

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTH JORDAN CITY
FIRE DEPARTMENT



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SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT



2023 MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



CHRIS DAWSON
FIRE CHIEF

Thank you for taking some time to review the South Jordan Fire Department 2023 Annual Report. This report is an opportunity for our team to provide a snapshot of our Department operations and to highlight some of our accomplishments over the last year.

As our City continues to grow, so too does our Fire Department. Our collective goal is to continue to manage the Fire Department's growth in an appropriate way and provide excellent services to our community in a fiscally responsible manner. Through persistent advance planning, we are working to expand Fire Department operations at a pace that is consistent with the growth and demand for services throughout our City.

In addition to expanding our existing services, we continue to actively seek new innovations and technology that impact our industry. We desire to be industry leaders, offering the best in advanced emergency medical response and transport services, as well as effectively responding to fire, hazardous materials, and many technical rescue calls for service. Our goal is to respond in an efficient and competent manner to whatever call for service may come our way.

In 2023 we added a new single-role Paramedic transport unit to our Department operations. This Advanced Life Support-capable ambulance is the first of its kind to be added to a fire department in Salt Lake County. These professional paramedics operate in support of our interfacility transport program and add another ALS ambulance to our ever-growing need for 911 EMS response. This is the first element in our newly created Medical Division, which we expect will expand and grow in the future.

I truly believe that our personnel are the best in the industry. We have a wonderful workforce that is committed to providing excellent customer service while delivering top-tier emergency services to our community. We are committed to continuing to improve our operations to meet the needs of our residents both now and into the future.

As the Fire Chief, it is my pleasure to work alongside the professional men and women in the South Jordan Fire Department. We love to be a part of community events and look forward to opportunities to engage with our residents. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of any assistance to you in any way.

Sincerely,

Chris Dawson, Fire Chief
South Jordan Fire Department



SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

As an all hazards emergency response agency, the South Jordan Fire Department prides itself on providing exceptional service to the community. Our professional firefighters operate out of four strategically located fire stations across the city. South Jordan Firefighters respond to a variety of incidents and perform many duties including fire suppression, advanced emergency medical response, ambulance transportation, hazardous materials response, technical rescue operations, fire prevention activities, and community education.

Our Operations Division consists of one Deputy Chief, two Division Chiefs, and three Battalion Chiefs who are responsible for the daily oversight of over 95 sworn members who serve a population of approximately 90,000 people within 22 square miles. South Jordan City is located in the rapidly growing southwest corner of the Salt Lake Valley.

Each day the South Jordan Fire Department staffs the following resources:

- 1 – Operations Battalion Chief
- 5 – Advanced Life Support Ambulances
- 1 – Ladder Truck
- 3 – Fire Engines
- 1 – Type 6 Wildland Engine
- 1 – Type 3 Wildland Engine



FIRE STATIONS



STATION 61

10758 SOUTH REDWOOD ROAD



STATION 62

4022 WEST SOUTH JORDAN PARKWAY



STATION 63

10451 SOUTH 1055 WEST



STATION 64

5443 WEST LAKE AVENUE

SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMAND STAFF



CHRIS DAWSON
FIRE CHIEF



RYAN LESSNER
DEPUTY CHIEF



JON STONE
BATTALION CHIEF A PLATOON



RYAN RAY
BATTALION CHIEF B PLATOON



CLAYTON MILLER
BATTALION CHIEF C PLATOON



LAURA EARLEY
FIRE ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT



MICHAEL RICHARDS
MEDICAL DIVISION CHIEF



DAVID LEE
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION CHIEF



CORY CAMPBELL
TRAINING CAPTAIN



AARON SAINSBURY
EMERGENCY MANAGER



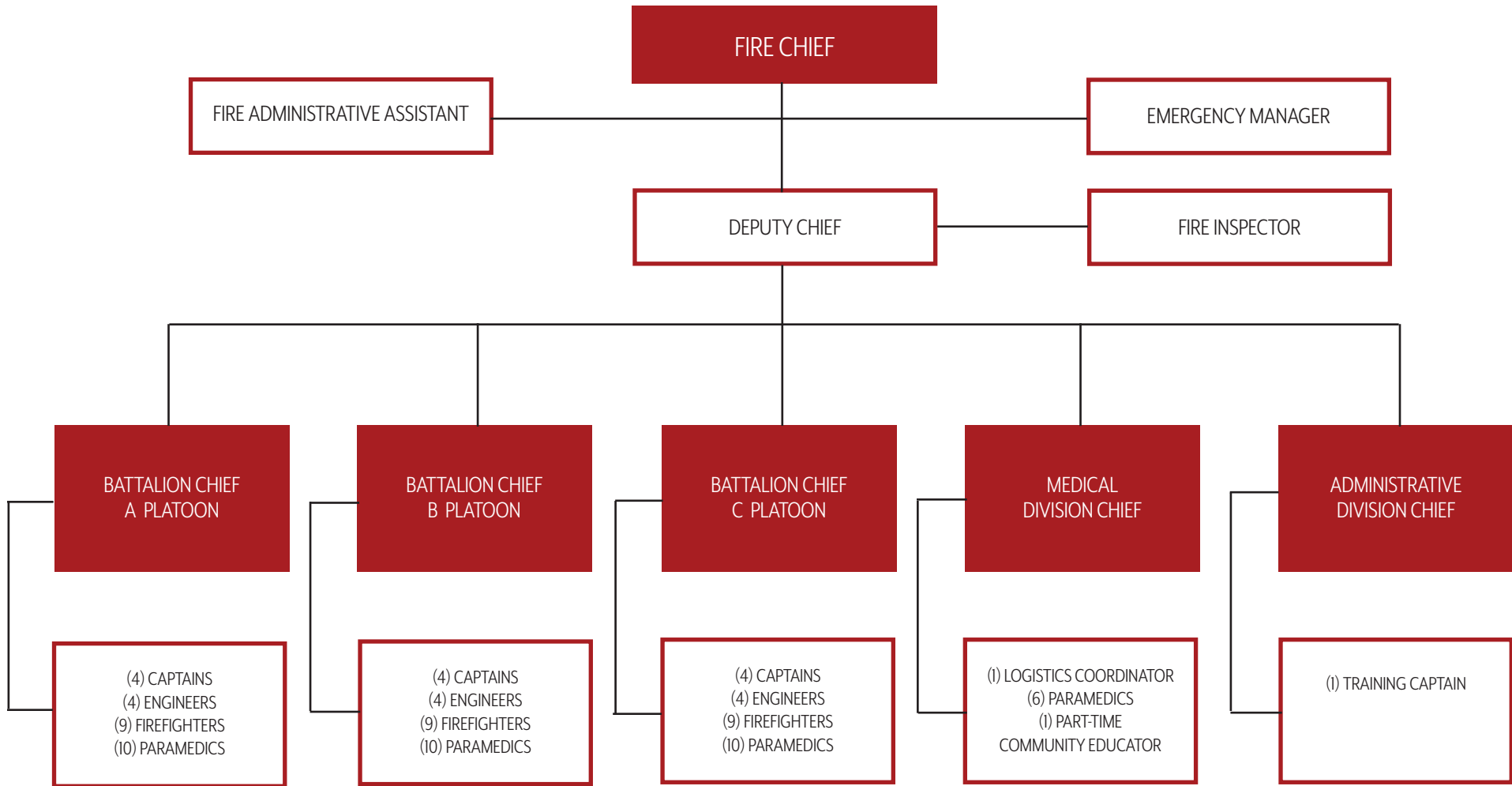
RUSS AVERY
FIRE INSPECTOR



AARON TROYER
LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

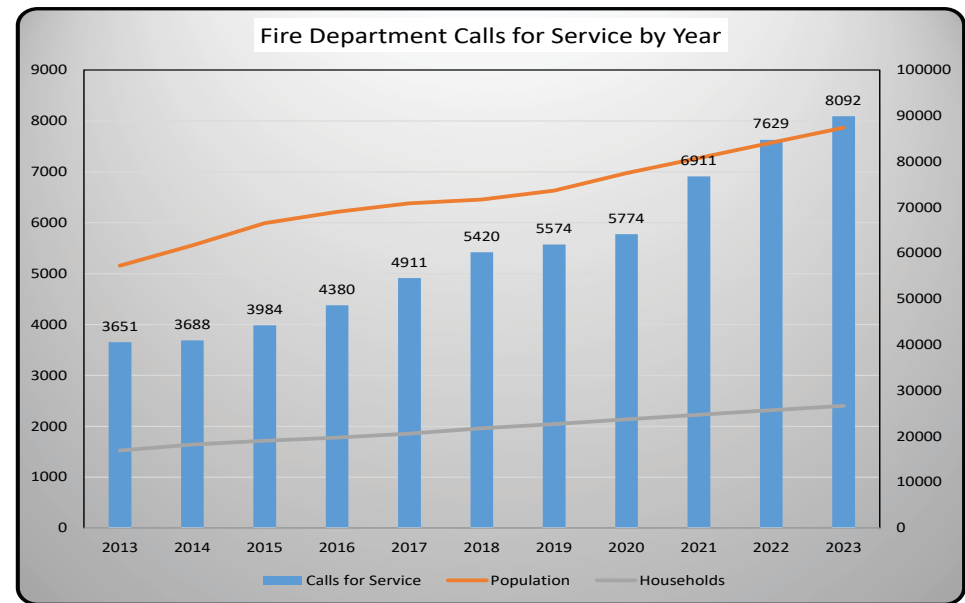
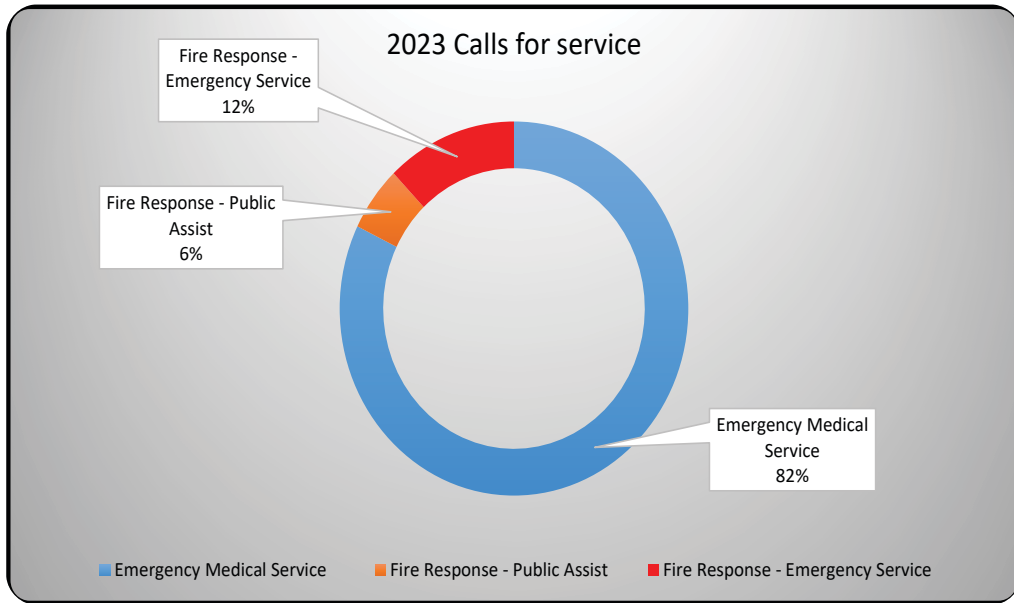
SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

RESPONSE DATA



DATA INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY TRENDS

- Calls for service within South Jordan continue to increase at a significant rate, well beyond that of neighboring agencies.
- Calls for service have outpaced both the growth in the number of households and population within the City.
- The largest percentage of increase in calls for service across Salt Lake County is occurring within South Jordan City.
- Calls for Emergency Medical Services continue to be the largest component of Department operations and remain a major focus for operational changes related to technology, ingenuity, and service level increases.
- Demand for services and expansion of both City boundaries and development into previously uninhabited areas, supports the need for additional personnel and an additional fire station to be able to maintain current service levels within the community.
- The Fire Department Administration constantly monitors and analyzes data related to response times, types of calls for service, call demand by area, provision and receipt of mutual aid services, unit utilization rates, priority calls for service, and more.
- The utilization of advanced data analytics assists administrators in future planning to ensure that Department growth is commensurate with community growth and demand for services, and that Department resources are utilized in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible for the community.

SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

With the support of the City Administration as well as the Mayor and City Council, the South Jordan Fire Department continues to find innovative ways to meet the dynamic needs of the community. A noteworthy milestone this year was the continued emphasis on filling both open and newly established positions. This year the South Jordan Fire Department added a new Division Chief position and six full-time single-role Paramedics.

As a progressive emergency response agency, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls represent more than 80% of all calls for service in South Jordan. To ensure that the Fire Department is positioned to meet the demands of the growing community, we continue to plan for the future. This is evident in the Department's new single-role Paramedic program. This program is a valuable addition to the City and provides additional Advanced Life Support (ALS) capable personnel to serve the community.

The continued growth within South Jordan City has required the need for additional administrative support. This year the Department was fortunate to add an additional Division Chief position to support the diverse training requirements of Department personnel, to include training in: Fire, Hazmat, Technical Rescue, Ice Rescue, Vehicle and Machinery Extrication, Rescue Boat Operations, and more.

The South Jordan Fire Department hosted several outstanding training programs throughout the year. The Department supported many professional development courses, to include an advanced vehicle stabilization and extrication class, Apparatus Driver Operator (ADO) courses, and Fire Officer and Leadership courses. South Jordan was also fortunate to host the Salt Lake Valley Fire Officer's Symposium at Station 64, which included personnel from all across the Salt Lake Valley.

Having well designed and well equipped emergency response vehicles is key to our operations. This year the City supported the procurement of two Type 2 ambulances for the Department's new single-role Paramedic program. The Department also took delivery of two rescue boats that support local events in the community, and support emergency operations that may occur on any of the various bodies of water in and near South Jordan. These are great examples of how the Fire Department continues to grow and adapt to the changing needs of the community.

FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS



SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

RETIREMENTS

ENGINEER LACEY MITCHELL - 20 YEARS OF SERVICE FF PARAMEDIC ANDREW JAMES - 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

PROMOTIONS

CAPTAIN DAVID NELSEN	ENGINEER MARK ARNOLD	FF PM REBECCA ETHINGTON
CAPTAIN BEN JEFFS	ENGINEER MIKE ZUPAN	
CAPTAIN AUSTIN REKOUTIS	ENGINEER MATT HOUCHEMS	
CAPTAIN RUSSELL BYBEE	ENGINEER BRYAN CRUMP	

NEW EMPLOYEES

DIVISION CHIEF DAVID LEE	FF AEMT ETHAN MORLEY	PM ANDREW ROE
FF PM ALYSSA ANDERSON	FF AEMT CURTIS OTTOSEN	PM OLIVIA MARBLE
FF PM PAUL SWENSON	FF AEMT LOGAN TIMPSON	PM CONNOR OREY
FF PM ZACH ROSE	FF AEMT JARON REMINGTON	PM ANESHIA BAREFIELD
FF PM ALEX YORK	FF AEMT ALEX WATKINS	
FF PM RAYNEL DAY	FF AEMT NICHOLAS WOOD	
	FF AEMT TY RUNDLE	
	FF AEMT ZACH DUNBRACK	
	FF AEMT BEAU ULIBARRI	
	FF AEMT CHRIS ROWAN	



SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

Personnel Development Spotlight - Engineer Promotional Process

In the fire service, the Engineer position serves a critical role as the driver and pump operator of the fire apparatus. Driving the apparatus requires a great deal of training and skill, especially since fire engines and ladder trucks are remarkably larger than the average car. In addition, Engineers navigate traffic under stressful conditions and in adverse weather, in order to safely reach emergency scenes. Effectively operating the pump and aerial ladder on fire incidents is another example of the important skillset an Engineer must possess. Due to the critical requirements surrounding this position, our Fire Department places great emphasis on promoting top qualified candidates.

The Department's annual Engineer promotional assessment consists of four testing components, which include: Fire pump operations, a complex driving assessment, an interview, and written exam. The pump operations component tests a candidate's ability to correctly set up the pump and rapidly supply water to hose lines before running out of onboard tank water, establish a water supply from a fire hydrant to the pump, and then supply water to additional hose lines and to an aerial ladder, while also establishing effective fire streams. Candidates are evaluated on time elapsed, pump calculation accuracy, effectiveness of fire streams, the ability to operate the aerial ladder, and the overall safety of the operation.

Driving safety is arguably one of the most important aspects of our Engineer process. To ensure proficiency, candidates are evaluated on their ability to navigate various driving situations, which reflect the challenges associated with critical response operations. Candidates are evaluated on their ability to proceed through obstacles without stopping, remaining within the confines of each obstacle, and without making contact with cones or overhead obstructions. They must also complete a comprehensive road driving evaluation.

The interview component evaluates a candidate's preparation and understanding of the Engineer position. The selected interview questions are designed to evaluate a candidate's level of experience and technical expertise as it pertains to operating fire apparatus and their ability to effectively lead and perform in such a critical role.

Finally, the written exam requires candidates to pass an assessment containing hydraulic pump calculations and questions related to department policies, state laws, and best practices pertaining to the position of Engineer. This is intended to evaluate the candidate's overall knowledge and understanding of South Jordan Fire Department's policies and expectations of operating fire apparatus on complex fire incidents, as well as the ability to safely operate vehicles in day-to-day operations under a variety of different circumstances and conditions.



SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING & CONTINUING EDUCATION

New Division Chief

In July of 2023, the Department welcomed Dave Lee as a new Division Chief. Division Chief Lee is responsible for the continued growth of the Department's Fire Training and Special Operations Training programs, to include: structural firefighting, ladder truck operations, technical rescue, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials, wildland firefighting, and more. He brings with him many years of experience related to these areas and has long been recognized as a subject matter expert in the fire service throughout Utah. We are excited to have him as a member of our team!

Fire Training

Department members engage in many hours of initial and ongoing fire training every year. South Jordan Fire Department participates as a contributing member of the Salt Lake Valley Fire Training Alliance, which serves to help share ideas and standardize fire operations throughout the Salt Lake Valley, regardless of agency or physical location. The Department also participates in a combined Firefighter Recruit Academy for new firefighter trainees. This academy has an instructor cadre and trainees from multiple agencies throughout the county. Having a combined Recruit Academy creates a more standardized approach to fire operations at the outset of one's career and helps to foster a relationship of camaraderie and cooperation across departments. This helps make mutual aid emergency scenes run more efficiently when agencies are called to work together. South Jordan Fire Department personnel work hard to maintain excellent relationships with their counterparts in other agencies.



TRAINING & CONTINUING EDUCATION

SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING

SOUTH JORDAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 TRAINING HOURS

19,545 HOURS

6,282
HOURS

FIRE TRAINING

4,650
HOURS

MEDICAL TRAINING

2,856
HOURS

APPARATUS DRIVER TRAINING

4,000
HOURS

NEW FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

1,757
HOURS

SPECIALTY TRAINING

Heavy Rescue Program

The Heavy Rescue Program consists of many rescue specialties requiring specialized equipment and a significant amount of training. All of these specialties play an important role in the readiness and capability of Department members, especially due to the exponential construction and development occurring within the City. This increases the possibility of personnel responding to rescue incidents involving rope, confined spaces, trenches, and extrication. Emergency response to incidents on open water, ice, canals, and the Jordan River is also a priority. All Department members participate in annual refresher training on how to efficiently, effectively, and safely respond to these unique calls for service; with additional specialized training being undertaken by the members of the Department's Heavy Rescue Team.

Following an in-house rope rescue and confined space training academy last year, Department members have been hard at work refining their skills and preparing additional members to join the Heavy Rescue Team. It takes a significant commitment to acquiring new and unique skills and many hours of ongoing training each month to become, and remain, a member of this select team of rescue professionals.

Hazardous Materials Program

Responding to Hazardous Materials incidents is an important, yet often unrecognized responsibility of the South Jordan Fire Department. While all firefighters in the South Jordan Fire Department must have Hazardous Materials certifications at the Awareness and Operations levels, there are a group of select responders that become trained and certified at the Technician and Specialist levels, which represents the highest levels of Hazmat certifications for first responders. Hazmat Technicians are responsible for donning Hazmat suits and entering into dangerous environments in order to mitigate events involving all manner of hazardous agents that may be threatening to life or to the environment.

In 2023, the Fire Department procured a new trailer and equipment to support the Hazardous Materials Program. The Department continues to invest in specialized training and equipment to support our Hazmat Technicians, as well as to train new Technicians to add to this specialized team. The members of the Hazardous Materials Team continue to develop in skills and proficiency to provide this invaluable response capability to the community.



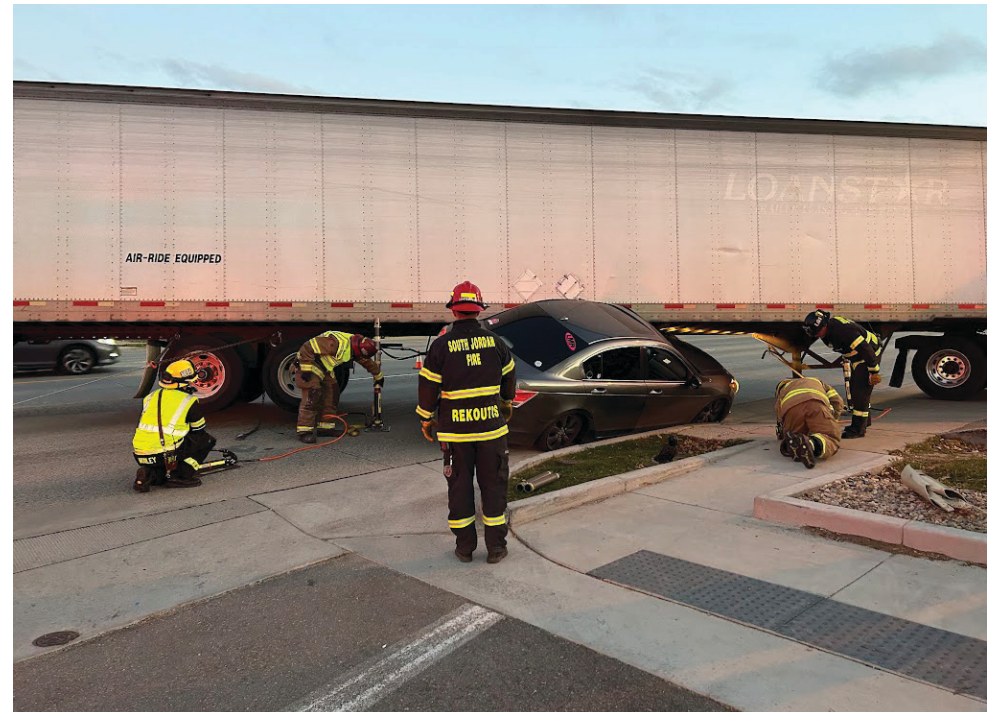
SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

South Jordan's Emergency Manager and Safety Manager, Aaron Sainsbury, takes great pleasure serving and working alongside the wonderful people within South Jordan City. Emergency Management (EM) works closely with residents during the planning process of the City's many events. Incident Action Plans and Event Action Plans are created by the Emergency Manager to prepare the event operations for the potential of unforeseen circumstances and to identify ways to increase safety and improve emergency response for community events.

When disaster strikes, South Jordan has professional first responders and other critical and essential staff members that will work to help the City recover from any catastrophic event, with all resources available. Those staff members will be away from their home and family during that time, doing everything possible to restore and help maintain the essential functions of City operations. Food Storage is not only important at home, but at the workplace as well. The Emergency Manager secured funding to replace MRE's for those employees designated to work during such an event. The funding was used to replace the existing MRE food storage, which outlasted its shelf life. The City now has freeze dried meals with a shelf life of 25 years.

Training is critical to successfully strengthening one's existing skills and learning new ones. The Emergency Manager continues to provide innovative training to a wide range of groups in the City, on many topics related to emergency preparedness. He has also worked with many internal divisions in the City to provide training on different topics related to safety in the workplace, active shooter response, and building evacuations. The Emergency Manager regularly attends new training events mandated by DHS/FEMA and continues to develop as a key stakeholder in the City's Emergency Response initiative.



SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Many people are reluctant to prepare for disasters and emergencies because they don't know how or where to begin. Scanning the QR code below will provide a suggested one year plan, which can help you and your family get started with the basics. No amount of planning and gathering supplies can prepare you for every possible event, but the more you are prepared, the more you will increase you and your family's ability to survive potential emergencies with dignity and comfort.

As you look ahead to the next twelve months, reflect on the past year and "resolve to be ready" in the event of a natural or human caused disaster. Severe weather is one of the many hazards identified in the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan and it has the highest probability for the potential for prolonged power outages. Take the time to prepare in advance for such an emergency to ensure you are ready to handle any challenges that may come.



QR code for [Be Ready Utah](https://www.be-ready.utah.gov)



SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Critical Care Paramedic Program

South Jordan strives to be at the leading edge of Emergency Medical Services provided to our residents. The Department's four promoted Critical Care Paramedics were busy in 2023. They worked to establish protocols and training plans to be able to carry the needed medications for rapid sequence intubation, which is a critical advanced airway technique. This is an intervention that the Department's Medical Division is planning to have in place in the early part of next year.

Department Paramedics continue to rotate into the local emergency departments and operating rooms to gain more experience from medical subject matter experts. This training is very important as the Department looks to the future and the demand for providing more advanced medical care to its patients.

The Department's Critical Care Paramedics have played a key role in providing additional training to the rest of the Department on the use of Hamilton T1 ventilators. As a result of that training, the Department members have been able to appropriately respond to many patients in respiratory distress and were able to provide them with a higher level of care that was not previously available.

Single Role Paramedic

In 2023, South Jordan Fire Department hired six single-role Paramedics. These medical professionals are not required to have firefighter certifications. Their primary role will be to respond to, and manage, the majority of the interfacility transports from the South Jordan Health Center. They respond on a Type I ambulance, which is more efficient and cost effective for these longer transports. The addition of this Paramedic unit also increases the Department's capacity to respond to the growing number of 911 calls that the City is experiencing as the population continues to grow.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical Division Highlights

South Jordan Fire Department is committed to helping residents be better prepared for emergency situations. In 2023, the Fire Department taught ten basic CPR classes, 26 Health Care Provider classes, and several First Aid classes. There were a total of 177 students taught as part of these community education classes.

In addition to regularly scheduled tours, South Jordan Fire Department personnel taught over 2,000 elementary age students as part of Fire Prevention Week. Children were taught about fire safety, fire prevention, and about the daily lives of our firefighters.

South Jordan continues to provide EMS coverage for special events in the City. Our employees provided EMS coverage at 50 community events in 2023. This coverage included medical standby and water rescue standby services at a variety of events throughout the community.

Mission Lifeline

In 2023, the Fire Department responded to 287 patients that were having symptoms consistent with a heart problem or stroke. Of those patients, eight were identified as having a STEMI (ST elevation myocardial infarction) heart attack and 38 were identified as having positive stroke symptoms. Because of the Fire Department's ability to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) services within the community, these patients received immediate lifesaving care. The South Jordan Fire Department's commitment to providing exceptional care was once again recognized by the American Heart Association with the Gold Mission Lifeline award.



SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Utah Task Force One

Utah Task Force One (UT-TF1) is one of 28 teams within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that specializes in Urban Search and Rescue (USAR). This team focuses on multiple aspects of USAR such as water rescue, structure collapse, wide area search, and more. South Jordan Fire Department currently has eight members who are part of UT-TF1, two of which were added to the team in 2023. These individuals have participated in multiple training exercises throughout the year in preparation for deployments to disasters that may occur across the country.

Emergency Rescue Watercraft

In 2023, the South Jordan City Fire Department determined that it was not sufficiently prepared to handle rescue operations on bodies of water in the City and the surrounding areas. As a result, the Department procured two watercraft that provide this capability within the City and its surrounding mutual aid areas. The two different boat designs provide rescuers with options for different situations. One is a lightweight and agile inflatable boat that is ideal for remote location incidents, while the other is an aluminum jon boat that is perfect for launching on larger bodies of water, or for areas in which off-boarding rescuers and on-boarding victims is a likely occurrence. It also serves as a better platform for extended rescue or recovery operations.



FLEET AND APPARATUS

Type 2 Van Ambulances

The South Jordan Fire Department has experienced a significant increase in interfacility transfer calls over the last several years. As a result, the Department's traditional Type 1 ambulance fleet has incurred an increase in wear and operating costs. To address this issue, the Department explored alternative transportation options and selected a solution in the form of a Ford Sprinter van-based ambulance. These vehicles are smaller, more cost-effective, and have resulted in substantial savings due to reduced preventive maintenance costs, fuel consumption, and overall procurement costs, as compared to traditional Type 1 ambulances. These vehicles represent the future of long-range EMS transportation services for South Jordan and play a key role in the Department's newly created Medical Division, which in part, supports the Department's Interfacility Transport Program.

Type 2 Ambulance



Type 1 Ambulance



SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

VEHICLE EXTRICATION TRAINING

Vehicle Stabilization

During the summer of 2023, Firefighter Emile Meder along with Captain Austin Rekoutis and Captain Chris Wright conducted a Vehicle Stabilization Class for all personnel in the Department. The focus of this class was on the use of rescue stabilization struts, lifting air bags, and using a variety of different techniques to stabilize vehicles before extricating patients. The class was conducted for eight hours each day. With the assistance of Captain Campbell from the Training Division, three cars and an old RV were procured for use in the class.

Personnel were taught a variety of different methods to secure and stabilize vehicles using struts and air bags, and they completed multiple rescue exercises at a real-time pace. These exercises included cars rolled onto their sides, cars inverted, and a final exercise in which a car was positioned underneath the RV. The crews were then asked to work together, form a plan, and stabilize the vehicles using equipment and techniques they had used during the class.

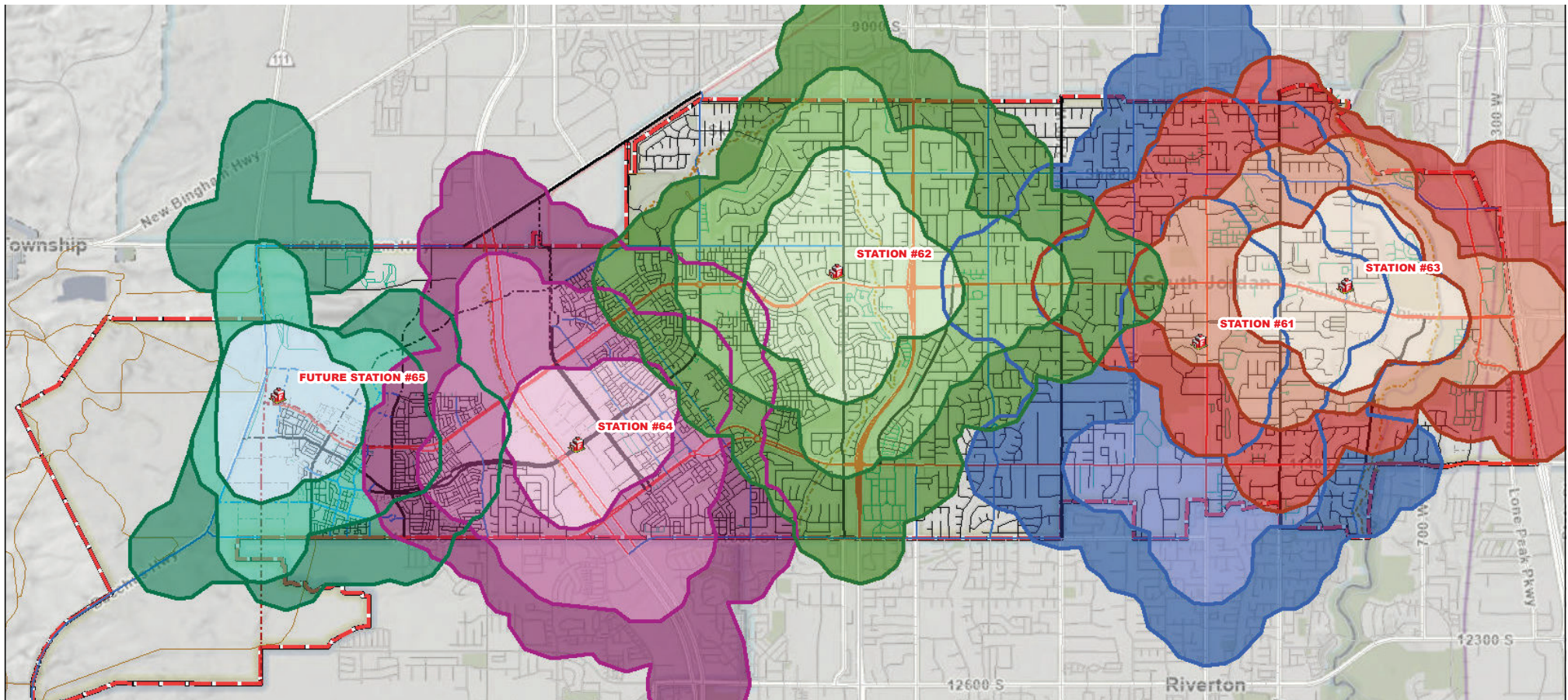
The objective of the class was to provide hands-on training with rescue equipment, teach new techniques, and allow firefighters to apply their skills in real-life situations. These crews are now better prepared to respond more effectively and efficiently to different types of vehicle accidents and perform well under pressure. As a result of this training crewmembers gained confidence in their skills and were able to perform exercises with speed and efficiency, both as individuals and as a team.



SOUTH JORDAN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

Response times within South Jordan are continuously evaluated to ensure that the Department is providing residents with the highest level of service possible. The colored zones within each response district below, highlight the Department's response time goal of five minutes or less within the City. These zones are averages based on existing roads and speed limits. Our average emergency response times decreased with the addition of Station 64. As the City continues to develop west, the Fire Department remains committed to critically evaluate its response capabilities and the needs of the community. The Fire Department is actively working with the City's Elected Officials and the City Administration to determine the appropriate timing, and to identify funding, for the addition of a fifth fire station to service the City's far west side.



* Response zones are based on existing roads only and do not represent future roads that will be developed.

