

# Cartersville Fire Department



**2022 Annual Report**



# City of Cartersville

F I R E D E P A R T M E N T



1/13/2023

Greetings,

Within the following pages, we will attempt to take a brief review of 2022 for Cartersville Fire Department. You will find that while our request for help are ever demanding, we continue to strive for professionalism with purpose and passion. That is the Cartersville Fire way.

This past year was filled with challenges. We saw an increase in fires but some relief from the massive calls related to COVID. The department experienced growth with multiple promotions and new leadership in many positions. Operationally we experienced supply chain issues, worked to keep our personnel's health and safety in the forefront while placing new state of the art equipment into service.



I have the privilege of working with great citizens, a positive administration, and the greatest heroes I have ever known. The Firefighters of Cartersville. It is my humble honor to serve as your Fire Chief. I trust you will find this report comprehensive and complete. If I, or any of our staff can answer any questions concerning this report or anything to do with our department, Please do not hesitate to contact me.

With Respect, I Am,

Fire Chief

[scarter@cityofcartersville.org](mailto:scarter@cityofcartersville.org)

770-387-5635



# *Cartersville Fire Department*



## Senior Officers



Scott Carter  
Fire Chief



Hagen Champion  
Deputy Fire Chief



Heath Patterson  
Battalion Chief  
A Battalion



Tim McClung  
Battalion Chief  
B Battalion



Chad Hendrix  
Battalion Chief  
C Battalion



Mark Hathaway  
Fire Marshal



Tracey McFadden  
Training Chief



Michele Bledsoe  
Administrative  
Support





# Officers



Capt. Mitchell Bagley



Capt. Chris Edge



Capt. Eric Williams



Capt. Daniel Lanier



Capt. Matt Daniel



Capt. Michael Mitchell



Capt. Shannon Horn



Lt. J. Amerson



Lt. D. Crocker



Lt. M. Elrod



Lt. W. Gilmer



Lt. R. Gwin



Lt. M. Hyde



Lt. T. Key



Lt. H. Moore



Lt. J. Paschal



Lt. C. Sutton



Lt. A. Swancy



## Insurance Service Organization (I.S.O.)

Part of our mission statement says, "Above all WE." This is truly what it takes to receive, and maintaining a Class 1 ISO rating. From the front-line firefighter, senior staff, city administration, elected officials, Water Department, and most importantly, our citizens. ISO uses a rating scale of 10 to 1 based on a variety of scoring criteria. The Cartersville Fire Department was a Class 5 in 1976, Class 4 in 1981, Class 3 in 2004 and obtained a Class 1 rating in 2015. An ISO Class 1 represents an exemplary fire suppression program, that goes to the top level in providing service to its citizens. By receiving this renewal of Class One rating, the Cartersville Fire Department puts its name along side on 1% of the finest departments in America. With this rating, the City of Cartersville becomes a very attractive place for new industry and commercial growth.

The Insurance Service Organization conducted its survey in March of 2019, just as the department began recognizing a new threat to our community. Covid-19. There were areas of improvements in our score. Our communication score increased 3 points, or 45%. This is a direct result of the investment our citizens made with the new radio and computer aided dispatch system that was funded through S.P.L.O.S.T. The Community Risk Reduction increased as all from 5.47 to 5.49, just one 1 hundredth of a point from a perfect score. This score is calculated on criteria relating to Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement, Public Fire Safety Education, and Fire Investigation Programs. The overall score for the Cartersville Fire Department was 91.95 out of a possible 105.5.

Category	Possible Points	2015	2020	Difference
Emergency Communications	10	6.62	9.65	3.03
FD Engine Company	6	6	6	0.00
Reserve Pumpers	0.5	0.42	0.5	0.08
Pump Capacity	3	3	3	0.00
Ladder Service	4	3.96	2.84	-1.12
Reserve Ladder/Service	0.5	0.46	0.45	-0.01
Deployment Analysis	10	9.96	8.42	-1.54
Company Personnel	15	11.43	9.44	-1.99
Training	9	8.64	8.48	-0.16
Operational Considerations	2	2	2	0.00
Water Supply System	30	29.11	28.46	-0.65
Water Hydrants	3	2.99	2.99	0.00
Water Inspection and Flow Testing	7	7	7	0.00
Divergence		-1.2	-2.77	-1.57
Community Risk	5.5	5.47	5.49	0.02
	<b>105.5</b>	<b>95.86</b>	<b>91.95</b>	<b>-3.91</b>

Class 1 rating is one of the factors used to determine fire insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses. The premiums are based on the quality of service and fire protect available. This top rating, means City of Cartersville property owners could get the lowest premium possible in that area of insurance. According to the ISO, “a community’s investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire loss.”

For the City of Cartersville citizens, business owners, and visitors to Cartersville a Class 1 rating demonstrates:

1. Quick response to community needs
2. Risk mitigation at the highest possible standard
3. A stellar commitment to preserve life, property and environment.

As we look to the future, the Cartersville Fire Department is committed to provide a high level of service to is citizens through new and innovative ways, maintaining a strong working relationship with city officials, administration, and departments. “Above all WE will prevent, protect and provide with professionalism, purpose and passion.” Now and into the future.

# THANK YOU

Centersville Fire Department, 11/17/22  
Our sincerest thanks + gratitude  
for your truly heroic act on  
November 3, 2022. Seeing the  
smoke, activating your team +  
quickly responding saved our home!  
Eternally grateful!

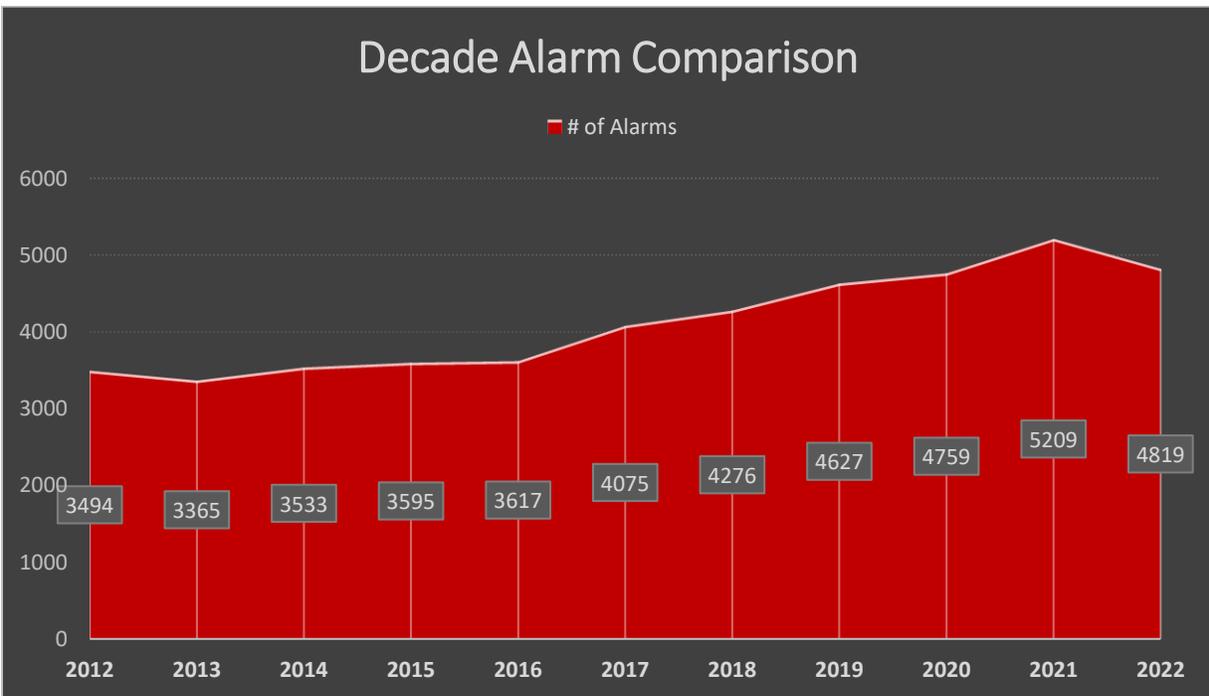


## 2022 Alarm Response



Emergency response for 2022 showed a small decrease in alarms due to the decline in Covid and the reduction of Automatic Aid response. While alarms decreased by 14.7 percent for medical response, we saw an increase in Structure Fires by 52 percent.

We responded on average 13.20 times per day in 2022 to provide service to the community. Our department answered 4819 calls for service to the citizens, guests, and other local agencies. Within that total, 2355 of those alarms required multiple pieces of equipment.



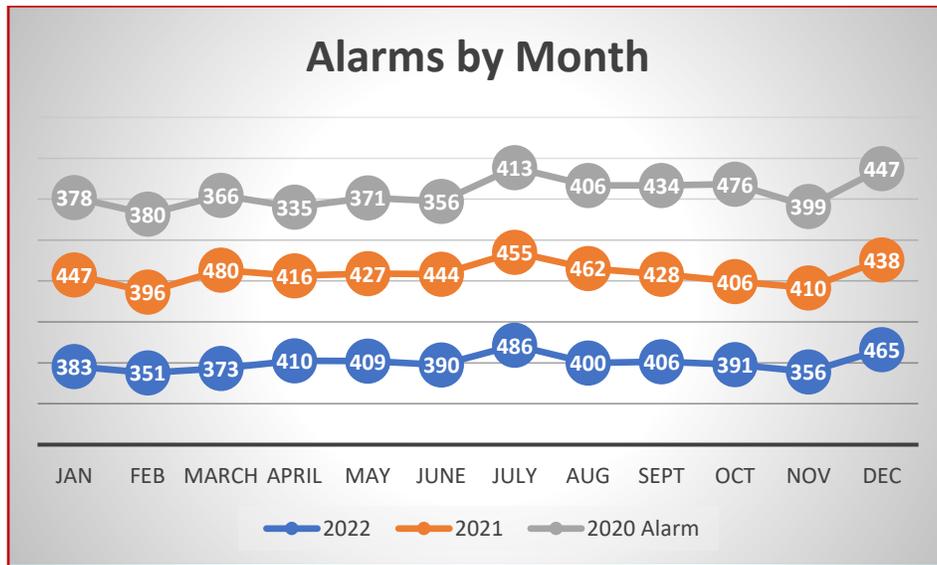


## 2021 to 2022 Alarm Comparison

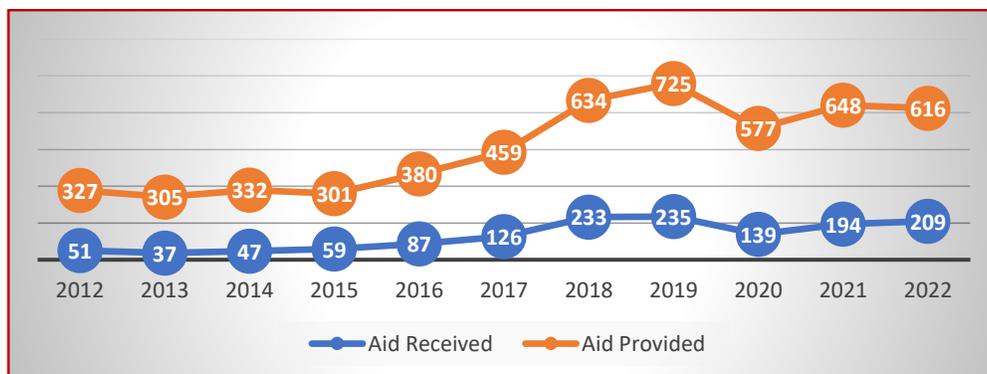
Cartersville Fire Alarm Types	2021	2022	% of Change
1. Private Dwellings	13	14	
2. Apartments	1	6	
4. All Other Residential	2	3	
5. TOTAL RESIDENTIAL FIRES	17	23	+ 35%
9. Stores and Offices	4	5	
10. Industry/Utility/Defense/Labs/Manufacturing	1	3	
12. Other Structures	0	2	
13. TOTAL STRUCTURE FIRES	23	35	+52%
14. Highway Vehicles	19	24	
15. Non-Structure/Non-Vehicle	5	8	
16. Brush/Grass/Wildland	12	34	
19. TOTAL FOR FIRES	95	131	+37%
20. Rescue/Emergency Medical Responses	3,090	2636	-14.7%
22. Mutual Aid Given	648	616	-5%
23a. Hazmat Responses	66	76	
23b. Other Hazardous Responses	55	75	
24. All Other Responses	950	930	
25. TOTAL FOR ALL INCIDENTS	5,205	4817	-7.5%

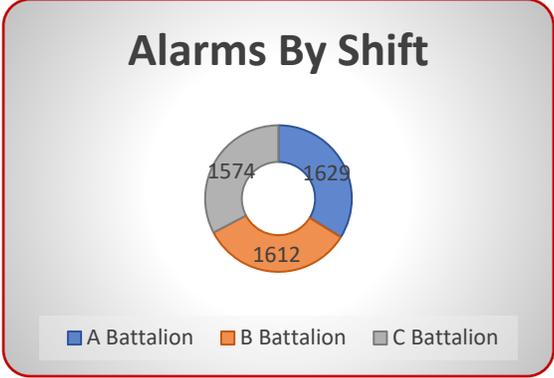
As the above chart reflects, we have seen an increase in fires in all areas throughout the city. With the increase in population density and construction of new buildings brings an increase in the number of fire incidents we will see. While Covid surged medical alarm response in 2021 to increase alarm response totals, we look at overall trends in alarms and outside of Covid we have increased in all areas.

Below you will see a month-by-month comparison for calls. Our busiest month in 2022 was the month of July with 486 alarms. This marks the busiest month alarm total in the history of the department. February was the slowest for 2022 with 351 alarms. On average, we responded to 401 alarms each month.

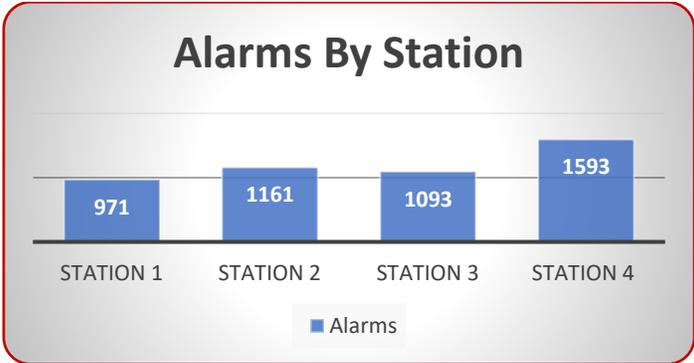


In addition to assisting the citizens and guests within the City of Cartersville, our department also responds to the request of other agencies outside of our city. The department has an automatic / mutual aid agreement with Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services. In 2022, Cartersville Fire answered requests from Bartow County 616 times with Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services assisting the city on 209 alarms.





Cartersville Fire Department currently operates four fire stations on a three-shift rotation basis. Each shift is 24 hours. A Battalion answered the most alarms with 1629 calls for assistance while B Battalion answered 1612 and C Battalion 1574 respectively. This chart above reflects the breakdown of alarms by shift for 2022.



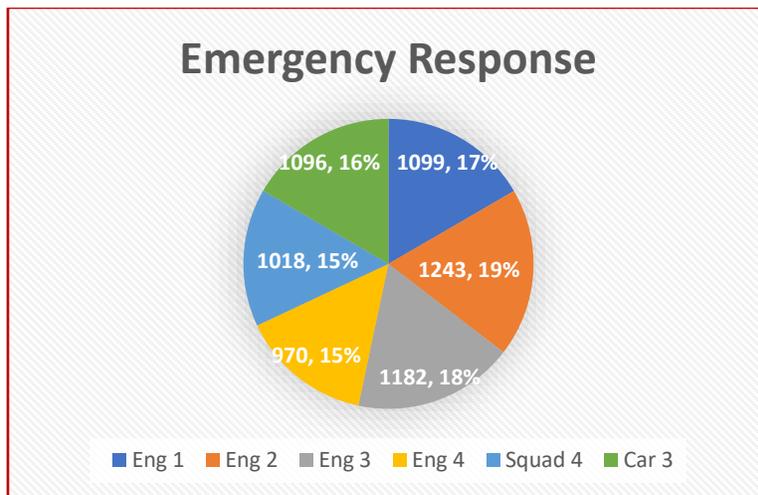
Station #4 located on MLK Jr. Drive continues to be the busiest station in the city. The remaining three stations are about equal on calls. Station 2 remains the busiest single company station in the city mainly due to automatic aid calls with Bartow County. Station 3 was the only station to increase call volume over 2021 within the city and that is mainly due to the growth on the west side of the city and the new developments along Old Alabama Rd in the Carter Grove and River Shoals subdivisions.





Station 4 was the busiest station with Station 1 responding to the most Structure fires at rate of 42.85%. Station 2 responded to the most vehicle fires with an increase in vehicle fires up 28%. Station 2 and 4 responded to the most vehicle accidents with injury accounting for 65.5 % of all calls of this type.

The busiest engine company in the city in 2022 was Engine #2. The chart below reflects the response numbers for all apparatus. Engine 3 responded to the most medical calls in 2022 contributing to the only increase in call volume for any Engine Company in 2022.



#### Other interesting facts from 2022:

- The average Response time for Cartersville Fire was 5 minutes and 17 seconds for emergency calls.
- It takes an average of 1 minute and 19 seconds for fire personnel to go in route once we receive the call from 911.
- We average 13.20 calls per day in 2022 with Friday being the busiest day and Sunday being the slowest.
- Our busiest time of day is between 4 and 5 PM
- There was 1 civilian injury resulting from fires and 1 fatality.
- Total fire loss in 2022 was 2.8 million dollars compared to a total value of saved property being 54.2 million dollars.



2022  
At Glance



# OUR MISSION

*Above all we prevent,  
protect and provide*



*with professionalism,  
purpose and passion*

**Above All**- above all of the noise, distractions, doubt, obstacles and challenges our focus will remain.

**We**- not I, not me, but us, we will reach our mission together in one accord

**Prevent**- prevention is key, we will strive to educate, properly enforce codes, stop death and destruction before it can occur to make our community safer for our Citizens and guest.

**Protect**- using our training, experience, courage and knowledge. We will stand in harm's way to battle fires and disasters facing our community.

**Provide**- service to our community addressing needs with dedication and compassion.

**With**- all of this will be done with

**Professionalism**- competence, skillfulness and efficiency. Not allowing minimum standards to be our maximum. We will strive to be an industry leader and example.

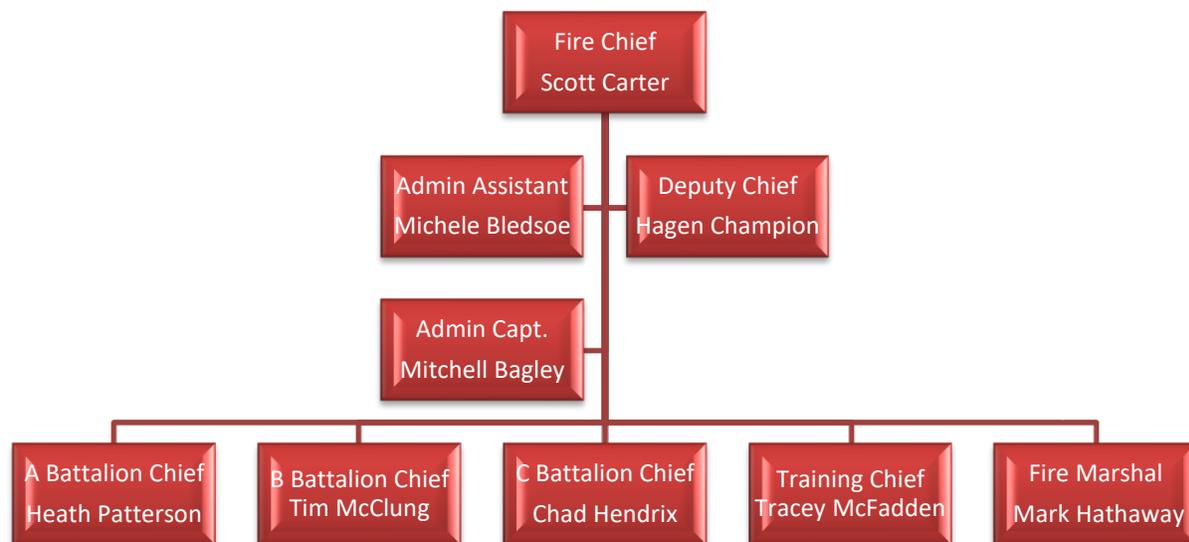
**Purpose**- knowing that we have been created to fulfill a calling of service and sacrifice. We are here for a reason.

**Passion**- this is our compelling desire to be firefighters, to walk where others will not go. To believe and to belong with enthusiasm.

## We

The mission statement for Cartersville Fire Department begins with the words, "Above All We". This organization's foundation is the "We". For in the fire service there is no individual, everything is based on the team concept. From the tailboard to the front office, this organization is driven by a "We" approach.

Cartersville Fire Department is a span of control type organization. Our department is broken into different subgroups that all work toward one mission. There are three primary divisions. All under the control of the Fire Chief. The three Primary divisions are Suppression, Fire Marshal Division and Training Division. While each group has specific tasks and goals that are specialized, they all work in harmony to create a positive outcome.



Cartersville Fire Department is made up of a staff of 75 personnel positions. This includes 22 positions per day working a 24 hours on duty, 48 hours off duty schedule. They cover four stations and 7 pieces of first response emergency apparatus. The remaining 8 positions cover administration, Fire Marshal division and training division.

Becoming a firefighter is not an easy task. An individual interested in becoming a firefighter must be at least 18 years of age, graduated high school or obtained a GED, and must have a clean criminal history with no felony convictions, along with meeting additional selection criteria as established by Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council. On an annual basis, Cartersville Fire Department will conduct a competitive hiring assessment. This is based on background, qualification screening, physical agility testing, comprehensive testing, and a series of interviews from City of Cartersville Human Resources, Cartersville Fire Administration, and staff.



From the time that applications are received, the process to select new firefighters can take up to six months because this is such an extensive process. Once a firefighter pool is established, it is maintained as a hiring pool for the department for a specific period.

Once a firefighter candidate is selected, they will begin an extensive education and certification path. This will begin with a rookie school where all basic aspects of the firefighter profession are covered. Everything from the history of firefighting and Cartersville Fire to fire chemistry, rescue operations, incident command, hazardous materials, and emergency medical response. Rookie school is a minimum of 12 weeks and 500 plus hours of instruction. They then must meet an aggressive educational track for the first 48 months to reach many national certifications in firefighting, special operations, and emergency medical technician. Cartersville Fire's career path will guide a firefighter through all positions within the department from day 1.





In 2022, Cartersville Fire Department has welcomed four new firefighters to the ranks. They have begun their career of dedication and service. They are now learning their part of “We”.



FF E. Horton



FF M. Miller



FF A. Sambor



FF D. Sanford

There were promotions to new leadership positions within our department in 2022. There were fourteen total promotions within the ranks of our leadership. Three new Sergeants took charge of the equipment and safety of our personnel. Their role is critical to the success of all our emergency operations.



Sgt. D. Dodson



Sgt. A. Dutton

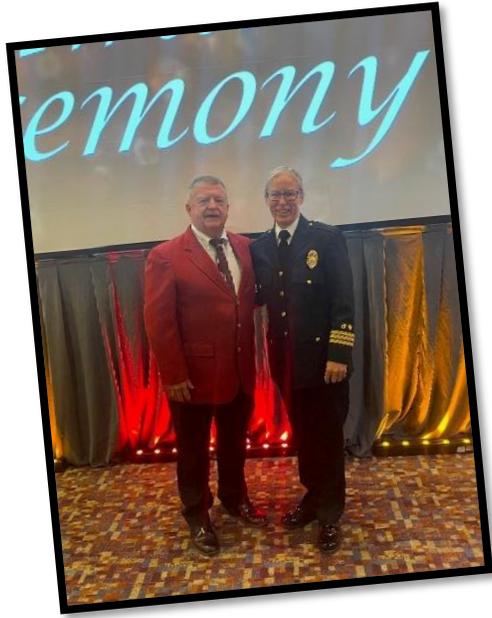


Sgt. A. Powell

We saw the promotion of a new Training Chief. Chief McFadden is the first female officer in the history of Cartersville Fire Department to reach a Senior Level Position. She brings strong organizational skills and professionalism to a division that is critical to the overall success of Cartersville Fire Department. Capt. Chris Edge also transferred to the training division bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge.



We had the retirement of our Training Chief Ronnie Cowart. This was a loss of experience, but Chief Cowart left behind a legacy of service to this department and this community. It is with a humble heart that we say thank you to Ronnie Cowart.



Ronnie Cowart

Cartersville Fire Department began in 1889. Since day one, it has been about protecting, saving lives, and keeping this great community safe. There have been many changes since that day. Through all the changes, there has always been “We” with an above all attitudes.



## 2022 Training

### “TRAINING and DEVELOPMENT”

- the continuous process of improving skills, gaining knowledge, clarifying concepts, and changing attitude through structured and planned education by which the productivity and performance of the employees can be enhanced.



The Cartersville Fire Department’s training division is supported by Training Division Chief Tracey McFadden and Training Captain Chris Edge. With over 45 years’ experience and knowledge to the men and women of CFD. The goal is to create and maintain a sustainable annual firefighter training program that meets the requirements of the fire service, and more importantly the needs and requirements of Cartersville Fire Department and the residents of the City of Cartersville.

In 2022, the total training hours for all CFD members was 20477.36. This averaged 276 hours per person.

This comprised of:

- Company Training – 12803 Total departmental company training hours
- Driver Training – 1080 Total departmental driver training hours
- Officer Training – 490 Total departmental officer training hours
- Facilities Training – 1557 Total departmental facilities training hours
- Hazardous Materials Training – 733 Total departmental hazmat training hours
- Georgia Fire Academy Classes - 2760 Total hours
- EMS Recertification Training – 1260 Total departmental training hours (not including the hours personnel spent in Emergency Medical Technician school)

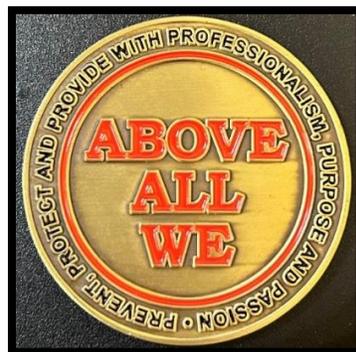


The Training Division offered the following programs:

- 80-hour Hybrid NPQ Firefighter II Course
- 64 Hour Fire Apparatus Operator Course
- 8 Hour Pump Service Testing Course
- 16 Hour Aerial Apparatus Course
- 24 Hour Firefighter Safety and Survival Course
- Annual CFD Swift Water Operations Training
- Annual CFD Extrication Training
- CFD Trench Awareness Training
- Acquired Structure Search and Rescue Drills
- Acquired Structure Tactical Ventilation and Forcible Entry Drills
- Vent, Enter, Isolate, and Search Drills
- MAYDAY Drills
- Cartersville Fire Department new Aerial Apparatus Familiarization Training
- 56 Hour Medical First Responder Course
- 4-hour American Heart Association Basic Life Support course



In 2023, in addition to our regular training schedule, our focus will be on expanding the Department's Live Fire training program, improving, and building upon our current departmental Fire Officer training program, and continue to incorporate both knowledge and skills-based training and education to improve the proficiency of our firefighters. This is to ensure that all firefighters have the skills and abilities to perform their best when we arrive on scent to assist with someone else's worst.





## 2022 Specialty Teams

### Emergency Response Team - GSAR

The Cartersville Fire Department created the Emergency Response Team known as the ERT Team in 1990 with the anticipation for the need for more advanced specialty training in low frequency, high-risk emergencies within the City of Cartersville and Bartow County. In 2005 the Cartersville became one of the founding members of Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Task Force 6 the members of this team have completed hundreds of hours of technical rescue training in multiple disciplines to include Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Structure Collapse. Within the last year the membership of ERT Team has seen one of its founding members, Captain Chris Edge step down from an operational role since taking a position with the training division and six new members added. In addition, the team has also added the Swift Water Technician to the disciplines, and have had six members successfully



complete this training in the last year. The ERT Team also conducted multiple training exercises within the department as well as with GSAR TF 6 to include, Confined Space Rescue Exercise conducted at the Cartersville Bartow Joint Training Center, Trench Rescue Exercise in conjunction with a Department Trench Operations level class at Sam Smith Park located on Douthit Ferry Road. Members of the Team also added a Cave Rescue Exercise in Walker Co. with other members of GSAR TF 6 and SAR Teams. Among multiple training exercises team members deployed 6 times in 2022 to Chattooga County, White County, and Dawson County for High Angle Rescues, Search and Rescue and Missing Persons with GSAR TF 6 and also rostered a team to deploy to Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.

## Hazardous Materials Team

The Cartersville-Bartow Haz-Mat Team was originated in 2002 originally under the Bartow County EMA Office. The team was put in place to assist Bartow County and the City of Cartersville in mitigation of Hazardous Materials Incidents within the county. Members from both departments come together to handle emergencies dealing with Hazardous Material Incidents when the team is activated by one of the departments. The team has also been requested by other jurisdictions to assist with incidents in the past due to the expanded capabilities of the team.

Members of the Haz-Mat team are required to be trained to the level of Hazardous Materials Technician. The process requires a member to complete as 80 hour Hazardous Materials Training Course, National Professional Qualification Testing (NPQ) and meet department selection criteria. Team members are required to attend monthly training and two 8-hour drills annually. Hazardous Materials Technicians are required to have 8 hours of recertification training annually to be compliant with OSHA.



Joint training for the team is conducted every even month and odd month training is conducted by the City of Cartersville for the entire department. Each training covers different topics and allows members to work with monitors, specialized tools and other equipment related to Hazardous Material Mitigation. Drills are conducted in the spring and fall of each year and focus on a hazards within the City or County. The team will work directly with a business and simulate an incident which would require a team activation and the response of the team.

The Cartersville Bartow Haz-Mat Team was activated twice within the city in the past 12 months. Team members stay prepared for any type response and continue to work as a team to serve the community.

THANK  
YOU

Thank you for all you do to serve and protect our community. We are thankful for each of you and the commitment you show each day.



## Fire Marshal 2022

### Public Education

Public fire safety education is a very important part of our fire prevention efforts and much emphasis was put into it throughout the year. In 2022, we had a total of **3270** participants in the various fire safety programs, almost 3 times the 2021 number. These programs include Fire Safety House demonstrations, fire station tours and puppet show, fire extinguisher classes, and other various civic functions. Another important public safety program is our free smoke alarms. Any city resident that cannot afford to purchase their own smoke alarms can receive two (2) free at any city fire station. Also, those needing help with installation can get assistance from fire personnel if requested. In 2022, Cartersville Fire



distributed **31** smoke alarms to the citizens of Cartersville.

These units are equipped with a 10-year lithium battery that is good for the life of the alarm. Smoke alarms, regardless of type, should be replaced after 10 years. These new smoke alarms eliminate the need to replace the battery annually, though monthly testing is still necessary. CFD encourages the use of carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in addition to smoke alarms.

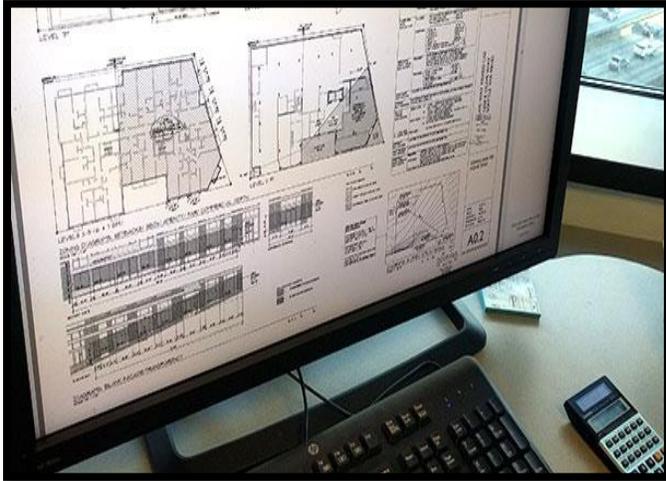
CO detectors should also be tested monthly and replaced after seven (7) years.

### Facts and figures about smoke alarms

- In 2014-2018, smoke alarms sounded in more than half (54%) of the home fires reported to U.S. fire departments.
- Almost three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms (41%) or no working smoke alarms (16%).
- The death rate per 1,000 reported home fires was more than twice as high in homes that did not have any working smoke alarms compared to the rate in homes with working smoke alarms (13.0 deaths vs. 5.8 deaths per 1,000 fires).
- In fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, two of every five (41%) of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries.
- Dead batteries caused one-quarter (26%) of the smoke alarm failures.

Source: NFPA's "Smoke Alarms in US Home Fires" report

## Inspections



The Cartersville Fire Prevention staff continues to follow the mission of serving the community through protection of lives and property by providing public safety education and a large part of this is done through fire and life safety code compliance. During these code compliance inspections, our inspectors also educate the Cartersville business community on how to better protect their business, employees, and

patrons from the dangers of fire by staying fire and life safety code compliant. This element of education is paramount to effective code compliance within our business community.

In 2022, we saw an increase in the number of new building projects including a huge boost in residential buildings, single-family and apartments. This includes almost 1000 units of apartments in four new apartment complexes in addition to around 900 new single-family homes in new subdivisions. There was a 300% increase in the number of new building projects and plan reviews with a total of 139 approved plans and 18 projects still pending approval for a total of 157 plan reviews. We instituted an electronic plan review process in order to keep up with the number of plans, decrease turnaround time, and reduce paper. This process is used for all building, fire sprinkler, fire alarm, and specialty systems plan reviews. The civil plan review process has not transitioned to electronic yet.

There has been a significant decrease in the overall inspections performed over the last year for several reasons such as Covid, the increase in plan reviews, new business inspections, and new construction inspections. In 2022, Cartersville Fire Prevention personnel performed **408** recorded inspections and an additional **720** miscellaneous inspections for a total of **1128** inspections.

## Investigations

All members of the prevention division were deputized by Safety Fire Commissioner King as fire investigators at the 2022 Georgia Firefighters Recognition Day. This gives Cartersville fire prevention personnel greater responsibility in the field of fire investigations and allows us to perform these investigations as a representative for the state of Georgia in facilities that fall under state jurisdiction.



Cartersville Fire investigators performed **24** origin and cause investigations in 2022. These causes are broken down as follows: **11-Accidental**; 4- electrical, 1-unattended cooking, 1-unattended candle, 2-careless smoking, 2- overheating, 1- mechanical issue, **1-Natural** – lightning strike, **4- Undetermined**, **8-Incendiary with 2 arrests**. Unfortunately, we did experience one fire death in 2022.

Fire suppression and prevention crews have worked very well over the last 12 months and have maintained a good line of communication between the two divisions.

### Fire Prevention Division Activities

### Number of Participants

<u>Fire Prevention Division Activities</u>		<u>Number of Participants</u>	
Fire Investigations	<b>24</b>	<b>Outreach Events</b>	
<i>Accidental- electrical</i>	4	Station Visits	10 <b>498</b>
<i>Accidental- cooking</i>	1	Truck Visits	3 <b>125</b>
Accidental-overheating	2	<i>Fire Ext. classes</i>	8 <b>167</b>
<i>Accidental- candle</i>	1	<i>Tellus Heavy Metal</i>	<b>2550</b>
<i>Accidental- mechanical</i>	1	<i>Fire Safety House</i>	2 <b>46</b>
Accidental- smoking	2	<i>Monthly Radio spot</i>	<b>6</b>
Natural- lightning	1	<i>Safety Talks</i>	2 <b>45</b>
<i>Incendiary-</i>	8 (2 arrests)		
<i>Undetermined</i>	4		
School Inspections	<b>12</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3270</b>
School Fire Drills	<b>12</b>		
Plan Approvals	<b>139</b>	<i>9/11 Run to Remember 5K</i>	\$12,500.00
Temporary Sign-Off	<b>71</b>	<i>GFBF Boot Drive</i>	\$23,657.83
Fire Safety Checklist	<b>71</b>		
Knox Boxes	<b>24</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,157.83</b>
Fireworks Permits	<b>5</b>		
Fireworks Inspections	<b>5</b>		
Risk Assessment	<b>17</b>		
Smoke Alarms	<b>31</b>		
Burn Permits	<b>1</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>428</b>		



2022  
CFD Family Day



## Honor Guard 2022

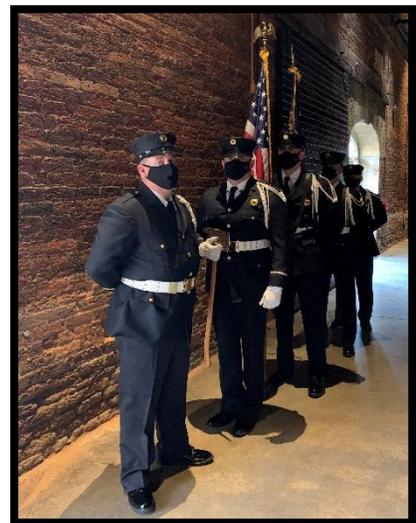
The Honor Guard has dual roles within the fire service. Firstly, funeral details which bring formality and ceremony to the services of fallen public safety personnel; the team pays tribute to a life of service. There are a variety of ceremonial traditions that can be provided to the family during the wake and funeral to honor their loved one. This will hopefully provide the family strength in their time of loss, knowing that the fallen firefighter's contribution to the community was revered. Secondly, the



Honor Guard participates in ceremonies, meetings, and special events for the fire service and within the community. These details allow the department to exhibit the pride and professionalism that goes into our chosen career. For many citizens, the Honor Guard may be the first impression of our department.

The Honor Guard carries the torch for many fire service traditions paying respect to the service and those that have served. The team is comprised of department members who have been called to volunteer. There is no recognition of rank within the team, and all members are equal. The leadership positions are voted on yearly by all team members. This is due to the selfless nature of the Honor Guard rank, and recognition would detract from the intent. Honor Guard members are called to service for others, not themselves, representing Cartersville Fire Department and the fire service.

The past year has been filled with opportunities to provide Honor Guard services within our department, the community, and a few higher profile details in the state of Georgia, as well as at the National Fire Academy. In 2022, the Cartersville Fire Department Honor Guard took part in eight details. The Honor Guard kicked off the year with a presentation of the colors at the Georgia State Firefighters Association Firefighter Recognition Ceremony & Legislative Appreciation Dinner in Atlanta, GA.



The next detail allowed the team to work with Spin for Special Ops to honor fallen soldiers and law enforcement officers. The team presented the colors during the opening ceremony for a fund-raising event to support the Special Operations/Law Enforcement Bike Ride held at Anheuser-Busch. This detail involved combining with the Bartow County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard to form a joint unit to facilitate the presentation.

The Honor Guard had the pleasure of being invited to several recurring details throughout the year. One of these details was to present the colors for the Cartersville Chamber of Commerce Luncheon; the team had the privilege of doing this detail twice in 2022. Additionally, the team rang the 5-5-5 bell and read the associated meaning of the ceremony at the Parnick Jennings Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon. Subsequently, the September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial 5K Run has become a large event that allows the community and the department to come together for a great cause. The event is outstanding and still growing; the team was proud to present the colors at the starting line while the National Anthem was played prior to the beginning of the race.



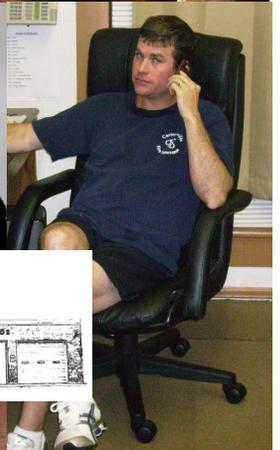
The team's big event this year came when invited by the National Fire Academy to participate in National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend at the campus in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The team had the opportunity to participate in events that weekend with Honor Guards from around the nation. Our team was included in the rotation of guarding the Fallen Firefighter Memorial and in the Fallen Firefighter Ceremony, where former Chief Otis Chupp and his family were honored, and his name was added to the memorial monument.

Near the end of the year, our team was called upon for the funeral detail to honor Retired Fire Chief Greg Echols of the Summerville Fire Department. The Honor Guard folded the U.S. Flag at the grave site and handed the flag off to the current Fire Chief, who could then give it to the immediate family. It was a privilege to be able to provide our service to a fellow fire department in their time of need.

Overall, 2022 has provided many opportunities for the Cartersville Fire Department to offer its services when called upon. The Honor Guard has proven to be a professional team that has extended the influence and reputation of the Cartersville Fire Department far beyond our city. The team will continue to stand up when needed to provide honor and respect for those that have gone before and execute with professionalism in any event in which they are serving.



Yesterday



## 2022 Water Supply

The Etowah River served the Etowah Indians a thousand years ago in providing fish, bath water and means of travel. They farmed its rich flood plains and enjoyed and used its wide channel to the south of their ceremonial grounds, as a defense. Today, the Allatoona Dam, harnesses its waters to produce power, used as a cooling agent for Plant Bowens generating equipment, high quality water for drinking, and hundreds of other uses.

In 1889, the Cartersville Water System was developed as the private Water Works company by the firm of Jeter and Boardman, at a cost of \$2500 a year (\$50 per year for each fire hydrant on the system. It consisted of a large spring just downstream of the Thompson-



Weinman Dam on the Etowah, two stream driven pumps capable of delivering a total of 1.4 million gallons per day, a water tower with a capacity of 125,000 gallons, and water mains installed throughout the city. There were 50 hydrants installed in the original system. The average domestic pressure was 70 psi.

On April 29, 1893, city voters elected to issue \$45,000 bonds to purchase the system from Cartersville Water Works (Jeter & Boardman.) 365 votes for and 2 votes against. Bonds were issued at 5%, due July 1923. John E. Wikle was named Water Works Superintendent, with a set salary of \$50 a month. Currently the system was providing to 71 customers. Any bill remaining unpaid ten days will render the customer liable to have the water cut off, and if this occurred, they would be charged .50 cents for the work of turning the water on again.

In September 1945 construction of the Allatoona Dam would begin, that started the process of shaping the City of Cartersville Water Department, into what it has become today. Weideman and Singleton Engineers were contracted to design and build a filter plant expansion. This would double plant capacity from 1 million gallons a day, to 2 million gallons a day. New additions would be, a new river suction line, new pumps, sedimentation basin, and an additional storage tank at a cost of \$188,400.

In 1966 the city entered a contract with U.S. Army Corps of engineers to receive water from the Lake Allatoona Reservoir.

Today The City of Cartersville Water Department treats water and provides it to its customers in a 28 square mile service area. It provides a high- quality drinking water to 22,626 residents and well as reliable service to large in industry in our community. Over 4 billion gallons of high-quality water was distributed last year.



The Cartersville Fire Department and the City of Cartersville Water Department has had a long-standing relationship in maintaining the water system through a variety of programs that have been implemented, maintenance, hydrant flows, and repairs.

Maintenance of hydrants on the system is carried out twice a year by Cartersville Fire Department personnel. Every hydrant is visual inspected, caps removed to ensure function, greased, and oiled, for easy operation; and cleaned around to provide good assess to the hydrant, during an emergency. In 2022, we made 2,873 visits to complete the maintenance portion of the program, once in the Spring and once in the fall.

Hydrant flow tests are conducted to measure real world pressure and flow in the water system. Hydrant flow tests are required for fire sprinkler design and water modeling purposes. They are generally known as “fire flow tests” as the highest demands on the system occur when fighting a fire. Each hydrant is tested on a 5-year rotation to determine water flow capability and painted according to NFPA Standards.

- GPM flow 0-499 Red
- GPM flow 500-999 Orange
- GPM flow 1000-1499 Green
- GPM flow 1500+ Blue

This information not only has a critical bearing on the cities ISO score, but it also alerts firefighters to the amount of water available in the event of an emergency.

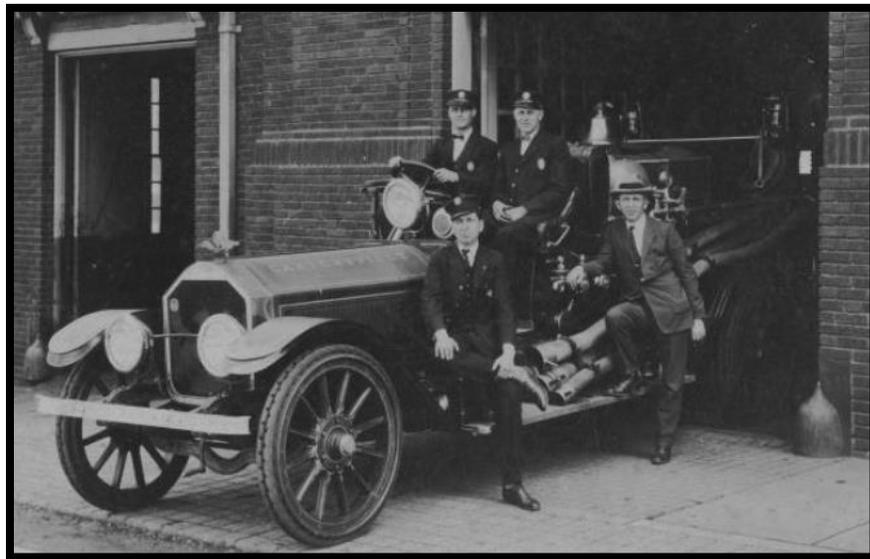
There were 276 hydrants flow tested this year by fire department personnel.



Several issues were identified and corrected during both our maintenance visits and flow activities, and where corrected. These include, hydrants struck by vehicle, stem broke, missing caps, and other various issues. These were corrected quickly and efficiently.



Since the inception of the Water Department in 1888, and the creation of the Cartersville Fire Department in 1889, the two departments have strived to maintain the system for water delivery and fire protection. With the many changes in our community, we will both continue to ensure that the system will meet the challenges of the future, for our citizens. We've come a long way from 50 hydrants!



# THANK YOU

Thank you for all you do for Cartersville. I appreciate you so much.

I love my small town -

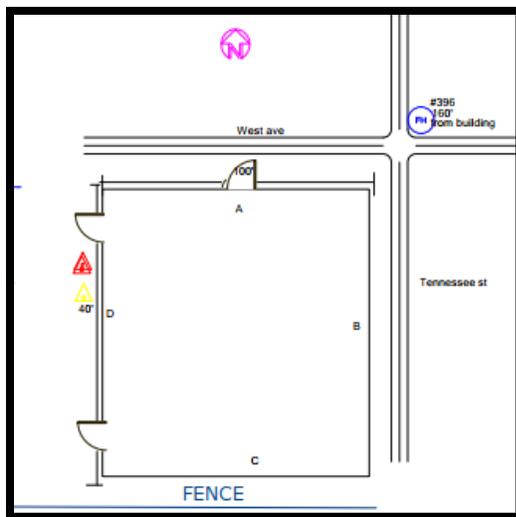
May the Lord always be with you and protect you -



## 2022 Pre-Incident Planning

The City of Cartersville Fire Department utilizes a process known as “pre fire planning and inspection” to help increase safety when an incident arises within our jurisdiction. Pre fire planning and inspection is the process of gathering and recording information that could be critical for firefighters making life-saving decisions at an incident. Property and lives can be saved when firefighters have access to this critical information about the building and its contents. The inspection also identifies conditions that may be hazardous to occupants (i.e., cluttered or blocked exits and improper storage of flammable materials or liquids) and ensures life safety features of a building are in proper working condition.

Major components of a pre-fire plan should include: The layout of the building and surrounding property, including parking lot entrances, building entrances, building key box location, hydrant locations, nearby structures, utility shut off and any hazards to firefighters during an operation.



To increase our readiness for possible emergency incidents in the community, our firefighters visit businesses each year throughout the City of Cartersville to develop pre fire plans. The purpose of these plans is to record information about businesses in advance so that firefighters will know the best way to extinguish a fire in a particular building or handle other emergency situations. The transfer of critical information to firefighters can guide their response to a fire incident

and improve their response capabilities, which may ultimately save lives and reduce property damage and business interruption.

Pre fire plans and inspections are a critical part of the Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating of the City’s fire service capabilities. It serves as a training tool and assures a more fire-safe community for our residents and visitors. This type of training and inspection helps to keep our insurance rates lower and protect our quality of life in the City of Cartersville. Big benefit of pre-planning, however, is that it can

lead to an improved ISO rating, which translates into lower insurance coverage rates charged to owners and tenants of both residential and commercial buildings. Currently Cartersville Fire Department has a Class 1 ISO rating which is the highest possible score that can be given to any fire department nationwide. There are less than 200 fire departments in the United States with a Class 1 rating.

2022 was the first year since the Covid pandemic we were able to get back into business to conduct pre-planning. We set our main focus on high target hazard business within our city to start the year. A list was compiled working with our four fire stations. It was determined a total of 186 Pre-Fire plans had 3 years since our last visit and inspection.



High Target Hazard business classification has several factors to meet this group. These factors are Life Hazard having 100 or more occupants, Community Impact if the building was a total loss, Hazardous Materials or High amount of Flammable Liquids, Construction Type is the building highly combustibile or structure has deterioration that poses an early collapse, Number of Stories, Square Footage of the building. Example of a high target hazard in our community that would cause a major impact is Piedmont Cartersville Medical Center. If the hospital was a total loss due to fire, this would be a major impact on the community since it is the only hospital in our community.

Several personal hours were spent working on pre-fire planning while still responding to 911 calls, performing training and other duties in our day-to-day operations. There are 1,098 structures within the city that require pre-incident fire planning. The 186 designated pre fire plans dealing with High Target hazards were completed during year 2022 which is about 20% of our city structures requiring a pre-incident plan.



# CFD

## 2022 Super Stach Contest

Why do so many firefighters have moustaches? The story is really quite simple. Before the days of the self contained breathing apparatus, or SCBA, firefighters had to come up with a way to prevent the inhalation of potentially toxic smoke. Firefighters would grow large moustaches and would dunk them in water before entering a structure that was on fire and would only breath through their nose. The wet moustache would essentially act as a filter. As time progressed so did technology and now firefighters have elaborate and expensive equipment to protect their lungs from harmful smoke.



**Super Stach 2022**  
**Alex Powell**



**Super Stach Runner Up**  
**2022**  
**Scott Maryfield**



## 2022 Annual Maintenance Data



In February of 1918 the City of Cartersville purchased its first motorized fire apparatus for a price of \$9000. Fire trucks now are well over \$700,000.00. Currently Cartersville Fire maintains a fleet of emergency response vehicles that consist of four engine companies, one squad/rescue company, one elevated tower company plus Battalion Chief Response. On the average Cartersville Fire Emergency, equipment will be on the scene within 5 minutes from the time a call for help has been received. As noted in the alarm section greater than 39% of all alarms require multiple pieces of equipment to mitigate the emergency.

- Mileage driven by apparatus for 2022 - **63,144**
- Hours ran by apparatus for 2022 - **4,770**
- Hours ran converted to mileage by standard for 2022 - **286,000**
- Total of fuel usage for all Apparatus for 2022 – **20,341.2 Gallons**

The City of Cartersville Garage and various outside vendors that specialize in this type of equipment perform our preventive maintenance. Personnel inside the Cartersville Fire Department primarily perform the routine maintenance on the fire pumps and firefighting parts of the apparatus. Equipment maintenance is a high priority for Cartersville Fire. The department must maintain a state of readiness for when the alarm sounds. With increasing demands on personnel and equipment, it is critical to have a preventive maintenance program as well as an efficient system for repairs when problems arise. Our

maintenance program meets and exceeds the standards set by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Insurance Service Organization (ISO)

In February of 2021, the Mayor and Council authorized the purchase of a new Tower Truck for the city of Cartersville. This truck replaced the tower that was purchased in 2004. The current cost of a new tower



is \$1, 292,522.00 and this is only the second truck of this type that was ever constructed for Cartersville. The Tower construction committee worked long hours to design and build a truck that will serve the citizens for decades to come.



Currently the Fire Department maintains the following fleet of emergency apparatus:

<b>Apparatus</b>	<b>Year Model</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Eng. 1 Pierce Velocity	2015	Suppression
Eng. 2 Pierce Velocity	2018	Suppression
Eng. 3 Pierce Velocity	2015	Suppression
Eng. 4 Pierce Velocity	2011	Suppression
Squad 4 Pierce Velocity	2011	Suppression
Tower 1 Pierce	2022	Suppression
Gator/ ATV	2006	Special Operations
Emergency One / Rescue	2000	Special Operations
Liberty Air/Light	2011	Special Operations
Ops #1 – F-350	2017	Special Operations
Kubota UTV	2018	Special Operations

The Mayor and Council has authorized replacement trucks for Engine 4 and Squad 4. They are now on order and are scheduled to arrive for duty in April of 2024. On the following chart you will see a full breakdown of our fleet.

# CFD Apparatus 2022

Unit Name	Age	Station	Assigned	Alarms 2022	Miles 2022	Fuel Use 2022	Total Cost
Ladder 3	29	OOS	OOS 2022		814	201.5	\$929.58
Engine 12	21	1	Reserve	6	1883	466	\$2154.56
Rescue 4	23	4	Special Ops		133	49.6	\$192.88
Ops 2	16	4	Special Ops		1612	144.9	\$528.49
Tower 2	19	3	Reserve	1	2917	1363.4	\$5747.37
Car 6	19	1	School	1		345.9	\$1213.97
Engine 22	16	2	Reserve		2243	509.8	\$2203.44
Engine 3	8	3	First Out	1182	7685	1907.5	\$8078.66
Excursion	19	1	School			404.2	\$1385.17
Air Light	12	3	Special Ops			5.8	\$29.46
Squad 4	12	4	First Out	1018	6801	2121.7	\$9019.25
Engine 4	12	4	First Out	970	5687	1733.5	\$7293.58
Expedition	11	1	School			395.9	\$1363.70
Ops 1	8	1	Special Ops		3367	384.9	\$1644.43
Engine 1	8	1	First Out	1099	6743	1966.3	\$8361.15
Engine 32	22	3	Reserve	6	603	376.1	\$1607.28
Inspector 2	7	1	Admin	7		401.9	\$1375.66
Inspector 1	7	1	Admin	11		217.7	\$750.29
Training 1	6	1	Admin			367.6	\$1244.93
Car 5	6	1	School			130.8	\$468.39
Car 1	5	1	Admin	8		718.2	\$2468.69
Engine 2	5	2	First Out	1243		2279.5	\$9720.71
Inspector 3	4	1	Admin	14		455.7	\$1522.02
Car 2	4	1	Admin	22		820.9	\$2820.97
Car 3	3	1	First Out	1096	11349	1156.4	\$3997.97
GMC St.2	13	2	Hydrants			124.3	\$483.92
Training 2	2	1	Admin			126.5	\$427.67
Transit	3	1	School			210.9	\$715.43
Tower 1	1	1	First Out	455	2674	721.9	\$2977.27
Car 4	1	1	Admin	15		231.9	\$726.67
Grand Total						20341.2	\$81,453.56

## 2022 Fire Stations and Supplies

The Cartersville Fire Department consist of four full time staffed Fire Stations that after lengthy studies of the surrounding geography, area call volume data, and future development of surrounding area the station that have been strategically located. Personnel operating on a twenty-four, forty-eight rotations, staff these stations.

**Fire Station 1**, located at 195 Cassville Road is the departments Main Headquarters Station where the departments Administration is located also. This includes Inspections, Investigations, and the Training Divisions as well as the Fire Chiefs offices. With the new facility came a Supply and Quarter Master facility within the Head Quarters.

This fifty-one thousand square foot facility was open for operation in 2012, which operates as the City of Cartersville's Public Safety Facility. The Fire Station and Administrations occupies half the



building, and the Police department is located in the other half of the building. This Fire Station has accommodations to house as many as twelve fire suppression personnel along with one Battalion Chief. The station operates an Engine Company with an officer, driver and two firefighters, and a Tower Company with a driver and firefighter. Then in addition to this, the station also houses a fully compliment reserve engine, F350 support truck and a Kubota UTV with medical and wildland firefighting capabilities.

**Fire Station 2**, located at 90 Peoples Valley Road is approximately a seventy-five hundred square foot



brick building that opened for operation in 2003. This facility can accommodate eight fire suppression personnel and operates a single company Engine with an officer, driver and two firefighters. This station also houses a fully complemented reserve Engine.

**Fire Station 3**, located at 15 Charlie Harper Drive, is a ten thousand ninety square foot brick building that opened for operation in 2020. This building also has the capabilities to accommodate up to eight fire suppression personnel. The station operates a single company Engine with an officer, driver and two firefighters. This station also has a fully complimented reserve Engine and a reserve Ladder Truck. In addition to that, the departments Fire Safety Education trailer is located here being that it is nearest to the city schools.



**Fire Station 4**, located at 550 Martin Luther King Junior Drive is a ninety-six hundred square foot brick facility that opened in 2012. This building will accommodate eight suppression personnel on a fully complimented Engine with an Officer, Driver and two Firefighters. Also responding out of this station is a Squad equipped with specialized rescue and emergency equipment that can handle calls that require such the type of equipment that a regular engine is not equipped. It also has an Officer, Driver and Firefighter staffing it. Then in addition to this, the station, the department houses additional equipment for rescue operation that may arise. There also a Rescue truck and an ATV used for Medical, and Rescue located here as well.

### **Central Supply / Quarter Masters System**

The Fire Department had mostly purchased item needed to maintain and operate as needed. This method usually took a little while before you received the item you needed and you sometimes you would be required to pay more for it.

When building the new facility in 2012 it was felt that to progress forward with the growth of the department, part of the construction in new Public Safety facility should be an area designated as the departments Quarter Masters Supply or Central Supply. Leading up to the new concept, there was much discussion and thought put into it. There were new operating guidelines and procedures put into place

for each station to requisition supplies or equipment that were implemented once opening the new facility.

By implementing a Central Supply, it reduced the wait time for most items while reducing the cost on some. We were able to purchase items by quantity, which would reduce the overall cost per item. In addition, we could keep a better quantity of supply on hand. Items kept on hand would be paper goods, cleaning supplies, laundry soaps, uniforms, and all items that complete an individual's firefighting PPE ensemble, parts for repairs to equipment and apparatus, and medical supplies.



A few fun facts concerning central supply:

- The department went through 25,300 medical gloves in 2022.
- The department used 3 tons (6000 lb.) of oil dry to mitigate calls where fuel and oils were spilled.
- 945 rolls of toilet paper. Station 4 used 347 rolls which was the most of all stations.

Medical calls remain the largest percentage of alarms ran by the department. While there was a



significant decrease over the past years due to a drop in COVID issues, these types of calls still have a significant impact. Supplies used include medical gloves, Oxygen, bag valve mask, NARCAN to combat drug overdoses, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) supplies and so many more items. Drug overdose incidents plague our nation, Cartersville is no different. Just in basic medical supplies each overdose call cost \$156.13. This does not include manpower and equipment cost. In medical cost alone last

year the department spent just under \$15,000.00 to mitigate these call

The department had to come is committed to protecting the staff at work and in the stations. We work to reduce the chances of contamination and the spread of the virus while at work and after running calls and getting expose to the virus. We constantly had to search and look for cleaning and disinfectant chemicals to use in the stations and trucks. All stations are treated with an antimicrobial chemical sprayed thru an Electrostatic Sprayer in a facility and would last for ninety days once applied. In



addition, we must maintain the fight against cancer causing toxics that firefighters encounter. This includes keeping all diesel fumes exhausted from our station, providing cleansing wipes to cut down on exposure, keeping contaminated personal protective clothing separated until clean and many other steps. Cancer one of the leading causes of firefighter deaths. Our goal is for all f our staff to make in home healthy and safely.

Annual preventative maintenance that is handled by the administrative Captain include:

- SCBA Mask Fit Testing
- SCBA Flow Testing and repairs
- Personnel Protective Equipment Inspections and Repairs
- Uniform Inspections and Updates
- Fire Alarm Systems in all Fire Stations
- Fire Sprinkler Inspections in all Fire Stations
- HVAC Maintenance in Fire Department Facilities
- Apparatus Roll Up Doors
- Departmental Radio PM and repairs
- Ground Ladder Maintenance and Testing
- Departmental Hose Testing
- City Wide Weather Siren System
- Maintenance of all Fire Facilities, to include entire Public Safety Building

Assistance Given to Other Departments by the Administrative Captain:

- Gas Department:  
Training, on Rope's and Hardware, SCBA's (Contained and Supplies Air), and PPE
- Electric Department:

## New Gas Monitor Acquisition and Maintenance Setup

Acquire additional equipment for Vault Entries

- Radio Maintenance to all Departments City Wide as needed.

Year 2022 was a year where efficiency, fiscal responsibility and dedication was required more than ever. In the military, it is well known that you cannot win a battle without logistics and supplies. The fire service is no different. Every time there is a public call for help, we rely on strong facilities, equipment, and logistics. It not just about supplies, it is about having the supplies to save a life.



## Tomorrow

As the community grows, the demands grow, and the fire department must grow. Groundwork is already being laid for our future. We know that we must at Station 5. Work has already begun preparing for this. This station will be located within the Carter Grove area of our city. As the Cartersville School systems opens their new elementary school in the fall of 2023, this will trigger increased demands overnight.

With the addition of more industry the complexity of our mission will increase. Specialized training to handle any emergency that they may



bring to the community. This will mean a continued all hazard approach to the protection of the citizens and guest of Cartersville.

Currently we have trucks on order to keep our fleet up to date and efficient. We anticipate new trucks arriving in 2024 and 2026. We will bring new technology to the line in 2023/2024. The department completed an overview of all technology. We expect to see more efficient operations, reduction of duplication of process and enhancements to increase firefighter safety. We do not know what tomorrow fully holds in store but we are proactive in our approach. A failure to plan is surely a plan that will fail.

How will we do it? Just as we have since 1889, a willingness to serve and sacrifice for the citizens and guest of Cartersville. Above All **WE**.





- Mother Nature to man-made disaster. They are part of Task force 6 with Georgia Homeland Security
6. Cartersville Fire Department has automatic aid and mutual aid agreements with the Bartow County Fire Department.
  7. We have an established Cartersville/Bartow County Haz-Mat Team trained, certified and up and running. This team is a Type II team and is recognized by Georgia Emergency Management Agency.
  8. We have a Fire Safety House with severe weather package. This safety house has over 1000 personal contacts with citizens of all ages on an annual basis.
  9. Classes offered to City Employees, Citizens and Businesses:
    - A. Defensive Driving – National Safety Course
    - B. Fire Extinguisher Classes
    - C. CPR- First Aid and AED
    - D. Gas Monitoring
    - E. We offer various public education programs for Fire and Life Safety that is conducted for all age groups.
    - F. We display and present at community functions such as government day, community events, civic groups and others.
  10. We are currently an ISO Class 1 department with places us in the top 1% of departments in Nation.
  11. We operate a fire training facility. This facility is located on 180 Paga Mine Rd and is a joint venture with the City of Cartersville and Bartow County. This project was funded with 2003 SPLOST dollars. Phase 1 provided infrastructure, a burn building and rescue tower building. Phase 2 will be developed later; this will include an onsite classroom facility.

***Above All We Prevent, Protect and Provide with  
Professionalism, Purpose and Pride***

