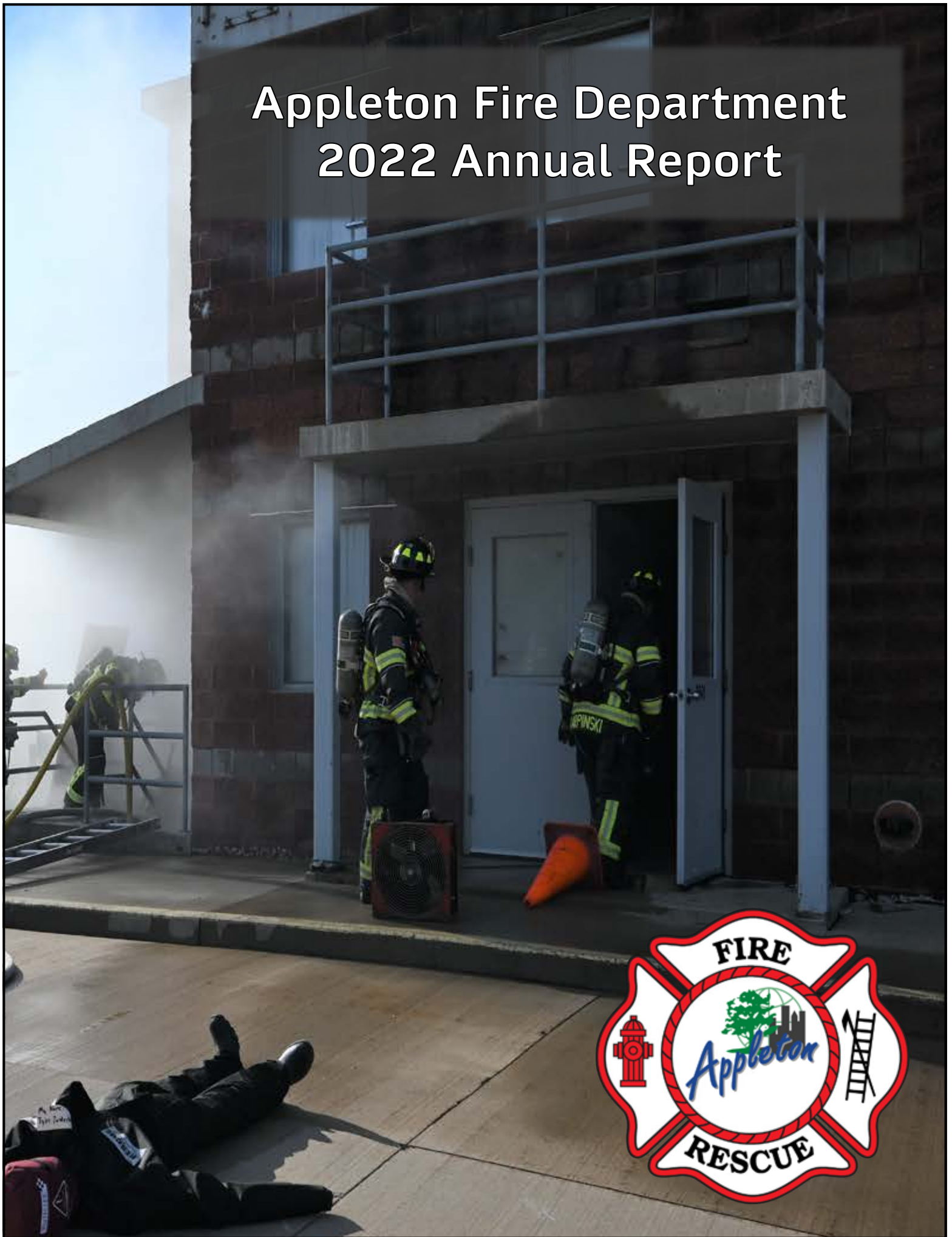


# Appleton Fire Department 2022 Annual Report



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**A special *Thank You* goes out to our community partners!**

Outagamie County Community Emergency Response Team

Outagamie County Communications Center

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue

Grand Chute Fire Department

Gold Cross Ambulance

American Red Cross

# Message From Fire Chief Hansen

It is my pleasure to present the Appleton Fire Department's 2022 Annual Report. This report provides the history, activities, and the resulting statistical data for the year. This data is continuously examined throughout the year and is utilized to enhance our service delivery to the community. We are privileged to serve each citizen and visitor in our community, and we are exceptionally proud to provide the highest level of fire, emergency medical, hazardous materials, water rescue, and technical rescue emergency response. In conjunction with our fire inspection, prevention, and public education programming, we strive each day to meet our mission of protecting the community with exceptional service.



The men and women of the Fire Department responded to 7,185 calls for service. In 2022, a total of 5,167 were for medical emergencies. Emergency medical services response accounts for 72% of the fire department's calls for service. Between 2018 and 2022, there was a 31% increase in total call volume, which includes a 35% increase in medical emergencies. As our community continues to grow and our environment changes, our responsibility to provide the highest level of service is unyielding. The Appleton Fire Department and the services we provide, will continue to adapt, and improve to effectively meet the challenges found within our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hansen".

Jeremy J. Hansen  
Fire Chief



## ***Mission***

*With other partners,  
the Appleton Fire  
Department protects  
the community with  
exceptional service.*

## ***Vision***

*Pursuing excellence and  
enhancing quality of life in  
Appleton and our regional  
community.*

## ***Core Values***

*Partnership*

*Respect*

*Integrity*

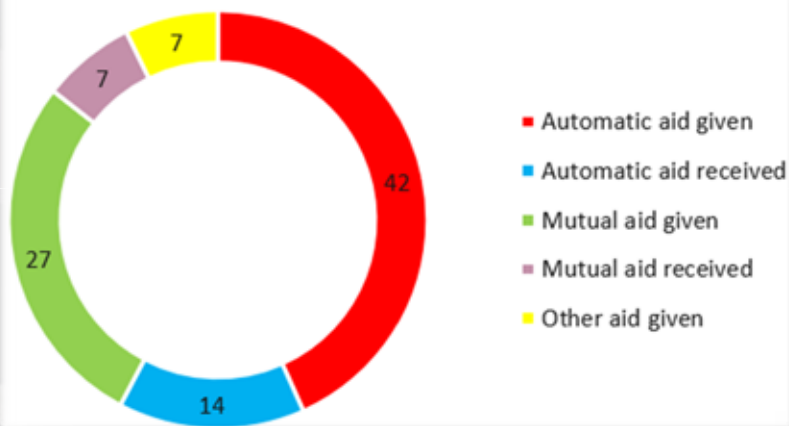
*Diversity*

*Excellence*



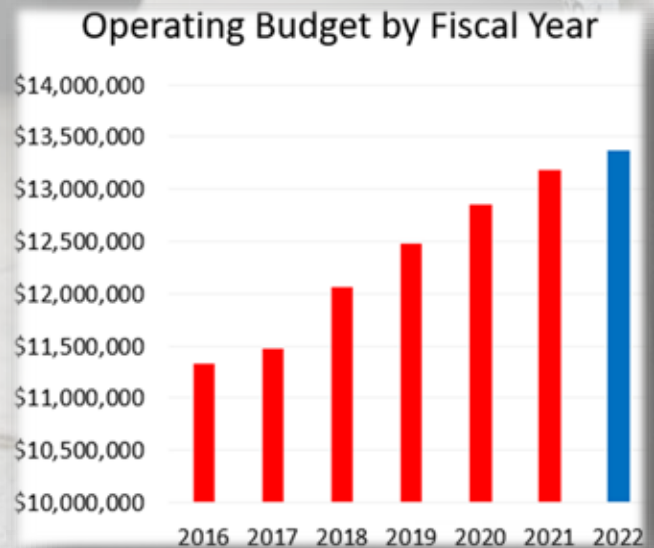


Mutual & Auto-Aid



# Fire Department Information

|                                   |              |   |            |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|------------|
| <b>Total Calls</b>                | <b>7,185</b> | <b>Total False Alarms</b>                         | <b>625</b> |
| <b>Total Fires</b>                | <b>98</b>    | Malicious False Alarms                            | 26         |
| Structure Fires                   | 61           | System Malfunctions                               | 169        |
| Vehicle Fires                     | 16           | Unintentional False Alarms                        | 372        |
| Brush/Grass Fires                 | 2            | Other False Alarms                                | 58         |
| Other Fires                       | 19           | <b>Total Severe Weather/<br/>Natural Disaster</b> | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>Overpressure/Overheat</b>      | <b>43</b>    | <b>Total Special Incident Type</b>                | <b>8</b>   |
| <b>Total EMS and Rescue Calls</b> | <b>5,386</b> |   |            |
| EMS Calls                         | 5,167        |   |            |
| Vehicle Accident with Injuries    | 144          |   |            |
| Other Medical Incidents           | 75           |   |            |
| <b>Total Hazardous Conditions</b> | <b>333</b>   |   |            |
| <b>Total Service Calls</b>        | <b>370</b>   |   |            |
| <b>Total Good Intent Calls</b>    | <b>321</b>   |   |            |



| Program Area               | Cost (\$)           | % of Budget |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Fire Suppression           | \$9,926,758         | 74.23%      |
| Fire Prevention            | \$1,247,001         | 9.32%       |
| Emergency Medical Services | \$740,417           | 5.54%       |
| Administration             | \$585,881           | 4.38%       |
| Technical Services         | \$433,122           | 3.24%       |
| Resource Development       | \$259,057           | 1.94%       |
| Special Operations         | \$181,255           | 1.36%       |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>\$13,373,491</b> | <b>100%</b> |

# Significant Events

## **2331 East Lourdes Drive (August)**

Estimated \$2,500,000 loss.

Assembly structure fire, no injuries, extensive damage to building and contents.

## **1622 East Capitol Drive (January)**

Considered total loss, \$300,000.

Residential structure fire, no injuries, one pet fatality, extensive damage to building and contents.

## **1008 East Florida Avenue (April)**

Estimated \$246,800 loss.

Residential structure fire, no injuries, extensive damage to building and garage contents.

## **1635 West Spencer Street (December)**

Estimated \$200,000 machinery loss.

Industrial structure fire, machine fire, one patient evaluated on scene for minor smoke inhalation.

## **2606 South Kernan Avenue (March)**

Estimated \$150,000 loss.

Residential structure fire, no injuries, one pet rescued, extensive damage to building and contents.

## **208 East Wentworth Lane (October)**

Estimated \$150,000 loss.

Residential structure fire, no injuries, extensive damage to building.

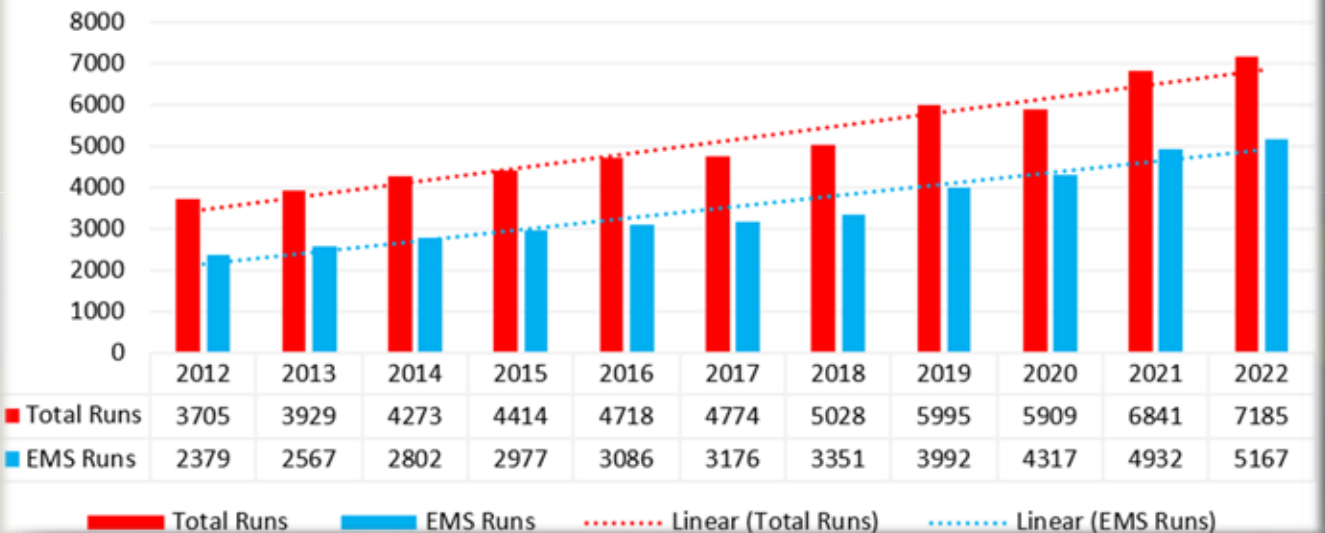
# Fire Suppression Division



**Ryan Weyers**  
**Deputy Chief**

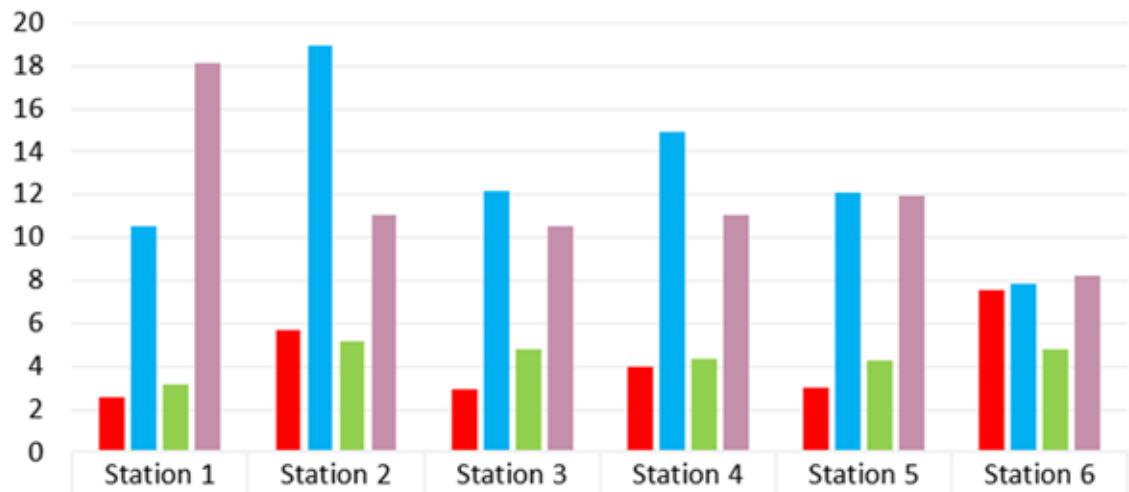
The Appleton Fire Department Suppression Division provides 24/7/365 emergency service to the City of Appleton residents along with regional partnerships for automatic aid for fire response with Grand Chute Fire Department and Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue and mutual aid with agencies in Outagamie, Winnebago, and Calumet Counties. The Fire Suppression Division of the Appleton Fire Department is the largest division of the department and is under the direct supervision of Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Weyers. This division is charged with enhancing the quality of life to our community by providing a safe and healthy environment through our response. The Appleton Fire Department operates out of six strategically located fire stations throughout the city. Each of these stations has a designated fire district. The department is organized into five engine companies, one ladder company, one quint company, and one command vehicle. Trained personnel also cross-staff a technical rescue unit, two water rescue boats, a rapid response light rescue unit, and a regional hazardous materials unit. The Appleton Fire Department also utilizes management staff to serve additional command roles during emergency incidents.

10 Year Call Volume





## Fire District Information



|                       | Station 1 | Station 2 | Station 3 | Station 4 | Station 5 | Station 6 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Area (sq. miles)      | 2.54      | 5.71      | 2.93      | 3.94      | 3.02      | 7.58      |
| Population (x1000)    | 10.566    | 18.915    | 12.19     | 14.912    | 12.085    | 7.876     |
| 90% Travel Time (m.s) | 3.13      | 5.20      | 4.78      | 4.37      | 4.30      | 4.82      |
| Responses (x100)      | 18.1      | 11.04     | 10.54     | 11.06     | 11.92     | 8.23      |

The Fire Suppression Division placed orders for four new support vehicles that will be utilized for command staff, maintenance, and water rescue response. The new vehicles will be located at Station 1 and Station 6. These vehicles will help provide much needed support response throughout the community. The Fire Department responded to 7,185 calls in 2022, which was an increase from 2021.

The Appleton Fire Department utilizes Outagamie County Sheriff's Department for dispatching of all calls. Appleton Fire Department along with 18 other fire departments in Outagamie County applied for the Assistance to Firefighter's Grant to fund new portable radio equipment. The grant was awarded to the Appleton Fire Department for allocation in the sum of \$1,984,000 to cover the cost of 248 new portable radios. All the new portable radios will be interoperable amongst all the agencies in the county in conjunction with the Outagamie County Dispatch Center's communications.

# Special Operations

Battalion Chief Doug Vrechek oversees the Special Operations, Emergency Medical Services, and the Training and Resource Development divisions. This year saw the standing up of the State of Wisconsin Urban Search and Rescue Team that was idle for almost three years due to state budget constraints. The Appleton Fire Department has 12 members on this team. They respond to major disasters across the state and have even deployed to hurricanes. The experience that they receive all comes back to the Appleton Fire Department. Our Hazardous Materials Team grew this year, adding several members. Some of our members were able to attend schools throughout the country on various hazardous materials topics and brought that knowledge back to the team. We added a vehicle and improved our ability to transport and deploy floating booms for spills on open water. We were also able to train with our regional partners, Green Bay and Oshkosh Fire Departments on several hazardous material topics. Finally, we were able to outfit all swift water rescue technicians with their own personal protective gear. This has been a goal for several years as fitted gear is crucial to safety in fast moving water.



**Doug Vrechek**  
**Battalion Chief**

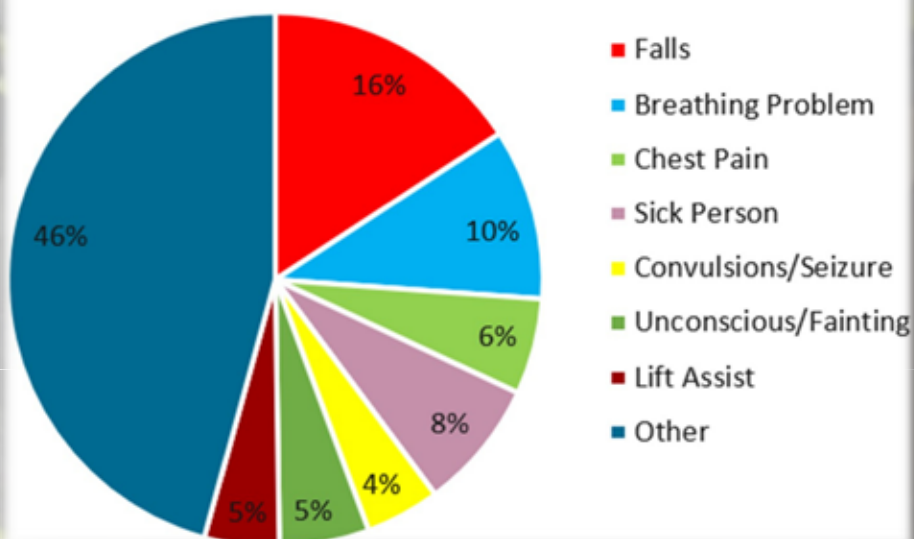


# Emergency Medical Services

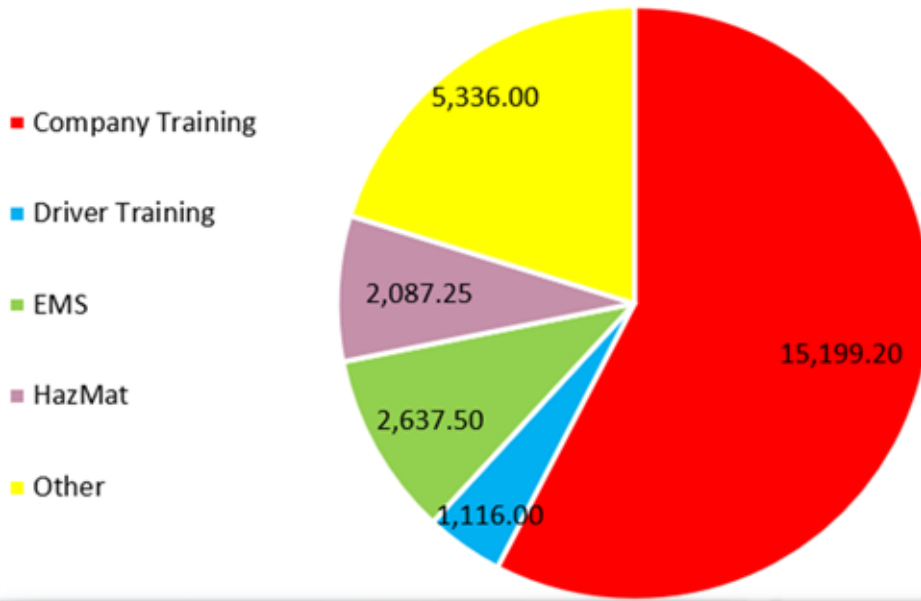
Every year our calls for service continue to rise and the demand for this service continues to increase. We added several new protocols to our service, giving us more treatment options in the field. We continue to work towards building our Emergency Medical Service to a higher level of care and are actively planning for providing paramedic-level service to our community in the future.

We secured a significant grant from the Department of Health Services in 2022, which provided our department with thousands of dollars' worth of medical supplies and much needed equipment. This included a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) for patient transport in difficult to access areas. The UTV will also provide Emergency Medical Service support to events like Oktoberfest, where our normal vehicles cannot maneuver easily.

Emergency Medical Dispatch Reasons



## Training Hours by Category

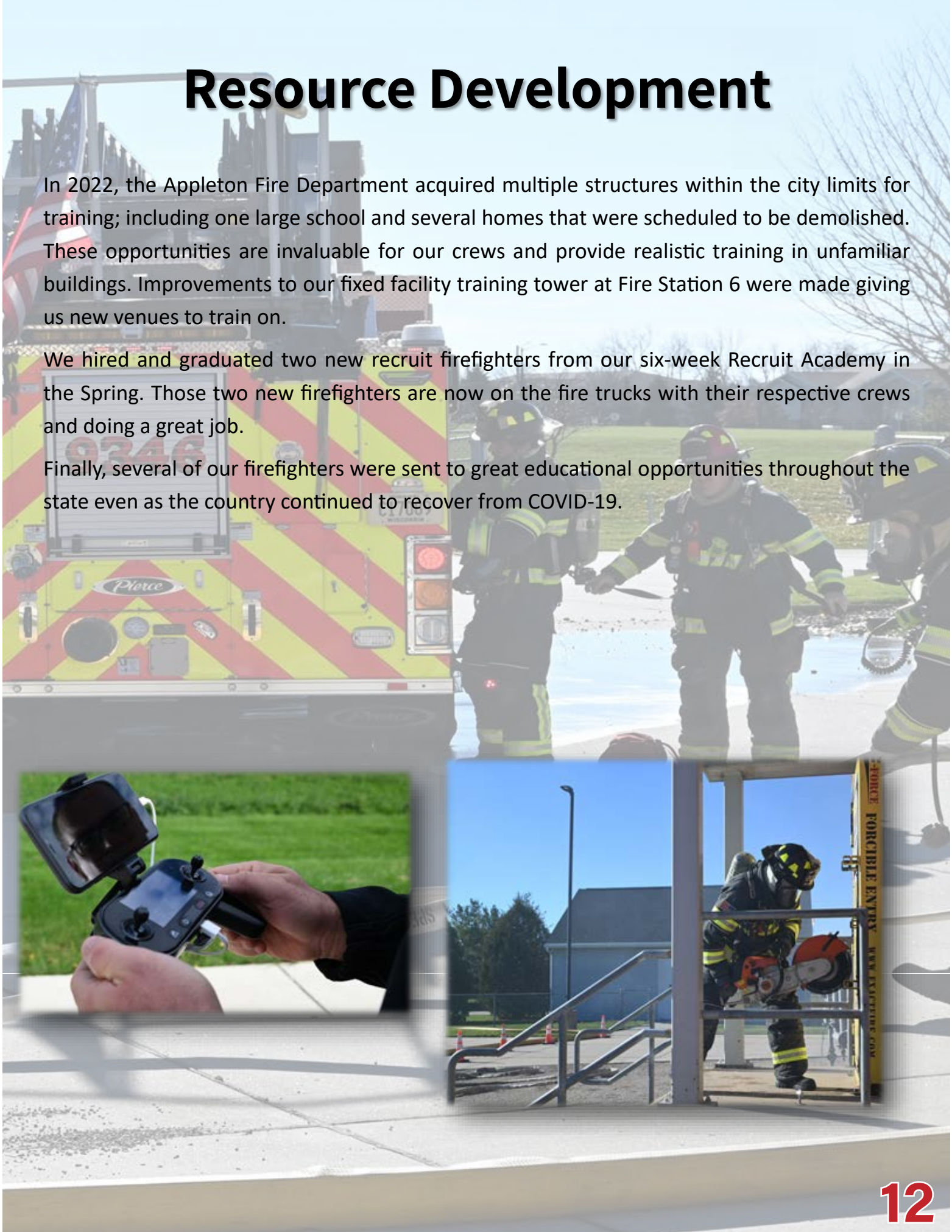


# Resource Development

In 2022, the Appleton Fire Department acquired multiple structures within the city limits for training; including one large school and several homes that were scheduled to be demolished. These opportunities are invaluable for our crews and provide realistic training in unfamiliar buildings. Improvements to our fixed facility training tower at Fire Station 6 were made giving us new venues to train on.

We hired and graduated two new recruit firefighters from our six-week Recruit Academy in the Spring. Those two new firefighters are now on the fire trucks with their respective crews and doing a great job.

Finally, several of our firefighters were sent to great educational opportunities throughout the state even as the country continued to recover from COVID-19.



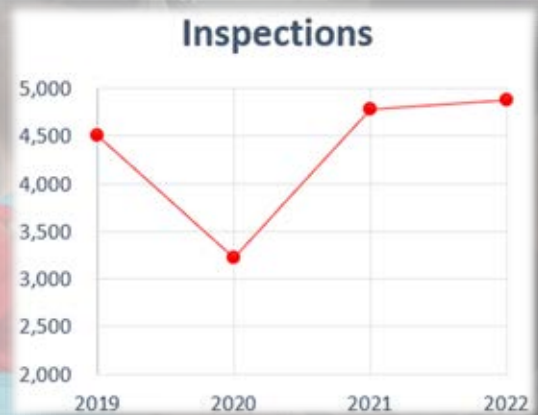


# Prevention & Public Education



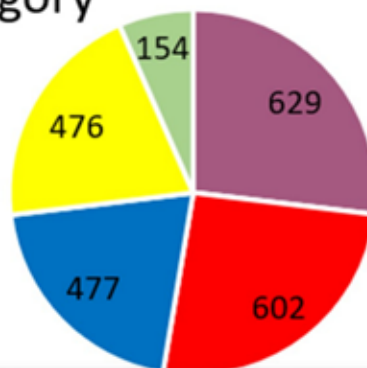
**Derek Henson**  
**Battalion Chief**

The Fire Prevention Division had an excellent year in 2022. Public education events returned to pre-COVID levels, which allowed Appleton Fire Department to better interface with the community. Inspections were again a huge success with 2,338 violations found and 75% corrected within 30 days. Prevention staff was again tasked with being generous with time to correct violations without allowing unsafe conditions to continue unabated. Work continued on a community risk assessment. As training opportunities arose throughout the state, Prevention staff were able to attend several trainings in 2022. This provided great opportunities to network with staff from different jurisdictions and to sharpen their investigation and inspection skills. Shift inspectors investigated 35 fires in 2022.



## Violations by Category

- Fire Protection Systems
- Exits and Egress/Lighting
- Other
- Fire Extinguishers
- Electrical



# Awards & Recognition

## Distinguished Service Award

Adam Hansen  
Riley Kubisiak  
Eric Winger



## EMS Lifesaving Award

Jeremy Hotynski  
Troy Kinley  
Bryce Sternhagen  
Ty Davis (Intern)



## Recognition Award

Matt Dercks

## 2022 Interns

Ty Davis  
Griffin Kintopf  
Doug Jacobs  
Alex Zabel  
Taite Baier  
Benjamin Springob







## **New Hires**

Lucas VandenHeuvel  
Jason Karpinski

## **Promotions**

Driver/Engineer Chad Johnson  
Driver/Engineer Troy Kinley  
Lieutenant Michael Hietpas  
Lieutenant Matthew Gerrits  
Captain Jeffrey Nelessen  
Captain Jacob Kirchner



## **Retirements**

Captain Michael Woodzicka  
Captain Michael Mueller  
Fire Protection Engineer Steven Patterson  
Clerical Assistant Sally Dickinson



## **In Memoriam**

Firefighter Leroy Behm  
Driver/Engineer Stanley Holtger  
Assistant Chief Robert Otis  
Assistant Chief Mark Recker

# Fire Department Staff

**Fire Chief:**

**Deputy Chief:**

**Assistant to the Fire Chief:**

**Support Staff:**

Training & Resource Development Specialist

Fire Inspector

Public Education Specialist & Fire Inspector

Administrative Assistant

Clerical Assistant

Central Equipment Agency Mechanic

**Jeremy Hansen**

**Ryan Weyers**

**Sharon Brochtrup**

Ed King

Jose Saldivar

Alex Quintana

Nancy Wilcox

Natasha Eversen

Jeremy Rycerz

**Battalion Chiefs:**

Shannon Young

Ethan Kroll

Jeff Felauer

Doug Vrechek

Derek Henson

**Captains:**

Joe Scott

Rick James

Jason Lee

Scott Pelkin

Jeff Nelessen

Jake Kirchner

**Lieutenants:**

Chad Rucynski

Jeremy Hotynski

Michelle Bialas

Bill Calaway

Todd Bean

Greg Cullen

Jerry Borski

Corby Henkel

Tim Meyer

Steve Unruh

Michael Becker

Adam Galica

Justin Brown

Matt Gerrits

Michael Hietpas

**Driver Engineers:**

Darrin Butry

Bryan Knauer

Brian Cook

Scott Karpinski

Michelle Neeck-Lappen

Kraig Kasten

Gary Awe

Ben Lee

Dave Reigles

Andy Patz

Mark Deslauriers

Brad Brautigam

Adam Hansen

Ryan Lee

Tyler Zunker

Kelly Lynch

Andrew Dobbe

Andrew Lane

Andrew Webb

Chad Johnson

Troy Kinley

**Firefighter/Inspectors:**

Jeremiah Detert  
Nate Milhans  
Tim Damrow  
Keegan Murphy  
Bart Rakun  
Eric Winger

**Firefighters:**

Tim Lutz  
Todd Hendricks  
Mike Wiese  
Matt Dercks  
Adam Paiser  
Joe Kozikowski

Chris Britzke  
Casey Kostechka  
Michael Wirtz  
Tyler Mickelson  
Riley Kubisiak  
Steve Jahr  
Jordan Ross  
David Hammer  
Chad Donnay  
Travis Nate  
Matt Gloudemans  
Cody Welsh  
Bryce Sternhagen  
Kyle Zuleger  
Cody Peabody

Alex Smith  
Tim Verstegen  
Tyler Linehan  
Cole Nelson  
Tyler Rusch  
Lukas Syrjamaki  
Jake Laack  
Ryan Monaghan  
Sam Felauer  
Cory Asimus  
Jordan Augsburger  
Troy Carpenter  
Devin Halbach  
Lucas Vanden Heuvel  
Jason Karpinski

**2022 Staffing Levels**

