

## **BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW**

As 2020 and 2021 brought new challenges that no one could have anticipated, 2022 continued to be an interesting year for the Biloxi Fire Department and its new administration. Pandemic fears seemed to be on the decline; however, economic and fire industry issues increased especially regarding the supply chain. To overcome these industry shortcomings, Biloxi Fire Department stepped outside of its comfort zone and embraced change.

One of the major developments in 2022 came with the purchase of three new Pumpers and one Ladder Truck. What makes these purchases different is for the past 37 years, Biloxi Fire Department has purchased its entire fire apparatus fleet from one manufacturer, E-One. While E-One makes a phenomenal product, we took the time to research other manufacturers considering build time, service center location, and of course, price. Ultimately, Biloxi Fire Department decided to purchase the three new Pumpers from Pierce Manufacturing and the new Ladder Truck from Rosenbauer. In all of these purchases, Biloxi Fire Department was able to identify the shortest build times and come in under budget. To note, due to supply chain issues, most pumpers take approximately 14-16 months to build and most ladder trucks take 26-29 months. Biloxi Fire's Pumpers are going to be completed in approximately 12 months and the Ladder Truck will be completed in a lightning-quick 14 months.

One of the highlights of 2021 was the department securing grants to assist in improving operational efficiency and providing first-class service to the community. They include an SCBA/Health & Wellness grant in the amount of \$890,000.00; a Firehouse subs grant for \$35,000.00. 2022 ushered those new grant funded products into service. Biloxi Fire Department purchased 82 MSA G-1 SCBAs (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus – Air Packs) which went into service in March 2022. These SCBAs are top of the line Air-Packs and allow the department to stay safe and NFPA compliant for the next 15 years. Biloxi Fire also started a Health & Wellness program for its members to focus on the mental health of department members and their families. This program is a first of its kind in the State. The Firehouse Subs grant was used to purchase new battery-powered extrication equipment. With the new hardened materials used in vehicle construction, updating this equipment is crucial. In addition to all of this, Biloxi Fire was awarded a MOHS grant to purchase Trench Rescue equipment.

We were able to hire ten new firefighters this past year, four fully qualified, and six recruits. We are on track to hire ten more firefighters this coming February. With these advancements and additions, the department is progressing to stay committed to serving the citizens and visitors of Biloxi.

**BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Biloxi Fire Department responded to 8,058 emergency calls during this past year compared to 8,286 calls in 2021. Of the 8,058 emergency calls, 5,082 were rescue and medical incidents, representing 63% of our overall calls. The amount of good intent or service calls that were non-emergency related were relatively the same, as well as hazardous condition and false alarm calls. Conversely, the number of fire-related calls, including structures, vehicles, boats, motorhomes, and wood fires was relatively higher; with an overall total of 253 compared to 223 in 2021.

In 2022 we provided fire, rescue, and medical protection for major events in the city, including Mardi Gras, Spring Break, Scraping the Coast, and Cruising the Coast. We designated specialty teams for each event that were placed in strategic locations to ensure the safety needs of our citizens and visitors. The experience and lessons learned from each successive event improved our overall performance; Emergency Services, as a whole, evolved into one large, effective team. For all these events, Police, Fire, and EMS were again staged in the same Command Post working seamlessly together for the fifth consecutive year. Consequently, our combined efforts provided a highly effective stratagem for the safety and well-being of both our personnel and citizens.

The Department promoted several personnel, including one Battalion Chief, four Captains, six FFIII's (Driver/Operator), and nine FFII's. In addition, 6 new recruits and 1 lateral, a paramedic, were hired in July which will enhance staffing needs. Operations personnel also had the opportunity to participate on promotional boards for the cities of Pascagoula, Gulfport, and Mobile Fire Departments.

The Biloxi Fire Department is committed to community outreach programs, including city-wide events, Fire Academy for Kids, Biloxi Christmas Parade, the Special Needs Christmas Dance, as well as the Joppa Shrine Disabled Kids Christmas Party, and the MDA Boot Drive. Such activities are instrumental in our efforts to educate, save lives and protect property.

Also, this year we have continued to train with our Police Department for the purpose of both departments working seamlessly together on low-frequency, high-risk emergency incidents and huge potential media events.

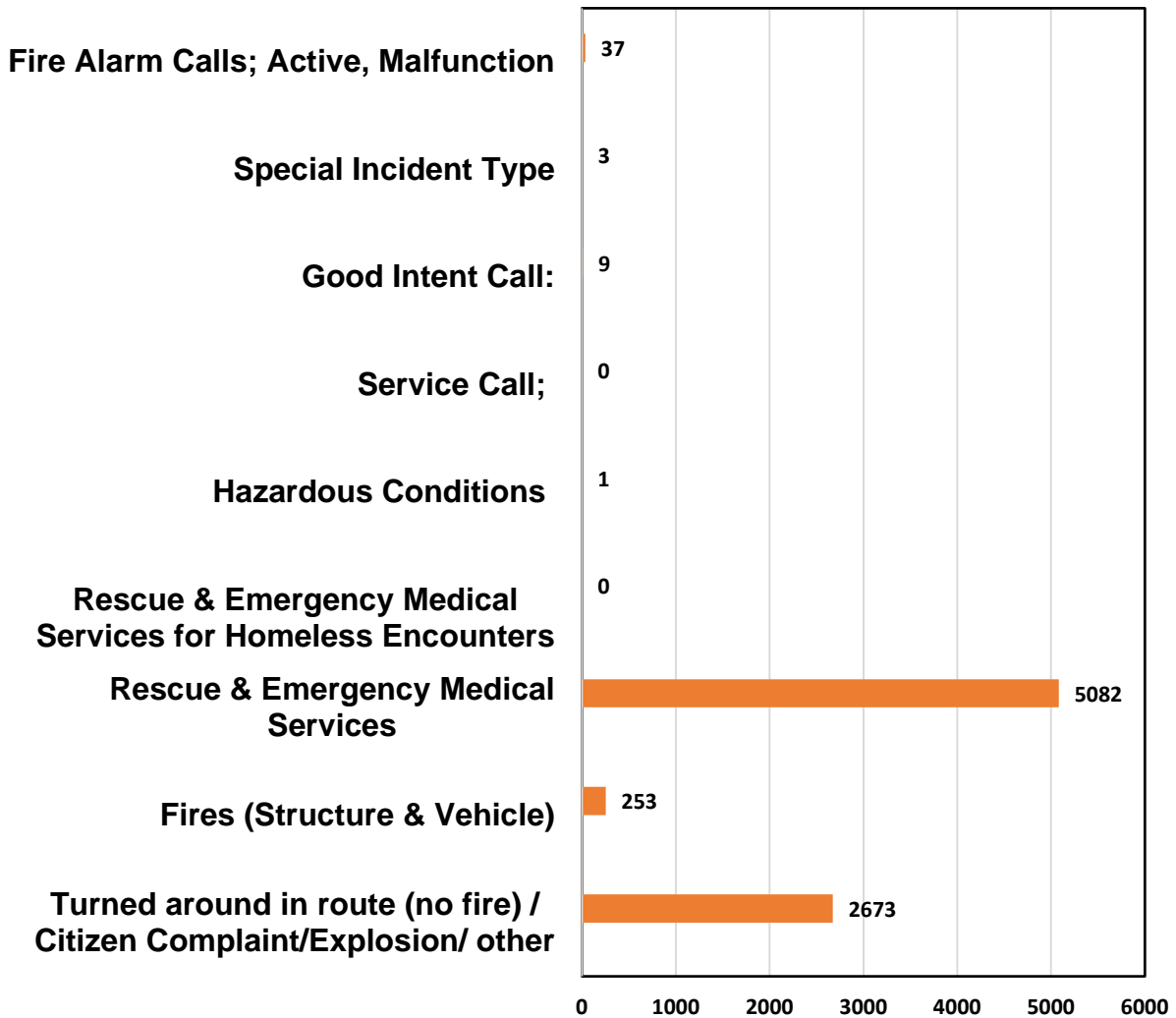
The attached graph details the Fire Department's incident type averages for the past year.



## BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT SUMMARY REPORT FOR January - December 2022

<i>Turned around in route (no fire) / Citizen Complaint/Explosion/ other</i>	<b>2673</b>
<i>Fires (Structure &amp; Vehicle)</i>	<b>253</b>
<i>Rescue &amp; Emergency Medical Services</i>	<b>5082</b>
<i>Rescue &amp; Emergency Medical Services for Homeless Encounters</i>	<b>0</b>
<i>Hazardous Conditions</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Service Call;</i>	<b>0</b>
<i>Good Intent Call:</i>	<b>9</b>
<i>Special Incident Type</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>Fire Alarm Calls; Active, Malfunction</i>	<b>37</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>8058</u></b>

**Weekly Count of Incident Type**



**Biloxi Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Division  
2022 Annual Report**

In 2022 the Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 3,656 fire inspections. Of the yearly total, 1,849 inspections were performed by firefighters on the truck companies. Fire Prevention personnel conducted 1,782 inspections, which included 559 certificates of occupancy inspections, 132 short-term rentals, and 1091 miscellaneous inspections.

Daycare facilities, summer day camps, and after-school camps are required by the state of Mississippi to have a Uniform Fire Safety Survey Form completed by local agencies. This form is a detailed fire inspection performed in conjunction with our own fire inspection. These inspections are conducted each year by certified fire prevention personnel. There was a total of 25 of these types of inspections performed (20 daycares and 5 after-school/summer day camp programs).

The Biloxi Fire Department had 8058 calls in 2022. Of these calls, 253 were fire-related calls. Fire Inspectors are tasked with being on-call 24/7 as Fire Investigators. They do a systematic investigation to determine the cause and origin of any fire requested by the on-scene Battalion Chief if the apparent cause is unknown. Fire Prevention investigated a total of 29 of these types of fires. There were no reported fire deaths in 2022.

Based on the number of development plans Fire Prevention reviews, it appears we are continuing in our efforts to support the city in its growth of new businesses. These plans include commercial construction, and fire protection system plans. There were 63 commercial plans reviewed in 2022. We also reviewed the following plans: 12 automatic hood extinguishing systems, 18 automatic sprinkler systems, 16 fire alarm systems, 2 paint booth systems, 5 clean agents, and 1 standpipe this year. Altogether this equaled 117 blueprints reviewed by Fire Prevention for approval. Fire Prevention is also involved with the Development Review Committee, which reviewed 138 proposed developments.

Once the process of reviewing blueprint drawings is approved, most projects are permitted, built, and then the inspection/testing process takes over. Some of the pre-existing fire protection systems that are tested are also required to be recertified each year, and such testing is witnessed by Fire Prevention personnel.

The Fire Prevention Division is also responsible for issuing burn permits for the City of Biloxi. Burn permits are free to the community. Fire Inspectors check the initial burn site, explaining the rules and fire safety practices before a permit is issued. In 2022, a total of 40 permits were issued for burning, including both new and renewed permits.

Fire Prevention also manages the permit process for pyrotechnic shows displayed within the city limits. There were 5 outdoor fireworks displays permitted in 2022.

Public education remains the number one goal of the Fire Prevention Division. The first defense against fighting a fire or surviving a fire incident is education. In 2022, Fire

Prevention personnel were able to reach out to over 14,077 people through our public education programs. We connect with citizens in many ways, through providing station tours, and conducting fire safety presentation classes to children and senior citizens. Fire Inspectors also give fire extinguisher classes to businesses, high school students, and teachers. On numerous occasions, we offer the firefighter's kids challenge, which is a fun and educational obstacle course for children to learn fire prevention safety techniques. As an important part of our ongoing educational programs, Fire Prevention conducts fire drill training for all schools (public and private), daycare facilities, senior citizen facilities, and private businesses. Fire Prevention participates in a number of career day events, not only for adults but for school-age kids also.

In June of 2022, the Biloxi Fire Department continued its annual fire safety summer camp, "Fire Academy for Kids". This summer camp is a fun way for kids to learn lifesaving information. In previous years, we have received positive responses from parents, kids, sponsors, and other entities. This free program is funded by donations from local individuals and businesses. This program has overwhelming support from the community to continue providing quality fire prevention education. We are eagerly looking forward to offering the camp again in 2023!

Lastly, Fire Prevention continued its successful smoke alarm installation program. This is a free service offered to citizens of the community. Residents with existing smoke alarms could request to have them tested. We not only tested smoke alarms but, in some cases, we provided new batteries returning the smoke alarms to good working order. If a citizen did not have a smoke alarm, or if it was faulty, or out of date we installed new ones. The public has praised the City of Biloxi and the fire department for providing such a worthwhile program to save lives. In 2022, we installed 111 smoke alarms in 22 residential dwellings. This program is funded through different grants applied for by our department, and all smoke alarms are donated free of charge.

In closing, the Biloxi Fire Department has the most advanced Fire Prevention Bureau on the Gulf Coast and the State. We continue to give our Fire Inspectors the tools needed to perform at their best. We provide the training necessary for them to serve our community at the utmost level. Our goal is to continue to grow with our city. The Fire Prevention Bureau's top priority is to provide for our citizens' needs and to keep them safe. We take pride in providing superior public education to those in our city and surrounding areas.

**BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT  
TRAINING DIVISION  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Training Division led refresher classes in CPR and Emergency Medical Technician. Training certified the Parks & Recreation Department's Summer Camp employees in CPR.

Driver Operator testing was conducted in October and November and six (6) firefighters attained the rank of Driver/Firefighter 3.

The Biloxi Fire Department hosted the Mississippi Trainee Agility Test (MSTAT) for the entrance examination for firefighters. An agreement was made between coast fire departments that Biloxi would host the MSTAT on even months to facilitate the coastal departments hiring processes and entrance to the academy.

In March of 2022, Biloxi Fire Department administered initial departmental training to two (2) lateral transfers and one (1) certified firefighter. In the month of July, a total of seven new firefighters were hired - six (6) recruits, one (1) lateral being a Paramedic and certified FF. The Training Division directed more than 3,960 hours of training to get each of them ready to complete the required Basic FF 1001 I-II course and for shift work. Six recruits became certified FFs on 11/8/2022. The department conducted an In-House recruit class saving the city approximately five thousand dollars due to less travel and no meal reimbursements. In November the Training Division also held a Graduation for the above-listed recruits.

Live Burns were conducted with crews and recruits at the Training Tower at Station 7 during the months of March and April for a total of 307 facility training hours.

The Training Division completed 3,564 hours of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training by providing an EMT Course and EMT refresher courses to our personnel using our own Paramedics to teach the classes. The department currently has 8 Paramedics, 5 Advanced EMTs, and 107 EMTs.

Our personnel completed 20,408 hours of Company Training conducted at the fire stations by the crews themselves, while 18 firefighters completed 785 hours of training through the Mississippi State Fire Academy and 5 members completed 400 hours of training through the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg Maryland. The graph below details training areas and hours:

