

2022 Year End Report



2022 Introduction

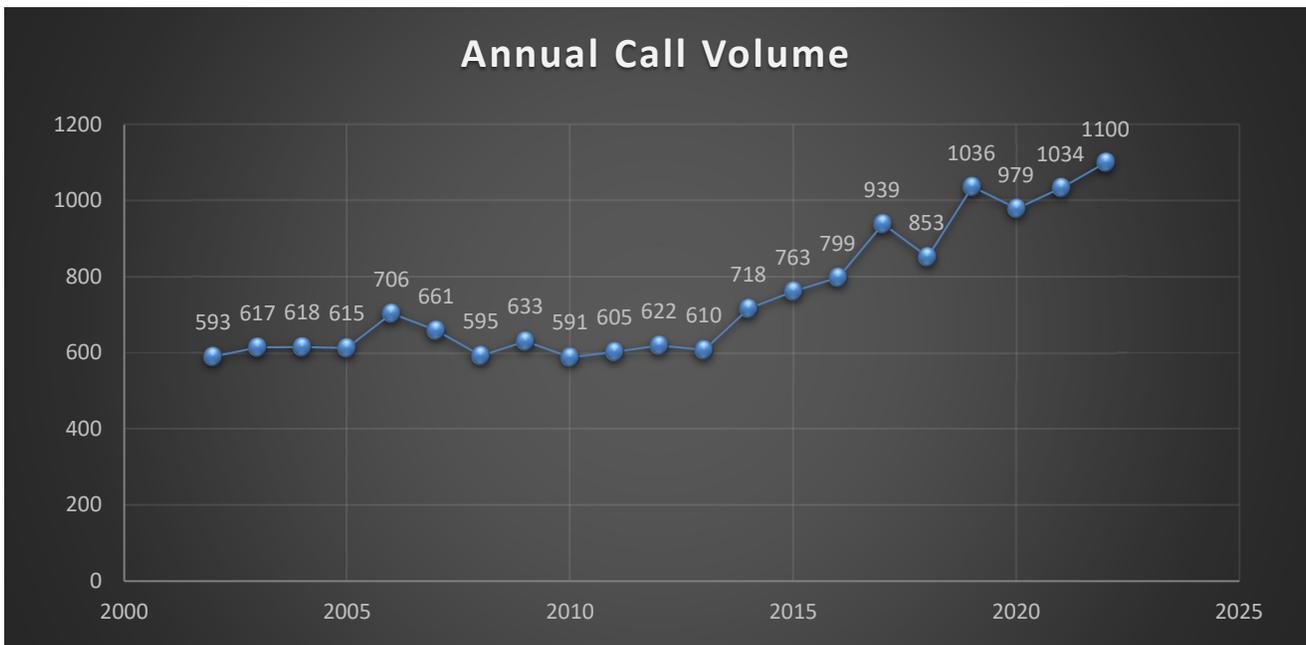
We would like to begin this 2022 year-end report by expressing our heartfelt gratitude. We want to extend our sincerest thanks to the community and the township boards for their unwavering support, and to our firefighters for their exceptional dedication to serving this community.

One of our most significant achievements this past year has been the remarkable growth and development of our fire department. In 2022, we were thrilled to welcome seven new paid on-call employees and sent six of them to the county fire academy. We also made a concerted effort to increase family involvement in our operations, hosting cookouts, joining us in the parades, and helping with fair booth operations. These initiatives have already begun to pay off, resulting in better teamwork and overall morale within our operation.

As we reflect on the past year, we cannot ignore the stark reality of the increasing demand for our services. For the past decade, we have seen a steady rise in our call volume, with an alarming 80% increase over the past 10 years and a 29% increase in the past 5 years alone. This trend has continued into 2022, and we anticipate that it will persist for years to come due to the continued growth in our response area. The Lake Michigan Drive corridor, in particular, has seen rapid expansion and development, with new businesses popping up at an unprecedented rate. As our community continues to thrive and expand, we remain committed to meeting the needs of our residents and businesses.

Despite the challenges presented by the increasing call volume, our firefighters have risen to the occasion time and time again, demonstrating their commitment to serving this community. We are proud of their dedication and grateful for the continued support of our community, which allows us to provide essential services to those in need.

Once again, we want to express our gratitude to all those who have played a role in our success this year. We are proud to serve this community, and we look forward to continuing to grow and develop our fire department in the years to come.



Operation Millage

In the fall of 2022, our community had the opportunity to vote on the operation millage that funds our fire department's operational costs. As you may know, the vast majority of our annual budget is covered by these essential millages. We understand the importance of educating the public on the vital role that these millages play in supporting our operations and serving our community. We continuously strive to communicate this message effectively, and we are grateful for the community's continued support of our millage. With this support, we can continue to provide the highest quality services to our residents and businesses, ensuring their safety and well-being. We are deeply grateful for this ongoing partnership and remain committed to earning your trust and support in all that we do.



Training with Walker

Staffing

At Wright-Tallmadge Fire Department, we are proud to have a team of dedicated paid-on-call firefighters who provide essential services to our community. To complement this response, we also employ two full-time staff members who work to ensure that we can respond to all emergencies quickly and efficiently. Our department serves as the primary first response and fire agency for an impressive 72 square miles of Ottawa County, an area that is equivalent in size to the combined cities of Grand Rapids and Walker. While our population may be smaller than these cities, the physical size of our area is not to be underestimated – and we are committed to providing the highest level of care and professionalism to all who call upon us for help.

We are fortunate to have supportive employers in our response area who understand the importance of allowing their employees to leave work for major incidents. This level of support is invaluable to our ability to provide timely and effective responses to emergencies in our community.

To ensure that we can provide the highest level of service possible, we have implemented a staffing plan that prioritizes coverage during the daytime hours, when many of our paid-on-call staff members are at their daytime jobs. Each station is staffed with at least one trained responder Monday through Friday from 6am to 5pm, with coverage beginning at 6am. While our full-time employees cover the majority of these shifts, we also have two shifts per week that are filled by members of our paid-on-call staff.

By staffing our stations in this way, we have greatly improved our coverage during the times when we need it the most. We ensure that we always have a minimum of two trained responders ready to respond to calls within our 72 square mile response area. These responders are in different vehicles and frequently respond to calls alone, all in the interest of ensuring readiness for the next call for service.

At Wright-Tallmadge Fire Department, we remain committed to providing the highest level of service possible to our community. Our staffing plan is just one way that we are working to achieve this goal, and we are constantly exploring new ways to improve our operations and better serve our residents and businesses.



Assistant Chief Eppink Retirement

On behalf of the entire Wright-Tallmadge response area, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to Assistant Chief Mike Eppink for his 47 years of service to our community. His dedication and commitment to keeping our community safe has been truly remarkable and has made a significant impact on this community and fire department. Throughout his years of service, he has shown an unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community. He has been a true leader, mentor, and role model to our fellow firefighters, as well as to the many residents whose lives he has touched over the years. We are grateful for his selflessness, dedication and leadership. His contributions to the fire department and the community as a whole have been invaluable. We are proud to call Mike one of us! Enjoy your retirement Mike.



Berlin Fair

The Wright-Tallmadge Firefighters Association has a food booth at the Berlin Fair. This is our main fundraiser for our firefighter's association each year. The 2022 Berlin Fair was a huge success for our association. We sold thousands of meals over the course of 6 days. This is a very busy week for our fire department. The firefighter's association was created with the purpose of securing strength and cooperation in promotion of fire prevention and protection for the townships of Wright and Tallmadge. The proceeds from this fair booth certainly help us fulfill our mission to the community.



Berlin Fair Booth

Multiple Alarm Response Matrix

In the 2022 calendar year, the Wright-Tallmadge Fire Department was proud to participate in a pilot program with Ottawa County Central Dispatch to test a multiple alarm response matrix for our department. Previously, any report of a possible structure fire would trigger a large mutual aid response as part of the initial assignment. While this approach worked well in the case of an actual fire, it could result in a significant waste of resources if the emergency turned out to be something less serious, such as a campfire near the house.

The new multiple alarm response matrix is designed to address this issue by providing a smaller initial response that can be augmented as needed based on the situation. This matrix has been pre-determined and is inputted into the CAD system at central dispatch, with each of our 17 districts having a specific response already set up prior to any emergency call. The first alarm is automatically transmitted at the time of dispatch, and our staff can initiate a second or third alarm if necessary. This approach to emergency response has significant benefits for our community and neighboring communities. By sending only the resources that are actually needed for an emergency, we can keep unnecessary resources free for other emergencies that may arise. This results in a significant cost savings in labor and equipment costs, while also ensuring that our department can respond quickly and effectively to emergencies of all kinds.

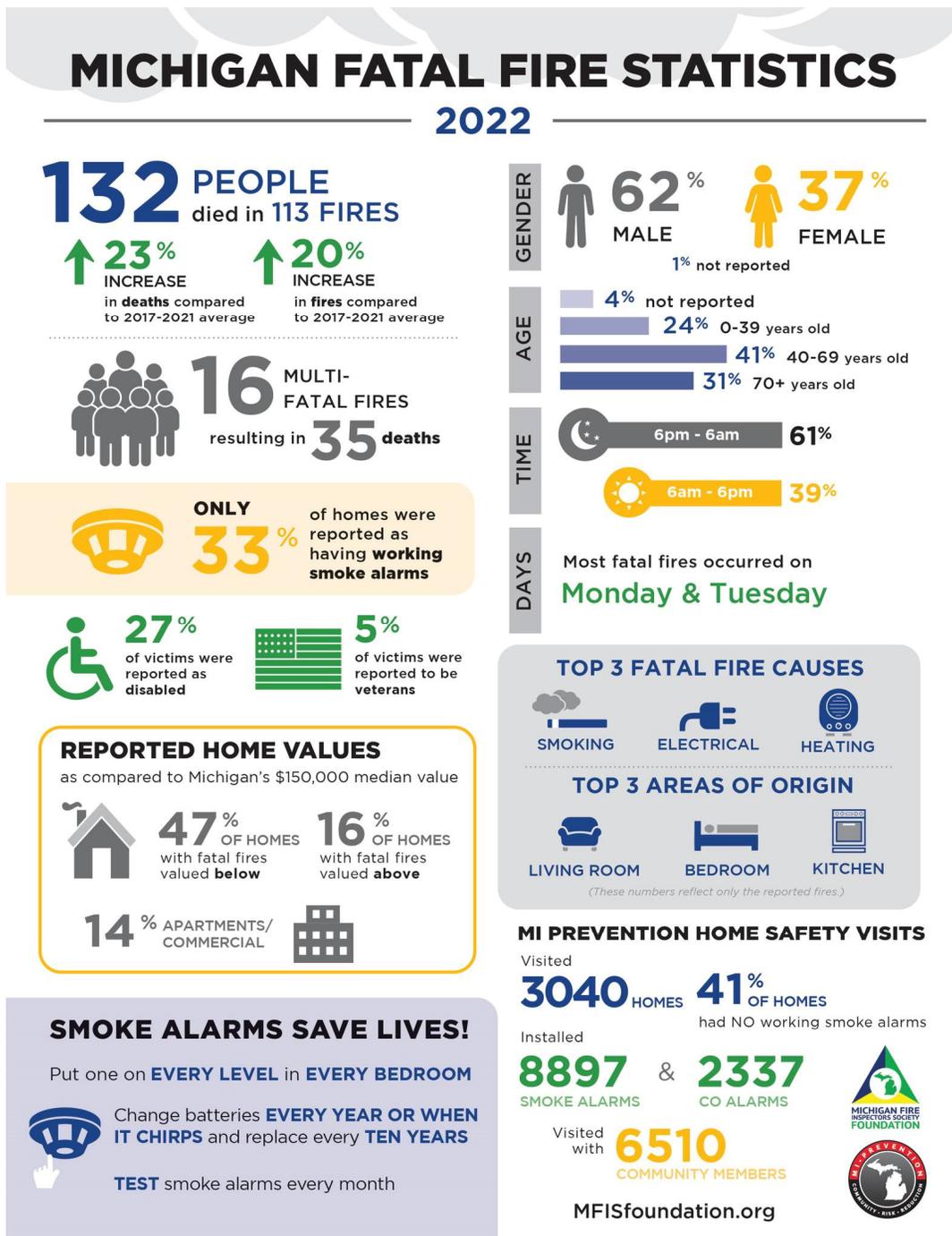


Linden Dr. Barn Fire

Smoke Detector Installation

At Wright-Tallmadge Fire Department, we are committed to keeping our community safe from the dangers of fire. One of the ways we accomplish this is by installing smoke detectors in homes throughout our community. In 2022, we installed smoke detectors in even more homes than in previous years. Additionally, we have partnered with MI Prevention, which provides us with access to Smoke and CO alarms provided by the state of Michigan. Through this program, we have identified a significant number of homes in our community with no working smoke detectors. To address this critical need, we have dedicated additional time and resources to our smoke detector installation program. We believe that every home in our community should have a working smoke detector, as it is a critical tool for the early detection of a fire and can mean the difference between life and death.

If you would like assistance with smoke detector installation, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are ready and eager to help keep our community safe and protected from the dangers of fire.



SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

Put one on **EVERY LEVEL** in **EVERY BEDROOM**



Change batteries **EVERY YEAR OR WHEN IT CHIRPS** and replace every **TEN YEARS**

TEST smoke alarms every month

Statistical Data For 2022

At the Wright-Tallmadge Fire Department, we recognize that data is a powerful tool in measuring our performance and effectiveness. By analyzing statistical data, we can gain valuable insights into our operations and make informed administrative decisions. We believe data analysis is a vital component of operating a successful fire department. In the following pages, we are eager to share with you a comprehensive snapshot of our performance through various data points.

We understand the importance of transparency and accountability in serving our community, and sharing this data with you is just one way we are working to achieve these goals. We hope that this information will give you a deeper understanding of our department's operations and inspire confidence in our ability to provide the highest level of service to our community.



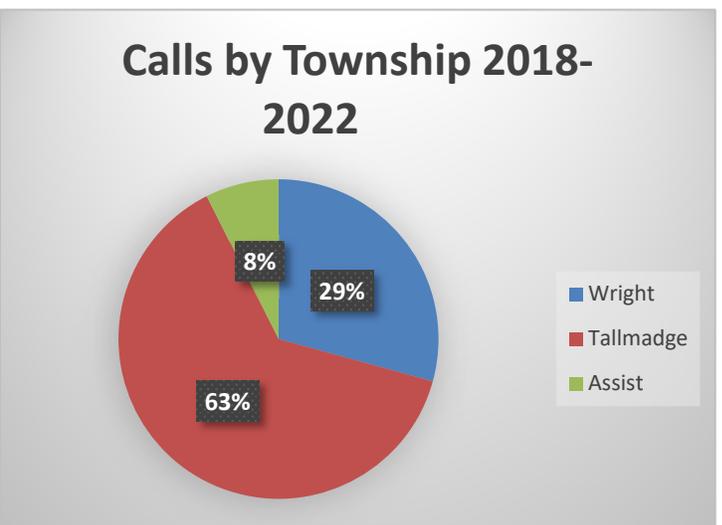
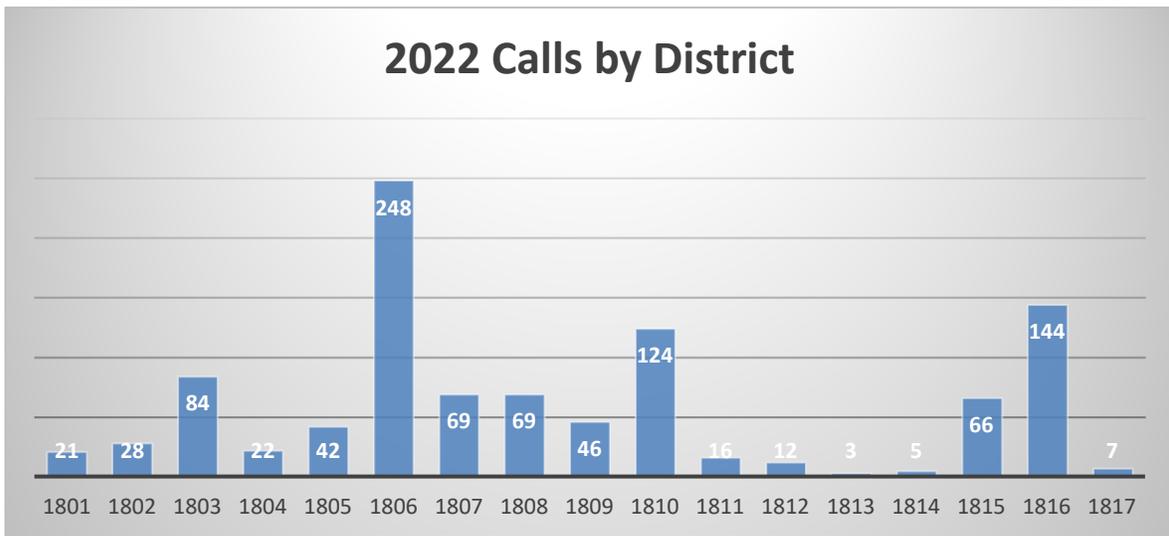
Drafting Training

Incident Locations

The graphs below offer a detailed look at where the majority of our incidents occur, providing valuable insights into our department's operations. Over the years, our response area has evolved to keep pace with the increasing coverage of municipal water systems. In 2022, we added four additional districts to our existing 13, allowing us to modify our response matrix and provide a more effective response to areas with fire hydrants. Historically, the highest response areas have been districts 6 and 10. As part of the district changes this year, district 10 was split up, with the new district 16 covering some area from both district 8 and district 10.

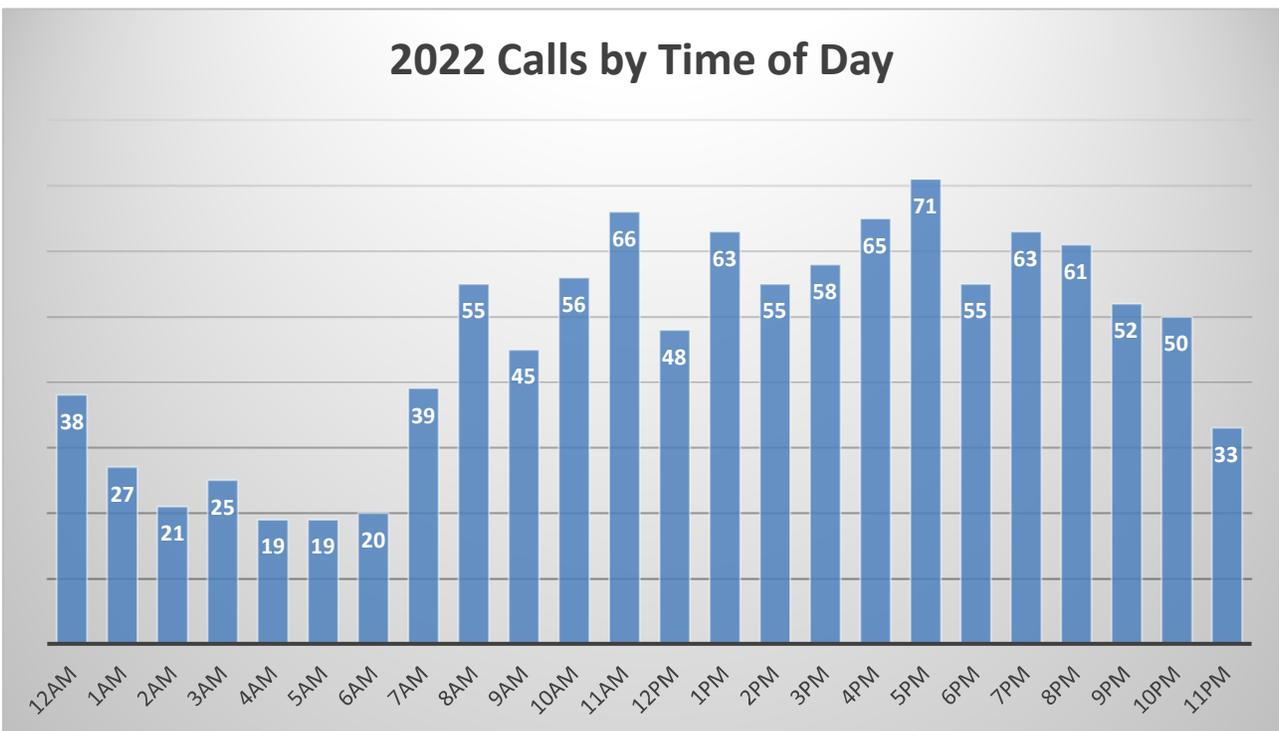
In addition to analyzing the district of each call, we also look at the township in which it is located. Historically, 65% of calls have been located in Tallmadge Township and 35% in Wright Township.

We are constantly monitoring and evaluating our operations to ensure that we are providing the highest level of service to our community. By analyzing this data, we can make informed decisions and continuously improve our response capabilities.



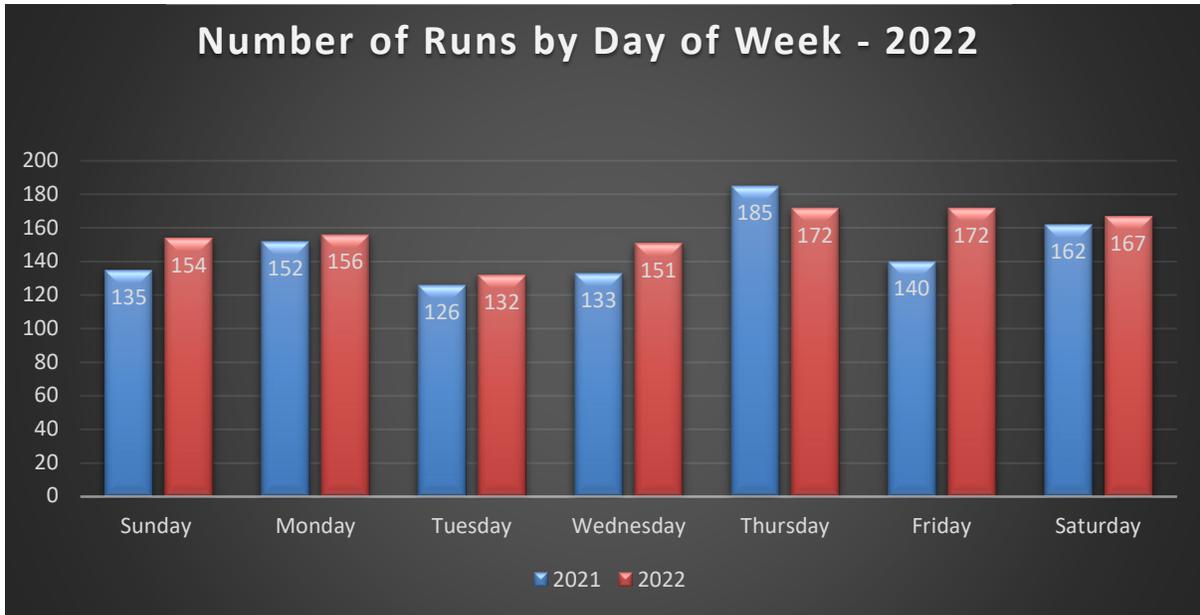
Incidents by Time

Analyzing the frequency of alarms at specific times of the day is a critical component of our department's operations. By examining this graph, we can clearly see that the majority of our calls occur during daytime hours, which poses a unique challenge for our paid-on-call fire department. The reality is that daytime staffing shortages are a pervasive issue for paid-on-call fire departments across the country. To mitigate this issue, we have established automatic aid and mutual aid agreements to provide additional manpower on large incidents. While this provides some relief, many of the departments we work with are also grappling with the same staffing challenges. Nevertheless, we recognize that these automatic and mutual aid agreements, and the strong relationships we have built with partner departments, are absolutely essential to our success. We are committed to leveraging these partnerships to ensure that we can continue to provide the highest level of service to our community, regardless of the time of day.



Response by Day of The Week

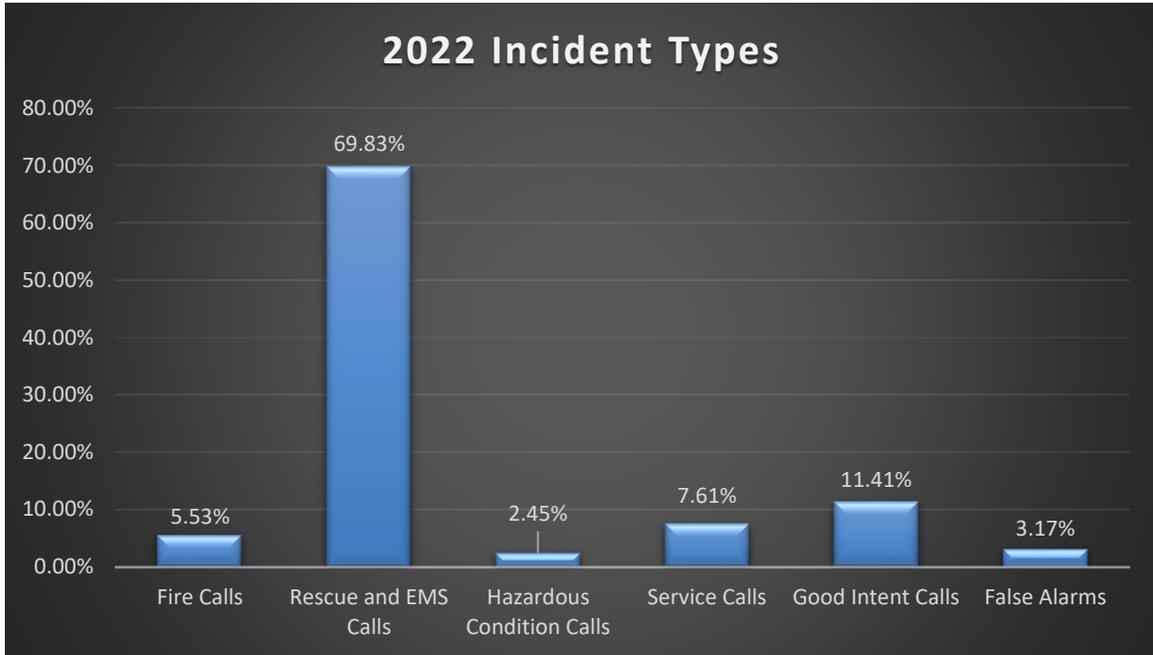
This graph provides a valuable snapshot of our department's response trends, enabling us to plan and allocate resources effectively. By analyzing our responses to calls by day of the week, we gain important insights that help us proactively manage our operations. For many years, Mondays and Fridays were the busiest days for the Wright-Tallmadge Fire Department. However, this year's data reveals that there has been a notable shift in our response patterns. In 2022, Thursdays and Fridays emerged as the busiest days for our department. As we continue to monitor and analyze this data, we remain committed to staying ahead of the curve and adapting our operations to meet the evolving needs of our community.



Church Fire in Ravenna

Incident Type Summary

This informative graph provides a breakdown of the various types of incidents we respond to, highlighting the diversity of our department's operations. While rescue and EMS calls remain the majority of our responses, this graph clearly illustrates that we are involved in a wide range of activities. It's important to note that this graph only scratches the surface of the actual list of incident types that we handle on a daily basis. By grouping them into these six main categories, we gain a simplified yet informative view of our department's operations over the course of the year.

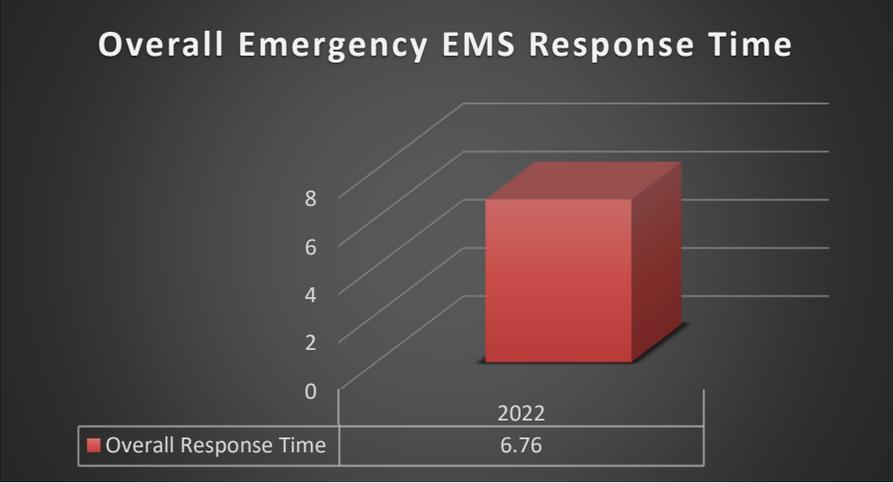
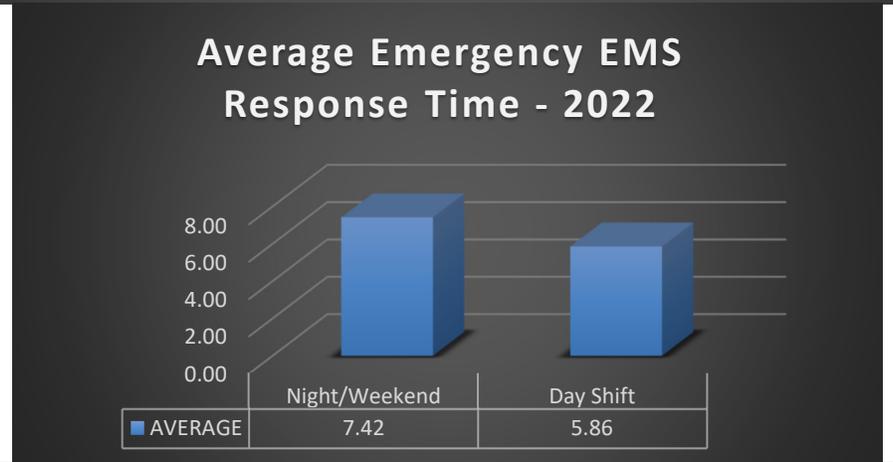
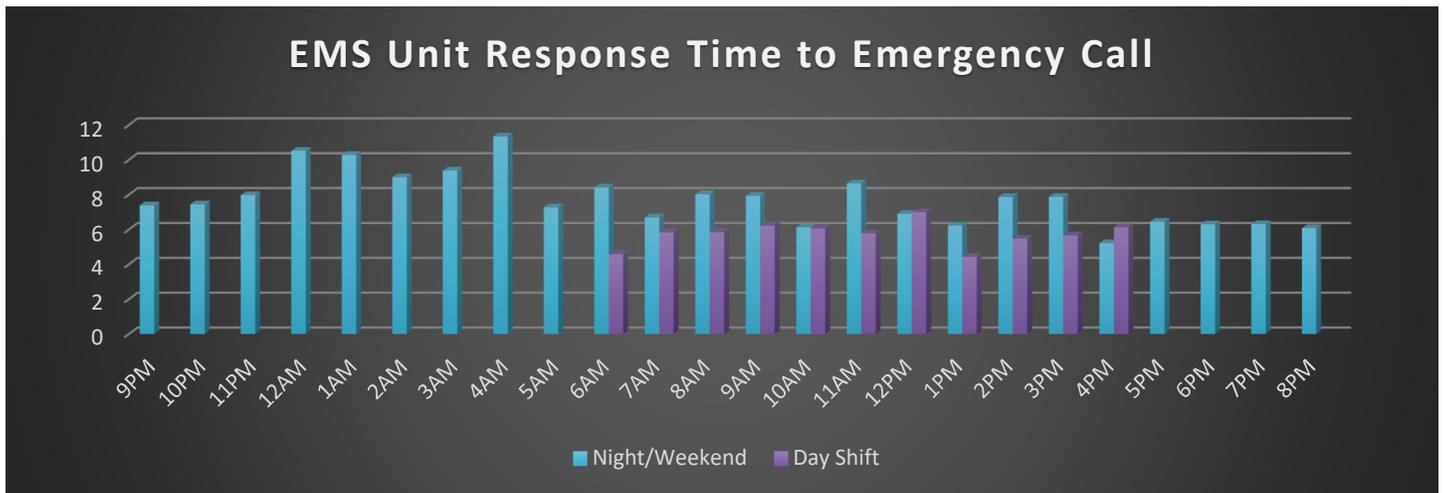


House Fire in Tallmadge

Response Times

At Wright-Tallmadge Fire Department, we are honored to provide our community with top-notch fire suppression and EMS services. To ensure that we offer the highest level of care possible, we work in partnership with LIFE EMS, an Advanced Life Support Company that offers advanced life support to our communities. Meanwhile, our fire department serves as the first response service to the area, ensuring that our community receives the immediate attention it needs.

The graphs below showcase our EMS response times for the 2022 calendar year, reflecting the time it takes to get a LICENSED EMS unit on scene in response to an emergency call. We understand that the current EMS staffing concerns have led to increased response times by transporting ALS units, which is why we place such a great emphasis on maintaining excellent response times for our agency. To accomplish this, we remain vigilant in our monitoring efforts, implement proactive measures, and provide ongoing training to our team.





Water Supply Training



Fire Attack Training



Christmas Tree Lighting

