2022 AURORA FIRE RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT

Exceptional service to the community, provided by well-trained professionals.
To our community,

It is an honor to share this annual report with a remarkable community of Aurora businesses, response partners, and other stakeholders. You will notice in this report the tireless and selfless service provided by the fine members of Aurora Fire Rescue – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year.

In 2022, Aurora firefighters and paramedics responded to tens of thousands of calls for service, responding to high-stress and complex situations that very likely represented the worst day in someone’s life. They did it and will continue to do it in a manner that exemplifies the city’s CORE4 values of Integrity, Respect, Customer Service, and Professionalism. They also responded and will continue to respond in a manner that demonstrates competence, compassion, and a commitment to the highest standards in the industry. I hope that you as a community are proud of the men and women whose mission is to help our community.

This year in review is incredibly important to me in my role as your new fire chief. I was selected to lead this department in January and began my work here on March 13th of 2023. What is evident in this report is that I have an incredible opportunity to lead a very busy metropolitan department whose members protect community and visitors from a variety of complex risks. It is common for a community to think that a fire department responds only to fires; however, a modern fire and emergency medical service agency handles so much more.

As demands on a fire and EMS system increase in volume and complexity, a fire chief must be prepared to collaborate with community stakeholders and find creative ways to manage emerging challenges that also represent an efficient use of resources and good stewardship of public funds. This fiscally responsible collaborative creativity is a high priority for me, and our community should be prepared to participate in AFR strategic planning events in 2023 as we work to continuously improve your fire and EMS department.

I hope that the information contained in this report and my message is helpful. If you have any questions about our service, or you have any suggestions about how we can improve our service delivery, please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of our staff or to me directly.

Yours in service,

Fire Chief Alec Oughton
City of Aurora

City Government
- Council-Manager Form of Government
- 11 Elected Council Members
  - 1 Mayor
  - 6 Ward Council Members
  - 4 At-Large Members

Population
- Annual Growth Rate (2020-2021): 0.50%
- 2010: 338,774
- 2015: 351,200
- 2019: 374,154
- 2020: 381,057
- 2021: 386,502
- 2022: 398,018
- Population: 398,018
- Median Age: 34.8
- Foreign Born: 20.6%

Recreational Features
- Municipal Parks: 103 Developed, 12 Undeveloped
- Municipal Golf Courses: 5
- Public Libraries: 7
- Recreation/Community Centers: 7

Physical Features
- City Area: 163.20 square miles (2nd Largest in CO)
- Official City Elevation: 5,435 feet (Highest Elevation: 6,229 feet)
- 1/4 mi. north of Inspiration Drive & Antelope Trail
- Lowest Elevation: 5,285 feet (Sand Creek Waste Water Reclamation Facility)
- Latitude: 39° 41’ 45” N (39.695833°), Longitude: 104° 48’ 29” W (-104.808056°)

Economy
- Employed People Living in Aurora age 16+: 198,008
- People Working in Aurora: 200,477
- Census Unemployment Rate 16+ years old: 5.1%
- CDLE Unemployment Rate: 4.7%
- Population Below Poverty Level: 10.5%

Aurora’s Diversity
- RACE & ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN
  - White: 58.7%
  - Hispanic/Latino (any race): 30.3%
  - Black: 16.7%
  - Other: 9.7%
  - Two or More Races: 7.5%
  - Asian: 6.8%
  - American Indian/Alaskan Native: 0.9%
  - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.3%
Fire Apparatus and Stations
Aurora Fire is an all-hazards department that responds out of seventeen fire stations across the city. We operate with the following apparatus:
- 17- Fire Engines
- 6- Aerial Ladders
- 4- Battalion Chiefs
- 4-Medical Support Units

All the apparatus are needed to meet our data-driven model. The city of Aurora is one of the fastest growing cities in Colorado. As we continue to grow, our fire administration utilizes the data captured to build the best response model for the Aurora community.

Below is a graph that shows the number of calls each apparatus ran in 2022.

Wildland Team
Aurora Fire Rescue has a complex wildland response model to cover the city. AFR has two designated wildland stations, Station 8 and 13. Our wildland teams provide safety for our community by making sure we can quickly mitigate any wildland fire inside the city boundaries. Our team members also go on deployments around Colorado and the country. These are a list of our wildland apparatus:
- 1- Type 3 Fire Engine
- 4- Type 6 Brush Trucks
- 1- Type 1 (4x4) Wildland Fire Engine
- 1- Tactical Tender

Special Operations Teams
Each team member of our Special Operations must maintain specialized training hours to their discipline. These disciplines are strategically placed within the city to allow for the best response model when needed.
- Haz-Mat Technician Team - Station 2
- Technical Rescue Team - Station 5
- Structure Collapse and Trench Rescue Unit - Station 5
- Swiftwater Rescue Team - Station 9
Emergency Medical Services
At Aurora Fire Rescue, our mission is “exceptional service to the community, provided by well-trained professionals.” AFR requires all our firefighters to become paramedics as a condition of employment. We currently work alongside Falck Rocky Mountain and respond to over 39,000 Emergency Medical Services calls a year.

AFR is a busy department, and we pride ourselves on the work that we perform. In 2022 AFR responded to 57,865 emergency calls, in which AFR had three fire engines that ran over five thousand calls.

Here is a list of our top ten busiest apparatus and the number of calls for service per apparatus:

- Engine 2- 6,375
- Engine 4- 5,540
- Engine 7- 5,367
- Engine 1- 4,788
- Engine 8- 4,711
- Engine 6- 4,606
- Engine 11- 4,284
- Ladder 2- 4,048
- Engine 9- 3,914
- Engine 5- 3,775

Property Saved in 2022
Aurora Fire Rescue ran a total of 1,433 fires in 2022. Unfortunately, the city of Aurora community experienced $16,374,051 worth of structural losses. However, Aurora firefighters were able to save $167,767,977 worth of that property.

Property Value Saved in 2022 by Month

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in total: 167 million dollars worth of property saved by AFR
AFR responded to **1,433 Fires** in 2022

**Number of Fires**

**Aurora Fire Rescue Incident Types**
The Fire Inspection group is responsible for over 8,700 building occupancies within the City of Aurora. Building occupancy classifications refer to categorizing structures based on their usage and are primarily used for building and fire code enforcement. The city of Aurora uses the International Fire Code (IFC) when completing inspections.

An algorithm is established by the IFC on the hazard level of each building occupancy and a timeline to when each occupancy type will be inspected. Based on this information, the lower hazard occupancies are inspected by frontline personnel or firefighters, while the higher hazard and more complex occupancy inspections are the responsibility of the fire inspectors. In 2022, both firefighters and fire inspectors completed 8,315 inspections throughout the city of Aurora.
Fire Investigations protects both life and property from the threat of natural or man-made disasters. This is concluded by determining the cause and origin of all fires and explosions. Fire Investigators are called out to any suspicious fire(s) to investigate and determine the cause of the fire. Last year, Fire Investigations completed 181 investigations.

The Fire Marshall at Aurora Fire Rescue uses fire bans when needed to alleviate fire danger to our community. The Fire Marshall’s office takes all the factors into consideration, and the appropriate restriction is implemented. Immediate public notifications are made to the media through news releases and additional communication is provided to the community using citywide channels.
The Office of the Fire Chief has four foundations that include: the Office of Emergency Management, Planning and Data, Dispatch, and Accreditation.

The Office of Emergency Management is a division of Aurora Fire. The mission of the OEM is to lead the city of Aurora through any instance of a natural or man-made disaster by preparing for emergency operations, response, and recovery efforts. This is accomplished by creating plans and programs that decrease the effects of emergencies or disasters while maintaining an all-hazard approach to planning, community education, and emergency response coordination in the city.

Planning and Data group coordinates large department projects including our Strategic Plan 2020-24, Accreditation, maintaining our Insurance Service Office (ISO) 1 rating, documenting, and implementing data across our database platforms.

Aurora911 is the emergency dispatch center for the City of Aurora. At the Aurora911 dispatch center, an AFR Lieutenant works as a liaison to help facilitate communication from our line personnel, and fire administration staff to the dispatch center communication team. This connection helps with relaying information and changes needed to the system, for the betterment of our community members, and Aurora Fire Rescue. In 2022, Aurora Fire implemented the following items.

- **Nurse Navigation** - The Aurora911 Nurse Navigation program, designed and implemented by Global Medical Response, works by routing dispatcher-triaged 911 callers with non-emergent injuries or illnesses to a Colorado State Licensed nurse for assessment. A nurse will then assess a caller’s symptoms and refer them to the most appropriate medical care. Implementation date was October 5, 2022.

- **Versaterm Public Safety** - Versaterm Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) helps the City of Aurora meet its public safety goals of focusing on and improving customer and user workflows for more efficient and effective operations that lead to better service and more just outcomes. The CAD go-live date was September 13, 2022.

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) is a self-improvement process that Aurora Fire has participated in since the year 1999 and AFR has been accredited since the year 2000. The on-going Accreditation process is managed through the Management Services Section.
The Professional Development and Support Division has oversight of Recruit and Incumbent Training, a Health and Safety Officer, and all professional growth and development of Aurora Fire Rescue. Our training staff maintains a dynamic learning environment that facilitates classes for recruit training. This training continues as professional development for all ranks within the department. The training staff is dedicated to the development, delivery, and practical application of all facets of fire service training and strives to promote life-long learning for all members of the department.

Our training center is located at 25950 E. Quincy Ave. in Aurora, Colorado. The training facility is shared with the Aurora Police Department and includes an administrative building featuring five classrooms, a five-story drill tower, and a burn building.

There were two academy classes in 2022.
- 22-01 Entry Level- graduated 20 probationary firefighters
- 22-01 Fast Track- graduated 5 probationary firefighters
- 22-02 Entry Level- graduated 21 probationary firefighters
Community Engagement covers a broad range of topics. The department is staffed with three different community engagement teams for the public. They are as follows:

- The Public Information Officer interfaces with the public, media, various agencies, and the private sector to meet incident-related information needs. The PIO gathers, verifies, coordinates, and disseminates accessible, meaningful, and timely information about the incident for internal and external audiences. The PIO also handles social media for AFR, coordinates community events, public educator for community health programs, department spokesperson, and maintains the City of Aurora websites that pertain to Aurora Fire Rescue.

- The Community Health Officer provides mental health services to our residents that are experiencing significant mental health problems. This program identifies what patients in our city that are using the 911 system frequently and helps get them the support they need. Community Health also sets up medical trainings for our residents and handles our car seat installation program.

- AFR Recruiter works with the Civil Service and Aurora Fire Rescue’s fire administration to create a recruiting plan that encompasses the values and diversity of the City of Aurora. The Recruiter attends many events and seeks out and responds to respective candidates that are interested or in the process of being hired. Please see our latest Recruiting Plan at AuroraGov.org/fire under Career Opportunities.

AFR attended 135 community events in 2022.
FIRE STATION LOCATIONS

LOCATION MARKER REFERS TO STATION NUMBER

FIRE STATION NO. 1
9801 E. 16th Ave.
- Engine Company 1
- Medical Support Unit 1

FIRE STATION NO. 2
12600 Hoffman Blvd.
- Ladder Company 2
- Engine Company 2
- Medical Support Unit 2
- Hazmat Specialty Team
- Hazmat 2

FIRE STATION NO. 3
3172 Peoria St.
- Engine Company 3

FIRE STATION NO. 4
1110 S. Quentin St.
- Engine Company 4
- Medical Support Unit 4

FIRE STATION NO. 5
1141 N Laredo St.
- Engine Company 5
- Ladder Company 5
- Heavy Rescue 5
- Battalion Chief 1
- Technical Rescue
- Specialty Team

FIRE STATION NO. 6
15588 E. Hampden Circle
- Engine Company 6
- Ladder Company 6

FIRE STATION NO. 7
2290 S. Blackhawk St.
- Engine Company 7
- Medical Support Unit 7
- Battalion Chief 2

FIRE STATION NO. 8
250 S. Chambers Rd.
- Engine Company 8
- Ladder company 8
- Brush Truck 8
- Wildland Specialty Team

FIRE STATION NO. 9
17200 E. Mexico Ave.
- Engine Company 9
- Brush Truck 9
- Swift Water
- Specialty Team

FIRE STATION NO. 10
3951 S. Reservoir Rd.
- Engine Company 10
- Battalion Chief 3

FIRE STATION NO. 11
2291 S. Joliet St.
- Engine Company 11

FIRE STATION NO. 12
19491 E. 34th Dr.
- Engine Company 12
- Gross Decon Unit 12
- Brush Truck 12

FIRE STATION NO. 13
23911 E. Arapahoe Rd.
- Engine Company 13
- Ladder company 13
- Brush Truck 13
- Tender 13
- Battalion Chief 4
- Wildland Specialty Team

FIRE STATION NO. 14
22298 E. Aurora Parkway
- Engine Company 14

FIRE STATION NO. 15
1880 S. Flat Rock Trail
- Engine Company 15

FIRE STATION NO. 16
6500 N. Lisbon St.
- Engine Company 16
- Ladder Company 16

FIRE STATION NO. 17
26899 E. 1st Place
- Engine Company 17

AURORA FIRE RESCUE HEADQUARTERS
15151 E. Alameda Parkway

CITY OF AURORA
PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER
25950 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora, CO 80016

Annual Fire Report 2022