

Charlotte Fire Department & Rural Fire Association Annual Report

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Charlotte Fire Department
111 E. Lawrence Ave
Charlotte, MI 48813
(517)543-0241

Report completed January 19th 2024



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Mission Statement

The Charlotte Volunteer Fire Department shall provide the best possible emergency services in order to protect the lives and property of citizens of the City of Charlotte and the Rural Fire Association by utilizing state of the art equipment and techniques, and by continuous improvement through training and education.



Department History

- **October 8th 1872**, exactly one year after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, the Charlotte Fire Department was officially organized. The department had 36 members and was known as Charlotte Hose Company No.1.
- **1878**, The first steam pumper was purchased.
- **January of 1882**, a bell was purchased and served as Charlotte's Fire Alarm until 1930. (This bell is now on display in front of the 111 E. Lawrence municipal building.)
- **February 2nd, 1886**, A fire started at Belger's Shoes and 5 other buildings in the 100 blk. Of S. Cochran Ave. This fire is still considered the worst fire to hit the downtown district.
- **June 16th, 1886**, A fire started on the west side of S. Cochran and claimed several buildings, the department required assistance from Battle Creek & Jackson. Pumpers were sent on a special train to assist in the firefight.
- **Fall of 1886**, Charlotte completed the "water works" department.
- **July 4th, 1894**, Fire broke out in the Eaton County Court House located in the heart of Downtown. The dome and bell collapsed, but the building was saved.
- **October 1898**, the first horses were acquired, Mink and Mack then served the department until 1913. In all five teams of horses served Charlotte Fire, unit 1918 when all were retired.
- **November 6th, 1901**, The Phenix House (A hotel on the NE corner of Cochran/Lawrence) burned trapping people in rooms. No fatalities were reported and firefighters were credited for ladder rescues of 13 people.
- **1917**, The Rural Fire Association was created to form a unique partnership with surrounding townships and the City of Charlotte. This expanded the department's rural firefighting ability and the relationship still stands today.



- **March 26th, 1962**, another downtown fire claimed the Cartwright Shoe store on South Cochran. Pumpers from Bellevue, Benton & Delta assisted. This fire drove the department to acquire its first ariel ladder truck in 1963.

These historic moments in the department's history are just some of the significant events that built the Charlotte Fire Department & Rural Fire Association



Message from The Chief

I have been with the Charlotte Fire Department for 4 months now and have observed the members of this Fire Department since I became the Fire Chief; I have noticed that the city of Charlotte and townships of the Rural Fire Association are very fortunate to have members as dedicated as they do.

I would like to thank the members of the department, the leadership and dedication from our officers who keep things running smoothly, but the main appreciation goes to our volunteer members. Without them, it would be impossible to provide the cost effective, yet outstanding service this department provides to the City of Charlotte and Rural Fire Association. They truly are the back bone of this department. We must also recognize the support we as a department receive throughout the year from the public, that support is what drives all members to do the best job we can, no matter what emergency call we answer.

In 2023, the department answered 948 calls for service. We set 1 new monthly record and 234 (25%) of the calls overlapped one another. We received mutual aid for fires 2 times from other departments and provided aid 30 times. We responded to a wide range of emergencies, including 36 confirmed structure fires. We reported 3 injures to civilians related to fire in our jurisdiction but no fatalities. We also reported 3 injures to firefighters, all minor. An estimated property value lost to fire was reported at just over \$800,000, with saved value reported around \$18.5 million. More impressively our turn-out time was down to an average of 59s, with an average response time of 5m 9s. (dispatch to arrival covering all 147 sq miles of our jurisdiction and mutual aid calls)

We currently have 3 members attending the Eaton County Fire School, as well as 3 members attending EMT school. We attended two funeral services as a department, one for Past member Doug Burkhead and the other for longtime friend of the department, Eldon Howe.

We received more grants to replace out dated equipment, including a grant where our department took the lead with 5 other department and are now within a few months of having all new air packs for our firefighters. Also, a SAFER Grant, covering the funding of 3 additional full-time firefighters for 3 years. We plan to have these positions hired by July 1st 2024.

Department members participated in numerous fire prevention & fire extinguisher presentations. We conducted fire safety inspections, attended/supported multiple community and school events, installed smoke and CO detectors for residents, and logged thousands of training hours. The department delivered gifts to 432 children on Christmas Eve, this was the first Christmas kiddies my wife and I witnessed, what an amazing tradition!

We say thank you again, to everyone that supports this department, & I am committed to helping make this already outstanding Department even better in 2024.

Respectfully submitted by,
Fire Chief Kevin Christiansen – Charlotte Fire Department & Rural Fire Assn.



2023 Fire Department Accomplishments

- Fire Chief Christiansen joined the department in September
- 948 calls for service, including 36 structure fires. 234 overlapping calls (25%)
- Reported 3 civilian injures related to fire, NO fatalities
- Reported 3 minor firefighter injures
- Maintained ISO rating of “4” for the City of Charlotte, gained steps toward a “3”
- Hosted/participated in a tanker task force exercise with all Eaton County Depts.
- Received approval to create Fire Inspector position.
- Implemented a firefighter Cadet Program
- 4 new volunteer members, including a Department Chaplain
- Received Bids and placed order to replace unit 314 (Delivery May of 2025)
- Installed over 100 smoke detectors and CO alarms for residents
- 2nd LUCAS (CPR device) placed into service
- AED purchased and put into service on every fire truck
- \$5,000 MIWISH matching grant for new firefighter gear
- AFG Grant Award for new SCBA’s with 5 other departments
- SAFER grant awarded from (3 full time firefighter positions)
- 50k Fire Equipment Grant State of Michigan received
- Updated Volunteer Department Constitution & By-Laws
- Attended 2 funerals as a department
- Provided safety coverage and stand by at the Eaton County Fair
- Conducted over 100 fire safety inspections, completed 30 Pre-Incident surveys
- Completed several plan reviews for new construction projects



Department Members

The Charlotte Fire Department is a combination department consisting of 7 paid officers, 1 fire dog and 31 volunteer firefighters. Full-time Captains and Lieutenants work out of two stations, with 2 on-duty 24/7/365. Volunteers respond when a call is received, and make up the work force of the department. Fire/rescue & medical services are provided to the City of Charlotte & Rural Fire Association (Townships of Eaton, Brookfield, Walton, Carmel & Chester), totaling coverage area is 147 square miles, or about 25% of Eaton County.

Full-time Staff

	<u>Start Year</u>
Fire Chief Kevin Christiansen	2023
Captain/Assistant Chief Tyger Fullerton	2007
Captain Chris Sloan	2006
Captain Dan Daly	2012
Lieutenant Justin Emery	2016
Lieutenant Dominic Curtis	2015
Lieutenant Derrick Viane	2012
K9 Cinder Fullerton	2018

Volunteer Members

Deputy Chief Kevin Fullerton	1973
Firefighter Cory Sanders	1993
Firefighter Chris Burt	1995
Firefighter Todd Hamilton	1998
Firefighter Kris Hulsebos	1999
Firefighter Rob Rich	1999
Firefighter Brian Matson	2003
Firefighter Matt Pruden	2004
Firefighter Jeff Wertz	2008
Firefighter Brian Neumann	2009
Firefighter Thad Briggs	2011
Firefighter Adam Smith	2011
Firefighter Larry Gilson	2013
Firefighter Ron Smith	2015
Firefighter Matt Mitschke	2015
Firefighter Trent Jenson	2016
Firefighter David Dickinson	2016
Firefighter Spencer Drake	2016
Firefighter Tyler Dewaters	2020
Firefighter Tina Curtis	2021
Firefighter Dawn Gibbs	2022
Firefighter Brandon Forist	2022
Firefighter Scott McNair	2022
Firefighter Brandon Youngs	2022
Firefighter Brian Dewaters	2022
Firefighter Hannah Upright	2023
Chaplain Andy Shavor	2023
Firefighter Brad Stark	2023
Firefighter Michael Lovaas	2023
Part-time Dewayne Miller	1981
Cadet Charlie Curtiss	2022



Stations

Downtown Station

111 E. Lawrence Ave

Apparatus

311

313

316

Snorkel

Gator 318



West Side Station

911 W. Shepherd St.

Apparatus

312

314

315

317

319

Gator

Boat

Trailer

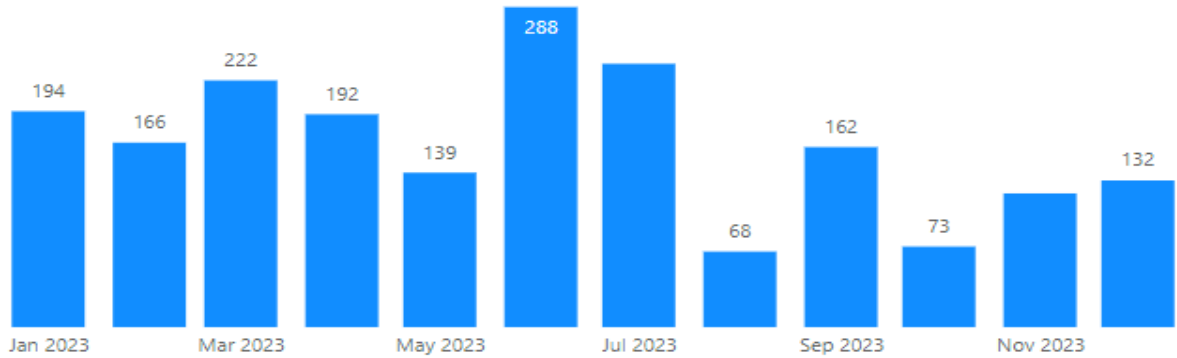


Fire Department Apparatus



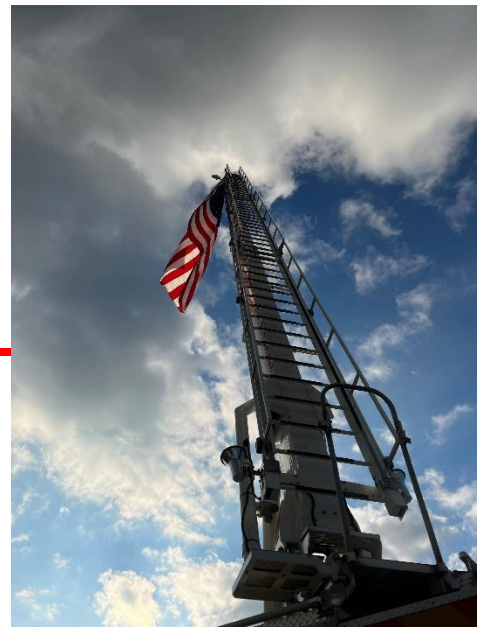
Training

Student Hours by Month



Fire Department members participate in training throughout the year. The department holds a monthly meeting that includes training. Full-time staff and volunteers also participate in state-required EMS training to gain continuing education credits.

2 full-time members are state certified Inspectors, and fire investigators.



Route: 1	Kids: 91	Stops: 37
Route: 2	Kids: 77	Stops: 30
Route: 3	Kids: 98	Stops: 39
Route: 4	Kids: 71	Stops: 30
Route: 5	Kids: 30	Stops: 9
Route: 6	Kids: 65	Stops: 24

Data Year: 2023

2023 Christmas Kiddies

432 Kids

169 Stops

Charlotte Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Kiddies

A long-standing
Charlotte Tradition
that continues to this
day.

An archived Republican Tribune article

dated January 5th, 1956, dates the origin of the Christmas Kiddies program to 1906. Where members of the Charlotte Volunteer Fire Department delivered baskets of dolls, toys, mittens, and treats to needing children on Christmas Eve. A merchant group raised funds, and the Fire Department "Santa's" made all the deliveries, first by horse-drawn wagons and sleighs and then by fire trucks since 1915. The Christmas Kiddies Program was adopted in total by the Charlotte Volunteer Fire Department in 1982. Assisted by hundreds of community volunteers, and donations coming from across the United States, volunteer firefighters have been responsible for fundraising, visitations, purchasing, packing, and delivering gifts to 400-500 children each year since.

Today the Christmas Kiddies' program has 4 routes dedicated to the City of Charlotte and 2 routes outside the city covering our entire fire district.

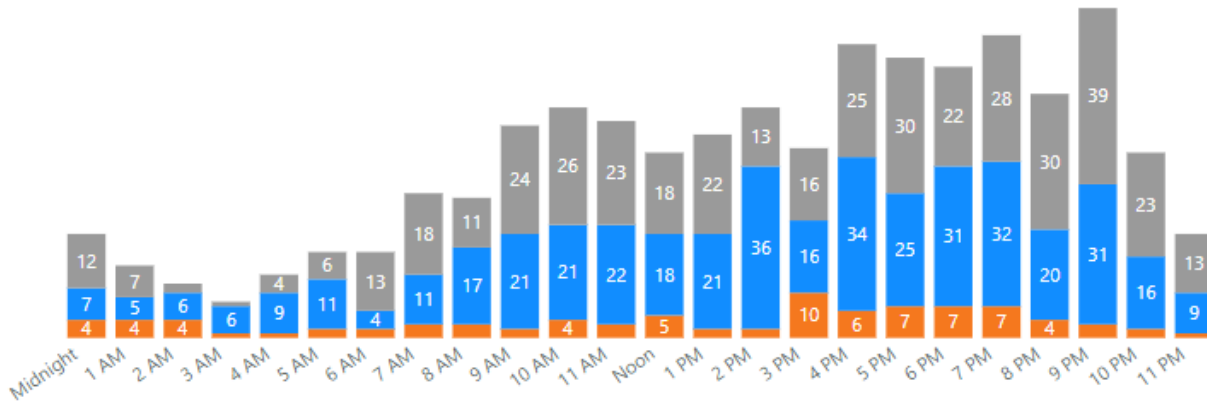


2023 Incident Data

INCIDENT COUNT	
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS
EMS	430
FIRE	518
TOTAL	948

of Incidents by Hour of the Day

Incident Category ● Fire ● EMS ● Other

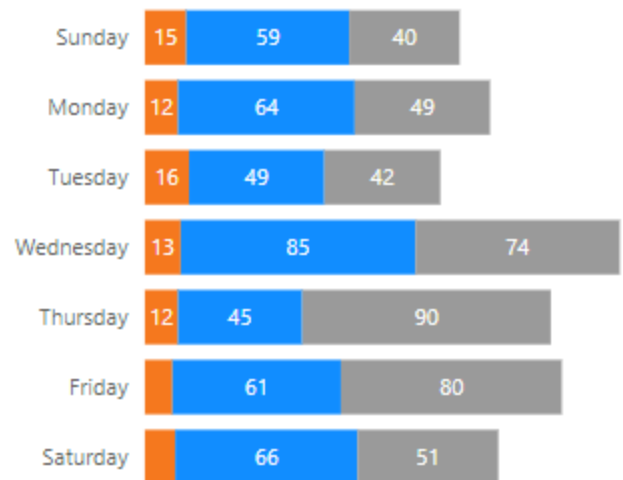


MOST / LEAST RUNS PER MONTH 1976 THRU 2023

	<u>MOST</u>	<u>LEAST</u>
JANUARY	2022 = 118	1976 = 7
FEBRUARY	2022 = 91	1986 = 9
MARCH	2021 = 90	1980 = 15
APRIL	2018 = 99	1983 = 10
MAY	2022 = 90	1983 = 9
JUNE	2022 = 128	1993 = 13
JULY	2022 = 107	1982 = 11
AUGUST	2023 = 135	1978 = 14
SEPTEMBER	2021 = 101	1977 = 8
OCTOBER	2021 = 97	1985 = 6
NOVEMBER	2021 = 116	1985 = 6
DECEMBER	2013 = 156	1982 = 9
TOTAL	1328	117

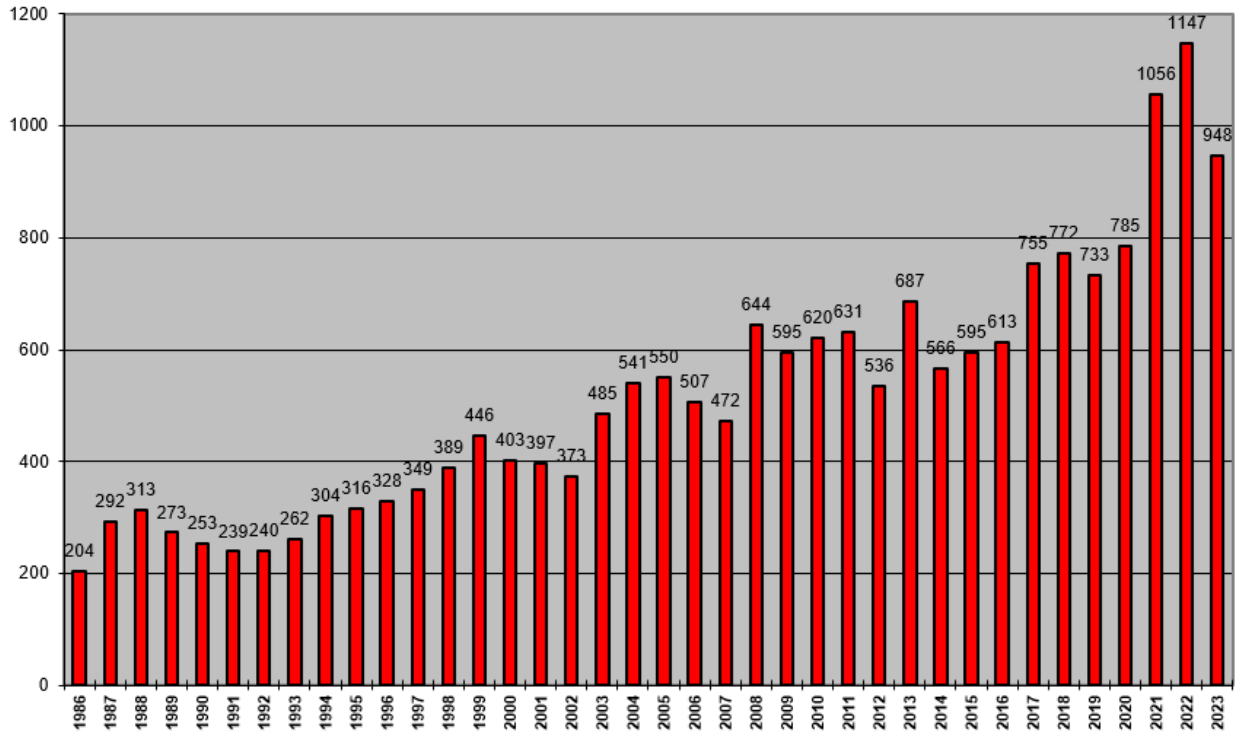
of Incidents by Weekday and Incident Category

● Fire ● EMS ● Other



2023 Incident Data

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL FIRE RUNS PER YEAR



CO CHECKS

424 - Carbon monoxide incident	6
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	3
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	6
TOTAL	15

MUTUAL AID

Aid Type	Total
Aid Given	30
Aid Received	2

OVERLAPPING CALLS

# OVERLAPPING	% OVERLAPPING
234	24.68

LIGHTS AND SIREN - AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (Dispatch to Arrival)

Station	EMS	FIRE
Charlotte Fire Department	0:04:44	0:05:11
AVERAGE FOR ALL CALLS		0:05:09



2023 Incident Data

ZONE	# INCIDENTS
01 - City Of Charlotte	553
02 - Eaton Township	151
03 - Brookfield Township	26
04 - Walton Township	23
05 - Carmel Township	77
06 - Chester Township	52
07 - Mutual Aid (Including EMS Ride-along's)	31
08 - Void Calls	35

TOTAL: 948

COMPLAINT REPORTED BY DISPATCH	# INCIDENTS
Abdominal Pain/Problems	4
Allergic Reaction/Stings	2
Animal Bite	1
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic)	4
Breathing Problem	19
Burns/Explosion	1
Carbon Monoxide/Hazmat/Inhalation/CBRN	1
Cardiac Arrest/Death	31
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic)	4
Choking	2
Convulsions/Seizure	18
Diabetic Problem	5
Falls	56
Headache	1
Heart Problems/AICD	3
Hemorrhage/Laceration	4
Medical Alarm	2
No Other Appropriate Choice	8
Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion	6
Pregnancy/Childbirth/Miscarriage	1
Psychiatric Problem/Abnormal Behavior/Suicide Attempt	3
Sick Person	20
Stab/Gunshot Wound/Penetrating Trauma	2
Stroke/CVA	5
Traumatic Injury	5
Unconscious/Fainting/Near-Fainting	11
Unknown Problem/Person Down	4
Well Person Check	1



2023 In Review



