

City of Elk River Fire Department



2022 Year-end Report Otsego

From the Chief's Desk

Greetings,

I would like to start out by thanking the City of Otsego leadership for their continued support of our fire department, and the community who we serve. The year 2022 brought substantial changes in our department. We were fortunate to be able to build a beautiful new fire station on the east side that is already proving to be an asset to the entire city, and also includes training capabilities our firefighters have never had before. We enhanced our current fire station 2 with a re-model and addition that provides us with decontamination rooms, bathrooms with showers, two larger apparatus bays, and an HVAC system that will keep toxic gases out of the station. We also were able to purchase a new state of the art aerial truck that we hope to have operational by 2026. We also started a Community Risk Reduction program and enhanced our emergency management with technology updates to our Emergency Operations Center.

The year 2022 year-end report shows a breakdown of the emergency responses provided to the City of Otsego by the Elk River Fire Department. We saw a significant decrease in both structural fires and wildland fires during the year. However, alarms still make-up the majority of our responses and motor vehicle accidents with significant injuries or fatalities are still very high. We are addressing both issues in 2023 with a comprehensive analysis for risk reduction that will provide us data on creating safer travel on our roads and for pedestrian traffic.

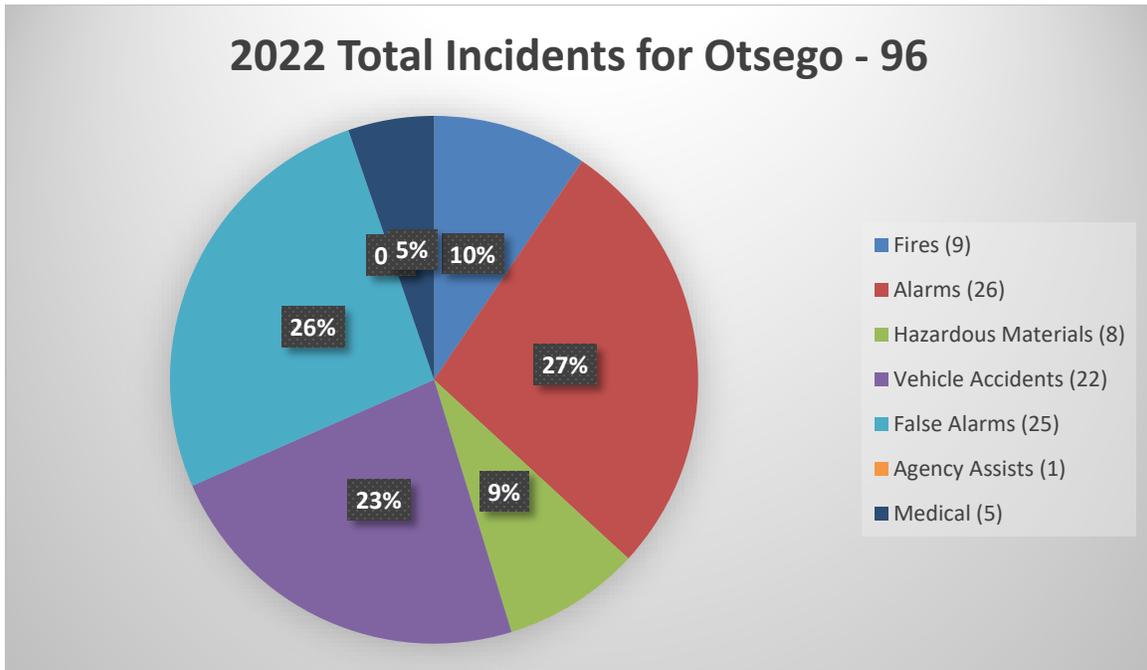
We also had some hard times hit our department in 2022, with three of our firefighter's families having tragedy strike. Two of our firefighters lost a child due to unfortunate circumstances, both of which we responded to as an emergency event. In addition, we most recently had another one of our firefighters three-year-old son diagnosed with Leukemia on Christmas day. These events sent shockwaves through our department and not only effected our firefighters but their family members as well. Our fire family is very close which is why we have persevered through these tough times, even though it impacted all of us we were also able to provide the support for these families that they needed.

In conclusion, we are working hard to find creative ways that will provide exceptional service to our community and partners businesses and members, expanding our community risk reduction program that will create a safer and more resilient community, and planning for inevitable changes that will impact our department in the future. As always, if you have any questions regarding this year-end report, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark Dickinson

Fire Chief & Director of Emergency Management



The Elk River Fire Department received a total of ninety-six calls for service in 2022. The pie chart above breaks down the 96 incidents into categories based on the National Fire Incident Reporting Systems (NFIRS).

Category #1 (Fires) are generally what most people think of when they picture a fire department response. This includes all structural, vehicle, wild land, cooking, rubbish, and mutual aid.

Category #2 (Alarms) includes all carbon monoxide, sprinkler, and fire alarms responded to where no fire was found upon arrival.

Category #3 (Hazardous Materials) pertains to incidents involving a hazardous materials leak, spill, or release (i.e., natural gas, fuel, carbon dioxide, etc.).

Category #4 (Vehicle Accidents) involves a response to motorized vehicle accidents that include both injured and non-injured patients. Extrication of patients from vehicles is an advanced skill that is often needed.

Category 5 (False alarms) includes all 911 activations where we responded but no problem was found upon arrival, or we were cancelled by dispatch en-route.

Category 6 (Agency assists) refers to responding to an incident to assist another agency (i.e., law enforcement or utilities for downed power lines).

Category 7 (medical) includes all medical responses requested by ambulance.

Additional information For the City of Otsego

Total loss for structure fires > \$60,000

Total loss for outbuilding/sheds >\$30,000

Fires:

- Commercial or residential four
- Cooking/confined to stove two
- Brush fire/wildland one
- Vehicle fire one
- Other one

Motor Vehicle Accidents:

- MVA/with injuries twenty
- MVA/without injuries two