



# The Extinguisher



**DEPARTMENT  
UPDATES  
12/23/22 - 1/6/23**

**As we embark on 2023, we can take some time to look back on 2022. The year progressed as the busiest in the history of the department. We finished the year with 2921 calls, 79% EMS and 21% Fire. This signifies a 35% increase in volume since calendar year 2020 which is an astonishing 772 call increase. Here are some fire metrics from 2022: Total Structure Fires – 32, Car Fires – 4, Brush – 12, Spills/Chemical Release – 41, Cover Assignment 17 and Fire Alarm/Smoke Detector – 239.**



## 2022 Statistics 1-1-2022 to 12-31-2022



**FIRE  
RESPONSES  
612**



**EMS  
RESPONSES  
2309**



**CODE  
ENFORCEMENT  
926**

**TOTAL ACTIVITY - 3848 (2921 EMERGENCY, 926 INSPECTION)**

*The Fire Department responded to a historical number of emergency calls in 2022. The total call volume saw a 20% increase over 2021 which was the previous historical high for the department. Overall, volume has increased by 35% (772 calls) since calendar year 2020.*

**I would like to take a moment to recognize two of our department members for a job well done. On Christmas Day, A2 was clearing the hospital and observed a Rutland ambulance pulled over on the side of Lincoln Street, Worcester with nobody in the cab and no other first responders around the vehicle. At that time FF's Olson and Charchafliah pulled over to check on the status of the Rutland crew. They found that the Rutland crew was dealing with a combative mental health patient who had become aggressive and assaultive to the EMS crew. They then assisted to restrain the patient and drove the Rutland ambulance to the hospital so that they could safely manage that patient. This was a great display of situational awareness by FF's Olson and Charchafliah and their assistance proved to limit what could possibly have turned into a bad outcome. Outstanding job!!**

**Over the last month, we would like to recognize the increased response numbers of our call firefighters to many of the full department recalls. Call back response is a vital part of our department response and it has been great to see the efforts of everyone who has been able to respond in for those calls.**

**Finally, we are in the final stages of budget preparation for FY24. To date, we have seen no issues with both the operating and capital budget but I am sure that the other shoe will drop soon once the WRSD submits their budget. As always, the WRSD budget makes up 60% of the Holden municipal budget annually and the new administration there is attempting to clean up items left over by the past administrators. Once we see where they are at, that will tell us how tight the overall budget will be under the Proposition 2 ½ cap. Currently, the Tower replacement project is still on the capital plan so hopefully it will be forwarded to the next step which is Finance Committee review. Don't get too excited just yet, even if approved, we won't actually see the new vehicle for 24-30 months from date of order.**

## Vehicles

- 1. New Car 3 – The project is currently moving forward. The vehicle is in and should be going to paint and have the upfit begin shortly. We have no time table on how long this will take at this point.**
- 2. Ambulance 4 – No new updates.**
- 3. New EM Pickup – The grant pickup awarded through Homeland Security has been ordered.**
- 4. Ambulance 2 – Brake issue identified by the crew on 1/5, brought to DPW and repaired same day.**
- 5. Ambulance 1 – Check engine codes have been displayed. New EGR valve needed, will be scheduled and replaced by DPW.**
- 6. Ambulance 3 – Radio issue identified last weekend, WORAD removed the radio and it was sent to Motorola for repairs. Currently, the new radio for A4 is installed but it has no 800mhz capabilities. A3 will go back to WORAD on Monday to have the repaired radio re-installed.**

## Training

- 1. We will be hosting the MFA MTU trailer on January 21-22. The class is scheduled for 8-4 both days and sign ups need to be done through the Academy LMS system. This is a good live fire prop and excellent training to sharpen your skills. Any questions in how to sign up, please contact an officer.**
- 2. On Monday 1/9, FF's Charchafliah and Doane will begin their recruit training at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy – Stow Campus. We wish them well and will see you back in 10 Weeks!**

## **Stations**

**1. Adams Road: The DPW has moved to their new facility. The fuel pumps are not active as of yet, so fuel will still be at the existing pumps on Adams Road. Other parts of the building have not come on line yet, we will keep you updated as things change.**

**A problem with the Diesel pump handle was identified this week, will not shut off causing spills when the tank is full. Please keep an eye on this when fueling. It has been reported to DPW.**

**2. With winter upon us, please make sure to close the apparatus bay doors behind you when leaving on calls at both stations and especially the Station 2 ambulance annex building.**

**3. Roof leak Adams Road – I have expressed our frustration with the current roof leaks to the Town Manager, we are working on putting together some sort of project to get eyes on the issue.**