



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Cottage Grove Fire Department

www.cottagegrovefire.org

Tel: 608-839-4343

4030 CTH N,

Cottage Grove, WI 53527

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF ARCHIBALD _____	3
DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW _____	4
RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT _____	5
DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART _____	6
DEPARTMENT STAFF _____	7
ADVOCACY _____	12
CALL DATA AND ANALYSIS _____	13
FIRE PREVENTION _____	17
TRAINING _____	18
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION _____	19
NEWS AND UPDATES _____	20

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF ARCHIBALD

Dear Community Members, Community Leaders, and Fire Department Staff,

2022 has ended. This year the department finished with 312 calls for service. This was a 5% reduction in calls for service. This report is intended to provide an overview of the department, its staff, the types of calls we respond to, and the accomplishments of this department.

The Cottage Grove Volunteer Fire Department is currently staffed by 45 active Volunteer's and 2 honorary personnel from, the Town and Village of Cottage Grove along with residents from the Town of Pleasant Springs. These men and women volunteer their time and expertise for Fire Prevention and Protection programs in the community and all emergencies. The department was established in 1929 and has been 100% volunteer ever since. The staff of this department have embodied pride in their community and a strong commitment to helping others.

Engine 3 was replaced in May with a 2022 Pierce Enforcer Pumper Tanker. Old Engine 3 was retired and sold on Wisconsin Surplus. Tender 1 was purchased by the Town of Cottage Grove and is expected to arrive in March of 2023. The Village and Town of Cottage Grove approved the purchase of a new Squad to replace current Squad 1. The new Squad will be delivered sometime in 2024. Recruitment was strong this year which resulted in 9 new members.

There are five divisions within the Department: Maintenance, Public Education, Personnel/Records, Training/Safety and Fire Inspections. The Training Division provided the staff over 5491 hours of training in 2022. The Public Education Division conducts tours of the Emergency Services Building and fire prevention demonstrations to the schools and day care facilities throughout the year. The Inspection Division conducted inspections of all businesses in the Town of Cottage Grove, Village of Cottage Grove, and the Town of Pleasant Springs.

The department experienced significant loss this year. Near the end of 2021 Active Honorary Member Duane Kopp and Retired Member Jim McAllister passed away. Jim served the department for 30 years, and Duane served the department for 36 years. On September 5th, Active Honorary Member George Ball passed away. George served the department for 52 years. On September 25th, Firefighter Nate Walker passed away. Nate Joined the department in July of 2021 and took great pride in his service to the community. Nate was an advocate for PTSD awareness and never shied away from sharing his own struggles. Sadly, it is often the ones helping that struggle the most. If you or someone you know maybe suffering from PTSD, suicidal thoughts, or any other mental health related concerns, call or text 988, or reach out for help. I would like to thank everyone that helped support us in our times of loss.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire staff, for all their hard work and dedication to this department and the communities they serve this year. I would ask you the next time you see these people say hello and thank them for their service. I would also like to recognize and express gratitude to the families and employers that encourage our members to respond to calls, attend training, and give back to the community. I am honored to have served as the chief of this department since 2018.

Fire Chief Nick Archibald

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Cottage Grove Fire Department serves the Town of Cottage Grove, Town of Pleasant Springs, and Village of Cottage Grove. It covers approximately forty-eight (48) square miles and serves a population around 14,000 residents. The Department has achieved an ISO rating of a 3 in the Village of Cottage Grove and 5/10 in the Towns of Cottage Grove and Pleasant Springs. Operating expenses, equipment, and facilities are provided through municipal funding. The Department has one (1) station which houses: a Ladder Truck, two Engines, two Tenders, a Squad, Rapid Response Vehicle/Brush Truck, and a Command Car. Additionally, the Department owns and maintains an antique parade truck as well as a UTV and trailer that were purchased from funds raised through donations.

The Cottage Grove Fire Department has been, and is currently, staffed entirely by volunteer members. The first fire engine was purchased for Cottage Grove by community members in 1911. In 1929, the Department was officially established and recognized by the State of Wisconsin. In 2022, the Department celebrated its 93rd year. Members are honored to serve the community, are proud to volunteer, and they are humbled by the support of their families, friends, and neighbors.



On May 4th, the Fire Department participates in the "Shine Your Light" initiative in commemoration of International Firefighter's Day.

RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

"The Cottage Grove Fire Department will respond with the assumption that we can save lives, property and the environment. We will risk our lives to save a savable life. We will risk our lives in a calculated manner to save property. We will not risk our lives to save those lives, property or the environment that are unsavable."

DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission shall be accomplished through quality **SERVICE** delivery as follows:

SAFETY: for the community we protect and the personnel that protects it

EDUCATION: through programs for our residents and youth

RESPONSIVENESS: to the suggestions, influences, appeals or efforts of others

VISION: from the past, to the present, and into the future

INSPECTIONS: investigations and pre-incident plans

COMMITMENT: to our community, our families, ourselves and each other

EMPATHY: for all

The fulfillment of our mission begins with training and pre-incident planning. All our volunteer firefighters are, at a minimum certified at the WI Entry Level Firefighter level. Most of our Department members are certified at the Firefighter I or II levels. Staffing also includes certified: Fire Instructors, Fire Inspectors, Safety Officers, Wildland Firefighters, Hazardous Material Technicians, Ice Water Rescue Technicians, and Apparatus Engineers through State and Federal Programs and the National Fire Academy. Our training division provides regular opportunities for members to advance their skills in fire- fighting and rescue operations.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



F1 Chief-Administration/Operations

F2 Assistant Chief- Administration

F3 Assistant Chief- Operations

F4 Captain- Training

F5 Captain- Apparatus/Maintenance

F6 Captain- Pre-Planning/Inspections/Investigations

F7 Lieutenant- Personnel/Safety

F8 Lieutenant- Fire Prevention Education

F9 Lieutenant- Public Information (assists with Personnel)

F10 Lieutenant- Pre-Planning/Inspections (assists with Safety and Investigations)

DEPARTMENT STAFF



Firefighters participated in the fire service tradition of pushing a new truck into the station with CGE3 on May 20, 2022.



Roger Floerke
Active Honorary
LOS 39.50 years



Joel Hammond
Active Honorary
LOS 44.16 years



Nick Archibald
Fire Chief
LOS 15.67 years



April Hammond
Assistant Chief
LOS 21.61 years



Jess Robinson
Assistant Chief
LOS 12.90 years



Jason Helgeland
Captain
LOS 16.08 years



Lance Severson
Captain
LOS 21.61 years



Josh Hammond
Captain
LOS 15.26 years



Jaime Gogola
Lieutenant
LOS 3.16 years



Erik Severson
Lieutenant
LOS 26.77 years



Jason Kudrna
Lieutenant
LOS 7.17 years



Kevin Laufenberg
Lieutenant
LOS 15.67 years



Carlos Aranda
Firefighter
LOS 0.24 years



Joseph Baker
Firefighter
LOS 1.59 years



Ryan Breyer
Firefighter
LOS 0.32 years



Cole Brown
Firefighter
LOS 6.75 years



Cadance Coleman
Firefighter
LOS 0.07 years



Trevor Cooper
Firefighter
LOS 2.41 years



Dawson Covoloskie
Firefighter
LOS 0.74 years



Emma Dabbs
Firefighter
LOS 1.84 years



Angela Elmer
Firefighter
LOS 1.32 years



Ehren Ezzell
Firefighter
LOS 1.32 years



Brandon Fritsch
Firefighter
LOS 17.58 years



Ryan Greendeer
Firefighter
LOS 1.74 years



Mike Grob
Driver Operator
LOS 3.25 years



Thomas Grob
Firefighter
LOS 4.31 years



Mattea Grumke
Firefighter
LOS 0.74 years



Morgan Johnson
Firefighter
LOS 0.42 years



Robert Kuckuk
Firefighter
LOS 1.74 years



Dennis Larson
Firefighter
LOS 33.90 years



Tom Laude
Firefighter
LOS 2.92 years



Justin Leistikow
Firefighter
LOS 3.25 years



Grant Lorang
Firefighter
LOS 2.99 years



Arlin Maag
Firefighter
LOS 12.33 years



Matt Mabie
Firefighter
LOS 22.16 years



Katie Miller
Firefighter
LOS 4.83 years



Tim Miller
Firefighter
LOS 8.49 years



Joe Nemecek
Firefighter
LOS 0.17 years



Braden Palmer
Firefighter
LOS 0.49 years



Mitch Strehlow
Firefighter
LOS 3.49 years



Pete Strommen
Firefighter
LOS 1.74 years



Jake Vetter
Firefighter
LOS 0.92 years



Katie Walker
Firefighter
LOS 3.64 years



Gavin Wendricks
Firefighter
LOS 0.74 years



Paul Wendricks
Firefighter
LOS 24.93 years



Kyle Wheeler
Firefighter
LOS 0.49 years

IN MEMORIAM



George Ball
Served 1971-2022
Active Honorary Death
9/5/2022



Nathan Walker
Served 2021-2022
Active Duty Death
9/25/2022

ADVOCACY

Firefighter Nate Walker was a Veteran who had served in Afghanistan in the Marine Corps and later served as a Police Officer with Sun Prairie Police Department. Nate struggled with Post-Traumatic Stress Illness/Disorder like many other Veterans, service members, and emergency responders. In September of 2022, Nate succumbed to his battle with PTSD. Nate left behind his wife, a fellow emergency responder, and two children. Nate was passionate about awareness and ensuring others had access to resources and support.

According to a 2022 annual report by the Department of Veterans Affairs, there is an average of 16.8 Veteran suicides per day. Another study conducted by the Ruderman Family Foundation in 2018 found that Emergency Responders are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty. It was also noted that emergency responders are five times more likely to suffer from PTSD than their civilian counterparts, leading to higher rates of suicide. The National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation indicates that firefighters are three times more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty.

The Cottage Grove Fire Department has an in-house Peer Support Program and Employee Assistance Program available for all members. Our advocacy towards this cause has increased over the years and our passion for ensuring awareness and access to resources for others continues to grow. We will continue to promote awareness and encourage others to “Stop the stigma.”

If you or someone you know maybe suffering from PTSD, suicidal thoughts, or any other mental health related concerns, call or text 988, or reach out for help.

Be a Lifeline

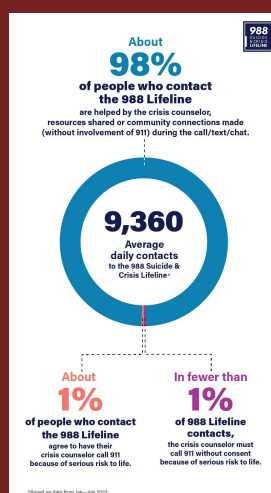
Do you know someone in crisis?
You can be a lifeline & help support them!

Here are five steps you can take that are known to help:

- 1. ASK:**
Are you thinking about suicide? How do you hurt? How can I help?
- 2. BE THERE:**
In person or on the phone. Show support. Listen. Keep promises to connect.
- 3. HELP KEEP THEM SAFE:**
If the person in crisis is suicidal, details matter: Do they have a plan, or ideas about timing or method? You can call 988 to support their crisis care.
- 4. HELP THEM CONNECT:**
When someone is in crisis, connecting them with ongoing supports can help establish a safety net. Remind them they can call, text or chat 988 to connect with a trained crisis counselor 24/7.
- 5. FOLLOW UP:**
After the immediate crisis is over, check in. That text or call afterwards makes a real difference.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

SOURCE: #BeTheTo @https://www.bethelto.com/bethelto-steps-evidence/ 98804



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

There is hope

Talk with us. If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

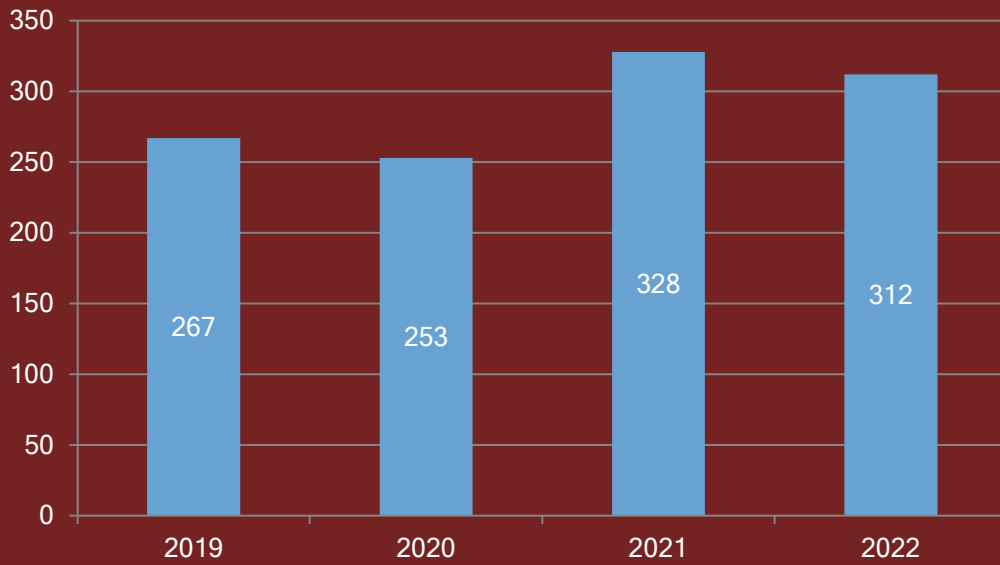
FEF22-08-03-004

Reference Links:

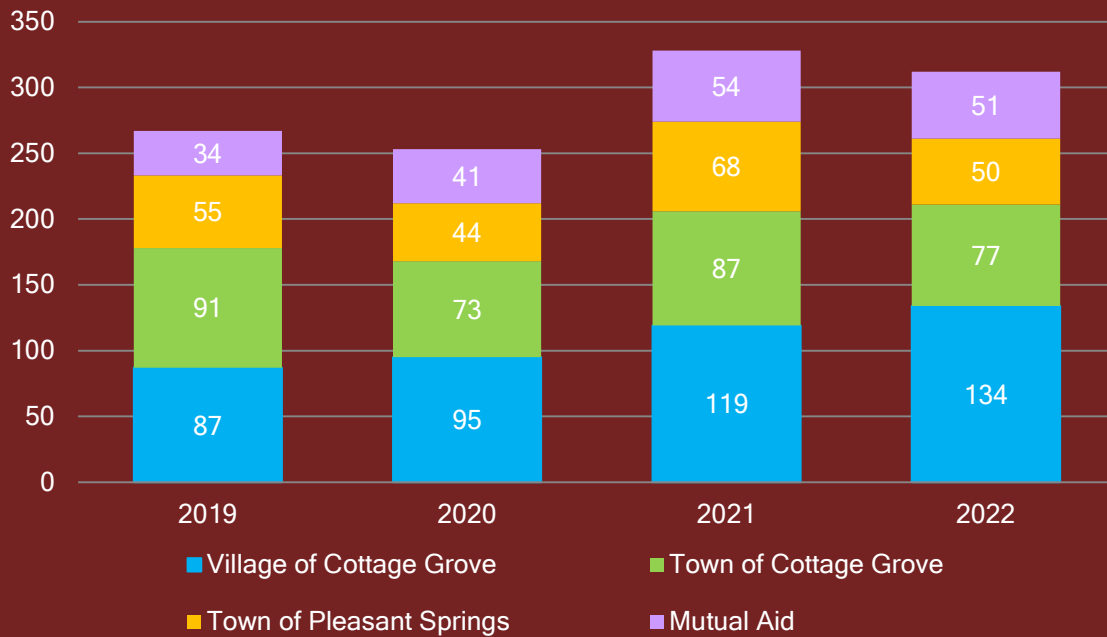
<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2022/2022-National-Veteran-Suicide-Prevention-Annual-Report-FINAL-508.pdf>
[https://dir.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dirnv.gov/content/WCS/TrainingDocs/First%20Responder%20White%20Paper_Final%20\(2\).pdf](https://dir.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dirnv.gov/content/WCS/TrainingDocs/First%20Responder%20White%20Paper_Final%20(2).pdf)
<https://www.firehero.org/2022/07/16/suicide-prevention-dialing-code/>

CALL DATA AND ANALYSIS

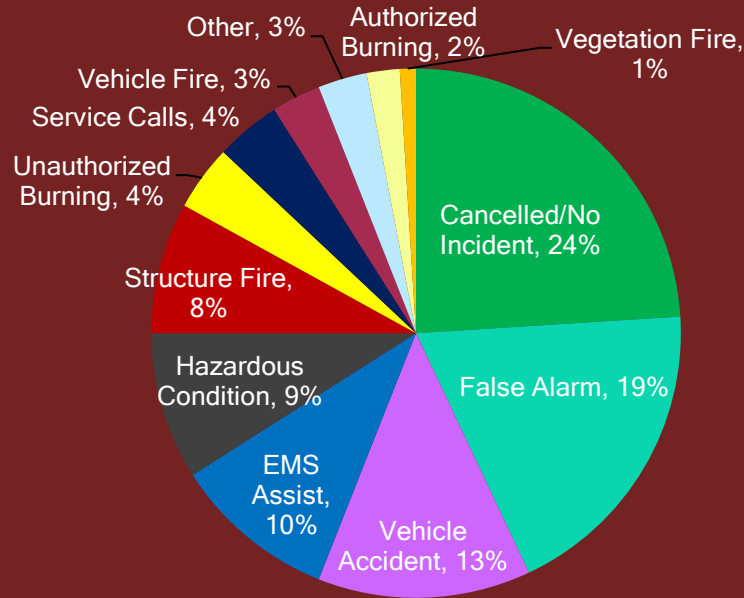
Total Runs by Year



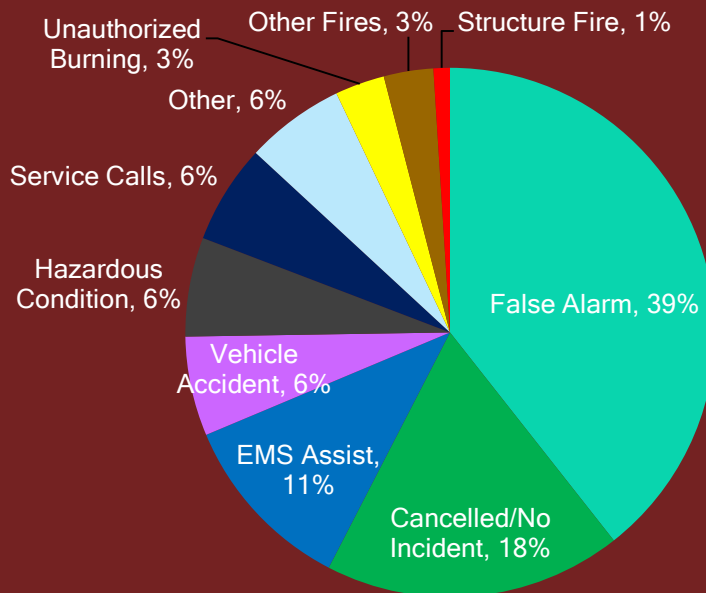
Runs by Area



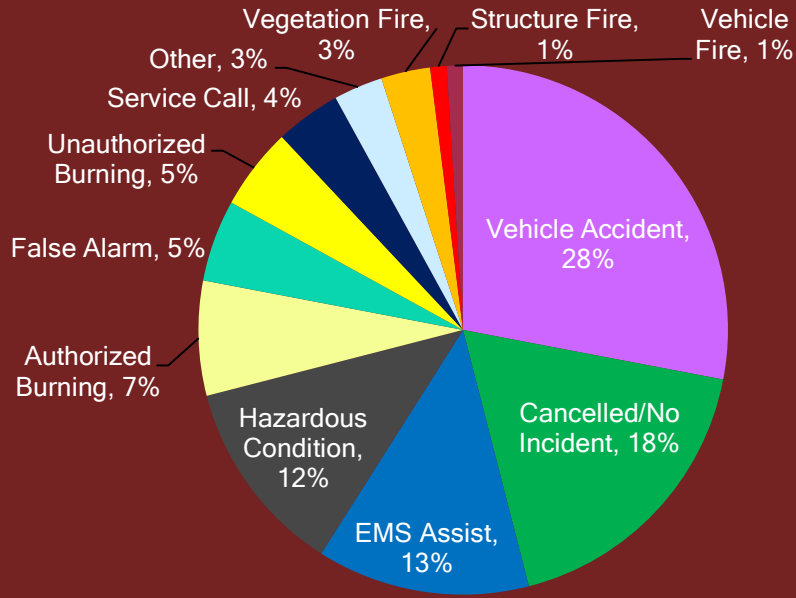
2022 Call Types - All



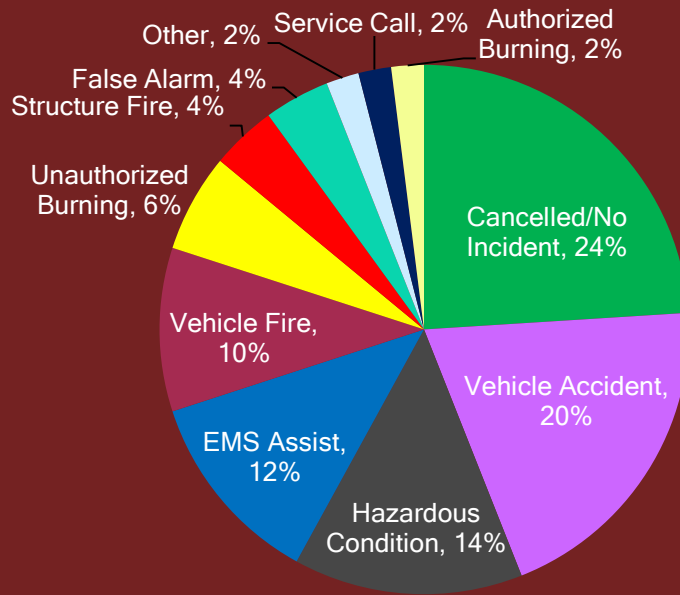
2022 Call Types - Village of Cottage Grove



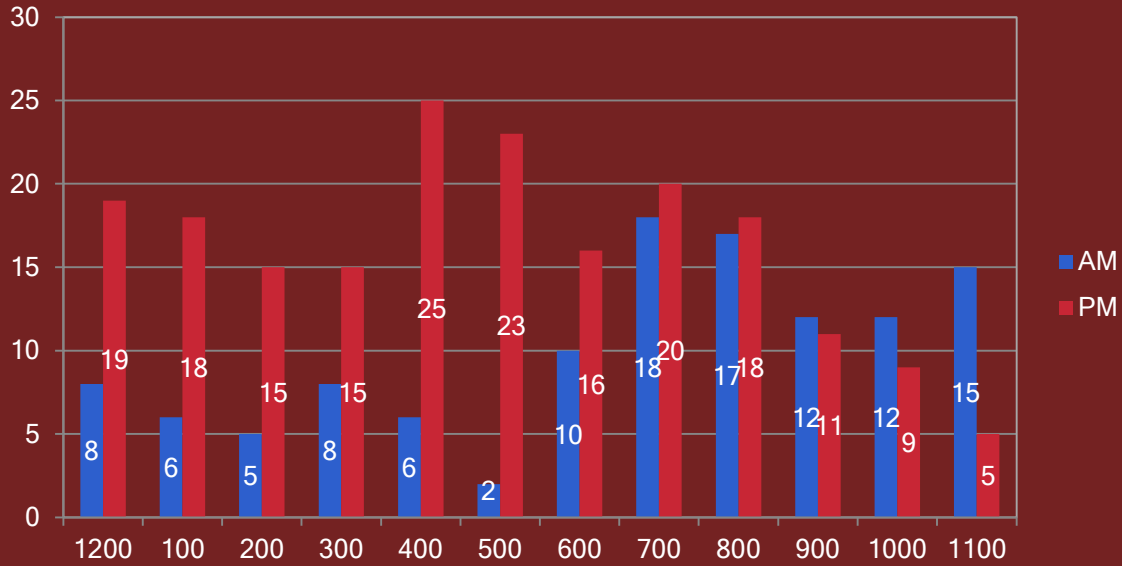
2022 Call Types - Town of Cottage Grove



2022 Call Types - Town of Pleasant Springs



2022 Calls by Time of Day



2022 Response Time Averages

(From time of Dispatch notification to time of Arrival on Scene)

*Note- Times are dependent on Dispatch accuracy and Dispatch manual entry

The Cottage Grove Fire Department adheres to a practice of non-emergent response to calls unless dispatch indicates the possibility to reduce death, serious injury, or the potential to prevent damage to property. Emergency response can create risk for first responders and others on the road. The Cottage Grove Fire Department balances risk and reviews the benefits of faster response based on call type, call updates, and information received on calls from dispatch. The data below reflects both emergent and non-emergent responses.

Village of Cottage Grove: **9:06**
 Town of Cottage Grove: **9:30**
 Town of Pleasant Springs: **12:38**

FIRE PREVENTION

The Cottage Grove Fire Department Fire Prevention and Fire Inspection Division ensures the residents, business owners, and visitors in all communities served receive appropriate education and resources related to preventing unwanted fires and eliminating hazards on or in their properties. The Fire Department currently has eight (8) Certified Fire Inspectors and three (3) additional trained Fire Inspectors. Five (5) of our Fire Inspectors are also Licensed Fire Detection, Prevention, and Suppression Inspectors and one (1) also maintains a license as a Commercial Building Inspector. The Fire Department also has licensed Journeymen on staff in the fields of Sprinkler Fitting and HVAC. Having staff with training in the trades allows the Department to function in a capacity that aids in Fire Inspection, Prevention, and Investigation services.

In 2022, Inspectors were provided several commercial building plans by the Municipalities for review and input. Inspectors conducted initial walkthroughs and inspections at new construction sites, including Authentix, Glen Grove, Grand Appliance, Atlantis Valley Foods, and Cottage Grove Commons. Inspectors will continue to participate in and work with the Municipalities on the continued growth and proposals as they are presented and offered to the fire Department for review and input.

Fire Inspectors completed **614** fire inspections in the district in 2022 to ensure compliance with SPS 314, NFPA, and applicable Fire Code requirements. Occupancies are inspected twice a year. Fire Inspectors noted minimal fire violations in each Municipality. When violations were noted, Inspectors provided education and follow-up on any noted violations. Inspectors ensure that occupancy records are kept up to date to ensure the best emergency response and to provide effective pre-planning.



FF Brown assists with a fire suppression display



Sparky the Fire Dog visits with children at the Fire Station

The Fire Department participated in numerous Fire Prevention events throughout the community and hosted an Open House at the Fire Station during Fire Prevention Week. Some of the events attended included Market Place Days, Touch- A-Truck, National Night Out, and several School Tours and Fire Drills.



LT Kudrna and FF K. Walker work and visit with the Go Team Therapy Dogs

TRAINING

In 2022, the Cottage Grove Fire Department provided **108** in-house training classes, along with **9** Madison College certification courses, and **13** different online certifications, for a total of **5,491** staff member training hours. The training schedule for the upcoming year is prepared in early December with a focus on fire and rescue tactics and strategies. The Department considers itself proactive in adapting to new and more advanced techniques. We review target hazards, methods of operation, water movement, water supply, fire ground tactics, ICS, firefighter safety, accountability, RIT and much more. In 2022, Training Division provided trainings on:

- Search and Rescue
- Ground Ladders
- Ropes & Knots
- Firefighter Survival
- Fireground Tactics
- Wildland Live Fire Training
- Standpipe Operations
- Rural Water Movement
- Dry Hydrant Training
- Turbo Draft Training
- Municipal Water Movement
- Hose Advancement and Hose Loads
- Driver Operator Training/EVOC
- Exterior Fireground Operations
- Incident Command
- Radio Communications
- Accountability
- SCBA Awareness
- Annual Facepiece Fit Testing/Air Consumption Drills
- Gas/Electric Utility Response
- Aerial Ladder Training
- New Engine 3 Training
- New Extrication Equipment Training
- New Cascade System Training



Left: FF Leistikow and LT Gogola battled FF Vetter and C Archibald during water fights. Right: FF Baker and FF Dabbs at a training burn.

Several staff members also took advantage of additional seminars and training opportunities. They pursued training in: Liquid Propane Awareness and Live Fire Training with Stoughton Fire Department, Live Fire Training and Ice Rescue Training with McFarland Fire Department, and Tesla Training with Deerfield Fire Department. Staff also pursued training related to Peer Support, Fire Investigation, Photovoltaic Systems, Incident Safety Officer, and DNR Wildland training.

Course/Certification	No. Completed in 2022
WI State Entry Level Firefighter	6
WI State Firefighter I/Hazmat Operations	7
WI State Firefighter II	3
WI State Driver Operator- Pumper	8
WI State Fire Inspector I	7
WI Fire Officer I	3
WI State Fire Officer III	1
NFA Fire Investigator Emergency Responder	3
Emergency Services Instructor II	2
Ice Rescue Certification	5

The Cottage Grove Fire Department, Cottage Grove Police Department, and Deer-Grove EMS held a joint tabletop training on Active Shooter Incident Management, becoming one of the first departments in the County to have all members trained in the topic.

Members of Cottage Grove Fire Department have demonstrated professionalism, dedication, and pride in the fire service while attending training. All training was accomplished while members still faced commitments to family, work, and other obligations, or obstacles.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

The Cottage Grove Fire Department, like 80% of communities across the nation, relies on volunteers to answer the call. If you are at least 18 years of age, reside and/or work in the Town or Village of Cottage Grove and have an interest in learning more, please call the Department's non-emergency number (608-839-4343 ext. 13), and a Personnel Committee member will contact you to answer any questions and provide you with additional information. You can visit the Cottage Grove Fire Department website at www.cottagegrovefire.org for more information or to apply.

The Cottage Grove Fire Department will supply you with your own Personal Protective Equipment and the necessary training. The community will provide you with the work. Because the Department is fully volunteer, it is important the Training Program and modules correlate and provide a direct balance with a member's family and home life. All training is paid for by the Department. Training evolutions are scheduled on the first, third, and fourth Tuesday evenings of the month. Additional trainings and make-ups are often scheduled on the fifth Tuesday. Members also complete training and truck checks on scheduled Sunday mornings.

In addition to Department training evolutions, new members are required to complete basic firefighting courses through MATC or provide documentation of completed courses. The Cottage Grove Fire Department will pay for any course fees and provide necessary textbooks.

In 2022, the Department recruited several new members through recruitment efforts, in part thanks to receiving funding through the SAFER Grant. The SAFER Grant assists the Department with media campaigns annually (for four years) by provided funding for mailing flyers and postcards. It also provided funding for the installation of an LED sign in front of the Emergency Services Building, where you often see informational bulletins, but most often "Volunteers Needed, Apply Within."



FF Baker, LT Laufenberg, FF Covoloskie, FF Cooper, LT Gogola, and AC Hammond attended the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Lambeau.

NEWS AND UPDATES



Engine Three (CGE3), purchased from Reliant in Slinger, WI was put into service in May 2022. CGE3 is a Pierce Enforcer and will be used for structure fire responses in all areas served by the Cottage Grove Fire Department.

Tender One (CGT1) will be arriving in early 2023 and Squad 1 (CGS1) will be arriving in 2024. Both trucks were purchased through Reliant in Slinger, WI and will be new units from Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. in Appleton, WI.



Car One (CGC1) was purchased in December 2022. CGC1 will go into service in early 2023. CGC1 is a used Chevy Suburban from a neighboring department with the intent to be used for incident response, public education, and fire prevention efforts.

CGFD continued our legacy of applying for first responder grants. Notable grants received include an \$15,000 grant from **TC Energy** for the purchase of an in station SCBA fill system, a **FM Global** grant for the purchase of “Sparky the Firedog”, and a **DNR** grant that allowed us to purchase additional Wildland coats, helmets and gloves, signs, and “Smokey the Bear.”



Funds raised in 2021 and 2022, in addition to a grant from **Alcivia** with matching contributions, allowed us to purchase and install battery powered “Jaws of Life” and extrication equipment. This equipment was put in service on Engine 4. These tools will provide quicker and safer response during accidents and emergencies.

Between our annual fundraising, donations to the Department and grants, we have been able to make these purchases without taxpayer dollars, saving our residents thousands of dollars.

2022 COTTAGE GROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Responder of the Year: Mike Grob

Captain’s Award: Mitch Strehlow

Top Call Percentages (excludes Chiefs):
 FO: Kevin Laufenberg
 FF2: Ryan Greendeer
 FF1: Emma Dabbs
 ELFF: Dawson Covoloskie
 PFF: Joe Nemec

Most Training Attended (excludes Chiefs/Training Officer):
 FO: Kevin Laufenberg/Jaime Gogola (tie)
 FF2: Ryan Greendeer
 FF1: Angela Elmer
 ELFF: Dawson Covoloskie
 PFF: Joe Nemec

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!