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**Kenosha Fire
Department
Annual Report**

2022



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FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE



2022 was a year of successes and unforeseen challenges for the KFD. The lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to influence our operations, from limiting public education events to the protocols on personal protective equipment worn on calls. Another notable impact of the pandemic has been on the supply chain, making it difficult to acquire essential equipment and apparatus. Aerial devices that once took 12-15 months to manufacture are now taking 36+ months. An ambulance that once took a year to receive, is now taking two. These manufacturing delays are causing us to look farther ahead in our planning, both for time and cost concerns.

One of the more significant challenges faced this year was the closing of Froedert Kenosha Hospital's emergency department in downtown Kenosha. A majority of the department's call volume is east of 39th Avenue. Transporting all our patients west to hospitals has had a significant impact on our personnel. Their time on calls has more than doubled, and the distance has increased wear and tear on our fleet. In the near future, the department will need additional personnel and apparatus to meet the increased demands caused by this ER closure.

Midway through the year, the crews of Fire Station #4 moved into a new station built on the same site as the old one. This successful completion of this station was the culmination of a lot of hard work by KFD employees, Public Works employees and the support of the City Council and Administration.

Recruitment continues to be another challenge we aim to prioritize and tackle. In 2021, the department established a Diversity and Recruitment Committee. The committee is made up of highly dedicated department members who are working enthusiastically to showcase fire service careers to youths, form partnerships with community organizations and schools, and work towards shaping a more inclusive culture within the fire houses. In an effort to share their message through online platforms, the committee filmed and produced an excellent recruitment video, made without any cost to the department. This project resulted in a 22% increase in applicants. Their efforts on the video project were formally recognized by CVMIC through its "Member Spotlight" program.

As has been noted in previous years, the KFD continues to get younger. This is expected to happen, as it is a pattern that falls within the typical cycle the department has seen before. Next year's Basic Recruit class is expected to have up to 20 recruits - one of the largest in department history. 47 new employees have been hired in the last three years. This influx of new, young talent heightens the need for succession planning. Fire Administration is cognizant of this need and has given increased attention to mentoring, encouraging training opportunities and fostering leadership skills.

While going into the next year there will be no shortage of challenges, it is what we in the fire service seek. I remain confident the women and men of the Kenosha Fire Department will meet the challenges head on with **Pride, Dedication, and Courage.**

Respectfully,
Fire Chief Christopher Bigley



2022

DIVISION OF TRAINING AND SAFETY



The Division of Training and Safety assumes responsibility for providing ongoing training to new and current members of the department, establishing and adhering to safe work practices in hazard zones, and maintaining the administrative duties required by both the department and Wisconsin State Statute Chapter SPS 330. Throughout the year, the Training Division ensures that the basic fundamental skills of all firefighters in all ranks are reassured. Members of the department continued to practice Search and Rescue, RIT training, Hose Advancement, Driver Operator (Pump & Aerial), Hazardous Materials, and other various Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) as set forth by the Training Division.

Focus was placed on hands-on practical training, along with touring local businesses and facilities that are considered high-target hazards. One such tour was of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. On the property there are numerous hazardous materials stored in bulk. Along with the chemicals, a system of underground tunnels connect numerous buildings on the property. Other practical training included establishing water supply, refreshing on engine company operations, pumping water into an aerial master stream, and SCBA search and rescue training using acquired structures in the city.

Classroom training consisted of Incident Command (ICS) training simulations, joint training with the Kenosha Police Department to help foster a deeper understanding of their roles and responsibilities on an emergency scene, Self-Defense/Subject Control training for our members, and Public Information Officer (PIO) training for administrative staff.

The Kenosha Fire Basic Recruit Training (BRT) Academy of 2022 graduated 12 recruits in June. This was a large class compared to past years. However, the ability to use the new, fully functional, state-of-the-art training tower at Fire Station #4 made the larger class manageable and highly successful.

In the role of Safety Officer, the Division Chief of Training and Safety responded to nearly 80 incidents throughout 2022. This type of response requires the officer to be available for call 24/7. The type of calls included structure fires, water-related emergencies, vehicle accidents, hazardous material situations, and other situations that warranted a Safety Officer being implemented into the command structure. Per SPS 330.14, the use of a Safety Officer is required. Unfortunately, it is near impossible for one person to be on-call every day of the year.

In 2023, training goals will include the continuation of SCBA search and rescue training, joint training with the Kenosha Police Department, department-wide airport training, and continuation of ICS simulation classes. This coming year will also start the first round of department-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion classes. The BRT class of 2023 is projected to be markedly larger than the class of 2022. The Training Division is ready and able to meet the challenge by utilizing high quality instructors from within our ranks, a state-of-the-art training facility, and technological advancements in curriculum delivery.

FIRE STATION #4



Made operational in June, the new Fire Station #4 replaced an aging old fire house which had major infrastructure issues. The site is ideally located for emergency response, thus the new, modern fire house was constructed on the existing grounds. Fire Station #4 houses Med 4, Engine 4, and Battalion 1 and the Training and Maintenance Divisions. Built with capacity to expand, the station can house additional apparatus and crews as the City of Kenosha grows and emergency response demands increase. The facility includes a five story training tower and a large classroom with the space and flexibility to conduct advanced training evolutions and run the Basic Recruit training academy. In addition to four emergency apparatus bays, the station has two maintenance bays which provide work and office space for the mechanics to perform their duties.

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



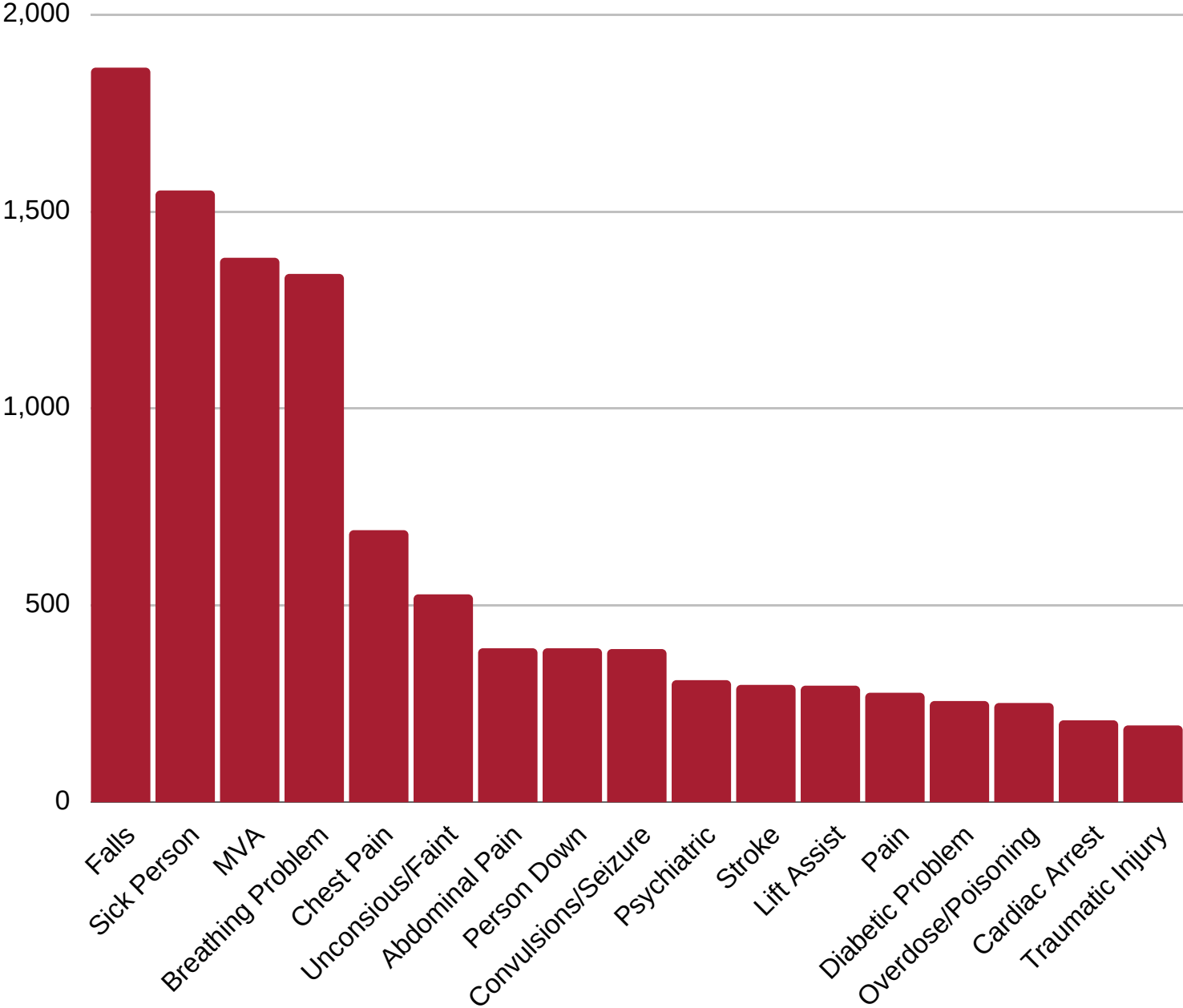
The provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the citizens and visitors of the City of Kenosha was presented through a fire-based EMS system by the KFD. These services are provided by 150 dual-trained medical providers, 70 of which are licensed at the paramedic level and 80 at the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level. All calls for service in 2022 were answered by a paramedic-level response with a minimum of a three-person med unit staffed by at least two paramedics and one EMT. In 2022, KFD responded to 11,674 requests for emergency medical care. Of these, over 8,580 were transported to a hospital. Approximately 70% of the EMS calls were for basic life support and 30% were at the advanced life support (ALS) level of care. Not all calls for service resulted in transport to the hospital emergency room. The reasons for this include patient refusal, no patient found, or patient dead on scene.

The EMS Division provided high-quality continuing education and training to all of the licensed providers that exceeded minimum state mandates and kept KFD EMTs and Paramedics up-to-date on the latest in pre-hospital medicine. We continued our relationship with the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2022. Dr. Tom Grawey provided Medical Direction for the department and helped ensure that all EMS continuing education was of the highest quality.

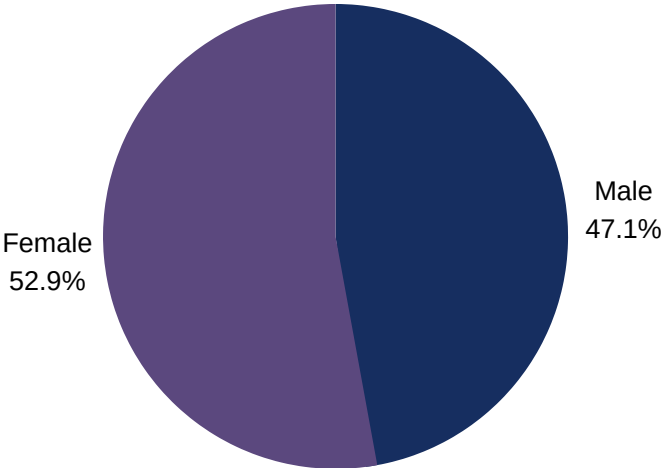
EMS continues to look at recognized and respected quality metrics and benchmarks outside of the department and compares our performance against those indicators. In 2022 KFD was awarded, for the seventh consecutive year, the Gold Plus recognition from the American Heart Association for its exceptional care and treatment of patients suffering from Acute Coronary Syndrome and STEMI, the most serious of heart attacks. KFD joined the Coverdell Stroke Program in 2018. This program allows us to compare our treatment of suspected stroke patients against key performance indicators for stroke care, as well as other Coverdell program participants and all of the other EMS systems in the State of Wisconsin. This allows the department to identify areas for improvement and to focus our education and training on those areas. Since joining the Coverdell Stroke Program, KFD has been recognized as one of the top three departments in the State of Wisconsin for the highest level of prehospital Stroke care. The EMS Division maintains an expectation of high quality and appropriate patient care and a focus on continuous provider and system quality improvement.

KFD EMS is one of the largest and busiest systems in the State of Wisconsin and continues to enjoy an excellent reputation. The Division participated in several area initiatives that focus on public health issues identified in our community. Examples of this include our participation in Kenosha County Health Department's continued COVID-19 vaccination initiative and our partnership in the Kenosha Opioid Response Initiative. Again in 2022, the greatest percentage of our emergency calls for service were attributed to fall-related emergencies. Fall-related calls accounted for nearly 20% of KFD's calls and that number is expected to rise in coming years as the population ages. In 2023 EMS will focus on refining and finalizing operations for our Tactical Emergency Medical Service response team. We will also be working on improving our care for traumatic injuries.

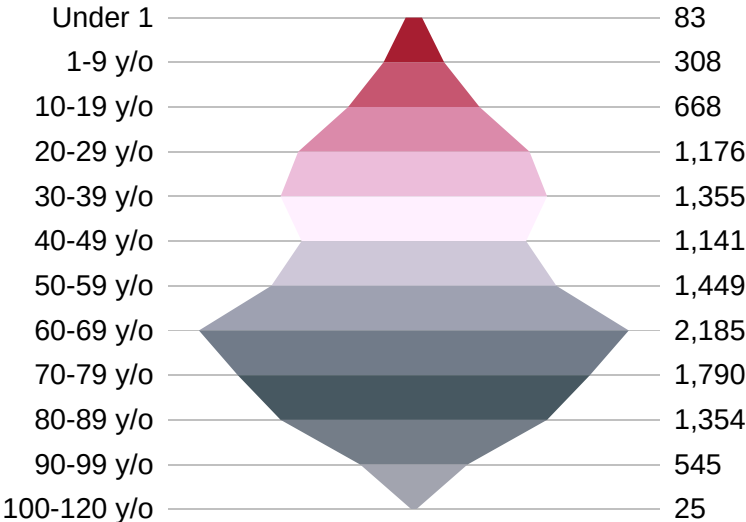
MOST COMMON EMS CALLS



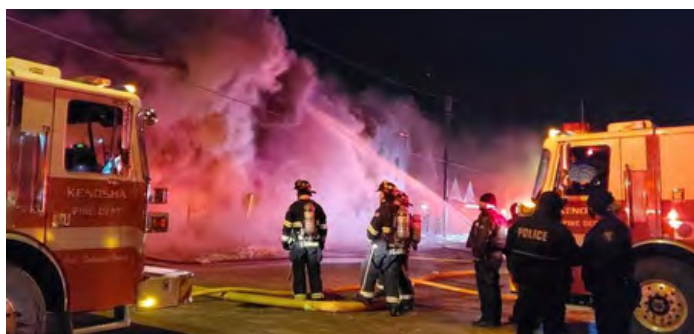
PATIENT GENDER



PATIENT BY AGE (YRS)



DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION



The primary function of the Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) consists of overseeing the fire inspections of existing buildings by line personnel and phased inspections of new construction projects to ensure proper installation of life safety components, along with the maintenance of the life safety systems in existing buildings. This year, the FPB charged \$48,500 on 190 reviews and permits.

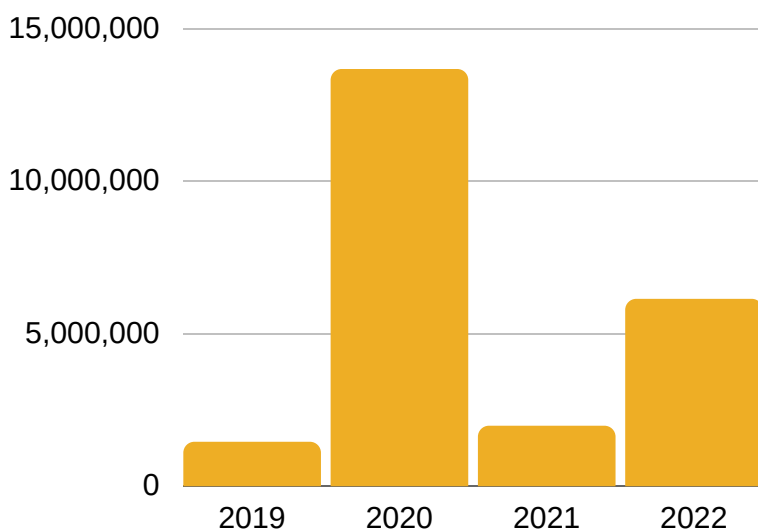
The FPB also provides fire safety education and oversees public outreach programs. Due to the ongoing pandemic, educational outreach, public programming and fire station tours were limited for the safety of the public and department personnel. The FPB is hopeful for more event participation in 2023, in particular with the local schools.

In June 2022, Captain Jacob Waldschmidt was promoted to Division Chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Wisconsin State Statute SPS 314 requires the KFD to fire inspect every commercial occupant and multifamily residential unit twice a year. In 2022, 6,610 fire inspections were performed by the line firefighters. The Inspector and Division Chief performed 570 inspections for new occupancies, new construction and new and existing life safety system checks. 122 plans were reviewed for special events and 35 fire inspections were also conducted for outdoor events that took place in the city.

Fire investigations are conducted as required by Wisconsin State Statute SPS #314. The Fire Investigation Unit is staffed by two personnel assigned to the FPB. The Fire Investigation Unit investigated 55 fires in the year 2022.

Fire Loss in Dollars



Public Education Programs

	# Events	Attendance
Engine/Sparky Presentation	1	250
Public Safety Presentations	18	1455
Fire Safety Training	7	300
Smoke Alarm Installation	3	14
Bonfire / Fire Marshall	1	125
Fire Safety Booth /Events	7	81,300
School Presentations	7	365

Total: 83,809



OPERATIONS

Two new initiatives were started in 2022 - the establishment of a mental wellness coordinator and the creation of a Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) team. Both initiatives will have a tremendous impact on the operations side of the department.

Kristen Herreid was introduced to the department in July. Her mission is to provide mental health support/guidance and resources to our members and their families when the need arises. She will also help to grow and develop our already established Peer Support Program and will provide clinical oversight and training to the Peer Support Team members. She is available whenever we need her. She has already been called upon to help our members work through difficult calls that they have been on. Kristen plans on hosting mental health education training to our members beginning in 2023.

The City of Kenosha Police Department established a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team and called upon the Kenosha Fire Department to help in the area of medical support. This led to the creation of the KFD Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) unit. This TEMS unit is attached to the KPD SWAT team for all tactical deployments and training. We had a total of 17 members apply for 12 positions. Training and creation of the TEMS unit will begin in 2023.

Whether it is bringing in an individual to help address the mental health component of our job, or establishing a TEMS unit to help our fellow law enforcement officers, operationally, the Kenosha Fire Department continues to find ways to improve and provide the best possible service to the citizens of Kenosha.



MAINTENANCE DIVISION

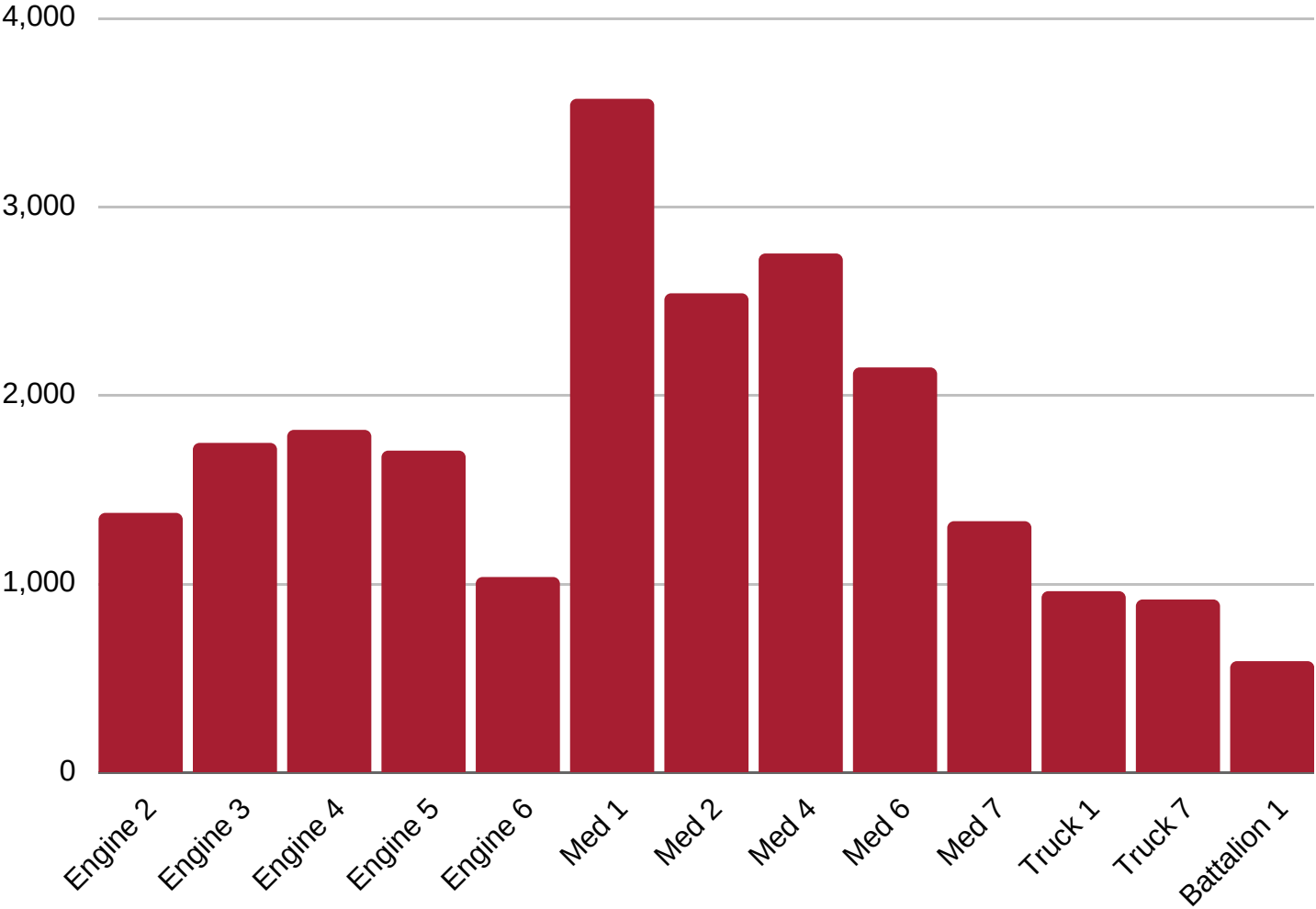
The responsibilities of the Maintenance Division for the Kenosha Fire Department consist of scheduling, maintaining, testing, repairing, and recordkeeping for its 33 vehicles and all equipment carried on those vehicles. Additional responsibilities include repair of all hand/power tools, small equipment (mowers chain saws, partner saws, extraction tools, snow blowers), snow removal, and station maintenance at all five fire houses.

The Division is staffed by a Mechanic Supervisor and Mechanic. Both have participated in countless hours of training and studying to maintain their certifications in ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) Medium/Heavy Truck Automotive and EVT (Emergency Vehicle Technician) in Suppression Vehicles and Ambulances.

Apparatus / Vehicles Maintained in 2022

- 2 Incident Command Vehicles
- 1 Safety Officer Vehicles
- 1 Fire Prevention Inspectors Vehicle
- 4 Staff Vehicles
- 1 Training/Safety Officer Vehicle
- 2 Maintenance/Plow Vehicles
- 5 Fire Suppression Units (Pumps)
 - 2 Reserve Fire Suppression Units
- 1 Aerial Platform (Truck/Pump)
- 2 Aerial 104' Ladders (Trucks)
- 2 Major Event Response Vehicles (ATV)
- 1 Public Safety/Education Unit
- 1 Fire Investigation Unit
- 1 ARFF Unit (P-19)
- 5 Ambulances
 - 2 Reserve Ambulances

APPARATUS RESPONSES



ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES

