



# Albany Fire Department 2022 Annual Report



## Mission, Vision, and Values

The Albany Fire Department has an established mission:

***Prevent and Protect From Harm.***

It is the vision of the Albany Fire Department to be a diversified, safety-conscious, professional organization striving to be a leader in the fire service and community; participating in partnerships with private, public, and nonprofit organizations; continually looking for innovative means of delivering services; maintaining a high level of technical proficiencies through training and education; and understanding that the priority is to prevent rather than react to an emergency. We are courteous, caring, take pride in doing our job, and provide excellent community services.

# Chief's Message

**Our commitment** to provide an exceptional service to our community was on display this past year. I continue to be amazed at the high level of commitment shown by members of our department as they continue to work and look for ways we can complete our department's mission of Prevent and Protect from Harm. Our members have shown themselves to be dedicated and resilient as we slowly work our way out from under the pandemic and continue to look for improvements in all areas of the department both emergency and non-emergency alike.

This past year we saw yet another record year for calls for service. While we are actively working on ways to manage 911 usage, the population of Albany continues to grow and the number of people needing our services is more now than ever.

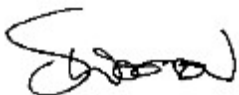
This past year we held the grand opening of Station 15 in the city of Millersburg. This station was paid for by the citizens of Millersburg and is operated by Albany Fire Department first responders. The partnership between Millersburg and the Albany Fire Department became operational in 2017 and has culminated in the grand opening of a new fire station and the start of providing ambulance services to their community, which both occurred over the summer.

This year the department found itself the recipient of two U.S. Department of Homeland Security grants. The first was the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant; this grant will allow the department to hire three additional firefighters for three years at no cost to the department.

This grant will help us have more firefighters available to respond to the needs of our community. In addition, the department received the U.S. Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant. This grant will cover most of the cost of purchasing a new fire engine for our fleet.

We look forward to a new year of exciting opportunities as we try to add ambulance capacity to a strained emergency medical services (EMS) system, while also looking for ways to improve our service to the community. It is of great importance to us that we ensure provided tax dollars entrusted to our department are used in a manner that benefits the safety of everyone in our service area.

We are grateful for the support our community provides and are equally grateful to be able to serve you in a manner that is comprised of compassion, integrity, and professionalism. Thank you for your trust.



Shane D. Wooton  
Fire Chief



## Start of Acting-In-Capacity Apparatus Operator (AIC AO) Academy

Some of the most involved training that goes on in AFD is that for firefighters interested in becoming an Apparatus Operator (or “AO”). Every year AFD conducts an academy for personnel who are looking to learn about the engines and how to drive and operate them. The program, which takes approximately a year, takes candidates through learning about each and every aspect of AFD suppression vehicles (tender, engine, and aerial) from their make and capabilities, to how to drive and operate them under emergency conditions.



# January/February

## TIMS Training

Every year numerous first responders throughout the country are killed responding to traffic incidents. Since I-5 forms part of the AFD response area, this training is particularly important. Traffic Incident Management System, or TIMS training (taught by ODOT), teaches our firefighters how to stay safe, manage the scene, and survive a traffic response.

## New Ventilators and Heart Monitors

As noted in the 2021 Annual Report, the new Zoll “Z-Vent” ventilators were placed on the ambulances this month. These new ventilators can provide the greater air pressure needed by COVID patients to breathe. In addition to the new ventilators, the ambulances also got new heart monitors. The original ones from the ambulances then went onto the engines (the old ones from the engines are now obsolete), so now all AFD engines and ambulances have up-to-date equipment to provide patient care in the case of a cardiac event. The whole department trained in how to use them under the guidance of the Zoll representative.



## Performers of the Year

Every year, AFD personnel get to vote on the people they feel best exemplify AFD values in the performance of their jobs. We are pleased to announce the following awards:



### Officer of the Year

Lt. Alex Chang



### Apparatus Operator of the Year

Keith Gillespie



### Firefighter of the Year

Jessica Jackovich



### Medics of the Year

Frank Clifton and Jackson Mehl



### Humanitarian of the Year

Chris McNeese

*AFD is very proud of its performers of the year and the hard work they put into making both the department and the community a better place.*

## Advanced Cardiac Life-Saving (ACLS)

Every year AFD hosts recertification training for Paramedic-level personnel in Advanced Cardiac Life-Saving, or ACLS. This advanced training, which builds on Basic Life Support skills, greatly increases the likelihood of patient's survival in the case of a life-threatening cardiovascular condition.

# March

## 8th Grade CPR classes

As part of our community outreach effort, AFD staff went to the local schools to teach CPR classes to 8th graders. These classes are part of a program to teach CPR to as many community members as possible, and build a safer community. This program is offered in partnership with the Albany Public Safety Foundation.





## Fire Investigation course

AFD hosted a one-week Fire Investigation course for the Office of the State Fire Marshal. This course brought together fire investigators from all over the state to learn how to conduct a proper fire investigation. The course included such investigation topics as arson and electrical fires, and coincided with training being done at the Burn to Learn house. It was of great use to the investigators to see real fire sets and investigate realistic scenarios of fires and arsons.

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# April

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## Burn to Learn

The Training Division is always looking for ways to provide realistic and up-to-date training for the Department. From time to time, people will donate structures to the department, and we can do what is called a “Burn to Learn,” staging a controlled fire for firefighters to practice in a real-time, live fire event. These are not regular occurrences, so when a citizen contacted us with a viable location (the department has strict requirements for what constitutes a viable structure), the department was excited to be able to stage a Burn to Learn for the benefit of our firefighters. After using the donated property to conduct various search and rescue trainings, and after the different fire scenarios were set up for the Fire Investigation course, AFD conducted the actual burn. It provided good training for both seasoned and new personnel.



## Operations Tune-up

This training encompasses Incident Command System (ICS) training, and is used to train the future generation of AFD leaders while enhancing leadership skills for current leadership. This training also provides clear and consistent strategy and tactics between firefighters and command during fireground operations. This is the beginning of ongoing training ventures that will continue to hone fireground skills and communications.

# May

## Wildland Fire Refresher Training

Every year the department conducts wildland fire refresher training (RT-130) to prepare for the start of the wildfire season. This training was conducted throughout the month of May for AFD personnel so they can maintain a high level of readiness for wildfire season.



# June/July

## Hiring process for four new firefighters

AFD began the task of interviewing prospective candidates to fill vacant positions in the department.

## Promotion process for Apparatus Operator (AO)

AFD conducted a promotion process to laterally appoint a new AO. Seven candidates tested for the position in a rigorous two-day process (day one: a lengthy written exam, day two: the practical exam, held at the Corvallis training tower). AFD is proud to welcome firefighter Brian Cashman to the ranks of Apparatus Operators.



## Rescue Technician training

AFD acquired another house through donation to use in June for training on ventilation, victim removal, breaching, and other non-burn skills. This training is similar that conducted during a Burn to Learn, but the house remains intact.

## Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP)

The Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP) training took place in July. This training, hosted by AFD at Station 11, brought together first responders (both law enforcement and fire personnel from around the state) to learn how to take skills and knowledge obtained in the classroom/academy and apply them to actual performance in on-the-job situations.

## \$35,000 grant

As part of the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Response Ready Oregon Initiative, the department applied for and received a \$35,000 grant to increase staffing during the wildfire season. This grant, which was available to departments throughout the state, provided critical funding to hire or pay extra staffing to respond to wildland fires with the goal of keeping those fires small and away from communities. This grant was of great use to AFD to increase on-duty capacity throughout the 2022 fire season at the local level and allow us to mobilize quickly to fight fires at the local, regional, and state (conflagration) levels.







## **Station 15 grand opening**

Station 15 in Millersburg celebrated its grand opening in July. This state-of-the-art space will not only serve as a fire station, but has enhanced facilities that can be used by City of Millersburg staff as well. The bid for the station was originally awarded in Spring 2020; Albany Fire Department gave input on the floorplan and amenities, and the City of Millersburg provided the funding to build the station.

*Below: Station 15 ribbon cutting ceremony, featuring Millersburg Mayor Scott Cowan and Albany Mayor Alex Johnson II.*





## Federal Grants Awarded

In September, AFD received the fantastic news that the department received two critical grants: the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant.

The AFG awarded \$642,727, which will go toward the purchase of a new fire engine. This engine will replace a 30-year-old engine that lacks current safety features.

The SAFER grant awarded \$1,332,378 to fully fund the hire of three new firefighters for a period of three years. The increase in staffing will bring the Department up to national standards for responding to fires and increase safety for all personnel. Those new hires will start in 2023.

# August/September/October

## Recruit Academy 2022-A

AFD is proud to welcome our four newest firefighters: Ashley Safa; Jordan Humphries; Parker Romviel; and Knightin Tomaz as they begin their academy. They will train together throughout the academy and are projected to join crews on the line at the beginning of December.



# November

## **Ventilation training**

AFD continued its benchmark training with vertical ventilation training. Using a prop on loan from the Department of Public Safety, Standards, and Training (DPSST), AFD personnel practiced their ladder skills and ability to vent a roof in the event of a fire. Training like this is critical to maintaining the firefighting skills necessary in the event of a fire.

## **Active threat training**

Much of the training AFD conducts is in the hope that we will never need to use it. A good example of this is Active Threat training – training that tells what to do in the event of a mass shooting. The end of the month had AFD personnel reviewing our active threat policy and practicing triage on simulated victims of a mass shooter.



## **Hosting wildland basic air operations training**

Based on its centralized location and the proximity of the local airport, AFD applied for and received a grant from DPSST to facilitate the wildland S-270, Basic Air Operations, training course for personnel across the state. The class will be held in early 2023.

## **More hiring**

The end of the month also saw AFD conducting interviews to fill the positions opened by the award of the SAFER grant. AFD is hiring for three positions, with offers going out in December. The new firefighters are scheduled to begin their academy in early 2023.

# December

## Recruit academies 2022-A and 2022-B

Recruit Academy 2022-A graduated their Academy, and they now go on the line, joining A, B, and C shifts, respectively. Offers have gone out to a new group of recruits, who are scheduled to begin their academy in late winter/early spring of 2023.

The beginning of Recruit Academy 2022-B began with the addition of firefighter Davis Blackmon. An academy of one can present challenges for training, but the department is taking this as an opportunity to deliver enhanced training, not only to the recruit, but to the trainers as well, with Recruit Blackmon also training with on-shift crews during his academy.

## Updating medical protocols

Medical procedures and technology is always changing and advancing. The department's medical protocols have been updated to reflect the most current equipment and practices. The department spent the early part of the month training on the changes in our never-ending drive to provide the best care possible to our community.

## December 23 ice storm

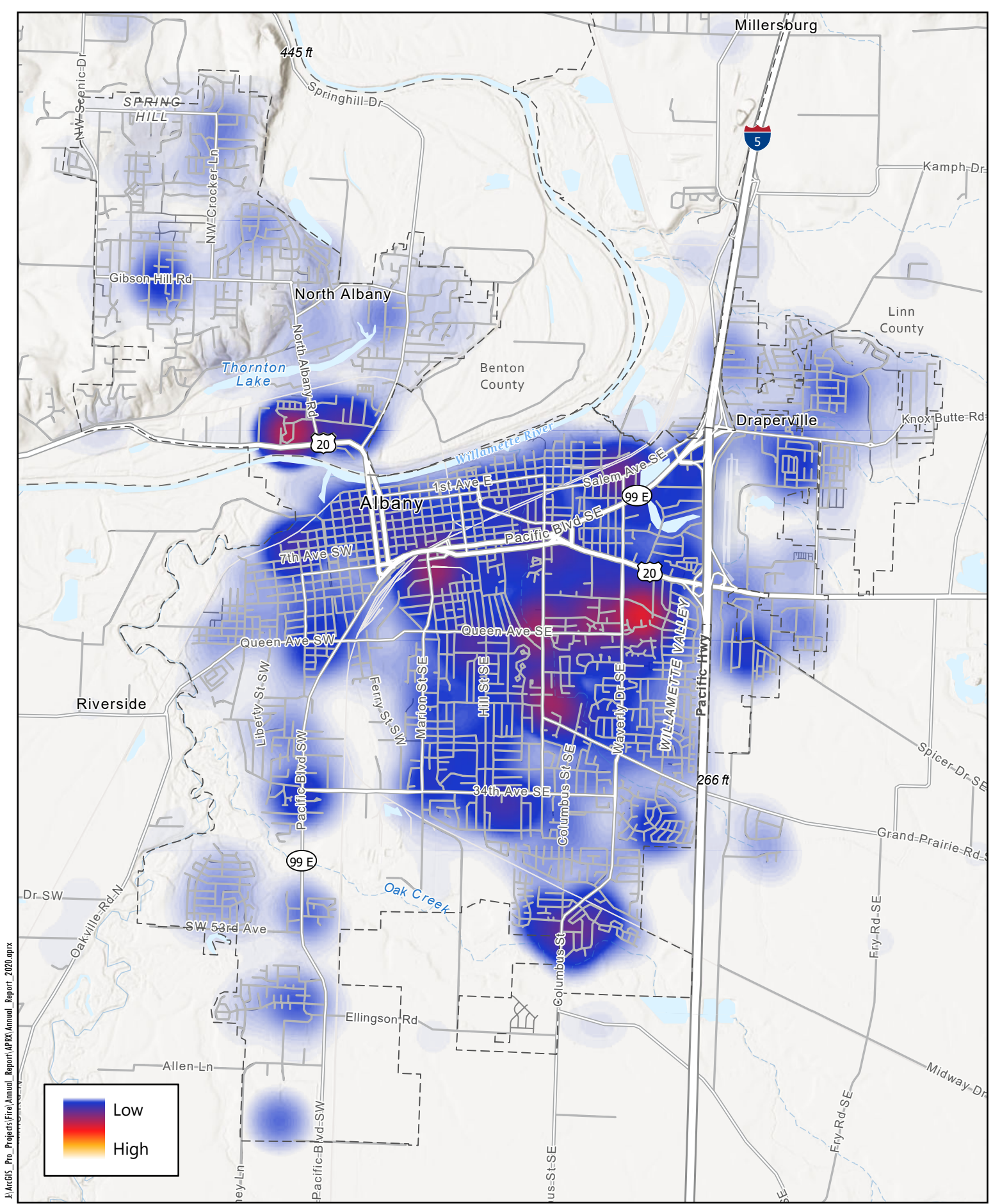
Right in the middle of everyone's last minute Christmas preparations, a surprise ice storm swept through the Willamette Valley, leading the department to a record number of calls ever in one day – 85! This is almost double the previous record. Crews were in motion all day, mostly due to the numerous calls for falls on the ice.



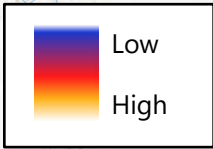
*Larry Allen and B.J. Vorderstrasse in the newly restored Seagraves engine.*  
Photo courtesy of the Albany Democrat Herald.

## Restoration of classic Seagraves engine

Members of the Muster Team (retirees Larry Allen and BJ Vorderstrasse, joined by graphic artist Bob Johnson) and several current members of AFD joined in the final efforts to restore the department's 1925 Seagraves to its former glory. This work comprised repairing and restoring the engine, gold-leafing and pinstriping, re-upholstering the seats, and polishing the silver and brass fittings. Work began in 2020 and the restored Seagraves should roll out in 2023.



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# AFD Responses in 2022

Date: 02/07/2023 Map Source: City of Albany, Albany Fire Department

Annual Report



## Albany FireFighters Community Assistance Fund

AFFCAF, a non-profit organization started in 2004, serves the community through the Albany Fire Department. AFFCAF is funded by firefighters themselves, fundraisers, and generous donations from the community. When firefighters see a need outside the scope of ambulance, fire, and rescue services (such as temporary financial assistance to fire or accident victims, non-emergency transport to the hospital, bike helmets for local youth and adults, or free loaner safety vests for water activities for example), AFFCAF will answer that need. Fundraisers include the annual AFFCAF Cornhole Tournament, and the Rick Rebel Memorial Golf Tournament. This year, AFFCAF also partnered with Antiques in the Streets, who made a very generous donation of \$8,300 to AFFCAF.



### *In Memoriam*

On July 6, 2022, retired Lieutenant Mark Matthews lost his courageous battle with cancer and became the first Line of Duty Death in our department's 153-year history. AFD mourns his loss and remembers his 24 years of service.



**MEDICAL CALLS**

**89%**  
OF TOTAL CALLS



**294 FIRES**

**41** HAZMAT CALLS    **4** EXPLOSIONS    **469** FALSE ALARMS



**OUTREACH**

**1,029** COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC VISITS

**6,580** LIFE SAFETY ED CONTACTS

**1,180** BUSINESS SAFETY INSPECTIONS



**507**

**MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS**



**10,858**

**TRAINING HOURS**



**DECEMBER 2022**

**HISTORICALLY HIGH CALL LOAD**

**1,158** EMERGENCY CALLS

**609** AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS

**TOTAL 2022 CALL VOLUME: 11,260**

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**Professional Affiliations**

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training • International Association of Arson Investigators • International Association of Fire Fighters Local #845  
National Fire Protection Association • Oregon Department of Forestry • Oregon Fire Chief's Association • Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators  
Oregon Fire Marshal's Association • Oregon State Fire Marshal • Oregon State Marine Board

**Community Partners**

Albany Chamber of Commerce • Albany Firefighters Community Assistance Fund • Albany Public Safety Foundation • Antiques in the Streets  
Costco • Country Financial Albany and Bend • Greater Albany Rotary Club • Home Depot • Lowe's • Margin Coffee • NoDinx • Rotary Club of Albany  
Samaritan Health Services • Sybaris • Tradewinds • Wal-Mart

**Government Partners**

City of Albany, especially the Albany Police Department and the Albany Public Safety Commission • City of Millersburg  
Linn County, especially Linn County Public Health and the Linn County Sheriff's Office  
Albany Rural Fire Protection District • North Albany Rural Fire Protection District • Palestine Rural Fire Protection District