

SUMMIT FIRE & EMS 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



*Dedicated and compassionate professionals providing all-hazards solutions to the community
through education, prevention and response*



As an all-hazards emergency-response organization, Summit Fire & EMS handles a variety of incidents, such as this rollover of a tanker in Silverthorne in May, or, on the cover, the Cemetery Trail wildfire in September.

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Chief Travis Davis

Greetings! I'm pleased to offer this annual report detailing the great work performed in 2022 by the professionals of Summit Fire & EMS.

This was our second year operating formally under the banner of the Summit Fire & EMS Fire Protection District, and you'll now see that name on your property-tax statements after we extracted the Copper Mountain Fire Department from the Copper Mountain Consolidated Metro District and retired the old Lake Dillon Fire Protection District name.

It was somewhat fitting, then, that we celebrated the retirement of the sole remaining paid member (and the last to be hired before the consolidations began) of the Frisco Fire Department, beloved longtime Battalion Chief Kelly Wagner. Like many of us, Kelly saw our department evolve in so many significant ways, growing from a collection of separate neighborhood/town fire departments – often kept running by volunteers – to where we are now: a fully professional, internationally accredited all-hazards response agency more than 100 strong, operating four full-time, 24/7 fire stations.

In one of the latest professional developments, the passage of Colorado Senate Bill 25 in 2022 ushered in the formal recognition of our firefighter's union. As a result, the district has been working constructively with the union in forging our first collective-bargaining agreement.

In the past year, SFE instituted several initiatives, including adoption of new software for everyday business and records management, implemented a new audio-video system to enhance communications within the department and with the public, and updated

our website to reduce the need for in-person engagement and create greater convenience for the public.

In May, SFE held a public election for two seats on our board of directors won by Joe Ben Slivka and Dan Johnson, both of whom bring excellent emergency-services backgrounds to their positions.

While 2022 mercifully was a very quiet year in terms of wildfires, we added two additional staff members to round out our Wildland Division with three experienced professionals working year-round on mitigation, prevention, training and spearheading our organization's response for when the fires do strike our area.

Meanwhile, turnover within our ranks has stabilized, and we currently have almost all positions filled. At our size, some natural attrition always is expected, but we're pleased that we can attract quality candidates to fill vacancies when they occur.

As a growing agency, everything that we have done since the mid 1990's always has been dependent on opportunity, timing, availability of financial resources and fiscal responsibility. The final piece of this organization that we've been building is to re-establish a presence in the town of Silverthorne with a new fire station.

Architectural and site plans, contracting and permitting now all are underway, and, if we stay on our optimistic timetable, we aspire to break ground on our site at the north end of town by the end of 2023.

We, the administration, response crews and staff of Summit Fire & EMS thank you for your interest and unwavering support of our efforts, and we endeavor to provide you with a department that continues earn your confidence and inspire your pride.

–Chief Travis Davis

OPERATIONS



**Deputy Chief
John Wilkerson**

Summit Fire & EMS cadre of professional firefighters and medics operate out of our four 24-hour, 365-day fire stations in Copper Mountain, Dillon, Frisco and Keystone.

Response to all-hazards incidents (alarms, fires, hazardous-materials incidents, vehicle crashes, etc.) jumped 18 percent over 2021, with a total of 2,064 calls, while our EMS calls dropped by 3 percent, for a total of 2,659 calls.

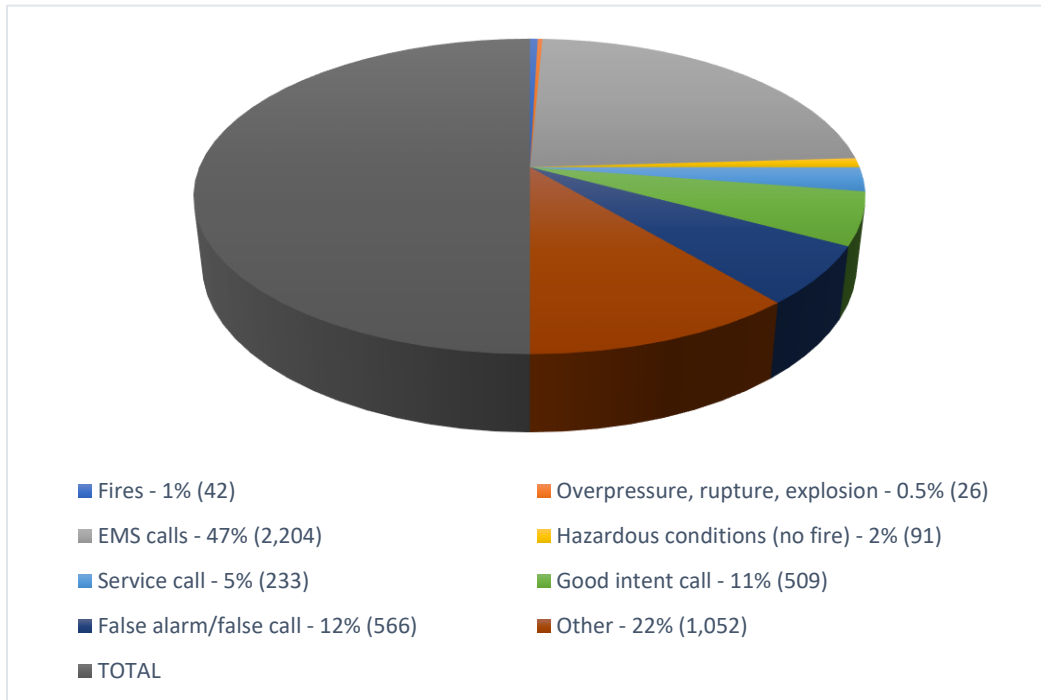
Significant incidents in 2022 included the rollover of a tanker truck on Colorado 9 in Silverthorne in May; numerous serious vehicle crashes throughout the year; several successful resuscitations of patients with cardiac distress; the Cemetery Trail wildfire near the landfill in September; and a December fire that destroyed a house under construction in Silverthorne.

We're pleased to report that our district suffered no loss of life due to fires in 2022, and our response crews saved \$8.6 million in property at risk from fires. A total of \$1.3 million in property was lost in 36 incidents, excluding the yet-to-be-determined value of the Silverthorne fire, primarily in the form of vehicle fires.

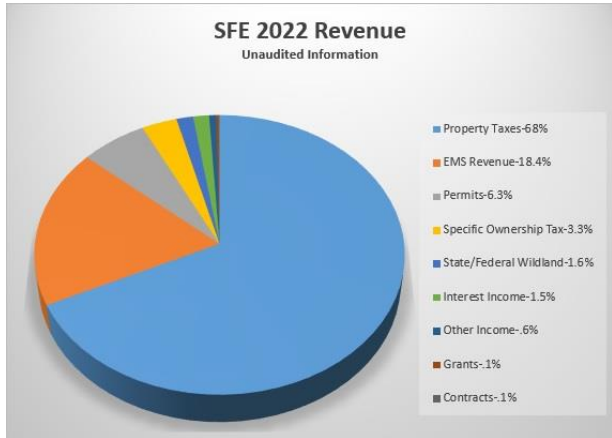
The Wildland Division oversaw the deployment of SF&EMS personnel to four out-of-state wildfire assignments, which provide valuable training for our crews, with all expenses, including the backfill of staffing back home, covered by the local fire-management team.

Our response crews participated in more than 6,000 hours of training to ensure that they are adept at handling all types of emergencies that can occur here. Regular seasonal training for responses such as wildfire and ice rescue help refresh the lessons that our first responders encounter.

2022 Major Incidents



FINANCE/BUDGET



**Finance Manager
Mary Hartley**

Summit Fire & EMS takes great pride in its careful stewardship of your tax dollars, with a transparent public budgeting process overseen by our elected board of directors.

The 2023 budget of \$19 million includes salaries and benefits for 101 employees, including 79 frontline first responders and 22 administrative employees.

The district is building a new fire station in Silverthorne, anticipating tapping the fund balance reserve for a total of about \$9 million dollars to cover construction costs.

Summit Fire was funded in 2022 primarily by property taxes, which made up 68 percent of the district’s revenue. Property owners pay 13 mills annually to the district, or the equivalent of \$468 for every \$500,000 of property value. Another 18 percent of funding was derived from emergency medical services, and all other revenue – including permit fees, state and federal wildland funding and interest income – generated 14 percent of the budget.

The total budgeted for capital in 2023 is \$5,120,800, of which \$4 million is for the design and initial construction of the Silverthorne fire station. The remainder is budgeted for equipment, station upgrades and apparatus for the district.

SF&EMS ended the 2022 calendar year financially sound, under budget for operating expenses and with no debt incurred.

The district’s financial statements are audited annually by a CPA firm in accordance with generally accepted auditing principles. The audit provides assurance for the board, staff, citizens and others that the district funds are accounted for properly and in compliance with laws and regulations.

The district had an estimated reserve fund balance of \$27,140,972, of which \$724,318 is restricted for emergencies, \$28,908 is restricted by donors, and \$6,038,251 is earmarked for capital expenditures.

A copy of the budget is available upon request at the district’s administration building, located at 0035 County Shops Road in the County Commons complex near Frisco. It also is available online at www.summitfire.org.

FIRE PREVENTION



After a two-year hiatus, Summit Fire & EMS personnel such as Battalion Chief Kevin Skaer resumed in-person fire-safety lessons at each of the four elementary schools as well as pre-schools, day camps and other engagements.



Division Chief
Kim McDonald

The SF&EMS Community Risk Division, operating under the fire marshal, protects lives and property through planning, education and inspections.

With a staff of five full-time inspectors including supervisors, the division conducted 924 inspections for new construction and safety systems, issued 229 wildfire-mitigation permits, approved 432 fire-pit permits, performed 412 annual fire-safety inspections of existing businesses and created 624 online “pre-plan” profiles of commercial buildings to assist emergency responders with vital information about access, fire-suppression systems, utility cutoffs and other safety concerns.

Additionally, the division accepted 412 applications for new construction, alarms, sprinkler systems and photo-voltaic systems in 2022, generating a record \$1.3 million in permit fees.

Over the summer, the division conducted its first direct large-scale educational outreach efforts for both contractors and school-district staff to assist them in understanding the fire codes that are enforced through routine inspections. These community outreach efforts will continue with presentations offered to local homeowner’s associations, event staff, and other organizations that seek educational opportunities.

Finally, after a two-year hiatus, SF&EMS staff and response crews taught in-person fire-safety lessons to 1,230 students, ranging from pre-K through fifth grade at all four elementary schools as part of Fire Prevention Week.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Summit Fire & EMS crews partake in training throughout the year to ensure that skills are sharp in everything from ice rescue to vehicle extrication, emergency medicine and hazardous-materials spills.



HR Manager
Matt Scheer

Summit Fire & EMS experienced relative stability in employment in 2022 after significant movement in the previous year.

The organization celebrated many promotions in the ranks from within: **Shaun Sawyer** became the accreditation manager; **Kevin Skaer** and **Lou Laurina** were promoted to battalion chiefs; **Joe Hemelt** took a job as an EMS coordinator; **Ryan Grafmiller** earned a new position as lieutenant; **Ian Aneloski** became an engineer; **William Martinez**, **Tony Maurina** and **Chad Ammerman** joined as firefighter/medics; **Corey Okes** earned a promotion to firefighter/medic;

www.summitfire.org

Dan Breyer bumped up to firefighter/EMT; **Patrick Turgeon** was promoted to EMS specialist; **Jake Butts**, **Sam Brunetta**, **Tom Davies**, **Emma Taylor** and **Tristan Williams** took new jobs with us as firefighters; **Hannah Ohlson** and **Doug Lesch** joined our wildland division as specialists; and former longtime medic **Jacob Love** returned in a new role of EMS specialist.

Amid much laughter, we bid farewell to Battalion Chief **Kelly Wagner** with a splendid send-off for his retirement in June after more than 30 years of service. And it is bittersweet that we bid adieu in December to EMS Division Chief **Jamie Woodworth**, who left after more than 20 years beginning with the Summit County Ambulance Service for a great opportunity as assistant chief with the Denver Health Paramedic Division.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



If there is a “common” vehicle-fire call for Summit Fire & EMS, it is that of a truck overheating its brakes on the steep grades of Interstate 70, as seen here in Officer’s Gulch in August.



Deputy Chief
Brian Schenking

SF&EMS Administrative Services oversees all of the support functions of the department, ranging from information technology to fleet services that keep the agency functioning.

In 2022, the department:

- Undertook a comprehensive replacement/upgrade to server and network infrastructure at headquarters and Stations 2, 8 and 11 due to outdated and obsolete equipment diminishing reliability and security.
- Upgraded cybersecurity and software monitoring systems, including new firewalls, switches and routers.
- Modernized workstations for all administrative and operations staff members.
- Provided tablet computers to all inspectors, fire engines and ambulances to support new report-management software.
- Completed a comprehensive update of audio-visual systems to enable remote meetings and collaboration with stakeholders. The administration building is now equipped to act as a fully integrated incident-command post capable of coordinating with the Summit County Emergency Operations Center during large incidents.
- Completely rebuilt the SummitFire.org website to allow electronic submission of permits and building plans. Additionally, the Community Connect feature on the website encourages business owners and residents to share critical building or property information with emergency responders over a secure exchange.



Participating in public events such as day-camp programs for kids to Silverthorne’s Safe Summer Kickoff to free wildfire consultations to property owners and homeowners’ associations are just some of the ways that Summit Fire & EMS spreads the word about safety and emergency preparedness.

Board of Directors

Summit Fire & EMS is governed by a five-member, publicly elected Board of Directors charged with representing the community interests in setting policy, establishing fiscal responsibility and guiding the philosophical direction of the organization. The current board includes President Lori Miller, Vice President Jen Barchers, Treasurer Joe Ben Slivka and Directors Linda St. John and Dan Johnson.



President
Lori Miller



Vice-President
Jen Barchers



Treasurer
Joe Ben Slivka



Director
Linda St. John



Director
Dan Johnson

Summit Fire & EMS (970) 262-5100 Administration: 0035 County Shops Road, Frisco