



Maple Street Fire Station with Engines 36 and 40

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE



The Auburn Fire Department is committed to fostering the safety and development of our community through prevention, public education, and emergency response with pride and honor. Serving nearly fifteen thousand residents, we continue to deliver exceptional all-risk emergency services while adapting to the evolving needs of our community.

The 2024 Annual Report highlights our department's achievements, challenges, and progress over the past year. In 2024, we faced difficult decisions, including closing the Maidu Fire Station due to budget constraints and staffing reductions. This decision was made to establish a sustainable service delivery model that prioritizes efficiency and the well-being of our personnel.

Despite these challenges, the department remained focused on its mission. A significant amount of staff time was dedicated to the Baltimore Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Project. In preparation for this important wildfire prevention project, we completed a CEQA study and selected a vendor to complete the project, with work beginning in early 2025. Additionally, we submitted an Assistance to Firefighters Grant in December in hopes of securing funding to support fleet replacement, demonstrating our commitment to identifying alternative funding sources to enhance operational readiness and support our budgetary needs.

We also strengthened relationships with external stakeholder groups and implemented two major fire prevention ordinances: Zone 0 requirements for all new construction and the Defensible Space Inspections for real estate transactions within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Throughout the year, the department worked diligently to meet state-mandated requirements, including equipment maintenance, annual training, and inspections of multi-family dwellings and educational facilities. These efforts were in addition to responding to 2,462 emergencies and supporting the California Master Mutual Aid system.

Looking forward to 2025, we remain hopeful for new opportunities to enhance our services and the safety of our community. I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the dedicated Auburn Fire Department professionals and thank our community for their continued support.

Respectfully,  
John Rogers  
Fire Chief





**Alice Dowdin  
Calvillo**



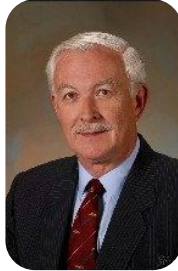
**Mayor Rachel  
Radell-Harris**



**Vice Mayor  
Sandra Amara**



**Kelley Davis**



**Mike Holmes**

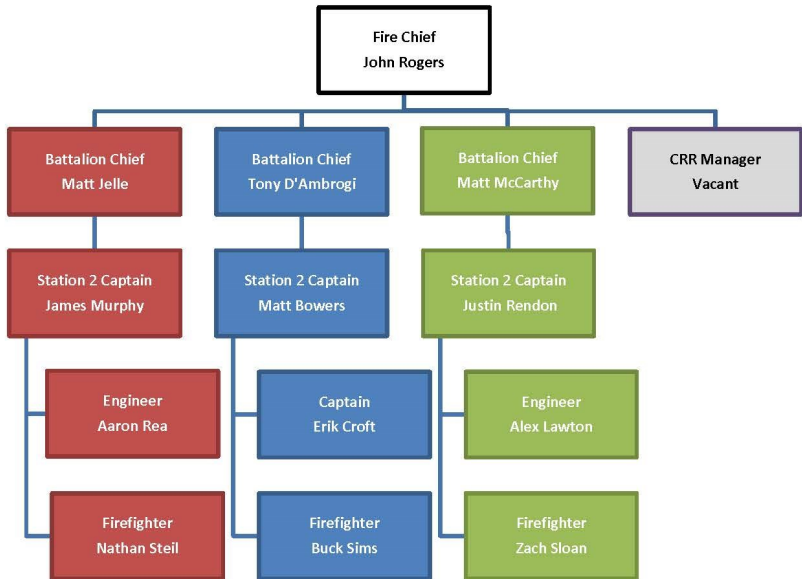


**Michelle Sierra  
Sammons**

## **2024 CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**



# STAFFING



## Long-Term Injuries/Illness:

1 Fire Captain

1 Fire Apparatus Engineer

## 2024 Departures:

Firefighter Brad Loughran—American Canyon Fire Protection District

CRR Manager Lindsay Davidson—Private Sector

Firefighter Alex Meeks—Sacramento City Fire Department

Firefighter Cole Davis—Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Engineer Dalton Hooten—Petaluma Fire Department



# NEW TECHNOLOGY



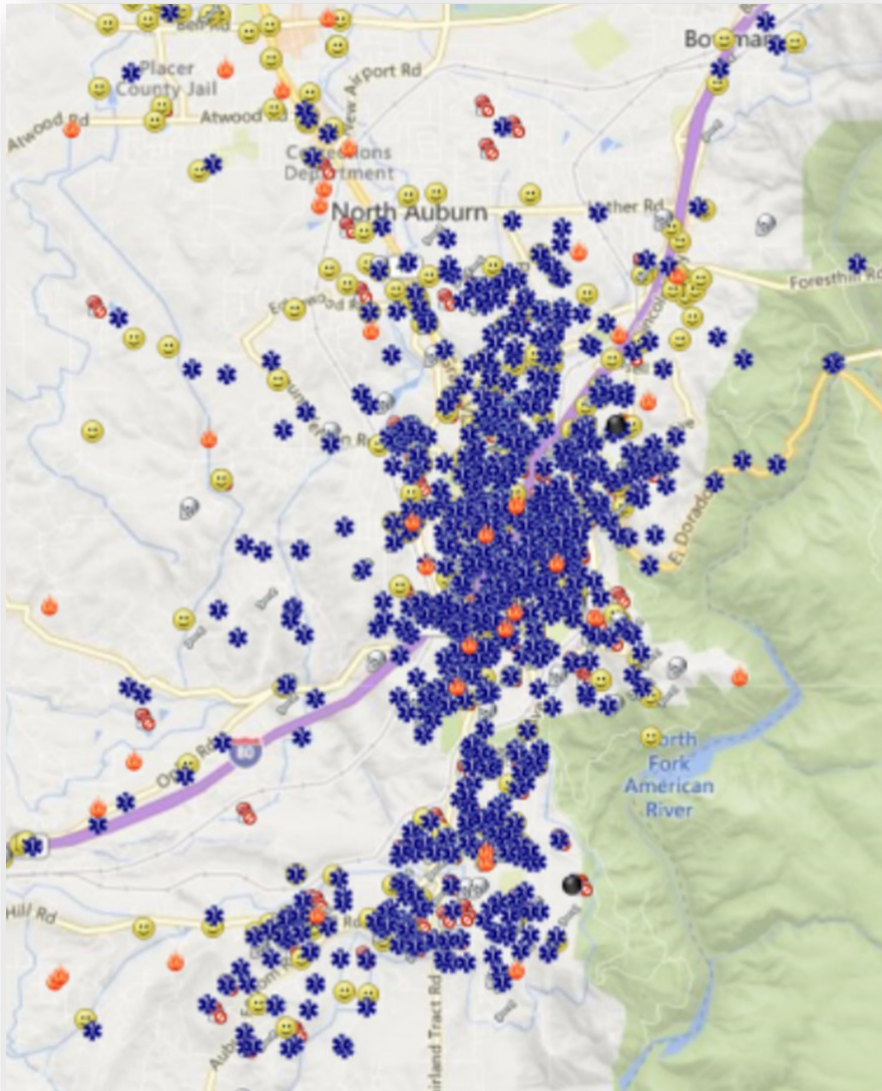
Firefighter training with  
new SCBA and RIT-PAK

Our firefighting capabilities have improved with the replacement of our entire Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) inventory. The new equipment replaced equipment purchased in 2009 utilizing a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The Auburn Fire Department was the only agency in Placer County that was not included in a 2019 regional grant opportunity that upgraded all other fire agencies to Scott SCBAs. This left Auburn Firefighters without the ability to interoperate on critical incidents. The upgraded technology includes:

- Thirty (30) Air-Pak X3 PRO SCBAs with Snap-Change, Parachute Buckles, 5.5 Standard No Accessory Pouch, E-Z Flo+ C5 Regulator with Quick Disconnect Hose, and Universal EBSS
- Sixty (60) SCBA Cylinders with Valves
- Thirty (30) Vision C5 Facepieces with Kevlar Straps
- Two (2) RIT-PAK III Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Packs with Hoses, Mask and Regulators
- Two (2) 60 Minute, 5,500psi RIT-PAK Cylinders
- One (1) SCBA Tool Adapter – Quick Change to CGA Fittings
- Bauer Compressor 5,500psi Fill Station – Retrofit

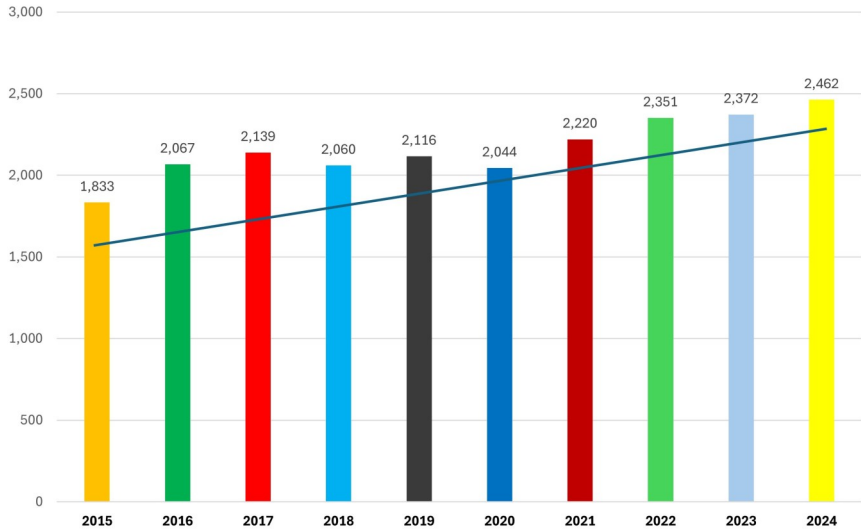
# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## INCIDENT PLOT MAP



# INCIDENTS BY YEAR

34.3% Increase In Last 10 Years



**Auburn Fire Department providing Automatic Aid to CALFIRE for a commercial structure fire on 6/8/2024.**

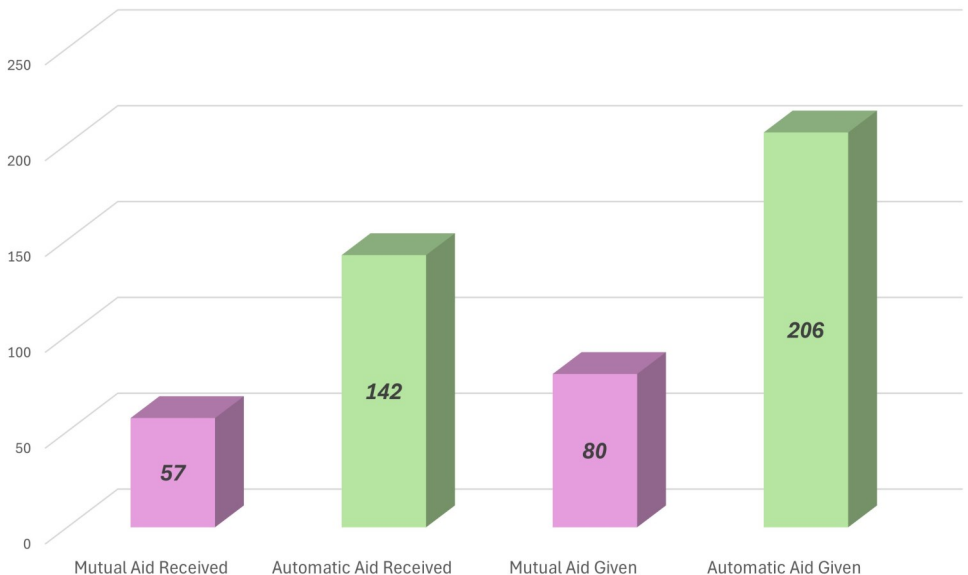


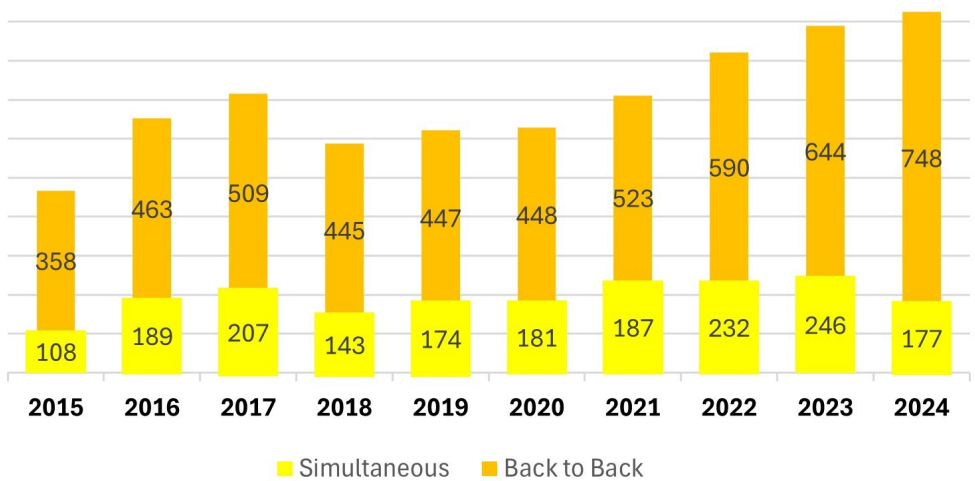
**Engine 1272 with  
Captain Murphy,  
Engineer Lawton,  
and Firefighter  
Sloan on the Lake  
Fire in the Los  
Padres National  
Fire—July 2024.**

**CODE 3  
TRAVEL TIME:  
3 MIN 53 SEC**

**Joint Operations  
Agreement:  
Given: 93.5 hours  
Received: 12 hours**

## **TOTAL AUTO/MUTUAL AID RESPONSE**





**BACK-TO-BACK CALLS FOR SERVICE: 748**  
**SIMULTANEOUS CALLS FOR SERVICE: 177**



Auburn Fire Department providing Automatic Aid to Newcastle Fire Protection District for a fully-involved single-wide mobile home on 5/4/2024.

**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.**

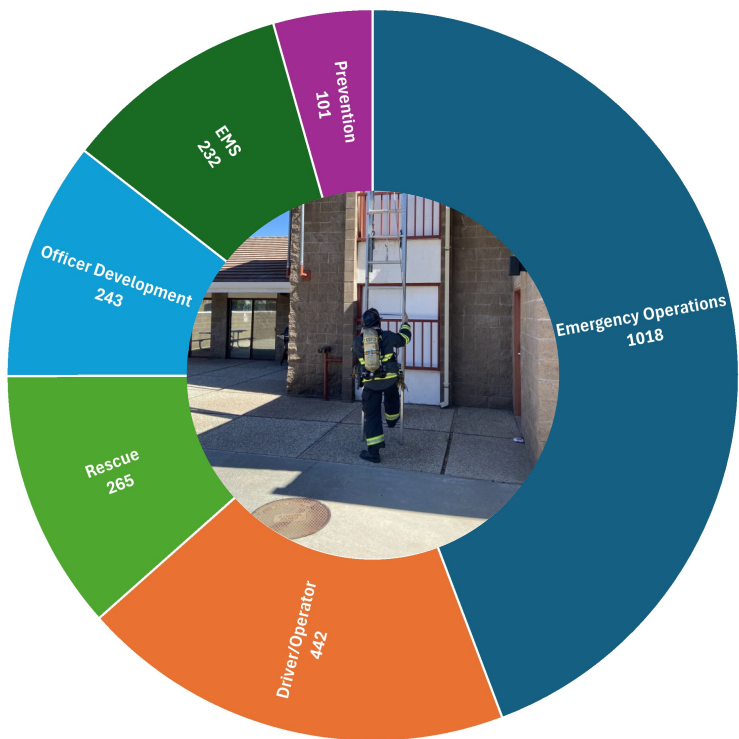
# TRAINING



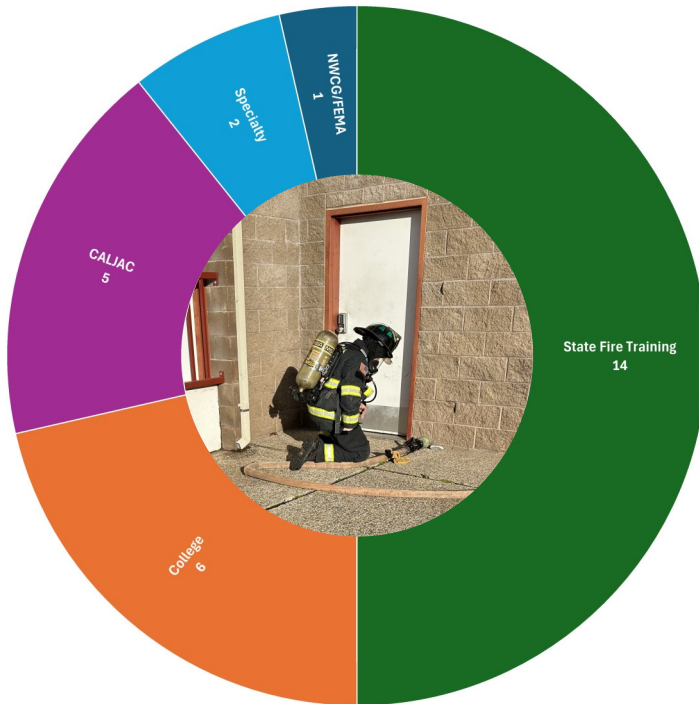
Firefighter practicing hose deployment skills. Hose management training helps firefighters improve speed and accuracy, reducing the time needed to locate and extinguish fires.

**TOTAL TRAINING HOURS: 2,301**

## TRAINING HOURS BY CATEGORY

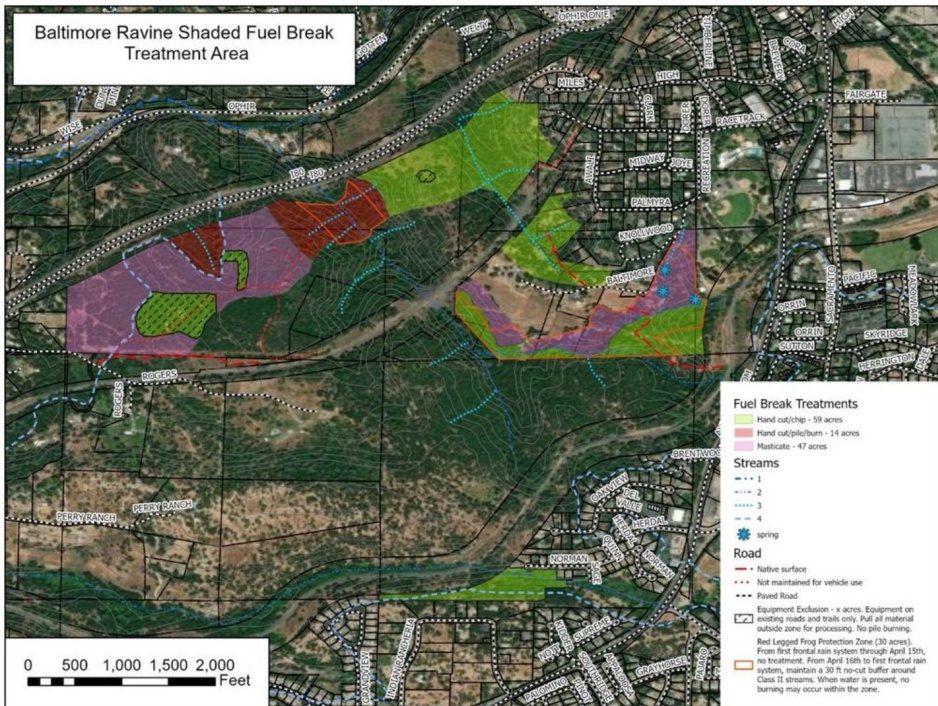


# COURSES COMPLETED: 28



**Firefighters performing vehicle extrication training at Hall's Towing. Thank you to the Hall family for providing vehicles and staff time in support of continuing education and skill development.**

# FUEL REDUCTION



*Funding for this project provided by CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program*

**COMPLAINT PARCELS EVALUATED: 42**

**ACRES TREATED: 45**

**COMPLIANCE: 92% - 4 to Code Enforcement**

**BURN PERMITS: 162**

Property owners play a vital role in wildfire prevention by taking proactive steps to reduce hazardous vegetation on their land. Maintaining defensible space not only protects individual properties but also helps safeguard their neighbors and the community. While the Fire Department works to support fuel reduction efforts, we do not have the resources to monitor or complete these activities for every property.



The Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council is an excellent resource for residents looking to develop a Firewise Community, identify assistance programs, and learn more about wildfire preparedness. For additional information, the council can be reached at: [auburnfiresafecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:auburnfiresafecouncil@gmail.com).

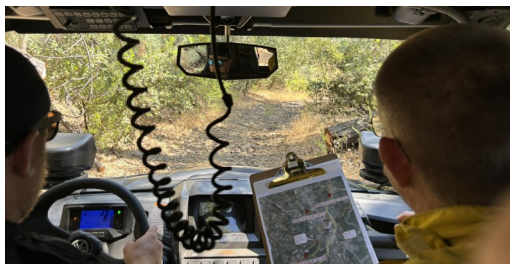
# GRANTS

**FEMA Assistance to Firefighters: \$618,750 - Pending**

**To obtain funding to replace 1998 International Type 3 Engine**

**CAL FIRE BALTIMORE RAVINE FUEL BREAK PROJECT:**

**CEQA Study and RFP Process Completed in 2024**



Auburn Fire and Police personnel evaluating hazardous vegetation on Union Pacific Railroad's right-of-way through Auburn.

# MANDATED INSPECTIONS

**APARTMENTS, HOTELS AND MOTELS: 89**

**SCHOOLS: 8**

**COMPLIANCE: In Progress**

Active Firewise Communities:

- Olive Orchard
- Greater Robie
- Foresthill/Huntly Loop
- Riverview
- Awali Heights
- Monticello
- Falcon's Point
- Canyon Rim HOA
- Grand Oaks HOA
- Vintage Oaks
- Meadow Brook
- Cobblestone HOA

Pending Firewise Communities:

- Hidden Creek
- Woodland Estates



**FIREWISE USA®**

**Residents reducing wildfire risks**

The regional coordinator for the Firewise USA® program in Placer County can be contacted by email at [FireReady@placer.ca.gov](mailto:FireReady@placer.ca.gov) or by phone at (530) 886-FIRE (3473).

# PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Auburn Fire Department participated in many public education and outreach events throughout 2024. Some of these included school safety presentations for Skyridge, E.V. Cain, and Placer High School; multiple station tours; various Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council and Firewise Community events; mock interviews at Placer High School; Touch-a-Truck at ARD; and National Night Out. Fire Department personnel also supported many other community events and parades throughout 2024.

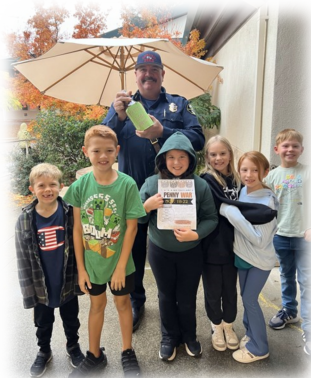


Auburn Firefighters collecting donations for the Firefighters Burn Institute on May 18, 2024. Community members contributed nearly \$5,000 to support burn victims and their families in the Greater Sacramento area.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION HOURS: 50**

**ADULT CONTACTS: 1560**

**CHILDREN CONTACTS: 1184**



BC McCarthy supporting a Skyridge School Fundraiser.



Engineer Lawton discussing fire safety with a school group.

# SOCIAL MEDIA



**3.3K FOLLOWERS**

@auburncityfiredepartment



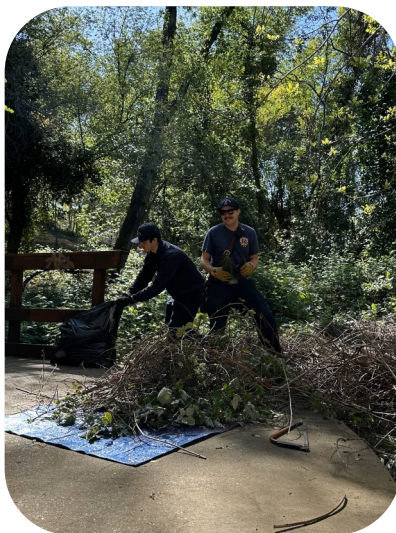
**2.3K FOLLOWERS**

@auburnfire

Visit our website, Facebook, or Instagram pages 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!

**A-Shift assisting with  
the 10th Annual Community  
Service Day at  
Bicentennial Park on  
4/28/2024.**



**PlacerAlert**

Get notified of emergencies and stay informed

[placeralert.org](https://placeralert.org)

# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR:

**James Murphy**  
**Fire Captain**



Since joining Auburn Fire on August 25, 2021, James has been an integral part of the department, promoting to Fire Apparatus Engineer in November 2021 and Fire Captain in March 2022. Before Auburn Fire, James spent 10 years with the U.S. Forest Service, working his way up from Hotshot to Assistant Engine Operator on the Tahoe National Forest. His extensive wildland firefighting experience has been instrumental in supporting the development of Auburn Fire personnel.

James co-manages our incident reporting platform, and oversees our Asset Management system Vector Check-It.

James is committed to professional growth, having completed the California State Fire Marshal Company Officer series and currently working toward obtaining his Associate's Degree.

As Union President, he advocates for Auburn Fire personnel, dedicating countless hours to representing firefighters in a variety of situations.

James is professional, well-prepared, and dedicated to improving the department. His advocacy work has required significant personal sacrifices, including time away from his family.

James exemplifies Auburn Fire's core values, leading through teaching, coaching, and mentorship. His unwavering dedication has earned him the well-deserved title of Firefighter of the Year.

# PERSONNEL CHANGES

## NEW HIRE:



**Matt McCarthy**  
**Battalion Chief**

Matt joined the Auburn Fire Department as a Battalion Chief on August 2, 2024, bringing with him over 25 years of fire service experience. He previously served as an Engineer/Paramedic/Acting Captain in Rio Vista, with prior experience at the Placer Hills Fire Protection District, starting as a Firefighter in 1997 and promoting to Captain/Paramedic and Acting Battalion Chief prior to his departure.

A certified paramedic since 2001, Matt holds a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Services Management, multiple professional certifications, and is a registered instructor with the California State Fire Marshal's Office. He is assigned to C-Shift and serves as the department's Training Officer.

## PROMOTION:



**Captain**  
**Justin Rendon**

Justin Rendon was promoted to Fire Captain on July 20, 2024. He joined Auburn Fire as a Firefighter in January 2022, promoted to Fire Apparatus Engineer in August 2022, and previously served with Ukiah Valley Fire Authority and CAL FIRE.

Justin holds an Associate's Degree in Fire Technology and Firefighter I & II, Driver/Operator, and Hazardous Materials Technician certifications. He also worked as a Confined Space Rescue Technician, providing standby rescue services for PG&E and the California Department of Water Resources.

# **SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS**

## **February —Canal Overflow into Senior Apartments**

On February 5th, residents of 618 Mikkelsen Drive experienced significant flooding again. The first incident occurred in December of 2023 and residents had just returned after repairs were completed. Battalion 12, Engine 1282, and Engine 1273 responded to reports of major flooding affecting eight lower-level apartments. A resident activated a fire alarm pull station to alert emergency responders. Upon arrival, Engine 1282 confirmed major flooding and requested an expedited response from PCWA. Battalion 12 assumed command, overseeing evacuations while Engine 1273 reset the fire alarm panel. The flooding was determined to have originated from the canal above the property. PCWA Loss Prevention and Operations personnel worked to divert the water, and apartment management was notified. The City of Auburn Building Official, Fire Chief, and Red Cross were also contacted to assess the situation and provide assistance to displaced residents. Once the flooding subsided, the property was turned over to on-site management.

## **February —CO Poisoning at a Restaurant**

On February 14th, Engine 1282 responded to a medical aid at 175 Palm Avenue, where multiple patients complained of symptoms of illness and displayed signs of altered mental status. While assessing the scene, Engine 1282 detected dangerously high CO levels, peaking at 1,226ppm. The crew immediately evacuated the building, secured the gas at the water heater, and ventilated the structure while notifying dispatch. Battalion 12, the Auburn Police Department, and PG&E were dispatched to the incident. PG&E arrived and found CO levels ranging from 999 to 4,000 ppm in the kitchen area. PG&E issued a hazard notice and secured the gas to the business. The hospital confirmed that the transported patients had elevated CO levels in their blood. B12 notified the City of Auburn Building Official and terminated the incident.

## **December —Hit-and-Run into a Fire Hydrant with Flooding**

On December 6th, Battalion 12 and CAL FIRE Engine 2351 responded to a vehicle accident involving a fire hydrant near 172 Lincoln Way. Auburn Police Department reported that the vehicle fled the scene, leaving water flowing from a sheared hydrant. Battalion 12 assumed command and requested resources to assist with shutting off the water and conserving property. Placer County Water Agency and PG&E assisted with securing the water supply and utility services to the affected properties. Locating the water shut-off was challenging due to nighttime conditions and debris covering the valve, but it was eventually secured. Fire personnel focused on life property conservation efforts, using dam, dike, and divert tactics while assisting affected residents. The City of Auburn Building Official was notified to assist with the restoration efforts. Once mitigation efforts were completed, command was terminated, and properties were returned to tenants and management.

# CALOES/ABH ASSIGNMENTS

## Sites Fire 2024—CALFIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit

June 17th—June 20th; E1272 w/Captain Bowers, Engineer Hooten, Firefighter Davis

## Aero Fire 2024—CALFIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit

June 20th—June 23rd; E1272 w/Captain Bowers, Engineer Hooten, Firefighter Davis

## Thompson Fire 2024—CALFIRE Butte Unit

July 3th—July 6th; E1272 w/Captain Murphy, Engineer Lawton, Firefighter Sloan

## Lake Fire 2024—USFS Los Padres National Forest

July 6th—July 17th; E1272 w/Captain Murphy, Engineer Lawton, Firefighter Sloan

## NEU August Cover—CALFIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit

August 7th—August 22nd; E1272 w/Captain Bowers, Engineer Rea, Firefighters Sloan and Davis

## Mountain Fire 2024—Ventura County Fire Department

November 6th—November 11th; E1282 w/Captain Murphy, Engineer Rea, Firefighter Steil

**Total Commitment Time for AFD Personnel = *44 Days***



Captain Bowers and Firefighters Davis and Sloan assisting CALFIRE with staffing Station #11 in Foresthill.

Captain Murphy, Engineer Lawton, and Firefighter Sloan, along with the rest of their strike team, on the fireline during the Lake Fire.



Lake Fire 4151-C 2024

# 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, the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast and Parade, the Co-Op, National Night Out, Safe Trick-or-Treating, the Veterans Day Parade, the Festival of Lights Parade, the 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.



National Night Out

## AWARDS:



2024 H&L Co. #1 Business of the Year:

**Edelweiss 2**

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



2024 H&L Co. #1 Member of the Year:

**Warren Hubbard**

# EVENT PHOTOS:

**In Service Ceremony**



**Pancake Breakfast**



**Old Town Ghost Tour**



**Downtown Tree Lighting**



**Country Christmas Clam Chowder**



**Lights Parade**





***We are dedicated to fostering the  
development and safety of our community through  
prevention, public education, and emergency  
response with pride and honor.***



**Ceremony for Engine 1282—February 23, 2024**