



Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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Chief's Message



The Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District takes pride in providing excellent all hazard services to the residents, businesses, and visitors of the District's 400 square miles. Daily, our professional firefighters and administrative staff mitigate emergencies and provide customer services to support our 45,000 residents. We are pleased to present the 2023 MCRFD annual report showcasing the many highlights from all the District program areas.

As you will see in the following pages, our Fire District has responded to many calls for service in 2023. These numbers reflect not only the calls within our community but also the auto and mutual aid responses to our local and state partners. MCRFD is proud to be apart of an elaborate system that ensures the necessary resources are available to respond and provide support regardless of the type of incident or location of the emergency.

The winter of 2023 brought multiple atmospheric rivers events to the County of Monterey. These storms inundated the watersheds of both the Salinas and Carmel rivers resulting in the flooding of neighborhoods, agricultural fields and commercial areas. The Fire District implemented our Emergency Operations Plan and worked with our fellow public safety partners to evacuate and rescue residents in low lying areas along the rivers and provide support to homeowners in protecting their properties.

In May, the District adopted a new Strategic Plan. This multi-year plan consists of eight strategic initiatives that include enhancing the organization's ability to meet its mission, build community risk reduction capabilities, stabilize funding, and strengthen it most important asset: the personnel of the District. Work has already begun on many of the initiatives within each of the Divisions and responsibility areas of the District.

In closing, it is my honor and privilege to serve this community and the employees of the Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District. We will continue to strive to meet the expectations and challenges of the community through our highly trained and motivated team.

David J Sargenti

David Sargenti
Fire Chief



Who We Are

**Serving the Northern Salinas Valley, Highway 68 Corridor,
Communities of Chualar, East Garrison, Carmel Valley,
Mid Carmel Valley & Santa Lucia Preserve**

400 Square Miles Served

45,000 Population Served

70 Active Employees

7 Stations

3,907 Calls for Service in 2023

**FY2022/2023 Budget
\$24,144,805.00**



Our Mission

We protect the lives, property and environment by providing excellent and fiscally responsible emergency medical and fire response, prevention, training and public education



District Overview

In 1934, the Salinas Rural Fire District was established to respond to rural emergencies outside of the City of Salinas. It was renamed the Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District in 2009. In 1946 the Tularcitos Fire Protection District was formed and later renamed the Carmel Valley Fire District. In 1973, the Mid-Valley Fire District was formed and consolidated with Carmel Valley in 2001.

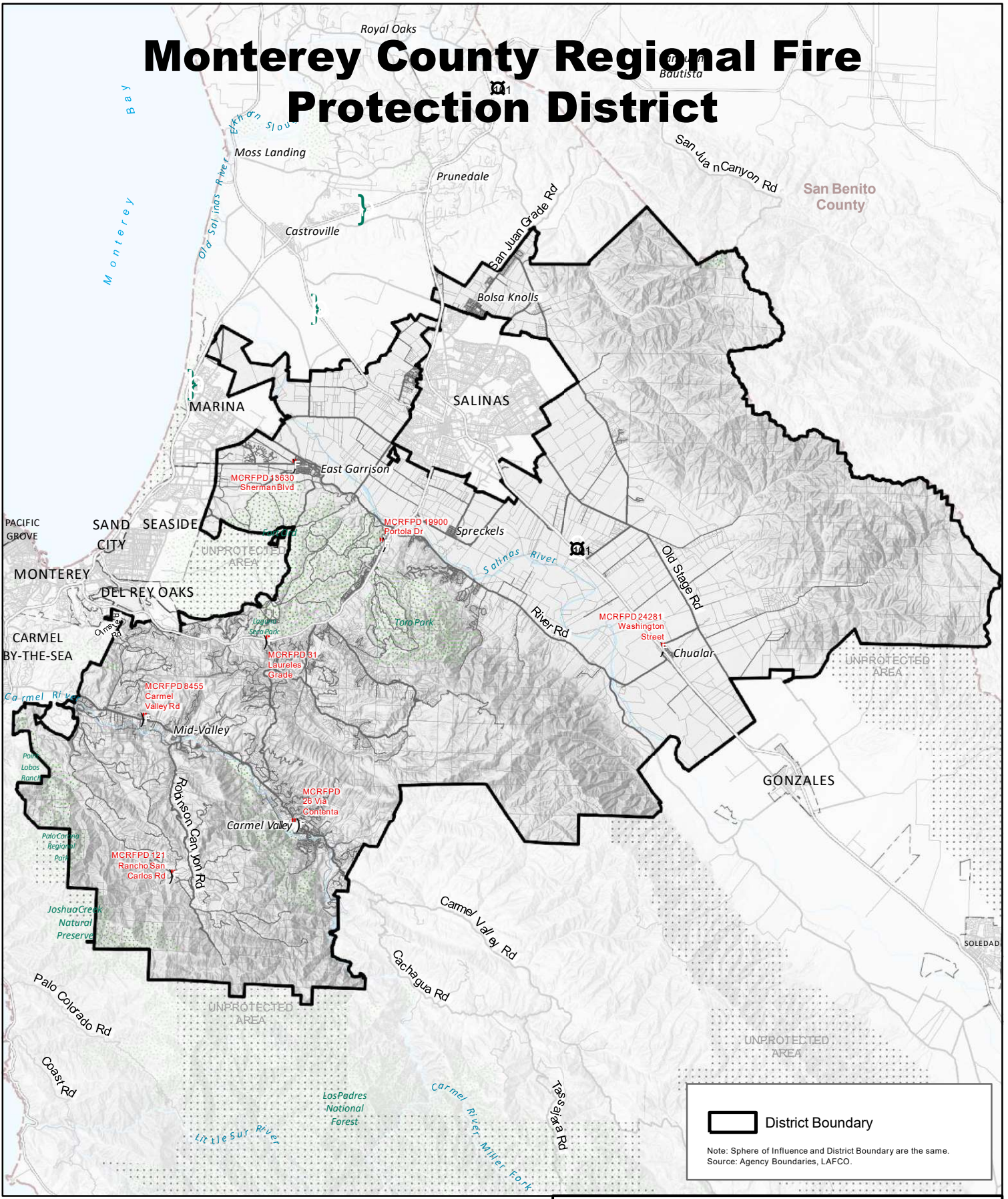
On October 25, 2010 the Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District and the Carmel Valley Fire District consolidated into the Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District

Monterey County Regional Fire serves the Northern Salinas Valley, Highway 68 Corridor, Communities of Chualar, East Garrison, Carmel Valley, Mid Carmel Valley & Santa Lucia Preserve

The District operates seven fire station, an Administrative Office, Training Division, Fire Prevention Division and Emergency Medical Division.

The District is governed by five Board of Directors who are appointed to four-year terms.

Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District



□ District Boundary

Note: Sphere of Influence and District Boundary are the same.
Source: Agency Boundaries, LAFCO.

LAFCO of Monterey County

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

P.O. Box 1369
Salinas, CA 93902
Telephone (831) 754-5838

132 W. Gabilan St., Suite 102
Salinas, CA 93901
FAX (831) 754-5831



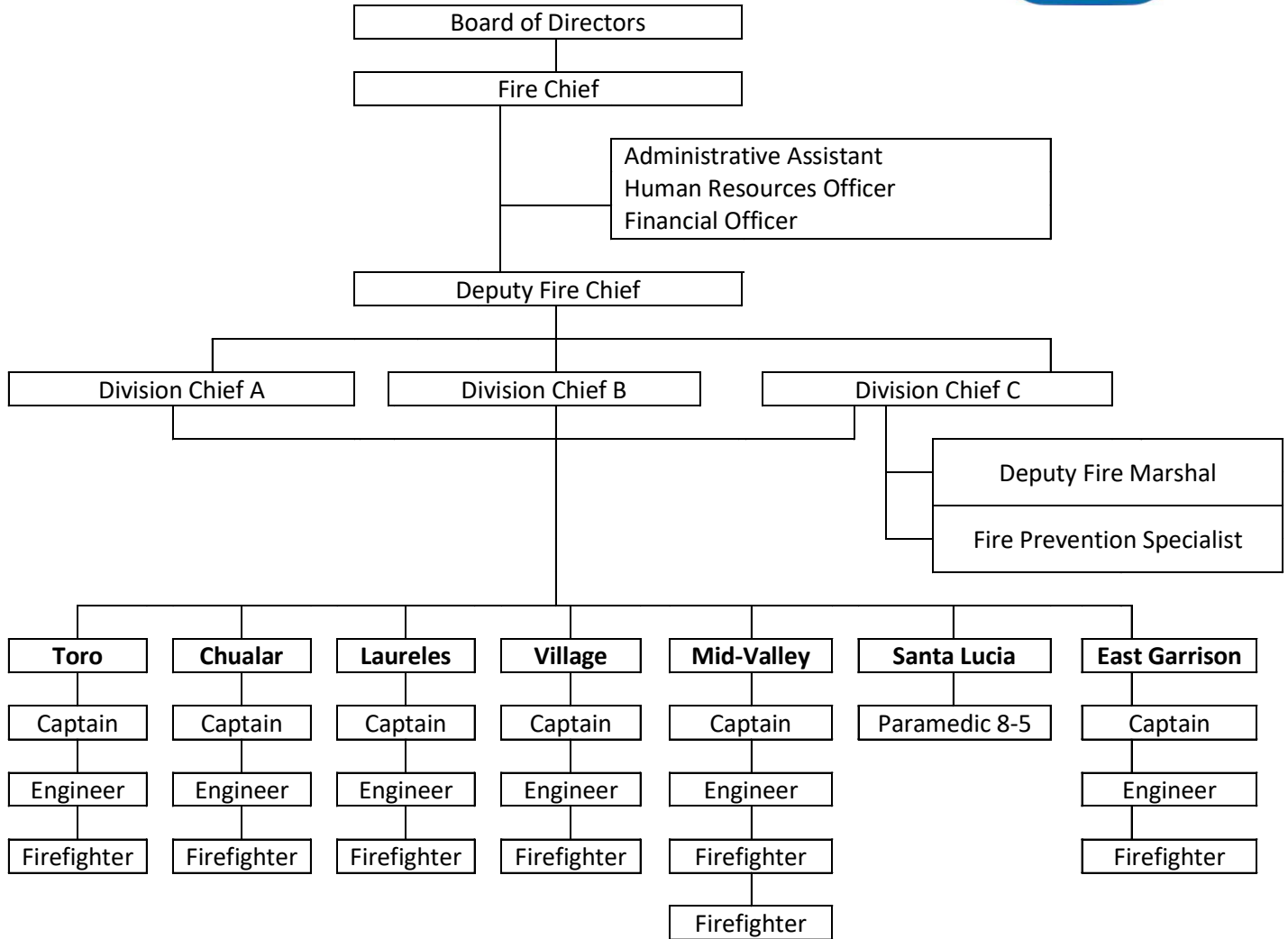
0 4 Miles

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS

MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Last LAFCO-Approved Change: 8/27/2018
Sphere of Influence Affirmed: 6/22/2020
Map Produced: 7/16/2020

Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District 2023 Organizational Chart



Board of Directors 5
Fire Chief 1
Deputy Chief 1
Administrative Assistant 1
Human Resources Officer 1
Finance Officer 1

Division Chief 3
Fire Captain 18
Engineer 18
Fire Fighter 24
Deputy Fire Marshal 1
Fire Prevention Specialist 1

On To The Next Adventure 2023 Retirees



Board of Director George Haines

9 years

Division Chief Kevin Kamnikar

31 years

Fire Captain Dave Jensen

36 years

Fire Captain Dale Williams

35 years

Fire Engineer Rich Rotharmel

31 years

Welcome Our 2023 New Hires



Kelly Cimino



Julian Medoza



Adam Lewis



Hayden Alvernaz



Anthony Trujillo



Martin Jimenez



Anthony Allen



Noah Friedman



Skyler Fuss



James Meeks



Pat Moore



Promotions in 2023



Fire Engineer Juan Carlos Cabrera Guillen
Fire Engineer Shane Calender
Fire Captain Wyatt Uribe
Fire Captain Justin Keisling



2023 Firefighter of the Year



Firefighter Corey Drivon



Quick Facts 2023

Total
Incidents
3907

Response
Time AVG
8:59

Fire
Incidents
1552

EMS
Incidents
2355

Auto/Mutual
Aid Given
361

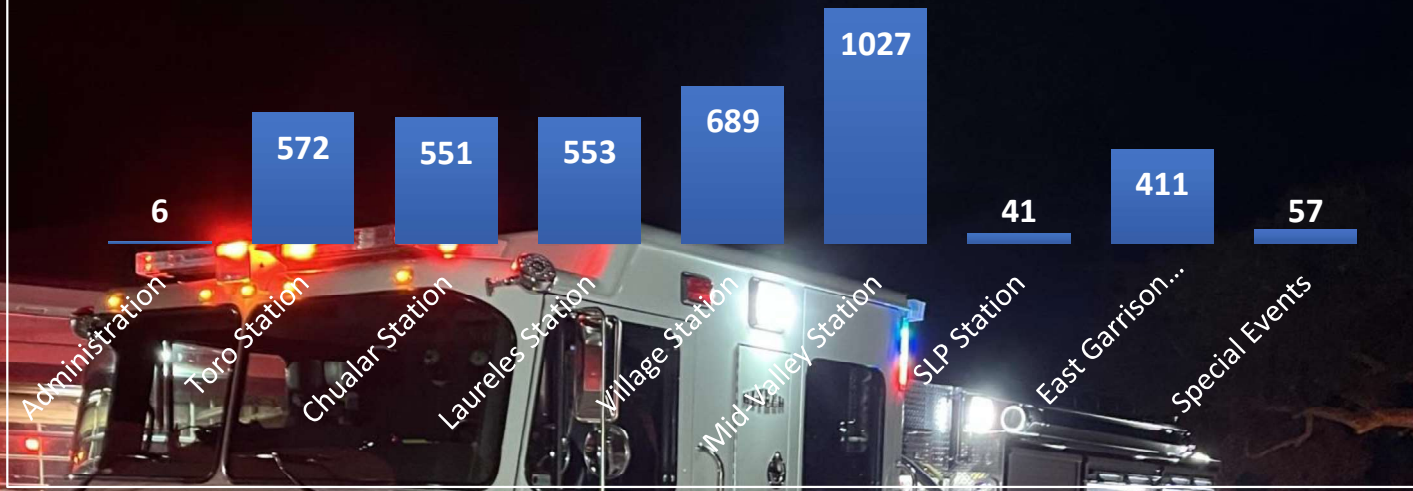
Auto/Mutual
Aid Received
77

Ambulance
Transports
1041

ALS
Contacts
811

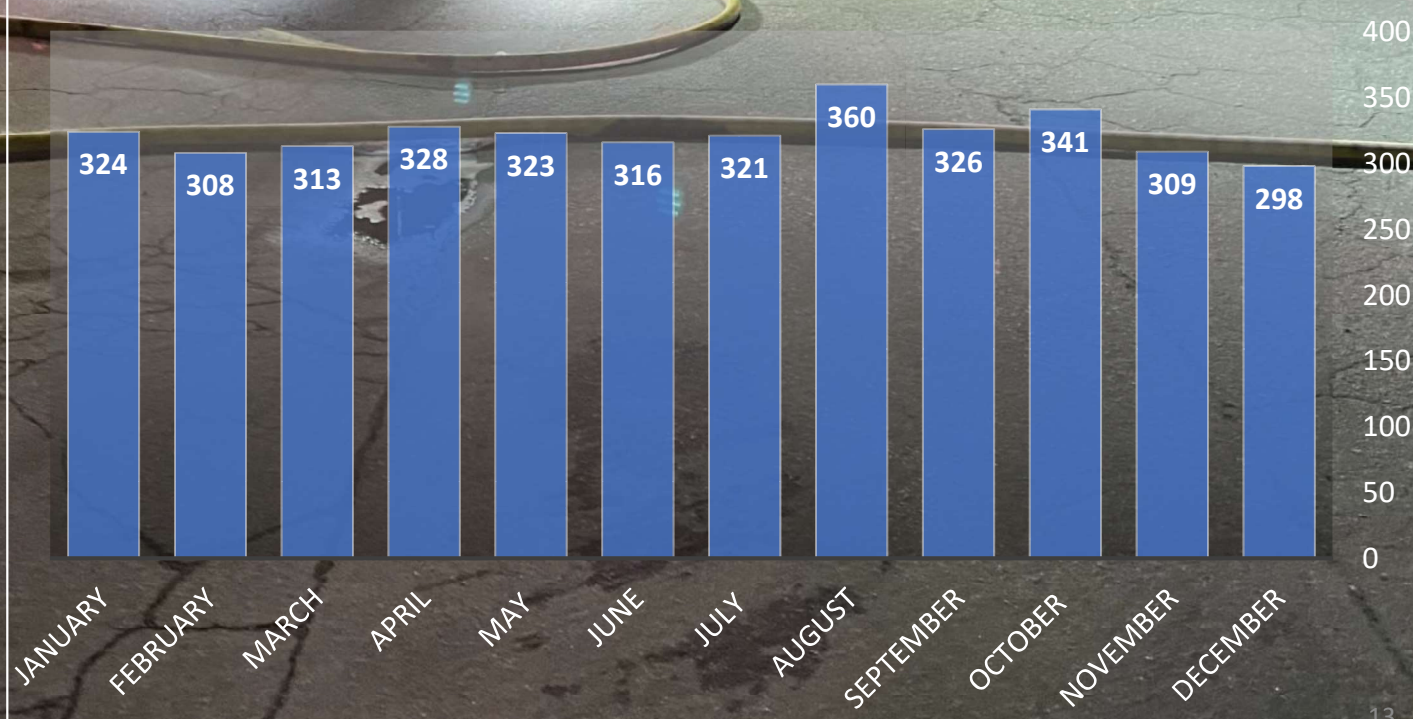
Responses by Station

■ 2023



Responses by Month

■ 2023





Administration



The Administration of the District oversees strategic planning, policy development, personnel management, risk management, budget development and fiscal oversight. The Administration encompasses the roles of the Fire Chief, Administrative Services, Human Resources and Finance.

The Fire Chief is the top rank of the Fire District reporting directly to the Fire District Board of Directors. The Fire Chief is responsible for the administration, supervision and technical work in planning, budgeting, coordinating and directing the District personnel, apparatus, and equipment.

The District administrative services provides direct customer service and support for the District general business. They also provide support to the Board of Directors, Fire Chief, Fire Prevention Division, and Emergency Medical Division in the administrative tasks associated with each area.

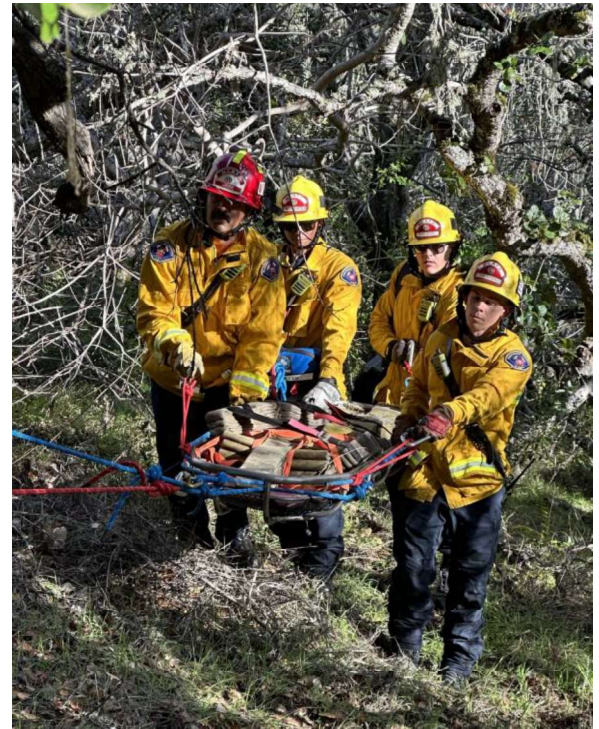
Human Resources provide support to District employees with labor relations, benefit administration, workforce training/development, retirement, and workers compensation. They also conduct recruitment, assessment, and orientation for new employees.

Finance oversees and performs all fiscal activities of the District to include payroll, accounts payable, invoicing, reimbursements and debt obligations. They lead the annual budget development process and manage the budget throughout the fiscal year.

ADMINISTRATION

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Transitioned responsibilities between administrative staff to better align with program areas and common work paths.
- Conducted seven Board meetings with associated staff reports, project details, fiscal reports, and responsibility report outs.
- Completed Board of Directors ethics and sexual harassment training.
- Conducted three firefighter recruitments and testing processes, an open recruitment and testing process for a Division Chief position, and an open recruitment for a part time contract bookkeeper.
- Hired 13 new employees which included: 1 Division Chief and 3 Firefighter Paramedics and 9 Firefighter EMTs.
- Promoted 4 employees which included: 2 Fire Captains and 2 Fire Engineers.
- Processed with CALPERS the retirement of 4 paid employees for service retirements.
- Provided support and data for the District chief negotiator to complete a new Memorandum of Understanding with the MCRFD Administrative Bargaining Unit.
- Held the annual employee recognition events to honor new hires, promotions, service milestones, retirements and service recognitions.
- Built relationships with the various Board of Supervisors detailing unique challenges and issues within their respective supervisorial districts.
- Completed the initial onboarding and training with the contract bookkeeper.
- Processed over \$10.9 million in payroll, over the course of 24 pay periods.
- Coordinated with the District's auditing firm to complete the annual audited financial statements.
- Conducted monthly staff meetings to create cohesion and to better understand the various challenges affecting staff.
- Worked with the Board of Supervisors and County CAO to develop a standard process for filling vacant Board of Directors positions.
- Worked with the County Agricultural Commissioner and Ranch/Farm stakeholders to develop and implement an Emergency Ag permit program to allow access for property owners during emergency incidents.



Training Division



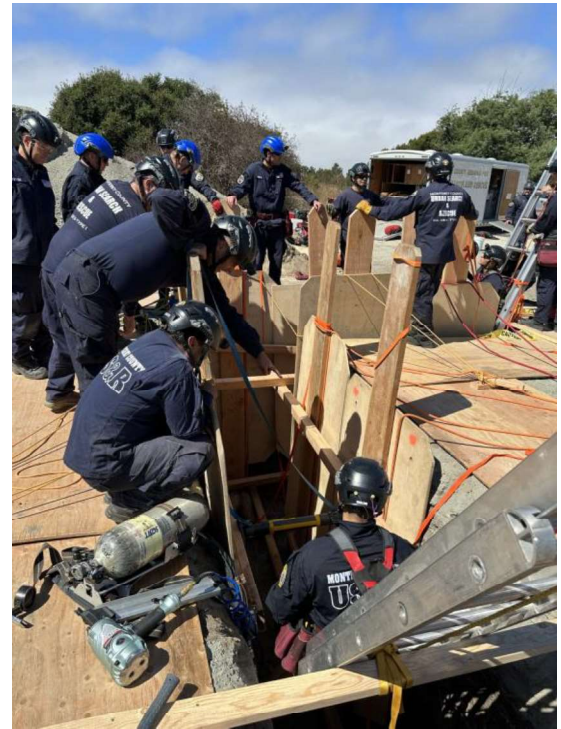
Training is one of the most important functions of the fire service. It is intended to prepare our district to serve our community in the most efficient and safest means possible. MCRFD will strive to provide the highest quality training, instruction and evaluation to our personnel and to ensure personal safety as we deliver this service.

The training division provides valuable training before a firefighter faces the many different types of emergency and non-emergency calls for service. Training provided to the District employees fulfills local, State and Federal mandates.

TRAINING

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted three new hire academies for a total of 10 new firefighters. The academy was administered by current employees to provide a foundation of fire, rescue and emergency medical skills.
- Completed new firefighter certification in hazardous materials First Responder Operational level, Driver Operator 1A, and Pacific Gas and Electric awareness training.
- Our employees received training on the new California Office of Emergency Services Type 1 engine, OES 2124. It is now in service and is a resource for us and the state.
- The Training Committee expanded to 8 members. The members are a cross section of various ranks and experience within our organization. Their primary role is to provide standardization and support to the Training Division.
- The ventilation prop at the Mid Valley Station and a forceable entry prop at the Toro Station were put into service.
- The Division continues to expand resources for our YouTube channel to provide information and standardization of District operations and evolutions.
- Our online training platform was modified to provide a better user experience and ease in the auditing and tracking of annual required training.
- Evaluation sheets were developed to better test our probationary employees. This will assist us with standardizing our training for our recruits as well as our probationary employees.
- Live fire training was conducted at the Santa Lucia Preserve with an acquired structure. This opportunity provide all participants with scenario-based training focusing on size up, fire suppression, communication, Incident command and firefighter rehabilitation.
- Live wildland fire training was conducted at Camp Roberts providing for opportunities of mobile attack, progressive hose lays, firing operations and off-road driving.
- Three Captains, three Engineers and four Firefighters successfully completed their probationary task books and evaluations.
- Annual RT-130 training to prepare for the wildland firefighting season was conducted.
- Several of our members attended SFT Company Officer classes in preparation for the 2024 promotional testing.



Urban Search and Rescue



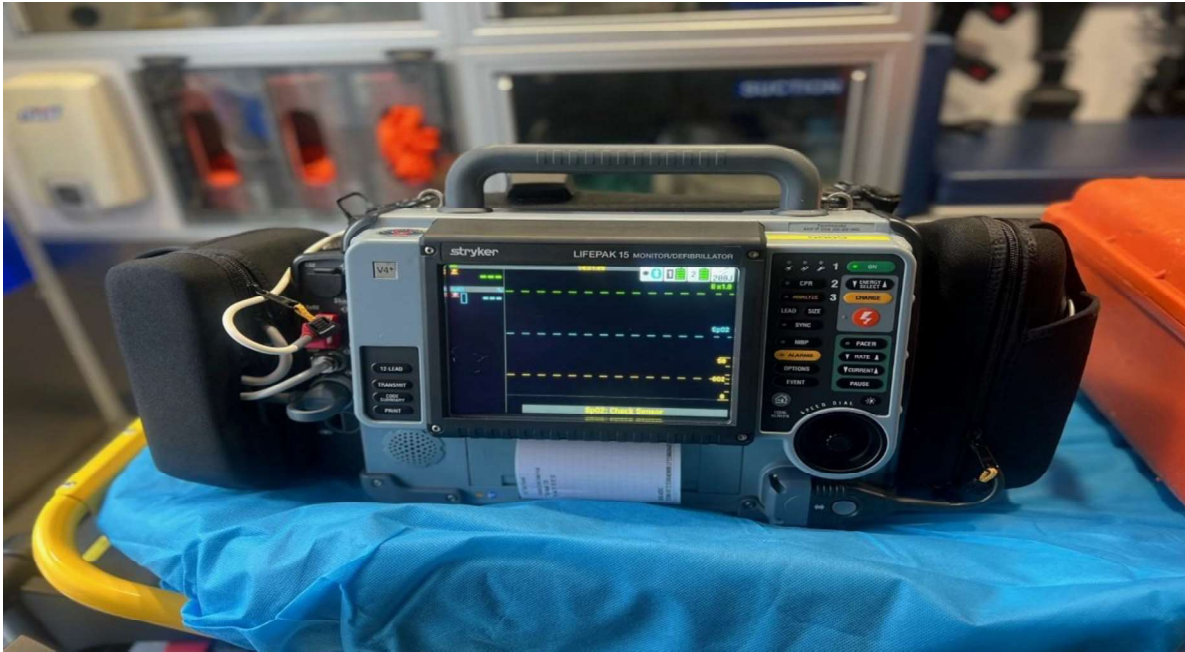
The Monterey County Urban Search and Rescue team (US&R) specializes in technical rescues that exceed the capabilities of the local responders. The US&R team are trained and equipped for the following situations: Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Emergency Shoring and Breaching, Building Collapse, Tower Rescue, and Backcountry search and rescue.

The US&R team is comprised of 10 members each from the Monterey City Fire Department, Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District, and the North County Fire District. In 2003, the US&R team was tasked by the California Office of Emergency Services as a Type I heavy company. The team is available and staffed with on duty personnel for local, regional, and statewide responses.

US&R

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Our US&R team secured a grant through the Department of Homeland Security to purchase replacement equipment, new technology to support operations, along with maintaining our current cache of rescue tools.
- The US&R team also took delivery of a Utility Task Vehicle (UTV), supplied for by a grant. MCRFD provided the training to put it into service. The UTV can be used for Rapid Extraction Modules Support Teams (REMS) on campaign wildfire incidents statewide.
- With the assistance of Urban Areas Security Intuitive (UASI) funding, one member completed the Structural Control Specialist 2 FEMA class.
- The US&R team took steps towards expansion with the possible addition of Cal Fire. Cal Fire provides additional resources available from the State. They also have access to training and instructors for us locally.
- The US&R team conducted training in all the US&R responsibility disciplines through basic skill review and scenario-based exercises. This training involved coordination with our local first responders.
- We continue to develop succession plans for continuity of operations by securing funding for core level classes for new members and advance training for our seasoned rescuers.



EMS and Safety Division



The Fire District staffs all fire stations with advanced life support paramedics each day. Additionally, within the Carmel Valley response zones, ambulance transport is provided by the Fire District.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Safety Division encompasses quality improvement, ambulance transport, engine based medical response, narcotic control, EMS supplies, EMS training/licensing/certification and safety adherence to the District's daily operations.

2023 brought changes to this Division that benefited the organization and its constituents it serves. This report will highlight some of the changes as well as reflecting on the busiest year we've had to date with 3,907 calls for service

EMS/SAFETY

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 2,203 total patient contacts by District Emt's and Paramedics
- 1,163 Regional Fire Ambulance transports to area hospitals including Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley Hospital and Natividad Medical Center.
- Generating \$926,311.42 in transport revenue.
- Inhouse peer review quality improvement (QI) team maintained.
- Completed 100% QI of all patient care reports providing instant feedback on the care provided.
- Updated QI plan with approval by the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA)
- 2 new MCRFD Paramedics accredited with the LEMSA
- Implemented EMT Expanded Scope with approval from the LEMSA bringing all of our EMT to the expanded scope level.
- Replaced 6 cardiac monitors with new LifePack 15 monitors.
- Streamlined EMS supply restocking by implementing an EMS supply vending machine to service stations 1, 3 & 7.
- Hosted annual ACLS/PALS/PHTLS certification courses.
- Spearhead Health Data Exchange with local hospitals. Now sharing bidirectional PT information with Natividad Medical Center.
- Continued update to our Covid policy with changes from CALOSHA and the California Department of Health Services.
- Conducted safety inspections all District facilities.
- Installed public access AEDs and Narcan in District community rooms.
- Crews participated in the annual Safety Stand Down. This year's event focused on Behavioral Health.
- All personnel completed the OSHA mandated workplace harassment and injury and illness prevention program training requirements.
- All Firefighters completed our annual medical physical examinations.



Fire Prevention Division

The principal responsibilities of the Fire Prevention Division include construction permit and design reviews, inspections of new construction, inspections of sprinkler installations, business inspections, defensible space inspection and education, school inspections, cannabis growing and cultivation code compliance inspections and all other code compliance inspections. Along with these inspections, the Prevention Division delivers and coordinates public education opportunities for the residents and visitors of the District, coordinates projects with the Firesafe Council of Monterey County, assists residents in becoming Firewise Communities, conducts water system checks and maintains fire hydrants. Special events that occur in the District receive fire and life safety inspections from the prevention team, which include all the races and events held at the Weathertech Raceway at Laguna Seca.

PREVENTION

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued to foster relationships with our Firewise communities and assist residents in pursuing the same level of safety and recognition for their neighborhoods. To date there are 32 Firewise Communities within the boundaries of MCRFD.
- Assisted all the current MCRFD Firewise Communities from 2023 with renewing their 2024 certificates to remain in good standing. 100% success rate!
- Participated in numerous community events and meetings which focused on life safety, wildland/urban fuel reduction and management, community risk reduction, disaster preparedness and other educational programs.
- Pre-incident plans for target hazard occupancies are being updated to include new technology which will better assist engine companies while responding to incidents.
- Implemented compliance software for fire and life safety protection systems covered in the adopted fire code. Contractors who inspect any system, such as fire sprinklers, hood systems, and fire alarms, must now report the status electronically to the fire department. This tracking software will help us collect, organize, and track all fire and life safety test results.
- Completed 2,375 total inspections throughout the year, including: School inspections, AB-38 Defensible Space inspections, Business inspections, Residential apartment inspections, Wildland inspections, Cannabis facility inspections.
- Over 1,800 plan checks were completed over the year. This process includes collaborating with local architects, landscape designers and contractors on hundreds of construction projects, both residential and commercial.
- 100 % of the 1,800 fire hydrants in the District were inspected and maintained by engine companies.
- Applied for a community wildfire prevention grant to assist neighborhoods with fuels reduction, defensible space, chipper days, and roadway clearance. This grant is currently in the review period.
- MCRFD hosted two open house events, taking place at the fire stations. The annual open house events focus on public education, interaction with our residents, demonstrations, and a little fun and games. Inviting the public into our homes to see all of the fire equipment and how it is used is always a great time to show how the fire service works.



Fleet Services

The Fire District maintains and operates over forty department vehicles, ranging from fire engines to staff vehicles. With this number of vehicles in the fleet, maintenance is an ongoing, never-ending task in which employees have the responsibility to ensure each vehicle remains in an operational and mechanical state of readiness. Over the last year, this task was accomplished behind the scenes and seamlessly while fire engines were shuffled around to ensure each station remained “operationally ready” to respond to all emergencies with the proper equipment.

FLEET

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Fire apparatus pump testing completed on all first out and reserve equipment.
- Fire hose testing completed for all fire engines and station reserve supply.
- All fire service ladders were tested.
- The electric rescue tools were all serviced and maintained. These tools are found on all the first out fire engines.
- A new Type III engine has been ordered.
- A new ambulance has been ordered, which expands the District fleet to five ambulances.
- Smog testing completed on all applicable apparatus.
- Continued to maintain quick turnaround times for repairs through multiple vendors.
- Made repairs and restorations to the 1962 American La France Parade engine, allowing personnel to continue to use this apparatus in community wide events.

COMMUNITY

