

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# CARLSBAD FIRE DEPARTMENT

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# MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

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Fire Chief Ahrens

It is my pleasure to present the Carlsbad Fire Department's Annual Report for 2023. The information inside will provide you with history, activities, and statistical information on incident response and other department data.

The dedicated men and women of this department responded to 6,281 incidents in 2023, an increase of 839 calls for service from 2022. Carlsbad Firefighters responded to all types of emergencies; including building fires, wildland fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, hazardous materials incidents, and technical rescues from both flood waters and cliff sides.

In 2023, training new firefighters and preparing current personnel for promotion was a top priority, as we continue to recover from multiple retirements of senior staff members over the last few years. This includes Fire Chief Rick Lopez, who retired at the end of 2022 after 20 years of service, ten of them as the Fire Chief. During his tenure, Chief Lopez added 15 firefighter positions to the department, built one new fire station and remodeled / expanded another, and completely renovated our fire and EMS fleet with new fire trucks and ambulances. These changes enhanced the safety of our firefighters and the community, and put us in a position to succeed for many years.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic is officially over, we are still encountering COVID patients, as well as treating and transporting critically ill patients suffering from other infections, such as influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Additionally, we are still suffering from supply chain issues, price increases, and extended build times for new response vehicles.

As always, Carlsbad Fire Department continually looks for ways to positively impact this community every day. Whether it is by saving lives on emergency responses, teaching fire and life safety classes, increasing our involvement in the schools and public events, or simply by helping a stranded motorist, we are here 24/7 to serve the residents and visitors of Carlsbad. Your firefighters are true professionals and live by our motto of "Be nice. Take care of people."

As Fire Chief, it is a pleasure and honor leading this great department. I would like to thank all of our members and their families for their continuous dedication and commitment to each other, this department, and our city.

Thank you for taking the time to read this annual report and learn about your fire department.

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# ADMINISTRATION

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## City of Carlsbad

Mayor  
Dale Janway

### City Council

Lisa Anaya-Florez	Ward 1	Karla Niemeier	Ward 3
Edward Rodriguez	Ward 1	Judith Waters	Ward 3
JJ Chavez	Ward 2	Wesley Carter	Ward 4
Jeff Forrest	Ward 2	Mark Waltersheid	Ward 4

City Administrator  
John Lowe

Deputy City Administrator  
K.C. Cass

## Fire Department

Fire Chief  
Kenneth Ahrens

Assistant Fire Chief  
John Majerus

EMS Chief  
Tony Souza

Maintenance Supervisor  
Ernie Dominguez

Executive Assistant  
Alysha Vasquez



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# MISSION STATEMENT

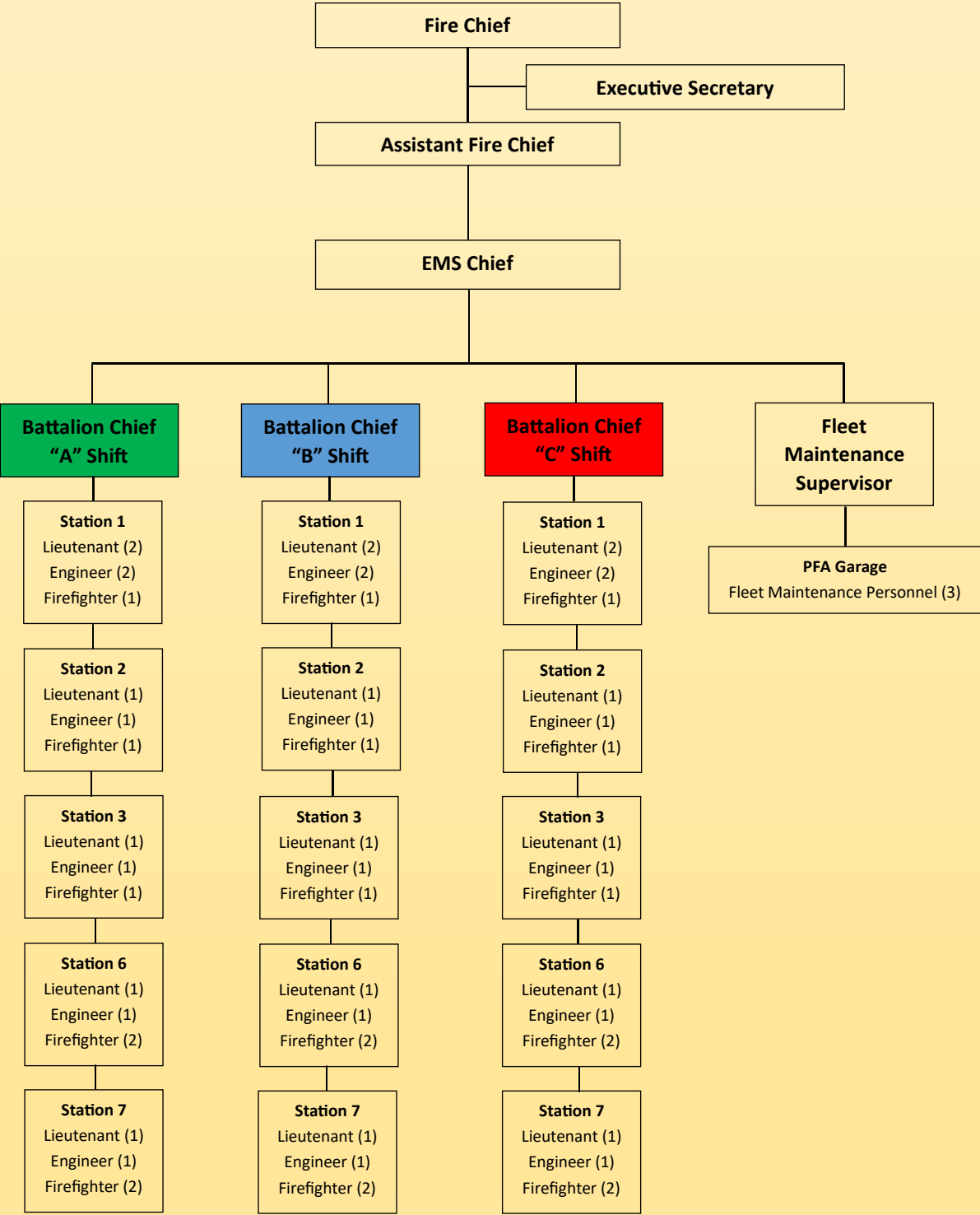
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**The Carlsbad Fire Department is committed to preserving and protecting the lives and property of our community through **prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response.****



**“Be nice. Take care of people.”**

# 2023 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



- Fire Dept. Administration.....401 S. Halagueno St.

Fire Station 1.....409 S. Halagueno St.

Fire Station 2.....2415 W. Church St.

Fire Station 3.....1028 N. Halagueno St.
- Fire Station 5.....720 Park Dr.

Fire Station 6.....1400 Redline Dr.

Fire Station 7.....304 W. Wood St.

PFA Garage.....501 S. Alameda St.

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# FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

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December 31, 2023

NAME	RANK	EMT LICENSURE LEVEL	DATE OF HIRE
Ahrens, Kenneth	Fire Chief	Paramedic	06/14/2010
Majerus, John	Assistant Chief	EMT Intermediate	09/20/2010
Souza, Tony	EMS Chief	Paramedic	07/01/2019
Vasquez, Alysha	Executive Secretary	Not Applicable	07/01/2019
Moreno, Mark	Battalion Chief	Paramedic	09/29/2003
Yturralde, Larry	Battalion Chief	EMT Intermediate	03/27/2006
Luna, Alexander	Battalion Chief	Paramedic	01/29/2007
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Carlsen, Bradley	Lieutenant	Paramedic	01/29/2007
Riddle, John	Lieutenant	EMT Intermediate	01/29/2007
Rusk, Christopher	Lieutenant	Paramedic	02/02/2007
Jaquez, Gerard	Lieutenant	EMT Intermediate	09/10/2007
Ramos, Sergio	Lieutenant	EMT Intermediate	10/29/2007
Flores, Eric	Lieutenant	Paramedic	10/30/2007
Marrs, Cody	Lieutenant	EMT Intermediate	11/03/2008
Ruiz, Andres	Lieutenant	EMT Intermediate	11/03/2008
Trujillo, Michael	Lieutenant	Paramedic	01/31/2011
Vannatter, Todd	Lieutenant	EMT Intermediate	01/31/2011
Collins, Casey	Lieutenant	Paramedic	02/06/2012
Campos, Jose	Lieutenant	EMT Intermediate	10/02/2012
Bishop, Travis	Lieutenant	EMT Intermediate	11/11/2013
Ramirez, Richard	Lieutenant	Paramedic	08/11/2014

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# FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

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December 31, 2023, continued...

NAME	RANK	EMT LICENSURE LEVEL	DATE OF HIRE
Johnson, Mark	Lieutenant	Paramedic	08/11/2014
Dorado, Jacob	Lieutenant	Paramedic	08/11/2014
Munoz, Dylan	Lieutenant	EMT Intermediate	02/02/2015
Henson, Brad	Lieutenant	EMT Intermediate	01/04/2016
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Shell, Caleb	Engineer	EMT Intermediate	08/11/2014
Vasquez, Louis	Engineer	EMT Intermediate	05/11/2015
Lee, Brandon	Engineer	Paramedic	08/31/2015
White, Matthew	Engineer	EMT Intermediate	08/31/2015
Wootton, Bradley	Engineer	EMT Intermediate	06/27/2016
Headrick, Burke	Engineer	Paramedic	07/24/2017
Winfield, Leslie	Engineer	Paramedic	07/16/2018
Castillo, Robert	Engineer	EMT Intermediate	10/15/2018
Trujillo, Mathew	Engineer	EMT Intermediate	10/15/2018
Smith, Zachary	Engineer	EMT Intermediate	06/13/2018
Salazar, Lonnie	Engineer	Paramedic	09/10/2018
Soto III, Samuel	Engineer	EMT Intermediate	07/16/2018
Campbell, Zadoc	Engineer	Paramedic	06/15/2020
Briceno, Anthony	Engineer	Paramedic	08/12/2019
Roberts, Micah	Engineer	EMT Intermediate	04/01/2019
Capps, Ryan	Engineer	EMT Intermediate	01/03/2022

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# FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

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December 31, 2023, continued...

NAME	RANK	EMT LICENSURE LEVEL	DATE OF HIRE
Houser, Joseph	Firefighter	Paramedic	06/15/2020
Pifer, Zachary	Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	02/01/2022
Wheeler, Kirby	Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	06/28/2021
Delfin, Andy	Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	06/28/2021
Melendez, Xavier	Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	02/28/2022
Blue, Ryan	Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	07/18/2022
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Aguilar, Daniel	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	02/28/2022
Rodriguez, Cristian	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	05/09/2022
Linker, Austin	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	05/09/2022
Campbell, Joshua	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	07/18/2022
Hernandez, Eric	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	10/03/2022
Kupkufske, William	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	10/03/2022
Mireles, Kaden	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Intermediate	10/03/2022
Daniel, Joshua	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Basic	09/04/2023
Hinojos, Matthew	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Basic	09/04/2023
Heredia, Sebastian	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Basic	09/04/2023
Barreras, Aragorn	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Basic	09/04/2023
Juarez, Raul	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Basic	09/04/2023
Florez, Joseph	Rookie Firefighter	EMT Basic	11/27/2023
Cantrell, Leslie	Rookie Firefighter	None	11/27/2023
Rodriguez, Johnathan	Rookie Firefighter	None	11/27/2023

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# FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

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2023

## PROMOTIONS

<b>NAME</b>	<b>RANK ACHIEVED</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Kenneth Ahrens	Fire Chief	January 1, 2023
John Majerus	Assistant Chief	January 9, 2023
Mark Johnson	Lieutenant	January 19, 2023
Zadoc Campbell	Engineer	January 19, 2023
Xavier Melendez	Firefighter	May 1, 2023
Munoz, Dylan	Lieutenant	July 24, 2023
Larry Yturralde	Battalion Chief	July 30, 2023
Brad Henson	Lieutenant	July 30, 2023
Jacob Dorado	Lieutenant	August 3, 2023
Anthony Briceno	Engineer	August 3, 2023
Micah Roberts	Engineer	August 3, 2023
Ryan Capps	Engineer	August 3, 2023
Ryan Blue	Firefighter	November 28, 2023

## APPOINTEES

Joshua Daniel	Matthew Hinojos	Sebastian Heredia
Aragorn Barreras	Raul Juarez	Joseph Florez
Leslie Cantrell	Johnathan Rodriguez	

## RESIGNATIONS

Michael Hensley	Robert Trautner	Garret Aldaz
David McDougall	Josh Dorado	Camden Petrie
Bryan Cabriaes		

## RETIREMENTS

Scott Maxwell, Battalion Chief

# APPARATUS REPORT

VEHICLE	DESCRIPTION
<b>Ambulances</b>	
Ambulance 402	2018 Ford F550 AEV Type I
Ambulance 403	2017 Ford F450 AEV Type I
Ambulance 404	2019 Ford F550 AEV Type I
Ambulance 405	2017 Ford F450 AEV Type I
Ambulance 40	2011 Dodge 4500 AEV Type I
Ambulance 408	2015 Ford F450 AEV Type I
Ambulance 409	2020 Ford F550 Road Rescue Type I
Ambulance 410	2023 Ford F550 AEV Type I
<b>Fire Engines</b>	
Engine 1	2012 Pierce Pumper
Engine 3	2022 Pierce Pumper
Engine 6	2015 Pierce Rescue Pumper
Engine 7	2015 Pierce Rescue Pumper
Engine 61	2013 Ford F550 BME Type 6 Wildland Pumper
Engine 62	2017 Ford F550 BME Type 6 Wildland Pumper
Airport 6	2000 Oshkosh Aircraft Firefighting Pumper
Airport 66	2016 Rosenbauer Aircraft Firefighting Pumper
Reserve Engine 1	2005 Pierce Pumper
Reserve Engine 2	1994 Pierce Pumper



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# APPARATUS REPORT

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continued...

## VEHICLE

## DESCRIPTION

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### Aerial Apparatus

Ladder 1                      2005 Pierce 105' Ladder Truck

Ladder 2                      2015 Pierce 107' Ladder Truck

### Specialized Apparatus

Rescue 1                      2009 Pierce Contender Dive Rescue Truck

Heavy Rescue 1              2022 Pierce Velocity Rescue/Extrication Truck

Rescue 6                      2019 Ford F550 Wildland REM Truck

Rescue 11                     2014 Ford F350 Technical Rescue Truck

Dive 1                         2011 Carolina Skiff River Patrol Boat

Dive 2                         2005 SeaArk River Patrol Boat

UT-1                         2018 Kawasaki Mule UTV

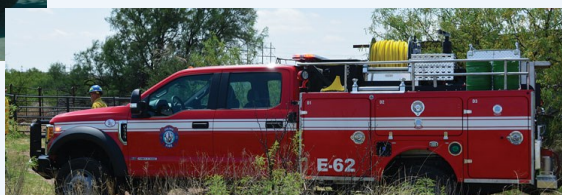
UT-2                         2019 Kawasaki Mule UTV

UT-3                         2021 Polaris Ranger UTV

F-3                             2014 F150 Fire Investigation Truck

F-7                             2016 Chevrolet Tahoe Incident Command Truck

F-0                             1928 Seagraves Pumper (Parade Truck)



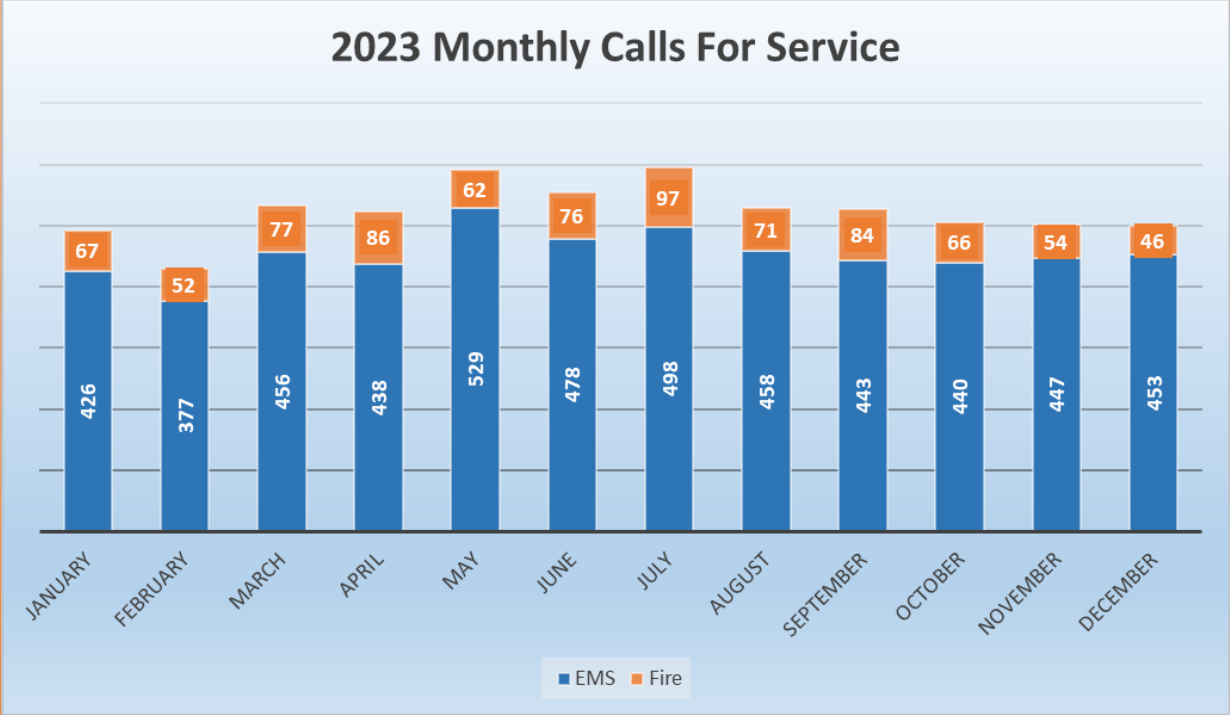
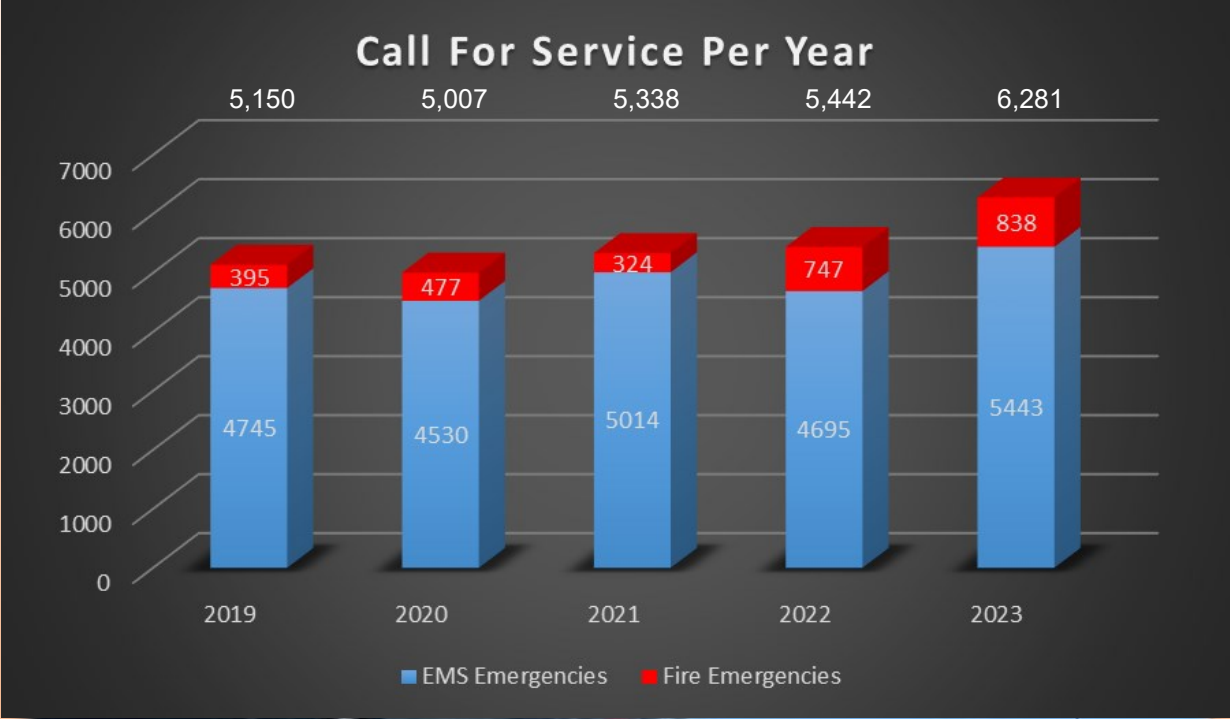


# EMERGENCY RESPONSE REPORT

2023



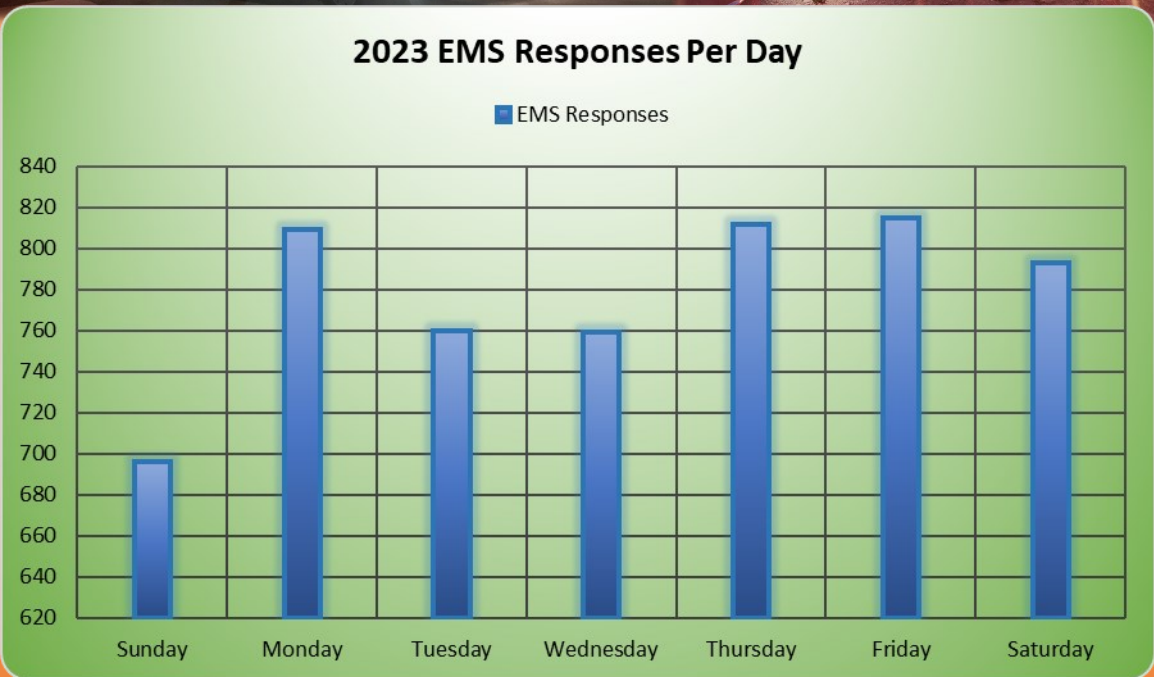
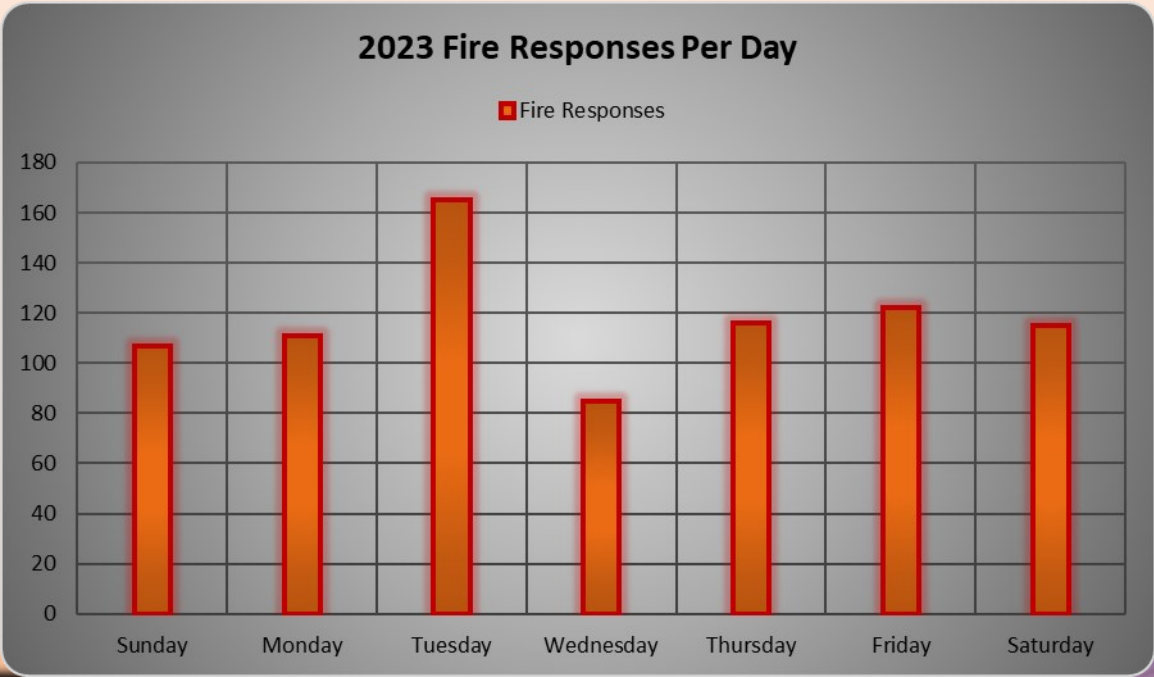
# CALLS FOR SERVICE





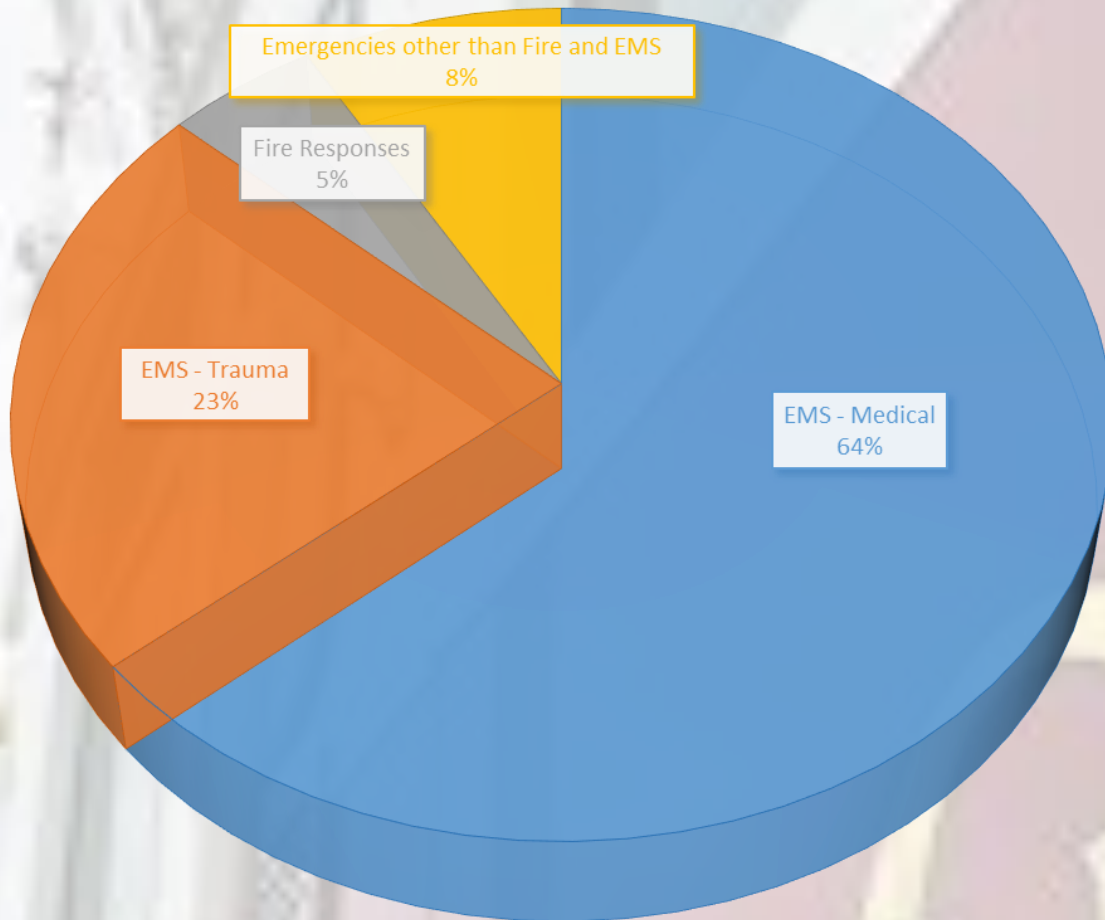
# CALLS FOR SERVICE

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# INCIDENT DATA

## INCIDENT TYPES - 2023



## MOST COMMON EMERGENCY PER INCIDENT TYPE

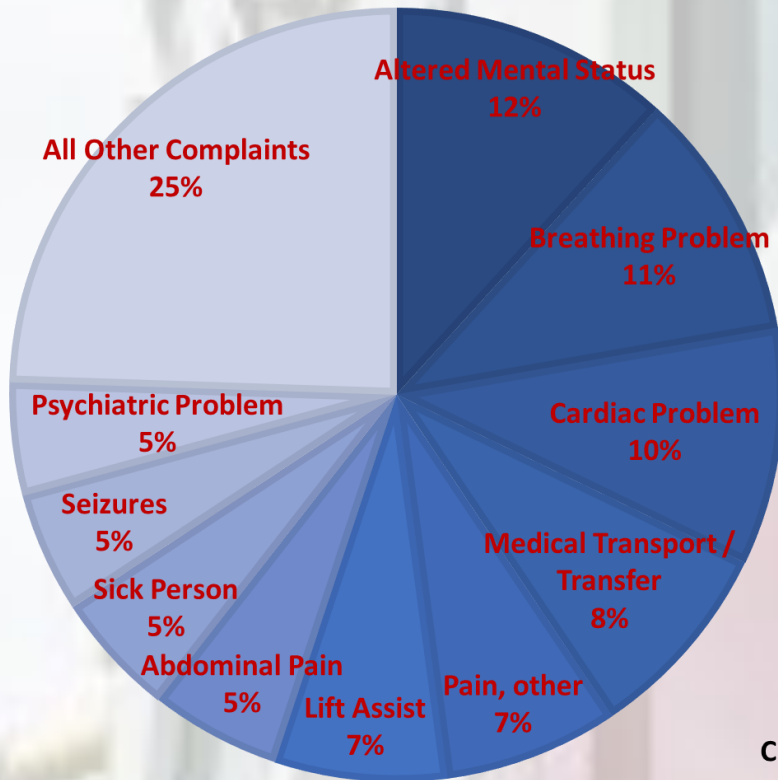
EMS - MEDICAL	EMS - TRAUMA	FIRE RESPONSES	EMERGENCIES OTHER THAN FIRE AND EMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•ALTERED MENTAL STATUS</li><li>•472 RESPONSES</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT</li><li>•636 RESPONSES</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•FIRE, OTHER</li><li>•60 RESPONSES</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•DISPATCHED AND CANCELLED ENROUTE</li><li>•188 RESPONSES</li></ul>



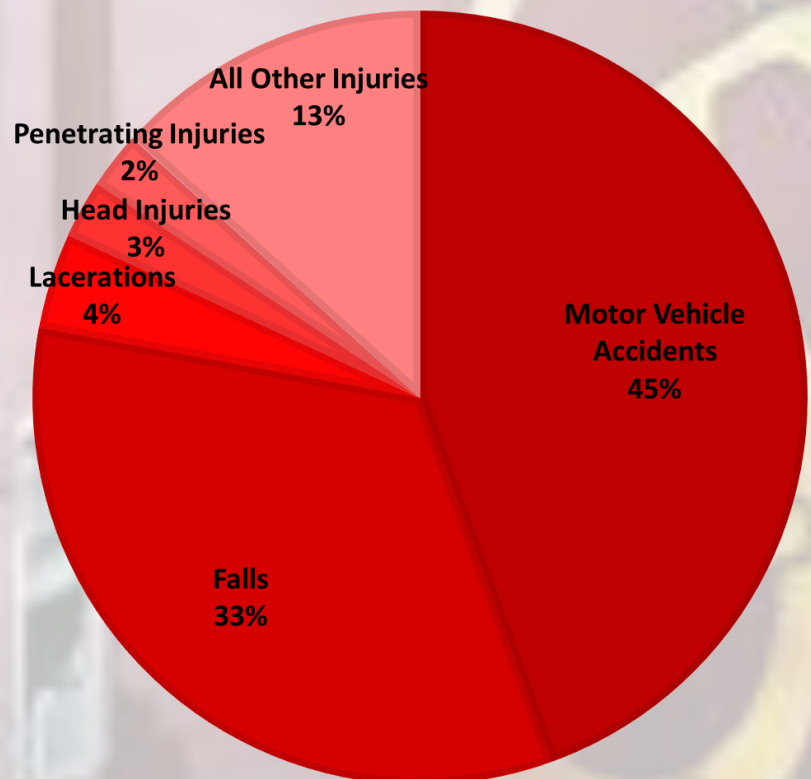
# INCIDENT DATA

## 2023 EMS RESPONSES

### CHIEF COMPLAINT - MEDICAL

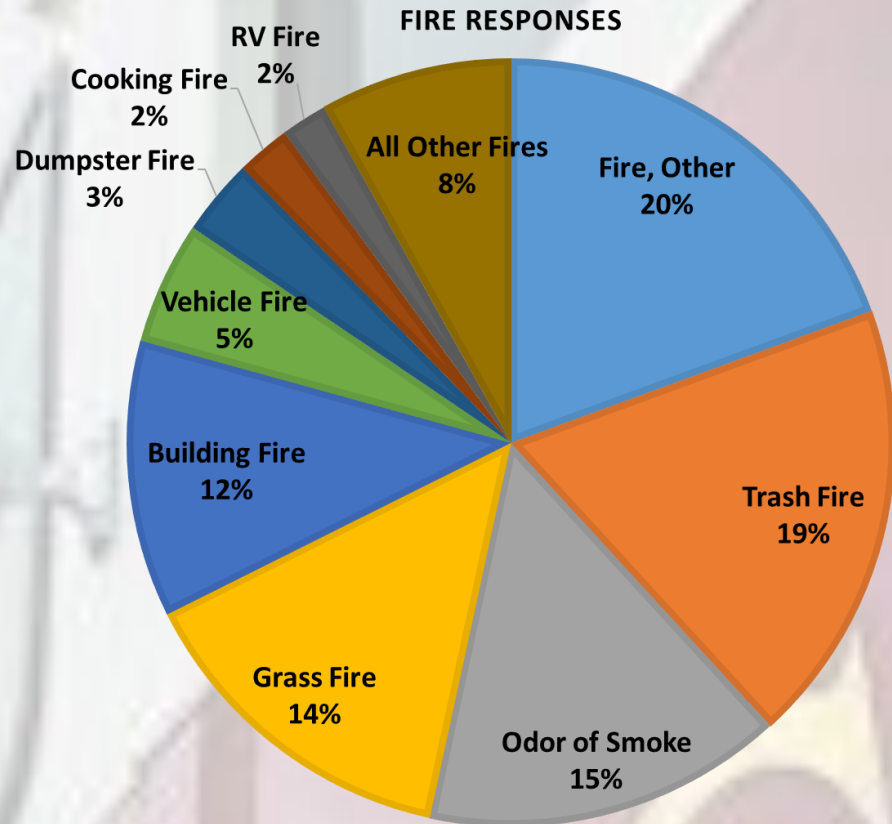


### CHIEF COMPLAINT - TRAUMA

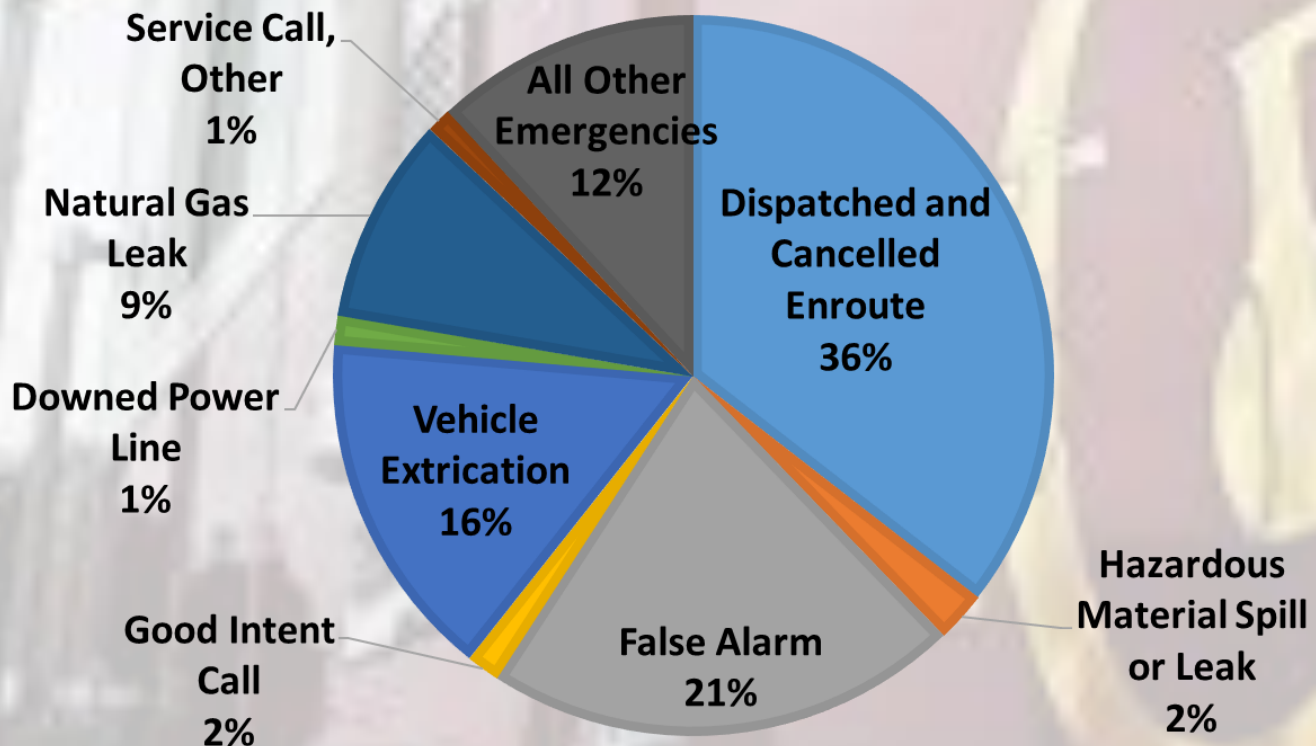


# INCIDENT DATA

## 2023 FIRE RESPONSES



## NON-FIRE, NON-EMS RESPONSES



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# DEPARTMENT TRAINING

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Fire Department members train constantly throughout their careers, always working to improve their ability to safely deliver the most effective and efficient service to our citizens and community. At a minimum, every member is certified in Hazardous Materials & Operations and Firefighter I & II through the New Mexico Firefighter's Training Academy, and is a Nationally registered and New Mexico licensed EMT - Intermediate. Engineers conduct additional training on driving and operating fire engines, ladder trucks, and specialty vehicles. Officers receive additional training in Incident Command, employee supervision, and resource management. And many members of all ranks have completed additional EMS training and become licensed Paramedics.

Members also conduct regular training in a variety of specialty skills, including hazardous materials mitigation, wildland firefighting, aircraft rescue & firefighting, high-angle rope rescue, swift water rescue, dive operations, and peer support and critical incident stress management. Training conducted in 2023 is listed below.

Training Type	Staff Hours
Firefighting	3,031
Emergency Medical Skills	6,723
Fire Apparatus Driving & Operating	241
Officer/Supervisor	888
Wildland Firefighting	126
Aircraft Firefighting	833
Hazardous Materials Response	260
Technical Rescue	170
Dive Rescue	12
Critical Incident Stress Management, Peer Support	486
<b>2023 Total Training Hours</b>	<b>12,770</b>

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# MAJOR ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## 2023

- **March 11**—Carlsbad Fire Department members participated in the Red Cross smoke alarm program, installing smoke alarms in homes all over the City. This program was conducted in co-operation with Eddy County Fire & Rescue, Lowe's Home Improvement Store, and the Red Cross.
- **April 19**—At Carlsbad High School's first annual Occupation Day, Carlsbad Firefighters explained the day-to-day life of a firefighter to students, and gave them a chance to see our vehicles, equipment, and personal protective clothing.
- **April 28**—Carlsbad Fire Department placed its newest fire engine into service. This 2022 Pierce Saber pumper responds out of Fire Station 3 to emergency incidents on the north side of Carlsbad.
- **April 29**—The largest incident of the year, a rescue of a hiker trapped on a cliff side of El Capitan Peak in Guadalupe National Park, was successfully conducted.
- **May 2**—Carlsbad ambulance #410 was placed into service at Fire Station 3. This ambulance is a remount; the rear patient treatment box was removed from an older Carlsbad ambulance and refurbished, then mounted to a new truck frame.
- **June 2**—Carlsbad Firefighters Richie Ramirez, Jesse Ramirez, and Anthony Briceno were recognized by Trans Aero Medevac Service and University Medical Center—El Paso for their excellent response and medical treatment of a person who suffered a medical emergency underground at Carlsbad Caverns National Park.
- **July 4**—Performing river patrol duties at Lake Carlsbad and providing medical care throughout the Beach area, Carlsbad firefighters helped ensure another safe 4th of July in Carlsbad.
- **September 21**—After a dedication and blessing ceremony, the Safe Haven baby surrender box was put into service. Located at the Fire Department Administrative Building, 401 S. Halagueno St., this baby box allows for the safe, legal, and anonymous surrender of babies younger than 90 days to Fire Department personnel, who will ensure that any needed medical care is given and contact the appropriate agencies to take custody of the child.
- **October 2**— After several days of heavy rain in the area, Carlsbad Fire Department's Swift Water Rescue Team had a busy night rescuing a total of 4 victims at three separate incidents when vehicles were swept off of flooded roads. This included one incident in which a vehicle at the intersection of Boyd and Radio was struck by an empty boat that had been carried off of its owner's property by the rising waters.
- **December 6**—Engineer Brandon Lee was named Carlsbad's First Responder of the Year at the annual Caveman Strong event, held at Southeast New Mexico Community College.



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# LARGEST INCIDENT OF THE YEAR

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2023

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Eng. Brandon Lee

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El Capitan, Texas



BC Scott Maxwell

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On the evening of Saturday, April 29th, Eddy County Fire & Rescue and Guadalupe National Park in Texas contacted Carlsbad Fire Department, requesting personnel to aid in rescuing a hiker who was stranded halfway up an approximately 1000' tall cliff at El Capitan Peak. Two of Carlsbad Fire Department's Technical Rescue Technicians that responded were Battalion Chief Scott Maxwell and Engineer Brandon Lee. Upon arriving at the staging area, BC Maxwell helped organize personnel and resources that were either on scene or enroute from Eddy County Fire & Rescue, Guadalupe National Park, Texas Department of Public Safety, Carlsbad Fire Department, and the US Army. When helicopters from Fort Bliss arrived on scene later that night, BC Maxwell, Eng. Lee, and a rope rescue technician from Eddy County Fire & Rescue were the three rescuers chosen to be airlifted to the top of the peak.

From the top of El Capitan, BC Maxwell, in radio contact with aircraft circling overhead, was able to lead the rescue team, in the dark, to a location above the stranded hiker. From there, Eng. Lee was able to rappel down the face of the cliff and safely secure the hiker to his rope. Eng. Lee and the hiker were then hoisted to the top of the cliff, where they were able to hike to a safe landing zone, board a helicopter, and were flown to the staging area so that the hiker could be treated and transport to a medical facility.

This incredibly complicated and dangerous rescue required resources from multiple agencies across two states and the US Army, and the entire operation lasted over 24 hours.

Battalion Chief Maxwell, for his efforts in leading this successful operation under hazardous conditions and with imminent personal risk, was awarded Carlsbad Fire Department's second highest award for bravery; the Medal of Valor.

Engineer Brandon Lee, for his act of conspicuous heroism, under extremely hazardous conditions in which he was knowingly confronted with imminent personal risk, and acting in the highest traditions of the fire service, was awarded Carlsbad Fire Department's highest award for bravery; the Medal of Honor.



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# PICTURES FROM THE YEAR

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2023





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# PICTURES FROM THE YEAR

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2023





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# PICTURES FROM THE YEAR

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2023





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# PICTURES FROM THE YEAR

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2023





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# PICTURES FROM THE YEAR

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2023





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# PICTURES FROM THE YEAR

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2023





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# PICTURES FROM THE YEAR

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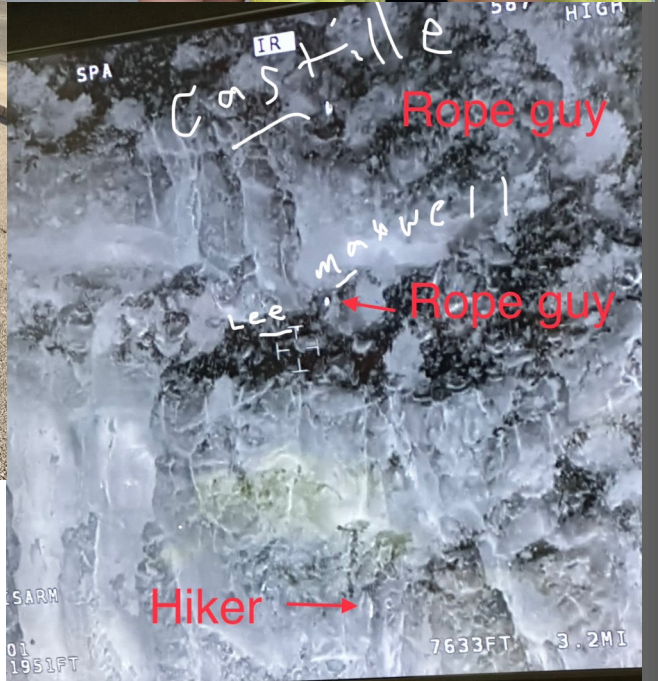
2023





# PICTURES FROM THE YEAR

2023





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# PICTURES FROM THE YEAR

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2023





***Carlsbad Fire Department was founded as Eddy volunteer fire company in 1892, and we hired our first full-time firefighter in 1923.***

***2023 marked 100 years of paid, professional firefighters serving the City and citizens of Carlsbad. We look forward to continuing to serve this great community for the next 100 years!***



Carlsbad Fire Department  
401 South Halagueno Street  
Carlsbad, NM 88220  
575-885-3125

<https://cityofcarlsbadnm.com/departments/carlsbad-fire-department/>

