



GALESBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

2024 Annual Report



☎ 309.345.3756

➤ www.ci.galesburg.il.us/government/fire

📍 150 S Broad St
Galesburg, IL 61401

Fire Department



MISSION

With unique skills and training, the Galesburg Fire Department proudly provides professional and compassionate emergency medical and fire suppression services to our citizens with quick thinking, intelligence and dependability.

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF

The year 2024 is in the books and went by as quick as it arrived. It has been another year of changes, challenges, and growth. We asked the Battalion Chief's to submit a year-end report summarizing the work that took place on each shift according to individual responsibilities. We have continued to include everyone in the budget process and having those who want to get involved in areas of the department to do so. Budgeting really starts in March for the following year and involves multiple interdepartmental meetings along with multiple administrative meetings.

This will be our fourth City Manager that we have went through the budget process with and second Finance Director. I have to say that I thought this year's process was much smoother. It was a different approach than what we have been used to in years past and the change was welcome.



As we move forward into 2025, we are going to be experiencing another year of improvements and department growth with the additional Deputy Chief position. We are working on adding a work station to Central Station and reconfiguring with the added position. There will be major renovations to the Central dorm room, and much needed work done at both the Brooks St. and Fremont St. Stations. The paint shop at the Training Site will finally be coming down and hopefully a new storage building is planned for the vacant lot right next to Central.

Respectfully,

Randy Hovind
Fire Chief

Fire Department

OPERATIONS



FLEET MAINTENANCE

In April, GFD took delivery of our new Engine 52. Captain Schmitt and crew worked on it for a week to get it ready for service. Huge thanks to Deputy Chief Seitz, Captains Schmitt, Clayton and Caruana for all their work.

In May, GFD received the new Engine 53. Captain Schmitt and crew worked diligently to get the new truck equipped and ready to put into service on June 12th.



New Engine 52



New Engine 53

FIRE SERVICES

	2024	2023
Total Responses:	5520	4978
Structure Fires:	32	50
Other Fire Response:	43	47

Fire Department



OPERATIONS *continued...*

RETIREMENTS

Battalion Chief David Farrell retired on October 7, 2024 with over 28 years of service.

Battalion Chief Derek Perry retired on December 29, 2024 with almost 22 years of service.

Congratulations to BC Farrell and BC Perry on their well deserved retirements! Wishing you both all the best.



BC Farrell



BC Perry

PROMOTIONS

✂ James Pendergast - Battalion Chief

👮 Nicholas Walters - Fire Captain



Chief Hovind, Captain Walters and
Battalion Chief Pendergast

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



Chief Hovind &
Captain Cain

Captain Matthew Cain was selected as the 2023 Firefighter of the Year. Captain Cain has been in charge of the management of our SCBA inventory for multiple years now. He performed a tremendous job in keeping up with industry changes and managing our SCBA inventory to ensure our firefighters are properly protected. Captain Cain is the lead for GFD's Juvenile Fire Setter Program, he handles the compressor and fill stations as well. Cain is instrumental in doing much of the "behind the scenes work" procuring grant funds to keep our SCBAs current.

Cain took a special interest in GFD's recruiting efforts. For the past couple years, he has found events to attend, coordinating with other firefighters to attend the events including setting up traveling plans to different career recruitment events in Champaign and Macomb.

Captain Cain has assisted with training our new firefighters after they return from the Illinois Fire Academy, providing positive leadership and years of experience.

Captain Cain was appointed to our department on February 16, 2003. He was promoted to the rank of Captain on June 29, 2015. He and his wife Jackie have two sons.

Fire Department



OPERATIONS *continued...*

RECRUITMENT

Staff are continuously at work sharing with the area youth of the possibilities of a career in the fire service. Our recruitment team visits local colleges and high schools for career fairs and other related events to show case how they can become a firefighter.

GFD worked with photographer Bill Dickerson and videographer Patrick Ruggles to create a GFD recruitment video that we are able to share on social media and use at recruitment events.

Crews focus on what is expected on the job, and the hiring process.



Captain Brignall, Captain Cain & Firefighter Stevenson

45

Sworn
Personnel

2

Chief &
Deputy Chief

3

Battalion
Chief

40

Captains &
Firefighters

FIRE FACILITIES

Completed:
Electrical system at Central Station
Water pipe repairs for Central Station

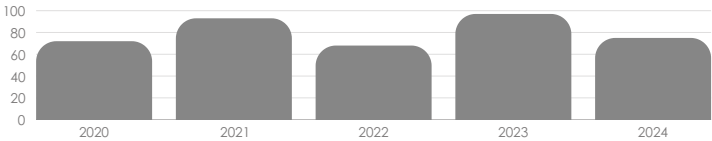


Public Safety water lines
were original to the building.

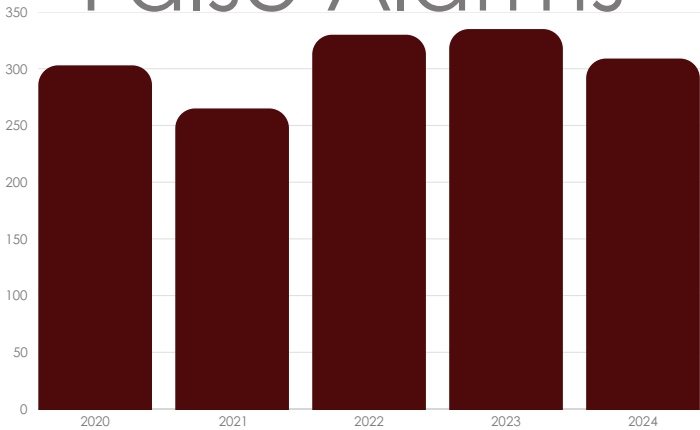


OPERATIONS *continued...*

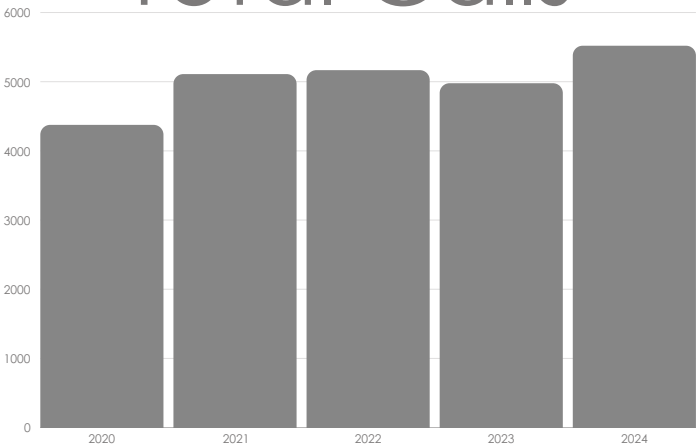
Fire Calls



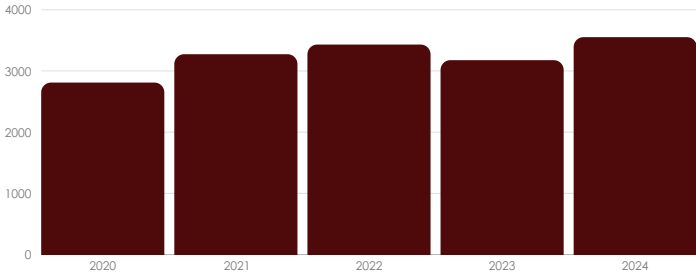
False Alarms



Total Calls



EMS Calls



GFD Response

11

Minimum Staffing Level

Average Response time
for 1st unit on scene

3 43

min. seconds

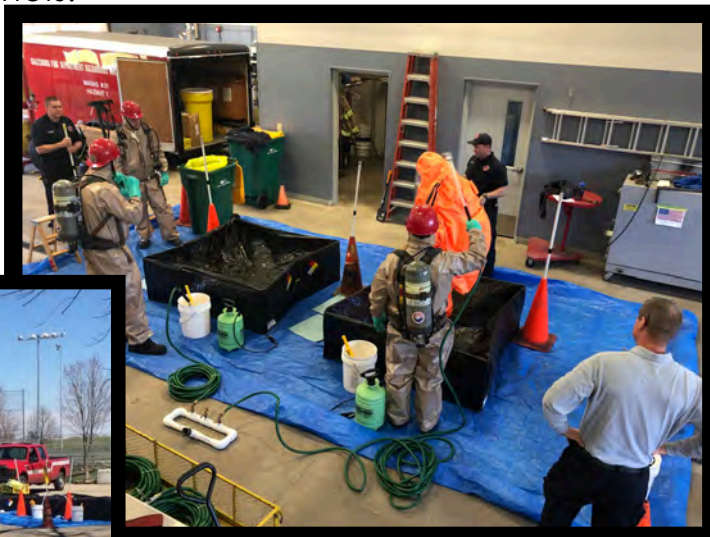
Fire Department



OPERATIONS *continued...*

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

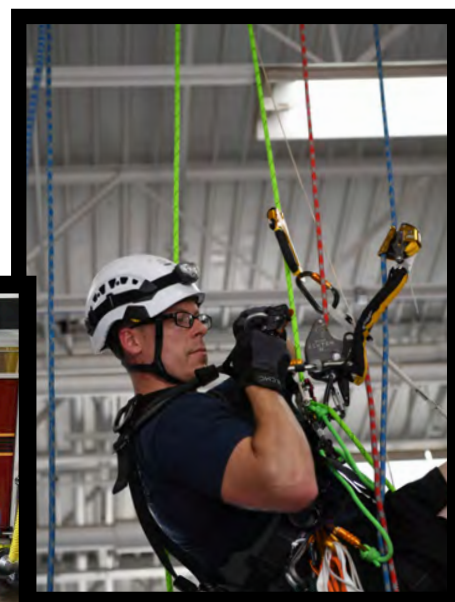
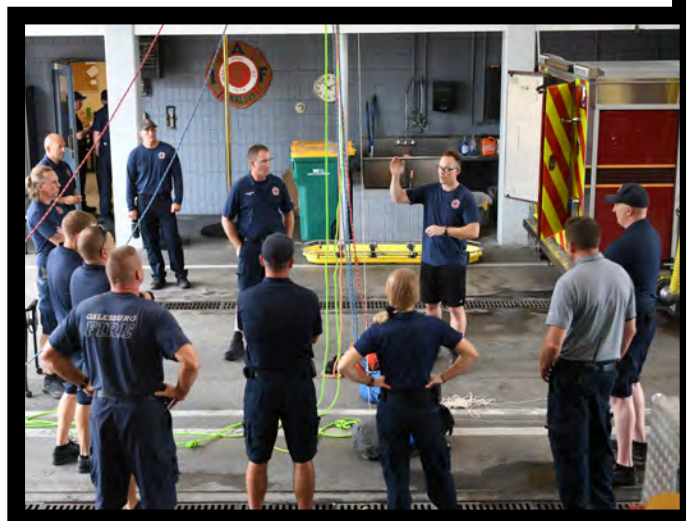
Captain Schmitt stated MABAS updated a ton of teams this year. There are 31 Hazmat Teams in Illinois with a majority of them located in the Chicago-Metro area. GFD's team has been validated and capable of deployment throughout the state. Our team covers a large portion of western Illinois.



TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

Firefighter Pedigo lead Company Training in January and August on Nance Drills and Low-angle rescues.

GFD responded to 2 calls in 2024 that required technical rescue, in April, a below grade rescue and August a high angle rescue.



Fire Department

PREVENTION



SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM

Captain Caruana reported that GFD has installed 233 alarms in 103 residences throughout Galesburg.

GFD partnered with the Red Cross to help get smoke detectors to all our residents.



Galesburg residents can sign up here for **FREE** smoke detectors.

FIRE SERVICES

	2024	2023
Fire Investigations:	20	36
IFC permits issued:	252	226
System installations permits:	21	13
Permitted Inspections:	257	113
Non-Permitted Inspections:	128	87



Fire Department

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

GFD prides ourselves in community involvement.



2024 Labor Day Parade



9-11 Stair Climb



2024 Memorial Day Parade



2024 Santa Rescue

Memorial Day Parade
Labor Day Parade
9/11 Stair Climb
Fill the Boot
Fire Prevention Week
Veteran's Day Parade
Holly Days Parade & Santa Rescue

Fire Department



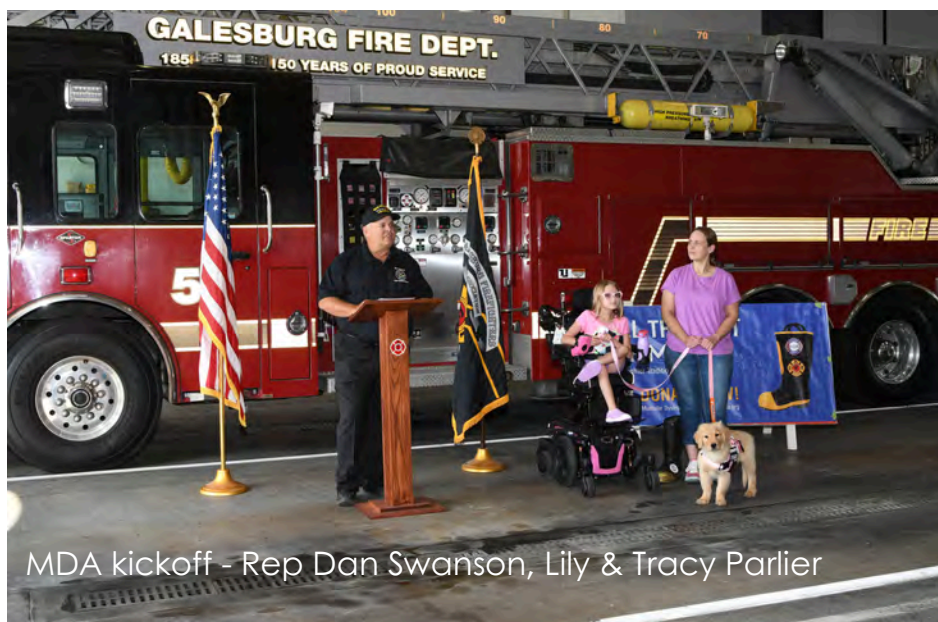
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *continued...*

MDA

GFD raised \$31,027.86 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. A huge part of our continued successful fundraising goes to our community and the support they continue to show for MDA each year.

Crews hit the streets for three days, collecting \$27,604.23 from the Galesburg residents. Our thanks to our residents for their support!

We are projected to rank second in the state for donations collected by fire departments. Only Chicago Fire Department is expected to have raised more.



MDA kickoff - Rep Dan Swanson, Lily & Tracy Parlier

Firefighter Scott attended firefighter day at MDA Kids Camp in Hudson, IL. He requested permission to bring Galesburg locals Lily and Tracy Parlier. Lily has SMA type 2. Lily had a great time at camp and can't wait to attend next year. While there, Scott introduced Tracy to some of the MDA Staff, letting them know how Tracy has been such a great advocate for SMA. Tracy worked to get a bill passed for newborn screening for genetic markers of SMA. The director was so impressed that he asked the entire Parlier family to come to Washington DC to testify in front of a Senate committee. The Parliers spoke to the Senate about the importance of The Accelerating Kids Access to Care Act, which aims to improve access to specialized care for children covered by Medicaid who face complex medical needs. The Parlier Family was very excited with how things went in Washington.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Staff rolled out the KCEMA Family Disaster Plan to the public in 2024. This detailed document walks a family through gathering all the vital information they might need in emergencies. This was a massive project staff undertook to help get our residents prepared. The Plan document works in conjunction with the Emergency Preparedness Guide staff published in 2023.

The Plan booklet will be updated as we receive feedback.



LEMA GRANT FUNDING

Staff completed the process for the EMPG grant application for 2024. We were awarded \$23,416.91.

The Knox County Emergency Operations Plan is continually updated as changes take place. This 400+ page document is a massive undertaking that KCEMA partners with the City, Health Department, other County entities as well as the State to provide a plan for emergency situations.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The LEPC maintained inventories for all EHM located in Knox County. Chairman Schmitt attended multiple meetings with agencies storing EHM

The LEPC held an annual meeting on April 22.

Fire Department

IN MEMORY OF...



Assistant Chief
Jay Franey
Service: 8/1/1968 - 12/27/1989

Captain
Kevin Kitterman
Service: 9/22/1980 - 5/5/2004

Captain
Robert Galusha
Service: 4/1/1962 - 10/1/1982

Firefighter
Robert Redfern
Service: 11/1/1955 - 7/5/1979

When I am called to duty, God, wherever
flames may rage, give me strength to save
some life whatever be its age.



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