

Burlington Fire Department 2023 Annual Report



A firefighter does not know what they will encounter at each emergency call, but will provide their best effort, professionalism and pride in serving you, our community.

Statement to our Stakeholders

It is with great pleasure and a sense of pride that I present you the 2023 Annual Report for the Burlington Fire Department. As your Fire Chief, it is an honor to share our dedicated team's achievements, challenges, and progress over the past year. In 2023, we demonstrated remarkable responsiveness in answering 4459 calls for service. The valiant effort shows our commitment to ensuring a safe and vibrant community we call home.

Our dedicated team worked through a variety of challenges in 2023. One of the biggest challenges was maintaining readiness while our one and only fire station was undergoing a major interior remodel. Our administrative staff relocated to the old city council chamber, a windowless building, and the old library. Meanwhile our line staff maintained a small counter of our apparatus bay to live and work from. The conditions were challenging, but our dedication and integrity to meet our mission and goals and maintain the highest level of service to our community never faltered.

Our team's unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community is evident in the remarkable accomplishments outlined in this report. Over the past year, we have implemented several proactive measures to enhance efficiency in our emergency response capabilities. This includes ongoing training programs, the acquisition of new equipment, and the continuous improvement of our operations. These initiatives have contributed to our ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies, ensuring the protection of life and property in our community and those we service through automatic response agreements and contracts supporting our Emergency Medical Services.

Our department's community outreach efforts have also been a focus in 2023. We have conducted numerous educational programs, fire prevention activities, and community engagement events to foster a stronger connection between the Burlington Fire Department and the residents we serve. Building these relationships is crucial to our mission of creating a safer and more resilient community.

I want to express my sincerest gratitude to our community members and partners for their continued support. Your assistance enables us to maintain the high standards of service that our community deserves. As we move forward, The Burlington Fire Department remains committed to excellence, continuous improvement, and the safety of our community. We look forward to facing the future with confidence, knowing that the support of the wonderful community fortifies our efforts we are privileged to serve.



Respectfully submitted,
Robert Toth, Fire Chief

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Our Departments Mission:

Proudly serving our community with a commitment to compassion and professionalism.

Our Vision:

An integral partner in ensuring a safe and vibrant Burlington Community.

We achieve this through the following:

- Community engagement
- Progressive, high-quality emergency services
- Promoting personal well-being for the success of our team

Our Values:

- Do your job
- Treat people right
- Give all-out effort
- Have an all-in attitude

Organizational Priorities:

- 1.** Provide emergency response to those in need
- 2.** Crew readiness
- 3.** Provide training and staff development opportunities
- 4.** Participate in community education and risk reduction
- 5.** Program management for successful operations
- 6.** Conduct a pre-incident survey and tactical consideration of commercial properties
- 7.** Participate in company strength and conditional opportunities

Chapter 1

Accomplishments for 2023

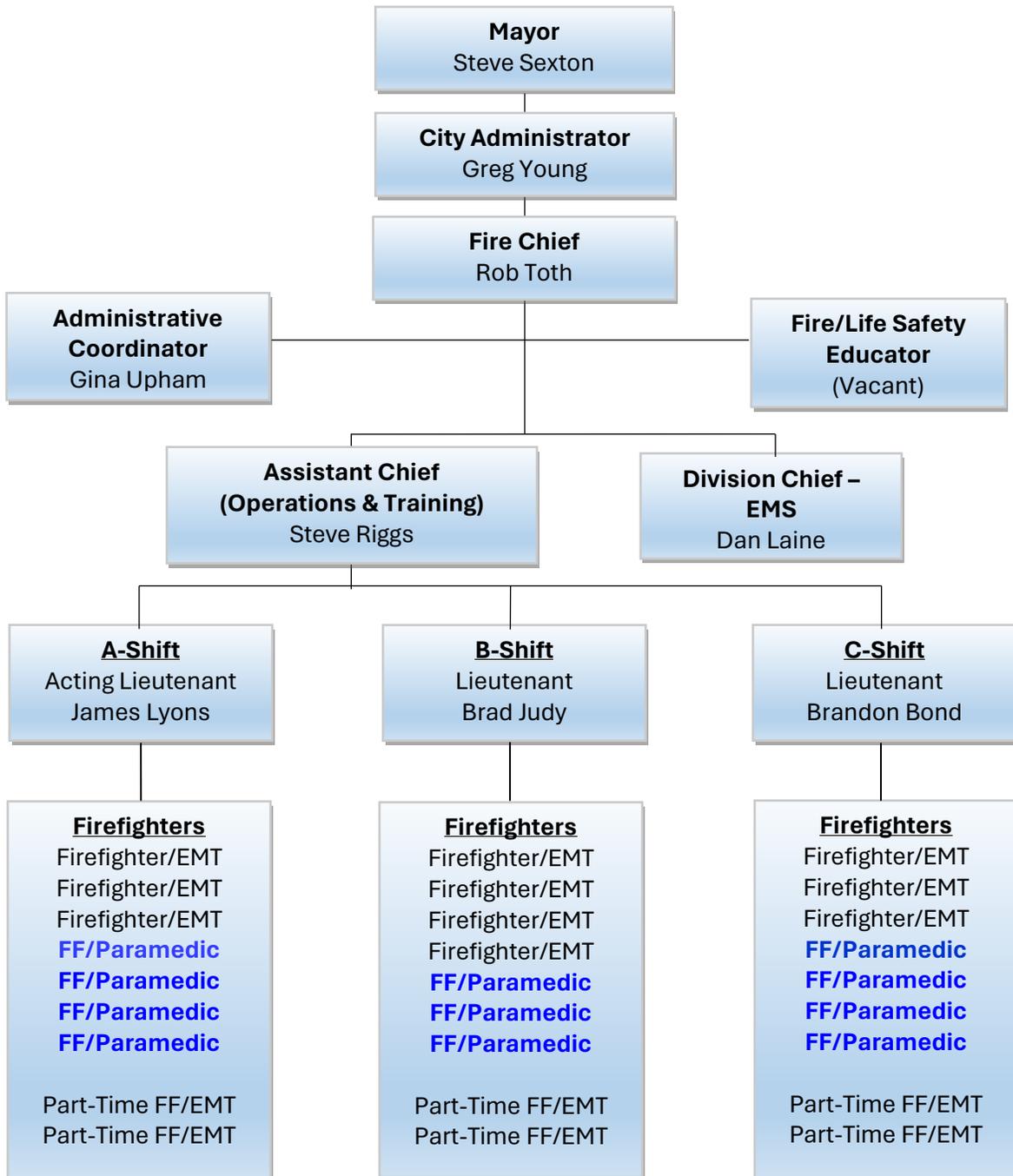
- ✓ **Fire Station remodel** - The Remodel began in November of 2022; by March of 2023, the interior of the building was in full demolition mode. Ultimately, we achieved our goal of providing our line staff with an efficient and effective work/living environment. The interior changes include: 8 code-compliant bunkrooms, a captain's office and bunkroom, 7 new showers located within the new restrooms and decontamination room, a new crew work area with 8 workstations, a new kitchen and pantry area, a relocated training room to the second floor, physical fitness room and a new office space for our future MIHP employee. We are very thankful for the support we received for this project.
- ✓ **Apparatus Replacement** - In 2023, we received a new piece of response equipment: a new command vehicle. The Fire Chief's vehicle before receiving the new one was a surplus police SUV. The surplus vehicle was acquired when the fire department took on the ALS transport in 2019. Needing to provide a third command vehicle assigned to the EMS Division. The new command vehicle will serve primarily as the Fire Chief's command vehicle for daily operations, including emergency response. In addition to the command vehicle, we completed the design and ordered a new ambulance, which will arrive in mid-2024.
- ✓ **New Employees** - In 2023, we added two new employees to our ranks. Through attrition and a reduction in our part-time staff, we were able to hire Firefighter-EMTs Trent Green and Darby BerentonWomack. These positions help us maintain our minimum staffing levels to provide the best service to our community.
- ✓ **New Emergency Medical Protocols** - Our EMS staff worked in cooperation with Skagit EMS and our Medical Professional Doctor (MPD) to update our EMS protocols for both Basic Life Support and Advanced Live Support. These new protocols contain more than 400 pages of clinical and operational procedures for our EMS providers.



- ✓ **Officer Development** - As the organization continues to grow, we must provide opportunities for the growth of our members. This past year, we sponsored a Fire Officer II course that will help provide the tools needed to manage Company and Station-level operations. In 2023, an acting fire officer manual was developed for those inspired to prepare for an acting position and future leadership role in the organization. Five members of our organization are currently working through the manual.
- ✓ **Medical Integrated Health Professional** - The MIHP position has been in the works since 2021. Many hours have gone into developing this position. In 2023, the position started to take shape. The City Council approved the new position, and we created a partnership with Sedro Woolley Fire Department, working collectively to reduce non-emergent 911 calls. The Civil Service approved the position, and the job description was created. Final funding and hiring of the position are scheduled for 2024.
- ✓ **Driver Operator qualifications** - As the organization continues to grow into a fully developed professional organization, many of the original policies, procedures, and guidelines no longer apply. This past year, we completed the final driver operator task book for Engine operations. The organization now has three levels of drivers. The basic level is for our first-year employees to operate ambulances, command, and utility vehicles. Engine operators are our year two employees who qualify to operate fire engines plus the basic level vehicles. The third level is for those employees who have been here three years or more as qualified driver operators who can operate every emergency vehicle, including our first out aerial ladder truck.
- ✓ **Field Training and Evaluation Program** - The Burlington Fire Department hosted an FTEP program in 2023. This training program provides professional development to enhance the performance of our EMS staff. This course provides the Burlington Fire Department with 4 qualified FTEP trainers who will work as a team to continue to improve our EMS training and delivery.
- ✓ **Community Outreach** - As a community organization we look for any opportunity to meet and interact with our community members. With the station closed this past year, we were out in our parks, schools, and at events, providing information to our community members and having fun. Some event highlights include the Annual Berry Dairy days with the lawn mower races, Touch-A-Truck event, Senior Day in the park, Halloween in the Streets, Veterans Day Parade, Warm Coats, Santa Day in the community, and many others.

Chapter 2

Fire Administration & Organizational Chart



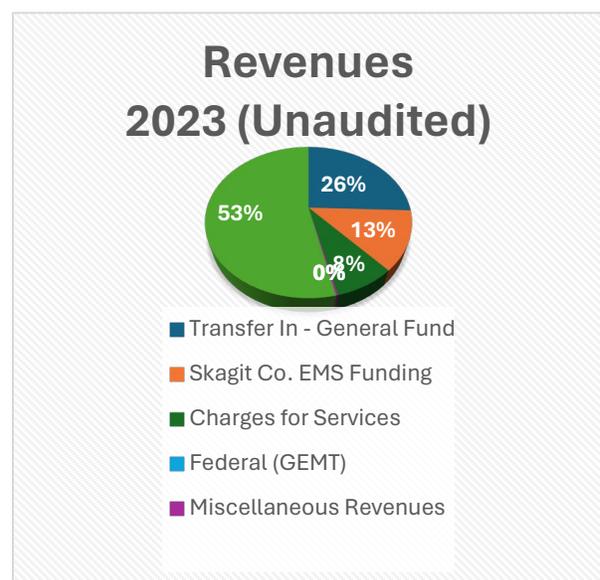
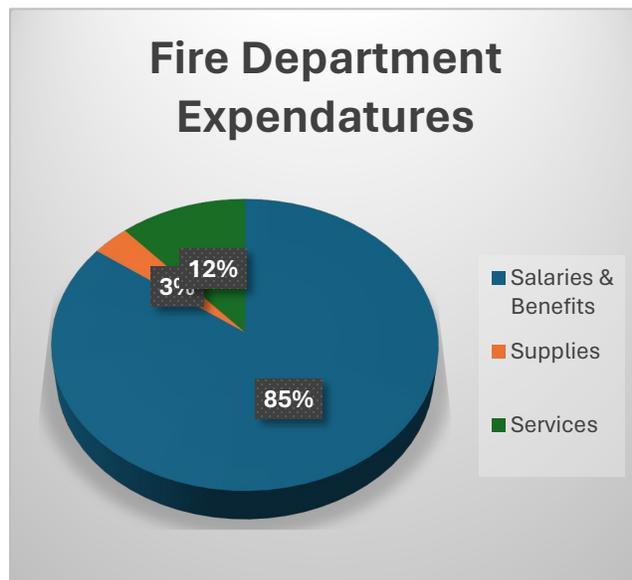
Chapter 3 Budget and Finance

The Burlington Fire Department remains committed to the efficient and effective use of the tax dollars we receive. The Department's annual budget is funded through various revenue sources. Like other departments in the city, a portion of our funding comes from the City's General Fund

and. The Department's annual budget for 2023 was \$5,978,889.49; this represents roughly 14% of the City's total operating budget.

While just over half of our department's revenue comes from the City's General Fund, the Fire Department also generates revenue from external sources through federal funding, contracts, emergency medical service transports, and other miscellaneous revenues.

For specific budget information, please visit: <http://www.burlingtonwa.gov>



Expenses	2023 (unaudited)	%
Salaries & Benefits	\$5,038,207.77	85%
Supplies	\$202,108.42	3%
Services	\$683,077.10	12%

Revenues	2023 (unaudited)
Transfer In-General Fund	\$2,586,827.00
Skagit Co. EMS Funding	\$1,277,720.17
Charges for Services	\$805,797.50
Federal (GEMT)	\$710,689.13
Misc. Revenues	\$27,967.01
Total	\$5,409,000.81

Chapter 4 Service Area Statistics

Tracking data is an integral part of our industry. Proper data tracking and reporting can influence deployment models and response sequencing and show trends that lead to prevention, education, or response modifications.



Primary Service Area

City of Burlington

EMS Primary Service Area

Communities of Alger, Allen, Bayview, Blanchard, Edison and Fire District 6

Total Population Served

Nighttime – 24,000

Daytime – 35,000 to 45,000

Total Square Miles Served

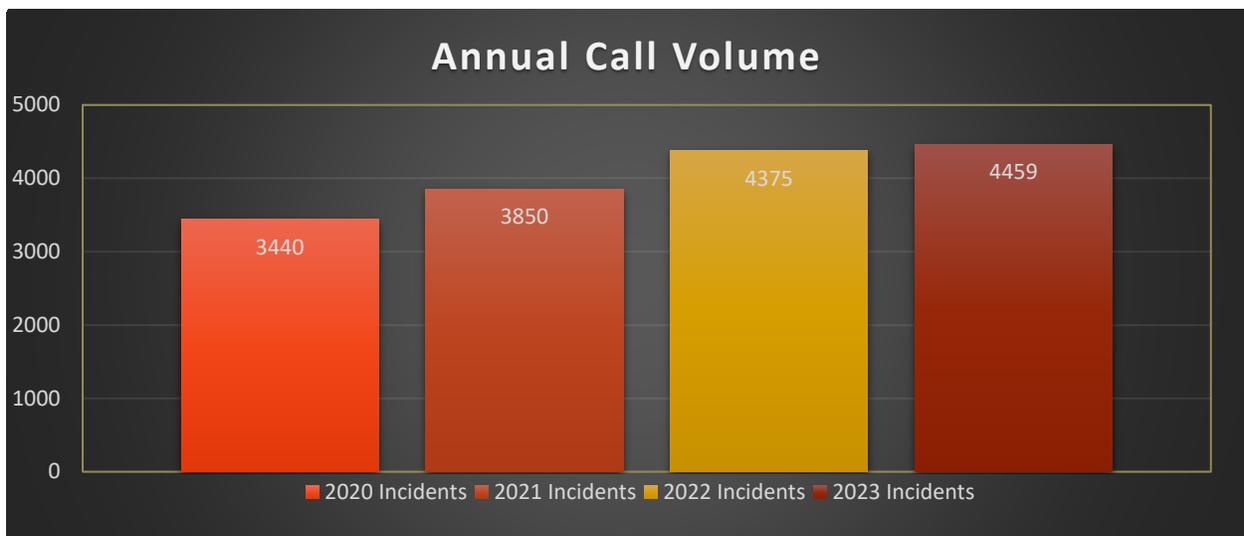
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Assessed Property value.

2,583,088,616

Annual call volume

The Burlington Fire Department has experienced about a 4% to 6% increase in call volume each year. In 2022, our call volume increase by approximately 8.33% from 2021. It is believed that the call increase may be the result of our community getting back to a normal way of life and the growth within the city. 2023 call volume was the smallest increase in the last 4 years.



Organizational Deployment

NFPA 1710 provides fire departments with performance objectives for emergency medical services and fire suppression operations. The Burlington Fire Department starts with the “Turn Out Time”. The turnout time is when our on-duty staff receives the alarm notification to when they are responding (vehicle out the door). For EMS, the Performance Objective is 60 seconds, and for fire response, it is 80 seconds. The additional time for the fire response is to don the appropriate protective clothing for the alarm type. The second Performance Objective is the time it takes to arrive at the emergency. The first resource should be on scene within five minutes from when the resource responds 90% of the time. For full alarm assignments responding to a fire suppression operation, all units should be on scene within 9 minutes, 90% of the time. The following data is obtained from the Emergency Reporting System (ERS), the fire department’s data reporting system. The data reporting system used breaks our primary response area into seven zones. North, South, Central, East, Southwest, Northwest, and I-5 south of 230.

Response Performance

North Zone for Fire and EMS Turnout Time

Standard: 60 seconds EMS
80 seconds Fire

Actual: Fire - 2:20
EMS - 1:56

From the time they receive the alarm to when the unit is enroute.

North Zone for Fire and EMS Response Time

Standard: 5 minutes Fire

Actual: Fire - 6:03
EMS - 6:20

From the time the alarm to the time the unit arrives on scene.

The North and South Zones accounted for 54 calls for service.

Of those 54 calls for service a second call for service overlapped 6.45% of the time.

South Zone for Fire and EMS Turnout time

Standard: 60 seconds EMS
80 seconds Fire

Actual: Fire - 1:35
EMS - 1:19

From the time they receive the alarm to when the unit is enroute.

South Zone for Fire and EMS Response Time

Standard: 5 minutes Fire

Actual: Fire - 6:41
EMS - 5:48

From the time the alarm to the time the unit arrives on scene.

Response Performance

Central Zone for Fire and EMS Turnout Time

Standard: 60 seconds EMS
80 seconds Fire

Actual: Fire - 1:45
EMS - 1:23

From the time they receive the alarm to when the unit is enroute.

Central Zone for Fire and EMS Response Time

Standard: 5 minutes Fire

Actual: Fire - 3:40
EMS - 3:13

From the time the alarm to the time the unit arrives on scene.

The Central Zone accounted for 1488 calls for service.

Of those 1488 calls for service a second call for service overlapped 22% of the time.

The East Zone accounted for 431 calls for service.

Of those 431 calls for service a second call for service overlapped 4.88% of the time.

East Zone for Fire and EMS Turnout Time

Standard: 60 seconds EMS
80 seconds Fire

Actual: Fire - 1:43
EMS - 2:00

From the time they receive the alarm to when the unit is enroute.

East Zone for Fire and EMS Response Time

Standard: 5 minutes Fire

Actual: Fire - 5:34
EMS - 5:15

From the time the alarm to the time the unit arrives on scene.

SW Zone for Fire and EMS Turnout Time

Standard: 60 seconds EMS
80 seconds Fire

Actual: Fire - 1:39
EMS - 2:09

From the time they receive the alarm to the time the unit is enroute.

SW Zone for Fire and EMS Response Time

Standard: 5 minutes Fire

Actual: Fire - 5:24
EMS - 5:10

From the time the alarm to the time the unit arrives on scene.

The Southwest Zone accounted for 407 calls for service.

Of those 407 calls for service a second call for service overlapped 6.39% of the time.

Response Performance

The Southwest Zone accounted for 169 calls for service.

Of those 169 calls for service a second call for service overlapped 2.37% of the time.

NW Zone for Fire and EMS Turnout Time

Standard: 60 seconds EMS
80 seconds Fire

Actual: Fire - 1:39
EMS - 2:27

From the time they receive the alarm to when the unit is enroute.

NW Zone for Fire and EMS Response Time

Standard: 5 minutes Fire

Actual: Fire - 5:25
EMS - 5:12

From the time they receive the alarm to when the unit is enroute.

I-5 south of Exit 230 to MV For Fire and EMS Turnout Time

Standard: 60 seconds EMS
80 seconds Fire

Actual: Fire - 1:05
EMS - 1:54

From the time they receive the alarm to when the unit is enroute.

I-5 south of Exit 230 to MV For Fire and EMS Response Time

Standard: 5 minutes Fire

Actual: Fire - 6:44
EMS - 7:11

From the time they receive the alarm to when the unit is enroute.

The Southwest Zone accounted for 52 calls for service.

Of those 52 calls for service a second call for service overlapped 3.85% of the time.

The response performance average for the Burlington Fire department in our primary response area (with in the city limits and UGA areas).

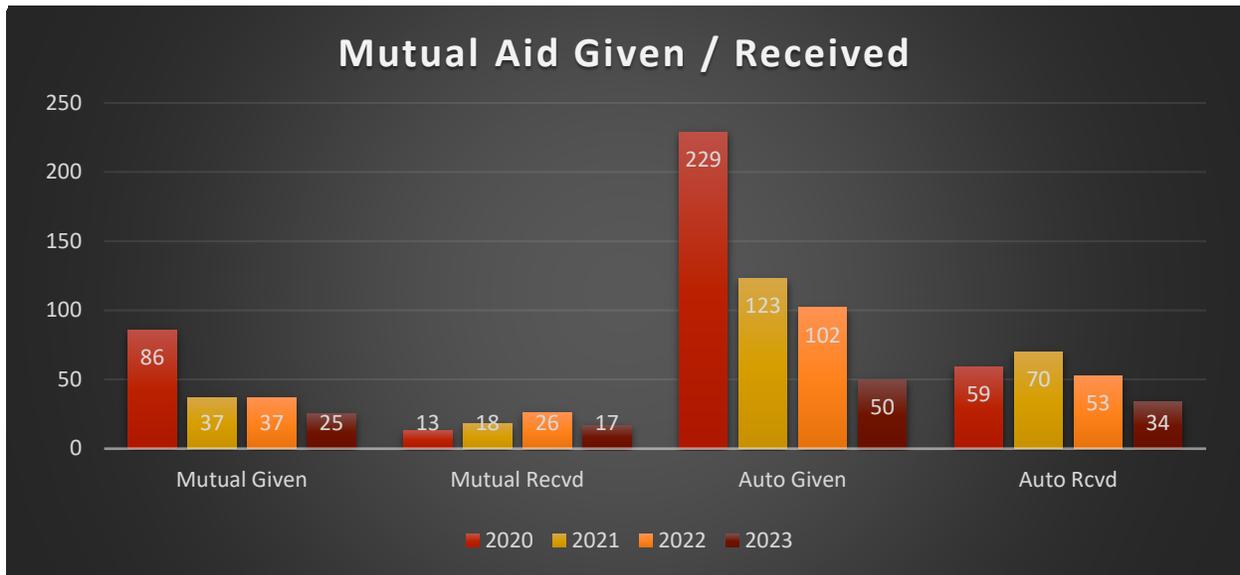
Total calls for service: 2625 (2065 EMS and 575 Fire)

**Average Turnout Time: Fire - 1:42
EMS - 1:25**

**Average Response Time: Fire - 6:03
EMS - 6:20**

Overlapping calls for Service 33.03% of the time

Mutual and Automatic Aid Given and Received



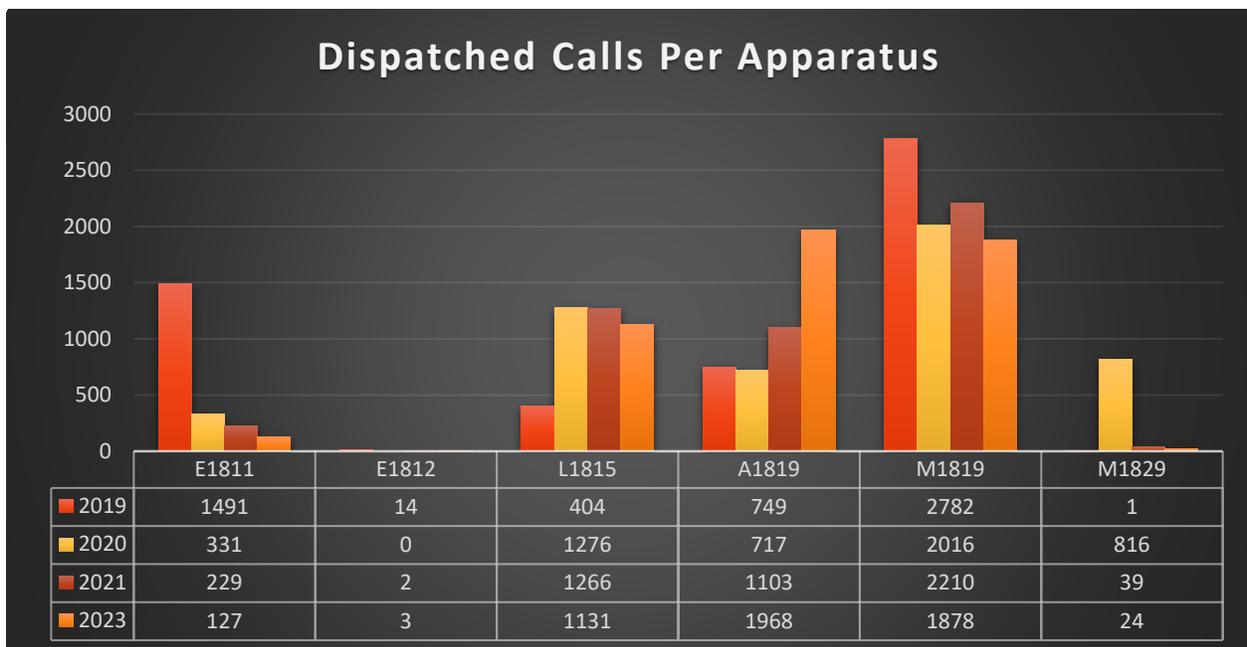
Year	Mutual Given	Mutual Rcvd	Auto Given	Auto Rcvd	Total Annual Calls
2020	86	13	229	59	3440
2021	37	18	123	70	3850
2022	37	26	102	53	4375
2023	25	17	50	34	4459

The Burlington Fire Department operates under a countywide Mutual Aid agreement. The agreement intends to provide resources to neighboring fire departments in their time of need. Any fire department can request assistance from another fire department, even if the request is not from a neighboring department. An example might be a group of water tender trucks that provide the needed water to extinguish a fire.

An automatic agreement is an agreement between two or more departments where, under specific call types, like a building fire, the departments participating in the automatic agreement send specified equipment without the fire department in need asking for it. The benefit of the automatic agreement is that resources are coming early in the emergency, whereas mutual aid is a later request. The Burlington Fire Department operates under an automatic agreement with the City of Mount Vernon for Fire responses, including a Battalion Chief to manage the incident.

Calls per apparatus over a 5-year period

The Burlington Fire Department operates with three primary response vehicles. Ladder 1815 is an aerial Quint staffed 24/7 for all fire and rescue-related emergencies. When Ladder 1815 was down for maintenance, Engine 1811 operated in its place. Engine 1811 can also be staffed with off-duty personnel returning to work when our front-line equipment and personnel are out on a long-term emergency incident. Medic 1819 is our advanced life support unit that is staffed every day with two Firefighter-Paramedics and Aid 1819 is our BLS transport vehicle staffed with two Firefighter-EMTs. Engine 1812 has multiple roles within our department. It is in reserve for emergency response if one or more of our front-line vehicles are down for service; it is used as our primary training engine for new employees and training academies and finally responds to state mobilizations for wildland fires or natural disasters.



Apparatus	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
E1811	1491	331	229	178	127
E1812	14	0	2	2	3
L1815	404	1276	1266	983	1131
A1819	749	717	1103	1992	1968
M1819	2782	2016	2210	1926	1878
M1829	1	816	39	3	24
Totals	5441	5156	4849	5084	5131

Chapter 5 Emergency Medical Service

2023 allowed our organization to settle in with our new Firefighter Paramedics hired in 2022. Each one of our employees goes through a 12-month probationary period. During that probationary time, our new firefighter paramedics work alongside our senior paramedic staff to provide guidance, support, skill development, and mentorship. Each new paramedic spends 3 months on a shift working with a senior paramedic trained as a Field Training Officer (FTO). The new employees work through various scenarios, skills, and protocols and provide care to those in need under the supervision of the senior paramedic. As 2023 was winding down, all our new firefighter paramedics successfully completed their training requirements and continue to provide that high level of professional service we strive for.

Call Volume and Growth

As our city and EMS-contracted areas grow, we continue to see increased demand for emergency medical services. That was no different for 2023. Although the increase was less than the previous years, we still responded to 3877 EMS responses.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Agency Calls for Service	3440	3850	4375	4459
EMS Calls for Service	3120	3466	3763	3877
Percentage of Fire Calls for Service	9%	10%	14%	14%
Percentage of EMS Calls for Service	91%	90%	86%	86%
Total EMS Patient transports	1353	1402	1584	1482
Basic Life Support Transports (BLS)	394	355	553	484
Advanced Life Support Transports (ALS)	959	1047	1031	988

New Patient Care Protocols

In 2023, the Burlington Fire Department participated in the long-awaited ALS and BLS Protocol review. The last revision of our protocols occurred in 2014. Our ALS and BLS providers spent many hours reviewing and sharing information with our Skagit County Medical Program Director and Skagit EMS. The new protocols provide the latest changes in providing care to our communities. The protocol changes and implementation did not get final approvals from The Department of Health (DOH) until January/February of 2024, with implementation on March 1, 2024.

EMS Training and Education

The importance of training and education for EMS personnel cannot be overstated. The ever-changing science behind medicine creates challenges in staying current and relevant to those impacting our patient care. Emergency Medical Technicians are required to achieve 10-15 hours

of ongoing training and education each year. These include online didactic training, skills training, and quarterly assessments. On average, paramedics must achieve 50-60 hours a year of ongoing training and education to maintain certification. This includes didactic material (online or in-person training), quarterly skills training and verification (through scenario-based training or labs), Medical Program Director run-reviews (where cases are reviewed for quality of care, compliance with protocols, and patient outcomes), and EMS conferences. Keeping up with current trends, science, and procedures can be challenging with limited time and budgets.

Beyond the annual requirements, our crews work diligently to incorporate EMS-focused training into their shifts. They train as a team to improve their individual roles in and as a part of the patient care team and refine their approach to team discussions promoting an elevated level of communication, respect, and ultimately improved patient care.

In 2023, The Burlington Fire Department hosted a Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP) paid for by the Skagit County EMS Office through New Initiative Funding. ALS providers from across the county participated in this course, which provides a consistent format for EMS agencies to train and evaluate new employees. This nationally recognized training course offers 16 hours of instruction for Managing and Developing EMS FTEP and 24 hours of training for Basic Field Training Officers. We thank the Skagit County EMS Office and our instructors (from Fairfax, Virginia, and Oregon) for approving this funding, support, and instruction for this regional training. Congratulations to Scott Lang, Dean Junell, Adam Wunsch, and Dan Laine for receiving certificates in the FTEP course.

The Burlington Fire Department also participated in a regional training event at Skagit Regional Airport. The FAA, which primarily oversees the safety of operations and new technology, scheduled to observe an emergency operations event this past year. The event took nearly a year to plan with the assistance of the Skagit Department of Emergency Management and Skagit EMS. The 8-hour training event was to observe emergency operations in the event of an aircraft crash. The event worked through fire and EMS initial response, fire suppression capabilities, triage, treatment, and transporting of injured persons and using the incident command system. An evaluation of the exercise followed the event to investigate ways to better our overall response and management of such situations.



Chapter 6

Training and Operations

Fire department operations respond to emergency and non-emergency incidents within the City of Burlington and surrounding communities through automatic aid, mutual aid, and contract-for-service agreements. Our emergency response is led by highly trained career and part-time firefighter staff.

As an “All-Hazards” organization, we respond to various incident call types. These calls include fires, medical emergencies, hazardous material incidents, technical rescues such as extrication and disentanglement emergencies, water rescue, and many other calls for service.

The City of Burlington continues to be one of the fastest-growing cities in Skagit County. As more people move in, the demand for housing increases. Surrounded by agricultural land and the Skagit River, our boundaries are limited for expansion, so developers are building taller buildings. Over the past few years, the city has seen multiple three- and four-story buildings constructed, with more on the way.

The operations division continually assesses data to guide changes, resulting in more efficient service delivery. By being an active part of our community, reviewing trending data, and listening to its needs, we strive to serve at the highest level possible.

Our 24 full-time employees and nine part-time firefighters provide an emergency response from one central location in the city. Our department operates with an average of seven personnel on shift working a “48/96” (2 days on, four days off) work schedule. Our daily response consists of (1) Quint (ladder/engine), (1) Medic unit, and (1) Aid unit. Together, these three units responded to 4459 calls for service in 2023.

80% of our calls for service are EMS-related. Of our 24 full-time employees, 11 are firefighter paramedics. These highly trained personnel provide advanced life support (ALS) response and transport services to our community and surrounding communities. In addition, our firefighter EMTS (Basic Life Support—BLS) provides BLS response and transport and further supports our paramedics on labor and personnel-intensive calls. BLS personnel are critical in helping our ALS unit maintain availability for high-acuity events by responding to and transporting lower-acuity patients.

Our part-time firefighters work up to five 24-hour shifts per month. Each part-time firefighter is qualified through IFSAC certification for Firefighter I and II and holds an Emergency Medical Technician certificate. In addition, all part-time firefighters must complete our in-house BLS transport technician program. We maintain a high standard for all our employees, and with our part-time firefighters, that high standard has paid off fully, as many of them are being recruited and hired at fire departments needing full-time employees.

Training Division

The Training Division provides fire training, education, and ongoing development for fire department personnel. The division also evaluates and maintains quality control of firefighting through research and development, hands-on training drills, and comprehensive evaluations. Additionally, it is responsible for developing training methods and standards to evaluate proficiency and overseeing the hiring process for new firefighters joining the city.

All fire department members train under specific disciplines, such as driver operator, firefighter, company officer, technical rescue, hazardous materials, emergency medical, and annual training required by the State of Washington. Below is a list with minimum hours required for each discipline as noted in NFPA, WSRB or the local standards.

Skills and Topics

The training division breaks training into quarterly training, with topics specific to the employee's skill level. The topics covered in 2023 were:

- Annual state requirements set by Labor and Industries
- Company officer development
- Driver operator
- Engine company operations
- Truck company operations
- Multi-Company operations
- Technical Rescue
- Hazardous Materials
- Wildland Interface
- Live Fire Training
- Emergency Medical
- Leadership development
- Conferences



Training Topics by Discipline

Training Topic	Frequency	Minimum Hours	Hours per year	WSRB rated
Company training	Quarterly	3-hours per Quarter	12 to 16 hours	Yes
MCO with MV	Quarterly	3-hours per Quarter	12 hours annually	Yes – auto aid
MCO with HUB	Quarterly	3-hours per Quarter	12 hours annually	No – WAC Yes - WSRB
Firefighter II	Monthly	10-hours monthly	100 hours annually	Yes
Officer Development	Monthly	2-hours	24 hours annually	Yes
Driver Operator	Annually	2-hours Quarterly	8 hours annually	Yes
EMS	Quarterly	4-hours		No - WAC
WAC 296-305	Annually	Classes vary	Varies by subject	Yes
Technical Rescue	Quarterly	4-hours	AHJ determines	No - WAC
Hazardous Materials	Annually	Classes Vary	16 annually	Yes and WAC
WildLand	Annually	8-hours		No-WAC
Required annual training	Annually	4-hours		WAC

Our members compile training hours when practicing basic skill sets, working with new tools or standards, career development, managing programs, or maintaining certifications.

The chart below represents the topics we track. The maximum quarterly hours when all employees are available for training being offered. The **“ACTUAL”** column is the hours that were actually logged by our employees. Depending on how the training was entered will determine what topic earns the credit.

Training Hours by Discipline

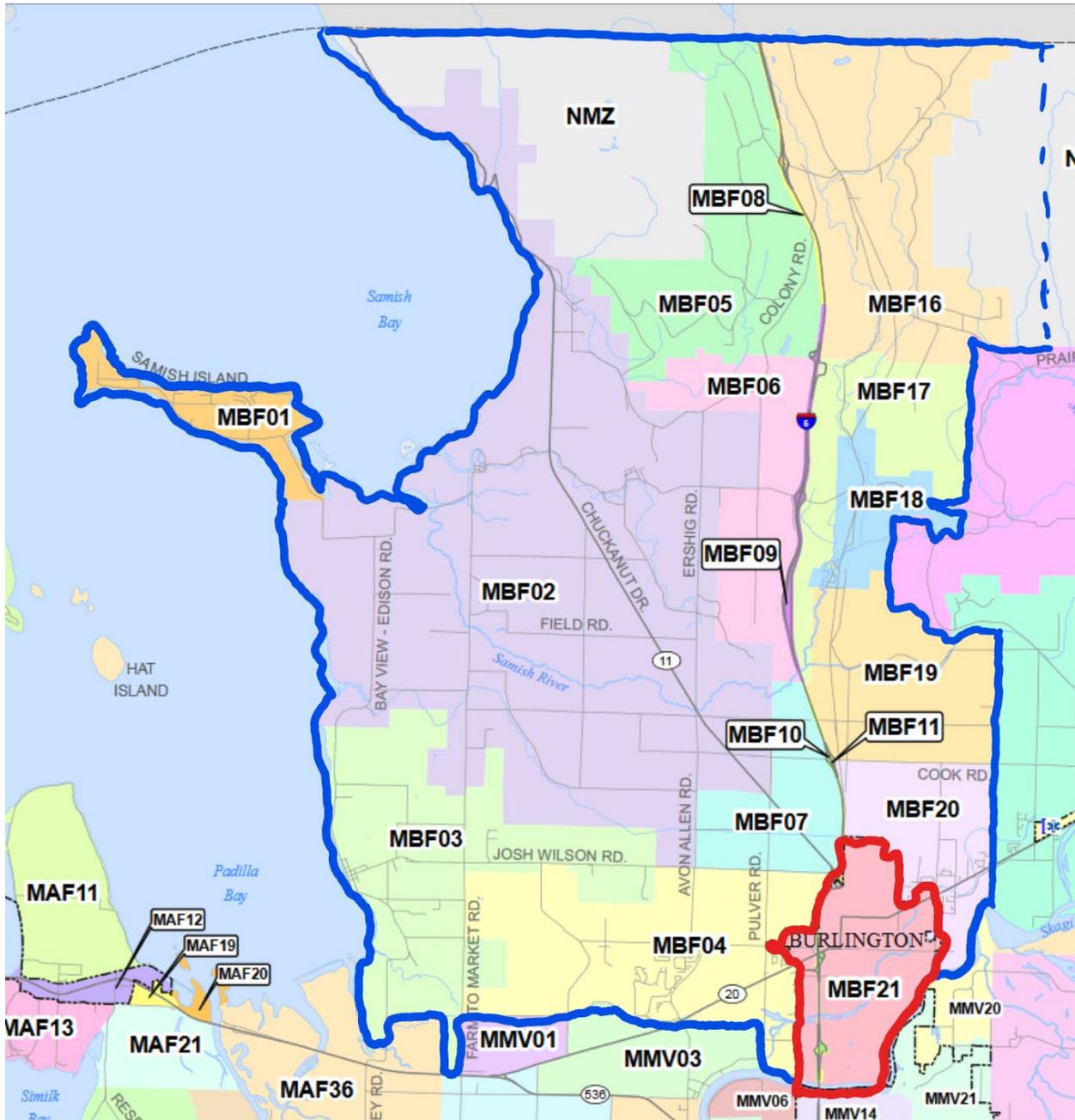
Topic	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Scheduled hours	Actual hours
WAC 305	183.0	59.0	95.0	42.0	592.0	379.0
Officer Development	120.0	39.0	88.0	38.0	366.0	285.0
Driver Operator	16.0	59.0	56.0	23.0	224.0	154.0
Engine operations Includes Company drills	194.5	108.0	101.0	87.0	772.0	490.5
Ladder Operations	17.0	27.0	37.0	78.0	288.0	159.0
Hazardous Materials	77.0	101.0	52.0	60.0	464.0	290.0
Multi-company w/MVFD	39.0	57.0	42.0	42.0	252.0	180.0
Multi-company w/HUB	6.0	0.0	30.0	48.0	84.0	84.0
Technical Rescue	18.0	104.0	56.0	23.0	560.0	201.0
Live Fire	0.0	57.0	27.0	0.0	144.0	84.0
State Fire Academy	0.0	0.0	602.0	330.0	992.0	992.0
Wildland	0.0	57.0	2.0	0.0	192.0	57.0
Quarterly totals	670.5	668.0	1285.0	771.0	4930.0	3355.5

Average of 1.02 hours per day per person. Actual training hours for the fire department was down in 2023. This decrease in hours may be credited to the station remodel, where crews did not have the available space to conduct company-level skill type drills that they normally would conduct at the station.

Chapter 7

Response and Service Area

The map below represents the Burlington Fire Department's primary response areas. In red is the City of Burlington. We provide a full-service response for fire, EMS, and technical response within the city limits and urban growth areas. The blue area is our primary EMS response area covering Bay Hill and the Country Club, Bayview, Allen, Edison, Alger towns, and the outlying regions such as Samish Island, Chuckanut Mountains, and Squires Lake.



Chapter 8 Station and Response

The Burlington Fire Department operates out of a single firehouse constructed in 1996, replacing the fire station on Cherry Street. In 2021, the city completed a feasibility study for a station remodel to bring the firehouse up to current codes and better serve a career workforce. In September 2022, the city council approved the 2.7-million-dollar remodel. In late November, Tiger Construction was awarded the bid.

The project, as designed, brought many of the existing station features up to the current code, providing safer and more efficient work and living spaces. One of the changes included moving all the sleeping dorms to the ground floor and providing emergency exits from those dorms. Nine (9) total dorms were constructed to accommodate our current staffing levels. The restrooms were also improved by adding five (5) new showers and ADA public restrooms. The new restrooms are positioned in the station for easy access by our crews from their dorm rooms and workspaces.

The remodel also included expansion of the dining and kitchen areas. With up to nine personnel on duty, they needed the space to prepare meals in a timely manner and provide for the storage of everyday kitchenware and food storage



Station and Response



The remodel provided for additional workspace for our personnel as well. With up to nine employees on duty, we needed the space to support the members working on day-to-day operations, including online training, incident reports, and data entry. This new workspace provides immediate access to the apparatus bays, which in return will provide quicker turnout times for calls for service. The administration area also underwent changes by adding an office for a Medical Integrated Health Provider (MIHP) which is anticipated in the 2024 budget year.



With the dorm rooms moved to the first floor, the station's training room had to be relocated to the second floor. This room is not only used for regular in-service fire and EMS training but can also serve as the city's backup Emergency Communications Center (EOC) when there is a major event like flooding, earthquake, large community events, or other emergencies that might arise.



The remodel also included specific spaces for our crew members to remove any contaminated clothing from an emergency incident. The ability to shower and have washing facilities outside of the main living area is crucial for the health and wellness of our employees. This space located on the southwest corner of the station allows for a healthy in, healthy out concept by not allowing contamination into the living area and working spaces.

Chapter 9 Fire Apparatus

The Burlington Fire Department maintains three firefighting apparatus and three EMS transport vehicles. Each vehicle has a specific function within our department. Our primary fire response is with a 2019 Pierce 107-foot Quint ladder truck with pumping capabilities.



Our third out fire apparatus is primarily our training apparatus and wildland structure protection engine; however, when our front-line apparatus is on an emergency response or out for repair, this 2003 Pierce becomes the city's workhorse.

Our backup fire apparatus to the Pierce aerial and our primary response vehicle for out-of-city responses to assist neighboring departments is a 2009 Crimson. We operate this apparatus in fire districts where fire operations are needed, but water availability is limited. The engine carries 750 gallons of water and can pump up to 1500 gallons of water per minute.



Fire Apparatus



Our primary Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport unit is a 2022 Ford F550. This unit covers not only the City of Burlington for ALS service but also provides service to our primary EMS contract areas and throughout the county. Front-line service for this vehicle is approximately 3 years because of the miles traveled and engine hours.

Our primary Basic Life Support (BLS) transport unit is currently a 2018 Dodge. For the first three years of service, this unit provided ALS service and transport. It may spend three years as our BLS transport unit before moving to a reserve status.



The newest vehicle in the fleet is the fire chief's command vehicle, a Ford Explorer Interceptor. It arrived in 2023 and is used for day-to-day operations and emergency response. This vehicle augments the other two command vehicles in the fleet.

Chapter 10 Special Operations



As we continue to experience dryer springs and summers, we find ourselves more involved with wildland emergencies. Locally, we responded to 13 incidents, including a large wildland fire just north of the city. The Burlington Fire Department also responded to multiple state mobilizations to help those in need. Our primary state response in 2023 was for a Wildland Paramedic. This position is assigned a section of the incident to provide EMS support to those working at the fire scene.

In addition to Wildland incidents, the Burlington Fire Department responds to water-related emergencies. As our community grows, so do the activities along the river. Whether a family day on one of the many beaches, fishing, or boating, the Skagit River has many dangers that individuals are not aware of. Fall and spring can bring high water and flooding, which, too, brings many challenges and calls for service.



Other special operations that we train on are confined spaces, which pertain to someone who has entered a small space, like a vault, rope systems to lower our members down to someone or bring them up to us, and vehicle and machinery extrication. With the ever-evolving technologies of vehicles and machinery, our staff is ready to take action.

Chapter 11 Community Outreach

Every year, the Burlington Fire Department participates in many community events, including fire station tours, providing fire and emergency services education, and many others.



Station tours continue to be a community favorite. This past year, even with the station remodel, we were able to provide schools and different kid clubs with a chance to see what tools and equipment our firefighters use daily.

Another favorite event is our Parks and Recreation's annual Touch-A-Truck event. Hundreds of community members come to see all the trucks, tractors, and big rigs.

The fire engines, ladder truck and ambulances are a huge hit during the event.

During the year, we take every opportunity to talk about fire safety with kids and adults of all ages. This past year, we teamed up with the Boys and Girls Club in Burlington and worked with groups of kids on how to crawl low in smoke if they needed to get out of



their homes. We also like to help create emergency evacuation plans for families. Other safety topics may include "stop, drop, and roll" hazards around the home and poison prevention.

Halloween is one of our favorite holidays to participate in. Kids and parents are out enjoying the evening event. Our crews set up in front of LU Elementary and provide a safe area for families to cross the street to grab a glow necklace and candy.



Community Outreach



Every year, we participate in many community events, such as Fall Fest, Senior Day in the Park, Berry Dairy Days, and others.

The Veterans Day Parade is just a small part of a full day of events to show appreciation for what others have given to make our lives and communities better. Every year, with the help of a neighboring fire department, we hang a large American Flag over the parade route for our veterans to walk under. It always seems to be one of the highlights, along with the military plane flyovers.

This year, the Berry Dairy Days added an old event to the weekend of activities: the lawn mower races! Our crews were on standby for the event in case of a racer injury or a fire event. The event brought in a large crowd, many wanting to see lawnmowers race for the first time. The weekend also provides a parade, car show, cook-off, and many other events for the community. The Burlington Fire Department even had a team in the smoke and grill cook-off.



By the numbers

- **Events** 14
- **Hours spent** 30.5
- **Attendance Kids** 667, not including Berry Dairy Days and Veterans Parade
- **Attendance Adults** 276, not including Berry Dairy Days and Veterans Parade