



"Above All We"

Cartersville Fire Department

2023 Annual Report



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. Matt Daniell



Capt. Chris Edge



Capt. Eric Williams



Capt. Daniel Lanier



Capt. A. Swancy



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. C. Sutton



Lt. A. Owenby



Lt. R. McGivern



Lt. B. Hilley



City of Cartersville

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



1/17/2024

Greetings,

Welcome to our annual report. This is a snapshot of our activity for 2023 and a brief glance at our future. What a year it was and what a future we have.

You will find a continued increase in calls for help from our citizens and community. You will see a decrease in structure fires and firefighter injuries but an increase in medical calls and aid to other agencies. Construction and growth within the community is causing a higher level of demand for service from response to plan review to keeping skills sharp. All divisions were active, striving to be professional while we prevent, protect, and provide. We have taken steps to ensure we provide solid service as we broke ground for a new station that will expand our ability to protect.

I have the privilege of working with great citizens, a positive administration, and the greatest heroes I have ever known. In 2024, this will be my last year in the fire service as I complete 41 years of service. It has been my humble honor to serve as your Fire Chief. Please allow me now to say thank you for all the support, prayers, and kindness you have shown over the years.

If I 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

770-387-5635





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
	105.5	95.86	91.95	-3.91

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.

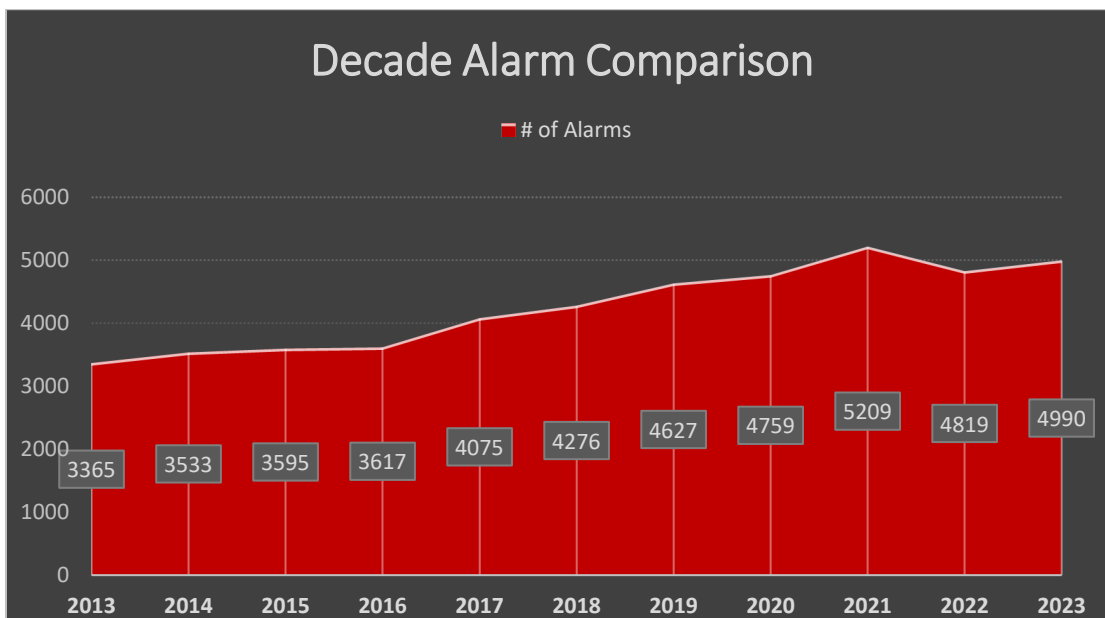
As we look to the future, the Cartersville Fire Department is committed to provide a high level of service to is citizens through new and innovative ways, maintaining a strong working relationship with city officials, administration, and departments. “Above all WE will prevent, protect and provide with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

2023 Alarm Response



Emergency response for 2023 showed an increase in alarms of 3.59% overall. The largest factor contributing to the increase was Automatic Aid Response with an increase of 13.5% over last year. We saw a decrease in fire calls across all areas with the greatest decrease in private dwellings by 71%.

We responded on average 13.71 times per day in 2023 to provide service to the community. Our department answered 4990 calls for service to the citizens, guests, and other local agencies. Within that total, 2169 of those alarms required multiple pieces of equipment.



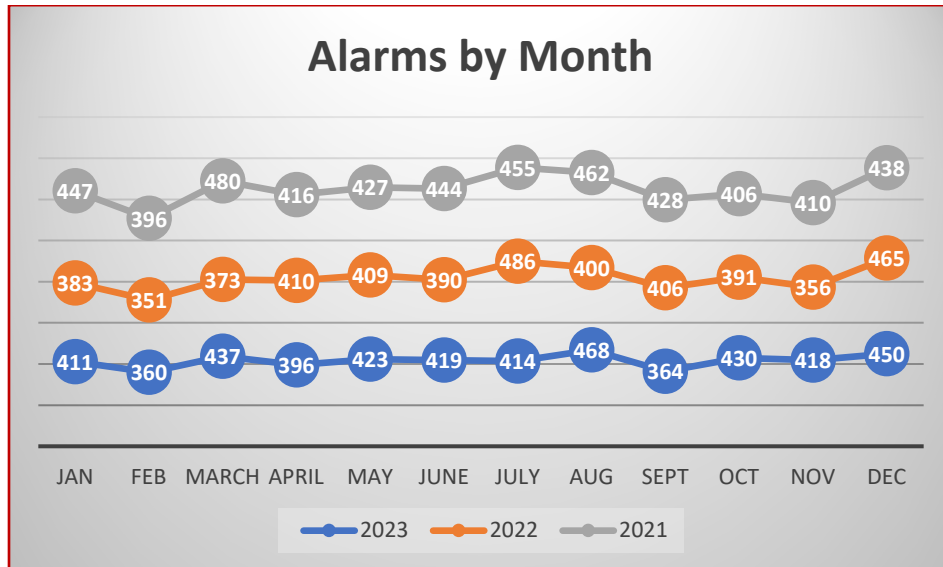


2022 to 2023 Alarm Comparison

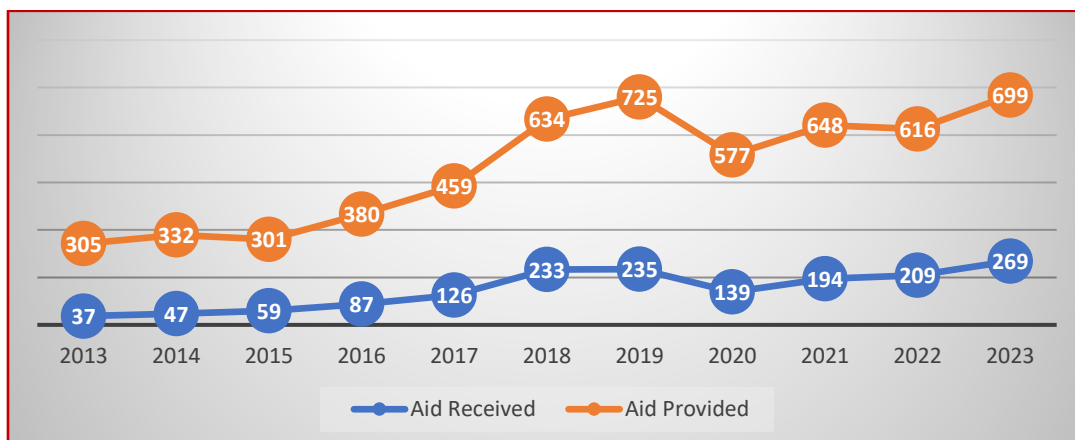
Cartersville Fire Alarm Types	2022	2023	% of Change
1. Private Dwellings	14	4	-71%
2. Apartments	6	3	
5. TOTAL RESIDENTIAL FIRES	23	7	-69%
9. Stores and Offices	5	4	
10. Industry/Utility/Defense/Labs/Manufacturing	3	2	
12. Other Structures	2	1	
13. TOTAL STRUCTURE FIRES	35	15	-57%
14. Highway Vehicles	24	23	
15. Non-Structure/Non-Vehicle	8	9	
16. Brush/Grass/Wildland	34	16	
19. TOTAL FOR FIRES	131	94	-28%
20. Rescue/Emergency Medical Responses	2636	2640	
22. Mutual Aid Given	616	699	13.5%
23a. Hazmat Responses	76	68	
23b. Other Hazardous Responses	75	72	
24. All Other Responses	930	1062	
25. TOTAL FOR ALL INCIDENTS	4817	4990	3.59%

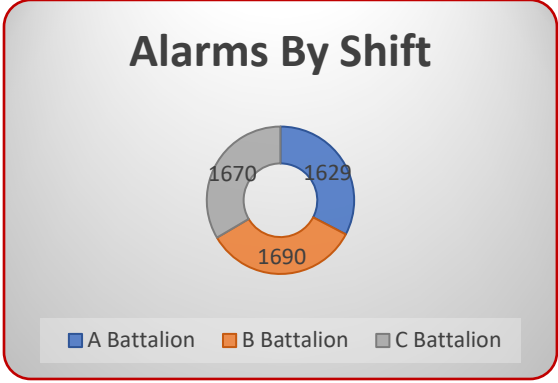


Below you will see a month-by-month comparison for calls. Our busiest month in 2023 was the month of August with 468 alarms. February was the slowest month for 2023 with 360 alarms. On average, we responded to 415 alarms each month.

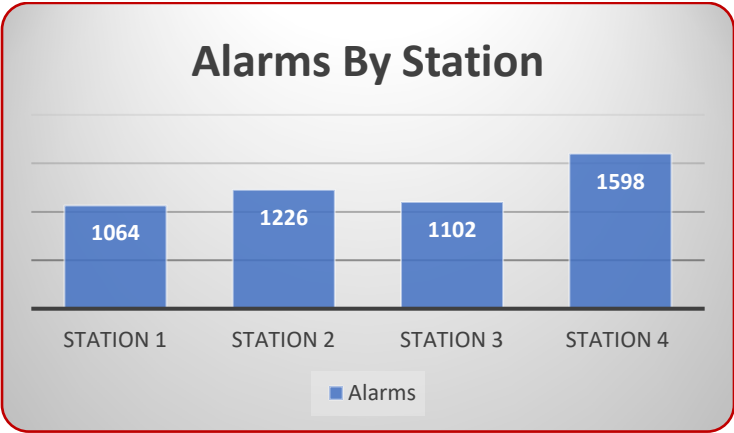


In addition to assisting the citizens and guests within the City of Cartersville, our department also responds to the request of other agencies outside of our city. The department has an automatic / mutual aid agreement with Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services. In 2023, Cartersville Fire answered requests from Bartow County 699 times with Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services assisting the city on 269 alarms.





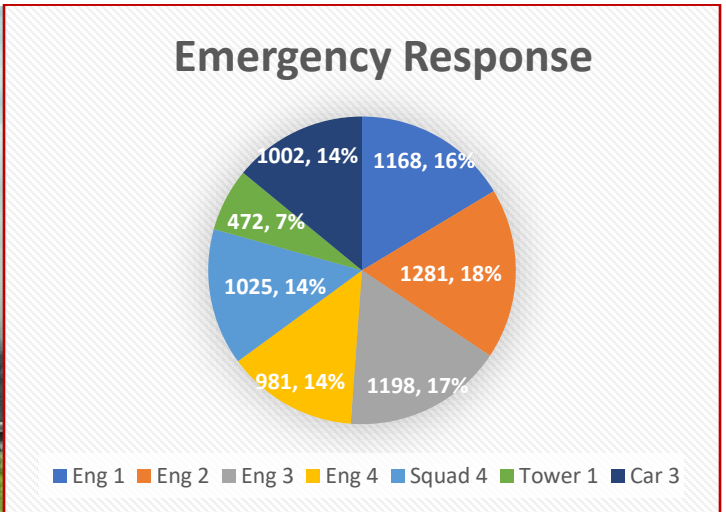
Cartersville Fire Department currently operates four fire stations on a three-shift rotation basis. Each shift is 24 hours. B Battalion answered the most alarms with 1690 calls for assistance while C Battalion answered 1670 and A Battalion 1629 respectively. This chart reflects the breakdown of alarms by shift for 2023.



Station #4 located on MLK Jr. Drive continues to be the busiest station in the city. The remaining three stations have also had an increase in call volume. Station 2 remains the busiest single company station in the city mainly due to automatic aid calls with Bartow County. Every Station saw an increase in call volume over 2022 within the city.

Station 4 was the busiest station overall as well as responding to the most vehicle fires. Station 2 responded to the most Structure fires and Station 2 and 4 responded to the most vehicle accidents with injury accounting for 68% % of all calls of this type.

The busiest engine company in the city in 2023 was Engine #2. All other Apparatus across the Department also seen an increase in call volume for 2023. The chart below reflects the response numbers for all apparatus.



Other interesting facts from 2023:

- The average Response time for Cartersville Fire was 5 minutes and 14 seconds for emergency calls.
- It takes an average of 1 minute and 17 seconds for fire personnel to go in route once we receive the call from 911.
- We average 13.71 calls per day in 2023 with Thursday being the busiest day and Sunday being the slowest.
- Our busiest time of day is between 4 and 5 PM
- There was 1 civilian fatality in 2023 and no civilian injuries.
- Total fire loss in 2023 was \$600,815 dollars compared to a total value of saved property being 86.3 million dollars.



"Above All We"



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.

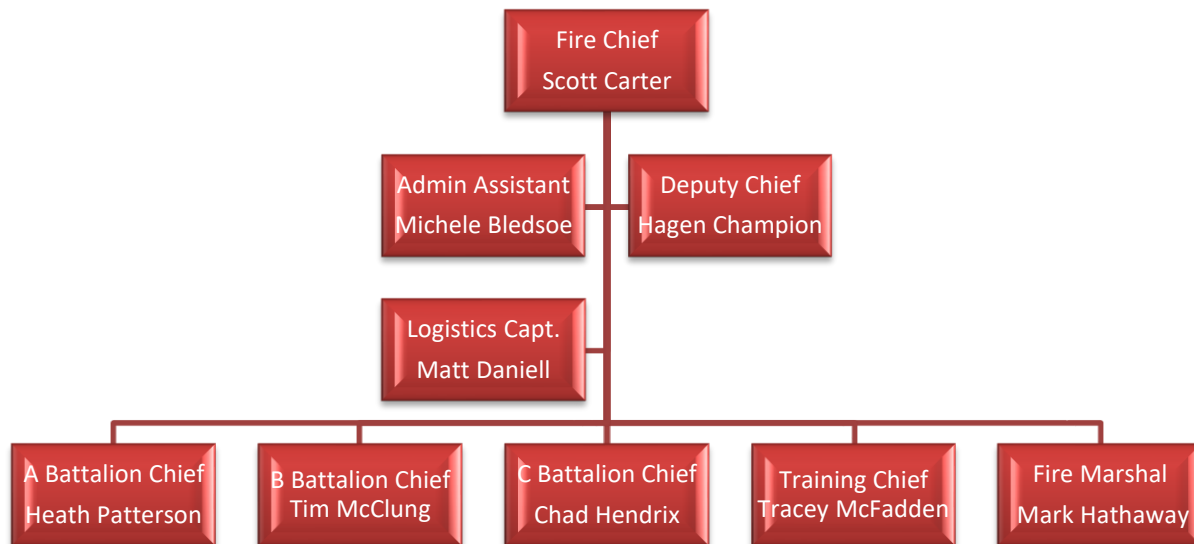
Purpose- knowing that we have been created to fulfill a calling of service and sacrifice. We are here for a reason.

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

We

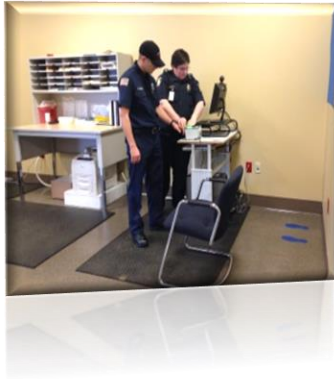
The mission statement for Cartersville Fire Department begins with the words, "Above All We". This organization's foundation is the "We". For in the fire service there is no individual, everything is based on the team concept. From the tailboard to the front office, this organization is driven by a "We" 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 78 personnel positions. This includes 23 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 2023, Cartersville Fire Department has welcomed 8 new firefighters to the ranks. They have begun their career of dedication and service. They are now learning their part of “We”.



FF L. Blackwell



FF A. Durbano



FF K. Gordon



FF J. Lewis



FF J. Nall



FF D. Parson



FF G. Walker



FF D. West



There were promotions to new leadership positions within our department in 2023. There were eight total promotions within the ranks of our leadership. Four 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. A. Callahan

Sgt. B. Lee

Sgt. Mewbourne

Sgt. P. Varvel

Three new Lieutenants and one new Captain took charge of new responsibilities in 2023. Their role is critical in crew development, scene operations and safety. These newly promoted officers will be integral in the future leadership of the organization.



Lt. B Hilley

Lt. R McGivern

Lt. A. Owenby



Capt. A Swancy

We had the retirement of Capt. Mitchell Bagley and Lt. John Paschal in 2023. These men served the city with over 45 years combined service to the citizens of Cartersville. This loss will not go unnoticed as their leadership and experience are not easily replaced. It is with a humble heart that we say thank you to these men and their dedicated service.



John Paschal



Mitchell Bagley

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.





Retiree Breakfast 2023



Cartersville Fire Department 2023 Training Division

Training typically focuses on specific job-related skills and tasks. Development is broader, aiming to foster overall professional and personal growth. Both are integral to improving employee performance and adapting to evolving work environments.

The Cartersville Fire Department Training Division strives to not only train our personnel, but develop them to reach their maximum potential, and continue to adapt to the ever-changing work environment of the fire service. Thus, in return, serving the citizens of Cartersville to the best of their abilities, and giving their utmost all in times of need.

In 2023, the total training hours for all CFD members was 21953.40. This averaged 281 hours per person.

This comprised of:

- Company Training – 11578 Total departmental company training hours
- Driver Training – 1770 Total departmental driver training hours
- Officer Training – 532 Total departmental officer training hours
- Facilities Training – 1666 Total departmental facilities training hours
- Hazardous Materials Training – 1193 Total departmental hazmat training hours
- Georgia Fire Academy Classes - 2889 Total hours
- EMS Recertification Training – 601 Total departmental training hours (not including the hours personnel spent in Emergency Medical Technician school)



Cartersville Fire Department 2023 Training Division

The Training Division offered the following programs:

- 14-week Basic Firefighter Program
- 64 Hour Fire Apparatus Operator Course
- 8 Hour Pump Service Testing Course
- 16 Hour Aerial Apparatus Course
- 24 Hour Firefighter Safety and Survival Course
- 40 Hour Swift Water Technician Course
- Annual CFD Swift Water Operations Training
- Annual CFD Extrication Training
- CFD Trench Awareness Training
- Truck Company Drills
- Search and Rescue Drills
- MAYDAY Drills
- Downed Firefighter Drills
- 56 Hour Medical First Responder Course
- 4-hour American Heart Association Basic Life Support course

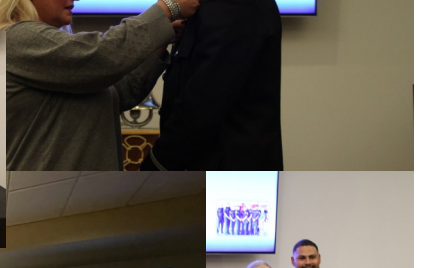
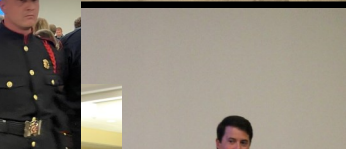


Cartersville Fire Department 2023 Training Division

In 2024, the Cartersville Fire Department will begin the year with a 14-week Basic Firefighter Course. Upon successful completion of this course, recruits will graduate with National Professional Qualifications as a Firefighter I and will be eligible to be certified as a Firefighter in the State of Georgia. The graduates of this 14-week program will be utilized to support the expansion of the Cartersville Fire Department as it adds a fifth station. In addition, our focus will continue with expanding the department's live fire training program by conducting live fire training exercises in our updated burn building. We also aim to complete a certified Firefighter II program, provide training opportunities to support our Apparatus Operators, and our departmental Company Officers. This training will aim to continually expand on their current skill set and knowledge to aide in decision making and task performance that only a Firefighter is called upon to do.



2023 Firefighter Graduation



Annual Report 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, Structure Collapse and Swift Water. Cartersville Fire Department hosted our first Swift Water Technician class with great feedback from students and support from other Departments that sent students to the class. The ERT Team also is looking to this coming year to provide and attend multiple training exercises within the department as well as with GSAR TF 6 and outside agencies to include, high angle rope rescue training, trench, structure collapse, and confined space as well as wilderness search and rescue. Among multiple training exercises team members deployed 6 times in 2023 to Chattooga County, White County, Dawson County, Floyd County, Haralson County, and Gordon County for High Angle Rescues, and Wildland Search and Rescue for Missing Persons. GSAR TF 6 also rostered a team to deploy to South Georgia in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.



Hazardous Materials Team

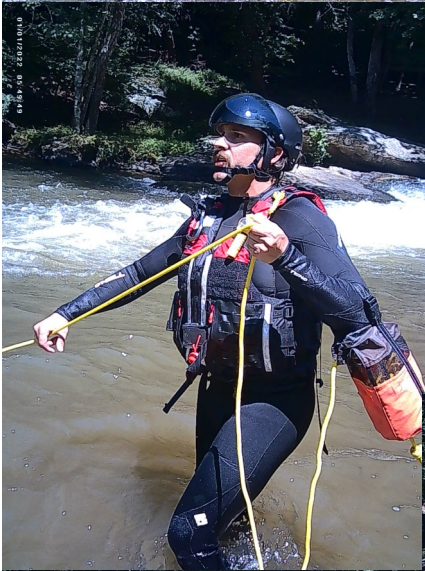
The Cartersville-Bartow Haz-Mat Team originated in 2002 originally under the Bartow County EMA Office. The team was put in place to assist Bartow County and the City of Cartersville in mitigation of Hazardous Materials Incidents within the county. Members from both departments come together to handle 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

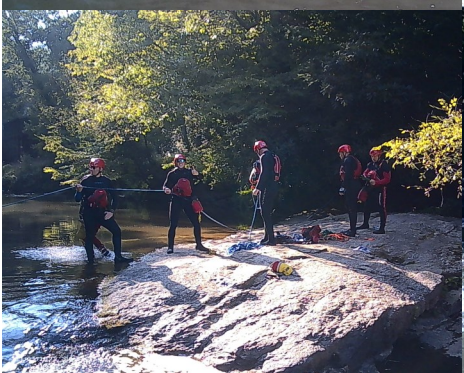


to have 8 hours of recertification training annually to be compliant with OSHA.

Joint training for the team is conducted ever 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 required a team activation and the response of the team. Team members stay prepared for any type response and continue to work as a team to serve the community.



Swift Water Technician 2023



2023 FIRE PREVENTION REPORT

Public Fire Safety Education



Fire prevention is crucial for safeguarding lives and property. Implementing proactive measures, such as regular maintenance of electrical systems, proper storage of flammable materials, and adherence to fire safety regulations, significantly reduces the risk of fires. Educating the community about fire safety practices, like the proper use of appliances and the importance of smoke detectors, plays a pivotal role in preventing emergencies. Additionally, creating and practicing evacuation plans ensures preparedness in case of a fire outbreak. By fostering a culture of awareness and responsibility, individuals and communities contribute to a safer environment, minimizing the devastating impact of fires.

Public fire safety education is a very important part of our fire prevention efforts, and much emphasis is put into it throughout the year. In 2023, we had a total of **2694** participants in the various fire safety programs throughout the year. 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 2023, 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. Cartersville Fire distributed **2** CO detectors in 2023.

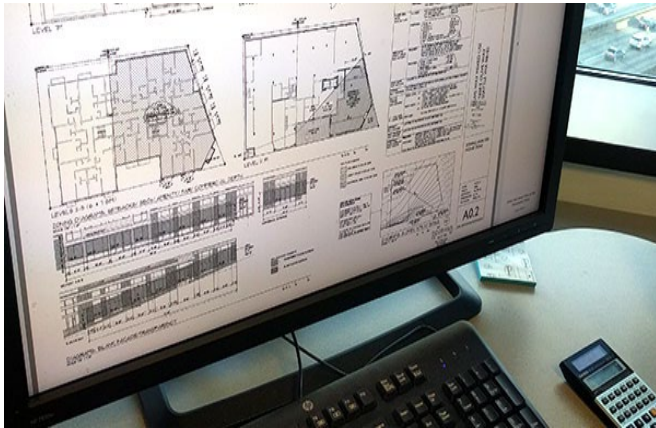
Statistics

- **Roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.**
- **More than one-third (38 percent) of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present.**
- **The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.**

SOURCE: "Smoke Alarms in U.S. Fires" Report, NFPA



Plan Review/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 2023, we saw a decrease in the number of annual inspections but a large increase in plan reviews (183), new business inspections, and new construction inspections. We continued to stay busy with the many new building projects including a huge boost in residential buildings, both single-family and multi-family, a 3-story primary school, as well as commercial and industrial developments.

To help streamline our inspections, we implemented LIVSafe, a third-party reporting program, to utilize for both our internal inspections and for third party reporting. All fire safety related providers must submit their inspections and testing reports to Cartersville Fire Department. These providers include fire sprinkler, fire alarm, backflow prevention, and fire extinguisher contractors that perform work in the city of Cartersville. In 2023, Cartersville Fire Prevention personnel performed a total of **2129** inspections and an additional **608** third party inspections were reported through LIVSafe for a total of **22737** life safety inspections.

The largest project from 2023 is the Qcells and Hanwha EVA solar panel production facility located in the Cartersville-Bartow County Industrial Park. It will be the first of its kind in the United States, processing solar panels from raw silicon to finished panel. This project occupies the entire Cartersville portion of the industrial park consisting of 10 buildings totaling over 2.8 million square feet on approximately 380 acres. A lot of man hours were put into the review of over **2330** pages of building plans for this project so far, with three buildings still awaiting submittal.



Investigations



All members of the prevention division were deputized by Safety Fire Commissioner King as fire investigators at the 2023 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 **11** origin and cause investigations in 2023. These causes are broken down as follows: **6 -Accidental**; 1-unattended candle, 2-careless smoking, 1 - overheating, 2-mechanical issues. **4- Undetermined**; 3-vehicle fires and 1- residential fire. **1 -Incendiary**; stolen and burned vehicle. Unfortunately, we did experience one fire death in 2023.

Fire suppression and prevention crews have worked very well at maintaining a good line of communication between the two divisions. This communication is imperative to the effectiveness of both divisions. There is a noticeable difference in the confidence of the company officers to make origin and cause determinations and to only call for an investigator when necessary. In 2024, we look to solidify and improve the quality of origin and cause fire investigations and reporting by both the company officers and fire investigation personnel through more and better training and open lines of communication.



2023 FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Fire Investigations 11

<i>Accidental- vehicle</i>	3
<i>Accidental- smoking materials</i>	2
<i>Accidental- candle</i>	1
<i>Incendiary- vehicle</i>	1
<i>Undetermined</i>	4
<i>Fatalities</i>	1

Inspections

<i>CFD inspections</i>	2129
<i>LIVSafe inspections</i>	608
<i>State inspections</i>	57
<i>School inspections</i>	12
<i>School fire drills</i>	12
<i>Plan approvals</i>	183
<i>Temporary sign offs</i>	68
<i>Fire Safety checklists</i>	132
<i>Knox Boxes</i>	25
<i>Risk Assessments</i>	80
<i>Smoke alarms</i>	31
<i>Carbon monoxide alarms</i>	2
<i>Fireworks permits</i>	3
<i>Fireworks inspections</i>	3
<i>Burn permits</i>	1

Public Education Events

<i>Station visits</i>	9	<i>Participants</i>	551
<i>Fire Safety House</i>	1	<i>Participants</i>	36
<i>CHS Career fair</i>		<i>Participants</i>	30
<i>Fire Extinguisher classes</i>	10	<i>Participants</i>	247
<i>Tellus Heavy Metals</i>		<i>Participants</i>	1600
<i>Halloween at CPS</i>		<i>Participants</i>	230
<i>Monthly radio spots</i>	6		

TOTAL 2694

Fundraising

<i>9/11 Run to Remember 5k</i>	\$13,806.93
<i>GA Firefighters Burn Foundation boot drive</i>	\$10,563.45

TOTAL \$24,370.38



CFD Family
Day
2023

Honor Guard Report for 2023

The Honor Guard had a very busy and exciting year in 2023, and although the year started off a little slower than we are used to it quickly picked up and never seemed to slow down. We finished the year having taken part in 19 details. That number was a 172% increase over last year's detail total of 11. Each and every member of the Guard are extremely dedicated to making sure all the details are carried out with the utmost respect and professionalism.

January was a very exciting time for the team when team specific uniforms were ordered for all team members. Chief Carter was able to make this happen after the idea was presented to him by Lt. Paschal and Lt. Gilmer. The team had always used our class A uniforms with honor guard accents to perform duties since the inception of the team in 2006. While these worked for the time, we knew we needed to revamp our look for a new generation representing the team moving forward.



In March of 2023 we added three new members to the team, Sgt. Eric Mewbourne, FF Scott Hendricks and FF Terry Griffith. They were unanimously voted onto the team by all members in a meeting held to fill the three vacant spots we had on the roster. All three have been an excellent addition to our team and are very active when called upon to take part in details. The addition of those members brought our roster to 14 members, two more than had ever previously been on the team. March also saw our team perform casket watch and pall bearer duties for a LODD at our neighboring BCFD. Our team and theirs worked hand in hand to ensure the firefighter and his family were shown the honor and respect they deserved.



In the month of June, we saw the last founding member of the Honor Guard retire. Lt. John Paschal started with the team back in 2006 and has been a dedicated member each and every year since. Lt. Paschal took over the position of Coordinator in 2018 when Lt. Ogle retired. The team was struggling to keep members at the time and had a hard time finding enough to fill spots for details. Through his tireless work he single-handedly turned a dying team into the team it is today, with more dedicated members than there has ever been. With his retirement, it puts our number at 13 with hopes to fill that spot in 2024. Lt. Paschal is also the reason for the team having the uniforms we have today. Uniforms that we are very proud to put on for every detail. We will continue to execute every detail to his standard of excellence.

The last six months of the year saw our team take part in numerous details. In the month of August, we were asked to present the colors for the retirement of Capt. Mitchell Bagley. Our team presented the colors for the September 11th 5k as well. In October three of our team members took part in the 28 hour Honor Guard class held at GPSTC in Forsyth. Sgt. Eric Mewborne, Sgt. Axel Agan, and FF Scott Hendrix all took part in the class. In November we were asked to present the colors at Savoy Museum in honor of Veterans Day. December saw us close out the year by presenting the colors at the Cartersville Stat of The City meeting at the Clarence Brown Center.

In closing I would like to take the time to thank all of our team members for their dedication to the team and its mission. The details can seem to stack on top of each other when we stay so busy. Our members always do their best to be available when called upon. I also want to say thank you to Chief Carter for doing all you can for the team. To all the Battalion Chiefs, a huge thank you as well for working with the team and allowing members on shift to take part in details. The Honor Guard team is just one of the many parts that make up our department and if it weren't for everyone working together it wouldn't work. "Above All We"!





Run To
Remember 5K

2023 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 23,364 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 2023, we made 2,672 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 136 hydrants flow tested this year by fire department personnel.



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



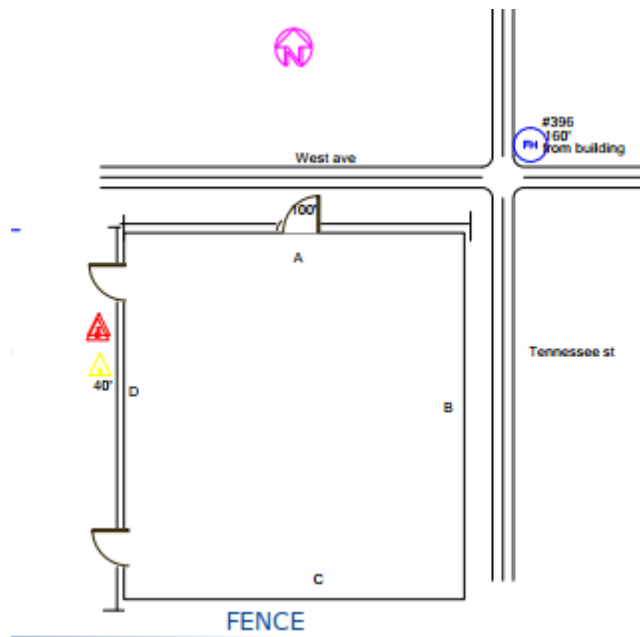
Since the inception of the Water Department in 1888, and the creation of the Cartersville Fire Department in 1889, the two departments have strived to maintain the system for water delivery and fire protection. With the many changes in our community, we will both continue to ensure that the system will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



2023 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 the 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. In the pre fire plan we also obtain at least 2 emergency contact people with phone numbers for each occupancy we visit. The reason we obtain this information is so we can notify the business owner or building owner of an incident at their establishment during non-business hours.



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. Incident command and

responding firefighters will have a better understanding of even the smallest details of a property experiencing a fire incident, including the location of hazardous materials, entrances and exits, and fire suppression systems. 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. A 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.

2023 seen an increase in construction and building permits. With this increase comes the need for us to stay up on what buildings are being built and what new hazards we may face. We continued with our focus on high target hazard business within our city to start 2023. A list was compiled working with our four fire stations. It was determined a total of 314 Pre-Fire plans had been 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 combustible 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 personnel 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 over 1,100 structures within the city that require pre-incident fire planning. The 314 designated pre-fire plans dealing with High Target hazards were completed during the year 2023 which is close to 30% of our city structures requiring a pre-incident plan.

Cartersville Fire Department strives to remain ready for any incident we may respond to. With the great cooperation of local business owners and factories, we are able to conduct pre planning to remain ready with up to date information for our responders.

2023 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 43% of all alarms require multiple pieces of equipment to mitigate the emergency.

- Mileage driven by apparatus for 2023 – **58,160**
- Hours ran by apparatus for 2022 - **4,522**
- Hours ran converted to mileage by standard for 2022 – **271,320**
- Total of fuel usage for all Apparatus for 2023 – **29,468 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 April of 2022, the Mayor and Council authorized the purchase of three new apparatus for the city of Cartersville. These trucks will replace two front line pumpers and a special operations unit with expected delivery in the spring of 2024. In January of 2023, the Mayor and council also approved the purchase of



three additional pumpers. The additions will replace two front line pumpers as well as the addition of a new apparatus for Station 5. With lengthy build times the expected delivery will be the spring of 2025.



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

Apparatus	Year Model	Assignment
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

CFD Apparatus 2023

Unit Name	Age	Station	Assigned	Alarms 2023	Miles 2023	Fuel Use 2023	Total Cost
Engine 12	22	1	Reserve		1804	400.7	\$1431.50
Rescue 4	24	4	Special Ops		56	35.1	\$126.30
Ops 2	17	4	Special Ops		833	79.1	\$260.72
Tower 2	20	3	Reserve		707	416.3	\$1457.23
Car 6	20	1	School			201.2	\$619.83
Engine 22	17	2	Reserve		3340	878.5	\$3051.78
Engine 3	9	3	First Out	1198	7317	2157.5	\$7510.11
Excursion	20	1	School			201.2	\$619.83
Air Light	13	3	Special Ops			5.8	\$29.46
Squad 4	13	4	First Out	1025	5952	1801.8	\$6281.62
Engine 4	13	4	First Out	981	4584	1378.3	\$4871.49
Expedition	12	1	School			381.4	\$1200.30
Ops 1	9	1	Special Ops		1900	232.7	\$810.66
Engine 1	9	1	First Out	1168	6353	1811.9	\$6293.54
Engine 32	23	3	Reserve		603	207.8	\$744.63
Inspector 2	8	1	Admin			280.3	\$880.85
Inspector 1	8	1	Admin			281.9	\$896.95
Training 1	7	1	Admin			195	\$620.28
Car 5	7	1	School			321.4	\$982.63
Car 1	6	1	Admin			703.6	\$2214.44
Engine 2	6	2	First Out	1281	8447	2254.4	\$7888.53
Inspector 3	5	1	Admin			539.9	\$1694.34
Car 2	5	1	Admin			785.2	\$2476.60
Car 3	4	1	First Out	1002	8078	817.5	\$2579.87
GMC St.2	14	2	Hydrants			77.4	\$236.06
Training 2	3	1	Admin			82.9	\$264.17
Transit	4	1	School			144.6	\$475.79
Tower 1	24	1	First Out	472	4369	1762.9	\$6156.62
Car 4	2	1	Admin			464.6	\$1454.31
Grand Total						29468.1	\$108,013.66

2023 Fire Stations

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 this station houses the departments mobile Air and Light unit.



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.

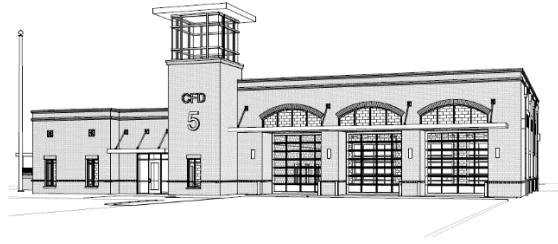
Fire Station 5, will be located at 51 Carter Grover Boulevard, this will be an eighty-nine hundred square foot brick facility with planned opening in January of 2025. This building will accommodate 4 suppression personnel on a fully complimented Engine with an Officer, Driver and two firefighters.





Station #5 Ground-Breaking





Our future will be filled with challenges, growth, and new opportunities to provide protection to our citizens and guests within our community.

Cartersville Fire Department's Station 5 has broke ground and will bring great benefits to the community in 2025 with response time reductions across the city. The growth in this area has been substantial over the past 3 years with the new primary school opening and developments continuing in Carter Grove. In addition, the new Switch development on Old Alabama Road will begin operations over the next few years. The addition of this new station will not only benefit the south and west sides of the city but will allow other stations to focus on response within the districts they serve and reduce the area in which they respond. This addition we will also include an increase in the daily staff of firefighters within the city for response as well as additional staff on multi alarm response.

In 2023 we saw an increase in medical alarm response across the city with Cartersville Fire responding 2178 times with Metro Ambulance Service. On average fire units spend 21 minutes on scene with EMS and are waiting 16.2% of the time 15 minutes or greater and 1.5% of the time greater than 30 minutes for arrival of an EMS unit. Cartersville Fire utilized 252,000 manhours on medical alarms in 2023 to provide care to the citizens we serve. Pre-hospital medical care will have a huge impact on our future. Increase demands, increased delays for EMS can create strains on available manpower and equipment. As a department we must plan and be prepared. This will include increased training requirements, skill sets, and specific quality assurance programs that related specifically to pre-hospital medical care.

With training requirements increasing in all areas, not just medical, we will take a look at our training infrastructure. This will specifically include our joint training facility that is located on Paga Mine Rd. This joint usage facility was constructed in 2009 and has been used by Cartersville Fire and Bartow County Fire since that date. This facility has improved the quality of the service we provide to our citizens. Growth in both departments, increased scheduling demand, and age of the structures has created the need for a future training complex that will only be used by Cartersville Fire Department. Investing in our training and education has never failed to improve our service and the health and safety of our personnel.

Yes, our future will be challenging. Since 1889 we have always risen to the needs of our community. After all, that is the "Above All" in our "We".



Cartersville Fire Department

Fact Sheet

In **1975** - ISO Rating – Class 6 **2023**- ISO Rating – Class 1

City Coverage – 6.3 Sq. miles Coverage- 29.98 Miles

Fire Stations – 2 Fire Stations - 4

Shift Work- 24 on 24 hours off Work 24 on 48 off

Staffing- 12 per shift Staffing- 23 per shift

Alarms- 331 Alarms- 4990

1. The fire department was created as a volunteer department in 1889, becoming a career department in 1908, first Chief in 1909 Gideon Hendricks
2. Current Fire Chief Scott Carter was appointed Chief in 2009
3. 78 Total Employees: 77 Certified Firefighters
1 Administrative Assistant
4. 4 Stations: Station 1 – Headquarters – 195 Cassville Rd.

Station 2 - 90 Peeples Valley Road
Station 3 - 15 Charlie Harper Dr.
Station 4- 550 MLK Jr. Dr.
5. Fire Department has a 12 member emergency response team that is part of the Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) program. They specialize in heavy rescue; confine space and trench to handle local emergencies, from acts of

- 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***

