



# **ALLENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

**FIRE CHIEF: MICHAEL KEEFE**

**DEPUTY CHIEF: RANDY BOSCH**

**ALLENDALE CHARTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT  
6676 LAKE MICHIGAN DR.,  
ALLENDALE, MI 49401  
Phone: 616-892-3121**

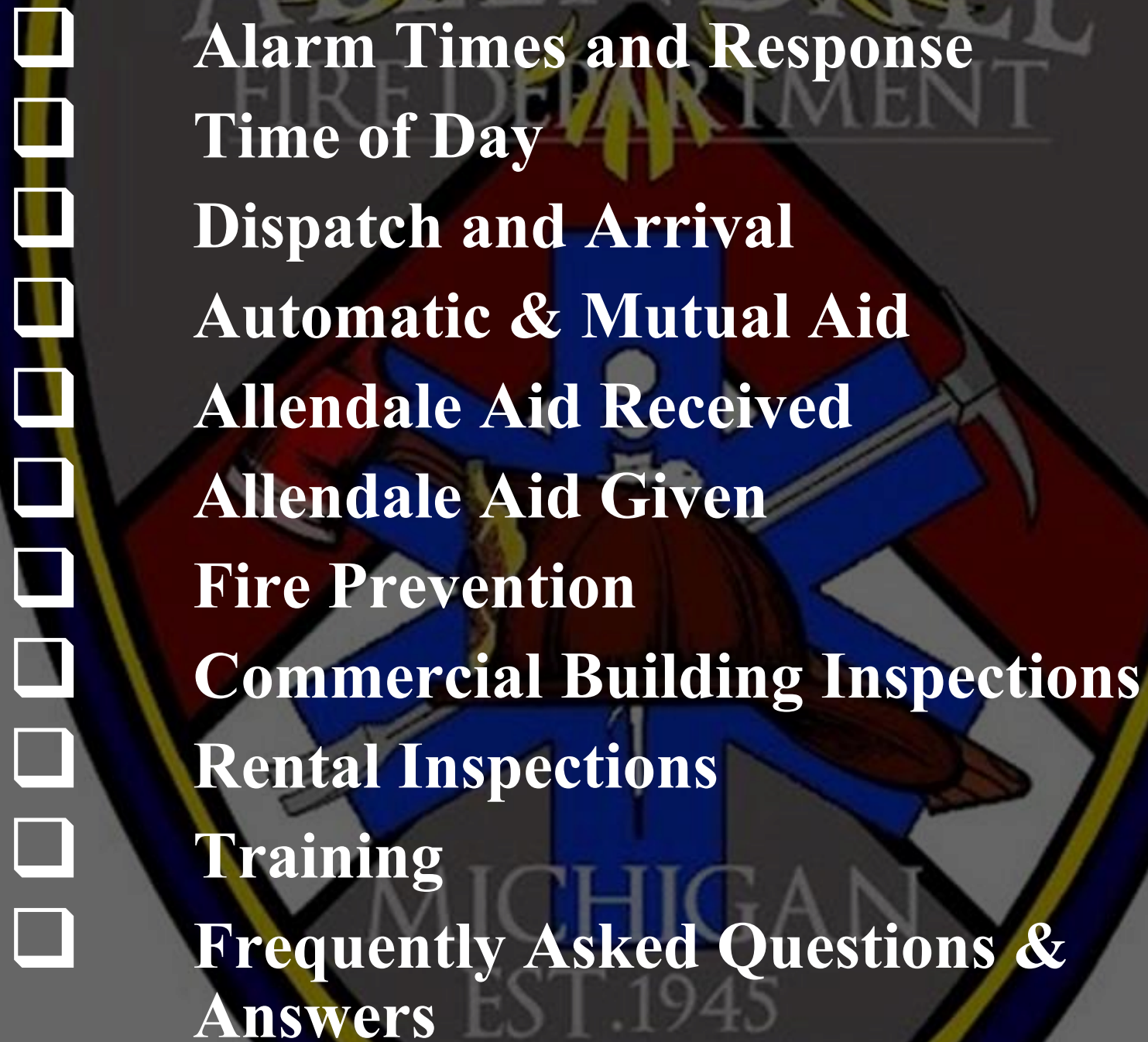
# Message from Fire Chief Michael Keefe

## Message from Deputy Chief Randy Bosch

- ☐ Personnel Roster
- ☐ ISO Property Protection Classification
- ☐ 2023 Statistic Report
- ☐ Calls 2019 – 2023
- ☐ Calls per Shift
- ☐ Calls by Day of the Week
- ☐ Man-Hours on Alarms
- ☐ Overlapping Incidents





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- The background features a large, semi-transparent logo of the Allendale Fire Department. The logo is a shield-shaped emblem with a blue border. Inside, there's a red field with a blue Maltese cross. The cross has a fire helmet in the center and a fire hose reel on the left arm. The words "ALLLENDALE" and "FIRE DEPARTMENT" are at the top, and "MICHIGAN" and "EST. 1945" are at the bottom.
- ☐ Alarm Times and Response
  - ☐ Time of Day
  - ☐ Dispatch and Arrival
  - ☐ Automatic & Mutual Aid
  - ☐ Allendale Aid Received
  - ☐ Allendale Aid Given
  - ☐ Fire Prevention
  - ☐ Commercial Building Inspections
  - ☐ Rental Inspections
  - ☐ Training
  - ☐ Frequently Asked Questions & Answers



# Fire Department Administration



**Fire Chief Michael Keefe**  
**20 Years of Service**  
**Full-Time**



**Deputy Fire Chief Randy Bosch**  
**42 Years of Service**  
**Paid – on – Call**



# Message from Fire Chief Michael Keefe

**We would like to start of the 2023 annual report by saying thank you.**

**Our report presents an overview of the activities and accomplishments of the department as well as some insight into the services that we provide to our great community of Allendale.**

**The 2023 Annual Report has been prepared to provide information and statistics on the activities of the department during the past year and comparison data from previous years, where available.**

**Well, this certainly has been a great year. We started 2023 of in the right direction by moving into our new building. It certainly has flown by with uncharted territory of having a new building. It has been exciting having the space needed and the new technology within the building.**

**We also worked very hard out in the community with lowering our ISO rating for the citizens of Allendale Township. Later in the report you will see what we have done. We could not have done it with out the support of our firefighters and the township board.**

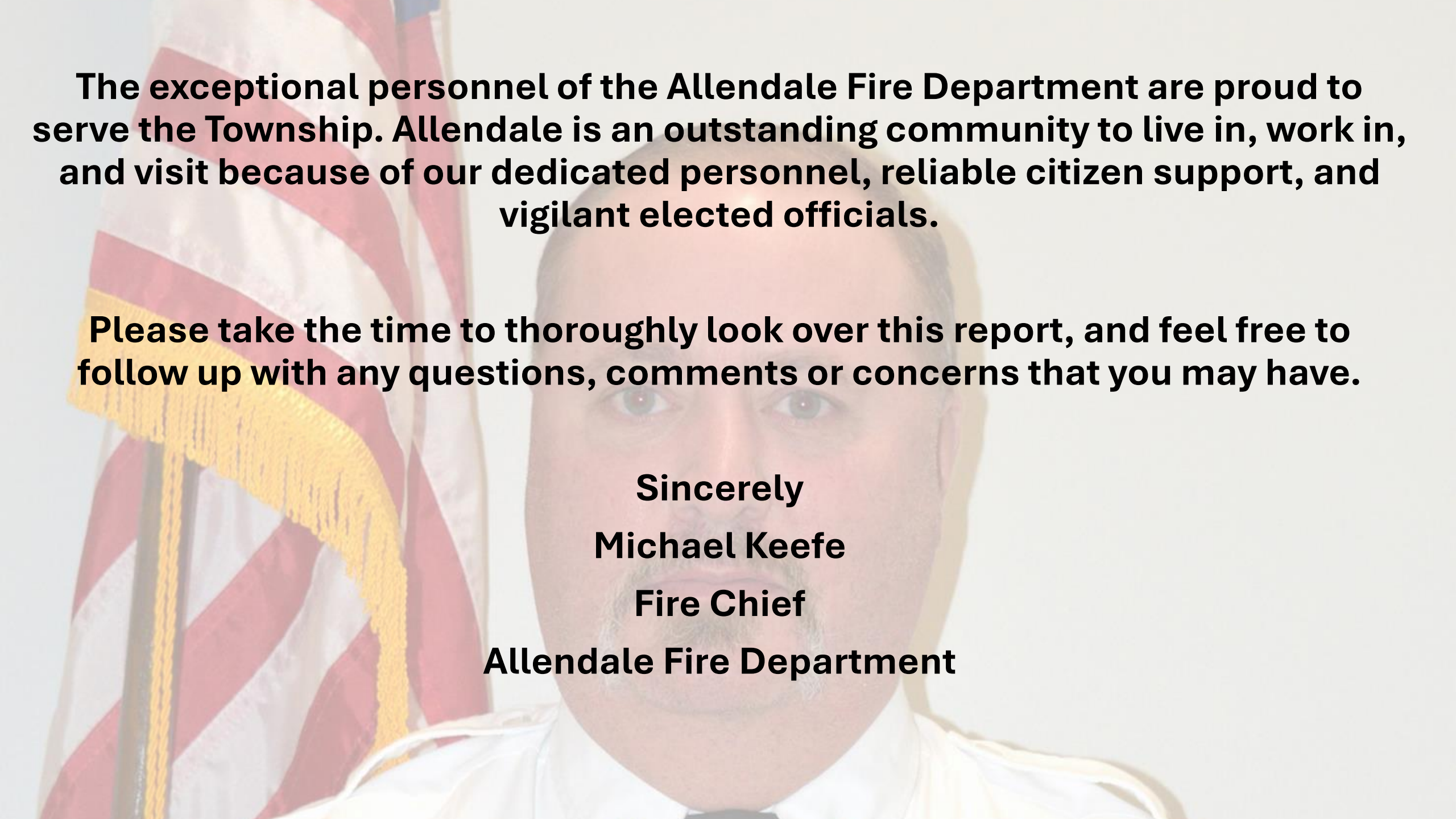
A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a white fire department uniform shirt, is centered in the background. To his left is a red and white striped flag with a yellow fringe. The text is overlaid on this image.

**Allendale Fire had a record setting year with runs. We managed each call with professionalism, courtesy and compassion.**

**A fire department is a valuable community asset providing emergency and essential services to residents, businesses and visitors. Regardless of the size of the community, many people will never need the emergency services the fire department provides.**

**The fire department made 1,525 calls in 2023. This again was an increase in runs from 2022. All the departments in Ottawa County saw an increase of calls in 2022. We are maintaining a good number of Paid on Call staffing, but as these numbers increase, we will need to provide more staffing to accommodate the increase.**

**We hope that this report will give the needed insight on the operations of Allendale Fire Department.**



**The exceptional personnel of the Allendale Fire Department are proud to serve the Township. Allendale is an outstanding community to live in, work in, and visit because of our dedicated personnel, reliable citizen support, and vigilant elected officials.**

**Please take the time to thoroughly look over this report, and feel free to follow up with any questions, comments or concerns that you may have.**

**Sincerely**

**Michael Keefe**

**Fire Chief**

**Allendale Fire Department**



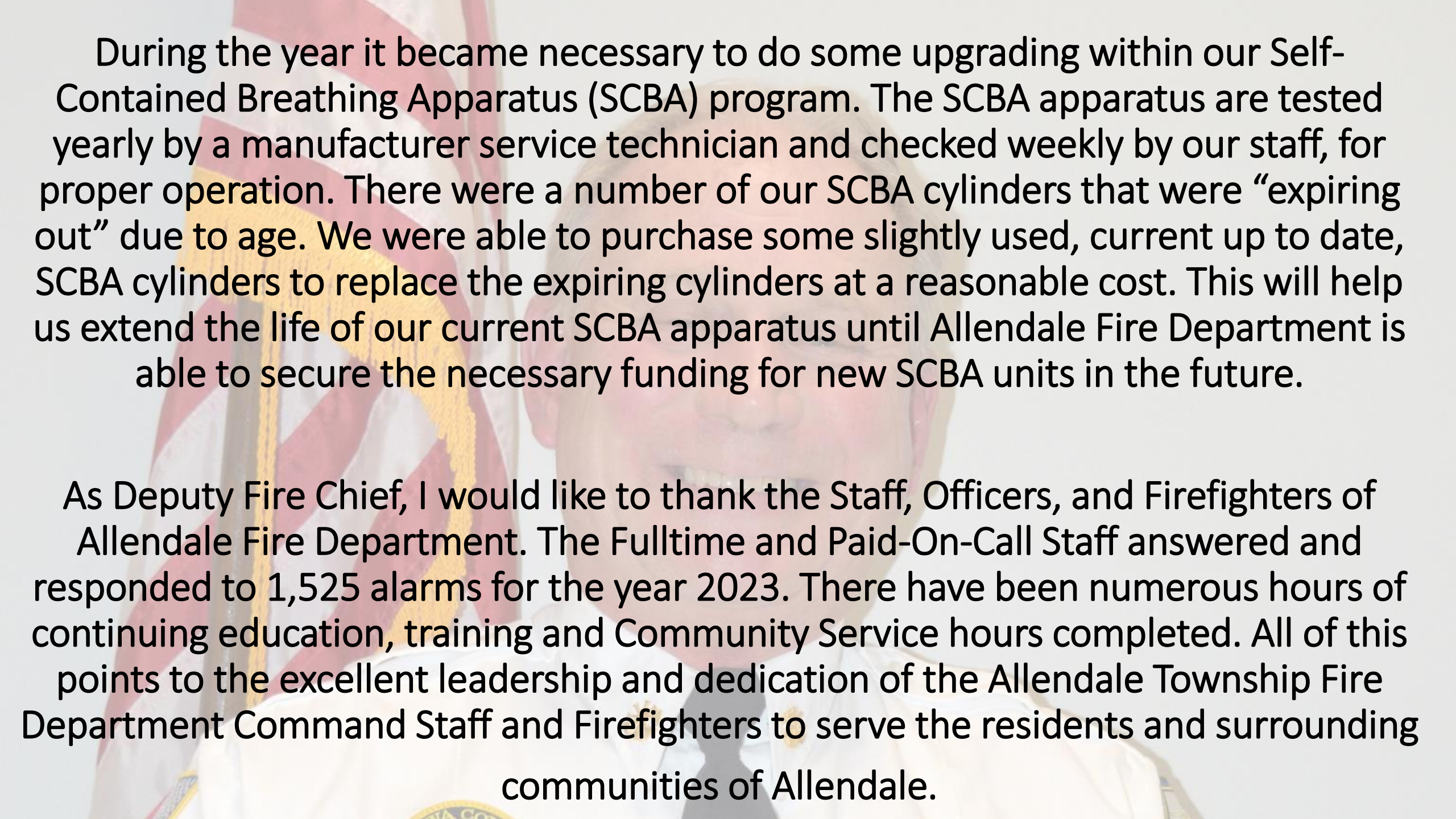
## Message from Deputy Fire Chief Randy Bosch

I would like to start by saying “Thank You”, to the residents and businesses of Allendale Township and the Allendale Township Board for the tremendous amount of support for the year 2023 shown towards the Allendale Township Fire Department.

It was an exciting beginning to the year, 2023, for the fire department. We saw the completion and experienced the opportunity to move into a new “state of the art” fire station. This new facility, with its exceptional training and response capabilities, will continue to allow the Allendale Fire Department the ability to serve the residents of Allendale, community of Grand Valley State University, surrounding townships, and Ottawa County more efficiently and effectively for many years into the future.

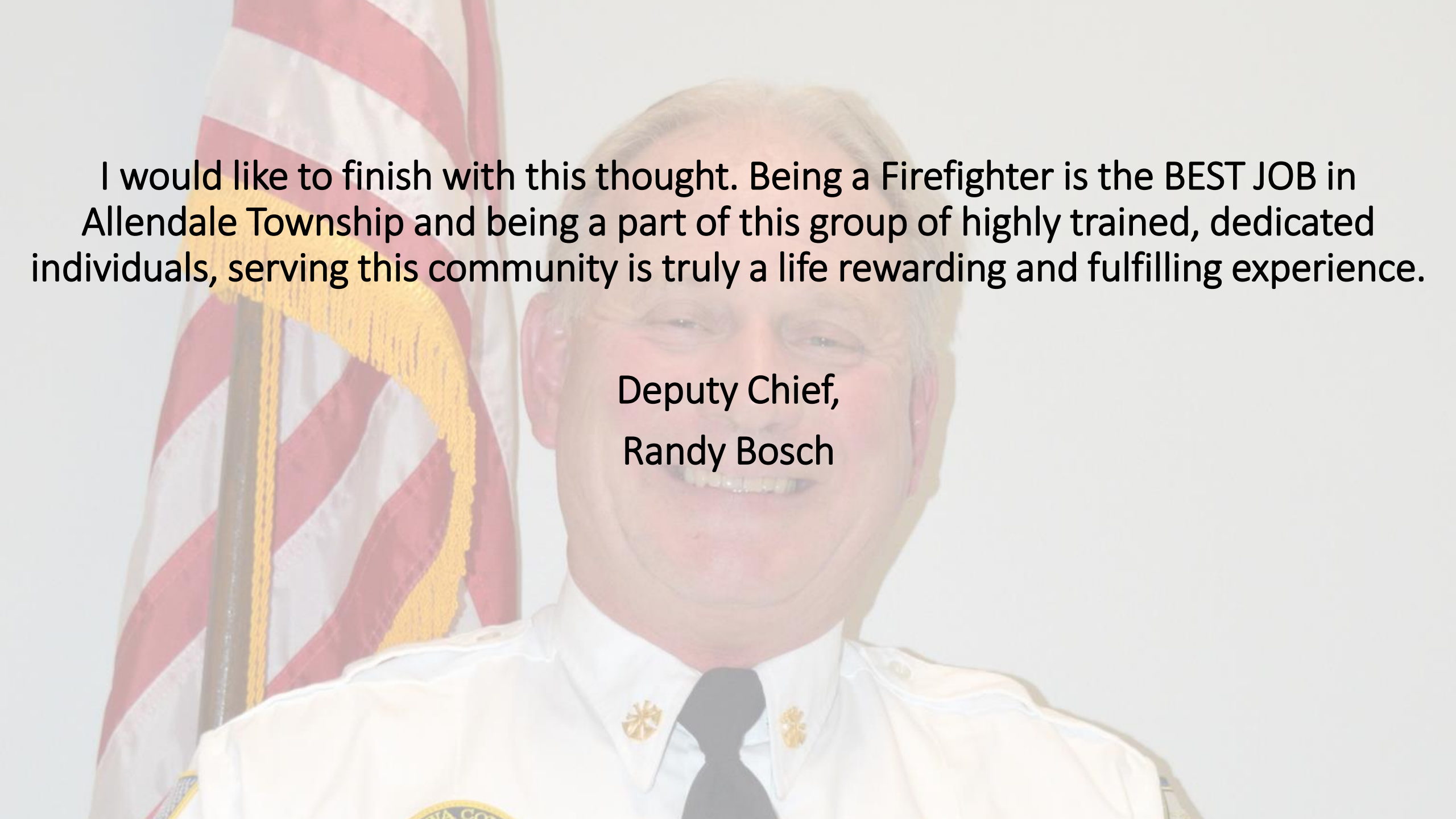
The year 2023 was special for me, in my career with the fire department. Many years ago, there had been long range planning meetings concerning building a new fire station, location of a new building, and what that might look like for the future. It has been very exciting to see this come to reality, experienced the building project and being a part of what has been planned for the future of Allendale Fire Department.





During the year it became necessary to do some upgrading within our Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) program. The SCBA apparatus are tested yearly by a manufacturer service technician and checked weekly by our staff, for proper operation. There were a number of our SCBA cylinders that were “expiring out” due to age. We were able to purchase some slightly used, current up to date, SCBA cylinders to replace the expiring cylinders at a reasonable cost. This will help us extend the life of our current SCBA apparatus until Allendale Fire Department is able to secure the necessary funding for new SCBA units in the future.

As Deputy Fire Chief, I would like to thank the Staff, Officers, and Firefighters of Allendale Fire Department. The Fulltime and Paid-On-Call Staff answered and responded to 1,525 alarms for the year 2023. There have been numerous hours of continuing education, training and Community Service hours completed. All of this points to the excellent leadership and dedication of the Allendale Township Fire Department Command Staff and Firefighters to serve the residents and surrounding communities of Allendale.



I would like to finish with this thought. Being a Firefighter is the BEST JOB in Allendale Township and being a part of this group of highly trained, dedicated individuals, serving this community is truly a life rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Deputy Chief,  
Randy Bosch



# Fire Department Full-Time Staff



**Captain**  
**Commercial Inspector**  
**Tony Dolce**  
**14 Years**



**Lieutenant**  
**Rental Inspector**  
**Kyle Garlanger**  
**8 years**



**Lieutenant**  
**Training Officer**  
**Scott Harkes**  
**18 Years**



**Firefighter**  
**Fire Prevention**  
**Dillon Reeder**  
**5 years**

# **Paid – on – Call Officers Lieutenants**



**Lieutenant / EMT**

**Bruce Nagelkirk**

**33 years**



**Lieutenant / EMT**

**Dave Marshall**

**7 years**



**Lieutenant / EMT**

**William O'Donnell**

**26 Years**



**Lieutenant / EMT**

**Steve Wolbrink**

**13 Years**



# **Paid – on – Call Officer Sergeants**



**Sergeant / EMT  
Doug Anderson  
7 years**



**Sergeant / EMT  
Chris Holmes  
16 years**



**Sergeant / EMT  
Eric Busscher  
7 Years**



**Sergeant / EMT  
Nick Richards  
16 Years**



**Sergeant / EMT  
Joe Flagstadt  
8 Years**



**Sergeant / EMT  
Troy Teller  
5 Years**



# **Paid – on – Call Firefighters**



**Firefighter / EMR  
Michael Augustyn  
3.5 years**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Cody Brow  
3.5 Years**



**Probationary Firefighter  
Olivia Cole  
.5**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Jeremy DeGlopper  
16 Years**



**Probationary Firefighter  
Joel DeVormer  
1.24 years**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Chad Doornbos  
8 Years**



# **Paid – on – Call Firefighters**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Garrett Fleming  
3.5 Years**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Mitch Lass  
3.5 Years**



**Firefighter / EMR  
Kevin Kraker  
21 years**



**Probationary Firefighter  
Chris Pearson  
1.7 years**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Ian Lafave  
2 Years**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Garrett Stover  
6 Years**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Colin Vanderwal  
7 Years**



**Chaplain  
Harold Veldman  
9 years**







**Chaplains in fire departments provide spiritual and personal counseling to firefighters and other staff members. Fire chaplains must be available at any time, even weekends and holidays, in the event there is need. A fire department may also loan its chaplain to other emergency medical services providers.**

**On-the-Scene Duties:**

**Provide appropriate victim assistance to free operational personnel for fire fighting or emergency medical duties;**

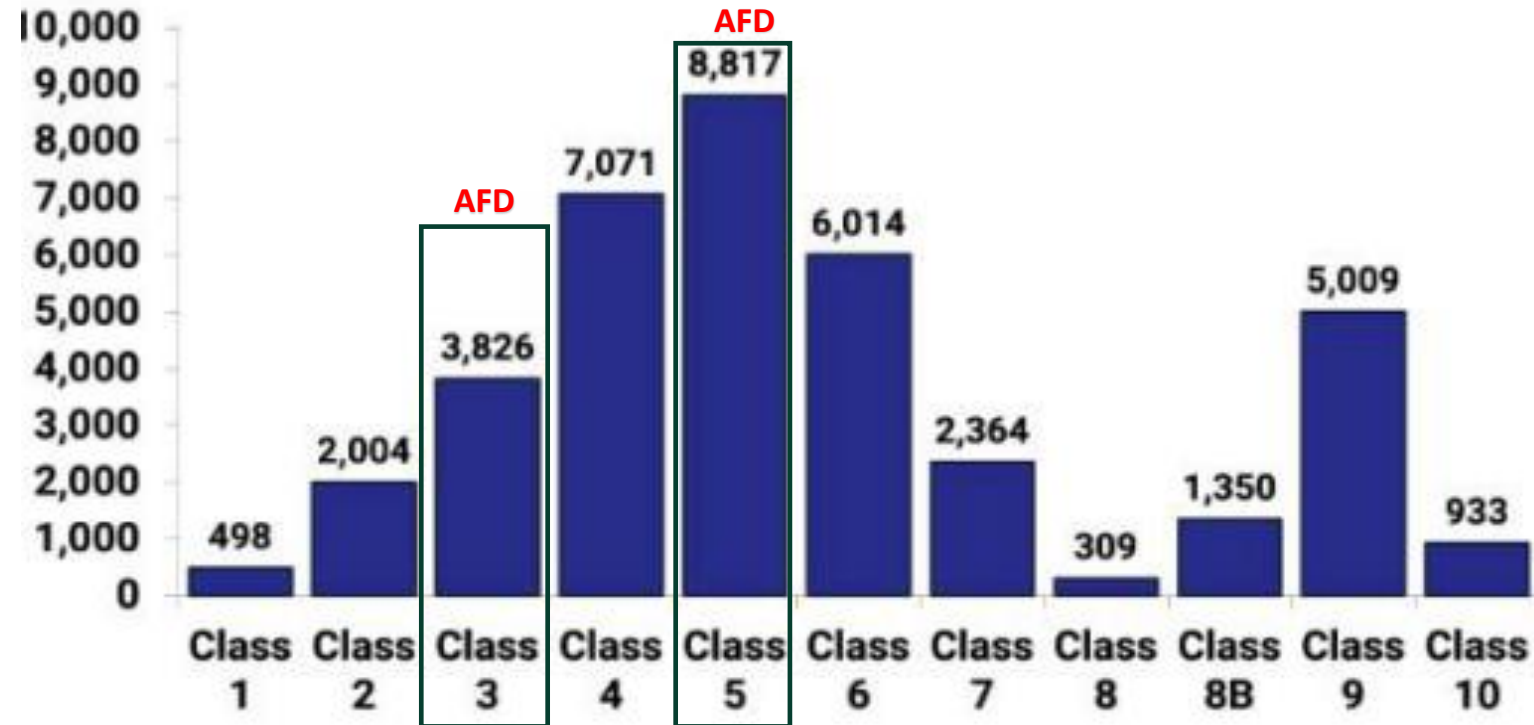
**Watch for signs of physical or emotional stress**

**Assist in providing firefighting rehab needs (water, rest, etc.)**

**Advise command whenever it is felt that a firefighter or EMT is in need of being relieved from operations.**

# ISO Property Protection Classification

## Countrywide



Allendale Fire ranks in the top 4% of Michigan departments with a ranking of 3, there are only 84 departments with a rate of 3 in Michigan. There are 356 departments rated 5 within the state of Michigan.

Countrywide there are 3,826 departments at 3 and 8,817 rated at 5. Insurance Services Office, a New Jersey-based company, evaluates more than 50,000 fire departments across the country.

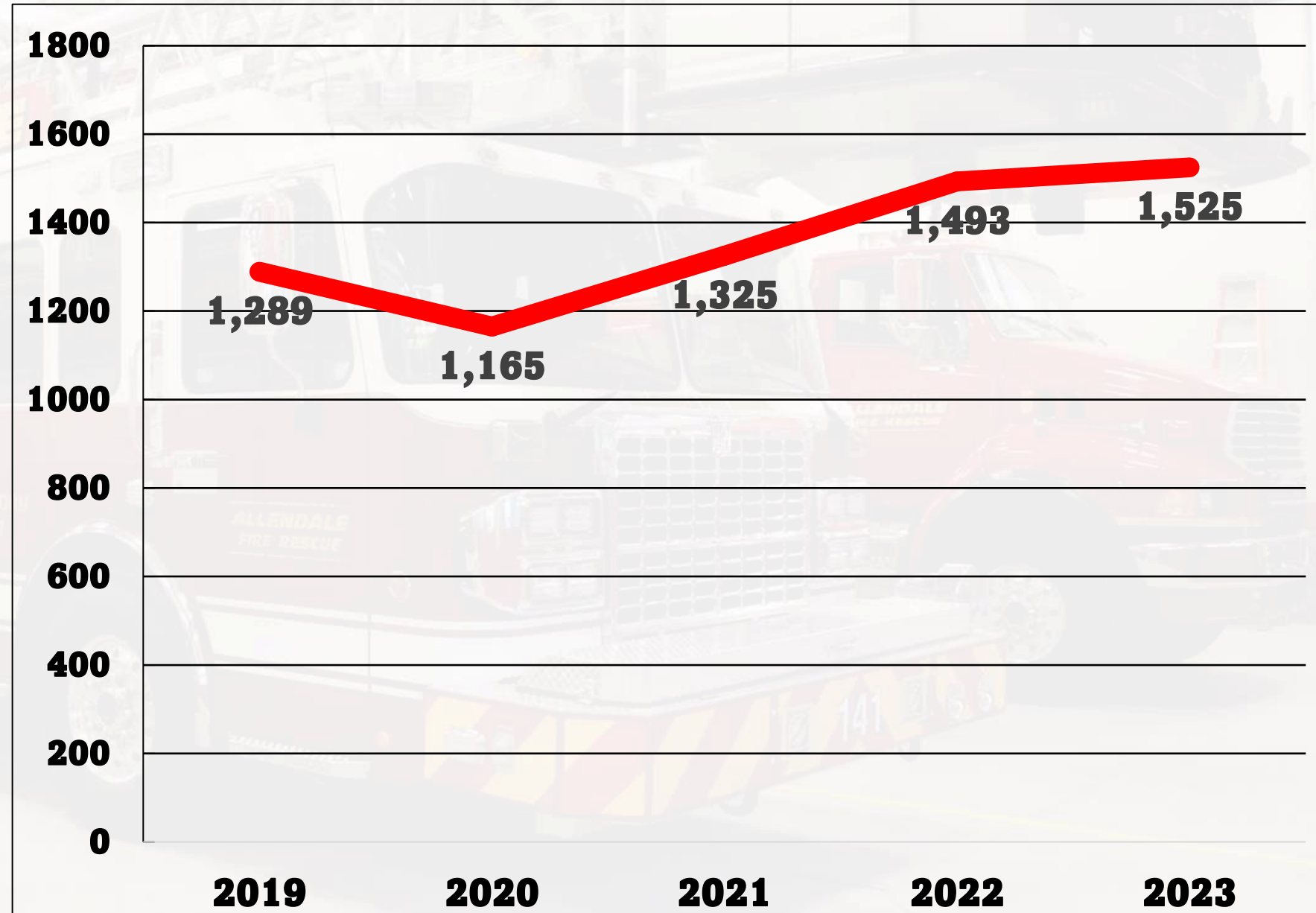
The dedication of the fire department members and staff, along with the strategic location of facilities and purchase of equipment results in the fire department achieving a current ISO Property Protection Classification of 3 Fire Hydrant Areas and 5 in Non-Fire Hydrant Areas. This rating is within the top 6% of all fire departments, career as well as paid on call / volunteer, in the United States. This rating is an independent evaluation and provides residents as well as business owners a financial savings in property insurance.



# Incident Response Metrics - Departmental

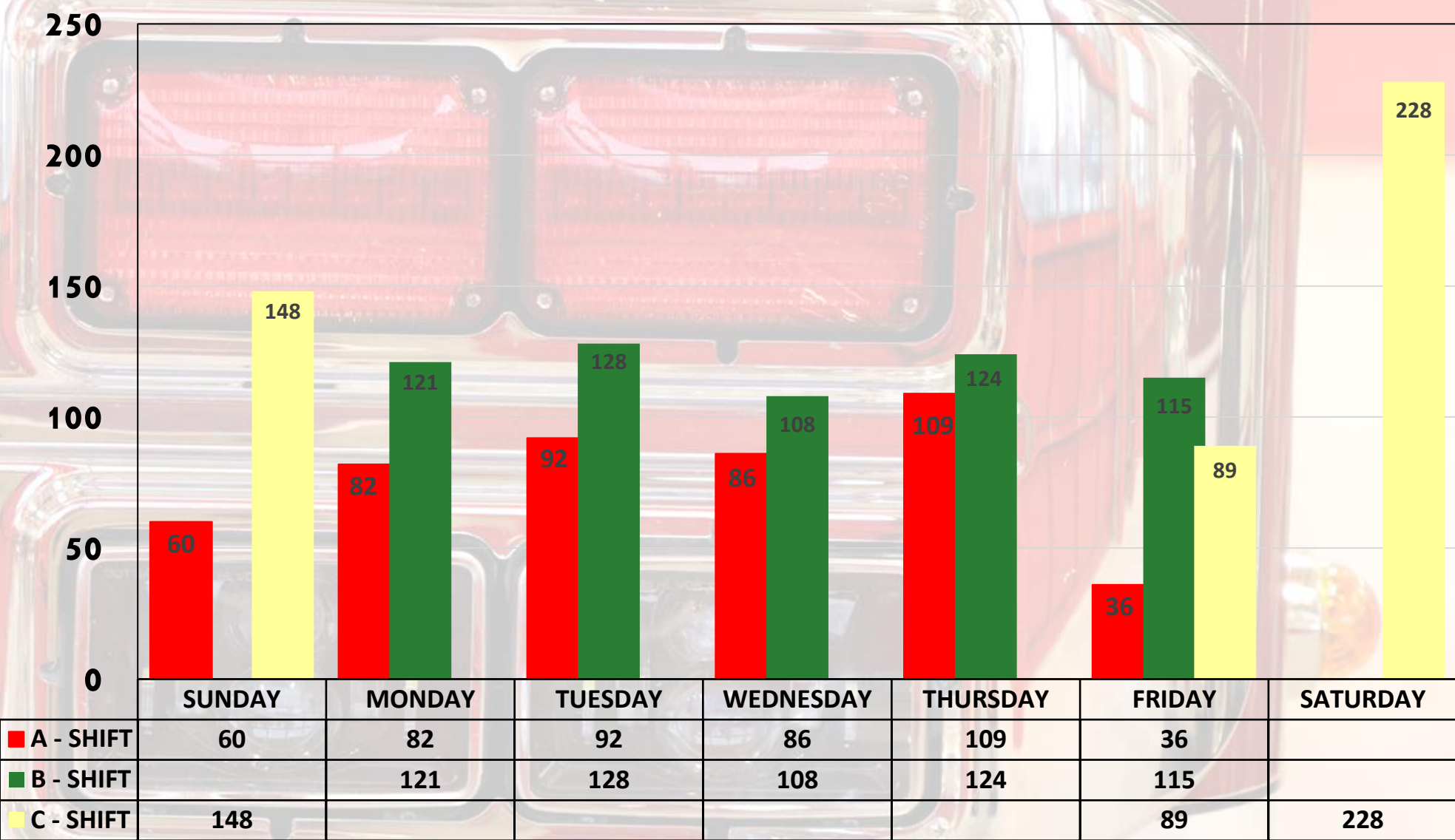
Nationwide, the fire service has seen the continued trend of an increase in call volumes year after year.

Allendale Fire is no stranger to seeing this increase. Since COVID we have seen a dramatic increase in all calls for service



# CALLS PER SHIFT

- **A- Shift 6PM**  
**Sunday – 6pm**  
**Friday** is the scheduled time that the Paid-on-Call firefighters are covering the fire department.
- **B- Shift 6AM**  
**Monday – 6PM**  
**Friday** is the scheduled hours of the Full-Time staff; the B- Shift continues to be the busiest shift we have during the weekdays.
- **C- Shift 6PM Friday**  
**– 6PM Sunday** is when the firefighters are filling their duty times during the weekends.



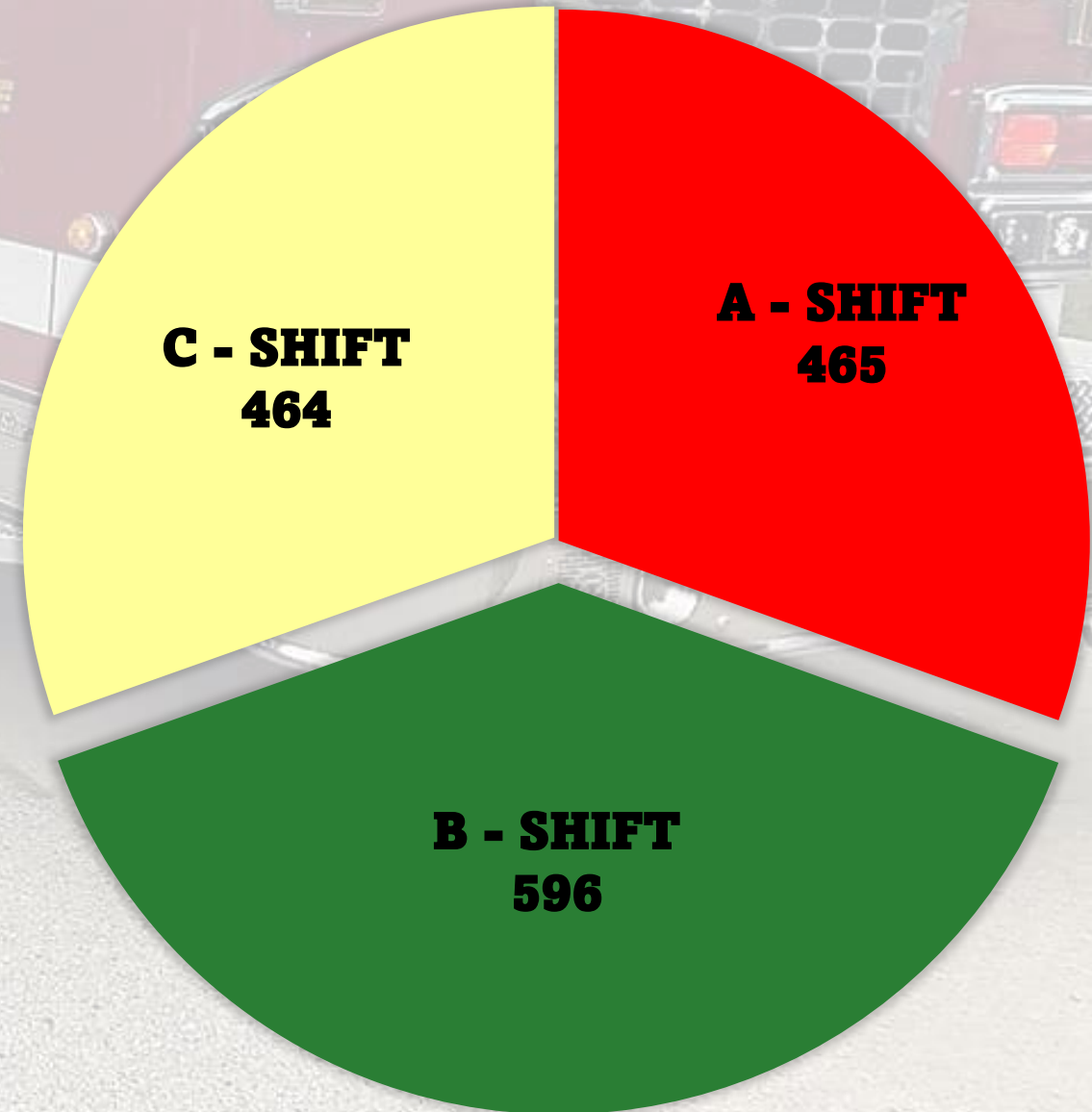


# TOTAL PER SHIFT

**B – SHIFT** CONTINUES TO BE THE BUSIEST AMONG ALL THE SHIFTS WITH 596 CALLS.

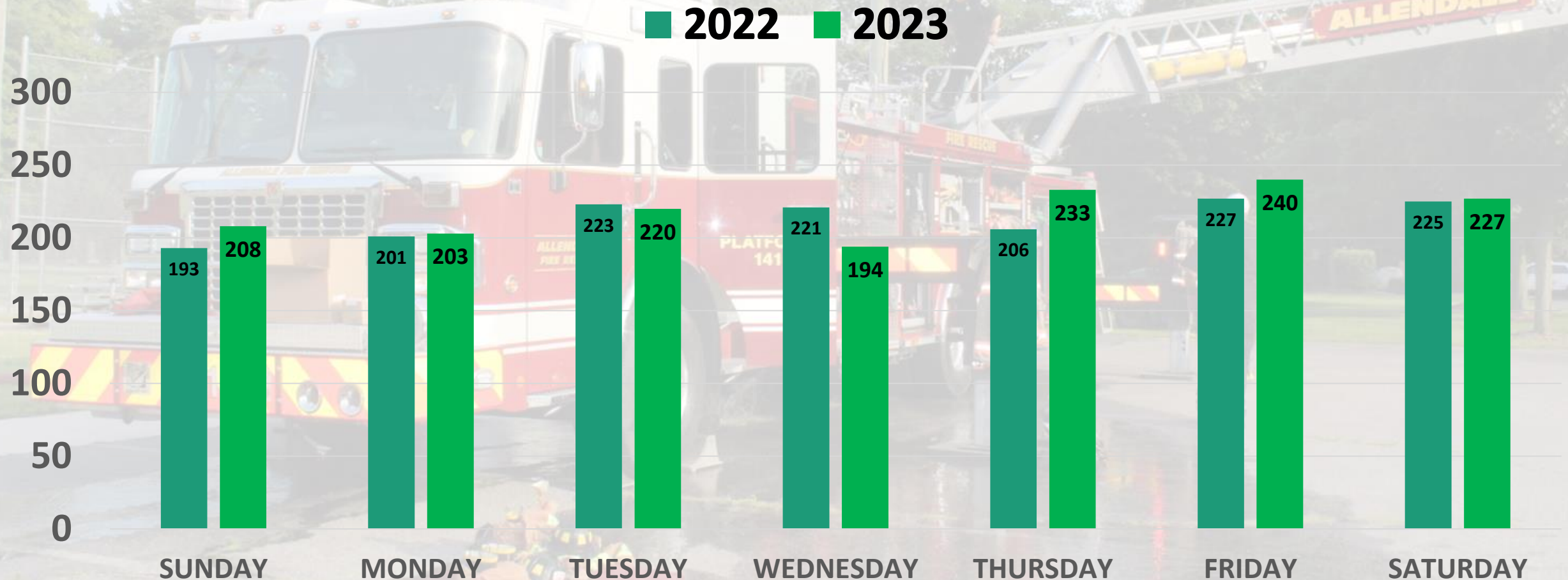
**A – SHIFT** IS SECOND WITH 465 AND C – SHIFT RUNNING 464. **C – SHIFT** IS RUN BY PAID – ON – CALL FIREFIGHTERS.

AS THIS CONTINUES TO GROW, IT WILL BE HARDER FOR THE POC TO KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND.



# INCIDENTS BY THE DAYS IN THE WEEK

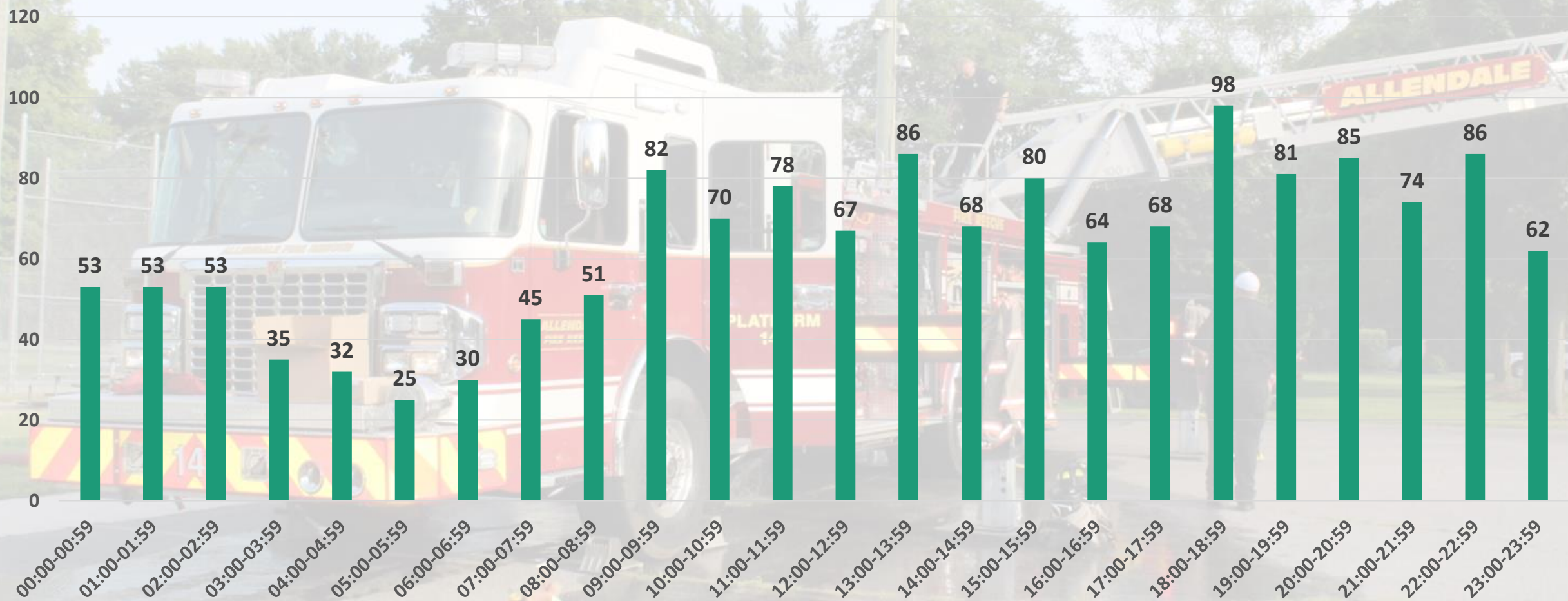
As can be seen, calls for service are generally consistent throughout the week with the highest demand during weekdays, averaging more calls for service per day than weekends in 2023.

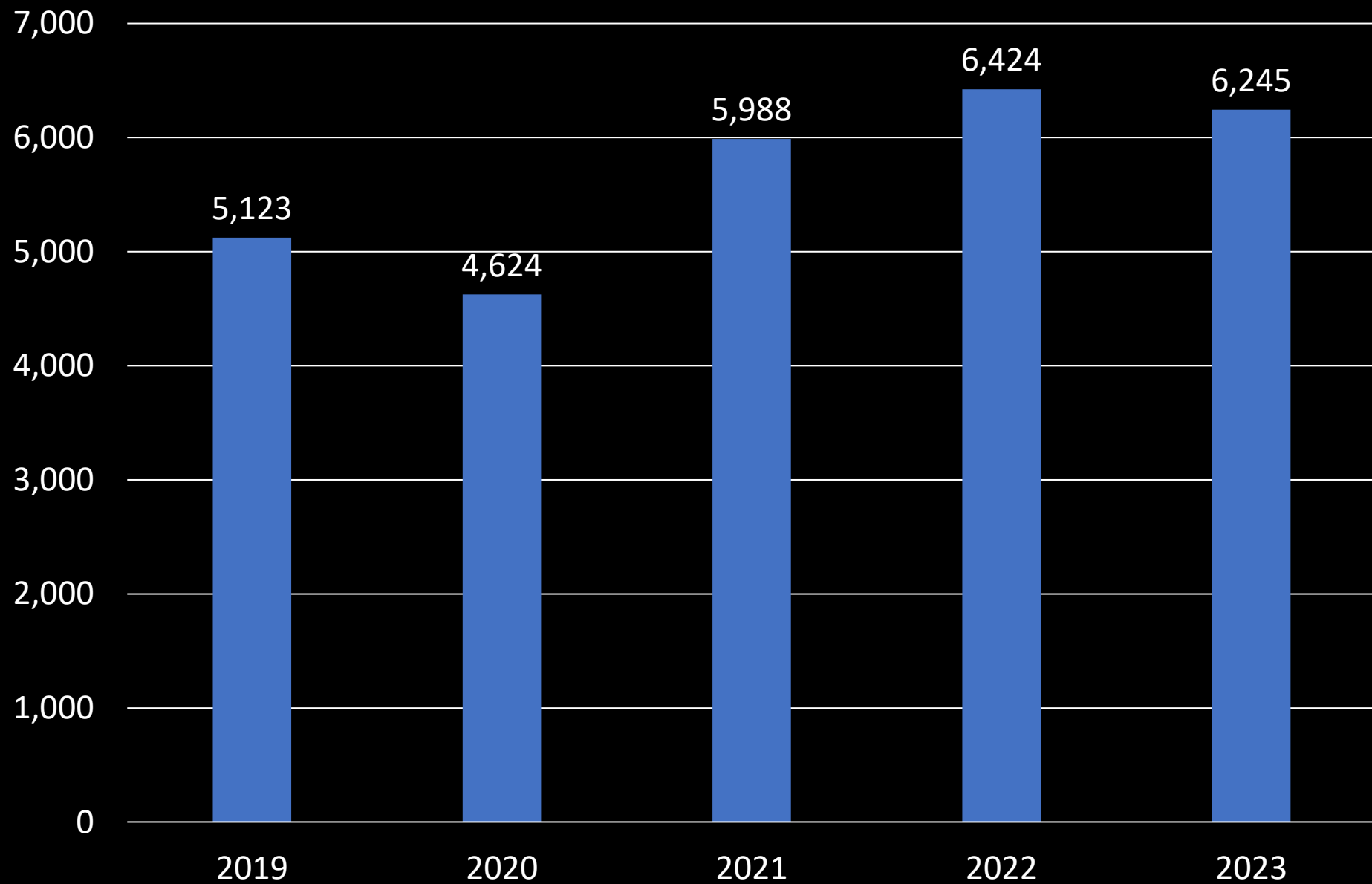




# INCIDENTS BY THE HOUR OF THE DAY

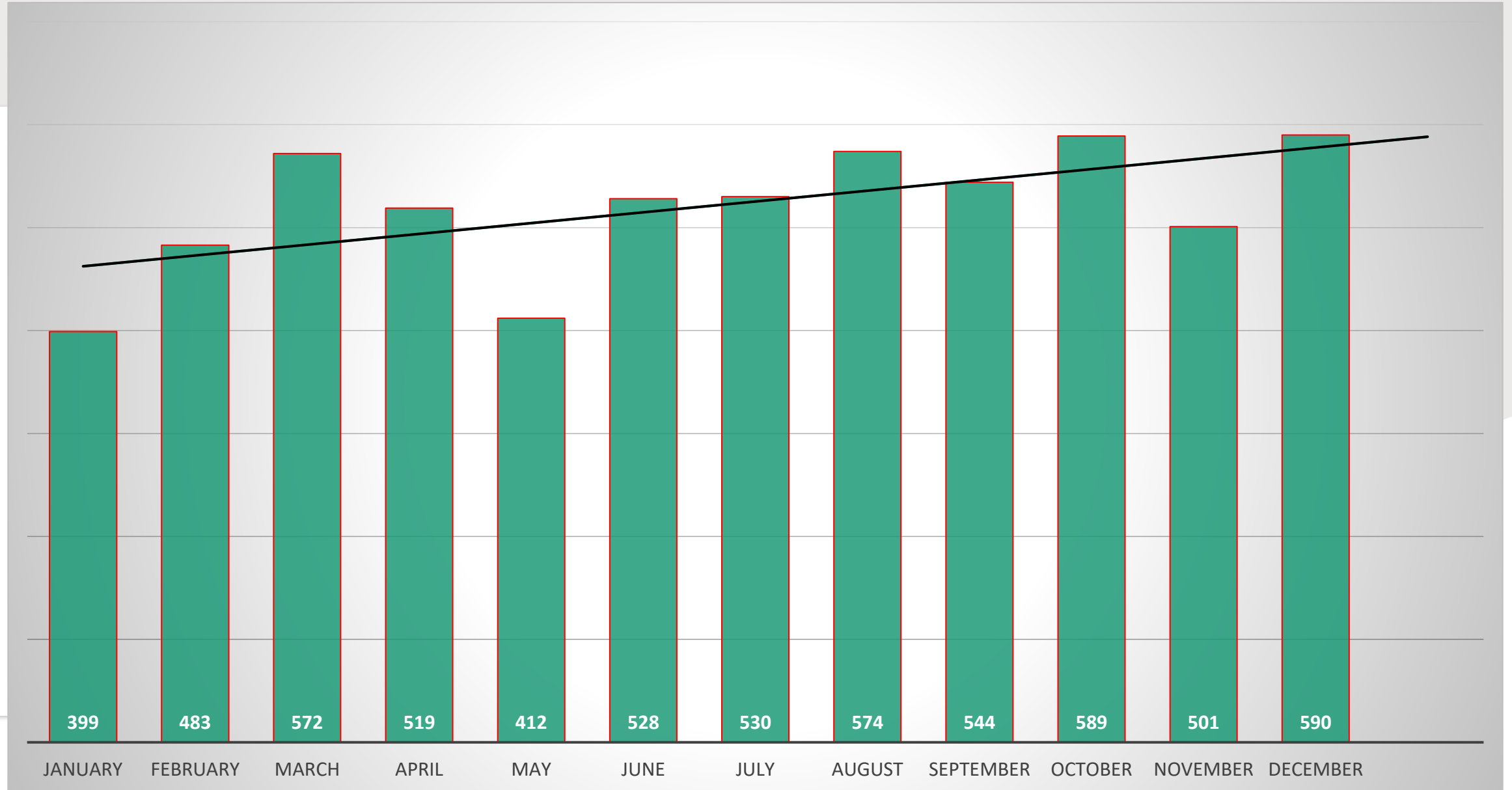
Our peak hours for dispatched incidents were between the hours of 9:00AM and 6:00PM. Statistically, both the weekday and daytime response increase correlates to the substantial rise in the daytime population influx within the township.







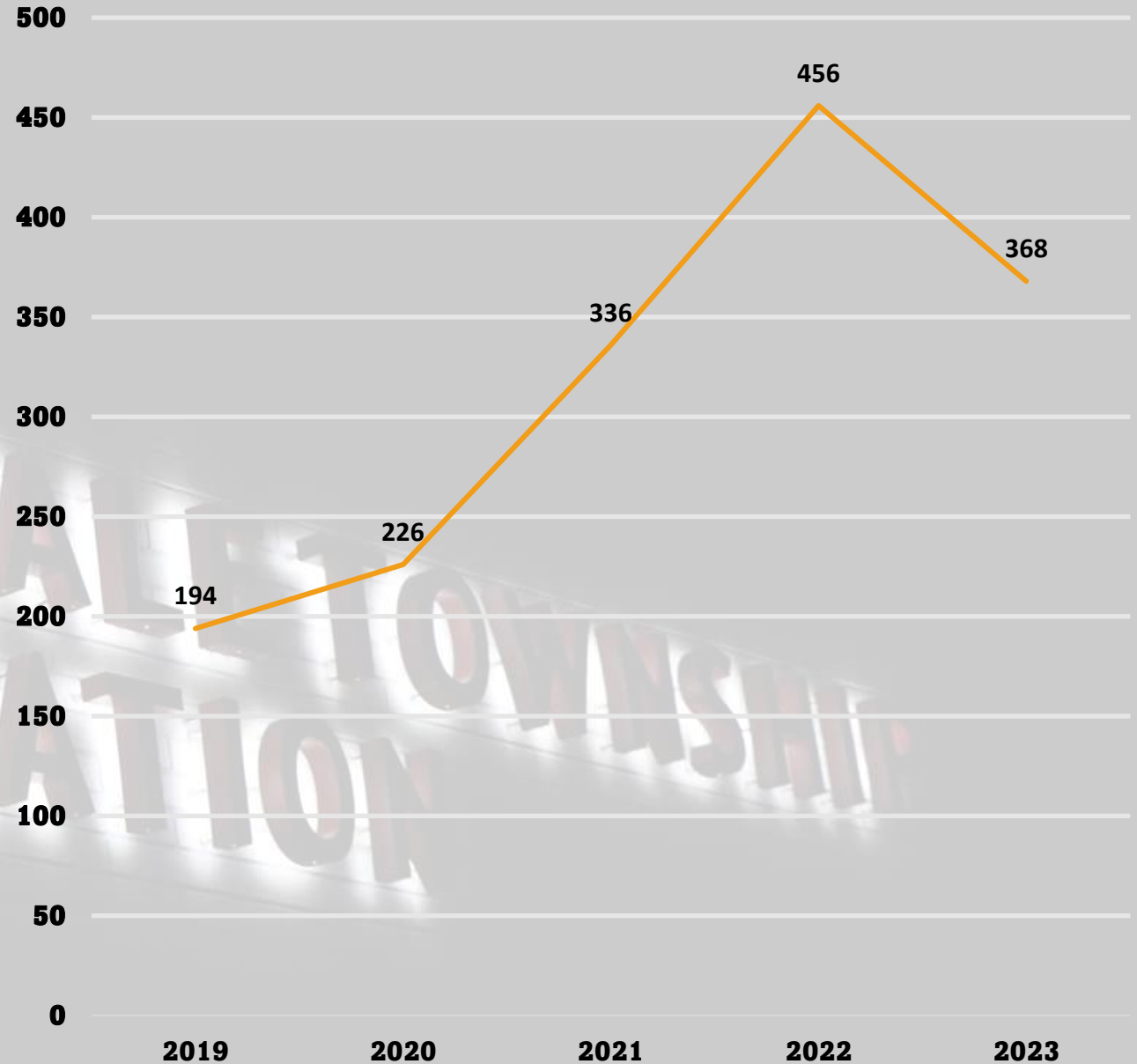
# HOURS PER MONTH



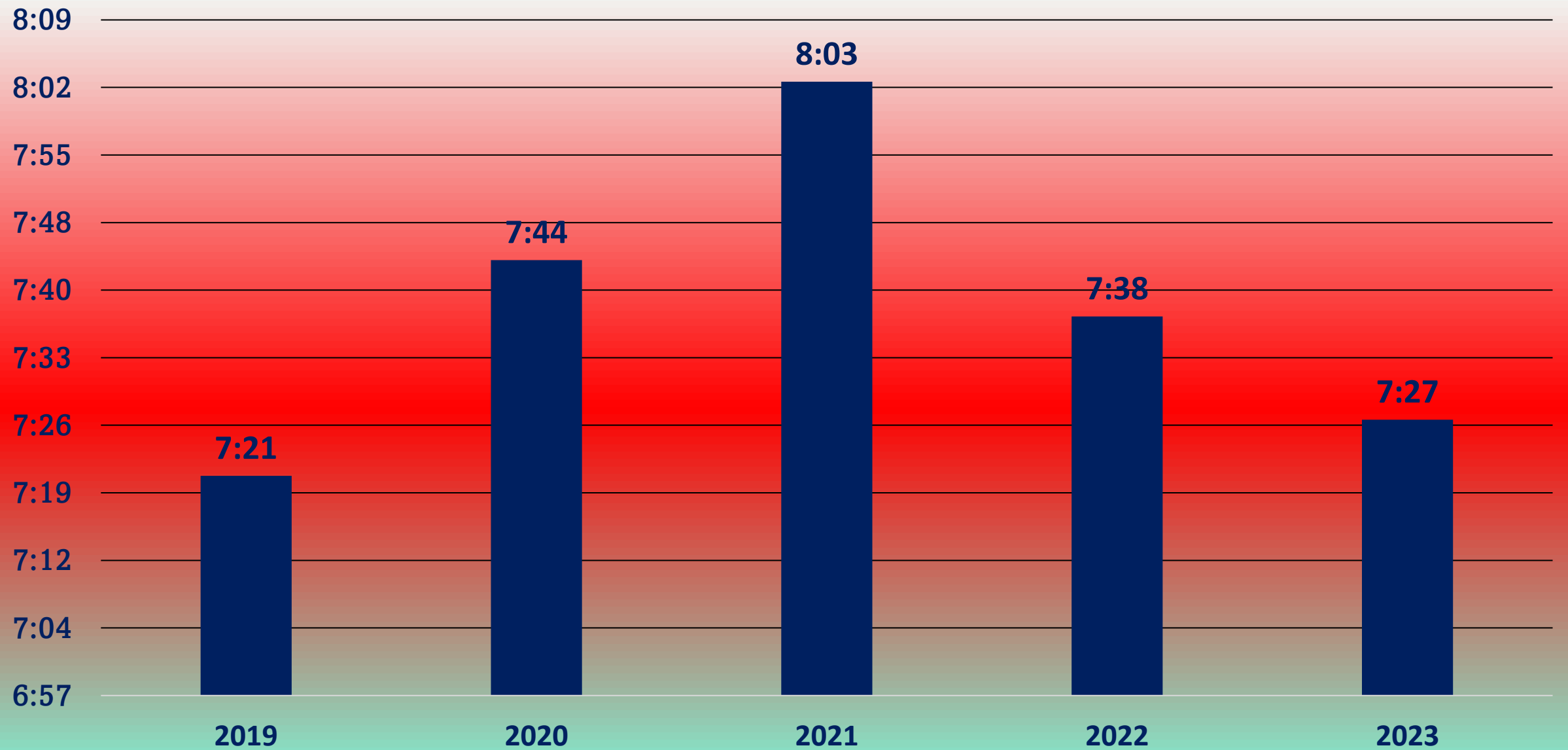
# OVERLAPPING INCIDENTS

There are some events that require Allendale to rely on Mutual aid departments to handle the second and sometimes third call.

Overlapping incidents are when the fire department is called to one event and is then given another at the same time. Most of the overlapping incidents that do occur are handled by the same crew splitting in two or another crew is called in.







**DISPATCH TO ARRIVAL TIME**

# AUTOMATIC & MUTUAL AID





**Mutual Aid Agreements facilitate the sharing of fire service resources and ideas to provide members with a trained, equipped, and coordinated response for all hazards.**



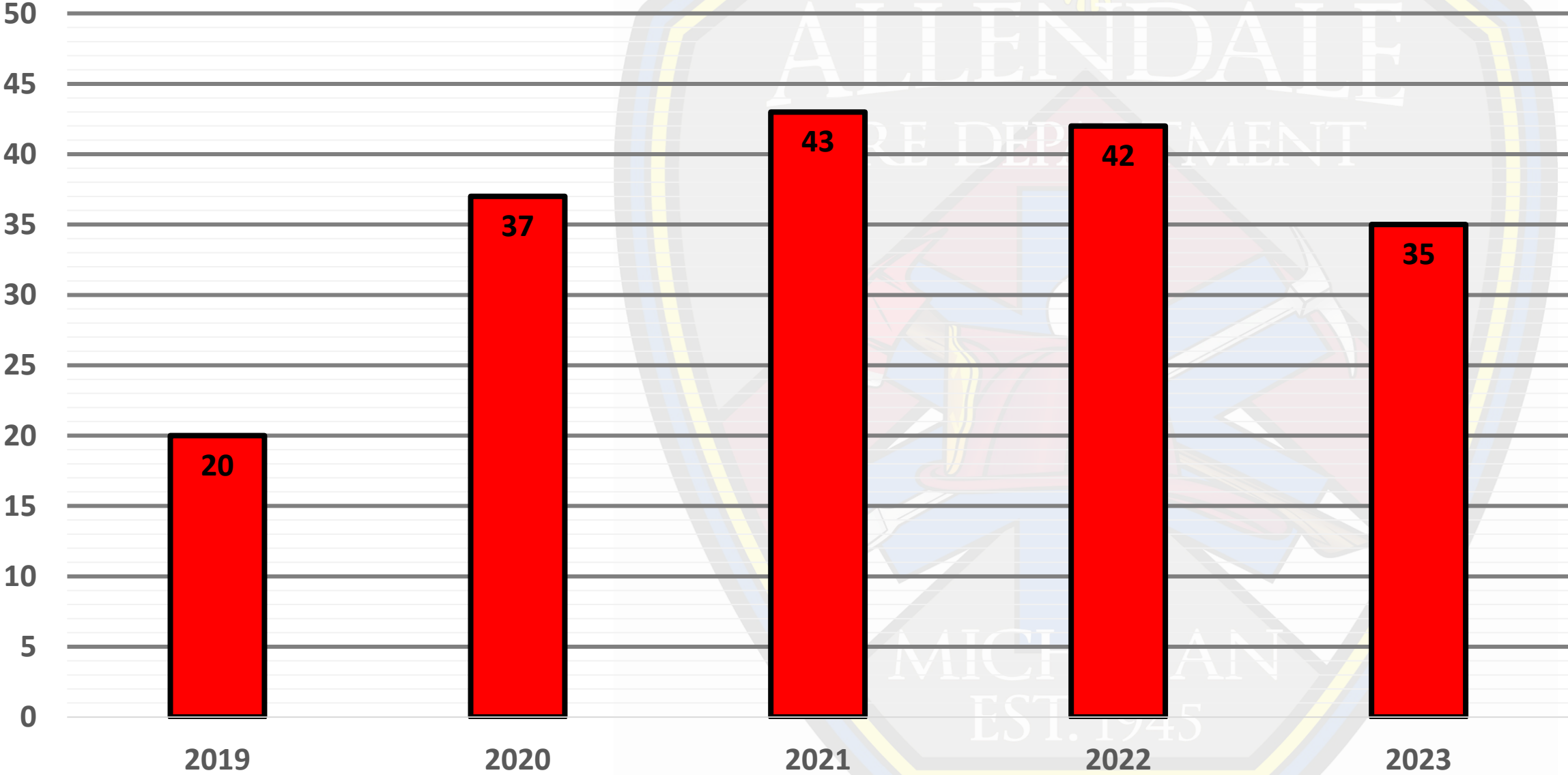
**The department either receives Automatic Aid, which is dispatched at the same time Allendale receives the call or Mutual Aid is when asked for after initial dispatch.**

**Allendale Fire receives Automatic Aid from four main departments, Blendon, Coopersville, Georgetown and Marne (Wright / Tallmadge) Fire.**

**This is often necessary while that department is committed to a fire, to facilitate backup coverage in the event there are any additional fire dispatches in that community.**

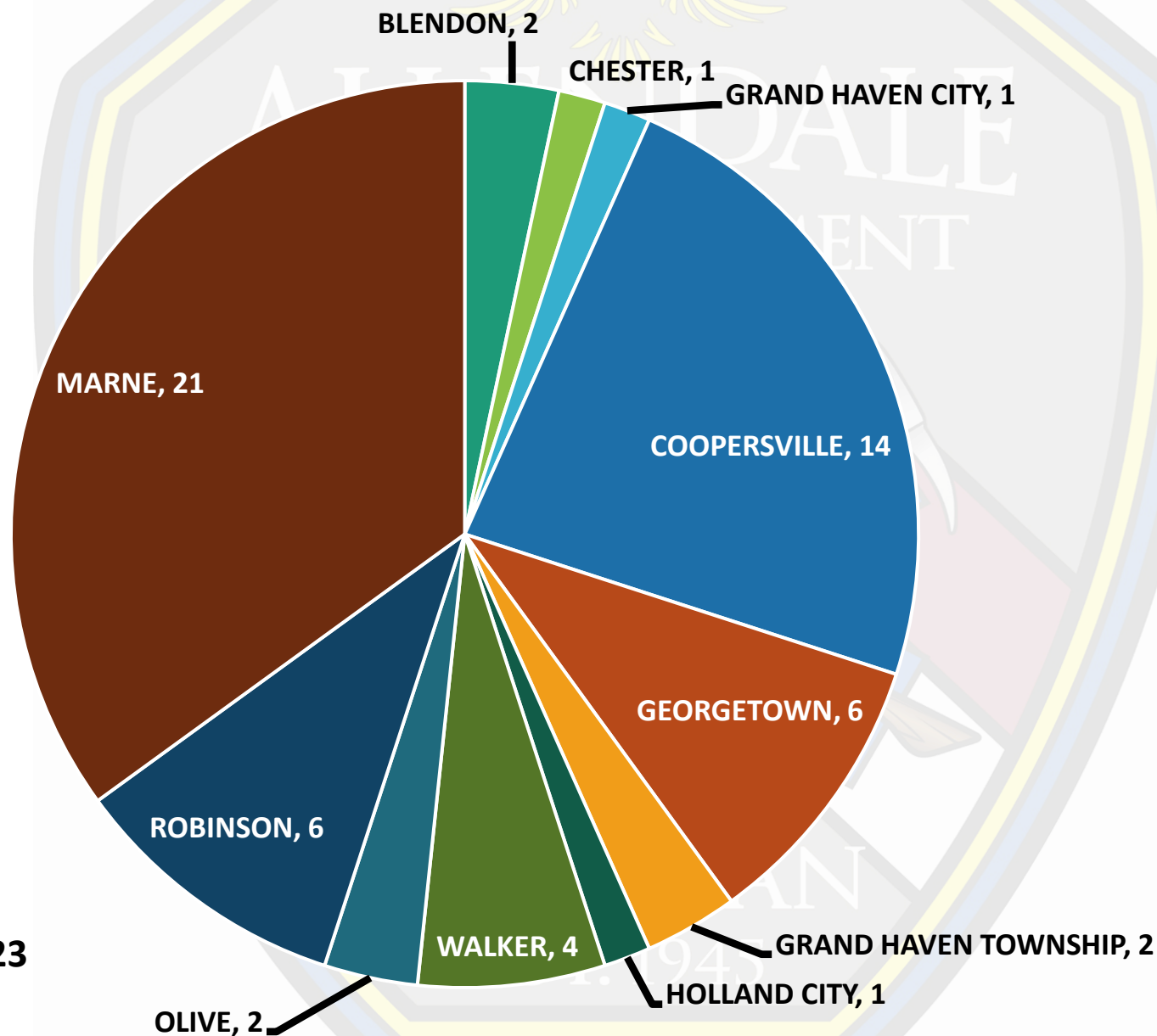
**In 2023, these requests for assistance saw members of the AFD operating on the scene at fires, providing equipment and personnel to other communities.**

# ALLENDALE AUTOMATIC / MUTUAL AID RECEIVED





# ALLENDALE AUTOMATIC / MUTUAL AID GIVEN



Allendale assisted other agencies 60 times in 2023

# 2023 Fire Prevention Year-in-Review

FF. Dillon Reeder

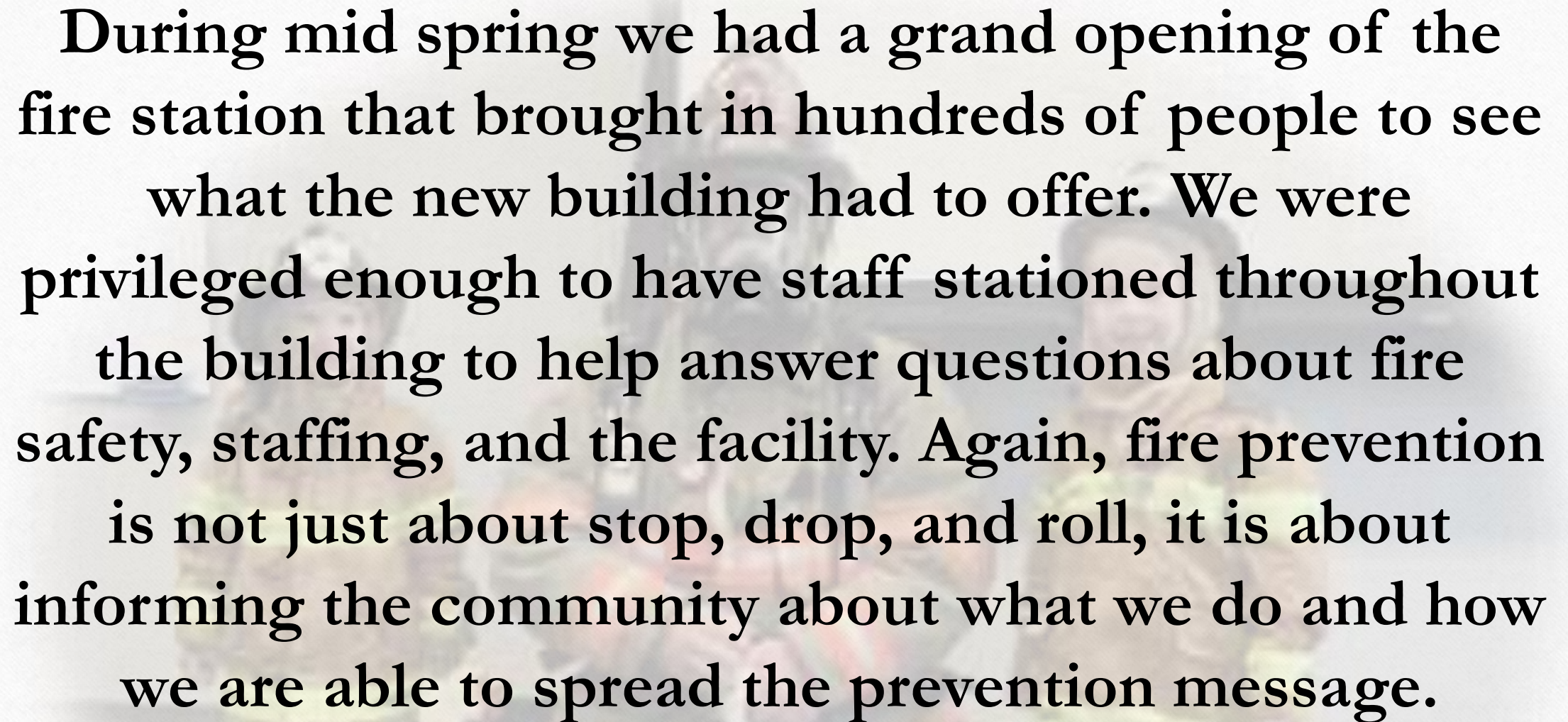




Over the past calendar year Allendale Fire had the benefit of moving into a new fire station, which would not have happened without the overwhelming support from our community. Being able to function out of such a wonderful facility gives us the opportunity to continue our goal of educating all walks of life about fire safety and as well as good safety habits that carry over into everyday life.



Beginning in March and through April we had the privilege of having students from multiple schools come through our new station and learn all about fire safety through storytelling and group participation in games and even a tour of our trucks and facility. Lots of great questions were asked and we had a lot of fun interacting with some of the youth in our community.

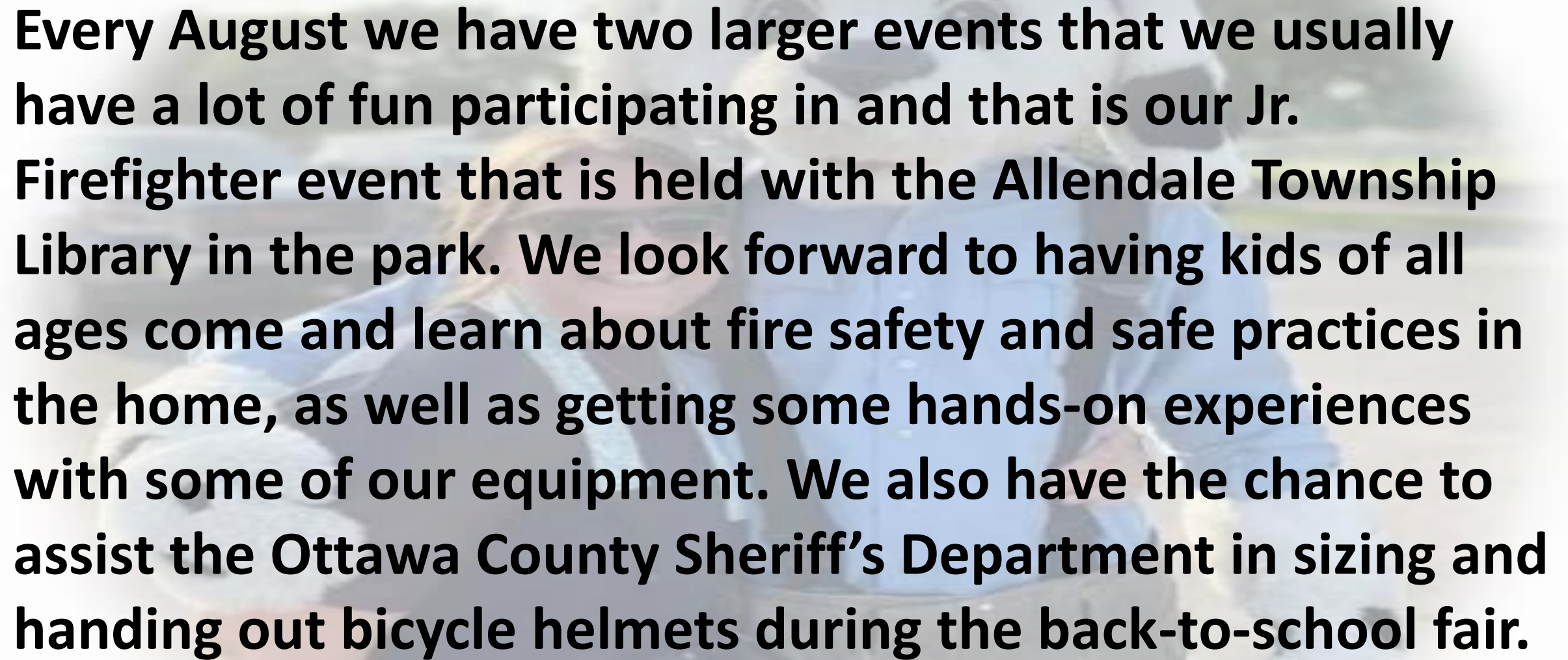


During mid spring we had a grand opening of the fire station that brought in hundreds of people to see what the new building had to offer. We were privileged enough to have staff stationed throughout the building to help answer questions about fire safety, staffing, and the facility. Again, fire prevention is not just about stop, drop, and roll, it is about informing the community about what we do and how we are able to spread the prevention message.



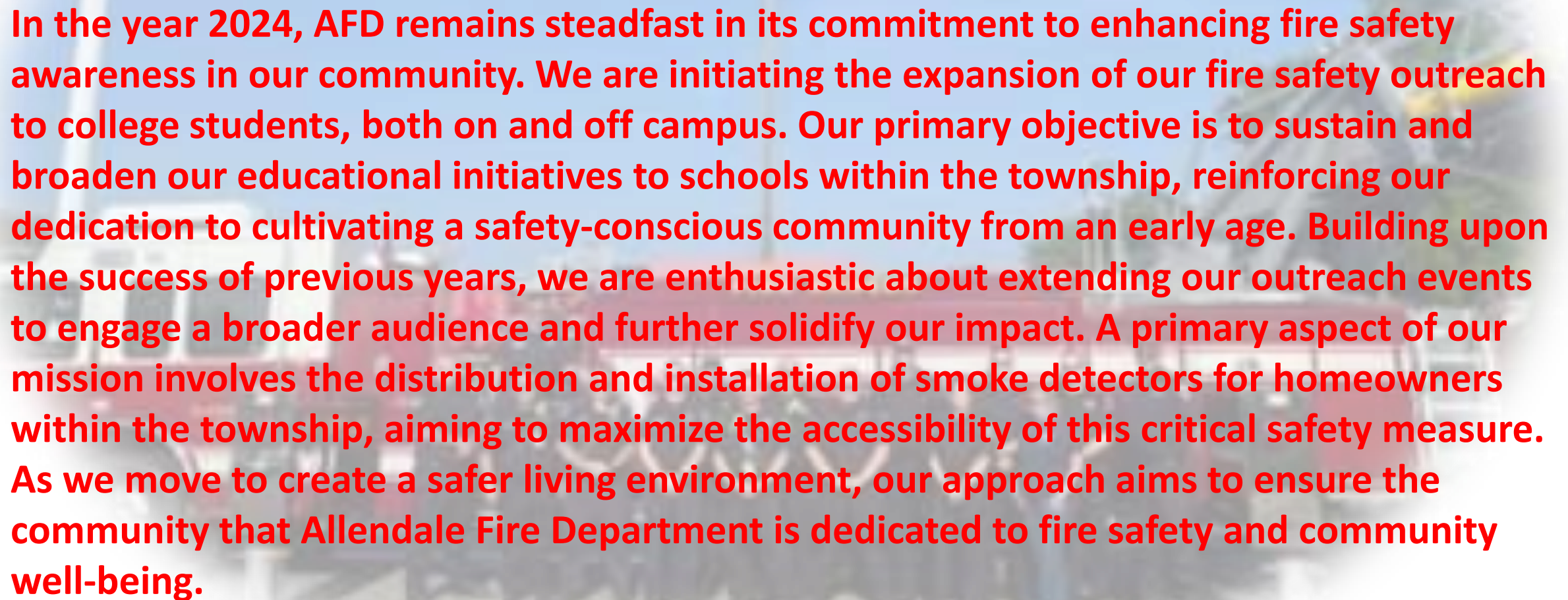
A favorite, long-time Allendale Fire tradition is spending the afternoon at Grand Valley State University with athletes from the Mary Free Bed Wheelchair Sports Camp. This event is something that many members look forward to each year. If you ever have the opportunity to attend this event, you should bring a towel and a set of dry clothes because you are guaranteed to get wet.






**Every August we have two larger events that we usually have a lot of fun participating in and that is our Jr. Firefighter event that is held with the Allendale Township Library in the park. We look forward to having kids of all ages come and learn about fire safety and safe practices in the home, as well as getting some hands-on experiences with some of our equipment. We also have the chance to assist the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department in sizing and handing out bicycle helmets during the back-to-school fair.**



A blurred background image showing a fire truck with red and white stripes, a street lamp, and some greenery under a clear blue sky.

In the year 2024, AFD remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing fire safety awareness in our community. We are initiating the expansion of our fire safety outreach to college students, both on and off campus. Our primary objective is to sustain and broaden our educational initiatives to schools within the township, reinforcing our dedication to cultivating a safety-conscious community from an early age. Building upon the success of previous years, we are enthusiastic about extending our outreach events to engage a broader audience and further solidify our impact. A primary aspect of our mission involves the distribution and installation of smoke detectors for homeowners within the township, aiming to maximize the accessibility of this critical safety measure. As we move to create a safer living environment, our approach aims to ensure the community that Allendale Fire Department is dedicated to fire safety and community well-being.



A portrait of Captain Tony Dolce, a middle-aged man with a mustache and glasses, wearing a dark blue fire department uniform. He is smiling slightly. To his left is a flag with red and white stripes and a gold fringe. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**In 2023 Allendale inspectors worked to ensure the safety of Allendale's residents and business. The limited violations show business in Allendale are making safety a priority.**

**Captain Tony Dolce  
Business Fire Inspector**

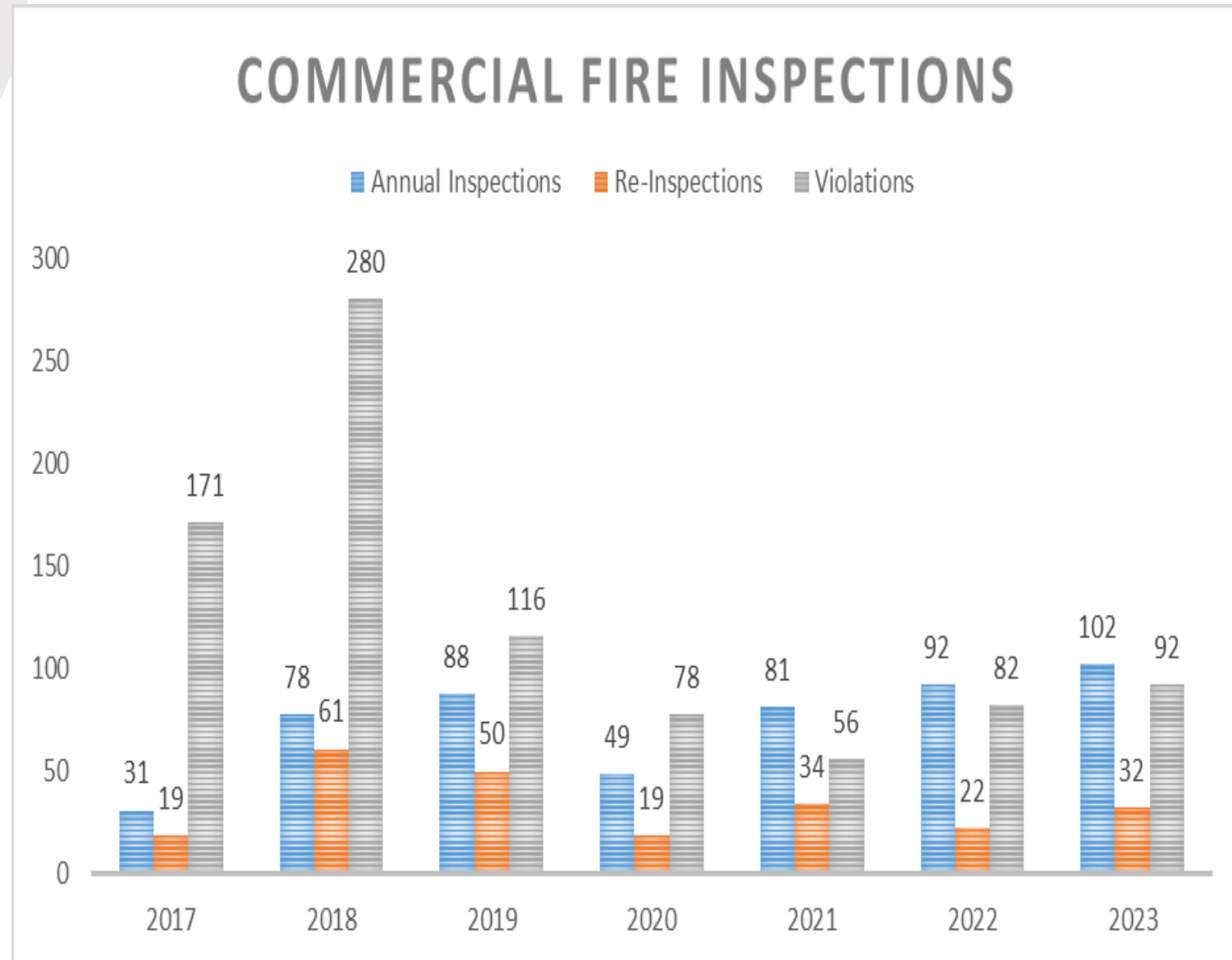


In 2023 Allendale Fire elected to upgrade to the 2021 International Fire Code with the Allendale Twp Board approval. Allendale Fire was using the 2012 International Fire Code. Two big reasons for the change to the new code are.

1. **Safety Improvements:** Newer versions of building codes often incorporate lessons learned from past events, technological advancements, and research. The 2021 IFC includes updates to how we handle things like lithium battery storage and usage.
2. **Legal and Regulatory Changes:** Changes in law, regulations or legal standards may prompt new codes. These changes could be driven by local, state, or federal authorities. Since the last code cycles marijuana has become legal in MI and we now have codes on how and where this product can be stored or grown. After Covid we have also struggled with code to enforce problems with outside eating areas. The 2021 code helps with outdoor propane heaters.



• During 2023, ten plan reviews were completed on commercial buildings. Six subdivisions went thru the plan review process totaling 160 possible new single-family home lots to be added in 2024. Plan review was done for three possible single family rental projects to be built in Allendale. Plan review continues to be very important to ensure new projects are safe for the community and Firefighter.





# **RENTAL INSPECTOR LT. KYLE GARLANGER**

## **2023 Rental Inspection Program Review**




As Allendale continues to grow, so does our need to identify more efficiencies in our programs. This past year, our rental housing department streamlined registration, invoicing, and inspections under one platform. Though we had a few hiccups along the way, the updates to the program will significantly benefit us in the long run.

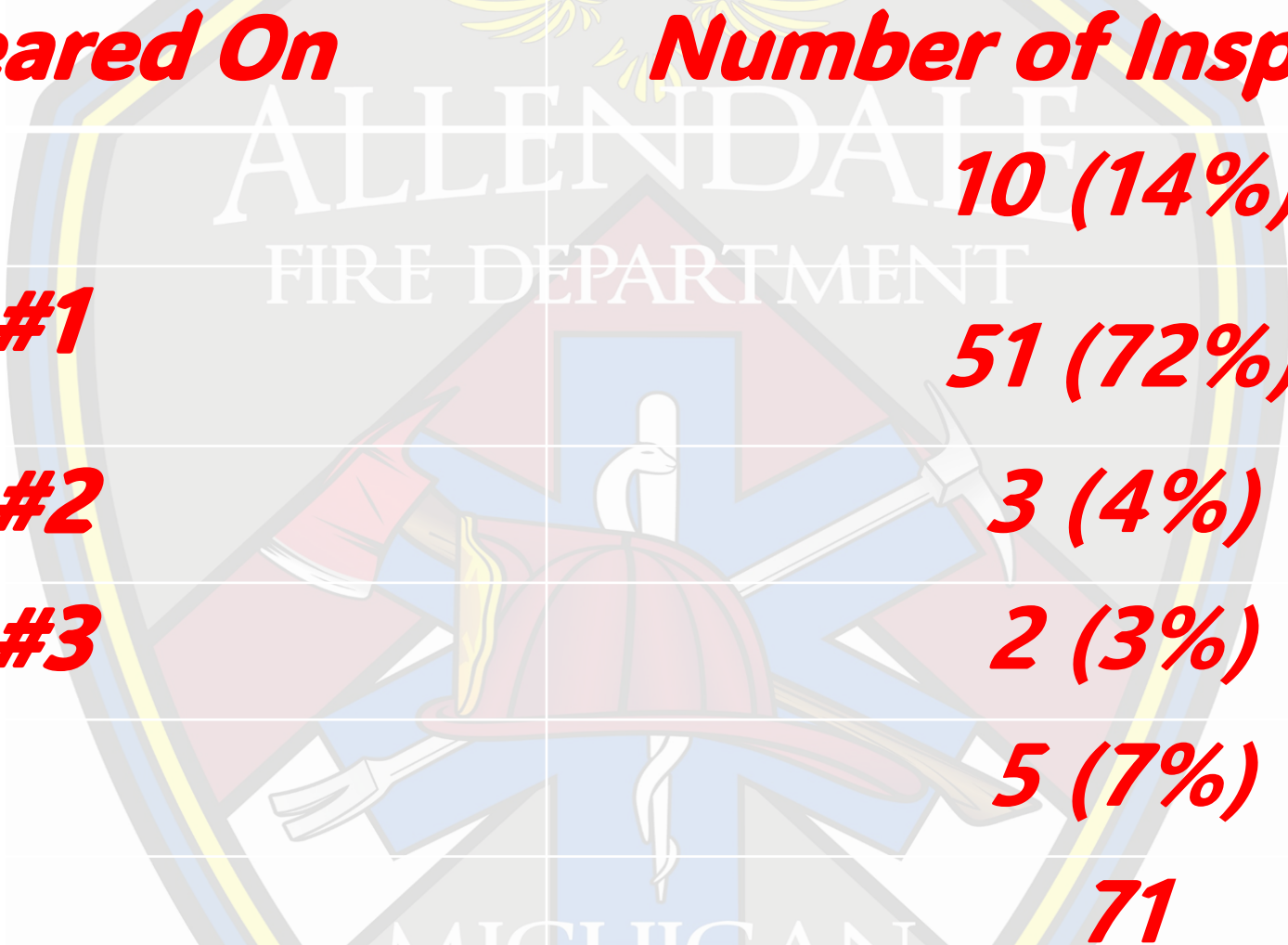


Over the past few years, we've made considerable changes to the rental housing program. During these times we've benefitted not only from our strongly committed team, but also the backing of our community. Without that kind of support, we would have not reached our goals set for 2023. As we move into 2024, we continue to strive for nothing less than excellence and will continue to evolve with the needs of the township.

| Total number of Initial Inspections | Total number of Units Inspected |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 71                                  | 761                             |



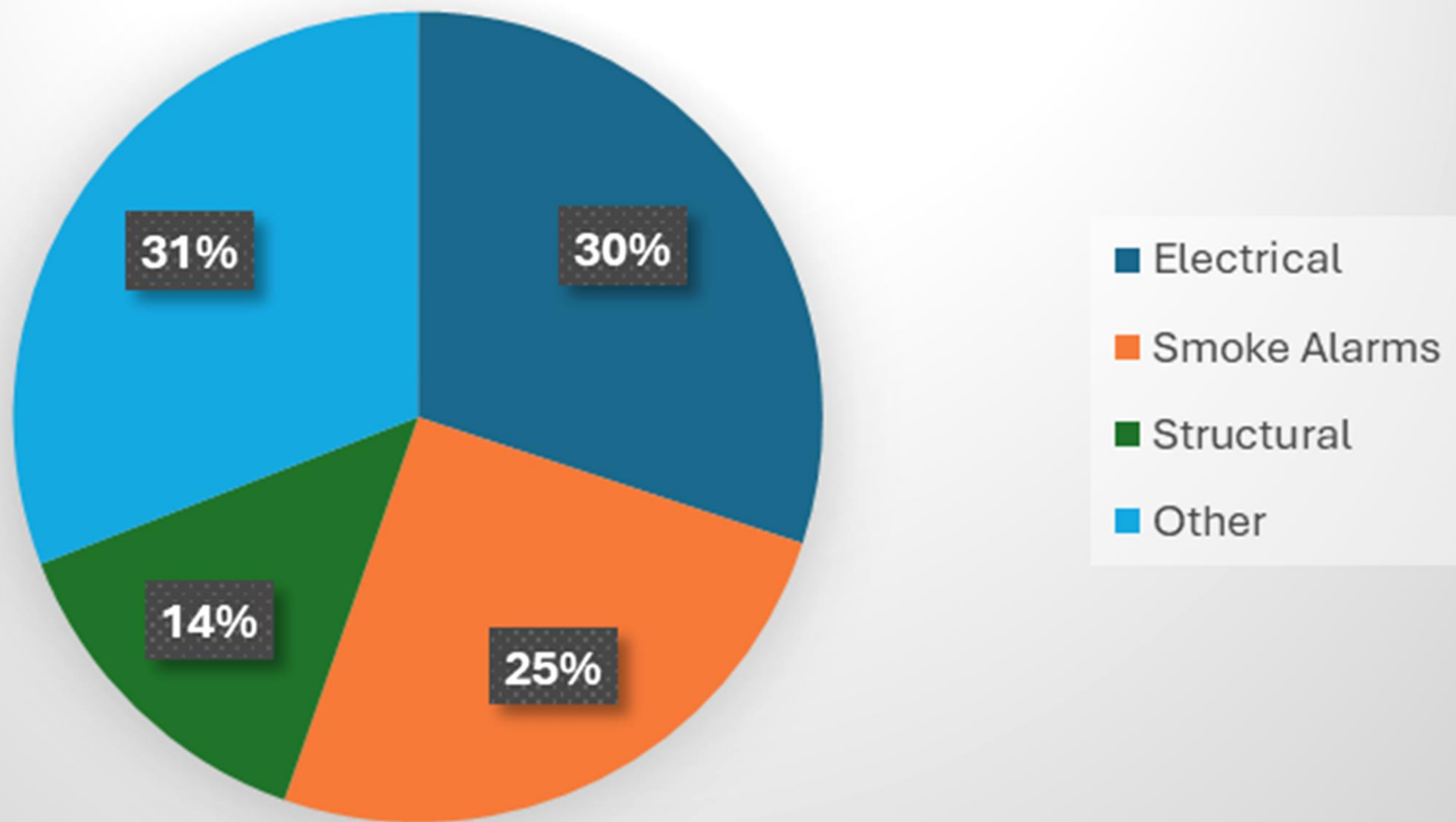
| Violation Category |     | Total number of violations cleared   |
|--------------------|-----|--|
| Smoke Alarm        | 118 |  |
| Electrical         | 140 |  |
| Structural         | 64  |  |
| Other              | 144 |  |
| TOTAL              | 466 |  |



| <i><b>Violations Cleared On</b></i> | <i><b>Number of Inspections</b></i> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i><b>Original Visit</b></i>        | <i><b>10 (14%)</b></i>              |
| <i><b>Reinspection #1</b></i>       | <i><b>51 (72%)</b></i>              |
| <i><b>Reinspection #2</b></i>       | <i><b>3 (4%)</b></i>                |
| <i><b>Reinspection #3</b></i>       | <i><b>2 (3%)</b></i>                |
| <i><b>Open*</b></i>                 | <i><b>5 (7%)</b></i>                |
| <i><b>TOTAL</b></i>                 | <i><b>71</b></i>                    |

**\*Open due to weather pending repairs or Certificate of Compliance is being held.**

# 2023 Violations



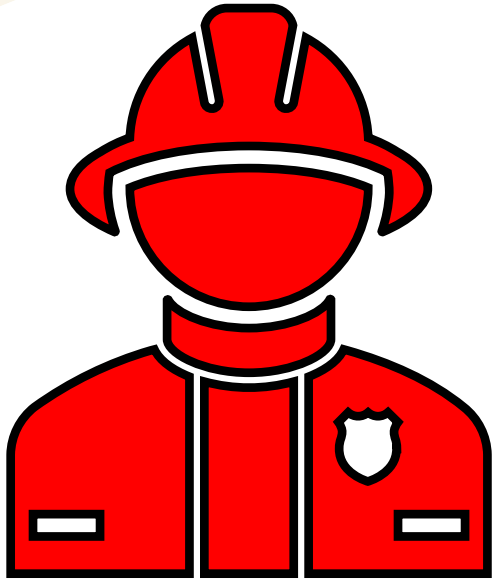


# 2023 Training Report



## LT. Scott Harkes

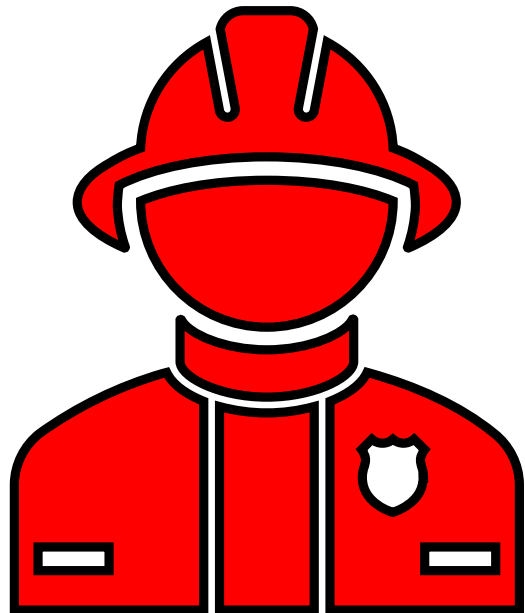




**Allendale Fire Department has always put training as its highest priority. Our department continually sees the effects of this training with our performance on emergency incidents. It is important for a department to have a high-quality training program to prepare its members for any type of emergency they might encounter. A successful training program must rely on coordination, consistency, and timely communications, along with the ability to accomplish emergency tasks. A strong, quality training program is beneficial in the recruitment and retention of its personnel.**

Allendale Fire Department utilizes the Full-Time Lieutenant in the roll of Training Officer. The Training Officer provides assignments and direction to the instructors, along with conducting a significant number of the training sessions himself. Department training sessions are held twice per month, but additional training is often provided as evidence by the training hours listed below. Department training sessions are conducted in the evenings, with the occasional weekend and are generally two hours in duration.

Allendale hosted the Ottawa Co. Fire Academy again in 2023. Students from 16 different departments around the county took part in the 295-hour course. Allendale Fire Department had two students in the 2023 Fire Academy. A large benefit to hosting the Fire Academy is that it still allowed for several of our members to teach and brush up on their basic firefighting skills.



In October of 2022, the Michigan Firefighter Training Council (MFFTC) approved Continuing Education Credits for all Firefighters, Fire Officer, and Fire Instructors. Every three years, Firefighters must complete a minimum of 30 hours of continuing credits ranging from all topics covered in firefighting. Fire Officers must complete an additional 15 hours of Officer Training, along with Fire Instructors an additional 15 hours of teaching. This adds a great deal of documentation for the department, along with time for all our members.

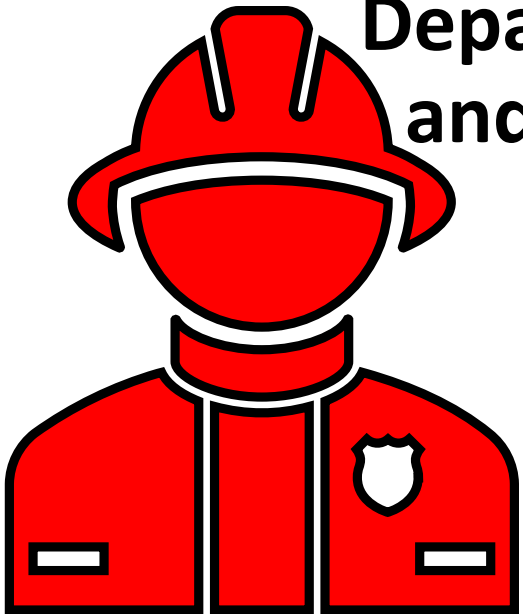


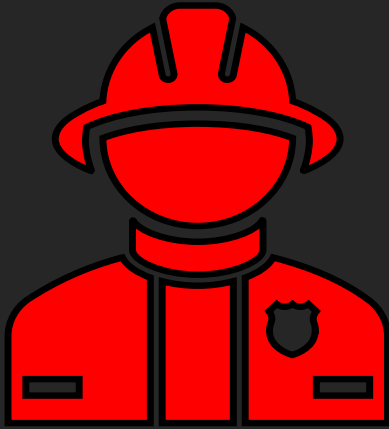
During the year we trained not only in refreshing our basic firefighting and medical skills, but also learning new techniques as well. On a larger scale, members participated in a Mass Casualty incident with several other local departments at GVSU. Members also took part in the annual active assailant drill put on by the county every December.

**Allendale hosted several local fire departments throughout the spring and early summer in the “Live Fire” training center.**

**Departments from various departments in Muskegon, Kent and Ottawa Co. came out to use the training center. Our**

**members hosted these events, which is a great way for us to help, and work with our local mutual aid departments.**





In 2024 the department is working on adding improvements to the Training Center. We are looking to diversify the building to have it meet more of our training needs as getting a real building to work with is becoming more difficult. We also have several new members who will be completing their Probationary Fire Training and becoming full members. We are adapting to the changes from the MFFTC and look forward to the training opportunities ahead.

## Regular Department Training Sessions

**Fire**

701.75 hrs.

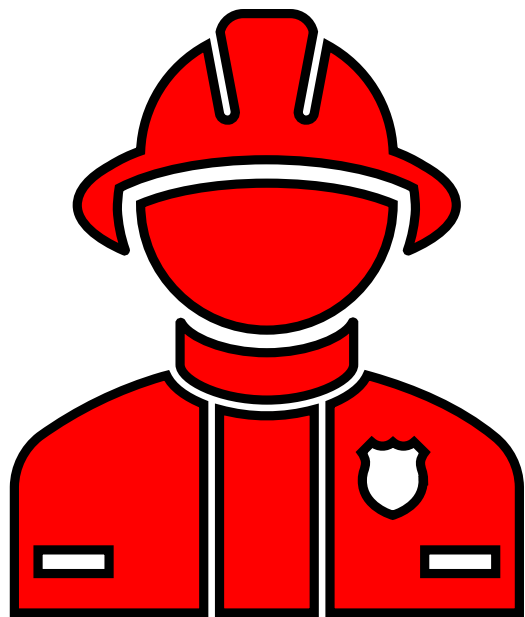
**Medical**

391 hrs.

**TOTAL**

1,092.75 hrs.

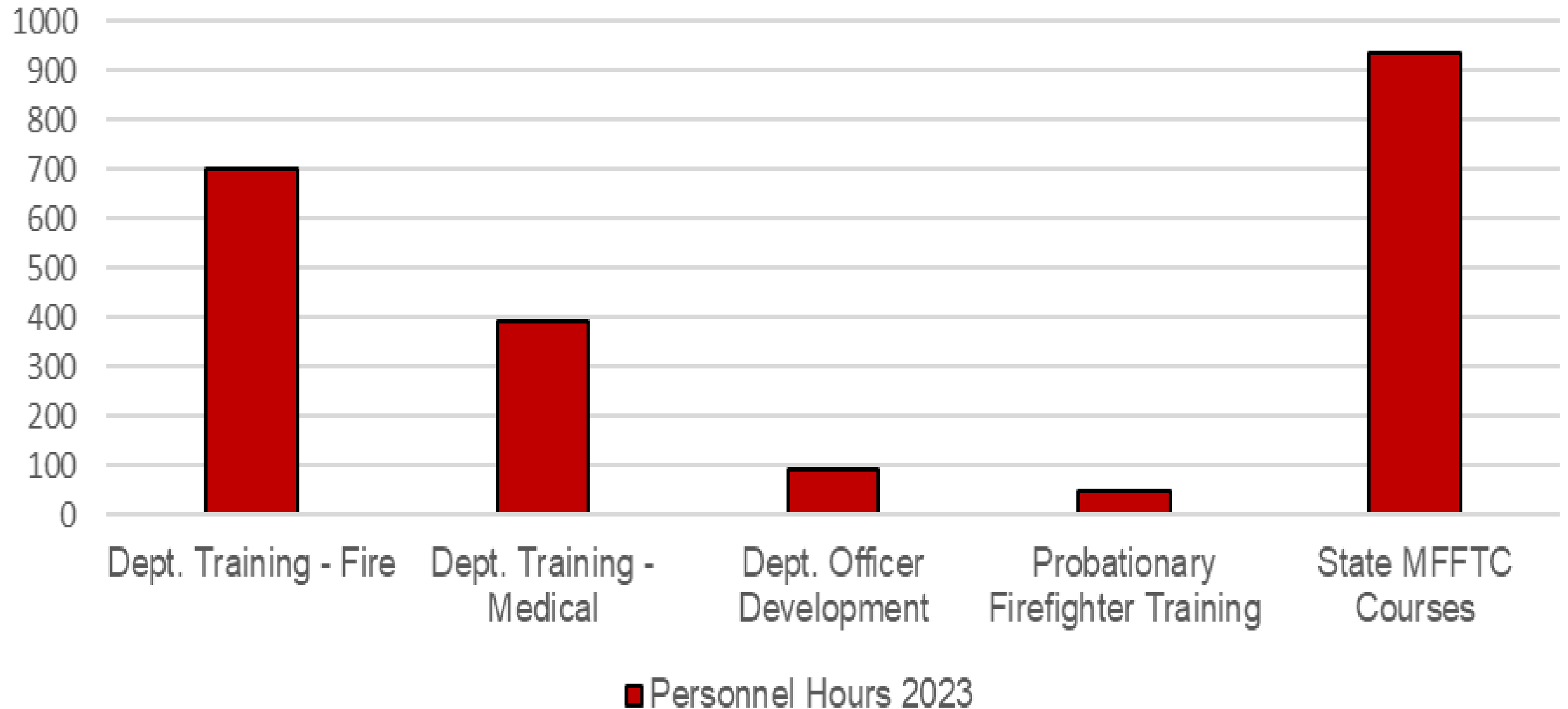
| Department Officer & Trainee Training |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Officer Development                   | 92.5 hrs.         |
| Probationary Firefighter Training     | 48.0 hrs.         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>140.5 hrs.</b> |



| State MFFTC Courses              |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fire Academy                     | 606 hrs.          |
| Medical (MFR & EMT)              | 0 hrs.            |
| Fire Officer & Instructor        | 210.5 hrs.        |
| Other                            | 118 hrs.          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>934.5 hrs.</b> |
|                                  |                   |
|                                  |                   |
| <b>2023 TOTAL – 1,115.5 hrs.</b> |                   |



# 2023 Training Hours by Training Type



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- How do I get a copy of a Fire or Medical report?

**You will have to file FOIA request with the Township Clerk. FOIA request forms can be found on the township web page at. <https://www.allendale-twp.org/index.php/how-do-i-submit/freedom-of-information-act-request>**

- What is a “Knox Box” & where can I obtain one?

**A Knox Box is a secured locked box that is placed on the front of a building/house and contains keys to the building or residence. The fire department keeps a key that opens the Knox Box locked and secured on their vehicles. This allows the fire department easy access to a home or business even when the building may be secured, i.e. after hours or when occupants have limited mobility. Information to purchase a “Knox Box” can be obtained by email at [tonydolce@allendale-twp.org](mailto:tonydolce@allendale-twp.org) calling the Allendale Township Fire Department at 616-895-6295.**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- How do I get a burn Permit?

Homeowner permits are only issued for the months of December, January, and February. Permit valid for up to four (4) consecutive days starting on the stated intended day of burn. NO PERMITS may be issued more than three (3) days in advance.

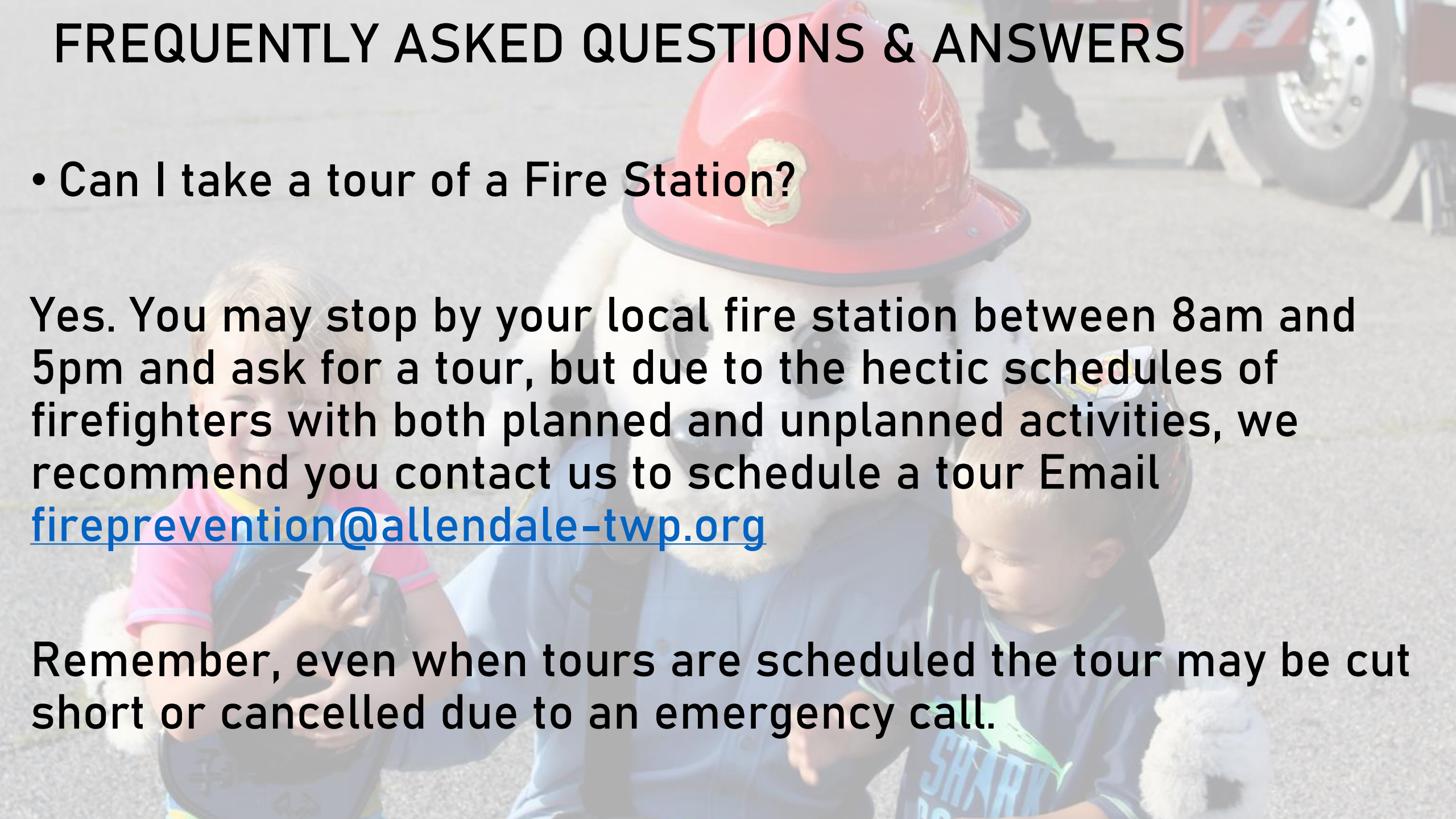
Permits MUST be issued before actual burning. Walk in permits are available Monday through Friday during normal business hours, 8am to 5pm.

Electronic permits may be filled out any time. If you would like a permit for holidays and weekends, the form must be completed by 3:00pm on the Friday before. ALL PERMITS submitted electronically MUST be signed by the Fire Chief or his designee prior to burning.

An approved paper copy must be on hand during burning. Failure to comply with burn permit rules, you may be subject to a civil infraction as described in Ordinance 1996-2 amended with Ordinance 1997-9



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



- Can I take a tour of a Fire Station?

Yes. You may stop by your local fire station between 8am and 5pm and ask for a tour, but due to the hectic schedules of firefighters with both planned and unplanned activities, we recommend you contact us to schedule a tour Email [fireprevention@allendale-twp.org](mailto:fireprevention@allendale-twp.org)

Remember, even when tours are scheduled the tour may be cut short or cancelled due to an emergency call.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Do you need a Smoke or Co detector?

The fire department will come check everything out in your home. We will give guidance to where detectors should be located within your home.

We will install the proper needs for your home while on site

It only takes a little paperwork to do this. The best part is we do this for FREE and the detectors are FREE

Contact [fireprevention@allendale-twp.org](mailto:fireprevention@allendale-twp.org)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- How can I ask a question of the fire department?
- 

If you have a question for the department, fire, emergency medical safety, smoke detectors, open burning or anything else that we may be able to assist you with, I encourage you to call us at 616-892-3121 email Chief Keefe at

[mikekeefe@allendale-twp.org](mailto:mikekeefe@allendale-twp.org)

