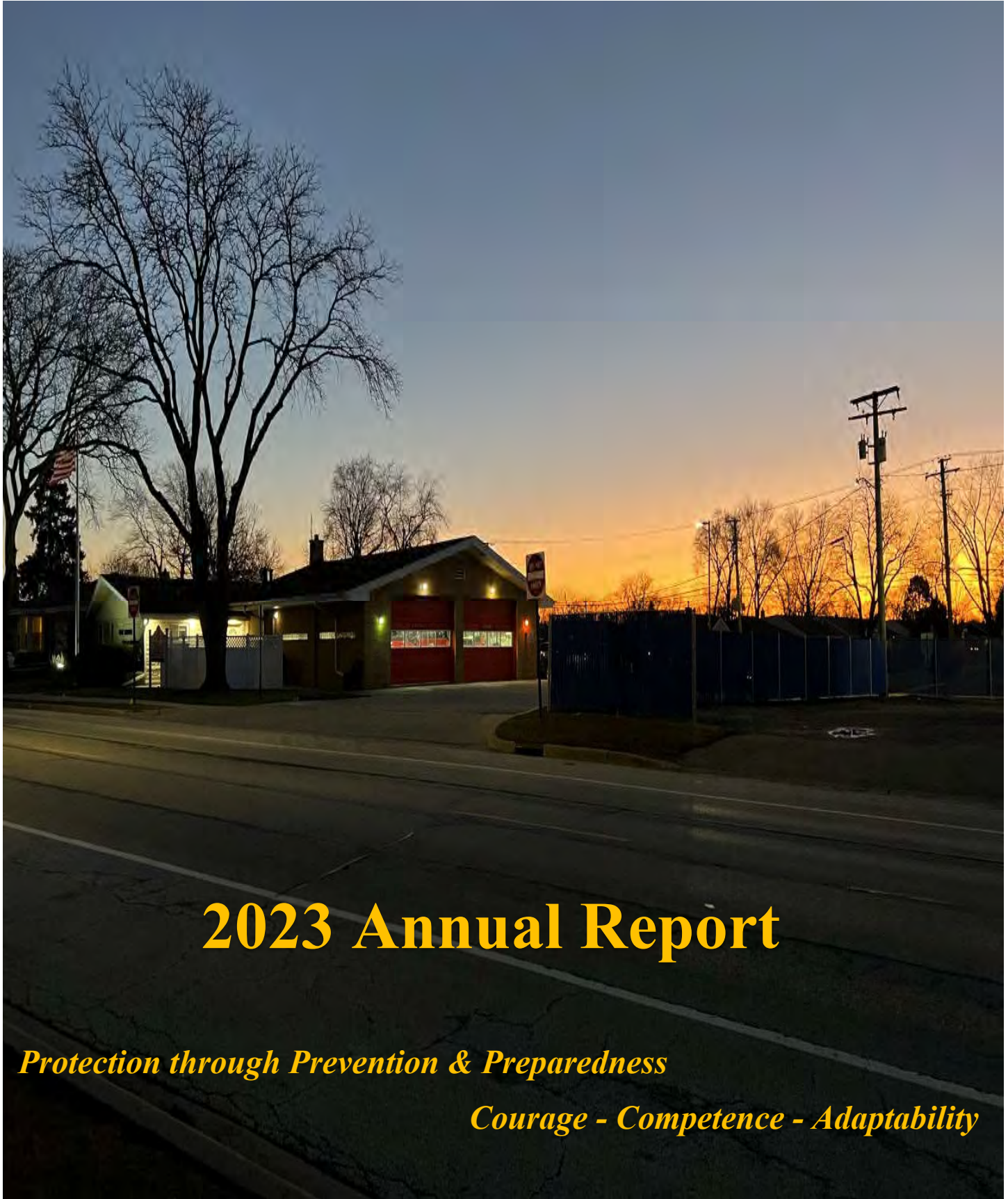


# MORTON GROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 Annual Report

*Protection through Prevention & Preparedness*

*Courage - Competence - Adaptability*

# 2023 Annual Report



Welcome and it's my pleasure as Fire Chief to present the 2023 Morton Grove Fire Department Annual Report. Thank you to Mayor DiMaria, Village Trustees Khan, Minx, Shiba, Thill, Travis, Witko, Village Clerk Harford, and Village Administrator Czerwinski, for their continued support of the Fire Department.

As noted on the first page of this Annual Report, the department's motto is "Protection through Prevention & Preparedness; Courage – Competence – Adaptability." The personnel of this department are proud of the quality of service that is provided to the citizens and visitors to Morton Grove. This high level of service can only be delivered to the community through department members dedicating themselves to be prepared for whatever is asked. The work ethic displayed is something that as Fire Chief, I am very proud of. It doesn't matter how routine or how challenging the incident may be, it will be handled by personnel that are prepared.

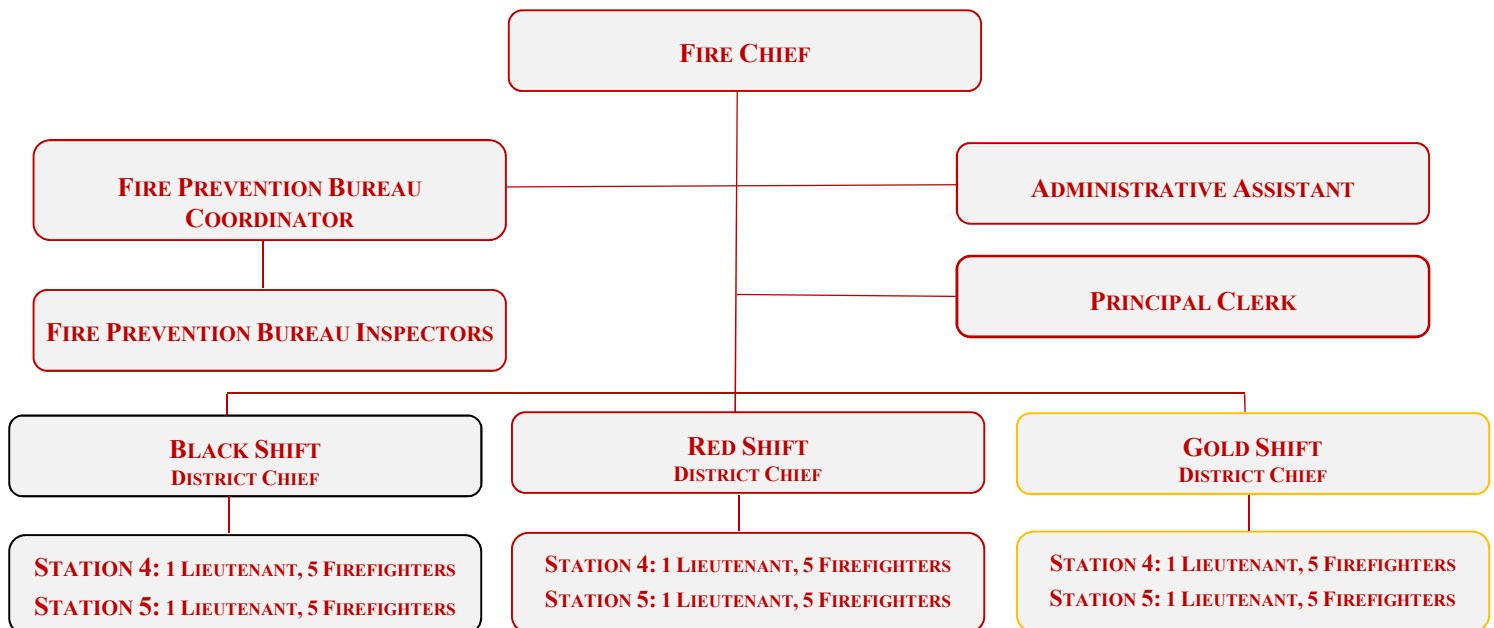
As Chief I want to thank you for taking the time to look at our Annual Report. I also want to say thank you to the citizens of Morton Grove for the support shown to the department as it means a great deal to us.

*Ralph Ensign*, Fire Chief



## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

JANUARY 1, 2023



# 2023 Annual Report



## JANUARY

**Incident Responses:** EMS: 205 Fire: 132 Total: 337  
**Year-to-Date:** EMS: 205 Fire: 132 Total: 337

### Significant Incidents:

Squad 4 responded to Skokie for a fire in a three-story apartment building.

Engine 5 and Battalion 4 responded to North Maine for an explosion and fire in a two-story apartment building.

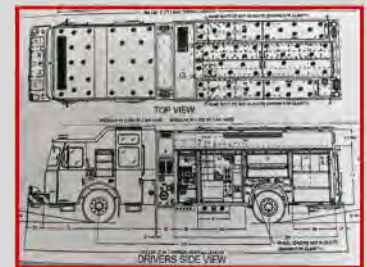
**Other:** Department members participated in Cancer Awareness month.

Annual physicals were started with a goal date of completion in February.

The apparatus committee met in January to begin developing specifications for the new rescue engine. The committee has visited the Naperville and Buffalo Grove Fire Departments to evaluate like apparatus.

The flooring project at Fire Station 4 was completed.

The materials for the RED Center antenna project were delivered after some delay.



**Incident Responses:** EMS: 211 Fire: 103 Total: 314  
**Year-to-Date:** EMS: 416 Fire: 235 Total: 651

### Significant Incidents:

Squad 4 responded to Evanston for a fire in a four-story apartment building.

Squad 4 responded to Skokie for a fire in a two-story apartment building.

Engines 4 & 5 responded to Niles for a fire in a detached garage.



Squad 4 goes to work at an apartment fire in Evanston



Personnel investigate a rollover accident in the 9100 block of Mansfield Avenue

**Other:** Nine department members participate in the Hustle stair climb in Chicago and take first place in the team competition.

## FEBRUARY

# 2023 Annual Report



## MARCH

**Incident Responses:** EMS: 212 Fire: 120 Total: 332

**Year-to-Date:** EMS: 628 Fire: 355 Total: 983

### Significant Incidents:

Squad and Battalion 4 responded to Lincolnwood for a fire in a single family residence.

**Other:** Fire administration attended “Chief’s Day” at the Romeoville Fire Academy. This program allows departments that have candidates in the class the opportunity to watch them participate in training evolutions. In the picture the Morton Grove candidates are forcing a door.



The department sponsored auto extrication training for the paramedic students from Lutheran General Hospital. The students are required to go through this training as part of their paramedic curriculum.

The department hosted its first night as part of the Citizens Police and Fire Academy at fire station 4. The class was given a history lesson on the department, a tour of the station and equipment, and a review of department operations.

**Incident Responses:** EMS: 229 Fire: 145 Total: 374

**Year-to-Date:** EMS: 857 Fire: 500 Total: 1357

### Significant Incidents:

E-4 responded on a change-of-quarters assignment to Wilmette Station 26. Wilmette had a house fire in the 2100 block of Schiller Ave. due to lightning strike. While in Wilmette, E-4 responded to two EMS incidents.



Fire on Crain St.

Morton Grove and Niles companies were dispatched to the 5900 block of Crain St. for a structure fire in a two-story residence. Upon arrival heavy fire was showing from the front of the house.

E-5 and S-4 were dispatched to the 6700 block of Milwaukee Ave. in Niles for a swift water rescue/investigation. Police were searching the area for a missing person.

E-5, E-4, and B-4 were dispatched to the 9000 block of North Churchill Circle in Niles for a working structure fire in a single-family residence with a report of people trapped.



**Other:** On April 14, FF’s Algozino and Loper graduated from the Romeoville Fire Academy.

## APRIL



# 2023 Annual Report



**MAY**

<b>Incident Responses:</b>	<b>EMS: 218</b>	<b>Fire: 158</b>	<b>Total: 376</b>
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>EMS: 1075</b>	<b>Fire: 658</b>	<b>Total: 1733</b>

### Significant Incidents:

Squad 4 responded to Glenbrook South High School in Glenview for a working structure fire.

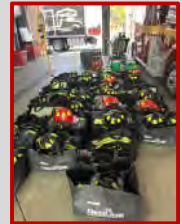
E-4, A-4, B-4, E-5, A-5 responded to the intersection of Dempster St. and Menard Ave. for a motorcycle vs. car accident. Upon arrival the crews found two patients with severe, life-threatening injuries.

Morton Grove units, along with Niles Tower 2, responded to the area of Beckwith Rd. and Lehigh Ave. for a train vs. pedestrian accident. This was the second train related incident in a week.

E-4, A-4, along with Niles E-3, A-3, T-2, and B-2 responded to Oakton St. and Lehigh Ave. for an accident with extrication. Upon arrival crews found one vehicle on its roof.

**Other:** The department hosted its second night as a participant in the Citizen Police and Fire Academy. The focus of this training session was auto extrication and EMS operations.

As part of the fire department's cancer prevention program, the department had all of its turnout gear professionally cleaned and evaluated by Redline First Responder Gear Cleaning. This was part of a multi-department initiative including Niles, Winnetka, and Glencoe fire departments.



<b>Incident Responses:</b>	<b>EMS: 216</b>	<b>Fire: 136</b>	<b>Total: 352</b>
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>EMS: 1291</b>	<b>Fire: 794</b>	<b>Total: 2085</b>

**JUNE**

### Significant Incidents:

E-4, E-5, A-5, and Niles Battalion 2, responded to the 7900 block of Golf Rd. for a vehicle accident with a rollover. Additional ambulances, Niles A-2 and Glenview A-7, were requested to transport 3 patients.

Squad 4 responded to the 4800 block of Carol Ct. in Skokie for a working structure fire in an apartment building.

Engine 4 was dispatched on a change-of quarters assignment to Northfield Station 29 due to a structure fire.

Squad 4 responded to the 1200 block of Elmhurst Rd. in Prospect Heights for a working structure fire in a strip mall.

**Other:** E-4 provided a ride to school for a student at Edison Elementary School. His family was the highest bidder in the ride a fire truck to school fundraiser. Cooper and his friend Harrison were treated to a complete tour of the engine prior to the ride to school.

MABAS Division 3 put a new communications vehicle in service. This vehicle will respond to all second alarm incidents and greater. The vehicle will allow command personnel to operate in a controlled environment with other command personnel.



# 2023 Annual Report



## JULY

<b>Incident Responses:</b>	<b>EMS: 228</b>	<b>Fire: 169</b>	<b>Total: 397</b>
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>EMS: 1519</b>	<b>Fire: 963</b>	<b>Total: 2482</b>

### Significant Incidents:

Squad 4 responded to 10368 Michael Todd Terrace in Glenview for a working structure fire in a multi-story apartment building.

E-4, E-5, A-4, Niles E-2, A-2, T-2, B-2, Glenview B-6, E-6, were dispatched to the 7400 block of Foster St. for a confirmed fire in an attached garage.

**Other:** The beginning of July was very busy with the Fire Prevention Bureau preparing for Morton Grove Days and the fireworks show. Inspections of rides and booths needs to be completed along with monitoring the set-up and firing of the fireworks display. The carpet replacement project at Station 4 was completed. The training room downstairs was completed and then the contractor's completed the administrative area. This was mostly done at night to minimize disruption to administrative functions. The apparatus committee met with the sales representative from Emergency One. The purpose of the meeting was to review the specifications for the rescue engine.



Fire and Public Works personnel participated in confined space training

<b>Incident Responses:</b>	<b>EMS: 223</b>	<b>Fire: 119</b>	<b>Total: 342</b>
<b>Year-to-Date:</b>	<b>EMS: 1742</b>	<b>Fire: 1082</b>	<b>Total: 2824</b>

## AUGUST

### Significant Incidents:

Morton Grove hazardous materials technicians, along with Haz-Mat 3, responded to a white powder incident at the Des Plaines Police Department. Testing didn't reveal anything hazardous and the incident was turned over to the FBI.

Squad 4 was dispatched to a working fire at 5040 Carol Ct. in Skokie. E-4 and A-4, which normally jump to Squad 4 when called for mutual aid, were not available due to being committed on a medical call, so Station 5 took the run.

Morton Grove companies, along with Niles Tower 2, responded to the 9200 block of Harlem Ave. for an auto accident with extrication involving a hit and run incident. Upon arrival E-5 found a white sedan on its roof with the driver trapped. E-5 stabilized the vehicle and extricated the driver from the driver side door. Patient was restrained and hanging upside down as E-5 arrived.

**Other:** Department personnel participate in large diameter hose training on Lehigh Avenue.



# 2023 Annual Report



## SEPTEMBER

**Incident Responses:** EMS: 214 Fire: 139 Total: 353  
**Year-to-Date:** EMS: 1956 Fire: 1221 Total: 3177

### Significant Incidents:

Morton Grove companies along with Nilcs E-3, E-2, A-2, T-2, Battalion 2, and Des Plaines A-63, T-63 responded to the 9200 block of Osceola Ave. for a reported detached garage fire. On arrival E-5 reported a detached garage behind the house fully involved and already collapsing.



Morton Grove units were dispatched to Dempster and Central for an auto accident with extrication. Upon arrival the crews noted one vehicle upside down on top of jersey barrier. Airbags were deployed in the front seat, without any occupants. Occupants were reported to have fled the scene, with PD detaining one patient approximately 100-200 yards eastbound from the scene.

**Other:** The fitness committee initiated “exercise of the week” to provide a variety of exercises for personnel to utilize.

The fire and police departments held their annual softball game at Harrer Park. The fire department revenged their loss from last year with a hard fought 6-4 victory.



**Incident Responses:** EMS: 197 Fire: 157 Total: 354  
**Year-to-Date:** EMS: 2153 Fire: 1378 Total: 3561

## OCTOBER

### Significant Incidents:

No significant incidents to report this month.

**Other:** The department held its open house. The event was very successful as an estimated 250 people attended throughout the early afternoon. There were static displays, station tours, a craft table, and the ability to try on and learn about what firefighters wear when responding to a fire call. Firefighters performed an auto extrication with a trapped victim along with a tower rescue. The tower events were highlighted by an appearance from Spiderman. New this year was two food trucks that were very busy and Wright-Way Rescue, who brought puppies for the chance at being adopted. Word has it two were going home to new families. It turned out to be a great event and department personnel did a terrific job planning and carrying out the day’s activities.



# 2023 Annual Report



## NOVEMBER

**Incident Responses:** EMS: 216 Fire: 146 Total: 362  
**Year-to-Date:** EMS: 2383 Fire: 1540 Total: 3923

**Significant Incidents:** Morton Grove companies along with Niles T-2, E-3, A-3, B-2, and Glenview E-6 were dispatched to the 9300 block of Normandy Ave. for a reported house fire. Upon arrival B-4 upgraded the alarm to a working fire which brought additional resources including Skokie T-18, Glenview B-6, and change-of-quarters units from Wilmette and Des Plaines. Crews immediately attacked the basement fire through an entrance located at the rear of the house.



**Other:** On November 6, 7, 8, the fire and police departments held joint rescue task force training at fire station 4. A small scale scenario was set up and personnel practiced techniques that would be used to mitigate a situation like this.



The department initiated a mental health training program. A guest speaker was brought in to provide training for both the fire and police departments.

The department participated in the annual pumpkin smash.

The annual Fire Prevention Poster contest took place with winners being honored at the Village Board meeting.

**Incident Responses:** EMS: 222 Fire: 117 Total: 339  
**Year-to-Date:** EMS: 2626 Fire: 1669 Total: 4295

**Significant Incidents:** E-4 was dispatched to a fence fire in the 5000 block of Lincoln Avenue. The fire turned out to be at 8452 Linder in Skokie and involved a storage building that is connected to two apartment buildings. B-4 upgraded the alarm to a working fire due to limited access to the front and back of the structure.



## DECEMBER

**Other:** The firefighter's association held their annual food drive. This event accepted monetary donations to purchase grocery store gift cards, toys, and holiday hams for families in need.

The department participated in the Santa Claus is Coming to Town Parade.

Public Works provided the fire department with tours of the village's north and south water pumping stations. The tours were very informative and really explained in detail how the water distribution system works.

Personnel participated in live fire training at NIPSTA. This training took place with Niles, Park Ridge, and North Maine, the departments we interact with most frequently.



# 2023 Annual Report



The following information is provided to highlight some of the many accomplishments achieved by the department in 2023. This was all accomplished through the hard work and dedication of the personnel responsible for each of these areas.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

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:

- Assisted with many facility planning projects including the kitchen upgrade at Fire Station 5, apparatus door replacement, and administration carpet replacement projects at Fire Station 4
- Completed and submitted the 2024 budget.
- Introduced fire department participation in the Citizens Police Academy that now includes two nights of classroom and practical, hands-on training for the students.
- Initiated the change in the village's ambulance billing company.
- In an effort to expand the department's cancer prevention program, implemented a third-party personal protective equipment cleaning and inspection program.

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

- The department has 31 Illinois State Licensed Paramedics. Two probationary firefighters are due to graduate Paramedic School in 2024. All members of MGF D are CPR/AED certified annually.
- The department's ROSC (Return of Spontaneous Circulation) for cardiac arrest patients in 2023 was 40.0%. This is 13% above the average of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's affiliated Paramedic System providers. The ROSC success is largely credited to the use of the LUCAS device which delivers perfect, consistent, uninterrupted CPR to the patient. The machine functions as a "6th paramedic" allowing the five crew members to initiate other Advanced Life Support 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 and poor outcomes for the patient.
- MGF D purchased a new Stryker Xpedition Stair Chair. The Xpedition Stair Chair is battery powered and designed to drive up and down staircases, reducing physical stress on the paramedics. Not only are the battery powered stair chairs safer for the paramedics, they're safer for the patient.

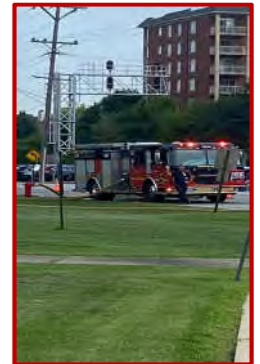
# 2023 Annual Report



- MGFFD has 5 ALS-equipped vehicles. Both frontline fire engines are ALS-equipped and have a minimum of one paramedic assigned daily. The Battalion vehicle is equipped with BLS first responder supplies, including an AED.

## TRAINING

- Personnel completed over 800 hours of discretionary classes/ schools.
- Five department officers completed the Chief Fire Officer program through the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.
- Department personnel taught the Citizen Police & Fire Academy. Police participants from the prior academy class were invited back for the fire department portion.
- Continued and expanded Division 3 West multi-department training. This training included live fire evolutions, scenarios and skill-based drills, special operations training, and a gas safety class provided by Nicor with surrounding fire departments.
- Participated in Division 3 multi-company high-rise live fire training hosted by the Glenview Fire Department and the Illinois Fire Service Institute at the former Allstate campus in Glenview.
- Continued Office of the State Fire Marshal certification task book refresher program for department members.
- Conducted joint training with Morton Grove Park District lifeguard staff on medical emergencies that could occur at village swimming pools.
- Conducted joint training with public works including confined space entry, water department familiarization, and fire extinguisher training.
- Conducted joint training with the Police Department including a Rescue Task Force/Active Threat exercise and fire extinguisher training.
- Hosted a Metra Rail Safety class for department members.
- Hosted a Resiliency, Mental Health & Suicide Prevention training for both fire and police department personnel.
- Along with Weekly Safety Topics, incorporated a weekly Policy Review and weekly Fitness Topics.



# 2023 Annual Report



- In March the department hosted the LGH Paramedic Class for vehicle extrication training. Since 2013 MGFDD has trained the Paramedic students on situations they will encounter during auto accidents. Students get to learn about the unique hazards that are encountered during auto accidents and what the Fire Department does to mitigate them. They got to operate around working fire crews to assess and treat simulated patients with injuries from vehicle accidents. This training helps them apply their classroom training to chaotic, real-world scenarios, while working in a controlled training environment.



## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The department has all of its personnel trained to the OSFM Hazardous Materials Operations Level, which involves attending a 40 hour course, and completing annual proficiency training. Three department personnel are also trained to the Technician level which allows them to perform advanced operations during an incident. Incidents can involve anything from train derailments with spills to smaller scale incidents involving carbon monoxide and the smell of gas in a residence. Department personnel are 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
- Attended all MABAS Division 3 training

## OPEN HOUSE



In October, the department hosted its 2nd annual open house, attracting community members for a day filled with both learning and engagement. This year, the department proudly partnered with Morton Grove's esteemed animal rescue organization, Wright-Way Rescue, by raising over \$1000 through t-shirt sales and generous donations, all in support of a noble cause. Attendees were treated to an array of engaging activities, from pumpkin decorating to informative fire safety and prevention demonstrations, rappelling and car extrication displays, and enlightening tours of the fire station and apparatus. Kids were able to experience operating a fire hose to extinguish a simulated fire, gaining valuable insights along the way. Exciting new additions to this year's festivities included food trucks and interactive sessions on fire

# 2023 Annual Report



extinguisher use. The open house proved to be a fun-filled occasion for the community to forge connections with their local firefighters while learning crucial fire safety information in an entertaining and interactive setting.

## ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

In November the Police and Fire Departments participated in Joint Active Shooter training. The focus was on reinforcing current standards and best practices in Active Shooter management. The training was focused on realistic scenarios and ensuring both departments are aware of, and supporting each other's missions. To add to the realism, training projectiles were used and live roll-players/victims were used which consisted of students from Lutheran General's Paramedic class.

## MGFD DISPATCH AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS - P25 DIGITAL RADIO SYSTEM

In February the Regional Emergency Dispatch Center moved to a new P25 digital radio system. This was a significant upgrade from the legacy VHF conventional system. The new digital system is two-channel, 16-site simulcast system that improves portable coverage within the entire regional coverage area. Over the past 2 years, the Fire Department has upgraded all its mobile and portable radios to be compliant with the new digital system. Station 4 is also host to one of the 16 antenna sites for the new communication system. Along with this significant upgrade to our primary dispatch center, the department maintains interoperability communications with the Police and Mutual Aid departments that use other communications systems.



## FOREIGN FIRE INSURANCE TAX BOARD



The Morton Grove Fire Department's Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board had a productive year, utilizing its budget of \$78,000 to make strategic purchases geared at benefiting the department and its members. In a significant initiative, the board launched the inaugural fitness committee shoe program, ensuring that each member received a pair of exercise shoes to support their physical well-being. Major fitness equipment acquisitions included a new stair climber and treadmill installed at Station 5, enhancing the department's fitness facilities.

Additionally, the fund procured training tools and a new forcible entry door prop to bolster training capabilities. Other notable purchases included two new grills, chairs, and an ice maker for Station 4, along with additional maintenance items. These investments reflect the fund's commitment to supporting the department's operational needs and fostering a healthy, well-equipped environment for its personnel.



# Administrative Personnel



**Ralph Ensign**  
Fire Chief



**Mary Jo LeBeau**  
Administrative Assistant



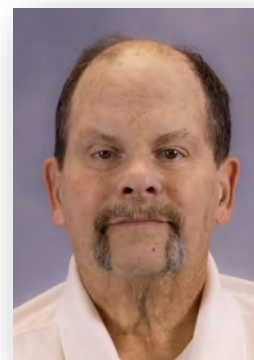
**Concepcion Borbon**  
Principal Clerk



**Rick Dobrowski**  
Fire Prevention Bureau  
Coordinator



**Brian Henricks**  
Fire Inspector



**Mike Fox**  
Fire Inspector



**Dan Gallagher**  
District Chief

# Black Shift



## Station 4



**William O'Brien**  
Lieutenant



**Frank Chambers**



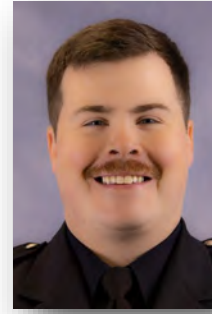
**Kevin Donoghue**



**Derek Faulstick**



**Rudy Imbrogno**



**Tom Kelly**

## Station 5



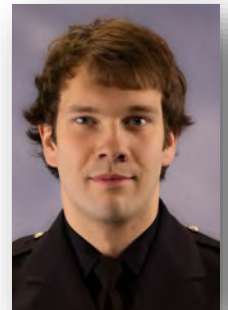
**Pat Byrne**  
Lieutenant



**John Abbatiello**



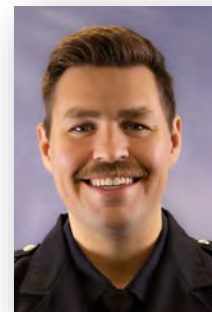
**Kurt Lipa**



**Jack Loper**



**Dave Poterek**



**Andy Schmit**



**Dennis Kennedy**  
District Chief

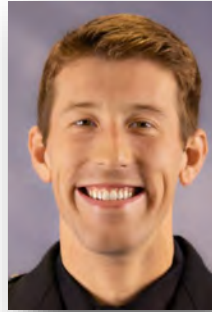
# Red Shift



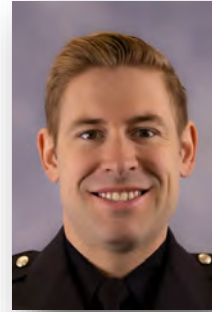
## Station 4



**George Carlson**  
Lieutenant



**Scott Adamczyk**



**Logan Dean**



**Tom Goodwin**



**Jeff Laitar**



**JP Tulacka**

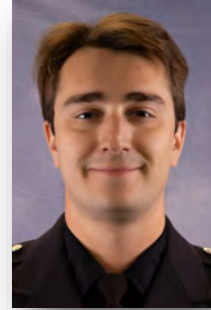
## Station 5



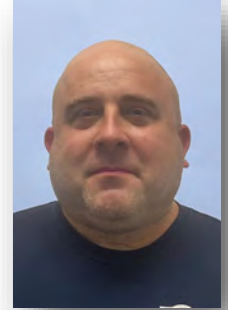
**Rod Steffens**  
Lieutenant



**Nate Akemann**



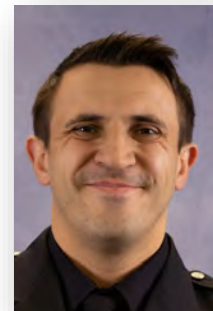
**Solomon Algozino**



**Joe Durante**



**Brandon Patchett**



**Milan Tomic**



**Will Paces**  
District Chief

# Gold Shift



## Station 4



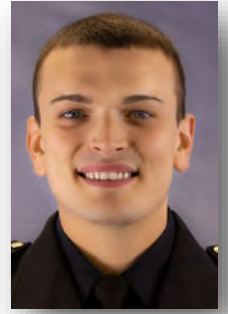
**Mike Littau**  
Lieutenant



**Rob Dentamaro**



**Joe Fasolo**



**Joe Ferrici**



**Noel Galaviz**

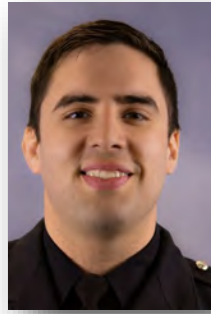


**Garrett Wagner**

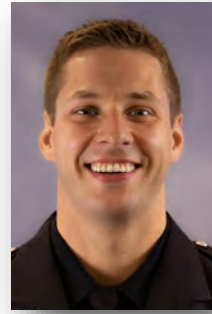
## Station 5



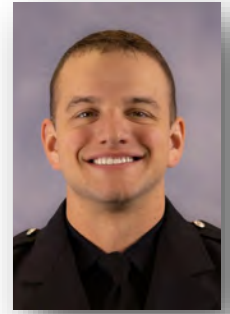
**Mike Wagner**  
Lieutenant



**Steve Congenie**



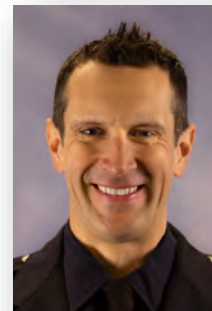
**Jeff Kotowski**



**Craig Lubrano**



**Joel Lucero**



**Erik Miller**