

OUR VISION: WE EXIST TO SERVE

OUR MISSION: PROMOTING SAFETY, PROTECTING
LIFE & PROPERTY EVERYDAY-WACO FIRE!



Waco Fire Department

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

I am honored to
share Waco Fire
Department's
2022 Annual Report

This report will provide insight into the organization's operations as it relates to our commitment to "Providing a Safe and Resilient City," one of the strategic goals of the City Council. This Department's 219 dedicated men and women are committed to delivering the level of service our residents and visitors have come to expect. We will always strive to stand true to our vision "We Exist to Serve," and our Mission statement, "Promoting Safety, Protecting Life & Property Everyday-Waco Fire!

As you review our Annual Report, I hope we've illuminated our members' critical role in the organization's overall success. Despite the immense challenges fire departments face, the support we continue to get from city leadership is nothing short of phenomenal.

- Grand opening of Fire Station 6/ Fire Administration- \$5,200,000.00
- Approved New Fire Station 15 Design- \$5,100,000.00
- Submitted Design Budget for Station 4 Relocation- \$6,222,000.00
- Placed seven New Spartan Apparatus in Service- \$5,000,000.00
- Ordered three New Spartan Engines- \$2,600,000.00
- Ordered three New Brush Trucks- \$546,000.00
- Accepted Texas A&M Forest Service Grant for a Tactical Tender- \$625,000.00
- Purchased IP-Based Fire Station Alerting System- \$400,000.00
- Added four firefighter positions- \$372,848.00.

It gives me great pleasure to present this 2022 annual report to the Mayor, City Manager, Council, and the residents of this great City.

Gregory Summers
Fire Chief

“
We Exist to Serve.

**Promoting Safety,
Protecting Life &
Property Everyday
Waco Fire!**

2022

The City formally established the Waco Fire Department on April 3, 1873, in response to a devastating fire that destroyed many businesses and professional offices on March 23, 1873. Through all volunteers, steady leadership into the 1910s saw a new organization gain city-owned fire stations and modernized equipment. Introducing the first motorized apparatus in 1911, the Department began paying “night men” in 1915 to maintain coverage during the night. The Department was transitioning to a paid fire department by 1917, and the last horse-drawn apparatus saw action in 1921. Thriving through the 1920s, the Department saw Station 8 (then at 9th and Colcord Ave.) shudder in 1938 because of the Great Depression. In the early 1950s, the Department was already broadening responses to calls other than fires. This expansion included water rescues with the acquisition of two boats. The organization grew as Waco slowly recovered from the devastating 1953 tornado to meet the community’s needs.



Today, the Waco Fire Department is an “all-hazards” emergency services organization divided into four main functional areas of management: the Fire Administration and Support Services Branch, Emergency Operations Branch, Community Risk Reduction Branch, and the Waco/McLennan County Office of Emergency Management. A senior leadership position supervises each functional area, and we establish several Divisions within each functional area. The Waco Fire Department is comprised of 219 uniform and civilian employees and is one of the largest departments in Central Texas. The Department staffs 13 Fire Stations that protect 102 square miles of Waco and its 141,637 residents while providing regional fire and rescue response aid within the Waco Metropolitan Area and its 277,005 residents. In 2022, the Waco Fire Department responded to 20,674 incidents, including structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, EMS, and special operations incidents.

Fire Administration / Senior Leadership

FIRE CHIEF GREGORY SUMMERS



Chief Summers joined the Waco Fire Department on March 30, 2020, after being confirmed by the Waco City Council on March 17. Chief Summers is Waco's eighth Fire Chief in the departments over 100-year history. He is a distinguished Fire Service leader with strong leadership and management skills, with over 34 years in the fire service.

For nine years, Chief Summers served as the Fire Chief of the Little Rock Fire Department. Under his leadership, they achieved ISO Class 1 and International Accreditation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence - a dual distinction held by only 0.29% of all fire departments in the United States.

Chief Summers has demonstrated experience in influencing, decision making, and coaching in all levels of supervision and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Management and Associates of Applied Science degree in Fire Science. He is married to his wife of thirty-four years, Jeanette, and they have three children and four grandchildren.



Executive Deputy Chief Robby Bergerson

Chief Bergerson began his career as a firefighter in the Austin area in 1993, before joining the Waco Fire Department on August 18, 1997. He has held or served temporarily in every rank of the Department before being promoted to Deputy Chief on October 18, 2017. His leadership has helped to implement many changes within the Waco Fire Department and was an integral part of the team achieving the Department's Class 1 ISO insurance rating. Chief Bergerson is considered the second in command of the Waco Fire Department and supervises Administration and Support Services while coordinating with other Branches to maintain effective operations and works on many special projects.

He has earned a Master of Liberal Studies degree in Public Administration from Fort Hays State University, a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership from Mountain State University, and an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Services Administration from Weatherford College. A 2019 graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program, Chief Bergerson has also been awarded the prestigious

Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. As a graduate of the Texas Fire Chiefs Academy, he has also earned the professional designation as a Certified Fire Executive (CFE). In 2022, Chief Bergerson began the Fire Service Executive Development Institute program through the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Chief Bergerson holds Master Firefighter, Master Aircraft Rescue Firefighter, Fire Officer IV, Incident Safety Officer, Hazardous Materials Technician, Hazardous Materials Incident Commander, Incident Commander, and Fire Service Instructor III-Master certifications from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, and EMT-Basic from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Chief Bergerson enjoys sharing his knowledge with others as a faculty member at Austin Community College, instructs incident command and leadership nationally, and is also a published contributor for Fire Engineering Magazine.

Executive Deputy Chief of Emergency Operations Patrick Veselka

Chief Veselka Acting Chief Veselka began his career in September 1995 at Travis County ESD 6 and joined the Waco Fire Department in March 1999. Additionally, he serves as the Accreditation Manager for the Waco Fire Department.

He has earned an associate degree in Fire Protection from Austin Community College, a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University in Fire Administration, and currently working toward a master's degree in Public Administration from Fort Hays State University. Additionally, Chief Veselka completed the Managing

Officer Program from the National Fire Academy and is working on completing the Executive Fire Officer Program.

Chief Veselka holds a Master Firefighter, Fire Officer IV, Instructor III, Incident Safety Officer, HazMat Commander, and Incident Commander from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. He is also a certified paramedic.

Deputy Chief of Community Risk Reduction Kevin Vranich

Chief Vranich joined the Waco Fire Department as a professional firefighter on October 2, 1995.

Before being appointed Deputy Chief of Community Risk Reduction on October 17, 2017, Chief Vranich held the Firefighter, Engineer, Station Lieutenant, and Deputy Fire Marshal positions. He has performed the duties of Chief Fire Marshal since February 2012. He also currently oversees the Fire Departments Tactical Medic program.

Chief Vranich holds certification from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection as Advanced Firefighter, Advanced Aircraft Rescue Firefighter, Fire Officer, Advanced Fire Investigator, Advanced Arson Investigator,

Advanced Code Enforcement Inspector, Plans Examiner, Fire Service Instructor, Emergency Medical Technician. He also holds certifications from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement as Basic Instructor, Firearms Instructor, and Advanced Peace Officer.

As Deputy Chief of Community Risk Reduction, Chief Vranich oversees the Fire Department's Public Education, Code Enforcement, Fire Investigation, Records Management, Special Events, Plan Review, and Departmental Risk and Safety.

Emergency Management Coordinator Elizabeth Thomas

Elizabeth Thomas is originally from Garland, TX. She went to Texas A&M University in College Station. She graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Political Science in 2016 and her Master's degree in Public Administration from the Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M University in May 2018.

She accepted the position of Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator in May 2018. She became the Emergency Management Coordinator in November 2019. During her time with the City of Waco and McLennan County, Elizabeth has overseen the EOC

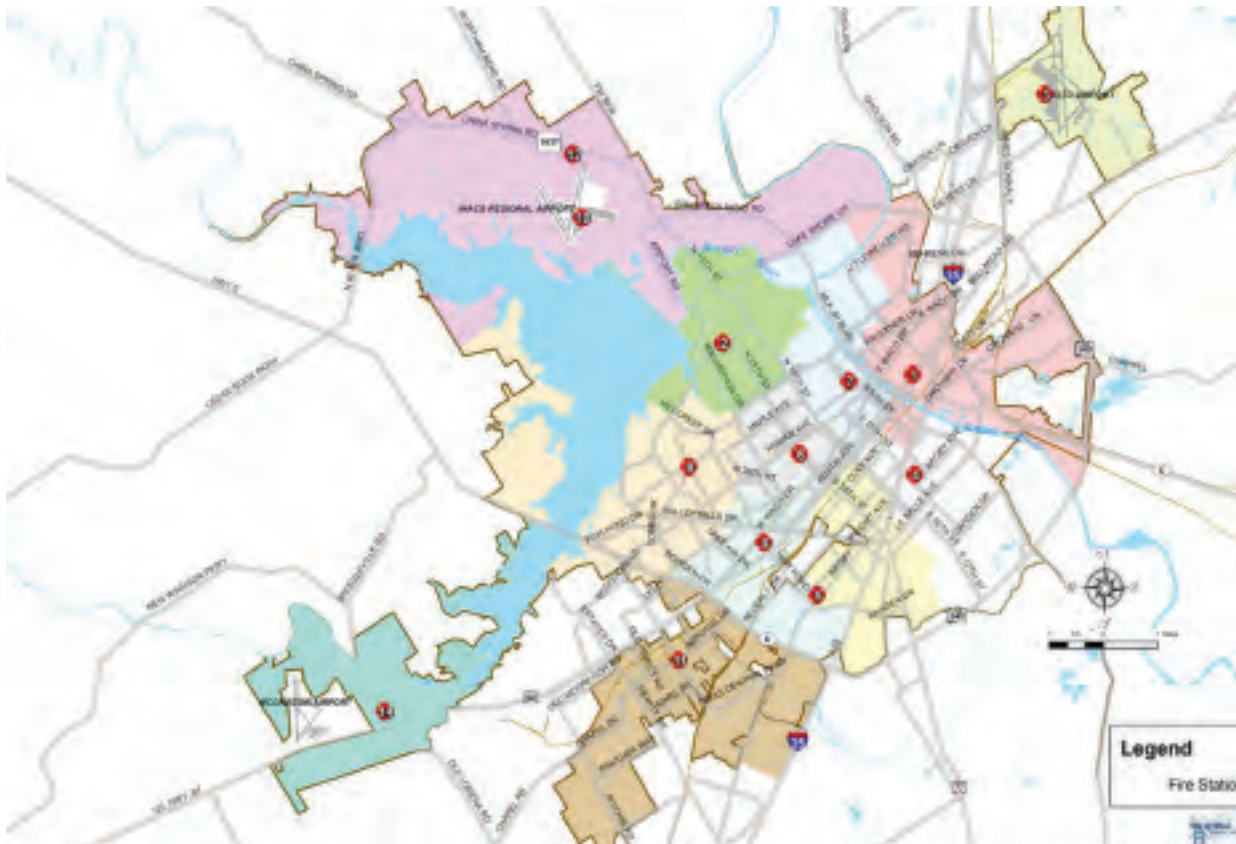
response to the 2019 COVID-19 pandemic multiple exercises, including the 2020 Waco Regional Airport Full Scale Exercise and emergency management support many large-scale events. During her time here, she has completed her Continuity Excellence Series - Level II Master Continuity Practitioner.

Fire Stations

The City of Waco Fire Department operates out of 13 strategically located fire stations with the concept of meeting or exceeding the industry standards for response times for all types of emergencies. The Waco Fire Department meets industry standards for the first arriving apparatus to be on the scene within six minutes of a 9-1-1 call being placed. This standard includes 60 seconds for call processing by Dispatchers, 60 seconds for apparatus to turnout (respond), and 240 seconds to arrive at the scene. The Department's goal is for a minimum of 17 firefighters to arrive on a residential structure fire scene within 10 minutes of the call for help and 23 firefighters to arrive at a commercial building or apartment fire within 10 minutes of the originating call 90% of the time. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by



Career Fire Departments is the benchmark for a response. We know this matrix as an Effective Response Force (ERF). An ERF is the minimum number of firefighters and equipment that must reach a specific emergency incident location within a maximum prescribed travel (driving) time. The maximum prescribed travel time acts as one indicator of resource deployment efficiency.



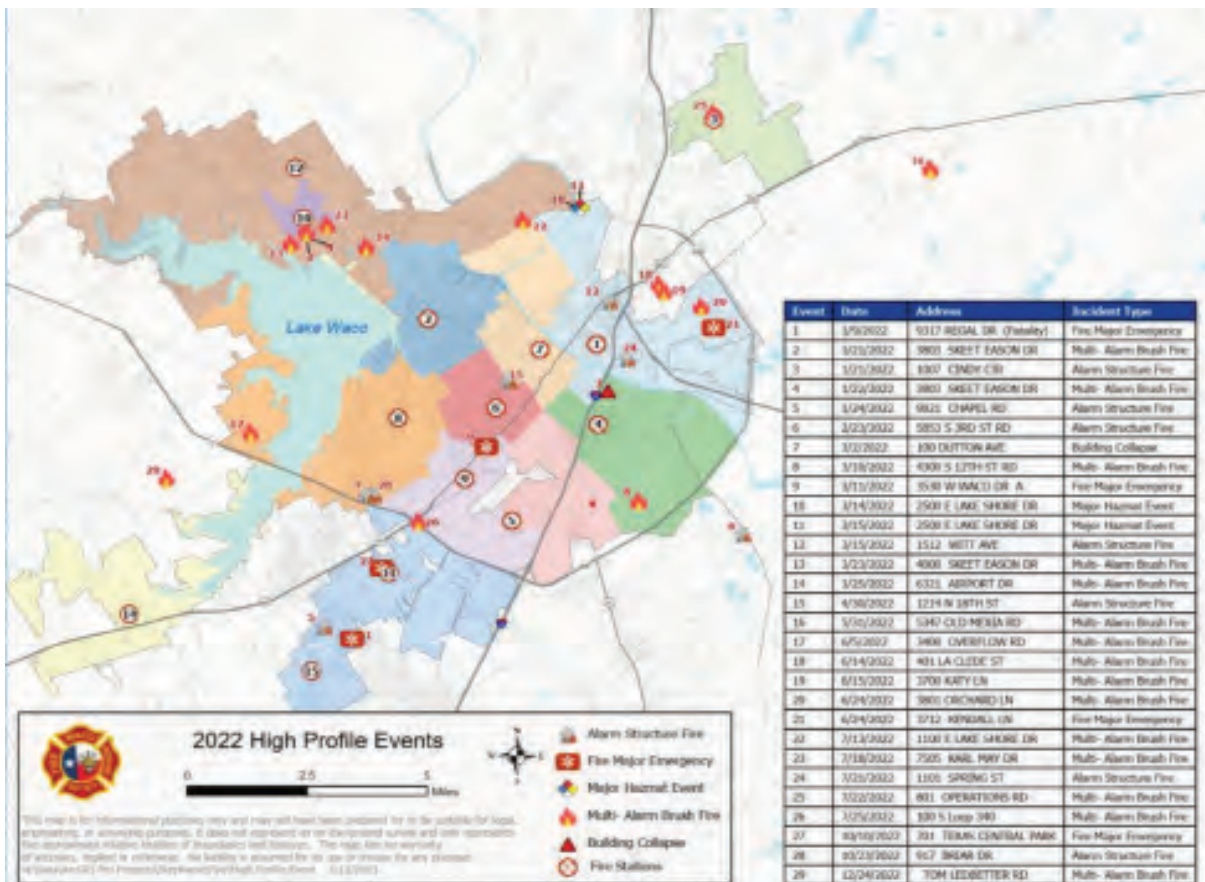
FIRE STATION INFORMATION

1	100 PEACH STREET	76704	1	2011	Engine, Truck (Ladder), Battalion Technical Rescue
2	2625 PARK LAKE DR.	76708	1	2000	Engine, Truck (Ladder), Boat
3	111 9 TH STREET (TSTC)	76705	1	2010	Engine , Aircraft Rescue Apparatus (2)
4	1002 SPEIGHT	76706	2	1960	Engine, Brush Truck
5	4515 BAGBY	76711	2	2019	Engine, Battalion
6	1006 N. 25 TH STREET	76707	4	2022	Engine
7	1325 N. 5 TH STREET	76707	4	2014	Engine
8	4720 COBBS	76710	5	1958	Engine, Dive Truck
9	315 NEW ROAD	76711	3	1974	Engine
10	7915 KARL MAY	76708	5	2007	Aircraft Rescue Apparatus (2)
11	7600 IMPERIAL DRIVE	76712	3	2000	Engine, Truck (Ladder), Hazmat
12	3300 FLAT ROCK RD	76708	5	2006	Engine, Boat
14	5401 SPEEGLVILLE	76712	5	2006	Engine, Brush Truck
ADMIN	1006 N. 25 TH STREET	76707	4	2022	Fire Administration & Fire Prevention Office
LOG	2800 BOSQUE BLVD	76707	4	1940	Fire Logistics & Training
ESEC	7601 STEINBACK BEND DR.	76708	5	2009	Fire Training Tower
DISPATCH	3115 PINE AVE (9 TH FLOOR)	76708	4	2013	Fire Dispatch

2022 HIGH-PROFILE INCIDENTS



High Profile Incidents are significant responses that require additional resources to mitigate the hazard or solve the problem at hand because of their nature and complexity.



2022

Department Budget

FY22 Accomplishments

- Purchase of Purvis Fire Sation Alerting System.
- Purchase of three additional Fire Engines.
- Design and purchase three Type VI wildland Brush Trucks.
- Addition of four Firefighter positions.
- CIP funding for the design and
- Construction of Fire Station 15.

INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO) PROPERTY PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION

The City of Waco achieved an ISO Class 1 PPC rating from ISO (Insurance Services Office) & the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office in February 2020. The Class 1 rating is the highest possible score given to any fire department nationwide and scored by three factors (1) Fire Department (50%), Water Supply (40%), and Fire Alarm Dispatch (10%). Waco residents should remind their insurance company at the renewal of the ISO rating to see if it results in cost savings on their home insurance policy. ISO rates fire departments to determine a Public Protection Classification (PPC) for individual cities or counties. ISO publishes this rating, and insurance companies use it to determine insurance rates. The ISO Schedule develops a PPC number on a relative scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being the very best and 10 representing less than minimum recognized fire protection. Therefore, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC.

When the ISO evaluates a fire department's capabilities, it uses a system called the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), which employs nationally accepted standards developed by such organizations as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International. The FSRS considers three main areas of a community's fire suppression capabilities: emergency

communications (911 call center), the fire department, and water supply. In addition, it includes a Community Risk Reduction section that recognizes community efforts to reduce losses through fire prevention, public fire safety education, and fire investigation.

Critical elements considered when evaluating a fire department include response capabilities (deployment analysis) which include adequate staffing of fire service personnel on engine crews and ladder companies, fire station distribution (location and coverage), appropriate apparatus and equipment, training, water supplies, organizational structure, communications, and building/fire prevention codes and their enforcement.

The City of Waco Fire Department's ability to earn the rating of Class 1 reflects the City of Waco's commitment to providing quality public safety services to the residents, businesses, and visitors of our community.



FIRE SUPPRESSION DIVISION

2022 ended with a record year for WFD. Members responded to 20,674 incidents, a 4.2% increase from 2021. The Fire Suppression Division provides fire protection, rescue, and medical first responder services to 141,637 residents and covers approximately 102 square miles. It staffs 13 fire stations daily, with a minimum staffing level of 53 personnel. All fire stations are strategically located throughout the City to help provide a response time of six minutes or fewer from when Fire Dispatch receives the call. In 2022, the Waco Fire Department responded to 20,674 incidents. The Fire Suppression Division operates using three rotating shifts (A, B, and C) that work 24 hours and 48 hours off work schedules. The Deputy Chief of Emergency Operations commands the Fire Suppression Division through daily supervision by six Battalion



Chiefs. While Battalion Chiefs supervise the day-to-day operations and incidents, one of the three Deputy Chiefs is always on call and serves as the "Duty Chief" to assist with complex problems that arise at large-scale incidents.





Special Operations Division

In addition to fire and medical responses, the Waco Fire Department provides several specialized response teams to address nearly any potential emergency. With limited external resources to request help from the area, the Waco Fire Department has planned and built many specialized teams to ensure residents and visitors remain safe. The Special Operations Teams

comprise firefighters with unique training, technical knowledge, and skills to address and mitigate the worst artificial or natural disaster that could threaten life safety and property within the City and a six-county region over 5600 square miles. This area is larger than the states of Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE TEAM (REGIONAL RESPONSE)



In 2022 the Hazardous Material Response Team responded to 90 Hazmat incidents. In addition, the team conducts monthly team training on different Hazmat topics. Team members attended two national conferences to stay current on new hazardous materials industry trends. The highlight of 2022 occurred when the Waco HazMat Team was requested to the NRG Power plant in Jewitt, Texas, to help extinguish and mitigate an underground coal fire that erupted in the plant's underground tunnel network. With our team's hard work and expertise, we were able to

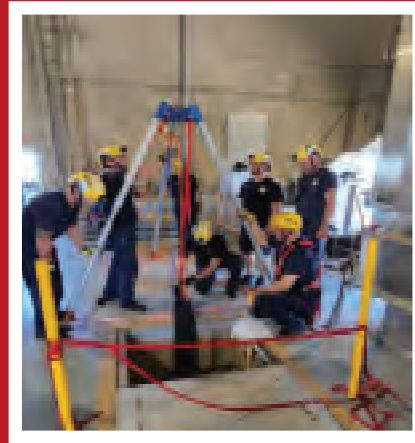
reduce the threat of fire while keeping the power plant operational, which prevented the electric grid from failing for a large portion of the state.

The Waco Fire Department also provides Technician Level Hazmat response capabilities for the City of Waco and regional response to the six counties that create the HOTCOG or Heart of Texas Council of Governments (McLennan, Bosque, Hill, Falls, Freestone, and Limestone County). The specific services and expertise that the Hazmat Team provides are Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) threats, along with:

- Significant Fuel Spills response (Greater than 25 gallons)
- Air quality monitoring
- Weapons of Mass Destruction readiness and response
- Decontamination
- Release containment
- Chemical Product & substance identification

Technical Rescue Team (Regional Response)

The Waco Fire Technical Rescue team continues to grow each year with new specialized disciplines and equipment in the evolving world as we know it. Six Technical Rescue team members traveled to the world-renowned “Disaster City” in College Station, TX, to attend a two-week (80 hr) course in Structural Collapse Training. This course was inceptioned post 9/11 World Trade Center Collapse to handle the world’s worst disasters from natural, artificial, and acts of terror. All members will attend this class in the coming year to better prepare for the growing Waco Metropolitan Area. Team members also received new rope rescue equipment and a specialized rope rescue device known as the Arizona Vortex (pictured right) for high-angle and confined space rescues.



The Waco Fire Department also provides a specialized Technical Rescue Team to assist in unusual and unique rescue operations. The team comprises firefighters with multiple certifications and disciplines and are trained to operate specialized equipment. The Technical Rescue Team provides the following response capabilities for the City of Waco and regional response to the six counties that create the HOTCOG or Heart of Texas Council of Governments (McLennan, Bosque, Hill, Falls, Freestone, and Limestone County) Region.

- Flood and Swift water Rescue
- Lake and River Water Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Trench Collapse Rescue
- Structure Collapse
- Rope and High Angle Rescue



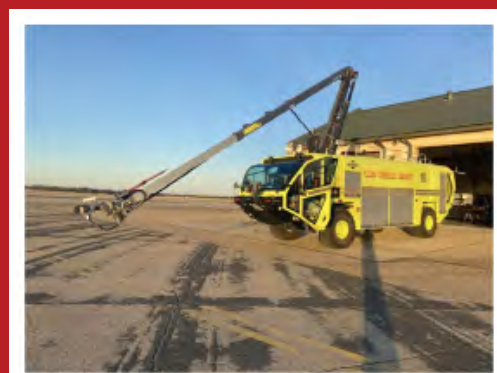
- Industrial Machinery Rescue
- Automobile & Heavy vehicle rescue
- Grain Silo Rescue
- Various Complex Rescue Operations

AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIREFIGHTER (ARFF) Accomplishments

The Waco Fire Department provides Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting to the Waco Regional Airport and the TSTC Waco Airport on the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) campus, the largest airport operated by an educational institution within the United States. These teams of specialized firefighters are regulated by either the Federal Aviation Administration at Waco Regional Airport or the Department of Defense at TSTC. The FAA conducts yearly inspections to ensure the Waco Fire ARFF team meets or exceeds a very high level of standards and training. The ARFF team is responsible for carrying out and documenting these training requirements throughout the year. In an aircraft accident, ARFF team members will need this training to respond proficiently and effectively to save lives and mitigate the situation quickly. The Department of Defense regulates the TSTC Airport due to L3-Harris's contracts with the military for work on their airplanes. Each year, ARFF personnel maintain safety at the airports by pre-planning, performing aircraft standbys, and

responding to mitigate all events, including in-flight emergencies, aircraft fire suppression, fuel spills, standbys, passenger rescue, runway inspections, and EMS first response.

Each member of the ARFF team must complete the training required by the FAA to meet their twelve critical subject areas in Aircraft Rescue Firefighting. Throughout the year, hands-on training drills are required; these include ARFF vehicle operations, driving in restricted airspace, procedure and proficiency of master stream turret and high reach extendible turret (HRET), live fire training, and aircraft familiarization.



TIFMAS PARTICIPATION AND RESPONSE



The Waco Fire Department participates in the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System or TIFMAS. TIFMAS is a resource management system under the Texas Division of Emergency Management to request resources for large wildfires. It is common for Waco Firefighters to respond to Wildfire or All-Hazards requests and deploy alongside other firefighters from around the state. The responses, including personnel or equipment, are fully reimbursable, and firefighters receive valuable experience.

On March 18, 2022 Waco, Hewitt, & Temple firefighters, apparatus, and equipment responded to an urgent request for aid to the Eastland Complex Fire as part of TIFMAS. The Eastland complex fire consisted of seven large complex fires scorching approximately 55,000 acres and burned for 14 days before it was deemed 100% contained. Waco Firefighters and equipment were deployed for 32 days during the Eastland Complex deployment.

On Thursday, December 15, 2022, the Waco Fire Department was notified that it was granted a Tactical Tender apparatus as part of the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) grants program by the Texas A&M Forest Service. The grant program will allow WFD to take possession of a 100% funded apparatus for use at:

- Local and Regional Mutual Aid Incidents.
- Local/Regional Multiple Alarm Incidents.
- Emergency events are threatening properties vital to National Defense, Critical Infrastructure, or Important Military Installations.
- Local community events(parades, displays).
- Training of firefighters.
- Standby for Cooperator's regular apparatus while out for repairs. The cooperator will notify TFS if the standby period is expected to exceed 90 days.

Waco was one of only two departments receiving vehicles this year, and this Tactical Tender will be one of only four statewide. The Tactical Tender will boast a 2000-gallon water tank, foam system, and the ability to pump while moving. While its primary mission is to support and increase statewide wildland firefighting capabilities, it is a massive win for Waco, as the Waco Fire Department has no large capacity water hauling vehicles in its fleet. The TIFMAS grant program has funded 54 (including two this year) apparatuses statewide over the past 12 years. The Waco Fire Department has actively participated in the TIFMAS program over the past few years, with firefighters deploying to numerous wildfires, assisting with the COVID-19 response, and Hurricane Ida in Louisiana. In addition, Executive Deputy Chief Bergerson serves as a Division Coordinator managing resources for 12 counties in the region. The Waco City Council approved the request to submit a TIFMAS grant in October Of 2020.



SWAT/TACTICAL MEDIC PROGRAM

To ensure member and patient safety during tactical SWAT Team operations of the Waco Police Department, the Waco Fire & Police Departments jointly instituted the SWAT Medic Program in April 2019. Organizations usually dispatch SWAT teams to situations where regular law enforcement teams need more equipment or training. The six fire department team members log over 360 hours of annual training and team up with SWAT in all clandestine and routine ops throughout the City or where required.

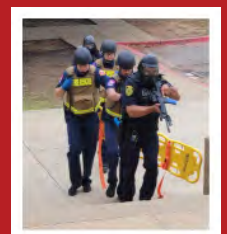
Duties include providing field medical treatment to injured or ill team members while engaged in mission activity, including K-9 animals. SWAT Medics ensures team members have the best possible and immediate treatment and receive the level of care required. Team Members also provide humanitarian medical help to non-law enforcement personnel injured or taken ill during an operation until proper transfer to an EMS system and conduct Medical Threat Assessments to determine the potential impact of medical/health factors on mission outcome and serve as the Medical Intelligence Officer.

RESCUE TASK FORCE

In 2018, the Waco Fire Department established the Rescue Task Force (RTF) concept to provide point-of-wound care to victims in an ongoing active shooter or other violent, mass-casualty event. Four Waco Fire Department Engine Companies were outfitted with body armor, ballistic helmets, and large quantities of tourniquets and bandages. The goal of the RTF personnel is to stop the bleeding and rapidly remove injured patients while wearing ballistic protective equipment. These tasks are completed while operating under the protection of law enforcement personnel to remove patients to areas where our medical personnel can

safely treat them. The typical RTF comprises five personnel: two trained law enforcement officers and three Waco Firefighters who are deployed to the following incident types:

- Active shooter in a school, business, mall, conference, special event, etc.
- Any incident with the possibility of an ongoing ballistic or explosive threat



2022

SCUBA – DIVE TEAM RESOURCES (RESCUE AND RECOVERY)

In 2022 The Waco Fire Department Dive Team assisted in several vehicle recoveries. Additionally, Waco Firefighters assisted Adventures with a Purpose with the recovery efforts of a vehicle connected to a five-year-old missing person cold case. The Dive Team also assisted the McLennan County Sheriff's office with a case searching for submerged evidence. The Dive Team also trained and fully equipped three additional new divers.

The Waco Fire Department's dive program comprises nine members and operates with rescue and recovery capability. The capable rescue component focuses on the immediate rescue of a person with a rapid response time to growing water emergencies, such as a car driven into the river. Both Battalion Chief



vehicles have an Aqua Lung Rapid Driver Pro system, which allows a dive-trained firefighter to be in the water for rescue situations within a minute of arriving at the scene. Waco is one of only a handful of Texas agencies that carry this vital life-saving equipment.

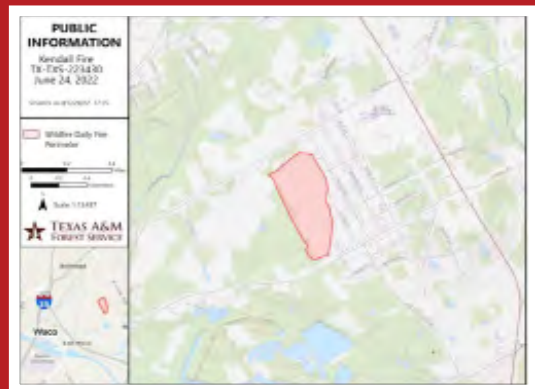
The Recovery Dive Team is a formal, extensively trained personnel that can respond regionally to requested SCUBA diving incidents to help in body and evidence recovery missions. The Dive Team operates a vehicle out of Fire Station 8 and has extensive diving and communications equipment.



lagued by arid weather and extreme drought conditions for most of the year, Waco did not escape the severe fire season of 2022 unscathed. High temperatures, low humidity, and extreme drought conditions set a perfect stage for a significant wildfire outbreak. Waco Fire units spent most of the year keeping wildfires at bay in and around Central Texas and lending a helping hand for larger wildfires throughout the state.

On June 24, Waco Firefighters faced a major fire emergency of a fast-spreading wildfire in the Timbercrest community of Waco. Firefighters encountered high wind conditions upon arrival, fanning flames and rapidly spreading the wildfire in size. First-arriving units quickly identified that many homes were now in imminent danger, prompting an evacuation. Additional units were called to respond, and it quickly escalated to a 3rd Alarm. The Kendall Fire would escalate to an equivalent of a 4+ Alarm, requiring the response of

seven mutual aid fire agencies and the Texas A&M Forest Service with two single-engine fixed-wing air tankers and a helicopter to drop retardant. The 51-acre “Kendall Fire” destroyed one large metal/shop building and several vehicles, but no homes were damaged or destroyed.



TRAINING DIVISION

We met our Waco Fire Department training function through collaboration between Divisions and agencies. The Emergency Services Education Center at 7601 Steinbeck Bend Dr. is a regional, joint-use facility between McLennan Community College (MCC) and the City of Waco Fire (and Police) Department(s). The Training Captain serves as the coordinator for many training functions under the direction of the Deputy Chief of Emergency Operations. The TrainIn addition, the Division is the central point for many logistical functions within the Waco Fire Department.

Beyond recruit training, the Waco Fire Department believes that “training should drive operations” and “operations should drive training.” This circular thought process allows for a strategic intent where members from the field can identify deficiencies and work toward correction, ensuring that the best training and operational readiness are present to handle emergencies.



For 2022 the Waco Fire Department welcomed Strategic Fire Training from Cleveland, Ohio. Strategic Fire Training Specializes in hose handling operations and aggressive firefighting tactics such as hose deployment, accountability, search and rescue (from the hose line), “go or no go,” hose over ladders, standpipe operations, master streams deployment, and “maxing out a fire engine.”

In 2022 the Waco Fire Training Division conducted two-recruit training classes that included 14 total personnel. In addition, it increased the firefighter position by four additional members for 2022, which increased the total number of uniform personnel to 211.



Probationary Firefighters (PFFs) spend three weeks in orientation and are evaluated continuously as they continue work in the fire stations following the initial orientation. Some skills taught are fire service ladder operations, forcible entry, Vent Enter Isolate Search (VEIS), trapped firefighter drills, oriented search, Incident Command, fire behavior, ventilation, extrication, and several others during this time; PProbationaryFirefighters are also taught to use the myriad of computer skills that must be used at the Waco Fire Department.



PFFs are issued two books during the first week of employment. One is a Probationary FF manual that contains pertinent information, including station locations, phone numbers, a department organizational chart, and PFF expectations and rules. It also includes copies of Departmental Rules & Regs, COMs, EOMs, and SOPs; The book is a Probationary Firefighter Position Task Book containing skills to be completed using the Field Training Officer (FTO) program. PFFs are expected to complete these skills to mastery before the end of their first year of employment.



PFFs are assigned to the Operations Division after their three-week orientation, which ends in a badge-pinning ceremony and shift assignment announcement. PNext, FFNext assigned to a 365-day probation period during which they are expected to study, practice skills, and pass written comprehensive exams. If completed successfully, they become permanent civil service firefighters after their probation.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Our Community Risk Reduction Branch contains multiple Divisions, staffed with one Deputy Chief/ Fire Marshal, one Captain, three Lieutenants, and one Specialist responsible for enforcing fire codes, life safety codes, and public education. In addition, they perform plan reviews for all new construction or significant remodeling and issue permits for tank removal, outdoor burning, and pyrotechnics.

This Branch also performs daytime inspections of businesses and night inspections of nightclubs and bars to ensure the public's safety. Additionally, it is common for the Emergency Operations Branch and the Community Risk Reduction Branch personnel to perform many public education programs and maintain all fire reports and records for the Waco Fire Department.

Often referred to as the Fire Marshal's Office, members are also responsible for investigating fires, including conducting criminal investigations of arson fires, arresting those responsible for setting fires or committing crimes associated with fire and presenting testimony in the court of law. The personnel assigned to this division are certified

Firefighters, Fire Inspectors, and Fire Investigators or Arson Investigators.

The State of Texas certifies arson investigators as peace officers. Waco's peace officers also handle the compliance of nearly 5,000 businesses to fire and life safety codes.



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Communications Division, also known as “Dispatch,” is staffed 24 hours a day by a minimum of two personnel who answer 9-1-1 calls and make rapid decisions based on the incident information on which appropriate fire units to send to the emergency. We dispatch fire units using a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system that recommends the closest and most appropriate units to handle different emergencies. The Waco Fire Department stated goal to complete the dispatching process is that “90% of emergency alarm processing time completes within 64 seconds, and 95% of alarm processing shall complete within 106 seconds.” Meaning that help is on the way-Fast!

The Waco Fire Dispatch Center is on the 9th floor of the Waco Police Department building at 3115 Pine Avenue. The Waco Fire Department operates on an 800MHz frequency radio system. Also, Emergency Management has a backup Early Emergency Alerting System in the Fire Dispatch Center. In late 2022, the Waco Fire Department began the configuration for installing and switching over to Internet Protocol (IP) based fire station alerting with the purchase of the Purvis Fire Station Alerting System. This system will increase the accuracy and speed of the dispatching team. The project should be complete and operational by May 2023.



WACO/MCLENNAN COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) protects lives, property, and the environment from disasters and emergencies through a proactive all hazards approach to emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation efforts, public education, and emergency incident response. The Emergency Management Office falls under the direction of the Fire Chief.

Emergency Management maintains the Waco McLennan County Emergency Management Plan, including planning for all cities in McLennan County. Managing emergencies, planning, mitigation efforts, response, and recovery are critical responsibilities of local government. The provincial government and the public must be prepared to act appropriately in disasters. OEM serves McLennan County

and liaises between local, state, and federal agencies. In addition, the office interacts with the Texas Division of Emergency Management. Severe weather and hazardous materials incidents are the most significant disaster potentials in the County. The OEM coordinates disaster preparedness activities between public and private industries and nonprofit organizations to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from human-made and natural disasters and acts of terrorism and manage the Waco and McLennan County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

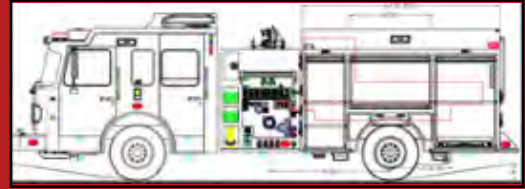


GRAND OPENING OF FIRE ADMINISTRATION & STATION 6

2022 saw the work at the old historic 25th St. Theater site for the Fire Administration. Fire Station 6 ended On March 23; members of the community and leadership and management teams celebrated with the Waco Fire Department the grand opening of the new Fire Administration and Fire Station 6 facilities at 1006 N. 25th St. The event, coordinated with Communication and Marketing personnel, featured searchlights, a red carpet, popcorn, food trucks, and a fire-themed children's movie in the parking lot. There were speeches from Mayor Dylan Meek, District Four City Council Representative Kelly Palmer, and City Management team members. They each inspired the crowds of nearly 300 people with words of encouragement about the benefits of the new facility's location along the 25th Street corridor. Clint Harp, the owner of Harp Design Co., handcrafted a unique custom kitchen table to donate to Fire Station 6 to bring quality furniture to last a lifetime. The project to build Station 6 and Fire Administration at the former 25th Street Theater gained support in the community throughout the planning process. Although delayed in completion, all that attended approved of the result. In addition, the unique design gained media attention outside of the Waco area for its creativity.



DELIVERY OF NEW FIRE APPARATUS



Six Engines and One Ladder Truck were constructed in 2021 in South Dakota and Nebraska; WFD took delivery of the first three state-of-the-art vehicles in late spring of 2022, with the following three fire engines and ladder truck being delivered during early summer. These vehicles provided much-needed relief to an aging fleet. These vehicles found new homes at stations 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, & 11. Additionally, WFD took the main stage nationally, with new apparatus being displayed at the Texas Fire Chiefs Conference in Waco in March, FDIC International Conference in

Indianapolis in April, and Fire Rescue International Conference in San Antonio in August. being displayed at the Texas Fire Chiefs Conference in Waco in March, FDIC International Conference in Indianapolis in April, and Fire Rescue International Conference in San Antonio in August. Tens of thousands of firefighters had the opportunity to look over some of the innovative features of our new rigs. WFD was also approved to add three more fire engines for replacement in 2023.



2ND ANNUAL CITIZEN FIRE ACADEMY

The second annual Waco Fire Department Citizen Fire Academy was held in September. Several members of the Department participated each week to instruct firefighting operations, emergency medical response, technical rescue, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials response, fire behavior, apparatus familiarization, and much more.

This opportunity presents citizens the chance to receive a first-hand real-life experience of the daily tasks and rescue situations faced by Waco Firefighters. Given the overwhelmingly positive feedback, the Waco Fire Department will be excited to offer this course annually to allow residents to learn about the services delivered by local firefighters.



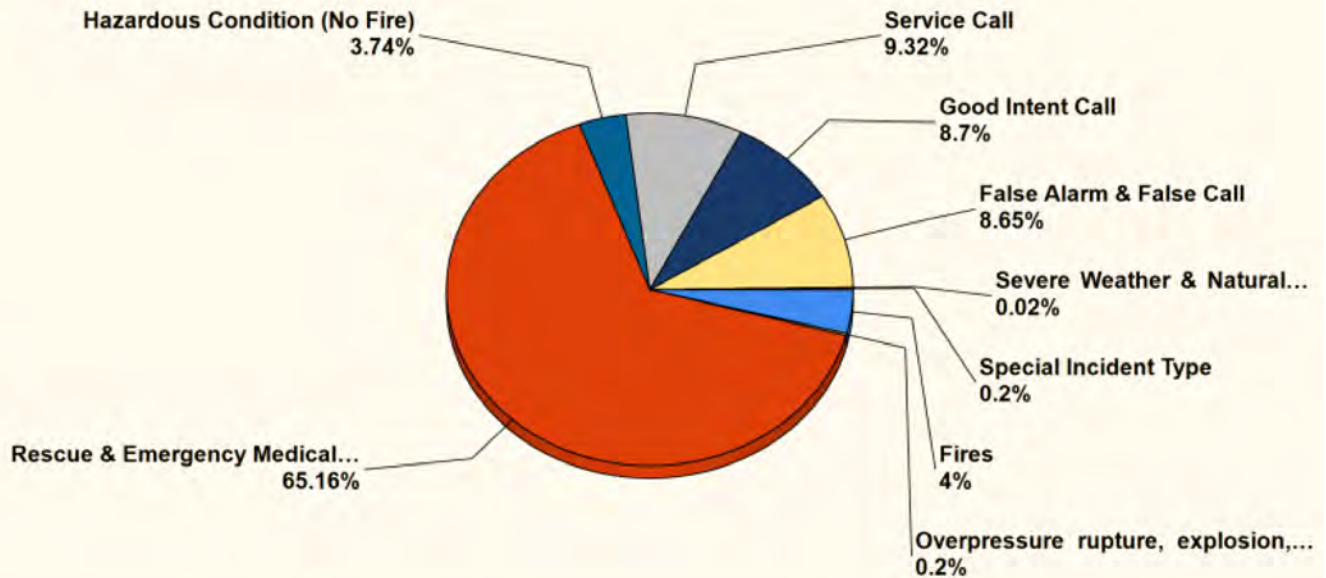
2022 MAJ OR WFD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Grand opening of Fire Station 6/ Fire Administration- \$5,200,000.00
- Approved New Fire Station 15 Design- \$5,100,000.00
- Submitted Design Budget for Station 4 Relocation- \$6,222,000.00
- Placed seven New Spartan Apparatus in Service- \$5,000,000.00
- Ordered three New Spartan Engines- \$2,600,000.00
- Ordered three New Brush Trucks- \$546,000.00
- Accepted Texas A&M Forest Service Grant for a Tactical Tender- \$625,000.00
- Purchased IP-Based Fire Station Alerting System- \$400,000.00
- Added four firefighter positions- \$372,848.00.



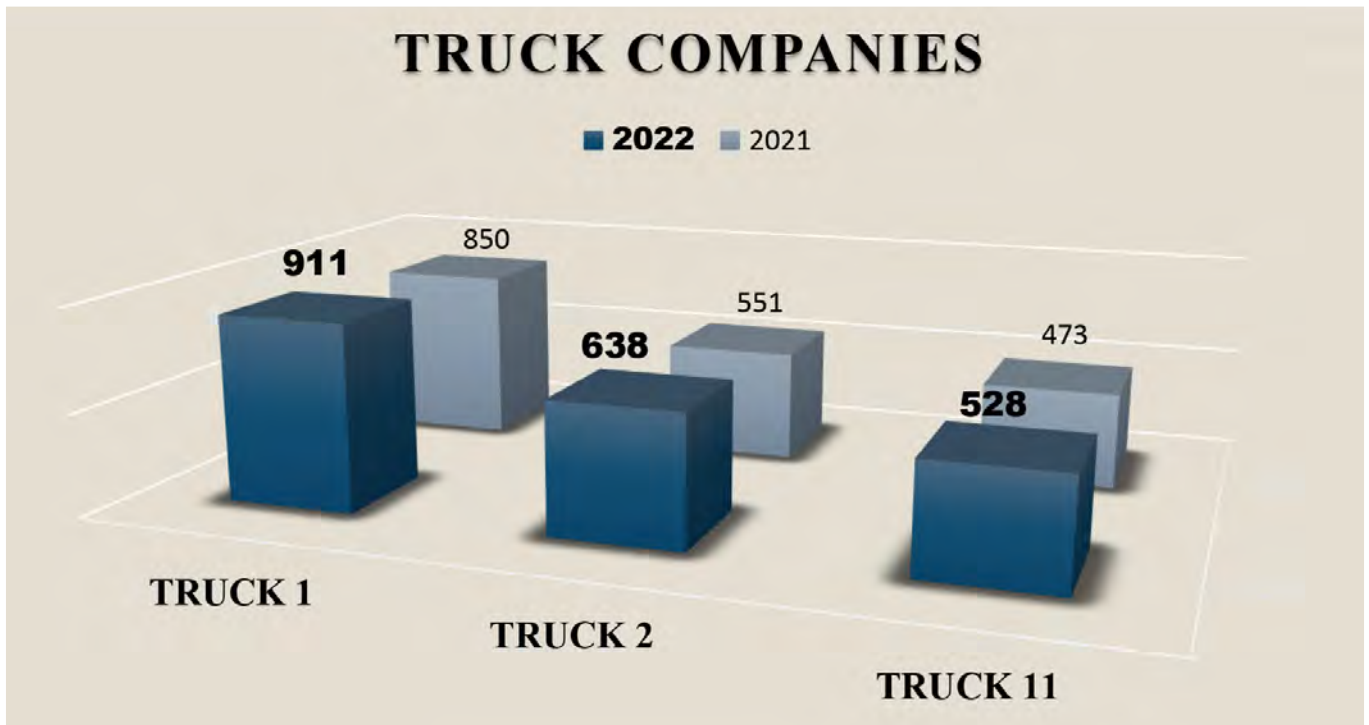
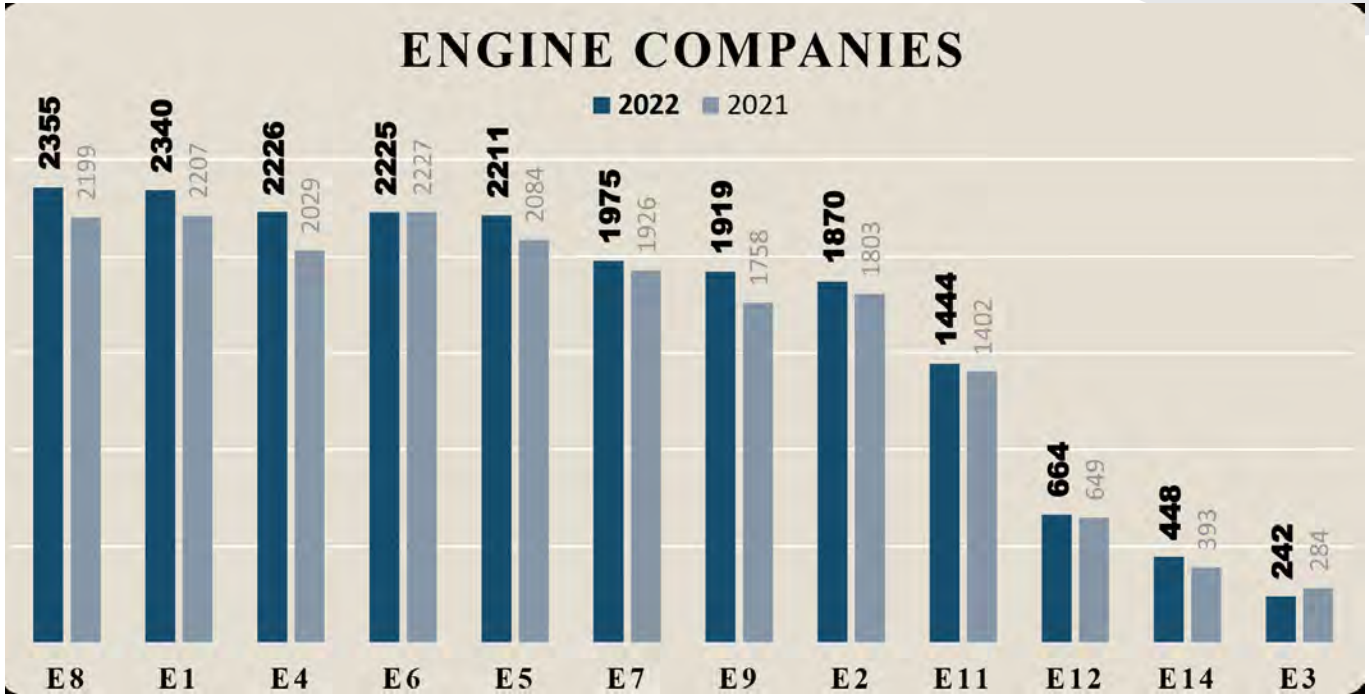
2022 STATISTICS

In 2022, the Waco Fire Department responded to 20,674 incidents, up 4.2% from 19,822 in 2021.



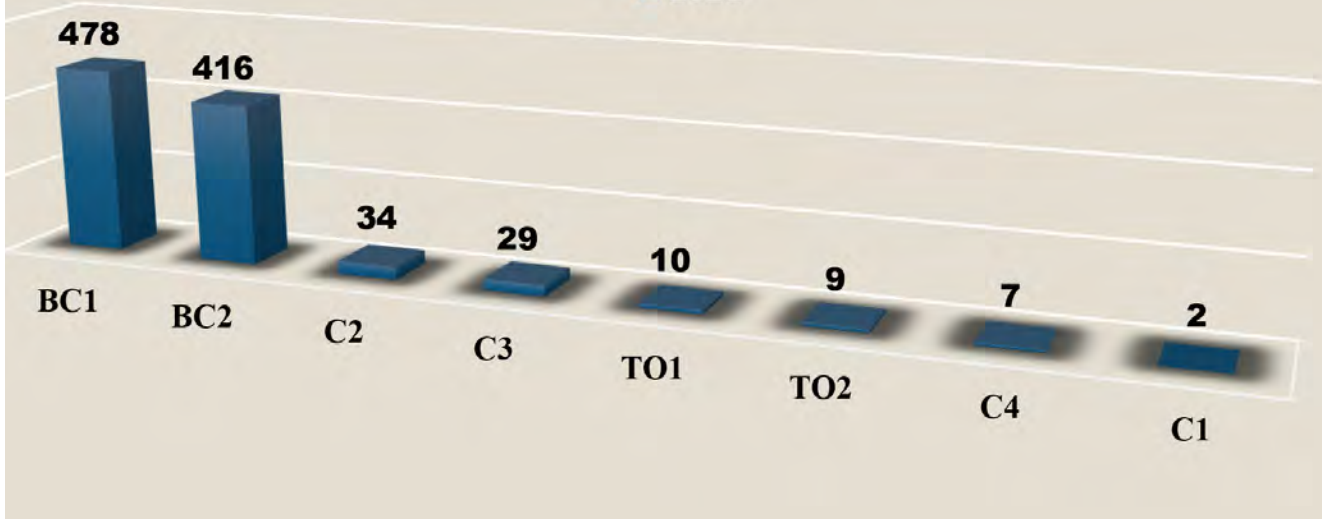
MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	826	4%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	42	0.2%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	13472	65.16%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	774	3.74%
Service Call	1927	9.32%
Good Intent Call	1798	8.7%
False Alarm & False Call	1789	8.65%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	4	0.02%
Special Incident Type	42	0.2%
TOTAL	20674	100%

2022 INCIDENTS BY UNIT



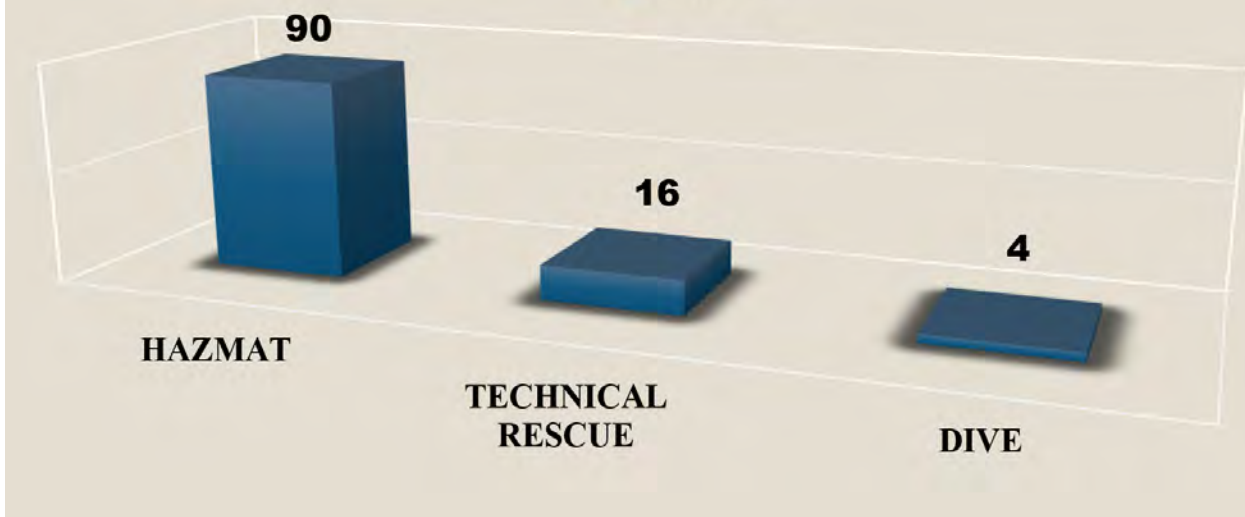
COMMAND/ SUPPORT

■ 2022

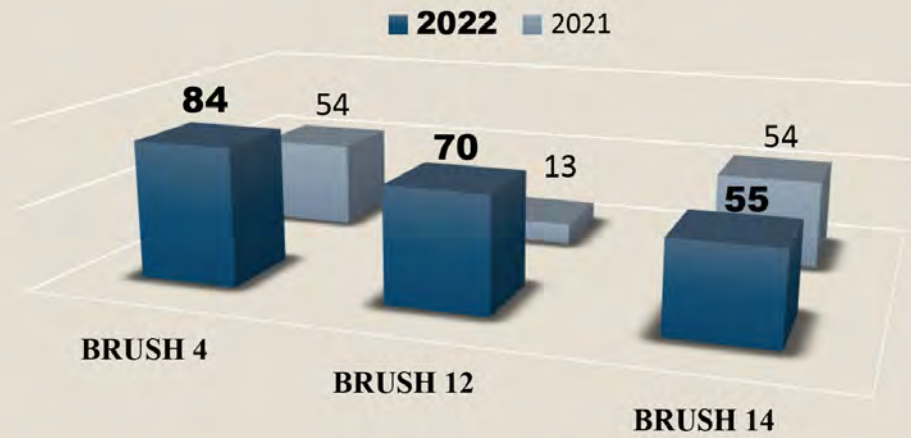


SPECIAL OPERATIONS

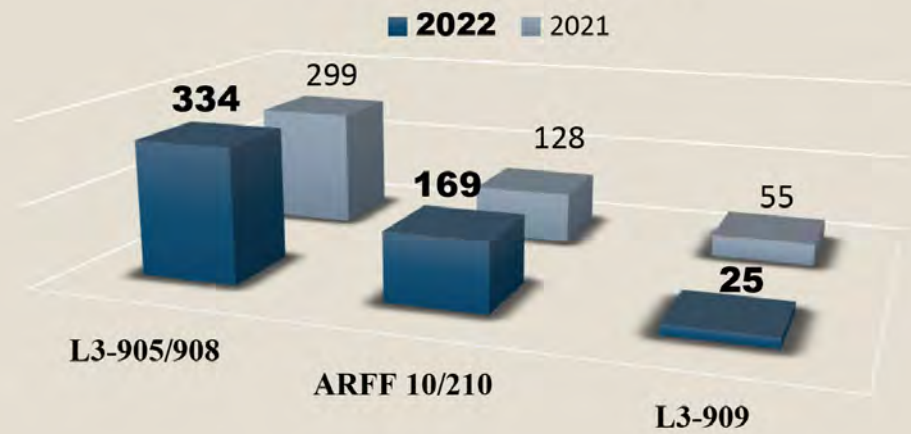
■ 2022



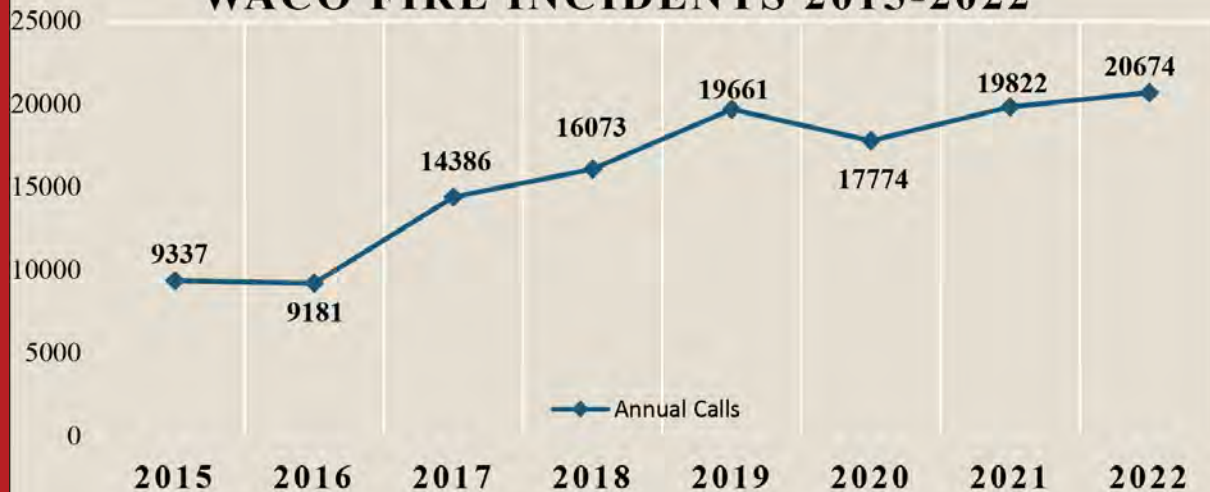
BRUSH TRUCKS



ARFF (AIRPORT)



WACO FIRE INCIDENTS 2015-2022



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