

Prince William County Fire & Rescue System Annual Report

The Prince William County Fire & Rescue System Annual Report provides our community an overview of 2023 activities.

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
System Overview	5
Total Personnel.....	5
Total Incidents 2023.....	5
Population Served	5
Mission, Vision, Values.....	6
Leadership	8
Board of County Supervisors	8
Board of County Supervisors Actions.....	8
Office of Executive Management	10
Fire & Rescue Leadership.....	11
Chief's Message	12
Command Staff.....	14
Office of the Chief	16
Awards	19
Community Safety	36
Fire Marshal's Office.....	36
Public Education & Community Engagement.....	40
Operations	46
Emergency Medical Services	46
Special Operations	47
Rescue Challenge.....	48
Hazmat Response	48
Volunteer Program.....	49
System Support.....	61

In Memoriam.....	76
In Memory of Briant Atkins.....	76
In Memory of Lieutenant Greg Reese	78
In Memory of Captain Richard “Ace” Simpson	79
In Memory of the Members of the Dumfries VFD	80
Recruitment	81
Career & Volunteer Opportunities.....	81
Contact Us	82
Social Media.....	82

Introduction



The Prince William County Fire and Rescue System (PWCFRS) is proud to present its annual report for 2023. In 2023, our dedicated team of career and volunteer firefighters, paramedics, and other personnel continued to provide innovation, collaboration, and unwavering commitment, and we upheld our mission to safeguard lives and property. This report highlights our accomplishments in fire suppression, emergency medical services, community engagement, and more.

System Overview

Prince William County's Fire and Rescue System is comprised of the Department of Fire and Rescue and eight volunteer fire and rescue departments. These organizations collectively work together to provide high quality and efficient firefighting and emergency medical services to Prince William County.

Total Personnel

- Uniform: 702
- Civilian: 78
- Volunteers: 843

Total Incidents 2023

- Total Incidents: 52,983
 - EMS Incidents: 39,276
 - Fire Incidents: 8,219
 - Service/Other Incidents: 5,488

Population Served


Prince William County is the second-most populous county in Virginia with a population nearing half a million. It's a highly diverse community, ranking 10th most diverse in the US, with the largest racial groups being White (40.1%), Hispanic (25.0%), and Black (20.2%). The county boasts a well-educated population with a median household income exceeding \$123,193, which is among the top 10 in the DC Metro area.



Mission, Vision, Values


MISSION: To protect and support our community through education, prevention and emergency response.

VISION: The Prince William County Fire and Rescue System is comprised of dedicated volunteer and career members who strive to provide exceptional services through the pursuit of inclusion, innovation and involvement.




Integrity

We will always demonstrate the utmost honesty by upholding our principles at all times and being accountable for our actions.



Excellence

We will surpass the standard to achieve the absolute best in all that we do.



Pride

We will share an identity that fosters a culture of inclusion, confidence, honor and respect.



Leadership

Board of County Supervisors



Board of County Supervisors Actions

- Adopted the FY25 Fire and Rescue System Budget
- Authorized Acceptance by the Prince William County Fire and Rescue System as a Sub-Grant Recipient of 103 Rapid Intervention Command Boards Valued at \$4,901 to be Received from the Department of Homeland Security Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant Program approved as to Form by County Attorney's Office
- Adopted the Updated Northern Virginia Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan including the Local Mitigation Action Plan for Prince William County
- Proclaimed – March 12–18, 2023 – Flood Awareness Week in Prince William County

- Proclaimed May 21–27, 2023, Emergency Medical Services Week
Appointed Christopher Shorter as Director of Emergency Management, Appointed Daniel Alexander and Elijah Johnson as Deputy Directors of Emergency Management, Reappointed Brian Misner as Emergency Management Coordinator and Kathryne Kitzmiller as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, and Appointed Briant Atkins as Hazardous Materials Coordinator
- Reallocated, Budgeted, and Appropriated \$3,600,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act Special Revenue Fund to the Emergency Operations Center Renovation Capital Project Fund Ratified Grant Application in the Amount of \$59,819 for the 2023 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant Program and Accepted, Budgeted and Appropriated the Amount of \$59,819 in County Fiscal Year 2024 to Enhance Emergency Management Activities at the Local Level Contingent Upon Grant Award
- Budgeted and Appropriated \$4,783,920 of Federal Financial Assistance Received Under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA–DR–4512–VA–Public Assistance–COVID–19 and established a \$3,000,000 Emergency Response Fund Reserve to Support Emergency Management Program Needs and Ensure Safe and Secure Communities
- Ratified 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program Application and Accepted, Budgeted and Appropriated up to \$179,391 to Purchase Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Barriers for Regional Special Events Contingent Upon Grant Award Proclaimed October 8 – 14, 2023 as Fire Prevention Week
- Ratified Grant Application for the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Department of Homeland Security Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant Program for the Regional Preparedness Program and Contingent Upon Grant Award, Accepted, Budgeted and Appropriated \$270,911 in Anticipated Grant

Revenue to Support and Enhance Emergency Management and Domestic Preparedness Capabilities

Office of Executive Management

Christopher Shorter, County Executive

Chris Shorter was named County Executive for Prince William County, Virginia, by the Board of County Supervisors in October 2022. Prior to serving as the County Executive in Prince William County, Chris served as the first City Administrator in the City of Baltimore, Assistant City Manager in Austin, Texas, and served for more than 10 years in various leadership roles for the District of Columbia government, including Director of the DC Department of Public Works.



Chris has dedicated his professional career to helping build better communities through improved municipal operations by supporting healthy, people-centered organizations. He has extensive experience across a range of disciplines and has helped lead the development of innovative local government programs, performance management initiatives, operational process improvements, teambuilding efforts, and strategic planning activities. Chris is a recognized member of the International City/ County Manager's Association (ICMA) and pledges to uphold

the ICMA Code of Ethics. He was selected GoldenGov City Executive of the Year in 2022. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public & International Affairs.

Chris is also a graduate of the International City/ County Management Association (ICMA) Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business, and has attended senior executive leadership training programs at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School's Aresty Institute of Executive Education, Harvard Kennedy School's Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, as well as, Georgetown University and the George Washington University Center for Excellence in Public Leadership. He has three teenage children – Christopher, Evan and Nadia – and lives in Prince William County, VA.

Fire & Rescue Leadership

Prince William County appointed Chief LaBelle to lead its Fire and Rescue System. Chief LaBelle brings over 30 years of experience and expertise in managing fire departments with a combination of career staff and volunteers. Chief LaBelle has a Bachelor of Science from Hartwick College and holds a Master's in Homeland Security from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. He graduated from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program in 2019. He holds multiple certifications, including Chief Fire Officer – Commission on Public Safety Credentialing and Pro Board Certificated as a Fire Officer III, Fire Instructor II, and Fire Investigator.

Chief's Message

I am delighted to present the Prince William County Fire and Rescue System Annual Report for Calendar Year (CY) 2023. As we reflect, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to the fire and rescue system and all its members for your dedication and commitment to serving our community. Since assuming the role of your Fire and Rescue Chief in May of 2023, I have witnessed amazing work by all members, career and volunteer. Our fire and rescue system team members have demonstrated exceptional courage and adaptability, inspiring us all with your commitment to the safety and well-being of our residents.



Together, we've achieved significant milestones, successfully responding to countless emergencies and ensuring the safety and security of our community. Your dedication to continuous improvement has led to advancements in training programs, technology, and equipment, enabling us to deliver even more effective and efficient services. As we continue to pursue innovation and enhancements, we remain committed to working closely with our partners and stakeholders to strengthen relationships and foster a sense of unity within our community and our fire and rescue system.

Efforts to retain existing members and recruit and train new personnel remain a priority as we look toward the future, ensuring that the system continues to meet the evolving needs of the community. With dedication and a collaborative spirit, the Fire and Rescue System is poised to continue its mission of service, vision, and goal accomplishment in the years to come.

Throughout this document, you will find information on the outstanding work done by the career and volunteer members of this system. Each day, their efforts, before, during, and after emergencies, help to ensure the safety and resiliency of our community. In 2023, we responded to over 52,983 calls for service, requiring over 122,418 pieces of fire apparatus or ambulances to serve those in need.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to our partners within County government, encompassing County Finance and Budget, the Water Authority, Transportation, the Police Department, and Public Safety Communications. Through their active engagement, they play a vital role in enhancing community safety.

To our partners, stakeholders, and the broader community, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. Your trust and confidence in our abilities are the cornerstone of our success, and we remain steadfast in upholding the highest standards of service. I am deeply thankful to the Board of County Supervisors, the County Executive, and all other County agencies who have aided and bolstered our efforts throughout the year. To the residents of Prince William County, thank you for your steadfast encouragement and commitment to all members of the Fire and Rescue System.

Together, let's continue to work towards building a safer, stronger community for all in Calendar Year 2024.

Command Staff

DEPUTY CHIEF, Kim Stewart

The position of Deputy Chief has the responsibility of assisting the Fire Chief in planning, directing, and coordinating the overall operation of the Department of Fire and Rescue. In addition, the Deputy Chief is responsible for providing the support necessary to maintain the vision, mission, and organizational philosophy of the department. In the absence of the Fire Chief, the Deputy Chief is entrusted with the overall operations of the department, to include budget preparations, legal matters, staffing, promotional processes, departmental expenditures and purchase requests, and emergency service delivery.



ASSISTANT CHIEF of COMMUNITY SAFETY, Matt Smolsky

The Community Safety Section is under the direction of Assistant Chief Matt Smolsky. He is responsible for the management of the Fire Marshal's Office, Public Education, Public Information, Office of Emergency Management and Hazardous Materials. The Community Safety Section is responsible for a vast array of duties to include: reducing the community's risk to fire loss, fire inspections, fire protection plans review and system testing, fire and arson investigation, accident and injury prevention, community awareness and outreach, public information and education, disaster



preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery, and environmental response and safety.

ASSISTANT CHIEF of OPERATIONS, Kurt Heindricks

The Operations Section is under the direction of Assistant Chief Kurt Heindricks. The section is responsible for the responses to fire, Advanced (ALS) and Basic Life (BLS) emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials, technical rescue, water rescue, and other citizen assist calls. Operation team members staff our 22 fire and rescue stations 24/7/365.



ASSISTANT CHIEF of SYSTEM SUPPORT, Lance McClintock

The System Support Section is under the direction of Assistant Chief Lance McClintock. He is responsible for the management of Human Resources, Training Division, Planning & Logistics, Distribution Center, Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Communications/IT, Health & Safety and Management Services. The System Support Section manages department programs and activities from “behind the scenes” to ensure prompt, efficient and effective service to the Prince William County community.





Office of the Chief

Policies & Operational Medical Director Directives:

- Street Mapping Policy 5.1.15
- Risk Control Manual Policy 1.1.11
- Incident Safety Officer Policy 4.5.11
- Operational Guidelines Policy 5.1.6
- Minimum Ambulance/Medic Unit and Equipment Standards Policy 1.1.2
- NoVa Operations Manuals Policy 5.5.6
- Tuition Reimbursement Policy 4.5.12

Executive Committee / Consensus Actions:

- Onboard Foam System
- Foam System Replacement Plan Street Mapping Policy 5.1.15

- Incident Safety Officer Policy 4.5.11 Risk Control Manual Policy 1.1.11
- Operational Guidelines Policy 5.1.6
- AED Performance Maintenance Contract Revision Thermal Imaging Camera Replacement
- Update of Minimum Ambulance/Medic Unit and Equipment Standards Policy 1.1.2
- Update to NoVa Operations Manuals Policy 5.5.6 Budget Initiative Recommendations
- Tuition Reimbursement Policy 4.5.12
- Approval of CY2024 Executive Committee Meeting Date Change
- Approval of CY2024 Executive Committee Meeting Calendar
- Approval of CY2024 Training Calendar
- Thermal Imaging Cameras Funding Recommendation
- Personal Protective Equipment Selection
- Fuel Usage Budget Shift Recommendation



Actions Completed

- Equipment Standardization– Operations Committee
- January 2022 Snowstorm After Action Report Item 1–Training
- January 2022 Snowstorm After Action Report Item 3–Area Command
- January 2022 Snowstorm After Action Report Item 4– Communication with Stranded Motorists
- January 2022 Snowstorm After Action Report Item 6–Emergency Supplies
- January 2022 Snowstorm After Action Report Item 7–Warming Stations
- Thermal Imaging Cameras PPE Selection
- Volunteer Recognition
- Facility Condition Assessment
- Thermal Imaging Camera Funding
- Fuel Usage Budget Adjustments
- Budget Reviewed



Awards

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

On January 3, 2022, a crippling snowstorm came through the area leading to a closure of 48 miles on Interstate 95. On the morning of January 4, 2022, Prince William Public Safety Communications Center became inundated

with 911 calls from stranded motorists on Interstate 95, some stranded up to 18 hours. **Battalion Chief Reese** was informed of the growing situation after numerous crews were unable to access the interstate. After discussion with **Division Chief Pennock**, Chief Reese formulated a plan implemented by crews coming in as well as getting off shift. Crews began to assemble emergency blankets, water, Gatorade and other snacks from multiple stations. **Battalion Chief 503, Engines 523 E503, Medic 523, Ambulance 523, and Utilities 503 and 523** were dispatched to the HOV lanes on the interstate. Crews began to cover over five miles of interstate on foot handing out blankets, water, Gatorade and snacks. Due to the complexity and growing demands **Brush 503, Truck 523, Chief 503, All Terrain Ambulance 502, and Utility 502** responding as well, later joined by **Logistics 501, 504, and Battalion Chief 504**. Battalion Chief Reese further devised having fire and rescue utility vehicles plow Interstate 95 off ramps located within Prince William County thus allowing traffic and out from the interstate onto tertiary roads that were passable. Each off ramp from Stafford to Fairfax County was cleared of snow allowing this to happen. Without

BC503	Utility 523	Public Safety Communications
Tech 2 Shawn Riley	Tech 2 Paul Racco	Manager Lyssa Krisner
Engine 523	Tech 1 Chase Walton	Floor Sup. Jen Berensen
Lt. James Maneval	BC503	Fire Sup. Sherrie Halpin
Tech 1 Colin Gibbons	Tech 2 David McAllister	TeleCom 4 Nita Lapihuska
Engine 503	All Terrain Amb 502	Tele Com 3 Amy Parrish
Tech 2 Jajuan Reed	Ed Craig	Tele Com 3 Rachel Rice
Tech 2 James Walker	Utility 503	Tele Com 3 Sara MacQueen
Tech 1 Ramon Betancourt	Robert Glynn	Tele Com 3 Sarah Tama
Medic 523	David Glinski	Tele Com 2 Brandon Abler
Tech 2 Adam Lienau	OWL Logistics	Tele Com 2 Emma Merriman
Tech 2 Justin Hartling	George Smith	Tele Com 2 Gilles Bryant
Amb 523	Brush 503	Tele Com 2 Jacob Adkins
Capt. William Phillips	Fletcher Moore	Tele Com 2 Karen Lackey
Tech 1 Brent Gromer	Utility 502	Tele Com 1 Colleen Colgan
Truck 523	Dave Williams	Tele Com 1 Dawn Barb
Lt. Jamie Helmick	Logistics 501	Tele Com 1 Kyeisha Johnson
Tech 2 Louis Ranszewski	BC Brett Hamby	Tele Com 1 Shannon McGrail
Tech 1 John Peddle	Lt. Dave Caruana	Also includes the Chief's Commendation Award
Tech 1 Michael Cox		Division Chief Rick Pennock
		Battalion Chief Jason Reese
		Battalion Chief Scott McLean
		Dumfries Triangle Volunteer Fire Dept. Nick Nanna

the teamwork of all involved a bad situation could have been much longer and worse

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

On April 11th, 2022, units from Prince William County were dispatched to an auto accident on Lee Highway. While responding, crews were notified that the vehicle is now on fire with someone trapped inside. **Rescue 522 and Medic 522** were the first to arrive and confirmed there was a vehicle off the roadway, and on fire. There was no fire engine on scene yet, so Rescue 522 had to somehow handle fire extinguishment and patient removal with assistance from Medic 522. Multiple fire extinguishers were used, while personnel from

Rescue 522

Lt Danny Beck

Tech 2 James Spengler

Tech 2 Rahil Nawaz

Tech 2 Thomas Hunt

Medic 522

Tech 2 Anthony Aquinto

Tech 2 Aaron Kearns

Engine 504

Lt Michael Toth

Tech 2 Ashford Bembry

Tech 2 Dante Sanders

both Rescue and Medic 522 put themselves directly in harm's way to work on extricating the patient as fire started to spread closer to the victim. The unconscious patient was removed by the crews within a couple minutes. The patient would eventually go into cardiac arrest once removed from the hazardous environment. **Engine 504** arrived and integrated with the crews to support all efforts with patient care and fire extinguishment. CPR was initiated, and after some time, crews were able to get a pulse back. The paramedics had to perform needle chest decompressions which allowed the patient to be stabilized at the hospital and later sent via helicopter to a trauma center. This very dynamic incident would not have been successful without the coordinated efforts, skills and focus of all personnel on scene.

Personnel had to perform tasks outside of the normal duties, combine crews, and put their own safety second to ensure the patient had the best chance for survival.

LIFESAVING AWARD

On January 1st, 2022, Crews from **Engine and Truck 504** arrived on scene to find an unconscious and unresponsive 56-year-old male. After speaking with the family, it was believed that the patient was unresponsive for up to 10 minutes. A rapid assessment from the crews determined that he was in cardiac arrest, which prompted crews to then begin initiating high performance CPR. After 2 shocks were delivered with the AED, return of

Medic 524

Technician II Andrew Schnebelen
Technician I Ethan Kim

Engine 504

Captain Steve Brubaker
Technician II April Spicer
Technician II Seth Whitmore

Truck 504

Technician II Shawn Bliss
Technician II William Norman
Technician I Alexander Pion

spontaneous circulation was observed. Upon **Medic 524's** arrival advanced life support interventions were initiated, and the patient was put into the medic unit. Shortly after, the patient's pulse was lost again. All 3 crew members continued to provide patient care up until the arrival at Heathcote Medical Center. After arriving at the hospital, it was noticed that the hospital was short staffed due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Crews recognized this assisted hospital staff with continual care. Once again, a return of spontaneous circulation was achieved, and the decision was then made to transfer the patient to Prince William Hospital for a lifesaving cardiac cauterization.

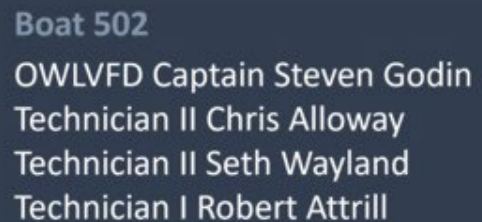
Crews realized that this patient would not survive the extended timeframe for a private ambulance transport. The officers from Engine 504 and Medic 524 coordinated a transport plan to ensure the patient would receive this procedure as soon as possible. If it was not for each crew's dedication to training,

teamwork and fast action, the patient's outcome could have been much different.

This incident required strong communication and discipline from all personnel involved to provide seamless care and transport.

LIFESAVING AWARD

Boat 502 was dispatched to an incident on the Occoquan River for a husband who called 911 after his wife had fallen overboard. The husband could not locate his wife and advised crews that she was not wearing a personal flotation device. Once they met up



Boat 502
OWLVFD Captain Steven Godin
Technician II Chris Alloway
Technician II Seth Wayland
Technician I Robert Attrill

with the husband, crews began to perform a search pattern utilizing search lights, radar, and a thermal imaging camera. They searched from the vessel from where the wife had fallen from and worked their way to the Route 1 bridge. Other personnel in the area could hear someone calling out for help. Boat 502's crew was able to get a visual on the wife and immediately worked their way beside her and threw her a life ring. As they got closer, they were able to contact her and bring her on to the boat. She was transported to a nearby dock where there was a medic unit waiting to evaluate her and treat her for any injuries. This incident proved to be a challenge for all crews since any type of air support was grounded due to weather. The victim was tired and cold and could barely keep herself afloat. If it wasn't for the swift action of the boat crew on scene, this incident could have ended very differently. They were able to utilize their resources to the best of their ability and coordinate with multiple agencies to ensure that this person was given the best chance for survival.

LIFESAVING AWARD

On the evening of January 3, 2022, the crews from **Station 511** were dispatched for an unconscious male lying in the roadway. This particular day had already proven to be challenging due to snow that warranted a county closure and numerous calls for service with extended out of station time. Police on scene were unable to wake the patient and decided not to move him due to the possibility of trauma. Medic 511 arrived to find the patient pulseless and apneic and immediately began CPR. ROSC (return of spontaneous circulation) was achieved after one defibrillation but soon after moving the patient into the medic unit,

the patient went into V-Fib. The patient was then defibrillated a second time and this time when ROSC was achieved, the patient's pulse remained.

Technician II Shoults was on his medic internship and ran this call seamlessly under the supervision of Lieutenant Green. Lieutenant McClurg secured IO access and administered medications while all other personnel assisted with CPR and movement of the patient. Lieutenant Green did a phenomenal job of keeping the patient's wife informed by explaining complex medical processes in simpler terms so that she could understand what was happening. Lieutenant Green also stayed at the hospital until the hospital staff were able to take over as family liaison. On February 14, 2022, the patient's wife contacted the station to let them know that her husband had recovered fully and on February 17th

Medic 511

Lieutenant Justin Green
Technician II Daniel Chuddy
Technician II Neil Shoults

Engine 511

Captain Robert Wiencko
Technician II Carl Nunziata
Technician I William Laine

Truck 511

Lieutenant Matthew McClurg
Technician II Christopher Gott
Technician I Jacob Kennedy
Technician I Ryon Blehr

they made a visit to station 511. The crews from **Engine, Medic and Truck 511** exemplify professionalism.

LIFESAVING AWARD

On Saturday, July 30th at 11:40 pm, units were dispatched to the rear of Mission BBQ in Gainesville. They were responding for an unconscious male in the parking lot and while en route were relayed information by dispatchers that CPR instructions were being given. Upon the arrival of Engine and Truck 504, crews encountered bystanders performing CPR. They were quickly relieved by the crews and the patient was assessed, confirming he had no pulse. As crew members initiated their assigned roles, a concealed weapon was found on the patient which fire crews secured with the assistance of Prince William Police. As initial crews continued working on the patient, **Medic 525** arrived. This coincided with the first round of CPR being completed. It was noted that the patient still had no pulse and was not breathing but had a shockable heart rhythm. A shock was delivered, and CPR was resumed for a total of 5 rounds. 4 additional shocks were given during CPR.

While responding to the hospital, a pulse had returned, while personnel continued to maintain the patient's airway. Moments after the patient was transferred to hospital staff, he began breathing on his own. The airway device placed by crews was removed, and shortly after that the patient was speaking to hospital staff. Personnel from **Engine and Truck 504**, along with Medic 525 worked seamlessly together to deliver superior service. The positive outcome of

Medic 525

Technician II Cristian Garcia- Lazo
Technician II Joshua Owens

Engine 504

Technician II Andrew Morris
Technician II Joshua Jones
Technician I Brandon D'Sa

Truck 504

Lieutenant David Caruana
Technician II Andrew Silvernale
Technician I Joel Bernardo
Technician I Randy Williams

this incident is a direct result of the orchestrated coordination and the management of resources to achieve a successful outcome.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

On February 1st, 2022, Fire and Rescue units from the Woodbridge area of Prince William County were dispatched to a house on fire. The crew members from **Engine 526** were the first to arrive on scene and reported a working fire. They immediately deployed a hose line through the front door of the house along with members from **Truck 520**. They were encountered with thick black smoke throughout the first floor. Engine 526 worked to find the seat of the fire while Truck 520 began to search the first floor for any occupants. While the Engine Company worked to extinguish the fire, the Truck Company located a victim at the end of the kitchen table, gasping for air. The crew quickly removed the victim outside to the front yard where there were other units waiting to continue patient care.

Truck 520

Lieutenant Timothy Luke
Technician I Casey Coulter
Technician I Jeremey Lonas
Technician I Matthew Harris

Engine 526

Lieutenant Kelly Williams
Lieutenant Mitch Nason
Technician II Michael Shatzer
Technician I Ricardo Gibson

Medic 518

Technician II James Martin
Technician II Michael Oliver
Engine 518
Captain William Sanderson
Technician II Neil Shoults
Technician II Peter Francisco

Safety Officer 502

Lieutenant Beth Kenavan

The patient was flown by helicopter to a trauma center due to the extent of their injuries. If it was not for the actions of the initial crew members on scene, the family of this victim would not have had the opportunity to say goodbye. The crews put themselves in harm's way to give this victim the best possible chance for survival. These well-trained crews performed all their duties to the

highest possible level and demonstrated teamwork and coordination during this entire incident.

GOLD MEDAL OF VALOR & LIFE SAVING AWARD

On April 15th, units were dispatched to a report of an active shooter at Garfield High School where there was a carnival being held in the parking lot. Initial reports were of multiple gun shots fired, and several bystanders being trampled while fleeing the crowd. Due to the large civilian presence, the status of the shooter was unknown. While units were responding, **Dale City Volunteer Firefighter/EMT Serena Tucker**, who was attending the carnival, heard the gun shots and immediately ran towards the commotion to render help. Serena met with Prince William County Police Officers and was quickly taken to a 14- year-old female who was shot in the abdomen. She immediately applied pressure to the wound and kept the injured female calm until paramedics arrived on scene.

Prince William County Police secured the scene as **Medic 512, Medic 510** and **Rescue 510** arrived.

Crews assessed the patient and quickly determined that a helicopter was needed to transport this patient to a trauma center. Without the quick actions of Serena Tucker, this patient may have lost too much blood before crews arrived. She knowingly put herself at risk to do what was best for the patient. She was able to provide vital information to the responding crews which

GOLD MEDAL

Dale City VFD

FF/EMT Serena Tucker

Life Saving Award

Medic 512

Lieutenant Tyle Diettert

Technician I Matthew Truslow

Technician I Robert McBain

Medic 510

Captain Graham Clark

Technician I Oscar Hernandez

Technician I Pierre D'Elia

Rescue 510

Lieutenant Christopher Clark

Lieutenant Zachary Sites

Technician II John Gillon

Technician I Joel Bernardo

expedited advanced life support care and transport. All crews on scene were met with a hectic and chaotic situation but were able to maintain a professional presence and calm heads throughout. These personnel performed to the highest level in a challenging and dangerous situation.

GOLD & SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR

At 0728 Units were dispatched to Dumfries for a structure fire with flames in the basement. Responding units were informed that the caller's grandchild was still upstairs. **Engine 503, Truck 523, and Engine 523** arrived nearly simultaneously finding a working basement fire with fire extending into the first floor. An enormous amount of smoke and high heat met Engine 503 and 523 as they entered the basement and first floor for fire attack. Truck 523 immediately pulled ground ladders and set up on side Charlie for Vent, Enter, Search, and Isolate on the second floor. To do so Truck 523 had to set a ladder to the deck and lift a heavy ladder up and onto the deck to access the second floor. As Truck 523 searched the room they located an unconscious female lying inside the bedroom closet. The patient was barely breathing with agonal respirations. The crew, expecting to find a small child, was unprepared to find a large adult victim and couldn't exit the structure without additional resources. The crew elected to protect in place. With aggressive ventilation crews created a tenable condition. Lieutenant Dempsey and Technician, I Wallace took turns removing their SCBA providing air to the victim while positioning themselves beside the open window to access clean air. Aggressive fire attack took place below by

GOLD MEDAL OF VALOR

Lt Joshua Dempsey
Tech 1 John Wallace

SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR

Capt. William Phillips
Tech 2 Ho Yin Ma
Tech 1 Trevor Krohn
Lt. Mason Vines
Tech 2 Lauren Linkous
Tech 1 Mollie Bodmer
Tech 2 Brian Anderson
Tech 2 Paul Racco

Engines 503 and 523. An aerial ladder was placed to the second-floor window for victim removal. The patient was speaking with crews prior to being placed in the medevac.

GOLD MEDAL OF VALOR

On May 2, 2022, off-duty Prince William County Fire Fighter Josh Owens was attending his son's football games when shots rang out adjacent to the field. He quickly ushered his family to safety and

GOLD MEDAL OF VALOR
Prince William County Fire
Technician II Joshua Owens

without thinking twice perilously ran back to the field to check for any injuries. Technician II Owen's arrived to find Pentagon Officer Rubach and an unknown nurse already assisting an injured person. A gunshot wound was found to the patient's abdomen. Technician II Owen's insisted on checking for additional wounds finding another gunshot wound to the patient's right upper back. A first aid kit was retrieved.

Both men applied dressings and pressure to the patient's wounds. Upon the arrival of law enforcement two chest seals were obtained from an officer's IFAK to appropriately bandage the wounds. The patient was beginning to show signs of going into shock. Due to the unknown location of the suspect, law enforcement held entry of EMS. The patient was now showing signs that shock was rapidly setting in. Technician II Owen's suggested carrying the patient to the medic unit. Officer Rubach, Technician II Owen's, and county police carried



the patient to a nearby medic unit having to stop multiple times to burp the chest seals due to patient deterioration. The action of these men undoubtedly saved time and insured the patient made it a trauma center within the golden hour.

2023 GOVERNOR'S FIRE SERVICE AWARDS OUTSTANDING FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

On January 3, 2022, Prince William County was hit with a major snowstorm of approximately 12 inches of snow with temperatures in the upper teens. The storm caused 48 miles of Interstate 95N to be shut down, stranding many motorists for over 18 hours. **The Prince William County Fire and Rescue System (PWCFRS), consisting of the Department of Fire and Rescue, the Dumfries–Triangle Volunteer Fire Department and the Occoquan–Lorton–Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Department** responded to Interstate 95 and established an ad-hoc rescue and public service effort to assist the stranded motorists.

Establishing incident command, the combined efforts of the members of the PWCFRS provided food, water and medical attention to the citizens. Using station assets, they cleared exit ramps from the highway to allow motorists to exit the Interstate. Compiling supplies from station stocks, they distributed support in food and water, and when the system's logistics section responded, added blankets and other aid. Through the incident command process, they dispatched assets from their task force to respond to and treat several medical emergencies. In the finest tradition of the Fire, Rescue and EMS service, they answered the call without hesitation.



Accepting Outstanding Fire Department Response Award (pictured left to right):

- Bob Mosier, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
- Assistant Chief Ernest DeSantis (Occoquan–Woodbridge–Lorton VFD)
- Acting Chief James Forgo (Prince William County Fire & Rescue System)
- David Glinski, President (Dumfries–Triangle VFD)
- Maggie Cleary, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEFS' FOUNDATION HEALTH & SAFETY AWARD

The Prince William County Fire and Rescue System was also recognized by the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation for the Best Practices in Fire Service Health and Safety at the Governor's Fire Service Awards Ceremony. PWCFRS is a combined system consisting of career and volunteer members. The career staff switched to a 56-hour work week three years ago. During this time, the department has seen an increase in body fat at annual physicals. To counter this increase, the Health and Safety Office developed a physical fitness program that includes a quarterly assessment. The goal of the program is to bring awareness to individuals about their physical abilities, body weight and resources available to provide improvement.

Phase II of the program will focus on reimplementation of the Work Performance Evaluation and increase the Peer Fitness Trainer's role in the department. Phase III will focus on outreach to the volunteer organizations with wellness and fitness resources.

Accepting Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation Health & Safety Award (pictured left to right):

- Prince William County Fire & Rescue System
- Dave Glinski, President (Dumfries– Triangle VFD)

- Acting Chief James Forgo (Prince William County Fire & Rescue System)
- Assistant Chief Ernest DeSantis (Occoquan–Woodbridge–Lorton VFD)
- Chief Nicholas Nanna (Dumfries–Triangle VFD)

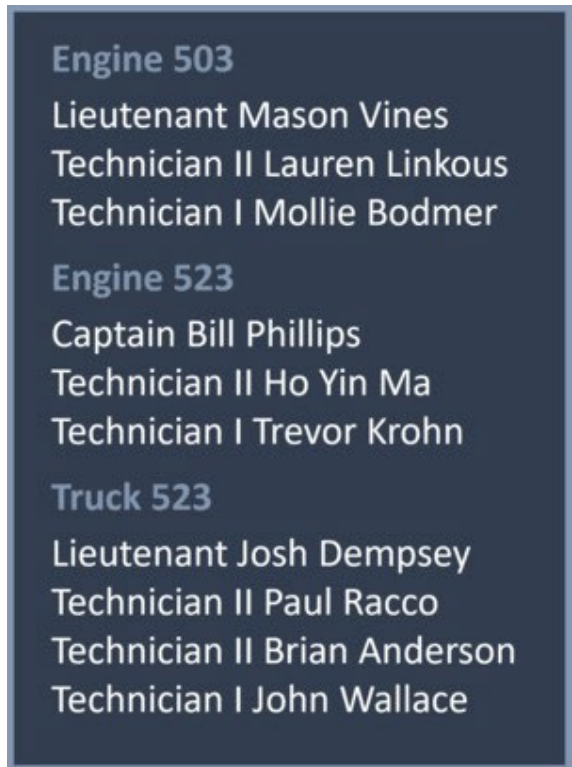


Sons of American Revolution Honor PWCFRS Members

FIRE SAFETY COMMENDATION AWARD

At 0728 Units were dispatched to Dumfries for a structure fire with flames in the basement. Responding units were informed that the caller’s grandchild was still upstairs. **Engine 503, Truck 523, and Engine 523** arrived nearly simultaneously finding a working basement fire with fire extending into the first floor. An enormous amount of smoke and high heat met Engine 503 and 523 as they entered the basement and first floor for fire attack.

Truck 523 immediately pulled ground ladders and set up on side Charlie for Vent, Enter, Search, and Isolate on the second floor. To do so Truck 523 had to set a ladder to the deck and lift a heavy ladder up and onto the deck to access the second floor. As Truck 523 searched the room they located an unconscious female lying inside the bedroom closet. The patient was barely breathing with agonal respirations. The



crew, expecting to find a small child, was unprepared to find a large adult victim and couldn't exit the structure without additional resources.

The crew elected to protect in place. With aggressive ventilation crews created a tenable condition. Lieutenant Dempsey and Technician, I Wallace took turns removing their SCBA providing air to the victim while positioning themselves beside the open window to access clean air. Aggressive fire attack took place below by Engines 503 and 523. An aerial ladder was placed to the second-floor window for victim removal. The patient was speaking with crews prior to being placed in the medevac.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMENDATION

Engine and Medic 526 responded for a 34-year-old female pregnant with twins at 35 weeks' gestation and in a breech presentation. This occurs in less than 5% of pregnancies and is even more rare for units in the field to face. Upon arrival units were met with the patient laying on the floor and one foot presenting from the vaginal canal. The mother was in active labor with contractions approximately two minutes apart and a strong urge to push. It was attempted to have the patient not to push and initiate rapid transport to the hospital. While moving the patient downstairs a second foot presented from the vaginal canal.

Additional medic units were requested and company 526 prepared for imminent delivery. The baby was delivered all the way to the neck with the

Engine 526

Lieutenant Lucas Hart
Technician II Sean Barkley
Technician II Eric Dombkowski
Technician I Alex Ramey

Medic 526

Technician II Diana O'Donnell
Technician I Richard Blank

Medic 513

Lieutenant Yasmin Ahmady
Technician I Brian Smith

baby's head becoming stuck. EMS was able to remove pressure from the baby's head and create space for the umbilical cord while coaching the mother to keep pushing. A baby Girl was delivered at 0226 with a good prognosis. The second baby was palpated and found to be in a lateral position to the birthing canal. The baby's care was transferred to **Medic 513** unit for care. The mother was rushed to the hospital with advanced life support procedures performed during transport. Shortly after arrival to the hospital the second child was born with the help of Sentara L&D staff. These units operated tremendously in a situation that many EMS providers have only read about in textbooks.

FIRE SAFETY COMMENDATION AWARD

On January 3, 2022, a crippling snowstorm came through the area leading to a closure of 48 miles on interstate 95. On the morning of January 4, 2022, Prince William Public



Safety Communications Center became inundated with 911 calls from stranded motorists on interstate 95, some stranded up to 18 hours. Battalion Chief Reese was informed of the growing situation after numerous crews were unable to access the interstate. After discussion with Division Chief Pennock, Chief Reese formulated a plan implemented by crews coming in as well as getting off shift. Crews began to assemble emergency blankets, water, Gatorade, and other snacks from multiple stations.

Battalion Chief 503, Engines 523 E503, Medic 523, Ambulance 523, and Utilities 503 and 523 were dispatched to the HOV lanes on the interstate. Crews began to cover over five miles of interstate on foot handing out blankets, water, Gatorade, and snacks. Due to the complexity and growing demands Brush 503, Truck 523, Chief 503, All Terrain Ambulance 502, and Utility 502 responding as well, later joined by Logistics 501, 504, and Battalion Chief 504.

Battalion Chief Reese further devised having fire and rescue utility vehicles plow Interstate 95 off ramps located within Prince William County thus allowing traffic and out from the interstate onto tertiary roads that were passable. Each off ramp from Stafford to Fairfax County was cleared of snow allowing this to happen. Without the teamwork of all involved a bad situation could have been much longer and worse.



2023 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARDS

The Prince William County Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards Ceremony is held in honor of our community's courageous heroes for their life-saving actions and other honorable acts. Those honored were Public Safety Members of Prince William County and additional outside agencies to include the following: PWC Fire & Rescue System, PWC Police Department, PWC Public Safety Communications Center, Prince William Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center, Manassas City Police Department, Haymarket Police Department, Pentagon Force Protection Agency, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency Task Force, and the United States Postal Service.

Community Safety

Fire Marshal's Office (FMO)

FMO Code Compliance Section: The FMO Code Compliance Section is responsible for all code compliance inspections related to the application of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (VSFPC) for existing buildings/businesses. This section saves lives and property by identifying and following up on critical fire and life safety issues. It also helps identify significant issues for first responders, including unsafe buildings and structures and special hazards, and provides operational safety messages related to the code compliance team. This group also helped form the PWC Code Compliance Team (CCT) with Building Code and Property Code Enforcement. This section is the only county inspections group that focuses on proactive code compliance to ensure PWC remains a great place to “Live, Work, and Play.”



- Inspections completed: 9,182*
- Notice of Violation (NOV) issued: 138
- Fire Operational Permits (FOPs) inspected: 636

**Includes Joint Occupancy Evaluation inspections with Building Code Enforcement (BCE).*

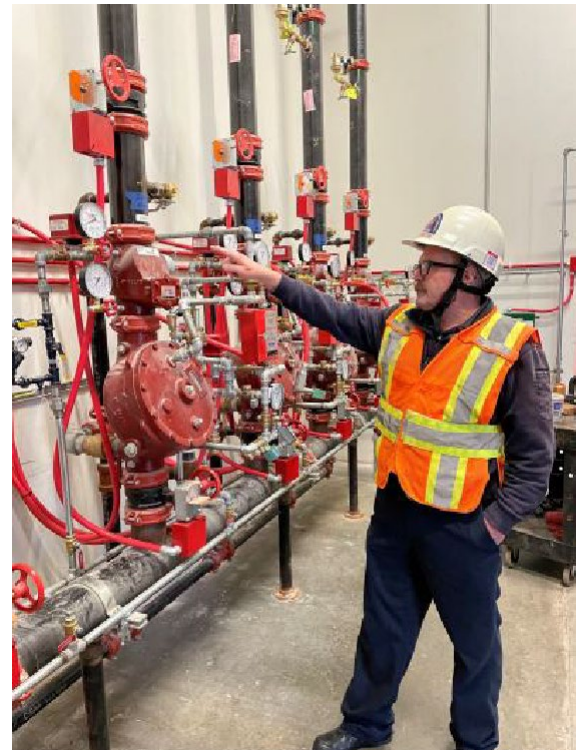
FMO Fire Protection Plan Review Section: The FMO Fire Protection Plan Review section is where all fire protection systems in new and existing buildings begin. This group saves lives and property by reviewing the intrinsic details of complicated Sprinkler, Fire Alarm, Commercial Hood systems, and Fire Lane plans. They also have trained, certified, and licensed Fire Protection Engineers

(FPE) and Professional Engineers (PE) through the Commonwealth of Virginia. These specialized personnel ensure the submitted plans meet the highest codes and standards from the Virginia Construction Code (VCC), International Fire Code (IFC), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the PWC Design Construction Standards Manual (DCSM). They also provide plan review services to Land Development and PWC Planning and Zoning for Special Use Permits (SUPs) and Zoning/Re-zoning actions. This group routinely works with developers, contractors, and designers to make sure the submitted plans meet all the requirements for a safe and code compliant system.

- Fire Plan Review (Attached to Fire Protection Permits): 654 Individual reviews completed: 1,397
- Project assistance or Process Action Team (PAT) meetings: 250*

** This represents approximately 400 hours of meetings to assist industry and contractors with their projects. These may include issue resolution, code guidance, and working with Building Development's Project Managers.*

FMO Fire Protection Inspections Section: The FMO Fire Protection Inspections section delivers on the work of the plan review section. This group conducts inspections on all new or remodeled fire protection and life safety systems. They ensure the installation by the contractors matches the approved plans and ensure the site conditions still meet the requirements of the code. This specially trained and certified group are certified through the ICC



and Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) as either a Fire Protection Systems Inspector or Specialist. They work closely with contractors and installers to ensure the systems are installed and will function when the need arises. This allows the public to entrust that the buildings are completed to the appropriate level of the required building code.

- Fire Protection Systems Inspections: 3,210
- Targeted Industry and Project assistance coordination meetings: 120*

**These represent project status meetings, Targeted Industry site and inspection order meetings, and developer project assistance meetings, including site meetings with Building Development and Construction Inspections staff. This averages close to 300 hours annually based on a two and a half hour average meeting.*

FMO Investigations Section: The FMO Investigations section is responsible for fire, explosion, and other related investigations. This specialized unit of investigators works closely with our partners at the PWC Police and other local, state, and federal agencies to investigate fires and explosions, to include hazardous materials incidents to determine if a crime has occurred. They also analyze data to see if developing trends related to products or materials create additional risk to the community. These specialized personnel carry full law enforcement powers and protect the public through detailed investigations following the scientific method and highest NFPA standards. They undergo many hours of training and certification, as well as a Field Training internship to develop and hone their skills. Several FMO investigation personnel have achieved nationally recognized certifications through the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) and/or the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). We also have investigators designated a special Deputy U.S. Marshals through the ATF and FBI.

- Fire Incidents Investigated: 160
- Incendiary (Arson) Fires: 30
 - Arrests made: 14*

**Some of the arrestees were responsible for multiple arson fires.*

FMO Administrative Section: The FMO Administrative section is not your run of the mill administrative group. These personnel deal with all manner of questions, processes, and customers. They are specialists in operational permit processing, customer service, payment processing and cash handling, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) processing dealing with FMO specific requests, and coordination of all FMO activities. Considered the hub of the FMO, the administrative staff assists FMO staff with EnerGov, customer coordination, and as a liaison with Building Permits, Plan Intake, and Development Project Management (DPM) staff.

- Fire Operational Permits (FOPs) processed: 636
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests processed: 505
 - Amount of fees collected:
 - FOIA fees: \$11,277.00
 - FOP fees: \$182,040.23
 - Fire Lane Permit fees: \$15,173.27

Public Education & Community Engagement

The PWCFRS Fire & Life Safety Program continued its community outreach providing educational tools and resources to better serve and safeguard the residents, communities, and visitors of Prince William County. Updating our programs to keep current, is an ongoing commitment as we strive to develop new programs that will benefit every community and age group, from our



young preschool population to our older senior population in Prince William County.

LEARN NOT TO BURN SECOND GRADE PROGRAM

At the beginning of each school year, PWCDFR members reach out to local elementary schools, in their first due area, to teach important lifesaving skills to children such as Smoke Alarms, Home Fire Escape Plan, Calling 911 and Burn Prevention.

FIRED UP FOR READING

PWCFRS invited Prince William County Schools to take part in their pilot literacy program called FIRED UP for Reading. The goal of the program is to get elementary school students excited for reading. Once a month, a FIRED UP for Reading team member along with the crew from the school's closest fire house visits the school and reads for the students. This will be used to motivate students to participate in reading challenges each month. Then, at the



end of the year, one student from each grade will have a chance to win the grand prize of getting a ride to school from the closest fire house.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The PWCFRS annually teams up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), to promote Fire Prevention Week observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. The campaign provides the public with various fire and life safety prevention messages and events held at local fire



stations. This year in observance of Fire Prevention Week theme “Cooking safety starts with YOU!”, PWCFRS held our weekly events, and Saturday open houses.

ALUMINUM CANS FOR BURNED CHILDREN (ACBC)

The ACBC program came to Washington in 1988; PWCDFR began its participation in 1989. All PWCFRS stations provide collection containers for use by the public. Aluminum cans are collected 2–3 times a year and recycled at Potomac Metals in Manassas. All monies raised help local children who are burn survivors. In CY2023, the Prince William County Fire and Rescue System raised nearly \$1,000 for ACBC.



TOYS FOR TOTS

The Prince William County Fire & Rescue System is an official sponsor of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. The campaign provides the community with an opportunity to donate new unwrapped toys, during the Christmas holiday, to children in need. The public is encouraged to participate by dropping off their contribution at various local fire and rescue stations and county buildings. Toys are delivered to families in PWC and the surrounding region through local churches, and non-profit organizations by way of USMC Quantico Toys for Tots. The campaign runs from mid-October to mid-December. This year's campaign collected 19,021 toys.

Office of Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management (PWCEM) coordinates efforts to ensure that our whole community is able to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from any type of natural, technological, or human-caused disaster. The County uses an all-hazards approach to emergency preparedness, which means that planning efforts consider all types of disasters that could occur in the County.

The PWCEM team continually improves the County's Emergency Operations and Continuity of Operations plans through a robust planning, training and exercise cycle, while also maintaining operational readiness of the County's multiagency coordination center, emergency supplies, and field incident management



support equipment. In addition, the team manages the County's Hazard Mitigation program, to include a robust flood detection and warning system, along with the Ready Prince William campaign to promote individual and household emergency preparedness in the community. Collectively, these efforts help us achieve our vision for a proactive, prepared, and resilient community, ready for all hazards.

Designed and facilitated a **full-scale emergency response exercise with Marine Corps Base Quantico** in May 2023. The scenario involved a VRE commuter rail train striking a delivery vehicle at a grade crossing, causing a hazardous materials release, mass casualty incident, and protective actions for the Base and Town of Quantico.



Facilitated emergency management and incident management support training for a total of 160 participants & 2,828 training hours.

Led:

- **ICS300** – Intermediate ICS For Expanding Incidents: 4 offerings, 56 participants.
- **ICS400** – Advancing ICS for Complex Incidents: 3 offerings, 34 participants.
- **G191** – EOC/ICS Interface: 2 offerings, 21 participants.

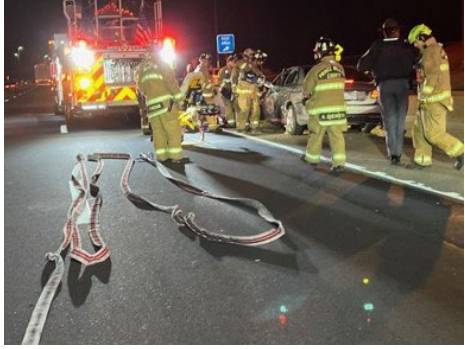
Hosted:

- **G2308** – EOC Operations and Situational Awareness Skillset Course: 24 participants.

- **MGT404** – Sports and Special Events Incident Management: 25 participants.

Completed the design phase of the **County’s Emergency Operations Center renovation** and expansion project, which is the first substantial update to the facility since its construction in 2005. The expanded facility is expected to begin construction in 2024 and open in 2025.





Operations

The Operations Section has daily emergency response responsibilities throughout the County. All 22 fire and rescue stations are staffed 24/7 utilizing career or a combination of career and volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. An "all hazards" approach includes responses to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) incidents. Nearly 80% of emergency incidents are related to EMS responses. This includes Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) call types. The remaining responses are comprised primarily of structure fires, fire alarms, gas leaks, brush fires, vehicle fires, building collapses, hazardous materials, technical rescues, motor vehicle crashes, and water rescues. Each station is uniquely equipped with apparatus to serve its population and support county-wide response.

Emergency Medical Services

Improving EMS Services: Analyzed data to optimize resource allocation, staffing, and response times. Equipped all fire engines with advanced life support equipment for faster medical care. Recognized EMS crews for successful CPR saves to boost morale and highlight the importance of CPR training.



- **Community Engagement:** Lieutenant Justin Green participated in a panel discussion on preventing falls in the elderly.
- **Strengthening Workforce:** Over 50 new BLS providers and 19 new ALS providers were endorsed. A BLS internship task book was created to guide and improve training for future responders.

- **Standardization and Improvement:** A protocol format change improved clarity and streamlined procedures for EMS providers. Comprehensive protocol updates ensured new best practices and medications were implemented.
- **New Equipment:** Pelvic slings were added to medic units for faster stabilization of pelvic injuries. Infant warmers were placed on all transport units to maintain normal body temperature for newborns and vulnerable patients.
- **Collaboration:** EMS collaborated with the Police Department to conduct active violence training drills for better preparedness.

Special Operations

Upgraded Personnel qualified as Technical Rescue Operations (TRO) to TRT

When this initiative began less than 10% of our Technical Rescue personnel were TRTs. TRO personnel are trained to the Operations level for technical rescue, whereas TRT personnel are trained to the higher Technician level, to include Swift Water Rescue. Special Operations upgraded 25 more TRO members to TRT.

TRT members are required to complete the following.

- Rope Rescue Technician
- Confined Space Technician
- Structural Collapse Specialist
- Water Rescue Technician
- Yearly Special Operations Task Book

Rescue Challenge

Special Operations hosted 2 sites for the “Technical Rescue Association of Virginia’s” Rescue Challenge. The drill is a 4 day long, multi discipline, scenario– based evolution. 12 Special Operations Teams from across the east coast participate in this yearly event. Prince William County’s Special Operations division hosted 2 of these sites. The “O” Course, or Obstacle course was one of the sites. This evolution requires teams to move a 2,500 lb steel object over, around and through obstacles. The teams practiced their heavy lifting and moving techniques to accomplish



the task. The other site was a mock “Civil Disturbance” with the intention of protesting the building of a data center. Manikins were used to simulate live protestors that were stuck in various locations to include atop of a 140 ft crane, 300 ft up on a water tower, and in various trees to name a few. Special Operations crews utilized High Angle Rope techniques to rescue the manikins.

Hazmat Response

- Co-Hosted Hazmat Technician School with Loudoun and MWA.
- Hosted first Chemistry Class for Emergency Response.
- Conducted CHE with Micron.
- Participated in the Full-Scale



Exercise at Quantico which was a VRE train that hit a delivery truck carrying chlorine.

- First Regional meeting with COG Hazmat Teams. Transitioned to electronic Task Books.

Volunteer Program

In 2023, the Prince William County Fire and Rescue System relied heavily on its dedicated volunteers. Across eight departments, including Buckhall (BVFD), Dale City (DCVFD), Dumfries (DTVFD), Lake Jackson (LJVFD), Nokesville (NVFD), Occoquan–Woodbridge–Lorton (OWLVFD), Stone House (SHVFD), and Yorkshire (YVFD), over 800 volunteers served their communities. Below are the average number of volunteers at each department:



- Buckhall (BVFD) – 50
- Dale City (DCVFD) – 175
- Dumfries–Triangle (DTVFD) – 128
- Lake Jackson (LJVFD) – 43
- Nokesville (NVFD) – 147
- Occoquan–Woodbridge–Lorton (OWLVFD) – 216
- Stone House (SHVFD) –
- 36 Yorkshire (YVFD) – 48

Buckhall VFD



At Buckhall VFD, Tanker 516 was placed in service in November 2023.

Dale City VFD



Dale City VFD focused on recruitment and retention of volunteers with nearly 200 individuals volunteering in 2023!

Nokesville VFD

Nokesville VFD Fire Station 25 had many improvements in 2023. After 20 years of service our asphalt parking lot was replaced. We have many more improvements planned this year to include, completing LED lighting upgrades inside our station, new concrete, replacing our boilers, and much more.



Occoquan– Woodbridge–Lorton VFD



Throughout 2023, the **Occoquan– Woodbridge–Lorton Volunteer Fire Department (OWLVFD)** actively participated in various community events:

Fundraisers: They supported St. Baldrick's (children's cancer research) in March, the Tunnel to Towers 5k (veterans and first responders) in April, and ACTS 5k (domestic violence organization) in October.

Community Events: They provided EMS standby and public education at the Occoquan Riverfest Craft Show in June, Taste of Woodbridge in June, National Night Out in August, and Halloween events in October and October 31st.

Public Engagement: We displayed fire apparatus at Veterans Park's Touch-a-Truck event in April and participated in the Woodstock parade in July. They also offered fire safety education at Back-to-School night at Freedom High School in

August and had a table at the Stonebridge Potomac Town Center's Chili Cookoff in September.

Holiday Events: They judged the Boat Xmas Lighting Competition at Prince William Marina in December. Open House: They hosted their own Open House event at Station 14 in Woodbridge in October.

Stone House VFD



Stone House VFD made significant strides in training and facility upgrades:

Certification Training:

- Firefighter I/II - 1
- Member BLS Protocols - 3
- Members Initiation of BLS Internship - 1
- Member Fire Officer II - 1
- Member EVDT 1/II - 1
- Member CPR Instructor - 1
- Member EMT National Registry - 1
- Member Facility Upgrades/Capital Replacements
 - Installation of Bay Doors
 - Initiation of SCBA Cascade System Replacement

Yorkshire Volunteer Fire Department



The **Yorkshire Volunteer Fire Department** held its Fire Prevention Open House on October 14th, 2023, and it was a tremendous success, bringing together the community for a day of learning and fun. With over 750 attendees of all ages, each attendee had an opportunity to be engaged in interactive demonstrations, educational sessions, and activities aimed at promoting fire safety awareness.

Event Highlights:

- Interactive demonstrations, including a vehicle extrication demo, fire truck and ambulance tours, and hands-on learning experiences.
- Informative sessions covered topics such as home fire safety, kitchen safety, and electrical safety, empowering attendees with practical knowledge.
- The Kids Zone was a hit, offering firefighter dress-up opportunities and a massive fire truck slide.
- Attendees had the chance to meet and greet firefighters and EMTs from both the Yorkshire VFD and Prince William DFR career staff, asking questions, and gaining insights into the crucial work they do to keep the community safe.
- Prince William Sherriff's office participated and provided over 60 children IDs.
- Microsoft Corporation provided 13 volunteers to support the event which in turn, donated \$1300 to the YVFD.

Refreshments and fire safety giveaways, and large screen LCD giveaway, ensured everyone left the event with valuable information and resources to promote fire safety at home.

Overall, the event was a HUGE success and one of the largest attended events that the YVFD has hosted.

Lake Jackson VFD



Lake Jackson VDF Highlights:

- 3 New Firefighters: Robert Butt, John Schlotter IV, and Sierra Woollard
- 1 New Paramedic: Samantha Warner New Station Garden
- Tunnels to Towers Run – Fastest Firehouse Award First station trip to FDIC
- Life Saving Award for 2022 Marine Corps Marathon PWC Fair

Dumfries-Triangle VFD



2023 was another outstanding year as the **Dumfries-Triangle VFD (DTVFD)** continued to provide Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services to the Towns of Dumfries and Quantico along with Montclair and Triangle. Operating from our two stations in Triangle and Montclair, Stations 3 and 17, we responded to several hundred fires, accidents, medical emergencies, and public services calls.

We upgraded our stations and equipment, supported the community at health and safety events, parades, and community education and station visits. We

added a new training facility to enhance our constant efforts to enhance and burnish our fire and EMS skills.

We began the process of adding a Basic Life Support Ambulance to our repertoire of services.

We had one of our best recruiting years with many new recruits who were sent to the Fire Academy and/or EMT training to become certified providers for the public. Our associate members supported Operations by fund raising, administrative, Information Technology, and public education efforts.

Operations and Associate members provided over 20,000 hours of service saving the citizens of Dumfries, Triangle, Montclair, and Quantico, along with the rest of Prince William County, several millions of dollars.

With our partners from the Department of Fire Rescue, 2024 promises to be another year of superior service. Skilled, dedicated, and devoted volunteers

System Support

The System Support Section manages department and system programs and activities from “behind the scenes” to ensure prompt, efficient and effective service delivery to the community. Areas of responsibility include Training, Human Resources, Planning & Logistics, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Information Technology, Health & Safety, and Management Services.

Training

A total of 209 classes were taught during CY2023.

- 115 Fire
- 97 EMS

Number of students trained: 5,769



Recruits



- Fire recruits graduated in calendar year 2023 – 56
- Volunteers fire recruits graduated in calendar year 2023 – 18
- Volunteer EMT's graduated in calendar year 2023 – 21
- Paramedics graduated in calendar year 2023 – 16
- Cadets graduated in Calendar year 2023 – 10 (DELETE)

High School Cadet Training Program

Students from various high schools in Prince William County participated in the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue (PWCDFR) Cadet program. Throughout the year, these Cadets underwent intensive training to earn Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) Firefighter certification. Their training encompassed a range of essential skills, including fire behavior, fire suppression, ladder operations, search and rescue techniques, and other job-related competencies.

- Cadets graduated in Calendar year 2023 – 10

Computer Information Technology (CIT)

The CIT team achieved significant improvements in hardware, software, data & GIS, and training in 2023. Here are some highlights:

- **Hardware:** Upgraded all mobile devices and operating systems. Improved network security and completed an IT asset inventory. Resolved billing issues with vendors. Conducted an apparatus audit to assess mobile and portable radio needs.

- **Software:** Integrated Telestaff with CAD and other systems. Developed new applications like the First Due app and EMS Billing Configuration. Updated Fire and EMS reports to comply with new standards.
- **Data & GIS:** Improved data accuracy and reporting capabilities. Created dashboards for situational awareness and call volume analysis. Completed projects like the Street Map Application and an interactive dashboard for senior facilities. Analyzed community vulnerabilities and their impacts on the department.
- **Rebuilding & Training:** Team members attended various conferences and training sessions on data, technology, and emergency response. Backfilled operational positions and provided liaison support during emergencies.
- **Participation in COGs and Regional Committees:** The team actively participated in various committees related to public safety technology and communication

Health & Safety

- Participated in the **Fire Fighter Safety Stand-Down**, aimed at highlighting crucial safety measures and best practices in the firefighting community. 2023 focused on responder safety during incidents involving lithium-ion batteries. Focus areas highlighted hazard recognition & firefighter safety, firefighting operations, and post-incident considerations. This was completed with utilization of Microsoft SharePoint with the department.
- Implemented **Driver Eligibility and Record Review** within Policy 1.1.11 Risk Reporting and Review for the FRS System. This reflected the requirements of our insurance provider to present a list of eligible drivers for each volunteer agency and DFR.

- Implementation of the **Cancer Awareness Committee**. Committee implemented evidence-based best practices aimed at reducing cancer risks within the department. Through strategic initiatives the committee significantly enhanced awareness and prevention strategies, leading to improved health outcomes and enhanced safety standards among firefighters.
- Implementation of a daily staffed **peer support technician** ensured that qualified individuals are available to provide support, guidance, and assistance to peers within our organization. This Accomplishment includes maintaining optimal staffing levels to meet demand, implementing effective scheduling strategies to ensure coverage, and fostering a supportive environment where peers can access assistance when needed, ultimately contributing to the overall well-being and success of the peer support program.
- Implementation of the **lithium-ion battery recycling program** successfully diverted tons of potentially hazardous waste from landfills, while simultaneously recovering valuable materials for reuse. Through strategic partnerships and innovative technology, we've established a sustainable cycle that not only mitigates environmental impact but also promotes resource conservation for a greener future.
- Implementation of an **Annual Medical Physical Health Coaching Program** has yielded remarkable outcomes, significantly enhancing participants' overall well-being. Through tailored coaching sessions and personalized health plans, we've witnessed notable improvements in participants' health metrics, fostering a culture of proactive self-care and sustained wellness within our department. This initiative stands as a testament to our commitment to promoting holistic health and empowering individuals to thrive in both mind and body.

Personnel Office

- Led successful **promotions** for various ranks (Deputy Chief, Division Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, Technician II) with a focus on identifying qualified candidates (28 for Captain, 38 for Lieutenant, 27 for Technician II).
- Expanded the **Early Hire Program** to attract more qualified technicians.
- Improved HR expertise through **certifications** (SHRM-CP, SPHR) and diversity training (DEI Cohort course). Boosted uniformed staff by hiring 77 employees.
- Provided support to other departments by assisting with **promotional processes**.
- Actively participated in **recruitment efforts** through job fairs and colleges (attended around 50 events).

Logistics

The DFR's Logistics Department plays a critical role in supporting the department's mission of safeguarding lives and property. In 2023, the department witnessed significant achievements in fleet management, equipment maintenance, facilities upkeep, and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) operations. This report details the department's accomplishments in these key areas.

Fleet Management:

- **Vehicle Acquisition:** Logistics facilitated the successful placement in service of various crucial apparatuses, including Tanker 515, Medic Units 525, 526, 520, Engine Units 506, 522, 523, and 524, Truck 523, two Fire Marshall (FMO) vehicles, and a dedicated Safety vehicle.



- **Preventative Maintenance:** The department prioritized preventative maintenance by completing service on 257 vehicles, ensuring optimal performance, and minimizing downtime.
- **Vehicle Repair Capacity:** The Fleet subdivision addressed 760 vehicle service repair tickets, demonstrating their commitment to maintaining a fully operational fleet.

Order Fulfillment Efficiency:

- The Logistics Department efficiently processed a significant number of equipment requests. They fulfilled **4,214 Q-Traq orders**, ensuring operations personnel received the essential equipment needed to maintain day-to-day emergency operations. To guarantee timely delivery, they completed **156 carrier runs** directly to fire stations.

Investing in the Future:

The Logistics Department recognizes the importance of fostering the next generation of firefighters. In 2023, they played a pivotal role in preparing the department's future by outfitting 119 career recruits and 21 high school cadets with essential structural firefighter turnout gear. This investment ensures these

individuals are equipped to begin their firefighting careers with the necessary tools for safety and success.

Equipment Maintenance:

- **Standardization for Efficiency:** A comprehensive standardization program was implemented for chainsaws, Milwaukee tools, and Hurst equipment. This initiative streamlined deployment procedures and ensured equipment compatibility across different units.
- **Rigorous Testing:** Logistics conducted a department-wide hose testing program, meticulously inspecting 156,000 feet of fire hose, a critical component for effective fire suppression. Additionally, all ground ladders and aerial devices underwent rigorous inspection procedures.
- **Fire Engine Pump Testing:** To ensure optimal water pressure during fire emergencies, Logistics completed pump testing on all fire engines.



Facilities Management:

- **Maintaining Operational Readiness:** The department addressed 361 facilities repair requests, ensuring fire stations remained in optimal condition and provided a safe and functional environment for firefighters.

SCBA Operations:

Despite a limited team size of two technicians, the SCBA subdivision achieved remarkable results:

- **Fit Testing:** To guarantee proper respiratory protection for firefighters, the SCBA team conducted 807 career fit tests. Additionally, they fit tested 21 high school firefighting students and performed follow-up fit testing on 55 loaned masks, demonstrating exceptional dedication to safety.
- **Meticulous Maintenance:** The SCBA shop completed a significant number of maintenance tasks, including 800 MMR flow tests, 80 RIT bag inspections, and a substantial 285 work orders and repairs. This commitment to equipment upkeep ensures SCBA functionality for critical interventions. **Pioneering Digital Solutions:** In a groundbreaking move, the SCBA subdivision became the first in the nation to implement a paperless system for both inventory and personnel records. This innovation streamlines processes and improves data accessibility.
- **Training for the Future:** The SCBA team proactively provided training to all Department of Fire & Rescue (DFR) staff on system updates and equipment, including personnel from both fire academy classes. Additionally, they developed a training plan for future technicians and a comprehensive training manual for volunteer firefighters.
- **Enhanced Safety Measures:** In collaboration with safety officers, the SCBA subdivision implemented the MSA HUB telemetry system. This cutting-edge technology provides crucial data on firefighter air consumption during emergencies, enabling improved decision-making. Additionally, they are currently working on integrating Bluetooth connections for new radios, further enhancing communication and tactical advantages in the field.

- **Essential Air Supply Upgrades:** The SCBA subdivision facilitated the successful replacement of three critical air compressors across the county, ensuring firefighters have access to clean breathing air during operations.

Conclusion:

The Fire Department's Logistics Department serves as the backbone of the department's operations. Their unwavering dedication to fleet management, equipment maintenance, facilities upkeep, and SCBA operations ensures first responders have the necessary resources to perform their duties effectively and safely. The impressive achievements outlined in this report demonstrate the department's commitment to operational excellence and its unwavering dedication to public safety.

New Apparatus



Enhanced Emergency Medical Response: Three new state-of-the-art Ambulance-Medic Units (520, 525, & 526) joined our fleet, equipped with cutting-edge medical technology to provide the highest level of care during critical situations.



Firefighting Powerhouse: Engines & Trucks 506, 522, 523, and 524 bring increased firefighting power and rescue capabilities. These advanced vehicles boast improved firefighting technology and features for a faster and more effective response.



Command and Support: Two dedicated Fire Marshal Command Vehicles enhance our ability to coordinate fire investigations and emergency scene management. Additionally, a new Logistics Vehicle streamlines equipment and resource transport, ensuring logistical readiness.



Andrew Sanders photograph

Safety First: Safety 502 reinforces our commitment to firefighter safety with specialized equipment and features designed to protect our crew members during emergency operations.



Andrew Sanders photograph

Expanded Resources: Tanker 515 bolsters our firefighting capacity with increased water-carrying capabilities, essential for battling larger blazes. Rounding out the additions are Utility vehicles 524 (equipped with a plow-sander) and 526, providing vital support during diverse emergencies and weather conditions.

In Memoriam

In Memory of Briant Atkins

Briant served as the Prince William County Fire and Rescue System Hazardous Materials Officer and Coordinator from March 2022 to his passing on July 6, 2023. He was a dedicated professional, who worked diligently to improve the life and safety of others.

Briant's lifelong passion for firefighting ignited at the age of 16 and burned bright throughout his career in the fire service industry, until he was diagnosed with an occupational-related cancer in April 2022. His commitment to the field encompassed all aspects of firefighting, but it was his unmatched expertise in hazardous material response and his unwavering dedication to training and educating fellow firefighters that set him apart. For an impressive span of 31 years, Briant selflessly served the City of Alexandria Fire Department, rising through the ranks to ultimately retire as a Captain in 2013. Even after retiring, his desire to make a difference in fire education led him to take on a new role as the Campus Fire Safety Officer at the University of Mary Washington (UMW). There, he continued to leave an indelible mark on the field. But Briant's desire to protect and support firefighters didn't stop there.

Following his time at UMW, he transitioned to the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP), assuming the position of Chief Safety Officer. In this role, he became a champion for firefighter education and advocated for legislation to safeguard the well-being of active-duty firefighters in the state of Virginia.



During his tenure at VDFP, Briant also began to raise awareness for firefighters diagnosed with occupational-related cancer, becoming a powerful advocate for their cause. In 2022, driven by his true passion for hazardous materials response, Briant embraced a new role as the Civilian Hazardous Material Coordinator of Prince William County Fire Department. This allowed him to delve deeper into his expertise and continue making a difference on the frontlines. In addition to his illustrious professional career, Briant was an active member of the volunteer fire departments of Salem and Mine Run, dedicating his time and energy to serving these communities for a number of years, including being a charter and lifetime member of Salem Volunteer Fire Department. His commitment to firefighting extended far beyond the boundaries of his professional duties, leaving a lasting impact wherever he went.

Outside of his professional career, Briant found immense joy in the company of his family and friends. Together, they embarked on numerous adventures, always approaching them with a smile and a "hell-yeah" attitude. One of his greatest passions was traveling, particularly to destinations blessed with sunny skies and sandy beaches. Additionally, he shared a special bond with his brother and close friends, as they enthusiastically followed the world of horse racing. When it came to sports, Briant was an avid supporter of the Philadelphia Eagles. Always cheering on his beloved team on game days, full of excitement, as he gathered with family and friends to share in the thrill of each touchdown.

He is survived by his wife, Leitha Burke Atkins; children, Eliza K. Richards and husband, Phillip F. Richards, and Madelyn K. Atkins; brother, James P. Atkins (Susan Graves); sister, Kim D. Atkins; and many other family members and cherished friends. In addition to his father, Briant is preceded in death by his beloved grandson, Liam F. Richards.

In Memory of Lieutenant Greg Reese

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of retired Lieutenant Greg Reese. Greg joined the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue on March 20, 1978, and served faithfully retiring on May 31, 2010. He continued to serve the Department as an Instructor until April 30, 2016. During his career, Greg served the Department in Operations, Training, and Public Safety Communications. After retirement, Greg also worked for several years with the Virginia Department of Fire Programs as an adjunct instructor where he taught throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Information regarding funeral services will be forthcoming. Please keep the Reese family in your thoughts and prayers.



End of Watch December 17, 2023

In Memory of Captain Richard “Ace” Simpson

Richard was born & raised in Burke, VA and is a graduate of West Springfield High School. He joined the Burke Volunteer Fire Company on December 1, 1966, and remained a Life Member.

Richard joined the Prince William County Department of Fire & Rescue on April 23, 1973, and served faithfully retiring on June 30, 2003. He continued to serve the department as a welder until 2011 at the Fire Academy.

He is survived by his wife and fellow FRS family member Teresa Simpson, his son Richard Simpson, Jr. and six siblings.



In Memory of the Members of the Dumfries VFD

- Sheri Albright, Associate Member
- Louis Breedy, Lifetime Member
- Elsie Garrison, Lifetime Member

Recruitment

Career & Volunteer Opportunities

Are you ready to begin your career? Interested in volunteer opportunities? Scan the code below for more information on Prince William County Fire & Rescue System's employment and volunteer opportunities!

For information on career Firefighter/EMT opportunities, click Fire & Rescue Career Information, call 703-792-6800, or send an email.

For information on volunteer opportunities, contact Farrah Large, FRS Administrative Coordinator 703-792-5641 or the individual fire company.

Contact Us

Office of the Chief

Prince William County Fire & Rescue System

1 County Complex Court

Prince William , Virginia 22192

703-792-6800

DFRMcCoartAdmin@pwcgov.org

- Fire Marshal's Office: 703-792-6360
- Office of Emergency Management: pwcva.gov/ready; 703-792- 7050;
emergencymanagement@pwcgov.org
- Public Education: 703-792-6360; frspubedrequest@pwcgov.org
- Recruitment: 703-792-8392; FireRescuejobs@pwcgov.org
- Training: 703-792-6380; DFRTraining@pwcgov.org

Social Media

Facebook: facebook.com/PWCFireRescue

X (formerly Twitter): twitter.com/PWCFireRescue