

# *MORTON GROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT*

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*Firefighters Association of Morton Grove, Local 2178, IAFF*





Welcome to the Morton Grove Fire Department’s 2022 Annual Report. It is my pleasure, as Fire Chief, to provide you with a snapshot of the accomplishments that the personnel of this department have achieved over the last year.

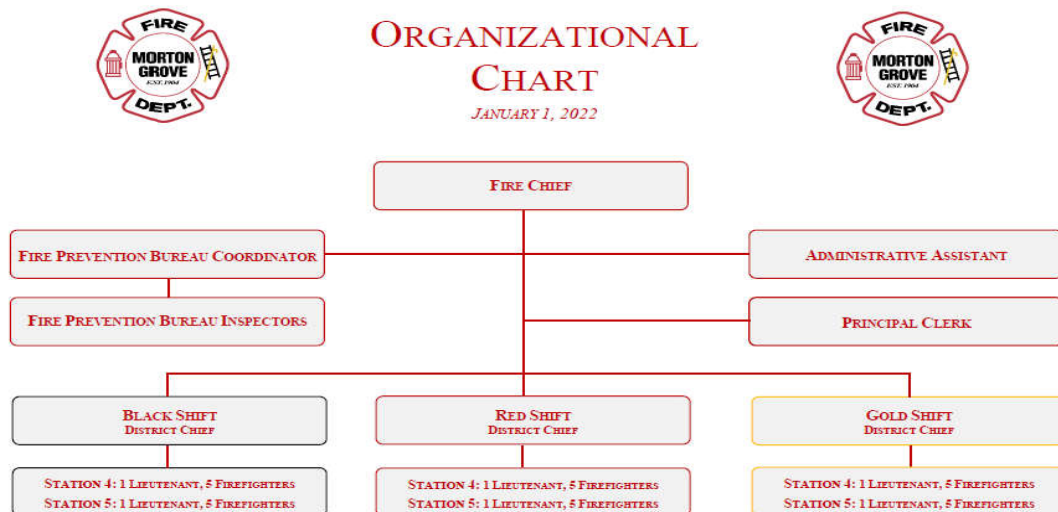
Through the leadership of the Mayor, Village Board of Trustees, and Village administration, the department was able to deploy resources appropriately so service delivery to the residents and visitors met expectations. Improvements through budget allocations included the purchase and placing in service a new engine at Fire Station 4, along with the ancillary tools and equipment that meet federal standards to complete the apparatus.

2022 was a year the department saw some form of normalcy return to daily operations. With Covid restrictions eased, the department experienced an increase in fire and medical incidents. People started to return to a more active lifestyle, traveled more, returned to their place of work, shopped more frequently at stores, all-in-all creating more activity in the community.

While the information provided in the 2022 Annual Report provides a review of last year’s activity, we hope the report gives some insight into much of what goes on in the department. If you have any questions or require additional information, always feel free to contact the department.

Thank you for your support of the hard working personnel of the Morton Grove Fire Department.

*Ralph Ensign*, Fire Chief





Fire Administration is responsible for developing and managing the budget, short- and long-range planning, logistics, disaster planning, employee management, response data analysis, community engagement, and participating in other village activities. Administrative accomplishments include:

- ✓ Successfully administered an entrance exam for new recruits with three other fire departments
- ✓ Participated in the village-wide Strategic Planning process
- ✓ Implemented budget proposal process to allow employee input during budget development
- ✓ Expanded community outreach programs through department participation

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) SYSTEM**



The department provides Advanced Life Support Services (ALS) with 31 Illinois state licensed paramedics, responding from two strategically located fire stations. Each station is equipped with an ALS engine company and an ALS transport capable ambulance, with each unit staffed with firefighter/paramedics. The Battalion Chief vehicle is equipped with BLS first responder supplies including an AED. The department follows the protocols developed by the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital (ALGH) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System, following the Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines. All members of the department are CPR/AED certified annually.

## **INFORMATION AND TRAINING**

- ✓ The department's Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) for cardiac arrest patients improved from 20.4% in 2018-2020 to 34.6% in 2021-2022. The department had the highest ROSC rate for the ALGH Paramedic System in 2021 at 42.9%. The increase in ROSC success is largely credited to the purchase and use of the LUCAS device which delivers perfect, consistent, uninterrupted CPR to the patient. The machine functions as a "6<sup>th</sup> paramedic" allowing the five crew members to initiate other ALS lifesaving measures such as defibrillation, intubation, oxygen delivery, and IV fluid/medication therapy. The LUCAS device eliminates the human element of fatigue during CPR which can lead to inadequate perfusion for the patient.

- ✓ Department paramedics had an 87.5% success rate for placing endotracheal tubes (ETT) in 2022. This compares very favorably to the ALGH Paramedic system success rate of 78.8%. Improvements in ETT placement success is largely credited to the purchase and use of McGrath Video Laryngoscopes. Prior to the purchase of McGrath VL's, MGF D's ETT success rate averaged between 55-65% annually. The VL's have a camera that allow the paramedic to visualize the tracheal opening when placing a breathing tube. This is especially helpful for patients who have unusual airway anatomy, airways affected by trauma or disease, and acutely obstructed airways.

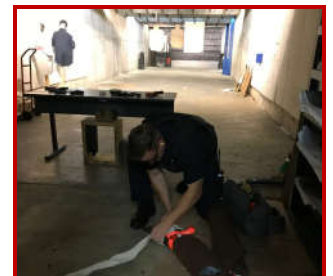
### Lutheran General Paramedic Class Student Extrication Training



In April of 2022 MGF D hosted a hands-on vehicle extrication class for the Lutheran General Hospital Paramedic (LGH) class. The class helped familiarize the paramedic students with the skills and equipment during vehicle extrications. The students also participated in hands-on medical scenarios under the simulated stresses of real extrication incidents. MGF D has hosted similar training for LGH's paramedic class since the beginning of the program in 2013.

### Rescue Task Force (RTF) Training

In February the department partnered with the Morton Grove Police Department (MGPD) to train on Active Shooter/Rescue Task Force skills. The MGPD provided use of its facilities, equipment, and expertise so that the department could train under simulated high stress sceneries involving gun fire. The goal of RTF training is to provide quick threat mitigation and medical response to active shooter events by the PD and FD working together in chaotic environments. This yearly training helps strengthen interoperability between the two departments.



### BY THE NUMBERS



Basic Life Support (BLS) Incidents: **635** (24%)

Advanced Life Support (ALS) Incidents: **1415** (53%)

Vehicle Accidents/Other: **599** (23%)

Total: **2649**



Fire Operations include a wide variety of activities. The department responds to both emergent and non-emergent incidents each and every day. Emergent incidents include reported fires, vehicle fires and accidents, hazardous materials and technical rescue incidents, and a host of other related emergencies. The department also responds to non-emergent incidents that include chirping detectors, elevator alarms, hazard investigations, and the like.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Fires: **108 (2.5%)**

Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat: **4 (min. %)**

Rescue & Emergency Medical: **2664 (60%)**

Hazardous Condition – No Fire: **93 (1.5%)**

Service Call: **639 (14%)**

Good Intent Call: **475 (11%)**

False Alarm & False Call: **479 (11%)**

Severe Weather & Natural Disaster: **2 (min.%)**

Total: **4464**

**There was an 8.92% increase in incidents in 2022 as compared to 2021**

Average Response Time: **4:15**

Response Times - 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile: **7:11**

### Apparatus Responses:

Ambulance 4: 1,632

Ambulance 5: 1,880

\*Quint 4: 1,591

Engine 4: 344 Engine 5: 2,154

Battalion 4: 610

Squad 4: 26

**Total Apparatus Responses: 8,237**

\*Quint 4 in service January thru November 28. Engine 4 placed in-service on November 28. Quint 4 moved to reserve status.







The department spends a considerable amount of time training. In order to deliver efficient and effective services to those in need, department personnel must maintain a high level of proficiency in their jobs. This not only includes the tactical portion of their work but also in administrative tasks as well. The following are some of the training highlights:

- ✓ Training weekly on safety topics and "tailboard talks"
- ✓ Training on firefighter cancer prevention
- ✓ Initiated "Division 3 West" Multi-Company training with bimonthly training evolutions including technical rescue, firefighting skills, incident command, driver training, and live fire evolutions
- ✓ Completed training on new Engine 4, including apparatus familiarization, equipment use, and driver training
- ✓ 2 members obtained Peer Fitness Trainer certification and are sharing that knowledge to department members through fitness and nutrition training as well as individualized fitness plans
- ✓ Members completed 1000 hours of Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) certification courses



## BY THE NUMBERS

Medical Training (hours): **1,375**

Fire Training (hours): **14,471**

Total: **15,846**

Average hours per firefighter/per month: **33.86**

## SPECIAL TEAMS



Special Teams involve those areas of the fire service that are considered low frequency/high impact events. Low frequency meaning they do not happen very often but high impact, meaning they can disrupt a community's operations if not mitigated by well-trained personnel. The department is a participant in the

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) response program which allows the department to access highly trained and skilled technicians not only from the area but multi-state if required.

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



The department has all of its personnel trained to the OSFM Hazardous Materials Operations Level. Three department personnel are also trained to the Technician level which allows them to perform advanced operations during an incident. Incidents can involve anywhere from train derailments with spills to smaller scale incidents involving unknown products. Department personnel trained to maintain proficiency in:

- ✓ Donning/doffing of level A and B protective suits
- ✓ Decontaminating personnel
- ✓ Metering hazardous atmospheres
- ✓ Identifying hazardous materials and resources required to mitigate the hazard
- ✓ Team members successfully attended all MABAS Division 3 training

## TECHNICAL RESCUE

Technical rescue incidents involve a wide variety of events including above and below grade rescue, trench collapse, building collapse, auto extrication, dive rescue, and tower rescue to name a few. All department personnel attend technical rescue awareness training with advanced training offered to those personnel on the technical rescue team. As part of the MABAS system, team personnel can be deployed state-wide as well as other states around Illinois. A few highlights of the team's activities include:



- ✓ One new member attended Trench Rescue Technician and Structural Collapse Rescue Operations, both 40 hours classes.
- ✓ Team members continued attending monthly team training exercises
- ✓ Purchased new rescue equipment to assist with victim access and removal





The Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) is responsible for code enforcement, compliance inspections, community risk reduction, public education, and inspections of occupancies throughout the village. The FPB works closely with the building department as many tasks that are performed involve both departments. Highlights for 2022 included:

- ✓ Updated Fire and Life Safety Codes
- ✓ Collected delinquent fire alarm monitoring fees
- ✓ Worked with administration to create a sustainable process to keep unpaid balances at a minimum
- ✓ Increased FPB inspections by approximately 100, including initial periodic inspections, re-inspections, and Business Compliance Certificate inspections
- ✓ Kept on pace for inspecting all commercial occupancies on an 18-month cycle
- ✓ All local schools were inspected twice in 2022
- ✓ All multi-family residential buildings, institutional, Park District, and village buildings were inspected once in 2022
- ✓ Fire crews and FPB participated in 17 additional public relations/education events, including the first Fire Department Open House. Here is more on the open house.

In conjunction with the start of Fire Prevention month, the department hosted an open house on October 1, 2022. It is estimated that 300-400 people came through the fire station during the 3 hour event. Information tables included public education, Stop the Bleed, Morton Grove Police Department, pumpkin painting and decorating, a rappelling demonstration, and a full vehicle extrication. There were also T-shirts for sale in support of Breast Cancer research. In the end over \$600 was donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. The whole event was made possible due to the contributions of on- and off-duty personnel, department family members, volunteers, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, the Fire Prevention Bureau, MGPD, and the village of Morton Grove.





### RADIOS/COMMUNICATION

In June of 2022 all MGF D mobile vehicle radios were upgraded to digital “dual band” radios. This allows interoperability with MGP D and neighboring departments that use different communication types, such as Starcom21. The upgraded radios will also allow our Regional Emergency Dispatch Center (RED Center) to make the switch from Analog to Digital dispatching in early 2023. This will increase communication coverage and reliability throughout RED Center.



### SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM

As part of the “Be Alarmed!” fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program, the fire department offers smoke detector installation and education. The program is administered cooperatively between Camp I Am Me (CIAM) and the OSFM (see department website). The program was suspended during COVID but was reinstated in January of 2022. Smoke Detector Program installation for 2022 included:



- ✓ 45 - Smoke detectors
- ✓ 15 - Combination Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detectors
- ✓ 3 - Carbon Monoxide detectors
- ✓ 8 - Hard wired smoke detectors
- ✓ 7 - Hard wired Combination Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detectors
- ✓ Total of 78 detectors installed among 18 households.

### FOREIGN FIRE INSURANCE TAX BOARD

The Illinois Foreign Fire Insurance Tax is a two-percent charge paid by consumers who purchase fire insurance from companies based outside of Illinois. It’s collected by the Illinois Municipal League and is distributed to fire departments throughout the state. Items purchased by the board in 2022 included:

- ✓ Two stationary bikes                      Station 4 kitchen table                      kitchen supplies and accessories
- ✓ Bluetooth water flow meter              Apparatus bay door apparatus identification signs
- ✓ Extrication gloves and flashlights for all members                      High rise nozzles
- ✓ Assistance with fire station 4 remodel and design work

## HOSE AND APPLIANCES

The fire department carries hose and appliances, nozzles/fittings, on all of its suppression apparatus. The inventory includes large diameter hose that is used to supply water from fire hydrants to the apparatus and from apparatus to apparatus. Smaller diameter hose is utilized for fire attack as it is more maneuverable in tight spaces. Nationally recognized standards call for regular maintenance and testing of all hose and appliances on an annual basis. Activities involving hose and appliances included:



- ✓ Replaced outdated high rise hose
- ✓ Replaced high rise nozzles
- ✓ Annual hose testing which included 51 lengths of 1.75" hose, 25 lengths of 2.5" hose, 71 lengths of 3" hose, 39 lengths of 4" hose, and 5 lengths of 5" hose, which totaled 11,800 feet of tested hose.

## APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

The department took delivery of a 2022 Emergency One (E-One) engine. The new apparatus was placed in front-line service as Engine 4 on November 28, replacing Quint 4 as the first responding suppression company at station 4. As part of the equipment replacement program, this engine replaces a Pierce engine that served the department for 23 years and was traded in as part of the purchase agreement. Quint 4 was then moved into reserve status at station 4.



## SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)



SCBA is probably the most important tool a firefighter has available to them. The ability to breath while operating in atmospheres that are immediately dangerous to life and health allows firefighters to enter areas that include toxic atmospheres, harmful levels of particulates, chemicals, biological agents, and other contaminants. Through the SCBA program department personnel:

- ✓ Administered over 220 respiratory fit tests to Village employees, including firefighters, police officers, and public works employees as required by OSHA. Fit testing is essential to certify that the

expected level of protection against exposure to dangerous atmospheres is provided by minimizing or eliminating contaminants entering the respirator

- ✓ Coordinate the testing and maintenance of all department harnesses, air bottles, and face pieces

### **FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF MORTON GROVE, LOCAL 2178, IAFF**

The Firefighters Association of Morton Grove is a committed advocate for the community and is continually striving to enrich Morton Grove. This year's charitable causes included sponsoring the annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest. With 140 entries in this year's contest, the association provided judging, trophies, and the presentation of awards during a Village board meeting. Additionally, the association sponsored and helped raise over \$10,000 for the annual Holiday Food Drive. The Holiday Food Drive helped brighten the holidays by providing food and gifts for 45 local families this year.