

# KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





# CHIEF'S MESSAGE








On behalf of the members of the Kentwood Fire Department, I am proud to present the annual report for your review. It provides an overview of the department's activities during calendar year 2023 and reflects our commitment to provide exemplary services to the City of Kentwood.

We are successful because of the collaboration of the Mayor, City Commissioners, other city departments, and the community. We thank you for your continued support.

Brent Looman, Fire Chief

# RESPONSIBILITIES

The fire service exists to protect people and their property. The Kentwood Fire Department takes an all-hazards approach to this mission, providing the following services:

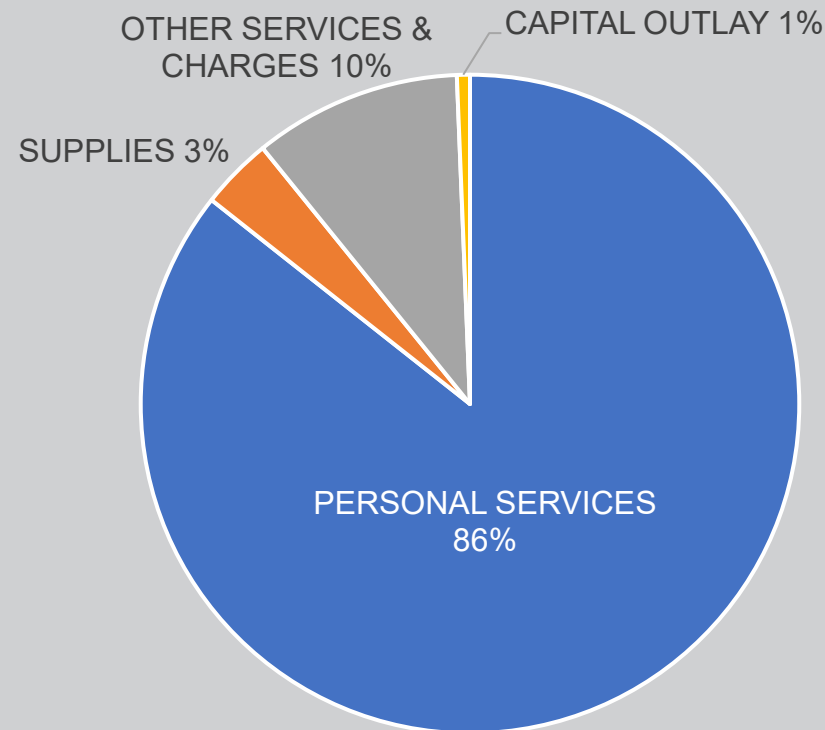
-  Fire Suppression
-  Emergency Medical Services
-  Fire Prevention
-  Public Education
-  Emergency Management
-  Hazardous Materials Response
-  Technical Rescue

# NUMERICAL SUMMARY

- 5,047 Incidents
  - 158 Fire
  - 3,508 EMS
  - 1,381 Other
- 4:29 Response Time
- 264 Aid
  - 139 Given
  - 125 Received
- 55.6 Employees
  - 54 Sworn
  - 1.6 Civilian
- 9,583 Training Hours
- 2,447 Inspections
- 195 Plan Reviews
- 20 Fire Investigations
- 161 Pre-Incident Plans
- 769 Smoke Alarms
- 175 CO Alarms
- \$8,696,600 Budget

# OPERATING BUDGET

(July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)



The fiscal year budget is \$8,696,600. As a service provider, the biggest expenditures are employee wages and benefits.

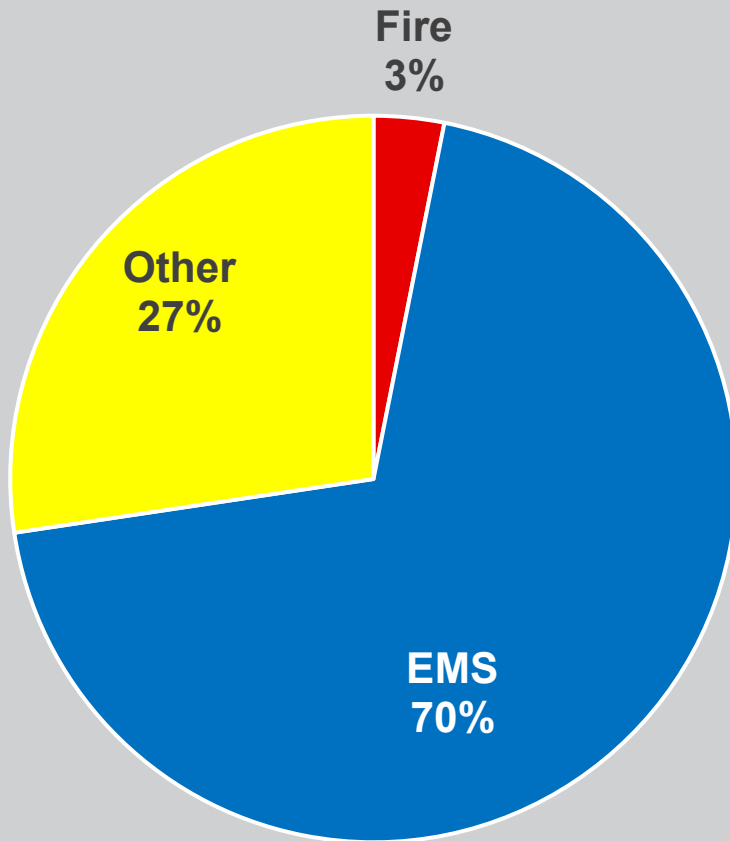
# FIRE SUPPRESSION

The Fire Suppression Division consists of 48 members who work 24.25-hour shifts to staff each of the 3 Kentwood fire stations. They respond to all emergency calls, including fires, medicals, alarms, rescues, vehicle accidents, hazardous conditions and severe weather. They are assisted by 6 members from administration and prevention who work 40 hours per week but are alerted to incidents by pager at all other times and respond as needed.



All sworn fire personnel are certified by the State of Michigan as Fire Fighter II and licensed as Emergency Medical Technicians or higher. Many have advanced training and certification as Fire Officers, Hazardous Materials Technicians, Technical Rescue Technicians (rope, confined space, trench and structural collapse), Fire Inspectors, Fire Investigators, Plan Reviewers. Personnel are also certified as Instructors in many of those areas.

# INCIDENT TYPES



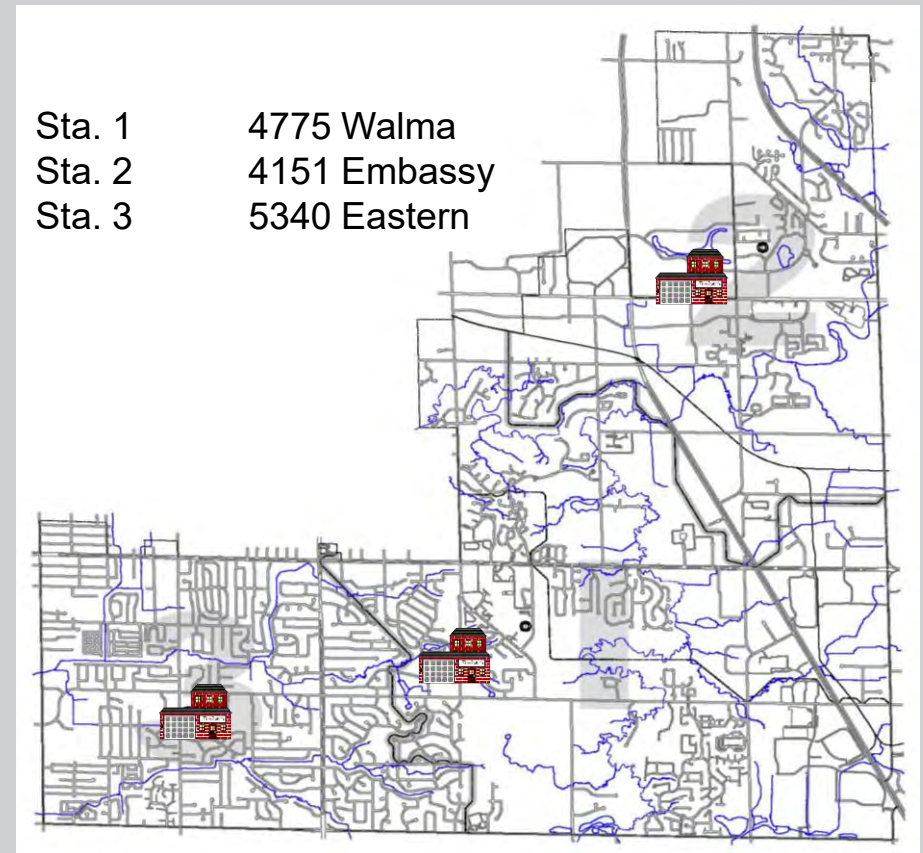
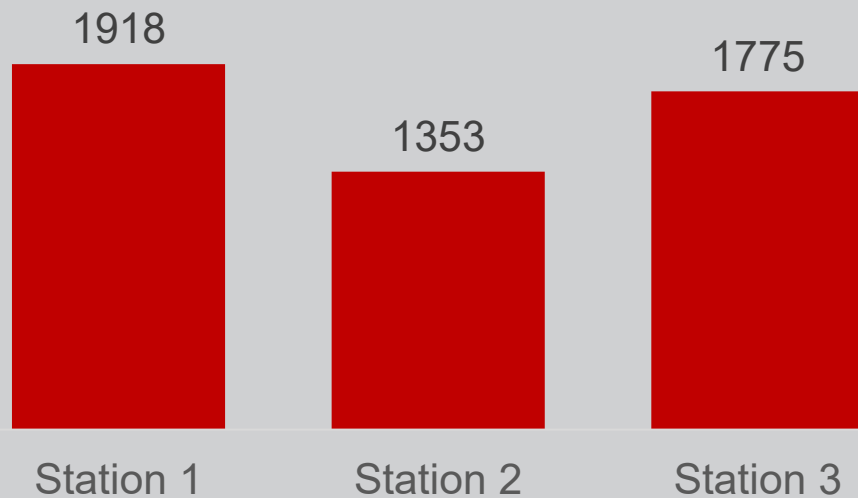
• Fire	158
• Explosion, Heat	6
• EMS	3,508
• Hazardous Condition	212
• Service	174
• Good Intent	539
• False	448
• Severe Weather	2

Total	5,047
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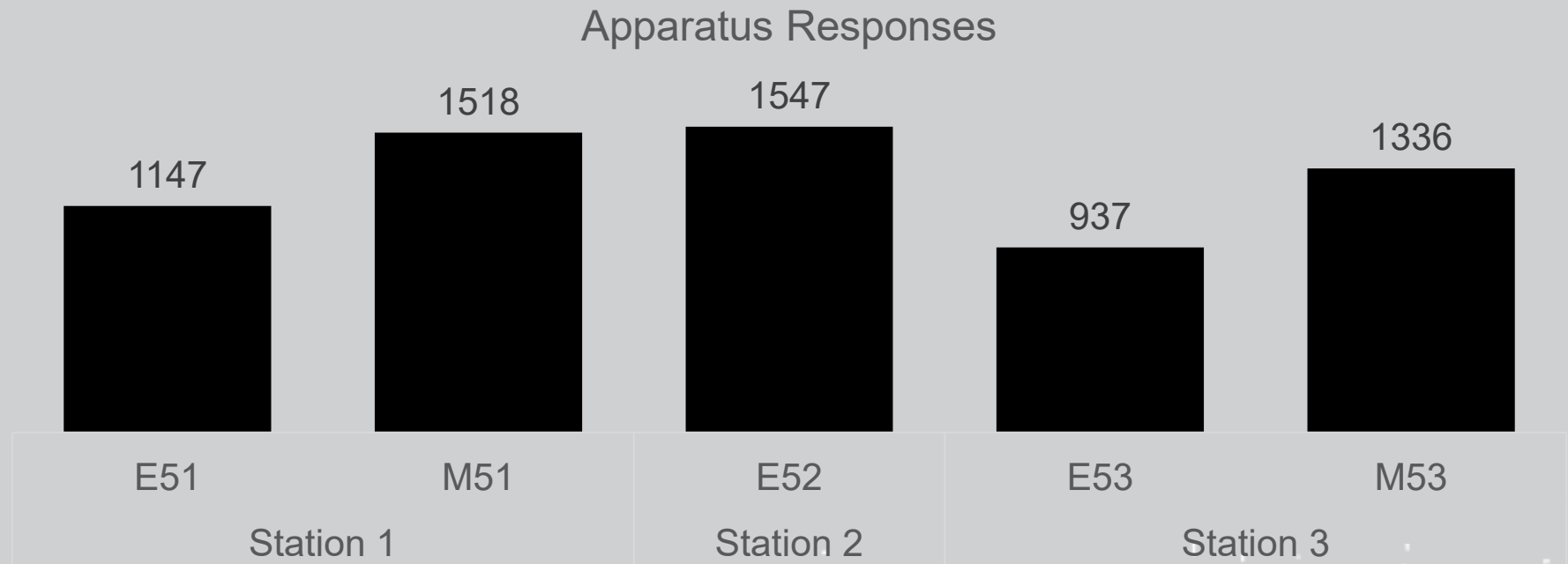


# INCIDENT RESPONSE

Fire personnel respond from three strategically located stations that are staffed around the clock.



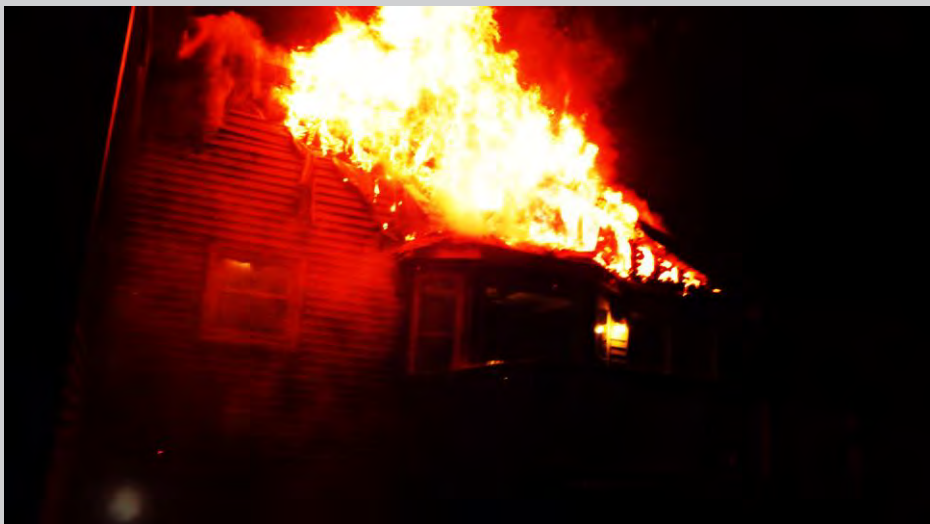
Stations 1 and 3 staff both a fire engine and medical unit due to call volume. Currently, Station 2 staffs only an engine. As Kentwood continues to grow and emergency responses increase, a medical unit will be added at Station 2.



# FIRE PHOTOS

Because fire fighter priorities upon arrival at a fire include assessing the incident scene, finding a water source, attacking the fire and searching for possible victims, it is often difficult to obtain early photos of active fires. We appreciate the cooperation of neighbors who provide photos from phones or doorbell cameras to assist in documentation.

Fortunately, there were no loss-of-life fires in 2023. The most property damage occurred in residential fires.



Attic fire in a duplex (Stauffer Ave., 12/27/23)



Lithium battery on front porch (Timberlake, 7/11/23)





Fire of undetermined cause started in the bedroom (Queensbury, 5/18/23)



Fire originated on the balcony, but cause is undetermined (Sandpiper, 8/6/23)



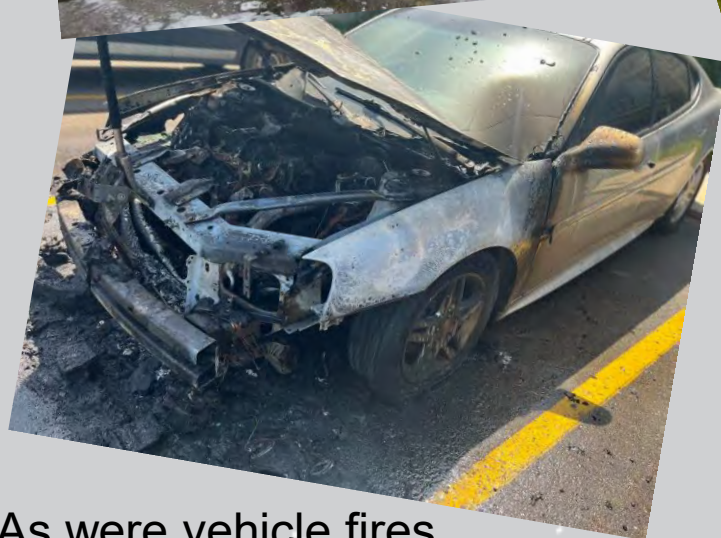




Cooking fires were common in 2023.

04/16/2023





As were vehicle fires.



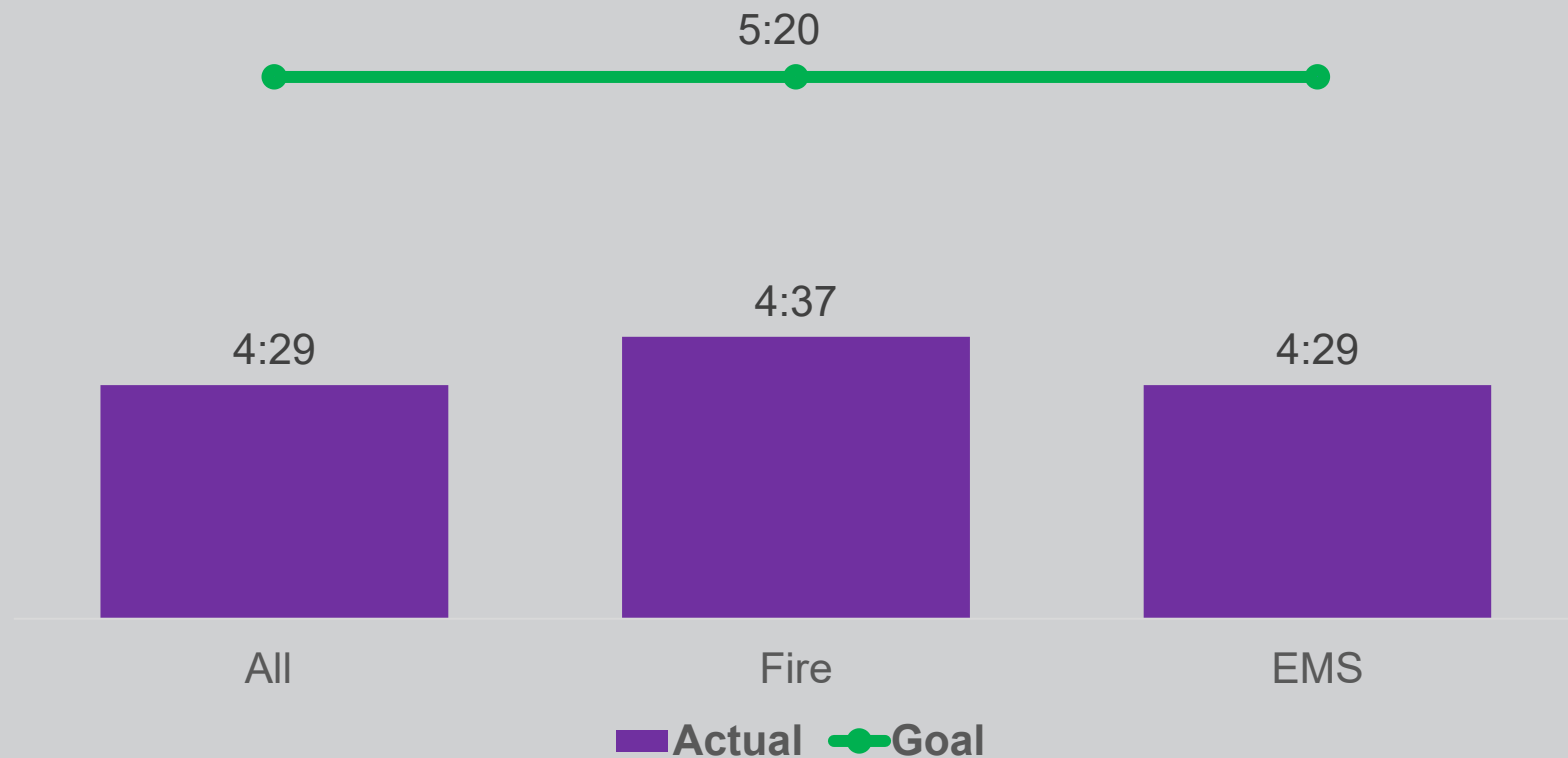


And car/building collisions.

# RESPONSE TIMES

- Research has shown that medical intervention begun within 5 minutes of traumatic injury or cardiac arrest gives the patient a much greater chance of survival.
- National data indicates that fire fighters are able to confine about half of structure fires to the room and floor of origin if the response time is less than 5 minutes.

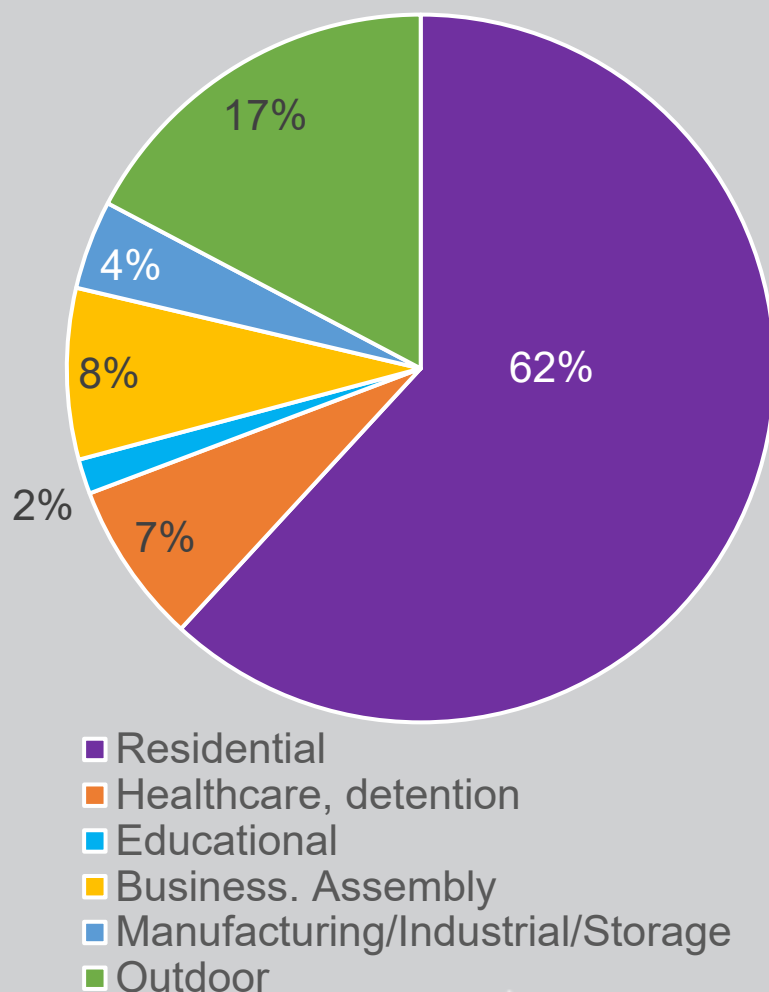
The Kentwood Fire Department response time goal is to reach the scene of an emergency within 5 minutes and 20 seconds (5:20). In 2023 the average overall emergency response time was 4:29.





# WHERE ARE INCIDENTS?

## PROPERTY USE

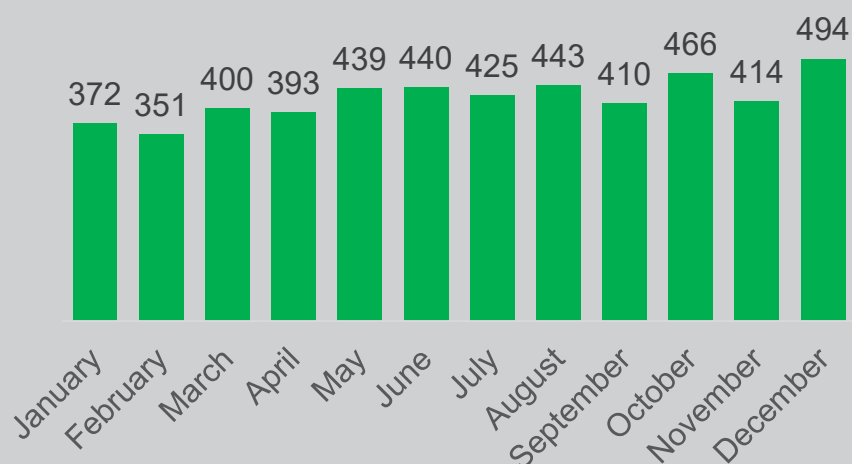


## FREQUENT LOCATIONS

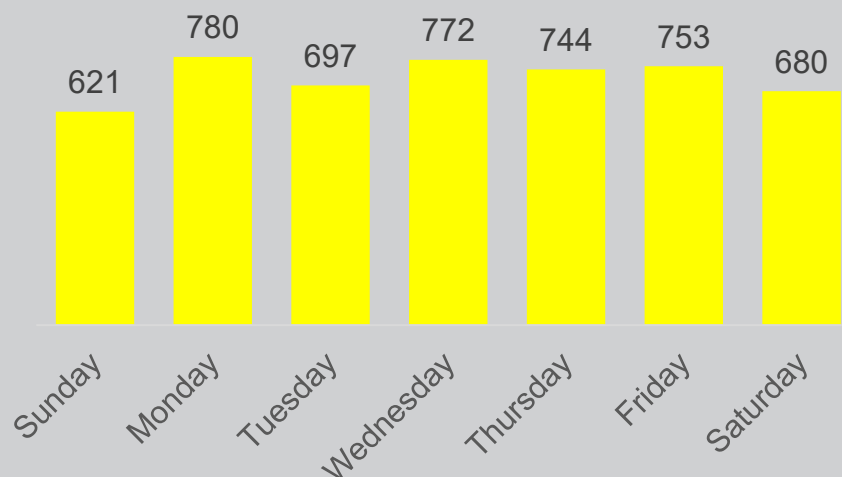
• Care Cardinal (Breton)	100
• Summer Haven Apartments	94
• Leisure South Condominiums	81
• City Line Apartments	80
• Woodland Creek Apartments	80
• Wingate Apartments	78
• Greentree Apartments	66
• Breton Terrace	65
• Pheasant Ridge Apartments	61
• Tamarisk Apartments	58
• Hidden Lakes Apartments	53
• Woodland Shopping Center	53

# WHEN ARE INCIDENTS?

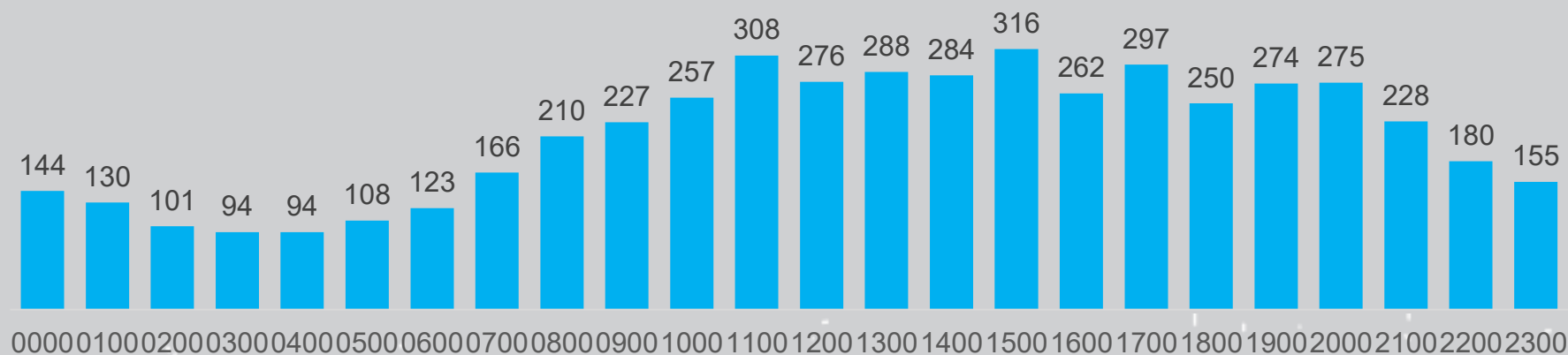
MONTH



DAY

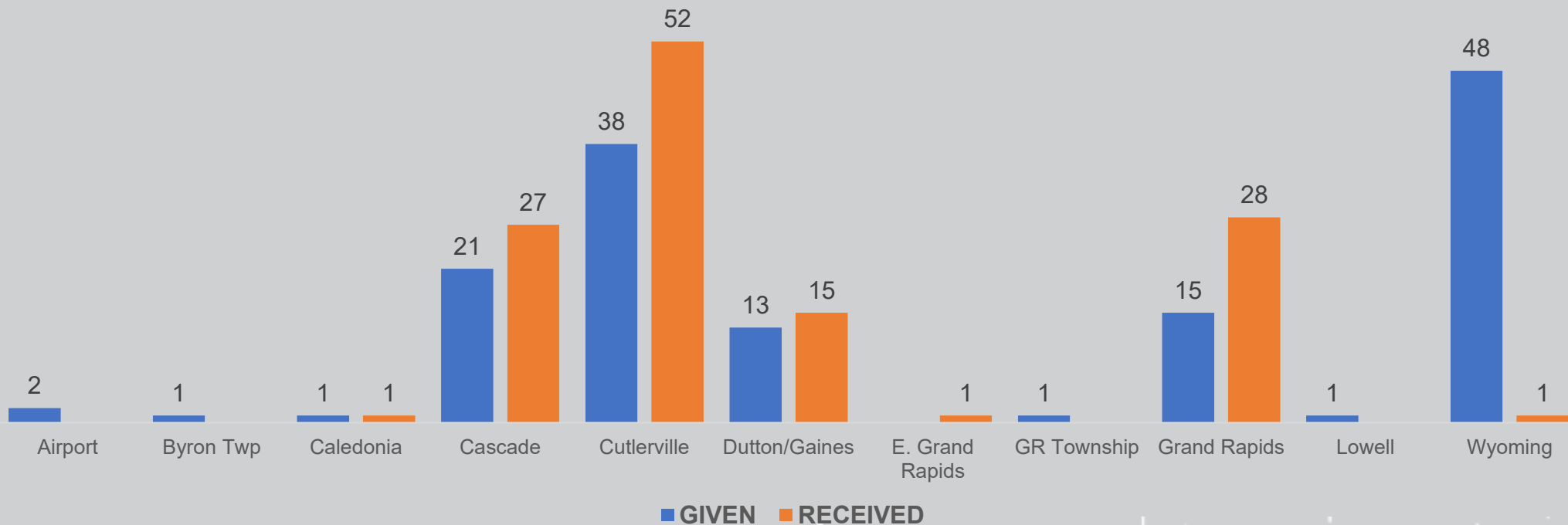


HOUR



# AID GIVEN AND RECEIVED

No fire department is able to mitigate all emergencies independently. There are written agreements among departments throughout Kent County to assist when needed.



# INCIDENT REPORTING

Fire departments in Michigan must participate in comprehensive national reporting systems for data collection involving both fire (NFIRS) and EMS (NEMSIS) incidents. After every response fire fighters complete reports to gather defined information about the nature of the call, actions taken, and results. Aggregate data submitted through the state is used to identify trends and issues, develop education campaigns, make recommendations for codes and standards, improve patient healthcare and outcomes, support research, and other safety efforts.



Kentwood Fire Department transitioned to the updated NEMSIS version 3.5 in December.

- 641 Total Elements in each report.
  - 441 EMS
  - 152 Demographic
- 328 State Elements
- 214 National Elements
- 137 Changes between version 3.4 and 3.5
- 26 New elements
- Other elements were added for Kent County EMS (KCEMS) and the City of Kentwood to assist with data capture.

The United States Fire Administration has begun efforts to replace the current NFIRS system with a National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) to support enhanced preparedness and response and reduce risks to the community.

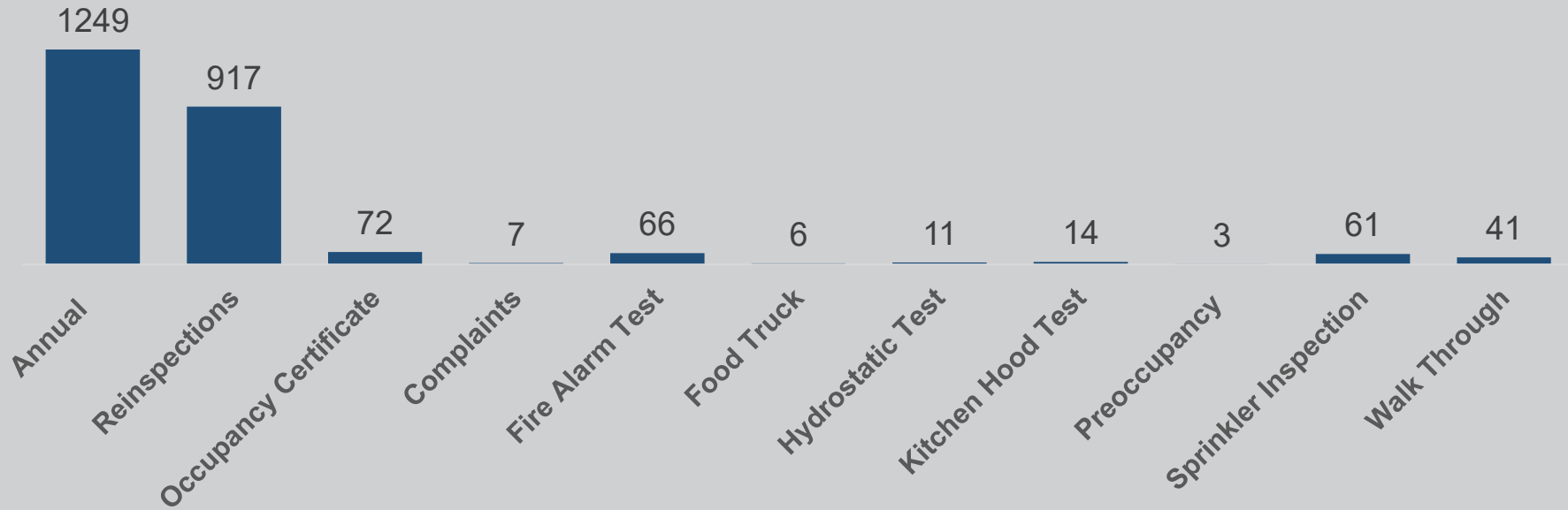
The image displays a collection of fire incident reporting forms. The forms include:

- NFIRS-1 Basic:** A form for basic incident information, including location, date, time, and station details.
- NFIRS-9 Apparatus or Resource:** A form for reporting the type and status of fire apparatus or resources.
- NFIRS-10 Personnel:** A form for reporting personnel involved in the incident, including their rank and station.
- NFIRS-15 Supplemental:** A form for providing additional details about the incident, including a narrative and a list of resources.
- Kentwood Fire Department Patient Care Report:** A form for reporting patient care information, including patient details and medical history.

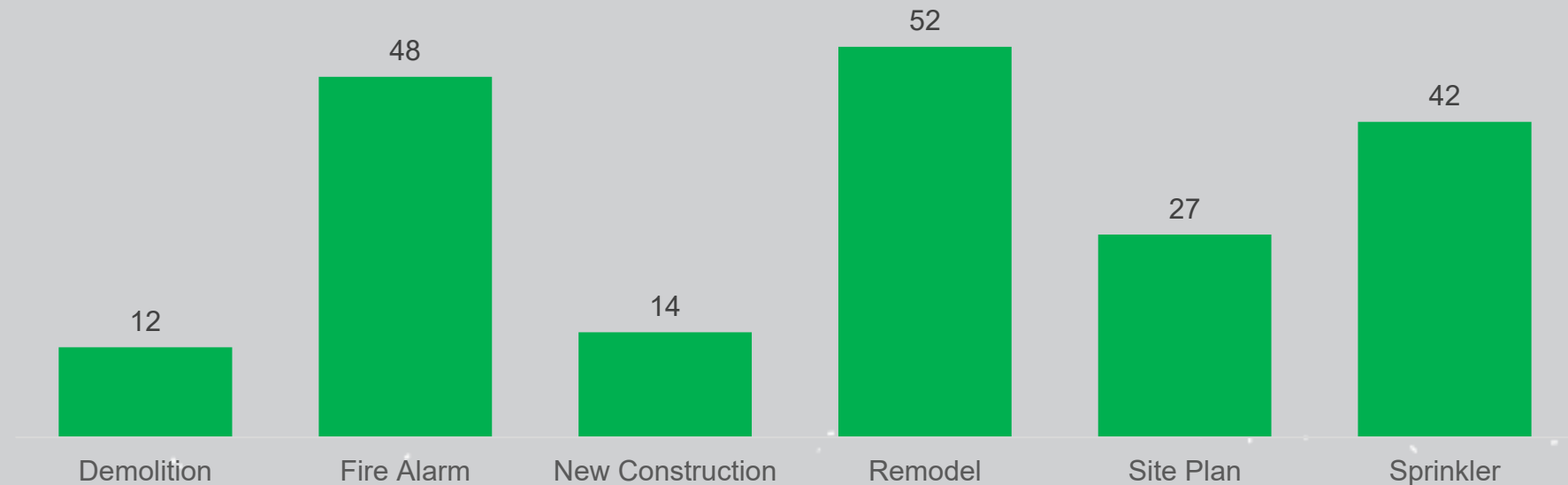
# FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Marshal and two Fire Inspectors comprise the Fire Prevention Division. Each member works four 10-hour days during the week (6:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.). They review construction plans, conduct public education, investigate fires and, supplemented by suppression personnel, conduct business inspections and complete pre-incident plans. They also respond to emergency calls on- and off-duty.

# FIRE INSPECTIONS



# PLAN REVIEW



# INSPECTION PHOTOS

## IMPROPER CHEMICAL STORAGE







EXIT, EXTINGUISHER BLOCKED;  
EXIT LIGHT NOT MAINTAINED



EXIT BLOCKED





IMPROPER LOCK ON  
MARKED EXIT DOOR



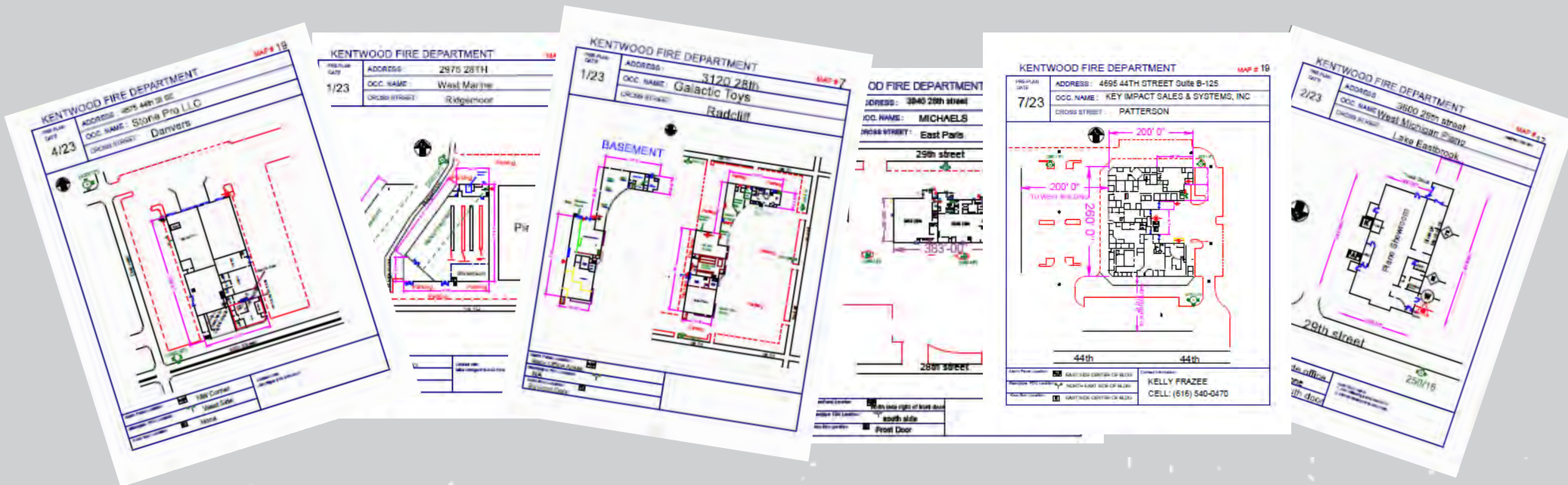
# ALARM INSTALLATIONS

The Kentwood Fire Department installs smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms at no cost where needed and requested in residences. Most of the alarms have been provided through the State MI Prevention program. Record numbers of alarms were installed in 2023.

Rental properties are not eligible for this program as it is the responsibility of the owner to install alarms.

# PRE-INCIDENT PLANS

While performing fire safety inspections, fire personnel also develop pre-incident plans that familiarize them with the buildings and their features prior to an emergency and provide critical information during an emergency.



# TRAINING

As emergency calls become more complex, more training is required to maintain and improve skills and implement new concepts to enhance safety and efficiency and, ultimately, provide a higher level of service to Kentwood citizens.

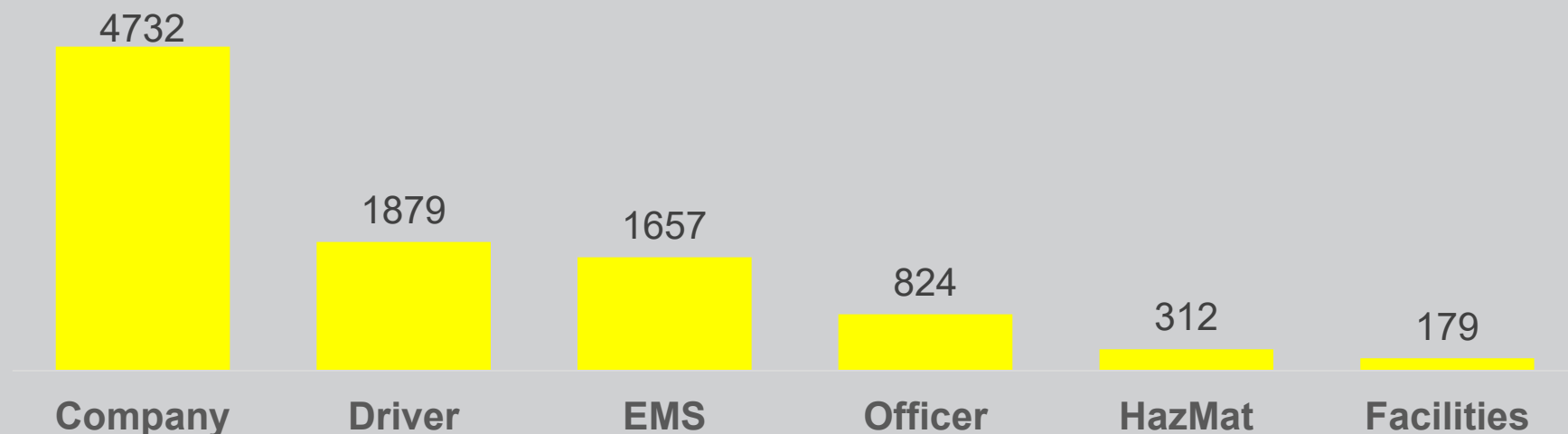
Most training is conducted in-house with certified instructors on staff. However, personnel also attend outside classes, particularly for specialized and advanced courses.



## Training topics include:

- Search and Rescue
- Leadership Development
- Apparatus
  - Driving
  - Equipment
  - Pump Operation
- Hose Loads
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
- Ventilation
- Hydrant Operations and Water Supply
- Vehicle Extrication
- Forcible Entry
- Tools
  - Air Bags
  - Ladders
  - Saws
  - Fans
- Ropes and Knots
- Hazardous Materials
- EMS Protocols
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Active Shooter/Rescue Task Force

To assure that all initial and continuing education requirements are met and consistent, quality training is provided to new recruits and more seasoned personnel, a full-time Training Captain position was added in 2023. Personnel completed a total of 9,583 training hours in the general categories below.





Technical rescue team training







Technical Rescue training in the auditorium at East Kentwood High School.

Search and rescue training at Caledonia Fire Department.







Aircraft fire  
fighting at Kent  
County  
International  
Airport

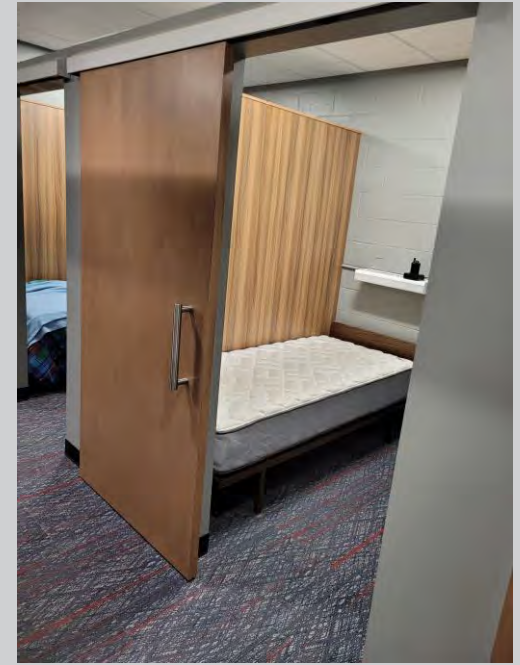


# STATION 1 CONSTRUCTION

A small addition was built at Fire Station 1 to provide privacy in the bunk room, move fitness equipment from the apparatus bay, and relocate the air compressor for filling SCBA.

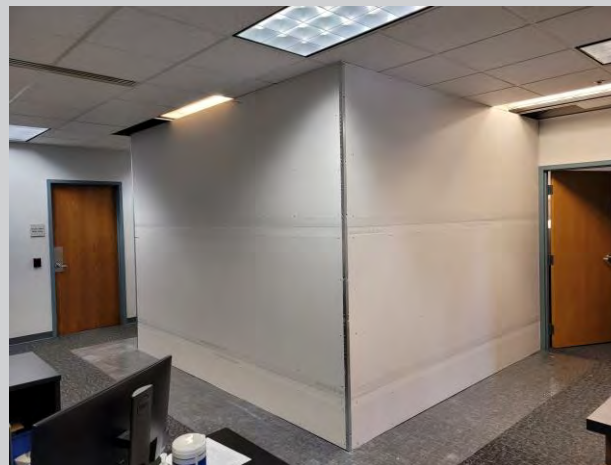








To accommodate the new Training Captain and improve workflow among fire inspectors, the Kentwood Department of Public Works built a new office in the administration area.



# VEHICLE REPLACEMENTS

Car 3 (Batt. Chief, Sta. 1)



Medic 53 (Sta. 3)





# “A COMMUNITY EFFORT”



National Night Out



Adopt-A-Child



Reading Month



Little Free Pantry Food Drive



Fire Prevention Month

# EMPLOYEES

Nothing could be accomplished without the hard work and dedication of our employees. The men and women of the Kentwood Fire Department are proud to serve the community.

## FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR Capt. Eric DeGroot



# PROMOTIONS

ERIC DEGROOT  
Training Captain



PAUL SCHEMPER  
Lieutenant/Inspector





DAN RECK  
Engine Operator



CRAIG VANDEZANDE  
Engine Operator



# NEW HIRES

As in other job markets there has been a decrease in the number of candidates pursuing a career in the fire service. We are fortunate to have attracted and hired excellent people.

CHAD WYNSMA



JAXON WARD



# RETIREE

## DARRYL DEVRIES



- 6/11/98 Paid-on-Call Fire Fighter
- 4/18/00 Full-Time Fire Fighter
- 10/3/15 Engine Operator
- 12/15/23 Retirement

Among Darryl's contributions were detailed street and hydrant maps. His skill in ASL helped communicate with the Deaf & Hard of Hearing community.

**THANK YOU!**



# DISABILITY SEPARATION

## STEVE CASHION



- 8/2/97 Paid-on-Call Fire Fighter
- 7/11/01 Full-Time Fire Fighter
- 2/2023 Disability Separation

Steve was a Fire Fighter's Fire Fighter and mentored and inspired many who served with him.

# THANK YOU!

# AWARDS

Many members received Life Saving Awards from Kent County Emergency Medical Services (KCEMS).



- \* Todd Bacon
- \* Andy Biederman
- \* Alex Blehm
- \* Jordan Cluster
- \* Brandon DeHaan
- \* Jim Ellis
- \* Nick Harkes
- \* Matt Hollinrake
- \* Jim Hosier
- \* Ryan Johnson
- \* Bob Kamphuis
- \* Matt McMahon
- \* Michael Nail
- \* Gary Post
- \* Ryan Ricketson
- \* Travis Sweet
- \* Craig VandeZande
- \* Ben Van Stensel
- \* Alex Wilcox



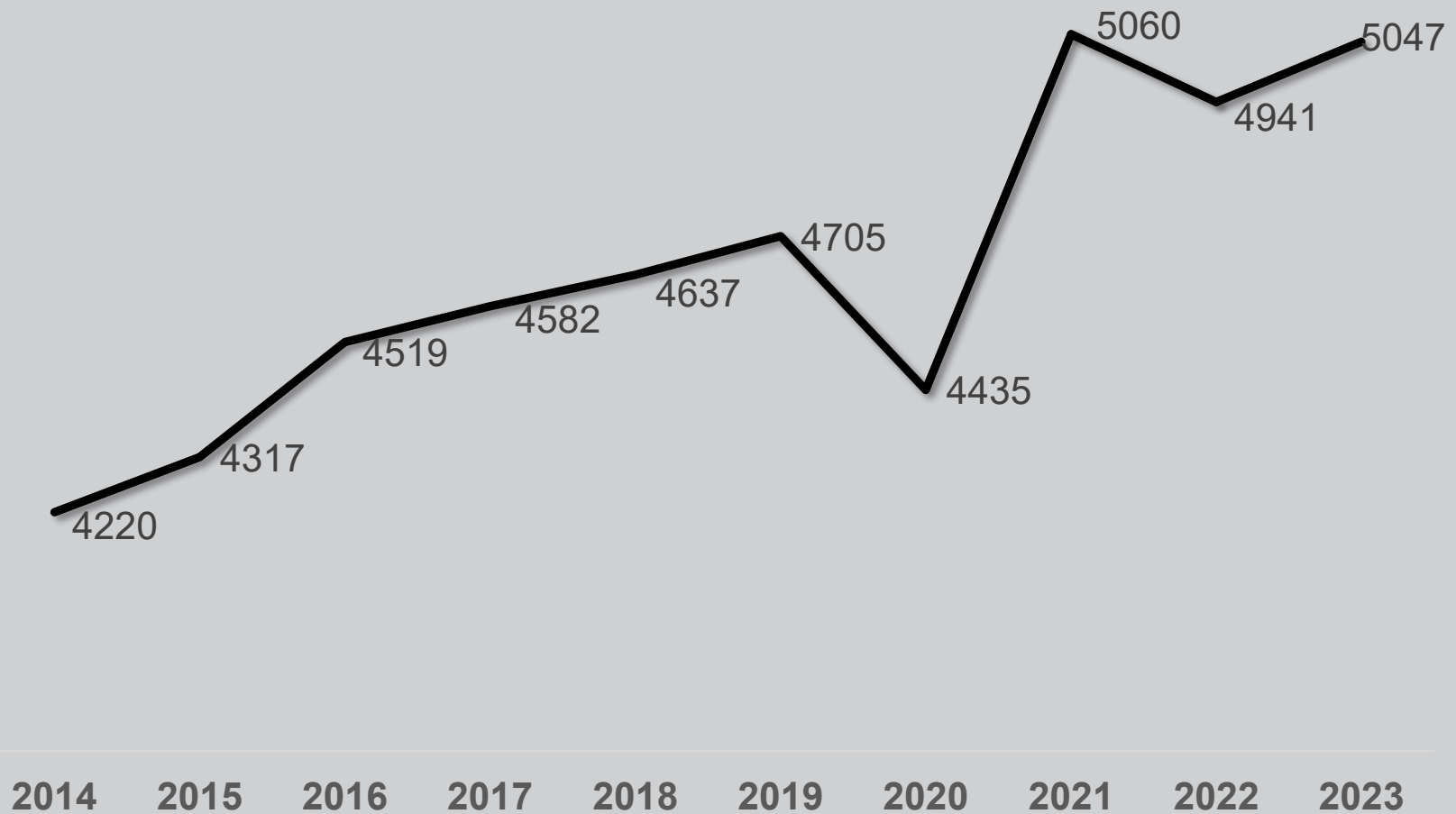
# Ryan Ricketson received an award for outstanding public service from The American Legion.





# **MULTI-YEAR COMPARISONS**

# TOTAL INCIDENTS



# FIRES

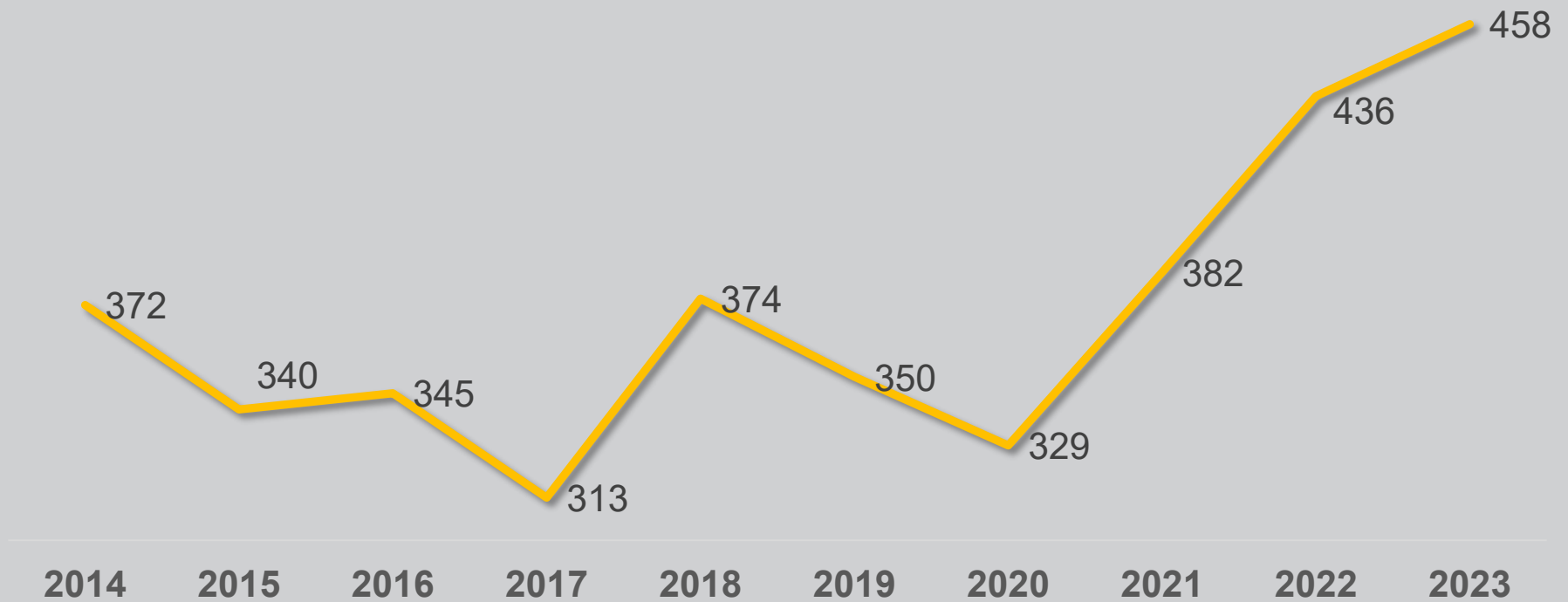




# EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSES



# FALSE CALLS



# OTHER RESPONSES

(Excessive Heat, Hazardous Conditions, Service, Good Intent, Severe Weather)





# FIRE INSPECTIONS



# PLAN REVIEWS

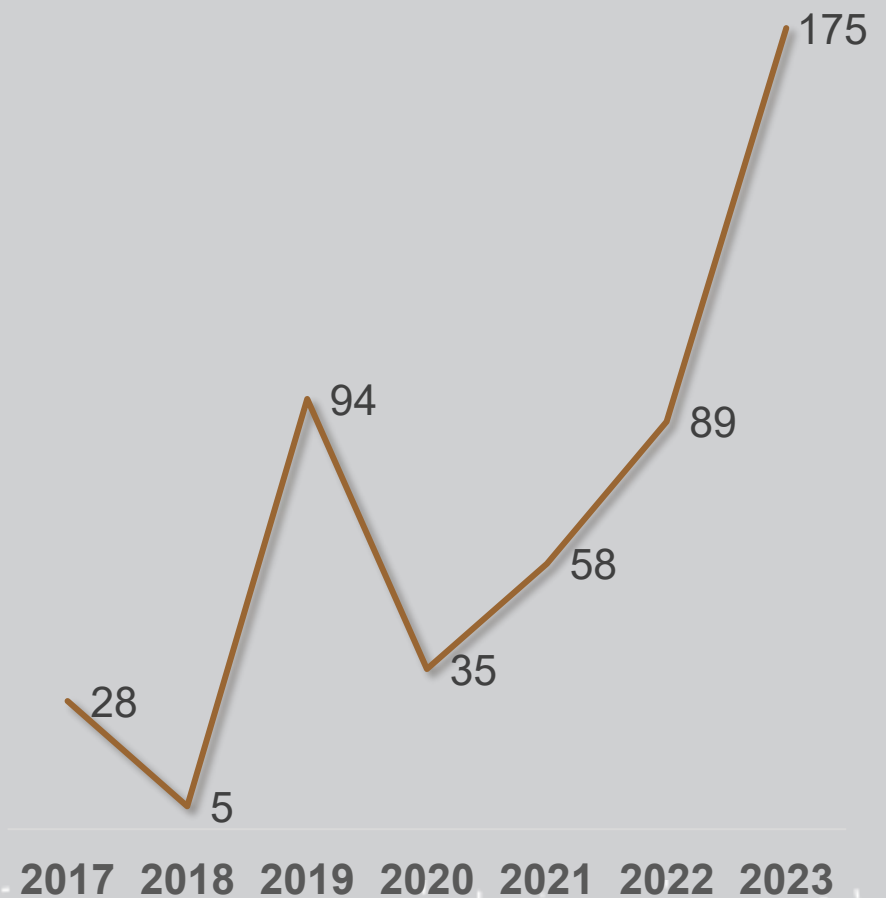


# ALARM INSTALLATIONS

## SMOKE ALARMS



## CO ALARMS





# KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

[www.Kentwood.us/fire](http://www.Kentwood.us/fire)  
[efire@kentwood.us](mailto:efire@kentwood.us)

<b>Emergency</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>
<b>Station 1</b>	<b>4775 Walma SE 616.554.0800</b>
<b>Station 2</b>	<b>4151 Embassy SE 616.949.1780</b>
<b>Station 3</b>	<b>5340 Eastern SE 616.534.7117</b>

