



Lemont Fire Protection District Annual Report 2023



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Mission Statement

The mission of the Lemont Fire Protection District is to provide the highest level of professional service to all within our community.



Integrity through Professionalism

Honor with Compassion

Dedication to Community

Message from the Fire Chief

On behalf of the men and women of the Lemont Fire Protection District, it is my honor to present to you the 2023 Annual Report.

As our community continues to grow and expand, demand for our services has also increased. Your Lemont firefighters responded to 4,323 calls for service in 2023. This represents over a 5% increase from 2022 and was the busiest year in our history.

We took delivery of a tender that was originally ordered in 2021. This vehicle replaced a 25-year-old vehicle that is used to bring water to fires in rural areas that do not have fire hydrants. A new vehicle for the Hazardous Materials Team was also purchased to replace the 37-year-old vehicle currently being used. Both vehicles served us well and were replaced as part of our capital replacement plan. A grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was used to purchase a new boat and trailer for the Water Rescue Team.

Our 2020 Community Risk Assessment and 2022 Strategic Plan both identified that our response times to emergencies were well above the nationally recognized standards. As our community continues to grow and expand, we are forced to reevaluate how our services are delivered to ensure we are meeting the expectations of our community. In 2022, and after several years of discussion and evaluation, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of two properties to be used for the potential relocation of two fire stations. In December of 2023, the Board of Trustees approved a Community Engagement Program that would begin in 2024. The purpose of this program is intended to seek feedback on the future of emergency services in our community and will help guide district administrators and the Board of Trustees as we plan for the future of the Lemont Fire Protection District.

It is my honor to serve as your Fire Chief and I look forward to working with our district members and community partners as we continue our tradition of providing the highest level of professional service to all within our community.



*Fire Chief
Daniel Tasso*



Daniel J. Tasso
Fire Chief
Lemont Fire Protection District
www.LemontFire.com

District Overview



Village of Lemont President John McCarty (left) with members of the Lemont Police and Fire Departments in 1893.

(Photo courtesy of the Lemont Area Historical Society)

The Lemont Fire Protection District was originally incorporated as the “Volunteer Fire Department of the Village of Lemont” on February 10, 1886. Today, the fire district provides fire suppression and prevention activities, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and other hazardous responses to approximately 32,000 residents, employees, and visitors to our community. The district protects 26.4 square miles and serves the Village of Lemont and Lemont Township; portions of the Villages of Darien, Palos Park, and Woodridge, as well as unincorporated areas in Cook, DuPage, and Will Counties.

54 sworn members provide emergency services 24 hours a day, seven days a week and operate out of four fire stations that are strategically located throughout the district. These firefighters and officers’ cross staff three engines, one ladder truck, and four ambulances. Nine civilian personnel provide additional administrative and support services.



Board of Trustees

As the corporate authority of the Lemont Fire Protection District, the Fire Board of Trustees governs the district. The Board of Trustees have the power to supervise, control, regulate and manage the district and to make and enforce all necessary ordinances and rules for the proper management and conduct of the business of the Board. Such powers are subject to the provisions of the statutes of the State of Illinois and the ordinances of the Lemont Fire Protection District.

The Board of Trustees is comprised of five elected officials who each serve for a six-year term.



President Joseph Falese
Serving Since 2021



Treasurer Raymond Negrete
Serving Since 2021



Secretary Linda Bernacchi
Serving Since 2022



Trustee Daniel Tholotowsky
Serving since 2022



Trustee Michael Smollen
Serving Since 2023

Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners are responsible for the testing, selection, promotion, and discipline of all sworn firefighters.

Members of the Board of Commissioners are appointed to three-year terms by the Board of Trustees.



Chairman John Bernacchi
Serving since 2008



Vice-Chairman Jay Nickleski
Serving since 2021



Secretary George Rimbo
Serving since 2021

Command Staff



Fire Chief / Administrator

Daniel Tasso

Serving since 2022

The Fire Chief is appointed by and reports directly to the Board of Trustees. The Fire Chief is responsible for overseeing all activities of the Lemont Fire Protection District.



Deputy Chief of Operations

Matt Peksa

Serving since 1997

The Deputy Chief of Operations is appointed by the Board of Trustees and reports to the Fire Chief. This position is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing the programs and emergency operations of the fire district.



Deputy Chief of Administration

John Truffa

Serving since 2002

The Deputy Chief of Administration is appointed by the Board of Trustees and reports to the Fire Chief. This position is responsible for supervising and coordinating all administrative activities within the fire district.

Battalion Chiefs

Under the general direction of the Deputy Chief of Operations, Battalion Chiefs oversee the day-to-day operations of the four fire stations and all personnel for their assigned 24-hour shift. The Battalion Chief is responsible to establish Incident Command at all emergency incidents.

Black Shift



Battalion Chief
Richard Moses
Serving since 2000

Red Shift



Battalion Chief
David Bettenhausen
Serving since 1994

Gold Shift



Battalion Chief
David Evers
Serving since 1997



Photo courtesy of Daniel Hynd.

Administrative and Staff Support



Fire & Life Safety Educator
Jeff Hawthorne
Serving since 2001



Administrative Assistant
Sandy Dominik
Serving since 2010



IT Systems Manager
Fernando Alfonso
Serving since 2012



Fire Inspector
Brian Madden
Serving since 2018



Fire Marshal
Jennifer Murray
Serving since 2020



EMS Coordinator
Tyler Yost
Serving since 2021



Mechanic
Stacey Devitt
Serving since 2023



Building & Equipment Manager
Steve Bacho
Serving since 2023



Fire Stations

The Lemont Fire Protection District protects 26.4 square miles and serves the Village of Lemont and Lemont Township; portions of the Villages of Darien, Palos Park, and Woodridge as well as unincorporated areas in Cook, DuPage, and Will Counties. Four fire stations are strategically located throughout our community to allow for a quick response to emergencies.



The first fire station for Lemont was located within the original Lemont Village Hall at 418 Main Street. The building was built in 1893 and contained village offices, the village jail, the volunteer fire department, and the public library. *(Photo courtesy of Bill Friedrich.)*



A new fire station was built next to the original location at 416 Main Street in 1956 and was designed to house the fire department's five vehicles and provide a meeting space for the volunteers. *(Photo courtesy of Bill Friedrich.)*

In 1976, a new Station 1 was built on New Avenue. The fire district began to provide paramedic services to the community and transitioned to a paid department in the 1980's. The new station could now house three ambulances, two engines, one ladder truck, two tenders, and two service squads as well as living quarters for firefighters/paramedics.

As the community grew and demands for service increased, Station 2 was built in 1992 on Bell Road to provide better protection for the east side of the district. Station 3 was built in 1994 on donated land on Marmon Drive in Woodridge to serve the north side. Station 4 was built in 2004 on donated land near Main and Walker to help with the steadily increasing call volume.



Station 1

- 15900 New Avenue, Lemont
- Built in 1976



Station 2

- 12940 S. Bell Road, Lemont
- Built in 1992



Station 3

- 10801 S. Marmon Drive, Woodridge
- Built in 1994



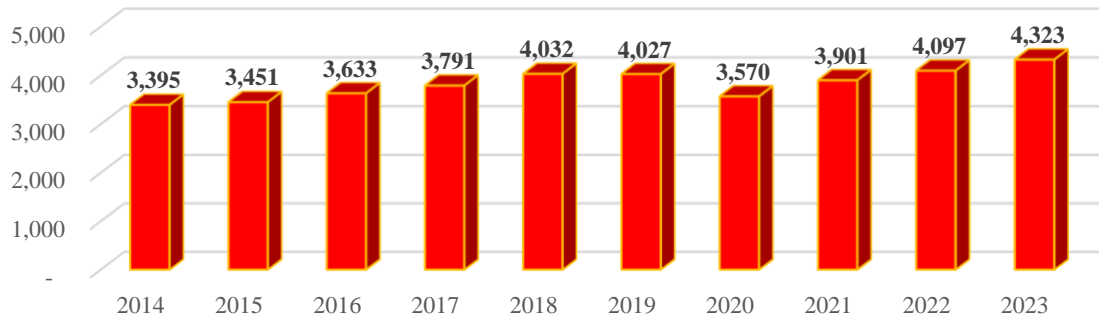
Station 4

- 11520 S. Walker Road, Lemont
- Built in 2004

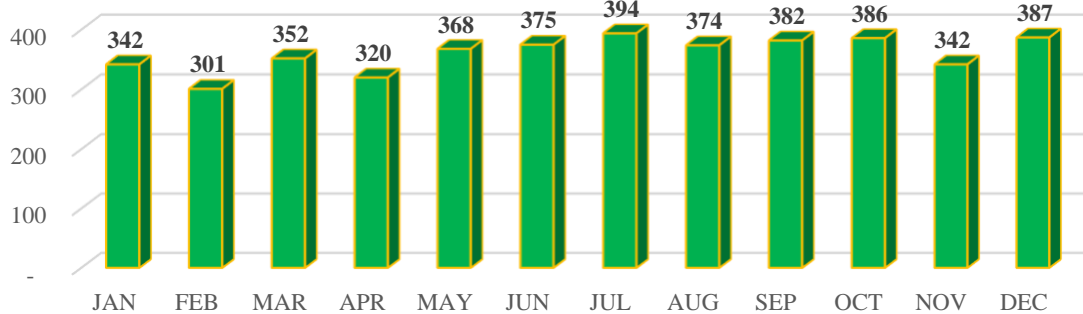
2023 Response Summary

The Lemont Fire Protection District responded to **4,323 calls for service in 2023**. This was the busiest year in our history and represents a 5.5% increase from 2022, and a 27.3% increase over the last 10 years.

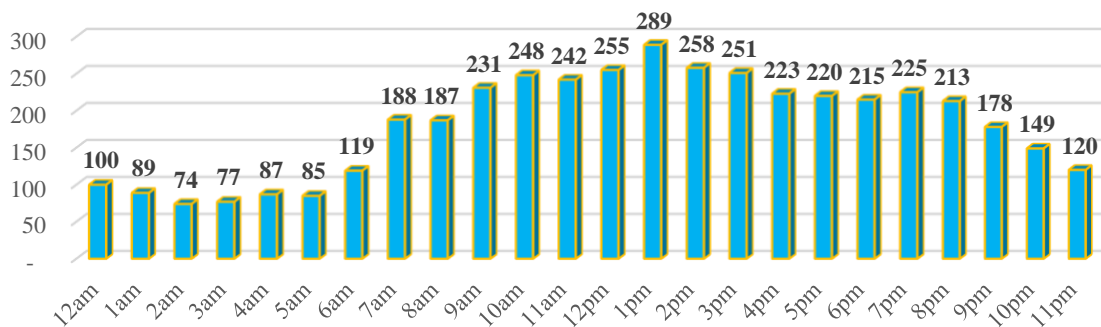
10 Year Incident History



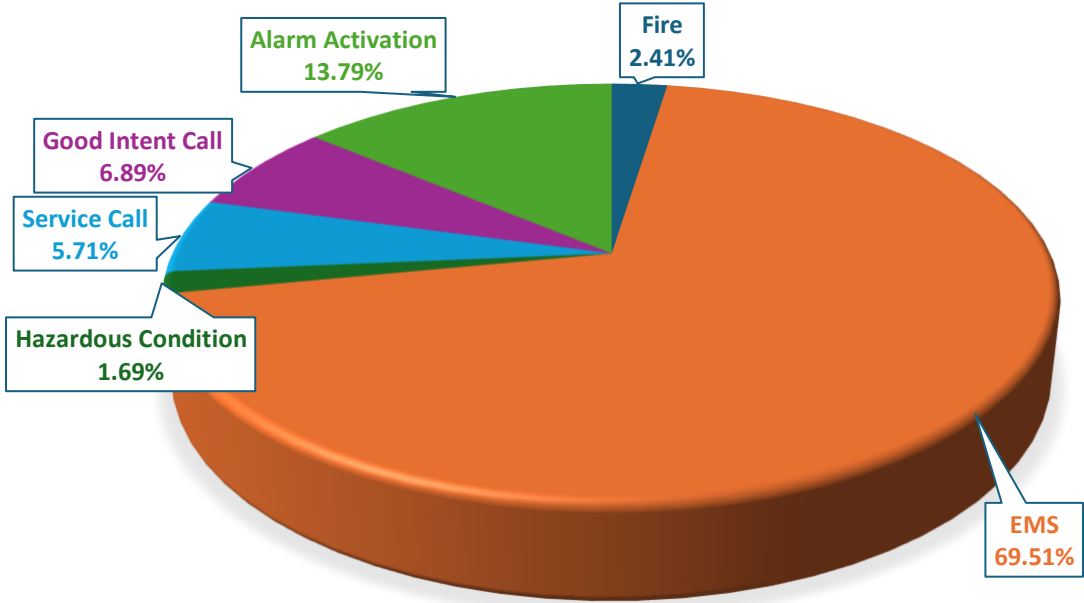
2023 Incidents Per Month



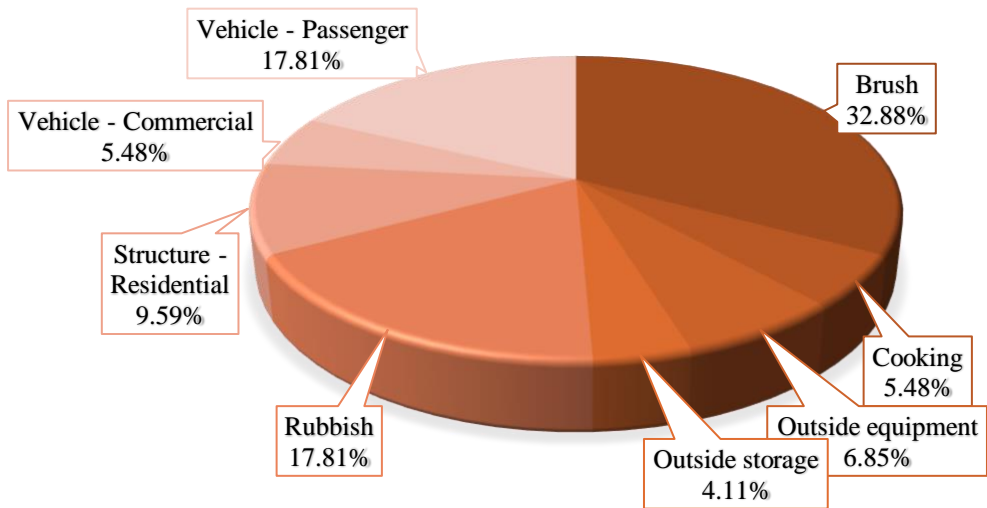
2023 Incidents Per Hour of Day



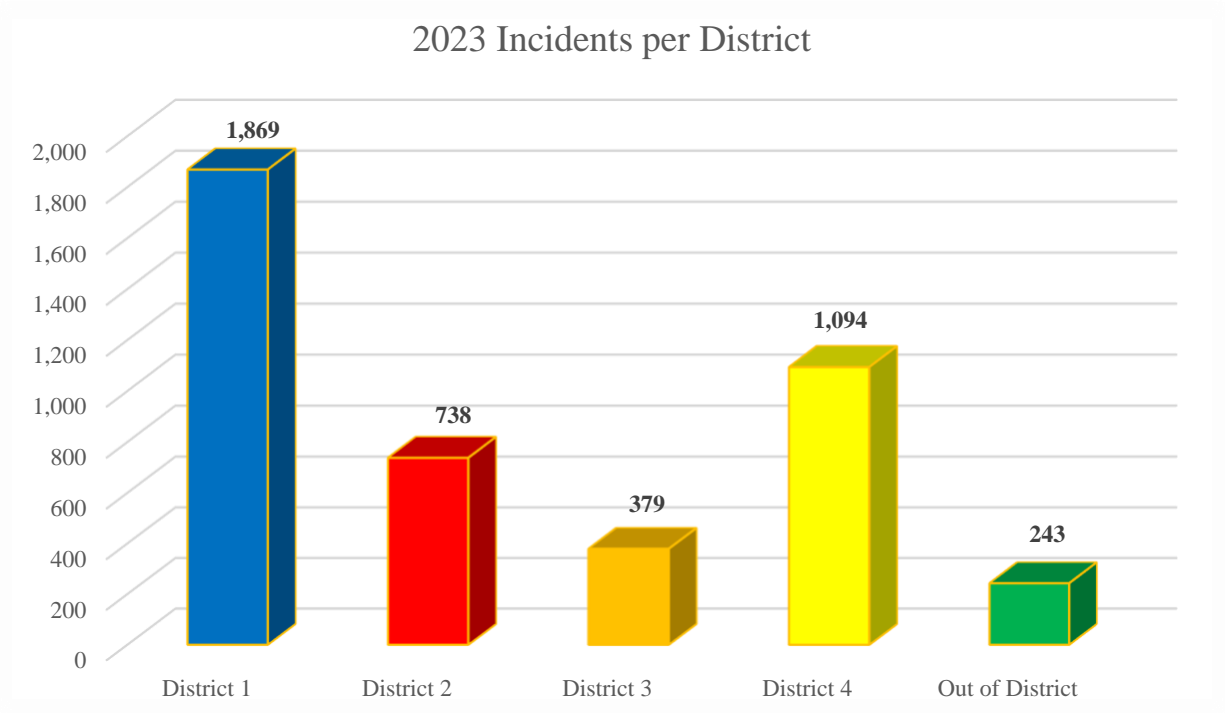
2023 INCIDENT TYPES



2023 FIRES



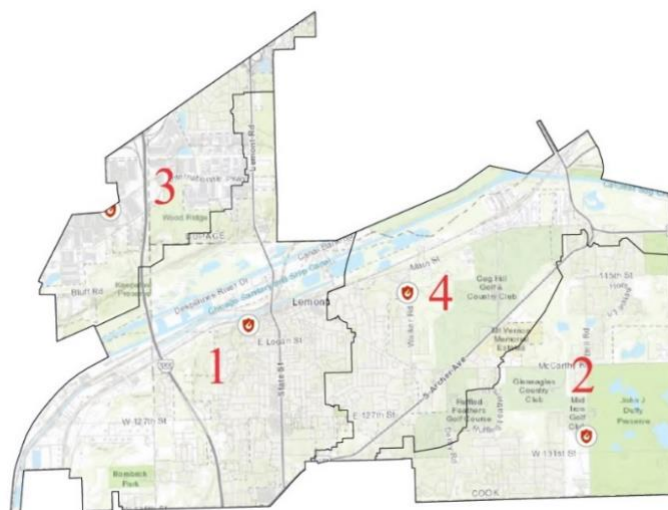
The Lemont Fire Protection District responded to 73 fires in 2023. These fires resulted in an estimated loss of \$1,806,700 to local homeowners and businesses.



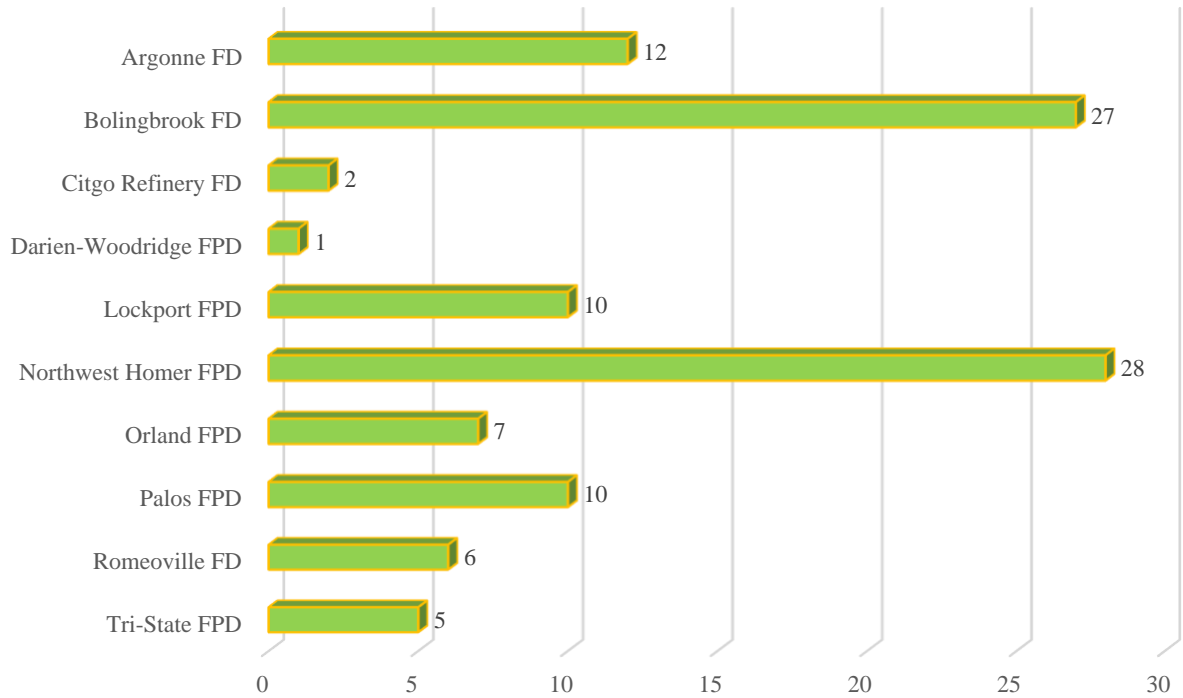
The Lemont Fire Protection District protects a total of 26.4 square miles. This total response area is divided into four geographical ‘districts.’ Historically, each fire station was assigned an area as their ‘first due’ response area and would be dispatched to calls within their assigned district.

Today, live GPS information is used to send the closest appropriate vehicle to calls regardless of the incident’s location. This allows us to reduce our overall response times by sending the closest appropriate vehicle.

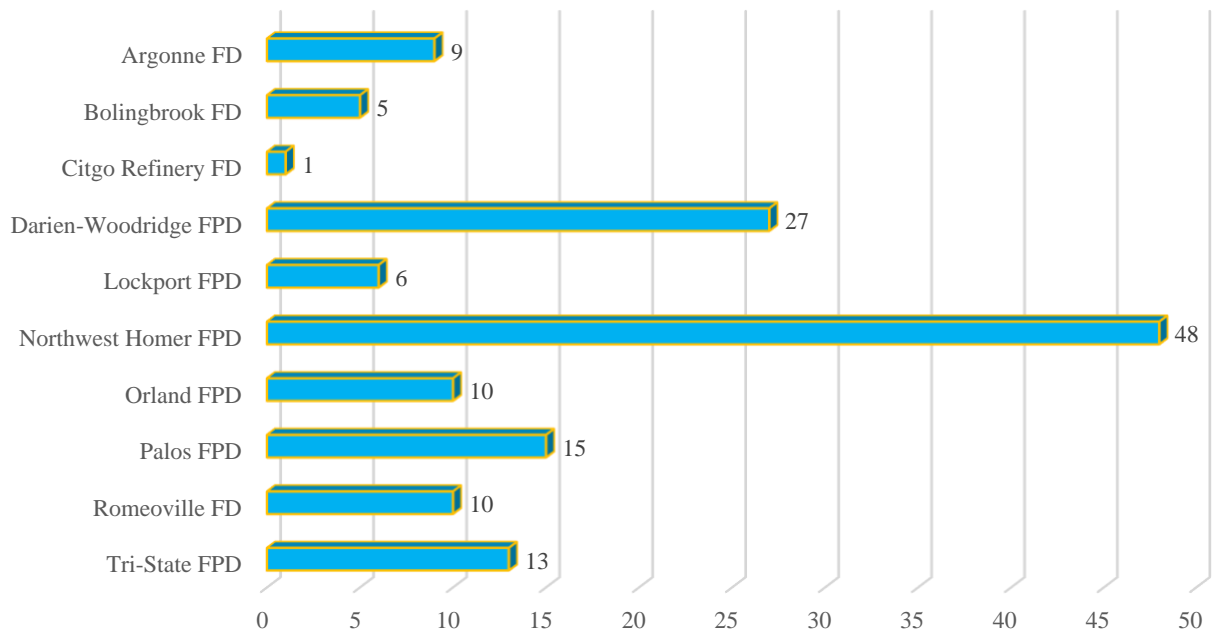
Responses listed as “Out of District” indicate mutual aid responses where Lemont firefighters were called to assist neighboring fire departments with their incidents.



Auto and Mutual Aid - Given



Auto and Mutual Aid - Received



2023 Unit Responses

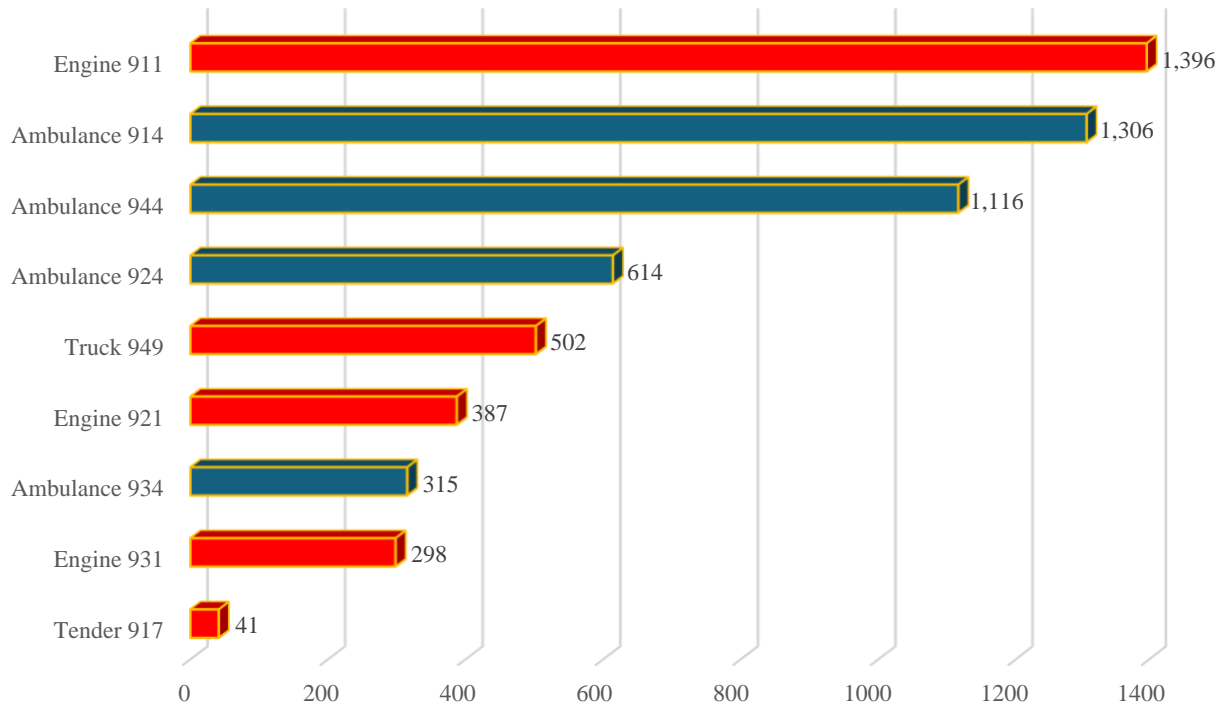


Photo courtesy of Daniel Hynd.

Apparatus

The Lemont Fire Protection District maintains a fleet of the following front-line vehicles to respond to emergencies:

- 4 – ALS Ambulances
- 3 – ALS Fire Engines
- 1 – ALS Ladder Truck
- 1 – Tender

An additional ambulance and fire engine are kept in a reserve status. These reserve units are placed in front-line service when a primary vehicle is taken out of service for maintenance or repairs.

Several other vehicles are used for specialty team responses, support, or administrative work.

What is an Advanced Life Support vehicle?

A vehicle that is designated as Advanced Life Support (ALS) is staffed with paramedics and carries medical equipment that can be used during a medical emergency. All firefighters with the LFPD are also certified paramedics. This means that if a fire engine is closer than an ambulance to a medical emergency, the firefighters on the engine can initiate the same ALS care immediately upon their arrival before the ambulance arrives.



Ambulance

- Staffed by 2-3 paramedics
- Provides ALS medical services and lifesaving medications
- Treatment and transport of patients to the closest appropriate hospital

Engine

- Staffed by one Lieutenant and 2-3 firefighters
- ALS equipped
- Carries 750 gallons of water, pump, hose, ground ladders, and rescue tools
- Establishes water supply, performs fire attack, and rescue operations

Ladder Truck

- Staffed by one Lieutenant and 2-3 firefighters
- ALS equipped
- Carries 300 gallons of water, pump, hose, ground ladders, and a 100' tower ladder
- Supports fire attack and rescue operations

Tender

- Staffed with 1-2 firefighters
- Carries 3,000 gallons of water and pump
- Mobile water supply for rural areas that do not have fire hydrants

Insurance Services Office (ISO)

The Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) is an independent company that collects and evaluates information from communities in the United States on their structure fire suppression capabilities. The data is analyzed using their Fire Suppression Rating Schedule and a Public Protection Classification (PPC) grade is assigned to the community. Insurance companies then use this PPC grade for marketing, underwriting, and to help establish fair premiums for homeowners and commercial fire insurance policies.

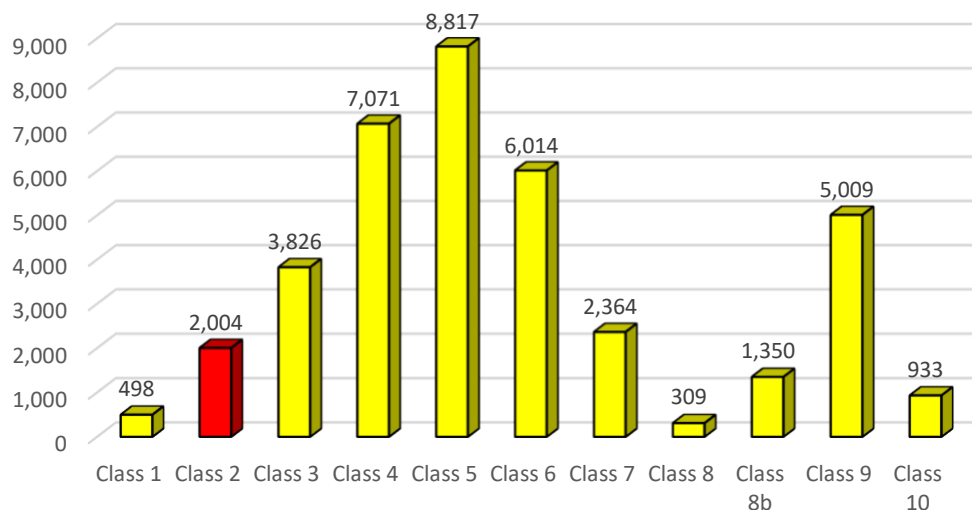


ISO analyzes the relevant data and assigns a PPC grade that ranges from 1 (high) to 10 (low). The PPC program evaluates the following areas of a community's fire department according to a uniform set of criteria and incorporates nationally recognized standards:

- Emergency communications (10% of total PPC score)
- Fire Department (50% of total PPC score)
- Water supply (40% of total PPC score)

The Lemont Fire Protection District was revaluated by ISO in 2021. Because of improvements made in the areas of training, water supply, equipment, and a continuing commitment to excellence by all personnel, the district's previous PPC grade of 4 was improved to a 2 and became effective January 1, 2022. This places the LFPD in the top 6% of rated fire departments across the country.

Distribution of PPC Grades - Nationwide



Emergency Medical Services

All 48 firefighters and lieutenants with the Lemont Fire Protection District are also licensed paramedics and cross-staff our fleet of four Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances, three ALS fire engines, one ALS ladder truck, and one ALS Polaris UTV.

When responding to an emergency, the closest appropriate vehicle is dispatched. In 2023, nearly 70% of the calls we responded to were EMS related. If a fire engine or the ladder truck arrives before the ambulance, personnel are trained and equipped to immediately begin EMS treatment.

In 2023, we equipped each of our front-line fire apparatus with the latest Zoll AED Pro technology. This advancement allows our fire apparatus to begin advanced cardiovascular care prior to an ambulance arriving on scene.

Throughout the year crews were routinely involved in hands-on, skill-based training sessions that sharpened the skills that they not only perform every day on EMS calls, but also some of the skills they are not performing quite as often. It was truly amazing to see so many of our FF/PM's take pride in the skill set that they are responsible for as paramedics and demonstrate the drive to continue providing the highest quality medical care to the residents of Lemont.

While most COVID specific protocols came to an end, we remain vigilant and continue to follow the guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). We will continue to make necessary changes for the safety of our crews, their families, and the citizens we serve.

With the end of COVID restrictions, we resumed teaching CPR/First Aid to the public, however, we have made a change to how that process is completed. Instead of a traditional in person course, we have moved to a hybrid model. This allows interested individuals to complete a small online portion at their own leisure, and then come in to complete a skills session with one of our CPR instructors for certification.



EMS Coordinator Tyler Yost

Contact EMS Director
Tyler Yost at
TYost@lemontfire.com if
you are interested in
scheduling a CPR class.

Training

In 2023, district personnel completed over 21,000 hours of training that included fire, rescue, hazardous materials, emergency medical training and annual compliance training. We continued to take an active role participating in the MABAS Division 19 training program, providing our personnel with many opportunities for classroom and practical training evolutions.

In 2023, over 800 members from the eleven MABAS 19 agencies participated in the monthly training sessions. In addition, we trained with various other neighboring agencies several times during the year, greatly improving our ability to work together in the event of an emergency. Our personnel also utilized district training funds and other grant funded opportunities to advance their training and education in a variety of different subject areas.

This past year we strived to have a balance in the subjects we trained in, concentrating on improving our ISO compliance. The average percentage of training completed was 89% towards ISO compliance. This is a 5% increase from the previous year.

As identified in our 2022 strategic plan, 2023 was our first year utilizing a training committee to help with the development of the training program. In 2023 the committee completed four of the critical tasks established by the strategic plan.



Deputy Chief Matt Peksa



Specialty Teams

In addition to the traditional fire and EMS emergencies, members of the Lemont Fire Protection District also respond to low frequency/high risk incidents that require additional specialized training. All firefighters are trained to the Basic Operations Firefighter level as defined by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines as part of our 'all hazards' approach to emergency responses. Several firefighters have received additional specialized Operation and Technician level training to serve on the district's Specialty Teams.

Technical Rescue Team

The Lemont Technical Rescue Team is a team of dedicated members who specialize in rope, trench, confined space, and structural collapse rescue. Each member must complete a total of 320 hours of specialized training from the State of Illinois along with monthly team training involving additional area departments. The Lemont FPD currently has 9 members on the team consisting of one chief officer, four lieutenants and four firefighters.

Team members completed 133 hours of specialized training in 2023.

Several pieces of rescue equipment were replaced after reaching their end of service life.



Lieutenant Steve Frank



Cause and Origin Team

All fires occurring within the district's boundaries are investigated to determine the cause and origin. Lieutenant Todd Fischer coordinates the three active members of the Cause and Origin. The team interacts with various entities including MABAS Division 19, the Will, Cook, and Grundy County Fire Investigation Task Force as well as the Illinois State Fire Marshal. The team has a dedicated vehicle with tools and equipment needed to investigate a fire and assists neighboring communities when requested.

Fire investigators require over 120 hours of initial training and a minimum of 30 hours per year of continuing education. Team members complete numerous live and on-line training modules to keep their investigative skills proficient.

In 2023, Lemont Fire Investigators completed an additional 45 hours of continuing education. The team conducted 14 investigations of fires that occurred within the district and assisted with 17 investigations in neighboring jurisdictions.



Lieutenant Todd Fischer



Hazardous Materials Team

The Lemont Hazardous Materials Team, headed by Lieutenant Mike Holtz, currently has four active members, and participates with MABAS Division 19. The team works in conjunction with Federal, State, and local agencies including Illinois EPA, Illinois EMA, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and local Lemont Agencies to mitigate any hazardous material responses.

The Lemont Hazardous Materials Team operates out of a fully equipped response vehicle holding tools and equipment to stop leaks, analyze chemicals, decontaminate personnel and equipment, monitor weather, predict chemical expansion over time and space, and communicate with other various agencies that may be involved in the response.

In 2023, we purchased a new hazmat vehicle to replace the old squad that has been in use since 1986. The new vehicle is a 2024 20-foot box truck that carries the specialty tools and equipment for use in a hazmat situation. Among the equipment on the hazmat truck is a new innovative decontamination system that is used currently in the military. This new decontamination system will allow us to decontaminate fire department personnel and citizens within five minutes versus twenty minutes in the traditional way.



Lieutenant Mike Holtz



Water Rescue / Search and Recovery Team

Lemont Water Rescue Team, headed by Firefighter David Gubbins, has six members that are part of the MABAS Division 19 Water Rescue and Recovery Team.

The Lemont Water Rescue Team received a grant from Firehouse Subs in the summer of 2023. The grant included an Inflatable Wing Water Rescue Boat, Mercury Outboard Motor, and trailer. The team has completed training in basic boat operations and specialized rescue techniques with the new boat. Members train bi-monthly with MABAS 19 in sub surface, swift water, boat operations, surface ice and ice rescue/recovery scenarios. The Lemont Water Rescue team has documented over 170 training hours in 2023.



Firefighter David Gubbins

The team responds in a fully equipped van. The equipment is ready to go in any type of water response. Specialty dive equipment includes two sub-surface dive setups, 200' communication lines, six swift water suits and gear, and a Rapid Deployment Craft (rescue boat). All members have measured, updated drysuits, that keep them streamlined and able to dive in difficult situations in a moment's notice.

Dive team members instruct all of the water related training for LFPD personnel. The team collaborates with the Lemont Park District using the pool facilities for water related scenarios. The dive team utilizes the Lemont quarries for training, and this increases the effectiveness, efficiency, and the professionalism that our community has come to expect from its water rescue team.



Fire Prevention Bureau

The goal of the Lemont Fire Protection District Fire Prevention is to prevent loss of life and property through inspections and education.

The FPB responsibilities consist of annual fire safety inspections, fire system acceptance testing, plan reviews, public education, and code enforcement throughout the district. FPB is responsible for enforcing codes and protecting the lives of the citizens that occupy many of structures in the district, while also providing safety for the firefighters that enter these properties during emergency situations.

Fire Prevention is staffed with a Full-Time Fire Marshal, Full-Time Public Educator, Part-Time Fire Inspector and Part-Time Public Educator/Inspector. Fire prevention members attend continuing education courses and seminars throughout the year.

The Fire Prevention Bureau, in accordance with the Villages of Lemont and Woodridge, adopted the 2021 International Fire Code and updated their local ordinances.

At the end of 2023; Fire Suppression Systems in our District were 98% compliant.



Fire Marshal Jennifer Murray



Fire Inspector Brian Madden

2023 Inspections

Annual fire inspections	882
Commercial plan reviews	94
Final occupancy inspections	53
Fire alarm acceptance	25
Fire prevention follow-up	117
Fireworks inspections	4
Racking inspections	9
Special event inspections	13
Sprinkler system acceptance	14
Total inspections	1,211

New Construction Projects

- All fire systems need to be inspected and tested through the Fire Prevention Bureau before occupancy.
- Two new warehouse buildings were completed (11131 Katherine's Crossing and 2110 Wallace Way).
- Two apartment buildings are under construction and slated to be completed in 2024 (225 Canal Street, Marbella and 2305 Sokol Court, Darien Heights).
- The Bridge at 44 Stephen Street expanded their business after Wags to Riches moved out. The sprinkler system was expanded to cover the entire building.
- St Cyril had their carnival back for the first time in years. Fire Prevention completed ride inspections with the Illinois Department of Labor.
- Gas and Wash on Archer and Main is under construction and slated to be completed in early Spring of 2024.



Public Education

Our goal remains to educate and inform the public in a way that will be remembered. Every class, station tour, and community event we participate in displays the level of dedication and integrity of district members. The public education effort continues to grow and evolve into a yearlong education program that is not just contained to October “Fire Safety Month”. Public education is more than teaching about fire safety, but an opportunity to interact with the public in a fun and welcoming forum. These events include station tours, education and safety classes, community events, parades, ambulance standbys and even trick or treating.



Public Educator Sandy Dominik



Public Educator Jeff Hawthorne



District personnel completed 193 public education activities and interacted with over 31,000 individuals from all age groups during 2023.

	Activities	Children	Teens	Adults	Seniors
Adopt a Firefighter	49	1,355	0	50	0
Ambulance Standby	5	355	145	1,140	190
Block Party	10	305	65	370	35
Blood Pressure Check	6	0	0	20	140
Community Event	32	4,914	975	5,310	650
CPR Class	4	0	0	52	0
Engine Display	5	165	15	156	0
Fire Drill	17	5,376	2,425	1,276	75
Fire Engine Ride	3	8	0	8	0
Fire Extinguisher Class	13	0	0	349	0
Girl or Boy Scout Event	1	5	0	2	0
Public Take Out Message	9	175	50	1,291	150
Safe Sitter Class	4	32	0	1	0
Safety Presentation	26	3,025	40	218	111
School Visit	2	23	0	27	0
Station Tour	7	80	5	27	2
Grand Total	193	15,818	3,720	10,297	1,353

Information Technology (IT)

In 2023, the Information Technology department achieved significant milestones, completing major IT projects that have enhanced the district's operational capabilities. These accomplishments reflect the department's commitment to progress and innovation, setting a precedent for future initiatives that the IT Systems Manager can lead and build upon.



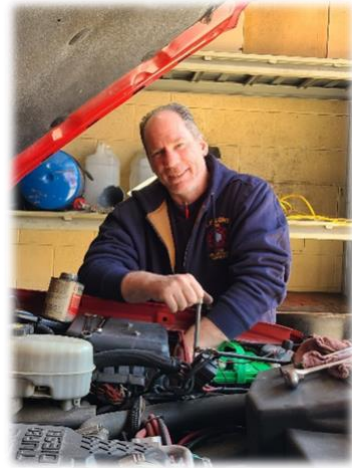
IT Manager Fernando Alfonso

- In a move to modernize communication infrastructure, the outdated plain old telephone service (POTS) lines were replaced with an advanced radio communications system. This upgrade significantly improved the connectivity and response capabilities between the fire stations and dispatch center.
- The Ethernet Private Line project started in 2022 is now complete, and the connections between Orland Central Dispatch and Lemont Fire are now live and active.
- Assisted Orland Central Dispatch with the rollout of their updated CAD client for Lemont MDT (MDT) Mobile Data Terminal Computer-aided dispatch (CAD).



Fleet Services

The Emergency Fleet Technician maintains a fleet of over 30 vehicles and apparatus. The current fleet consists of fire suppression apparatus, emergency medical vehicles, staff/utility vehicles, a breathing air trailer, a water-rescue response vehicle, a fire investigation vehicle, a hazardous materials response vehicle, small boat, and a utility terrain vehicle. The Lemont FPD strives to keep its fleet to the current NFPA recommended levels and other industry standards. All preventative maintenance is completed on a 'severe duty' schedule. This provides greater in-service times and fewer breakdowns of the fleet. The Maintenance Division falls under the direct supervision of the Deputy Chief of Operations.



Mechanic Stacey Devitt

This past year the district took delivery of a new tender to replace a twenty-five-year-old tender. This vehicle carries 3,000 gallons of water and is used to provide a portable water supply in areas of the district that do not have fire hydrants. Tender 917 is located at Station 1 on New Avenue.



© Daniel Hynd 2023

Photo courtesy of Daniel Hynd.

Project Fire Buddies

The [Lemont chapter of Project Fire Buddies](#) supports families of children who are struggling with critical illnesses within the community. Members of PFB focus on building relationships with their fire buddies by arranging visits in the fire stations or their homes, and by coordinating efforts of local charitable organizations to help bring joy and support to their families when they need it the most.



2023 Retirements

In 2023, three personnel retired from the LFPD with a combined 65 years of history and experience.

We wish you all the best in the next chapter of your lives and thank you for all you have given to the Lemont Fire Protection District.



*Trustee Victoria Cobbett.
Serving since 2001.*



*Executive Assistant Carla Clark.
Serving since 2001.*



*Firefighter Jim Orange.
Serving since 2004.*

2023 New Hires



Trustee Mike Smollen



Mechanic Stacey Devitt



Facilities Manager Steve Bacho

2023 Recognitions

Life Safety Award

Pat Crean, Director of Operations at Lemont-Bromberek Community School District 113A, was presented with the Life Safety Award at the October Board of Trustees meeting.

This award is presented annually to someone who goes above and beyond to uphold the fire and life safety code while working collaboratively with the fire district. Pat Crean has shown a dedication to fire and life safety within the schools of District 113A. District 113A has had a perfect 100% compliance rating for life safety in all schools.



Firefighter of the Year

LT Steve Frank was named as the Heritage Corridor Business Alliance's Firefighter of the Year at their Best of Lemont annual recognition program.

LT Frank was nominated by his peers for his dedication to training and his commitment as the coordinator of the technical rescue team.



Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting

In 2023, the Lemont Fire Protection District received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).

This is the 4th consecutive year the district has received this prestigious award. The ACFR can be found on the district's website at www.lemontfire.com.



Meritorious Service Award

Illinois State Fire Marshal James Rivera recognized Laura Lopez-Cepero for her significant contributions in the technological development and delivery methods which now make available on-line training opportunities of the NFPA Life Safety Code to all members of the Illinois Fire Service. Miss Lopez-Cepero was presented with a Meritorious Service Award by Mr. Rivera and his staff at Station 1 of the Lemont Fire Protection District.



Years of Service

The following personnel celebrated work anniversaries in 2023.

5 years

- FF Mike Hanlon
- FF Brett Krapil
- FF Cody Post
- FF Brendan Bandyk

10 years

- FF James Hanson

15 years

- FF Lisa Kuzmicki
- LT Mike Holtz
- FF Craig Newmes

20 years

- DC John Truffa
- LT William Anderson
- LT Steve Frank
- LT Jeff Bailey

25 years

- BC Dave Evers
- LT Chris Ganz
- LT David Spivak
- DC Matt Peksa



In Memoriam

Retired Fire Marshal Arthur “Mark” Blackaller passed away on February 22, 2023, at the age of 61. Mark retired from the Elk Grove Village Fire Department in 2018 as a Lieutenant. He joined the Lemont Fire Protection District as an inspector with the Fire Prevention Bureau in 2018 and was appointed to the Fire Marshal position in 2019. He retired from the district in 2022.



Arthur “Mark” Blackaller

July 21, 1961 – February 22, 2023

Captain Gary D. Wilson passed away on March 8, 2023, at the age of 75. He had served with the Lemont Fire Protection District from the early 1970's until 1984. He was one of the first paramedics and served as the EMS coordinator.



Gary D. Wilson

August 8, 1947 – March 8, 2023

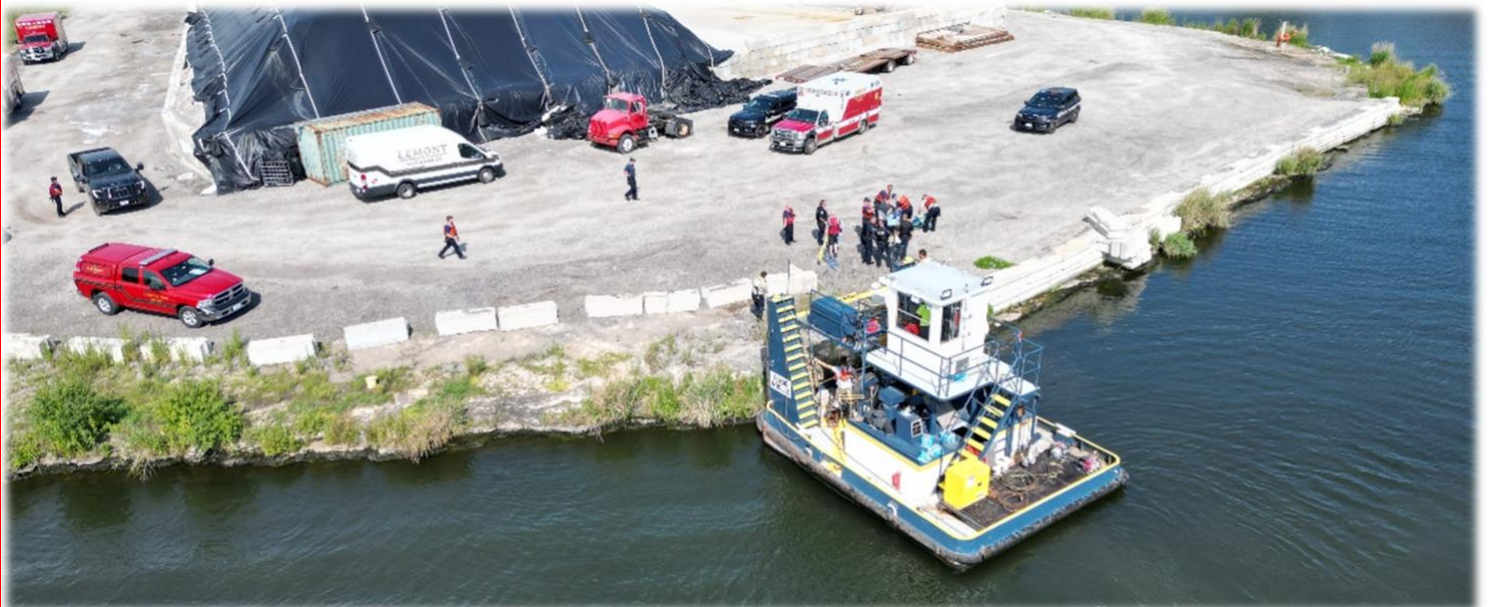
William “Bill” Musselman passed away suddenly on September 18, 2023, at the age of 67. Bill had served with the Lemont Fire Protection District as a firefighter/paramedic from 1994 through 2000 and had previously served with the Northwest Homer Fire Protection District.



William “Bill” Musselman

December 4, 1955 – September 18, 2023









Thank you to the following photographers for helping to document our history and allowing us to share their pictures.

Bill Friedrich

<https://www.illinoisfiretrucks.com/>

Daniel Hynd

<https://dhphotos.smugmug.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/daniel.hynd.54>

<https://www.instagram.com/dhynd52/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@danielhynd>



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