

January 2025

2024 TAMARAC FIRE RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT

A Comprehensive Overview
of Our Annual Achievements





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A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF ANNESE

As Fire Chief for Tamarac Fire Rescue, I am proud to present our 2024 Annual Report as part of our commitment to continuous self-improvement. This Annual Report ensures Tamarac Fire Rescue's position as a leader in developing seamless pathways that enhance emergency services.

This strategic plan creates a future vision based on our shared values and commitment to those we serve. I encourage all members of the great organization to treat this plan as a living document and recognize that this is a continuous improvement process and is essential in delivering commitment to 'excellence always' in everything we do.

To our external stakeholders, thank you for your bold and honest feedback. This information has provided insight to help us refine our goals, set new priorities, develop the necessary framework and processes to improve effective strategies, and clarify our future direction to address our communities' needs and concerns.

In closing, our commitment to the people we serve is unwavering. Woven in each part of this plan is our shared focus on community partnership and excellence in quality and safety. We are excited to share this refreshed strategic plan for 2024 - 2029, which builds on the strengths of our mission and lays the groundwork for an ambitious future. Thank you all...

Sincerely,

Michael Annese
Chief Michael Annese



MISSION, VISION & CORE VALUES



MISSION STATEMENT

**“SAVING LIVES AND PROPERTY
THROUGH THE PROVISION OF
HIGH QUALITY FIRE, MEDICAL
AND HAZARD MITIGATION
SERVICES”**

A diagonal collage of five photographs showing various fire department activities: firefighters in gear, a group of staff in uniform, a person in a red shirt, and a person in a blue shirt.

VISION STATEMENT

“EXCELLENCE ALWAYS”

MISSION, VISION & CORE VALUES



TAMARAC FIRE RESCUE VALUES

R.E.S.C.U.E

RESPONSIBILITY

WE ARE COMMITTED TO BEING ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR ACTIONS AND DECISIONS, UPHOLDING OUR DUTY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY WITH INTEGRITY.

EMPATHY

WE APPROACH EVERY SITUATION WITH COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING, ENSURING THE WELL-BEING OF THOSE WE SERVE.

SAFETY

WE PRIORITIZE THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR PERSONNEL, IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICES AND PROACTIVE MEASURES.

COLLABORATION

WE FOSTER TEAMWORK AND PARTNERSHIPS, WORKING TOGETHER WITH COLLEAGUES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS.

UNITY

WE STAND UNITED IN OUR MISSION, EMBRACING CHANGE, RESILIENCE IN ADVERSITY

EXCELLENCE

WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR SERVICE, CONTINUOUSLY SEEKING TO IMPROVE AND INNOVATE.

ABOUT US

Meet our Command Staff

Tamarac Fire Rescue protects the life, health, property and natural resources of the community by providing emergency medical, fire suppression and inspection services. These services, along with proactive educational and outreach efforts, disaster preparedness and recovery help contribute to Tamarac's high level of public safety.

With a full-time equivalent (FTE) staff of 123 personnel, the department maintains daily staffing for four suppression units, five advanced life support transport units, one stand alone captain and one battalion chief.



Fire Chief
Michael Annese



Deputy Fire Chief
Jonathan Frasher



Assistant Chief
Jeff Lopez



Fire Marshal
CRR Division Chief
Tommy Demopoulos



EMS Division Chief
Ralph Droz



Battalion Chief
A shift
Derek Cerny



Battalion Chief
B Shift
David Greenstein



Battalion Chief
C Shift
Steven Stillwell

Meet our Support Staff



Administrative
Coordinator
Rocio Goode



Administrative
Assistant
Mirna Gonzalez



Office Specialist
Heather Vega



Technical Support
Representative III
Charmanie Brooks

OPERATIONS

A Shift

Battalion Chief - Cerny, D
Captain-15 Gjertsen, K

Captains

Gutierrez, D
Bua, J
Boyhan, M
McLaughlin, S

Lieutenants

Korte, S
Pyke, N
Esponda, G
Lashin, M
Maria, J

Driver Engineers

Hudanich, S
Stairs, M
Scott, J
Atencio, L

Firefighter / Paramedics

Alves, E
Barrios, J
Bedard, T
Currea, A
Davis, E
Earls, I
Fulton, C
Garcia, N
Garcia, Y
Kinlaw, J
Kim, J
Licata, V
Linares, S
Maldonado, E
Matlock, K
Murad, J
Thompson, A
Panisch, A
Puertas, S
Rodriguez, Y
Rojas, S
Velez, R

B Shift

Battalion Chief -Greenstein, D
Captain-15 Dixon, C

Captains

Regits, A
Seaman, A
Ajuria, M
Onorati, P

Lieutenants

Cunningham, M
Rosenbaum, E
Curbelo, C
Fernandez, L
Jirau, O

Driver Engineers

Lui, C
Matos, F
Sherman, D
Musselwhite, C

Firefighter / Paramedics

Acosta, D
Alfonso, J
Anello, J
Bledsoe, J
Carty, A
DeLuague, T
Escobedo, A
Farr, A
Figueroa, X
Fogle, S
Fuentes, A
Garcia, C.J.
Ganges, K
Jeffers, S
Luna, J
Martin, G
Miller, K
Nogami, J
Paguio, M
Rozalez, D
Sheddy, J
Virgile, J

C Shift

Battalion Chief - Stillwell, S
Captain-15 Sweginnis, B

Captains

Wilton, M
Duesler, W
Chery, G
Ojeda, W

Lieutenants

Arias, A
Lynch, R
Mais, K
Shahan, J
Gibson, K

Driver Engineers

Cundiff, D
Day, B
McCarthy, C
Avril, F

Firefighter / Paramedics

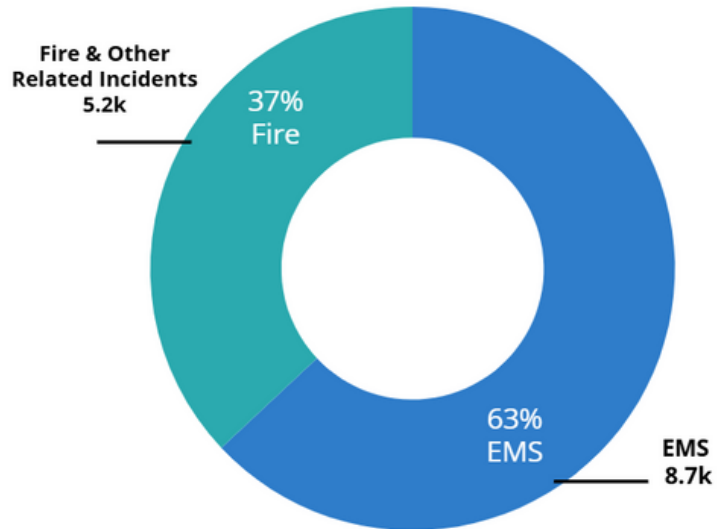
Alzugaray, H
Assaf, G
Carlson, H
Castro, M
Garcia, C
Garnica, M
Jaile, C
Kennett, J
Lazzell, C
Lefler, B
Levine, D
Neary, J
Patrick, J
Rodriguez, E
Rogers, C
Roman, H
Stillwell, Z
Tramonte, S
Vallorani, N
Walker, B
Suarez, G

OPERATIONS

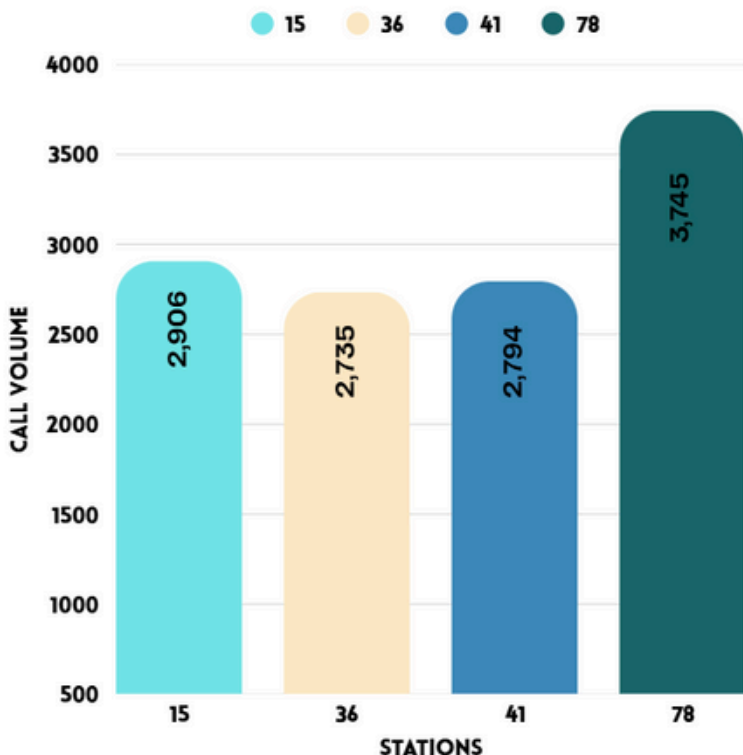
Total Call Volume 2024

13,768

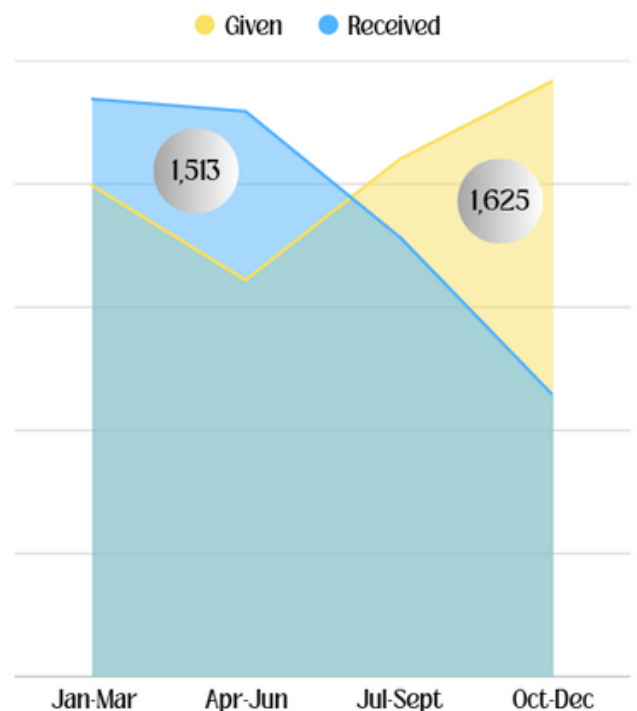
EMS / Fire Incident Breakdown



EMERGENCY CALLS PER STATION ZONE



Automatic Mutual Aid Response



OUR FIRE STATIONS

Tamarac Fire Rescue Stations: CBS Construction with Full Fire Sprinkler Systems, Monitored Fire Alarms, and Backup Emergency Generators

Fire Station 15
6000 Hiatus Rd
Built 2005



Fire Station 41
7501 NW 88th Ave
Built 1978



Fire Station 36
7499 NW 72 St
Built 2021



Fire Station 78
4801 W Commercial Blvd
Rebuilt 2017



FIRE ADMINISTRATION

The fire administration is responsible for and coordinates budgeting, strategic planning, performance measurement, operational policy development, EMS protocol development, human resources, training, disaster preparedness, employee health, safety, and wellness.

 **\$31,588,411 FY 24 Budget** 

Tamarac Fire Rescue Accomplishments

- Two new suppression units were acquired: a Quint and an Engine.
- TFR ALS Team Wins 1st Place at the Florida Fire Conference ALS Competition, Connie Rhea St. Augustine and brought home the Florida Cup after competing at the Miami-Dade EMS Competition.
- ALS Team secures 2nd Place at the First There First Care Conference.
- ALS Team achieves 3rd Place at the EMS World Competition in Las Vegas.
- “Dalmatian Art” unveiled at Fire Station 36.
- 2025 Re-Accreditation Site Visit: Various assessors conducted a review and inspection from December 9–12, 2024, as part of the reaccreditation process.
- Maintained CFAI-Accredited Agency status (Commission on Fire Accreditation International) through annual compliance reporting.
- Insurance Services Office (ISO) site visit took place July 2024.
- Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick visits TFR, recognizing our team at the World Rescue Challenge 2024.
- Hosted the Florida Fire Chiefs Association’s Emergency Services Leadership Institute classes.
- Throughout the year, TFR participates in the City’s ‘Tamarac University’ program, educating community members and City staff about Fire Rescue operations."
- HCA Woodmont Hospital honored Fire Station 36 for outstanding pre-hospital care, treatment, and community commitment.
- Ongoing collaboration with Broward County partners to manage and reduce fire risk at Woodmont Natural Area: crews substantially cleared the understory on the north side, treated invasive vegetation, and installed a new hydrant. The preserve remains under evaluation as plans for future prescribed burns are developed.
- TFR Benevolent hosted our second annual golf tournament, raising funds that support community members and staff—enhancing public safety and fostering unity.
- Each month, the TFR’s Community Risk Reduction Division performed walkthroughs to raise Operations’ awareness of construction developments and life-safety hazards.
- TFR becomes Department of Health’s Gold Water Smart Community.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

TFR Community Risk Reduction Division promotes life and property safety through code compliance and public education. The division is organized with a Fire Marshal, an Assistant Fire Marshal, a Plans Examiner, three Fire Inspectors, a Senior Office Specialist, and an Community Education Preparedness Specialist.

Broward County Amendments require that all commercial and multi-family structures be inspected at least annually. The Division is also responsible for new construction fire plan reviews and inspections, permit inspections on new businesses, renovations and improvements to sites and systems, fire investigations, public education, community outreach and to assist as needed with Emergency Management. Members of the Division perform the roles of Firefighter if called upon, Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator and Public Educator.

TFR Community Risk Reduction Division maintains 100% compliance for Broward County mandated safety inspections. 100% Customer Satisfaction according to transactional surveys.

Meet our CRR Team



**Fire Marshal
CRR Division Chief
Tommy Demopoulos**



**Assistant Fire Marshal
Rebecca Geimer**



**Fire Plans Examiner
Cintia Chelles**



**Fire Inspector
Sheila Doblás**



**Fire Inspector
Marshall Seals**



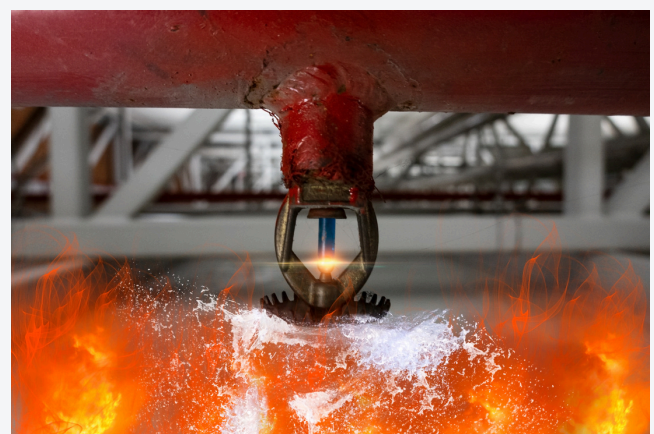
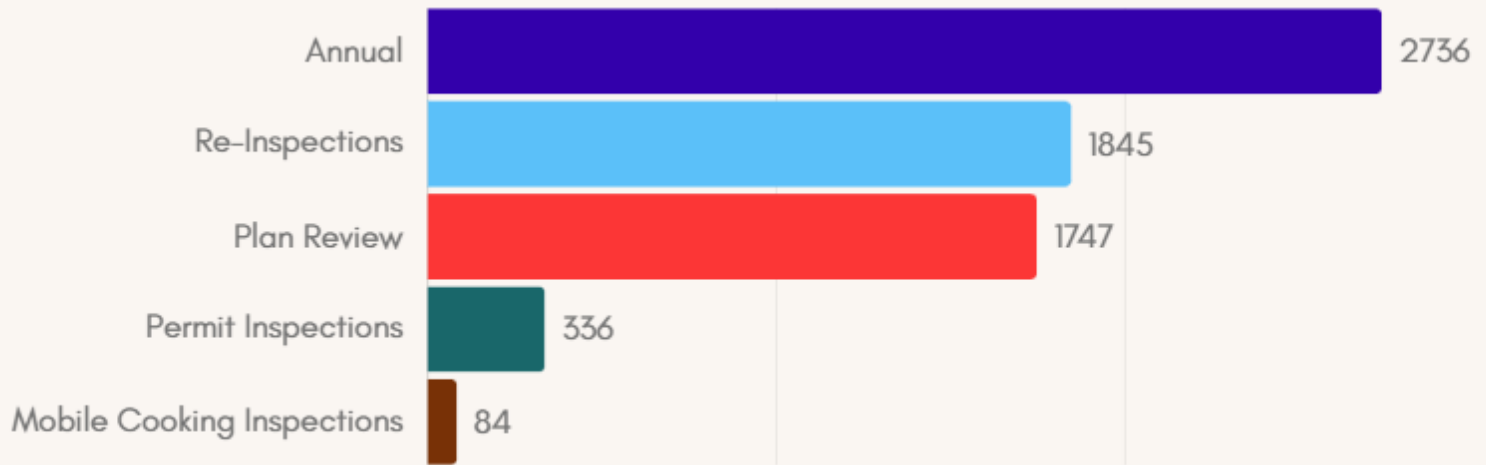
**Fire Inspector
Giovanni Jiovenetta**



**Community Education
Preparedness Specialist
Van Schoen**

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Code Administration



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Public Education

Tamarac Fire Rescue is strategically positioned to mitigate risk in the City of Tamarac. Our firefighters, medics, and inspectors engage with the community daily, gaining valuable insights through medical calls, inspections, and emergency responses. These real-time assessments guide our educational programs and prevention initiatives, allowing us to proactively address safety concerns and reduce potential hazards.



- TFR was named a Red Cross's **"Signature City"** during the National Sound the Alarm Campaign. A total of 421 smoke alarms were installed across 168 homes, along with 5 carbon monoxide alarms.

Community Engagement & Events

- Participated in 73 City events.
- 122 car seats installed
- Community CPR: 108 participants completed full CPR training, and 174 participated in Hands-Only CPR demonstrations at city events.
- Visited the Broward Sheriff's Office as part of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.
- Achieved Gold Level "Water Smart Community" recognition from the Department of Health.
- 42 fire drills conducted across diverse facilities including schools, hospitals, day cares, nursing homes, and city buildings.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Public Education

Training & Education

- Hosted fire sprinkler training in partnership with the American Fire Sprinkler Association.
- Participated in the Annual Fire Cadet Competition in Coral Springs, where TFR Cadets placed 3rd in the Hose Evolution event.
- Launched a Slip-and-Fall Initiative—free grip socks were distributed to vulnerable members of the community. Calls fell from 1,130 calls in 2023 to 995 in 2024.



Public Outreach & Partnerships

- Participated in the Coral Springs Job Fair.
- Hosted Senior Social Day at TCC, offering CPR training and safety tips.
- Took part in Teacher Appreciation Week at Challenger Elementary.
- Issued a proclamation for Home Fire Sprinkler Awareness Week.
- Joined celebrations for two residents turning 100, including a fire apparatus drive-by.
- Took part in the Public Safety Expo at Alzahar School.
- Provided CPR training for Parks & Recreation Department Summer Counselors.
- Led a Faircrest 14 HOA meeting on hurricane preparedness and life safety tips.
- Fire trucks displayed at 30+ schools within the community.
- Hosted a Side-by-Side Burn and Fire Sprinkler Demonstration at Gold Coast Schools.
- On the first day of school, Fire Inspectors and Sparky the Dog visited Challenger and Tamarac Elementary schools.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Public Education

Student Engagement & Education Contests

- Hosted NFPA Fire Prevention's 4th Annual Poster and Essay Contest— Challenger Elementary winners were recognized at a commission meeting on 11/7/24 and celebrated with an ice cream party hosted by Sparky and Fire Inspectors.
- Hosted 100 Challenger Elementary children on a field trip and tour of Fire Station 15.
- Took part in the Reading Across America Challenge with Challenger Elementary.

Cadet Activities & Awards

- TFR Cadets attended the Cadet Fest in West Palm Beach, gaining firefighting skills and connecting with Cadets from across Florida.

Community Support & Events

- Partnered with Community Christian Church to donate and deliver Thanksgiving meals to families in need.
- Participated in the North Lauderdale Parade.

Tam-A-Gram Newsletter Articles

- Water Safety and Hurricane
- Lithium-Ion Battery Safety
- Holiday Safety Tips
- Fireworks Safety Tips



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Fire Investigation

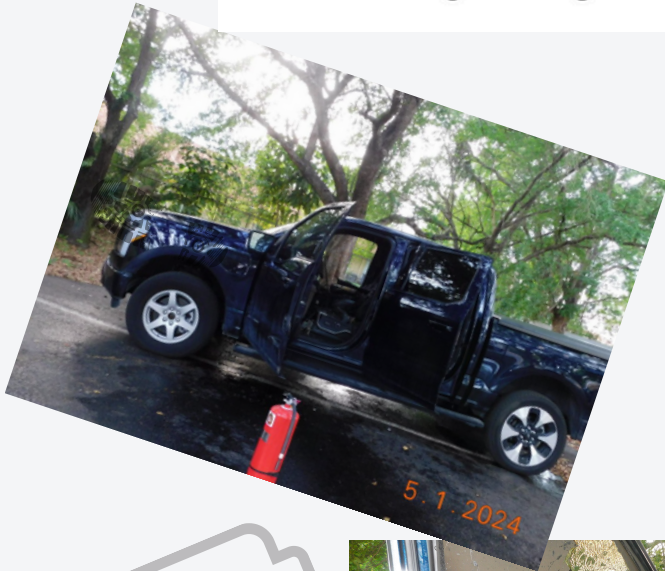
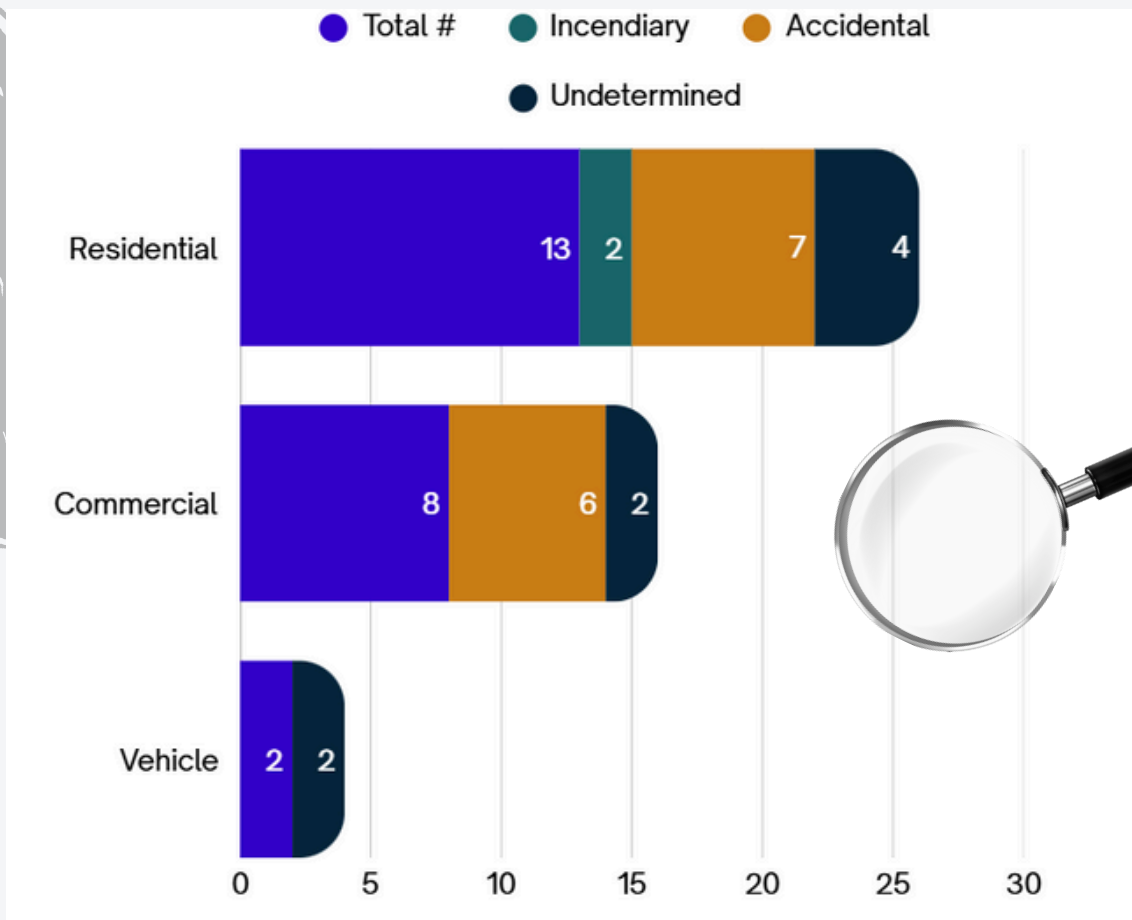


Fires within CITY LIMITS



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Fire Investigation



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Emergency Management

- Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) conducted throughout the year.
- CERT members participated in the fallen Margate Police Officer memorial event.
- WebEOC Training delivered to team members, with WebEOC refresher sessions provided for city staff.
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) equipment tested on multiple dates to ensure operational readiness.
- Fire Marshal lectured at "Inspectors Deploying to Disasters" for the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association.
- Collaborative planning sessions held with Parks & Recreation and Building Department staff to discuss and refine emergency response plans.
- Participated in Broward County Recovery Exercise to enhance regional disaster recovery coordination.
- Delivered hurricane preparedness training tailored for City Directors and administrative staff.
- Hosted a Hurricane Preparedness discussion with the King's Point HOA to engage residents in readiness planning.
- Lectured at the Governor's Hurricane Conference on the topic of Fire Inspectors deploying to disasters.
- Multiple deployments following Hurricane's Helene & Milton.



Van Schoen

Emergency Management Coordinator



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Number of Alerts



Top 3 EMS Calls

1

TRAUMATIC
INJURY

*(such as falls or car
incident with injuries)*

2

GENERAL
WEAKNESS

3

SYNCOPE OR
NEAR SYNCOPE

**Cardiac
Arrest**

62

of Utstein
Cardiac Arrests

31%

Out of hospital with
Return Of Spontaneous
Circulation (ROSC)

*Utstein survival criteria focuses on out of hospital cardiac arrest events that were witnessed by a bystander and found in a shockable rhythm. State of Florida is 29%. National Rate is 33%

EMS DIVISION STAFF



Chief Rafael Droz

MEDICAL DIRECTORS



Dr. Jerry Brooks



Dr. Benny
Menendez

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

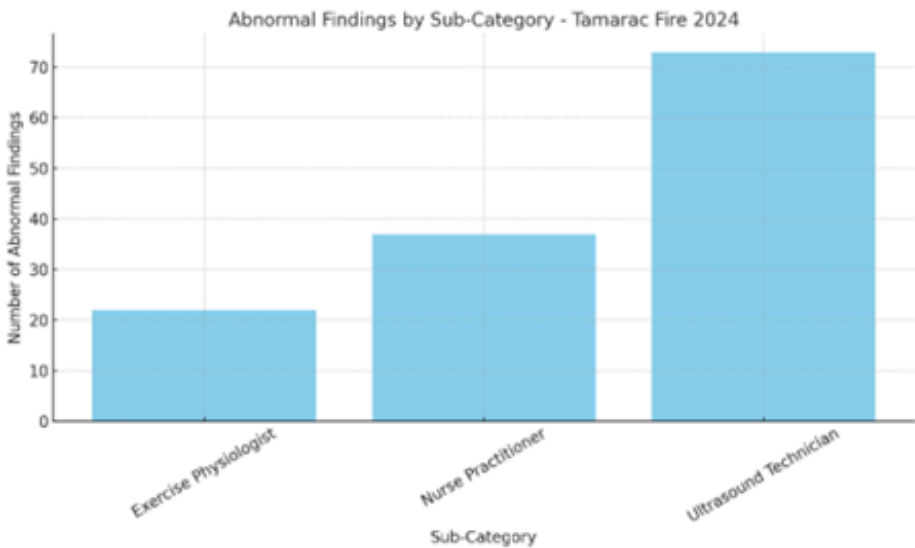
Health & Safety

Tamarac Fire Rescue has placed the safety division within the Training & EMS Division of the fire department. Establishing such a vital component to the organization is to investigate and review all workplace accidents, safety-related incidents, reportable injuries, illnesses, diseases, and fatalities. This is done so by forming our own departmental Safety Committee. This Committee is made up of both management and labor staff. This committee is required under Florida Administrative Rule 69A, Florida State Statute 633, and NFPA 1500.

Meetings are held quarterly to review member injuries, accidents, and broken equipment. These incidents are reviewed and analyzed to ensure the health and safety of our members, along with recommendations and actions to prevent and or reduce these incidents from happening in the future. In 2024, we had fourteen injuries to our personnel. The safety committee has reviewed the incidents and made recommendations to the administrative staff regarding any possible corrective actions necessary. One notable change this year was adding an additional spotter outside the vehicle when backing our apparatus. The standalone Captain position with a Scene Safety Officer designation has been in place for over a year and used successfully during emergency incidents and during training exercises.

The committee is continuously looking for ways to improve health and safety for our members through a review of new equipment, apparatus design, current national standards, trends, and our policies and procedures.

2024's Annual Physical Fitness Assessments Lifescan Wellness (IAFF contract Wellness Program Article 20). 103 personnel participated in the annual physical and 2 were deemed not fit for duty. Those members received a fit for duty clearance.



Life Scan
Wellness
Findings

Here's a bar chart showing the abnormal findings by sub-category from the Tamarac Fire 2024 health data:

- Ultrasound Technician → 73 abnormalities
- Nurse Practitioner → 37 abnormalities
- Exercise Physiologist → 22 abnormalities

LOGISTICS/FIRE SUPPORT

The logistics division reports directly to the Assistant Chief of Administration who in turn updates the Deputy Chief of Operations and the Fire Chief on logistical, procurement, and budgetary matters. The logistics division monitors and tracks all departmental purchases and maintains a balanced budget for the Fire Chief. The logistical officer is responsible for the ordering, disbursement, and maintenance of equipment.

Tamarac Fire Rescue Logistics consists of a Fire Officer and a Logistics Technician. Annually, the officer is responsible for reviewing all vendor contracts to make sure they are still current and meet the city's requirements. Through monthly and quarterly meetings, the Logistics Division can update the Fire Chief on the status of projects, contracts, and budgetary needs.

New Equipment

- Battery Operated CPR Device (Lucas)
- Replacement Stretcher (Stryker Battery operated)
- Pediatric Stretcher Immobilizers
- Motorola Mobile and Portable Radios
- Pierce Quint
- Pierce Heavy Duty Rescue Pumper (Engine)
- Battery Powered Vehicle Extrication Holmatro
- Front Line Fire Suppression units converted compartments to accommodate newly battery powered Holmatro from dual corded hydraulic



**Assistant
Chief Jeff Lopez**



**Lt. Patty Pyke
Logistics Officer**



**Alyssa Curbelo
Fire Logistics Technician**

The department celebrated the arrival of Quint 15 and Engine 36 with a Push-Back Ceremony, honoring the traditions of our fire service. Department members, City staff, and community supporters came together to officially place the new engines into service. The event served as a tribute to our history while highlighting the department's commitment to excellence, blending time-honored customs with modern advancements in firefighting.

HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITIES

Department Highlights

Professional Development & Achievements:

- Deputy Chief Jonathan Frasher – Master's Degree
- Assistant Chief Jeffrey Lopez – Master's Degree
- Division Chief Tommy Demopoulos – Master's Degree
- Firefighter Paramedic Edwing Maldonado – Associate's Degree
- Firefighter Paramedic Nicholas Garcia – Bachelor's Degree
- Assistant Fire Marshal Rebecca Geimer – Humanitarian of the Year – Red Cross & Fire Chief's Association of Broward County
- Driver Engineer Scott Hudanich - Chamber of Commerce Recognition for Firefighter of the Year
- FF James Murad - Recognized as PuroClean "Superhero" Award



New Hires

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Joseph Anello | • Sergio Rojas |
| • Hunter Carlson | • Zachary Stillwell |
| • Christian Garcia | • Gabriel Suarez |
| • Jessalyn Kinlaw | • Jean-Yves Virgile |
| • Katherine Miller | • Yamil Yanes Rodriguez |
| • Andrew Thompson | • Alyssa Curbelo |
| • Juan Alfonso | • Giovanni Jiovenetta |
| • Savannah Fogle | |
| • Kevin Ganges | |
| • Sebastian Linares | |

Retirements

- Driver Engineer Michael Regits
- Firefighter Paramedic Nelsy Billinger
- Battalion Chief Steve Stillwell

Promotions

- Deputy Chief Jonathan Frasher
- Battalion Chief William Duesler
- Captain Manny Ajuria
- Captain Godson Chery
- Captain Stephen McLaughlin
- Captain Will Ojeda
- Captain Paul Onorati
- Lieutenant Christopher Curbelo
- Lieutenant Larry Fernandez
- Lieutenant Katherine Gibson
- Lieutenant Omar Jirau
- Lieutenant Job Maria
- Driver Engineer Luis Atencio
- Driver Engineer Francois Avril
- Driver Engineer Chad Musselwhite
- Driver Engineer James Scott

