

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 10th 2023



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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 the 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 fire fight.
- **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 the unique partnership with surrounding townships and the City of Charlotte. This expanded the departments 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 Department

It is our pleasure as a department to present this annual report for calendar year 2022.

What a year, 2022 had many memorable moments within our department and the calls of service we provided to the community we serve. First, we would like to thank the members of the department, the leadership and dedication from our Captains and Lieutenants that 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 as a whole. They truly are the back bone of this great department. We must also recognize the support we as a department receive throughout the year from the public, that support provides some of the best equipment a department can have.

In 2022, the department answered 1147 calls of service, setting a new record. Also, during the year, we set new records for 5 separate months. Of those calls approximately 50% were fire/rescue related & 50% were medical in nature, 283 (25%) of the calls overlapped one another, and we received aid 12 times from other departments and provided aid 45 times for fire related incidents. We responded to a wide range of emergencies, and are sad to report 3 fatalities and 2 injuries to civilians related to fire in our jurisdiction. We also reported 10 injuries to firefighters, all minor with minimal lost time. An estimated property value lost to fire was reported as \$2.5 million with saved value reported at just over \$96 million.

Two volunteer members retired from active service, Roy Gilbertson and Wade Nichols. Both are still involved with the department as VIP members. Five new volunteer members joined the department, 3 of them are currently attending the Eaton County Fire School. We attended two funeral service as a department, one for retired Captain Brian Stults and the other for retired volunteer firefighter Donny Wertz.

Department members participated in numerous fire prevention & fire extinguisher presentations, conducted fire safety inspections, attended/supported multiple community and school events, installed smoke and CO detectors for residents, logged thousands of training hours, delivered gifts to 415 children on Christmas Eve, and put on a bi-annual open house for the public in October, which despite the weather was a huge success. Volunteer members also designed/installed a memorial brick garden at the WSFS, this was accomplished through donations and hours of their own time and equipment. The department also placed several pieces of apparatus & equipment into service.

As we go into 2023, we will continue on, no matter what is thrown our direction. We will still be here, still answering the calls the same way this department always has. It takes a lot to do this job, and it takes even more to do it for basically no pay. The full-time firefighters understand that, and they could not do their jobs without the dedicated group of Volunteers.

We say thank you again, to everyone that supports this department and we look forward to 2023.

Respectful submitted,
Tyger Fullerton – Assistant Fire Chief/Captain



Fire Department Accomplishments

- 1147 calls for service, including 57 structure fires. 283 overlapping calls (25%)
- Responded & Investigated 3 fatal fires and 2 fires with injuries to civilians
- Maintained ISO rating of “4” for the City of Charlotte, gained steps toward a “3”
- Took delivery/placed into service 2 new mini pumpers
- Took delivery of a new pick-up truck with snow plow
- Completed Specs for replacement of unit 314 (Rescue Pumper)
- 5 new volunteer members, 2 retired after a combined 30 years of service
- Added a 2nd BLS non-transport (1st time in history - 2 licensed medical trucks)
- Installed over 100 smoke detectors and CO alarms for residents
- New equipment placed into service including a LUCAS “CPR” device & 2 sets of Hurst Rescue Tools (Jaws of Life)
- Retired Fire Captain Wieting – Donation of Ice Rescue Suit & Life Vest
- State of Michigan 1-million-dollar grant
- \$5,000 matching grant for new firefighter gear
- \$1,000 grant for new IPADS in all fire trucks
- Applied for SCBA (air pack) replacement grant
- Successful Charlotte Volunteer Firefighters Open House
- 2,548 Training hours completed
- Department Memorial Brick Garden installed at the WSFS
- Attended 2 former members funeral as a department
- Provided safety coverage and stand by at the Eaton County Fair
- Conducted 59 fire safety inspections, completed 72 Pre-Incident surveys
- Completed several plan reviews for new construction projects



Department Members

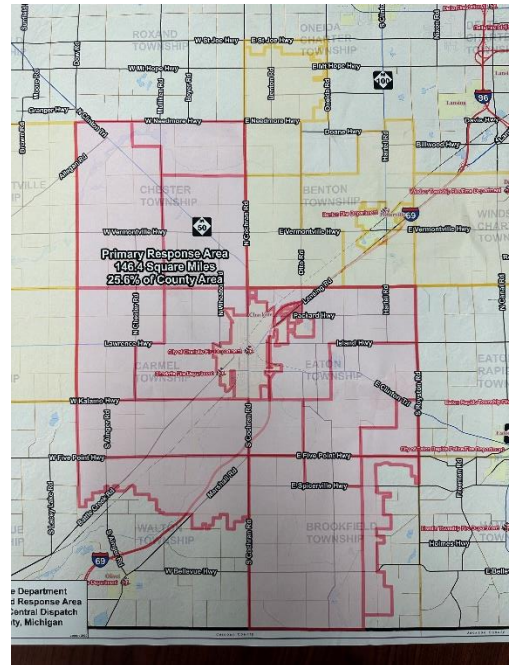
The Charlotte Fire Department is a combination department consisting of 6 paid officers, 1 fire dog and 27 volunteer firefighters. Full-time Captains and Lieutenants work out of two stations, with 2 on-duty 24/7/365. Volunteers respond when a call is received, and make up the work force of the department. 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>
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

Firefighter 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 Roy Gilbertson (Now VIP)	2004
Firefighter Jeff Wertz	2008
Firefighter Brian Neumann	2009
Firefighter Thad Briggs	2011
Firefighter Wade Nichols (Now VIP)	2012
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 Sawyer Smith	2019
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
Medical Support Dan Sowles	2020
Active VIP Dewayne Miller	1981



Stations

Downtown Station

111 E. Lawrence Ave

Apparatus

311

313

316

Snorkel

Boat



West Side Station

911 W. Shepherd St.

Apparatus

312

314

315

318

319

Gator

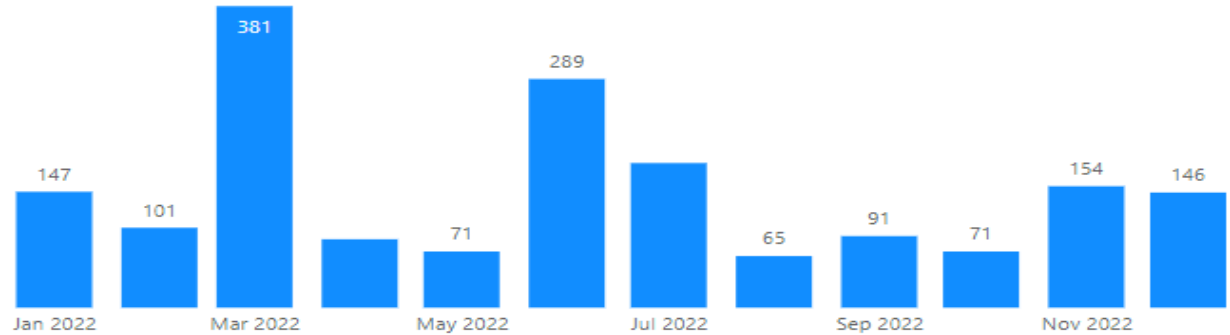


Fire Department Apparatus



Training

Student Hours by Month



Student	Student Hours
Daly Jr, Daniel	325
Fullerton, Tyger	169
Curtis, Dominic	150
Viane, Derrick	143
Sloan, Chris	124
Emery, Justin	123
Smith, Ron	92
Sanders, Corey	91
Wertz, Jeffrey	90
Miller, Dewayne	73
Hamilton, Todd	72
Matson, Brian	71
Neumann, Brian	71
Jenson, Trent	69
Pruden, Matthew	69
Hulsebos, Kristoffer	68
Dewaters, Tyler	67
Curtis, Tina	64
Briggs, Thad	59
Drake, Spencer	55
Burt, Chris	55
Gilson, Larry	52
Rich, Robert	50
Mitschke, Matthew	48
Dickinson, David	47
Fullerton, Cinder	43
Gilbertson, Roy	40
Vogel, Robert	29
Forist, Brandon	28
Nichols, Wade	27
Smith, Sawyer	22
Fullerton, Kevin	18
Total	2,548

The Fire Department members participate in training throughout the year. The department holds a monthly meeting that includes training and an additional training meeting 6 months of the year. Multiple special events are also scheduled throughout the year for advanced training and when new equipment arrives.

Full time staff and volunteers also participate in state required EMS training to gain continuing education credits.

2 Fulltime members are state certified Inspectors

1 Fulltime member is certified in fire investigations and also a state certified fire instructor.



2022 Christmas Kiddies

415 Kids

155 Stops

Route: 1	Kids: 81	Stops: 30
Route: 2	Kids: 65	Stops: 22
Route: 3	Kids: 91	Stops: 38
Route: 4	Kids: 90	Stops: 33
Route: 5	Kids: 19	Stops: 7
Route: 6	Kids: 69	Stops: 25



Charlotte Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Kiddies

A long-standing Charlotte Tradition that is continued to this day.

In 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 delivery's, 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, donations coming from across the United States, volunteer firefighters have been responsible for the 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.

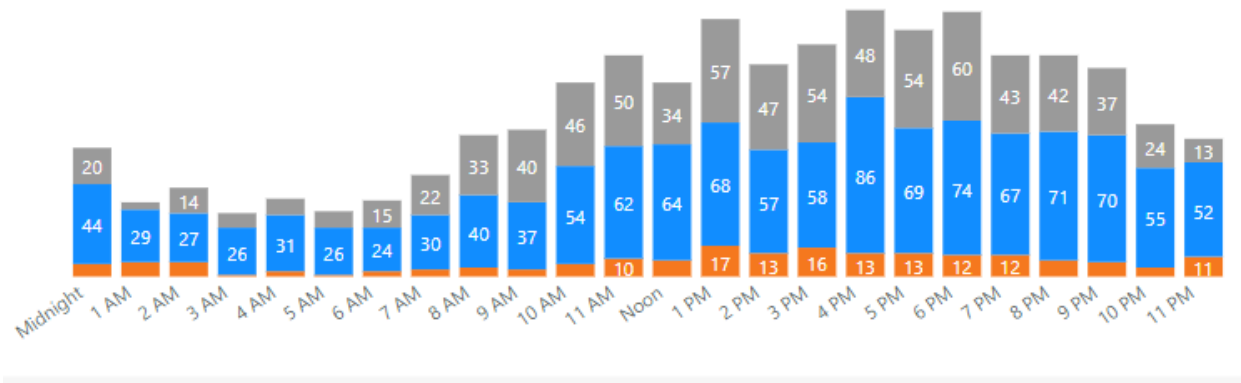


2022 Incident Data

INCIDENT COUNT	
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS
EMS	564
FIRE	583
TOTAL	1147

of Incidents by Hour of the Day

Incident Category ● Fire ● EMS ● Other

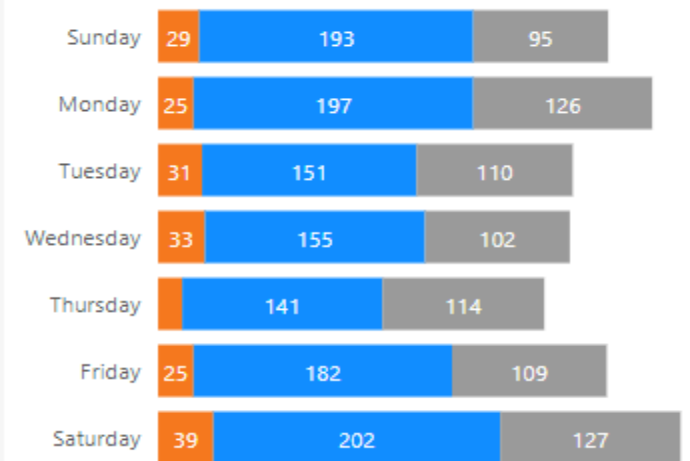


MOST / LEAST RUNS PER MONTH 1976 THRU 2022

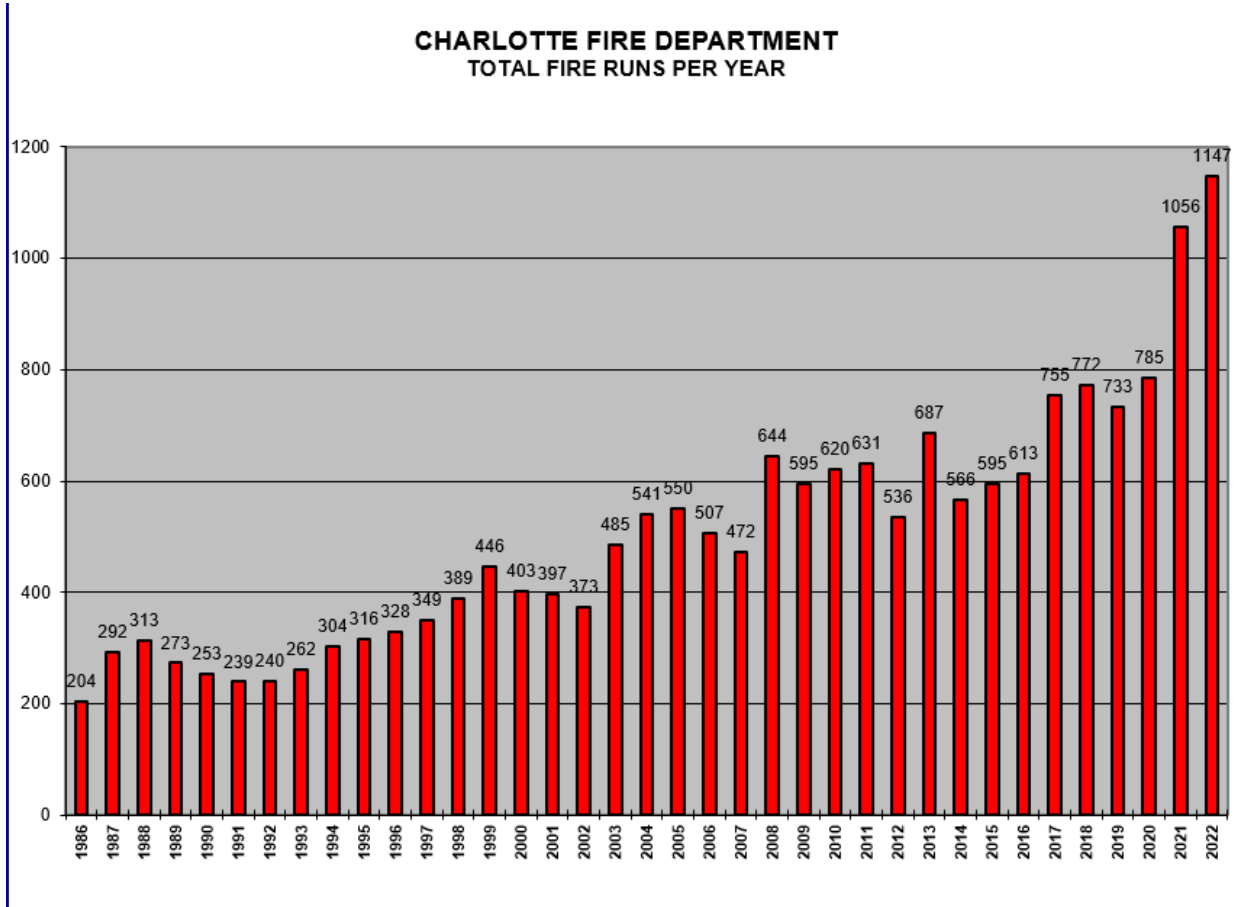
Month	MOST		LEAST	
	Year	Count	Year	Count
JANUARY	2022	118	1976	7
FEBRUARY	2022	91	1986	9
MARCH	2021	90	1980	15
APRIL	2018	99	1983	10
MAY	2022	90	1983	9
JUNE	2022	128	1993	13
JULY	2022	107	1982	11
AUGUST	2021	116	1978	14
SEPTEMBER	2021	101	1977	8
OCTOBER	2021	97	1985	6
NOVEMBER	2021	116	1985	6
DECEMBER	2013	156	1982	9
TOTAL		1309	TOTAL	117

of Incidents by Weekday and Incident Category

Incident Category ● Fire ● EMS ● Other



2022 Incident Data



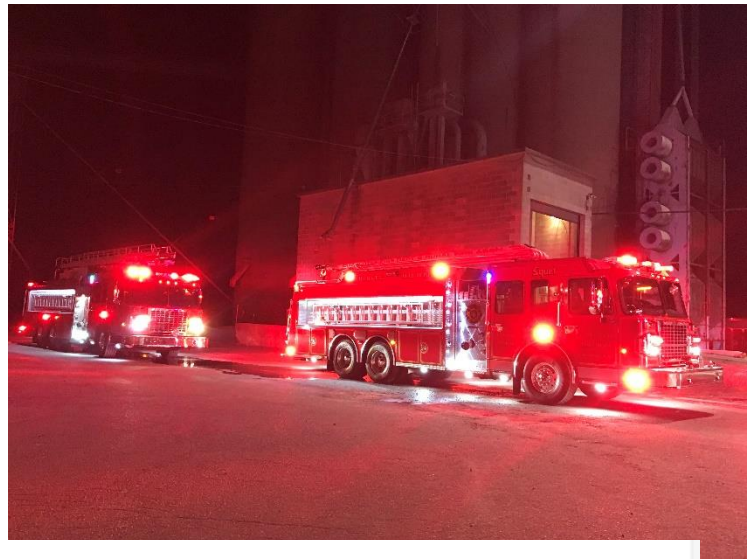
MUTUAL AID		
Aid Type	Total	
Aid Given	45	
Aid Received	12	
OVERLAPPING CALLS		
# OVERLAPPING	% OVERLAPPING	
283	24.67	
LIGHTS AND SIREN - AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (Dispatch to Arrival)		
Station	EMS	FIRE
Charlotte Fire Department	0:05:05	0:05:41
AVERAGE FOR ALL CALLS		0:05:21



2022 Incident Data

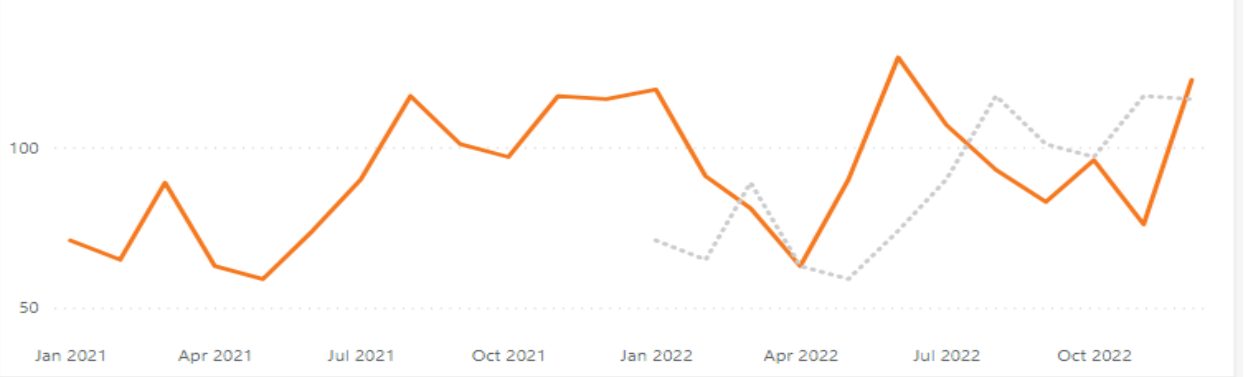
ZONE	# INCIDENTS
01 - City Of Charlotte	660
02 - Eaton Township	151
03 - Brookfield Township	35
04 - Walton Township	32
05 - Carmel Township	93
06 - Chester Township	43
07 - Mutual Aid (Including EMS Ride-along's)	70
08 - Void Calls	63

TOTAL: 1147



of Incidents by Month

● # of Incidents ● # of Incidents (Prior Year)



2022 In Review



2022 In Review

