



Figure 1 Photo Credit-Doc Johnson

# BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

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*JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023*

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.

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## 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 Brian Koczak. The Administrative Assistant is Leah Ahern.

## Department Officers

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

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

### Volunteer Lieutenants

Derek Catugal – Co. 2  
William Miller – Co. 2  
Kirk Anderson – Co. 5  
Stephen Consolo – Co. 5  
Geoff Hotz – Co. 9  
John Rothfuss – Co. 9  
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

Assistant Fire Chief Gary Bloomquist retired September 8, 2022. Assistant Chief Bloomquist began his career as a volunteer firefighter with M.P. Rice Hose Co 2 and as a career firefighter in Branford for 5 years before leaving for the West Shore FD in the city of West Haven. He retired from West Shore after 20 years rising to the rank of Captain. He then returned to Branford where he served as a Firefighter/ Paramedic, Deputy of Safety and finally Assistant Chief of Department.

Brian Koczak was selected as BFD's new Assistant Chief on 12/12/2022 and was sworn in on December 15th. Koczak rose through the ranks of the Greenwich Connecticut Fire Department, most recently serving as their Assistant Fire Chief before retiring to come to Branford. He holds a B.S. in Fire Science (Magna Cum Laude) and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program.

Thomas Wrede was hired as a full time Firefighter/ Paramedic on 05/02/2022 to fill a vacant position. Firefighter Wrede, Badge 803, joined Branford's MP Rice Volunteer Hose Co. 2 in January 2015 and served as a lieutenant. He worked part-time for BFD EMS Division until he was hired full-time on May 2. Wrede is a graduate of Capital Community College (Hartford) Paramedicine program and CT Fire Academy Recruit Class 70. He is currently assigned to BFD Division 2

Thomas O'Toole was hired as a full time Firefighter/ Paramedic on 07/11/2022. O'Toole, Badge 855, began his career with the City of West Haven Allington Fire District. He is a spring 2021 graduate of the Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit program. He began working with BFD on July 12 and is assigned to Division 4.

Meaghan Hayes, Badge 816, was hired as a Firefighter/ Paramedic on 08/01/2022. Hayes is a lifelong Branford resident, who served as an EMT with BFD's part-time EMS Division since September 2016. Hayes earned her degree in Nursing from the University of Connecticut, followed by attending an accelerated Paramedicine program of Crowder College, Missouri. Hayes completed the Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit Training program as a member of Class 70 and is assigned to BFD Division 3.

Shannon Filo, Badge 856, was hired as a full time Firefighter/ Paramedic on 08/15/2022. She served as a volunteer firefighter in Oxford and has served as an EMT with American Medical Response EMS (Bridgeport/Trumbull) for five years, beginning in 2017. Filo graduated from the Hartford Hospital Paramedicine program in December 2021. Filo completed the Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit Training program as a member of Class 70 and is assigned to BFD Division 1.



AC Brian Koczak



FFP Thomas O'Toole



FFP Meaghan Hayes



FFP Thomas Wrede



FFP Shannon Filo

## 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
<b>CAREER DIVISIONS 1-4</b>	
DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS	1 PER SHIFT
CAPTAIN	1 PER SHIFT
FIREFIGHTER	8 PER SHIFT
<b>MP RICE COMPANY 2 (VOLUNTEER)</b>	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
FIREFIGHTER	5
OTHER	5
<b>SHORT BEACH COMPANY 4 (VOLUNTEER)</b>	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	0
FIREFIGHTER	3
OTHER	0
<b>STONY CREEK COMPANY 5 (VOLUNTEER)</b>	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
FIREFIGHTER	5
OTHER	4
<b>INDIAN NECK COMPANY 9 (VOLUNTEER)</b>	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	2
FIREFIGHTER	4
OTHER	4
<b>FIRE POLICE (VOLUNTEER)</b>	
CAPTAIN	1
LIEUTENANT	1
MEMBERS	2
CURRENT VOLUNTEER MEMBERS= 44	

## 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 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>	2022 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>	2017 FORD E-450	<b>CAR 8</b>	2012 CHEVY TAHOE
<b>TRUCK 1</b>	2008 SMEAL	<b>MEDIC 4</b>	2015 CHEVY	<b>CAR 9</b>	2012 CHEVY TAHOE
<b>RESCUE 1</b>	1999 PIERCE	<b>MEDIC 5</b>	2011 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

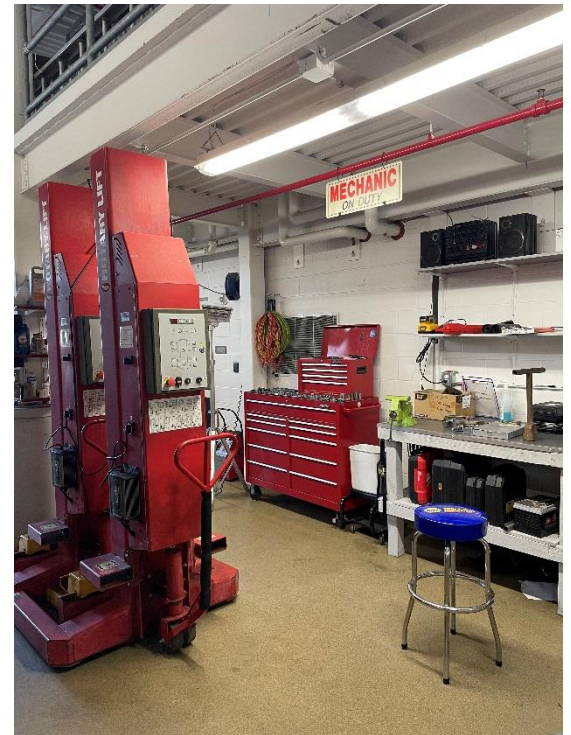
In fiscal year 23', we ordered a new ambulance from AEV of North Carolina. Due to supply chain issues, this unit won't be delivered until well into fiscal 2024. A new pumper is also on order from Pierce Manufacturing, it is not scheduled for delivery until 2025. The cost of apparatus has increased more than 33% in the last three years. The average age of our fire apparatus is 17.75 years. The average age of the ambulance fleet is 6.5 years. Ambulances have a useful life of approximately 10 years and larger fire apparatus, such as pumpers, 20 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

Our 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.



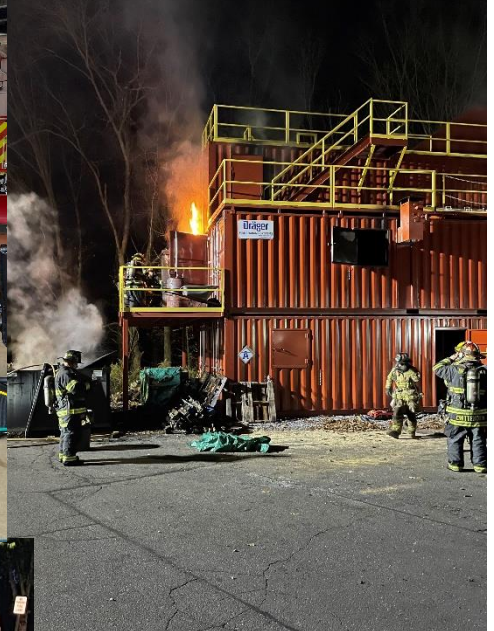
The following are highlights of more than 2,697 hours of education and training accomplishments by our members during FY-2023:

- In August, 11 career staff officers and firefighters attended a 48-hour Fire Officer III certification class instructed by the CT Fire Academy.
- In August, all firefighters attended hazardous materials operational level refresher training.
- In August, all paramedics attended an eight-hour Pediatric Advanced Life Support refresher training.
- In August, firefighters attended gas emergency training instructed by Southern CT Gas Company.
- In September, all career staff trained in practical mayday procedures at an acquired structure on Goodsell Point Road.
- In October, all career staff completed eight hours of practical training at an acquired structure. This training involved forcible entry, search and rescue, ventilation, victim removals, and was instructed by CT Custom Fire Training.
- In November, the Fire Marshal and four Deputy Fire Marshals attended the CT IAAI Arson Investigator's seminar for continuing education hours.
- In November, five Hazardous Material Technicians attended refresher training in conjunction with the Guilford Fire Department and the New Haven Area Special Hazards Team.
- Four live fire training exercises were completed in November at the Guilford Fire Department live burn structure.
- In December, paramedics attended CPR refresher training, human trafficking training, and other continuing medical education.
- In December, firefighters completed personal escape kits and ladder bailout refresher training utilizing a window prop at Fire Headquarters.
- In February, five career firefighters attended a 40-hour training in Florida instructed by County Fire Tactics School. Topics included leadership and mindset, vent-enter-search, fire attack, search techniques, forcible entry, and standpipe operations.
- Utilizing an acquired structure in Pawson Park in March, firefighters attended Monday night training to review company operations under live fire conditions.
- In March, on-duty firefighters completed operations refresher training for rope rescue emergencies.
- In March, the Fire Marshal attended the National Fire Academy's Officer weekend training.
- In April, all firefighters completed thermal imaging camera training utilizing a live fire demonstration.
- In April, paramedics attended an eight-hour training to refresh Emergency Pediatric Care certification.
- In May, on-duty shifts completed active shooter training in conjunction with the Branford Police Department.
- In June, five career firefighters attended a 56-hour Trench Rescue Technician certification class.
- Firefighters Bill DiGiuseppe and Tim Fennel obtained Firefighter I certification.
- Firefighters Mackenzie Spooner and Jeff Masci obtained Firefighter II certification.
- Firefighter Riley O'Donnell obtained Fire Service Instructor I certification.
- Firefighter Tyler Mahoney obtained Confined Space Rescue Technician certification.
- Firefighter Tyler Mahoney obtained Vehicle/Machinery Rescue Technician certification.
- Firefighters Tyler Mahoney and Joe Massey obtained Structural Collapse Rescue Technician certification.
- Firefighter Joe Andrews and Lieutenant John Rothfuss obtained Pump Operator certification.
- Deputy Chiefs Jason Karpovich, Michael Stackpole, and John Cudgma, Fire Marshal Rob Dobuzinsky, Captains Jim Carson, Randy Chittenden, and Craig O'Rourke, and Firefighters Harold Barringham, Garrett Lizee, Joe Massey, and Joe Maull obtained Fire Officer III certification.



Victim (room)  
Location:  
- Bedroom 43%  
- Family 14%  
- Other 21%  
- Hallway 10%  
- Kitchen 7%  
- Bathroom 5%

1/2 of Victims



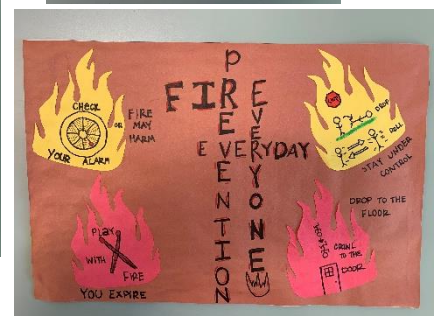
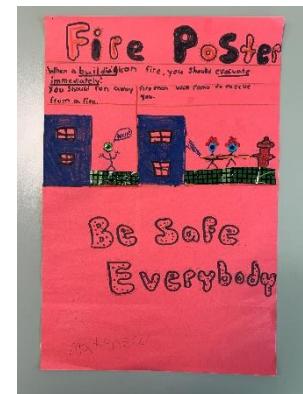
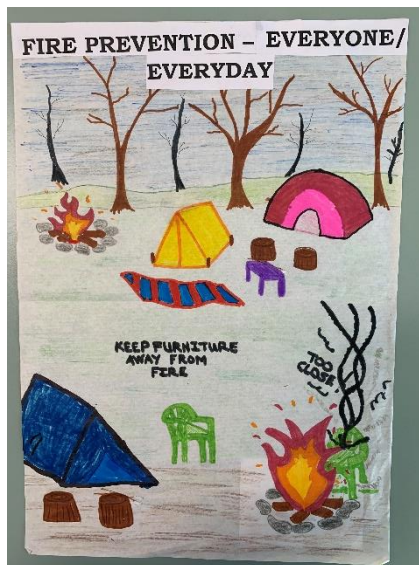
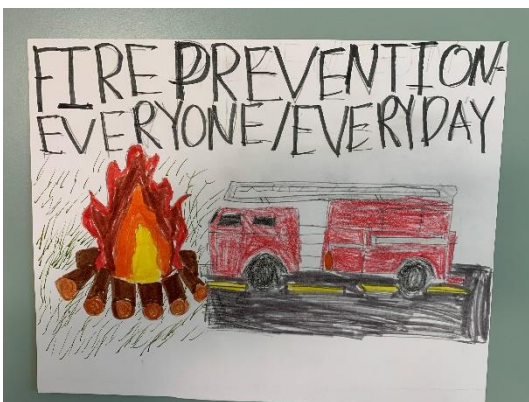
## Prevention and Code Enforcement

We deliver fire and safety education to the public through our schools, daycares, youth groups, and through the use of 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 community's risk from the hazards of fire, explosions, chemical and related emergencies.

The Fire Marshal's Office is contracted with the Brycer Compliance Engine, <https://www.thecomplianceengine.com/>, to assist in tracking and managing fire protection systems throughout the Town. There are more than 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. In this year there have been seven hundred and forty-four reports reviewed by the Fire Marshal's Office. We also use an inspection record keeping software program, <https://www.firstdue.com/> to document and track all fire department activity. Use of this technology has streamlined our inspection process to more efficiently serve the community. Currently there are over one thousand three hundred inspectable properties within the Town. During fiscal 2023, six hundred and twenty-eight inspections, plan reviews and correspondence reports have been conducted

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

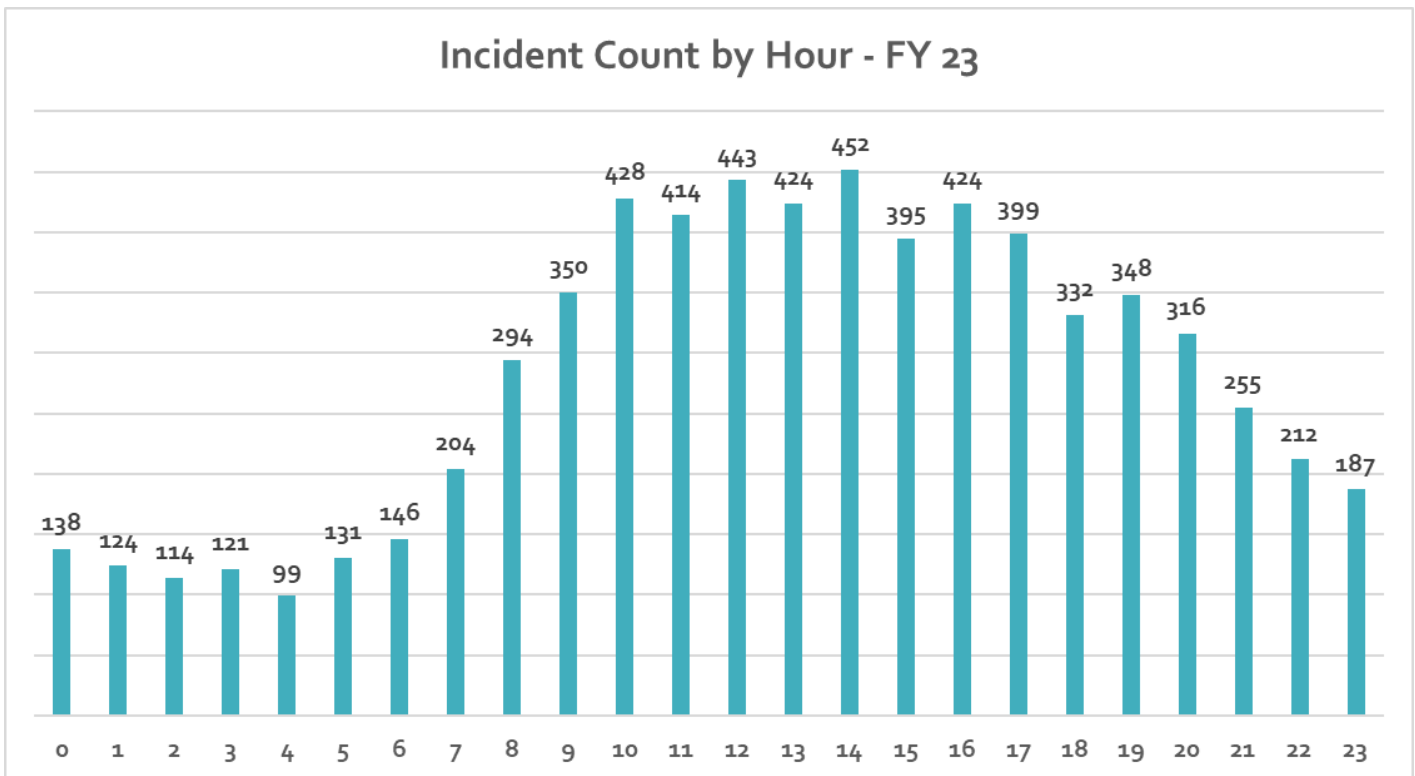
The fire department responded to 6,750 calls for service, averaging more than 18 incident responses per day. 4,693 of the 6,243 incidents occurred simultaneously or as overlapping incidents. This means that more than 75% of incidents occurred at the same time or before a previous incident has cleared. 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. Due to the increasing call volume, the decrease in reliability of our volunteer response and continued development, the administration developed a plan for future fire department staffing and infrastructure. This plan was completed in May and will be distributed to our elected officials and the public in the next fiscal year. You may read the plan by following this link:

<https://www.branfordfireplan.com/>

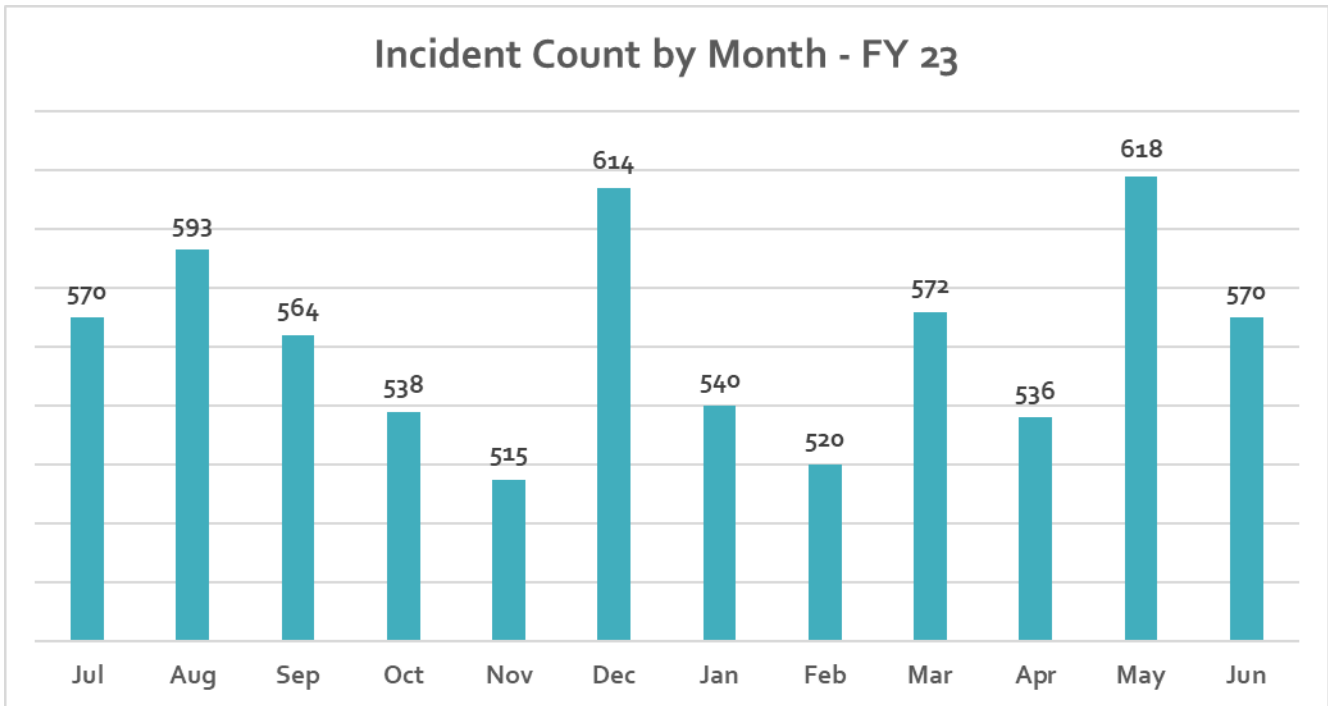
Medical emergencies, including rescue calls and motor vehicle accidents, accounted for 74% of total requests for service. The early interventions and pre-hospital care provided by our EMTs, and Paramedics significantly contribute to positive outcomes for our patients. While the danger from fire has been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

During fiscal year 2023, 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-2023. Our ability to rapidly respond with the appropriate resources keeps many smaller incidents from becoming more dangerous costly events.

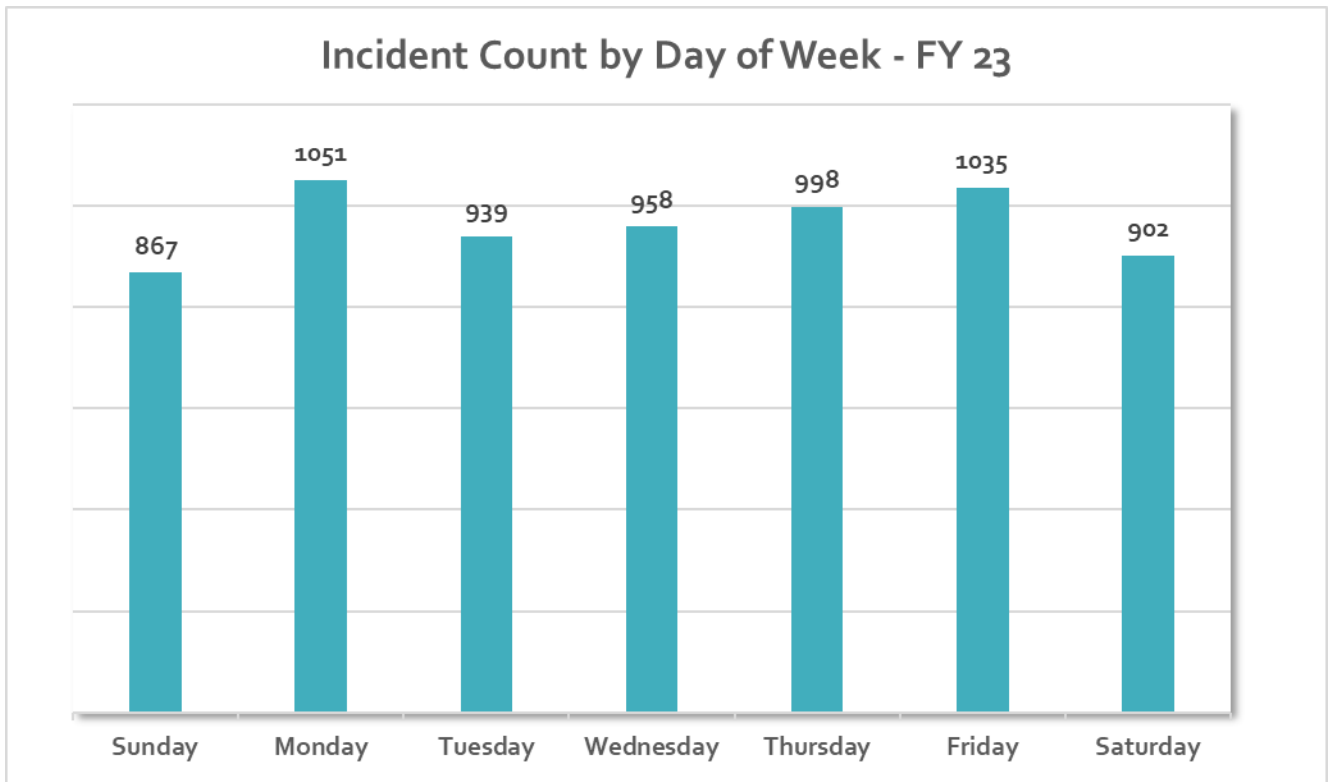
## INCIDENTS BY HOUR



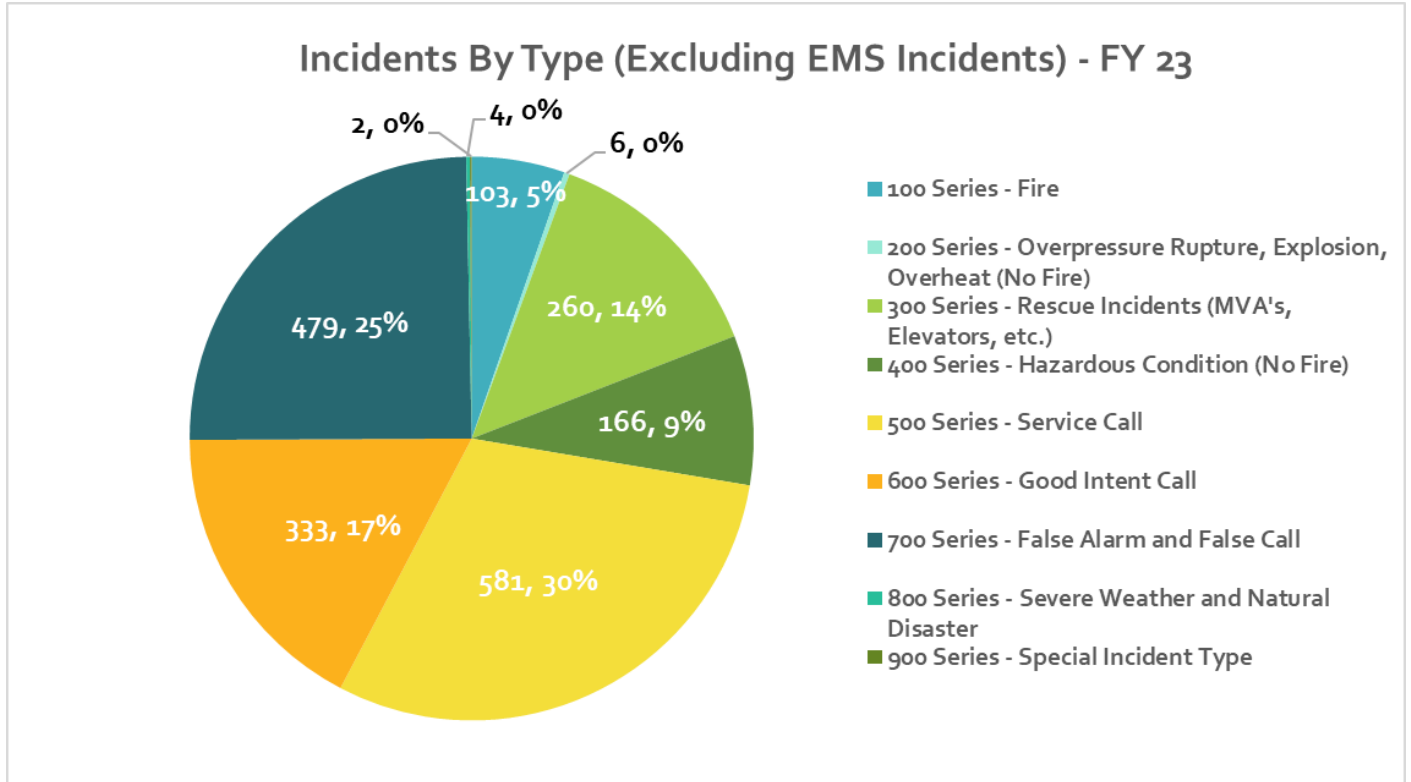
## TOTAL INCIDENTS BY MONTH



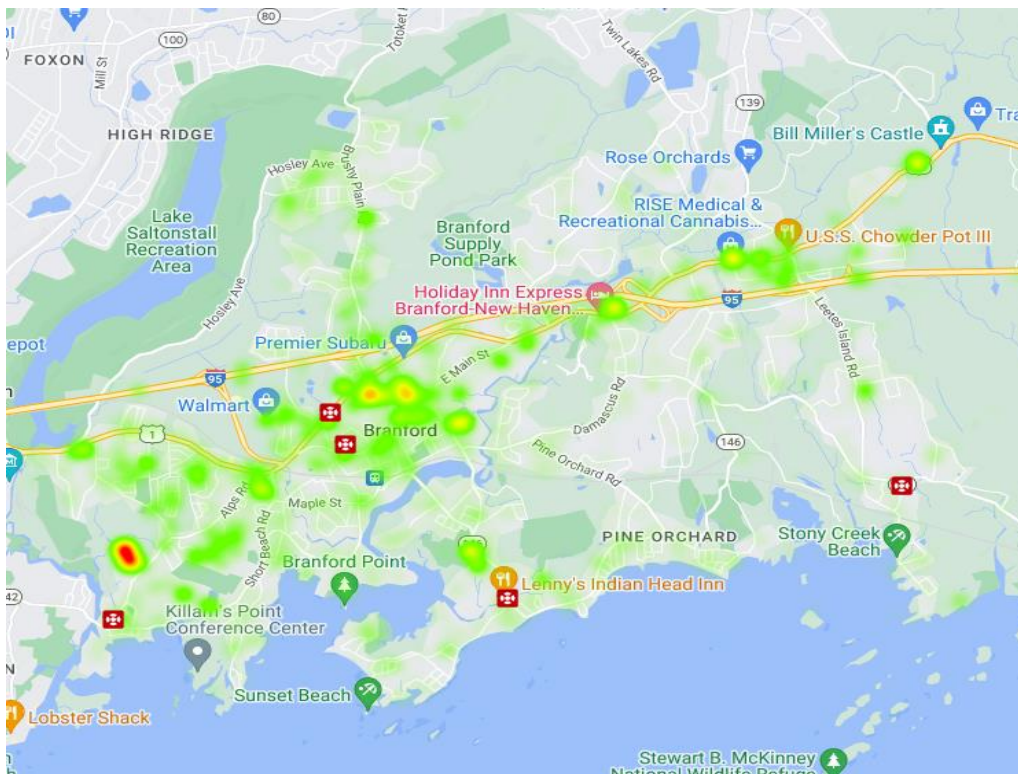
## INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK



## INCIDENT TYPE NFIRS (NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM)

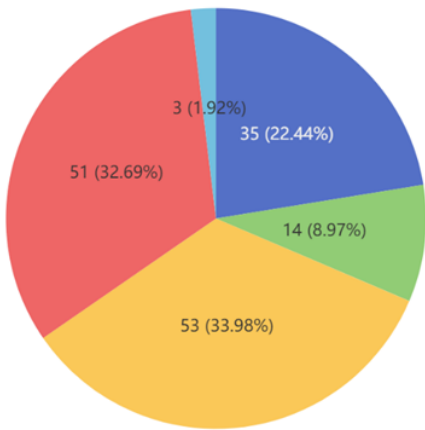


## SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF INCIDENTS



## MUTUAL AID REPORT

Total aid given and received (156)



- Mutual aid received
- Automatic aid received
- Mutual aid given
- Automatic aid given
- Other aid given

### Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

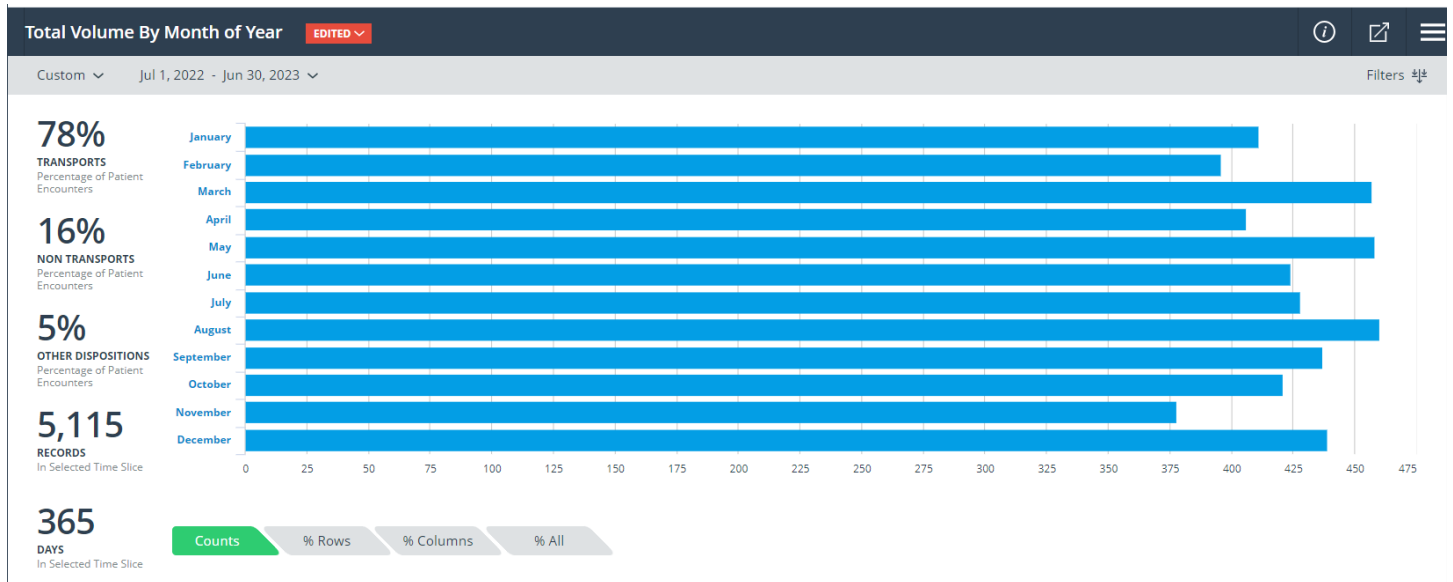
Branford Fire Department is the designated emergency medical services and ambulance provider within the Town of Branford. We hold certificate of operation, CO14P1 in the First Responder/Basic Ambulance and Mobile Intensive Care - Paramedic categories. Branford Fire Department is part of CT EMS Council - 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 RESUSITATION (CPR)





# FISCAL 2022 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MONTHLY CALL VOLUME



## EMS Incidents Disposition Breakdown

EMS Incident Disposition Breakdown Fiscal 2023	
Assist, Agency	1
Assist, Public	72
Assist, Unit	1
Cancelled (No Patient Contact)	32
Cancelled (Prior to Arrival at Scene)	10
Cancelled on Scene/No Patient Found	16
Patient Dead on Scene - No Resuscitation Attempted (Without Transport)	43
Patient Dead on Scene - Resuscitation Attempted (Without Transport)	14
Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required	288
Patient Evaluation/ Care (with Transport)	4
Patient Refused Evaluation/Care (Without Transport)	289
Patient Treated, Released (AMA)	197
Patient Treated, Released (per protocol)	90
Patient Treated, Transferred Care to Another EMS Professional	54
Patient Treated, Transported by Private Vehicle	7
Standby - No Service or Support Provided	1
Transported Lights/Siren	217
Transported Lights/Siren, Downgraded	3
Transported No Lights/Siren	3,784
Transported No Lights/Siren, Upgraded	15
Null	61
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,199</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-effective solutions to maintain the high level of service that our community expects.

### Operating Budget

The 2023 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. In fiscal 2023, approximately 31% of our operating budget was offset by revenue collection from ambulance billing and other fees. The projected ambulance billing revenue number approved in the 2023 fiscal year budget was \$1,725,000; the actual revenue collected was \$2,242,893.00 resulting in a surplus of \$517,893 posted to the general fund.

### 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 a fire apparatus is more than twenty years; the average cost of new fire apparatus ranges from \$950,000 for a new pumper to more than \$2,000,000 for an aerial 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 \$300,000.00 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 \$9,800.00 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.

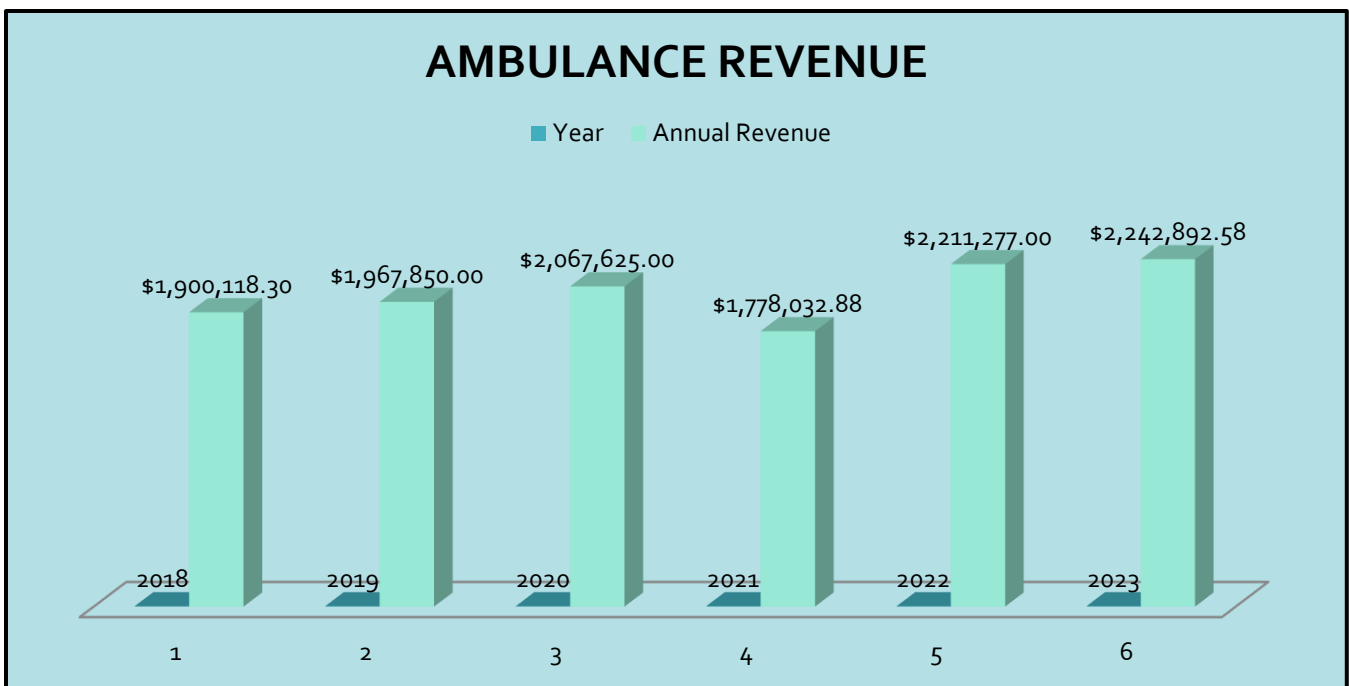
## Grants and Donations

No major grants were awarded during Fiscal 2023

## 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 2023 totaled \$2,242,893.00. The revenue increase is primarily due to increased call volume and an increase in ambulance billing rates of 2.8% over the previous year. *(The revenue number used in the report is the total amount posted to the ambulance billing account between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. This number is likely to be adjusted higher after the audit is complete)*



**SCHEDULE OF MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE RATES**

*EFFECTIVE January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023*  
**2023 Rate Schedule**

**Branford Fire Department-EMS**

**AMBULANCE SERVICE RATE SCHEDULE**

Basic Life Support (BLS) Rate.....	\$836.00
Advance Life Support Level 1 Non-ER.....	N/A
Advance Life Support Level 1 ER.....	\$1,323.00
Advance Life Support Level 2.....	\$1,400.00
Paramedic Intercept.....	\$940.00
Basic Life Support (BLS) Helicopter Assist.....	\$547.00
Advance Life Support (ALS) Helicopter Assist.....	\$851.00
Advance Life Support (ALS) Assessment.....	\$491.00
Specialty Care Transport (SCT).....	\$1,818.00
Treat and Non-Transport (BLS).....	\$234.00
Treat and Non-Transport (ALS).....	\$370.00

**ANCILLARY CHARGES**

Waiting Time Charge.....	\$221.00
Per Mileage Charge.....	\$20.33
Special Attendant Charge.....	\$166.00

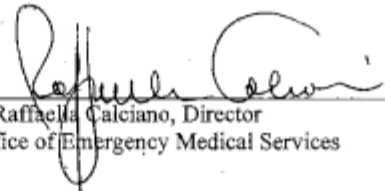
**INVALID COACH RATE SCHEDULE**

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 2023 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 Calciano, Director  
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Date Certified: 11/28/2022

## Summary

The following are highlights of Fire Department activity during fiscal year 2023.

- **July 3, 2022:** BFD responded to a major building fire at 223-224 Monticello Dr. The rapidly spreading fire began outside the building and was quickly knocked down by fire crews before it could get into the attic.
- **July 10, 2022:** An alert person investigating the sound of a fire alarm saw smoke coming from their neighbor's garage and called 911. Branford Engine 7 was nearby conducting driver training and was on scene in approximately 1/3 of the time it would normally have taken, greatly reducing the fire damage.
- **July 12, 2022:** BFD responded to a fully involved vehicle fire very close to a house. The fire on Court Street in the Short Beach section of town was quickly knocked down by firefighters. Our rapid response prevented the fire from extending into the building with the radiant heat causing only cosmetic damage to the vinyl siding.
- **July 16, 2022:** We responded to Interstate 95 along with East Haven for a major crash requiring both departments to use the "Jaws of Life" to free entrapped occupants.
- **August 6, 2022:** Engine 1, Medic 1, Rescue 2, Marine 2, Marine 5, Tac 6 and Car 6 respond to Long Island Sound for a 23-foot vessel that struck a rock and was taking on water.
- **August 13, 2022:** BFD responds to a call for an injured hiker at Branford Supply Ponds. Car 6, Medic 1, and Rescue 2 (with TAC 2 in tow, Rescue ATV) were dispatched. There was great coordination between the 911 Center, the caller, and responding units. Units were able to locate the 59-year-old female who fell and struck her head approximately 1/2 mile into the trails. She was stabilized, and removed using the ATV, and transported with Paramedic care, with arrival to the hospital in about 60 minutes from the initial call for assistance.
- **August 22, 2022:** New hires Eleftherios "Teddy" Gionteris, Thomas Wrede, Thomas O'Toole, Meaghan Hayes, and Shannon Filo are sworn in as full-time Firefighter/ Paramedics.
- **September 8, 2022:** The Department celebrates Assistant Chief Gary Bloomquist's years of service on his last day of duty before retirement.
- **September 11, 2022:** The Department participates in the annual town wide September 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Ceremony. On this day, the Department is presented with a "Hometown Heroes Award" by the Ancient Free and Accepted Mason of CT, Widows Lodge No. 66.
- **October 1, 2022:** Fire Prevention Month kicks off with the theme, "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape" The Department would spend the month visiting schools, day cares and community events to educate people and focus their attention on fire prevention.
- **October 3, 2022:** BFD announces the passing of Branford Fire Police Squad member Joseph Tulli. Joe died on Monday September 26th after a battle with cancer.
- **October 3, 2022:** Firefighters participated in an eight hour "Back-to-Basics" training class conducted by CT Custom Fire Training.
- **October 4, 2022:** BFD responds to a two-car head-on collision on East Main Street between Feather Bed Lane and Business Park Drive. Both drivers required extrication from the vehicles before being treated and transported by BFD Paramedics. One of the two drivers would later die because of their injuries.
- **October 11, 2022:** Branford Fire Department announces a new feature called Community Connect. Community Connect allows residents and businesses to share information useful to First Responders during an emergency.
- **October 11, 2022:** Branford launches its new emergency mass notification system, CodeRED.
- **October 21, 2022:** BFD responds to 20 incidents between 0800-1800 including a minor bedroom fire and a fully involved vehicle fire.

- **November 7, 2022:** Firefighters extinguish a well involved fire involving a large lawn tractor and trailer adjacent to the maintenance garage at Hammer field. The fire extended to the nearby brush but was stopped before it could reach the shed.
- **November 14, 2022:** BFD conducts annual live fire training at Guilford's burn building.
- **November 22, 2022:** Branford Fire Department responds to a brush fire on Leetes Island Road caused by improper disposal of fireplace ash. Despite putting out a Public Service Announcement regarding the danger, we would respond to a more serious fire the very next night on Hickory Hill again caused by the improper disposal of fireplace ash.
- **November 30, 2022:** The Department holds a free community CPR class, one of several we will hold throughout the year.
- **December 2, 2022:** BFD is announced as the "No Shave CT 2022" top fundraising team, having raised more than \$8,000 for CT cancer patients.
- **December 7, 2022:** All Branford emergency medical providers complete Human Trafficking Awareness training as required by State statute.
- **December 9, 2022:** Shannon Filo, Meaghan Hayes, and Thomas Wrede graduate from the Connecticut Fire Academy's 14-week recruit fire training class #70.
- **December 13, 2022:** Fire Marshal Robert Dobuzinsky announces the winners of the Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest: Riley Braxton-Dehaney 1st Place winner Grade 5 East Shoreline Catholic Academy, Jake Panela 2nd Place winner Grade 5 East Shoreline Catholic Academy, Sky Marie Walls 1st Place winner Grade 4 East Shoreline Catholic Academy, Matthew Pearce-Sawyer 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).
- **December 15, 2022:** Brian Koczak was sworn in as our new Assistant Fire Chief.
- **December 22, 2022:** 11 BFD members complete certification to the Fire Officer III level.
- **December 23, 2022:** Due to a Nor' Easter, roads in the usual flood prone areas were rendered impassable for several hours during the peak of the high tide. Some propane tanks broke loose and created a potential hazard in the center of Stony Creek.
- **January 1, 2023:** Branford Fire Department announces it responded to 6,413 incidents in 2022, another record year.
- **January 11, 2023:** Branford Fire extinguishers a smoldering mulch fire at the entrance to a multiple unit garden style apartment building on North Main Street. The Department would use this incident to put out a public service announcement regarding the hazards of improper disposal of smoking materials.
- **January 19, 2023:** BFD Firefighter/Paramedics Larsen, Wrede, Olejarczyk, and Tyler Mahoney receive a Unit Citation from Yale Center for EMS for their outstanding recognition and treatment of a heart attack patient.
- **February 4, 2023:** Branford Fire Medics and more than 40 others from around the region, attended an advanced ECG class as part of our annual continuing medical education program. The goal is to improve ECG interpretation confidence, reduce the possibility of missing a heart attack and to use our equipment more effectively.
- **February 8, 2023:** BFD responds to a well involved car fire located in a four-bay garage at 25 Florence Rd, Orchard Heights Condominiums. Engine 1 arrived within 5 minutes of dispatch, knocking the fire down, which kept it from spreading to the other vehicles and building. One person was treated and transported by BFD Fire/Medics with a minor burn injury.
- **March 4, 2023:** BFD units extinguish a well involved apartment fire at 146 North Ivy St, Interfaith Housing at 02:15 HRS.

- **March 6, 2023:** Branford Fire Department responds to two, simultaneous structure fires. The first incident occurred on Creek Court in the Indian Neck area of town. The second incident was an attic fire which occurred in the Stratton Woods complex off Brushy Plain Road.
- **March 14, 2023:** BFD Firefighter/Paramedics Kevin O'Donnell, Joseph Mazarella, and Christopher Fig receive a Unit Citation from Yale Center for EMS for their outstanding recognition and treatment of a heart attack patient.
- **March 23, 2023:** Firefighter/ Paramedics Gionteris, Mazarella, Fig, and EMT Mahon receive a Unit Citation from Yale Center for EMS for their outstanding recognition and treatment of a heart attack patient.
- **March 29, 2023:** M.P. Rice Hose Co 2 earned Best VFD in the New Haven St Patrick's Day parade.
- **April 6, 2023:** BFD extinguishes a serious fire in an attached multi-unit condominium at 164 Alps Rd, Plymouth Colony Unit 208
- **April 10, 2023:** BFD recognizes National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and the work our dispatchers do helping to keep Branford safe.
- **April 20, 2023:** Indian Neck Engine 9 staffed by career firefighters for the first time, quickly extinguishes a fire in the former Friki Tiki directly across from the station.
- **April 30, 2023:** BFD uses heavy extrication tools to remove a trapped driver following a rollover accident on Pine Orchard Rd.
- **April 30, 2023:** BFD receives a donation to fund the kitchen appliances at the new Indian Neck Station. The fundraiser organized by Indian Neck resident Mark Steinberg raised more than \$4,000.00.
- **May 10, 2023:** Deputy Chief Jason Karpovich, Captain James Carson, Firefighter/ Paramedics Jeff Larsen, Joseph Massey, Riley O'Donnell, Mackenzie Spooner, Thomas Wrede, EMT Richard Hart, EMT Jeffery Mahon and Paramedic Elle Pfeifer were recognized by Yale New Haven Hospital Center for EMS for Cardiac Arrest saves in 2022.
- **May 15, 2023:** BFD units quickly extinguished a fire at a Short Beach Rd home in the early this morning hours. The fire was reported at 0308 hrs. by the occupants who awoke to their house filled with smoke. They escaped with their pets before calling 911.
- **May 23, 2023:** Telecommunicator Alyssa Shultz received EMS Telecommunicator of the Year from the Yale New Haven Hospital Center. Alyssa was nominated by Branford Fire for her outstanding work.
- **May 24, 2023:** BFD suffers a loss in the first Finest vs. Bravest charity softball tournament. Money was raised to benefit the Branford Counseling Center.
- **June 20, 2023:** BFD receives the CARES Hallmark Award in recognition of our dedication to collecting out-of-hospital-cardiac-arrest (OHCA) data, for ten years or more. OHCA data enables our community to analyze and benchmark their performance with aggregate statistics at the local, state, and national level. This allows our organization and community to discover opportunities to improve emergency cardiac care.
- **June 30, 2023:** The Department finishes the Fiscal Year with 6,750 calls for service, 505 more than the previous fiscal year. Our average response time was less than 5.5 minutes. October was our busiest month, Monday our busiest day, and 2:00 p.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



2Photo credit Doc Johnson