

AUBURN
City
FIRE
Since 1852

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the Auburn Fire Department, where we are dedicated to fostering the development and safety of our community through prevention, public education, and emergency response with pride and honor. The Auburn Fire Department is devoted to delivering exceptional all-risk emergency response services to nearly fifteen thousand residents within the City of Auburn. We remain adaptable while responding to shifting demands. Our 2023 Annual Report captures the department's achievements, incidents, and programs, spotlighting the commitment of our highly skilled professionals.

Last year, the department faced significant challenges, including a change in leadership. Our personnel worked cohesively with internal and external stakeholders for a seamless transition. Continuing struggles with retention posed an ongoing concern, and efforts were made to address this issue. This included the implementation of improved wages, contributing to the well-being of our personnel. Our aging facilities and fleet demanded attention, prompting updated plans for maintenance and replacement.

Our Annual Report provides a clear picture of the department's contributions and highlights the partnership with our community. Looking ahead to 2024, the department anticipates new challenges and greater opportunities, and we are looking forward to a safe and successful year.

Respectfully,
John Rogers



2023 CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



**Alice Dowdin
Calvillo**



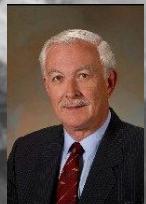
**Mayor
Rachel
Radell-Harris**



**Vice Mayor
Sandy Amara**



**Michelle
Sierra
Sammons**



Mike Holmes



Daniel Berlant

Old City Hall — Old Town Burned Down in 1905

NEW TECHNOLOGY



The Auburn Fire Department obtained a 2023 Pierce Enforcer Type 1 structural fire engine on October 27, 2023, after a nearly two-year design and build process. The engine and new equipment cost \$770,000 and replaced a 1987 Spartan Van Pelt (pictured on back cover). The engine is equipped with many safety features including a full airbag package, clean cab, and rollover protection, to name a few. Keep an eye out for our newest firefighting apparatus!



Our extrication capabilities have significantly improved with the transition away from a combination rescue tool which had the capability to cut and spread, but was limited in its cutting and spreading capacity. The purchase of two standalone tools provide Auburn Fire personnel with more capable tools, as well as allow for simultaneous cutting and spreading operations. These tools will provide our citizens with faster extrication times allowing for expedited transport to definitive care.



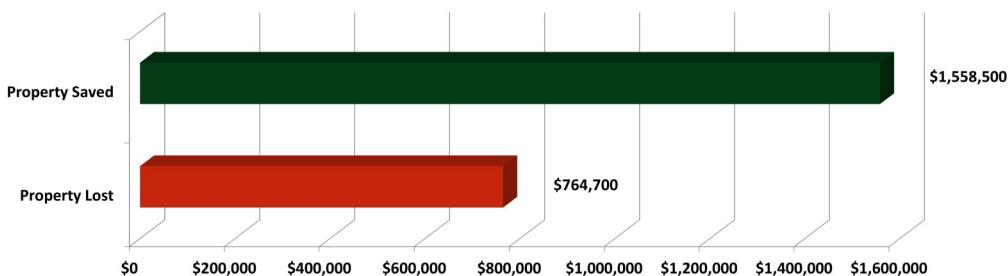
The Auburn Fire Department and the Auburn Hook & Ladder Company #1 partnered to purchase our first Unmanned Aerial System (Drone). This new equipment and program will aid in search and rescue on a multitude of different incidents. Some of the features of this drone include: all weather flying capabilities, night and infrared vision, 80 minute flight time, integrated loud speaker, range finder with mapping and gridding capabilities, spot/scene lighting, and long range flights.



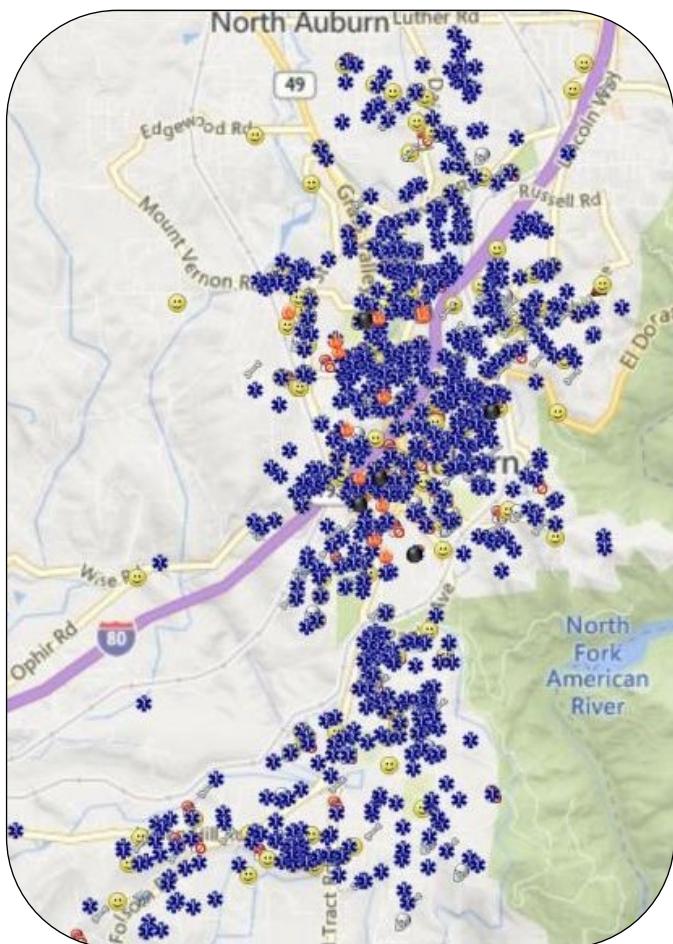
The Auburn Fire Department received a \$2,000 donation from the Motherlode Model T Club to be utilized to purchase an electric Positive Pressure Ventilation Fan. This piece of equipment is utilized to clear smoke and hazardous gasses from confined spaces. Our old fans are gas powered and often times replace hazardous gasses with Carbon Monoxide as the exhaust from the powerplants are forced into the confined spaces. The transition to this new technology will increase the safety of our personnel and limit our customer's exposure to hazardous carbon monoxide.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

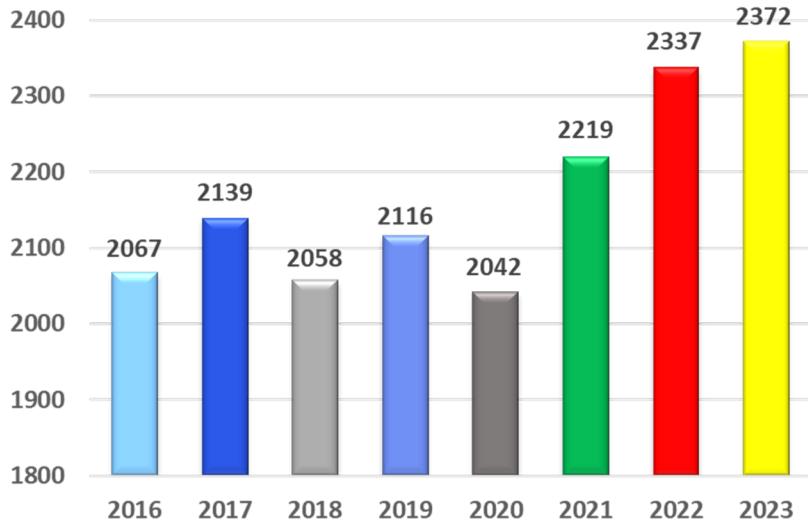
TOTAL PROPERTY SAVED/LOST



INCIDENT PLOT MAP



INCIDENTS BY YEAR

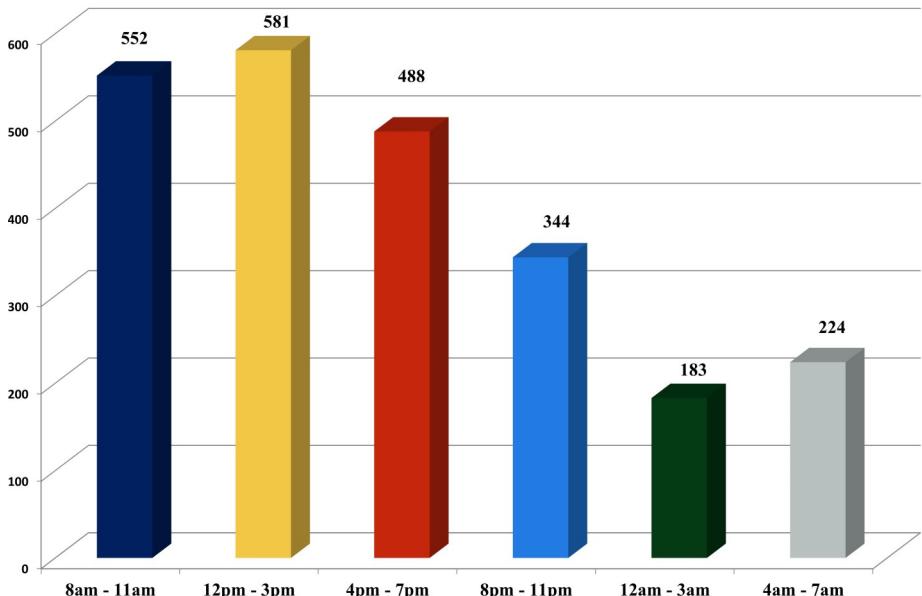


Engine 1282 pumping the Nevada Street structure fire 11/20/2023



Ponderosa Lane
Structure Fire,
automatic aid to
Placer Hills Fire
District
2/23/2023

CALLS BY TIME OF DAY



**BUSIEST DAY
OF THE
WEEK:
FRIDAY**

**BUSIEST
MONTH:
JANUARY**

**CODE 3
TRAVEL TIME:
3 MIN 44 SEC**

Back-to-back calls for service are calls that occur within 30 minutes of each other.

Simultaneous calls for service are all calls that occur while one resource is still committed to a previous call.

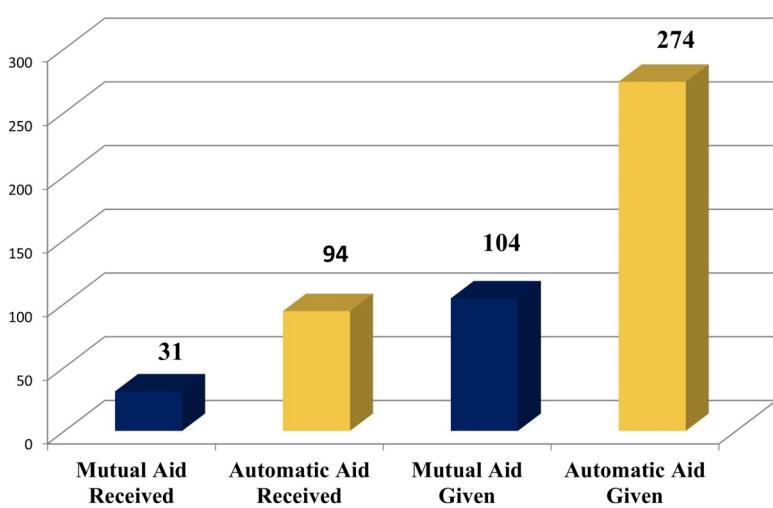
BACK-TO-BACK CALLS FOR SERVICE: 522

SIMULTANEOUS CALLS FOR SERVICE: 212



Firefighter Loughran extinguishing a tractor fire with spread to a commercial building, ARD
5/14/2023

TOTAL AUTO/MUTUAL AID RESPONSE



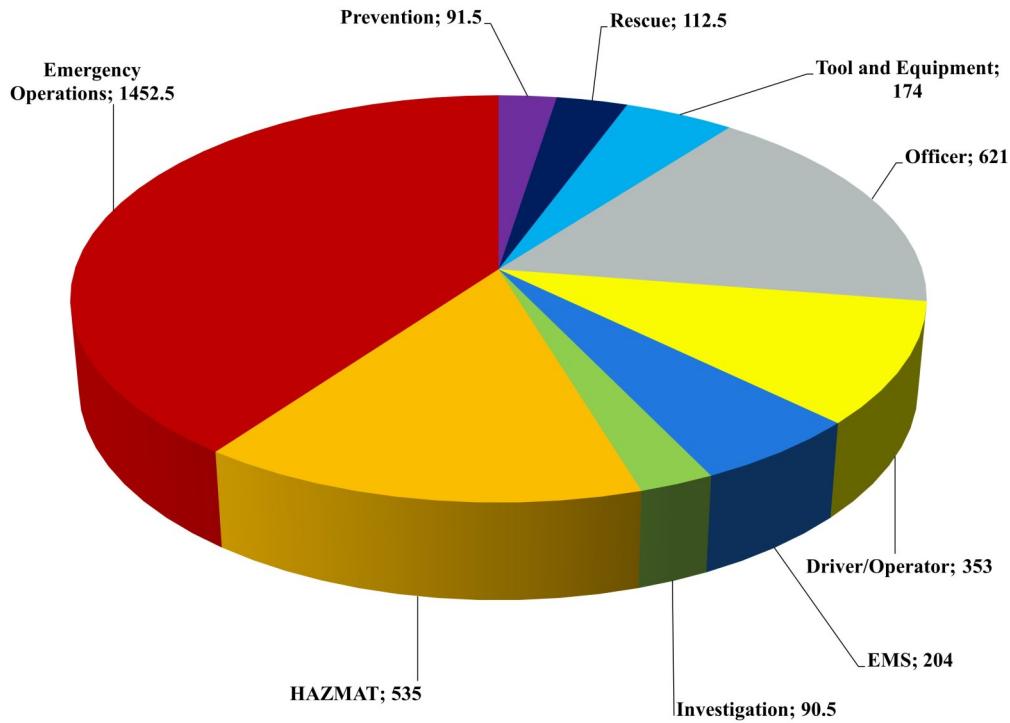
TRAINING



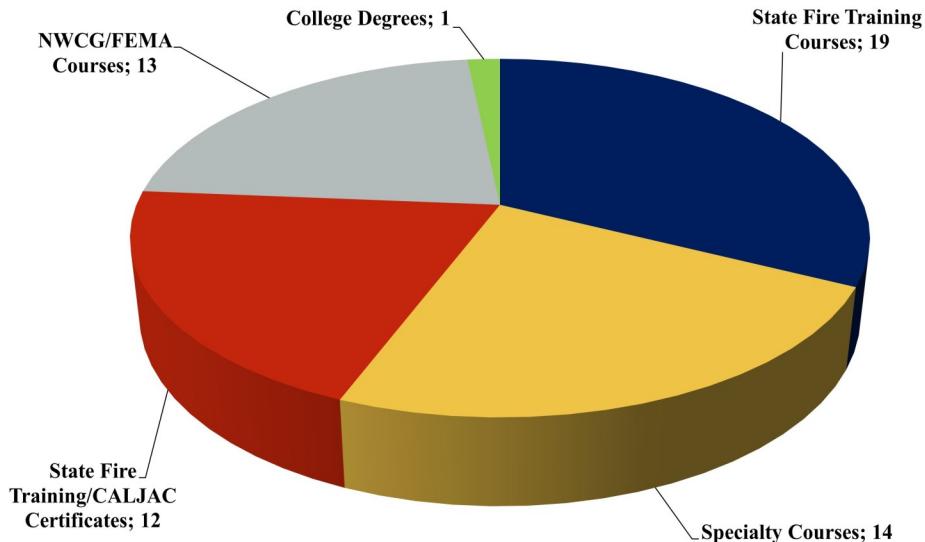
Firefighters performing victim rescue training from a 3rd story window, Auburn Fire Station 3

TOTAL TRAINING HOURS: 4,239

TRAINING HOURS BY CATEGORY



COURSES COMPLETED: 59



PG&E and Auburn Fire training together on gas related emergencies at the Sacramento Street PG&E yard, May 2023

FUEL REDUCTION



Firefighter Nate Steil performs a progressive hose lay around a 2 acre fire on Arroyo Drive on June 9, 2023

COMPLAINT PARCELS EVALUATED: 30

ACRES TREATED BY HOMEOWNERS: 71

COMPLIANCE: 97%

BURN PERMITS: 108

Fuel reduction removes vegetation to lessen the threat of wildfire and slow the spread of the fire. Fuel reduction projects and vegetation treatments have been proven as a means of lessening wildfire hazards, catastrophic fire and its threat to public and firefighter safety, and damage to property. Annual grasses

as seen above, promote wildfire by providing a continuous fine fuel that becomes dry and flammable in the early summer fire season. The grasses seen on the right side of the photo were cut down to less than 4 inches, preventing the fire from spreading further towards the neighboring house.

GRANT AWARDS

CA FIRE FOUNDATION

JORDAN LANE/BORLAND AVENUE FUEL BREAK: **\$20,000**

CAL FIRE

BALTIMORE RAVINE FUEL BREAK: **\$797,664**

CITY PARCELS

FUEL REDUCTION: **\$39,000**

6 PARCELS = 7 ACRES

5 RIGHT OF WAYS = 5,280 FEET

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

HOTELS AND MOTELS: **42**

SCHOOLS: **8**

COMPLIANCE: **98%**



PUBLIC OUTREACH

STOP THE EMBERS

Auburn hosted the first annual Stop the Embers Festival in May of 2023. Stop the Embers was an immersive, and hands on wildfire prevention festival that brought crowds of all ages. We focused on wildfire vendors that provide education, services, and products to our residents to help prepare their property and families from wildfire.

Overall, the festival was a success and will be a special feature at the Auburn Home Show in 2024.



Goat grazing demonstration at the Fairgrounds

PUBLIC EDUCATION HOURS: **62**



Auburn Fire Attends Adoption Day 2023!



AFD teaching fire extinguisher safety training to a local business

SOCIAL MEDIA



3.1K FOLLOWERS

@auburncityfiredepartment



2.2K FOLLOWERS

@auburnfire

Visit our website, Facebook, or Instagram to learn more about evacuation planning, home fire prevention, and wildfire prevention

You can also stay up to date with what is going on around the department!

Join us in 2024 for more volunteer opportunities!



PlacerAlert 

Get notified of emergencies and stay informed

placeralert.org

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR:



**Captain
Matt Jelle**

Matt joined the Auburn Fire Department as a lateral Fire Captain on August 4, 2021. Since joining, he has demonstrated dedication to our organization, consistently striving to improve it both on and off duty. In a relatively short time, Matt has taken on numerous roles and responsibilities, including serving as the Equipment Committee chair, a member of the Commendations Committee, EMS Training and Continuing Education Coordinator, Wester Placer County EMS Committee Member, Placer County Unmanned Aircraft Systems Committee Member, American Heart Association CPR Instructor, operational grant writer, among others. His peers elected him to represent them as Union President, a role in which he has shown a deep commitment to the well-being of all our personnel. Matt's availability round the clock and his dedication to teaching, coaching, and mentoring have not gone unnoticed, and his contributions are greatly appreciated. Matt's dedication to the Auburn Fire Department is truly commendable.

TOP TRAINER OF THE YEAR:



**Engineer
Justin Rendon**

Awarded for his outstanding dedication to professional development and completing over 500 hours of training in 2023. Justin's passion for training extends beyond personal growth and he frequently shares his knowledge to support the development of his peers.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

NEW HIRE:



Zack Sloan
Firefighter

Auburn Fire Department is pleased to welcome Firefighter Zachary Sloan to the City of Auburn, bringing with him almost two years of firefighting experience from the Placer Hills Fire Protection District. Zach has also been working for Medic Ambulance in the Sacramento area as an EMT since 2020.

Beyond his first responder roles, Zach has been involved in his community by coaching wrestling at Mitchell Middle School and volunteering with the Saint John's Program for Real Change. Zach is currently working towards obtaining his paramedic license and pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. Zach completed the River Delta Fire Academy in 2021 and we are excited to welcome him to the Auburn Fire Department.

PROMOTION:



James Murphy
Fire Captain

Starting as a firefighter in August 2021, James quickly rose through the ranks, earning the position of Engineer in December 2021. Demonstrating remarkable leadership skills, he took on the role of Acting Fire Captain in November 2022. Before joining Auburn, James brought extensive wildland fire experience from his time with the US Forest Service as a Hotshot and Engineer Operator, as well as his role as a Squad Boss at Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. His dedication to enhancing his municipal firefighter skills through training is commendable, showcasing a commitment to personal growth and development. It's worth noting that James is continuing his family's legacy in firefighting, as his grandfather-in-law, father-in-law, and aunt-in-law all served with the Auburn Fire Department.

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

January 2023—Severe Weather

Amidst challenging weather conditions that brought nearly 7 inches of rain to the area, the dedicated personnel of the Auburn Fire Department stepped up, responding to 51 calls for service on January 1st, January 4th, and January 7th—10th. This extraordinary effort encompassed various incidents, including multiple medical aids, vehicle accidents, fire alarm soundings, and hazardous electrical conditions. The storm also brought down numerous trees, causing damage to buildings and infrastructure, as well as blocking roadways. During these challenges, Auburn Fire resources seamlessly collaborated with CAL FIRE/Placer County Fire, Newcastle Fire Protection District, Placer Hills Fire Protection District, Auburn Police Department, City of Auburn Public Works, and CHP to ensure coordinated and effective response. Despite the demanding circumstances, Auburn Fire personnel assisted in welcoming a new baby to the community early in the morning of January 1st.

October 2023—Vegetation Fire in American River Canyon

On October 17th, Auburn Fire's Battalion 12 and Engine 1282 responded to multiple vegetation fires in the American River Canyon below the state parks headquarters office. Crews arrived to find two separate fires burning within close proximity in the Auburn State Recreation Area. Battalion 12 established unified command with CAL FIRE and State Parks while crews from CAL FIRE, Auburn City Fire, and other surrounding jurisdictions contained the fires to approximately one acre each. Due to the rapid response of resources, including two air tankers and a helicopter, the fires were contained quickly and no structures or infrastructure were impacted by the fire.

December 2023—Canal Overflow in to Apartments

On December 6th, Auburn Fire responded to a reported fire alarm at Auburn Villas Senior Apartment, 628 Mikkelsen Drive. Upon arrival, units discovered an active fire alarm and ongoing evacuations. Further investigation revealed that a manual pull station was activated, not for a fire, but to alert the fire department to active flooding. Units searched for the water source while ensuring there was no actual fire threat. The water was traced back to a PCWA canal above the apartment complex, obstructed by a large tree branch causing an overflow. Fire personnel successfully removed the obstruction, allowing the water to resume its normal flow. They then assisted residents in five affected units with water evacuation and collaborated with PCWA and facility management for resident relocation and building restoration. The City of Auburn Building Official was requested to perform a damage assessment.



PHOTOS





HOOK AND LADDER CO. #1

BACKGROUND:

The Auburn Hook and Ladder Company #1 (H&L Co.#1) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the community, the Fire Department, and its members. Throughout the year, the H&L Co. #1 actively engages in various events, such as the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, fire department educational events, 4th of July Pancake Breakfast and Parade, the Co-Op, National Night Out, Safe Trick-or-Treating, Veterans Day Parade, Festival of Lights Parade, Christmas Tree Lighting, Santa escort, and Country Christmas. The funds raised from these events play a crucial role in caring for and maintaining their historic 1914 Buick and 1943 Ford G.I. fire apparatus. Additionally, these funds contribute to purchasing equipment for the fire department and supporting the H&L Co. #1's ongoing efforts.



Old Town Summer Co-Op



4th of July Pancake Breakfast

AWARDS:



2023 H&L Co. #1 Business of the Year:

Auburn Grocery Outlet

Awarded for their continuous support and willingness to assist whenever called upon.



2023 H&L Co. #1 Member of the Year:

Dave Davis

EVENT PHOTOS:

Christmas Tree Lighting



Lights Parade



1914 Buick Wheel Restoration



Country Christmas Clam Chowder



Santa Goes to School





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