



ANNUAL REPORT- 2023

FRESNO FIRE DEPARTMENT



City of Fresno

Population 552,508
Land Area 117
Elevation 308
Population Density 4,722
Population Rank 5th in California

*Source: Esri

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'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the members of the Fresno Fire Department (FFD or Department), I am pleased to present to you our 2023 Annual Report. This report highlights departmental statistics and provides a brief overview of the great accomplishments of the divisions and their dedicated staff.

Established in 1877, the Fresno Fire Department has solidified its position as one of the oldest fire departments in the nation. The FFD boasts a rich and illustrious history of serving the City of Fresno for the last 147 years, providing fire protection services and witnessing numerous organizational advancements through the years. This tradition of excellence remains ever-present in today's Department.

This past year was an exciting time for the Department, marked by several internal changes. We experienced numerous retirements, including that of Fire Chief Donis. Additionally, we achieved the highest number of members on duty per day in the history of our organization.

The success of the FFD stems from the men and women of this outstanding organization; sworn and civilian members dedicated to serving each other and the citizens of their community while continuously putting service above all else.

As the City of Fresno continues to grow and our service area of responsibility expands, the FFD regularly evaluates deployment strategies to ensure we provide the best service to the local community while maintaining member safety. In 2023, the FFD was awarded grant funding to complete a comprehensive Standards of Cover and Community Risk Assessment, aiding in analyzing the organization to determine areas of efficiency and improvement.

As you read through this document, you will witness the growth experienced over the past year, the community partnerships forged, and the exciting projects in progress within each division. The FFD has been intentional about engaging the community and ensuring that every interaction is positive.

As the new Fire Chief for the Fresno Fire Department, this is my first annual report, and I could not be prouder of this organization or more honored to hold this position. Looking ahead, the FFD will build upon the successes of previous administrations and work to identify alternative solutions to maintain organizational advancements while continuing our growth and development. Many of our successes would not be possible without the amazing support of the City Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and the City of Fresno community.

Sincerely,

Billy Alcorn

Fire Chief



OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Fresno Fire Department's Operations Division consists of 21 fire stations, housing 19 Engines, 5 Trucks, 4 Squads, and 1 Safety Officer. The city is currently divided into 4 battalions, each managed by a battalion chief in its respective district. Over the last 3 years, the organization has experienced consistent growth, thanks to the support of local leaders and federal grants. This past year, the Department reached 110 firefighters on duty each day. This number includes staffing on all mentioned resources as well as the Airport station. This growth has enhanced the Department's ability to promptly deploy effective firefighting forces and efficiently mitigate emergency incidents. Resources are strategically placed citywide to ensure a rapid response to any emergency, with the goal of arriving at each within four minutes of dispatch.

The Department has a long history of being an extremely busy fire department with a high fire call volume. In 2023, the Department responded to 50,049 incidents. Among these incidents, 7,213 were fire calls, with 1,123 being structure fires.

In addition to fire response, the Department provides emergency response in aircraft rescue firefighting, hazardous materials response, water rescue, and urban search and rescue, as well as assisting the state through the Master Mutual Aid system.

During this past year, our Type 1 Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) has participated in numerous training activities and deployments throughout the State of California. Notably, the team provided specialized response capabilities that ensured twenty-one (21) Heads of State, including Presidents, Prime Ministers, a Sultan, and more than 30 economic leaders during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in San Francisco, a National Security Special Event (NSSE), and the largest international event in California since the opening of the United Nations in 1945. The team received accolades for their competency and professionalism while working with partners from various agencies, including the Secret Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).



Additionally, the Department serves as the host agency for the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Urban Search and Rescue Regional Task Force 5 (CA-RTF-5). The CA-RTF-5, a 30-person task force comprised of 6 participating agencies, can respond to rescue calls throughout California. Last August, CA-RTF-5 was deployed to El Centro in Imperial County in preparation for an expected hurricane.

The Cal OES recognizes our Department's Water Rescue Team (WRT) as a Type 1 Swiftwater/Flood Search and Rescue team. Last year, California experienced record rainfall resulting in widespread flooding and mudslides. The team was deployed on three separate occasions across the state to assist with these incidents. They also responded to over 60 calls for service in Fresno and surrounding areas, including search and rescue operations for numerous vehicles submerged in canals and the rescue of several citizens from the San Joaquin River.

The Fresno Fire Department also participates in the California Master Mutual Aid system, deploying numerous resources each year to support the system.

As evident, the Operations Division is an active division that delivers the highest quality service to the citizens of Fresno and those throughout the state. The organization's core values - Team Work, Trust, and Commitment - are exemplified each day by its members.



TRAINING DIVISION



The Fresno Fire Department's Training Division underwent changes in leadership through promotions and organizational restructuring. In the revised structure, the 56-hour Safety Officers transitioned from Operations to Training, aligning training and operational goals to improve the training aspects of the safety officer position. The division has prioritized preparing our members for career success, while also focusing on fostering leadership development and strengthening relationships with partnering agencies throughout Fresno County.

Firefighter Trainee Academies:

Firefighter Trainee Academy Class 78, consisting of 20 trainees, graduated in July 2023, bringing the total number of firefighters hired since 2021 to 111, approximately one-third of the firefighting force. A special thank you to everyone who directly contributed to the training and development of these new firefighters.

Leadership and Professional Development:

The Training Division provided training programs for officers and aspiring leaders within the Department. The Chief Officer Academy (Class 2) was held in August and the Company Officer Academy (Class 6) was delivered in September. Members also gained leadership experience through oversight and responsibility in administrative assignments and through investment in committee work.

The division conducted 28 State Fire Training classes to support professional certification tracks, including the Fire Inspector 2 series, Company Officer series, Plans Examiner series, Instructor series, and Chief Officer 3 series. The California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) also delivered FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Plans Section Chief and AH330 Strike Team Leader courses.

Future engineers received two weeks of training at the Engineer Academy, completing Driver/Operator 1C Aerial Operations, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, Quarterly Truck training, and apparatus familiarization for the new Smeal engine and trucks.

Annual RT-130 Wildland Training and the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) refresher was provided, followed by a multi-agency Spring Exercise to prepare for fire season and out-of-county assignments through the State Master Mutual Aid System. Members were also trained on new EMS equipment, including pulse oximeters and glucometers, which were added to all FFD apparatus medical bags. This equipment will improve patient assessment and care. High-performance CPR was also introduced to improve CPR survivability rates in our community.



TRAINING DIVISION

Innovation and Technology:

Fresno firefighters have a long history of using creativity and skills to improve their duties and the Department. The Fresno Attic Ladder, Fresno Hydrant, Garringer Wrench, and the Fresno Special are historical examples of applied hometown innovation and talent. Today's firefighters continue this tradition, building world-class props, transforming training spaces, and creating professional video presentations. We encourage innovation to prepare for the future, utilizing technology like thermal imaging cameras, upgraded radios, and improved personal protective equipment (PPE). Podcasting is being explored as an additional training platform, featuring topics of interest and benefit to our members. Although nothing can replace in-person training and face-to-face communication, we need to explore other methods to make training relevant and learning accessible.



Joint training exercises with agencies such as OES, Fresno Police Department, Fresno County Sheriff, American Ambulance, and PG&E were conducted to enhance interagency coordination during emergencies. Workshops were also held for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Leadership Fresno. Additionally, the Department is collaborating with Fresno Unified School District officials to explore opportunities to support high school youth through Career Technology Programs.



Collaboration with Regional Agencies:

The Training Division actively collaborates with neighboring fire departments (Fresno County, Clovis, Sanger) and partner agencies annually to host the CalChiefs Training Officers (CATO) Symposium in downtown Fresno. The Symposium is California's premiere fire service training symposium, attracting over 500 fire service professionals from across the state who attend hands-on training courses, obtain certifications, network, and learn from some of the finest instructors in the nation. The Symposium is held at multiple locations and is not possible without collaboration between departments and the dedicated members of the Fresno Fire Department, who have pursued a standard of excellence in the Training Symposium for generations. California's professional fire service training roots began in the early 1960's with Fresno as one of the founding members. The Fresno Fire Department was instrumental in the early stages of California Fire Service training and continues that proud tradition today, partnering with regional agencies to foster mutual learning and cooperation and advance first responder training in the Central Valley and across the state.

Looking Forward:

A shining example of collaboration is the partnership between the City of Fresno and the State Center Community College District in developing the First Responder Campus. Additionally, The FFD Regional Training Center is currently in the 65% schematic design phase and will be situated next door to the FCC Fire Academy at the First Responder Campus. The state-of-the-art facility will feature a six-story tower with props to simulate realistic scenarios for firefighters to train and practice their skills in a safe and controlled environment. It will also provide classroom space to host State Fire Training and Department courses, benefiting both current and future generations of firefighters. Our vision is to become the premier Regional Fire Training Center in the Central Valley and a training destination for fire professionals from across the state. The current drill tower, former shop warehouse, training classroom, and offices at the E Street facility will remain useful training spaces, despite the discontinuation of live fire training on-site.

The Fresno Fire Department Training Division's highlights for 2023 demonstrate a commitment to training excellence, collaboration with regional organizations, leadership development, and professional development. These efforts have improved the Department's overall preparedness and capacity to respond effectively to emergencies in the Fresno community. We are committed to constant improvement and strive to foster trust, practice teamwork, and demonstrate commitment in everything we do.

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

The mission of the Fire Prevention Division is to provide fire and life-safety services to the residents of the City of Fresno. These services include fire-related plan reviews, field inspections for both residential and commercial new construction projects, 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 handle fire protection system plan reviews, including fire sprinkler/fire alarm systems, new building construction plan reviews, 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 needed. The General Inspection Program inspects existing buildings for compliance with applicable laws, codes, ordinances, and standards. Inspection frequencies for this program are based on state law requirements or are determined using a risk-based approach established from a nationally recognized standard. In 2023, the Prevention Division met its statutory requirement to complete 100% of our state-mandated inspections, which was reported to the City Council under SB1205 requirements. This year, leadership in the division transitioned to Deputy Chief Semonious.

The division continues to prioritize training for new inspectors and provides continuing education for senior staff members. This has been accomplished by establishing an “in-house” training program and investing in current staff to become certified as State instructors. This approach has allowed us to build the knowledge and education of our members while maintaining fiscal responsibility by teaching these courses in Fresno, rather than sending our staff to different locations around the State. These courses have been well attended by Fresno Fire Prevention Staff and outside agencies.

The Prevention Division looks forward to implementing several new software programs in the coming year to optimize performance and improve customer service.



FIRE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The 2023 calendar year saw the Fire Investigations Unit (FIU) continue to honorably serve the citizens of Fresno with seven full-time and two reserve members providing a high level of fire investigation expertise. The FIU assisted firefighters with complex fire investigations, regardless of the building type or occupancy. Some of these incidents involved high-profile or high-dollar losses, significant burn injuries or fatalities, explosions, drug labs and grow houses, and criminal, involving elements of arson. FIU members work with local law enforcement as well as state and federal resources to prosecute arson offenders. The FIU seeks to continually improve through comprehensive training as the scope of work is ever-changing.

In 2023, the partnership with many departments within the City of Fresno grew tremendously, most importantly, with Code Enforcement and the City Attorney's Office. The FIU was engaged in the City's implementation of the Cannabis Administrative Prosecution Program (C.A.P.P.) with the State Attorney General's Office. The C.A.P.P. was designed to administratively enforce proper licensing, building and fire prevention standards, and reduce the illegal sales of cannabis products in Fresno. FIU members also engaged with the Fresno Police Department's Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) team, enhancing the EOD team's service model, post-blast investigations, and safety.

One increasingly important task performed by FIU members is Professional Background Investigations (PBI). All new and aspiring applicants to the Department submit to a Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) level background check. This process helps the Department and City select the best candidates and maintain the highest standards.

A Department realignment at the end of 2023 moved the FIU under the Fire Marshal and the Fire Prevention Division. This brought exciting changes, and the FIU is moving full steam ahead. Looking ahead to 2024, the FIU will soon lead a revamped Youth Fire Setter Prevention and Intervention program focused on Fresno's youth. The FIU will continue to provide specialist-level fire investigations to the citizens and members of the Department.



2023 Arson Statistics

Fire Investigations	481
Arrests	57
Fire Fatalities	3
Homicides	1
Cases worked by Shilo	39
Illegal Firework Citations	57



2023 ANNUAL STATISTICS



Budget

General Fund	\$94.5 M
Grants	\$6.4 M
Licenses & Permits	\$454.4 K
Charges for Service	\$5.9 M
Contract Fees	\$4.0 M
Capital	\$1.2 M
Miscellaneous	\$200.1 K
Total Budget	\$112.7 M

Personnel

Sworn Safety	375
Civilian	53
Total Personnel	428

Daily Staffing

City of Fresno & FGFPD	110
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Fire Investigations

Total Investigations	481
Incendiary Fires	265
Arrests	57
Fire Fatalities	3
Arson Citations	5
Illegal Firework Citation	57

Fire Prevention

New Construction Inspection	5,715
Plan Reviews	5,369
Fire Inspections	7,759



Unit Counts

Engine Companies	19
Truck Companies	5
Squad Companies	4
Water Tenders	2
Patrols	3
Brush Engines	2
HazMat Units	2
USAR Heavy Rescue	1
Airport Rescue Vehicle	2

Fire Loss

All Fires	\$47.0 M
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All Other Incident Types

Total Loss	\$47.7 M
From Arson	\$7.2 M

Displaced Persons by Fire	508
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Fatalities

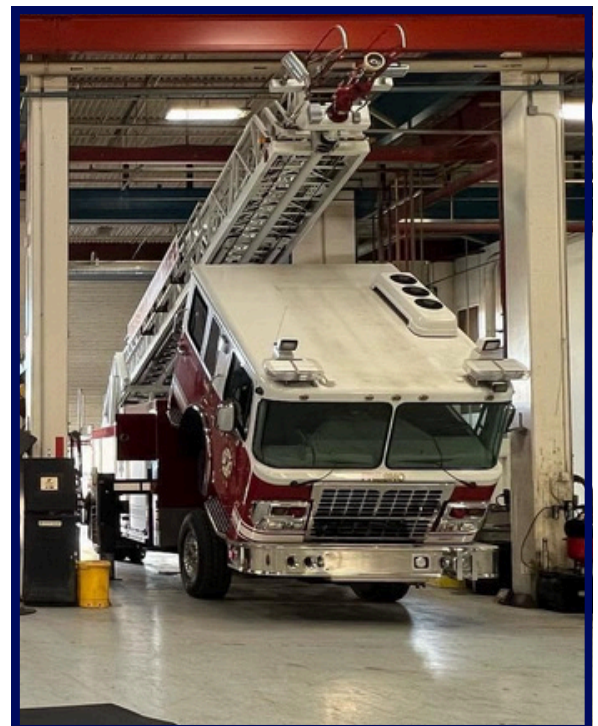
Civilian	3
Firefighter	0

Injuries

Civilian	12
Firefighter	138

Fire Shop

Repair Requests	4,669
Completed Requests	4,542



2023 ANNUAL STATISTICS

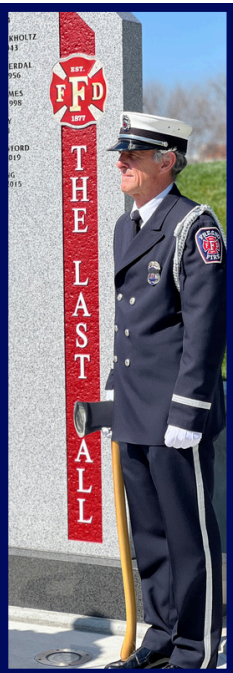
Incidents

Engine Companies	19
Truck Companies	5
Squad Companies	4
Water Tenders	2
Patrols	3
Brush Engines	2
HazMat Units	2
USAR Heavy Rescue	1
Airport Rescue Vehicle	2



Station Responses - 66,053

S01	5,648
S02	1,427
S03	7,941
S04	6,603
S05	5,708
S06	2,578
S07	2,778
S08	3,155
S09	5,233
S10	1,323
S11	4,670
S12	3,160
S13	2,718
S14	1,642
S15	2,431
S16	1,481
S17	1,030
S18	1,679
S19	2,558
S20	2,128
Airport	162



Company Responses - 60,311

Engine Companies	46,229
E01	3,398
E02	1,393
E03	3,869
E04	2,801
E05	3,186
E06	2,578
E07	2,709
E08	3,144
E09	3,145
E10	1,321
E11	2,928
E12	3,160
E13	2,692
E14	1,328
E15	2,416
E16	1,480
E17	1,019
E18	210
E19	1,825
E20	1,627

Truck Companies	5,879
T01	1,279
T03	1,241
T09	1,070
T11	1,010
T14 (Jan 01- Mar 09)	308
T18 (Mar 09 - Dec 31)	971

Squad Companies	8,203
SQ03	2,737
SQ04	1,926
SQ05	2,522
SQ09	1,018

Battalion Chiefs	3,335
BC01	885
BC02	985
BC03	874
BC04	591

Special Operations	3,200
Airport Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) Vehicles	162
BRS1 (Breathing Support)	62
CERT1 (Community Emergency Response Team)	9
HazMat Units	100
Investigations	592
P02 - Patrol	34
P07- Patrol	28
P14 - Patrol	100
P18 - Patrol	39
BE03 - Brush Engine	24
BE15 - Brush Engine	14
PIO1 - Public Information Officer	26
Heavy Rescue	144
Water Rescue	135
WT07 - Water Tender	41
WT13 - Water Tender	26
SAF1 - Safety Officer	1,664



FIRE SHOP/FLEET

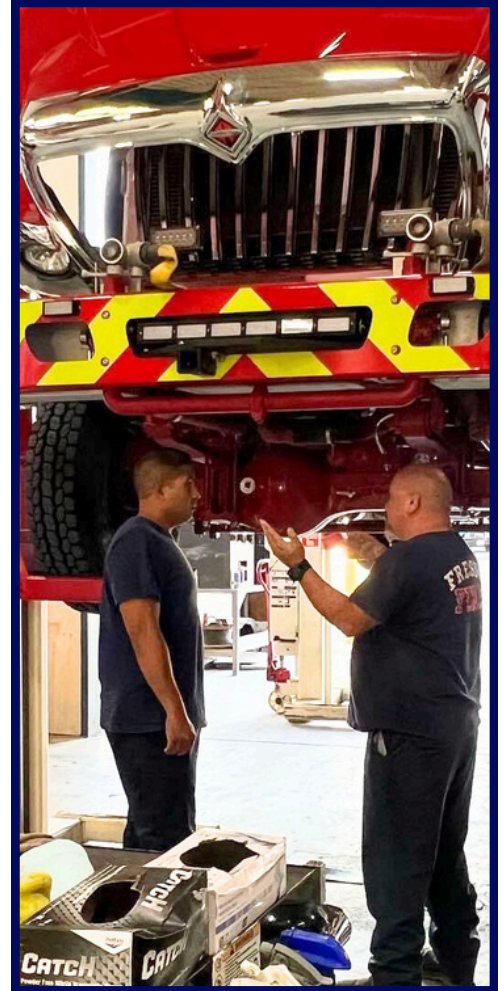
The Fire Shop/Fleet (Fire Shop) consists of 14 personnel and two supervisors who cover two shifts while operating 24/7 on-call services and support for the Fresno Fire Department. All the shop personnel participate in the on-call rotation, responding to after-hour service, repair, and breathing support requests. Over the last year, the Fire Shop has taken on maintaining and repairing all the light equipment support vehicles in-house, using outside vendors only when necessary. They are responsible for a diverse fleet of vehicles, consisting of:

- 81 light duty vehicles
- 71 medium/heavy duty vehicles and equipment
- 11 miscellaneous vehicles, including 6 trailers, 3 boats, and 2 ATVs

The Fire Shop also services and maintains countless small engines and other support equipment. In addition to their core responsibilities, they have taken significant steps to enhance collaboration with the Fire Department by holding monthly meetings. These meetings have become a valuable platform for sharing insights, addressing challenges, and aligning our efforts to better serve the Fire Department's needs.

Our team of highly skilled technicians and staff have continued to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and expertise. We take great pride in the fact that our repair shop remains a trusted partner for the Fire Department, ensuring the safety and reliability of their equipment. As in past years, we sent three members of the Fire Shop to Michigan for training on fire apparatus. Also, six mechanics were sent to State Fire Marshal training where they earned certifications in several areas of apparatus service and repair. All 14 of the Fire Shop personnel have Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications. During the last year, the Fire Shop completed 2,232 work orders (repair, maintenance, etc.) for fire apparatus requiring 16,293 mechanic hours to complete.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission of ensuring the readiness and safety of first responders. We will continue to invest in advanced technologies, expand our service offerings, and seek opportunities for strategic growth in the fire apparatus and equipment repair industry.



TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT



The Technical Support Unit is responsible for providing technology-related customer service to all members of the Fire Department. The two Computer Systems Specialists maintain and update all Department hardware and software while also providing necessary technical support. The Programmer/Analyst monitors Department data, including call volumes, response times, and incident types. They reports on any trends in the data, help answer questions, and support data-driven decision-making. The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist provides mapping solutions for pre-incident plans, coordinates and tracks hydrant maintenance and repair, and uses intelligent modeling to analyze call and station distribution, response areas, and other real-world scenarios involving incident and station relationships.

During the past year, the team has worked closely with a new software vendor to help the Department transition from various legacy reporting, inspection, and invoicing programs to a more modern, single, cloud-based platform. The transition has required a lot of communication, teamwork, and data sharing to keep the process moving forward. When the transition is complete, the team will continue to support users by administering the program.

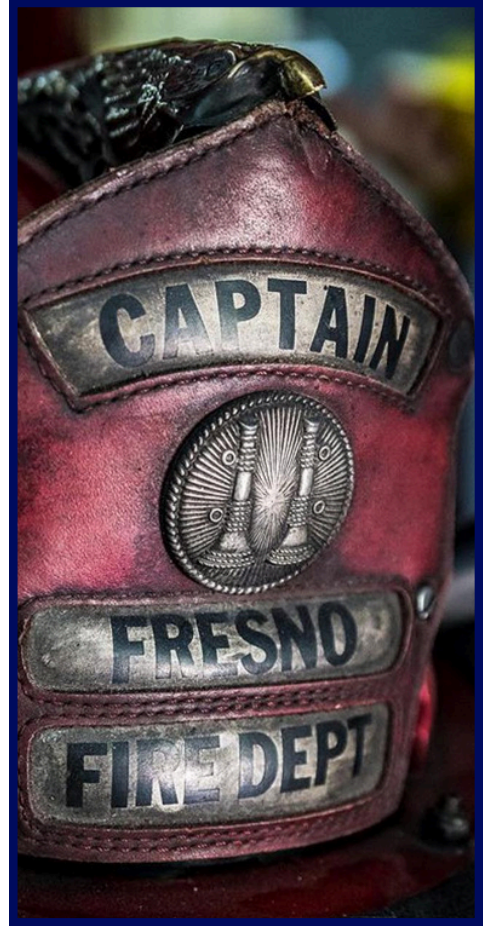
This team of technical employees enjoy working behind the scenes to support and promote the use of technology throughout the Department.

LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

In 2023, the Logistics and Support Services Division remained committed to ensuring firefighter safety as a top priority. Much of the work completed was geared toward achieving National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) compliance in numerous areas. Included in this commitment is our second Annual Nozzle Testing and Maintenance Program. NFPA 1962, the standard for care and inspection of fire hose appliances, outlines the recommended testing of our fire nozzles. In 2023, we completed annual testing of 446 fire hose nozzles, recognizing a 13.9 percent failure rate resulting in 62 nozzles failing. The maintenance team was able to replace the most critical nozzles and will repair or replace the remaining deficient nozzles within the calendar year.

This team went to bid for a new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) replacing our current aged and overused SCBAs. After a successful bid process, a vendor was selected, and we transitioned to the new MSA G1 SCBA in early 2024. This includes developing training for our members, fit testing for the new required mask, and developing the rollout of new SCBAs. The new SCBA will include exciting new technology such as integrated Bluetooth that directly pairs to our radios providing clearer radio transmissions on the fireground and an integrated Thermal Imaging Camera. This new technology will provide better fireground awareness for our firefighters all while increasing firefighter safety.

Additionally, the Logistics and Support Services Division developed a Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) inspection to meet the criteria of the advanced inspection outlined in NFPA 1851. A new purchase contract was developed and will allow the Department to replace outdated PPE that are reaching their expiration date. The plan is to replace 100 sets in Fiscal Year 24, and 100 sets Fiscal Year 25. With the installation of extractors at every fire station, our Department can exceed the recommendations of NFPA 1851 by allowing our members to perform advanced cleaning after their PPE is exposed to fires and toxic cancer-causing gasses. This not only significantly reduces our exposure to carcinogens but increases our efforts in firefighter safety and wellness.



FRESNO FIRE CHIEF'S FOUNDATION

The Fresno Fire Chief's Foundation (FFCF) is a non-profit organization established in 2004 by a group of caring community leaders and members of the FFD to address deficiencies in fire prevention, public education, community outreach, and unmet organizational needs. Through the programs offered and supported by the FFCF, the quality of life in this community is certainly enhanced. These programs consist of: "Helmets are Cool" which has provided over 20,000 helmets to the youth in our community; "Burn Aware" which has provided fire safety education to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students throughout the City of Fresno for nearly 40 years; and the "FFD Explorer Program" which provides young men and women the opportunity with insight into the firefighting profession. These are just a few of the programs that are supported by this foundation, and we are incredibly thankful for their continued support. For additional information about the work the FFCF has done in the community and for the FFD, please visit their website at www.beafirehero.org.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

The Fresno Fire Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program was established 21 years ago and has offered free emergency preparedness courses to community members since 2002. Its Firefighter Rehab Team volunteers receive specialized training and have provided logistical support and 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 to reduce exposure to cancer-causing contaminants. Since receiving its response vehicle in 2009, the FFD CERT Team has been deployed on 214 emergent, multi-alarm incidents, making them one of the most experienced teams in California, and a National Best Practice model for CERT programs in the United States.

The FFD CERT prides itself on supporting the foundational principle that "Everyone Goes Home Safe." Over the years, the dedicated volunteers have also provided 248 days of scheduled support for first responder and civic partner training events; participated in 46 emergency exercises; 95 community service events; and joined with our community partners to offer 158 no-cost continuing education classes to residents in the region. In 2023, the team supported three nights of multi-agency swift-water rescue training during the historic storms, the annual CalChiefs Training Officers (CATO) Symposium, Firefighter for a Day, firefighter candidate fitness testing, Girls Empowerment Camp, and numerous education and training events for youths and adults.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As we reflect on 2023, it brings us great pride to share the successes the Fresno Fire Department has had with Community Outreach. Our dedicated firefighters worked tirelessly to ensure that our community was safe, educated, and supported. We accomplished this by integrating ourselves within the local school districts to provide fire safety presentations, fire station tours, and other opportunities for students to work closely with members of the Fresno Fire Department. We were able to bring our community together through other programs such as Firefighters Creating Memories, toy drives, holiday parades, and so much more. Through these programs we were able to continue to foster strong connections with the individuals we serve and protect.



OUR MISSION: TO PROTECT AND PUT SERVICE ABOVE ALL ELSE

