

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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## FIRE CHIEFS MESSAGE



Let me extend my best wishes to you for a very safe and Happy New Year. This is the time of year when each of us should pause and reflect on all that has happened during the year just passed. What was good? What was bad? What really did not have an impact upon us? Since my arrival at Grant County Fire District 7 in February a lot has been accomplished, however in years to come there will be a lot to be done. Fire District 7 must maintain its momentum at providing the best possible service to the community while being good stewards of taxpayer money.

We need to understand how important it is that we learn to take the bitter with the better. We can neither change nor redo what has occurred in the year we just left. But it is possible for us to waste all the experiences we have had if we fail to assess what has happened and use it as the basis for what we wish to accomplish in the year which lies ahead.

Fire District 7 faced some challenges in 2023. The District had an aged and poorly maintained fleet which was limiting its response and capabilities to emergency incidents. This meant additional strains on neighboring departments. The Fleet was the priority for 2023 replacing 8 apparatus while increasing its water capacity and pump capacity.

Fire District 7 has worked hard with grant writing bringing in over \$700,000 in grant funds in 2023. These grant funds are being used for recruitment and retention of volunteers, equipment, apparatus and training to name a few. Without supplemental revenue Fire District 7 would not be able to be the progressive Fire District the public expects and deserves.

Volunteerism is the backbone of America's Fire Service. 65% of Fire Departments are Volunteer. Fire District 7 started off 2023 with 13 Volunteers. Due to the progressiveness of the district in 2023 we ended with 24 Volunteers. We have set a goal of 36 dedicated volunteers in the future and with the continued support of the community we will reach that goal.

On behalf of all the firefighters and emergency responders please accept our appreciation for your support and a remarkable year.

**Christopher Baker**

**Fire Chief**

## FIRE STATIONS

Grant County Fire District 7 operates out of two Fire Stations and a Maintenance Facility. Over the years our facilities have been poorly maintained due to budget restraints. In 2023 our Facilities were evaluated to determine their maintenance needs and a plan has been formulated for future repairs.

### FIRE STATION # 1 (HEADQUARTERS LAKEVIEW)



Station #1 is located at 155 WA-28 W in the unincorporated community of Grant County known as Lakeview. Station #1 was acquired in the late 80's. The building was built in the 1960's with several additions along the way. It previously served as a Grocery Store until it was purchased by Fire District 7. Today it serves as Fire District 7's primary fire station. It houses 2 Ambulances, 2 Structure Engines, 2 Brush Engines and 1 Water Tender. There is a small training room, kitchen, office and several storage rooms. Many of the conversions from a Grocery Store to a Fire Station were done by its hard-working volunteers.

## **FIRE STATION #2 (BLUE LAKE)**



Station #2 is located on Highway 17 across from the Blue Lake Resort. Station 2's land was acquired in 1985 in a legal document that states for mutual benefit and with a clause, that if the property ceases to be used for the purpose of fire prevention, protection or suppression for a period of 36 months the property would be deeded back to the original owners. Fire District 7 placed a steel structure on the property to serve as Station #2. In the 90's an addition was added for more garage space. This station has 4 apparatus garages, 1 small garage and small office space. This station houses 1 Structure Engine, 2 Brush Engines, 1 Water Tender and a Reserve Fire Engine for the District.

## MAINTENANCE FACILITY (LAKEVIEW)



Fire District 7's Maintenance Facility allows the Fire District to perform maintenance and fabrication of Fire Apparatus and Equipment without the need to contract those services to a vendor which in turn saves the taxpayers money.

In the 1970's Fire District 7 obtained a building located at 206 Adrian Ave NW, which was previously used as a carpentry Shop. Once obtained, this shop became the primary Fire Station. The building was built in 1965. This building served as a Fire Station for a couple of decades until the district was able to purchase an old Grocery Store on Highway 28 to serve as its headquarters. Today the building serves as the Maintenance Facility for the district to service and maintain the district's eighteen vehicles and equipment.

## APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

Fire District 7 had an average age of apparatus of **43 years old** at the beginning of 2023. With the cooperation of Washington State DNR's federal excess property program and grants, the Fire District was able to make several improvements in its fleet. The Fire District had several insurance losses in 2023 due to current year and prior year losses. The Fire District also utilized low interest loans to upgrade needed apparatus to ensure a safe reliable response to changing demands of the Fire District. In 2023 the priority was a safe and reliable response to its incidents. The Fire District ended the year with an average age of apparatus of **23 years old**. Below are the replacement apparatus obtained in 2023

### CHIEF 7001



#### 2023 GMC Sierra 2500 4x4 Command Unit

This unit is assigned to the Fire Chief for response and use for other Fire District Business.

### AMBULANCE 7171



#### 2012 FORD F-450 4x4 Type 1 Ambulance

This unit is the District's primary Basic Life Support Ambulance. It is equipped with emergency medical equipment, rescue equipment and mechanical CPR.

## ENGINE 7110



### 2002 HME Ferrara TYPE 1 Engine

This unit is equipped with a 1250GPM Midship Pump, 150GPM Auxiliary Pump, 750 Gallons of water, 20 Gallons Class A Foam, 20 Gallons Class B Foam, Auto Extrication Equipment, Stabilization, BLS Medical, Rope Rescue and Thermal Imaging Camera

## ENGINE 7111



### 1995 PIERCE 4x4 Type 1 Engine

This unit is equipped with a 1500GPM Midship Pump, 650 Gallons of water, 20 Gallons of Class A Foam, 20 Gallons of Class B Foam, Auto Extrication Equipment and BLS Equipment

## BRUSH 7121



### 2012 FORD F-550 Type 6 Engine

This unit is equipped with a 26hp Diesel Auxiliary Pump, 325 Gallons of water, 20 Gallons Class A Foam, Auto Extrication Equipment, Rope Rescue and BLS Medical Equipment. This unit is a dual-purpose Brush Engine and Rescue Unit



## BRUSH 7122



### 1997 STEWART/STEVENS 4X4

This unit is equipped with an 18hp Auxiliary pump, 750 Gallons of water, 5 Gallons Class A Foam, and a front mounted nozzle. This unit has extreme off-road capabilities and was a prior Military Unit which was then built and fabricated to a brush unit by Fire District 7

## TACTICAL TENDER 7131



### 2005 AMC M9 6X6

This unit is equipped with a 28hp Diesel Auxiliary Pump, 2500 Gallons of water and a front mounted nozzle. This unit has extreme off-road capabilities and was a prior Military Unit which was built and fabricated to a Tactical Tender by Fire District 7.

## ENGINE 7212



### 1997 FREIGHTLINER TYPE 1

This unit is equipped with a 1250GPM Midship Pump capable of Pump and Roll, 1000 gallons of water, Class A Foam, Auto Extrication, BLS Medical, Basic Rope Rescue, and is Wildland Fire Capable

# WASHINGTON SURVEYS AND RATING

Grant County Fire District 7 is working diligently to increase its water carrying capacity, training, fire station scheduled coverage, fire prevention, fire inspections and municipal water supply testing, to be better prepared for our next review by the Washington State Surveys and Rating. Fire District 7's goal is to lower from its current Community Protection Class of 6 to a Class 4. This will take a tremendous amount of work. It is one of the District's top priorities to ensure the tax paying citizens are properly protected and to pass on savings via a reduction of individual taxpayer's insurance rates.

## FINAL CALCULATION



### Community Protection Class (PC)

	Evaluation Areas			
	Water Supply	Fire Department	Emergency Communication	Fire Safety Control
Percent of Credit	71%	30%	67%	17%
Relative Value of Area in Evaluation	35%	40%	9%	16%
Relative Class of Evaluation Area	3	8	4	9

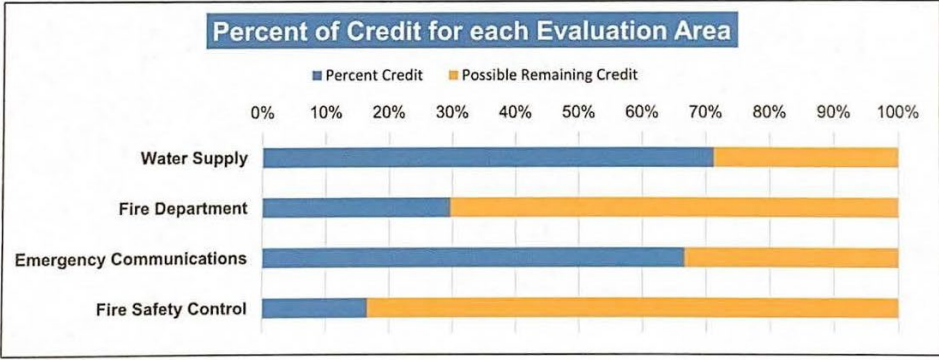
Total Credit (sum of each area credit X relative value)      4.56

Divergence Score      0.32

Community PC = (10-Total Credit)+Divergence Score      5.76 (Unrounded Score)

**Community Protection Class = 6**

Protection Class	Unrounded Score	Protection Class	Unrounded Score
1	0.0 to 1.00	6	5.01 to 6.00
2	1.01 to 2.00	7	6.01 to 7.00
3	2.01 to 3.00	8	7.01 to 8.00
4	3.01 to 4.00	9	8.01 to 9.00
5	4.01 to 5.00	10	9.01 to 10.00

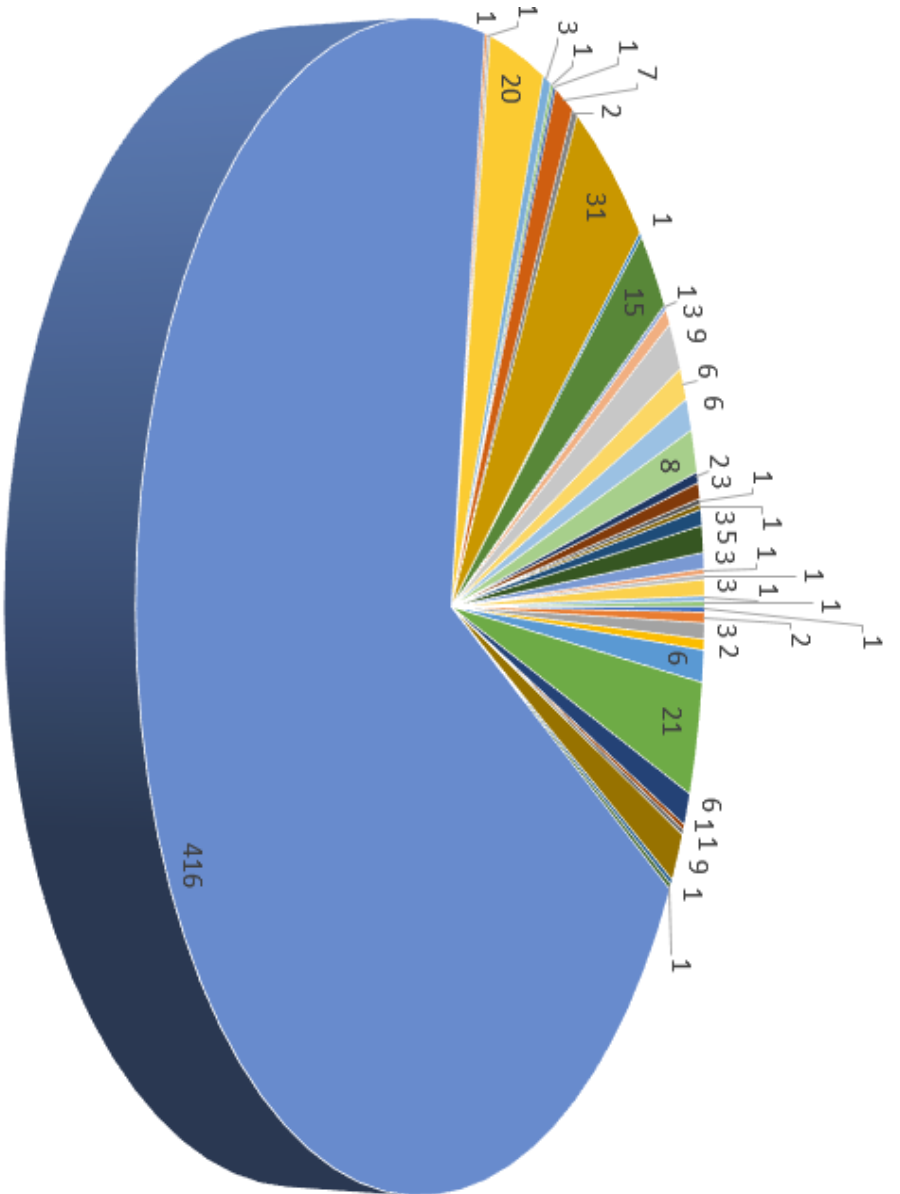


## INCIDENT TYPES 2023

Grant County Fire District 7 had an increase in call volume from 2022. The increase is primarily due to an increase in service to Fire District 7 by implementing EMS Transport to its citizens and visitors. **2022 total incidents 488** and **2023 total incidents 611** which is a **25.20% increase** in Incidents from the previous year.

Count of Incident Type	
Incident Type	Total
Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	1
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	2
Assist invalid	3
Assist police or other governmental agency	2
Authorized controlled burning	6
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	21
Building fire	6
Camper or recreational vehicle (RV) fire	1
Cooking fire, confined to container	1
Dispatched & canceled en route	9
Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1
Emergency medical service incident, other	1
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	416
Explosion (no fire), other	1
Extrication, rescue, other	1
False alarm or false call, other	20
Fire, other	3
Garbage dump or sanitary landfill fire	1
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1
Good intent call, other	7
Grass fire	2
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	31
Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	1
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	15
Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1
Natural vegetation fire, other	3
Outside rubbish fire, other	9
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	6
Passenger vehicle fire	6
Person in distress, other	8
Police matter	2
Power line down	3
Rescue or EMS standby	1
Search for person on land	1
Service Call, other	3
Smoke or odor removal	5
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	3
Special outside fire, other	1
Trapped by power lines	1
Unauthorized burning	3
Water & ice-related rescue, other	1
Wrong location	1
Grand Total	611

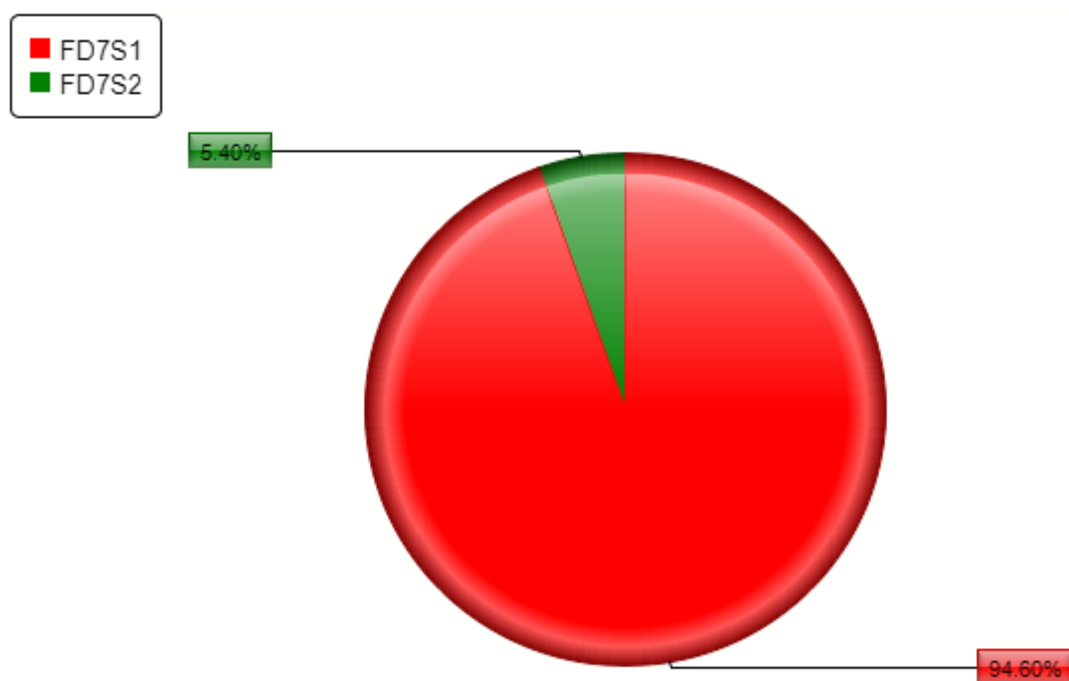
INCIDENT TYPE



- Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional
- Arcing, shorted electrical equipment
- Assist invalid
- Assist police or other governmental agency
- Authorized controlled burning
- Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire
- Building fire
- Camp or recreational vehicle (RV) fire
- Cooking fire, confined to container
- Dispatched & canceled en route
- Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other
- Emergency medical service incident, other
- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury
- Explosion (no fire), other
- Extrication, rescue, other
- False alarm or false call, other
- Fire, other
- Garbage dump or sanitary landfill fire
- Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)
- Good intent call, other
- Grass fire
- Medical assist, assist EMS crew
- Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other
- Motor vehicle accident with injuries
- Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)
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- Outside rubbish fire, other
- Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire
- Passenger vehicle fire
- Person in distress, other
- Police matter
- Power line down
- Rescue or EMS standby
- Search for person on land
- Service Call, other
- Smoke or odor removal
- Smoke scare, odor of smoke
- Special outside fire, other
- Trapped by power lines
- Unauthorized burning
- Water & ice-related rescue, other
- Wrong location

## INCIDENT RESPONSE (STATIONS)

Grant County Fire District 7 operates out of two Fire Stations. Fire Station #1 is in the community of Lakeview and Fire Station #2 is located off of Highway 17 across from the Blue Lake Resort Entrance. Fire Station #1 had a total of **578 responses**; Fire Station #2 had a total of **33 responses**.



## RESPONSE TIMES

Grant County Fire District 7 has worked diligently to reduce its response times. The response time is from time of call to arrival at the incident. In 2023 the Fire District was able to reduce its response time by 24% with an average response time in 2023 of 7.84 minutes compared to 2022 of 10.29 minutes.

2023 Response Time = 7.84 minutes

2022 Response Time = 10.29 minutes

**Response Time Reduction of 24%**

### NFPA 1720 RESPONSE TIME STANDARDS

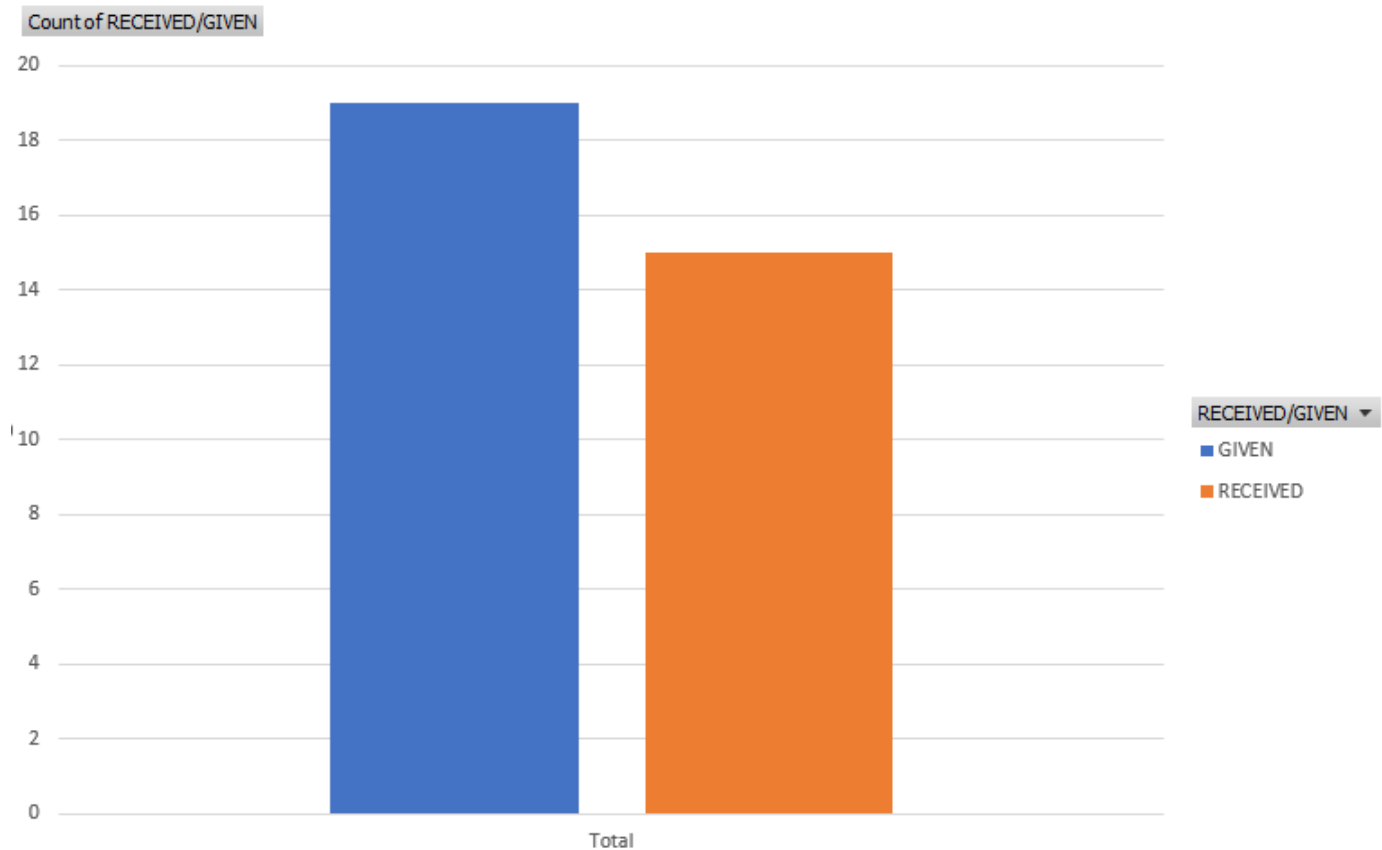
Demand Zone	Demographics	Minimum Staff to Respond	Response Time in Minutes
Urban area	More than 1,000 people per square mile	15	9
Suburban area	Between 500-1,000 people per square mile	10	10
Rural area	Less than 500 people per square mile	6	14
Remote area	Travel distance of 8 miles or more	4	Depends on travel distance
Special Risks	Determined by the AHJ	Determined by AHJ based on risk	Determined by the AHJ

## MUTUAL AID

With dwindling numbers of volunteers available to answer the call today, mutual aid is more important than it has been in the past. Fire Service Agencies across the country are relying on it more due to volunteerism being at an all-time low, limited budget, increased costs and the increased demand on the Fire Service. The increase in mutual aid can inspire confidence among the local fire agencies and put leaders more at ease knowing help will be on the way whenever it may be needed. Fire District 7 would not be successful with its larger incidents without Mutual Aid from its neighboring departments Ephrata Fire Department and Fire District 13. In 2023 the Mutual Aid System went further than our direct neighbors, where on 2 occasions we requested an all call of all Grant County Fire Departments and Districts. This was a true test of our local communities coming together in a time of need and we would not have been successful without their support.

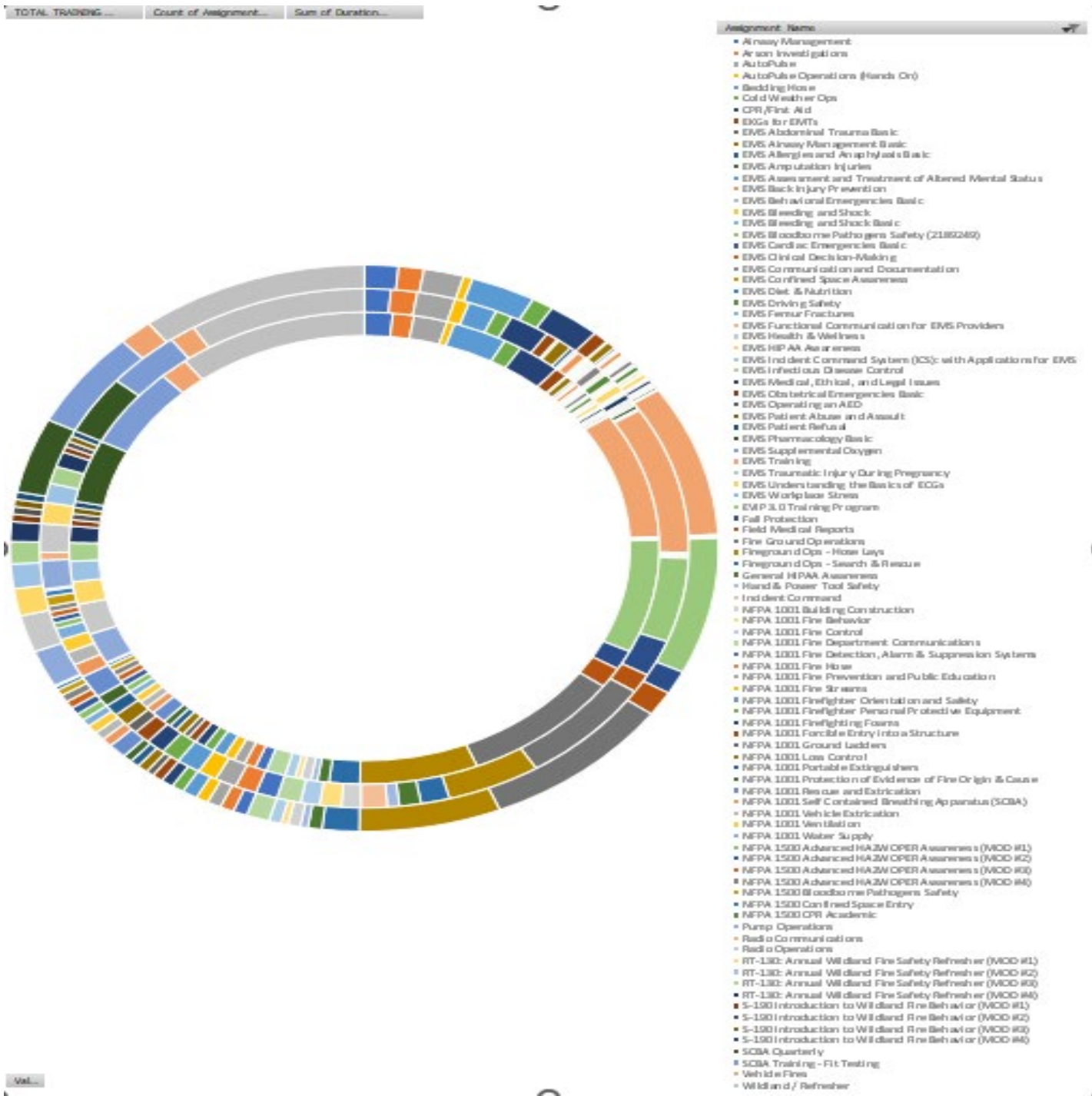
**2023 Mutual Aid Received: 15 Incidents**

**2023 Mutual Aid Given: 20 Incidents**



# TRAINING

Fire District 7 Volunteers took part in 1,577.5 hours of training in 2023. The training consisted of classroom, hands-on, field exercises, computer-based training and webinars. Subjects included, but were not limited to, structure firefighting, wildland firefighting, hazardous materials, confined space, EMS, driver operator, vehicle fires and incident command system.





## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Fire District 7 believes the Fire Department is the backbone of the community. District staff and volunteers participated in many events and community service activities in 2023. The Fire District performed fire and EMS standby at many community events such as 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities, fall festivals, and car shows. Fire District 7 EMS performed stand-by at the Soap Lake High School Football games free of charge to support its Soap Lake Eagles and to ensure medical personnel were available for our competitive youth sports. Fire District 7 staff attend Senior Center Events and Luncheons to be more present in the community, ensuring we have a great relationship with our seniors. The Fire Chief hosted several events such as Tea with the Chief and meet and greets in the community to ensure questions were answered about Fire District 7 and to gain valuable relationships.

The Fire District 7 non-profit organization “High Rollers” was visible in the community in 2023 raising needed funds for valuable equipment such as a mechanical CPR device, rescue equipment and the latest, a new/used Fire Engine. The love and support Fire District 7 citizens have for its volunteers is the reason we have been successful in continuing to provide the best possible service to our citizens.



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

In November of 2022 Fire District 7 was successful with a needed EMS Levy to support its demanding EMS response. Fire District 7 took this a step further and began a Basic Life Support Ambulance Transport Program in July of 2023. This added program ensures the citizens are provided a timely response and care during a medical emergency. The added transport program has reduced the response time for our patients by over 75% ensuring our patients receive definitive care in a timely manner.

As we know the Soap Lake Area is known to be a community where many of its citizens live in poverty. Our EMS Transport program was developed to ensure the need for EMS Transport did not set our citizens further behind in trying to get ahead with their finances. Fire District 7 prides itself in providing an affordable ambulance program by only charging insurance for its services to its citizens. This is unlike any other available ambulance service in the area. We do this with hopes of allowing people to get ahead in life, provide for their families and have a better quality of life.

Fire District 7 operates two Basic Life Support Ambulances with ten EMT's. Fire District 7 also has several members currently taking the EMT course or will be completing it in 2024.



## FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Prevention is an important part of the Fire Service. Fire Prevention includes commercial building inspections, fire code violations, event permit approval, fire investigation, commercial pre-plans, plans review, Alarm System Compliance, Knox Box Program, School Fire Prevention, Fire Station Open House and other community outreach programs.

Fire District 7 has been working with several businesses to update emergency response plans, pre plans, and fire code compliance walk throughs. These activities will be increasing in 2024 to ensure we have a well-developed plan to combat an array of emergencies within Fire District 7.



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Taking the time to recognize your volunteers helps retain high-performing volunteers and recruit new ones. Recognizing their contribution will only increase a volunteer's satisfaction and willingness to further participate in the Fire District.

Fire District 7 recognized several outstanding members in 2023.

- Josh Chambers 2023 Firefighter of the Year
- Aaron Classen 2023 Battalion 2 Rookie of the Year
- Jake Friesen 2023 Battalion 1 Rookie of the Year
- Michael Harper 2023 Chief's Choice Award

Fire District 7 also recognized Sun Lakes Park Resort with the James Fronsman Memorial Volunteer Award for outstanding support to their Fire District.

