

# **Nicholasville Fire Department FY 2021 – 2022 Annual Report**



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Commissioner Bethany Brown**

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## Message from The Fire Chief

On behalf of the men and women of the Nicholasville Fire Department, I am pleased to present to you the Nicholasville Fire Department's Annual Report for 2021-2022.

We are thankful for the tremendous support our department has received from our citizens, city leaders, city departments, and other organizations that we have had the privilege of working a long side during this reporting period.

To begin, the N.F.D. was formally established in 1835 as a volunteer department. In December of 1993, the N.F.D. hired its first full time paid professional firefighters. Over the next few years, the N.F.D. was a combination department, utilizing the services of full-time paid firefighters as well as volunteer firefighters. In the year 2000, the N.F.D. became an all member, full time paid professional department.

As of the current date, the N.F.D. is comprised of 60 professional firefighters with various ranks, 1 Administrative Assistant, and 1 Chaplain. Line personnel staff work a 24/48 schedule in 4 fire stations, staffing 5 fire apparatus throughout the City of Nicholasville daily, also including 1 Battalion Chief (shift commander). The administrative staff typically work a Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm schedule, or at other times as needed.

The N.F.D. protects roughly a 15 square mile area with approximately 35,000 residents that live in the area, as well as thousands of others who travel through the community daily. Along with that, the N.F.D. has mutual and automatic aid agreements with Jessamine Co. E.M.S., Jessamine Co. Fire District, Wilmore Fire Department, and Lexington Fire Department. As such, the N.F.D. responds to well over 2,000 incidents per year. Responses include, but are not limited to emergency medical calls (all N.F.D. members are medically trained to the EMT level), automobile accidents, fire alarm calls, fire suppression calls, emergency lock-in/lock-out calls, hazardous materials calls (all N.F.D. members are trained to the Hazardous Materials Technician level) urban search and rescue calls (USAR), car seat installations (all N.F.D. members are trained and certified car seat educators and/or car seat technicians), as well as various other incidents.

Other services and activities that are provided by the N.F.D. include, but are not limited to fire prevention education for all ages, company fire inspections, pre fire incident planning, fire hydrant testing, fire hydrant color coding, training within the department as well as training with mutual aid departments, the firefighter toy program, etc.

To conclude, the N.F.D. members continually strive to improve in all facets of the profession, so that the highest level of professional service is continually available to the citizens of Nicholasville, to all visitors, and to those that pass through Nicholasville on a daily basis.

## Mission Statement

- Develop and implement a fire prevention and public education program geared at reducing the loss of life and property by fire
- Respond and suppress fire when it occurs in our response area
- Respond to hazardous materials incidents on the Operations level and work closely and courteously with higher-level agencies in further reducing the hazard
- Assist and remove victims of accidents and incidents through the use of extrication and rescue procedures within the capability of this department
- Assist the inhabitants of the City of Nicholasville in times of need in dealing with situations caused by both man-made and natural disasters through good will missions
- Provide mutual aid assistance to departments or organizations, which may require our resources and call upon our department to do so

## Our Vision

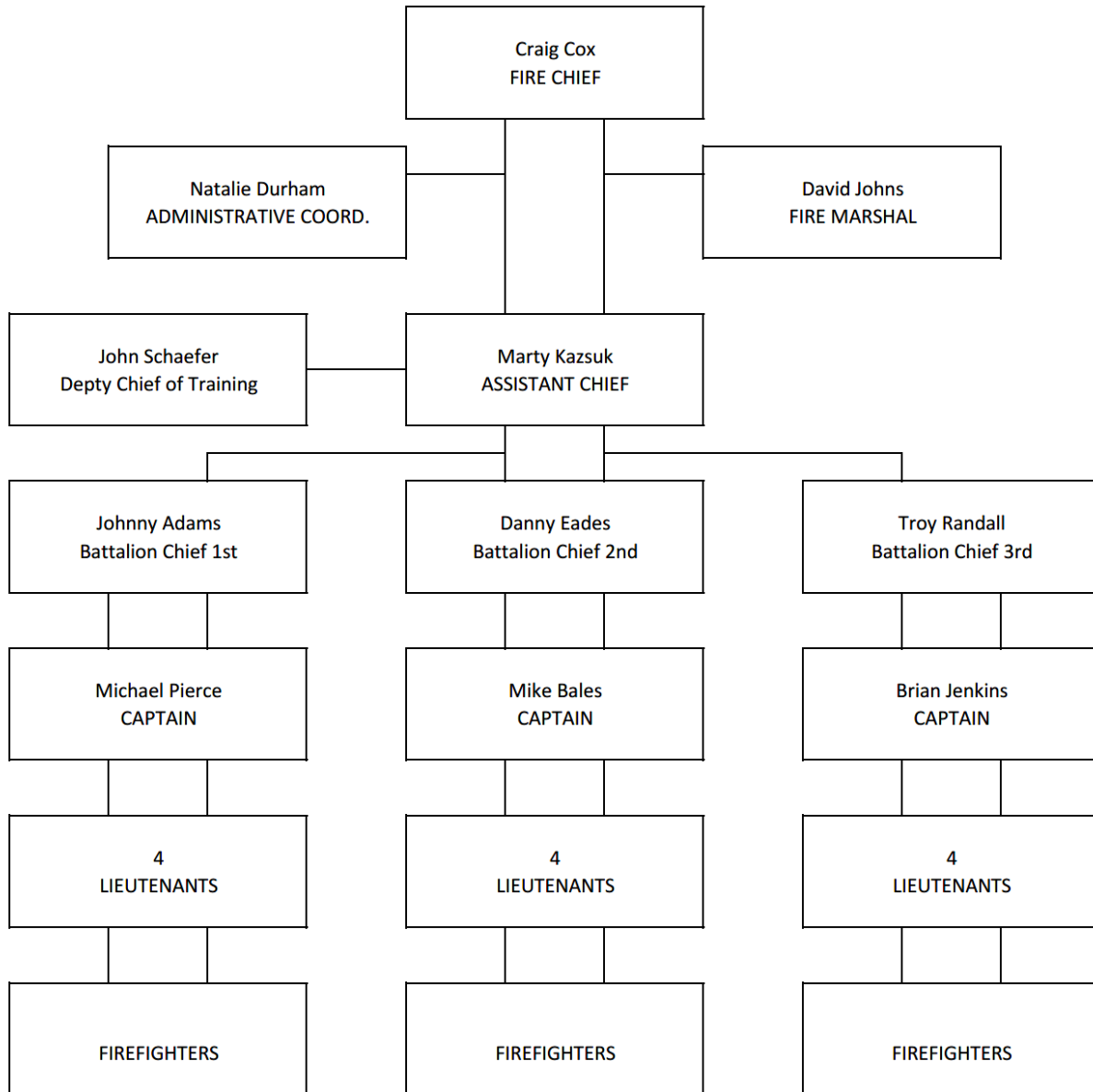
- To provide our services to our customers in the most professional, skillful and diligent manner possible.

## Our Motto

- ANYTIME, ANYPLACE, ANYTHING



# Current Organizational Structure



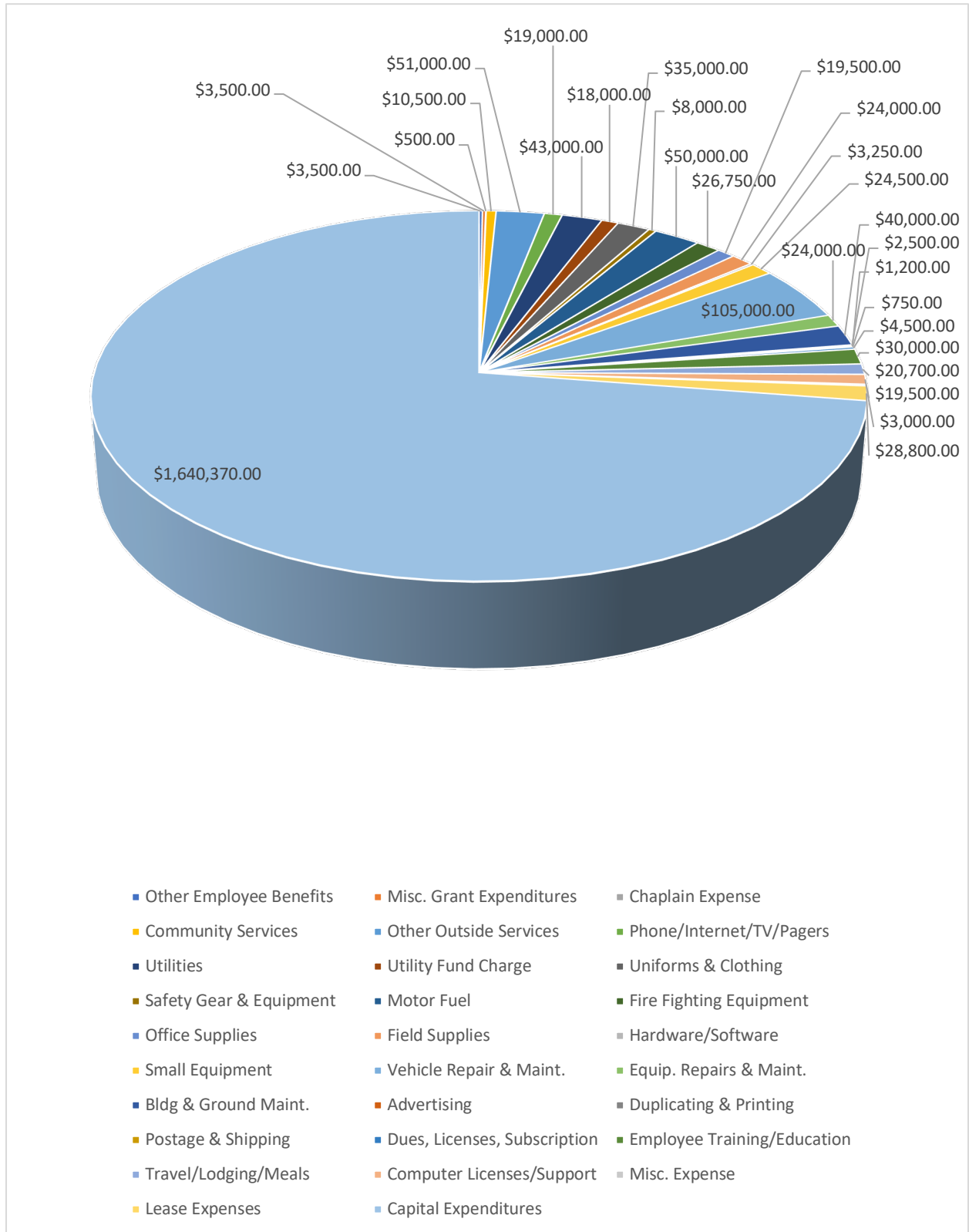


## Summary of Notable Events

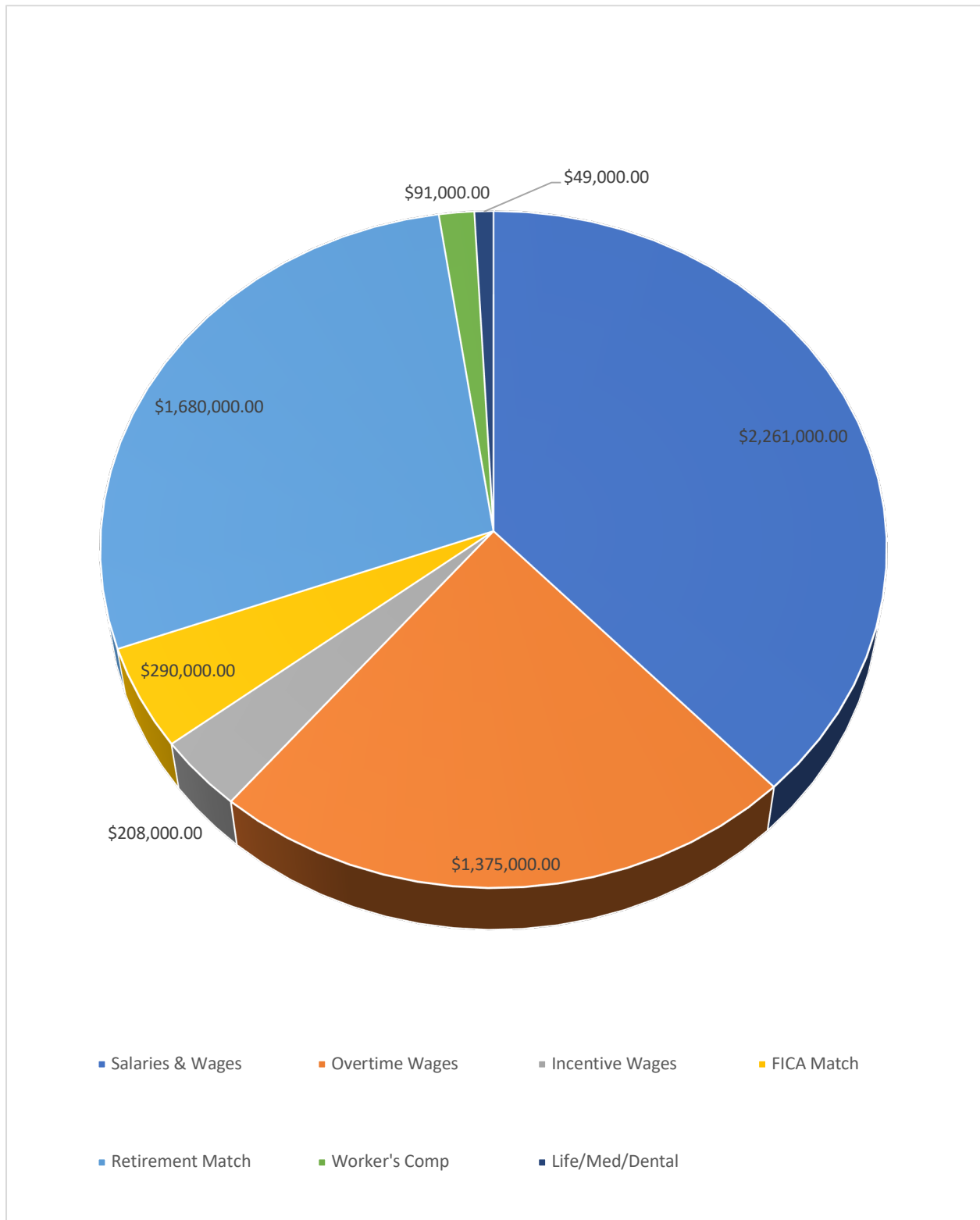
Second, a new, mobile, 35' tandem axle Fire Safety House has been ordered and delivered from Mobile Concepts MFG. in Mt. Pleasant Pa. This interactive, educational trailer has many techniques to teach people of all ages about how to prevent fires from occurring, and how to stay safe and what to do should one occur in their home or place of business. Each year, the N.F.D. instructs thousands of children and adults in these subjects. The new trailer will be replacing a 1999 Fire Safety House that members of the NFD custom built long ago but had become outdated.



# Operating Budget with Amendments

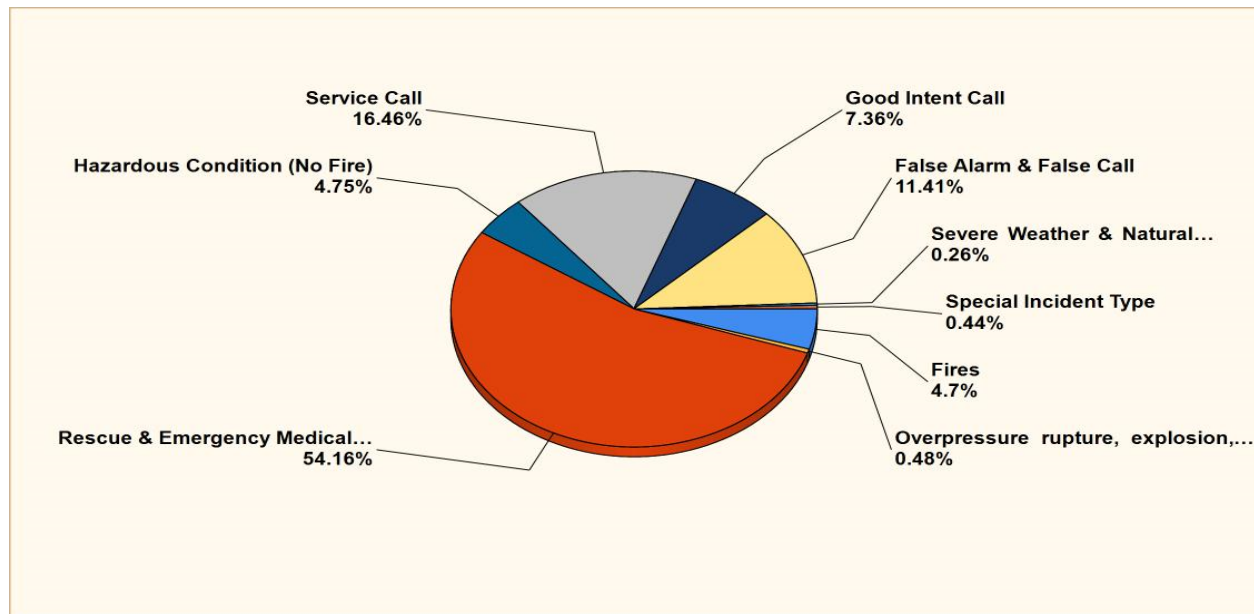


## Salaries and Benefits



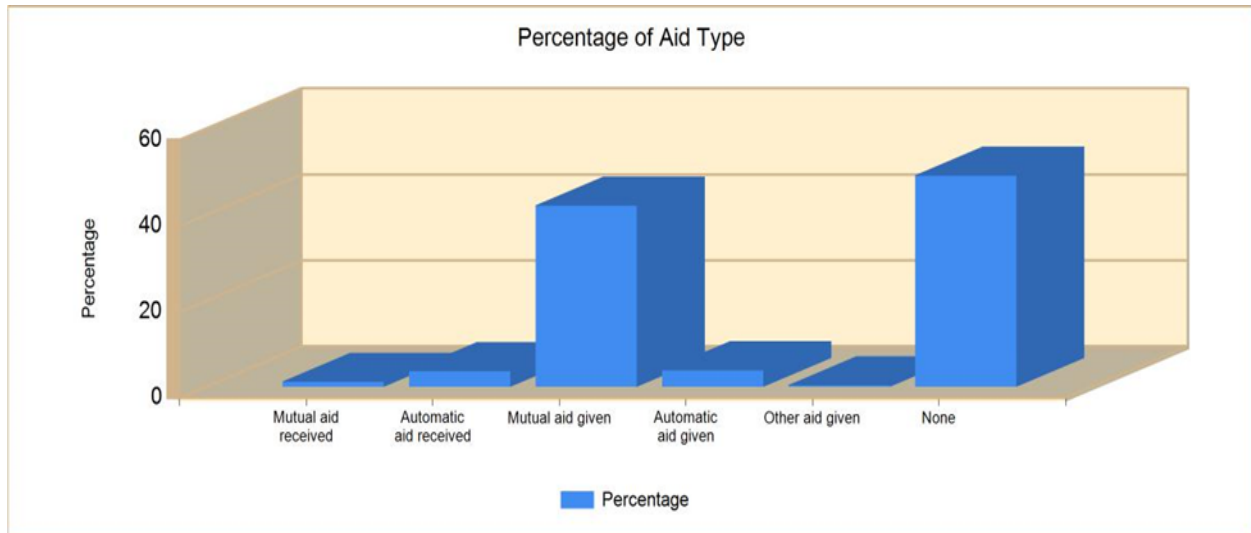


## Breakdown by Major Incident Types FY 21-22



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	108	4.7%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	11	0.48%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1244	54.16%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	109	4.75%
Service Call	378	16.46%
Good Intent Call	169	7.36%
False Alarm & False Call	262	11.41%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	6	0.26%
Special Incident Type	10	0.44%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2297</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Aid Given and Received for FY 21-22

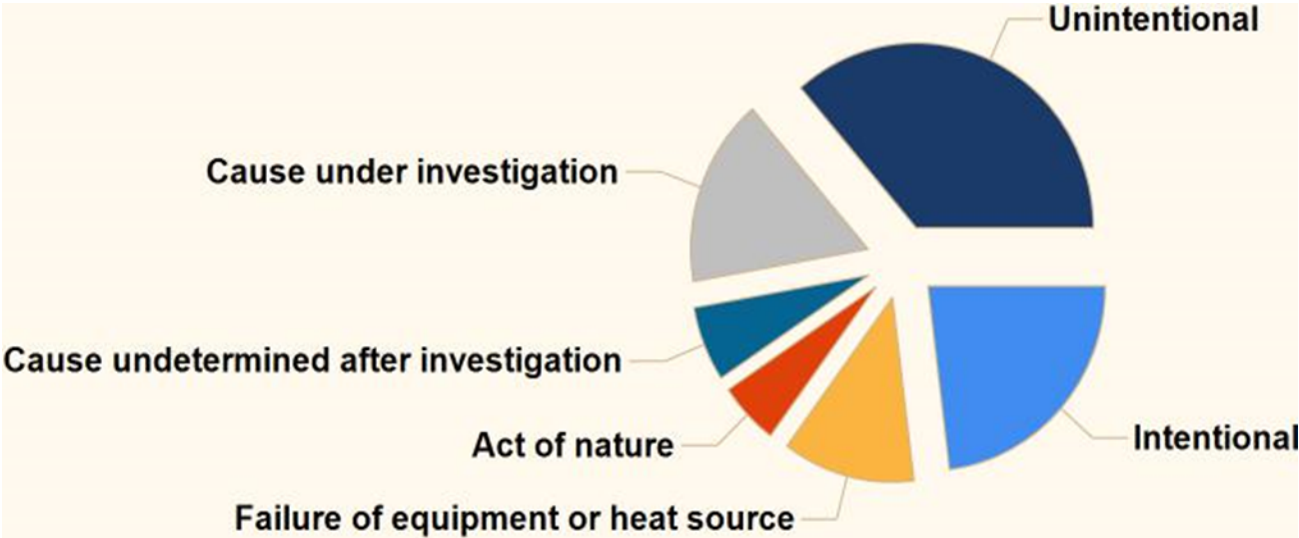


AID TYPE	TOTAL	% of TOTAL
Mutual aid received	26	1.1%
Automatic aid received	83	3.6%
Mutual aid given	967	42.1%
Automatic aid given	87	3.8%
Other aid given	6	0.3%
None	1128	49.1%





# Detailed Fire Losses with Breakdown by Cause of Ignition



CAUSE OF IGNITION	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Intentional	21	21.4%
Failure of equipment or heat source	11	11.2%
Act of nature	5	5.1%
Cause undetermined after investigation	6	6.1%
Cause under investigation	15	15.3%
Unintentional	33	33.7%



## Operations

The Nicholasville Fire Department serves the citizens of Nicholasville and Jessamine Co. providing fire protection, rescue, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical first response to the citizens and property owners here or anywhere we are called to do. The N.F.D staffs our four stations using a three-platoon system with 16 personnel in each platoon working a traditional 24/48 schedule staffing three Engine Companies, One Quint Company, One Truck Company, each with a minimum of three firefighter/EMT's. Emergency and non-emergency day-to-day operations are managed by each platoons Battalion Chief who reports to the Department Assistant Chief. The department is also maintaining and equips a crew cab 4x4 pick-up truck used for a quick response unit for technical rescue and hazardous materials response, a Hazardous Materials Truck for larger hazardous materials incidents, one reserve Engine, four administrative command units, and two utility vehicles.

The operations Assistant Chief works through the Battalion Chiefs to ensure daily equipment and apparatus checks and testing are completed as well as daily station maintenance and cleaning. Line personnel are also responsible for completing company inspections and preplans, annually inspecting nearly 1700 fire hydrants, and flow testing 20% of hydrant inventory for supply capability. Additionally, personnel work with outside agencies to complete annual apparatus pump testing, annual ground ladder testing, aerial device testing, and annually pressure testing over 21,000 feet of fire hose. To remain efficient and to cut expense several of our department personnel have received advanced specialized training to complete testing and calibration of air monitoring equipment and required testing and maintenance of self-contained breathing apparatus for our department respiratory protection program. Most of the required testing of equipment, apparatus, hydrant, maintenance, training, preplans, and inspections are all factored in along with some items outside of the department control to determine the ISO Public Protection Classification that is set by undergoing ISO audits. The N.F.D ISO PPC rating is currently 2/2x with 1 being the top rating, which is based on a scale of 1 to 10 and helps insurance companies establish their customers' annual insurance premiums.

The N.F.D. has evolved to become a fire department that is as paperless as possible. Daily operations to compete apparatus and equipment checks, as well as incident reporting, supply inventory, scheduling of public education, hydrant inspection and testing, preplanning, and company inspections are completed electronically via our Emergency Reporting software from PCs in the stations and MDTs installed in all apparatus. The N.F.D is very dependent on technology and will continue to be to remain as modern and efficient as we can to continue better serve the public.

As the city of Nicholasville continues to grow the department consistently responds to more emergency incidents each year. The average turnout time (dispatch to enroute) of the 2297 incidents responded to by the N.F.D. during FY 2021-2022 was 1 min and 31 seconds. Over all the departments average response time (dispatch to arrival) was 5 minutes and 11 seconds while managing 703 incidents that were overlapping calls. Many day-to-day operations are completed by line personnel during the 24-hour shifts that are in addition to responding to emergency incidents and training. The Chief of the Department works closely with the Assistant Chief of Operations on budget development, budget management, policy development, policy implementation, equipment and staffing to continue to grow the department based on the needs of the city and its citizens and with the continued support of the Mayor and Commissioners our department operating and capital budgets continue to grow to support the growing needs of the City of Nicholasville.



## Fire Marshal's Office

The Fire Marshal's office has three major responsibilities for the citizens of Nicholasville. This office conducts fire inspections, fire investigations, and fire prevention activities in the city and may respond to assist an organization with the same duties where requested.

Fire Inspections are conducted annually using the Commonwealth of Kentucky Codes and Standards of Safety.

Fire Investigations are conducted by a Nationally certified fire investigation team that includes law enforcement and uses the National Fire Protection Standard 921 to provide a complete science-based investigation.

Fire Prevention activities include a free smoke detector installation program in coordination with the Red Cross, classes taught to all age groups and facilities in our community, community safety day annually and grant writing. Our businesses have helped provide the monetary needs of this program for several decades very faithfully.



## Fire Prevention

In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire safety education isn't just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time to be reminded of what can be done during an emergency. The Nicholasville Fire Department takes great pride teaching Fire Prevention. Fire Prevention includes (but not limited to): teaching our children and youth what to expect if the crews ever have to come to their homes or schools, teaching fire extinguisher classes for companies in our communities, teaching and installing of car seats, and talking with the elderly regarding blood pressure checks, kitchen fires, and safety hazards in their homes.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9<sup>th</sup> in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871 and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

The Nicholasville Fire Departments Fire Prevention Committee is committed to having their annual Fire Prevention Open House. This event seems to grow every year and we hope that it continues to grow.

<b>Services</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Fire Prevention	8531
Fire Extinguisher Training	140
Burn Permits	26
Car Seat Installs	142
Detector Assist (Batteries)	8
Detector Install (purchased by NFD)	20



## Detectors

The Nicholasville Fire Department has partnered with the American Red Cross. This program expands the abilities to our department to get more detectors into homes. Before we partnered with the American Red Cross the smoke detectors were being purchased out of our budget. American Red Cross allows 2 detectors to be placed in each home. Even though the installing of (2) two detectors may not bring the home up to code, it is a peace of mind knowing that these homes do have working detectors.

Our department takes great pride in making sure that each home is protected. While doing detector installs, we explain any hazards, review a home fire safety checklist and assist with creating a fire escape plan.

The Nicholasville Fire Department has conducted several smoke detector blitz along with the American Red Cross. Our last blitz took place in the Bell Place Subdivision, Locust Heights Subdivision and Lexington Road installing 120 detectors during the blitz. For the FY of 2021 – 2022 we have installed 14 detectors provided by American Red Cross.







## Training

All career firefighters in the Commonwealth are required to obtain an initial 400 hours of firefighter training to become certified firefighters then required to obtain 100 hours a year to remain certified. All department personnel are then required to obtain and maintain multiple nationally accredited certifications such as IFSAC FFI & FFII, National Registered EMT-B, Car Seat Technician, IFSAC Instructor Level I & II, IFSAC Fire Officer I & II, IFSAC Driver Operator & Aerial Operator. The personnel of the Nicholasville Fire Department completed over 8000 hours of training in the past fiscal year. The training topics completed were in firefighting skills, survival and rescue, hazardous materials response, physical fitness, vehicle accidents, officer, leadership, investigation, and emergency medical (EMT) training. Initial and annual training is coordinated by Deputy Chief of Training and was completed within the fire department with instructors on staff or by attending advanced training at state fire schools and the National Fire Academy on campus or via distance learning online. The department uses its training center located at 201 E. Brown Street for a large portion of its training classes. That facilities for the firefighters employed by the City of Nicholasville to complete hands on firefighting skills, rescue skills, live fire training. The property has a classroom that is big enough to accommodate our current staff to complete lectures, testing, and online distance learning.



# Recruitment

The Nicholasville Fire Department welcomed 4 new recruits during this fiscal year. These new recruits went through a 14-week training before going to their assigned stations where they begin their regular firefighter duties. Also, during this time period they are enrolled in an EMT class within the region to complete that portion of their training. The NFD is a progressive department striving to meet our mission and serve our residents to the best of our ability.

