



# BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

*JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022*

The Branford Fire Department provides the highest level of service to our community by valuing our members, promoting positive leadership, and dedicating ourselves to excellence.

# Contents

<b>Mission Statement</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Core Values .....	3
<b>Board of Fire Commissioners</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Administration</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Department Officers</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Career Captains.....	4
Volunteer Captains .....	4
Volunteer Lieutenants .....	4
Career Staff .....	4
Volunteer Staff .....	4
Part Time Staff .....	5
Career Personnel Changes.....	5
Allocation of Personnel .....	6
<b>Fire Companies and Stations</b> .....	<b>7</b>
.....	7
Fire Headquarters - 45 North Main Street .....	7
Station 2 – 341 Main Street.....	7
Station 4 – 64 Shore Drive, Short Beach.....	7
Station 5 – 41 School Street, Stony Creek .....	7
Station 9 – 6 Linden Avenue, Indian Neck.....	7
<b>Apparatus</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Current Fleet.....	8
Vehicle Repair.....	8
<b>Training Division</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Prevention and Code Enforcement</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Operations</b> .....	<b>11</b>
INCIDENTS BY HOUR (11:00 A.M. Was the Busiest Hour).....	11
TOTAL INCIDENTS BY MONTH.....	12
INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK .....	12
INCIDENT TYPE NFIRS (NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM, NOT EMS) .....	13
SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF INCIDENTS.....	13

MUTUAL AID REPORT .....	14
<b>Emergency Medical Services (EMS).....</b>	<b>15</b>
FISCAL 2022 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MONTHLY CALL VOLUME .....	16
EMS Incidents Disposition Breakdown .....	16
<b>Finance.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Operating Budget.....	17
Capital Budget .....	17
Fire Apparatus – Sinking Fund .....	17
Ambulance – Sinking Fund.....	17
Radio Communications - Sinking Fund.....	17
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.....	17
Grants and Donations .....	18
Ambulance Revenue.....	18
.....	19
<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>20</b>



## **Mission Statement**

*The Branford Fire Department provides the highest level of service to our community by valuing our members, promoting positive leadership, and dedicating ourselves to excellence.*

## **Core Values**

**Service** - We provide the highest quality services necessary to minimize the loss of life and/or property threatened by the hazards of fire, explosion, medical, chemical, or rescue related emergencies, through fire suppression, code enforcement, and conscientious prevention and education.

**Integrity** - We will be honest, forthright, loyal, and articulate in all of our daily communications and activities. We will treat our customers and each other with respect and courtesy at all times. We aim to create an atmosphere that encourages individual growth, participation, creativity and acknowledges the achievements of our members.

**Courage** - We demonstrate bravery by our selfless commitment to the citizens we serve, overcoming fear through fortitude, good judgment and strength of character.

**Competence** - We will strive to be proficient and optimally effective in our professional practice. We will work to continually improve, by all available means, our knowledge of the profession and our individual and collective performances to provide a high level of customer service to the members of our community.

## **Board of Fire Commissioners**

Branford Fire Department is a municipal agency governed by the Board of Fire Commissioners, created by CGS Chapter A237: Special Acts § A237-4.

*Robert J. Massey Jr., Chairman  
Jack Ahern  
David Lacroix*

*Madeline "Buzz" Clem  
Kathy Fox  
Paul Riccio*

The Clerk of the Board is Trista Milici.

Board of Fire Commissioners meetings are typically held on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Commissioners' Room located on the second floor of Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main Street.

## Administration

Branford Fire Department operates under the leadership of Fire Chief Thomas F. Mahoney, Jr. and Assistant Chief Gary Bloomquist. The Administrative Assistant is Leah Ahern.

## Department Officers

Thomas F. Mahoney, Jr., Chief, Gary Bloomquist, Assistant Chief  
Robert Dobuzinsky, Fire Marshal  
William Pepe, Deputy Chief of Operations – Div. 1  
Jason Karpovich, Deputy Chief of Operations – Div. 2  
Michael Stackpole, Deputy Chief of Operations – Div. 3  
Timothy Judd, Deputy Chief of Operations – Div. 4  
Timothy Murray, Volunteer Deputy Chief  
John Cudgma, Deputy Chief of Safety and Administration

### Career Captains

Craig O'Rourke - Div. 1  
James Carson - Div. 2  
Randall Chittenden - Div. 3  
Joseph Petrosino - Div. 4

### Volunteer Captains

Harold Barringham – Co. 2  
Michael Acquino – Co.4  
Connor Ball - Co. 5  
Christopher Gagliardi – Co. 9  
George Weted – Fire Police

### Volunteer Lieutenants

Mark Hornyak – Co. 2  
William Miller – Co. 2  
Eric Wagner – Co. 4  
Liam Garrity – Co. 4  
Conner Hennessey – Co. 5  
Kirk Anderson – Co. 5  
Geoff Hotz – Co. 9  
John Rothfuss – Co. 9  
Joseph Tulli – Fire Police  
John Cappiello – Fire Police

## Career Staff

Our career firefighting staff is an affiliate of the International Association of Firefighters, represented locally as Branford Professional Firefighters Association Local 2533. Forty firefighters are assigned to one (1) of four (4) divisions, each consisting of one (1) Deputy Chief, one (1) Captain, and eight (8) Firefighter/Paramedics. Each of the four 10-member Divisions works a rotating schedule to provide 24-hour coverage, seven days per week. Three additional career positions include Fire Marshal, Deputy Chief of Administration and Safety, and Fire Prevention Inspector (currently not funded), these positions are assigned to a regular 40 hour work schedule.

## Volunteer Staff

Volunteer members are divided into four (4) Fire Companies and a Fire Police Squad. Collectively, these members dedicate thousands of hours each year to the residents of Branford. When not responding to emergency calls, they spend many hours in certification classes, conducting weekly drills, and performing maintenance on equipment. Their commitment greatly reduces the overall financial impact that fire/ rescue services have on the taxpayer.

## Part Time Staff

The Department utilizes part-time paid emergency medical personnel to staff one ambulance, seven days per week from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. This is our peak demand time for emergency medical services. These personnel are also utilized to staff additional ambulances on a “per call” or “as needed basis” before utilizing mutual aid.

## Career Personnel Changes

The Department carried 4 full time firefighter/ Paramedic position vacancies through FY-2022, these vacant positions are filled with overtime as required by our minimum staffing needs and contractual obligations. A statewide shortage of Paramedics has delayed hiring to FY 2023.

Firefighter EMT Eugene Hayes retired October 1, 2021 after more than 32 years of service. He started as a Volunteer with M.P. Rice Hose Company 2 before joining the career staff on July 7, 1989. Gene also worked for several years as a Branford supernumerary police officer. Over his years of service Firefighter Hayes helped save many lives, earning several awards and citations during his service.

Stony Creek resident Eleftherios Gionteris was hired as a full time Firefighter/ Paramedic on 12/13/2021 to fill a vacant position. Firefighter Gionteris previously served as a Part-Time EMS employee and as a volunteer with Stony Creek Rescue Fire Company 5. Firefighter/ Paramedic Eleftherios “Teddy” Gionteris graduated from the Connecticut Fire Academy as a member of Class #68. He is assigned to Division 1.



## Allocation of Personnel

COMMAND STAFF	QUANTITY PER POSITION
FIRE CHIEF	1
ASSISTANT CHIEF	1
FIRE MARSHAL	1
DEPUTY CHIEF OF SAFETY & ADMINISTRATION	1
VOLUNTEER DEPUTY CHIEF	1
CAREER DIVISIONS 1-4	
DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS	1 PER SHIFT
CAPTAIN	1 PER SHIFT
FIREFIGHTER	8 PER SHIFT
MP RICE COMPANY 2 (VOLUNTEER)	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
FIREFIGHTER	7
OTHER	3
SHORT BEACH COMPANY 4 (VOLUNTEER)	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
FIREFIGHTER	3
OTHER	0
STONY CREEK COMPANY 5 (VOLUNTEER)	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
FIREFIGHTER	7
OTHER	5
INDIAN NECK COMPANY 9 (VOLUNTEER)	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
FIREFIGHTER	5
OTHER	4
FIRE POLICE (VOLUNTEER)	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	1
MEMBERS	2
CURRENT VOLUNTEER MEMBERS= 50	

## **Fire Companies and Stations**

Branford Fire Department operates from five stations: Fire Headquarters, staffed by career personnel, and four district stations staffed by volunteers. These stations are strategically located throughout town to minimize response time and better distribute resources. Our buildings are maintained by the town's General Government Buildings (GGB) department.

### **Fire Headquarters - 45 North Main Street**

Fire Headquarters is home to the department's administration, career staff, emergency medical services, and the volunteer rescue squad. The building houses two fire pumpers, one 100' Ladder Truck, one heavy rescue vehicle, one light rescue vehicle, five ambulances, as well as staff and other support vehicles. The building's most prominent feature is the four story drill tower designed to aesthetically blend into the exterior design while providing versatile drill space. This tower, along with other features on the property, allows the department to meet rating bureau requirements for a training facility. The large classroom serves to host the educational needs of the department, as well as hundreds of town and community meetings each year.



### **Station 2 – 341 Main Street**

MP Rice Hose Company 2 has occupied Station 2 since it was built in 1901. The members of Company 2 operate Engine 2 out of this location. Engine 2 is our busiest volunteer engine company.

### **Station 4 – 64 Shore Drive, Short Beach**

Station 4 is the only occupied station that is not owned by the town. The building is owned by Short Beach Hose, Hook & Ladder Co. 4 Inc. and rented by the Town of Branford. The members of Company 4 operate Engine 4 out of this location.

### **Station 5 – 41 School Street, Stony Creek**

Station 5 is in part of a building that is shared with the Stony Creek Museum. The members of Company 5 operate Engine 5, Rescue 5, and Tac 5 (ATV) out of this location. In addition, they operate Marine 5 out of the Stony Creek Dock, which is located just down the road from Station 5.

### **Station 9 – 6 Linden Avenue, Indian Neck**

Company 9's volunteers run two pieces of apparatus, Engine 9 and Tac 6, out of Station 9. This is our newest station serving the Indian Neck Pine Orchard area.



## Apparatus

<b>ENGINE 1</b>	2015 PIERCE	<b>TAC 2</b>	2010 KUBOTA	<b>MARINE 3</b>	2018 MILLPRO 1673-X2
<b>ENGINE 2</b>	1997 PIERCE	<b>TAC 5</b>	2013 POLARIS	<b>MARINE 4</b>	INMAR SR380
<b>ENGINE 4</b>	1997 PIERCE	<b>TAC 6</b>	2020 FORD F-450	<b>CAR 1</b>	2018 CHEVY TAHOE
<b>ENGINE 5</b>	2020 SUTPHEN	<b>MEDIC 1</b>	2017 FORD E-450	<b>CAR 2</b>	2018 CHEVY TAHOE
<b>ENGINE 7</b>	2005 SMEAL	<b>MEDIC 2</b>	2019 FORD E-450	<b>CAR 6</b>	2016 CHEVY TAHOE
<b>ENGINE 9</b>	2001 KME	<b>MEDIC 3</b>	2015 FORD E-450	<b>CAR 8</b>	2012 CHEVY TAHOE
<b>TRUCK 1</b>	2008 SMEAL	<b>MEDIC 4</b>	2011 CHEVY	<b>CAR 9</b>	2012 CHEVY TAHOE
<b>RESCUE 1</b>	1999 PIERCE	<b>MEDIC 5</b>	2014 CHEVY	<b>CAR 12</b>	2003 FORD EXCURSION
<b>RESCUE 2</b>	2019 FORD F-550	<b>MARINE 2</b>	1993 MUNSON	<b>CAR 15</b>	2020 FORD F-350
<b>RESCUE 5</b>	2009 FORD F-550	<b>MARINE 5</b>	2007 DERECKTOR	<b>CAR 18</b>	2002 DODGE RAM

## Current Fleet

In fiscal year 2022, we took delivery of a new remanufactured ambulance. The remount process takes an existing ambulance patient module, completely renovates it and mounts it on a new cab and chassis. The result is a like new ambulance with a cost savings of approximately \$80,000 compared to an all new purchase. Ambulances have a useful life of approximately 10 years and larger fire apparatus, such as pumpers, 25 years or more. As new vehicles are purchased, the vehicle(s) they replace are used as a backup/spare until they are traded in or sold.

## Vehicle Repair

Since moving into the new Fire Headquarters, the additional space has allowed us to expand our in-house vehicle maintenance and repair program. Approximately 90% of all repairs, preventative maintenance, and vehicle inspections are completed in-house, saving about half the cost of using outside vendors. Most importantly, this program has kept vehicle down time to a minimum, ensuring our fleet is safe and available.

## Training Division

Today's first responders are tasked with a multitude of responsibilities which require hours of continuing education, drills, and other training to meet standards and regulatory requirements. The Branford Fire Department's Training Division is comprised of certified instructors from our career and volunteer ranks. The Training Division is managed by Deputy Chief of Safety and Administration, John Cudgma; Drillmaster, Joseph Massey; Assistant Drill Master-EMS, Garrett Lizee; and Assistant Drill Master-Hazmat/Tech Rescue, Robert Dobuzinsky. The Training Division is responsible for all facets of the department's training and education including OSHA compliance, continuing medical education, land and marine based firefighting, specialized technical rescue, and hazardous material response training.

The following are highlights of more than 2,697 hours of education and training accomplishments by our members during FY-2022:

- In August, all members completed Hazardous Materials Operations refresher training, consisting of donning and doffing hazmat suits and setting up technical decontamination.
- In October, all career staff and some volunteers completed a two-day, 16-hour course on the principles of lifting and stabilization, taught by CT Custom Fire Training.

- In September, all member utilized the former Day's Inn property to perform rapid intervention and ventilation training. Since the buildings were being demolished, this allowed for real life scenarios.
- Four live fire training exercises were completed in October at the former Day's Inn property, prior to demolition.
- In November, the Fire Marshal and four Deputy Fire Marshals attended the CT IAAI Arson Investigator's seminar for continuing education hours.
- December 10, Firefighter Eleftherios Gionteris graduated from the Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit Class #68.
- In March, on duty crews, under the direction of Assistant Drill Master Dobuzinsky, completed annual low angle rope rescue refresher training utilizing the Arizona Vortex.
- Six new part time EMTs and paramedics were trained and completed orientation ride time, under the direction of Assistant Drill Master Lizee.
- Two members obtained Firefighter I and Hazardous Materials Operational certification, certifying them as interior firefighters.
- Three members obtained Firefighter II certification.
- Two members obtained Fire Service Instructor I certification.
- Four members obtained Fire Service Instructor II certification.
- Two members obtained Incident Safety Officer – Fire Suppression certification.
- Two members obtained Rescue Technician Core certification.
- Five members obtained Pump Operator certification.
- Four members obtained Fire Officer I certification.
- Nine members obtained Fire Officer II certification.
- Two members obtained Rope Rescue Technician certification.
- One member obtained Hazardous Materials Incident Safety Officer certification.
- One member obtained Health and Safety Officer Certification.



## Prevention and Code Enforcement

We deliver fire and safety education to the public through our schools, daycares, youth groups, and through the use various other methods to engage the whole community.

Prevention and code enforcement is conducted through the Office of the Fire Marshal, overseen by Robert Dobuzinsky. The Fire Marshal is assisted by part-time Deputy Fire Marshals. This office conducts thousands of hours of inspections, investigations, and plan reviews. Our goal is to reduce our communities risk from the hazards of fire, explosions, chemical and related emergencies.

Recently we have partnered with Brycer Compliance Engine, <https://www.thecomplianceengine.com/> , to assist in tracking and managing fire protection systems throughout the Town. There are eight hundred occupancies that have some type of fire protection feature that requires maintenance and inspections to be compliant with the Connecticut Fire Safety Code. We've also begun using a new inspection record keeping software program, <https://www.firstdue.com/> . Through the use of this technology we've begun to streamline our inspection process to more effeciantly serve the community. Currently there are over one thousand three hundred inspectable properties within the Town.

The local fire marshal shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 29-311 of Title 29 - Public Safety and State Police Chapter 541 , "investigate the cause, origin and circumstances of any fire or explosion within his jurisdiction, by reason of which property has been destroyed or damaged, or any person injured or killed, or any incidents which threatened any property with destruction or damage or any person with injury or death by reason of fire or explosion, and shall especially investigate whether such fire was the result of an incendiary device or the result of carelessness, design or any criminal act; and the State Fire Marshal, or the deputy fire marshal under his direction, may supervise and direct such investigation".

While investigating complex fire scenes our office employs the use of a 3D digital mapping camera to assist in documentation. Using this technology allows us to generate floor plans and other schematics which when produced aid in the overall investigation.



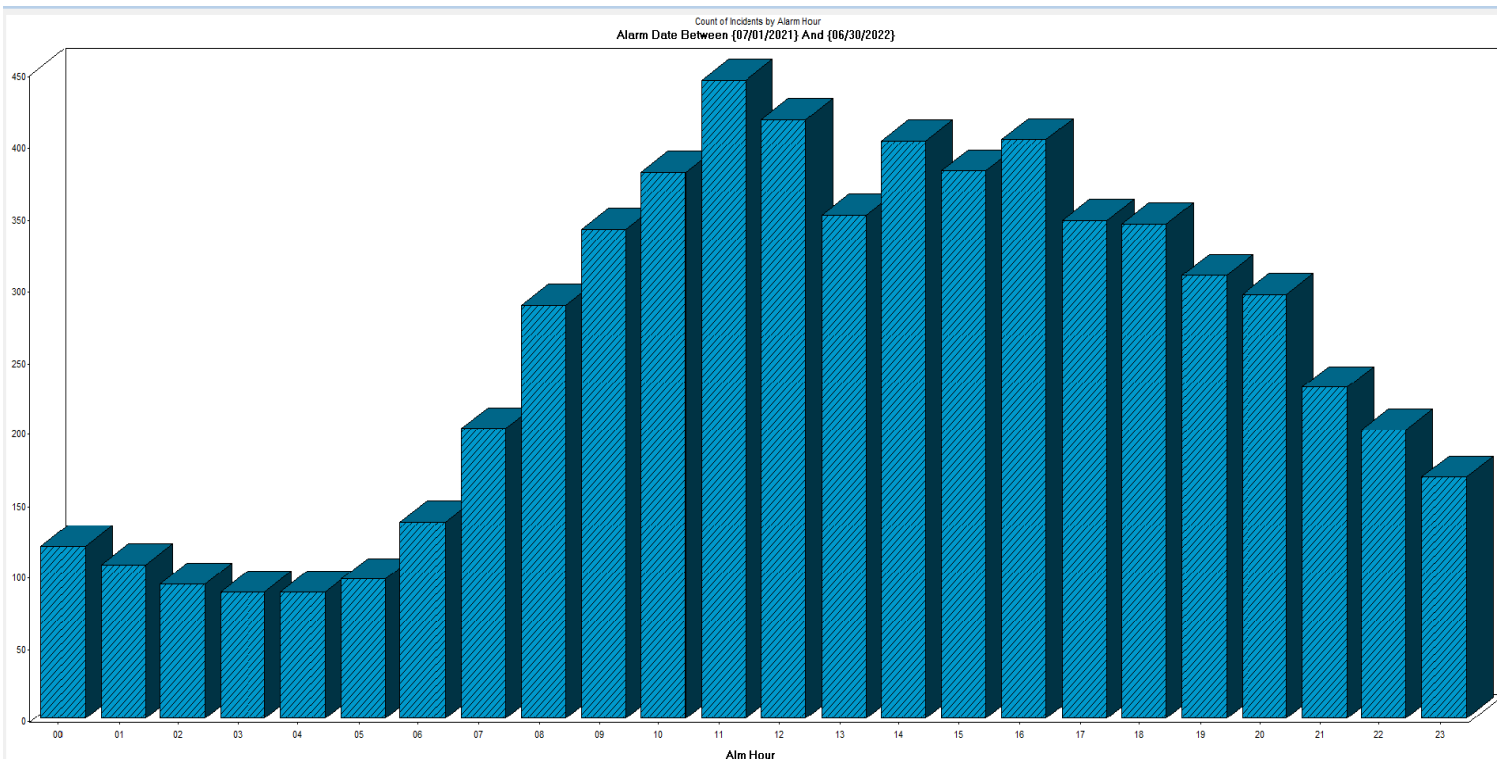
## Operations

The fire department responded to 6,243 calls for service averaging 17 incident responses per day. 4,693 of the 6,243 incidents occurred simultaneously or as overlapping incidents. This means that more than 75% of incidents occurred at the same time or before a previous incident has cleared. Having the appropriately trained staff available to handle the various types of emergencies to which we respond is becoming a greater concern. The availability and overall number of trained volunteers continues to decline despite recruitment efforts.

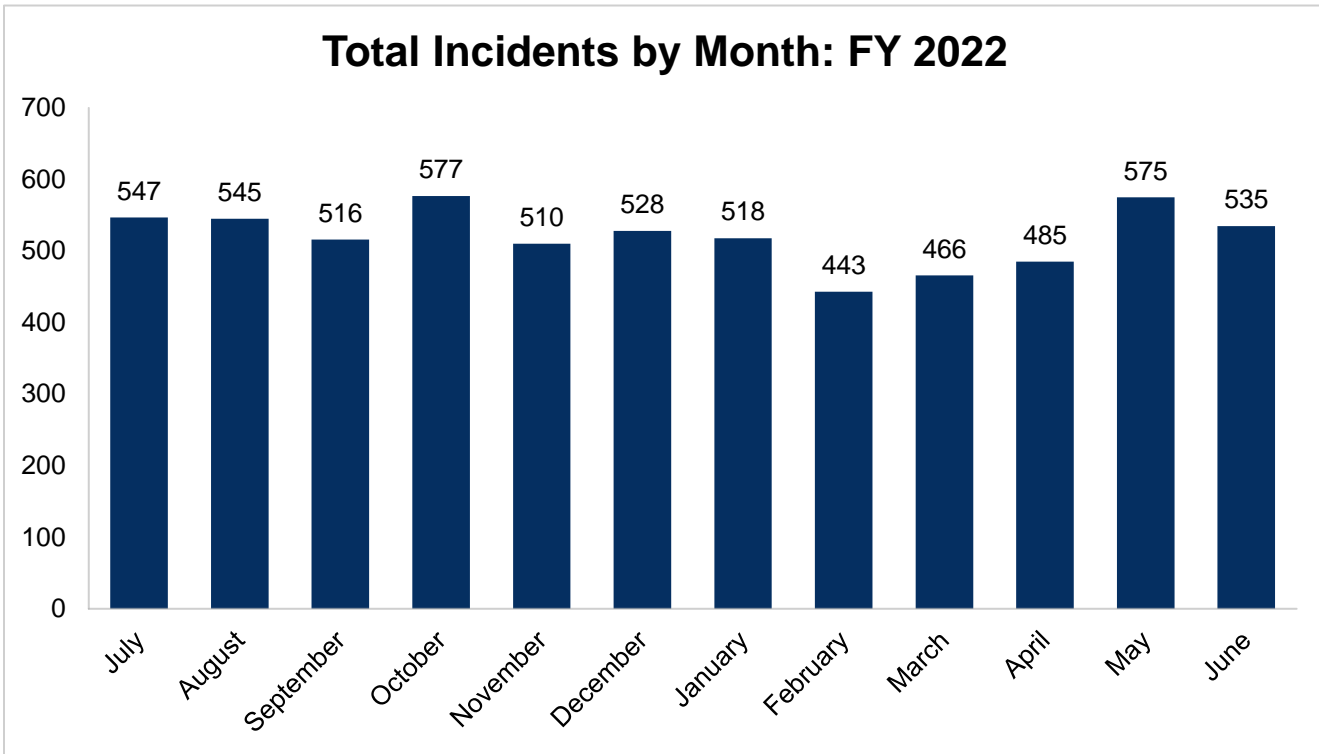
Medical emergencies, including rescue calls and motor vehicle accidents, accounted for 74% of total requests for service. The early interventions and pre-hospital care provided by our EMTs and Paramedics significantly contribute to positive outcomes for our patients. While the danger from fire has been greatly reduced through our efforts in education, code enforcement, and the application of technology, it remains an ever present danger.

During fiscal year 2022, Branford had 10 building fires that resulted in significant financial loss. These larger fire incidents account for a smaller percentage of the overall need for service, but they result in a much larger percentage of risk to our community. There were no fire related fatalities in our community in FY-2022. Our ability to rapidly respond with the appropriate resources keeps many smaller incidents from becoming more dangerous costly events.

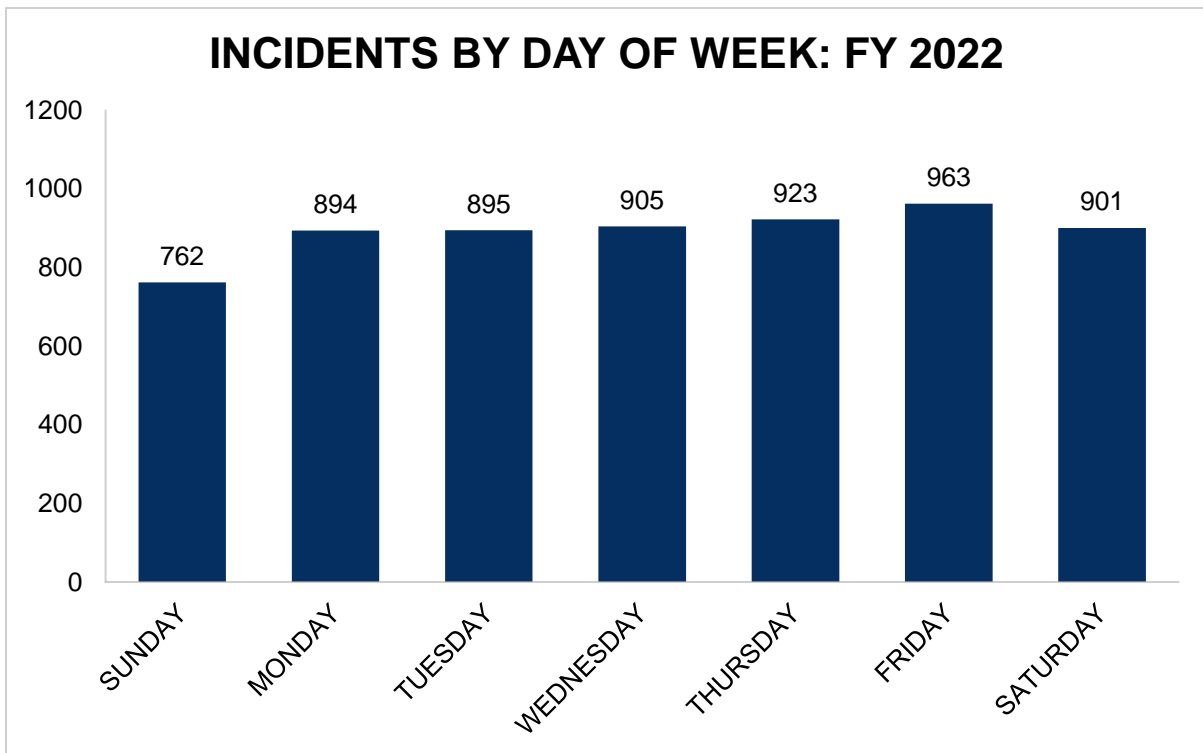
## INCIDENTS BY HOUR



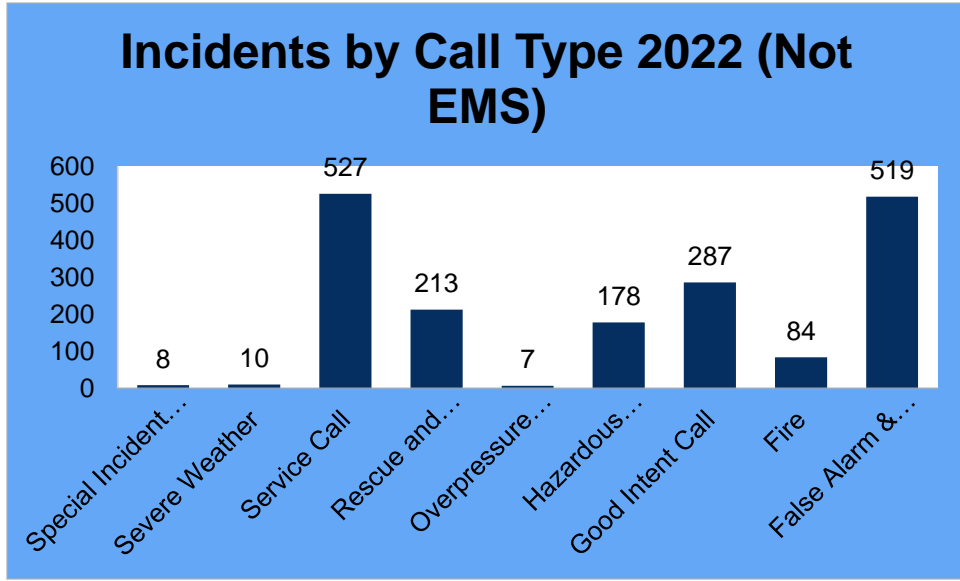
## TOTAL INCIDENTS BY MONTH



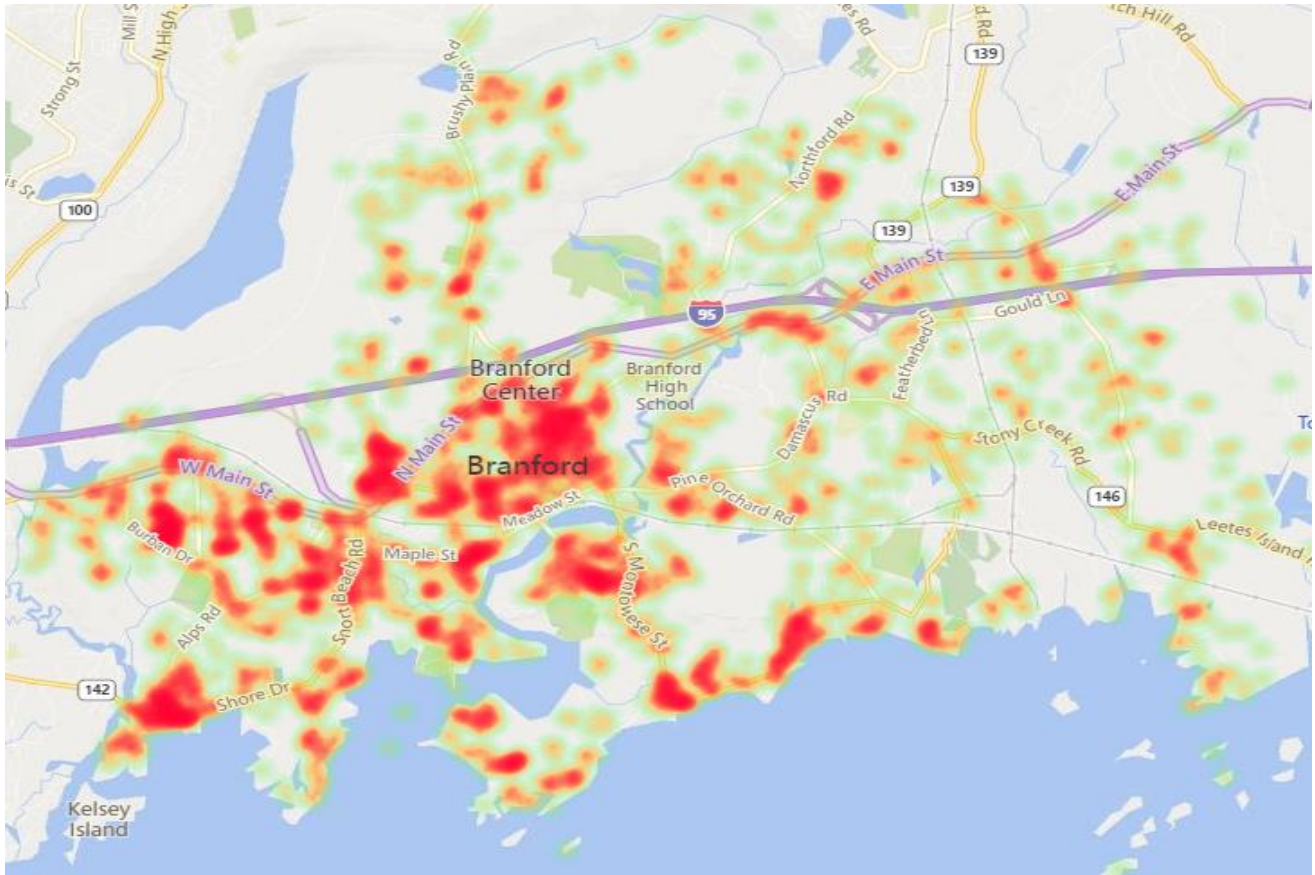
## INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK



# INCIDENT TYPE NFIRS (NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM, NOT EMS)



## SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF INCIDENTS



# MUTUAL AID REPORT

## Branford Fire Department

### Aid Responses by Department (Summary)

Alarm Date Between {07/01/2021} And {06/30/2022}

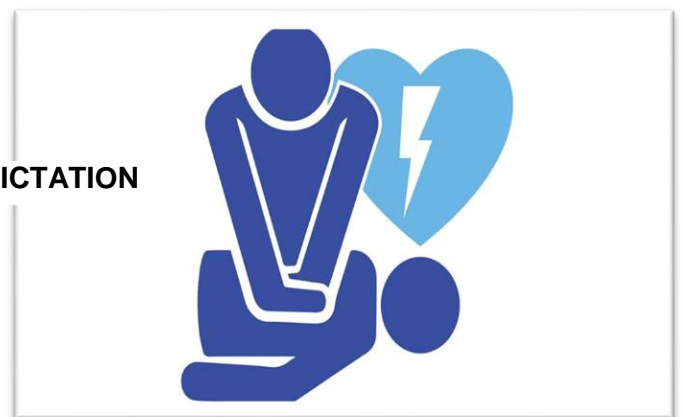
Type of Aid	Count	Type of Aid	Count
<b>AMR American Medical Response of Connecticut</b>		<b>N BRANFORD North Branford Fire Department</b>	
Mutual aid received	5		
Mutual aid given	6		43
Other aid given	2		
	<u>13</u>		
<b>BPD Branford Police Department</b>			
Other aid given	1		
	<u>1</u>		
Mutual aid given	5		
None	1		
	<u>6</u>		
<b>EAST HAVEN East Haven Fire Department</b>			
Mutual aid received	2		
Automatic aid received	1		
Mutual aid given	11		
Automatic aid given	10		
	<u>24</u>		
<b>GUILFORD Guilford Fire Department</b>			
Mutual aid received	11		
Automatic aid received	2		
Mutual aid given	27		
Automatic aid given	7		
	<u>47</u>		
<b>HUNTER Hunter's Ambulance</b>			
Mutual aid given	1		
	<u>1</u>		
<b>N BRANFORD North Branford Fire Department</b>			
Mutual aid received	2		
Automatic aid received	1		
Mutual aid given	39		
Automatic aid given	1		

## Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Branford Fire Department is the designated emergency medical services and ambulance provider within the Town of Branford. We hold certificate of operation, CO14P1 in the First Responder/Basic Ambulance and Mobile Intensive Care - Paramedic categories. Branford Fire Department is part of CT EMS Council - Region 2 and receives medical oversight and direction from Yale New Haven Hospital Center for Emergency Medical Services. Emergency medical services are provided by dual-role career firefighter/paramedics, and part-time EMTs and paramedics. Our service is based upon a multi-tiered response consisting of pre-arrival instructions, first responder, and ambulance service at both the basic life support (BLS) and advanced life support (ALS) levels. The Branford Communications Center (PSAP) receives 911 calls originating within the town. The center triages the call and provides pre-arrival instructions to the caller while simultaneously dispatching the appropriate resources. The ambulance and first responders are dispatched via radio, tone activated paging, alpha numeric paging, station alerting, and mobile data terminals (MDTs). Branford participates in a mutual aid system implemented automatically to help assure EMS response during times of system overload. Branford Fire Department operates five ambulances, two full-time and three part-time or on-call. All ambulances respond from Branford Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main Street. The full-time ambulances are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are each staffed at the advanced life support (paramedic) level. Our other ambulances are staffed part-time or by call-in crews. When call-in ambulances are needed, the radio alert and paging system is activated and another crew is called in.

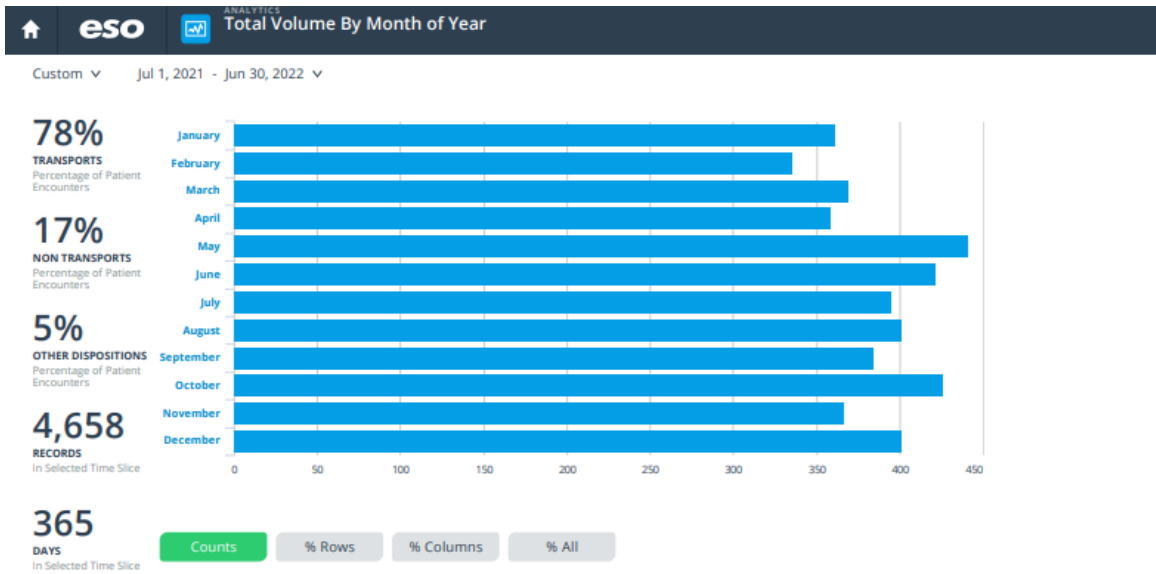


**LEARN AND PRACTICE CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION**





# FISCAL 2022 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MONTHLY CALL VOLUME



## EMS Incidents Disposition Breakdown

EMS Incident Disposition Breakdown Fiscal 2022	
Assist, Agency	1
Assist, Public	92
Assist, Unit	4
Cancelled (No Patient Contact)	23
Cancelled (Prior to Arrival at Scene)	6
Cancelled on Scene/No Patient Found	10
Patient Dead on Scene - No Resuscitation Attempted (Without Transport)	45
Patient Dead on Scene - Resuscitation Attempted (Without Transport)	5
Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required	307
Patient Evaluation/ Care (with Transport)	1
Patient Refused Evaluation/Care (Without Transport)	186
Patient Treated, Released (AMA)	211
Patient Treated, Released (per protocol)	107
Patient Treated, Transferred Care to Another EMS Professional	58
Patient Treated, Transported by Private Vehicle	7
Standby - No Service or Support Provided	1
Transported Lights/Siren	135
Transported Lights/Siren, Downgraded	1
Transported No Lights/Siren	3523
Transported No Lights/Siren, Upgraded	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,730</b>

## **Finance**

The Town of Branford strives to support an efficient, well equipped, highly trained, fire, rescue, and EMS response system. We work diligently to find cost efficient solutions to maintain the high level of service that our community expects.

### **Operating Budget**

The 2022 approved operating budget was \$7,040,778. \$810,000, or 11.5% of our total operating budget, is the amount paid to the New Haven Regional Water Authority to provide and maintain hydrants and water mains throughout the Town of Branford. Approximately 25% of our budget is offset by revenue collection from ambulance billing. The projected revenue number approved in the 2022 fiscal year budget was \$1,725,000; the actual revenue collected was \$1,838,682 a surplus of \$113,632.

### **Capital Budget**

Long term apparatus, equipment, and infrastructure improvements are budgeted through the Capital Budget Plan, often through multi-year allocations in the form of sinking funds.

#### **Fire Apparatus – Sinking Fund**

The life expectancy of major fire apparatus is more than twenty years; the average cost of new fire apparatus ranges from \$750,000 for a new pumper to more than \$1,800,000 for an aerial ladder truck. We budget a portion of that cost in an apparatus sinking fund each year to help spread out the budgetary impact of these larger purchases.

#### **Ambulance – Sinking Fund**

The department's fleet of five ambulances is rotated so that the newest ambulances run as front line units, with the older ambulances remaining active but used on an as needed basis. The department purchases a new ambulance on average every two years; the cost of a new ambulance is approximately \$270,000.00 with power stretcher and power-load mount.

#### **Radio Communications - Sinking Fund**

This fund is used for projected annual portable and mobile radio purchases. Any balance is carried forward year to year to fund the future replacement of major radio infrastructure.

#### **Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus**

Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) is an integral part of a firefighter's personal protective ensemble. A complete unit costs approximately \$7,800.00 per unit; the department has 56 SCBAs in our inventory. This fund is designed to replace these units at the end of their 15 year life cycle.

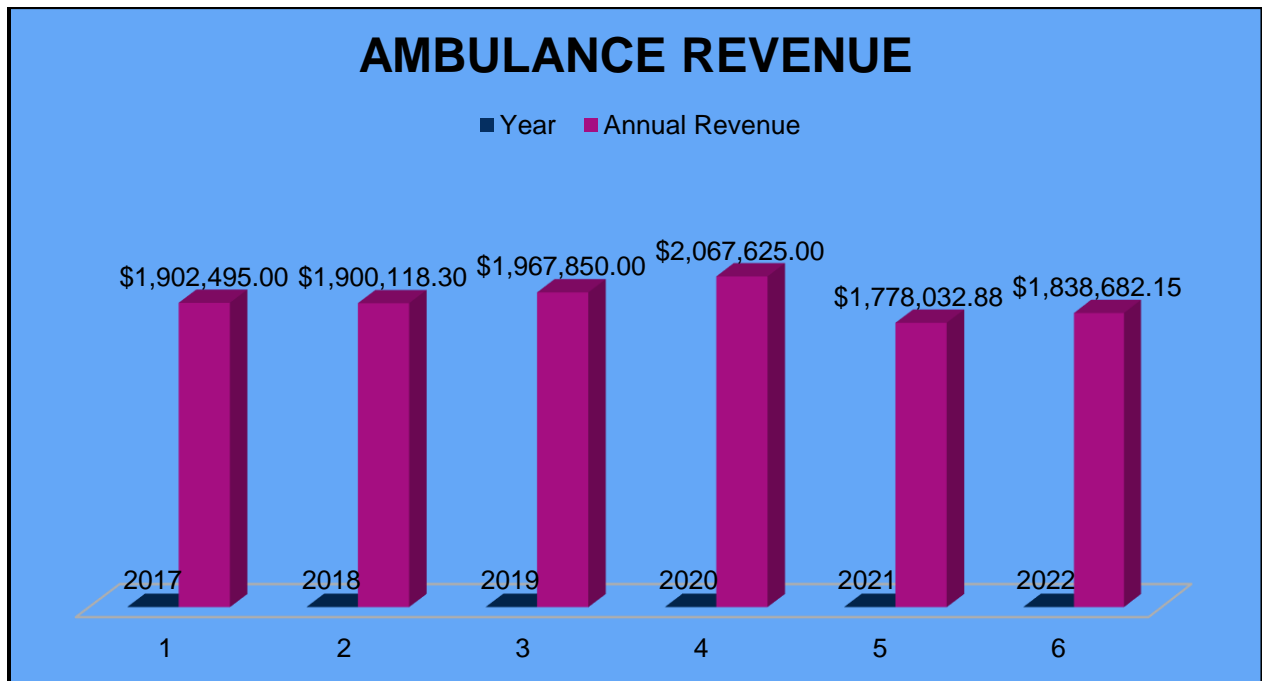
## Grants and Donations

In Fiscal Year 2019, the Department was awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) FEMA Grant in the amount of \$1.46 million dollars. This grant reduced the local tax burden associated with the hiring of eight additional firefighters (two per shift). The \$1.46 million grant represents the federal cost-share of the total project cost of approximately \$2.38 million over three years. SAFER is a Federal competitive grant evaluated based on the substance of the application relative to the established SAFER Grant funding priorities. In Fiscal Year 2022, we received \$148,566.00 in reimbursements from this grant. To date we have received a total of \$1,396,525.51 in reimbursements from this grant.

## Ambulance Revenue

Our five ambulances generate significant revenue which helps to offset the cost of emergency services to the taxpayer. We bill for medical care and transport based upon the State of Connecticut's schedule of maximum allowable rates.

Ambulance revenues deposited to the Town's General fund in fiscal year 2022 totaled \$1,838,682.15. COVID-19 had a negative impact on our expected revenue in fiscal year 2021 but has recovered to more historic levels this fiscal year.



**SCHEDULE OF MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE RATES**

*EFFECTIVE January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022*  
**2022 Rate Schedule**

**Branford Fire Department**

**AMBULANCE SERVICE RATE SCHEDULE**

Basic Life Support (BLS) Rate.....	\$813.00
Advance Life Support Level 1 Non-ER .....	N/A
Advance Life Support Level 1 ER .....	\$1,287.00
Advance Life Support Level 2 .....	\$1,362.00
Paramedic Intercept.....	\$914.00
Basic Life Support (BLS) Helicopter Assist .....	\$532.00
Advance Life Support (ALS) Helicopter Assist.....	\$828.00
Advance Life Support (ALS) Assessment.....	\$478.00
Specialty Care Transport (SCT).....	\$1,768.00
Treat and Non-Transport (BLS).....	\$228.00
Treat and Non-Transport (ALS).....	\$360.00

**ANCILLARY CHARGES**

Waiting Time Charge .....	\$215.00
Per Mileage Charge.....	\$19.78
Special Attendant Charge.....	\$161.00

**INVALID COACH RATE SCHEDULE**

Base Rate (IC).....	N/A
Two Patients (IC).....	N/A

**ANCILLARY CHARGES**

Per Mile Charge (IC).....	N/A
Second Attendant Charge (IC) .....	N/A
Waiting Time Charge (IC).....	N/A

All charges must be in conformance with the definitions on the subsequent pages entitled "Explanatory Notes on the Implementation of the 2016 Schedule of Maximum Allowable Rates," which are attached to, and become part of, the Rate Schedule.

Certified to be the maximum allowable rates by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Raffaella Cole, Director  
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Date Certified: 12/10/2021

## Summary

The following are highlights of Fire Department activity during fiscal year 2022.

- **July 7, 2021:** Branford prepares for potential impact from Tropical Storm Elsa, a tropical storm warning was issued July 8<sup>th</sup>. The effects of the storm were ultimately minor.
- **July 26, 2021:** Branford Fire Department was presented with a donation check by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Lodge 1939 in support of our Drone Program. BFD was one of the first Fire Departments in the country to deploy a drone during a fire incident to determine if it was safe to attempt to fight a fire in close proximity to explosives. Since then our members have used it in a variety of situations from lost hikers and brush fires to assisting our Police during the active shooter incident on Main Street. The drone project is spearheaded by the members of Branford Professional Firefighters Local 2533 who are FAA certified drone pilots.
- **August 12, 2021:** Branford's fire boats responded approximately 5 miles off the coast for a well involved 70' yacht on fire. Eight people forced to jump into the water to escape were rescued by nearby civilian boats without injury. Despite our best efforts the fire was too advanced, making it unsafe to board and fully extinguish the fire. The craft eventually sunk, and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection responded to the scene to address environmental issues. Branford handled 9 additional incidents while crews were fighting this fire.
- **August 20, 2021:** The hurricane that wasn't ... Hurricane and Storm Surge Warnings were issued for Branford as Tropical Storm Henri was lined up for a direct hit. The storm would eventually move east to Rhode Island while also losing strength sparing all from major damage.
- **August 26, 2021:** Members of Branford Professional Firefighters Local 2533 kicked off their "Mullets for Mutts" fundraiser to benefit the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter, the event raised more than \$3,000.00
- **September 1-2, 2021:** BFD responds to 45 incidents, many related to the remnants of tropical storm Ida, which caused widespread flooding due to rainfall rates of 2-4" per hour in many parts of the state. The worst of the storm hit Branford during the out-going tide cycle sparing the community from more severe flooding.
- **September 10, 2021:** Branford's two fire boats respond mutual aid to assist Guilford and Madison with the second major boat fire of the season.
- **September 11, 2021:** The Department participates in the annual town wide September 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Ceremony. The twentieth anniversary ceremony, held on the Branford Green, was well attended by the community.
- **September 21, 2021:** A retirement ceremony was held for Firefighter Eugene Hayes on his last day of service before retirement. First Selectmen Cosgrove presented Hayes with a certificate honoring his years of service to the Town.
- **September 23, 2021:** Former Fire Chief Peter Mullen was posthumously inducted into the Connecticut Firefighter's Hall of Fame class of 2020. The event normally held in April was delayed due to COVID-19. Branford Volunteer Captain Michael Mullen accepted the award on his father's behalf.
- **September 26, 2021:** The entire department participated in a 16 hour heavy vehicle stabilization and lifting course. Members practiced various techniques to stabilize heavy vehicles including a school bus, semi-trailer and tree on a car. This immersive experience allowed us to practice and learn in a controlled environment so we will be ready when there is no room for error.
- **October 4, 2021:** Annual live fire training was conducted at the former Days Inn property.

- **October 12, 2021:** Branford Fire Department begins accepting applications for Full-Time Firefighter Paramedic through the Connecticut Consortium.
- **October 27-28 2021:** BFD responded to 49 incidents in 32 hours including two structure fires. The first fire on Leetes Island Rd was caused by the over current of a downed primary power line landing on the secondary line feeding into the house. The other fire was caused by careless smoking, heavily damaging a single apartment on North Ivy St.
- **October 30, 2021:** Branford Dispatch received multiple 911 calls reporting a garage fire on Ridge Acres Rd. Fire crews stretched multiple lines to cut off the fire and contain it to the attached garage preventing its spread to the main house and apartment above.
- **November 6, 2021:** Firefighters responding to an automatic fire alarm at Branford Building Supplies discover a well involved fire in the hardware store portion of the building. The main fire was quickly knocked down by the first due Engine before it could spread to the office and attached warehouse. It took several more hours to fully extinguish hidden pockets of fire. Branford companies were assisted units from Guilford, North Branford and East Haven. Fire Marshal Rob Dobuzinsky determined the cause of the fire to be accidental due to the improper disposal of rags used to clean up a spilled wood finishing product.
- **November 13, 2021:** BFD responds to multiple incidents after an EF-0 tornado touched down causing widespread tree damage. Several roads were closed due to downed trees and wires and 872 Eversource customers were left without power. One home was severely damaged by a felled tree, no injuries were reported.
- **November 23, 2021:** Branford Fire Department receives a donation from the Lions Club in memory of Alex and J. Palluzzi. The donation will be used towards the purchase of medical equipment.
- **December 10, 2021:** Firefighter/ Paramedic Eleftherios "Teddy" Gionteris graduates from the Connecticut Fire Academy as a member of Class #68.
- **December 17, 2021:** Fire Marshal Robert Dobuzinsky announces the winners of the Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest: Liam Oraa 1st Place winner Grade 5 East Shoreline Catholic Academy, Chase Cinto 2nd Place winner Grade 5 East Shoreline Catholic Academy, Isabella Young 1st Place winner Grade 4 East Shoreline Catholic Academy, Jake Panela 2nd Place winner Grade 4 East Shoreline Catholic Academy. The winning students were presented with a Barnes & Noble bookstores gift-card for \$100.00 (1st place) and \$50.00 (2nd place).
- **January 1, 2022:** Branford Fire Department announces it responded to 6,098 incidents in 2021.
- **January 24, 2021:** Branford Fire sent several units to East Haven for a multiple alarm fire in a large condominium complex.
- **January 11, 2022:** BFD responds to a transformer fire on East Main Street. The fire left approximately 1,100 Eversource customers without power. The Town opened warming centers due to frigid temperatures.
- **March 2, 2022:** BFD members participate in "Read Across America Day".
- **March 20, 2022:** MP Rice Hose Company 2 member Mark Hally is elevated to the rank of Eagle Scout. Mark was joined at his Court of Honor by department members, also Eagle Scouts; Anthony "Unk" Daros, Harold Barringham, Peter Daros, Darrick Catugal, Kevin Dixon, Geoff Hotz and Allen Dallas.
- **March 25, 2022:** The Fire Department overtakes stiff competition to win the 2nd annual Branford employees chili cook-off.
- **April 1, 2022:** NorcomCT completes work on the east side transmitter site. The project was funded through the Radio Capital Sinking Fund at a cost of \$209,644.20. The project added an additional transmit/ receive site with back-up generator for both Police and Fire Department radio communications. It not only added redundant reliability, it closed gaps in our overall radio coverage.

- **April 5, 2022:** BFD takes delivery of a new AEV Ambulance with a remounted, remanufactured patient compartment saving approximately \$80,000 over the cost of all new model.
- **April 9, 2022:** Retired career Deputy Fire Chief William Hackett is inducted into the Connecticut Firefighters Association Hall of Fame as part of class 2022. After retiring from BFD, Bill became Connecticut's longest serving State Emergency Management Director.
- **April 28, 2022:** BFD responded along with the Police Department to a motor vehicle accident on Hosley Ave; sadly three deceased individuals were located on scene.
- **May 13, 2022:** BFD responds to a well involved fire in a vacant building located at 112 North Main Street. The fire was contained to the building of origin, which was later demolished.
- **May 21, 2022:** Branford Fire Department was recognized as the 2022 "Agency of the Year" by the Connecticut Emergency Medical Services for Children Partnership Program. BFD's Deputy Chief, John Cudgma, earned Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator of the Year. BFD Firefighter/ Paramedics Alexandra Demitrack, Joseph Mazarella and Jeffrey O'Connor, Firefighter/EMT Dante Ghiroli, Captain James Carson, and Deputy Chief Jason Karpovich earned a Unit Citation for a Cardiac Arrest save on May 31, 2021.
- **May 29, 2022:** BFD marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "new" Fire Headquarters building.
- **June 30, 2022:** The Department finishes the Fiscal Year with 6,245 calls for service. Our average response time was less than 5.5 minutes. October was our busiest month, Friday our busiest day, and 11:00 a.m. was our busiest hour.

The Branford Fire Department will continue to provide the highest level of service to our community as a leader in cost efficient emergency response, prevention, and risk reduction services. We will continue to find creative solutions to overcome challenges while providing exceptional value to the taxpayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert J. Massey, Jr.  
Chairman Board of Fire Commissioners

Thomas F. Mahoney, Jr.  
Fire Chief

