2022
ANNUAL REPORT



BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



JAY HAGEN
Fire Chief

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Bellevue Fire Department 2022 Annual Report. As a Fire Chief, with four decades of experience, I am humbled by the opportunity to serve alongside such an exceptional group of dedicated professionals. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and faced numerous challenges head-on, all while striving to fulfill our mission of safeguarding lives and property.

This year has been extraordinary in many ways, marked by record-breaking call volume that put our skills and resilience to the ultimate test. Despite the increased demands, all levels of our organization displayed unwavering courage and commitment, responding promptly to emergencies, and delivering exemplary customer service. Their tireless efforts have undoubtedly made a profound impact on the safety and well-being of our community.

In recognition of the evolving landscape of emergency services, we have taken a significant step forward by establishing a Data and Systems Division within our department. This new division harnesses the power of information and technology to enhance our operational efficiency. By leveraging data-informed insights, we are better equipped to anticipate and mitigate risks, ultimately saving more lives and reducing property damage.

Furthermore, we were able to successfully develop the Community Crisis Response Team, a new initiative developed in collaboration with our esteemed partners at Bellevue Police and supported by the City Council and City Manager's Office. This program represents a significant step forward in enhancing our emergency response capabilities and fostering a collaborative approach to crisis management.

Beyond our operational achievements, we also recognized the importance of promoting social justice within our department and throughout our community. We have taken significant strides to foster inclusivity, diversity, and equality, embracing a culture that respects and values the unique perspectives of every individual. Our training programs now emphasize implicit bias awareness, enabling our personnel to serve with empathy and understanding.

In conclusion, this annual report serves as a testament to the remarkable accomplishments of our fire department. I extend my deepest gratitude to our courageous firefighters, dedicated staff, and the unwavering support of our community. Together, we have risen above challenges, set new records, and made a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve. As we move forward, let us continue to strive for excellence, guided by our shared commitment to the safety and well-being of our community.

Jerome D. Hagen

Jerome D. Hagen

ABOUT BELLEVUE FIRE

FUNDAMENTAL ROLE

The fire department's fundamental role is to create a safe environment so that the communities it serves can thrive.

From its inception the Bellevue Fire Department's primary focus has been to protect life and property, whether from fire, natural or human-caused disasters or medical emergencies. We are recognized as a leader in the region because of our excellence in providing these services, and the residents of the communities we serve rely on our expertise and responsiveness. In addition to the City of Bellevue, fire and emergency services are also provided by Bellevue Fire to the communities of Newcastle, Medina, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point and Village of Beaux Arts.

We are committed to building and supporting a protected, prepared, and healthy community. To effectively accomplish our mission, we strive to provide exceptional public service to all our customers by adhering to the highest ethical standards and providing consistent, equitable and responsive service.

VALUES IN ACTION

MISSION

Assist the public in the protection of life and property by minimizing the impact of fire, medical emergencies, and potential disasters or uncontrolled events.

VISION

A protected, prepared, and healthy community

VALUES

Bellevue Fire embraces the City of Bellevue's core values and is committed to upholding and embodying them in our policies, culture and daily actions.

CITY OF BELLEVUE CORE VALUES

Exceptional Public Service, Stewardship, Commitment to Employees, Integrity, Innovation

SERVICE

7
COMMUNITIES SERVED

39
SQUARE MILES PROTECTED

170,166
POPULATION SERVED (356,055 INCLUDING ALS SERVICE AREA)

OVER $82 BILLION
ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE PROTECTED

24
YEARS OF CFAI ACCREDITATION

2
WSRB RATING CLASS

2022 DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Granted the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Plus Award. This recognition program highlights departments that successfully achieve early recognition, treat, transport and advanced care for patients suffering myocardial infarctions or strokes. This is the highest level of recognition awarded and requires a Silver Plus or Gold Plus Award from the previous year.

Created a new Data and Systems division to realign all data and technology positions onto one team to centralize performance reports and support data informed policy and procedures.

Completed our "scene of violence" incident response and preparedness goals. This included ensuring our responders have an appropriate level of protective ballistic gear, conducting 'side by side' training with our Bellevue Police counterparts and completing pre-planning surveys of Bellevue School District properties.

Successfully prepared our Chief Officers and incident commanders to manage fireground emergencies and mayday calls.

Trained 100% of our operations bureau in newer fire protection system components such as Occupant Evacuation Elevators and Firefighter Air Replenishment Systems.

Lead coordinated regional training on high-rise strategy and tactics.

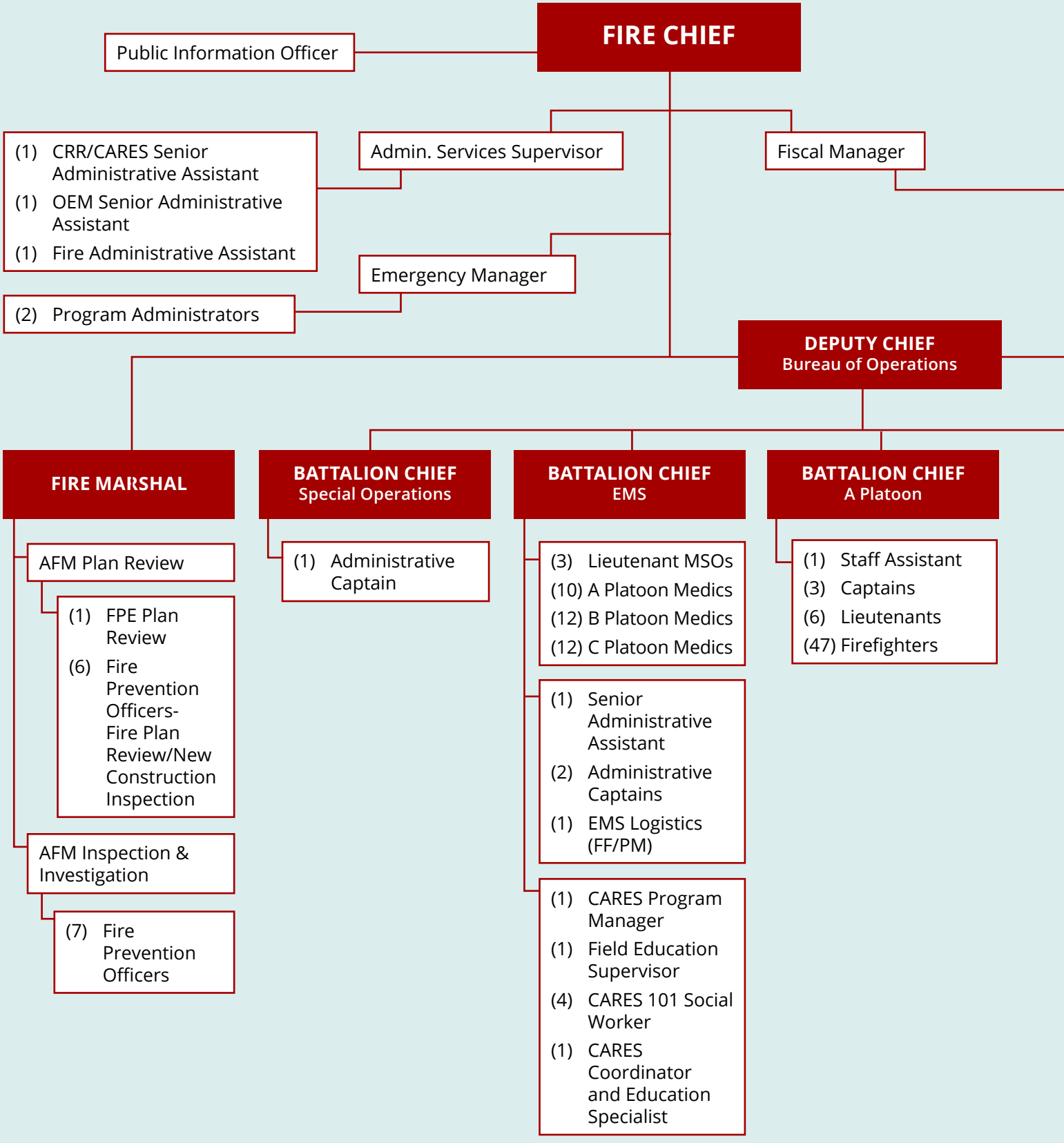
Advanced Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts by translating vital documents in fire prevention and emergency management into the top seven languages spoken in Bellevue.

Developed a Bellevue Fire Department branded CPR/AED and First Aid program.

Conducted three recruit firefighter academies yielding 22 new fully training firefighter/EMTs.


BELLEVUE FIRE
LADDER 103
Pierce
103
Bellevue
PRIDE

BELLEVUE FIRE ORGANIZATION CHART



2022 PERSONNEL

268 EMPLOYEES
9 CHIEF OFFICERS
179 FIREFIGHTER-EMTs
34 FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDICS
46 CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

- (1) Timekeeping Administrative Assistant
- (1) Procurement Specialist
- (1) Senior Budget Analyst
- (1) Grant Administrator

DEPUTY CHIEF
Bureau of Support Services

BATTALION CHIEF
B Platoon

- (1) Staff Assistant
- (3) Captains
- (6) Lieutenants
- (47) Firefighters

BATTALION CHIEF
C Platoon

- (1) Staff Assistant
- (3) Captains
- (6) Lieutenants
- (47) Firefighters

FIRE BUSINESS SYSTEMS MANAGER
Data and Systems

- (1) Senior Business Process Analyst
- (1) Program Analyst
- (1) Systems Analyst
- (1) Data Analyst

BATTALION CHIEF
Training

- (1) Administrative Assistant
- (1) Training Captain
- (1) Training Lieutenant

- (1) Fire Facility Operations Specialist

FIRE FACILITIES / FAM
Facility Operations Division
Facility Planning Division
Fleet & Communications Division

FINANCE



ERIC LEE
Fiscal Manager

OVERVIEW OF FUNDS

58.8
MILLION IN ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

25.5
MILLION REVENUE

43.4%
OF THE BUDGET SUPPORTED BY OUTSIDE REVENUE

97.1%
BUDGET UTILIZED TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES

2.9%
BUDGET TO SUPPORT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The primary focus of the department continues to be the provision of emergency services to the community including fire, emergency medical, emergency management, fire inspection and fire investigation services.

In 2022, BFD amended annual budget for the following funds:

- **General Fund $64.3M**
- **Capital Investment Plan $14.1M (does not include carryforward budget)**
- **Other $1.4M**

FINANCIAL PRIORITIES IN 2022

Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) Revenue - 2022 marked the fourth year in receiving federal reimbursement of BLS transports as a Medicaid provider, totaling $4.0 million in reimbursements from eligible transports.

Grant Funding – Secured $493K in finacial support from the following agencies:

- Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)
- Department of Ecology
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
- FM Global

Fire Facilities Levy - 2022 marked the sixth year of funding from the voter approved 2016, 20-year Fire Facility Levy. Approximately $7.7 million is anticipated annually from the levy for the next 14 years. Continued implementation of the Fire Levy including the design and build of downtown Fire Station 10 and rebuild of Stations 4 & 6, and paying for numerous other improvements to fire facilities.

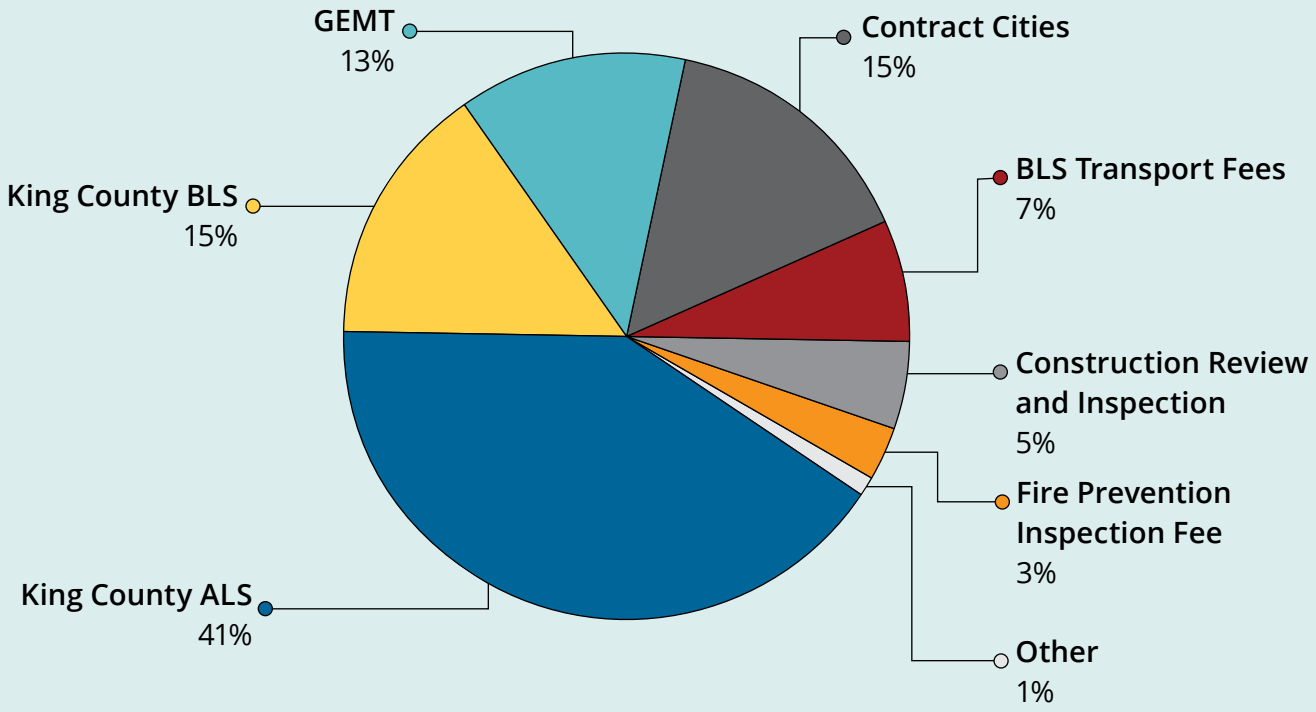
EMTG - Continued to participate as the Fiscal Agent through 2022.

Budget Process – Prepared 2023 & 2024 Biannual Budget, adopted by Council in November of 2022. Program enhancements include:

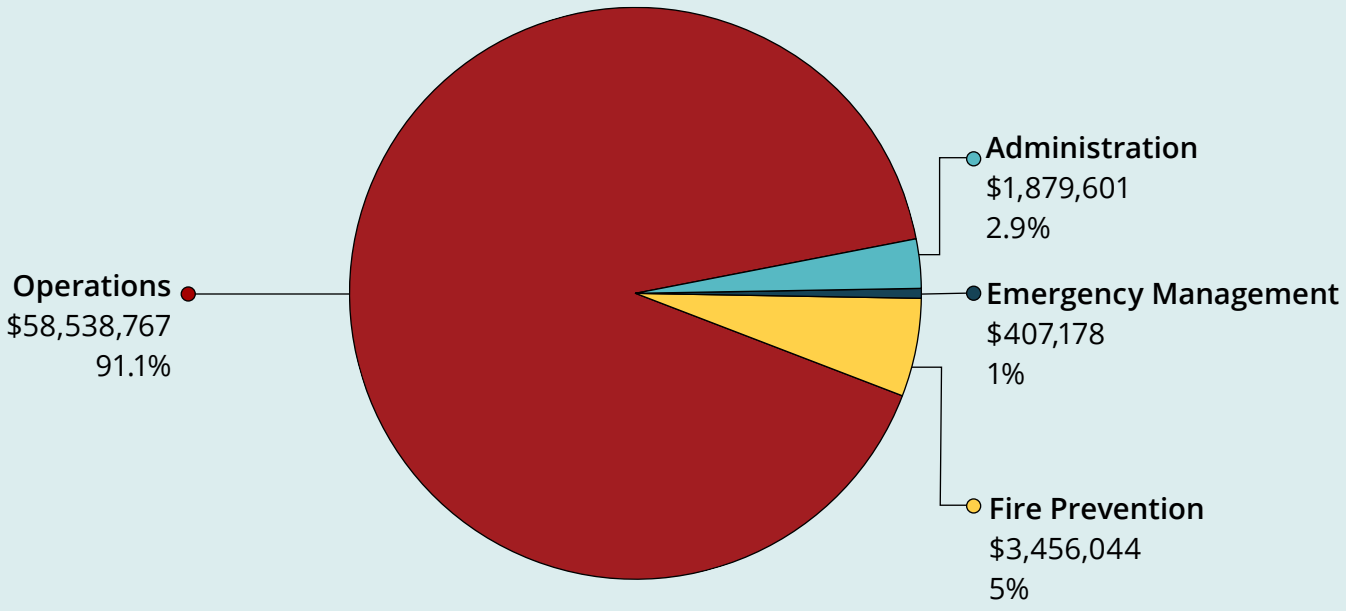
- CCAT (Crisis Community Assistance Team)
- Battalion 102
- Timekeeping FTE

EMS Levy – Provided financial oversite of EMS levy 2020-2025) spend, ensuring the Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services (CARES) Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) **division had the financial resources needed to meet the gowing demand on their program.**

GENERAL FUND REVENUE 2022 - FIRE



EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION 2022



FIRE STATIONS

FIRE STATIONS

9
STATIONS

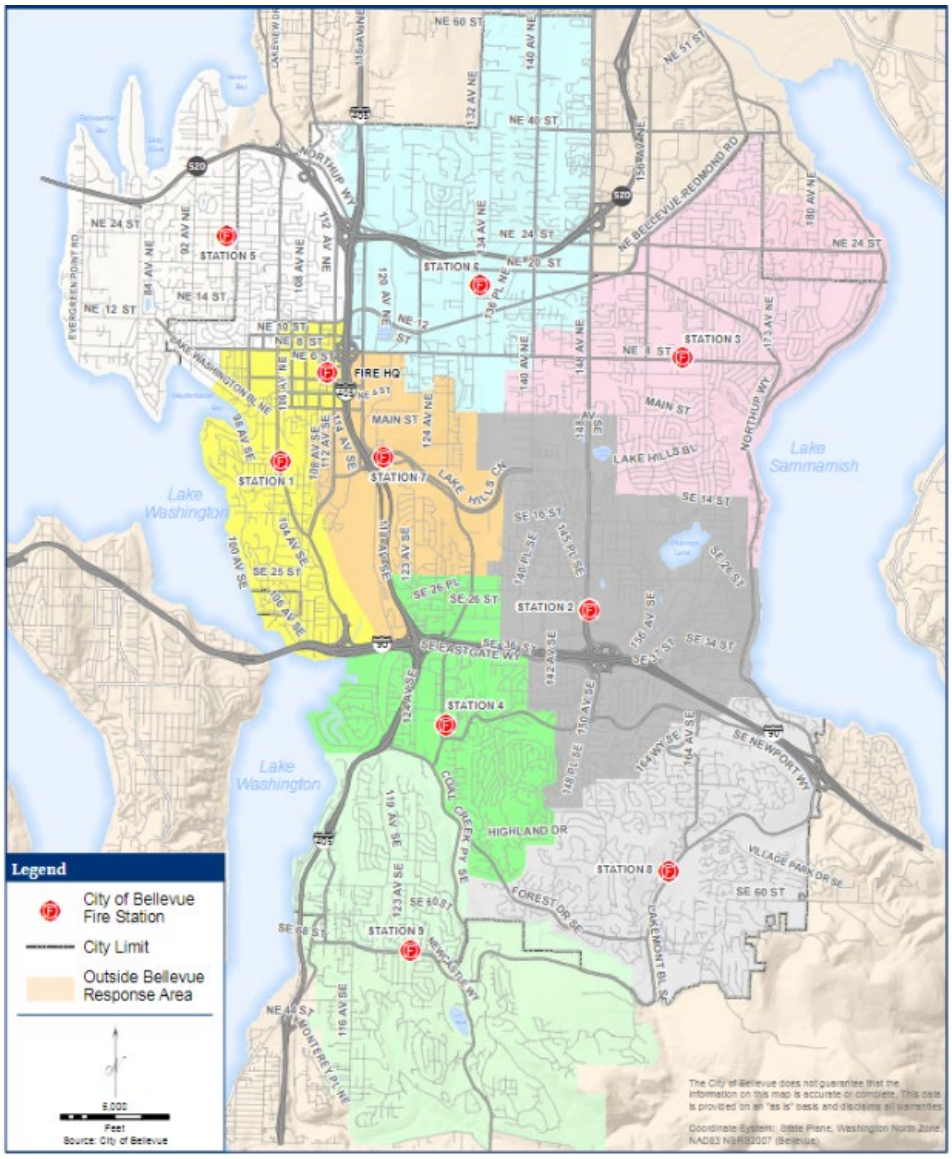
7
ENGINES

2
LADDER COMPANIES

3
AID CARS
(BASIC LIFE SUPPORT)

4
PARAMEDIC UNITS
(ADVANCE LIFE SUPPORT)

48
FIREFIGHTERS ON DUTY



STRATEGIC PLACEMENT

Nine fire stations (plus a paramedic unit stationed at Overlake Hospital) are strategically located throughout the city to maximize coverage and minimize response times. Stations are staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, by three separate shifts.

RESOURCE DEPLOYMENT



RESPONSES BY UNIT

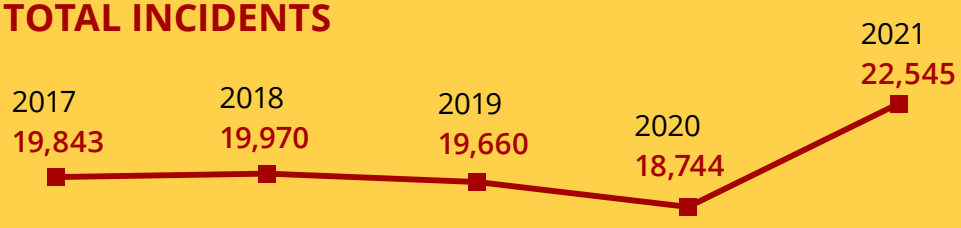
Ladder 107	2,559
Engine 106	2,452
Ladder 103	2,032
Engine 104	2,008
Engine 101	1,889
Engine 105	1,749
Engine 109	1,687
Engine 102	1,464
Engine 108	835

Aid 101	3,001
Aid 103	2,747
Aid 102	2,271
Medic 102	2,094
Medic 101	2,027
Medic 104	1,543
Medic 103	671

Battalion 101	2,447
MSO 105	1286

RECORD BREAKING
23,219
TOTAL INCIDENTS IN 2022

TOTAL INCIDENTS



INCIDENTS BY STATION AREA

Station 1	4,768
Station 2	2,618
Station 3	3,908
Station 4	1,154
Station 5	1,346
Station 6	2,310
Station 7	801
Station 8	640
Station 9	1,824

FIRE STATION 10



IMPROVED COVERAGE AND RESPONSE TIME

The city is building a new fire station to better improve response times for fire and medical emergencies, and better serve residents, in the Northwest Bellevue, Downtown, and BelRed areas, where the growing number of high-rise structures include “vertical response time” to upper floors. Located on a partially forested site, Fire Station 10 will be located on the west side of 112th Ave NE and NE 12th St, bordered by residential neighbors, McCormick Park and a wetland.

DESIGN ELEMENTS

Design elements include electric fire engine charging stations and infrastructure. The project meets numerous firefighter health and wellness requirements and has eco-friendly features including solar and groundwater heating a cooling. Placing an emphasis on the natural environment, the station design highlights the strategic and intentional incorporation of natural light and building materials. A wetland on the property will be restored and many trees on the site will be preserved during construction. Additionally, new trees will be planted to help screen the station from houses in the surrounding neighborhood.

The design bid was awarded to Bohlin Cywinski Jackson and the construction bid was awarded to Cornerstone General Contractors.



CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

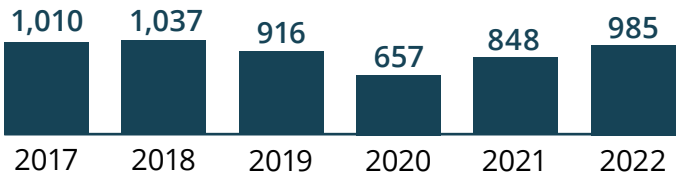
VERTICAL RESPONSE TIME

As the number of high-rise buildings in the Central Business District grows, Fire Station 10 will help reduce "vertical response time" in reaching fire or medical emergencies on upper floors. The station is scheduled to open in early 2025 and will be home to a new engine company as well as allowing for the relocation of an aid car, medic unit and the on-duty battalion chief to a more central location in the city.

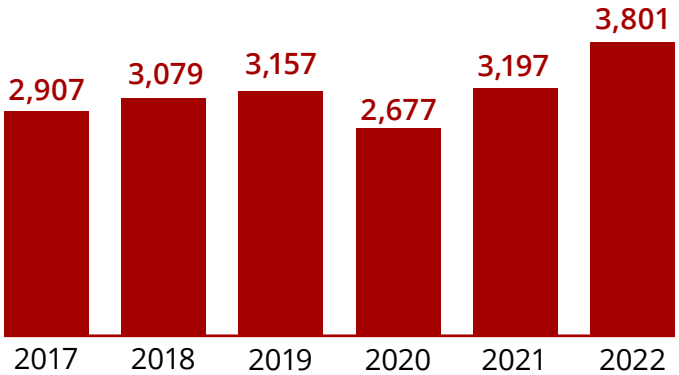


BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL HIGH-RISE INCIDENTS



DOWNTOWN INCIDENTS



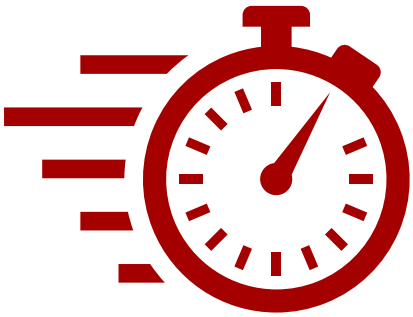
HIGH RISE INCIDENTS				
YEAR	FIRE	AFA	SERVICE	EMS
2017	14	170	110	716
2018	8	165	151	713
2019	13	176	84	643
2020	8	125	61	463
2021	13	119	110	606
2022	**7**	**138**	**141**	**699**

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT INCIDENTS				
YEAR	FIRE	AFA	SERVICE	EMS
2017	64	322	347	2,174
2018	40	459	318	2,262
2019	59	352	431	2,315
2020	44	325	366	1,942
2021	73	327	560	2,086
2022	**51**	**396**	**587**	**2,776**

2022 EMS RESPONSE TIME STANDARDS

BENCHMARK STANDARDS

When lives and property are at risk, every second of the emergency response cycle counts. The Bellevue Fire Department has adopted standards for emergency response that align with “best practices” as recommended by the Commission of Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).



GOAL FOR ALL EMS STANDARDS: 90TH PERCENTILE

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

(2 EMTs)
TURNOUT TIME

Standard: 1:00 minute

Actual: 1:49 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time unit is en route.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

(2 EMTs)
TOTAL RESPONSE TIME

Standard: 6 minutes

Actual: 8:54 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time of arrival.

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT

(2 EMTs AND
2 PARAMEDICS)
TURNOUT TIME

Standard: 1:00 minute

Actual: 1:47 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time unit is en route.

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT

(2 EMTs AND
2 PARAMEDICS)
TOTAL RESPONSE TIME

Standard: 8 minutes

Actual: 23:25 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time of arrival.

COMPLEX MEDICAL INCIDENT

(5 EMTs, 2 PARAMEDICS,
1 MSO)
TURNOUT TIME

Standard: 1:00 minute

Actual: 1:43 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time of arrival.

COMPLEX MEDICAL INCIDENT

(5 EMTs, 2 PARAMEDICS,
1 MSO)
TOTAL RESPONSE TIME

Standard: 8 minutes

Actual: 23:24 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time of arrival.

2022 FIRE RESPONSE TIME STANDARDS

GOAL FOR ALL EMS STANDARDS: 90TH PERCENTILE

TURNOUT TIME - SINGLE-FAMILY WORKING FIRE

Standard: 1:20 minutes

Actual: 1:56 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time unit is en route.



FIRE TURNOUT TIME - COMMERCIAL OR MULTI-FAMILY WORKING FIRE

Standard: 1:20 minutes

Actual: 2:00 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time unit is en route.

FIRE FIRST ARRIVING ENGINE AT A SINGLE-FAMILY WORKING FIRE

Standard: 6:20 minutes

Actual: 8:36 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time of arrival.

FIRE FULL ALARM ASSIGNMENT OF 19 FIREFIGHTERS AT A SINGLE-FAMILY WORKING FIRE

Standard: 10 minutes

Actual: 15:51 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time of arrival.

FIRE FIRST ARRIVING ENGINE AT A COMMERCIAL OR MULTI-FAMILY WORKING FIRE

Standard: 6:20 minutes

Actual: 7:52 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time of arrival.

FIRE FULL ALARM ASSIGNMENT OF 25 FIREFIGHTERS AT A COMMERCIAL OR MULTI-FAMILY WORKING FIRE

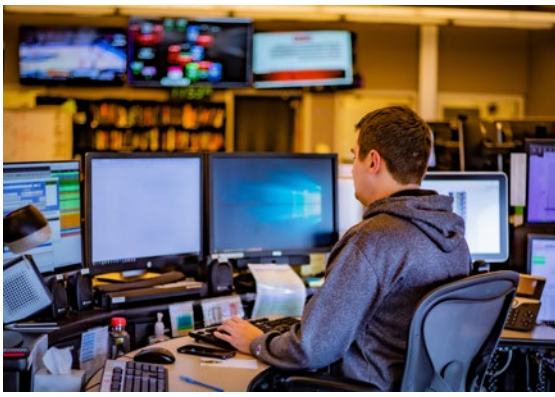
Standard: 10 minutes

Actual: 17:26 minutes

From the time of alarm to the time of arrival.

NORCOM DISPATCH CENTER

Northeast King County Regional Public Safety Communication Agency (NORCOM) operates from a secure floor of city hall in downtown Bellevue, providing emergency communications services for twenty agencies across a large portion of northeast King County from Shoreline all the way to the mountain passes in Skykomish and Snoqualmie. Six police agencies and fourteen fire departments rely on NORCOM for dispatch services.





FIRE LIAISON

NORCOM's fire liaison is a single point of contact dedicated to serving the Fire/EMS agencies and works to foster strong relationships between NORCOM staff and agency personnel. The fire liaison works closely with Bellevue Fire command staff to support agency policies, procedures, standards, goals, and objectives through the communications center. Additionally, the fire liaison represents NORCOM at various local and regional boards and committees to remain engaged with regional fire efforts.

SINGLE CAD MIGRATION

In July, NORCOM successfully migrated all Fire dispatch functionality to the Tyler CAD system. This is the result of many years of work with the overall goal of improving operational efficiencies, data sharing on combined police/fire/EMS incidents, better mapping, and other benefits. The project began with validating data to ensure accuracy and manually inputting that data into the Tyler CAD system. Information such as apparatus, fire stations, alerts, radio identification numbers, personnel, response plans and more were entered in the system. Nearly 50 mobile training sessions were held for users and included supplemental videos which demonstrated how the mobile software is used.

PULSEPOINT IMPLEMENTATION

On June 2, 2022, NORCOM launched and released PulsePoint to the public and media outlets. PulsePoint is a free life-saving mobile application that notifies users when someone nearby is in cardiac arrest and needs immediate help. The announcement highlighted National CPR & AED Awareness Week which was June 1-7. The launch was in conjunction with our Zone 1 Fire Chiefs, King County Fire Chiefs Association, Zone 3 Chiefs, Medic One Foundation, and Valley Communications center making it a true collaboration which brought PulsePoint not only to the NORCOM service area, but to the entire King and Snohomish counties.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

62
TELECOMMUNICATORS

20
AGENCIES

771
CALLS PER DAY

96.71%
CALLS ANSWERED IN 15 SECONDS OR LESS

81%
CALLS DISPATCHED IN LESS THAN 60 SECONDS

OPERATIONS



ANDY ADOLFSON
Deputy Chief Operations Bureau

FIRE RESPONSE

376
FIRES

65.4%
FIRES CONTAINED TO ROOM OF ORIGIN

$4.3 MILLION
LOST TO FIRES

The Operations Bureau oversees our response to medical emergencies, social assistance, fires, and other hazards. We work with our neighboring agencies by sharing resources and responding to incidents as a single 'organization' at the 'street level'. We also work closely with Bellevue Police and other law enforcement agencies so that our dual responses are fast and effective.

Your Fire Department has evolved over time adjusting our service model to best meet the needs of the community. In the 1960's we took on emergency medicine, in 1972 we added our advanced life support Medic One program, and over the last decade we began a social assistance response program known as CARES (Community Advocates for Referral and Education Services). Soon after the COVID-19 pandemic began we expanded into preventative medicine through the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations. We are working hard to meet the requests and needs of the communities we are privileged to serve and will continue to be an agency that alters our service model to meet your needs.

We have seen remarkable changes in the communities we serve.

Bellevue has increased its downtown height limit from 450 feet to 600 feet, this additional height slows our 'vertical response time' and makes fighting a fire on these higher floors even more challenging, but we have adjusted our tactics and equipment to cope.

The addition of light rail, with its elevated pathways, heavy rail cars, and the downtown tunnel, has led to new challenges that we are addressing with specialized training and equipment.

We are seeing more instances of communitywide behavioral health issues as well as unhoused persons which increasing our medical responses. Our CARES social outreach and assistance program was started to help with these complicated issues, and we are working to build the CARES teams' capacity.

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS



RESIDENTIAL FIRE – WEST BELLEVUE | JANUARY 5

Called in by a mail carrier who saw smoke billowing from the house and heard dogs barking in the backyard, arriving crews quickly found a fire on the ground floor of the home. Fire extinguishment and a complete search of the house were completed in less than 20 minutes. Two dogs were located, uninjured, and taken to a neighbor's house for safe keeping.



LANDSLIDE - SOMERSET | JANUARY 17

In the early morning hours, a resident called 911 to report a large amount of water and debris flowing through their cul de sac. Crews arrived to find a landslide had pushed a house off its foundation causing it to partially collapse. More than a dozen homes were evacuated, and residents were taken to the South Bellevue Community Center.

FATAL RESIDENTIAL FIRE – LAKE HILLS | FEBRUARY 9

At 01:59 a.m., we responded to reports of a residential fire where a female occupant was unaccounted for. On arrival, fire crews made entry into the home and found both the female occupant and fire in the laundry room. Resuscitation efforts were made, but unfortunately, the occupant perished.



MOUNTAIN RESCUE – KAMIKAZEE FALLS | MAY 21

Three miles from the Kamikazee Falls trailhead on Mt. Si, a hiker slipped and fell 300 vertical feet, landing on a ledge and getting pinned underneath a tree. Bellevue firefighter/paramedics engaged in technical rope rescue efforts for over 12-hours, treating the patient until they were safety transported by a Navy helicopter.



RESIDENTIAL FIRE - CROSSROADS | MAY 31

Working smoke alarms alerted a family to a fire in the garage of their townhome. Both occupants and their pet were able to self-evacuate safely. Crews arrived to find the flames in the garage had extended through the soffits and into the attic. The fire was quickly extinguished with no reported injuries.



TWO HOME RESIDENTIAL FIRE – WEST LAKE SAMMAMISH | JUNE 30

Mid-afternoon, multiple 911 callers reported a garage fire in the West Lake Sammamish neighborhood. Arriving crews immediately began a defensive attack on the fully engulfed structure. It was quickly determined that the fire had extended along the roofline to a neighboring home, creating a unique situation with two structures involved.



MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION - BELRED | JULY 22

Just before midnight, fire and police were dispatched to a motor vehicle collision involving a car and metro bus. Units arrived to find the vehicle on fire, significant impact to the bus and multiple patients with injuries. Paramedics treated the driver of the car on scene prior to transporting to a local trauma hospital. Minor injuries were sustained by occupants on the bus.

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS



RESIDENTIAL FIRE – NORTHEAST BELLEVUE | AUGUST 5

As a resident called 911 to report his wife was trapped in a burning home, another neighbor heard the calls for help and quickly jumped into action. Unable to enter the home due to smoke, this resident kicked down a fence to locate the woman in a back bedroom, pulling her to safety through the window. Fire crews quickly extinguished the fire, despite added dangers of propane tanks and downed power lines.



NATURAL GAS LEAK - DOWNTOWN | SEPTEMBER 15

While working, a construction crew ruptured a 2” natural gas line in the street. Due to the large volume and pressure from the gas leak, many buildings were evacuated, and several city blocks were completely shut down until the leak was repaired.



VEHICLE FIRE – EASTBOUND I-90 | OCTOBER 18

All lanes of eastbound I-90 were closed when two vehicles involved in a collision caught fire. One of the vehicles involved was carrying hazardous materials in the form of flammable gas in compressed cylinders. There were multiple patients with minor injuries and one with significant burns.



RESIDENTIAL FIRE – NORTHEAST BELLEVUE | OCTOBER 29

Multiple fire units responded to reports of a house fire in the mid-afternoon. On arrival, crews found heavy smoke and fire sweeping through the entire structure. All occupants were able to safely escape, and fire crews assisted with rescuing one cat and four pet snakes.

FATAL MOTORCYCLE COLLISION – DOWNTOWN | NOVEMBER 21

Police and fire units responded to reports of a motorcycle versus a passenger vehicle on Bellevue Way SE. It was quickly determined that the motorcycle involved was an on-duty Bellevue police officer. Within minutes of arriving on scene, Bellevue paramedics transported to a local trauma hospital, where the officer later succumbed to his injuries.



MOTOR VEHICLE RESCUE – NORTHBOUND I-405 | DECEMBER 21

Initially reported as a rollover collision, fire crews arrived on scene to find a passenger vehicle stuck under the belly of a semi-tractor trailer. Typically, rescue calls of this nature rely on the specialized tools carried on the ladder trucks. In this instance, both ladders were already on scene of other emergency incidents. The crews from the engine companies were able to successfully extricate the trapped patient with hand-powered tools.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS

TECHNICAL RESCUE

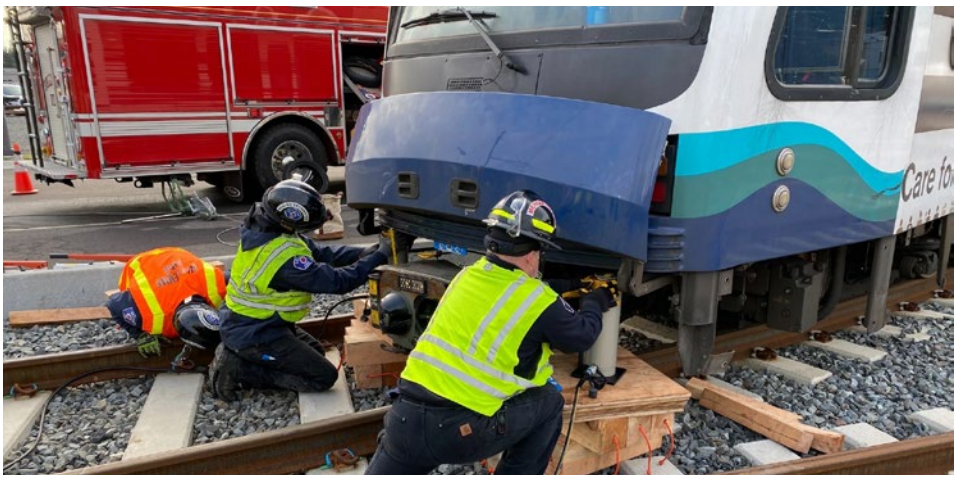
The Bellevue Fire Department has Technician Level responders in the following disciplines: Vehicle Extrication Rescue, Rope, Confined Space, Trench and Structural Collapse. A member must have all five certifications (200+ hours) to be considered a Rescue Technician. These low frequency high risk events require initial and ongoing training, properly maintained equipment, and involves coordination with 12 regional partners in providing a Technician Level rescue response. The Bellevue Fire Department has historically staffed rescue technicians at Fire Stations 3 and 7 on the two ladder companies. Currently, the number of certified technicians assigned to the two ladder companies is at 75% (36 of 48 members have all five certifications). The goal is to achieve 100% by 2025.

HIGH THREAT PREPAREDNESS

The Bellevue Fire Department continues to train and prepare our members in Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response. The program is managed by a group of dedicated members passionate in this discipline and in partnership with the Bellevue Police Department.

LIGHT RAIL

With the expected completion of the East Link "Starter Line" of Light Rail in 2024, the Bellevue Fire Department continues to partner with Sound Transit, Redmond Fire Department, Mercer Island Fire Department and Seattle Fire Department to develop a rescue response program. This partnership will assist our firefighters in training and preparedness for multiple types of emergency incidents that may be encountered upon the shortened 9-mile East Link alignment.





MARK H. ANDERSON
Battalion Chief
Special Operations Division

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

10 DISCIPLINES
VEHICLE RESCUE, ROPE, CONFINED SPACE, TRENCH, STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE, SURFACE WATER RESCUE, HAZ MAT, HIGH THREAT PREPAREDNESS, WILDLAND, LIGHT RAIL / TUNNEL

ACROSS 3 PLATOONS

11
HAZ-MAT TECHS

35
RESCUE SWIMMERS

45
WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS

36
RESCUE TECHNICIANS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



DAVE TAIT
Battalion Chief EMS Division

EMS HIGHLIGHTS

1
PARAMEDIC COMPLETED HARBORVIEW/UWMC TRAINING AND 4 STUDENTS BEGAN TRAINING IN JULY

6
PATIENTS RECEIVED BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS IN THE FIELD

1
INITIAL EMT COURSE AND 1 EMT REFRESHER COURSE HOSTED IN BELLEVUE

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

2022 was a year of rebuilding and catching up on many of the programs that were challenged by the pandemic. The Bellevue Fire Department is once again hosting public CPR training with regularly scheduled classes and provided upon request. Additionally, the Bellevue Fire Department in partnership with the Bellevue Police Department resumed providing Distracted Driving Programs at Bellevue High School. This program is designed to educate and inform the students and staff to the risks of texting and driving as well as driving under the influence.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION MISSION LIFELINE GOLD PLUS AWARD

The Bellevue Fire Department received the highest level of the American Heart Association's Mission Lifeline Award in 2022. This award is given to recognize agencies that apply the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve outcomes for patients suffering from heart attacks. This is a joint effort with dispatch, firefighter/E.M.T.'s, firefighter/paramedics, and the receiving hospitals.

BELLEVUE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN TRAINING

2022 marked the first year that Bellevue Fire hosted their own emergency medical technician training course. Two firefighter/paramedics completed their senior EMT instructor certifications and another member is in process. This allows Bellevue to train their own recruits to become EMT's as well as provide this training for our partner agencies in King County.

BELLEVUE MEDIC ONE 50th ANNIVERSARY

The Bellevue Fire Department's Medic One Program completed 50 years of service in September of 2022. We are extremely grateful to all who contributed to making this program what it is today. We take great pride in working to find ways to honor those who came before us, and we look forward to carrying this program successfully into the future.

MEDICAL/AID INCIDENTS						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	15,319	15,346	15,622	13,791	15,951	17,120
BLS	9,337	10,555	10,405	9,115	10,693	11,678
ALS	5,982	5,121	5,217	4,676	5,258	5,442

BLS: basic life support **ALS:** advanced life support



17,120
TOTAL 2022 EMS CALLS

Highest number ever recorded

BELLEVUE FIRE CARES



NATASHA GROSSMAN
CARES Program Manager

2022 CARES PROGRAM

1,050
REFERRALS
(5% INCREASE IN REFERRALS FROM 2021)

572
REFERRALS TO CARES101
(54% OF TOTAL REFERRALS

REFERRALS MADE BY:

POLICE
49%

FIRE
49%

OTHER
49%

CARES PROGRAM

The purpose of the Bellevue Fire CARES program is to identify the source of the reason for a caller's 911 call and to connect them with resources that will address their core needs. This may include the CARES101 unit, staffed by mental health professionals (MHPs), responding to a request for onsite assistance from a fire crew or police officer. This often results in an initial diversion from the ER or an arrest, and potentially leads to finding long-term solutions to the individual's needs.

FUNDING FOR PROGRAM GROWTH

After a successful pilot in 2021, the City of Bellevue received a $915,000 federal earmark from Senator Cantwell to launch the Community Crisis Assistance Program (CCAT). Following this, the Bellevue City Council approved the requested budget for the CCAT program which will include five co-response units staffed in 2023 by Bellevue Police officers and Bellevue Fire CARES social workers. This will more than double the size of the CARES program and includes staff to support the increased caseload that will be created by the referral of CCAT clients to the program.

SUPPORTING OUR PARTNERS

At their request, a contract was developed to provide CARES services to the Medina Police Department. Medina Police officers can now request the CARES101 unit to be dispatched to the scene of a 911 call if they feel the presence of a social worker would be helpful. The department also developed a contract with Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) to provide mobile integrated health (MIH) program development consultation. The Bellevue Fire CARES Program manager worked with VRFA to provide consultation regarding the development and staffing of their new MIH program.

BELLEVUE
FIRE
CARES

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Bureau of Support Services is comprised of the Fire Training and Supply & Maintenance Divisions. Both work collaboratively to ensure our personnel have the proper knowledge, skills, tools, equipment, and facilities to respond to requests for service safely and effectively. A strategic internal partnership with the Finance & Asset Management Department helps to safeguard the reliability of our emergency response vehicles and the long-term viability of our facilities.



DAVID BESTE
Title

APPARATUS/EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022, our department achieved significant milestones in apparatus and equipment enhancements. We eagerly anticipate the introduction of Engine 110, with the necessary apparatus and equipment slated for service in July 2023. Furthermore, we pursued a grant to support the acquisition of an Electric Fire Engine, showcasing our commitment to sustainability. Our dedication to firefighter safety continued through the second phase of bunker gear purchases and the procurement of swim gear for individual rescue swimmers. We also bolstered our capabilities with the arrival of a new Brush Truck, a chief vehicle for Battalion 103, and the preparation of equipment and vehicles for Battalion 102. Additionally, we prioritized asset management by replacing staff vehicles.

FACILITY OPERATIONS

The first notable accomplishment was the replacement of Station 2's HVAC system, ensuring a comfortable and conducive working environment for our personnel. We also reached a milestone by successfully completing the design and bid process for Fire Station 10, paving the way for its construction and future operational readiness. Additionally, we prioritized the safety of our firefighters by completing the design and bid process to replace three exhaust extractors, enhancing air quality and mitigating exposure to harmful emissions.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Focused on planning and development, we undertook feasibility studies for Fire Station 4, 6, and a warehouse. We also began the process of planning roof and siding replacements at multiple Fire Stations. Additionally, we made progress in finalizing the design and land swap agreement with the City of Clyde Hill for Fire Station 5.

2022 SUPPORT SERVICES

9
FIRE ENGINES

2
LADDER TRUCKS

3
AID UNITS

4
MEDIC UNITS OPERATED DAILY BY BELLEVUE FIREFIGHTERS

TRAINING



DOUG HALPERT
Title

The Fire Department's Training Division has several key responsibilities. These include providing fire training, education, and ongoing development to personnel, as well as conducting research and development to maintain quality control of firefighting. The division is also responsible for developing training methods and standards used to assess proficiency, overseeing the hiring process for new firefighters, and managing a variety of programs aimed at training and protecting staff.

In 2022 we were staffed by a battalion chief who doubled as the department's safety officer, a captain, lieutenant, and administrative assistant. The Training Division oversees programs such as the hiring process for Firefighter, recruit academy, driver operator certification, acting officer development and certification, and promotional processes. To enhance its capabilities and resources, the Training Division works collaboratively with various local and regional partners.

Our training partners include the East Metro Training Group (EMTG) consisting of Redmond and Mercer Island, Zone 1 Technical Rescue, and the Seattle Fire Department.

2021 TRAINING

47, 877
TRAINING HOURS
(NOT INCLUDING EMS)

3,293
PHYSICAL FITNESS HOURS

16,376
INSTRUCTOR HOURS

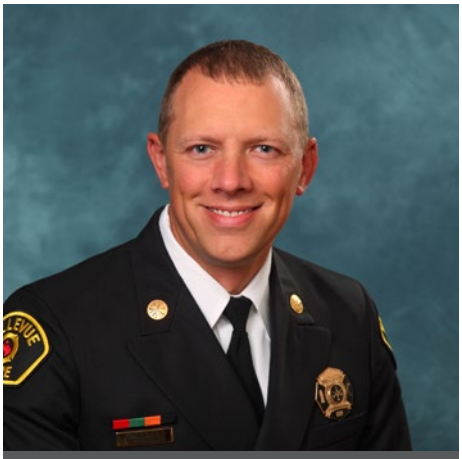
22
FIREFIGHTER RECRUITS
GRADUATED

3
PROMOTIONAL
PROCESSES DEVELOPED




LEWIS

FIRE PREVENTION



TRAVIS RIPLEY
Fire Marshal

3,003
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PLAN REVIEWS

5,395
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT INSPECTIONS

3,539
MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS OF EXISTING BUILDINGS: 100% OF GOAL

24
FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

17.9%
NON-COMPLIANT SYSTEMS INSPECTED

82.1%
COMPLIANT SYSTEMS INSPECTED

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Aggregating projects constructed since 2018, those under construction, and the mega-projects ahead, Downtown Bellevue has seen the construction and is expecting the construction of 118 midrises, high-rises, and skyscrapers. Altogether, downtown is counting over 13,100 new residential over 16 million square feet of commercial space, likely over 2,000 hotel rooms, and over 43,300 parking spaces constructed since 2018, under construction, and in permitting.

INTERNATIONAL FIRE & BUILDING CODE ADOPTION

Typically, every three years the state adopts the next cycle of building, fire, residential, mechanical, and existing building codes. Cities and Counties alike go through a process of familiarizing themselves with the new codes and adopting or amending any changes specific to their jurisdiction.

As we do the same and prepare ourselves for an adoption date of July 1st, 2023, the tasks include reviewing all existing amendments to judge their relevance and adapt them to any new code changes. In addition, we look for opportunities to both improve fire and life safety needs throughout the community and partner with builders and developers to strengthen and support industry needs.

We have completed three town hall meetings where stakeholders can weigh in on changes. We are also active in a zone wide code development group consisting of neighboring fire departments. The goal being to align in as many areas as possible. As we wait for final state amendment to post, we continue to draft what will eventually go to City Council for adoption early 2023.

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA UPGRADES

As the City of Bellevue continues to experience exponential growth, the Fire Prevention division consistently works to identify ways to leverage technology. Capturing and analyzing data to inform many different decisions has allowed the division to better direct resources and forecast growth. In 2022 Bellevue Fire Prevention and the Development Services Department upgraded their plan review management software to AMANDA 7. This upgrade increased collaboration between Development divisions and has improved integrations between our Plan Reviewers and New Construction Inspectors.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) supports citywide response to emergencies and disasters. Bellevue is susceptible to many different natural and man-made hazards, ranging from snowstorms and windstorms to earthquakes and acts of terrorism. OEM provides on call services 24/7 and helps to facilitate citywide response and recovery efforts through Bellevue's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). OEM also works with the whole community to share valuable emergency preparedness and disaster skills to help build a more resilient Bellevue.

One of the highlights of the year, was Bellevue's participation in the multi-state Cascadia Rising Earthquake Exercise in June. This functional exercise focused on recovery efforts after a catastrophic region-wide earthquake. Staff and volunteers from across the city filled the EOC and responded to simulated damage reports and requests for assistance. Exercises like this help identify gaps in training, equipment, and communication so the City of Bellevue is prepared in the event a real disaster strikes.

Additionally, this year OEM welcomed Brett Berntsen to the OEM team as the Training and Exercise Program Administrator. Brett has been an invaluable team member and has already relaunched the City's Bellevue Depends on You and EOC Beginnings courses to help ensure staff are fully prepared to respond to emergencies.

Finally, OEM has continued to support community preparedness training, empowering people who live and work in Bellevue. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Bellevue Communication Support (BCS) volunteers resumed in-person meetings and trainings. Both groups participated in numerous exercises, including the disaster simulation at the Sheraton Hotel and the annual COMMEX. These trainings and exercises have been critical in ensuring the volunteers are ready to respond when needed.



CARL LUNAK
Emergency Manager

$295,937
TOTAL FEDERAL GRANT DOLLARS SECURED

$177,894
URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE GRANT DOLLARS

$90,544
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT DOLLARS

DATA AND SYSTEMS



JEFF HACKMEISTER
Title

161
REPORTING AND ANALYSIS PROJECTS COMPLETED

21
DIFFERENT DATA SYSTEMS MANAGED

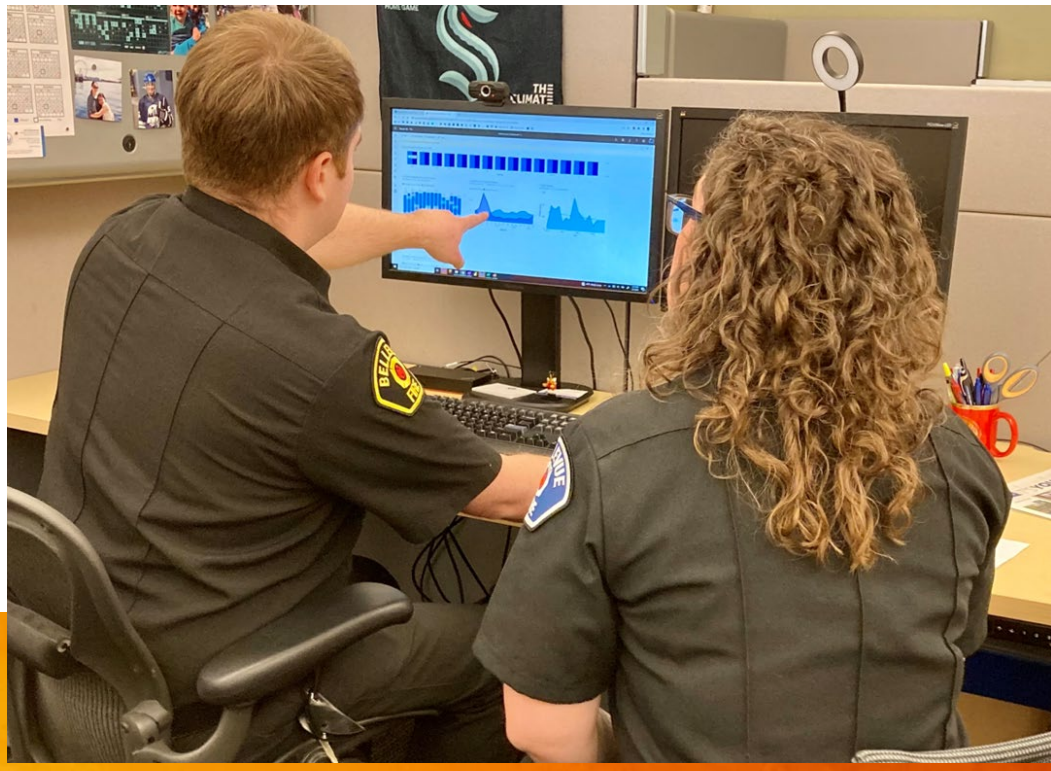
5
STAFF MEMBERS REPRESENTING EMS, FIRE PREVENTION, OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES.

CREATION

The Data and Systems team was created in 2022 in response to the growing analytical and technical needs of the department. By consolidating those responsible for this work across all divisions under one banner, we've increased productivity and developed processes to be more responsive to the needs of the department and the community.

The Data and Systems team was the first group within the City of Bellevue to take advantage of the Power BI reporting platform and produce fully automated reporting. Collating data across the department affords us a better opportunity to make wholistic data-driven decisions that help shift the future direction of the department.

Going into 2023 we will continue to tie together the wide variety of systems used across the department to better train and equip our members. Additionally, we will continue to work towards our 2025 reaccreditation with the Center for Public Safety Excellence.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION



The best way Bellevue Fire can meet the public safety needs of the communities we serve is to reduce risk and prevent as many fire and medical emergencies as possible. To be effective in this mission we work to establish relationships with community groups, schools, building managers, health care workers and area businesses. These relationships help us understand the various risks within each community for us to design educational programs and mitigation strategies to address them.

One of our recent initiatives involved the creation of a comprehensive video specifically designed to assist individuals with disabilities or mobility challenges during fires and other emergencies. Recognizing the unique needs of this population, we collaborated closely with experts to develop a video that provides step-by-step instructions and guidance for sheltering in place. The video covers essential topics such as evacuation strategies, communication methods, and specific considerations for individuals with disabilities. Our aim was to ensure that everyone in our community has equal access to life-saving information, empowering them to make informed decisions and take appropriate actions in emergency situations.

In addition to enhancing accessibility for all residents, we have also taken steps to improve language accessibility. Understanding the diversity within our community, we have prioritized the translation of all Office of Emergency Management webpages into the top seven languages spoken in Bellevue. By providing this crucial information in different languages, we can effectively reach a wider audience, ensuring that language barriers do not prevent residents from accessing vital safety information.

Lithium-ion battery safety is another area where we have placed significant emphasis. With the increasing prevalence of devices powered by lithium-ion batteries, it has become crucial to educate the community about the potential hazards and best practices for safe usage. We have partnered with the King County Fire Department Public Information Officers to develop educational campaigns and materials focused on lithium-ion battery safety. By raising awareness about proper storage, handling, and disposal of these batteries, we aim to reduce the risk of fire incidents associated with their misuse.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



16,223
TWITTER FOLLOWERS

6,410
FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

2,885
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

1,235,822
SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

73
COMMUNITY EVENTS ATTENDED

2,964
COMMUNITY MEMBERS EMPOWERED THROUGH EDUCATIONAL CLASSES AND TRAININGS

As COVID-19 restrictions gradually eased and the world regained a sense of normalcy, we experienced a surge in opportunities to renew a sense of connection with our community. Fire stations eagerly reopened their doors to the public and classes and training resumed. In an impressive display of dedication to our city, fire personnel attended a staggering total of 73 community events and empowered nearly 3,000 residents with valuable knowledge, contributing to a safer and more resilient community. This rise in public engagement not only reestablished trust and solidarity but showcased the strong desire of our neighbors to be well informed and educated in fire and life safety matters.

For the first time since 2019, we were able to host our Annual Open House at all nine Bellevue Fire Stations. An estimated 4,000 residents attended to meet their local firefighters, learn vital safety information, and engage with first responders in a non-emergent setting.

Social media continues to be a safe and effective tool to remain connected with our community. Through these platforms, we provide the public with a look into our daily lives and our emergency response activities as well as share pertinent safety messaging. By having a continual presence on our social media platforms, we ensure the public knows that we are always available and ready to serve.

BFD-22-6832

For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-XXXX (voice) or email XXXX@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.