

# 24

# Report to the Community

## Truckee Meadows Fire & Rescue

Washoe County, Nevada





## Board of Fire Commissioners

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*From left to right:*

**Alexis Hill, Chair - District 1**

**Mike Clark - District 2**

**Mariluz Garcia - District 3**

**Clara Andriola - District 4**

**Jeanne Herman, Vice-Chair - District 5**

*Regular meetings of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Washoe County Building, 1001 E. Ninth Street, Reno Nevada. You may find agendas posted on our website at [www.tmfpd.us](http://www.tmfpd.us).*





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## Message from the Board Chair

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Dear Members of the Community,

As we begin a new year, I am thankful for the opportunity to address you, our resilient and caring community. Thank you for your support. I want to let you know some of the great things the men and women of Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District accomplished to increase the safety of our region.

Our members embrace a spirit of dedication, courage, and selflessness. The past year has brought new challenges, but through the collective efforts of our firefighters, emergency responders, and the support of our community, we continue to make improvements in many areas of our emergency services.

As we look ahead, our focus remains steadfast on community engagement, education, proactive measures to prevent and mitigate potential risks, and a strong response capability. I am proud to be your partner in reducing the wildland fire threat and commend you for participating in the district's green waste program.

I sincerely appreciate your support of Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. We are committed to serving you with the utmost dedication and professionalism. We will build a community where safety, unity, and resilience define our shared values.

Please take a moment to read about our services, our staff, and our programs. Thank you again for your commitment to safety.

Best wishes in the year ahead!

Alexis Hill, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis Hill", written in a cursive style.





## Message from the Fire Chief

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On behalf of the men and women of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, I would like to present this report to the residents we serve.

Regarding wildfires, the record-setting robust winter of 2022-2023 largely contributed to a relatively light season of fire activity throughout our region compared to previous years.

I am particularly pleased with our growth and commitment to emergency medical services. The fire district maintains 126 Nevada state-certified paramedics who provide our residents and visitors with effective pre-hospital care. We continue to see positive results with our partnership with REMSA and the ambulance transport service provided in the high-demand areas within our jurisdiction. Our approach to EMS delivery has saved many lives.

Fire prevention is truly a partnership. We know that humans cause more than 85% of wildfires. Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District provides an aggressive outreach effort to raise awareness of the risk of fires. Every person we educate reduces the risk of a catastrophic event.

Our free green waste program helps you defend your homes by eliminating dangerous dry vegetation and creating defensible space. Additionally, I am proud of the many school visits by our firefighters who educate your children throughout the community.

District wildland firefighters have made significant progress in reducing hazardous fuels under and around power utility infrastructure through the funding assistance of NV Energy. I am grateful for many community partners supporting TMFR, including Washoe County, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the Northern Nevada chapter of the American Red Cross, the Nevada Donor Network, and the Trauma Intervention Program. Our partners help the most vulnerable members of our community during times of crisis and tragic loss.

Despite inflation, our financial condition remains stable. TMFR is fortunate to have modern equipment to respond to the diverse circumstances of why you call us. I am particularly proud and honored to represent our professional firefighters, volunteers and support staff who keep TMFR in a solid fiscal and operational position.

Please let us know if we can ever help you.

Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "CA Moore".





## Data and Statistics Overview

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As the saying goes, if you don't measure it, you can't manage it. Therein lies the importance of good data and record-keeping practices.

TMFR responds to all types of requests for assistance. Some calls for help are threatening to life or property, and others are not. Still, the full effect of what happens in our community is realized if the responses are documented, reported, shared, and analyzed.

Data is a critical business asset and an effective component in the management of our resources. The fire district uses the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to report its responses to the public and the U.S. Fire Administration. NFIRS is the national standard that fire departments use to collect and report their emergency response activities.

Responses are categorized into nine (9) types:

- Fire
- Ruptures, Explosions, and Overheat (with no fire)
- Rescue and Emergency Medical Service (EMS)
- Hazardous Conditions (with no fire)
- Service Call
- Good Intent Call
- False Alarm and False Call
- Severe Weather and Natural Disaster
- Special Incident Types

TMFR uses data to identify trends, quantify activities, determine causes, plan the deployment of limited resources, and reduce the loss of life and property caused by fires.

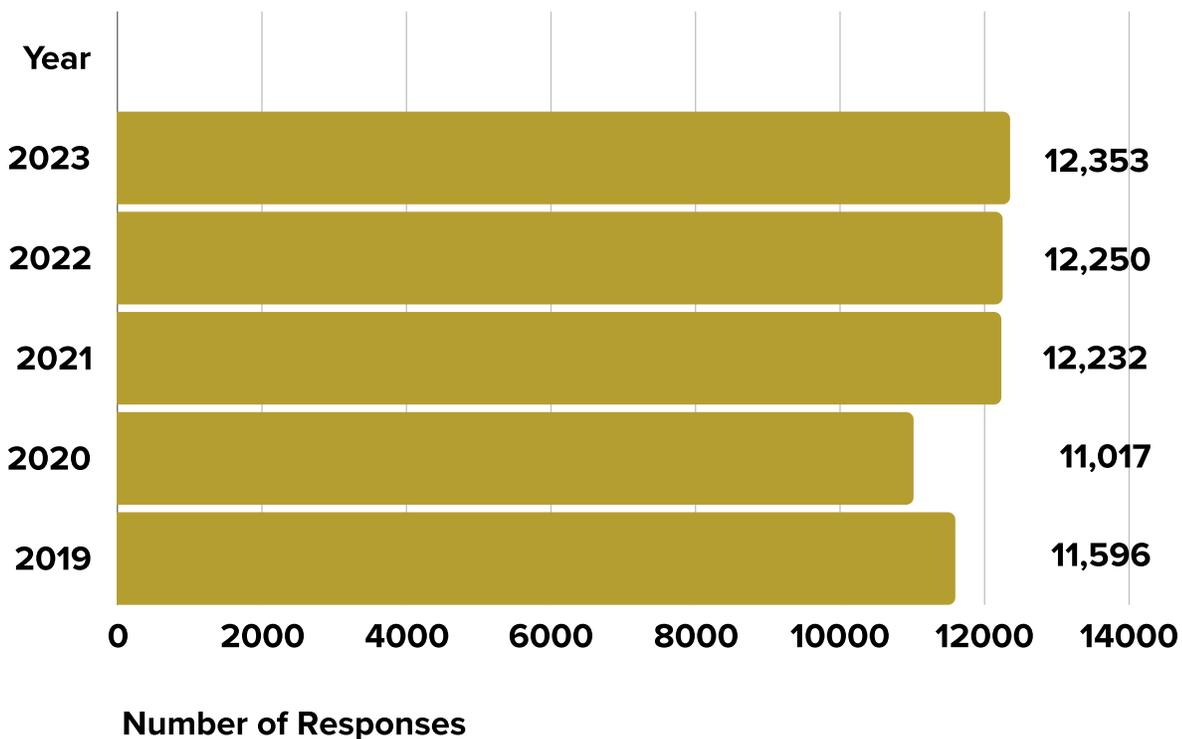
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## Aggregate Responses by Year

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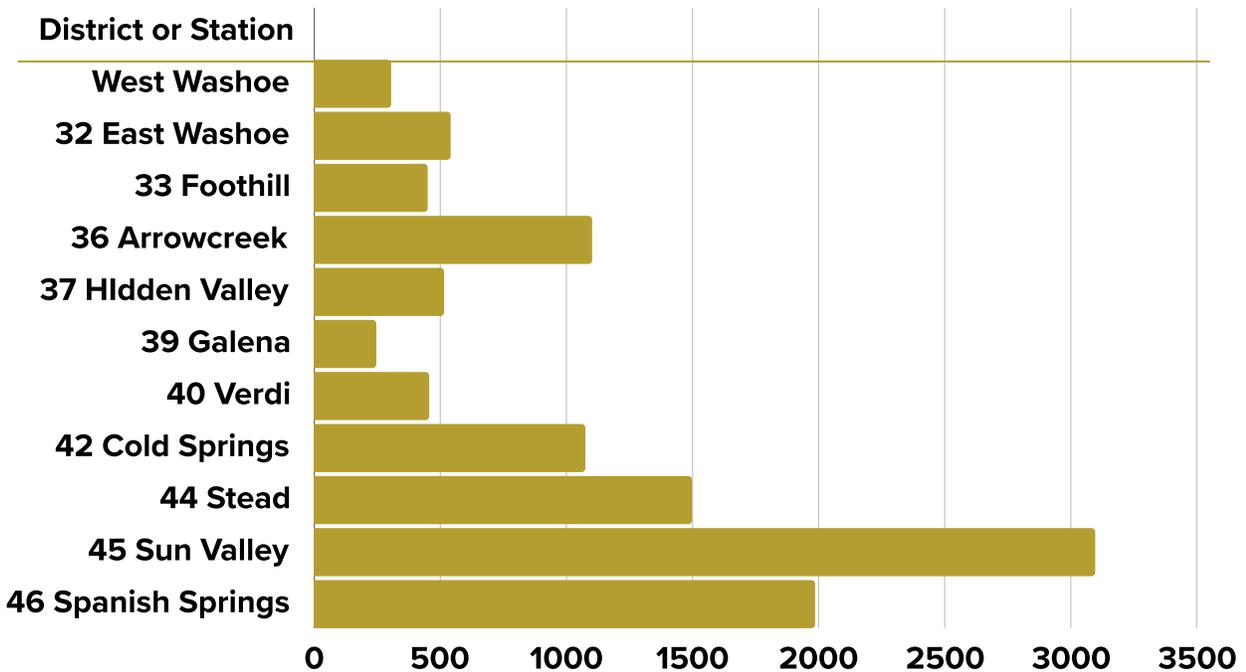
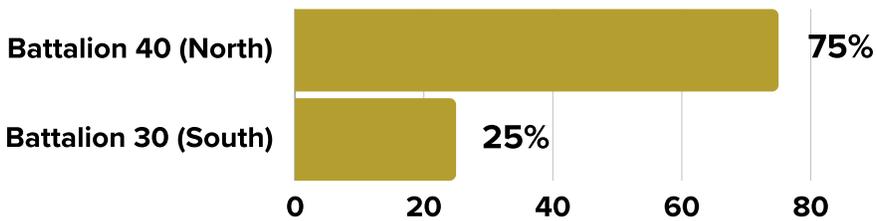
Aggregate responses have increased only slightly over the previous three years, with an increase of less than 1% . The increase over the last five years is not significant, with responses increasing 6.5% over five years. The largest increase to call volume is from emergency medical services.





## Aggregate Responses by Fire Station & Community

Each fire station is indicated by its station number and the community served. These totals exclude mutual aid and responses outside of the TMFR boundary. The number of calls occurring in the northern half of the fire district continue to represent 3/4 of the total calls.





## Aggregate Responses by Fire Station / District

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### Detail Responses by Fire Station - South Battalion

The total number of calls by response type are summarized from each station.

South Responses by Call Type	Washoe Valley	Foothill	Arrowcreek	Hidden Valley	Galena	Total
Station Number	32	33	36	37	39	
Building Fire	2	2	4	1	1	10
Cooking Fire	1	0	3	0	0	4
Wildand Fire	7	2	5	5	2	21
Vehicle Fire	11	1	5	2	1	20
Other Fire	4	1	4	4	1	14
FALSE	29	32	58	31	28	178
Hazardous Condition	21	9	20	5	6	61
Service Call	25	18	66	40	11	160
Good Intent	169	77	170	127	70	613
Miscellaneous	1	0	0	0	0	1
Emergency Medical	449	286	699	278	94	1,806
Vehicle Accident with Injuries	60	8	30	13	16	127
Vehicle Accident w/o Injuries	63	13	36	8	16	136
Rescue	4	4	0	0	0	0
Explosion / Rupture	0	1	1	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>3,159</b>



## Aggregate Responses by Fire Station / District (continued)

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### Detail Responses by Fire Station - North Battalion

The total number of calls by response type are summarized from each station.

North Responses by Call Type	Mogul	Cold Springs	Stead	Sun Valley	Spanish Springs	
Station Number	40	42	44	45	46	Total
Building Fire	2	5	11	19	2	39
Cooking Fire	0	2	1	12	2	17
Wildand Fire	3	2	7	6	10	28
Vehicle Fire	7	4	1	8	10	30
Other Fire	3	3	7	16	2	31
FALSE	19	50	44	52	78	243
Hazardous Condition	7	9	22	36	17	91
Service Call	11	66	91	153	89	410
Good Intent	109	141	376	326	235	1,187
Miscellaneous	1	0	0	1	0	1
Emergency Medical	246	767	888	2,268	1,479	5,648
Vehicle Accident with Injuries	18	4	20	92	26	160
Vehicle Accident w/o Injuries	26	21	28	106	35	216
Rescue	5	0	0	1	1	7
Explosion / Rupture	0	1	2	1	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>3,097</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>8,112</b>



## Operations

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The District currently operates ten stations around the clock and is supported by three volunteer stations that respond water tenders and wildfire resources. The District employs 195 full-time employees, including those in emergency operations, fire prevention, and administration.

Crew sizes vary between three, four and five total firefighters at the stations. Stations with higher call volumes are staffed with five; that includes three firefighters on an engine, and two paramedic firefighters on an ambulance. These stations include Sun Valley, Spanish Springs, and Washoe Valley. Mogul Station 40 and Foothill Station 33 are staffed with crews of four, with the remaining stations staffed with three.





## Supression and Staffing

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In 2023, TMFR personnel continued to focus on providing unparalleled service across all types of emergencies and supporting risk reduction programs. All ten fire stations remain fully staffed daily, with at least 40 personnel on duty. In cooperation with REMSA, TMFR ambulances respond from three stations in the District. Five stations house specialties, including a truck company, a hazardous materials response team, and a trained water rescue team. The fire district continues to make training a high priority across all divisions.

The total census of the district is 195 full time employees (126 of which are licensed paramedics) and 48 volunteers.





## Emergency Operations

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*Hill Fire - October 24, 2023*

In 2023, the District responded to numerous emergency and rescue incidents. Wildfires requiring an evacuation order include the Hill Fire, a late-night, wind-driven wildland fire that triggered a significant regional response to the Verdi community. No homes were lost, and no injuries were reported. The fire was kept to the California side of the state line. Another late-season night time wildland fire required firefighters from the District to hike over two miles to access the Slide Fire near Mt. Rose. The incident was contained before a wind event that arrived the following morning.

Washoe County Emergency Management has launched new evacuation software called Perimeter. When evacuations are necessary, Perimeter sends critical information directly to individual smart phones within the hazard zone.



## Community Outreach

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Our firefighters stay connected to our community by participating in numerous events throughout the year. Public educational events at our local schools highlight fire prevention and risk reduction messages along with fire service career information. Fire station tours and community classes to help raise awareness of important first aid methods and wildfire protection are ongoing. We also embrace critical partners in their mission to support our community in need such as the Northern Nevada Donor Network, Trauma Intervention Programs (TIP), and our annual participation in the Dozers & Dirt program supporting the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation.



*TMFR firefighters visit the Hidden Valley Elementary School.*





## Wildland and Fuels Division

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The 2023 wildland season in Washoe County was light compared to average years due to a robust winter. A total of 49 wildland fires burned six acres in TMFR's jurisdiction. With the wildfire season somewhat slow at home, TMFR personnel and equipment supported fire responses nationwide with a response to 170 out of districtfire assignments.

In 2023, the District launched a new curbside chipping program. This program is designed to help our underserved citizens, particularly the elderly, disabled, and low income. Curbside chipping enables TMFR to help this underserved population with fuel management on their property. We successfully serviced 139 properties through this new initiative in 2023.

The Wildland and Fuels Division also completed fuels reduction projects for a number of communities.

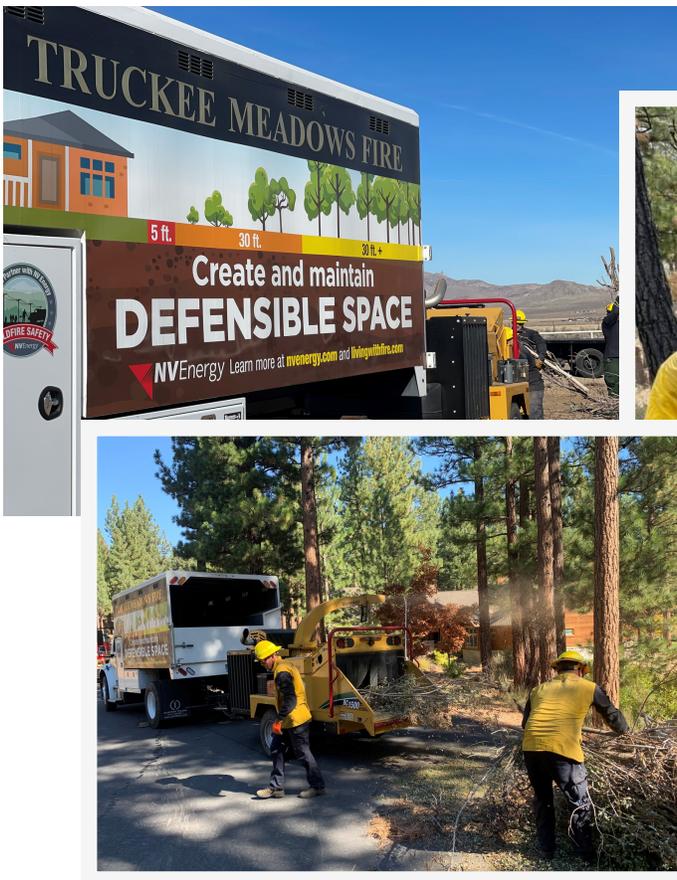




## Wildland and Fuels Division (Continued)

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Historically, more than 90% of the TMFR Wildland and Fuels Division has been funded through outside sources, and approximately \$26 million has been incorporated into fuel management planning for the coming years. The funding sources are in different stages of award and implementation but come from entities such as NV Energy, the United States Forest Service, the United States Bureau of Land Management, the State of Nevada, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This funding has been utilized for wildland fuel treatments across the District, particularly around thousands of power poles and hundreds of acres treated in our vicinity.





## Green Waste Program

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The District's popular green waste disposal program saw citizens dispose of 2,600 loads, equaling an estimated 2,000,000 pounds or 21,000 cubic yards of biomass. The program has processed tens of thousands of cubic yards of vegetation over eight years of the program.

The program encourages citizens to manage and create defensible space around their homes by making disposal easier. Citizens may take their harvested dry vegetation to our collection points, where District staff masticate it, and then transport it to a green waste recycling operation that produces garden soil and compost products. Only a minimal amount of material is burned on site.

The program is designed to make disposal easier and keep the biomass material out of the landfill. This also helps defer the production of methane that would result from decomposition.

The program is free to all Washoe County residents. District staff are on hand to assist with unloading.

Watch for announcements on our website at [www.tmfpd.com](http://www.tmfpd.com) and social media platforms for dates on the upcoming green waste collection event in 2024.





## Emergency Medical Services

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The year 2023 provided unique opportunities for the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Division at TMFR. The District was fortunate to secure grant funding for two Type 1 ambulances to assist with the District's Advanced Life Support patient transport capabilities.

Under an agreement with REMSA, TMFR provided transport for patients located within 3 areas of unincorporated Washoe County, including Spanish Springs, Sun Valley, and Washoe Valley. Ambulance transport from these stations was made possible through the authority of REMSA and allows for the response of our paramedic-equipped ambulances to medical calls for service based on GPS monitoring. This provides the most efficient response time possible for our citizens.

The District was also the recipient of grant funds to allow the purchase of advanced life support medical equipment that will further enhance the level of care provided by TMFR paramedics. This equipment includes additional cardiac monitors, blood analyzing devices, and point-of-care ultrasound machines to assist in the diagnosis of life-threatening emergencies and trauma.



In 2023, in addition to numerous training programs and symposiums, TMFR also completed a first-of-its-kind collaboration with Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) to provide a fully accredited paramedic program for current fire department employees in the region. TMFR instructors conducted training for members of our department, along with students from regional fire departments. This comprehensive 14-month program included didactic classroom instruction, clinical hours in a hospital setting, and a field internship phase.



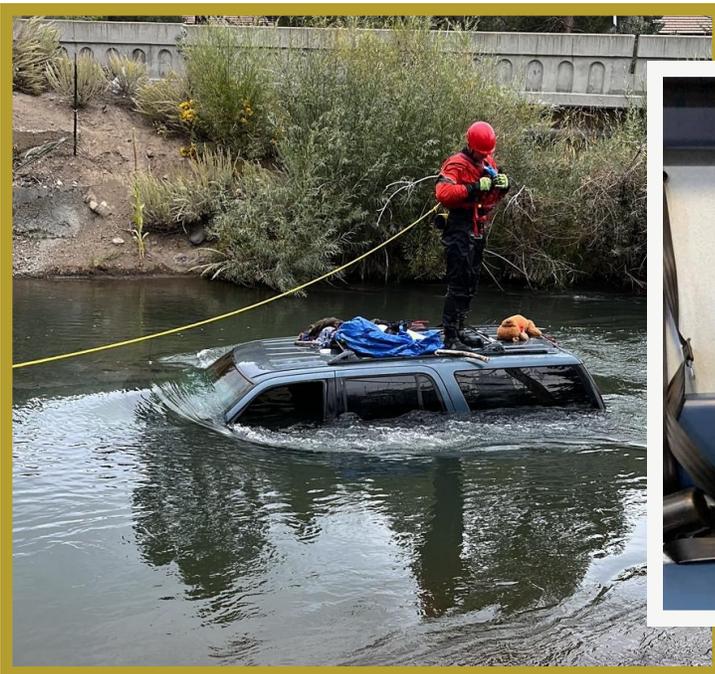
## Emergency Medical Services (Continued)

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Every engine within our response area is staffed with at least one paramedic around the clock. In cooperation with REMSA, District paramedics staff three advanced life support ambulances that respond from Sun Valley, Spanish Springs, and Washoe Valley. Paramedics are trained in emergency prehospital care and are trained to stabilize many life threatening medical conditions.

The District has seen the largest growth in the number of incidents in the EMS response area. Since 2013, EMS calls have increased by 74.6%. The COVID pandemic resulted in a 24% increase in EMS calls during that period.

The single largest number of lives saved are attributable to the District's Advanced Life Support Paramedic Program. Skill maintenance is an important component of each paramedic's annual training.





## Fire Prevention Services

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TMFR Fire Prevention Division consists of one deputy chief and three fire investigators. This small division works tirelessly to inspect plans and buildings to ensure compliance in some of the fastest-growing areas in Washoe County, including Spanish Springs, where numerous warehouses have been constructed or are currently under construction.

2023 Fire Prevention Facts:

- 2,099 Plan Reviews
- 2,056 Inspections
- 4 Fire Investigations - 3 for incendiary causes and 1 for accidental cause.

### Joy Lake Fire - Arson Conviction

A man accused of starting two wildfires on Joy Lake Road in the Galena Estates on August 14, 2022, was found guilty on all four counts, following a 5-day jury trial in August 2023.

Matthew Kimmens was later sentenced to 45 years in prison on all four arson-related charges. He will not be eligible for parole for 13 years. The Joy Lake Fire caused damage to two homes, and the total destruction of one other.

TMFR's Fire Prevention Division led the fire investigation component, spending nearly 200 hours in close cooperation and consultation with the Washoe County District Attorney's Office and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to see justice served.

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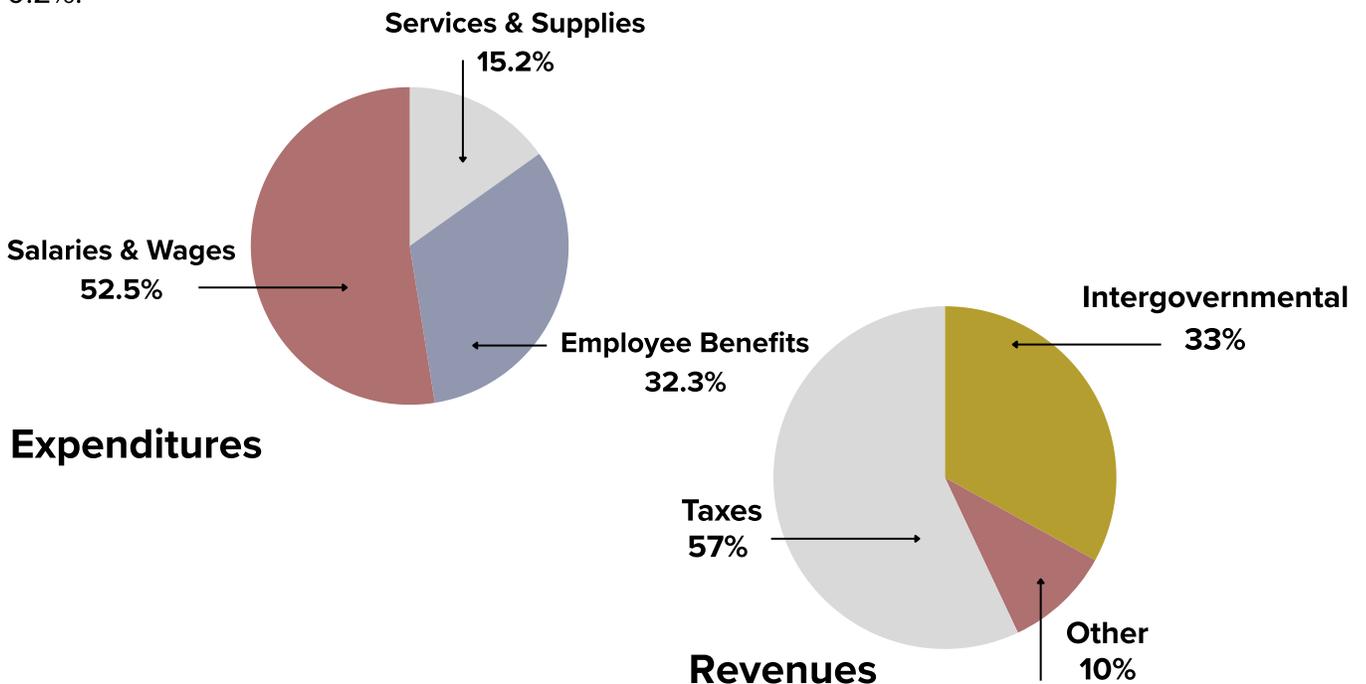


## Financial Summary

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's finances are stable despite a period of high inflation and diminished revenues from a decline in CTAX revenues. The General Fund balance as of June 30, 2023 was \$12,292,019, an increase of \$1,251,222 or 11.3% from the prior year. This increase was primarily caused by active and diligent efforts to preserve fund balance, anticipating further flattening or a decline of sales tax-related revenues.

The total fund balance of \$12,292,019 equates to 32.2% or approximately 3.9 months' worth of expenditures (excluding transfers out to fund Capital Projects and Sick and Annual Compensation and Benefits costs) as compared to the prior year's ending fund balance of \$11,040,797 which was 27.7% or approximately 3.3 months' worth of fiscal year 2021-2022 expenditures.

In Fiscal Year 2022-2023 the total General Fund expenditures were \$28,124,911 which was \$3,505,139 or 8.4% under budget. The General Fund revenues were under budget \$96,367 or 0.2%.





## Improvements to Service

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TMFR is funding its share of the cost of a new regional computer aided dispatching software (CAD), which will enhance how the 911 system works in the region. The new system will allow fast and accurate transfers of information between dispatch centers located at Washoe County, Cities of Sparks and Reno and REMSA. The software will improve mutual aid processes and make it possible for dispatchers to see the location of emergency responders relative to the location of the emergency.

There is significant work to create response zones and protocols within the software. The new system is expected to roll out in 2025.

## Fire Station Development

Fire stations currently on the drawing board include Apple (I-80, near the Patrick exit), Hidden Valley and Washoe Valley Consolidated. The primary task that lies ahead is financing the construction. The timelines on moving forward will be determined in the budget process.

## Fleet Maintenance

An extremely important component of our operation is making sure all the emergency equipment runs properly, and starts when the alert tones signal an emergency. The district maintains four full-time certified mechanics who keep 170 pieces of equipment ready for service. Vehicle types range from fire engines and ambulances, to bulldozers and support vehicles.





## Training

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Fire service training is paramount due to firefighting's critical and high-risk nature. Firefighters face a multitude of complex scenarios ranging from rescuing individuals from various types of emergencies to containing hazardous materials incidents. Rigorous training equips firefighters with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively respond to emergencies while minimizing risks to themselves and the public. Training ensures proficiency in techniques such as fire suppression, search and rescue, ventilation, and pre-hospital care. Moreover, it fosters teamwork, decision-making under pressure, and adaptability. These characteristics are crucial elements for successful operations in dynamic and unpredictable environments. Continuous training enhances individual capabilities and maintains fire departments' overall readiness and effectiveness, ensuring they can efficiently protect lives, property, and the environment in the face of any emergency.

The District recorded **10,328** hours of training across various topics including structural and wildland fire suppression, EMS, water and ice rescue, vehicle extrication, and risk reduction and prevention.





## Training - Preparing Firefighters of the Future

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In a new program, District staff worked with the Washoe County School District, the Bureau of Land Management – Nevada, and Living with Fire to launch a fire science program at the Academy of Arts, Careers, and Technology (AACT), a career-tech high school in Reno. The first class consisted of 15 students and proved to be an overwhelming success.

Modeled after the core training values of TMFR, the curriculum includes topics such as fire behavior, building and construction, emergency command structure, and even participating in hose evolutions, turn-out drills, and other physical agility challenges.

There is an increased demand for trained personnel in the public safety profession. TMFR is proud to mentor our local students and give them the opportunity to experience the fire and EMS field and the role that public service plays in our community. The program gives them a jump start in this dynamic career and provides a pathway for students who are seeking to serve our community as a first responder. The program will provide a pipeline of applicants for the fire service.



Sophomores can enroll in the five-semester program, and upon completion and graduation, they will be eligible to be hired onto wildland fire crews. They will also have earned college credits through a partnership with Truckee Meadows Community College and be ready to take a one-semester fire academy program offered by the college that will qualify them for municipal firefighting jobs.





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TRUCKEE MEADOWS  
FIRE PROTECTION DIST.



**Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District**

[www.tmfpd.us](http://www.tmfpd.us)