



2024

Red Bank Fire Department Annual Report



Message from the Chief

This past year was certainly an exciting year for the City of Red Bank and the Red Bank Fire Department! We saw new hires, promotions, and recognition of firefighters for exceptional valor. As the Fire Chief, I could not be more proud of this department, our Firefighters, and the services we continue to provide to our community.

In 2024, our department answered 970 calls for service in our community. These calls ranged from assisting citizens with nonemergent requests to major fires in multifamily dwellings. For each of those 970 calls, our Firefighters responded and provided exceptional service. In addition, through rapid response and aggressive strategies and tactics, our Firefighters saved an estimated \$4,198,736 in property.



Our personnel continue to respond to all hazards and provide the expertise and compassionate care that the public expects when they dial 911. As we close out 2024, we are eager to see what the future has in store for Red Bank and how we can continue to serve our community through the Red Bank Way!

G. Brent Sylar
Fire Chief

Our Mission

The mission of the Red Bank Fire Department is to protect lives, property, and the environment by providing a high-quality service that is prompt, skillful, caring, resourceful, and cost-effective.

Fire Department Administration



Fire Chief
Brent Sylar



Deputy Fire Chief
Eddie Iles



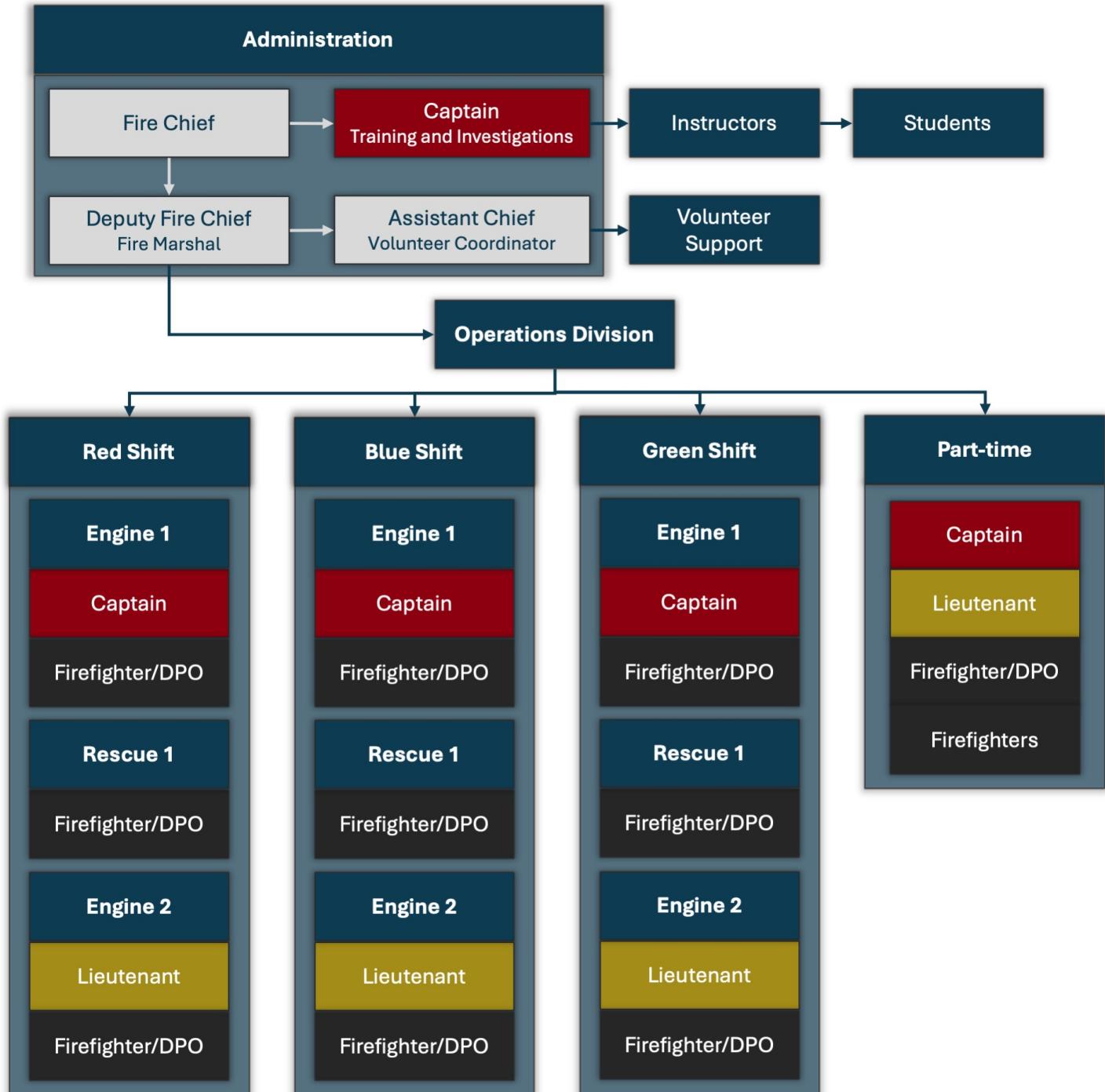
Assistant Fire Chief
Jerry Carter



Training Captain
Andrew Wood



Organizational Structure

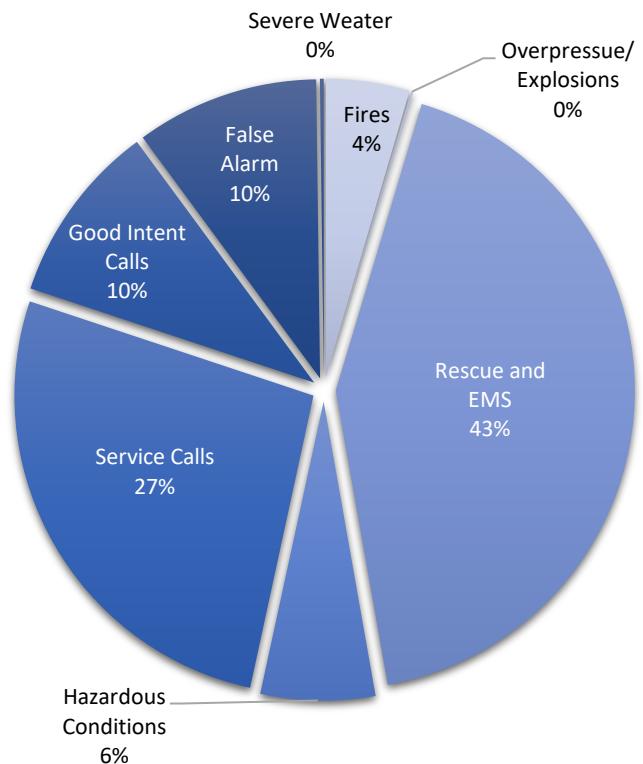




Incident Statistics

Breakdown by Major Incident Types

Fires:	44
Overpressure Ruptures, Explosions, Overheating:	1
Rescue and Emergency Medical Services:	413
Hazardous Conditions:	60
Service Calls:	259
Good Intent Calls:	95
False Alarm and False Calls:	96
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster:	2
Total Call Volume for 2024:	970



Fires

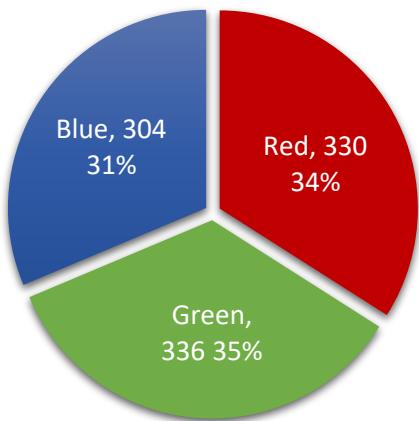
Building Fires:	13
Passenger Vehicle Fire:	3
Brush, Grass, and Outside Fires:	28
Total Fires:	44

Rescue and Emergency Services

Emergency Medical Calls:	166
Motor Vehicle Accidents with Injuries:	31
Motor Vehicle Accidents without Injuries:	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents with Entrapment:	5
Motor Vehicle Accident versus Pedestrian:	1
Technical Rescue Calls:	1
Medical Assist (Assist EMS):	189
Rescue, Other:	4
Total Rescue and EMS Calls:	413

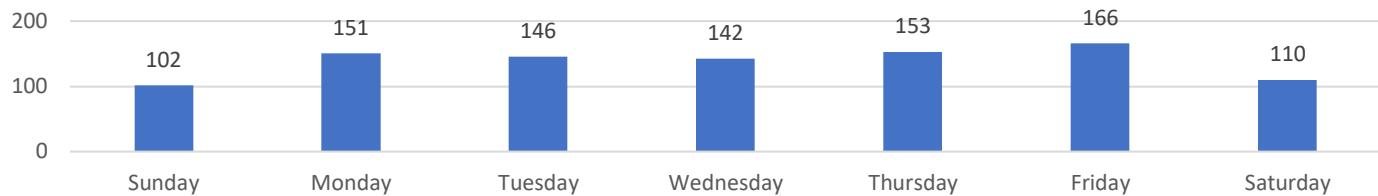


Incidents by Shift

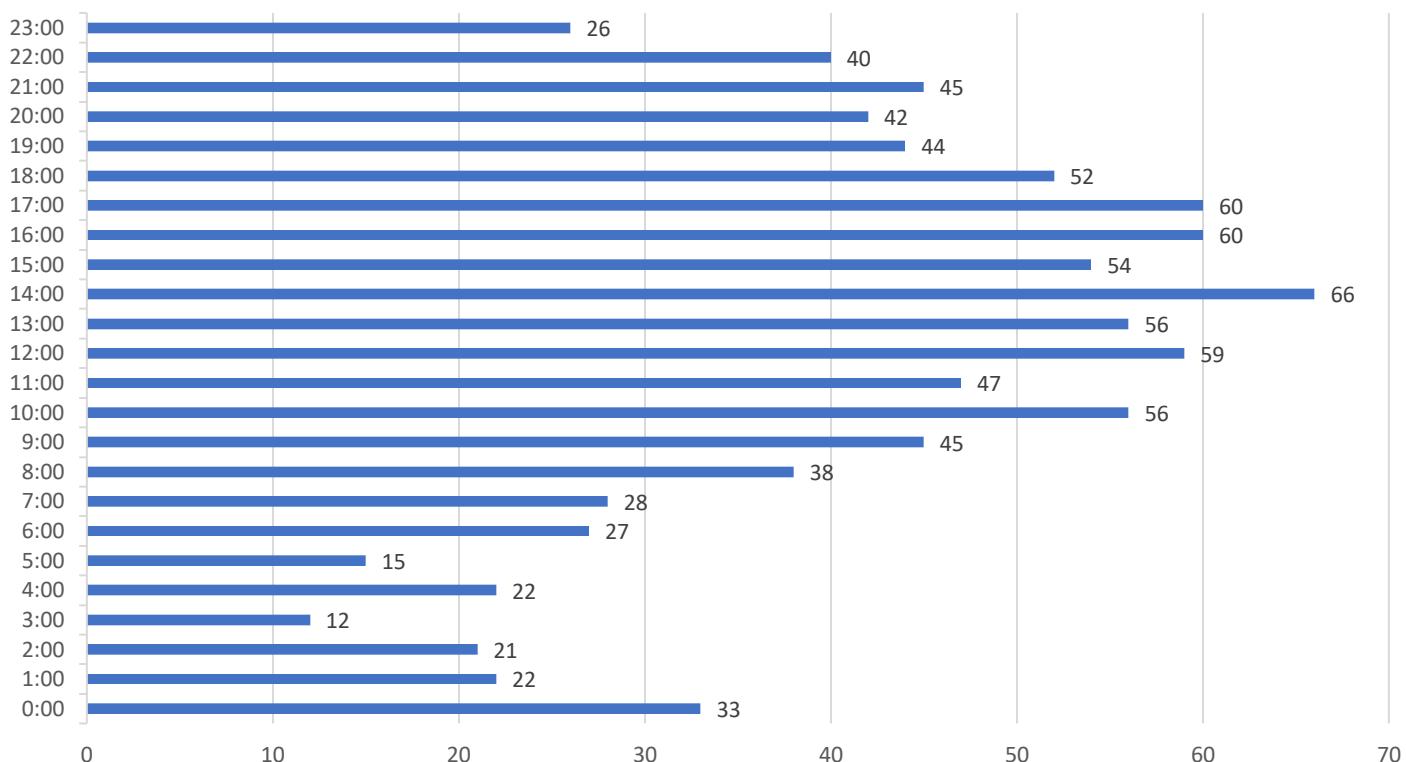




Incidents by Day of the Week



Incidents by Time of Day



Fire Prevention

An essential service of the fire department is the prevention of fires before they occur and educating the public on what to do in case of these emergencies.

Fire Inspections

Total Fire Inspections for 2024: 146

Total Food Truck Inspections for 2024: 49





Training Division

This last year was a busy year for training and our personnel totaled nearly 3,500 hours of training in 2024 and averaged 10 manhours of training conducted each day. In addition to normal company training, we also invested in professional development, sending personnel to professional development courses and conferences around the state and the country to ensure that we continue to provide our citizens with the best levels of service possible. This includes courses and conferences at the Fire Department Instructor's Conference, the International Association of Arson Investigators, and the Alabama Fire College.

Technical Rescue Training

As an all-hazards department, we also train extensively on technical rescue, to include vehicle extrication and rope rescue operations. This year, we upgraded our entire cache of rope rescue equipment to replace expired or outdated equipment and bring our cache up to modern standards and techniques.

Other Training Activities

In addition to providing internal training, we have provided classes available to other agencies and provided instructor support to courses held at other locations.

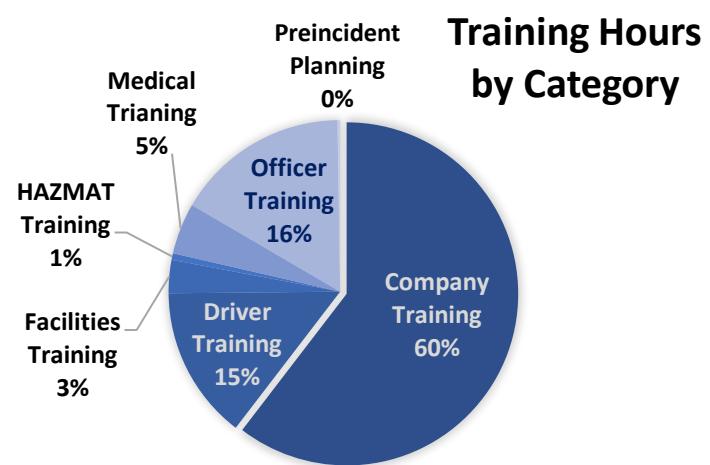
In January, the Training Division provided CPR and First Aid training to Public Works and city hall employees. These courses ensured that all city employees are prepared to act in an emergency and safely operate the new city-provided AEDs and other basic medical supplies on hand.

In March, we conducted our annual inservice where each Firefighter completes 40-hours of state-approved training. During this inservice, we covered topics such as strategy and tactics, attic fires, CPR, domestic violence, Mental Health First Aid, and live-fire evolutions.

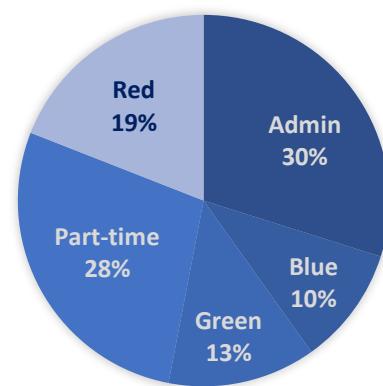
During the spring, Captain Wood and several instructors assisted in Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department's recruit school. These opportunities allow our instructors to provide real-world career experience and knowledge to these students and also remain proficient in teaching the basic fundamentals of our job. Our instructors also assisted in facilitating live-fire training evolutions.

In June, the Training Division facilitated a Tennessee Fire Commission recognized Fire Officer II course. This 40-hour course provides fire officers with the knowledge and skills to function at the Captain level, managing multiple companies and performing administrative tasks.

In November, the Training Division provided CPR and opiate overdose (Narcan) training to the Red Bank Police Department as part of their annual inservice program.



Training Hours by Shift





Notable Training Events

Southeastern Extrication School

In March, we sent four Firefighters to Hartsville, SC to the Southeastern Extrication school. This is the premier extrication school on the East coast and provided hands-on instruction on advanced vehicle extrication techniques. Firefighters conducted drills on school bus extrications, heavy vehicle rigging, advanced strut operations, and conducting extrications on suspended vehicles using rope rescue techniques in conjunction with extrication.

PICTURED BELOW: CAPTAIN LARRY OLIVIER AND LIEUTENANT ADAM WARD WORK TO EXTRICATE VICTIMS FROM A SIMULATED BUS ROLLOVER.



PICTURED ABOVE: CAPTAIN ANDREW WOOD (LEFT SIDE OF VEHICLE) PERFORMING EXTRICATION ON A SUSPENDED VEHICLE.

Fire Department Instructor's Conference

In April, we sent three Firefighters to the Fire Department Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis, IN. In addition to the Firefighters attending the conference, Firefighter Amanda Miller presented her class, *Future Ready Fire: Get in Gear*, at the conference. This is a notable achievement, as less than 25% of course submissions are selected to present at the conference. She also presented this class at the Women in Fire conference that same week.

PICTURED RIGHT: FIREFIGHTER AMANDA MILLER AND CAPTAIN ANDREW WOOD AT HER CLASS, *FUTURE READY FIRE: GET IN GEAR*.





Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant

In April, officers from the department were invited to tour Tennessee Valley Authority's Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant. As part of the greater response for an emergency at the power plant, these tours provide great insight into how the power plant operates and the unique hazards that are posed in an emergency.

PICTURED RIGHT: (L-R) CAPTAIN ANDREW WOOD, CAPTAIN LARRY OLIVIER, FIRE CHIEF BRENT SYLAR, AND FIREFIGHTER ROBERT PILKINGTON DURING A TOUR OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT.



Fire Training Props and Facilities

Taylor'd Prop

In 2024, we received delivery of our Taylor'd prop, a container-based training prop that provides the ability to conduct more than 20 different types of training drills. This prop will allow our personnel to train on a wide variety of skills and job performance requirements without requiring significantly more space and equipment for individual props.

Fire Training Tower

During 2024, we erected a three-story training structure comprised of five 40-foot shipping containers. This allows us to construct a training tower capable of full-scale evolutions at a relatively affordable cost. In addition, if a container is damaged or becomes compromised over time, we can remove and replace that container without having to replace the entire structure. Over the next few years, we will continue to build out this structure and increase its capabilities as a fire training tower. Some of the improvements will include live-fire training capability on the first and second floor, plumbing for training smoke throughout the structure, and rigging points on the roof of the structure for technical rescue training.



NEW THREE-STORY SHIPPING CONTAINER TRAINING STRUCTURE



Promotions, New Additions, and Recognitions

Promotions

Andrew Wood, Promoted from Fire Training Instructor to Fire Training Captain
Darren Brandon, Promoted from Firefighter/DPO to Fire Captain, Blue Shift

New Personnel

Firefighter Spencer Armstrong (Part-time)
Firefighter Zack Brown (Part-time)
Firefighter Travis Crouch (Part-time)
Firefighter Derrick Dye (Full-time)
Firefighter Christopher Finley (Part-time)
Firefighter Daniel Hall (Part-time)
Firefighter Jacob Smith (Part-time)



Awards

Meritorious Service Award
Firefighter/DPO Zack Brown
Firefighter/DPOs Chad Tawfik (right)

Firefighter of the Year

Firefighter/DPO Brandon Abbott

Recognitions

Five Years of Service
Firefighter Brandon Lamphier, May 8, 2019
Firefighter Clint Montgomery, May 10, 2019

30 Years of Service

Firefighter Greg Vanhorn, March 1, 1994 (below)

35 Years of Service

Fire Chief Brent Sylar, February 2, 1989 (right)





Meritorious Service Award Firefighters Zack Brown and Chad Tawfik

On October 17, 2024, the Red Bank Fire Department was dispatched to an apartment fire at Willow Creek Apartments, 2833 Dayton Boulevard. Red Shift was on duty with a full staffing of five personnel: a Captain and Firefighter/DPO on Engine 1, a Firefighter/DPO on Rescue 1, and two Firefighter/DPOs on Engine 2.

Engine 1 and Rescue 1 arrived on scene to find a fire on the second story of an apartment building. The Captain transmitted a second alarm due to the heavy fire involvement, adding several additional mutual aid units to the assignment. With only three personnel on scene, the Captain from Engine 1 and Firefighter/DPO from Rescue 1 entered the structure and initiated an aggressive fire attack up the stairwell and onto the second floor. The initial attack was successful in knocking down the majority of the fire and stopped the fire from progressing. Once the initial fire was knocked down, the attack crew began performing a primary search for victims on the second story.

While the first crew was making an initial attack, Firefighter/DPO Chad Tawfik was operating the pump on Engine 1 and performing additional fireground tasks. Firefighter Tawfik was approached by a Red Bank Police Officer and informed that there was still an unaccounted-for resident on the second floor in an apartment. As there was no one else on scene, Firefighter/DPO Chad Tawfik entered the structure and proceeded to the second floor to begin a search for the victim alone.

Fire Chief Brent Sylar, who was off duty at the time of the fire, was responding to the scene. As he arrived on scene, the following message was transmitted on the radio:



*"Command [to] Dispatch, we've got a **MAYDAY**.
We're stuck in the apartment on the right."*

In the fire service, a Mayday is used to declare that a firefighter is in dire trouble and requires immediate assistance. Mayday transmissions are reserved for life threatening circumstances such as being lost or disoriented, trapped, significantly injured, low on air, or unaccounted for. Inside the structure, the initial attack crew encountered zero-visibility conditions and had become disoriented in an apartment. They searched the apartment several times but were unable to locate the exit. At this point, the two firefighters were lost in the still-burning building. Chief Sylar acknowledged the MAYDAY, but when he looked around, there was no one else on scene to send in to rescue the Firefighters.

*"Command [to] Dispatch... We have found a window on the second story facing the rear of the structure. **We cannot exfil**. We have one Firefighter just about **out of air**."*



The firefighters had located a window, but due to the window's size and location, it was not a feasible exit. One of the firefighters was almost out of air and had stuck his head out of the window in case he ran out of air and had to remove his mask.

At this time, Engine 2 was arriving on scene with two additional firefighters, one of which was Firefighter/DPO Zack Brown. While the Driver/Pump Operator of Engine 2 established water supply, Chief Sylar assigned Firefighter Brown to proceed to the second story, link up with Firefighter Tawfik, and find the missing Firefighters.

Firefighter/DPO Brown entered the structure and met up with Firefighter/DPO Tawfik on the second floor. They immediately performed a search for the missing firefighters. Within moments, they located the crew and took them out of the structure.

"Command [to] Dispatch... We've... We've been found. We're making our way out."

Once out of the structure, the crew was assessed and cleared to return to operations. Crews worked to extinguish the fire, and damage was limited to the initial stop made by Engine 1. Primary and secondary searches revealed that there were no victims still in the structure.

The swift actions of Firefighter/DPOs Zack Brown and Chad Tawfik exemplify the highest level of commitment to their fellow Firefighters and our citizens. Through experience and training they were prepared to act, but it was their unwavering commitment to their fellow Firefighters that ensured a rapid and successful rescue.



AFTER THE FIRE, THERE WERE STILL VISIBLE HANDPRINTS ALONG A HALLWAY WHERE THE CREW SEARCHED SEVERAL TIMES FOR THE EXIT.



FIREFIGHTER/DPO CHAD TAWFIK BEING PRESENTED HIS MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD. (L-R) DEPUTY CHIEF ILES, CHIEF SYLAR, FIREFIGHTER/DPO TAWFIK, AND CAPTAIN OLIVIER.

For demonstrating exceptional valor and unwavering commitment to the fire service by risking their own life to rescue two fellow Firefighters during an apartment fire incident on October 17, 2024. Their Immediate actions directly resulted in the safe recovery of their Brothers, exemplifying the highest standards of bravery and camaraderie within our department.



Views from 2024





