



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**South Daytona Fire Rescue**

**Established March 15, 1940**



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# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of South Daytona Fire Department is to preserve the quality of life, protect property, and maintain a stable environment through professional delivery of service.

## VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the South Daytona Fire Department is to set standards of excellence, guided by the principles of trust, integrity, loyalty, honesty and respect for all.



## CORE VALUES

- Integrity and Honesty
- Professional Excellence
- Positive Servant Attitude
- Humility
- Initiative
- Compassion
- Diversity
- Accountability
- Teamwork
- Safety



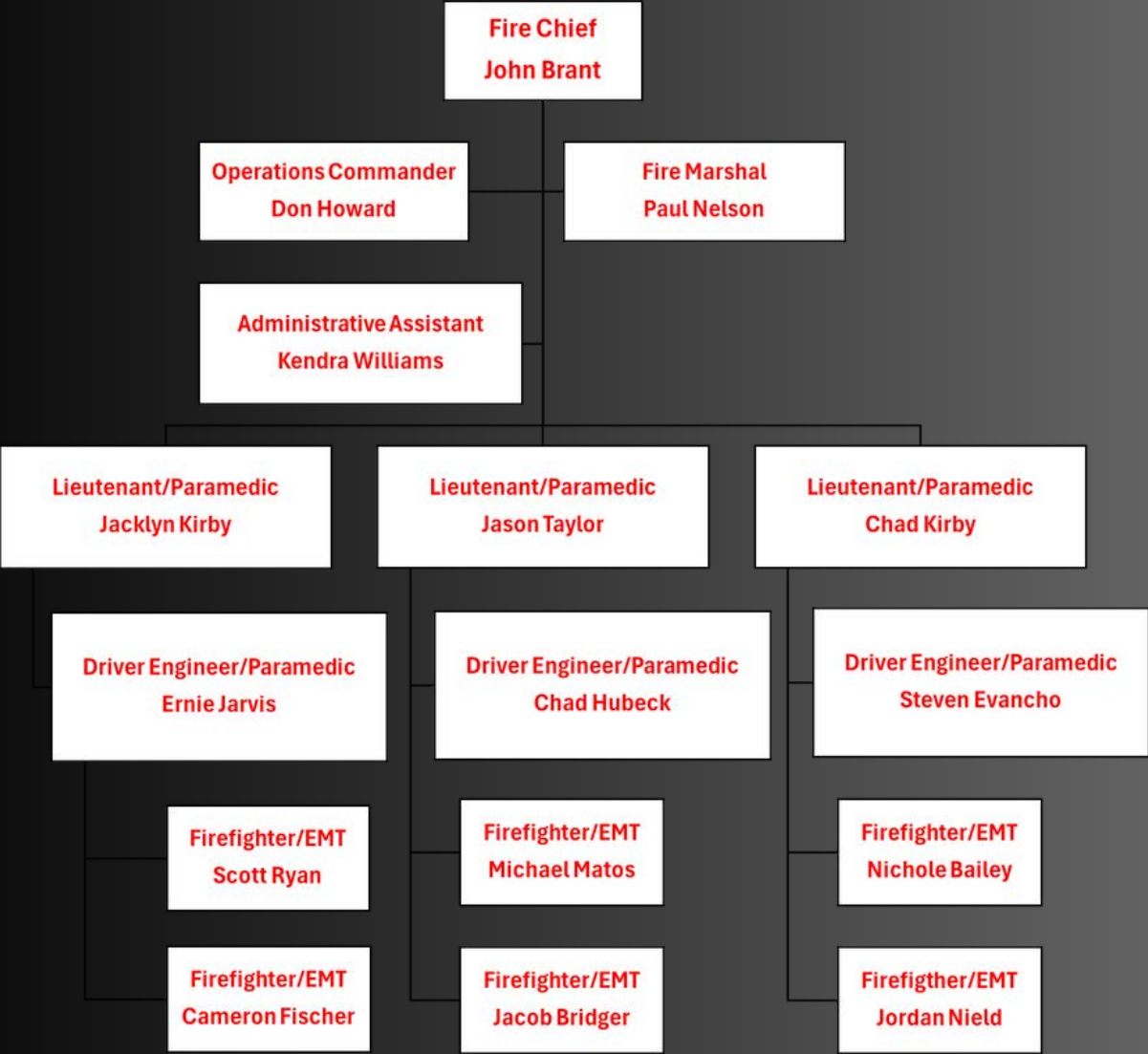
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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART







# MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF....

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and the Residents of South Daytona,

I am pleased to present to you the 2023 Annual Report on behalf of the highly trained, dedicated, and professional employees of the City of South Daytona Fire Rescue.

This report covers the challenges and changes faced by our department in 2023, and the unwavering dedication and positive attitude displayed by our men and women throughout them. We hope that this report offers an inside view of the efforts required to run a successful fire department, and provides an overview of our accomplishments, incidents, and programs.

Our department is currently undergoing significant changes that will allow us to better serve our citizens and make us stronger than ever before. While we achieved a great deal in the past year, we remain committed to growth and improvement in the years ahead.

I would like to express my gratitude to our department members, city staff, internal and external stakeholders for their contributions to the success of these transitions and changes. It is an honor to serve the citizens of this great city and the members of this department.

Our department is built upon our core values, and we strive to be an example for our community members. Our dedication to excellence has never been stronger, and we are committed to improving our delivery of services every day we put on our uniform.

It is both humbling and a source of pride for me to be part of this team of professionals, who are working tirelessly to provide critical services to our community. We hope you find this Annual Report informative and gain a broad perspective of the various services brought to you by SDFR.

# MEET THE COMMAND STAFF



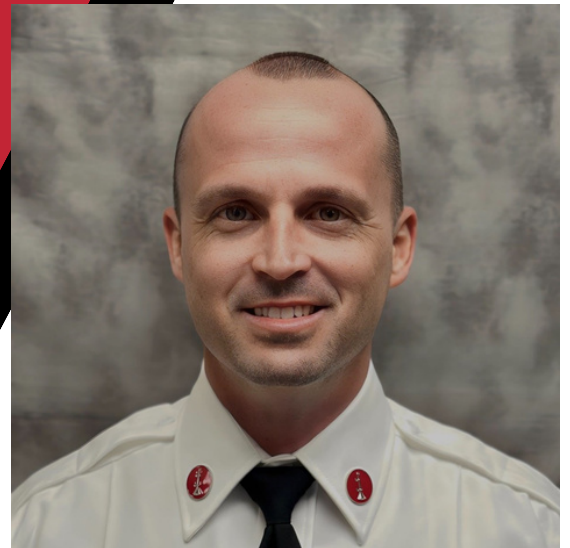
**Commander Don Howard**



**Lieutenant Jacklyn Kirby**



**Lieutenant Jason Taylor**



**Lieutenant Chad Kirby**

# **FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR SCOTT RYAN JR**

Firefighter Ryan was named 2023 Firefighter of the Year for not only his hard work and dedication to the South Daytona Fire Department but also for his willingness to continue to learn new skills and continue his training. Ryan completed over 60 hours of educational courses, including Rope Rescue training completed his state certification for Pump Operator, along with becoming a relief Driver Engineer. Ryan is also working on his Fire Officer I and in 2024 will start the Paramedic program at Daytona State College.



## **Welcome Aboard**



**Kendra Williams  
Administrative Assistant**



**Cameron Fischer  
Firefighter**





In March Fire Chief Dave Giles retired after more than 30 years of dedicated service to the community of South Daytona. Chief Giles was appointed Fire Chief in October of 2016. A few of his accomplishments as Fire Chief was Movie in the Park Events, smoke detector awareness events, as well as 14 grants totaling almost one-million dollars for the City.

The new Fire Chief was appointed, following Chief Giles' retirement, in April. Fire Chief John Brant came from the LaGrange Fire Department in Georgia where he served as the Fire Chief since 2018. He initially joined the LaGrange Fire Department in 1995. Chief Brant became certified as an EMT in 1997 and then certified as a Paramedic in 2004. He holds over 40 state and national certifications and recently completed his Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration.



The City welcomed 6th graders from Campbell Middle School to learn more about local government. The Mayor, City Manager, and the different department managers talked about all the different aspects and roles that everyone takes in keeping the local government running. The kids got to tour both the Police and Fire Departments, along with being able to ask questions and get hands on experience with some of the Fire Department equipment.





South Daytona Fire Department assisted with the annual Kid's Fishing Tournament held in April. The tournament was sponsored by Fishin and Huntin magazine, the City of South Daytona, and the South Daytona Police Department.

South Daytona Fire and Police Departments helped with the South Daytona Elementary's 1st grade field trip in May. They were supposed to walk to Mary Jane's Ice Cream Shoppe, but due to the weather not cooperating, member's of the Fire and Police department helped deliver ice cream directly to the classrooms.



South Daytona Fire Department gave back to our community in July by assisting South Daytona Elementary School with laying mulch to prepare the school grounds for the beginning of the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

During the month of July the South Daytona Fire Department collected school supplies for the students of South Daytona Elementary. During the Meet Your Teacher Events the supplies were available for the students to choose from with their parent's assistance.





On the 1st day of School at South Daytona Elementary Mayor Bill Hall, Councilman Young, the City Manager, the Police Department, the Fire Department, and other city staff had the pleasure of assisting children out of their cars in the car drop off line.



In remembrance of 9/11 South Daytona Fire Department with several other surrounding Fire Departments, Police Officers, and a few civilians participated in a Memorial Stair Climb hosted by Halifax Landing. Participants climbed 110 flights of stairs in remembrance of all who lost their lives that day.



The South Daytona Citizens Alert the South Daytona Lions Club, along with the South Daytona Police Department hosted the 15th Annual Kailynne Quartier Memorial Ride on September 16. The memorial ride is a fundraising event, raising money for several local charities. During the annual event members of the Fire Department provided assistance.



South Daytona Fire Department hosted their annual Movie in the Park Night on October 6. Spider-Man Across the Spider Verse was the movie of the evening. Popcorn and candy were provided. The Citizens Alert Crime Dog Wagon was available for hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Members of the department were there to help and provide entertainment for the movie goers prior to the movie starting.



The City hosted the 18th Annual Blaine O'Neal Memorial Golf Tournament. The money raised went to the South Daytona Community Trust. Fire Department members Chief Brant, Commander Howard, Firefighter Jordan Nield, and Chief Brant's son Ethan played; along with Administrative Assistant Kendra Williams assisting with the tournament.

October is Fire Prevention Month. Fire Departments around the nation spend countless hours planning, scheduling, and preparing in advance to make sure the local schools and daycares are educated in Fire Safety and prevention. During October South Daytona Fire Department hosted a combined total of 1,000 kids. The firefighters explained fire safety, demonstrated their gear, conducted tours of the station, and provided each child with a Fire Escape Plan Booklet and other goodies.







October 27 the South Daytona Parks and Recreation department hosted their annual Halloween Drive Thru Boo. During this event each individual department comes up with their own Halloween theme and decorates the trunk of a car or designated area within Reed Canal Park and hands out candy to all the Trick or Treaters coming thru.

The annual BBQ and Bluegrass Festival was held on November 18. This event is a Florida BBQ Association sanctioned competition with bluegrass music, vendors, and good food. During this event city staff, including Fire Chief Brant were the judges of the "mystery meat" portion of the BBQ fest. This year's Grand Prize winners was Appliance Warehouse & BBQ Supply.



The Citizens Alert honored the General Employee of the Year, Vera Parker from the Finance Department, Police Officer of the Year, Bryan Grondin, and the Firefighter of the Year, our very own Scott Ryan. The citizen volunteers that served throughout the year were also recognized.



South Daytona Fire Department participated in the Helping Hands with God and South Daytona Elementary Good for Hope boys and girls annual toy drive. We collected new unwrapped boy's and girl's toys that were able to be given out to local children in need for Christmas. A huge thank you to all of the citizens and employees of South Daytona that donated to make this event a success.



During December the City hosted the Employee Holiday Luncheon. Employees were recognized for their years of service. South Daytona Fire Departments Driver Engineer/Paramedic Chad Hubeck was recognized for his 5 years of dedicated service.



The 2023 year came to an end with the 1st Annual Fire Department Awards Banquet to recognize our personnel and all their hard work and dedication to not only the South Daytona Fire Department but also to the community they serve. The event was attended by Mayor Hall, Vice Mayor Sander, Councilman Quartier, City Manager Gillis, and family members.





The City of South Daytona is located on the Halifax River, just south of the city of Daytona Beach within Volusia County. With it's location only being minutes away from World Famous beaches of the Atlantic Ocean that attract more than 8 million visitors a year, our small town is a wonderful place to live and work if you like a small, hometown feel while enjoying the Florida lifestyle.

### City Administration

- Les Gillis – City Manager
- Becky Witte – Deputy City Clerk

### City Council Members

- William Hall – Mayor
- Eric Sander – Vice mayor
- Brandon Young – Councilman
- Doug Quartier – Councilman
- Lisa O'Neal – Councilwoman



### City Facts

- According to the US Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 5 square miles; 3.7 sq. miles is land and 1.3 sq. miles is water.
- According to the 2020 United States Census South Daytona has a population of 12,865 people; 5,587 households and 3,177 families reside in the city.



# SOUTH DAYTONA FIRE RESCUE



**The South Dayton Fire Departments ISO rating was received in March 2023. Our ISO rating remains a Class 2 rating. The rating has remained a Class 2 since 2015. According to the ISO, only 4.3% of communities nationwide have a rating of Class 1, 2, or 3. Therefore, South Daytona is rated by ISO in the top 3% in the nation in providing fire protection services.**

Our department consists of 16 personnel

12 Suppression Staff Members

3 Lieutenants

3 Driver Engineers

6 Firefighters (All firefighters are also certified EMT's)

9 Paramedics (6 on Suppression and 3 on Administration)

4 Administration Staff Members


Fire Chief

Operations Commander

Fire Marshal

Administrative Assistant

## **Offered Services**

- 
- Smoke Alarms
  - Home Safety Inspections
  - Friends and Family CPR Classes
  - Community Outreach



## Apparatus

Engine 98 – Front Line  
 Engine 198 – Reserve  
 Battalion 98 – Command Unit  
 UTV for Special Assignments

- Public Events
- Hurricanes



**South Daytona Fire Rescue has under gone some exciting changes this year. We have upgraded the interior of the station with new flooring, a fresh coat of paint throughout, and replaced one of the showers in the men's bathroom, along with upgrading some of the office furniture. We were also able to purchase a Kawaski UTV that is fully equipped with EMS supplies for use at City events and during natural disasters.**

**A very important addition is offering all Fire Department employees early detection cancer screenings through OneTest. Firefighters have a 90% higher risk of developing cancer than the general public, and a 14% higher risk of dying from cancer.**



## FUTURE PLANS



ACCREDITATION



HIGHER  
EDUCATION



COMMUNITY RISK  
REDUCTION  
OFFICER



MORE  
COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT



LOWERING  
RESPONSE  
TIMES



# OPERATIONS

In the view below, you can see the entire city layout including the county district our Fire Department serves.

**2,571**

**Total Calls**

**2,846**

**Total Calls plus mutual aid**



South Daytona Fire Department has an Automatic Aid Agreement with its neighboring cities. The graph illustrates how many times our department responded to surrounding cities and below lists response to our city by surrounding departments.

**196**

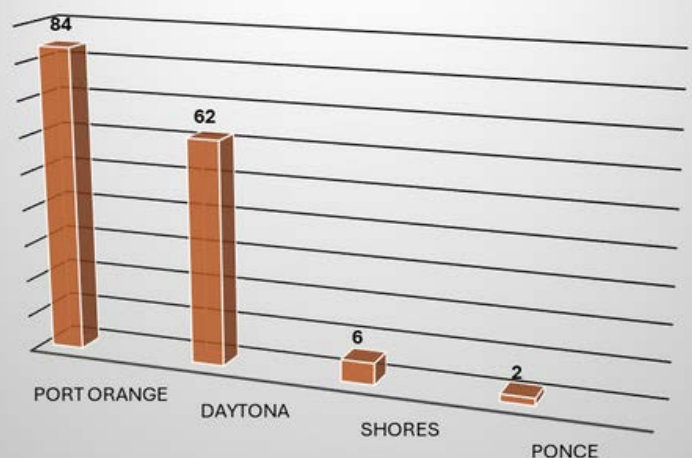
**Port Orange**

**75**

**Daytona Beach**

**PAGE 16**

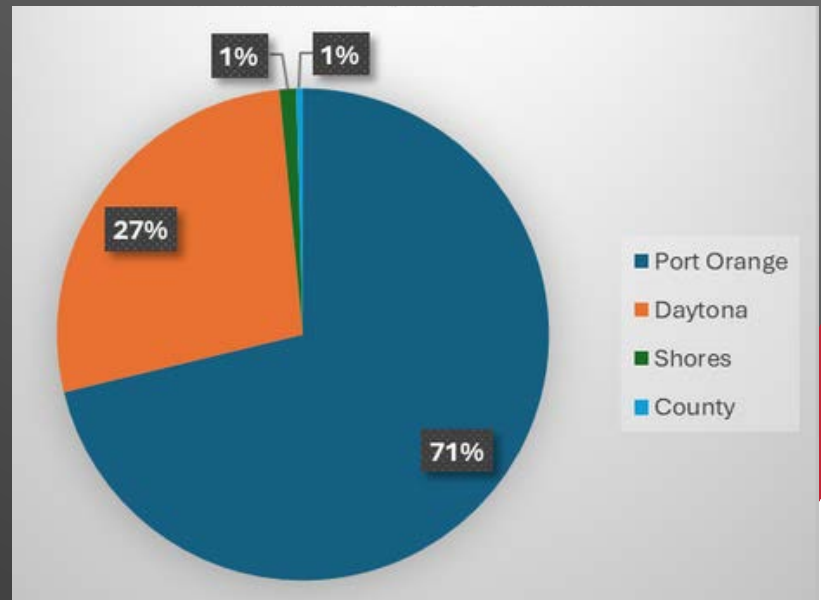
## Out of District Calls





# OPERATIONS

Other fire departments responded to overlapping calls while we were busy with other incidents, training, or community outreach. South Daytona Fire Rescue aims to reduce these number. The chart shows the percentages that were covered by other agencies.



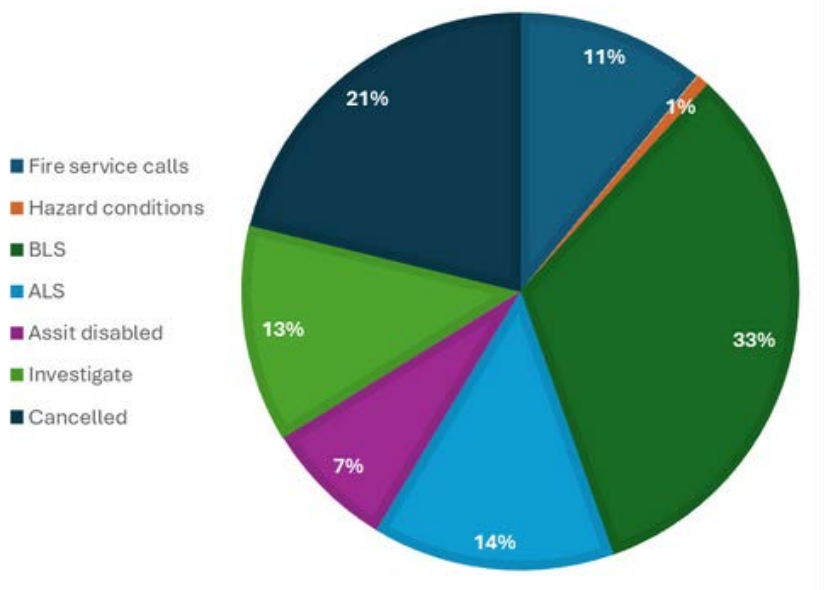
## County Districts

The county districts, highlighted in yellow, show the areas that South Daytona Fire Department covers. In 2023 our department responded to a total of 319 calls in these county districts.



## 2023 Call Types

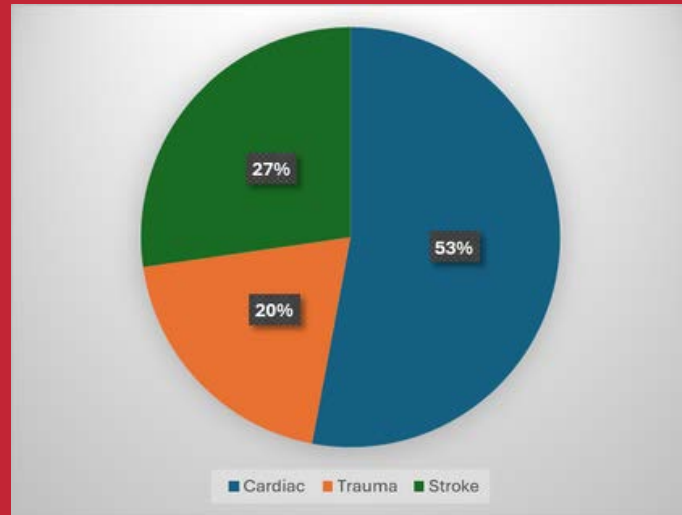
- Fire-related service calls - 241 (13%)
- BLS - 726 (33%)
- ALS - 311 (14%)
- Assist disabled - 167 (7%)
- Investigate - 278 (13%)
- Cancellations - 468 (21%)
- Hazardous conditions - (1%)



# OPERATIONS

## Critical Calls

- Cardiac - (53%)
- Stroke - (27%)
- Trauma - (20%)



## 2023 Response Data



**Call Handling**  
**0:03:06**



**Turnout Time**  
**0:01:38**



**Travel Time**  
**0:06:37**

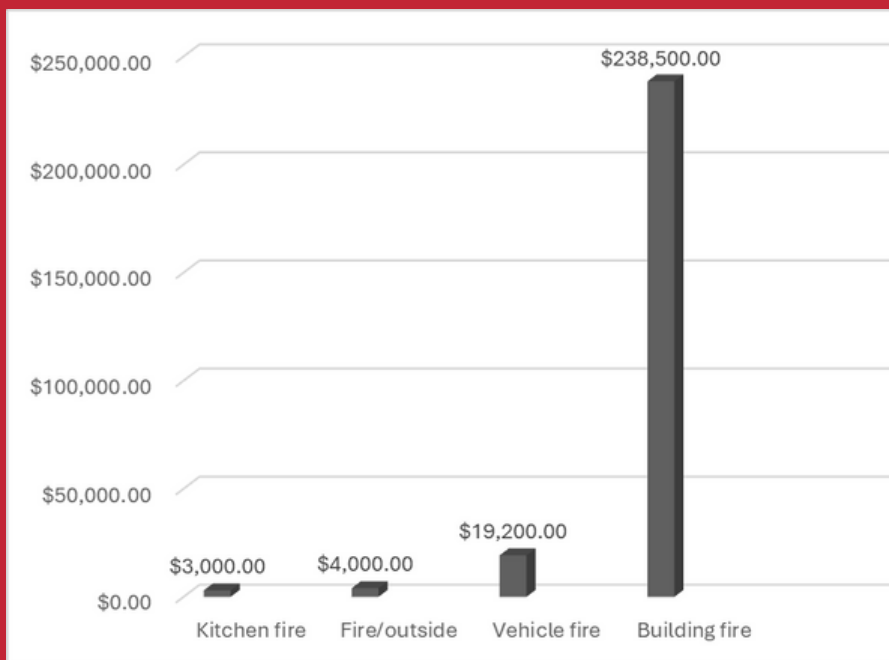


**Response Time**  
**0:07:40**



**On Scene**  
**0:26:53**

**These times are in the 90th percentile.**



## Dollar Loss Due to Fire

- \$3,000 - Kitchen Fire
- \$4,000 - Outside Fire
- \$19,200 - Vehicle Fire
- \$238,500 - Building Fire



## Inspections & Code Information

In an effort to safeguard the lives of our residents and visitors, the city has adopted the most stringent and progressive fire and life safety codes available. Fire inspections are completed on an annual basis and the fire department reviews all plans for new construction.

**499 Fire Inspections**



**82 Business Risk Assessments**

# 18

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

# 11

## STATION TOURS

# 8

## DAYCARE/SCHOOL INTERACTIONS

# 22

## SMOKE DETECTOR INSTALLS

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Throughout the year the South Daytona Fire Department was busy engaging with the community to help promote fire prevention and education. Along with running medical and fire calls, the crews also spent numerous hours assisting residents with smoke detector installs and home fire safety inspections, fire prevention programs with the schools and daycare facilities, fire escape planning for assisted living centers, and giving back to the community with school supply fundraisers and toy drives for the holiday season.

- Installed 22 smoke detectors for residential homes
- Fire Prevention programs
- Back to School supplies drive
- Chili Cook Off @ Luther Hall
- Fire escape plans
- CPR for citizens
- SDE Spring Festival
- Baseball events
- BBQ Festival
- Trunk or Treat

- Light the Night
- Movie in the park
- Laid mulch at the SDE
- Christmas toy drive
- 9/11 Memorial stair climb
- Annual fishing tournament
- Local lemonade stand
- Citizens Alert Hot dog wagon





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"To build an effective community, everyone must realize that their community is bigger than them."

— Idowu Koyenikan





# TRAINING AND EDUCATION 2023

During 2023, South Daytona Fire Department members devoted their time and effort towards achieving higher education by pursuing various degrees; including Associates,

Bachelors and Masters Degrees. These dedicated individuals managed to successfully earn a total of 69 credit hours, which is equivalent to an impressive 3,105 hours of hard work towards their educational goals. Their commitment to self-improvement is truly commendable and is a testament to their passion for serving their community with the utmost professionalism and excellence.



**ISO REQUIRED TRAINING 4,945 hrs**

**COLLEGE 3,105 hrs**

**CERTIFICATE CLASSES 906 hrs**

**CLINICAL ROTATIONS 826 hrs**

**INSTRUCTING 272 hrs**

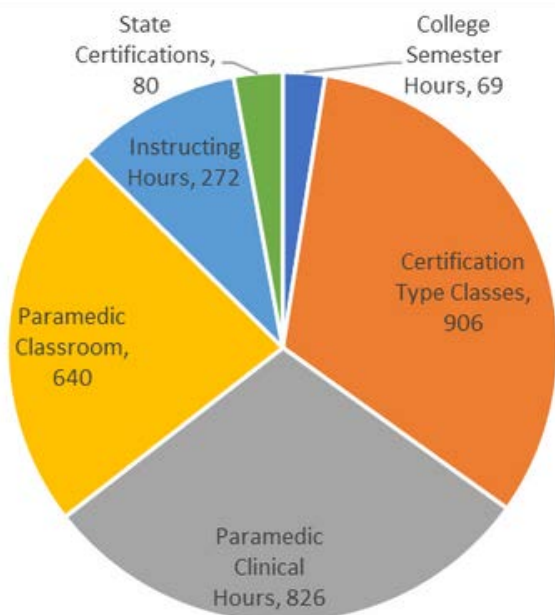
**MAINTAINING CERTIFICATIONS 80 hrs**



Several certificate-type classes totaling 906 hours were completed. These classes improved the skills and knowledge of the firefighters and enhanced the service provided to the community. Additionally, the department earned state certifications in Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II, Pump Operator, Rope Ops, and Tech, and VMR (Vehicle Machinery Rescue) Techs. These certifications ensure that the firefighters have the necessary skills and knowledge to operate fire pumps, handle water supply systems during emergencies, perform rope rescue operations, and handle complex rescue operations involving vehicle and machinery.

# TRAINING AND EDUCATION

*"A good firefighter knows how, an educated firefighter knows why." - Chris Walker, Captain/Instructor*



A total of 80 hours has been dedicated toward maintaining various state certifications. These certifications are crucial in ensuring that the firefighters are well-equipped and trained to handle different emergencies that may arise. The certifications they have been working on include Fire Inspector, Live Fire Training Instructor, Instructor I, II, and III, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, among many others. It is an ongoing process that requires continuous effort and dedication from the firefighters to ensure they are always up to date with the latest techniques, procedures, and best practices in the field.

ISO, also known as the Fire Score, is a rating system that evaluates the ability of the fire department to safeguard a community and its homes from fire damage. Insurance companies use this score to determine home insurance rates. A lower score indicates that a home is less likely to suffer severe damage or destruction due to fire, resulting in lower insurance premiums. To maintain our city's score of 2, the South Daytona firefighters have undergone 4,945 hours of training in 2023 in burn buildings, tower scenarios, ventilation, suppression, hazardous materials, officer training, company training, driver training, active shooter, and EMS.







*"Good Firefighters will know their job. GREAT Firefighters will also know the job of the person above them as well as teach their job to the person below them." - Bob Muszynski, Chief*

