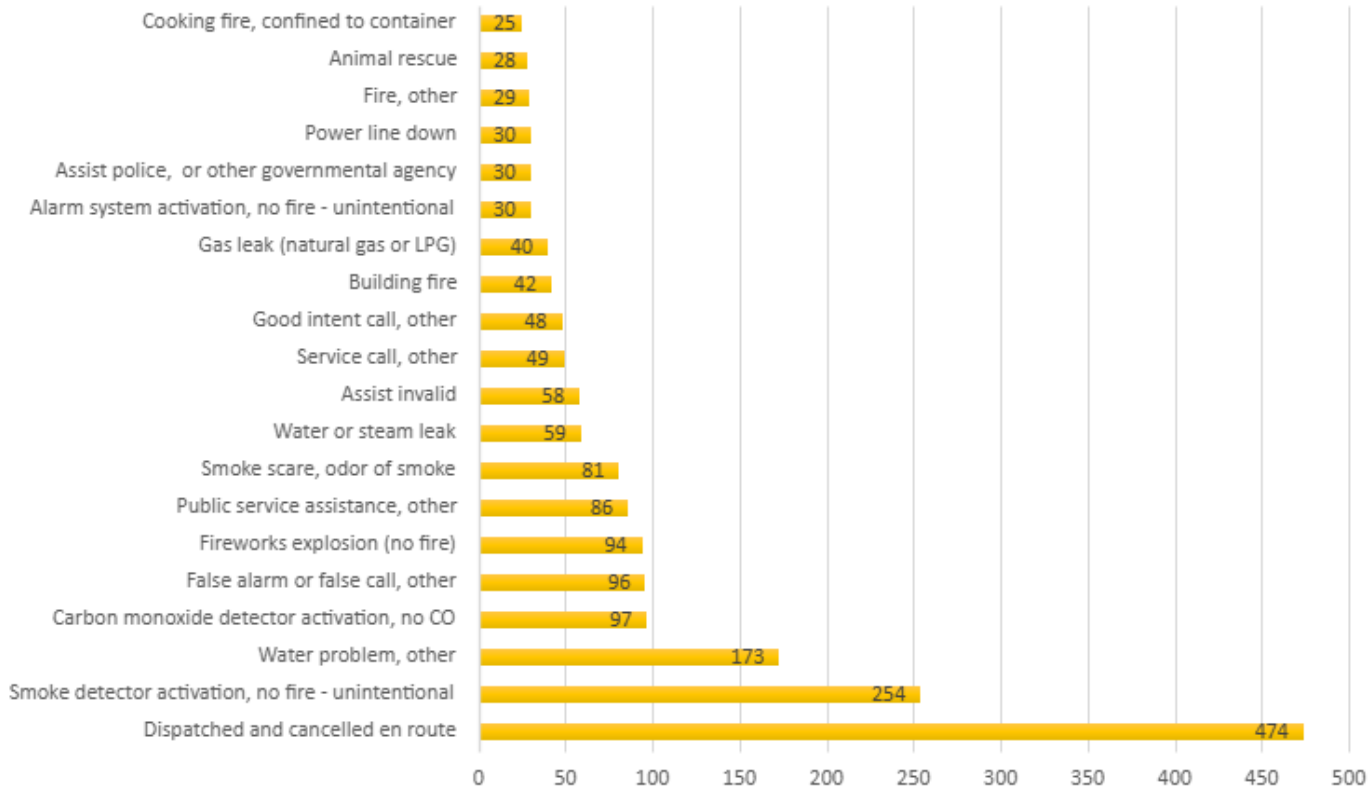


### 2024 Top EMS Dispatch Complaints





## Top 20 Fire Incident Type Responses



# Priority 1



## Fire Response Dashboard

- Response Times
- Total Calls

Calendar

2024

- Fiscal Year
- Calendar Year

Month

All

- Custom Date
- Last Week

Call Type

All

Priority

1

Jurisdiction

All

Refreshed: 2/13/2025 11:59 PM

[Reset All Filters](#)

### RESPONSE TIME

All Stations

31

32

5:50

5:55

6:14

33

34

35

6:18

5:31

5:12

### TRAVEL TIME

All Stations

31

32

4:51

4:55

5:14

33

34

35

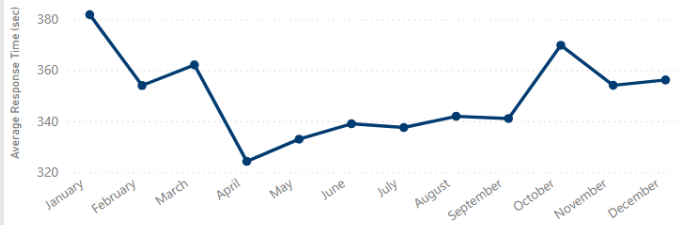
5:18

4:37

4:11

### Average Response Time

Average Response Time (sec)



Turnout

Response

### TURNOUT TIME

All Stations

31

32

1:00

1:01

1:02

33

34

35

1:00

0:54

1:01

\*Dashboard only includes times from the first unit to arrive on scene

# Priority 2



## Fire Response Dashboard

- Response Times
- Total Calls

Calendar

2024

- Fiscal Year
- Calendar Year

Month

All

- Custom Date
- Last Week

Call Type

All

Priority

2

Jurisdiction

All

Refreshed: 2/13/2025 11:59 PM

[Reset All Filters](#)

### RESPONSE TIME

All Stations

31

32

6:56

6:57

7:19

33

34

35

7:39

6:21

7:13

### TRAVEL TIME

All Stations

31

32

6:01

6:03

6:19

33

34

35

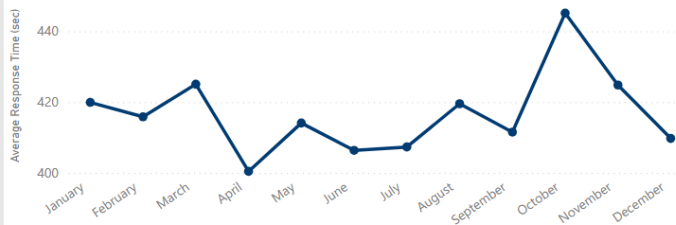
6:42

5:30

6:12

### Average Response Time

Average Response Time (sec)



Turnout

Response

### TURNOUT TIME

All Stations

31

32

0:57

0:57

1:03

33

34

35

0:58

0:52

1:02

\*Dashboard only includes times from the first unit to arrive on scene

## Operations Deputy Chief Report

This year has been such an exciting year at Sandy City Fire Department. Last year we participated in a management study that was performed by Professional Consulting Group (PCG). This study identified thirty recommendations to enhance our service and provide a more streamlined operation within our department. One of these recommendations was the addition of a second Deputy Chief position over operations to provide more oversight within the department. I was selected to fill the position of Deputy Chiefs over operations in August of 2024.

During the past year the fire department has made great strides towards completing the thirty PCG recommendations. Specifically in operations, we have added two new engines and two new ambulances. We have also found ways to fund three new full-time positions with ambulance revenue to make our minimum-staffing twenty-three on each shift, allowing the staffing of a fourth ambulance out of Station 35.

Our department has also identified and purchased equipment to ensure a much safer response for our combat personnel. Some of these purchases include new HAZMAT monitors, firefighting equipment, PPE to replace expired sets, radios, and technical rescue gear. We look forward to continued progress and know that we are making great progress with the PCG recommendations.

My new position has given me the opportunity to learn so much with budgeting, purchasing, administrative services, and the general workings of the department and the city. I have made so many new contacts and look forward to working with each department in Sandy City. I have really enjoyed learning from Chief McConaghie as he leads the department, and I value his willingness to take the time to teach and mentor me in this new position.

We continue to feel and appreciate the support that we receive from our Mayor and City Council members. Public safety is a very important public service, and having the support to afford the necessary equipment and personnel is key. We have been very fortunate in that regard. The progress that we have made over the past year is noticeable and could not have been accomplished without all their help.

*Christopher Aston*

Christopher Aston  
Deputy Fire Chief



## Administrative Deputy Chief Report

2024 brought a lot of new challenges and changes within Sandy City Fire Department. The organizational structure was changed to bring training, fire marshal, and community risk reduction into one administrative branch. We also added emergency management to the fire department under this same branch. On top of these changes, we continued to hire more firefighters and respond to more 911 calls than any year previously in Sandy City.

### Training:

Our crews were busy day in and day out providing emergency services to our community, but training remained a top priority to ensure all members were up to date with the most current standards in fire and EMS response. Combined, our department members completed 29,099 hours of training during 2024. This included 11,778 hours of fire training, 6,676 hours of medical training, and 10,645 hours of specialty training.

### 911 Responses:

The need for service in Sandy City is continually growing year by year. In 2024, Sandy Fire responded to 9,430 calls for service, which included 7,263 EMS runs and 2,167 fire related incidents. We transported individuals to the hospitals 3,251 times during those calls. As the calls for service increase, the need for additional apparatus also increases, leading to the next topic.

### Hiring:

Sandy Fire continues to grow in personnel to respond to the ever-increasing need for service. In May 2024, we had 172 individuals apply for a firefighter position with Sandy Fire. The testing process was intense, and, in the end, we hired 5 individuals who all successfully completed the 16-week Salt Lake City Fire Academy. These 5 individuals were critical in supporting a fourth full-time ambulance for EMS and fire response in the city.

### Emergency Management:

New to the fire department in 2024 was the addition of the emergency manager position within the fire department. Sandy Fire took over the assignment for the city in November 2024 and continued to grow the programs, communication and planning for emergency response, mitigation and recovery in Sandy City. The continued support of CERT, Community Emergency Volunteers and the BeReady program are crucial for the community to recover from a large-scale disaster in the area. Battalion Chief David Larsen was hired to continue this work and grow the position in Sandy City.

I am excited to continue the growth of Sandy Fire Department going forward into 2025. The continued support of the community and all our neighboring agencies and communities will ensure the safety of our residents and responders. I thank everyone involved in making Sandy City a safe community to live in, visit and travel through on a daily basis.

*Michael Bullock*

Michael Bullock  
Deputy Fire Chief



## A Platoon Battalion Chief Report

Currently, A Platoon consists of twenty-nine team members, each highly valued for their professionalism, competence, and willingness to set aside their own needs for the needs of others. I have had the privilege of being A Platoon's Battalion Chief for over 11 years. It has been amazing to witness the continual selfless service these team members carry out. This service is what makes Sandy City Fire Department stand out as a highly professional and dedicated department; a department that is committed to providing the highest level of emergency response, mitigation, and prevention for the citizens of Sandy.



A Platoon is joined with the other platoons in providing the best possible customer service for the citizens we serve. Each puts forth continual commitment in upholding their duty in achieving the mission and values of Sandy City Fire Department. As Battalion Chief, I rely on each member of this team. Each brings a set of knowledge and skills that help those in our community who are experiencing their worst fears.

Each have key responsibilities according to their rank and position. I depend heavily on my Captains, first and foremost, to keep their crews safe while managing resources and coordinating emergency scenes. Each Captain applies leadership principles to create an environment for crews to succeed and meet the expectations of Sandy City Fire Department.

I rely on each Engineer to carry out one of the most dangerous aspects of the job: driving to and from emergency incidents. By working together with the Sandy City Fleet Department, they keep the engines and trucks in safe working order. This is a challenging task in and of itself. The skill set these Engineers have allows their Captains to have confidence in knowing that crew members will have the needed tools to carry out a safe efficient fire attack and other needed tasks.

Those in the rank of Firefighter/Paramedic and Firefight/EMT are valued for their skill set, as well. They all "just make good things happen". Their willingness to put forth extra effort upholds that high standard that is expected. When called to someone's need, everything is completed with a high level of professionalism and competency.

The workload each team member carries out daily is a daunting task and an ongoing process. They show continual dedication in training in the various specialties such as: structural firefighting, wildland firefighting, medical skills, Haz-Mat, and heavy rescue. Due to the pride and ownership each team member has in their profession, Sandy City Fire Department and the citizens of Sandy will be in good hands for a long time to come.

*Matt Stuebner*

Matt Stuebner  
Battalion Chief - A Platoon



## **B Platoon Battalion Chief Report**

B platoon consists of twenty-eight members including myself. This past year we have been running three-handed minimum heavy apparatus as minimum staffing. This staffing model has had a major impact on the ability to provide services quickly, efficiently and more safely. I appreciate the support from the Mayor and Sandy City Administration on this critical change. Our department has had a significant increase in call volume with the addition of the MVP shelter and change in the response model of Gold Cross Ambulance. We are looking forward to our fourth ambulance being staffed this year with appreciation to City leadership and our Council for making that critical change.



The members of B platoon have been working hard this year to improve their skills and abilities, we currently have one member enrolled in the academic portion of Paramedic school and two in their clinicals. All our Captains attended and were certified at the Incident Command Training Center. We have had multiple members attend leadership and incident command classes at the National Fire Academy, attain rope rescue certifications, attend Officer I classes, obtain Company Officer Inspector certification, one member attended Hazardous Materials school with Salt Lake City Fire Department and obtained his HazMat Technician certification, multiple members from our HazMat station attended specialized training in lithium battery response, hazmat sampling, hazmat metering, and hazmat chemistry. All this training and certifications will increase our ability to bring expert, professional, lifesaving aid to our residents.

Chief McConaghie has been working diligently with overseeing the construction of the new Station 31 which is progressing well. It's very exciting to see the progress, Again, a huge thank you to the residents of Sandy for their support of this critical infrastructure!

*Eric Larson*

Eric Larson  
Battalion Chief – B Platoon



## C Platoon Battalion Chief Report



2024 was a great year for C Platoon! We had some big changes and made many new additions to our platoon. Currently, C platoon is staffed with a total of 28 members with experience ranging from several months to over 23 years on the job. These men and women show up to work every day determined to have a positive impact on the citizens of Sandy. They routinely go the extra mile to make sure they provide the highest level of care and compassion that our fire department is known for. Each one is a skilled professional who takes great pride in their work, and they strive for excellence in all aspects of their job.

One aspect of C platoon's commitment to excellence is their willingness and desire to get out and train. Whether it is on an individual basis, at the crew level, or the entire platoon, C platoon takes the time to train and keeps up to date with the latest in best practices for fire and rescue calls. For the year 2024 C platoon logged over 7,000 combined fire and medical training hours. In addition to our in-house department training courses, many members of C platoon traveled on their own time to take additional specialized trainings. For example, this past January at the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy's annual Winter Fire School, over a third of C platoon was there representing Sandy City Fire Department in both teaching and participating in training classes ranging from leadership to technical rescue.

In 2024 we had several promotions that changed the landscape of our shift. Most notably, in the fall, Battalion Chief Chris Aston was promoted to Deputy Chief of Operations, capping off his 6 years of service on C platoon. Chris had a tremendous impact on our shift and left some big shoes to fill but we're excited to see what he does in his new position. Following Chris' promotion, I was promoted to the rank of battalion chief and took over the responsibility leading the platoon and have been in my current position for 6 months. We also had one captain, and one engineer promoted within C platoon as well as another 10 members advance to the senior rank for firefighter and paramedic. There were several new additions to our platoon this past year. Two new firefighters, one from Salt Lake City Fire Department's recruit academy and a lateral hire from another department. We also had 5 babies born into our extended fire family!

I am grateful and humbled by my opportunity to work with so many amazing individuals all committed to working together to serve the citizens of Sandy City. It is an honor to serve these men and women, and I look forward to another great year!

*Michael Kessel*

Michael Kessel  
Battalion Chief – C Platoon

## Fire Marshal Report

As we begin 2025, the Fire Marshals Division is committed to fulfilling the first part of the Sandy City Fire Department's mission statement: "To prevent emergencies through public education and positive code enforcement."

Each day, our crews and the Fire Marshals office face critical questions regarding hazardous materials: How much of a specific hazardous material can be stored or used? Which buildings are safe for storing or utilizing these materials? It is often assumed that facility managers, building owners, engineers, and even first responders understand what constitutes hazardous materials and how to handle them safely. What we have found is this is not always accurate.



The primary goal of the Hazardous Materials Captain is to enhance safety for our businesses and the citizens who visit them. This involves identifying hazardous materials within the city, ensuring their proper storage, use, and disposal, and implementing measures to assist first responders in an incident involving hazardous materials.

Since January 1st of last year, we have implemented a permitting process for hazardous materials. We anticipate it will take two to three years to reach all businesses within the system and integrate them into our inspection program. Thus far, this process has yielded significant findings and may have even saved the life of a cleaning woman due to the enforcement of code compliance for a carbon dioxide alarm in an existing business. The data collected for pre-plans and hazard labeling will significantly enhance our firefighters' understanding of the hazardous materials in various businesses and the specific quantities allowed under the fire code.

As previously mentioned, our primary objective is to prevent emergencies through effective code enforcement. This initiative represents a significant advancement that has been years in the making.

Another notable change this past year involved our Fire Prevention Educators. Their supervisory role has transitioned from the Fire Marshal to the Deputy Chief, who oversees training.

The future looks promising for the Fire Marshals' Office. We are excited about these new personnel appointments, programs, and the upcoming fire station that will enhance safety for our citizens and fire personnel alike.

*Gerald Strebel*

Gerald Strebel  
Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal

## Fire Prevention Report

In 2024, the Fire Prevention Division had great success in our programs with an increase in all our program numbers.

This school year, we saw thousands of children throughout Sandy and in all our 22 elementary schools. This year we were able to provide the following programs:

- (8) Puppet show programs with a total participation of 320 children
- (19) Pre-K programs with a total participation of 467 children
- (29) Kindergarten programs with a total participation of 1,162 children
- (24) First grade programs with a total participation of 1,096 children
- (14) Second grade programs with a total participation of 1,135 children
- (22) Third grade programs with a total participation of 874 children
- (36) Fourth grade programs with a total participation of 1,090 children
- (38) Fifth grade programs with a total participation of 880 children
- (4) Eighth grade programs with a total participation of 120 children



These programs are built upon each other year by year so that by the time a student graduates, they have a solid foundation of fire and life safety topics. We cover topics from fire drills to kitchen safety and smoke alarms to mental health coping skills.

This year we were able to reach out to the community and Sandy employees outside of schools by teaching a variety of community, business, and employee classes. These classes include some of the following:

- (5) Babysitting Academies for teens 12-15 with a total participation of 59 teens
- (2) 6-week CERT classes with a total participation of 36 adults
- (40) CPR classes with a total participation of 517 students
- (2) Jr First Responder Academies with a total participation of 60 children
- (5) Senior citizens fall safety programs with a total participation of 65 adults
- (8) Fairs and community events with a total participation of 5,150 people

This year we increased our social media outreach reaching 165,979 people. We had over 30,000 page visits, over 25,000 reactions/likes, and over 500 comments.

Looking into 2025, we are excited to continue our success in educating the public and implementing new programs.

*Kimberly Hornberger*

Kimberly Hornberger

Fire Prevention Supervisor

## Emergency Manager Report



I hope that 2024 went well for everyone, because 2025 is going to be a great year. I was hired in January of 2025 as the new Sandy City Emergency Manager. I have been in public safety for just over 23 years between law enforcement and the fire service, and I am looking forward to using that experience to prepare the citizens and business owners of Sandy for any possible emergency.

I am excited about what 2025 will bring. Hopefully this will be a fresh opportunity to establish new relationships, develop new learning & training opportunities and to update and streamline our various community volunteer programs.

I look forward to meeting and working with you in the future.

*David Larsen*

David Larsen  
Battalion Chief/Emergency Manager

## Sandy Fire SWAT Medic Report

The Sandy City SWAT team currently utilizes three SWAT medics from our fire department as part of the team, these medics are being utilized in many ways. SWAT operations include warrants, barricaded subjects, hostage rescue situations and any other tasks requested. 2024 was considered to be a lower tempo year with only fifteen operations in Sandy City, compared to forty operations in the past. These mainly consisted of narcotic, search warrants, one hostage situation and multiple barricaded subject callouts. The team has been assisting multiple other agencies such as JSOG (the state team) as well as the South Valley Team and Taylorsville Police Department.

The medics generally serve as medical for the operators on these various operations but are Special Functions Officers so they can assume other tasks, on callouts and pre-established operations. We have been ensuring a hasty ambulance is on scene as well as determining the closest hospitals and routes. We also address medical needs for the suspects and family members on scene mainly limited to evaluations. Medics have also been working closely with Sandy Police Department to improve their medical training as a whole and have been teaching tactical medicine classes annually as well as assisting on their active shooter training days. It has been beneficial for the fire department since it allows for more effective RTF trainings and predicting preventable mistakes that could arise during an active shooter situation response. SWAT medics have also been providing de-escalation classes, situational awareness trainings, as well as trauma and triage classes. Medics have a monthly 10-hour training that they attend with the team, as well as an annual 40-hour training that must be completed for state requirements and 4-hour supplemental trainings in between. SWAT medics have all passed annual physical agility tests as well as required shooting standards for the team.

Battalion Chief Eric Larson became a Sandy Fire SWAT Medic in 2010 and served on the team for five years. Since that time, he has been assigned to oversee the program for the Fire Department. The SWAT Medic program has been very successful in accomplishing the goal of providing advanced medical care with embedded Medics without the delay of having to wait for outside resources. The SWAT Medics are there to provide care for not just officers but also suspects and bystanders. The SWAT Medic program has also been integral with maintaining an outstanding working relationship with Sandy PD, there is value in understanding each other's roles as we work together daily. Battalion Chief Larson looks forward to facilitating the operations of the team in the future.





## Wildland Firefighting Report

The Sandy City Fire Department continues to respond to grass fires each year that pose a significant risk to Sandy City residents. The Dimple Dell area alone consists of approximately 650 acres with numerous residential structures along its rig line; along with multiple subdivisions located along the Wasatch front. These homes are considered “high-risk” for wildfire, due to the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) configuration. Sandy City Fire continues to work alongside the Utah Department of Natural Resources (UDNR) to implement the Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP). This plan is the foundation in Sandy City’s wildfire hazard assessment priorities by identifying high risk areas in order to manage wildfire through prevention, preparedness and mitigation.



Sandy City Fire continues to utilize the Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) program to carry out the “prevention” goals of this plan. The RSG program helps residents be "ready" by preparing and understanding the risks to be "set" with situational awareness if a fire threatens their property, and to "go" early when a fire starts. By being a trusted voice in the community, Sandy City Fire has utilized this RSG tool since 2013 teaching those who live in high-risk WUI areas how to best prepare themselves, and their properties against fire threats.

Sandy City Fire has worked closely with the Parks & Recreation Department to carry out the “mitigation” goals of the CWPP. This is accomplished by identifying various areas within city limits that need continual fuel reduction and firebreak upkeep to reduce the threat of fire spread. The Dimple Dell Park continues to be one of the main geographical focuses this past year for fire threat reduction. Crews were able to identify essential areas within the park that needed fuel reduction and trees thinned. Additionally, a ten-foot zone of dry brush and tall weeds between the park and homes was cleared creating a defensible space. This defensible space allows fire resources to have better access for structure protection if a fire were to threaten homes nearby. The need for fuel reduction throughout Sandy City is an ongoing process and requires a lot of resources to complete. Despite on-going efforts to mitigate fuel loads and communicating with those at high risk, there continues to be a substantial threat of fire due to the topography, continual fuel growth, and structural growth. There is still much more to be done. With added staffing over the past year this will help Sandy Fire provide well needed services to mitigate the WUI threat within Sandy City and help with effective initial fire attack in the event of a brush fire.

Although we cannot prevent all brush fires in high-risk areas of Sandy or in the surrounding borders, we can continue to be proactive. Sandy City Fire Department continues to implement the “preparedness” portion of the CWPP by having all combat fire personnel trained as wildland firefighters and provides them with refresher courses annually. The wildland firefighter course is a 40-hour course designed to provide the knowledge and skill-set necessary to recognize the primary factors affecting the start and spread of brushfires. It also teaches the importance of a safe



aggressive initial fire attack, while utilizing appropriate tactics and equipment for firefighter safety. We have an additional 21 firefighters who have taken the required training classes to receive the next level of Wildland Firefighting certification. Some of this training focuses on the proper tactics for structure protection when a fire front is heading towards homes and other valued properties. Sandy has been able to send these firefighters on deployments out of state to use their skillset as wildfire continues to pose a threat to those homes that are within the wildland interface areas.



## Technical Rescue Report

This year has been a significant period of growth and development for our Technical Rescue team. We are pleased to announce the addition of six new Rope Rescue Technicians, who have completed their certification training and are now fully integrated into our operations. Their expertise will enhance our capabilities in complex rescue scenarios, particularly in environments requiring advanced rope techniques. This expansion of our team ensures that we are better prepared to handle emergencies involving high-angle rescues and other challenging situations.

In addition to the new technicians, a few of our members attended a four-day Heavy Vehicle Rescue class hosted by South Jordan Fire Department. This training focused on specialized techniques for rescuing individuals trapped in or around heavy vehicles. The skills gained during this course will be invaluable in enhancing our response capabilities. As emergency calls involving heavy machinery and commercial vehicles rise, the knowledge and techniques acquired will ensure that we can operate effectively and safely in these challenging incidents.

To further improve our operational readiness, we have installed a new windsock at the new helipad landing area at Bell's Canyon Trail Head. This installation provides crucial information on wind direction and speed, which is essential for safe helicopter operations during rescues. The addition of this equipment will not only aid in our rescue missions but also enhance the safety of our personnel and the pilots involved in air operations.

Our ongoing training efforts have also included using three dedicated training vehicles for stabilization and extrication exercises at our training tower. This hands-on approach allows our team to practice and refine their skills in a controlled environment, ensuring they are well-prepared for real-life scenarios. Furthermore, we have scheduled training sessions at the local pick-n-pull facility to simulate extrication from vehicles in various conditions. This practical experience is critical for maintaining our readiness and effectiveness in the field.

Finally, we have continued our push for educating the public as well as our crews on the use of the "What-3-Words" app. This innovative app provides a simple way to pinpoint locations using three unique words, which can be especially useful when responding to emergencies involving lost or injured hikers and climbers. Training our personnel to utilize this tool will improve our response times and accuracy when locating individuals in distress, enhancing our overall operational efficiency. As we continue to advance our skills and technologies, we remain committed to providing the highest level of service to our community.



## Hazardous Materials Team Report

Over the past year we have been fortunate enough to purchase some new monitoring equipment for our hazardous materials response team. Five new Blackline monitors were acquired with three of these monitors being used at station 35 and the other two going to station's 31 and 34. These new Blackline Monitors will allow crews to function at higher levels due to the technology and live data that they provide. With these new features, crews will be better equipped at monitoring homes and businesses in a quick and safe manner. The direct and live feedback features will give the crews the ability to look back on calls and see areas for potential improvement and help create targeted training that will work to improving all future hazardous material responses. Along with the new monitors we have also replaced all the mini-CO detectors our crew carry on their medical gear. These small alarms alert responding crews to the presence of carbon monoxide and ensure our crews do not enter hazardous environments.

Sandy's hazardous material response teams responded on multiple hazmat related calls throughout 2024, including various types of smoke, fire and co alarms, as well as spills involving transportation vehicles. Some of the more notable calls we responded to this year involved toxic gas releases at Sheel's and Costco. Both incidents required crews to identify unknown substances, determine risks, and provide plans for removing the hazardous substances from the buildings. Another significant call this year was for an unknown substance at the MVP shelter that involved a liquid that was thought to be used for making meth. After securing and evacuating the scene, crews donned the appropriate protective gear and entered the facility to test the substance. Due to a quick evaluation and monitoring of the scene it was determined that the liquid posed no threat to the residents. These are just a few examples of various 2024 hazmat responses in our city.

Along with all the calls they responded to, our hazmat teams also provided all the necessary training to recertify our hazardous material technicians and ensure our crews are well prepared for any hazmat situation they respond to. It's been a great year, and we look forward to working with our new Black Line Monitors this next year and anticipate great things from the new technology and features they provide us.

