



South Metro Fire Department Year End Report
Proudly Serving the Communities of South St. Paul and West St. Paul



Message From Fire Chief Mark Juelfs



I will remember 2022 as the year we started to get back to our new normal. While Covid was still ever present in the beginning of 2022, it had much less of an impact on fire department operations. We still had the occasional outbreak but nothing compared to 2020 and 2021.

Our personnel were able to return to a normal training schedule including returning to conferences. At the 2022 Fire Investigator conference our own Steve Wenzel won Investigator of the year for his investigative work which led to the conviction of an arson suspect.

South Metro continues to be a leader in the area of Firefighter Health and Wellness. In 2022, South Metro continued our partnership with BluePeak consulting to offer the PAR360 program. This program gives our Firefighters tools to deal with issues that arise from their continued exposure to

the traumatic events during the response to emergent and non emergent calls. In addition, South Metro rolled out a new internal peer support team in 2022. The team consist of specially trained department members that are a resource for our Firefighters in their time of need. The health and wellness of our Firefighters is critical to our sustained operations.

2022 also saw some personnel changes within the department. We welcomed four new Firefighters to our family; Michael Jordan, Summer Eckman, Jake Rorabeck, and Grant Lillvis. We also had three departures in 2022. Two moved on to other departments and one retired. Mark Domann accepted a Firefighter position in Saint Paul and Anthony Puckett accepted a Firefighter position in Hopkins. Captain Brad Quiggle retired with over 28 years of service to our communities.



Thank you to all members of South Metro for a successful 2022 and may we have a great 2023.

Personnel

The heart of our organization is our outstanding personnel. Without their remarkable contributions to our communities South Metro would not be able to function. I thank all of them for their dedicated service. Below is a list of our personnel at the end of 2022 including the year they started with South Metro.

Firefighters

John Voigt—1998
Shawn Kutney—1999
Peter Friend—2001
Paul Fletcher—2004
Tony Del Rio—2005
Tim Congdon—2007
Bill Brandecker—2007
Jake Ganfield—2008
Matt Dinneen—2009
Andy Dahlinger—2010
Tony Gutierrez—2012
Nate Rank—2014
Evan Larsen—2014
Dan Willems—2016
Logan Schewe—2017
Bobby Conley—2018
Billy Brandecker—2018
Steven Jensen—2019
Robby Smith—2019

Firefighter—Continued

Matt Kull—2019
Joe Zinniel—2019
Jake McCann—2019
Ramon Murillo—2021
Zach Weise—2021
Brandon Buckley—2021
Steve Grass—2021
Michael Jordan—2022
Summer Eckman—2022
Jake Rorabeck—2022
Grant Lillvis—2022
Captains
Chris Snyder—1997
Ben Bailey—1999
Mike Nelson—2006
Jason Bessermin—2006
Sean Jansen—2007
Pat Noack—2008
Jordan Thompson—2017

Inspectors

Steve Wenzel—1998
Ange Appelholm—2013

Administrative

Deb Wheeler—2016

Chief Officers

Mark Juelfs—1998
Mark Erickson—1999
Terry Johnson—2009
Sam Seal—2014

Retired in 2022

Brad Quiggle—1993

Four New Firefighters in 2022

South Metro welcomed four new Firefighters to our department in 2022. Two of the four filled vacancies we had throughout the year and two were hired as part of the three new Firefighter positions that the Fire Board approved for 2022.



Michael Jordan



Summer Eckman



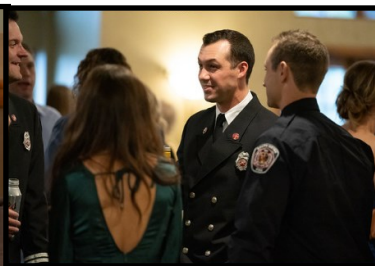
Jake Rorabeck



Grant Lillvis

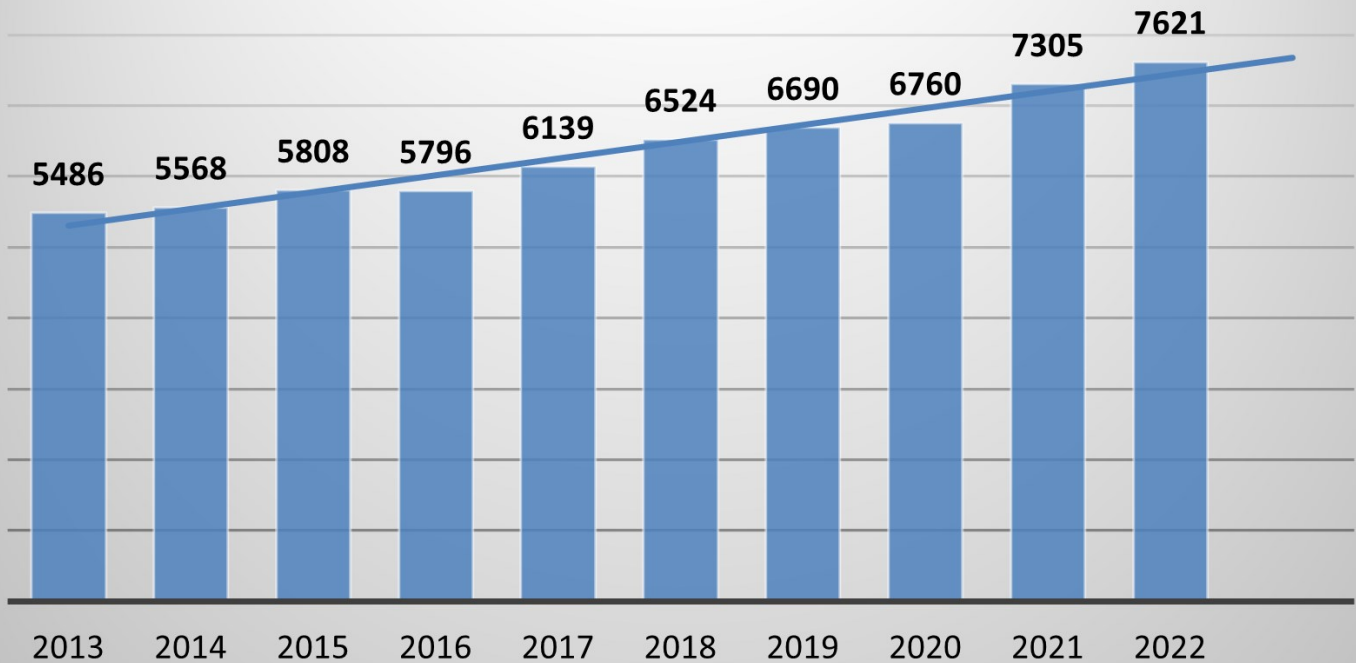
Banquet

In 2022, South Metro hosted its annual banquet for the first time since 2019. It was nice to have a relaxing evening together, honor our firefighters, and visit with our retirees. 10 year service awards were presented to Andy Dahlinger and Tony Gutierrez. 20 year service awards were presented to Shawn Kutney, Tom Brooks, and Peter Friend. Steve Jensen, Matt Kull, Robbie Smith, Joe Zinniel, Anthony Puckett, Mark Domann, and Ramon Murillo were pinned with their Firefighter badges, Pat Noack was pinned with his Captains badge and Sam Seal was pinned with his Training Chiefs badge. In addition, we recognized the retirement of Tom Brooks.



Operations - Incident Responses

Total Calls 2013-2022

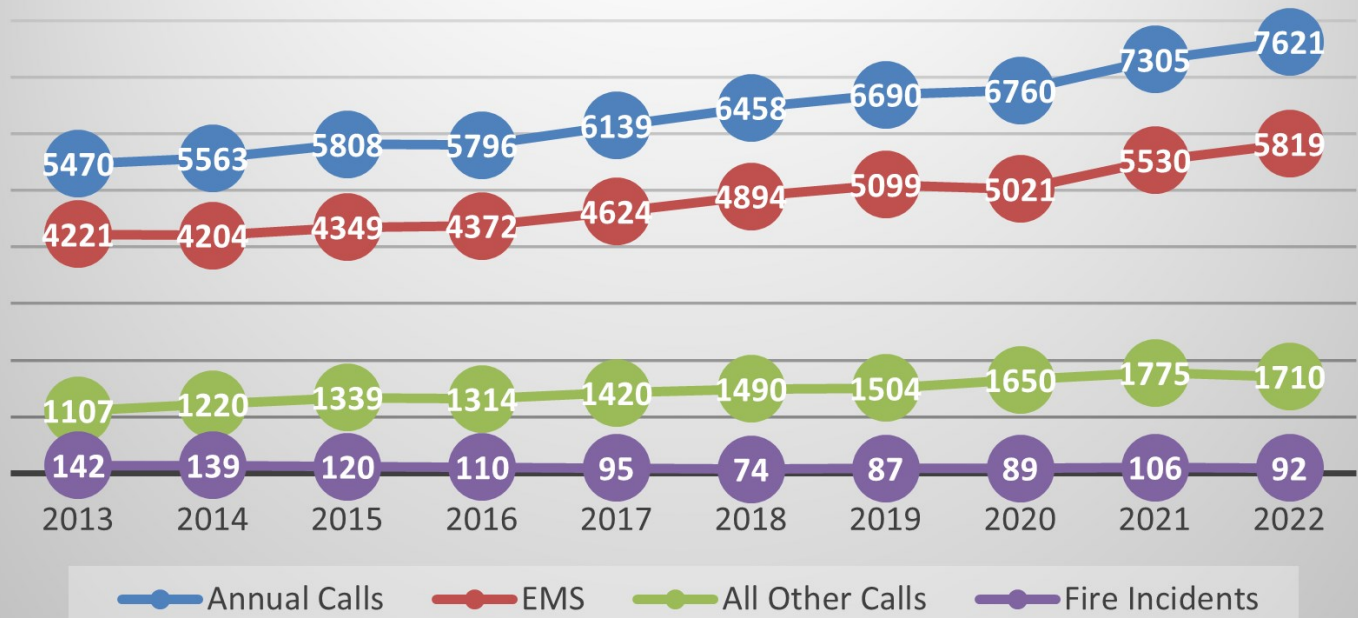


In 2022, our overall incident responses continued to rise. South Metro responded to 7,621 incidents in 2022. This was a 4.3% increase over the 2021 total of 7,305. In the last 10 years, 2013-2022, our call volume has risen 38.9%.



Operations - Incident Responses

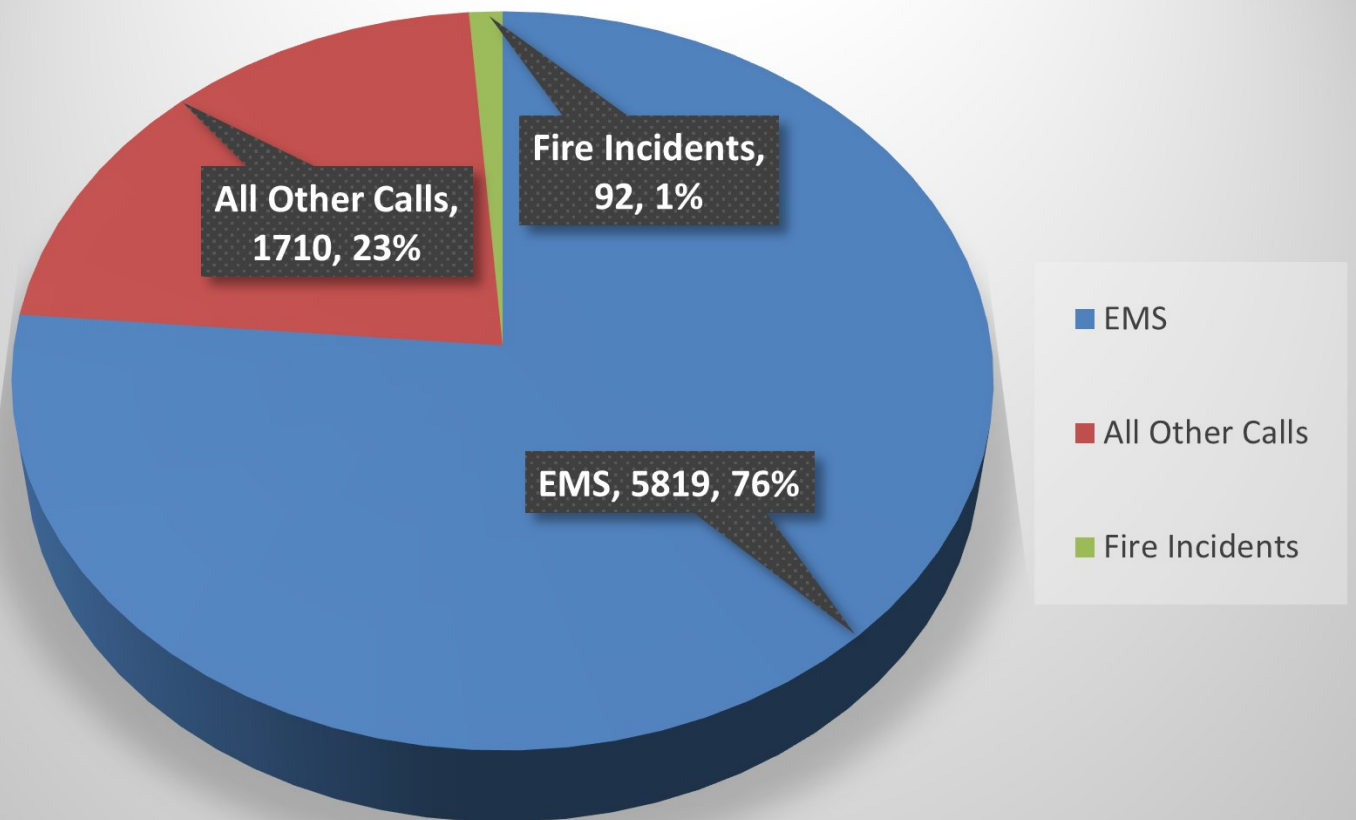
Calls by Type 2013-2022



The chart above illustrates the three broad categories of calls South Metro responds to including, EMS calls, Fire Incidents, and all other call types.



Operations - Incident Responses

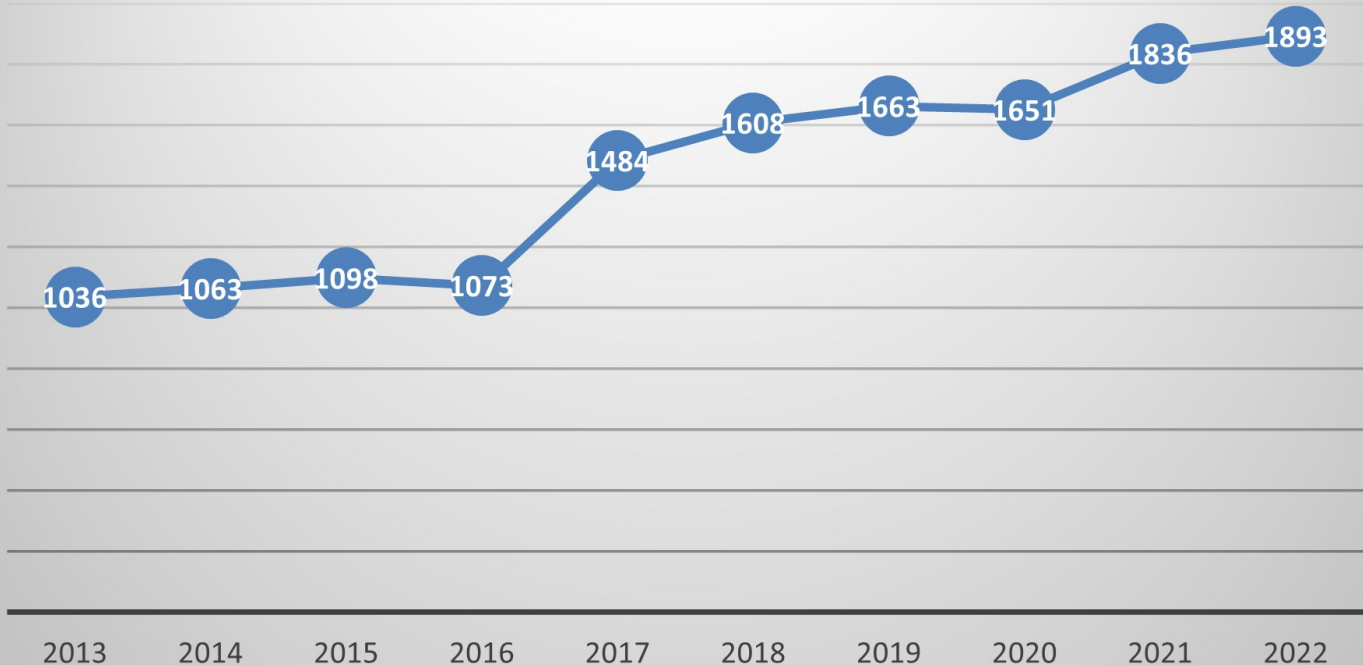


EMS accounts for 76% of our calls, Fire related calls account for 1% of our calls, and all other call types account for the remaining 23% of our calls.



Operation - Incident Responses

BLS Transports 2013-2022



We are in the fifth year of a five year contract with MHealth Fairview to provide basic life support transport in South St. Paul and West St. Paul. The chart above illustrates the number of BLS transports. In 2022, we transported 1893 patients to area hospitals. This was a 3.1% increase over the 1836 patients in 2021. In the last 10 years, 2013-2022 our transports have increased 82.7%



Operations - Incident Response



Fire Prevention - Community Outreach

2022 was a great year for community engagement. In 2022, we attended close to 100 public education events while connecting with thousands of citizens. Once again we had the pleasure of instructing our seniors on how to respond to a fire alarms, showing kids what to do in an emergency, giving station tours, and attending community events in both South St. Paul and West St. Paul.

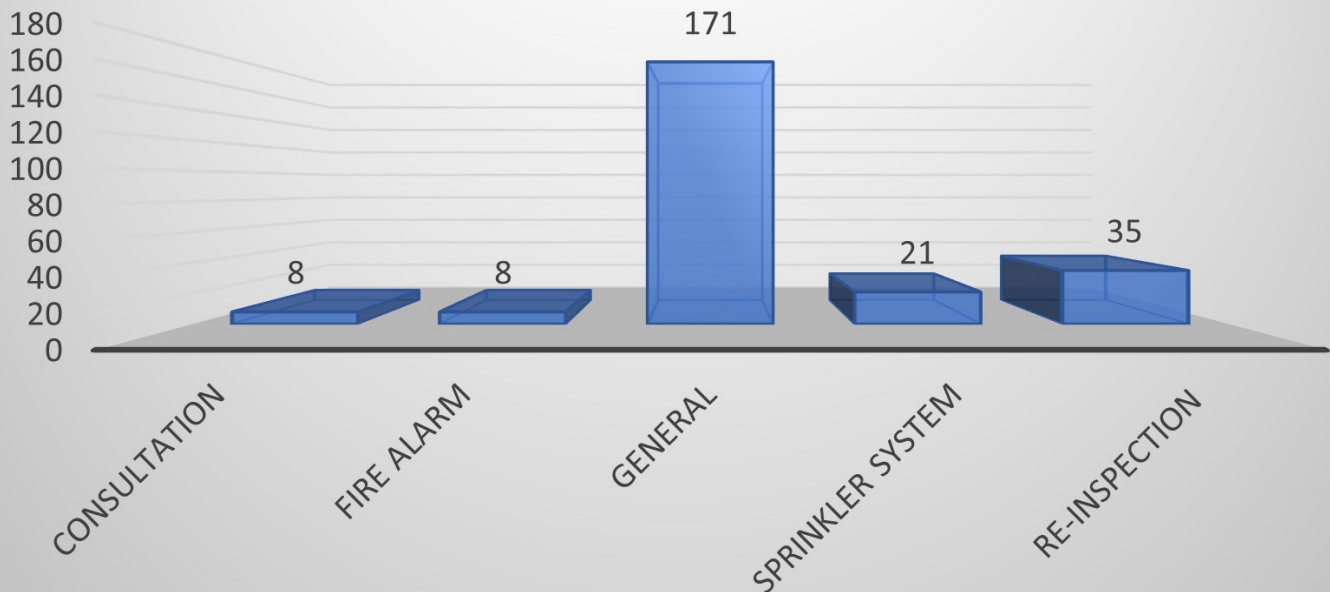


Fire Prevention - Community Outreach

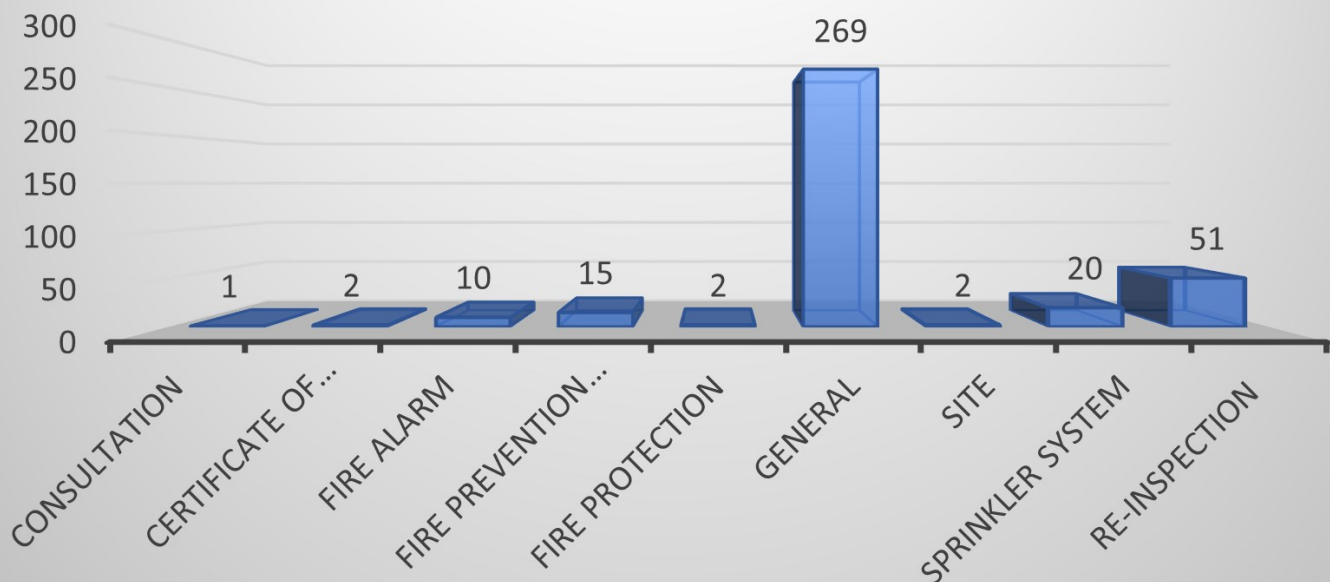


Fire Prevention - Inspections

2022 Residential Inspections Total 243



2022 Commercial Inspections Total 343



Training - General Firefighter Training

2022 Training Numbers

Total Training Hours - 9482 Total Training Completions - 5275

Throughout 2022, South Metro Firefighters trained on many different tasks. The fireground tasks included forcible entry, stretching hose lines, search and rescue, victim extrication, ladder placement, fire extinguishment, and ventilation. South Metro also conducted our biennial water rescue training.



Training - Pump/Driver Training

2022 Training Numbers

Total Training Hours - 9482 Total Training Completions - 5275

In 2022, South Metro completed 453 hours of Driver/Pump training. This training is critical to ensure that our Engineers are ready to deliver our Firefighters water at the scene of a fire. The Engineer also completes critical fireground tasks such as deploying hose lines, setting up ventilation fans, and being the eyes for the Captain when they are inside the building. The various topics covered included a driving course set up at the South St. Paul airport, standard pumping, relay pumping, apparatus placement, and many other activities.



Training - Fire Academy

2022 Training Numbers

Total Training Hours - 9482 Total Training Completions - 5275

2022 brought four new faces to South Metro. To prepare our new hires to work as independent crew members we continued our partnership with the Burnsville and Eagan Fire Departments to put on two joint training academies during the year. During the joint academies our new hires hone their firefighting skills for four weeks. This part of the new hire academy is filled with intensive training and repetition to ensure the new hires are ready to operate efficiently and effectively on the fire ground.



Training - EMS

2022 Training Numbers

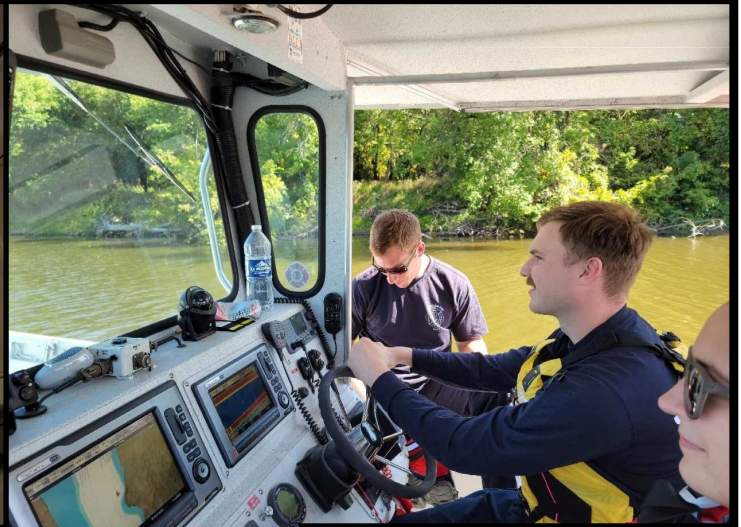
Total Training Hours - 9482 Total Training Completions - 5275

In 2022, South Metro Fire-fighters completed a total of 1005 hours of EMS training. 76% of our incident responses are for EMS calls, therefore it is critical that we keep our training and education up to date. We continue to partner with MHealth Fairview for our EMS training.



Training

Various training pictures from 2022



Collaborative Efforts

The following pages is a list of collaborative efforts involving South Metro

Dakota County Special Operations Team – Since 2003

A cooperative effort of all Dakota County municipalities to provide hazardous materials and technical rescue response within Dakota County through a joint power's agreement. The team is overseen by the Dakota County Domestic Preparedness Committee. South Metro currently has three personnel assigned to the team.

Minnesota Task Force 1 – Since 2005

This group serves as the State's Urban Search and Rescue Team, much like the FEMA rescue team that get deployed to hurricanes and earthquakes. The primary function of the task force is to perform rescues in collapsed buildings. South Metro is part of this team through its participation in the Dakota County Special Operations Team. The other primary partners in the task force are the fire departments of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Edina, and Rochester – all being partners in a joint power's agreement. South Metro currently has three personnel assigned to the task force.

Two Rivers – CPR

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, CPR became a graduation requirement. School districts must provide one-time cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) instruction in a class of their choosing. South Metro provides this training to Two Rivers twice a year at no cost to the school district.

Inver Hills Community College

South Metro has had a strong working relationship with the college for several years. The Fire Chief currently sits on the Colleges EMS advisory committee. In addition, students in the various EMS programs ride with our personnel to accomplish the patient contact requirements in their EMS program (First Responder or EMT).

Burnsville Fire – Water Rescue

Collaborative water rescue efforts between both departments began in 2013. Includes annual initial training for recruits and ongoing training for existing personnel, development and review of SOG's, and operational support if requested during incidents. We have also provided the initial training and program implementation for St. Paul and Lakeville Fire Departments and a handful of individuals from other organizations. We frequently field calls from other organizations about our model and how it could be used within their organizations. In September we began orientation training for the Eagan Fire Department.

Collaborative Efforts—Continued

Area Maritime Security Committee

This is a local sub-committee for the U.S. Coast Guard that focuses on security, equipment, and training needs along Pool 2 of the Mississippi River and Minnesota River up to Savage. This committee meets quarterly as a group and conducts yearly training designed to improve response to a variety of security, hazmat, and disasters along the river. The trainings have the committee to identify gaps in these areas and help to bring in federal port security monies for regional efforts. Our Boat 2 is an example of one of those grant funded purchases and is considered a regional asset. Boat 2 is frequently requested for response between the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers and the Hastings Dam.

Burnsville, Eagan, South Metro Recruit Academy

First proposed by SMFD in 2018, this collaborative effort will begin its sixth year in 2023. This is a 4-week joint academy that focuses on basic firefighter skills taught as they are performed within our organizations. The skills are designed to maximize the efficiency of each firefighter as they work in smaller 2-person crews as is common for each organization. This academy can maximize time and cost for each organization by limiting the number of instructors, props, and training facility time for each organization. Recruits then spend an additional 1-3 weeks focusing on skills that are specific to their organization.

Burnsville, Eagan, South Metro Training Group

This is a committee made up the primary training providers for each organization that grew from the needs of the joint training academy. This group works on developing JPR's and training needs that work for all three organizations to reduce overlap of efforts between the organizations and allow for similar operations.

Dakota County Fire Training Group

This a county wide training group that shares training resources, props, and ideas. The group meets quarterly to discuss needs and upcoming training events. The group also focuses on ways to standardize training throughout the county and fill training gaps that individual organizations are unable to fill on their own.

Collaborative Efforts—Continued

American Red Cross

South Metro has partnered with the Red Cross in their Smoke Detector installation program. The Red Cross donates smoke alarms and South Metro install them in residents homes throughout the community. In addition to the installation, South Metro also performs a home safety inspection if allowed.

Dakota County – Fall Prevention Program

South Metro partners with Dakota County Public Health on presenting a fall prevention program to the older adult population in the community.

ROMA

Responsible Owner and Managers Association is a partnership with the City of West St. Paul and owners and managers of local rental properties. This group is intended to foster a stronger relationship between City departments and the owners and managers making the City of West St. Paul a healthier and safer place to live for the rental community. South Metro is a participant in the meetings and provides training on various topics throughout the year.

In Remembrance of Those Who Gave Their Life in the Line of Duty

Firefighter George Carleton
South St. Paul
May 22nd, 1892

Firefighter Jay Bloemers
South St. Paul
June 2nd, 1968

Chief William Sudeith
West St. Paul
November 30th, 1954

Firefighter Erling Armstrong
West St. Paul
January 11th, 1974

Captain John Heuer
West St. Paul
January 11th, 1974

Firefighter Richard Neikirk
West St. Paul
January 11th, 1974