



2022 Annual Report

FRESNO FIRE DEPARTMENT



2022 Annual Report

City of Fresno

Population:540,000
Land Area: 115 sq. miles
Elevation: 308 feet
Population Density: 4,695/sq. mi.
Population Rank: 5th in California

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Mission:

To protect and put service above all else

Vision:

Recognized as a standard of excellence
in the fire service

Core Values:

Teamwork ~ Trust ~ Commitment

Fire Chief Kerri L. Donis



I am pleased to share with you our 2022 annual report. Inside this report, you will find not only statistics about our incident responses, but also some insight into our accomplishments during the last calendar year. The Fresno Fire Department (FFD or Department) is a professional organization dedicated to serving our community and visitors with pride, excellence, and professionalism. Over the past year, the Fresno Fire Department growth and improvements would not have been possible without the outstanding talent and dedication of our members, and the support of our Mayor, City Manager, and City Council.

This past year resulted in continued forward progress in service delivery, equipment, and staffing. Two additional Fire Inspectors were added to help with the tremendous new construction growth in our City, five new fire apparatus were ordered to replace older rolling stock, new software programs were approved to improve Fire Prevention data management and records, dozens of promotions occurred as members retired, and more progress was made on planning for the construction of a new Regional Training Center to serve our members and the region.

To build on these impressive achievements, we will continue to invest in the critical infrastructure and training programs that enable the FFD to handle the demands of a large and ever-growing city. The Department has expanded its certification and education efforts, as well as web-based information systems for its workforce and the public. Together, we

will continue to strengthen our emergency communications system, be intentional about investing in firefighter safety and mental health, and look for other best practices to implement.

No two days are ever alike for FFD members, but they meet the moment, and effectively manage unexpected challenges. I am so proud of the dynamic efforts; their preparedness, compassion, and professionalism contribute to the safe environment enjoyed by those who live, work, and visit Fresno.

2022 will be my last Annual Report, as I will be retiring in March of 2023. It has been an honor and a privilege to lead this outstanding fire department for the past nine years. We have all worked so hard to transform the FFD into a better and safer fire department, improving service delivery, affecting change in firefighter safety and its culture, improving fire prevention and administrative functions, and becoming a standard of excellence in the fire service. The hard work and professionalism of our firefighters, fire inspectors, and administrative staff is impressive and represents the City of Fresno and the FFD incredibly well. I continue to be in awe of the devotion our members provide every day.



Engine 10

Proudly Serving



FRESNO YOSEMITE
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Operations Division

The Operations Division provides staffing to 21 fire stations. This support includes a coverage area of approximately 117 square miles with services to the City of Fresno, the Fig Garden Fire Protection District, and Fresno Yosemite Airport.

Fresno Fire's resources include 19 engines companies, 5 truck companies, 3 medical squads, and numerous other operational resources. Three fire stations are designated for specialty teams including; Hazardous Materials, Water Rescue, and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) services.

Daily firefighter staffing increased this year to 95 personnel on-duty, the highest in FFD history, with more than half of all apparatus staffed with four career firefighters (an industry standard and best practice).

2022 was once again a very busy year for the firefighting force. The FFD responded to 50,373 emergency incidents, resulting in a 5.75% increase in call volume over 2021. Of those 50,373 emergency calls, 7,711 were fire calls, translating into a 8.44% increase from the previous year. Fresno experienced the most fires calls on record in a single month (May) with 784. Two other months in the year had over 700 fire calls and six months had over 600.

The severity and frequency of these fire and other emergency incidents resulted some alarming impacts in our community:

- 985 Structure Fires
- 10 Civilian Deaths
- 10 Civilian Injuries
- 54 Firefighter Injuries
- \$45.9 million in fire losses



As Fresno continued to have an increase in fire activity, California also continues to experience devastating wildland fires, impacting thousands of residents in the Wildland Urban Interface. The FFD continues to offer support through mutual aid by filling resource orders for fires across the state. This commitment helps to offset resource demands that become depleted during these large incidents, with expenses being reimbursed by the State.

The Operations Division will continue to move forward through the deployment of new resources and the development of sites for new fire stations, while continuing to face each challenge through Teamwork, Trust, and Commitment.



Training Division



Captain Bettancourt instructs a firefighter recruit

2022 was another busy year in the Training Division, and the hiring of 24 firefighter trainees in January marked the third consecutive academy delivered by Academy Training Staff within six months. The 16-week academy graduates began their field assignments in April and joined the other two classes of firefighters in their first year with the Department. At this point, half of the firefighter rank was on probation and the entire organization worked hard to welcome and assimilate them.

The Training Division was able to resume limited training activities as pandemic restrictions were eased. Company Officer, communications, hazardous materials, ARFF, and rescue training were delivered and completed. The Prevention Division delivered the Fire Inspector 1 series to new staff. Upgraded rescue equipment was purchased and training provided by the USAR Team during low angle clutch training. Low angle rope rescue operations (LARRO) training was also provided. Leadership Training was provided to all chief officers in May and December. A total of 75,161 hours of training were completed by all members in 2022.

The 25th Anniversary of the Annual Training Officers Symposium was celebrated in March, drawing more than 450 students who attended over 40 courses featuring instructors from across the state delivering quality training for the California Fire Service. The Symposium has become the premiere training event for the fire service on the west coast, and Fresno Firefighters help make it all possible.

Wellness remains a top priority for the Department, and we are continuously looking for ways to improve how we train to work safely, keeping the members overall health in mind. This includes being intentional about preventing cancer, providing health education, and training, and offering confidential peer support to our employees. Pinnacle Systems continues to provide health screenings, nutritional counseling, and fitness training. Assisting Individuals in Crisis was offered in March at the Symposium and again in December. We will continue to

emphasize the importance of behavioral health and wellness in training.

The long-awaited ICS 500 Structural Firefighting Operations training, *Calm the Chaos*, was delivered in early October. The first two days of training were made available to all operations members and local area firefighters representing Fresno, Clovis, Fresno County, and Porterville Fire Departments.

FFD Battalion Chiefs and Command and Control Committee members participated in the following three-day train-the-trainer curriculum. This training was made possible through the award of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (Operations).

The Training Division also works closely with the Operations Division to evaluate the effectiveness of our methods and service delivery, including the Safety Officer Program and the testing of new equipment. There are also committees such as the Fitness and Health Committee, Command and Control Committee, Safety Committee, and Equipment Committee that focus on key areas related to training. The Training Division seeks to strengthen linkages between groups through effective communication and collaboration to succeed in our mission. We also reinforce the core values of Teamwork, Trust, and Commitment in all we do.

Regional Training Center planning activities began in early 2019 and the Department has been working with an architectural design firm on the schematic phase of the future FFD training center.

Looking forward. 2023 and beyond...

We will continue to pursue best industry practices and be innovative and collaborative as we move into the future. We want to develop instructors and leaders who will transfer the pride of FFD to the next generation. The FFD is committed to a culture of excellence through mentorship, and leaving it better than we found it.



January 2022 Drill School graduating class



Late night RV fire



AARF Team Training



Firefighter Specialist Jones at low angle rope rescue training



Firefighter Neff revives a rescued dog



2022 Annual Statistics

Budget

General Fund.....	\$74.7M
Grants.....	\$5.9M
License & Permit	\$483.4K
Charges for Service.....	\$6.2M
Contract Fees.....	\$3.1M
Capital	\$11.7M
Total Budget.....	\$102.1M

Units

Engine Companies.....	19
Truck Companies	5
Squad Companies	3
Water Tenders	2
Patrols	3
Brush Engines	2
HazMat Units.....	2
USAR Heavy Rescue	2
Airport Rescue Vehicle	2
Water Rescue	2
Safety Officer	1

Personnel

Sworn Safety.....	347
Sworn Non-Safety.....	29
Civilian	26
Total	402

Daily Staffing

City of Fresno & FGFPD.....	95
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Incidents

Medical Aids.....	31,251
Arrivals: 85.8%	26,791
Downgrades: 14.2%	4,460
Total Fires	7,711
Structure Fires:	985
Vegetation Fires:	1,207
Vehicle Fires:	426
Other Types of Fires:	5,093
False Alarms.....	2,977
Hazardous Conditions.....	1,221
Service Calls.....	1,672

All Other Incidents.....	5,541
Total Incidents	50,373

Fire Loss

All Fires.....	\$45.9M
All Other Incident Types	\$109.5K
Total Loss	\$45.9M
From Arson.....	\$4.1M
Displaced Persons by Fire	821

Fatalities

Total Civilian Fatalities.....	10
Total Firefighter Fatalities	0

Injuries

Civilian Injuries	10
Firefighter Injuries.....	54

Fire Investigations

Total Investigations.....	561
Incendiary Fires	248
Arrests	79
Homicides	5

Fire Prevention

New Construction Inspections....	8,222
Plan Reviews.....	4,776
Fire Inspections.....	8,254

Fire Shop

Repair Requests.....	4,062
Completed Repairs	3,948



Fire Shop personnel deliver air bottles to firefighters



Hazmat Training Team



Members of the Water Rescue Team



Vehicle accident with patient extrication



Type III brush engine drafting from a portable tank

Company Response Times

First company arrival within 4 minutes

Structure Fires Only	76%
Medical Aids.....	61%
Fires.....	68%

Effective residential firefighting force (EFF)

within 8 minutes	87%
(15 Firefighters on scene)	

Effective commercial firefighting force (EFF)

within 8 minutes	96%
(21 Firefighters on scene)	

Station Responses – 66,795

S01	5,649
S02	1,503
S03	7,788
S04	6,785
S05	6,130
S06	2,556
S07	2,840
S08	3,085
S09	5,704
S10	1,313
S11	4,632
S12	3,348
S13	2,589
S14	1,534
S15	2,488
S16	1,667
S17	1,056
S18	1,207
S19	2,574
S20	2,347
Airport.....	208

Company Responses – 61,413

Engine Companies 47,829

E01	3,472
E02	1,448
E03	3,882
E04	3,008
E05	3,378
E06	2,556
E07	2,770
E08	3,085
E09	3,737
E10	1,313
E11	3,089
E12	3,348
E13	2,532
E14	-
E15	2,479
E16	1,667
E17	1,056
E18	1,207
E19	2,002
E20	1,800

Squad Companies 7,377

SQ03	2,643
SQ04	1,982
SQ05	2,752

Battalion Chiefs

BC01	808
BC02	526
BC03	471
BC04	655

Truck Companies 6,207

T01	1,281
T03	1,226
T09	1,312
T11	954
T14	1,434

Special Operations

Airport Rescue Firefighting	
(ARFF) Vehicles	208
BRS1 - Breathing Support ...	95
CERT1 -	
Community Emergency	
Response Team.....	24
HazMat Units.....	109
Investigations	672
P02 - Patrol	55
P07 - Patrol	27
P14 - Patrol	100
BE03 - Brush Engine.....	13
BE15 - Brush Engine.....	9
PIO1 - Public	
Information Officer	43
Heavy Rescue	118
Water Rescue	46
WT07 - Water Tender	43
WT13 - Water Tender	57
SAF1 - Safety Officer	1,774
Shop.....	97

**Thank
You**

It's impressive to see the changes that have taken place in our Department. It is a testament to countless hours of hard work, collaboration, passion, and pride we all have for the Fresno Fire Department. It is the result of the support willingly given by stakeholders in our Department. We all should be incredibly proud of what has been achieved, and excited about what the future holds for the FFD.

This is truly a very special Department; every division and its members contributing to its exceptional reputation. We truly are a family!

*I want to thank you all for your dedication and service to the community, for continuing to pursue excellence, and for believing in me and executing your role each, and every day. It's the members of the FFD who are, and always will be, this Department's greatest asset.
Be safe and be well!*

– Fire Chief, Kerri Donis

Fire Investigation Unit

The Fire Investigations Unit (FIU) continues to be actively engaged within the community and in all aspects of the Personnel and Investigation Division. FIU members are tasked with fire cause and origin determination, illegal fires and cost recovery, arson investigation case work, background investigations, professional standards investigations, assisting the City Attorney's Office and Code Enforcement on compliance issues within the City of Fresno, and working with law enforcement counterparts at the City, County, State and Federal levels.

The FIU has three field investigators that respond 24 hours a day out of Fire Station 20, to all working structure fires, government and NGO facilities, fatalities, requests from law enforcement officers and to instances where there is suspicion of an illegally set fire. Three staff investigators and a supervisor are available to assist field investigators with follow up information gathering, arson case development and serve as the interface between the Fresno Fire Department, the Fresno Police Department and the District Attorney's Office.

Over the last year we have gained three new fire investigators who have completed a rigorous series of fire investigation course work. We also saw the retirement of K9 Tessa and the addition of K9 Shilo. The FIU has also taken the lead to provide vital investigation training to FIU members as well as other fire investigators from surrounding departments. As our call volume continues to increase within Fresno Fire our FIU investigators have answered the call time and time again.

2022 Statistics:

Fire Investigations: 561

Arrests in 2022: 79

Fire Fatalities: 7

Homicides: 5

Cases worked by Tessa/Shilo (K9): 24

Illegal Fireworks Citations: 74

(including those with task force)



Arson investigators Perez & Dansby investigate a fire's origins

CERT

FFD CERT Marks 20 Years of Service and More Than 200 Firefighter Rehab Deployments

The Fresno Fire Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program was established 20 years ago, and has offered free emergency preparedness courses to community members since 2002. Its Firefighter Rehab Team volunteers receive advanced training and have provided logistical support and high-heat on-scene rehabilitation 24/7 since 2009.

The volunteers proudly support the health and safety of our firefighters by providing timely and comprehensive rehabilitation support designed to prevent heat illnesses and reduce exposure to cancer-causing contaminants.

Since receiving its response vehicle in 2009, the Fresno



CERT Team Members

CERT Team has been deployed on 205 emergent incidents—making it one of the most experienced teams in the U.S. The team prides itself on supporting the foundational principle of “Everyone Goes Home Safe.” In addition, the team has also provided 211 days of pre-scheduled support for FFD training, participated in 44 emergency exercises, 92 community service events, and joined our civic partners to offer 159 continuing education classes to its members.

Fire Shop / Fleet Unit

The Fire Shop consists of 14 personnel that cover two shifts while operating 24/7 on-call services and support for the Fire Department. The Shop is responsible for preventative maintenance, routine and emergency service repairs of all 148 pieces of heavy/medium duty equipment fleet, light duty fleet, and the countless small motors utilized to keep the Department operational. The Fire Shop has also engaged in several special projects to keep all apparatus in top working order, including the testing of ground and aerial ladders.

The Shop fosters an environment of training and education, with several of the mechanics achieving Fire Mechanic certification levels from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the remaining mechanics earning their required ASE certifications. Several members of the Fire Shop were also able to travel to Michigan for training on fire apparatus. During the last year, the Shop completed 2,018 work orders (repair, maintenance, etc.) for fire apparatus requiring 16,002 mechanic hours to complete.

The shop has a long history of operational support during emergency incidents. These include after hour vehicle repairs, filling SCBA bottles during emergency incidents, and providing other logistical support as needed to ensure operational readiness.

Fire Prevention and Support Services Division

The mission of the Fire Prevention and Support Services Division is to provide fire and life-safety services to the residents of the City of Fresno. These services include providing fire related plan review and field inspections for both residential and commercial new construction projects, conducting ongoing maintenance inspections on existing commercial and multi-family buildings, and participation in public education and community outreach events.

The *Fire Plans Review* and *New Construction Inspection* programs complete fire protection system plan review, including fire sprinkler/fire alarm systems, new building construction plan review, and fire protection system acceptance testing. This process ensures that fire protection and life safety systems are installed correctly and will operate as designed when called upon.

The *General Inspection Program* completes the inspection of existing buildings for compliance with applicable laws, codes, ordinances, and standards. Inspection frequencies for this program are based on requirements of state law or are determined using a risk-based approach established from a nationally recognized standard. For 2022, the Division was able to meet its statutory requirement to complete 100% of our state mandated inspections, which was reported to City Council under SB1205 requirements.

During the past year, the Division was successfully awarded a FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant that was used to purchase an inflatable public safety house. This ADA compliant inflatable fire safety house will allow our agency to modernize and enhance our fire public education delivery amongst the youth in our community.

The Prevention Division continues to move forward, and fire prevention inspectors that were hired in the last budget cycle have now successfully completed their internal training. These inspectors are now actively completing either General Inspection Program inspections or New Construction Inspection permit inspections. If fire prevention inspector retention rates remain stable, the Division expects to expand the General Inspection Program to include, inspecting more existing buildings/businesses, while simultaneously reducing wait times for new construction permit inspections.

This past year has also paid dividends in fire prevention staff training efforts. In-house Division staff delivered six California State Fire Training classes to both newly hired and existing fire prevention inspectors, as well staff from outside agencies. Providing this training "in-house" saved the Department tens of thousands of dollars and improves our ability to deliver consistent service to our varied stakeholders.

In late 2022, Division staff also completed our triennial Municipal Code update adopting and amending the 2023 edition of the California Fire Code (CFC). This process included maintaining existing amendments which have continued to enhance the ability of the Department to respond to fires and other emergencies, as well as to improve the quality of life for

our residents. The Division staff have completed formal training on any updates presented in the 2023 CFC and will begin implementation of these updates starting January of 2023.

Technical Support Unit

The Technical Support Unit is comprised of two Computer Systems Specialists, one Programmer/Analyst, and one Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist. This team works behind the scenes to make sure all the technology equipment, software, and data works properly when needed. They also provide on-demand technical support to help the Department's systems work efficiently.

The Computer Systems Specialists serve over 400 end-users. They maintain approximately 250 desktop and laptop devices, approximately 100 apparatus mobile data terminals (MDTs), 70 tablets, and 40 printers. They've been working hard over the last year replacing and upgrading most of the Department's hardware to Windows 10 and upgrading MDT equipment to facilitate the use of 4G, direct activation, and other new technologies.

The Programmer/Analyst provides data analytics, working with data collected from all incidents and providing daily reports regarding incident type distribution and department operations. Analyzing call volumes, response times, and data helps to solve various problems and provide actionable solutions.

The GIS Specialist analyzes incident data to provide mapping solutions, often teaming up with the data analyst to provide all-inclusive, data-driven recommendations for new apparatus acquisition, new facility placement, and deployment of personnel. The GIS Specialist is the key resource for pre-incident planning maps and up-to-date mobile mapping location information for hydrants, hazards, and more.

Together, this team provides the necessary equipment, support, and technical services to ensure the Department can effectively serve the community.

Fire Facilities and Logistics Unit

The Facilities, Supply and Logistics Unit is responsible for the general maintenance of all the Department's fire stations, fire headquarters, training facilities and associated buildings. This Unit ensures the necessary supplies are delivered to each fire station, that fire stations are functioning properly, and our facilities add value to the communities they serve. The Facilities, Supply and Logistics Unit is responsible for the project management of capital improvements, development of new facilities, ensuring the efficiency of all our buildings, including mechanical and operating systems and maintaining a safe environment for all employees and community members that enter our facilities.

Community Outreach

The Department encourages our Firefighters to seek creative and thoughtful ways to engage with the community. Events range from school carnivals and fire drills; car shows and block parties. The department also conducts fire station tours as well as home safety inspections where smoke alarms may be installed. Our hope is that these intentional and frequent interactions will build positive relationships and promote safer communities.



Read Across America



Firefighters creating memories



Fire Prevention Inspector Cuozzo promotes burn injury awareness

Fresno Fire Chief's Foundation

The Fresno Fire Chief's Foundation (FFCF) is a non-profit organization which partners with the FFD to support several programs. The Fresno Fire Department Explorer Program provides young men and women (14-20 years old) with insight into the firefighting world. The Helmets are Cool program has provided over 15,000 free helmets to children since its inception. This is done through school programs, fire station tours, and distributed by Firefighters on engine and truck companies. The Fitness for Firefighters program provides fitness equipment for all FFD fire stations to help keep our public servants healthy and fit. To learn more about the FFCF work in the community, go to the website at www.beafirehero.org.



Girls Empowerment Camp



Arson Investigator Wilding and K-9 Shilo



Fresno Fire Explorers



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To Protect and Put Service Above All Else



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