



Selfless Service. Integrity. Grit.

ANNUAL REPORT

VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

2022





OUR MISSION

We serve the whole community.

The VRFA saves lives and protects property through reliable emergency services, preparedness and prevention.

OUR VISION

Creating the safest community to live, work and visit.

OUR GUIDING VALUES

Selfless Service. Integrity. Grit.

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FIRE CHIEF/ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE



BRAD THOMPSON

I am pleased to present the Valley Regional Fire Authority's [VRFA] 2022 annual report. While reflecting on this past year, one constant stood out: change. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we as a community have chosen to live alongside it, returning to some pre-pandemic behaviors while adapting to life today and looking

ahead toward tomorrow. Our focus remains on delivering excellent public safety service to our community.

We have designed this annual report to highlight our performance and accomplishments during 2022. Many factors are considered to determine our performance measured against community needs and fire service industry standards. In this annual report, you'll have an opportunity to see how the demands for service have returned to pre-pandemic levels, with an upward trend for service delivery demands. You'll also see our progress in meeting community-driven strategic initiatives as determined through our 2020-2025 strategic plan. Key performance indicators for all VRFA divisions include annual reports for response operations, community risk reduction, training, and support services activities.

The VRFA's leadership team recognizes that our people are our most important asset. Our people determine our success, and we have great people! I hope you enjoy reading examples of how these folks frequently go above and beyond their regular call of duty. It's worth noting just how disparate situations occur and how capable, mission-focused people can put an incident action plan in place and truly deliver in times of need.

We honor those who chose to retire after long, successful careers and welcome new team members filling critical

roles. These folks are fully prepared to serve and have fresh ideas and boundless energy to help take us in new, exciting directions. One unique thing about the fire service is the longevity of most employees and their desire to stay in the same line of work for their working life. We celebrate career milestones that aren't often seen but contribute to a uniquely experienced and dedicated staff.

I am deeply grateful for your unwavering support. Your support has resulted in our largest recruit class ever. These are the most prepared and committed recruit firefighters in our long history who also represent the diverse community we serve. These recruit firefighters are already exceeding expectations internally and in delivering public safety services. It's essential to recognize how integral our newest staff members are and the high levels of performance they provide.

As we move through 2023, we will continue to work hard to reduce risk to our communities through outreach and public education, fire and life safety standards, and preventing or mitigating many of the direct causes of emergency incidents. We will continue investing in our capital projects, focusing on contemporary facilities to increase firefighter health and safety while enhancing emergency service delivery performance. Our ability to be successful is only achieved through the collective efforts of our staff and our public support. Without the incredible backing from our communities, many of the successes you will read about would not have been achievable. This ongoing support is the energy that fuels the dedicated staff of the VRFA and provides the incentive to push even harder to innovate and deliver the excellent services that our communities have come to expect and deserve.

On behalf of all VRFA personnel, I want to recognize and affirm my sincere appreciation to you.

With gratitude,

Brad Thompson, Fire Chief



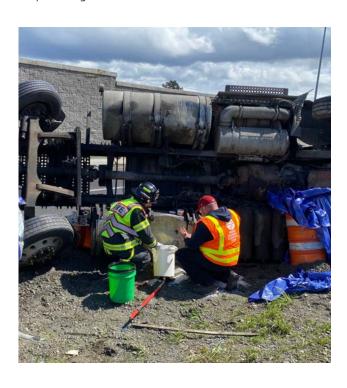
BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

2022 REVIEW

As Chair of the Board of Governance, I am honored to present the Valley Regional Fire Authority's 2022 Annual Report. This report serves both as an overview of the VRFA's activities over the past year and a celebration of the men and women serving our communities. It is also my honor to thank the members who recently departed the Board and to welcome the new members who recently joined. From Algona, Mayor and former Chair, Dave Hill left the Board earlier this year after 16 years of faithful service. As a founding member of the Board of Governance, Mayor Hill's contributions to the VRFA are immeasurable; we are all grateful for his stewardship. In addition to Chair Hill, Algona Councilmember David Storaasli, who served for 5 1/2 years, and Auburn Councilmember Claude Dacorsi, who served for six, left the Board in 2021 and 2022, respectively. I thank both for their selfless service and exemplary leadership. Joining us on the Board in 2023 are Algona Councilmember Bill Thomas, Auburn Councilmember Robyn Mulenga, and Pacific Councilmember James "Vic" Kave. We are looking forward to working with these new colleagues.

I hope that you find this report informative and inspiring. Thank you for your continued support!

Troy Linnell 2023 Board of Governance Chair Mayor of Algona





*All pictured were Board Members at the end of 2022.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The VRFA continued to make progress on the strategic initiatives outlined in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. In fact, Accreditation (Initiative 1) and Capital Facilities Plan (Initiative 2) have been completed. Progress in 2022 on the remaining three initiatives is outlined below.

1 ACCREDITATION 100%

2 CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN 100%

3 STAFFING 90%

- 12 new Firefighters completed the academy.
- · 2 CARES Social Workers on-boarded.
- 1 Records Analyst on-boarded.
- 1 Administrative Assistant on-boarded.
- VRFA continued to be an active partner in WAFireCareers.com and the King County Fire Chiefs' Association DEI Committee.

4 MENTORSHIP 60%

- Joint Apprenticeship Tracker implemented in December 2022. This internal online tool allows VRFA staff to track the progression of the VRFA's apprentice firefighters.
- Staff continue to review best practices for mentorship and succession planning.

5 COMMUNICATION 80%

- VRFA CARES met with all personnel to discuss mutual needs and various processes.
- Information kiosks that display call status, special events, and various notices were installed in all stations.

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN

The VRFA's Capital Facilities Plan (CFP), which was adopted by the Board of Governance in 2021, made four recommendations:

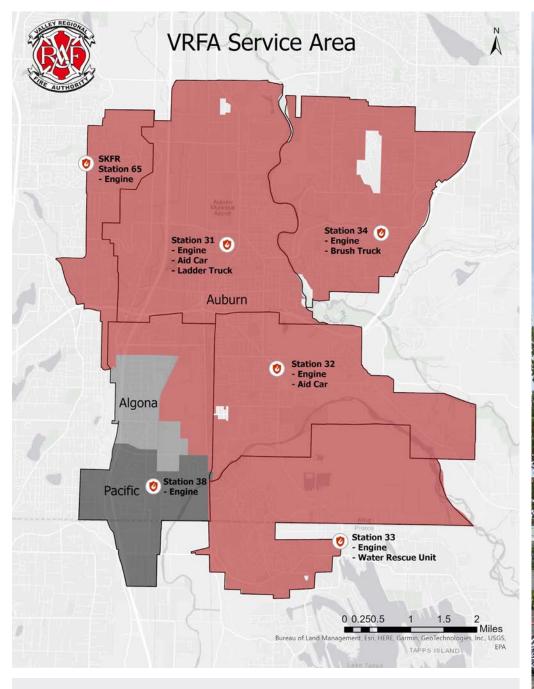
- Priority 1: build an additional station in the northern part of VRFA's service area
- Priority 2: relocate and rebuild Station 38 in Pacific
- Priority 3: remodel or replace Station 31
- Priority 4: find a permanent location for Support Services

In 2022, the VRFA took several significant steps to implement the CFP, including:

- Purchasing property on 30th and I Street Northeast for a new north end fire station.
- Evaluating property on the Ellingson corridor in Pacific in order to relocate Station 38.
- Contracting with the leading architectural firm TCA to consult on land acquisition and complete preliminary design concepts on each element of the CFP.
- Initiating a discussion on the best way to fund these critical projects.



OUR SERVICE AREA







37 SQUARE MILES







5 FIRE STATIONS

2022 HONORS



FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR **DREW MATTHEIS FIREFIGHTER**



FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR MATT KINNEE **BATTALION CHIEF**



SELFLESS SERVICE AWARD THOMAS DOWNS SYSTEMS ANALYST

MEDAL OF COMMENDATION

Awarded for leadership before and during President Biden's visit to Auburn on Friday, April 22, 2022.

MATT KINNEE

BATTALION CHIEF



LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Awarded for his actions on-scene caring for a patient and recognizing the importance of the young man's damaged skateboard. Using his own money, he purchased and delivered a new skateboard to the young man.

MICHAEL PATTERSON CAPTAIN

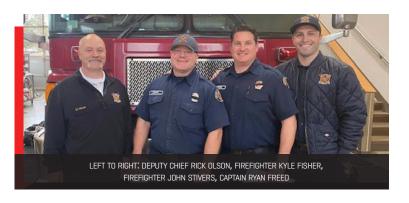


LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Awarded for their quick thinking and decisive actions following a serious motor vehicle collision. They devised a plan and worked quickly to remove a door from a heavily damaged vehicle and safely backboard a patient. The efficient extrication saved crucial minutes and gave the patient the best chance for survival.

KYLE FISHER FIREFIGHTER

JOHN STIVERS FIREFIGHTER



MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATIONS

The Team had to operationalize an evolving set of COVID protocols from King County EMS for both patient care and in-station activities. Their work touched every workgroup and every service the VRFA provides, required near 24/7 vigilance and availability, and required each member to make difficult and impactful decisions.

VRFA COVID HEALTH TEAM:

PAUL STRONG BC RYAN CONNELL

CAPTAIN

RYAN FREED
CAPTAIN
ANDREW BERGFORD
AFM

JESSE MITCHELL
CAPTAIN
MELINA KUZARO
CAPTAIN



MEDAL OF MERIT

In addition to his day job in Logistics, Captain Mitchell worked effectively internally and externally during COVID. Internally, he took the lead in establishing procedures and was frequently the primary point of contact for exposed staff. Externally, he worked with King County EMS, vendors, and regional partners on multiple facets of the response. He worked tirelessly to acquire and organize PPE, creatively overcame supply chain challenges, built up reserves, and stayed on top of everything.

JESSE MITCHELL

CAPTAIN



LIFESAVER AWARD

On August 22, 2022, while vacationing with his family at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, Firefighter Mattheis came across an unconscious and unresponsive older adult male in the EPCOT parking lot. Drew quickly determined that the patient had suffered sudden cardiac arrest, ensured that bystanders had called 911, and began chest compressions. When Disney staff arrived with a defibrillator, Firefighter Mattheis applied the device and delivered one shock. He then transferred care of the patient to personnel from the Reedy Creek Fire Department.

DREW MATTHEIS

FIREFIGHTER



PROMOTIONS



JASON HERMAN BATTALION CHIEF



ANDY COOK CAPTAIN



DARIS CONRAD CAPTAIN



JEREMY ELLIOTT CAPTAIN



COLTON FOGELBERG CAPTAIN



AARON MARTIN CAPTAIN



DAN SEQUIST CAPTAIN



JOEL TOLINE CAPTAIN

RETIREMENTS



DEPUTY CHIEF DAVE LARBERG **33 YEARS VRFA 38 YEARS TOTAL**



BATTALION CHIEF PETE CONNELL 29 YEARS VRFA



CAPTAIN JON HILLEBRANT **25 YEARS VRFA 35 YEARS TOTAL**



FIREFIGHTER VIC KAVE **30 YEARS VRFA**

YEARS OF SERVICE

30 YEARS

BATTALION CHIEF GARY BARKER

25 YEARS

CAPTAIN DARIN WOHLMACHER

20 YEARS

CAPTAIN **JEREMY ELLIOTT**CAPTAIN **DERECK PICKEREL**DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL **ROBIN IRVINE**

15 YEARS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT JULIE SLEVIN CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER MARK HORASKI BATTALION CHIEF MATT KINNEE

10 YEARS

FIREFIGHTER NICK CLAIBORNE
CAPTAIN DAN SEQUIST
FIREFIGHTER RYAN SIMPSON
FIREFIGHTER ERIKA BARTLETT
CAPTAIN AARON MARTIN
CAPTAIN DAVID REPNIK
CAPTAIN JERRY MONTIEL

5 YEARS

FIREFIGHTER SCOTT MASTERS
FIREFIGHTER DANIELLE PALMER
FIREFIGHTER TRAVIS SCHADE
FIREFIGHTER BLAKE LAIDLAW
FIREFIGHTER DARREL NORMANDY







FIRE OPERATIONS

The Valley Regional Fire Authority provides all-hazards emergency response to the Algona, Auburn, and Pacific communities, with automatic and mutual aid from neighboring jurisdictions.

TIERED RESPONSE SYSTEM

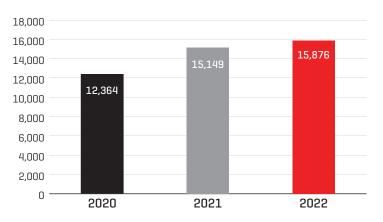
The VRFA provides emergency response through a single battalion consisting of five fire stations located strategically throughout our service area. Twenty personnel respond from five fire stations. These stations are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by four shifts. A battalion chief oversees each shift, and a deputy chief manages the entire division.

The type and severity of an emergency determine the resources dispatched to provide fire suppression, basic life support (BLS), advanced life support (ALS), or technical rescue operations. All VRFA firefighters are certified emergency medical technicians. One of seven South King County Medic One units is dispatched for ALS incidents. Dispatchers will assign appropriate resources for all other calls, including fires, to protect life and property.

NEW TRACTOR DRAWN AERIAL (TDA)

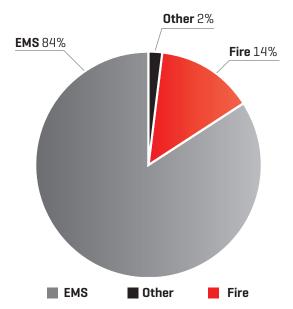
In 2021, we began the process of purchasing a new ladder truck to replace an aging Ladder 331. After several months of research, the VRFA purchased an Ascendant 107' Heavy-Duty Tiller Aerial Ladder made by Pierce Manufacturing. This ladder truck, also known as a Tractor Drawn Aerial (TDA), was chosen for its ability to enhance response capabilities due to its maneuverability, ladder reach, and storage capacity. The TDA arrived in Auburn in May 2022, and 20 fire personnel began the comprehensive training process. The TDA went into service in early 2023.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TOTALS



^{*}A new methodology to track calls was implemented in 2021.

RESPONSE BY INCIDENT TYPE





FIRE OPERATIONS

RESPONSE TIME OUTCOMES

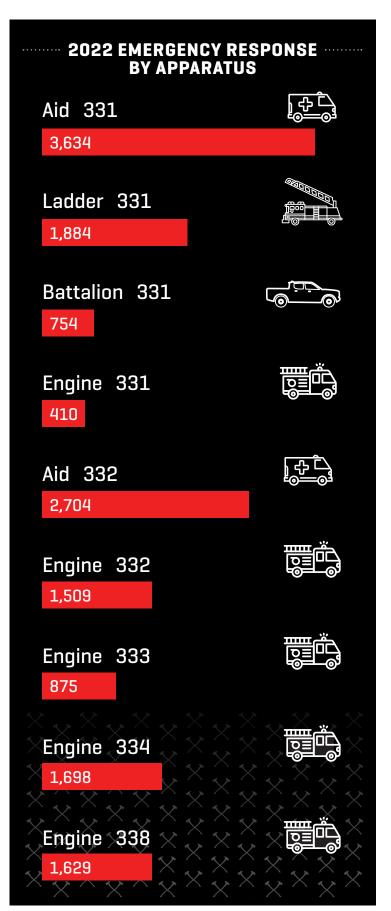
In an emergency, every second counts. The VRFA has established a Total Response Time (TRT) benchmark of seven minutes and 34 seconds (7:34) for EMS Calls and seven minutes and 49 seconds (7:49) for fire calls. TRT is the time it takes a unit to arrive at a scene once the call is received at the Fire Alarm Center. In 2022, we achieved those benchmarks 51% of the time for fire response and 57% for EMS response.

TOTAL RESPONSE TIME (TRT)









SPECIALIZED RESPONSE

The VRFA maintains a Technical Rescue Team who responds to high-risk, low-frequency incidents requiring specialized rescue capabilities. These include rope rescue, swift water rescue, and high-angle rescue. This 16-member team also provides expertise and assistance to partner agencies within King County.

The VRFA also maintains a 20-person "Red Card" Wildland Fire program. They respond within our jurisdiction and throughout Zone 3, the State, and out of state through special deployment. In 2022, VRFA red card firefighters deployed five times to assist with wildland fires in Eastern Washington and out of state.

All operations personnel are trained in Hazardous Materials response, with two trained to the technician level. For larger-scale hazardous materials incidents, the VRFA utilizes Zone 3 resources.

TRAINING

The VRFA partners with the South King County Fire Training Consortium (SKCFTC) to provide fire academy training for new firefighters and ongoing training for current members.

> VRFA first responders logged 30,452 hours of training in 2022.

PEER SUPPORT

The VRFA's Peer Support team provides mental health support related to education, resource sharing, and peer-level assistance to mitigate cognitive and behavioral health hazards inherent to the fire service. Since its inception in 2018, the Peer Support team has seen contacts increase from 90 to 300. These contacts included anything from a simple conversation to more intensive intervention.

The VRFA is supporting a new Behavioral Health Unit program through the South King County Fire Training Consortium (SKCFTC). The unit's mission will be to provide mental health education and support existing networks of medical health professionals, chaplains, social workers, and Peer Support teams.





Technical Rescue RESPONSES



119 Wildland Fire RESPONSES



160 Haz Mat RESPONSES





Five new Peer **Support Team** members added in 2022



Each team member received 20 hours of training

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

CARES

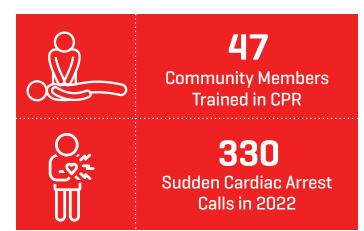
The CARES program aims to reduce community risk and build healthy communities by meeting underlying healthcare, human, and social service needs for CARES-enrolled patients of the VRFA and contracted areas. In

105 REFERRALS

91 ENROLLMENTS the third quarter of 2022, the VRFA reimagined the CARES program after our partner, South King Fire & Rescue, withdrew from the program. An analysis of past data found that a "referral only" model would be the most effective way to decrease the frequency of repeat lowacuity 911 calls, increasing

the availability of response units over time. Two social workers take those referrals and work with patients to enroll them in the CARES program.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, 91 of 105 referrals were enrolled in the program resulting in a 22.2% decrease in 911 calls and a 13.3% decrease in Emergency Department visits for those patients enrolled in CARES.







22.2% decrease in 911 calls

13.3% decrease in emergency department visits



CPR

King County has one of the highest survival rates in the country for witnessed sudden cardiac arrest. The increased survival rate is due to the high number of CPR-trained community members in King County willing to provide CPR to their fellow community members.

The VRFA has joined forces with Puget Sound and Renton regional fire authorities to create an enhanced CPR and First Aid Program for our community members. Certified firefighter/EMTs teach classes using a nationally recognized curriculum. The sessions are on Saturdays, with locations varying between Auburn, Kent, and Renton. After nearly three years of COVID-19 restrictions, 2022 was a rebuilding year for the CPR program. Forty-seven community members completed CPR classes in 2022.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION (CRR)

The VRFA evaluates and provides risk reduction with a comprehensive approach combining prevention, planning, and ongoing active mitigation. The Fire Marshal coordinates personnel in risk management through building and fire plan review to ensure compliance with national and locally adopted codes and standards, inspections of building life safety systems, target hazard inspections, code compliance inspections, and investigation of qualifying fire incidents to identify hazard trends throughout the response area.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION INSPECTIONS

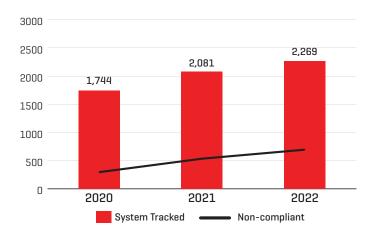
Community risk inspections focus on commercial, industrial, and multi-family buildings. In 2022, certified inspections increased by 218 percent, and companylevel inspections increased by 36 percent. This increase was anticipated as the local economy recovered from COVID restrictions.

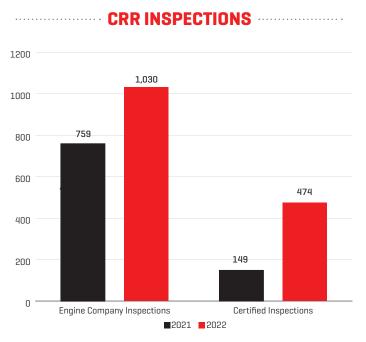
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Fire Marshal's Office collaborates with our member cities to provide various development services. CRR personnel provide analysis and guidance to new businesses through pre-construction application, construction plan review, construction inspections, and comprehensive land use analysis.

FIRE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE & TESTING

FIRE SYSTEMS TRACKED





Certified inspections are conducted by CRR staff who have completed the Fire Inspector 1 certification. Company-level inspections are completed by on-duty crews in their response area.



FIRE INVESTIGATION

The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) aims to determine the origin and cause of all non-company level fire investigations. The FIU operates with the intent of documenting and ultimately reducing the occurrence of incendiary and preventable accidental fires through the identification of unsafe/recalled products by utilizing local, state, and national resources.

In 2022, the FIU completed 62 scene investigations.





2022 FIRES BY CITY





COMMUNITY OUTREACH - PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Public Information and Education staff provide fire and life safety information and education to schools, businesses, and the community through in-person training, classroom visits, printed publications, social media, and traditional media. Staff include two full-time public information and education officers and four firefighter specialists.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

This was a transition year after COVID restrictions eased and we resumed in-person training. We returned to our school visits in the spring, reaching 1,260 students. In November, we brought back Scout Night at the Fire Station, partnering with Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority to provide two opportunities for scouts to visit a fire station.

2022 COMMUNITY OUTREACH









CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

were given or installed for seniors and Low-Income Homeowners.

WERE GIVEN OR INSTALLED FOR SENIORS AND LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS.

Costco

World Vision

The Costco Corporation and World Vision provided the smoke & carbon monoxide alarms through a grant.

Energizer

The Energizer Company supplied the batteries through a grant award.





We provided 107 bicycle helmets to children and adults in need. The Auburn Area Fire Medic Campaign awarded the

VRFA a grant to purchase the helmets.







12 BUSINESSES received fire extinguisher and/or evacuation training









PUBLIC INFORMATION

Public Information and Education Officers manage the website and social media content almost daily and continue to monitor and research new social media sites and trends. They also work with the VRFA Analytics Manager to identify fire and injury trends for targeted messaging.



22,000 users visited the VRFA website



95,994 newsletters mailed



94,270 post views on Facebook



105,238 post views on Instagram



447,798 number of times tweets appeared in newsfeeds



179,555 number of times posts appeared in newsfeeds



12,599 number of times posts appeared in newsfeeds



8,259 number of times videos appeared in newsfeeds



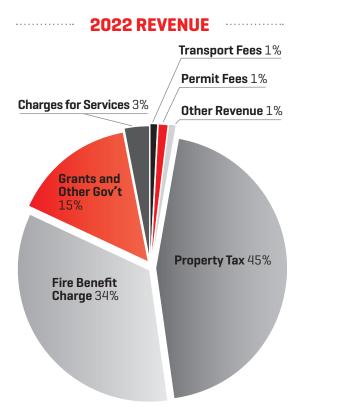


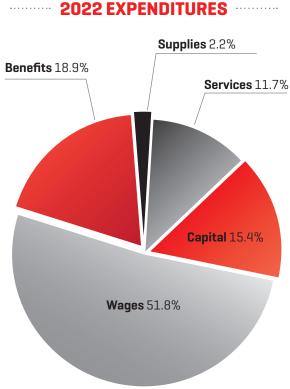


FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

FINANCE

The VRFA Finance team is committed to our core responsibilities including budget development, financial audits, and resource availability.





HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Division supports employees by providing access to benefits, programs, and resources while maintaining policies and best practices that serve to limit organizational risk. In 2022, the Human Resources Division achieved the following:

- Recruited and hired 18 employees, including 13 entry-level firefighters, one Deputy Chief of Community Risk Reduction, one Lead Social Worker, one Social Worker, one Records Analyst, and one Administrative Assistant.
- Facilitated eight (8) civil service tests and established eligibility lists for Hazardous Materials Specialist, Respiratory Protection Specialist, Rescue Specialist, Entry Level Firefighters, Captain, Medical Program Specialist, Deputy Fire Marshal, and Public Information & Education Specialist.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Services (IS) Team provides enterprise-class infrastructure, applications, integrations, collaboration, and communication services. It ensures data integrity, reliability, accessibility, and security while striving to provide world-class customer service. In 2022, IS completed the following:

- Rolled out a new SharePoint intranet platform.
- Received and processed 1,826 service requests.
- Created and deployed communication kiosks at all fire stations.
- Designed and deployed a Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) tracking system.

SUPPORT SERVICES

FACILITIES

The facilities maintenance program provides all employees with safe and appropriate working environments and conditions. In 2022, Facilities completed the following:

- Operative IQ was purchased and implemented.
- Interviewed and filled Logistics Assistant position.
- Advertised architectural request for proposal (RFP) for station design – entered into a contract.

FLEET

In 2022, our fleet program completed the following:

- Placed an order for an aid car to arrive in 2023.
- Received the new Tractor Drawn Aerial and completed tasks to place it in service.
- Received a Ford Transit van and a Ford E-Van for Support Services.
- Updated graphics on staff vehicles.



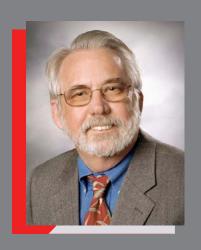
Logistics provides operations crews with the necessary tools and equipment to accomplish their mission. This includes the budget and selection of new tools, repair, and maintenance of existing tools, and the surplus of tools that have reached the end of their lifecycle. In 2022, Logistics accomplished the following:

- Purchased tools to be placed on the new Tractor Drawn Aerial truck.
- · Tested all hose and ladders.

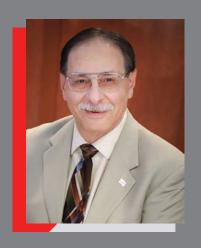




THANK YOU



The VRFA congratulates Mayor Dave Hill on his retirement and thanks him for his 16 years of service on the Board of Goverance.



Thank you, Auburn Council Member Claude DaCorsi, for six years of service on the Board of Governance.



Thank you, Algona Council Member David Storaasli, for five and half years of service on the Board of Governance.



VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

Headquarters Fire Station 31 1101 D Street NE, Auburn, WA 98002 [253] 288-5800