



Palmer Fire & Rescue



2022 Annual Report

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01 – MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Below is one of my favorite fire department photos I have ever seen. The photo is from the 1880's and is of a wagon used by the local fire department. As you can see in the photo, there is a banner that states, "You ring the bell, we do the rest". The reason I love this photo so much is that it embodies Palmer Fire & Rescue. Even though our volunteer personnel come from all walks of life, they all come together to answer that bell and do our utmost to take care of your emergency.



We hope our commitment to our community is evidenced through our responses, training, and maintaining the readiness of our apparatus. In 2022, the community of Palmer experienced two large scale wind events that caused extended power outages and significant damage around the area. Our members responded to over 120 calls in less than 48 hours. I am proud to of all of them that answered your call.

Our dedicated personnel here at Palmer Fire & Rescue are devoted to your safety and welfare and are always here to serve you. Thank you all of your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chief Chen'.

**Fire Chief
Palmer Fire & Rescue**



02 – ABOUT US

Our Mission

We, the members of the City of Palmer Fire & Rescue dedicate our efforts to ensure the safety and welfare of the public through preservation of life, property, and the environment. The mission of Palmer Fire & Rescue is why our department exists. All our activities and efforts support this mission.

Our Values

To provide service to the community at the highest level of professionalism possible.

CORE VALUES

EXCELLENCE

PROFESSIONALISM

INTEGRITY

COMMUNITY

SERVICE

Our core values are not just some nice words that look good in reports. This is the basis of how we live and operate. For us to have any measure of success, all members, regardless of rank, must live up to the core values of the Department. The loss of any one of these values would be destroy our ability to operate in our community.

Trust is easily broken and takes a lifetime to build. The people we serve must know we are there to serve them and make things better with no ulterior motives or intentions.

03 – HISTORY

Overview of Function:

Palmer Fire & Rescue is a department of the City of Palmer. Through a long-standing contract, Palmer Fire & Rescue provides fire and rescue services to the Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area.

History:

The earliest record found describing fire protection in the Palmer area is a Fire Notice issued by Fire Warden Father Merrill Salzman on October 3, 1935.

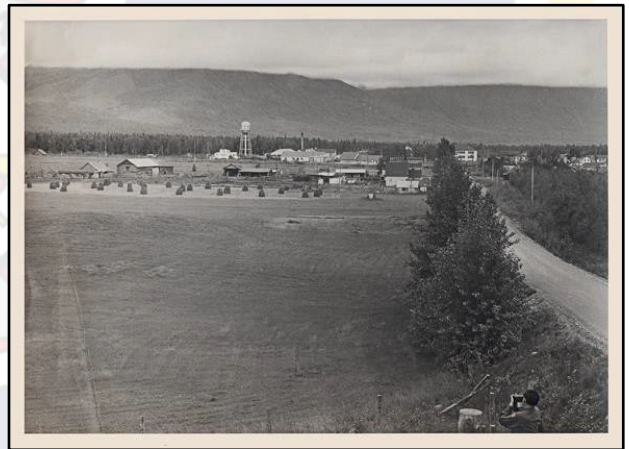
On October 17, 1935 a fire call rang out across the colonist's tent camp at about eight o'clock in the morning. A fire started around a stovepipe, which was eating away at one end of a tent belonging to a Red Cross nurse's named Madeleine de Foras. Crews responded with backpack pumps to extinguish the fire.

Over the years firefighting has advanced, however, the spirit of community has remained forever strong in our members. The way we alert our staff has changed, from a siren to a pager and smartphones, however, our personnel still answers the call whenever requested to help our community.

Services Provided:

The services provided to the community by Palmer Fire & Rescue include:

- Fire Response
- Rescue operations including vehicle extrication up to approximately mile post 129 of the Glenn Highway and associated backcountry
- EMS Assistance
- Fire Safety Education
- Response to surrounding communities for assistance
- Fire Prevention and Burn Permits
- Fire Investigation



American-LaFrance Fire Truck-Palmer Fire Department-Palmer, Alaska
Palmer Museum of History & Art-Turney Collection



04 – OPERATIONS

Budget Update

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual
City of Palmer Contribution	\$481,169	\$501,680	\$603,006
MSB – Greater Palmer Fire Contract *	\$444,102	\$460,480	\$555,906
MSB – Rescue Service Contract	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total:	\$975,271	\$1,012,160	\$1,208,912

* These funds do not include the contribution of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for rent, insurance, and vehicle insurance.

* Capital improvement projects for either the Matanuska-Susitna Borough or the City of Palmer are not considered in the budget allocation listed.

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual
Administration	\$25,530	\$42,058	\$31,500
Equipment	\$122,342	\$71,619	\$132,875
Personnel	\$325,253 †	\$538,603	\$852,737
Services	\$29,487	\$22,232	\$35,500
Training	\$8,461 ‡	\$23,704	\$26,500
Utilities	\$100,560	\$119,006	\$129,800
Total:	\$611,633 *†‡	\$817,222	\$1,208,912

* COVID funding was used to purchase much of the necessary equipment therefore funds were not taken from the City of Palmer budget.

† Palmer Fire & Rescue operated with the Fire Chief position vacated for most of 2020. This vacancy created the decrease in funds utilized by the Department as shown in the 2020 Projected Actual budget.

‡ Due to COVID restrictions, training opportunities were decreased.

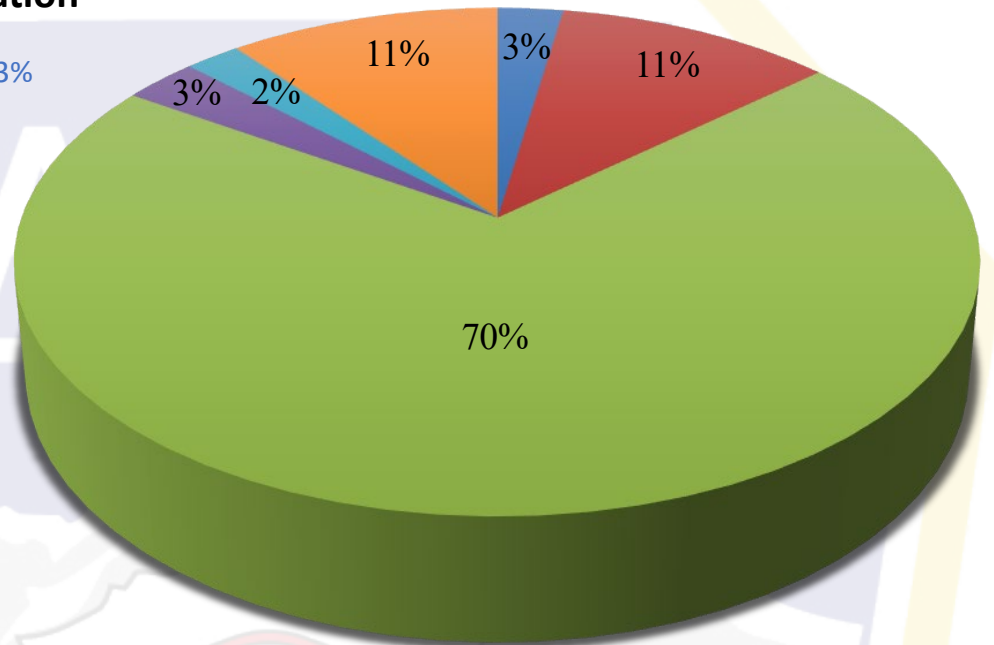
§ Added Fire Prevention Officer position for public education, maintenance, and required equipment testing as well as a rate increase for paid on-call firefighters and anticipated additional paid on-call staffing.

**FIRE &
RESCUE**

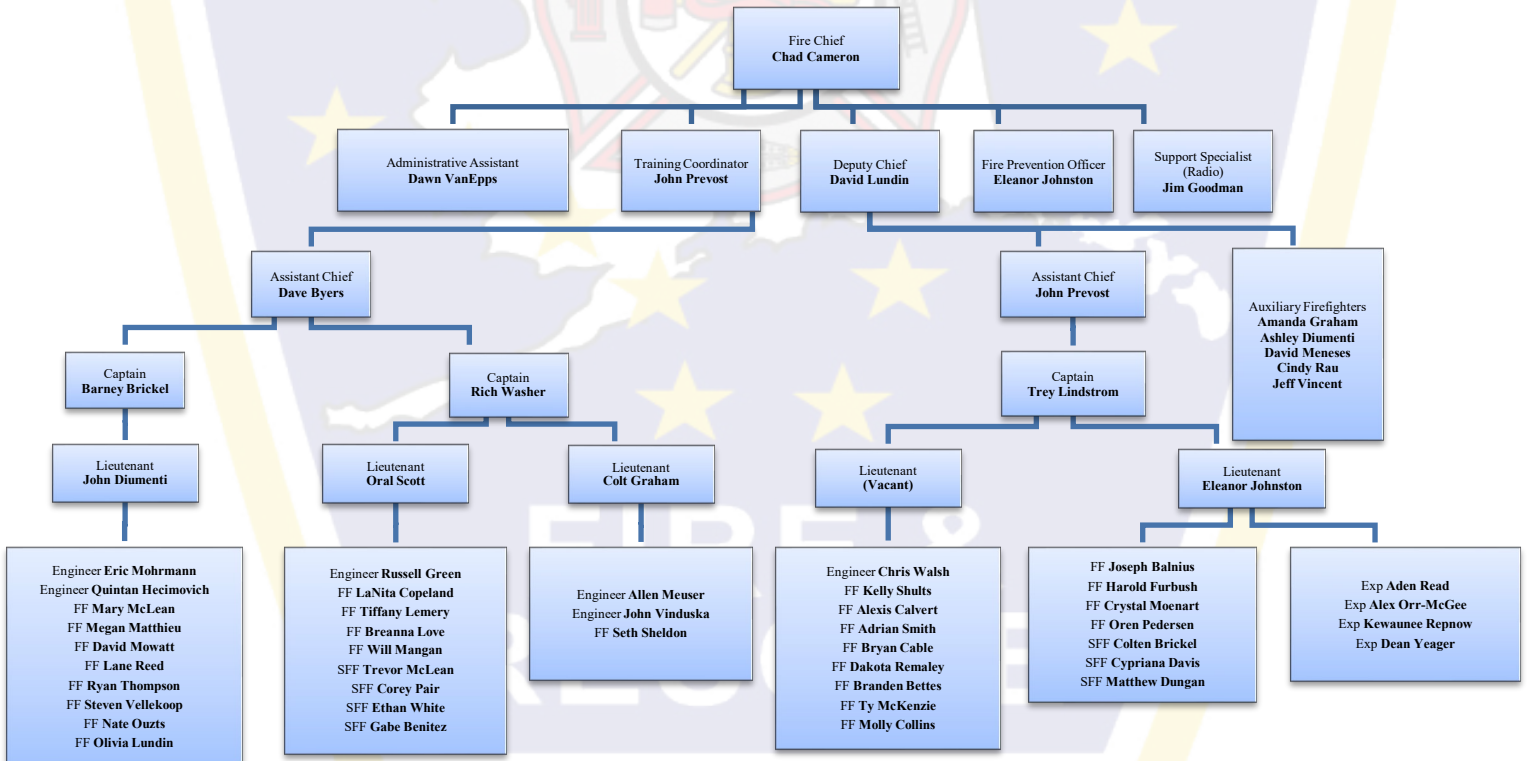
04 – OPERATIONS, CONT

2022 Budget Allocation

- Administration – 3%
- Equipment – 11%
- Personnel – 70%
- Services – 3%
- Training – 2%
- Utilities – 11%



Organizational Chart



04 – OPERATIONS, CONT

Fire Stations and Facilities



Station 3-1
717 S. Cobb St.
Calls for Service – 607



Station 3-2
5955 N. Glenn Hwy
Calls for Service – 58



Station 3-3
15855 E. Clark Rd.
Calls for Service – 32



Station 3-4
901 S. Airport Rd.
Calls for Service – 00



Station 3-5
8200 E. Turner Rd.
Calls for Service – 133



Station 3-6
645 E. Cope-Industrial Way
Calls for Service – 138



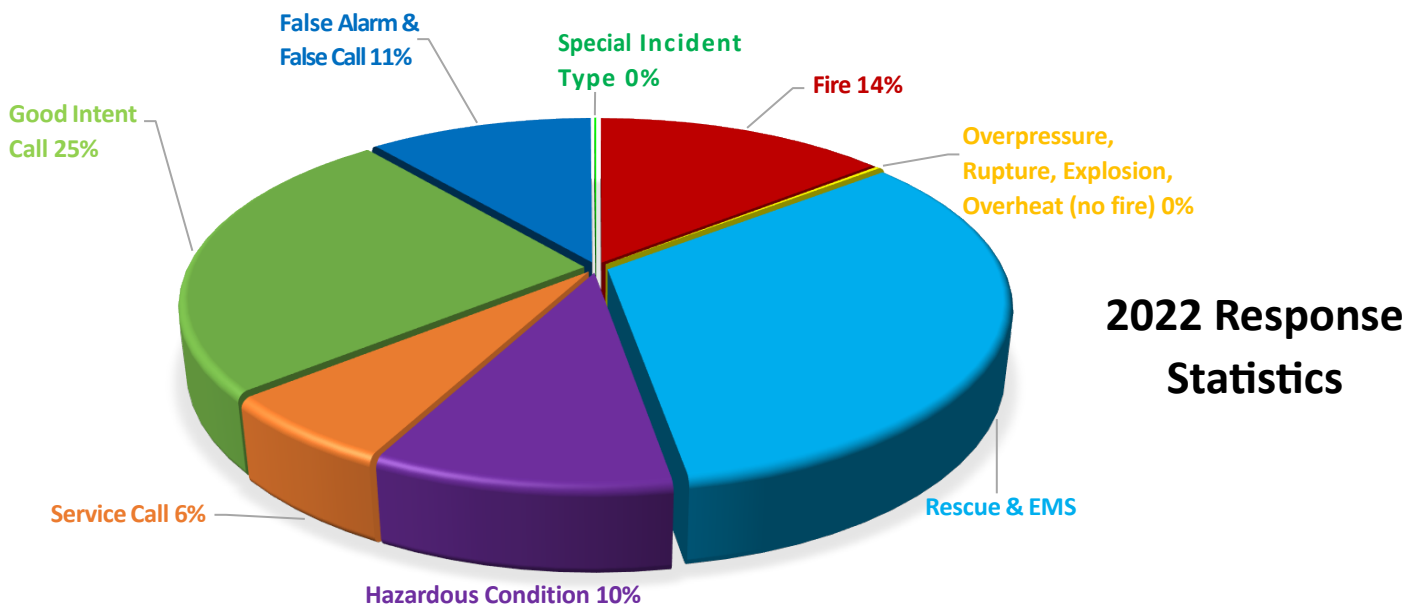
Training Tower at 645 E Cope-Industrial



04 – OPERATIONS, CONT

2022 Unit Response Totals

Station	Unit	Fires	Rescue / EMS	False Alarms	Other	Total
Station 3-1 (Palmer)	Engine 3-1	65	19	25	62	171
	Engine 3-6	7	3	7	12	29
	Rescue 3-1	9	46	0	10	65
	Support 3-1	10	155	10	63	238
	Truck 3-1	4	0	1	3	8
Station 3-2 (Farmloop)	Brush 3-2	1	19	1	10	32
	Engine 3-2	12	4	10	13	39
	Tender 3-2	24	1	1	10	36
	Tender 3-4	1	0	0	0	1
Station 3-3 (Lazy Mtn.)	Engine 3-3	2	1	1	2	6
	Tender 3-3	7	0	0	3	10
Station 3-5 (Fishhook)	Brush 3-5	2	0	0	0	2
	Engine 3-5	26	1	3	22	52
	Rescue 3-5	1	33	1	2	38
	Tender 3-5	19	0	0	5	24
Station 3-6 (Training)	Brush 3-1	26	11	0	7	44
	Support 3-4	5	48	14	38	105
	Tender 3-1	29	0	1	6	36
Admin & Officers	CV 31	58	96	23	112	289
	CV 32	43	55	19	60	177
	CV 33	70	127	46	159	402
	CV 35	34	50	7	31	122
	CV 36	5	45	7	24	81
	Support 3-3	0	1	0	0	1



04 – OPERATIONS, CONT

Emergency Response

Palmer Fire & Rescue is responsible for ensuring that our people and equipment are ready to safely and effectively respond to 911 calls. This response capability is maintained primarily by our paid on-call staff. The Department's officers voluntarily staff every evening from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am. All members help staff the stations from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

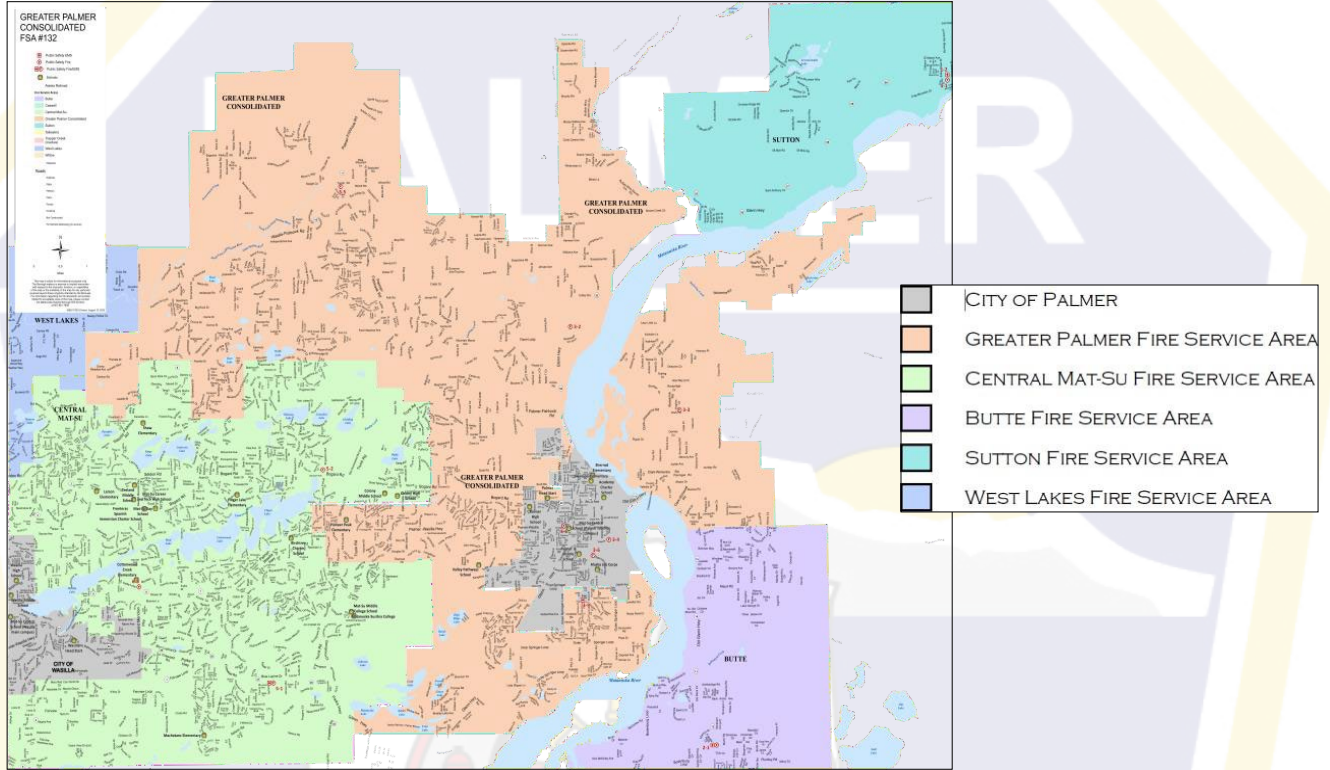
Palmer Fire & Rescue (PFR) responds to all fire and rescue emergencies in the City of Palmer and the Greater Palmer Fire Service Area. PFR's rescue response area includes Hatcher Pass and the road system from Glenn and Parks Highway interchange south of Palmer to approximately mile 129 on the Glenn Highway and Lake Louise. Agreements are in place to work with the other Matanuska-Susitna fire departments as well as the Alaska State Troopers and the Department of Forestry to assist with delivery of services.

Palmer Fire & Rescue maintains response capabilities to best meet the needs of our unique community. In addition to fire suppression and rescue response, these capabilities include technical rescue disciplines.

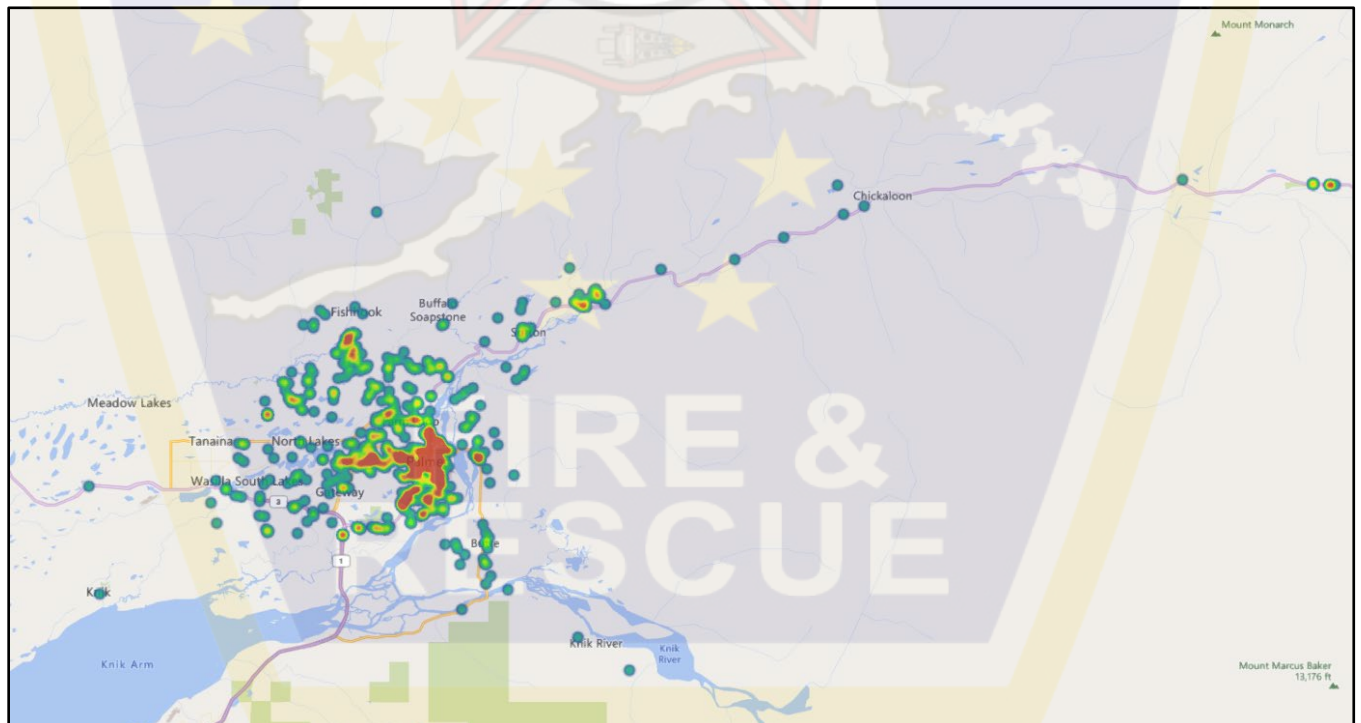


04 – OPERATIONS, CONT

2022 Response Area

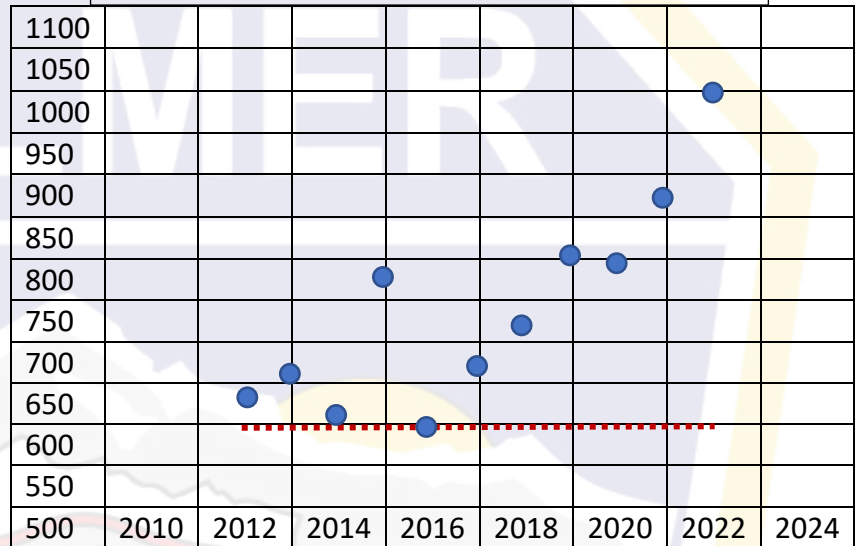


2022 Hot Spot Map

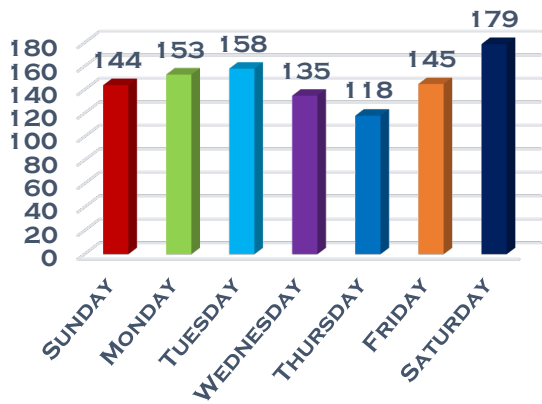


05 – FIRE INCIDENTS

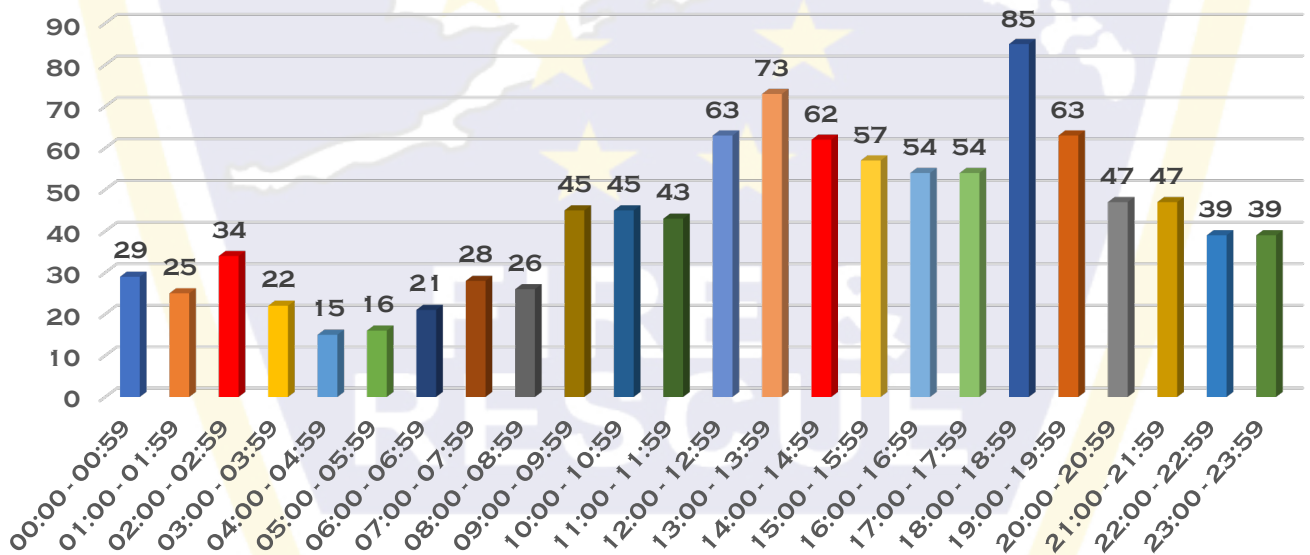
2022 Incident Call Volume by Year



2022 INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK



2022 INCIDENTS BY HOUR OF DAY



06 – TRAINING



The Division Chief of Training, John Prevost, manages the Department’s need to meet or exceed required training standards and/or identified best practices.

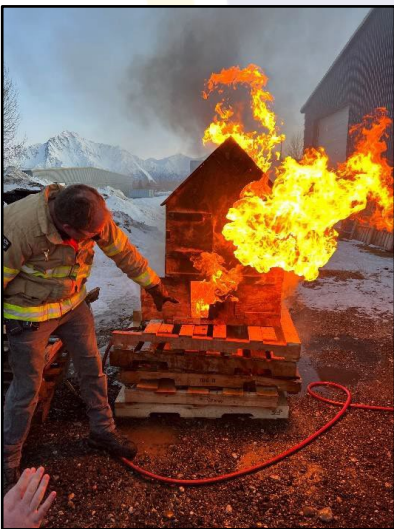


John Prevost
Assistant Chief/Training Coordinator

2022 was a good year for the training division. It was training coordinator Prevost’s first full year at the helm. We continued our Monday night trainings and added a couple of monthly trainings to keep our members current with our equipment and operations. We added a monthly medical training night for continuing education for our emergency medical technicians, and a monthly driver/operator training night for current and future apparatus drivers and operators.

We were able to add to our cadre of instructors with two of our department personnel getting trained and certified as fire service instructors.

With Covid finally on the decline, we were able to transition back into our classrooms and have good close full group trainings. Distant training opportunities opened back up and we had members travel to the National Fire academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland to complete training, and had several members travel to Fairbanks to attend the Alaska State Firefighters annual conference. We also had four members complete the firefighter-I course and certification at our neighboring department.



06 – TRAINING, CONT

Also in 2022, we were able to implement a task book system for members wanting to increase their response abilities. We have task books for new members that they complete prior to being authorized to respond, rescue responder task books, driver/operator training task books, and task books for our auxiliary members who have response requirements.

Looking forward in 2023, we will be developing a professional development program for our responders that want to move up and continue to send members out to distant training opportunities so that they can get training that we are unable to offer in-house and bring it back to share with the department.



**YOUR DECISIONS AFFECT THE OUTCOME, YOUR TRAINING
AFFECTS THOSE DECISIONS**

07 – PREVENTION DIVISION



Eleanor Johnston
Fire Prevention Officer

Palmer Fire & Rescue Fire Prevention Division conducts classes and presentations promoting fire prevention and safety concepts to the general public, schools, and the business community.



Prevention Highlights and Topics

Fire Extinguishers:

- How to recognize different classes of fire.
- Understand the symbols, shapes, and colors of fire classifications.
- Recognize the type of fire and which extinguishing agents are best to use on it.
- Understanding the difference between fire extinguishers.
- How to use the extinguisher using the A-PASS with live fire.

Smoke / CO Detectors:

- How often do you test them.
- How many years they are good for.
- How many times do you change the batteries.
- What to do when they activate.
- Where they should be placed in a household.



Close before you doze:

- The pros and cons of what happens when sleeping with doors open and sleeping with them closed.

Escape plans:

- Knowing two ways out of their house.
- Meeting point outside their house.
- What do once they are out.
- If there is smoke in the house stay low and crawl if you can safely.
- What to do if you can get out of your house. (Meeting place with a Firefighter)
- Don't hide!



07 – PREVENTION DIVISION, CONT

Don't fear firefighters:

- Put on fire gear step by step explaining its function.
- Then put on SCBA and mask. To let them know what we sound like.
- Allow kids to approach firefighters in full gear so they are not scared.
- If they are scared help them with it so they are not afraid.



Fire Station tours:

- Showing apparatus
- What the apparatus is called, and what its uses are:
 - Rescue
 - Support vehicle/ Command vehicles (Medical assist and incident command)
 - Truck
 - Brush fire
 - Engines
 - Tenders
- How apparatus work
- How firefighters respond to radios and pagers
- Tool that firefighters use



Assisted in Red Ribbon Week:

- Don't do drugs.

Palmer Fire & Rescue conducted 38 education events in 2022, reaching out to over 3,025 kids and adults combined. Palmer Fire & Rescue also participated in local community service events such as: Friday flings, The Scottish Highland games, and The Alaska State fair. As a department whole when we include the 11,000 citizens at those events that would bring the number of touched lives to 14,025 for 2022!

“The most effective method of fire prevention is Public Education. It is a vital part of how we best serve the community.”





Rita Meyer

08 – PERSONNEL

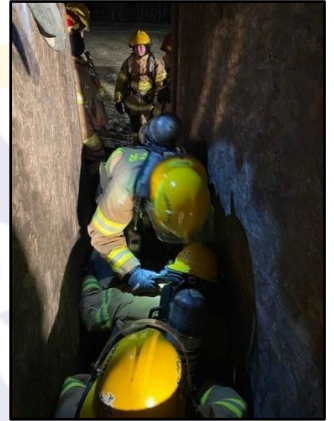
Staffing Profile

Work Schedule

There are three, full-time personnel (Fire Chief, Training Coordinator and Fire Prevention Officer) who are scheduled five, eight-hour workdays, Monday through Friday. All other emergency response personnel are paid on-call and respond from either their place of work or their home.

Personnel

- Emergency response personnel – 1 Fire Chief, 1 Training Coordinator, and 1 Fire Prevention Officer, and approximately 60 paid on-call personnel.
- Station 3-1 is staffed with a four-person crew from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm as volunteer personnel are available.
- Support Specialist (Radio) – Part-time employee shared with Palmer Police Department



A Firefighters Pledge

I promise concern for others.
A willingness to help all those in need.
I promise courage - courage to face and conquer my fears.
Courage to share and endure the ordeal of those who need me.
I promise strength - strength of heart to bear whatever burdens
might be placed upon me.
Strength of body to deliver to safety all those placed within my care.
I promise the wisdom to lead, the compassion to comfort,
and the love to serve unselfishly whenever I am called

Author unknown



09 – 2022 AWARDS

Top Responders (Call Volume)

- 👤 Firefighter Joseph Balnius – 312 calls
- 👤 Lieutenant Colt Graham – 214 calls
- 👤 Firefighter Trevor McLean – 197 Calls
- 👤 Firefighter Colton Brickel – 185 calls
- 👤 Captain Barney Brickel – 160 calls
- 👤 Deputy Chief David Lundin – 142 calls
- 👤 Firefighter Megan Matthieu - 130 calls
- 👤 Captain Trey Lindstrom - 114
- 👤 Lieutenant John Diumentì – 112 calls
- 👤 Assistant Chief David Byers – 108 calls

Top Participation (Time)

- 👤 Firefighter Colton Brickel – 838.0 hours
- 👤 Firefighter Joseph Balnius – 800.5 hours
- 👤 Firefighter Branden Bettes – 693.0 hours
- 👤 Lieutenant Colt Graham – 670.3 hours
- 👤 Captain Barney Brickel – 568.5 hours
- 👤 Firefighter Mo Lundin – 548.5 hours
- 👤 Firefighter Megan Matthieu – 537.5 hours
- 👤 Firefighter Trevor McLean – 501.5 hours
- 👤 Firefighter Cypriana Davis – 489.00 hours
- 👤 Deputy Chief David Lundin – 477.5 hours

Chief's Award of Excellence

- 👤 Chaplain Cindy Rau

Officer of the Year

- 👤 Captain Barney Brickel

Firefighter of the Year

- 👤 Firefighter Colton Brickel

Support Firefighter of the Year

- 👤 Firefighter Ethan White

Rescue Technician of the Year

- 👤 Firefighter Crystal Moenaert

Explorer of the Year

- 👤 Explorer of the Year Aden Read

09 – 2022 AWARDS, CONT

Milestone Anniversaries

Five Years

- 👤 Firefighter Colton Brickel
- 👤 Firefighter Jim Goodman
- 👤 Firefighter Seth Shelden

Ten Years

- 👤 Engineer Quintan Hecimovich
- 👤 Firefighter Mo Lundin
- 👤 Lieutenant Oral Scott

Twenty Years

- 👤 Captain Barney Brickel
- 👤 Captain Trey Lindstrom

Twenty-five Years






- 👤 Engineer David Meneses
- 👤 Assistant Chief John Prevost

Certificates of Appreciation

- 👤 Palmer Dispatch – 9G-Base
- 👤 Matcom
- 👤 Matanuska Towing & Recovery
- 👤 Danny Russell, City of Palmer Mechanic
- 👤 Alycia Anderson, City of Palmer Public Works, Hydrant Testing and Maintenance
- 👤 Palmer Police Department
- 👤 Matanuska-Susitna Borough EMS
- 👤 Barry Mothershead, Greater Consolidate Palmer Fire Service Area Board of Supervisors
- 👤 Ted Stuff, Greater Consolidate Palmer Fire Service Area Board of Supervisors
- 👤 Marty Van Diest, Greater Consolidate Palmer Fire Service Area Board of Supervisors
- 👤 John Moosey, City Manager
- 👤 Tamera Speers-Cooper, City of Palmer Finance
- 👤 Gina Davis, City of Palmer Finance
- 👤 Kimberly Green, City of Palmer Human Resources
- 👤 Howard Smith, Mat-Su Borough Fleet Maintenance

10 – PROMOTIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

Firefighter 1

-  Branden Bettes
-  Colten Brickel
-  Bryan Cable
-  Cypriana Davis
-  Tiffany Lemery

Rescue Technician I

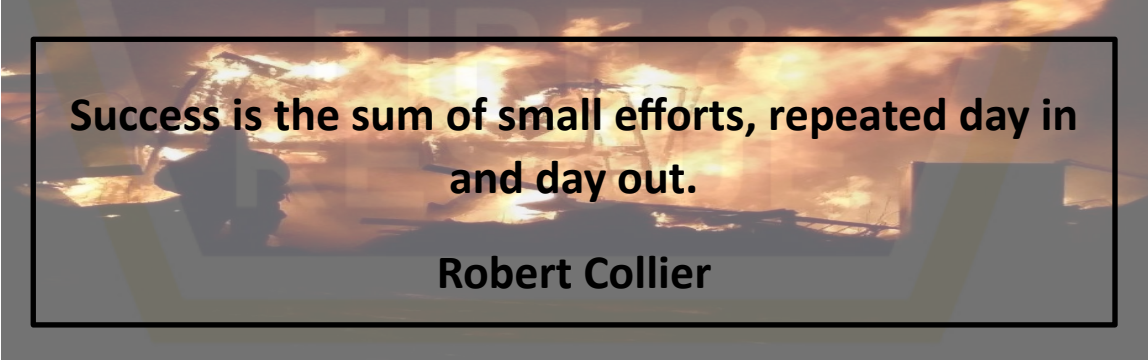
-  Branden Bettes
-  Alexis Calvert
-  Molly Collins
-  Cypriana Davis
-  Matthew Dungan
-  Mo Lundin
-  Maggie McLean
-  Trevor McLean
-  Crystal Moenaert
-  David Mowatt
-  Oren Pedersen Sr.
-  Lane Reed
-  Adrian Smith
-  Ethan White

Certified Fire Investigator

-  Colt Graham

Fire Service Instructor I

-  John Diument
-  Colt Graham



Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.

Robert Collier

A red fire truck is shown from a front-quarter perspective. The truck has 'PALMER FIRE & RESCUE' written on the side of the cab in yellow and black lettering. It features a chrome bumper, a large headlight, and a roof-mounted emergency light bar. The truck is parked on a concrete surface.

Palmer Fire & Rescue

CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Palmer Fire & Rescue
645 East Cope-Industrial Way
Palmer, Alaska 99645
(907) 745-3709**

Emergency Services:

9-1-1