



City of South Milwaukee Fire Department

# Annual Report

## 2022

01/01/2022-12/31/2022

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Serving the Community with  
Commitment / Concern / Compassion





# City of South Milwaukee Fire Department

929 Marshall Ct · South Milwaukee, WI 53172

To the citizens of South Milwaukee,  
The Honorable Mayor Jim Shelenske,  
City Administrator Tami Mayzik,  
South Milwaukee Common Council and,  
Police & Fire Commission:

The South Milwaukee Fire Department is pleased to present our 2022 Annual Report. Overall, the report highlights significant achievements made by the department in medical and fire service calls, training, community service, and re-engagement in fire prevention and education efforts.

When I came to South Milwaukee halfway through the year, I saw the department respond to a lifetime of runs in six months. From structure fires, challenging vehicle extrication and complicated medical calls to the standard lift assist. Multiple high-risk technical rescues were responded to, such as high-angle rescues that had an individual stuck 25 feet in the air, boat rescues 6 miles out in Lake Michigan, and even a cat in a tree! Because of these actions, I proudly and sincerely thank the South Milwaukee Fire Department members. Your professionalism, dedication, and desire to make someone's darkest day a little brighter make us who we are. Working with such dedicated individuals is an honor to be a part of this amazing fire family.

I also appreciate the full support of our Mayor, City Administrator, Police and Fire Commission, Common Council, and all other departments as we partner in serving our city.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge our community. We are blessed to have the unwavering support of our citizens. It is seen daily by your visits to the station, the hellos to us in the street, and your kindness as we attempt to improve everyone's trying moments by serving the public. We truly appreciate your kindness and support, as we could not do it without you.

These accomplishments reflect the department's commitment to serving and safeguarding the South Milwaukee community.

Thank you,

*John T. Litchford*

John T. Litchford

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**Dedicated to Excellence in Public Service**



# The SMFD in the Community

Aside from its role as first responders, the SMFD maintains a consistent presence at various community events. Below are a few examples of our 2022 outreach.



Heritage Day Parade



Homecoming Bon Fire



Flag Day



Safety Days 2022



Human Concerns Toy Drive

# Mission Statement

THE MISSION OF THE SOUTH MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS TO PROTECT LIVES AND PROPERTY FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF FIRES, SUDDEN MEDICAL EMERGENCIES AND EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS. THIS COMMITMENT IS ACHIEVED BY DEVELOPING, PROMOTING, AND MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE FIRE SUPPRESSION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THESE QUALITY SERVICES THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO ALL WHO LIVE, WORK, VISIT OR INVEST HERE.

## Department Information

The South Milwaukee Fire Department is an all-risk, all-hazard department that provides fire suppression, rescue and emergency medical services to an estimated 20,795 residents who reside within an area of 4.78 sq. miles. In addition, we respond on a mutual aid basis to any community as part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). Starting this year our department joined the Shared Services of Milwaukee County Fire Departments. This is a reciprocal agreement program with the surrounding communities providing specific number of personnel on equipment to specific fire ground incidents. In return, these communities respond to our city when requested as part of this reciprocal agreement.

***SMFD Organized – 1893***

PROVIDING 128 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE



# City Officials

## Mayor James Shelenske

**Craig Maass**  
District 1 Alderperson

**Brett Briesemeister**  
District 1 Alderperson

**Ray Navarro**  
District 2 Alderperson

**Tim Backes**  
District 2 Alderperson

**Tami Mayzik**  
City Administrator

**Katie Crosby**  
City Clerk

**Christopher Smith**  
City Attorney

**Lisa Pieper**  
District 3 Alderperson

**Joseph Bukowski**  
District 3 Alderperson

**David Bartoshevich**  
District 4 Alderperson

**Peggy Clark**  
District 4 Alderperson

**Patrick Brever**  
Assistant City Administrator

**Karen Skowronski**  
City Treasurer

**Kelly Martyka**  
Municipal Judge

## Police and Fire Commission

Under Wisconsin law, cities with a population of 4,000 or more must create police and fire commissions. Commissioners are appointed by the mayor and serve a 5-year term. Appointees filling vacancies created by the resignation, removal or death of a commissioner serve out the term of their predecessor.

The Police & Fire Commission meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Don O’Kray  
President

Carla Uphill  
Secretary

Heather Frederick  
Commissioner

Tobie Weberg  
Commissioner

Robert Weber  
Commissioner

# Department Personnel

When fully staffed, the South Milwaukee Fire Department maintains a three-platoon system utilizing three shifts of 8 personnel each on a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week schedule. Off-duty personnel are notified when staffing levels at the station fall below a pre-established minimum or when the department responds to a report of an emergency incident that will require additional personnel to mitigate.

**Fire Chief**  
**John Litchford**

**Christina Garcia**  
**Administrative Assistant**

## **Black Shift**

**Capt. Craig Boschke**  
**Lt. Ryan Wendt**  
**FF/P Mike Landgraf**  
**FF/P Ryan Porter**  
**FF/EMT Jason Helmlinger**  
**FF/EMT Mark Witt**

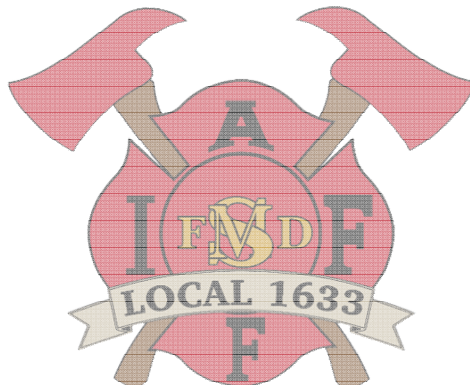
## **Green Shift**

**Capt. John Frost**  
**Lt. Andy Mahn**  
**FF/P Ryan Kurz**  
**FF/P John Rhinesmith**  
**FF/P Luis Zamora-Martinez**  
**FF/EMT Jared Rentmeester**  
**FF/EMT Kevin Schneider**  
**FF/EMT Matt Boss**

## **Red Shift**

**Capt. Kurt Egner**  
**Lt. Nathan Fager**  
**FF/P Jeremy Fronczak**  
**FF/P Ryan Miksa**  
**FF/P Matthew Sweitlik**  
**FF/P Nathaniel Heard**  
**FF/EMT Ryan Behling**  
**FF/EMT Nathan Christensen**

Retired – 2/22 Joe Knitter  
Resigned - 10/22 Shannon Hrdlicka  
Resigned – 11/22 Zach Teschendorf





# Special Assignments

<b>Capt. Craig Boschke</b>	<b>Training / Safety Operations Records Management Personnel Protective Equipment SCBA Maintenance</b>
<b>Capt. John Frost</b>	<b>Community Relations / Public Education Fire Inspection / Prevention Radios / Communications</b>
<b>Capt. Kurt Egner</b>	<b>EMS Coordination Fire Investigation Apparatus / Facilities Maintenance HIPAA Compliance</b>
<b>Lt. Ryan Wendt</b>	<b>Training – Assistant MSDS Online</b>
<b>Lt. Nate Fager</b>	<b>Training – Assistant Bldg. &amp; Grounds – Assistant Health &amp; Fitness Coordinator</b>
<b>Lt. Andy Mahn</b>	<b>EMS Supplies / Equipment Training – Assistant SCBA Maintenance – Assistant</b>
<b>FF/P Jeremy Fronczak</b>	<b>Fire Inspection</b>
<b>FF/EMT Kevin Schneider</b>	<b>Fire Inspection</b>
<b>FF/EMT Jason Helmlinger</b>	<b>Fire Inspection</b>

Check out our website <https://smfdwi.org>



# Emergency Medical Services Report

Fire department-based Emergency Medical Services (EMS) continues to be a major part of our response profile. The central location of the fire station allows for minimal response times of specialized equipment and well-trained personnel. By utilizing a flexible staffing model, the South Milwaukee Fire Department is able to provide emergency care to the Paramedic level on any given call. Citizens in South Milwaukee benefit from a high level of service when requesting emergency medical care. **This year we saw over a 4.27% increase in EMS calls.**

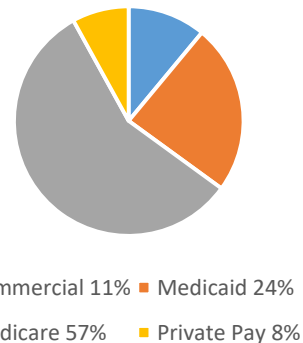
EMS Calls by City		
South Milwaukee	2712	80.21%
Cudahy	574	16.98%
Saint Francis	44	1.30%
Oak Creek	48	1.42%
Milwaukee	2	0.06%
Village of Union Grove	1	0.03%

\*Includes fire / service responses where no EMS report was generated and/or cancelled prior to an EMS report being generated

Total EMS Calls*	Transports
3381	1870

Disposition of Calls	
Patient Refused Transport (AMA)	595
Treated, Transported by Another EMS Unit	208
EMS Cancelled Prior to Arrival	276
EMS Cancelled On or After Arrival	172
Dead at Scene – Resuscitation Attempted	24
Patient Refused Evaluation, Care, & Transport	108
Dead at Scene – No Resuscitation	41
No Patient Found	25
Treated, Referred to Law Enforcement	2
Treated, Transported by Private Vehicle	17
Other	42

EMS Payor Mix



Transport Destination	3381	100%
Aurora Med Ctr-South Shore	1,454	43.00%
No Destination: Transport Refused AMA, Treated on scene, Canceled	1390	41.10%
AURORA ST LUKES MEDICAL CENTER	215	6.45%
WHEATON FRANCISCAN HEALTHCARE-FRANKLIN	114	3.34%
FROEDTERT MEMORIAL LUTHERAN HOSPITAL	69	2.06%
Milwaukee County Medical Examiner	44	1.30%
CHILDRENS HOSPITAL OF WISCONSIN	37	1.10%
CLEMENT J ZABLOCKI VETERANS AFFAIRS	27	0.80%
WHEATON FRANCISCAN HEALTHCARE-ST FRANCIS HOSP	11	0.30%
COLUMBIA ST MARYS HOSPITAL MILWAUKEE	10	0.30%
WHEATON FRANCISCAN HEALTHCARE-ALL SAINTS SPRING ST	5	0.10%
Aurora West Allis Medical Center	3	0.09%
Aurora Sinai Medical Center	2	0.06%

## 5545 Apparatus Report

One of the most frequent compliments paid to members of our department is the extremely clean and well-kept appearance of both our apparatus and fire station. Visitors are often impressed at the condition of our apparatus and are shocked to learn their vintage and high level of use. Members of our department take great pride in the care and maintenance of both the apparatus and fire station. We proudly care for the equipment and building that the citizens of South Milwaukee have entrusted us with. This year Car 16 was added to the fleet as the first-out Command Vehicle.

Below is a list of our current apparatus and their relative condition:

ID	Type of Apparatus	Year	Make / Model	Condition
E163	Engine	2003	Pierce Enforcer – 1250 GPM Pump, 750 Gal. Water Tank	Good
E165	Engine	2007	Pierce Enforcer – 1250 GPM Pump, 750 Gal. Water Tank	Very Good
T161	Aerial Ladder	1995	Pierce Lance 105' Heavy Duty Ladder – 1500 GPM Pump, 300 Gal. Water Tank	Very Good (Refurb 2021-2022)
A160	Ambulance	2016	Osage (Dodge) Type I	Very Good
A161	Ambulance	2009	Med-Tech (Ford) Type I	Fair (Replacing 2023)
Med-10	Ambulance	2014	Osage (Dodge) Type I	Good
C162	Chief's Car	2009	Ford Escape	Good
U163	Gator	2003	6 x 4 Wheel Drive Utility Cart	Good
Z164	Rescue Raft	2006	14' Mercury Inflatable 25 HP Outboard	Good
V165	Rescue Boat	2010	25.6' Steiger Craft Twin 150 HP Suzuki 4 stroke	Good
C166	SUV	2015	Ford Explorer	Very Good
U167	Pick-up Truck	1995	GMC ¾ Ton Utility Truck	Fair (Replacing 2022)
U168	Mini-pumper	2008	Pierce (Ford) – F550 150 GPM Pump, 250 Gal. Water Tank	Very Good
U169	Rescue Trailer	1993	14' Pace American	Good
Car16	Command Vehicle	2022	Ford F-250	Very Good

# Training Report

The Training Bureau is managed by the Department Training Officer, Captain Craig Boschke, whose primary responsibility is to develop, organize and schedule training for all department members. Each Fire Lieutenant delivers the scheduled training topics to their shift members daily. The department's firefighters/EMTs and firefighters/Paramedics are fully trained to operate all apparatus and equipment. Due to this unique cross-staffing format, training topics must be well-rounded and comprehensive. Our members are continuously challenged to maintain proficiency in their duties. Throughout 2022, the department's members participated in various fire and emergency medical services training sessions. The overall training goal is to provide all members with opportunities to enhance their knowledge and abilities, so they can confidently and effectively fulfill the mission of the South Milwaukee Fire Department.

As a participating agency of the Milwaukee County Shared Services, the South Milwaukee Fire Department must keep abreast of the operational updates the Shared Services Operations Committee set forth. The South Milwaukee Fire Department's training includes periodic review of the Shared Services standard operating guidelines.

These written documents provide operational guidance for various incidents, including response to fire alarms, structure fires, vehicle crashes, natural gas leaks, carbon monoxide emergencies, and other emergencies. One related area we focused on for hands-on training during 2022 was structure fire water supply. It is typical for neighboring (Shared Service) agencies to be tasked with water supply operations at a structure fire scene. South Milwaukee Fire Department members practiced specific procedures for supplying water from hydrants to fire apparatus at the scene of a structure fire.

As boating season approached, the South Milwaukee Fire Department rescue boat was readied for all responses. Annual training included a general review of onboard technology, including electronic navigation, radar, down-scanning sonar, thermal imaging search camera, and marine communications equipment. Fire department members also practiced their boat operating skills on Lake Michigan when staffing levels and weather conditions allowed. Rescue boat responses commonly occur during unfavorable weather conditions or low visibility, and our boat operators must practice handling in varying water/weather conditions. The South Milwaukee Fire Department typically receives calls for service to assist stranded boaters, search for missing boaters, medical emergencies, and other water-related situations. Our rescue boat remains in a ready state at the South Milwaukee Yacht Club throughout the boating season.

The fire department's aerial ladder truck (Truck 161) returned from an extensive refurbishment project at Pierce Manufacturing in early May. The ten-month refurbishment resulted in many upgrades to the truck's aerial ladder, fire pump, and lighting systems. Fire department members assisted with re-organizing the truck's compartment tool and equipment storage before completing an in-depth review of its functioning systems.

Necessary training included behind-the-wheel driving sessions, aerial ladder operations, and pumping scenarios. The truck officially returned to full service once the refresher training was completed.

During the fall 2022, fire department members participated in hands-on vehicle extrication training. Several “scrap” training vehicles were utilized for the sessions, which allowed the firefighters to operate our assortment of pneumatic, hydraulic, and powered vehicle crash tools. Crews reviewed the proper use of devices for stabilizing and lifting rolled-over vehicles and extrication techniques for trapped vehicle crash victims. Most training sessions focused on hazard awareness for modern electric-powered and alternative-fueled vehicles. The president of Jefferson Fire & Safety, a Middleton-based fire equipment vendor, provided instruction. Brew City Towing provided multiple training vehicles. Finally, department members participated in required training to maintain emergency medical services (EMS) licensure. Most continuing EMS education is organized and administered by the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

Year-round training modules include monthly case study reviews, protocol updates, educational podcasts, written exams/quizzes, and practical skills simulation labs. Much of our EMS training reflects on the ever-changing healthcare trends across local, state, and national levels. In 2022, all fire department members also received training for two OEM-administered EMS studies that involved the fire departments throughout Milwaukee County. One study evaluates the quality of airway ventilation during cardio/respiratory arrest resuscitations to improve airway management during pre-hospital care. The second, Pediatric Dose Optimization for Seizures in Emergency Medical Services (PediDOSE) study, is an emergency medicine study designed to evaluate if a standardized method for paramedics to administer seizure medication leads to the timely delivery of the correct dose. This study aims to simplify how paramedics give medication to seizing children and decrease the number of children actively having seizures when they arrive at the emergency department. By replacing complicated dose calculations with age-based standardized dosing, medical researchers aim to increase the number of children who receive the right amount of seizure-stopping treatment before arriving at the hospital.





## Grant Awards and Fundraiser

Grants and community partnerships are of paramount importance in the fire service, as they serve as the backbone of enhanced safety, preparedness, and community engagement. Grants provide essential financial resources to fire departments, enabling them to acquire advanced equipment, implement critical training programs, and improve their overall efficiency and effectiveness in responding to emergencies. These funds are instrumental in maintaining up-to-date technology and equipment, crucial for both firefighter safety and effective emergency response. Furthermore, community partnerships play a pivotal role in building trust and cooperation between fire departments and the neighborhoods they serve. Collaborations with local businesses, schools, and community organizations help create a more resilient and informed citizenry. These partnerships often result in community-based initiatives like fire safety education programs, disaster preparedness, and community outreach, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility in addressing fire-related challenges. Together, grants and community partnerships fortify the vital role of the fire service in safeguarding lives and property, highlighting the invaluable synergy between public resources and community involvement in ensuring a safer, more resilient community.



# Public Education / Community Outreach Report

The pandemic continued to force us to place on hold much of our public education and community outreach activities. The South Milwaukee Fire Department continues to pride itself on a very active and quite interactive presence in the community. We were able to provide fire extinguisher training for a local business and a High School Tech Ed class. We anticipate we will be back in full swing with our programs in 2022.

While our belief is that fire safety deserves year-round emphasis, our philosophy remains that it needs to start early on, building strong foundations in education. Each fall, students in the local schools are visited by our firefighters. Elementary students in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade are provided with fire safety programs during the annual National Fire Prevention Week in October. When students reach the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, they are provided with a more advanced Fire Safety Program that focuses on preparation for their adolescent years and the importance of home/fire safety. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are assigned take home projects, where family involvement is encouraged. The students are also taught general home safety, such as general first aid and burn care, as many of the children are reaching babysitting age.



Additionally, the SMFD provides timely fire prevention / public education “posts” to our Facebook page to spread the word far beyond our face-to-face audiences and city of South Milwaukee residents. Please visit us on Facebook and see what is going on with the SMFD!!!



# Fire Inspection Report

Fire inspection duties are completed by shift members assigned to each of the three shifts and are conducted during their regular duty day. This arrangement often presents a formidable scheduling challenge due to an increased call volume, ever-increasing training requirements, and other obligations to our community.

FF/P Jeremy Fronczak, FF/EMT Jason Helmlinger and FF/EMT Kevin Schneider, who are State of Wisconsin Certified Fire Inspectors, each conduct fire safety code inspections in accordance with Chapter 27 - *Fire Prevention, Protection, and Control* of the City's Municipal Code and the State of Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapter SPS314, which adopts NFPA 1 as the "official" fire prevention code of the State. Ultimately, these efforts are overseen by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. The Inspection Bureau also works in close cooperation with the City's Building Inspection and Health Departments to address other health and safety code violation matters that impact the quality of life for the residents of and visitors to the City of South Milwaukee. FF/EMT Kevin Schneider is tasked to oversee inspections of new and modified sprinkler systems on all inspectable properties within the City, based on a change within the Wisconsin code requiring inspectors to have extra training during their schooling.

## Inspection Activities

**750**

Bi-annual fire inspections conducted

**353**

Violations identified

## Inspection Responsibilities

**FF/P Jeremy Fronczak**

Commercial

Residential attached to Commercial

**FF/EMT Kevin Schneider**

Residential

City, County & Federally owned  
Schools

**FF/EMT Jason Helmlinger**

Industrial

Manufacturing

Nursing Homes

Doctor / Dental Offices

## Response Statistics / Trends

	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>TOTAL CALLS</b>	<b>3881</b>	<b>3722</b>	<b>3390</b>	<b>3345</b>
<b>increase % / decrease %</b>	<b>4.27%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
<b>EMS Calls</b> (Includes Calls For Service, not EMS patients encountered)	<b>3381</b>	<b>3279</b>	<b>2933</b>	<b>2814</b>
Basic Life Support Incidents	1554	1478	1380	1467
Advanced Life Support Incidents	1391	990	888	842
EMS (requests) outside of So. Milw.	433	811	665	505
<b>Fire Incidents</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>53</b>
Building Fire	19	22	26	27
Cooking Fire	6	5	7	8
Rubbish / Trash Fire / Dumpster	3	9	9	8
Grass / Brush Fire	2	7	2	1
Other	17	7	6	9
<b>Hazardous Conditions</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>88</b>
Motor Vehicle Crash-General Cleanup	31	25	29	44
Carbon Monoxide Investigation	5	0	3	7
Electrical / Power Line Problem	12	12	14	12
Chemical Leak / Spill	2	2	5	2
Natural Gas Leak	8	11	8	17
Other	20	8	1	6
<b>Service / Good Intent</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>256</b>
Smoke or Odor Removal	12	13	4	12
Service Call - CO Detector	20	15	29	34
Unauthorized Burning	19	32	39	32
Smoke Detector / Other / Investigation	189	129	135	178
<b>False Alarms</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>86</b>
System Activation – Malfunction	23	11	18	12
System Activation – Unintentional	2	49	2	1
System Activation – Malicious	2	3	1	7
Systems - Other	70	28	76	66
<b>Other Incidents<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>41</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>
Motor Vehicle Crash	34	48	35	44
Water Related Incident	7	7	8	4

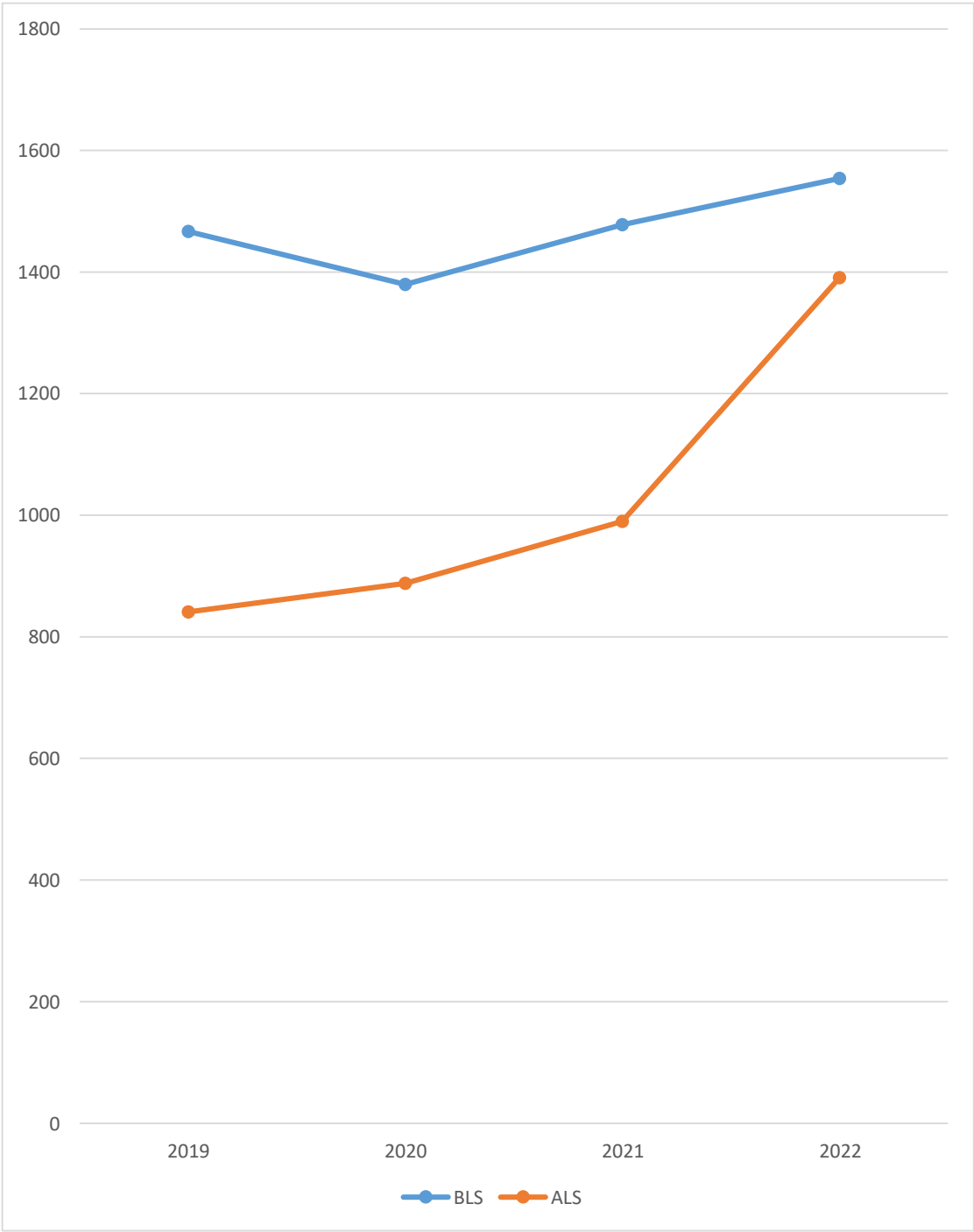
### Response Trends

To properly understand the numbers provided on this page, one must understand that the categorizing of incident responses is subject to both the efforts of the person writing the report and the methods used to identify the appropriate code assigned to an incident. Greater emphasis has been placed on more accurately identifying an exact category rather than using a generic “Other”, thus providing a more accurate *snapshot* of our response trends. In addition, while a single incident may fit into several categories (Cooking Fire & Smoke Removal, for example) only the primary Incident Type is counted.

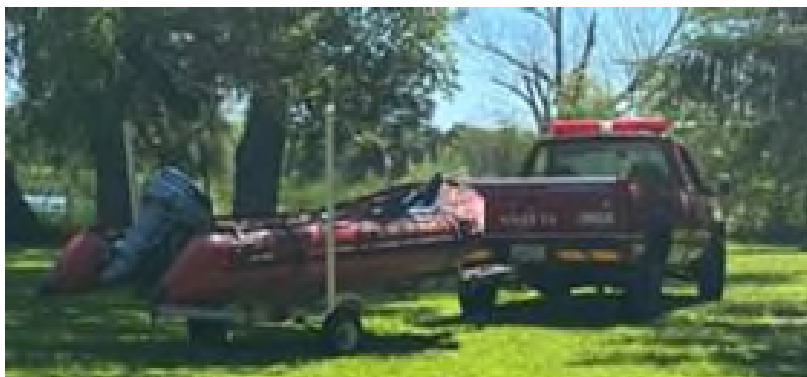
<sup>1</sup>To better track our responses to motor vehicle crashes and water-related incidents, these responses have been separated from the “Service / Good Intent” category since 2017.



# BLS / ALS Incident Trend



## SMFD on the Scene



# Department Goals in 2023

## **Increase Overall Job Satisfaction**

Implement a Mentorship Program for Firefighters so they can act in the position of Lieutenant

Improve the Departments Standard Operating Guidelines

Acquire Paramedic Training for two Firefighters

Introduce the new MED Unit into-service

Arrival of the New Utility Vehicle

## **Improve Fire Safety, Prevention and Education Programs**

Installation of 50 smoke detectors within the community

Delivery of 150 lightweight fire extinguishers to the senior population

Improve Children's Fire Safety Programs

Improve Safety at Grant Park Beach locations  
(Location signs/ throw-rings)

Formulate safety plans for outdoor events  
(Emergency Management)

## **Increase Community Partnership Programs**

South Milwaukee Fire Department Toy Drive

Heritage Days Brat and Tot Fry

The much-anticipated return of the Spaghetti Dinner

Implement a career path to the Fire Service for the citizens of South Milwaukee