

City of Vancouver Fire & EMS

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Mission, Vision and Values



MISSION:

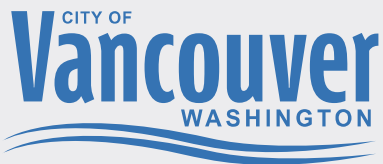
To provide highly trained professionals, well-equipped to respond effectively to the education, prevention, and emergency response needs of our community.

VISION:

The Vancouver Fire Department is committed to safeguarding lives, property and the environment within our community.

VALUES:

- People are the most important, whether it's who we serve or who we serve with.
- Quality service is what we deliver, and pride is evident in its delivery.
- Integrity is evident in our actions; leadership is evident in our decisions.
- Trust is critical; we hold ourselves accountable for our behavior, our decisions, and our actions.
- We are stewards of the community's trust and resources.
- We foster an environment where people feel safe and secure.



Vancouver Fire Department
City of Vancouver
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beheardvancouver.org/ambulanceservicesform



Message from the Fire Chief



IN 2022, VANCOUVER FIRE
WITNESSED A

12%



INCREASE IN CALLS,
ALMOST

4,000

MORE THAN IN 2021.



Welcome to the 2022 Vancouver Fire Department Fire and Emergency Medical Services Annual Report.

The Vancouver Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level of emergency and preventive fire services to the City of Vancouver and Clark County Fire District 5. Our civilian and uniformed members continue to serve our community with dedication and honor as they have for 155 years.

2022 has been a transitional year for the Vancouver Fire Department. Many long-time members have retired, and many new firefighters have been hired. The result is a changing workforce with an infusion of new ideas and energy. I believe that this is healthy for an organization that is reliant on succession planning and long-term sustainability. While the loss of decades of experience can be challenging, the training, experience, and education our members receive prepares them well for any situation they may confront while on the job. The highly competitive and rigorous selection process will ensure that we will continue to hire the best of the best to serve as Vancouver Firefighters.

This last October, VFD placed Engine 11 in service in the North Sifton area. This is the first of several service enhancements that is resultant of our cooperative agreement with Clark County Fire District 5 and supported by both the District and Vancouver City voters. Engine 11 has already made a difference in the lives of our constituents that reside in the northern portion of our service area. On its first day in service, Engine 11 responded to a cardiac arrest and our firefighters

and paramedics subsequently saved the life of a community member.

The Vancouver Fire Department has taken delivery of 3 new paramedic squads that will go into service early summer of 2023 at Fire Stations 2, 6, and 9. This is a new program for Vancouver and will add 6 members to our daily staffing. In early 2024, we will be staffing a third truck company on the eastside of the city adding an additional 4 Firefighters each day.

The additional resources made possible by voter passage of Propositions 1 and 2 are timely and necessary. Call volume continues to rise as our community grows. In 2022, Vancouver Fire witnessed a 12% increase in calls for service resulting in our personnel responding to 38,560 incidents. This is almost 4,000 more calls than last year!

The unprecedented growth of our community has challenged our fire prevention and community risk reduction (CRR) staff as well. One only needs to look at the development occurring not only on the waterfront downtown, but also on the eastside of the city. Our dedicated Fire Code Officers and Deputy Fire Marshals have increased inspections and plan reviews to pre- COVID levels identifying and correcting over 17,000 fire hazards.

Thank you for taking the time to review our annual report. We will always be here to serve our community with pride, integrity, and professionalism.

Respectfully,
Brennan Blue, Fire Chief

About Vancouver Fire

The city of Vancouver, Washington sits on the north bank of the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. The Vancouver Fire Department (VFD) has existed as a fire department within the state of Washington since April 1, 1867, when, in response to a devastating fire in the business district, the Vancouver City Council passed an ordinance organizing a Fire Department.

In 1994, VFD merged with Clark County Fire District #5, becoming the fourth largest fire department in the state.

VFD is one of the busiest fire departments in the region, serving 89.2 square miles and 293,998* citizens in the mostly suburban and consolidated area. City population has more than doubled since 1990, with emergency calls increasing an average of 5% per year.

VFD protects this growing population by responding to 38,163 calls from 11 permanent stations. This is done with 195 full-time firefighters, which is approximately 0.66 firefighters per thousand citizens.

A mutual aid agreement that



includes automatic aid provisions with Clark County, as well as mutual aid agreements with the State Homeland Security Region 4, the City of Portland, Oregon and the Marine Fire Safety Association allows for daily interaction with nearby agencies serving over 1 million citizens in total.

VFD's current standard of cover follows the IAFC integrated risk management process and complies with state requirements (RCW 35.103) to identify risk areas and critical infrastructure elements.

Interstate 5, which runs through our response area, is the main freeway from Canada to Mexico, and two Interstate bridges carry over 280,000 vehicles daily.

VFD protects 22 miles of Columbia River shoreline. The shoreline includes an international shipping port for east-west river barges which is also part of the Coast Guard Sector Columbia River. The lower Columbia River maritime transportation system area saw over 1,500 ocean-going vessels in 2022.



SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Fire Response
- Emergency Medical Response
- Hazardous Materials Response—Regional
- Technical Rescue Response—Regional
- Maritime Response
- Fire Prevention
- Fire Investigation

About Vancouver Fire

The Port of Vancouver alone has over one million square feet of dockside warehouses and industrial facilities.

Railways outline two sides of the city and include a train station and rail bridges. Several railroad companies supply international freight and passenger service. Hazardous materials are transported by rail and truck, including unit trains of grain, coal, crude oil, and ethanol.

Vancouver is home to the Regional 9-1-1 Dispatch Center and its 11-tower emergency radio communications system.

Vancouver is also the home to The U.S. Department of Energy Bonneville Power Authority complex, which supplies hydroelectric power to eight states and high-voltage

capacity through the Northwest Power Grid of 31 dams, 15,000 miles of electric lines and 260 substations.

High-capacity natural gas pipelines serve the area and feed a Vancouver power generating plant. Eleven main water stations and 40 wells provide 8.5 billion gallons of drinking water each year. Two hospitals serve approximately 145,000 emergency patients per year.

High-risk natural disasters for our area include active volcanoes, earthquakes, flooding, landslides, wildfires, and extreme weather. Each of these features presents unique risks, and we have trained staff, equipment, and operational response plans in place to ensure community protection and firefighter safety.



89.2

SQUARE MILES



293,998

POPULATION SERVED

*The 2020 OFM Adjusted values are census values adjusted to improve data consistency and correct erroneous values.

The 2021-2022 estimates, change and percent change are based on OFM Adjusted census block values.

The 2020-2022 estimates are consistent with OFM April 1 postcensal estimates at the county level.

SAEP estimates are subject to change due to data updates and revisions.

2020 Adjusted population: 283,318

2021 Adjusted population: 289,765

VFD RESPONSE TIME PERFORMANCE

Alarm Type	Standard Response Time	2022	2022% met Standard	Number of Calls Received in 2022	% Change over 2021
Priority 1 and 2 Except Maritime	7:59	08:26	87.12%	14,942	9.3%
Priority 3 and 4 Except Maritime	10:59	09:12	94.95%	11,731	13.1%
Priority 5 Non-Medical	15:59	11:22	97.60%	5,000	11.3%
Priority 5 Emergency Medical—Ambulance Only	17:59	21:12	86.96%	9,438	2.1%
Marine—All Calls	19:59	49:48	26.67%	15	-31.8%
Fire Suppression Full Alarm	15:59	19:05	81.25%	96	9.1%
Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting	15:59	04:22	100%	1	100%
Technical Rescue	60:00	N/A	N/A	0	0
Hazardous Materials	60:00	N/A	N/A	0	0

Apparatus Profile



2 BRUSH UNITS



3 MOBILE WATER TENDERS



11 FIRE ENGINES



2 LADDER TRUCKS



1 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS UNIT



2 RESCUE UNITS



1 MEDICAL REHAB UNIT



1 MOBILE AIR COMPRESSOR



1 FIRE BOAT



1 HIGH-CAPACITY PUMP AND FOAM TENDER



2 COMMAND UNITS



1 FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT



1 HEAVY RESCUE UNIT

Fire Stations



STATION 1

2607 Main Street
Built 2017



Engine 1 | Truck 1

2022 CALL VOLUMES

Total: 4,881
Unit Responses
E1: 3,067 T1: 2,523

STATION 2

2106 Norris Road
Built 2017



Battalion 1 | Engine 2 | Rescue 2

2022 CALL VOLUMES

Total: 4,050
Unit Responses
E2: 2,143 R2: 1,063

STATION 3

1110 N. Divine Road
Built 1957



Engine 3 | Fire Boat 1

2022 CALL VOLUMES

Total: 3,641
Unit Responses
E3: 2,397 FB1: 15

STATION 4

6701 NE 147th Avenue
Built 1995



Battalion 2 | Engine 4

2022 CALL VOLUMES

Total: 2,840
Unit Responses
E4: 2,818

STATION 5 (HQ)

7110 NE 63rd Street
Built 1980



Engine 5 | Truck 5 | Heavy Rescue 5

2022 CALL VOLUMES

Total: 5,615
Unit Responses
E5: 3,417 T5: 2,610 HR5: 12

STATION 6

3216 NE 112th Avenue
Built 1975



Engine 6

2022 CALL VOLUMES

Total: 4,724
Unit Responses
E6: 3,746



Fire Stations

STATION 7

12603 NE 72nd Avenue
Built 2005



Engine 7

2022 CALL VOLUMES

Total: 1,693
Unit Responses
E7: 1,307

STATION 8

213 NE 120th Avenue
Built 1970



Engine 8

2022 CALL VOLUMES

Total: 4,563
Unit Responses
E8: 3,468 R8: 27

STATION 9

17408 SE 15th Street
Built 1992



Engine 9

2022 CALL VOLUMES

Total: 3,402
Unit Responses
E9: 2,687

STATION 10

1501 NE 164th Avenue
Built 2009



Engine 10 | Hazmat 10

2022 CALL VOLUMES

Total: 1,990
Unit Responses
E10: 2,543

STATION 11

9606 NE 130th Avenue
Built 2022



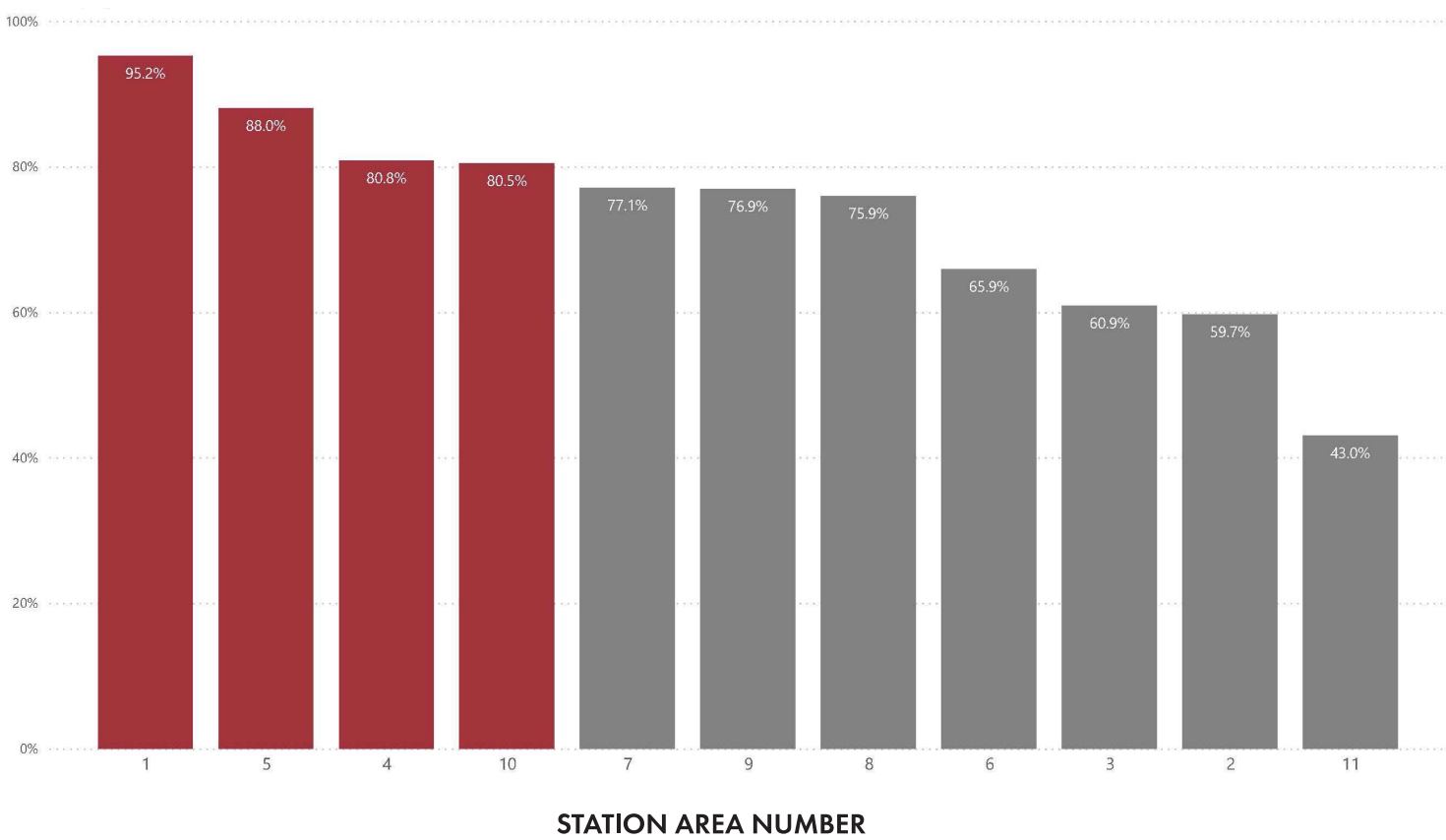
Engine 11

2022 CALL VOLUMES

Total: 764
Unit Responses
E11: 356



RELIABILITY BY STATION AREA NUMBER



Fire Suppression

The VFD has a suppression division that is trained and equipped to respond to all Risks and all Hazards. There are currently 13 full time 24 hour staffed fire companies responding out of 11 fire stations. Daily suppression activities are managed by two Battalion Chiefs who maintain operational command at any significant emergency.

Life safety, property protection, and environmental conservation are

the incident priorities at nearly all emergency events. Fire suppression crews address these priorities through speed and efficiency. Quickly and safely bringing the appropriate firefighting resources to bear on a particular emergency is critical to success.

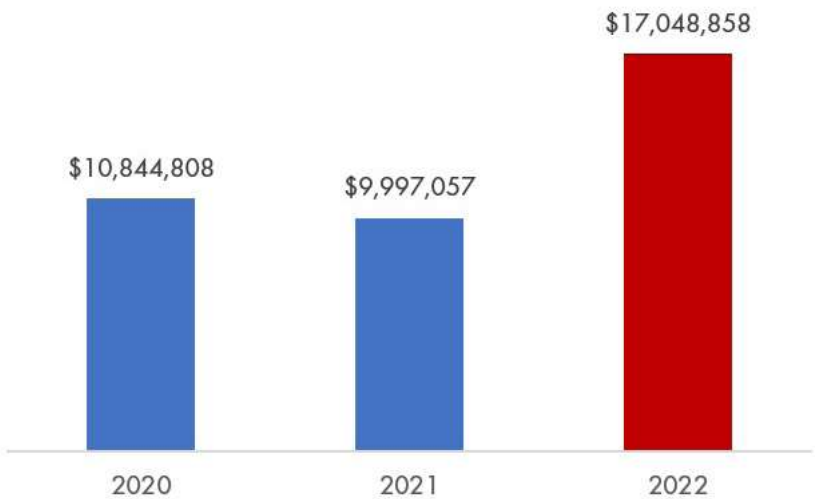
VFD has a long history of being a highly trained and highly efficient, all hazard, firefighting force.



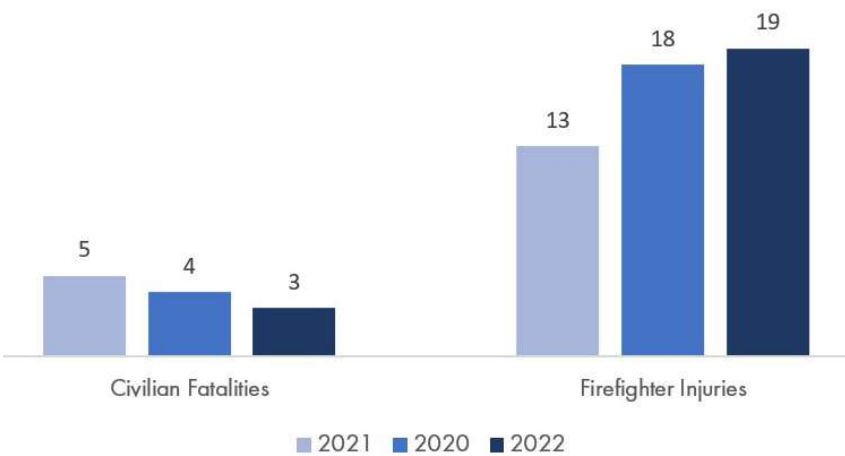
1,432

fire suppression responses in 2022

FIRE PROPERTY AND CONTENTS LOSS



FIRE INJURIES AND FATALITIES



Emergency Medical Service (EMS)



64.5% OF ALL REQUESTS FOR SERVICE
ARE EMERGENCY MEDICAL CALLS



VFD has been providing emergency services since 1867. Currently, 64.5% of all requests for service are emergency medical calls.

Emergency medical functions performed by VFD are state-of-the-art for prehospital advanced life support care. Our care exceeds state and national data for out of the hospital cardiac arrest survival year after year. This is due to every VFD response apparatus being staffed with a minimum of (1) Paramedic who is able to provide advance life support care. Our response apparatus is outfitted with cutting edge medical equipment and

technologies to enable our response teams to provide the best possible care to our citizens and visitors. This is all made possible by strong support of the City of Vancouver and progressive data driven protocols written by our Medical Program Director Physician, Dr. Lynn Wittwer.

Ambulance transport is provided by American Medical Response (AMR) by a contract agreement with the City of Vancouver. These ambulances are staffed with at least one paramedic and one EMT and have a seamless integration with VFD to provide the best level of care with each encounter.

“2022 saw the gradual easing of the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, but it was far from back to normal. Continued staffing shortages for hospitals and long-term care facilities resulted in initial worsening of hospital and emergency department over-crowding, with more diversion and lengthening of ambulance “off-loading times.”

Through efforts by EMS and innovative system adjustments by AMR, diversion was essentially eliminated and emergency room crowding eased. VFD and AMR continue to function at a collaborative and high standard of care, for the benefit of the community and the patients they serve. Patient care and service remain exemplary. Despite the increased workload on the EMS system, several innovative projects were proposed by AMR and approved by the City, including the BLS-911 Ambulance pilot project and the Nurse Navigation pilot project, both of which will be implemented in 2023. I continue to be impressed by the quality of VFD and AMR professional and administrative staff.”

—Dr. Lynn Wittwer,
Medical Program Director

Staffing Levels

VFD:	AMR:
195	150

Emergent Calls

VFD:	AMR:
38,163	41,200

Total Unit Responses

VFD:	AMR:
48,919	45,053



AMR RESPONSE TIME PERFORMANCE

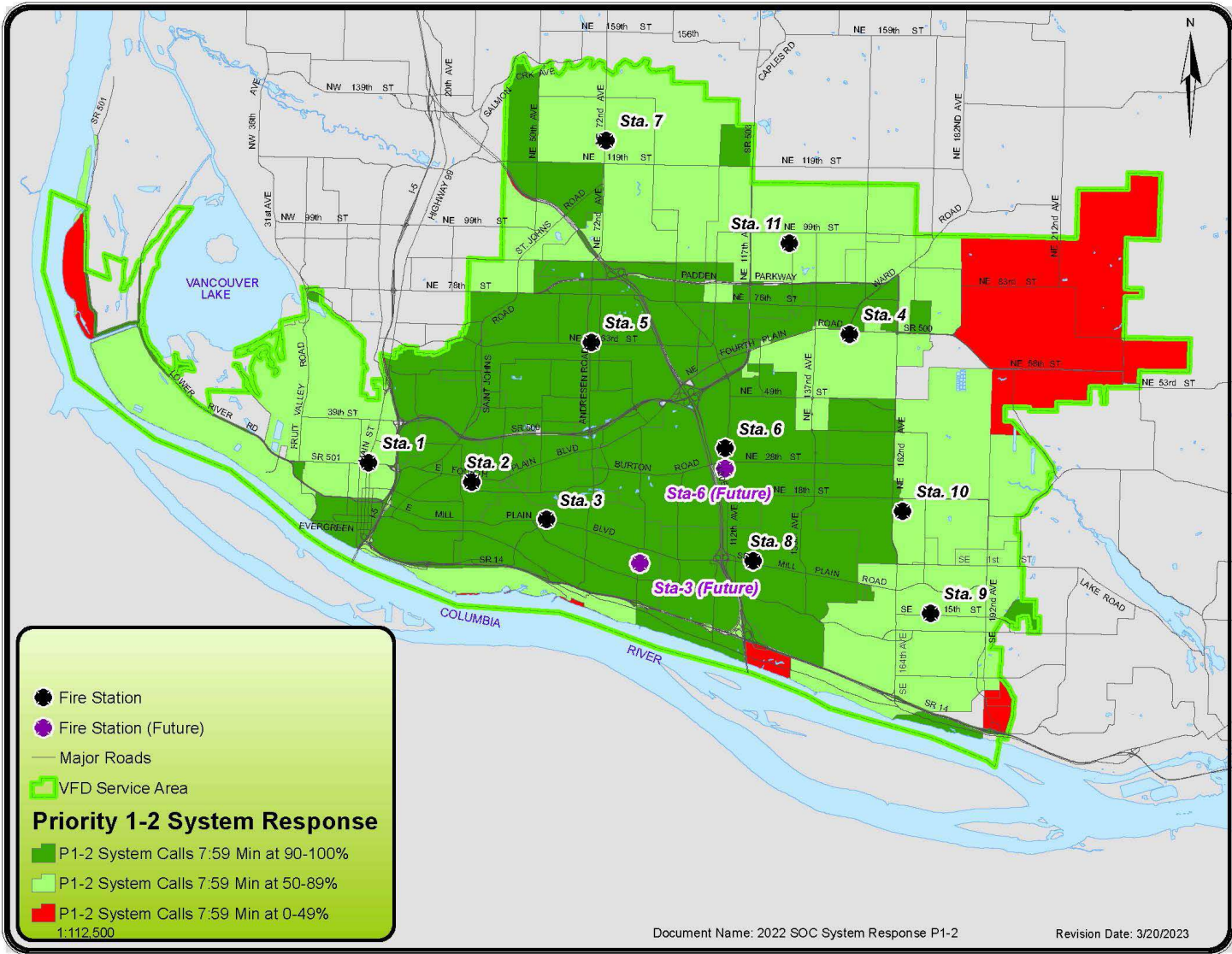
Alarm Type	Standard Response Time	2022 Actual Compliance %	Number of Calls Received in 2022
Priority 1 and 2—High Density	9:59	88.23%	22,850
Priority 1 and 2—Low Density	19:59	90.66%	2,217
Priority 3 and 4—High Density	12:59	92.09%	16,923
Priority 3 and 4—Low Density	19:59	90.23%	1,596
Priority 5 and 6—High Density	17:59	91.25%	13,212
Priority 5 and 6—Low Density	29:59	94.87%	974
Routine—EMSD2 Area Only—Inter-facility Scheduled (12 hr pre-scheduled)	≤ 15 mins	69.09%	508
Routine—EMSD2 Area Only—Inter-facility Non-scheduled (less than 12 hr pre-scheduled)	≤ 60 mins	81.08%	3,393

“The partnership between AMR and the City of Vancouver continues to produce innovations that will enhance the services provided to the community as we emerge from the effects of the Pandemic. Two examples are Nurse Navigation and BLS Response to low acuity calls. These programs will enhance the services currently provided while maintaining a cost-effective, high-performance EMS system that we can all be proud of.”

—Rocco Roncarati
Regional Director, AMR



SYSTEMWIDE RESPONSE TIME PERFORMANCE

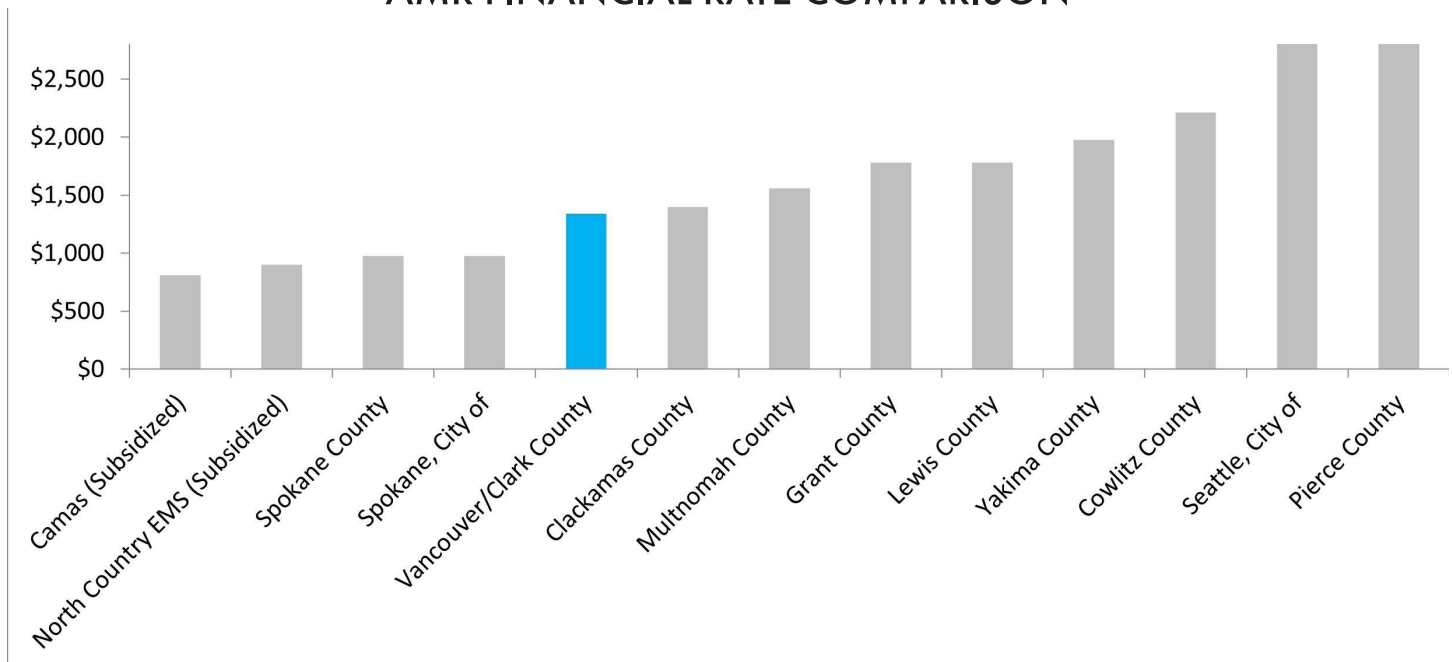


CARDIAC SURVIVAL RATES

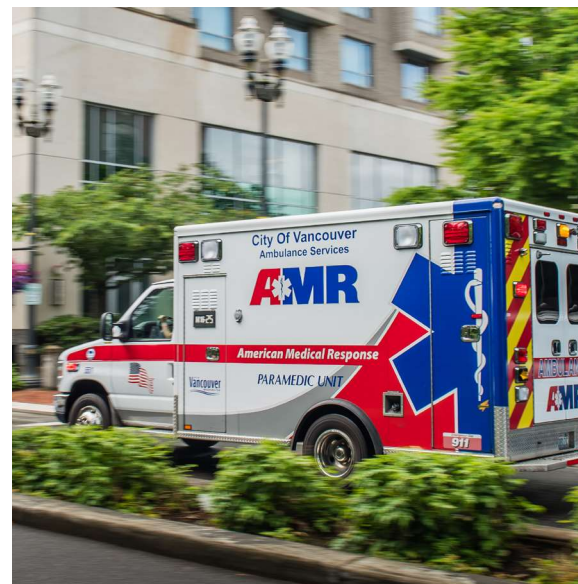
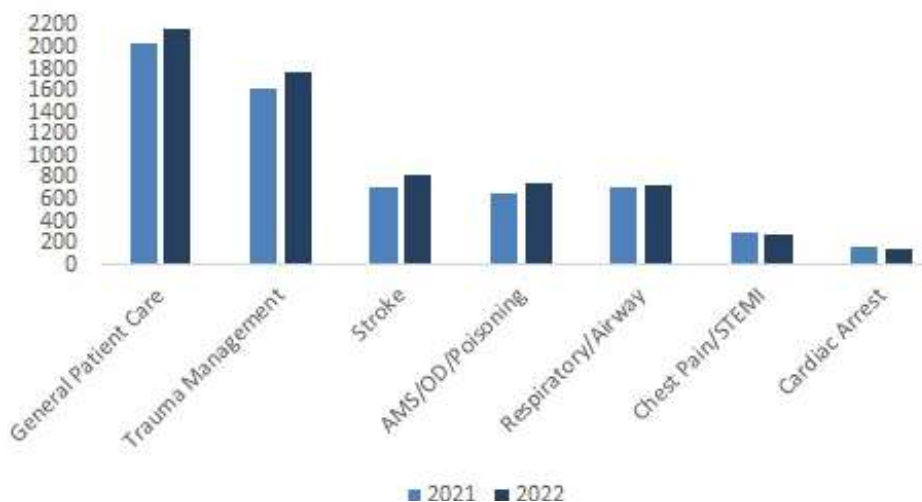
	Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA)	Utstein Criteria
Total	284	44
Clark County	13%	40.9%
Washington	12.6%	35.8%
National	9.3%	30.7%



AMR FINANCIAL RATE COMPARISON



AMR EMERGENT TRANSPORTS





Community Outreach

Vancouver residents attended multiple clinics and classes offered by AMR to the community in 2022.

Community education efforts conducted in 2020, 2021 and 2022 were a bit different than in years past due to COVID-19. AMR was able to adjust the delivery method for some efforts, while other efforts had to be placed on hold. Efforts conducted include car seat installation clinics, community events, safe kids Clark County coalition events and activities with Apollo the therapy dog, including "A Care Giver Christmas."

177 HOURS OF COMMUNITY
OUTREACH PROVIDED IN 2022



Topic	Attendance	Hours	County
Community Events	~1,500	16	Clark
Independent Car Seat Installations	112 in person car seat events (76 donated, 36 inspections)	112	Clark
Safe Kids Meetings/Prep	102	19	Clark
Safe Kids Events	100	10	Clark
High School Presentations	82	5	Clark
Apollo Activities	1,600 (1,500 alone attended A Care Giver Christmas)	15	Clark
Total	3,496	177	

Special Operations

The VFD provides Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials and Maritime emergency response to Vancouver and throughout our region.

VFD Special Operations Teams also provide support to the City of Portland, Oregon, and respond to incidents within the Portland metropolitan area through a mutual aid agreement. This brings the total population base to over 1,000,000 citizens in our regional response area.

VFD has policies and procedures that identify the roles and responsibilities of the

fire department capabilities of team members responding to incidents that meet the definition of “special operations” in accordance with national standards (NFPA 1710) as follows:

“Those emergency incidents to which the fire department responds that require specific and advanced training and specialized tools and equipment.”

VFD performs only those specific special operations for which responding personnel have been trained and are correctly equipped.



Maritime

VFD's Maritime program works in cooperation with the United States Coast Guard, Washington State Department of Ecology and other public safety agencies in Clark County and Portland. VFD currently has 29 positions in maritime emergency response operations.

VFD's 52-foot emergency response vessel, Discovery (Fire Boat 1), responds to recreational boat fires, commercial ship fires, water rescues, provides over-water transport of personnel and equipment, and serves as waterside support for any significant incident near the river. Fire Boat 1 would also serve as an initial detection and monitoring responder for an oil spill on the Columbia River.

VFD is also part of a large regional consortium that provides highly trained, land-based shipboard firefighters for response to commercial vessel fires at all ports on the lower Columbia River and Willamette Rivers from the Portland/Vancouver area to Astoria.



15

MARITIME
RESPONSES
IN 2022

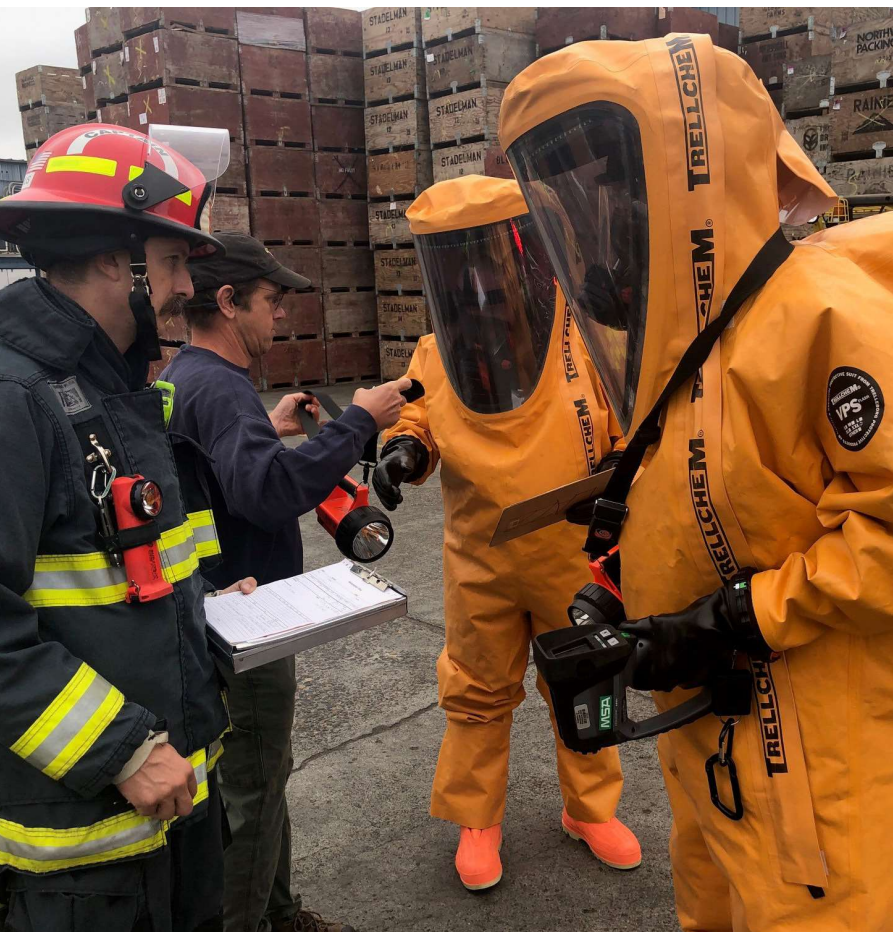
Technical Rescue

VFD's Technical Rescue Team is composed of 21 members specially trained to respond to high angle rope rescues, structural and trench collapses, heavy extrication rescues, confined space rescues, and swift water incidents.

The team is a member of the Southwest Washington Region 4 Technical Rescue Team responding to incidents throughout Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties.



5 TECHNICAL RESCUE
RESPONSES IN 2022



Hazardous Materials

Vancouver's rail, highway and shipping infrastructure create a hub for the transportation of hazardous materials, including crude oil.

VFD's Hazardous Materials Team is composed of 21 members and serves as the regional hazmat team for Southwest Washington Region 4, including Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties.

VFD and its hazmat team is an integral part of the Clark County Local Emergency Planning Committee and is identified as the hazmat response team in ESF10.

As part of these agreements and as a regional responder for hazmat, VFD also participates in the training and drills associated with hazmat response with regional response partners throughout Southwest Washington.



243

HAZMAT
RESPONSES
IN 2022



Fire Marshal's Office

Fire-Arson Investigation

The Fire Marshal's Office is mandated by the State of Washington to investigate the causes and circumstances of all fires. Deputy Fire Marshals serve as primary investigators when the fire cause is not readily apparent, there is a high dollar loss, explosion, incendiary fire, injury, or death. The Fire-Arson Investigation Unit (FAIU) is comprised of both Fire and

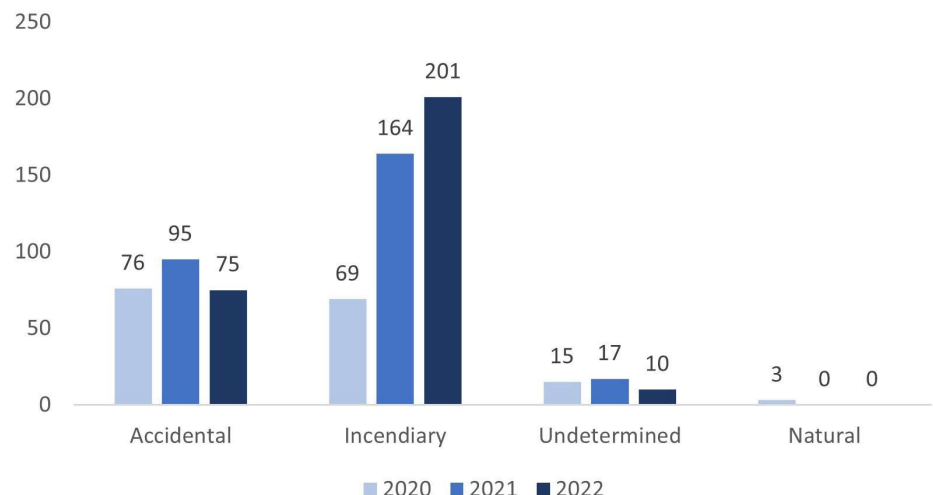
police personnel for maximum efficiency and effectiveness. The FAIU proactively coordinates with the Clark County Prosecuting Office for positive legal outcomes on incendiary fire incidents.

In 2022, fire investigators processed 286 fires and placed the findings into categories: 26% preventable fire cause (cooking, smoking, candles, etc.), 70% not preventable and 4% undetermined.

% OF FIRE CASES BY CAUSE	
26%	PREVENTABLE (cooking, smoking, candles, etc.)
70%	NOT PREVENTABLE
4%	UNDETERMINED



FIRE CAUSE CLASSIFICATION





Fire Engineering

The Vancouver Fire Marshal's Office processed 1,421 construction projects including land use, commercial, multifamily, and residential neighborhood projects. Of those, 694 were new or upgraded fire protection systems. In 2022, the Deputy Fire Marshals were able to accommodate 100% of requested acceptance inspections.

The FMO provides fire and life safety plan review and new construction inspection services.

These services include pre-construction site plan reviews, fire and life safety inspections, testing and commissioning of fire protection systems.

Deputy Fire Marshal staff also provide the review and issuance of construction permits for hazardous processes regulated by the International Fire Code. These include high-piled storage, hazardous materials, fuel storage and dispensing, and more.



Fire Code Enforcement

The Vancouver FMO Fire Code Inspection Program identified 17,104 code violation hazards in commercial businesses and multi-family dwellings. The FMO worked with Vancouver's Businesses to bring them into safe fire code compliance.

FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS IN 2022 INCLUDED:

4,798
FIRE PROTECTION
EQUIPMENT
DEFICIENCIES

4,025
ELECTRICAL
HAZARDS

1,878
UNWANTED
ALARMS

1,212
EXITING
HAZARDS

Community Risk Reduction

With the help of volunteer Fire Corps members, the FMO directly contacted 1,738 homes with fire prevention messaging. The goal is to educate home occupants on fire safety practices in areas with higher than average numbers of house fires. The FMO and Fire Corps participated in numerous public outreach and educational events resulting in an additional 3,436 in-person contacts.

The FMO additionally used social media to treat fire events as teachable moments of how to avoid similar fires at home.

The FMO was awarded another FEMA Fire Prevention Grant totaling ~ \$202,000 for the continuation of **Project Home Safe**. This is the sixth (6th) FEMA grant the Vancouver Fire Marshal's Office has received since 2012, totaling over \$1 million in federal grant funding the city has received for community risk reduction efforts. Project Home Safe is a unique

program and the only one of its kind in the nation. It demonstrates the value and impact of public education for fire prevention.

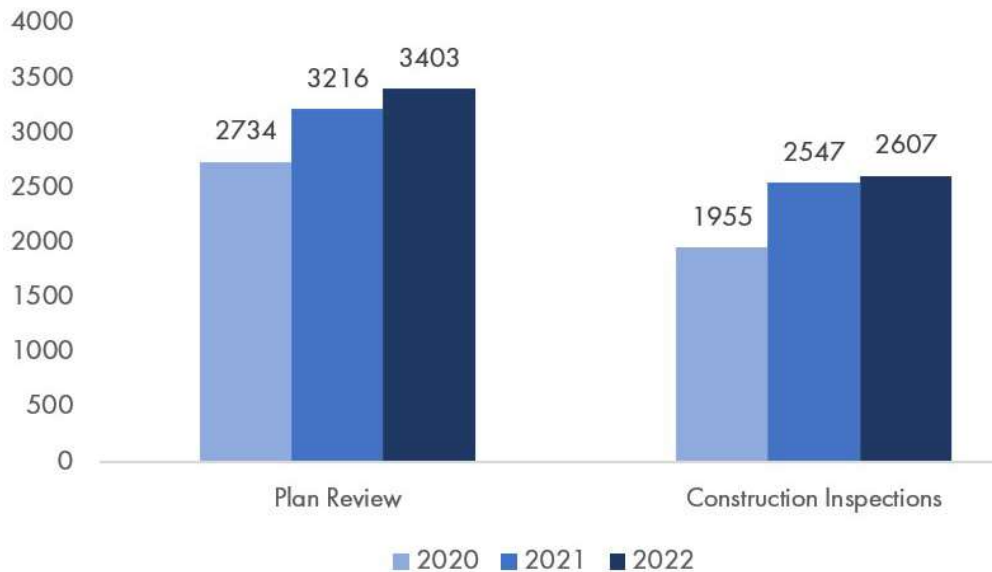
Project Home Safe has proven statistically that public education is effective in reducing the occurrences of preventable fires.

The FMO has helped navigate the rebirth of the Vancouver Waterfront through reviews and inspections of new high-rise buildings with complex fire and smoke control systems. The FMO ensures that all buildings and systems are code compliant and that the life safety systems will operate as intended, not only initially, but also in the years to come.

The FMO was also able to produce some high quality fire prevention videos that were played in theaters and local cable networks. Additionally, Deputy Fire Marshals visited grade schools to teach students how to prevent a fire and how to respond if there is one.



NEW CONSTRUCTION PLAN REVIEW & INSPECTIONS

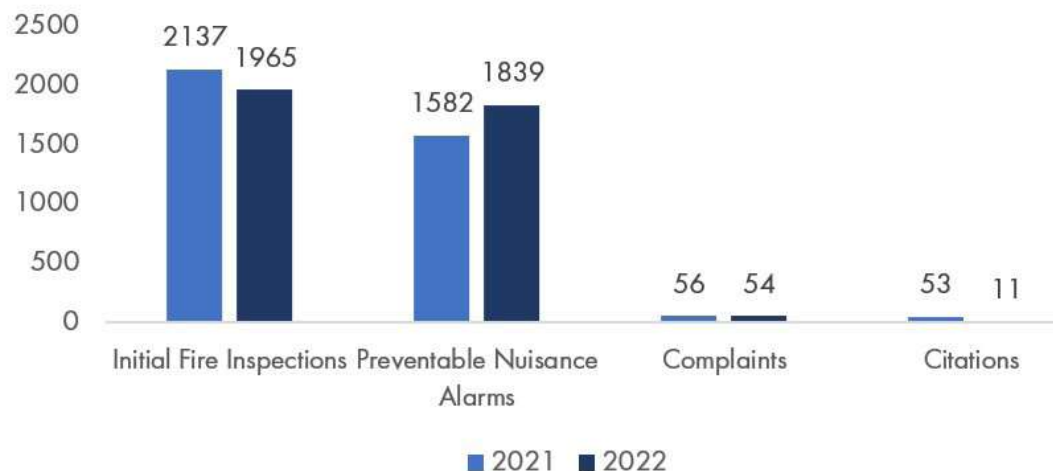


IN 2022,
VANCOUVER FIRE
PROCESSED
1,421
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS. OF THOSE,
694
WERE NEW OR
UPGRADED FIRE
PROTECTION SYSTEMS.

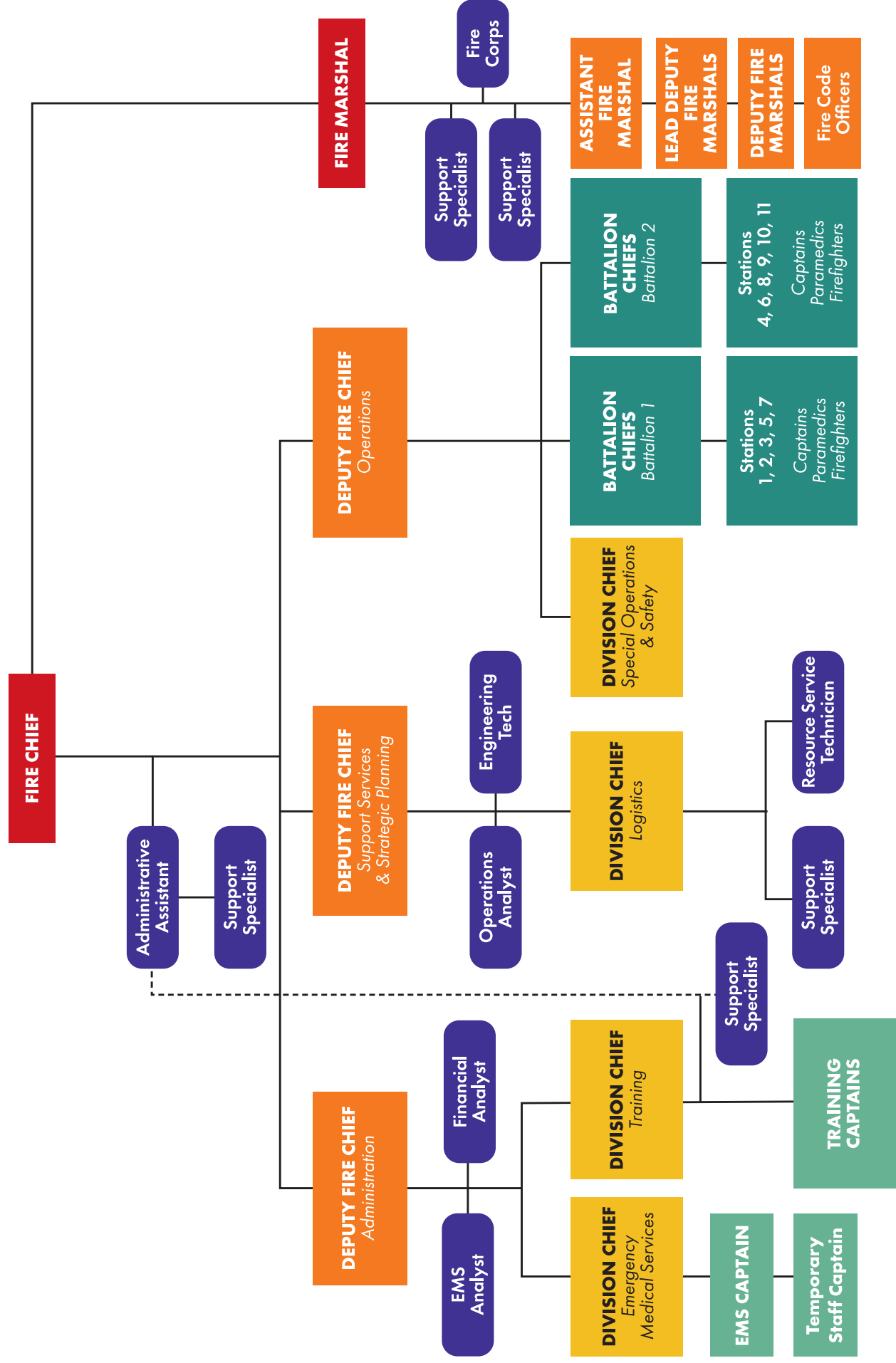


IN 2022,
THE DEPUTY FIRE
MARSHALS WERE ABLE TO
ACCOMMODATE
100%
OF REQUESTED
ACCEPTANCE
INSPECTIONS.

FIRE INSPECTION DATA



Vancouver Fire Department Organizational Chart



Budget and Expenditures

Budgeted Actual Revenue	2020	2021	2022 *
Revenue and Transfers In COV	33,241,096.00	37,431,748.00	42,259,165.00
Property Tax Revenue FD5	10,761,691.00	10,788,948.00	12,001,990.00
Fee for service, regulatory fees, and other	2,170,723.00	2,714,585.00	2,068,078.00
Grants and Donations	2,982,225.00	563,451.00	877,891.00
Total Revenue per ACFR	49,155,735.00	51,498,732.00	57,207,124.00

Budgeted Actual Expenditures			
Salaries and Benefits	38,046,538.89	38,727,046.46	42,729,073.30
Supplies and Services	2,408,631.02	2,523,437.87	3,223,473.72
City Infrastructure & Dispatch	4,620,639.09	5,098,374.47	5,954,193.05
Equipment & Vehicles Operating Expenses	835,647.50	926,977.18	1,104,994.58
Capital Outlay (new vehicles and capital equipment)	1,974,919.00	1,799,348.00	3,741,506.58
Other	1,479,950.51	3,030,491.02	2,950,514.25
Total Expenditures per ACFR	\$49,366,326.00	\$52,105,675.00	\$59,703,755.48
Change in fund balance per ACFR	(\$210,591.00)	(\$606,943)	(\$2,496,631.48)

* The 2022 ACFR has not been published. 2022 amounts are based on preliminary year-end figures as of 3/14/23.

NOTABLE GRANTS OVER \$50,000

Grant Received	Amount
Washington State Military Department/ Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency/Region IV grant for tech rescue and hazmat training	\$92,935.00
Washington State Department of Ecology for hazmat equipment	\$117,500.00
Total	\$210,435.00

