

GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE

2022

ANNUAL REPORT





EDUCATION • PREVENTION • RESPONSE

Chief's Message

My vision for an effective, efficient fire department begins with sound organizational principles, includes a mission, vision, and core values developed by its members to guide its operational and strategic goals, and shape its culture. I'm pleased to tell you that Great Falls Fire Rescue has all of those elements and more.

To be all that's necessary for the citizens and visitors of Great Falls, we continue to focus our organizational priorities in the three areas of critical importance that impact our citizens and provide for a safe and resilient community: Community Education, Fire and Safety Prevention, and effective Emergency Response. Becoming the best fire department in the country starts with these tenets. But we won't be successful in any of these areas without you, the residents of our outstanding community.

The accomplishments outlined in our 2022 Annual Report are a testament to the efforts of 71 men and women of Great Falls Fire Rescue, both sworn and civilian, working hand-in-hand with the citizens and neighborhoods we serve. I am honored to lead this department and continue building the established, excellent reputation that you have come to know from Great Falls Fire Rescue.

As we reflect on the achievements this past year, we look forward to the opportunities that are being presented for our department's future. We will continue to work and establish the future of what GFFR and the City of Great Falls can achieve together. And we will do that with you and for you, the citizens of Great Falls. Because serving you, matters most to the men and women of GFFR.



Chief Jones “

Great Falls Fire Rescue's goals and priorities are to create a safer place that our community members call home. Our training, education, prevention and response efforts include partnerships that extend beyond our Station doors. Without these relationships, our work to reduce risk and enhance response operations would be nowhere near what it is today.

Mission

To protect lives and property by delivering professional, all hazards emergency services to our community through public education, fire prevention, training and response.

Vision

To make a difference by providing progressive response and innovative avenues of safety and education to everyone we serve.

Core Values

- Safety
- Responsive
- Committed
- Reliable
- Family-Centered
- Service-Driven



GFFR Budgets

GFFR's fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30 of the following year.

	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
Adopted Budget	\$8,520,817	\$8,981,238	\$9,633,357	\$10,073,881	\$10,144,215	\$10,718,169
Actual Amount	\$8,884,652	\$9,229,663	\$9,693,385	\$10,400,987	\$11,341,397	TBD

Authorized Personnel (FTEs)

	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
Operations	66.6	66.6	66.5	66.5	66.5	65.6	65.6
Prevention	3.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4
Emergency & Disaster	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
GFFR Total FTEs	71	72	71	71	71	71	71

Through the Decades

1960

65 Personnel
3 Platoons
3 Stations
Total Incidents 845

***1969 \$1,969,000 Bond passed for improvement of Fire Department**

1970

83 Personnel
3 Platoons
3 Stations
Total Incidents 835

1980

76 Personnel
4 Platoons
4 Stations
Total Incidents 1212

***1994 GFFR begins responding to all Emergency Medical Calls**

1990

64 Personnel
4 Platoons
4 Stations
Total Incidents 1948

2000

65 Personnel
4 Platoons
4 Stations
Total Incidents 4478

***2007 City Commission formally establishes EMS system in Great Falls**

2010

68 Personnel
4 Platoons
4 Stations
Total Incidents 5988

2020

71 Personnel
4 Platoons
4 Stations
Total Incidents 8398

***2021 GFFR stops responding to minor medical calls dedicating resources to major emergencies**

2022

71 Personnel
4 Platoons
4 Stations
Total Incidents 6791

RETIREMENTS AND PROMOTIONS



Captain Vogt
26 Years

Deputy Fire Marshall
Jerry Pospisil



Deputy Fire Marshall Wiench
27 Years

Captain
Steven Tucker
Tucker Cook



Engineer Lee
21 Years

Lieutenant
Joe Tinsley
Chris Newman
Bryan Martinez
Steve Luwe
Sterling Veltkamp



Lieutenant Fowell
25 Years

Engineer
Tyler Pfennigs
Carter Marsh



Lieutenant Opp
27 Years

Firefighter II
Ryan Olson
Brooke Wells
Kessler Leonard



2022 Response

Station	Station Average Response MM:SS	Incidents Per Station
Station 1	5:31	2814
Station 2	6:26	1290
Station 3	6:37	1881
Station 4	6:56	986

Incidents By Platoon
"A" 1753
"B" 1723
"C" 1718
"D" 1777

4 Minute Response

GFFR measures success by achieving a 4 minute response time for our First Engine Arrival on Scene, an industry standard established by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) Standard 1710 and Insurance Services Office (ISO). This time is measured from the time the assigned fire company takes to leave the station to its arrival at the emergency scene.

Many other factors need to be taken into account when an emergency occurs. These factors include: the moment an incident actually begins; when the incident is called into Dispatch; or when Dispatch notifies the Fire Department. These are measures that are out of our control.

If the times of First Engine Arrival on Scene meet or are less than our 4 minute goal, that would indicate we have sufficient resources to deploy. Sufficient resources result in more positive outcomes of life safety and preservation of property from risk events.

What can impact a 4 Minute Response?

Location of incident and engine availability

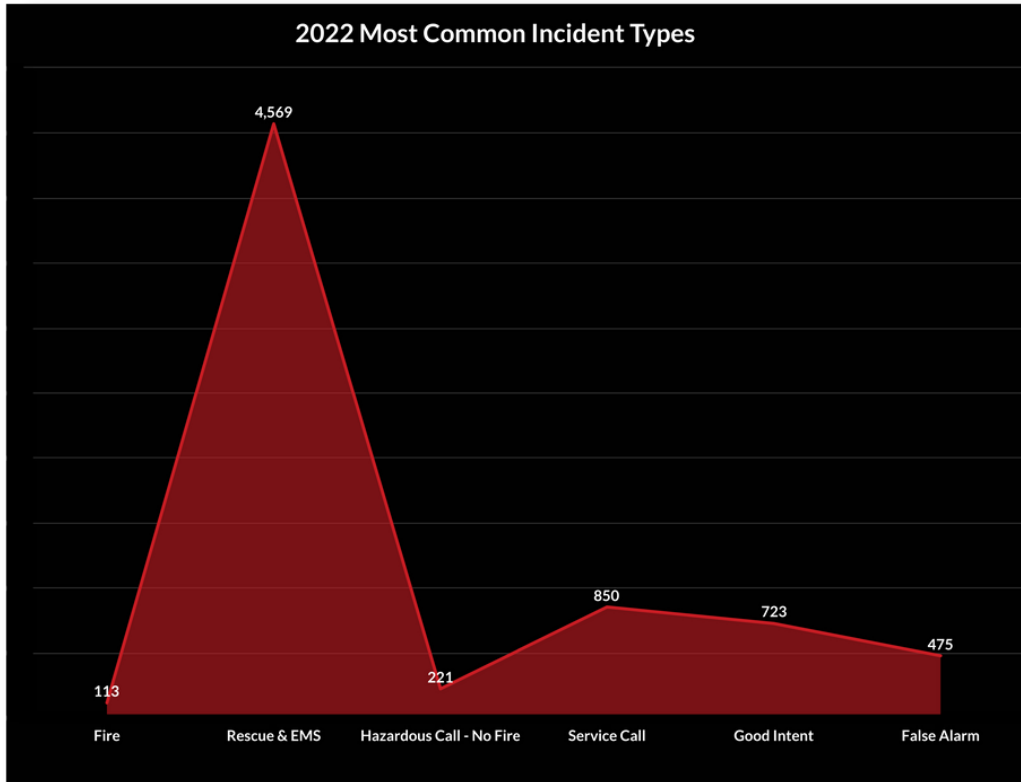
**Average Time on Scene:
17:04**

**Percentage of Overlapping Calls:
50.37%**

Overlapping Calls reflect the number of times GFFR has simultaneous incidents requiring GFFR response.

Incidents

Our response and reporting of the many types of incidents provide us with a way to monitor and measure progress. Reporting can include details of the incident type, location, response time, actions taken, and time on scene. The data collected from our reports allow us to formulate clear and concrete performance goals. It also makes it easier to generate relevant, consistent and comparable figures over time, in formats that members of our community can understand and appreciate.



6971
Total Incidents

113
Fires

4569
EMS

Breakdown by Cause of Ignition

Pre-Incident Property and Content Value

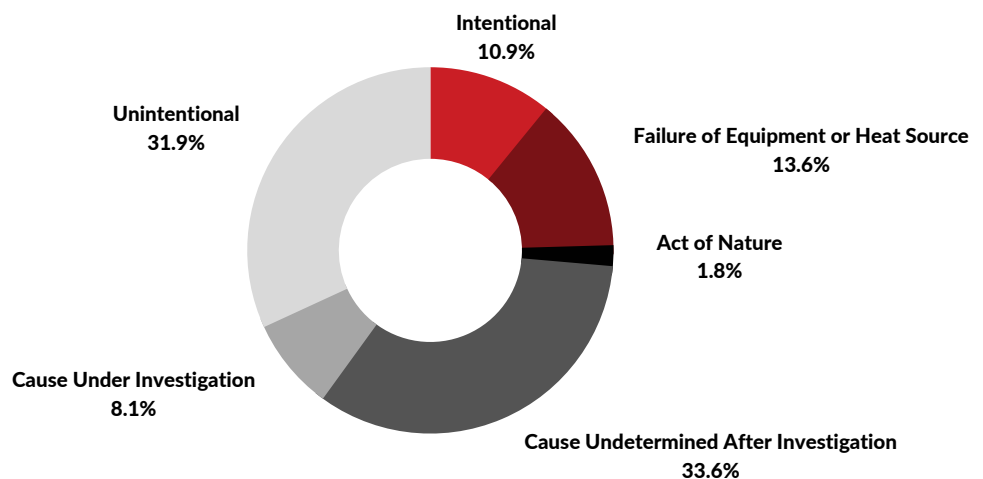
\$3,066,207.00

Losses

\$574,650.00

Saved

\$2,491,557.00

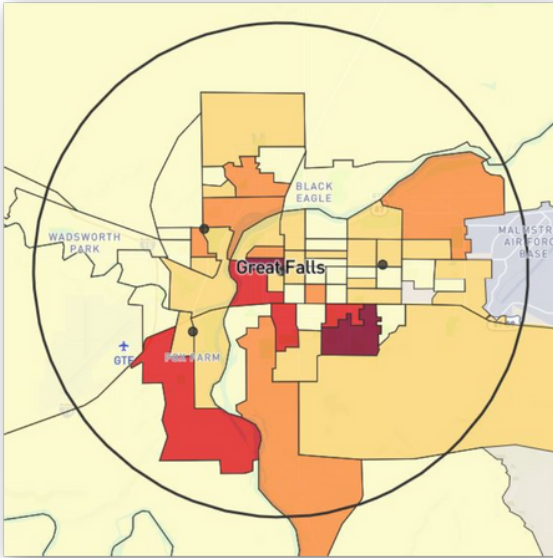
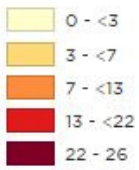


81%

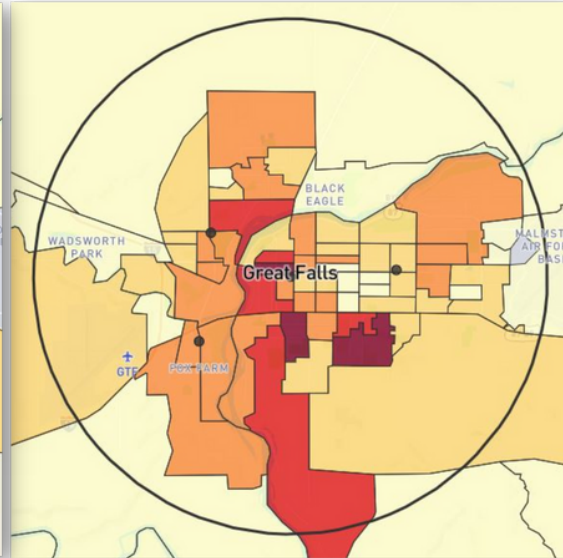
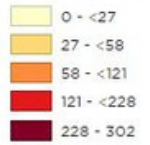
PERCENT OF PROPERTY AND CONTENTS VALUE THAT WAS ABLE TO BE SAVED

2022 INCIDENT TYPES AND LOCATIONS

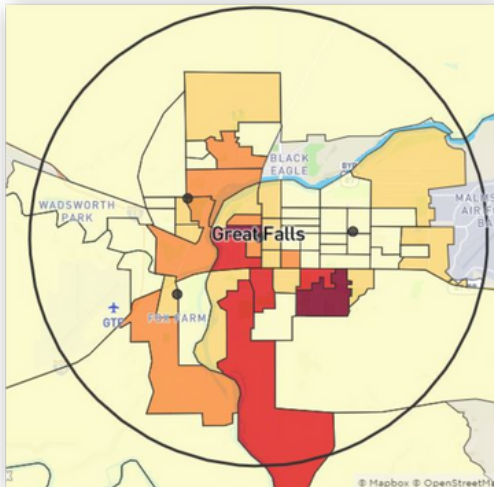
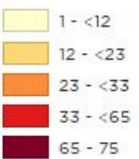
2022 Fire Incidents



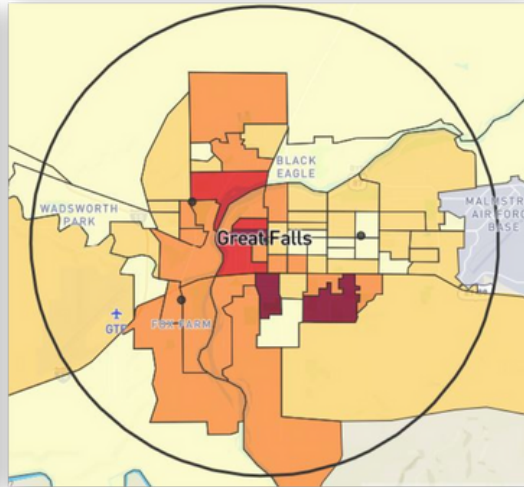
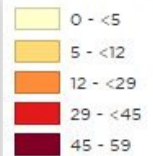
2022 EMS/Rescue Incidents



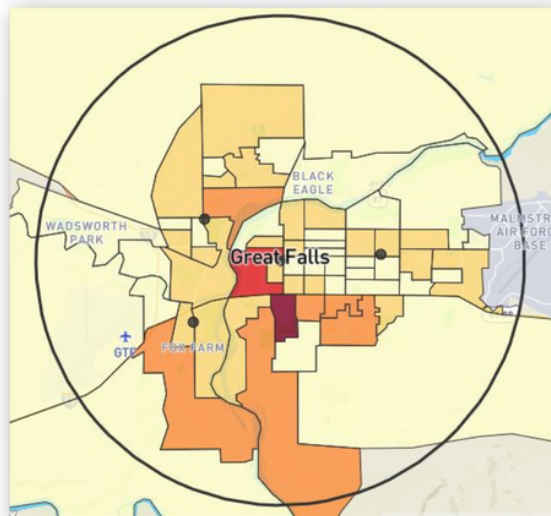
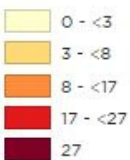
2022 False Alarm Incidents



2022 Public Service Incidents



2022 Hazardous Condition Incidents



The maps above are broken down into Census Block Groups, geographical units used by the United States Census Bureau.



TRAINING DIVISION

2022 allowed GFFR's training program to be redesigned to better align with GFFR guidelines and match our jurisdictional needs. The result made compliance with requirements less cumbersome and more valuable to our members professional development.

2022 TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

- Skill assessments were added to the Rank Progression Guide to assist with maintaining high risk/low frequency skill sets.
- Officer development was enhanced through ongoing training requirements for incident management and leadership.
- Training hours doubled in 2022 with members logging 23,188 training hours in:
 - Fire and Special Operations
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Technical Rescue
 - Incident Management.
- Single engine drills that could be completed during discretionary time to allow crews to stay available within their response district.

Rural Academy

In an effort to build relationships and improve interoperability with our mutual aid partners, Great Falls Fire Rescue hosted a 3 day city rural fire academy in May 2022 as well as a single day of training in October 2022.



Members from Black Eagle, Gore Hill, Vaughn, Sun Prairie, Sand Coulee, Belt, Ulm, Cascade, Fairfield, MT ANG and Malmstrom, alongside GFFR firefighters participated in incident command and fundamental firefighting skills.



Training efforts included vehicle extrication, mass casualty response coordination and a live burn exercise.



These training events have allowed the agencies involved to work together with the goal of improving mutual aid responses.





CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

CONTINUES GROWTH AND POPULARITY

The Citizens Academy has increased in popularity, largely due to our social media presence that has informed a number of citizens who don't often use our services the scope of GFFR's role in the community.

This program provides community members with the full GFFR experience. They are issued protective gear and led through a series of topics that encompasses all the services that GFFR provides. Participants get the opportunity to pull hose lines, perform vehicle extrication, rappel from a tower and experience a live vehicle and structure fire wearing the same gear that GFFR firefighters use.

The academy has been successful in reaching a number of influential members of our community. Not only participants, but those who can follow what we're doing on our social media platforms. The hands-on nature of GFFR's Citizen's Academy is a benefit. Though some people may be hesitant to sign up due to the physical components of the Academy, participants find out it can be tailored to fit most people's comfort levels.

GFFR Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS AT A GLANCE

GFFR is committed to a high level of service delivery. Emergency Medical Services is a major unit of work that GFFR conducts. GFFR's EMS Bureau provides oversight to the entire EMS system in the City of Great Falls.



Cardiac Ready Community

GFFR is making efforts to expand the awareness of cardiac issues by conducting CPR training and increasing number of CPR instructors. We offer CPR certification training as well as informative hands on training for the use of AED's and compression only CPR. GFFR is proud to be joining the state with making efforts to decrease mortality rates from cardiac disease.



103

people received CPR Training provided by GFFR



GFFR expanded our partnership with MSU College of Great Falls to teach a CPR Class as part of their Commercial Drivers License Program

COST RECOVERY EFFORTS



Starting March of 2022, GFFR hired a 3rd party billing company to help with cost recovery efforts from transporting medical patients. GFFR saw a 90.4% increase in transports from 2021-2022. With that increase, the cost of that service increased. To offset the cost increase, GFFR partnered with Pintler Billing Services and set the cost recovery rates at the Medicaid and Medicare allowable minimums. This included the minimum allowable rate for transport mileage and treatment services. March 2023 will show a full year of cost recovery efforts and give an accurate percentage of collections.



GFFR saw a 90.4% increase in EMS transports from 2021 to 2022.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



1

SPONTANEOUS CIRCULATION

GFFR achieved Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) 38% of the time on cardiac arrest calls. This was an increase from 12% in 2021.

2

CPR INSTRUCTORS

5 new CPR instructors were added. GFFR now has (7) American Heart Association CPR instructors, (4) Advanced Cardiac Life Support Instructors and (4) Pediatric Advanced Life Support Instructors

3

COST RECOVERY EFFORTS

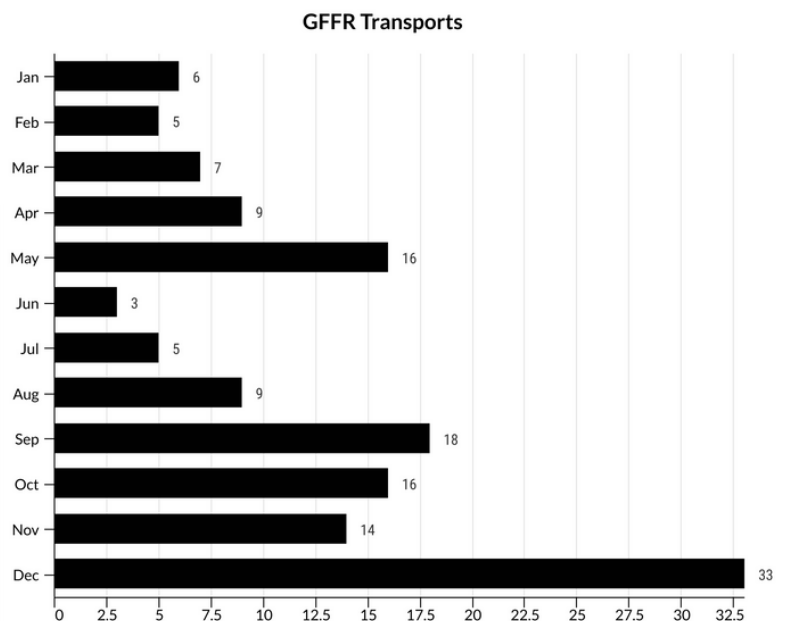
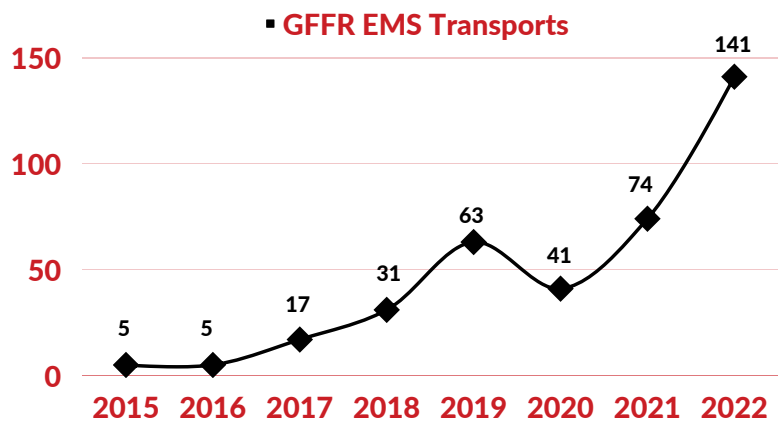
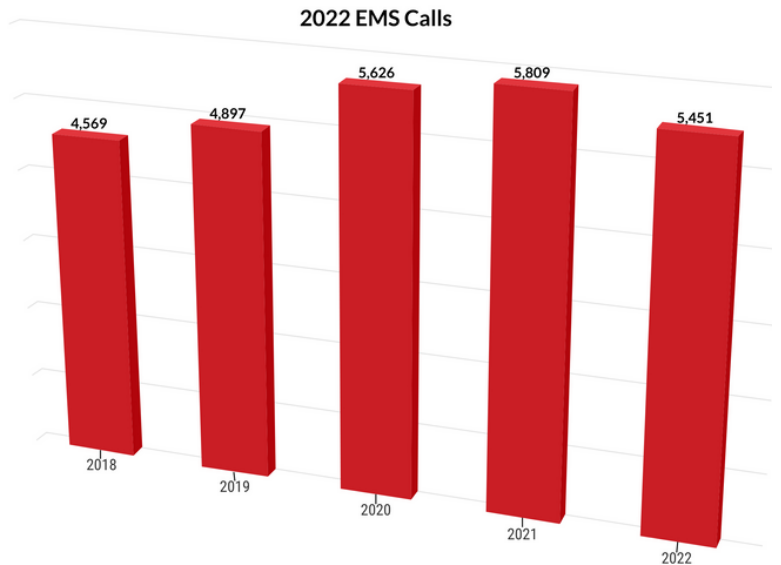
GFFR's partnership with a 3rd party billing company to help with cost recovery efforts from transporting medical patients. An approximate 33% cost recovery rate for ambulance transports was established.

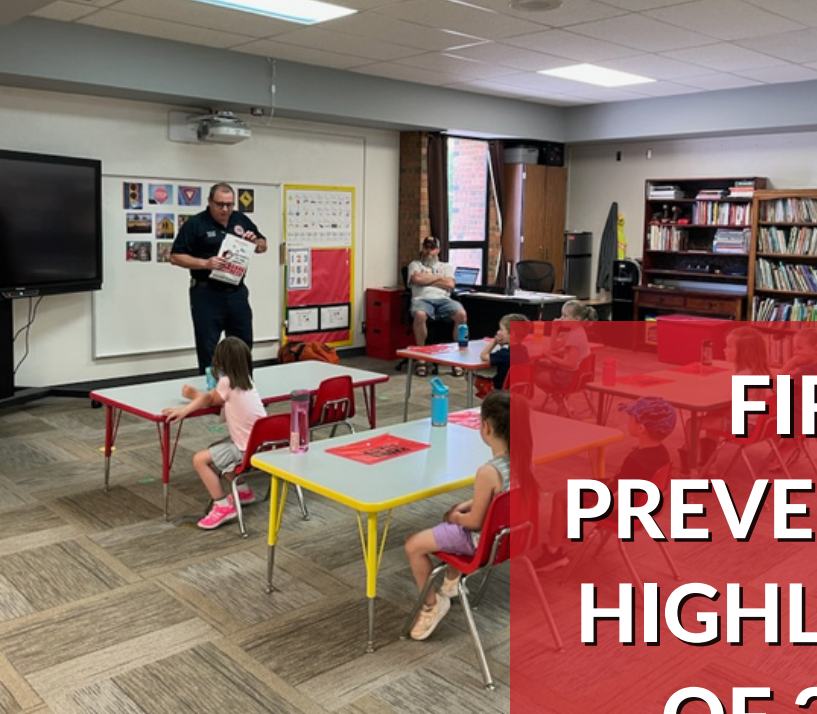
GFFR Transports

Great Falls Fire Rescue transports patients during surge events in the 911 system. Either the number of 911 calls exceeds the private vendor transport resources or the number of private transport needs exceeds the private transport resources. In both of these events, GFFR will respond and transport with either of their ambulances, Medic 4 and Medic 1.

If the GFFR transport resource was not made available, citizens would experience higher wait times when a transport is needed.

The charts reflect the number of EMS calls throughout the past several years, the increase in GFFR's transports since 2015, and the monthly transports provided by GFFR during 2022 .





FIRE PREVENTION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

1ST year of tracking false alarm activations within the City. With the tracking, came 36 false alarm fee invoices for City Ordinance Violations. False Alarm fees have resulted in less repeated false alarm activations from commercial businesses.

2ND year of GFFR's Fire Prevention Essay contest. Essay submissions more than doubled from 2021. This contest has been great for fire prevention education and interaction with youth in our community.

3RD party reporting system, Inspection Reporting Online (IROL), has been used by GFFR for it's first full year. This system has allowed GFFR to work directly with contractors and businesses to address deficiencies.

- 870 Reports were submitted into the IROL system
- 655 Reports were categorized as clear - no deficiencies
- 148 Reports were categorized as deficient and are now clear
- 67 Reports were still deficient at the end of 2022

GFFR took part in the Fire Code compliance review, acceptance of life safety systems and development of over 60 new commercial projects within the City.



3495 Inspections

2600 Annual Inspections

692 Reinspections

206 Other Inspections

In 2022, GFFR's Fire Prevention Bureau completed nearly 1000 more inspections than the previous year.

Community Outreach



14



Station Tours

14



Apparatus Tours

7



Fire Extinguisher
Classes

Prevention Through Education

We believe educating our community to be safer will decrease our need to respond to emergencies. All of us, working together, makes the community safer and improves our quality of life.

Right: Deputy Chief of EMS Virts explains tactics to a student

Below: Deputy Fire Marshall Zaremski gives an apparatus tour to a group of daycare children



✓ Programs we are involved with:

- Internships
- Ride-along/Job Shadow students
- CMR EMT students
- Great Falls College EMT/Medic students
- Great Falls Safety Town Summer Camp
- Industry Days at CMR
- Touch-a-Truck
- Flu Shot Clinics
- Citizens Academy
- Fentanyl and Narcan Education
- CPR Classes
- Car Seat Installations

✓ Fire Prevention Week skits at community elementary schools were cancelled in 2022 due to lack of funding for staff to perform the skits.

GFFR HAZMAT TEAM

1 of 6 Regional HazMat Teams in Montana

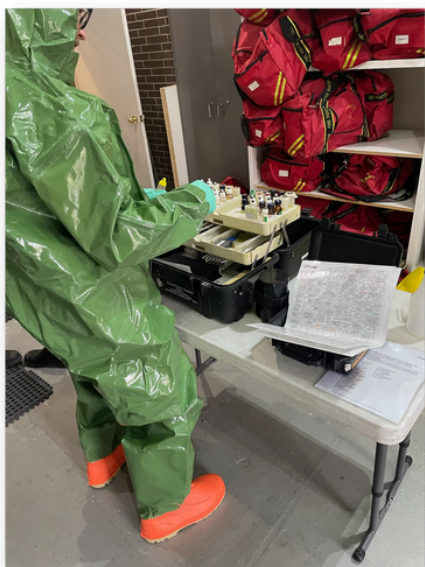
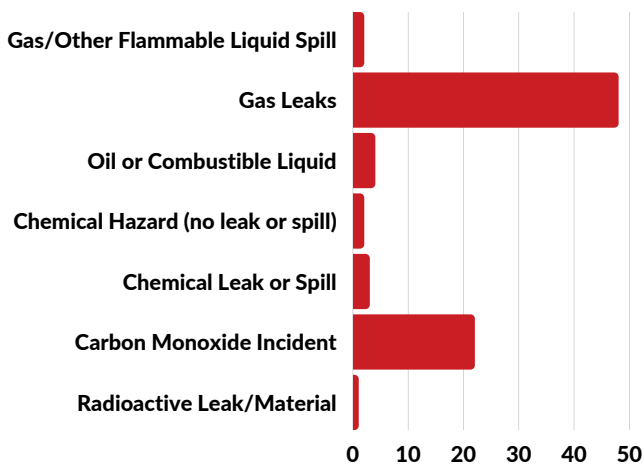


GFFR's HazMat Response Team is intended to be utilized to respond to the most acute and critical hazardous emergencies in our community and throughout the state when an incident exceeds a local jurisdiction's capability.

Our team is designed to respond, assess, and mitigate an incident for specific known hazardous materials. The HazMat Team's priorities include life safety, hazard control, and protecting the environment. Life safety at a hazmat incident begins with a safe assessment of the situation.

By operating as a State resource, GFFR can utilize grant funding for training and equipment that would otherwise not be possible for GFFR through the City of Great Falls General Fund.

2022 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSES



HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2 days of Hazmat Team training that included hands-on and didactic instruction at 2 Hazmat Target Hazard facilities in our communities, meeting requirements for NFPA 472 compliance.
- 2 GFFR Hazmat Paramedics completed refresher training in Billings as Hazmat Toxicology Medics.
- GFFR awarded Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant for hazmat toxicology training that benefits and trains all 6 Montana regional teams.
- Trained 8 GFFR members to be drone pilots, licensed by the FFA in preparation for receiving a highly sophisticated drone awarded grant from the State.
- Lead the Montana Air National Guard through an update of their Hazmat program.
- Deployed 4 members to the Nevada Nuclear Test Site for advanced radiological response training as part of the Montana State Hazmat Team.
- Sent 4 members to the Hazmat Continuing Challenge training in Sacramento, CA, funded through the HMEP Grant.
- Updated team decontamination and procedures to stay current with emerging threats, such as Fentanyl.
- Sent 3 members to FEMA training site in Alabama for Advanced Hazmat Response Training.

TECHNICAL RESCUE



GFFR purchased and began training on the TerrAdaptor Tripod, a portable anchor system. This device allows our Tech Rescue Team to perform rescues safely in places such as the Rivers Edge Trail and other high-angle applications.

Six (6) members were trained by a Fire Service Training School instructor to become Tech Rescue Certified and complete a series of tactics to include rigging techniques and learning all applicable knots, setting up main and belay lines for high and low angle rescue, patient pick offs and patient packaging.

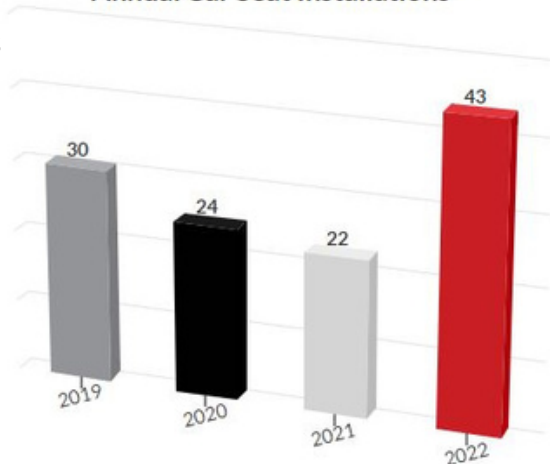
CAR SEAT INSTALLATIONS

Car seat installations are opportunities to educate parents and caregivers of car seat safety, prevent injuries resulting from improperly installed car seats and interact with our community.



GFFR conducts Car Seat Installation drive-thru clinics with community partners as an opportunity for parents and caregivers to stop by and have their car seats checked or installed without having to call ahead. These events are well attended and will continue each year.

Annual Car Seat Installations



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Care and Maintenance Program

To reduce cancer risks among our firefighters, GFFR maintains reserve PPE for members, allowing them to have clean equipment post fire. Structural protective ensembles used to protect firefighters while engaging in structural fire suppression efforts is one of the significant sources of exposure to chemicals and carcinogens.

The reserve PPE gives members the ability to have their dirty gear laundered in-house and still be ready for incidents. With the important role that properly maintained PPE plays in firefighter safety, each person is required to be diligent in making sure each piece of their equipment is in optimal condition.

The need for safe, efficient and optimal PPE has led Great Falls Fire Rescue to search for grants and Foundation assistance for a gear washer extractor, gear dryer and SCBA washer, as these items are not funded through the City General Fund. To date, the grant applications for those specific items have been unsuccessful.

During 2022, FEMA awarded GFFR over \$100k to purchase 10 SCBA Units (Harness, Face Piece and 2 Cylinders) and 30 spare cylinders through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant



GFFR does not have the funding for a gear dryer for turnouts and personal protective equipment.

GFFR hang dries turnouts which results in 24-48 hours for gear to fully dry.

Wearing PPE not thoroughly dried during a fire poses risks to injury and dryers not made exclusively for PPE can cause it to quickly wear out



Hose and Nozzle Program

(6) sections of 5" hose was purchased to complete inventory and add spares to the rack in case of failure.

New hose tester was acquired, replacing the outdated, homemade tester. This will result in increased safety and accuracy when our annual hose testing occurs.

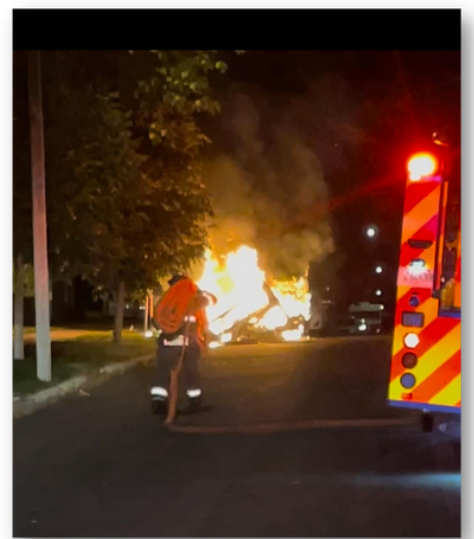
A hose washer was purchased to replace the outdated, homemade hose washer. This new washer will eliminate toxic carcinogens that the homemade washer was unable to wash out. It will also increase the lifespan and performance of our hose by thoroughly cleaning the dirt and other debris out of the outer jacket.

- Inspected 275 sections of hose.
- Repaired 8 sections, returning them to service.
- Identified 10 sections to remove from service due to failure.



A LOOK BACK AT 2022





IN LOVING MEMORY

Captain
Michael T. Kuntz

March 15, 1973 - September 20, 2022





GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE



(406)727-8070

facebook.com/GreatFallsFireRescue

greatfallsmt.net/fire

STATION 1

105 9th St S

STATION 3

3325 Central Ave

TRAINING FACILITY

1900 9th St S

STATION 2

731 6th St NW

STATION 4

1800 Fox Farm Rd