

# **ESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**



**FY23 ANNUAL REPORT**

# Introduction

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department is an organization that wants to deliver the best customer service to you, our friends, and our neighbors.

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department is a place where we Congregate, Work, Train, Sleep, Eat, and Share, a place we call HOME.

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department is a place that is made up of dedicated, professional, skilled individuals who we call FAMILY.

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department is your **commUNITY** fire department.

This Annual Report is a collection of recognition and accomplishments from the past year and future plans and goals we look forward to achieving.

## **Mission Statement**

By providing a high level of fire and life safety service, the Ester Volunteer Fire Department is committed to educate, prepare, and protect our community and responders before, during and after an emergency.

## **Vision Statement**

The Vision of the Ester Volunteer Fire Department is to achieve a high level of service that will greatly improve the community's well being and become a value based organization.

- by providing a safe rapid response with highly skilled professionals,
- by educating the public by offering resources to help prevent harm and promote safety,
- by offering training, comradery, leadership & friendships,
- by instilling respect, positive attitude, tenacity, & competency in our responders
- and by creating an environment where people want to be present





# *Letter from the Chief*



*Friends and Members of the Ester Fire Service Area,*

*I am pleased to present to you the FY2023 Annual Report for Ester Volunteer Fire Department. The following report is a summary of our activities, accomplishments, recognitions and continued growth. This report covers from July 1st, 2022 to June 30, 2023.*

*Each year our response numbers continue to increase. Once again a new record was set this past year, with 287 total calls in FY23. Our responses included residential house fires and multiple severe motor vehicle accidents along the Parks Highway.*

*This past year the biggest challenge we faced was training our members in regards to fire, EMS, rescue, leadership and vehicle operation. I am proud to say our members currently have the highest average level of qualification of our membership in the last 5 years. In addition, we are continuing with our Trail EMS program which will give us the capability to render aid in non-road accessible places such as our extensive trail system. The Ester Community Association and friends of the Ester Volunteer Fire Department have continued to provide an invaluable back stop to our Department.*

*I am honored to lead the 26 members of Ester Volunteer Fire Department. The Ester firefighters and medics are a warm, loyal group that is proud to serve the Ester and greater Fairbanks community.*

*On behalf of the Ester Volunteer Fire Department, thank you for your support and for taking the time to review this report.*

*Jeff Conner, Fire Chief*



# Membership Roster

As of July, 2023

**Jeff Conner, Fire Chief**

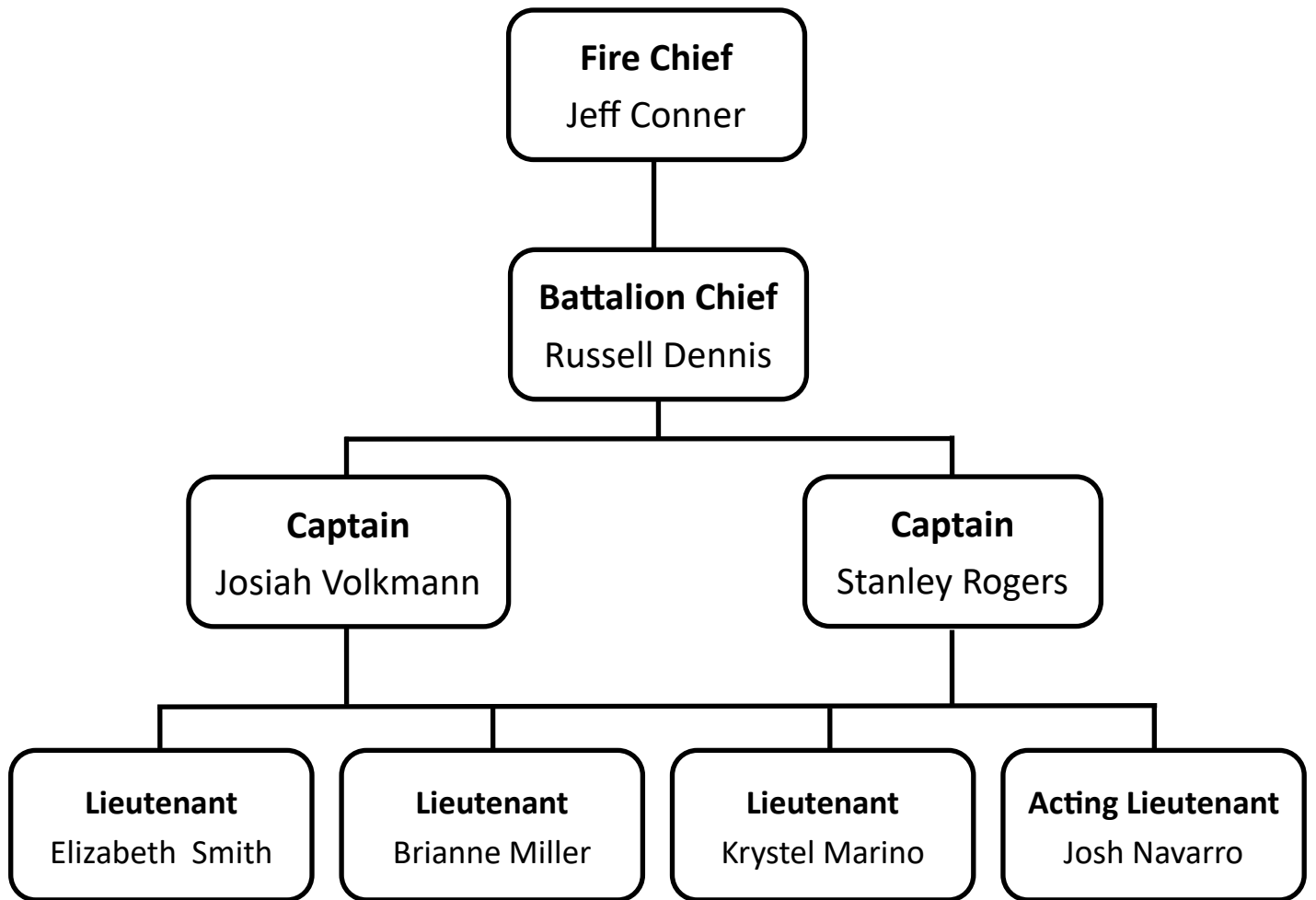
**Mimi Hill, Admin**

**Russell Dennis, Battalion Chief**

A Shift		B Shift		C Shift	
Santiago, Diego	Engineer	Volkman, Josiah	Captain	Rogers, Stanley	Captain
Miller, Brianne	Engineer	Smith, Elizabeth	Engineer	Morrow, Billy	FF/Medic
Suscha, Lara	Medic	McComb, Patrick	FF/Medic	Marino, Krystal	Engineer
Kahoe, Greg	FF/Medic	Aldrich, Jack	FF/Medic	Navarro, Josh	Engineer
Holloway, Ronnie	Recruit	Doelker, Charley	FF/Medic	Kurtz, Bradley	FF/Medic
Lemaitre, Coline	Recruit	Gieser, Max	FF/Medic	Williams, Makena	Recruit
		Watson, Liz	FF/Medic	James, Corey	Recruit

Live-Ins	
Wilson, Finn	Recruit
Carroll, Jules	Recruit
Delap, Timothy	Recruit

# Officers













# 2022 - 2023 Accomplishments

## Trail EMS

- Greg Kahoe and Krystal Marino have been appointed as the new Trail EMS program team leaders. They will continue to increase our summer and winter response capabilities to render care to people in off-road emergencies.

## Water Supply

- The Oboe Court fire water fill site is in operation with over 10,000 gallons of firefighting water accessible there.

## Recruitment & Retention

- We have averaged over 24 volunteer members despite an increased turnover and retirement rate.

## Paid Staff

- We currently have 4 Station Duty Officers, including 1 full-time and 3 part-time firefighters. This gives us a deeper bench for our 24/7 in-station response staff. Additionally, we have a fulltime, paid admin.

## Community Events

- We hosted a successful Halloween party, open house and community garage sale. We had enthusiastic participation from our members in the Ester 4th of July parade, and we again participated in the JTEL seed saver program with an addition to our station garden in the summer of 2023.

## Response Apparatus

- We have placed in service a Polaris RZR UTV, which is a key component of the Trail EMS program.
- Brush 52 has been turned into the FNSB as non-repairable. Brush 51 has been retrofit, largely by Captain Josiah Volkmann, and has taken it's place as our frontline brush truck.
- A new Polaris snowmachine was obtained for Trail EMS winter operations.



# 2022 - 2023 Staffing & Grants

## Staffing

- Station Duty Officer Position: 72/96 hour schedule Sunday-Tuesday
- Wednesday-Saturday staffed by part time SDOs
- Resident Firefighters:

*Jules Carroll, Timothy DeLap, Finn Wilson*

- Volunteers provide a large percentage of overall station staffing  
26 members– 21 volunteer, 4 paid firefighters, 1 paid admin

## Grants

Code Blue (completed) - We received funding to purchase a new Polaris snow machine for the Trail EMS program.

Code Blue (completed) - We received funding to purchase a secondary RZR UTV for the Trail EMS program.

Community Assistance Program (completed) - We received \$5,263 to offset the cost of building maintenance (heating and electricity).

Firehouse Subs (completed) - We received \$31,000 to purchase 8 new full bunker sets.





# Promotions

-Stanley Rogers, Captain

-Josiah Volkmann, Captain

-Krystal Marino, Engineer, Acting Lieutenant

-Brienne Miller, Engineer, Acting Lieutenant

-Josh Navarro, Engineer, Acting Lieutenant



# Emergency Responses

Ester Volunteer Fire Department responded to 287 calls throughout FY23, an increase over last year and an overall record year for us. We believe our calls will continue to trend upwards in the future, as we've seen over the last decade. Of note, medical calls have tripled over the past 5 years.

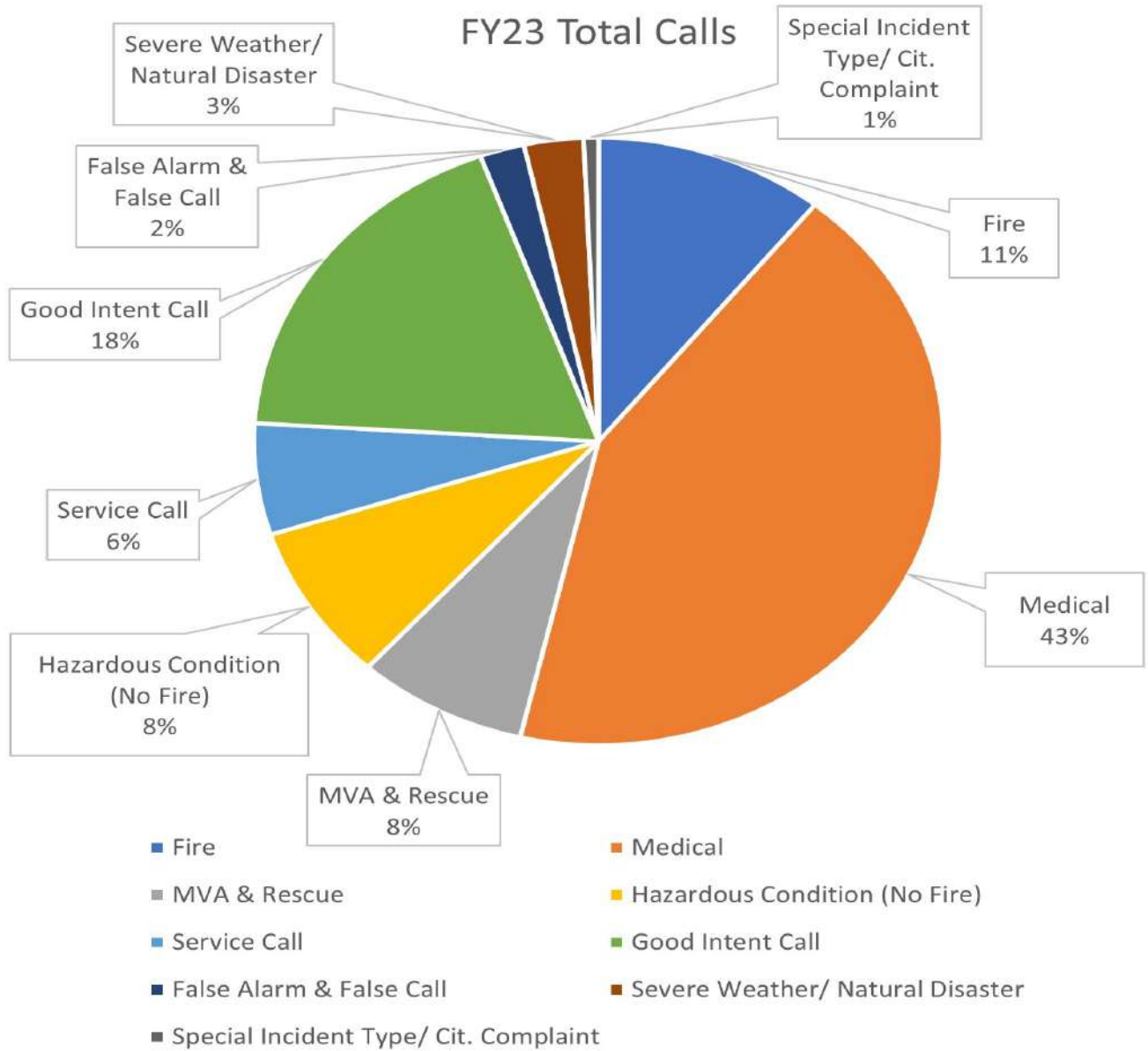
Ester Volunteer Fire Department fought several residential fires this past year, both in our own district and while responding as mutual aid to our neighboring departments. We also responded to a wildland fire in our district this summer.

Over half of our annual calls were medical, which is fairly typical for our Department. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic added challenges to these calls as we have continued efforts to keep our own members and the community safe.

Motor vehicle accidents and vehicle fires continue to be a high-hazard response for us, though low frequency. Our Department responds to accidents on the Parks highway within our own fire district and south of our district to the FNSB boundary at milepost 325. Continuing this year are our off-road EMS response capabilities via the Trail EMS program.



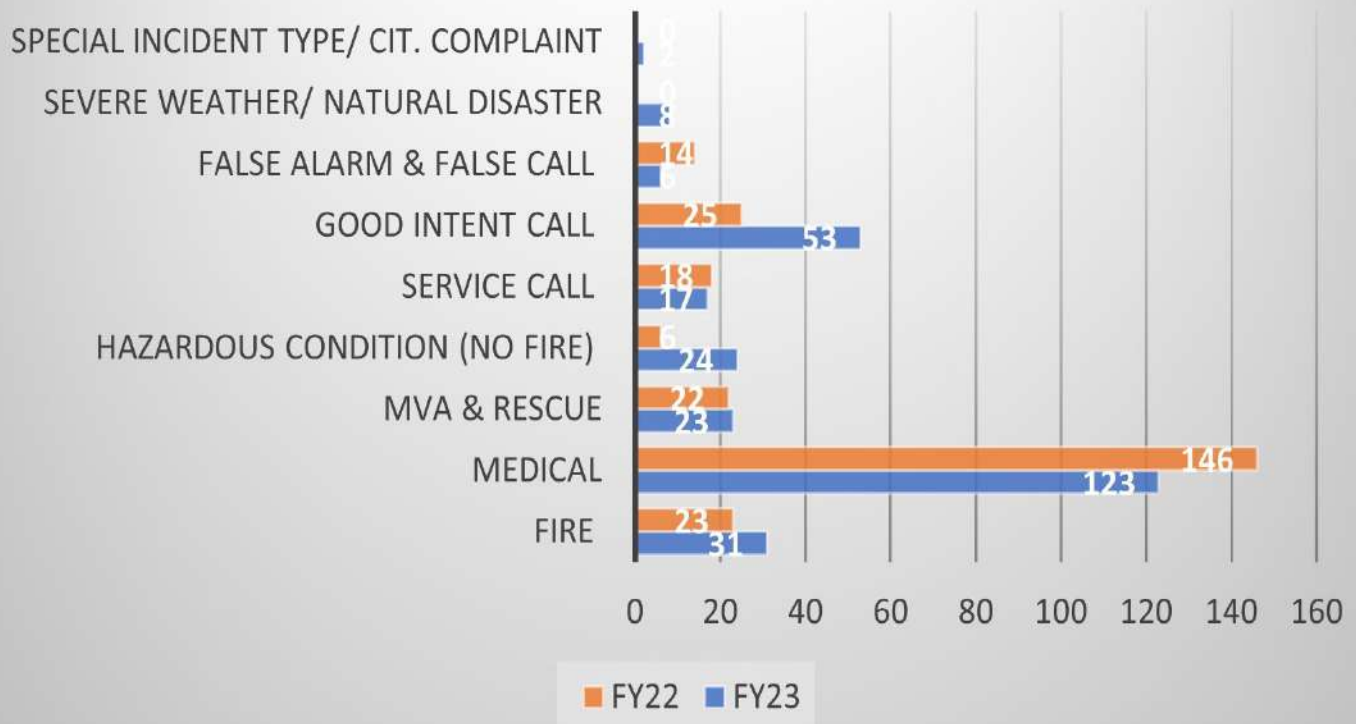
### FY23 Total Calls



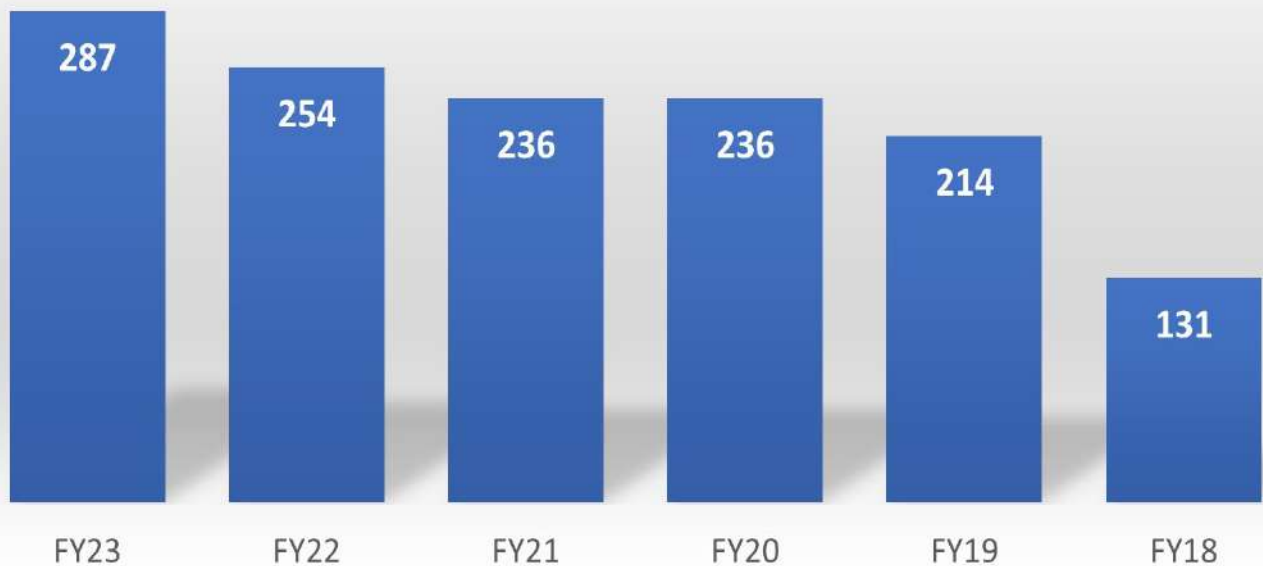
Incident Type	FY23
Fire	31
Medical	123
MVA & Rescue	23
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	24
Service Call	17
Good Intent Call	53
False Alarm & False Call	6
Severe Weather/ Natural Disaster	8
Special Incident Type/ Cit. Complaint	2
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>287</b>



## FY23 vs FY24 Call Comparison

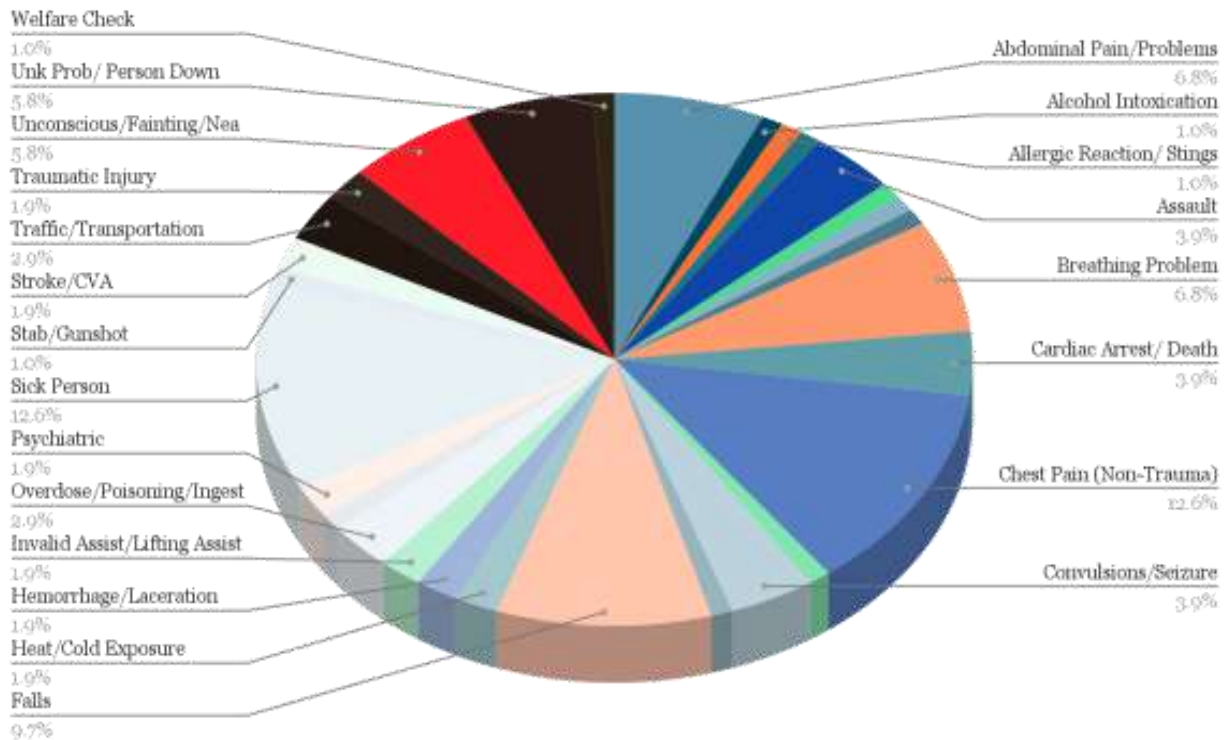


## Total Call Volume Comparison



# EMS Calls for FY23

By call type:



Abdominal Pain/Problems: 7  
 Allergic Reaction/ Stings: 1  
 Assault: 4  
 Back Pain (Non-Trauma): 1  
 Breathing Problem: 7  
 Chest Pain (Non-Trauma): 13  
 Convulsions/Seizure: 4  
 Falls: 10  
 Hemorrhage/Laceration: 2  
 Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion: 3  
 Sick Person: 13  
 Traffic/Transportation Incident: 3  
 Unconscious/Fainting/Near-Fainting: 6  
 Welfare Check: 1

Alcohol Intoxication: 1  
 Altered Mental Status: 1  
 Assist Police w/ citizen: 1  
 Bleeding: 1  
 Cardiac Arrest/ Death: 4  
 Chronic Illness/Medical Condition: 1  
 Diabetic Problem: 1  
 Heat/Cold Exposure: 2  
 Invalid Assist/Lifting Assist: 2  
 Pain: 1  
 Stroke/CVA: 2  
 Traumatic Injury: 2  
 Unk Prob/ Person Down: 6

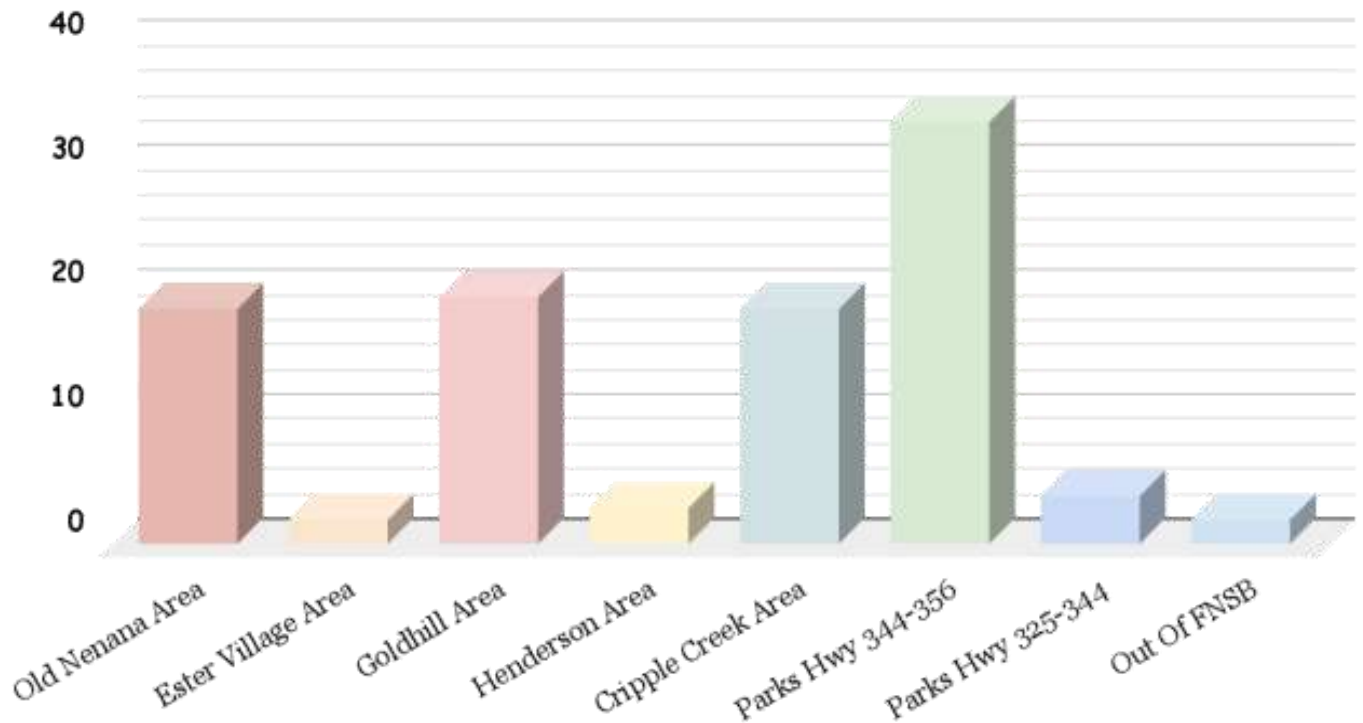
Psychiatric Problem/Abnormal Behavior/Suicide Attempt: 2

Stab/Gunshot Wound/Penetrating Trauma:1

# EMS Calls for FY23

By Zone (District):

EMS Call District for 22-23 FY



Zone 1 (Old Nenana Hwy): 19

Zone 2 (Ester Village): 2

Zone 3 (Goldhill): 20

Zone 4 (Henderson): 3

Zone 5 (Cripple Creek): 19

Zone 6 (Parks Hwy MP344-356): 34

Zone 6.1 (Parks Hwy MP325-344): 4

Zone 17 (Out of FNSB): 2

**Total EMS calls for 2022 to 2023:**

**103**



# Training

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department trains at a minimum of 3 hours a week on Tuesday Nights from 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Trainings happen in person at the station, off site with mutual aid departments, and online. This year, EVFD hosted 2 statewide National Fire Administration trainings at Station 51.







# Goals for the Future

## Trail EMS

Krystal Marino and Greg Kahoe are the new leads for the Trail EMS program. We have been awarded grant funds through the Code Blue Program to purchase a second UTV to complement our current trail fleet of 3 snowmachines, a snowbulance and UTV. This program will allow us to render aid to patients in known locations throughout the extensive FNSB trail system.

## Annexation

We will be pursuing incorporating the Parks Highway Corridor into our Fire Service Area.

## Water Supply

We are planning to increase our remote water capability by adding a similar site at Deraco/Old Ridge Trail as we currently have at Oboe Court. The Deraco site will increase our water access to a total of 20,000 gallons of fire fighting water.

## Solarization

We are continuing to pursue funding to add solar panels to our station.

## Grant Program

Admin Mimi Hill will continue her robust grant program by searching out new sources of funding to bolster our budget.

## Fire Apparatus

While our fleet is aging, it is very well maintained. This year, we are refurbishing Engine 51 to bring it up to current safety standards. Over the next several years, we will be looking into replacing the 1993 brush truck and the 1999 tender.





# FY2023 Budget

**FNSB Fire Service Funds: \$651,457.00**

**FNSB EMS Funds: \$45,067.00**

CAP Funds (via FNSB): \$5,263.00

State of AK DNR Volunteer Firefighter Assistance: \$5,658.41

Code Blue (via IREMS):

    Trail EMS Polaris Snowmachine \$9,810.00

Firehouse Subs: \$31,120.00

Donations: \$16,885.20

**FY22 Total Revenue: \$681,232.00**

**FY22 Total Expenditures: \$687,436.00**

**FY22 Total Retained Operational Earnings: \$51,745.18**

**FY22 Fire Service Area Fund Balance: \$595,566.00**

# FY2023 Staff

**Fire Chief – Jeff Conner**

**Admin Assistant – Mimi Hill**

**Engineer/SDO – Diego Santiago**

**Engineer/SDO – Brianne Miller**

**Engineer/SDO – Krystel Marino**

**Firefighter/SDO – Billy Morrow**

**Firefighter/SDO – Patrick McComb**



## **2022—2023 Board of Directors**

**President** – Syrilyn Tong

**Vice President** – Karyn Holder

**Secretary** – Dan Weatherly

**Treasurer** – Carol Meyer

**Director** – Barb O’Donnell

**Director** – Sarah Albers

**Director** – Katrina Lehse

## **Fire Commissioners**

**Chair**—Robert Grove

**Secretary**— Charlie Gallagher

**Commissioner**— Ruben Clayton

**Commissioner**— Nancy Burnham

**Commissioner**— Margaret Rogers



# Annual Awards—2022

**Firefighter of the Year— Elizabeth Smith**

**Medic of the Year— Josh Navarro**

**Engineer of the Year— Diego Santiago**

**Officer of the Year— Josiah Volkmann**

**Officer of the Year— Russell Dennis**

**Member of the Year— Max Gieser**

**Support Person of the Year— Mimi Hill**

**Fire Chief's Award— Josiah Volkmann**

**Fire Chief's Award— Krystal Marino**

**Lifetime Achievement Award — Kay Sisson**

**Service Award — Liz Watson**





**The Ester Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank  
the EVFD Board of Directors,  
the Ester Fire Service Area Commissioners,  
and the Community of Ester for their continued support.**