

2022

A group of firefighters in full protective gear, including helmets and jackets with reflective stripes, are gathered in front of a dark, heavy door. They appear to be working together, with some reaching towards the door. The scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the firefighters' gear and the texture of the door.

Annual Report

Meridian Fire Department

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A message from...

Fire Chief

Kris Blume



On behalf of the men and women of the Meridian Fire Department, it is my privilege to present to you our Annual Report for 2022. While the role of the Fire Service has dramatically changed and increased in complexity over the years, the commitment to serve our community with compassion, professionalism, honesty, ownership and trust remains resolute. In 2022, once again, our demand for service exceeded 11,000 total apparatus responses.

This past year has been one of tremendous growth in an attempt to meet the community's needs. We look forward to opening fire stations 7 and 8 in the fall of 2023. Additionally, we began onboarding 35 new members into the agency from recruit firefighters to Deputy Chief positions. The City has also approved and purchased a second ladder truck to enhance emergency response.

Emergency medical responses continues to account for the vast majority of our incident volume; however, we continue to experience significant loss by way of fires and other emergencies. I am exceptionally proud of our men and women that serve in all areas of the Meridian Fire Department – they are all skilled professionals who are pushed to their physical, mental, and emotional limits on a daily basis. Passion for serving and a commitment to our mission are what we do, it is what the community expects, and it is why we earn the respect and support of those we serve. We have designed this report to highlight our performance and accomplishments over 2022. I hope our commitment to our mission and values provide you with the same pride and honor I enjoy each day serving them and this community as their Fire Chief.

94

Firefighters

11,108

Total Apparatus Responses
**3.6% increase from 2021*

6

Fire Stations



2022 Overview

Key Operations:

Fire Suppression

Emergency Medical Response

Emergency Rescue Response

Fire Prevention

- Fire Life & Safety Inspections
- Plan Reviews
- Fire Code Development

Fire Investigations

Fire Safety and Public Education

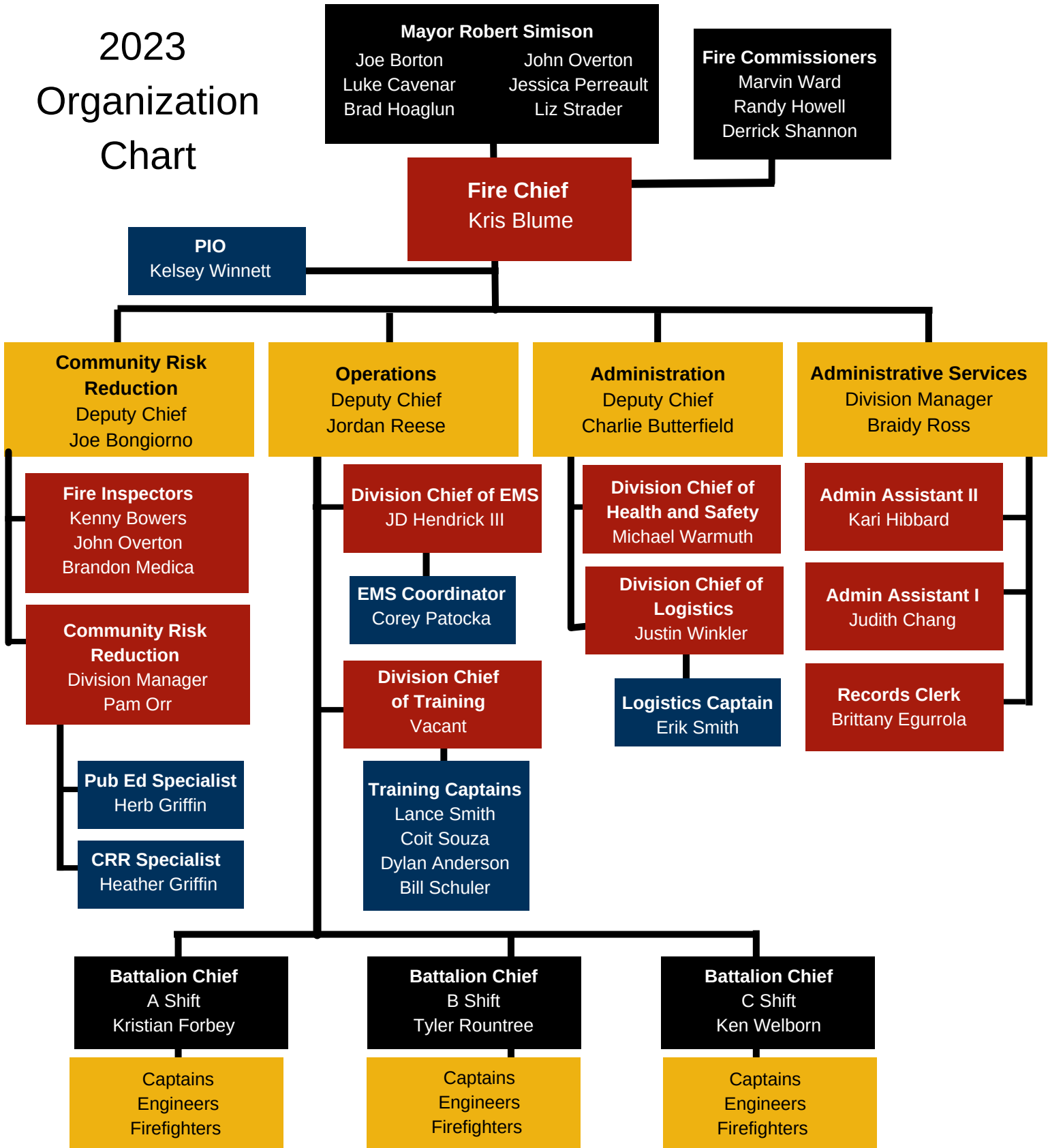
- Car Seat Checks & Installation Assistance
- Hands Only CPR Courses
- Safety Presentations
- Friendly Firefighter Visits
- Smoke & CO Alarm Assistance
- Public Safety Academy
- Juvenile Fire Setter Program
- Stop the Bleed Program
- AED Program

Report Highlights

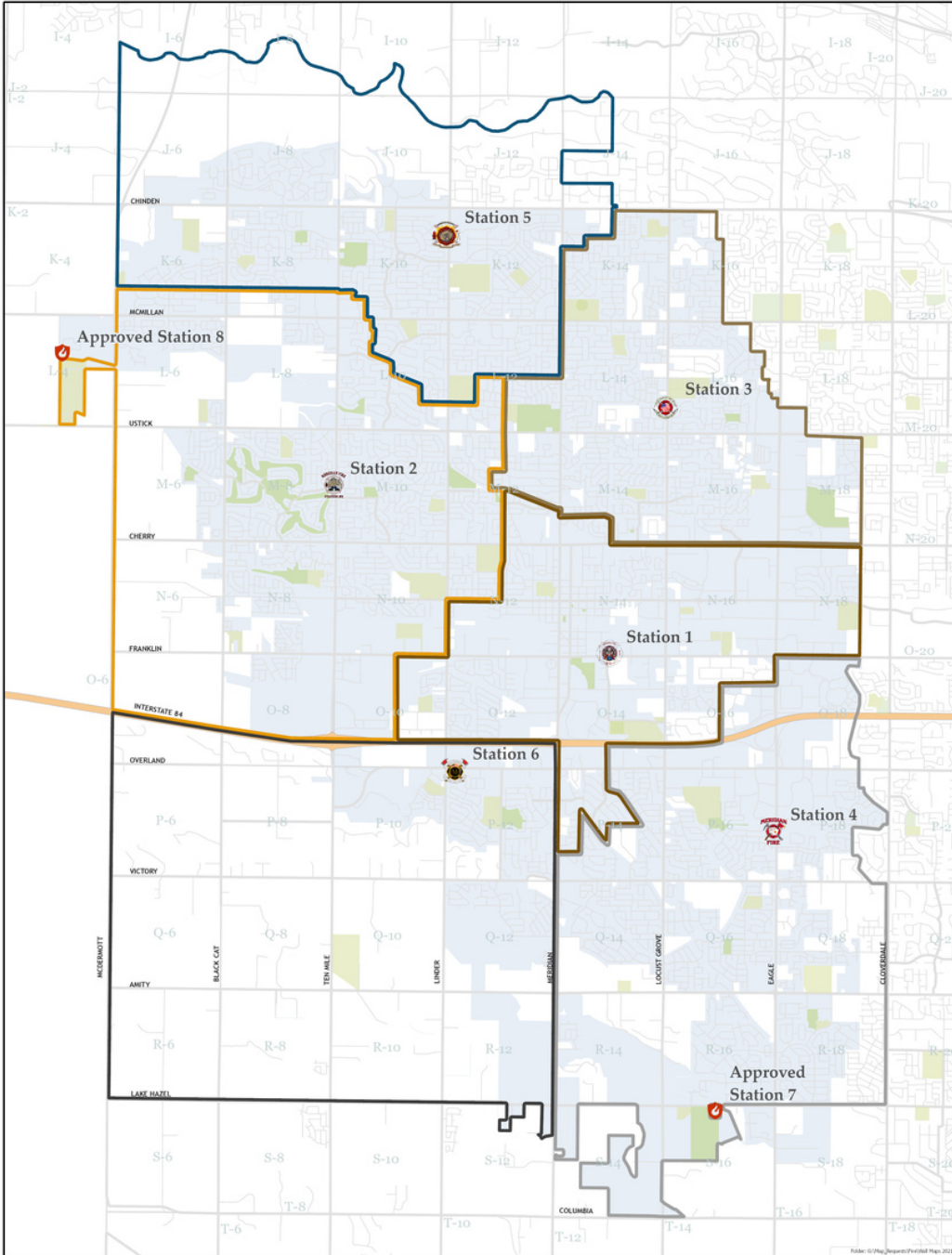
- MFD Hosts Skills USA
- Fire Station 7 & 8 Groundbreaking
- Push-In of Truck 31
- Organization Restructure
- Purchase of additional apparatus's
- School Bus Extraction and Live Burn
- Completion of the Community Risk Assessment, Standards of Cover



2023 Organization Chart



Fire Station Locations



Meridian Fire Station #1
540 E Franklin Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642

Meridian Fire Station #2
2401 N Ten Mile Rd.
Meridian, ID 83646

Meridian Fire Station #3
3545 N Locust Grove Rd.
Meridian, ID 83646

Meridian Fire Station #4
2515 S Eagle Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642

Meridian Fire Station #5
6001 N Linder Rd.
Meridian, ID 83646

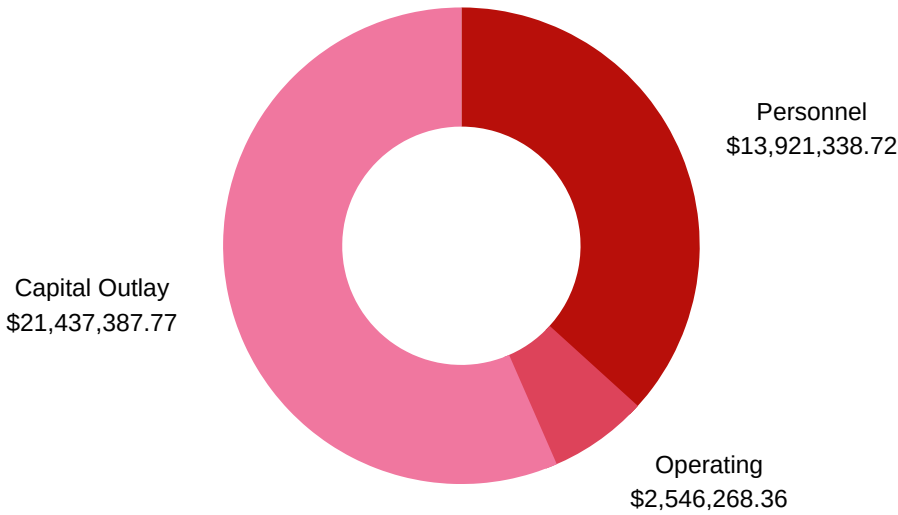
Meridian Fire Station #6
1435 W Overland Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642

**Meridian Fire Department
Administration**
33 E Broadway Ave. #204
Meridian, ID 83642

Stations Opening 2023
Meridian Fire Station #7
Meridian Fire Station #8

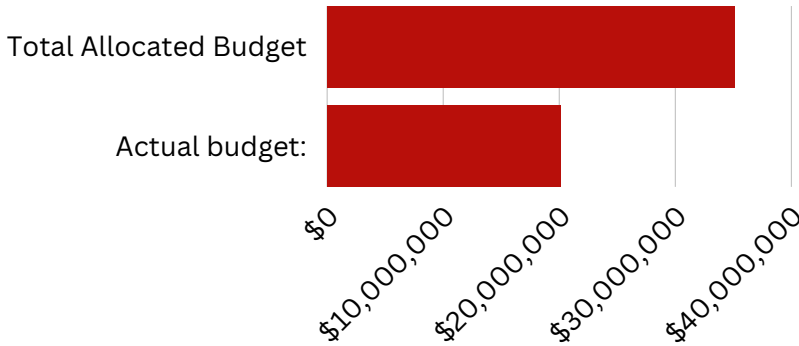


Financial Report



With the approval of 2 new stations, the department capital budget received a large increase which elevated our budget to \$35.1 million dollars. This is an increase of roughly 10 million dollars from the previous year's budget.

Donations in 2022 comprised of \$26,400 from the Light My Fire, Inc. organization and \$3,450 in public donations related to our car seat and smoke alarm programs. Fire Inspection and permit fees brought in \$46,044



Meridian Fire's continued focus is to provide the highest level of service for the citizens of Meridian while keeping costs as low as possible. We would like to thank all members of the Department that contributed to the preparation of the 2022 budget including the City's Finance Department, the Mayor, our City Council and our Rural Fire Protection District Commissioners.

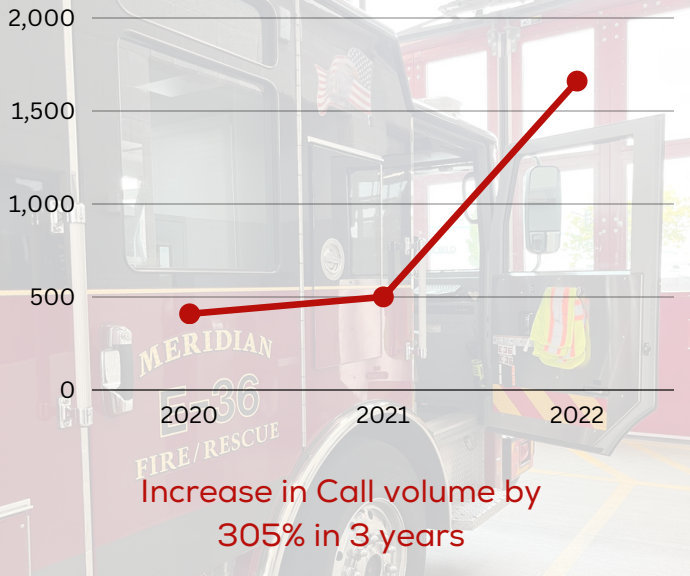


***Remaining budget was carried forward to FY23 for Station 7, and 8 station builds and apparatus purchases for the department.



Department Stats

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS



TOTAL PUBLIC SERVICE CALLS

1,233

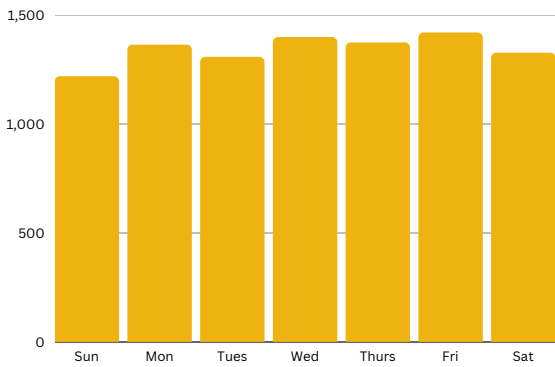
SMOKE ALARMS CHECKED

565

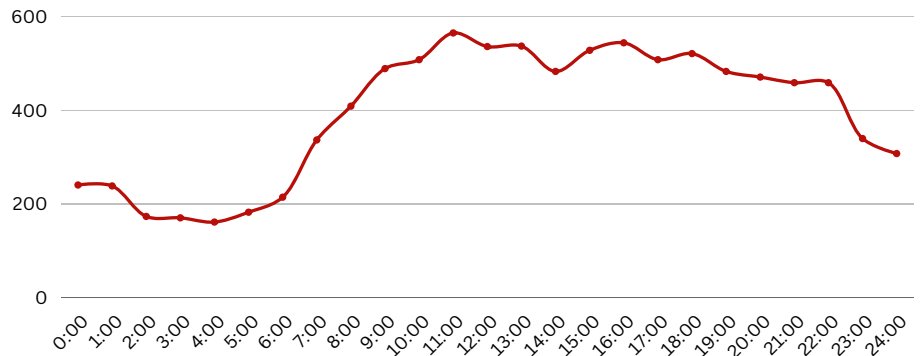
CITIZENS EDUCATED ON SMOKE ALARMS

744

BUSIEST DAY FRIDAY



BUSIEST TIME 11:00 AM



74

STRUCTURE
FIRES

27

VEHICLE
FIRES

70

VEGETATION
FIRES

171

TOTAL
FIRES



Administrative Services



The Administrative Services Division is responsible for providing external and internal customer service support, performing complex administrative duties for all other primary Divisions of the Fire Department, and managing department programs, events, and projects.

The Division went through a huge transition in 2022. We welcomed a whole new team with the hiring of four new employees; Brittany Egurrola, Records Clerk, Kari Hibbard, Administrative Assistant II, Braidy Ross, Administrative Division Manager and Judy Chang, Administrative Assistant I.

The team is focused on learning and supporting the department through defined areas of responsibilities with goals around identifying and updating processes to increase our level of support and impact. Through collaboration and communication, the Admin Services Team is working to maintain established traditions while simultaneously creating new ones to accommodate the ever-changing needs of the department and the city we serve.



Operations

The Operations Division of the Meridian Fire Department is responsible for the delivery of emergency services and public assistance to the community. These services are provided by fire department personnel responding from six strategically located fire stations throughout the City of Meridian. The operations division includes the divisions of logistics, training, and emergency medical services.

In 2022, several strategic improvements were instituted in the operations division. The fire department broke ground on two new fire stations; station seven (7) and station eight (8). These two fire stations are expected to be completed in the Fall of 2023. The fire department also began the process of on-boarding 30 new members as part of the staffing for the new stations. Two lateral firefighter academies were completed in 2022 with 10 new members being added to the ranks of the department. Additionally, several promotions took place in 2022 to include one battalion chief, three suppression captains and three engineers.



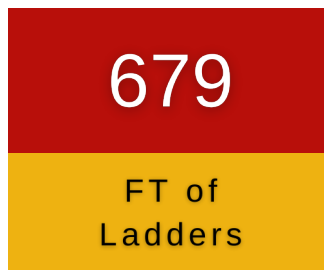
Logistics



The Logistics Division is responsible for the management of all fire facilities, apparatus, and equipment. Logistics completes and/or directs all apparatus and equipment testing, repairs, preventive maintenance and records management (including self-contained breathing apparatus, technical rescue tools, chain saws, ladders, air compressors, ventilation fans, nozzles, fire hose testing, pump testing, etc.).

2022 was a big year for the Logistics division with multiple accomplishments to meet the growing needs of the city. The fleet welcomed a new ladder truck and battalion chief vehicle, with an additional truck, 3 engines, water tender, and logistics vehicle on order.

We broke ground on Fire Station 7 & 8 which are expected to be open and operational in Fall 2023. Hiring has begun for these new fire stations therefore we equipped 10 new firefighters and began ordering to outfit the new stations and crews. 2023 is set to be another busy year!



**2022 Annual Testing Numbers



Training

2022 has seen a lot of change in the Training Division. On March 16 of 2022, Kevin Fedrizzi retired as the Division Chief of Training after 10 years of service to the Meridian Fire Department. Chief Jordan Reese was hired as his replacement and stepped into this role on March 28th.

Beyond the normal ongoing training that the Meridian Fire Department performed to ensure that its current membership remains highly trained and ready to respond to any emergency, the Training Division has been heavily invested in helping the Department recruit, train, and develop the thirty plus individuals who will be needed to open Stations 7 & 8. To help in this endeavor, the Training Division brought on Captain Dylan Anderson to bolster the training team. Captain Anderson along with Captains Smith and Souza have worked tirelessly to create a new lateral academy process. A total of 11 new lateral recruits have made it through this process in two separate academies. These individuals are now operating across the three shifts and going through a newly developed probationary process.

Additional new developments in the Training Division include:

- The creation and implementation of the Fire Training Officers (FTOs) program with the purpose of developing and delivering a yearly training plan for 2024.
- The delivery of a 40-hour training to the members of the Department's peer support team.
- The implementation of new online testing software.
- The development of a new return to work policy to help members transition back to work after extended absences.



Emergency Medical Services



As the City continues growing, so do the needs of the EMS Division. Meridian Fire ran 7,907 EMS calls for service in 2022. An additional 1,233 Public Service calls were requested. This includes assisting someone who has fallen, needed lifting assistance, or assisting our Police Department with a medical evaluation.

There were multiple changes to our handling of narcotics in 2022. Early in the year, we transitioned our narcotics tracking to an automated system called NarcBox. This process has really helped with the streamlining of our tracking of Narcotics use and storage. EMT's were trained in the administration of Naloxone to administer to patients who had overdosed.

In October, we hired an EMS Coordinator. Corey Patocka comes to use with over 25 years of EMS service. He has a broad EMS perspective including ground and flight transport, critical care paramedicine, and was recently the interim director of Weiser Ambulance in Weiser, ID. Corey has hit the ground running and been a great asset to the department. He will help oversee and coordinate all EMS training for MFD.

Following up on our Active Shooter training from 2021, Meridian Police and Fire Departments helped lead the way to bring a 3rd party vendor in to Ada County to perform a county-wide Active Shooter training in December. The Ada County Office of Emergency Management was able to secure a federal grant for us to conduct this training which proved very valuable as we were able to get about 600 responders of police, fire, and EMS and even our dispatchers through the training in 4 days.



Community Risk Reduction

The goals of the Community Risk division are to prevent fires from occurring, minimize the impact of fires that do occur, and determine the cause and origin of those fires whenever possible. Much of the work we do is dependent on our connection with the public, residents and business owners alike. The Inspection Staff conducts fire and life safety inspections in all the businesses in our city. Safe businesses help reduce the risk to the public and the employees of those businesses.

In 2022, we investigated over 60 fires in our district and assisted other districts with fire investigations as needed. The top two causes of fire were improperly discarded smoking material and cooking fires. Our goal is to educate on these types of fires and reduce the number of fires occurring.

This year we completed 2,868 inspections. There were 946 violations noted with 848 cleared. All of these inspections reduce the risk and make our city safer for the workers and our citizens frequenting these locations.



Top Violations Found in 2022

- 1** Fire extinguishers: Annual service not completed or the extinguisher(s) were missing.
- 2** Fire protection systems: Missing semi-annual or annual servicing.
- 3** Exit signs: Burned out or not functioning



Public Education

It is our belief that most fires and accidents can be prevented. Our goal is to provide every citizen within our city and rural community the highest level of safety awareness training available. Despite our best efforts; emergencies do happen. Providing training to reduce the risk and impact of emergencies is a vital element in our education programs.



The Public Education Division has two full-time members who provide fire and life safety programs and up-to-date messages in prevention through direct training programs, presentations and demonstrations using various forms of visual and static displays. Public education is viewed as an ongoing process that occurs formally and informally, as we interact with the community in day-to-day situations, and through our many scheduled appearances and presentations.



"So often, communities and the media only recognize the men and women of the fire service when they respond to fires and other emergencies. One of the greatest accomplishments of America's fire service goes mostly unnoticed by the citizens of this nation. That accomplishment is those fires that are prevented. A fire that never starts can never harm or take lives of Americans, or firefighters."

– R. David Paulison, Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



Public Education Events

Fire Prevention Month 2022

The shining star and our most recognizable public education program is Fire Prevention Month. This year our team took the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) theme of "Fire Won't Wait; Plan Your Escape" out to all of our elementary schools and many of our day care centers. We made both classroom and school assembly visits. We also held our annual poster contest in the elementary schools. We found this to be an effective way to get our message into the homes. Additionally, we once again partnered with Domino's Pizza delivering pizzas to homes throughout the community. Once at the home we offered the family the chance to receive free pizza if they allowed us to check the operation of their home's smoke alarms. If the alarms worked, Dominos gave them their pizza for free and if they didn't work, then MFD corrected the problem on the spot.



Sparky The Fire Dog and Smokey the Bear

Two of our and Americas favorite mascots were busy this year. Sparky celebrated his 72nd birthday by joining firefighters for classroom visits in our elementary schools. Students gave him birthday cards and he in turn gave them an education message and their teachers a book on fire safety. We also celebrated his birthday with the community by holding an open house at Fire Station six. Meridian also hosted a party for Smokey Bear who celebrated 78 years of bringing his Only YOU prevention messages at Kleiner Park this year.

Car Seat Inspections and Give Aways

The Meridian Fire Department is the leader in the state in their commitment to Child Passenger Seat Safety. We hosted monthly car seat checks at our fire stations and certified 11 new firefighters as Child Passenger Safety Technicians bringing our total technicians to 41. These technicians have provided a safety evaluation/installation instruction on 270 seats this year. Additionally, through a grant with the Idaho Department of Transportation we were able to supply 56 families with a free car seat.

"Every 33 seconds a child is involved in a car crash in America" -Safe Kids Worldwide



Senior Citizen Outreach

Our older population are important in our educational efforts. We seek to ensure that our seniors have access to essential services and resources that will assist them in meeting their individual needs and enhance their safety and quality of life. Throughout the year we provided speakers to present information designed for our older residents. These specialized programs provided awareness and information about fire and injury/fall prevention in and around the home. Additionally, we provided home safety inspections, free smoke alarms, batteries, and minor maintenance for smoke alarms to our senior residents by request free of charge. We performed smoke alarm sweeps through a few over 55 communities; insuring residents had working smoke alarms. Our crews performed monthly blood-pressure screenings at the Meridian Senior Center and in our fire stations on a walk-in basis. Additionally, we participated in Senior Health and Fitness Day and a Par 3 Partee at Meadow Lake Village.



Public Safety Academy

In partnership with Meridian Police Department we held Public Safety Academy class 19 for our citizens who desired a closer working knowledge of the inner workings of Meridian's Public Safety Agencies. Participants met for 13 sessions totaling over 56 hours of classroom and hands-on activities. We hold our Public Safety Academy in the spring of each year and encourage students to participate in all of the hands-on activities. Graduates are great advocates for our agencies and many come back to serve as volunteers for our many programs.

Learn More at meridiancity.org/psa



Public Safety Day

2022 was our 12th year hosting Public Safety Day in partnership with the Meridian Police Department! This fast-paced fun yet educational day is designed to invite the community to invest in learning methods to keep their family safe. The over 600 people in attendance learned about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, emergency reporting, child passenger seat safety, seat belt use, emergency management and preparedness, fire prevention, CPR, the dangers of matches and lighters, home escape planning, staying low under smoke, helmet safety, and the importance of sleeping with their doors closed. They were also able to watch demonstrations from both Meridian Police and Meridian Fire.



Follow us on social media and visit meridiancity.org for a list of upcoming events.



@meridianfiredepartment



Awards & Recognition



Chief's Award of Excellence

Jerin Jones

Distinguished Service

Johnathan Hoffman

Unit Citation

Luke Smillie

Bill Schuler

Chase Christopher

Christopher Goodnight

Martin McSherry

Sean Stear

Johnathan Hoffman

Medal of Courage

Tyler Bryner

Jerin Jones

Josh Wheeler

New Hires

Brennan Maloney

Jens Tapio

Rob Anderson

Scott Blanton

Joey Bush

Joe Dagen

Cole Mayfield

Andrew Merritt

Tyler Parnell

Chad Thompson

New Admin

Judith Change

Brittany Egurrola

Kari Hibbard

Jordan Reese

Braidy Ross

Corey Patocka

Years of Service Recognition

50 Years of Service

Kenny Bowers

20 Years of Service

Tyler Rountree, Archie Frost, Michael Myers

15 Years of Service

Dan Cole, Kristian Forbey, Tyler Bryner, Brock Clapp

10 Years of Service

Daniel Krenz, Jason Waites

5 Years of Service

Ryan Baker, Brycyn Campbell, Jared Carlisle, Chase Christopher, Christopher Goodnight, Travis Krahn, Benjamin Paradis, Jermaine Smith, Andrew Taghdiri, Ryan Wallace, Talin Wardein



Highlights



School Bus Burn

Meridian Fire Department in partnership with Cascade Student Transportation and West Ada School District took part in a training and live demonstration demonstrating school bus extractions and fires. Our crews were able to practice their extrication skills on several school buses and demonstrate just how fast a school bus can catch fire: under one minute. This was a valuable training for school bus drivers to receive and the perfect opportunity for our crews to prepare for a worst case scenario.



Ground Breaking for Fire Stations 7 & 8

City Council approved the construction of South East Meridian's Fire Station seven (7) in 2021 along with Fire Station eight (8) and a new Meridian Police Precinct, which will be co-located in Northwest Meridian. Both fire stations are expected to be fully operational by Fall 2023.



Fire Station 7

2385 E. Lake Hazel Rd. Meridian, ID 83642.

Fire Station 8

4232 N. Owyhee Storm Ave. Meridian, ID 83646



50 Years Kenny Bowers

Very few employees make it to twenty years of service, let alone fifty. This year we celebrated the 50th work anniversary of Kenny Bowers.

Kenny began his career as a volunteer firefighter and police officer in the city somewhere around 1972. In late 1983, he became Meridian Fire's sixth fire chief. He served in a part time capacity until 1992, when the fire chief position was transitioned to full time. Chief Bowers helped build out the initial infrastructure of Meridian Fire's Command Staff.

During this time, Meridian Fire Department expanded, building three new fire stations bringing three new apparatuses to the city. Chief Bowers was instrumental in starting the Thermal Imaging Program, the Defibrillator Program, and establishing Meridian Fire's first Fire Safety Center which opened in 2005. Meridian Fire also began its partnership with Ada County Paramedics, co locating an ambulance at Meridian Fire Station 2 in order to improve response times to that area of the city.

Kenny stepped back from his role as Fire Chief in 2005, eventually moving to a position of fire inspector. He is well known for never missing a single day of work and continues to be a valuable asset to the Meridian Fire Department. Thank you for your service Kenny!



