

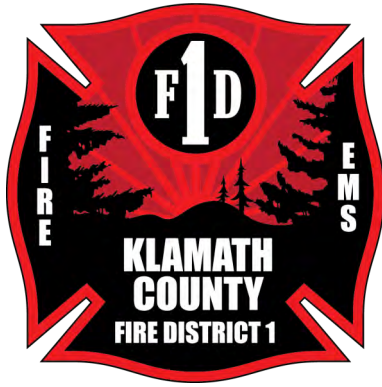


# KLAMATH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1



## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT





## VALUES

Customer Service · Integrity · Teamwork

Sense of Family · Fiscal Responsibility

## MISSION

At Klamath County Fire District 1, we are devoted to safeguarding the lives and property of our community, visitors and neighbors by providing professional emergency services with compassion, courtesy, integrity and fiscal responsibility.

## COMMUNITY

This past year Klamath County Fire District 1 (KCFD1) continued to respond and provide outstanding services to the citizens of our community! 2024 was extremely busy as we once again experienced a significant increase in calls for service. Because we continue to see trends in rising call volume we remain confident that focusing attention towards training and preparing our workforce is a critical component for the department. Our team understands the significance of developing the skills and abilities needed in order to be able to handle whatever situation we face.

Because the landscape we live in proposes challenges in the wildland urban interface, we also focused attention towards creating community partnerships as we took great strides in reducing the threat of vegetation fires within our fire district. The value in forming these partnerships and working with interested community members has become essential in our efforts to create and maintain safer neighborhoods, while reducing the impacts of fire. In 2025, we look to continue these efforts in a number of areas throughout our district boundaries.

This Annual Report reflects the many accomplishments our KCFD1 team experienced in 2024 and demonstrates the amount of incidents we responded to, as well as the programs our department is actively involved in. This report not only documents our achievements and successes, but it also describes the work our team continues to put into making KCFD1 one of the best departments in the State of Oregon.

As you review this Annual Report, I hope you are able to recognize the critical part our department plays within our community. Our team continues to demonstrate the value of quality customer service, while exemplifying professionalism. We take great pride in caring about the people we serve.

Greg Davis  
Fire Chief



# Administration

The Administrative Services Team oversees the District's \$24,741,990 annual budget and provides executive oversight of the financial management, human resources, contracting, information technology, emergency medical billing, accounts payable, strategic planning, employee wellness and office administration of the department. The team works cooperatively with internal and external stakeholders to ensure professional business services are provided and administered.

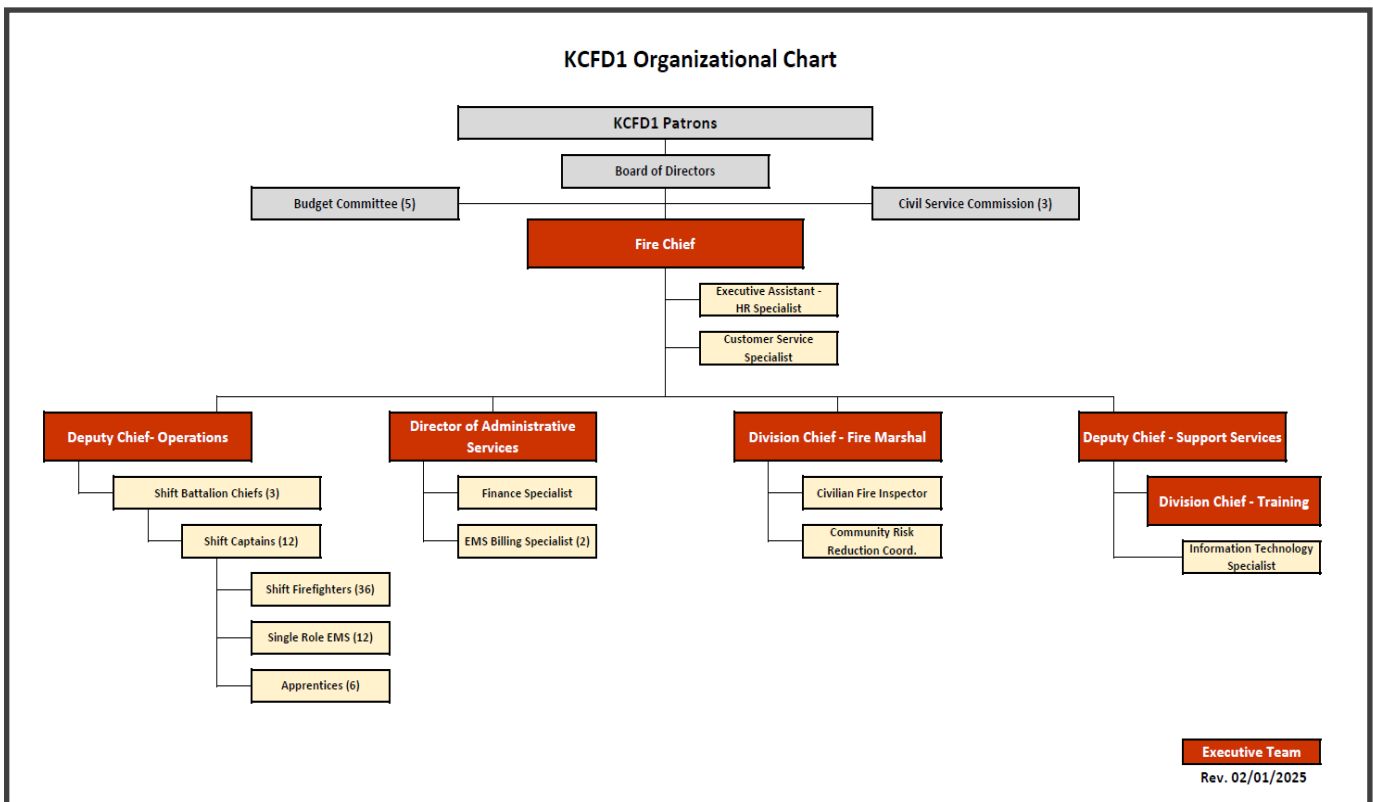
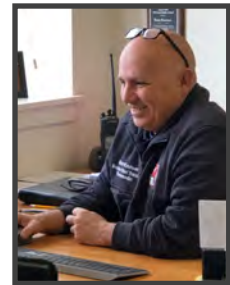
## Chief Officers:

Greg Davis - Fire Chief (4 years)  
 Matt Hitchcock - Deputy Chief Operations (7 years)  
 Dylan Webb - Deputy Chief Prof. Services (2 years)  
 Chad Tramp - Division Chief Fire Marshal (20 years)  
 Brent Knutson - Division Chief Training (3 years)



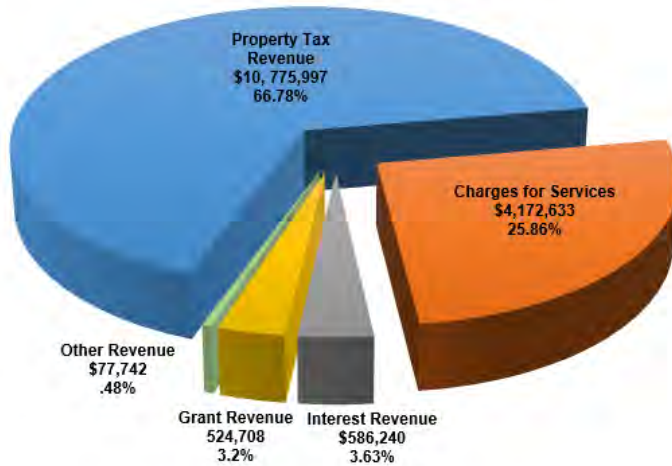
## Administrative Staff:

Phil Hull, Director of Administrative Services (24 years)  
 Celeste Aldinger - Information Technology Specialist (19 years)  
 Nicole Hirschbock - EMS Senior Billing Specialist (11 years)  
 Debbie Fleming - Customer Service Representative (6 years)  
 Jade Cervantes - EMS Senior Billing Specialist (5 years)  
 Tamra Wedemeyer - Human Resources/Admin. Asst. (4 years)  
 Cassy Harsch - Finance Specialist (2 years)



# 2023-2024 Financial Review

## 2023-2024 Revenue General Fund \$16,137,320

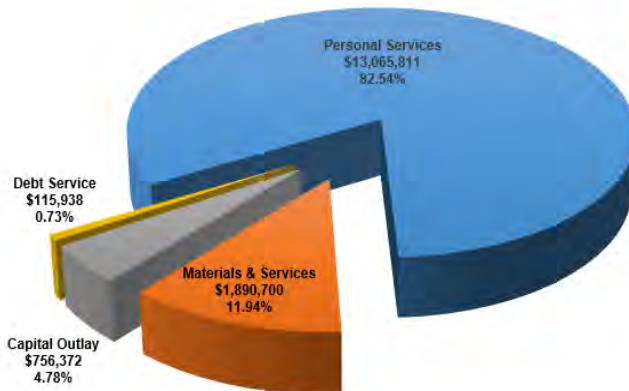


## AREA SERVED

KCFD1 serves a population of **60,000 permanent residents** within a 490 square mile ambulance service area and 200 square mile fire district. In the heart of the District sits the City of Klamath Falls, which is the largest city in Klamath County and is home to 48,000 residents living within a 20 square mile urban growth boundary. The remaining residents are scattered throughout rural areas.

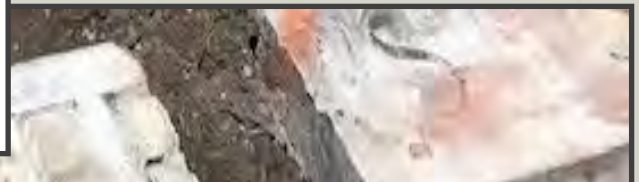
The District's response area consists of a diverse geography and climate. The basin's elevation is 4,100 feet and is surrounded by mountains reaching 6,525 feet. The majority of this area is classified as either wildland or wildland urban interface.

## 2023-2024 Expenditures General Fund \$15,828,821



## TAX RATE

KCFD1's operating revenue is primarily from property taxes, and charges for services such as ambulance transports. **KCFD1's permanent tax rate is \$2.8822 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.**



## ANTICIPATE, ADAPT AND ADJUST

These are the words that continue to summarize KCFD1 as the department continues to work to stay ahead of the service expectations of our community. Because of this, in March of 2024, the District developed a two-year Strategic Business Plan in order to identify current and future needs, set goals, and work to accomplish tasks. The plan provides direction as we strive to not only maintain current service levels, but make every effort to advance and improve the organization's capabilities.

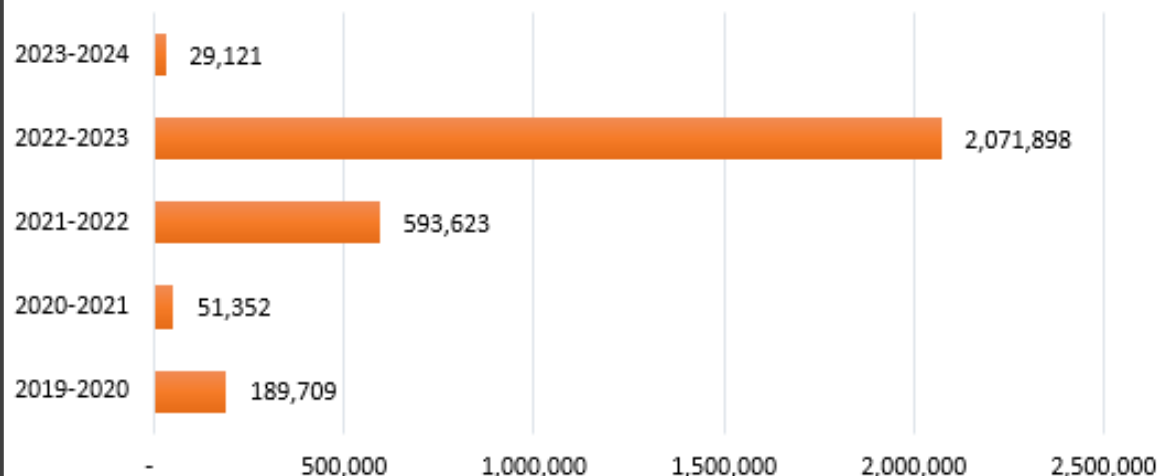
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## Anticipate, adapt and adjust continued...

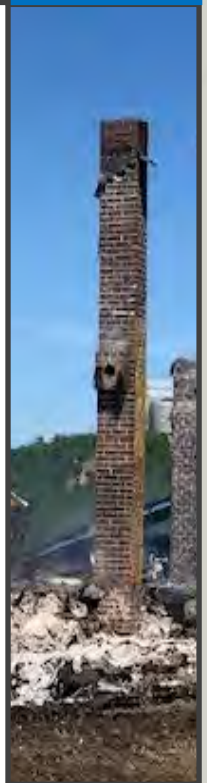
Areas of highlight within the Strategic Business Plan include the following:

- **Complete the ISO evaluation** - with a goal of improving the District's overall rating, while focusing attention on responder training and fire prevention.
- **Complete the District's Standard of Cover** - while outlining current practices and areas of service delivery improvement.
- **Complete a resource needs assessment** - in order to outline future equipment, apparatus, station items and personnel needs. **A needs assessment should be continuous as it is critical we evaluate where we currently are, where we need to be, and develop plans on how to get where we would like to be.**
- Developing plans and guiding documents that identify community hazards within the District including: wildfire prone areas, critical infrastructure needing continuous routine fire and life safety inspections, completing pre-fire and pre-incident plans, and improving public education programs remain a focus. **These efforts will be continuous as the community grows, business occupancies change and threats are mitigated.**
- Continuing to stay focused on maintaining and improving the District's financial standings. **As an organization maintaining financial stability remains a priority as we navigate a changing world.**

### Grant Revenue 5-Year Period Ending June 30, 2024 \$2,935,703



KCFD1 remains diligent in seeking grant opportunities in today's economy. Grant funds received over the past 5-year period were designated to the District's Apprenticeship Program, emergency response staffing, apparatus, training, PPE, equipment and supplies, pandemic resources, safety and security, energy efficiency, and community risk reduction.





# 2024 Year in Review

STANDARD of COVER

**Standard of Cover (SOC).** The SOC document was formally approved by the Board of Directors. This document outlines services provided by the District to our patrons and supports future decision making, while identifying areas for improvement.

**Insurance Services Organization (ISO) Evaluation.** A better ISO rating serves as a benchmark of success, while also identifying other potential areas a fire department can improve. In 2024, KCFD1 improved its ISO rating to a “**Class 2**” which is a testament to our citizens that the department is committed to providing superior fire protection services.

**Station 5, Lakeshore Drive.** In April, the Fire Prevention Division was moved to Station 5 after AirLink vacated the building. The District has long recognized the importance of the location of Station 5 and the impacts it has on service delivery within the western area of the community.

**Physician Advisor.** In 2024, the District recognized Dr. Freid for his many years as the District’s Physician Advisor, and welcomed Dr. Smestad who brought a fresh take on the importance of streamlining medication controls and assisted the District with implementing the new NarcBox Program.

**NarcBox Storage.** In December, the District went live with NarcBox. This new program is an upgrade to the District’s controlled substance storage and tracking which better meets DEA requirements and ensures more effective control of specific medications.

**Continuing to Advance the Fleet.** As we plan and prepare for apparatus replacement it’s become critical that we look at new ways to make smart financial investments. In 2024 we started replacing our ambulance fleet by re-mounting existing ambulance modulars and placing them onto new chassis. 3173 was the first re-mount and we plan to do the same in 2025 with additional ambulances. In July, we outfitted a new Battalion Chief pickup. This resource has been equipped with a variety of tools and equipment capable of supporting incident responses. We also added a new pickup to the fleet (funded through a Klamath County Title III grant) to our Community Risk Reduction Program.



# WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

**County Cohesion.** Stakeholders from across Klamath county teamed up to identify and rectify issues surrounding joint response specifically related to wildland responses and firefighting. This team constructed a new radio communications plan, built a task force request process, and outlined a county chief rotation program for better coordination and reporting.

**Grant Agreement.** In early March, the District signed a grant agreement with Klamath County to receive Title III funding in the amount of \$326,416. The purpose of this funding is to improve wildfire resiliency within the boundaries of Klamath County Fire District 1, with a primary focus on assisting neighborhoods to become certified as Firewise.

**Community Risk Reduction Coordinator (CRR).** KCFD1 hired Randall Baley, Community Risk Reduction Coordinator to oversee the work included in the above grant agreement with Klamath County, while also building specific program functions to include:

- Defensible space assessments
- Fuel mitigation trailer use
- Wood chipper use
- Community outreach

In 2024, this program oversaw the mitigation of over 36,000 pounds of vegetation and fuels removal. Additional capabilities will provide growth to the CRR program in 2025, further improving the community's preparedness, while creating a more resilient landscape.



## 2023 Employee Award Winners Announced

Firefighter Jeremy Valdez, Paramedic Leland "Scooter" Ortis, Division Chief Brent Knutson, and attorney Nathan Ratliff were recognized at the Employee Appreciation Dinner for their significant contributions to the Department in 2023.





# FOCUSING EFFORTS ON RESPONDER HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**First Watch Wellness.** The need for additional emergency responder mental health services has reached an all-time high throughout the State of Oregon and across the Country. As responders continue to face challenging situations while assisting people during their time of need, the impact on their mental health can at times be affected. Because of this, the District recognized that putting additional attention towards around-the-clock counseling services would be beneficial to the members. First Watch Wellness has been a great addition to the District, understanding the importance of taking care of each other during our times of need.



**Work-Life Balance and Employee Wellness.** In 2024, the District worked with **Tim Dietz, MA, LPC** and **Dr. Donny Hutchinson** to host workshops, conduct peer support training and hold discussions designed to support the District's team. Recognizing the importance of constant focus on responder health and wellness continues to be of significance for KCFD1.

**1582 Physicals.** A crucial part of the job is ensuring our team members health and wellness are up for the demands of the job. Its critical we continue to put an emphasis on fitness, wellness and health. Our annual physical evaluations continue to be top notch.

**Cancer Prevention.** Over the last two years the District has emphasized the importance of expanding access to personal protective equipment cleaning, while improving employee safety by reducing exposure to potentially harmful chemicals and carcinogens. In 2024, the District installed its third extractor located at Station 1. The installation of additional extractors throughout our stations eliminates the need to shuttle gear to other stations with extractors.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & LEADERSHIP

**ETHOS Training Adopted.** When developing an outline for training, the District recognized the need to focus additional attention towards professional development and leadership. In early 2024, ETHOS was selected as an outside training source in order to help KCFD1 meet those needs. Starting in early 2025, the District plans to bring the ETHOS team back on a recurring basis.

## RECRUITMENT

KCFD1 consistently aims to recruit, train and hire individuals that will help us in maintaining a department of excellence. Teammates who care about our community, demonstrate a can do attitude, live our core values and support a positive workplace culture continue to help us achieve our mission.

The District hired four new EMS employees: Joan Pena, Myles Moore, Beau Baley and Ken McKeane. These new teammates integrated into the department quickly and assisted us in continuing to deliver quality service. We also hired two new apprentices in September: Hogan Kauwe and Kevin King. The apprentices entered into the training program, graduated the firefighter academy in December, and then were placed on shift while attending classes at Klamath Community College.



# 2024 Statistics and Trends

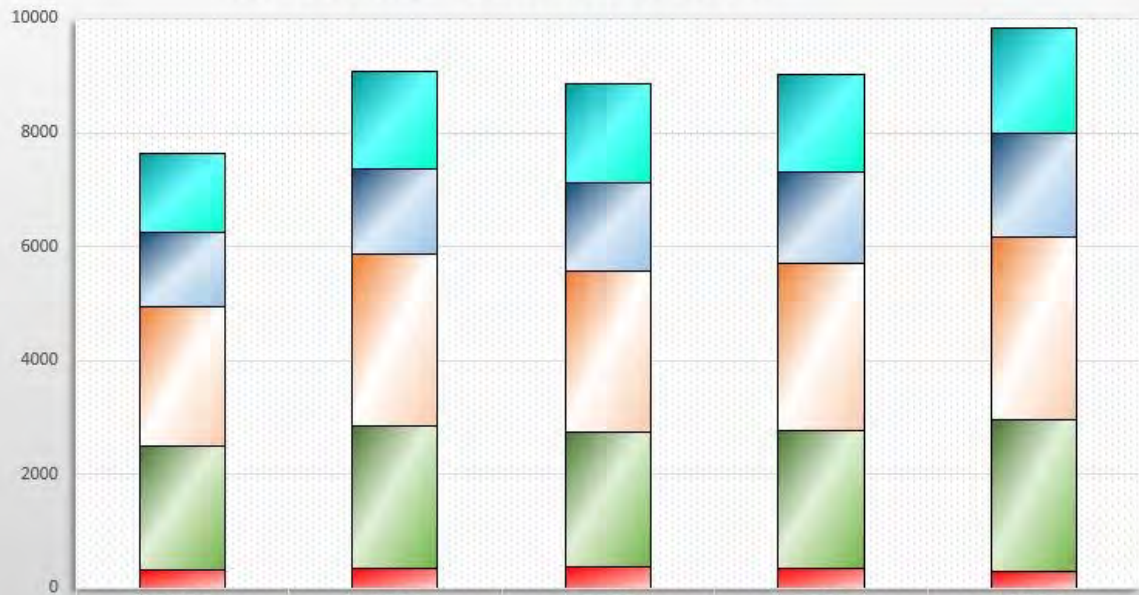
## Major Incident Types 2020 through 2024

Incident Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fire	156	143	154	172	205
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (no fire)	4	2	1	3	7
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	5843	7189	6943	6817	7498
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	48	30	54	58	79
Service Call	881	991	929	985	911
Good Intent Call	539	541	580	758	934
False Alarm & False Call	150	162	186	207	207
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	1	0	0	1	0
Special Incident Type	5	6	5	7	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>7627</b>	<b>9064</b>	<b>8852</b>	<b>9008</b>	<b>9848</b>



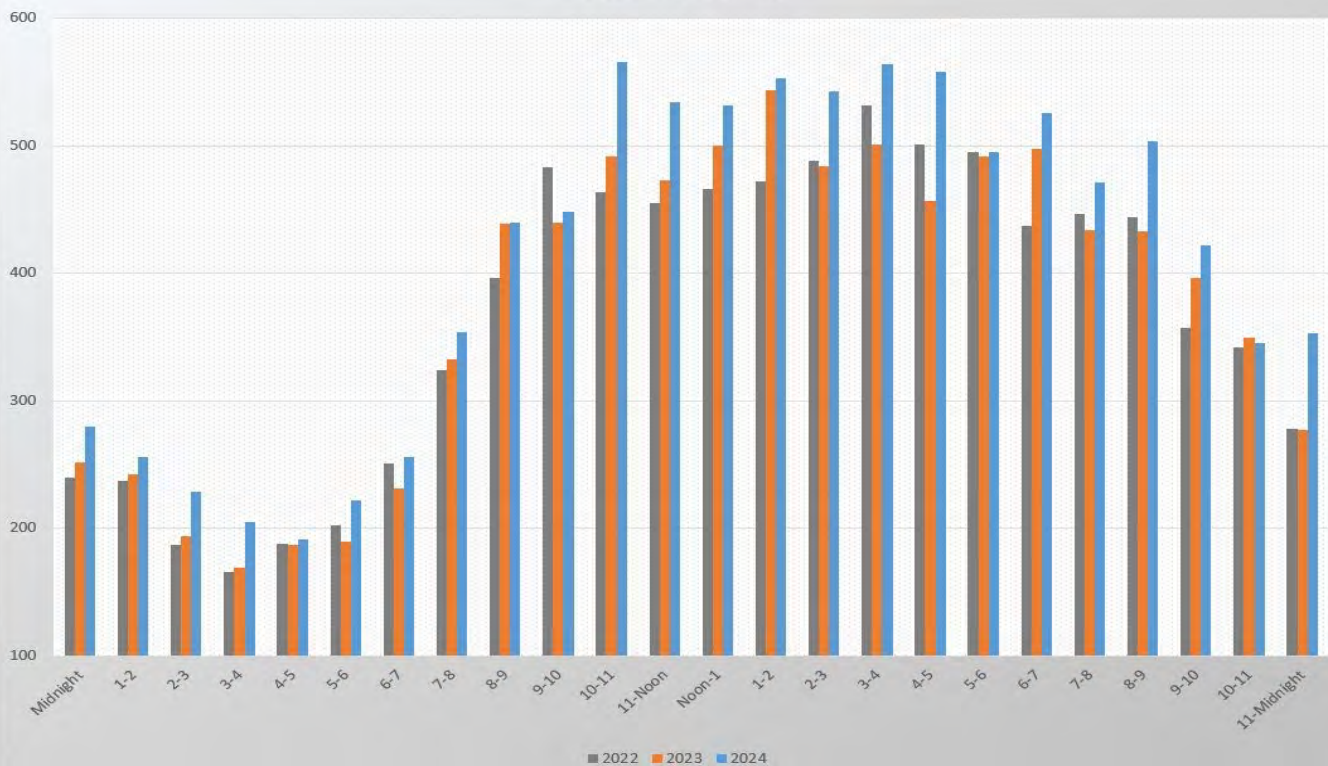


## Call Volume by Response Area



Station 1	1368	1698	1721	1705	1865
Station 2	1316	1512	1569	1603	1809
Station 3	2448	3004	2815	2924	3222
Station 4	2169	2489	2375	2433	2669
Outside District	326	361	371	343	282

## Calls by Hour



# Training & Certification

## 14,340 TRAINING HOURS

### MUTUAL AID TRAININGS



On-duty crews practiced defensive firefighting techniques on the old Summers School this year. Teaming up with ODF, Kingsley Field, and Keno and Bly fire departments. All involved were able to apply a variety of firefighting techniques and work together as mutual aid partners.

### ACADEMIES

- ◆ EMS academies for EMT and Paramedics were held June 17-21 and September 23-26.
- ◆ Apprentice Firefighter Academy took place with Klamath Community College from September 30-December 20.

KCFD1 trained 7 people in 2024. Assisting with instruction and onboarding were: Josh Ryan, Jeremy Valdez, Dean Limb, Brandon Friend, Lucas Cronin, Cole Van Essen, Shawn Elliott, Nicole Heryford, Renee Du Mont, Melissa Nash and Brent Knutson Division Chief of Training.

Once again, our partnership with Klamath Community College proved to be a big part of our training success, while we utilized facilities, coordinated with instructors and continued to strengthen our relationship.





## TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

- ♦ **Bi-annual Extrication Training.** Firefighter Jeremy Valdez led these trainings and created the Vehicle Extrication Engine Company Performance Standards.
- ♦ **Ethics and Leadership Training led by ETHOS.**
- ♦ **NFPA Apparatus Equipped with a Fire Pump.** Led by Captain Gary Denney.
- ♦ Updated Pump Chart and Implementation of Smooth Bore Nozzle. Firefighter Wes Kleinjan and Captain Gary Denney.
- ♦ **Two MCI Trainings.** Stacey Holmes from Sky Lakes Medical Center led these training opportunities.
- ♦ **Car Seat Technician and Wildland Fire Investigator.** Coordinated by Fire Marshal Chad Tramp.
- ♦ **EMS Standing Orders Update.** Led by Division Chief Brent Knutson and our Physician Advisor, Dr. Logan Smestad. We also received assistance updating our Standing Orders from KCFD1 crews.



## CERTIFICATIONS RECEIVED

Blue Card Commander	Wildland Firefighter Type I/II
AIC Officer	Wildland Engine Boss
Firefighter I/II	Hazmat Awareness & Operations
Fire Instructor I/II	Paramedic Licensure
NFPA Apparatus Driver/Operator	
NFPA Apparatus Equipped with Aerial Device	
NFPA Apparatus Equipped with Fire Pump	
NFPA Apparatus Equipped with Mobile Water Supply	

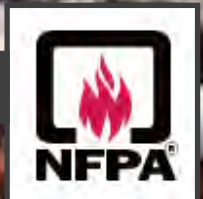


\*Total training hours include new employee academics.



Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

National Fire Protection Association



# Fire Prevention Division

The mission of the Fire Prevention Division is to educate the community about the benefits of fire and life safety practices, while actively reducing and eliminating hazardous conditions that pose threats to life, property and the environment. The Prevention Division is responsible for a variety of items including: public education, commercial occupancy inspections, plan reviews, fire code enforcement and special use permits, as well as fire cause and origin determination.

## Fire & Life Safety by the Numbers

- KCFD1 has 1,934 Commercial Occupancies within our District boundaries.
- **1,118 Fire and Life Safety systems are monitored by the District for compliance.**
  - ⇒ In 2024, 85% of these Fire and Life Safety systems were code compliant, and
  - ⇒ 15% of the Fire and Life Safety systems had fire code deficiencies and repairs were needed.
- **350 commercial building inspections were performed.**
- **40 commercial plan reviews were completed.**
- **8 residential Smoke Detector Program installations were done for community patrons.**

## Public Education & Community Outreach



**Approximately 2,400 citizens were greeted by KCFD1 employees at public events in 2024.**

160 citizens participated in **Fire Extinguisher training.**

**15 Car Seat Installations and Inspections** were performed.

**Seatbelt Diversion Classes** saw 71 attendees.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

KCFD1 signed an agreement with Basin Mediactive LLC to reach the citizens of KCFD1 through radio.

Radio outreach has been very successful and medium of communication will be expanded in 2025.





# Community Risk Reduction 2024

## FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

Every year devastating wildfires burn across the United States and throughout communities within Oregon. Because a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk, its become critical we take preventative action.

This year, KCFD1 was able to assist the Running Y and Ridgewater gain their national designation as **Firewise USA Communities**. Firewise designated communities take actions through a collaborative framework to reduce the risk of wildfire losses in their communities. This work includes preparing homes for wildfire by creating a defensible space, while eliminating or reducing the amount of vegetation and debris around homes and neighborhoods susceptible to wildfire.

In 2025, KCFD1 will continue its effort to work with neighborhoods, community partners and the City of Klamath Falls to reduce the impacts of wildfire.

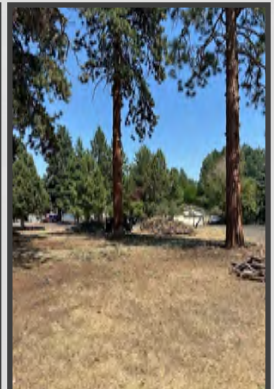


Running Y Homeowners Association Receiving their Firewise Community Certification.



## OSFM Mitigation Grant.

The District was notified in October that it had been awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Oregon Department of State Fire Marshal, through their **Community Wildfire Risk Reduction: Defensible Space for the Built Environment Program**. This funding will allow the District to hire seasonal fuel reduction specialists during the 2025 and 2026 summers, adding capacity to the Community Risk Reduction Program.





# Community Engagement



Community Safety Fair  
Car Seat Education  
Mills Elementary Student Awards  
Jr. Police Academy  
Big Truck Tours at the Library  
Pelican Elementary Summer School  
Fire Prevention Coop 3rd Grade Education  
Fire Extinguisher Training  
Seattle Stair Climb  
Crossfit Hogback Workout  
Trunk or Treat





A background photograph of three firefighters in full gear at night. One firefighter on the right is standing and spraying a powerful stream of water from a hose. Two other firefighters are in the foreground, seen from behind, also in full gear with air tanks. The scene is illuminated by the bright light of the water spray and the ambient night lights.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President Gloria Storey  
Vice-President Mike Jones  
Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Thomas  
Director Ernie Palmer  
Director Gene Rogers

## **EXECUTIVE TEAM**

Fire Chief Greg Davis  
Deputy Chief Operations Matt Hitchcock  
Deputy Chief Strategic Services Dylan Webb  
Division Chief Fire Marshal Chad Tramp  
Division Chief Training Brent Knutson  
Director of Administrative Services Phil Hull

## **2024-2025 CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

Scott Olsen  
Adam Randall  
Cathy Brosnan-Trepus

## **2024-2025 BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Terry Metler  
Sandra Fox  
Seth Gretz  
Edwin Tuhy  
Joe Young  
KCFD1 Board of Directors

Visit [KCFD1.com](https://www.kcfd1.com) for additional information and fire safety resources.

*Issued March 28, 2025*