

DANVILLE
FIRE
DEPARTMENT

Annual Report
2022





Table of Contents

03	Message from the Chief	15	Shifts' Year in Review
04	Our Mission, Vision, and Values	19	Technical and Support Services
05	Our History	20	Community Risk Reduction
08	Organizational Chart	22	Training and Safety
09	Promotions/Special Team	24	Emergency Communications
10	New Hires	26	Through the Year
11	Achievements	28	Back Cover
12	2022 Data Snapshot		
14	Operations Division Summary		



Message from the Chief

Greetings,

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Danville Fire Department, I'm proud to share a small glimpse of the accomplishments we achieved in 2022. Please keep in mind as you read on that the litmus test we use for change at the Danville Fire Department is, "Does it make the DFD better or the community safer?" If the answer is yes, then we're all in!

2022 found us in a position to move forward on several projects that we had sidelined due to the pandemic. The biggest was an operational change that was made possible by a state funded grant. This facilitated the purchase of the needed equipment to put our Swiftwater Rescue Team in place. In addition to purchasing the necessary equipment, we trained 26 firefighters to the Swiftwater Technician level and there are five more in training with a goal of a 31-member team. Our Swiftwater Rescue Team is a recognized state asset that can be utilized locally, statewide and nationally when needed.

We were also fortunate to be awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant that was instrumental in the purchase of three complete sets of extrication equipment you may know as the "jaws of life". These were placed on three of our engines strategically throughout the city. Prior to this purchase the Danville Life Saving Crew (DLSC) was responsible for vehicle extrications which proved inefficient when a DFD engine arrived on scene first most of the time. Again, our goal with this project was to make the community safer.

In 2022 we again surpassed our previous year's call volume making it our busiest year to date, responding to 9,592 calls for service. What makes this number even more significant is the fact that the number of our EMS related calls went down. The real unsung heroes in our community reside in our 911 Emergency Communications Center. In order for the men and women of both the Fire and Police Department to do their jobs, the dedicated men and women of the dispatch center must do theirs. During 2022, the Emergency Communications Center processed 50,942 911 calls, 46,929 inbound administrative calls and 35,129 outbound administrative calls. There were 88,107 Communications Events Reports created for calls for service. You can do the math but believe me when I tell you they are busy 24/7/365!

I think you will agree that this is an exciting time to be in Danville, and we are looking forward to the changes and challenges that are ahead. We are constantly looking for ways to better our department and the service to our community. As we look to the future, our litmus test for change is and will remain, "Does it make us better?"

Yours in service,



Fire Chief David Coffey





Our Mission, Vision, & Values



Mission

The Danville Fire Department reduces the risk to life and property through professional response and community engagement.



Vision

The Danville Fire Department is dedicated to continuous improvement through innovation, inclusion, and fostering a safe community.

Values



Diversity and Inclusion



Professionalism



Integrity



Safety



Accountability



Customer Service

Our History



Above: "Little Mary"

1884

Danville instituted the community's first paid (professional) fire department on January 1, 1884. Records indicate the first apparatus inventory consisted of one Button fire engine, two Ainsleys, one hose reel, and four horses. Prior to 1884, services were provided by two private fire companies.

1896

The annexation of Neapolis in 1896 prompted construction of a headquarters on Patton Street, where the Municipal Building stands today, as well as a second station just north of the Main Street Bridge which came to be known as the North Main Station.



1903

Of historical note, the "Wreck of Old 97" occurred on September 27, 1903. The southbound Southern Railway passenger train No. 97 derailed and plunged into a ravine below the Stillhouse Trestle, killing eleven persons according to some accounts.

1924

In 1924, a Seagrave ladder truck was added to the department's inventory, equipped with solid rubber tires, a tiller, and a 75-foot hand-operated ladder. This replaced the hook and ladder, the last piece of horse-drawn equipment in the city.

1926

1926 saw the Patton Street station relocated to a new building on Bridge Street. This served as the fire headquarters until the construction of the new station on Lynn Street in 2014. A third "West End" station, designed for horse-drawn apparatus, was also constructed in the early 1900s less than one block off Main Street.



At right: A major fire occurred in Danville on June 30, 1927, as the Main Street Iron Bridge burned. The wooden floor of the bridge caught fire when a tar wagon overturned. The steel girders buckled from the intense heat and finally collapsed, separating the north and south sides of Danville.

1950

A two-way radio communication system was installed in 1950, which allowed the Station One telephone switchboard to centrally receive fire calls and dispatch suppression services. The chiefs' vehicles had two-way radios installed, but radios were not required in the engines.

1951

A 1951 annexation required an additional station to serve the Schoolfield community around Dan River Mills. Station Four was initially located at the West Main Street and Augusta Avenue intersection and was rented from the textile company. The same annexation prompted construction of a northside station on Third Avenue.

1957

Station Five opened in 1957 and came to serve as the agency's training center with a five story training tower and drafting pit.



1971

In 1971, the station on North Main Street was relocated to its current home on Piney Forest Road to provide better response to the western portions of the city.

At right: In 1971, a lightning strike hit Moffett Memorial Baptist Church on North Main Street which sparked a large fire that destroyed the sanctuary.



1978

In the summer of 1978, Station Three was relocated to Industrial Avenue near the intersection of South Main Street.

1988

Danville's annexation of approximately 27 square miles of Pittsylvania County in January 1988 more than doubled the department's area of responsibility. As a result, Station Four was relocated to its current home on West Main Street, plans were made to add two stations, and six engine companies were added.

1990

August 1990 saw completion of Station Seven on Airport Drive, adjacent to the city's regional airport and within sight of US Highway 58. Around this time, OSHA's endorsement of the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Standard prompted the state of Virginia to establish, fund, and train 12 regional Hazardous Material Response Teams. This resulted in an agreement with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and ultimately the creation of a Regional Level III Response Team, which became operational in December 1990.

1991

Station Six was opened in August 1991 on the corner of Westover Drive and Beech Avenue to service the north and west end of the city.

1997

Beginning in 1997, the department began training personnel to the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level of certification. City Council authorized formation of a Fire Marshal's Office in 1998. This led to the creation of a Fire Prevention and Education Bureau and sworn officers with legal authority to investigate fires and enforce city fire code.

2000

In 2000, Danville Fire Department (DFD) teamed up with Pittsylvania County Firefighter's Association and applied for a grant from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. The award served as the primary funding for a burn building, which is now the centerpiece of the area's Regional Training Center at 658 Stinson Drive.

2014

The Danville Fire Department Headquarters and Emergency Communications center relocated to the new facilities on Lynn Street.

2015

The Danville Fire Department earned International Accredited Status from the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

2018

The department's ISO rating improved to be a 1 rating.

2020

In 2020, the department successfully became accredited again.





Organizational Chart

DANVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Organizational Chart

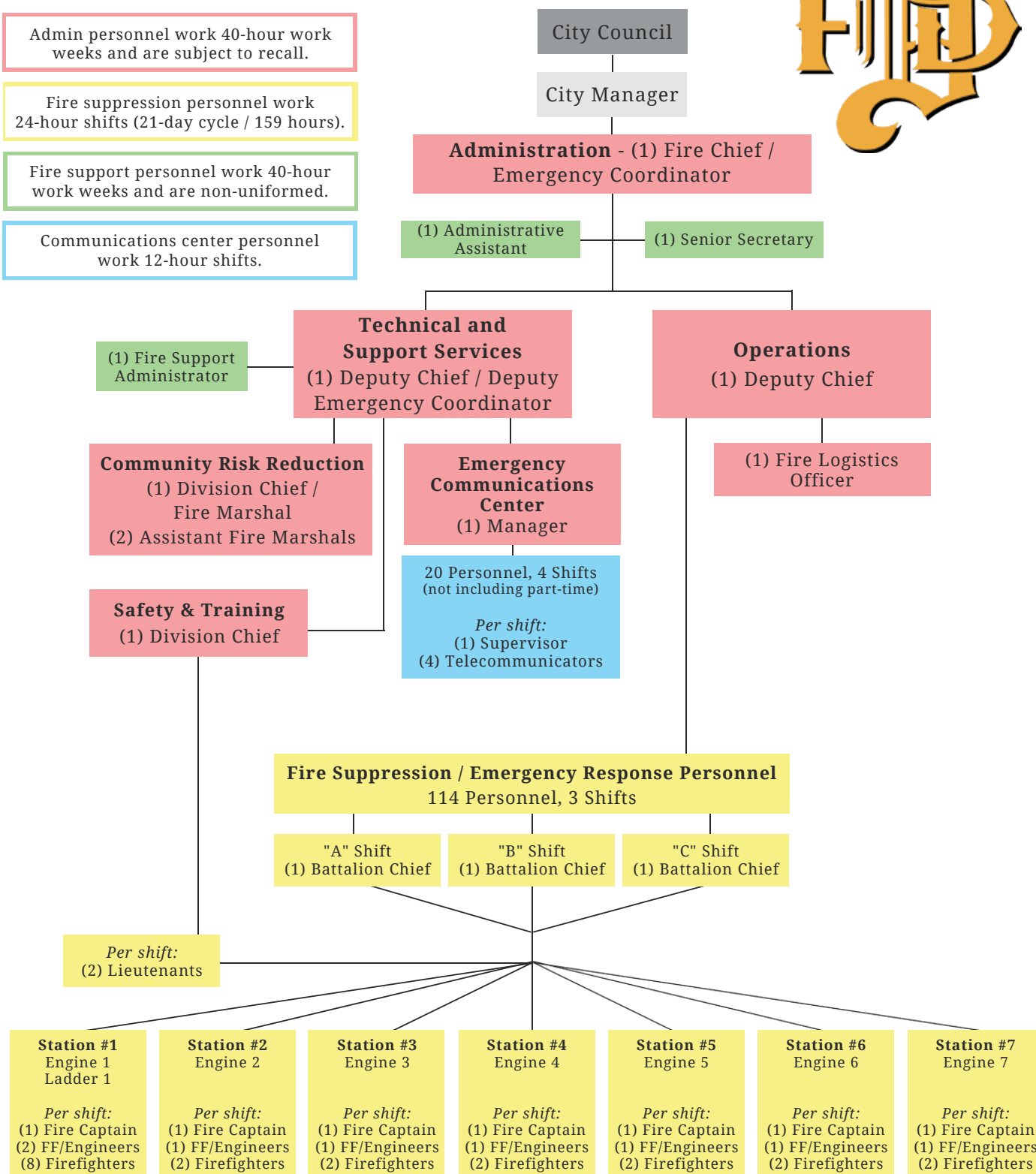
146 Personnel (122 Uniformed)

Admin personnel work 40-hour work weeks and are subject to recall.

Fire suppression personnel work 24-hour shifts (21-day cycle / 159 hours).

Fire support personnel work 40-hour work weeks and are non-uniformed.

Communications center personnel work 12-hour shifts.



Promotions/Special Team 2022

Engineer

Timothy Dodd

Senior Telecommunicator /TC II

Pierotti "Pepper" Travis

Stewart Moore

Kristen Smith

Marian Vagts

Hazmat

Josh White

David Worsham

Scott Birney

Zane Elder

Tech Rescue

Aaron Turner

Brandyn Smith

Swiftwater

Jamie Satterfield

Hunter Brown

Will Stephens

Jacob Yates

Matt Hines

Dylan Alvis

Lee Barker

Delano Goad

Travis Poteat

Daniel Giles

Joe Simpson

Dawson Poteat

Tom Collins

Patrick Haymore

Josh Koger

Chris Blevins

Alan Harless

Nathan Sergeant

Trevor Moyer

Travis Dunn

Daryl Reaves

Travis Buchanan

Chance Bartee

Chris Scott

Britton Adkins

David Worsham

Brian Gregory

Zach Lyons

Tanner Reed

Hunter Milam

Jon Yeaman





New Hires — FIREFIGHTERS

Jacob “Jake” Hall

Sean Gunter

Jacob Thomas

Chris Barrett

Hunter Wiles

Myles Waller



New Recruits pose with firetruck.

*New Recruits are sworn in at graduation in
City Council Chambers.*



DEPUTY CHIEF OPERATIONS

Michael Brandyn Smith

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Shannon Hudson

Lateral Transfers — EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Tyler Roberts

Achievements 2022

ECC

Brian Cochran

NENA Advanced Police Dispatching

Heather Eakin

*Committee Member of Roanoke APCO NENA State Conference-
Programs Division*

Stewart Moore

NENA - Enhanced Caller Management

NENA - Leadership in the 911 Center

Marilu Barnett

NENA - Enhanced Caller Management

NENA - Leadership in the 911 Center

Latrice Garland-Stamps

APCO CTO Certification

APCO Active Shooter Incidents

CIT Certification

Steve Sutton

APCO Communications Training Officer

Advance Police Dispatch

Crisis Negotiations

Active Shooter

Advance Police Dispatch

Hazmat

Josh White

Hazmat Technician

Zane Elder

Hazmat Technician

Tyler Capps

Chemistry of Hazardous Materials and Specialist Certification

Adam Brown

Chemistry of Hazardous Materials and Specialist Certification

Brian Porter

Tyler Shields

Tech Rescue

Tanner Reed

Trench Operations and Technician and Rope Technician

Hunter Milam

Rope Technician and Surface Water

Travis Buchanan

Structural Collapse School

Swiftwater

Matt Hines

Swift Water Technician

Hunter Brown

Swift Water Technician

Dylan Alvis

Swift Water Technician

Hunter Wiles

Swift Water Technician

Chris Scott

Swift Water Technician

Travis Buchanan

*Surface Water, Swift Water,
Structural Collapse School*

Britton Adkins

Surface Water

Chance Bartee

Swift Water

Education

Coordinator

Matt Hines

Fire Officer I

Kevin Farris

Tyler Shields

Adam Brown

Fire Officer II

Matt Hines

Tom Collins

Tim Dodd

Virginia Chief Officer's Academy

Tommy Napier

Associates Degree

Tanner Reed

Master's Degree

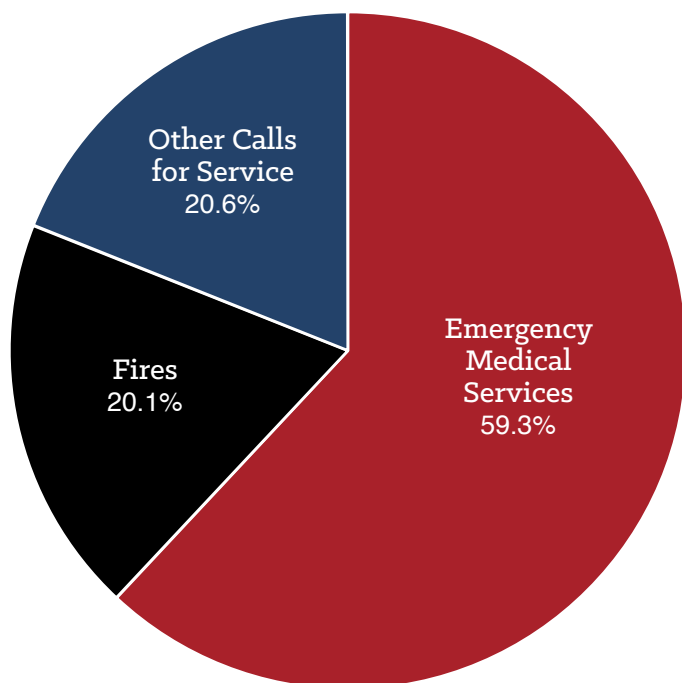
Travis Poteat

Jacob Yates





2022 Snapshot



9,592

TOTAL CALLS IN 2021

WORKING FIRES

37

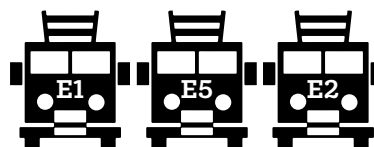


WORKING EXTRICATIONS

10

BUSIEST MONTHS OF THE YEAR
JANUARY
AUGUST
DECEMBER

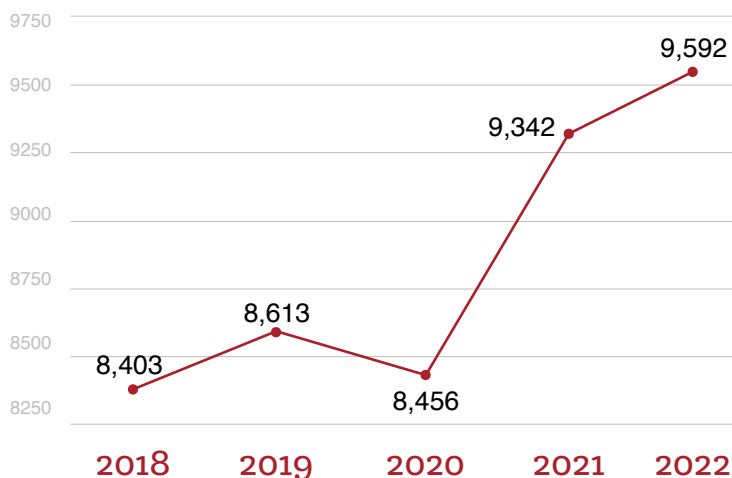
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG
SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



TOP BUSIEST ENGINES

E1
E5
E2

CALLS THROUGH THE YEARS



BUSIEST DAY OF THE WEEK
FRIDAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT



BUSIEST TIME OF THE DAY
1500 HOURS

DEPLOYED NARCAN
66 TIMES







Operations Division Summary

Deputy Chief Brandyn Smith

During the 2022 calendar year, Danville Fire Department responded to a record 9,592 calls for service. This represents 9,592 times that the men and women of the ISO Class I, CFAI Accredited department impacted the lives of City of Danville citizens and visitors through the application and embodiment of superior customer service, integrity, professionalism, and dedication.

With continual growth and development of the city comes the inevitable need for growth and development of the Danville Fire Department, our personnel, equipment, training, and the specialized services that we can provide to any person in need at a moment's notice. At the very core of every Danville firefighter is the desire to serve and to do so with the most efficiency, proficiency, and professionalism imaginable.

While the accomplishments that the department has been able to champion during 2022 are vast, the goal of continual improvement has allowed for the determination of the need for service provision that is unparalleled to continually evolve and is omnipresent in our profession. 2022 brought about challenges and opportunities for better service delivery, better training opportunities, better strategies and tactics, and better avenues for servitude to any member of our customer base that may find themselves in need.

With the goal of superior quality of service at the forefront of 2023, a comprehensive overview of 2022 must first be observed and lead to adjustments in operations that will render effective changes for better delivery of the numerous services that the Danville Fire Department provides. Below is the 2022 Danville Fire Department – Operations – Year in Review.

Call volume distribution during 2022 placed each of the three shifts within 8 calls of one another. A-Shift answered the most calls for service with 3,202 responses or 34% of the total call volume (TCV).



"A" Shift Year in Review

Battalion Chief Thomas Napier

QUICK GLANCE

3,202 CALLS DURING 2022 **13** WORKING FIRES

Just like previous years, the Danville Fire Department continues to be very busy each and every day. Serving the city by responding to emergency and non-emergency calls, in addition to providing public education to all ages, smoke detector/fire stop installs, pre-incident surveys, fire hydrant maintenance, etc. 2022 was the busiest in Danville Fire Department history. The DFD responded to a total of 9,592 calls for service, with "A" shift personnel responding to 3,202 calls. "A" shift personnel responded to 13 "working fires" and 5 "working extrications".

"A" shift personnel have been working towards the completion of their individual "task book". This new process will assist each individual with their personal career development and validate their effort. Numerous personnel have attended and completed additional training courses throughout the year. Some of the courses include Instructor 1, Fire Officer 1, Fire Officer 2, Swift-Water Technician, Swift-Water Boat Operator, and Rope Technician.

"A" shift had several personnel throughout the year who were temporarily promoted to fill vacancies. These personnel stepped up and filled the vacancy as if they had been promoted years ago. This is a testament to all personnel who mentored, trained and assisted these individuals throughout their career. It makes me proud to know that our fire department will be in good hands for many years to come.

With the ever-growing issues with staffing, Danville Fire Department personnel have assisted each battalion chief with filling vacancies for overtime on a daily basis. The battalion chiefs very much appreciate everyone's willingness to work and fill the voids, which in turn helps your fellow firefighters.

I appreciate everyone's hard work, your dedication and your friendship. I look forward to 2023 as we all continue to strive to make the Danville Fire Department the best organization around.





"B" Shift Year in Review

Battalion Chief William Smotherman

QUICK GLANCE

3,196 CALLS DURING 2021

13 WORKING FIRES

First, I would like to say B Shift is the finest group of firefighters on this side of the grave. I would put them up against anybody else. We have worked together and controlled all incidents we responded to in 2022. We had times that were great, and unfortunately, we also had tough times. I wish they could all be good but how would we know the good times were good times without the tough times? We are stronger together, and we need each other. If you are hurting, talk with your brother or sister. I want every one of you to know how much you are loved and appreciated. As Alex, my daughter, would say "no cap and stay bussin'."

On behalf of B Shift, I would like to welcome the newest members of our team. Sean Gunter, Myles Waller, and Jacob Thomas graduated from the Danville Fire Department academy and obtained all the required certifications to become Virginia firefighters. Splendid work!

On the other hand, I would like to bid farewell to those leaving the department. Matthew Page accepted a position with the Lynchburg Fire Department. Matt Lewis returned to South Boston Fire Department. Jesse Morris has started his own business. We wish them all a great adventure in which path they walk upon.

We had many members on B shift complete their probationary status. A big congratulations to Battalion Chief

Smotherman, Captains Thomas Collins and Jared Collins, Lieutenant Yeatts, Engineers Shields, Brooks, and Epps. Such employees demonstrate the professionalism and dedication it requires to advance in rank. Thank you all.

B Shift had 3,196 calls for the year. The types of calls were 59.3% EMS, 20.1% fire, and 20.6% other.

For the year B Shift had a total of 13 working fires.

Moving on to the working extrications, the shift had one and it was at the intersection of Augusta and Lanier Avenues. Fantastic job to those involved.

I am unsure whether to congratulate or to console them but Engine 1B had the highest call volume at 746 total runs. Just to compare, Station 7 had 730 calls for all three shifts. E5B came in with a close 2nd with 725 calls. Wonderful job to all companies for an excellent year!



"C" Shift Year in Review

Battalion Chief Dean Fowler

QUICK GLANCE

3,194 CALLS DURING 2021

11 WORKING FIRES

Charlie shift has had a very productive year. The year consisted of 3,194 emergency responses and 5 working extrications on shift. We also responded to 11 working fires. We didn't have any reported injuries with any of these incidents.

One major fire that we responded to was a structure fire at Roses Department Store in Ballou Park Shopping Center. The business received heavy fire damage to the structure and damage to two additional businesses on either side of the fire building. The roof on this structure was compromised, and crews did a great job in containing this fire and preventing further loss to other businesses in the shopping center.

We also responded to two fires at Blue Ridge Fiberboard. One consisted of a fire in finished product of insulation board that took approximately three hours to contain. The second fire that we responded to was a large fire in a waste storage area for discarded asphalt coated insulation board. This fire required crews to work for approximately 10 hours and required the assistance of 15 off-duty personnel. Aerial devices and portable master stream devices were required to bring this fire under control. Heavy equipment had to be brought in to help move product for extinguishment and to build dikes to control runoff from firefighting efforts.

We have been able to get five firefighters through the Relief Driver Program and have them relief driving on an engine. We also had two firefighters complete the Aerial Operator Relief Driver Program. We also have an additional captain who has been through training and is now acting in the battalion chief role as needed. We were also fortunate to gain a new member to the C-Shift team – Firefighter Chris Barrett. We want to welcome Chris and look forward to working with him as he begins his career.





Technical and Support Services

Deputy Chief Tim Duffer

2022 will be known for supply chain issues and a year of inflation. The City of Danville was not immune to this as we have seen several issues related to both. We are still waiting on items we ordered over a year ago with the swift water team, and we just received two vehicles that were on order for over a year. However, firefighters are resourceful individuals, and we are able to continue our primary function during these extraordinary times. We have continued to look for grants to fund projects. In 2022 we received a grant to add additional extractors to 3 stations to support better cleaning of our gear. This grant will also provide dryers, and we are adding an equipment washer to clean self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units and helmets. The equipment for this will be ordered in the first quarter of 2023. Danville has also applied for the 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). In this grant cycle, we are asking for a new cascade system and a new fit test unit that will support fit testing the N95 Mask along with our current SCBA mask.

Danville's Regional Haz-Mat team has also been active in training and responded to a number of calls during the year. During 2022, we have updated equipment, and we are currently reviewing new four gas meters that will replace the current ones. The team is also looking to increase our ability to off load products from both highway and rail tanks. With the increased amount of rail incidents, Danville will be ready to mitigate problems before they become major. We look forward to 2023 to increase our training and to support the growth of the city. The Danville team will also be on the road more in 2023 to visit the other localities we serve.



Pictured above are the front of the Washer as well as the front of the UTGC open Gear.



Danville's Haz-Mat crew responded to a propane tanker crash.



Danville's Regional Haz-Mat team participates in training.



Community Risk Reduction

Fire Marshal Shelby Irving

The Community Risk Reduction Division takes an initiative-taking approach regarding the protection of lives and property by ensuring safe fire protection practices within residential property, schools, businesses, churches, and commercial properties, etc. The division is divided into three bureaus: Public Education, Inspections, and Investigations.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Danville Fire Department continues to pride itself on a continually active and interactive public education/community outreach program. The Danville Fire Department's Public Education Bureau philosophy is that fire safety starts early on, building strong foundations in education. Each fall and spring students in preschools and elementary schools are visited by our firefighters. Preschool and elementary students in kindergarten through second grade are given fire safety programs during the annual National Fire Prevention Week. When students reach third grade through fifth grade, they are given

more advanced Fire Safety Programs that include the "Fire Safety House." The Fire Safety House program focuses on how to escape a building on fire that is full of smoke, smoke alarm maintenance, and weather safety. Middle school students



Firefighter J. Hall chats with a youth baseball player at an elementary school

PROGRAMS

Program	Number Installed	Save
Smoke Alarms	143	
Batteries	77	
Child Safety Seats	31	
Safety House Events	44	
Fire Stops	425	1

are taught preparations for their adolescent years and the importance of home/ fire safety. In addition, safety programs are conducted for community events, churches, civic groups, and other community groups.

The Public Education Bureau also coordinate the department's smoke alarm, fire stop, and child safety seat installation programs.

A new program was added in 2022 with the addition of fire stops. Fire stops are small devices that attach to the vent hood above the kitchen stove. This piece of equipment is designed to extinguish a fire on the stove before it gets fully involved in fire.

Firefighters canvassed senior adult homes, apartments, and select neighborhoods where kitchen fires are most likely to occur. The Fire Stop program was successful within two weeks after an installation. An installed fire stop activated and saved an entire complex from a major fire due to its installation in a



*E-4 Visits Schoolfield Elementary School.
Firehouse Dog Darla goes to school.*



senior apartment. The apartment sustained minor damage with no injury to the occupant. This program ties in with the Get Alarmed Danville program where the department installs and maintains smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and batteries.

INSPECTIONS

The Fire Inspection Bureau is responsible for enforcing the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code as well as applicable sections within the Code of the City of Danville. The Inspection Division also works in close cooperation with the City's Building Department, Health Department and State Fire Marshals to mitigate other health and safety code violation matters that impact the quality of life for the residents and visitors of Danville. Through a comprehensive combination of code enforcement and education, fire inspection personnel work with property owners and occupants to eliminate fire hazards found in commercial properties and other public buildings. The inspectors also issue permits for activities such as open burning, blasting, public fireworks display, fumigations, as well as investigate complaints from the public.

The fire inspectors are responsible for reviewing plans for new and old structures including other related plans such as sprinkler plans, commercial kitchen hood systems, fire alarm plans, underground fire mains, and tank removal/installations. The inspection bureau has been extremely busy with the new casino, River District additions, and other construction around the city.

INVESTIGATIONS:

Investigators assigned to the Fire Investigation Bureau are responsible for investigating fires, explosives, explosions, and threats to burn. This is to determine the cause of the fire and the origin of the fire including the investigation of injuries and deaths. They investigate fires of an undetermined or suspicious nature, arson fires, and assist with the arrest and prosecution of perpetrators.

Investigators may also be called to investigate and prosecute other related crimes committed in conjunction with one of the above incidents to include environmental issues. All personnel assigned to the division are sworn law enforcement officers and work closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

Chief Irving and Lieutenant Thornton completed the Basic Law Enforcement Training in May of 2022. Both Irving and Thornton received awards at the graduation ceremony. Irving received the first ever dedication, drive, and discipline award given by her classmates. Thornton received the award for the highest average at the shooting range.

FIRES

Type	Number	Outcome
Structure Fires	42	
Arson	7	2 Arrests
Passenger Vehicle Fires	24	
Cooking Fire Confined to Container	31	Accidental
Brush Fires/ Grass Fires	28	
Building or Structure Weakened or Collapsed	9	
Outside Rubbish, Trash, or Waste Fire	63	



Engine 7 poses with a group at their impromptu hydrant check with Trinity United Methodist Church.



The Emergency Communications Center team helps out with the Danville Library's Summer Reading program.



Training & Safety

Battalion Chief Jon Yeaman

The year started off with the Training Division actively involved with completing the 2021 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) mask fit testing and emergency medical services (EMS) training. It is very common for this training to bleed over from one year to the next because this is one of only a couple of training/activities that require 100% attendance by all members. February 1st the Training Division started another recruit academy comprised of seven young men. These men endured an intense five-month academy certifying them in all aspects of the fire service including but not limited to emergency medical technician (EMT), firefighter level I & II, hazardous materials operations, National Incident Management System, Traffic Incident Management System, mass casualty incident management, rope rescue, surface water rescue technician and vehicle rescue, etc. Six out of the seven gentlemen starting the academy were able to finish. One left the department to take a job with law enforcement.

During the recruit academy, department-wide training did not stop. The Training Division was able to offer and host numerous other classes during the recruit academy for the benefit of the members of the organization. These courses included Fire Officer I, Incident Safety Officer and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1403 Compliance Officer. In addition to these three classes, approximately 60 of our members were able to attend a one-day course on Tactical Emergency Casualty Care sponsored by the Danville Area Training Center and department wide emergency vehicle operations training was also conducted at the airport. Also, during the academy the department conducted our annual ability testing at the fire training center. The shift battalion chiefs organized this testing and with the help of the Division Chief of Training were able to successfully test every member of the organization. The agility times were again some of the best in the history of the ability testing. This continues to prove the physical fitness level of the organization is improving.

At the completion of the recruit academy, the Training Division switched back to department training mode. We kicked things off with our department-wide CPR recertification training. Just like the annual fit testing, this training is also 100%



The training division offers Swiftwater training at the YMCA.





The training division practiced rope rescue.

attendance. At the conclusion of the CPR training, it was perfect timing due to the hot weather for us to revisit the swift water rescue awareness training department wide. Not only because it was warm weather, but the department also changed roles with the Danville Life Saving Crew and became the primary provider of water rescue services within the City of Danville. This training was well received by the members of the department because it was nice to get in the water and a very hands-on approach to training.

Following the swift water training, the Training Division was able to conduct an in-depth in-service training on new vehicle extrication equipment purchased for three of our engines through a federal grant. The in-service training was a success and at the conclusion of the training the equipment was placed on three engines and put into service. The in-service training was offered department-wide because members of our organization are called upon at any given time to operate/ride other apparatus from what they are normally assigned to.

Fall of 2022 was also a busy time for the Training Division as we offered and hosted the following classes for the members

of our organization as well as members from across the Commonwealth of Virginia: Fire Instructor I, Fire Officer II, Surface Water Technician, Swift Water Technician, Rope Rescue Technician, Emergency Building Shoring and Vehicle Rescue Technician.

The Training Division also received training from a world-renowned instructor in high-rise firefighting strategy and tactics. Dave McGrail (Assistant Chief/Denver, Colorado) spent two days with the Training Division sharing his knowledge and expertise in high-rise firefighting in both a classroom and practical environments. The knowledge gained during these two days is currently being used to develop our organization's new high-rise firefighting policies and procedures. It has also been used to verify and assist in the research and development of our organization's new high-rise firefighting kits.

2022 ended with the Training Division conducting the annual fit testing/EMS training. This year we incorporated the company-based skills into this training. During 2021 the company-based skills were so well received we decided to bring them back and even added approximately 18 more scenarios for companies to choose from. These company-based skills allowed companies to arrive at the training center and proceed through two real-world evolutions with very little input from the Training Division. This training although very physical was once again a tremendous hit with department members.

The Training Division plans to keep moving forward in the year 2023 with the start of department-wide training in the middle of January and another recruit academy slated for March 1st. In addition to this, we are continuing to develop new in-house training courses along with building upon our training facilities and mobile equipment.





Emergency Communications

Kasey White

QUICK GLANCE

50,942 PROCESSED 911 CALLS
DURING 2021

46,929 ADMINISTRATIVE
CALLS

During 2022, the Emergency Communications Center processed 50,942 911 calls, 46,929 inbound administrative calls, and 35,129 outbound administrative calls. There were 88,107 Communications Events Reports created for calls for service.

Kristen Smith, Marian Vagts, Stewart Moore, and Pierotti “Pepper” Travis were promoted to Senior Telecommunicator. This promotion is obtained after being employed for three years and obtaining several required certifications.

Telecommunicators attended the APCO/NENA Winter Summit in Chesterfield in February, the APCO/NENA Spring Conference in Virginia Beach in May, and the APCO/NENA/Interoperability Conference in Roanoke in October. Conference

attendance was mostly funded by a \$3,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), and another grant has been obtained for 2024.

Telecommunicators Steve Sutton and Latrice Garland-Stamps attended an APCO Communications Training Officer class at the New River Valley 911 center in November, and Supervisor Brian Cochran took the class online. Manager Kasey White and Supervisor Brian Cochran passed the test for the NENA Emergency Number Professional certification in June. Many other telecommunicators participated in online classes such as active shooter, tactical dispatch, and recruitment and retention, as well as participating in hands-on training with the Danville Fire Department.

Manager Kasey White continued to participate on the VDEM Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) representing state Region 6, and Telecommunicator Beverly Hayes volunteered to assist on a RAC workgroup focused on recruitment and retention.

Emergency Communications Center dispatchers participated in the Ballou Park Community Light Show, career fairs, school events, and several community engagement walks.



Three dispatchers attended Entry Level Basic Dispatch School in January and September at the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy in Martinsville. Supervisor Darlene Foster instructed at the schools.

The 911 phone system was upgraded to an IP-based Next Generation 911 phone system in March. This system allows better interoperability with and call transfer to other agencies in Virginia, North Carolina, and countrywide. This upgrade had been planned for many years and required a team effort between several Danville agencies to include Mobile Communications America (phone equipment provider), AT&T, Verizon, Intrado, VDEM, and others. The majority of this upgrade was funded by a grant from VDEM, but we also opted to purchase additional equipment to

build a seventh console in the manager's office. This will allow the 911 Manager to quickly assist with high call volume and a seventh telecommunicator to work from a full console in a disaster situation.

The Emergency Communications Center looks forward to another successful year and hopes to continue expanding training and educational opportunities.



Telecommunicators Week



A special thank
you to all of our
telecommunicators!



Throughout the Year



DFD held their 1st Annual Chili Cookoff



First responders enjoyed a luncheon provided by Piggly Wiggly.



We appreciate our Retirees for their service. We are thankful for all the work and dedication they have shown our community.





**SPECIAL THANKS
FOR THE CONSTANT
SUPPORT FROM:**

City Manager Ken Larking
Mayor Alonzo Jones
Vice Mayor Gary Miller
Councilman James Buckner
Councilman L.G. Larry Campbell, Jr.
Councilman Bryant Hood
Councilman Barry Mayo
Councilman Sherman Saunders
Councilman J. Lee Vogler
Councilman Madison Whittle



@DanvilleVaFire

