

2024



# Grand Junction Fire Department

## A n n u a l   R e p o r t



**Taking Care of  
People and Property**





## Fire Department Profile

The Grand Junction Fire Department (GJFD) has served the community for 135 years and is the largest all-hazards emergency services provider between Denver and Salt Lake City. The department provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, advanced life support ambulance transport, hazardous materials response, technical rescue, wildland fire suppression, and community risk reduction programs.







To reduce confusion, this year we've omitted apparatus-specific response counts (except for our three busiest units) and instead focused on the total number and types of calls we were dispatched to in 2024.



# Stats

## Incidents

Station 2	5,420
Station 6	3,762
Station 3	3,724
Station 1	3,462
Station 4	1,934
Station 5	1,163
Station 8	1,059

## Busiest Units

EN2	3,870
AM3	3,377
AM6	3,268

## Training Hours

Fire Training Hours	24,090.5
JPR Recertification Hours	1,207.48
Specialty Training Hours	2,9990.25
EMS Training Hours	14,816.80
Fire Prevention Training Hours	189.50

Total	43,294.53
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## Fire Prevention

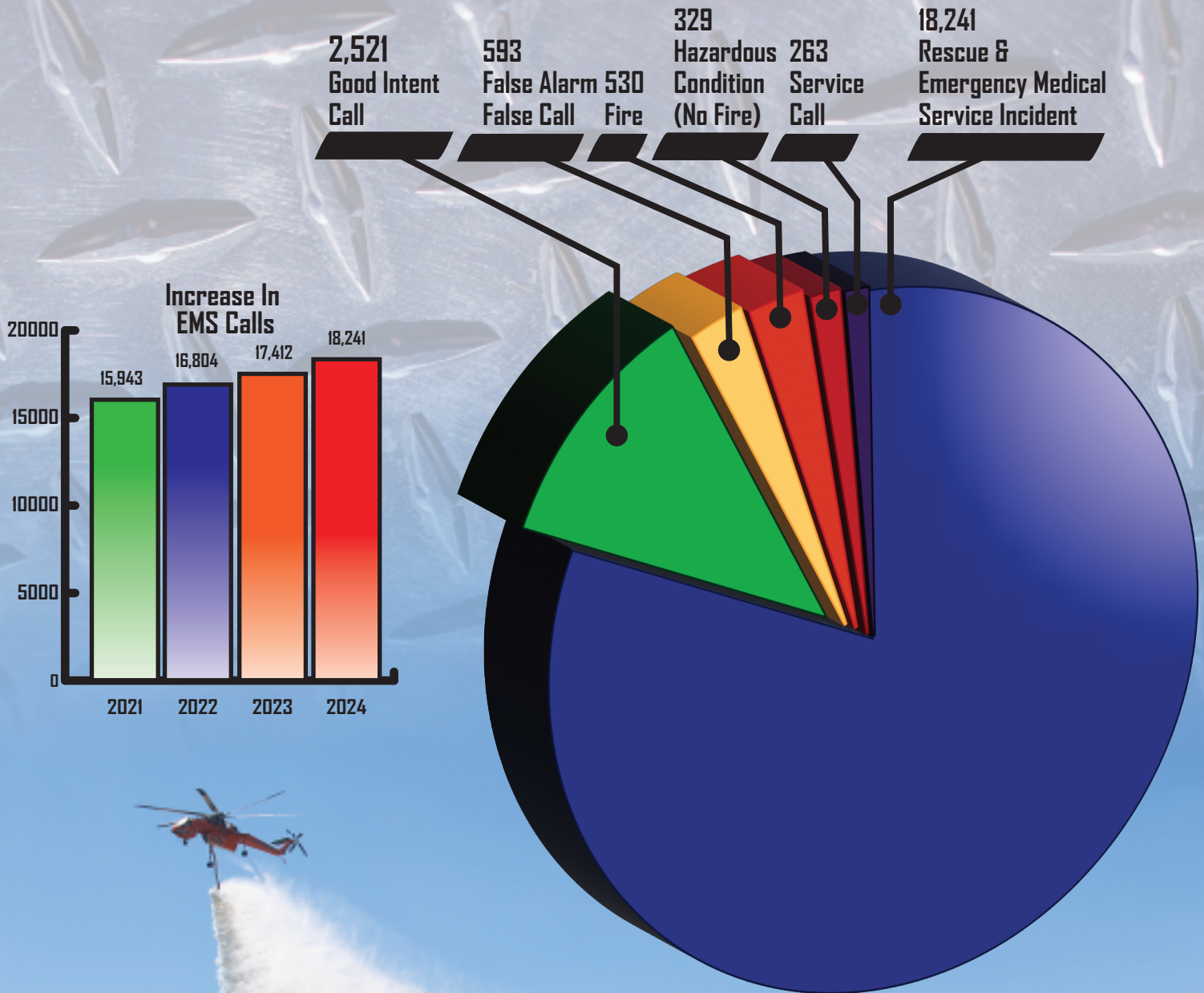
Plan Reviews	1,060
New Construction Permit Inspections	854
General Fire Inspections	1,100
Company Fire Inspections	542

## Social Media Stats

Facebook Reach	1,433,690 (791.2% Increase)
Instagram Reach	593,653 (1.0K% Increase)
Nextdoor Impressions	167,556



# 2024 Stats





# Stations



Station 1 is staffed by 10 personnel operating an aerial ladder truck, two ambulances, a Safety and Medical Officer, and a Battalion Chief. Given its proximity to the Colorado National Monument and the Colorado River, Station 1's crews are specially trained and equipped for both technical rope rescue and water rescue operations.



Station 2 is our busiest station, staffed with eight personnel operating an engine and two ambulances. On average, the crew responds to more than 20 calls each day, making it one of the most active stations in the department.



Station 3, built in 1975, was recently replaced with a brand-new building. Today, it is staffed by six personnel operating an ambulance and a fire truck. As the designated hazardous materials (HazMat) response team, Station 3's crew is specially trained and equipped to handle HazMat emergencies, providing response services across western Colorado.



Station 4 is equipped with a fire engine, an ambulance, and a Type 3 brush truck. The crew responds to emergencies and medical calls year-round and frequently deploys the brush truck to fight wildfires during the spring and summer months. As the department's southernmost station, the crew also provides support to the Mesa County Fire Authority.



Built in 2004, Station 5 is equipped with a fire engine, an ambulance, and a Type 6 brush truck. Due to its close proximity to the Colorado River, it also houses the GJFD jet boat, which is specially designed for rapid river rescue operations.



Built in 2020, Station 6 is equipped with a platform ladder truck to serve the high-rise hotels along Horizon Drive. The crew is also trained to provide mutual aid to the Grand Junction Regional Airport. In addition, the station houses two desert rescue ATVs for rapid deployment to the desert areas north of town and a Type 3 brush truck.



Built in 2023, Station 8 is the department's easternmost station, staffed by a three-person crew operating a fire engine. The crew frequently responds alongside the Clifton Fire Protection District to calls east of Grand Junction.



# How To Make A Firefighter



**Education** – Every GJFD firefighter is certified as either an EMT or a Paramedic. New recruits complete a 17-week fire academy focused on firefighting and rescue skills, followed by a three-week EMS academy to learn and apply Mesa County protocols.

**Communication** – Every call depends on strong people skills, teamwork, and clear communication, whether it's speaking with patients and their families or coordinating with your own crew. Strong writing skills are equally important for documenting patient care and maintaining accurate operational records.

**Health** – From cancer prevention to heart and mental health, we focus on caring for the whole person. We invest in protective gear and systems to shield crews from burns and hidden carcinogens. After emotionally challenging calls, we provide both peer support and professional counseling. And on every shift, our crews make time to work out and stay fit for the demands of the job.

**Equipment** - Each firefighter gets two sets of protective gear. We issue two sets to make sure when firefighters get back to back calls they have a safe and operational set of gear to wear. Made from special materials, this equipment is rated to withstand temperatures of up to 500°F.

**Training** – Staying current on skills and procedures is essential to the safety of both patients and crews. Our firefighters train regularly in fire, rescue, EMS, and specialized operations to ensure they are prepared to handle any emergency.





GJFD firefighters engage with students from Appleton Elementary.



GJFD Firefighters rescue an injured hiker.



Firefighter Charles Evangelisti comforts a dog rescued from a home fire.



Firefighter Jacob Dillon gives instructions during a recruit orientation exercise.



Firefighter Tanner Geiger participates in training.



Students from Grand Junction High School Marching Band participate in the groundbreaking for Station 7.





Firefighter/Paramedic Kasie Manuppella carries the flag during the 4th Annual September 11th stair climb.



GJFD Engineer Josh Sparks.



GJFD Safety and Medical Officer Zach Leyda.



GJFD and Clifton Firefighters raise a garrison flag to honor Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) workers, Nathan Jones and Trenton Umberger.



GJFD Captain Jamie Kavanaugh.



GJFD firefighter connects a supply line to a hydrant.



GJFD firefighters extinguish a house fire.



# Promotions 2024



**Deputy Chief**



**Division Chief  
of Training**



**Captain**



**Engineer**



**Engineer**



**Engineer**



**Engineer**



**Paramedic**



**Paramedic**



**Paramedic**



**Paramedic**



**Paramedic**



**Paramedic**



**Paramedic**



**Paramedic**



**Paramedic**



**Paramedic**



**Fire Inspector  
Investigator**



**Administrative  
Specialist**



# Supervisor of the Year

Captain Wytulka was chosen as Supervisor of the Year for his outstanding leadership, dedication to his crew, and commitment to strengthening relationships both inside and outside the department. He has fostered a supportive, positive environment that prioritizes the well-being of his team while promoting camaraderie across the organization. His ability to build bridges, whether through daily interactions with partner agencies or representing the department in community discussions, reflects his skill in creating meaningful connections. On the fireground, Captain Wytulka has shown himself to be a decisive and capable leader, managing complex incidents and ensuring the safety of his crew and the community. His professionalism, humor, and steady leadership exemplify the qualities of an exceptional supervisor and make him a true asset to the department and the city.



# Employee of the Year



Firefighter/Paramedic Neil Perko was selected as Employee of the Year for his exceptional dedication, professionalism, and compassion. Currently participating in a mentorship for the Safety and Medical Officer role, Neil has demonstrated a strong commitment to growth and to strengthening the department's service to the community. Beyond his technical skill, Neil stands out for his ability to connect with people on a personal level—patients, coworkers, and community members alike. His empathy, humility, and genuine care remind us of the heart of our mission: serving people in their most vulnerable moments. Neil's positivity and warmth enrich the station environment, fostering camaraderie and making every individual feel valued. His example inspires colleagues to rise above challenges and serve with integrity, making him a deserving recipient of this recognition.







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