

# FRONT RANGE FIRE RESCUE



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



[ffr.colorado.gov](http://ffr.colorado.gov)



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# Mission, Vision and Values

## Mission

Front Range Fire Rescue is an all-hazards emergency response and prevention agency. We are committed to providing outstanding service to our community through fire prevention, public education, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and disaster management.

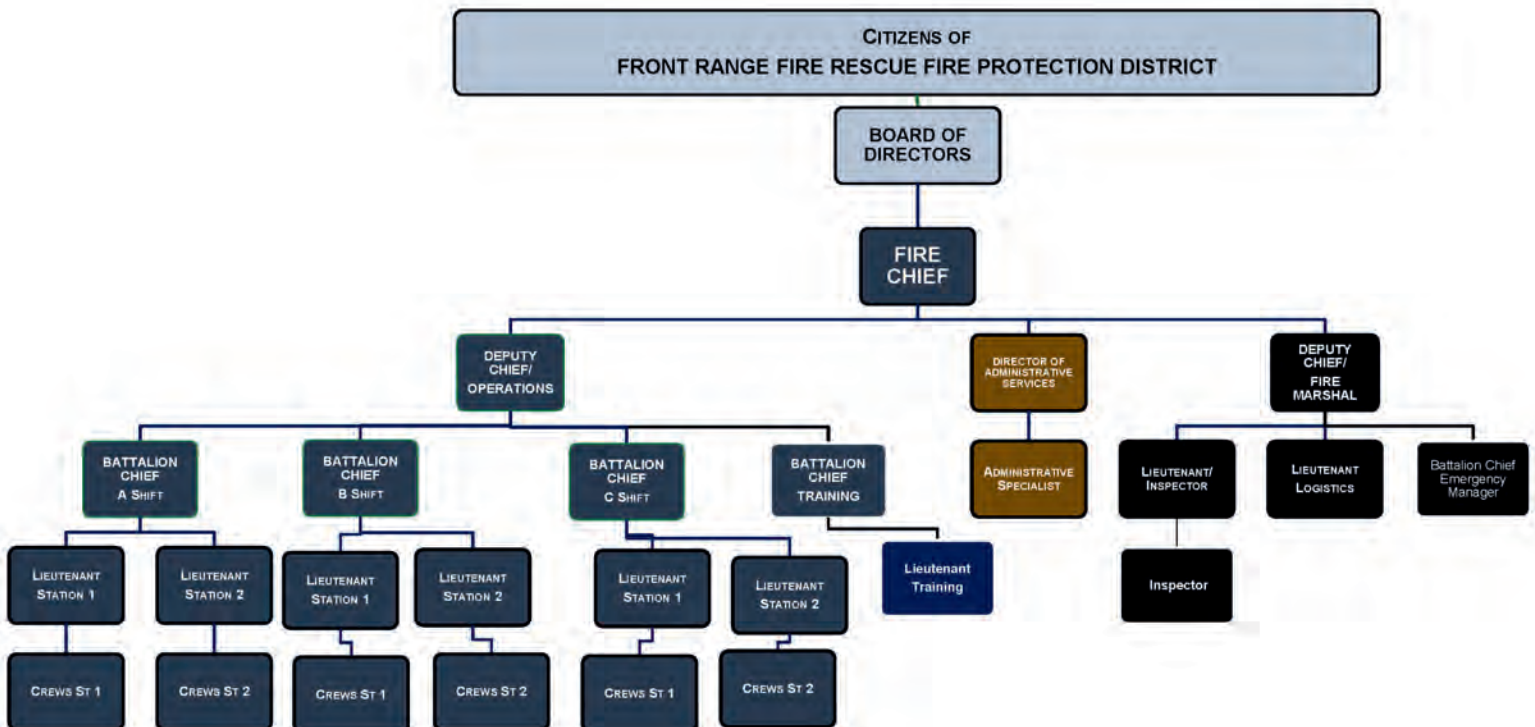
## Vision

Members of Front Range Fire Rescue are committed to providing the highest quality service to the citizens and guests of the District. The vision that drives all members to continually strive to embrace the concept of continuous improvement and deliver the best citizen service possible is this:

*To further evolve a culture and a structure that outlasts us and that meets and exceeds the District's anticipated growth. To be recognized by our citizens and external stakeholders as an outstanding public service agency. To be an "employer of choice" for our current and future members.*

## Values

**Courage, Compassion, Professionalism**





# FRONT RANGE FIRE RESCUE

FROM THE DESK OF FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL WEST

We are pleased to share our annual report with you. 2023 was a busy year for Front Range Fire Rescue. Just look around at the growth in our community. Like all services, more citizens can add to your firefighters' workload and activity level. FRFR is no exception, and I suspect that will continue in the foreseeable future. You can rest easy knowing that we are planning and building for that increase and are prepared for today's and tomorrow's needs. In preparing for tomorrow, here are a few things we accomplished;

- A significant remodel was begun on Station 1 in Johnstown. We will complete this project in early 2024. We want to invite the community out for a rededication ceremony that will be held on June 1, 2024.
- We ordered a new ladder truck. With the increase in larger buildings in our communities, our current ladder will be too small for many of the buildings. Unfortunately, with the state of the supply chain, we don't anticipate delivery until 2025 or later. I wouldn't have believed it if someone had told me ten years ago that fire apparatus delivery times would be 30 months or more.
- We hired seven new members as we increased our numbers in anticipation of opening an additional fire company in 2024.
- We added a Battalion Chief as our designated Emergency Manager (EM). This position will be cooperative with the towns of Johnstown and Milliken. The EM will interface with other area stakeholders such as the counties, police departments, private companies, school districts, and others.
- We added a second full-time training officer. With so many new firefighters, additional training is critical to ensuring they are ready to respond to your emergency.
- We continued our career succession plan as several members completed advanced degrees and training classes. We firmly believe that the public deserves the best educated and trained firefighters who respond to their emergencies. These individuals will also ensure that we have the next generation of FRFR members prepared to lead the department in the coming years.

2024 will be directed toward more planning and developing systems to stay ahead of growth. This will be in the form of developing our next strategic plan and setting us up to possibly seek International Accreditation in the future.

Yours in service,  
Michael West  
Fire Chief





# 2023 NEW POSITIONS ADDED

## **BATTALION CHIEF-EMERGENCY MANAGER**

The Emergency Manager position maintains our comprehensive emergency plan in coordination with the Towns of Johnstown and Milliken. They are the connection and liaison to our external partners when our communities are faced with significant incidents that span multiple jurisdictions. The Emergency Manager will also work hand in hand with our contacts at Larimer County Office of Emergency Management and Weld County Office of Emergency Management. Over the past 20 years, Emergency Management has grown into an important field for first response agencies, and we are excited to have this position at Front Range Fire Rescue.



**Battalion Chief John Davis**

## **TRAINING LIEUTENANT**

Our Training Lieutenant plays a crucial role in providing specialized instruction to FRFR members. Additionally, they actively participate in firefighting, emergency care, handling hazardous materials, and implementing fire prevention measures to safeguard both life and property.



**Lieutenant Neil Ferrell**

## **PART-TIME INSPECTOR**

The Fire Inspector is responsible for ensuring fire safety and compliance with regulations in buildings and facilities. They conduct regular inspections, examining structures for adherence to fire codes, proper emergency exits, and safety measures. By focusing on prevention, education, and enforcement, fire inspectors contribute significantly to community safety and the reduction of fire-related risks.



**Inspector Josh Valerio**





# LIFE SAFETY & FIRE PREVENTION

## Public Education / Community Outreach

We're excited about our collaboration with Loveland Fire Rescue Authority (LFRA), Windsor Severance Fire Rescue (WSFR), and the Berthoud Fire Protection District (BFPD). We've secured a regional grant from FEMA totaling over \$560,000! All four agencies, including FRFR is upgrading our Knox Box systems. We're moving from the old-school mechanical key system to a more advanced electronic, or eKey, system. This upgrade is going to make a big difference in how efficiently we can respond to automatic and mutual aid calls. Once everything is up and running, we'll see improved efficiency and enhanced security. The new system allows for better audit capabilities, adding an extra layer of safety to any building with a Knox Box installed. LFRA, WSFR, and FRFR have already taken the first steps. We've purchased and installed new locking mechanisms in all our response vehicles and apparatus. The new eKeys are programmed and in service, making our vehicles even more ready for action. We are in the process of upgrading the existing Knox Boxes in our jurisdictions. It's a bit time-consuming, as it involves touching every Knox Box to swap out the old mechanical lock core for a shiny new electronic core. Our goal is to complete this transition by the end of 2024.



**Deputy Chief Ty Drage**



		2022			2023		
		#	Square Feet	Hours	#	Square Feet	Hours
INSPECTIONS	<b>EXISTING CONSTRUCTION</b>						
	General Inspection	106	1,936,591	238	124	3,357,538	294
	HazMat Inspection	31	2,422,822	60	37	2,556,126	104
	Re-inspection	5	294,960	8	67	543,689	83
	Complaint & Service Call	10	1,051,807	19	10	765,596	15
	Pre-Plans	72	772,016	116	7	76,694	17
INSPECTIONS	<b>NEW CONSTRUCTION</b>	#	Square Feet	Hours	#	Square Feet	Hours
	Building Construction	22	451,001	39	16	868,124	45
	Fire Alarm System	31	1,750,687	72	27	2,990,730	74
	Fire Protection Systems	44	3,002,903	84	66	3,489,802	140
	HazMat Storage/Use	13	1,051,475	26	12	1,496,924	54
PLAN REVIEWS	<b>PLAN REVIEWS</b>	#	Square Feet	Hours	#	Square Feet	Hours
	New Developments & Site Plans	108	229,931,151	340	102	205,423,741	283
	Building Construction Reviews	81	3,604,125	264	42	1,156,434	197
	Fire Protection Systems	63	3,386,051	179	70	1,437,193	263
	Special Hazards	21	3,109,945	52	16	1,806,200	39
	Tents & Special Events	38		113	29		94

Wellness takes many forms at FRFR. One of our unique programs is the therapy dog program, where members can have their dogs evaluated to ensure that their personality and temperament fit into firehouse life. These dogs then spend time at the firehouse to help our members wind down after tough calls. This program is one of the few in Colorado.

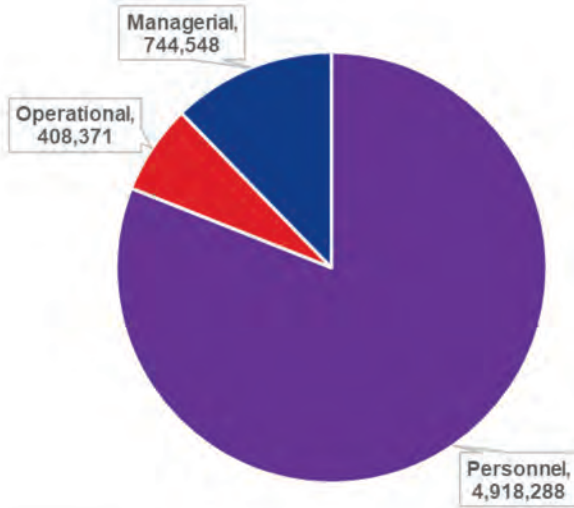
In 2023, Front Range Fire Rescue partnered with the David Lynch Foundation to offer training in Transcendental Meditation. Over half of our members have been taught TM, and all have reported significant benefits. The technique has been proven to reduce sleep deprivation, stress, and other concerns related to the trauma that our responders face.

FRFR has also added cancer screening to our annual exams. "Liquid biopsies" may detect cancer markers sooner, helping our members protect themselves from this disease. Did you know that firefighters are 14% more likely to die from cancer than the general population?



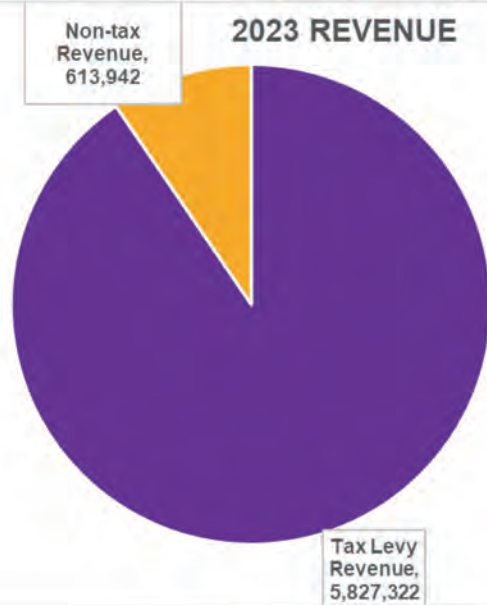
# 2023 Financial Stewardship

## 2023 EXPENSES



**2023 EXPENSES**  
Actual Expense \$6,112,707

## 2023 REVENUE



**2023 REVENUE**  
Actual Revenue \$6,441,264

## Grants received in 2023

- \$567,049 FEMA -Knox Box Conversion
- \$74,196 Colorado Volunteer Pension Grant
- \$3,000 SIPA Micro-Grant Website
- \$1,350 Firefighter Cancer Screening Test Kits





# 2023 Emergency Operations

In 2023, a number of changes and improvements were made to our emergency response system. The Weld County Regional Communications Center upgraded its Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, resulting in a more effective system for dispatching firefighters during emergencies. The upgraded system allows for quicker personnel dispatch during significant incidents when the Incident Commander calls for an "additional alarm". We are excited to announce that we anticipate the Weld County CAD working seamlessly with our neighboring county, Larimer County, in 2024, further improving the system.

In addition, we signed several updated automatic aid agreements in 2023. These new agreements allow fire units from FRFR and neighboring agencies to be dispatched whenever they are the closest unit to the emergency. We understand that during emergencies, the person calling for help wants the closest firefighters to arrive first, regardless of the color or patch on their fire engine. This new system has already proven beneficial in a few significant fires in the last half of the year.

Finally, we ordered our newest piece of fire equipment, a 100' Tower Ladder truck. This truck will eventually replace our older 75' ladder truck. You may be wondering why we need such a long ladder, but it's essential to recognize that many of the new buildings in our district are placed well back from their parking lots. Our current ladder cannot reach a person needing assistance on the balcony of their fourth-floor apartment if it can't be parked within about 40 feet of the building. Our constant goal is to ensure we have the right people, equipment, and training for the emergencies we could face.

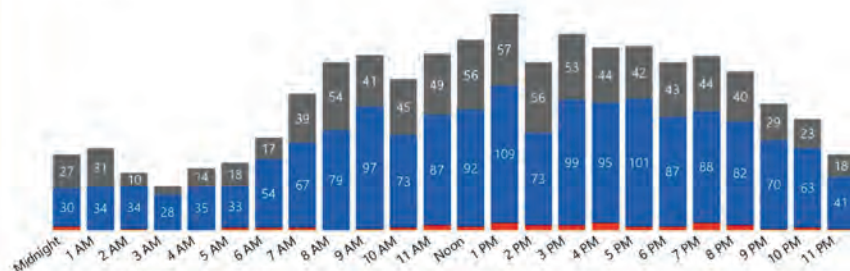


Deputy Chief Nat Kronholm

## 2023 INCIDENTS 2,568

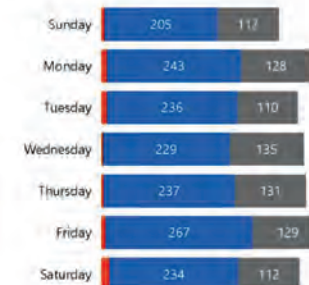
# of Incidents by Hour of the Day

Incident Category ● Fire ● EMS ● Other



# of Incidents by Weekday and Incident Category

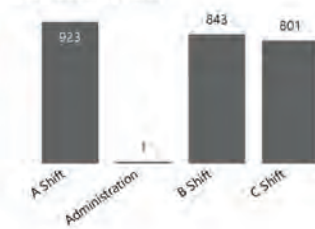
● Fire ● EMS ● Other



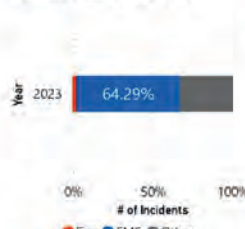
Top Stations by # of Incidents



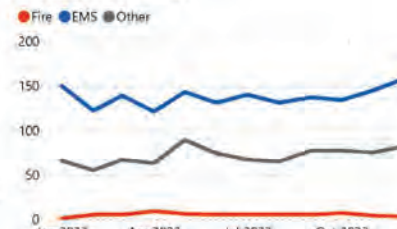
# of Incidents by Shift



# of Incidents by Category



# of Incidents over Time





# 2023 Training & Developme De

2023 was another successful year of training for Front Range Fire Rescue. Nearly 8,000 hours of training was completed and recorded in 2023. Front Range Fire Rescue personnel completed training topics that cover a wide variety of skills and knowledge necessary to provide the community with the highest level of service. Front Range Fire Rescue and its members are highly dedicated to improving our abilities through training. Some of the topics that were covered in 2023 include:

- Ice Rescue
- Firefighter safety and survival
- Continuing medical education
- Firefighter health and wellness
- Officer development
- HAZMAT operations
- Wildland operations
- Structure fire operations
- Higher education
- Vehicle extrication
- Fireground communications

Front Range Fire Rescue will continue to stay focused on evolving its training program and requirements to ensure that all of our members are prepared to engage in and mitigate the diverse needs of our community.



**Battalion Chief  
Cody Hinkle**





# Our Members

## New Members

Firefighter Jay Birnie  
Firefighter Patrick Fox  
Firefighter Michael Mavaddat  
Firefighter Ty Netik  
Firefighter Kevin Olszewski  
Battalion Chief Ryan Roberts  
Inspector Josh Valerio

## Promotions

Engineer Richie VanTine  
Lieutenant Justin Unrein

## Retirement

Engineer Eric Potter



**Battalion Chief  
John Davis  
15 Years**



**Lieutenant  
Chris Linder  
15 Years**



**Engineer  
Chris Frain  
10 Years**



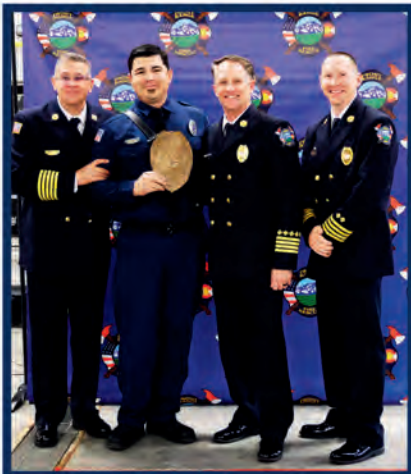
**Lieutenant  
Kurt Nakata  
5 Years**



**Engineer  
Richie Van Tine  
5 Years**



## FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



**ENGINEER  
ZACH RODRIGUEZ**

## FIRE CHIEF AWARD



**ADMIN SPECIALIST  
CINDY HEESEMANN**



# Looking Ahead 2024

This year, we will be reopening and rededicating FRFR Fire Station 1 in Johnstown. This project is essential for our future as it will increase our training opportunities within the district, allow us to hire more staff in a comfortable environment, and provide additional office space for our busy fire inspectors and plan review personnel. The addition of firefighter decontamination areas is of utmost importance as it will reduce the risk of cancer caused by toxic gases our members are exposed to at each fire.

In the first half of 2024, we will complete a detailed Community Risk Assessment (CRA) and a Standards of Cover (SOC) document. These studies will enable us to fully understand our current community needs and ensure that we have the very best benchmarks for constructing new firehouses, adding personnel, and meeting the needs of our ever-increasing population.

The second half of 2024 will concentrate on an updated Strategic Plan that will guide the future of our organization for the next 3-5 years. While our previous plan served us well, the rate of change in our district necessitates a top-to-bottom overhaul to help us meet the community's and our members' expectations.

We are also adding 12 new positions to staff our next fire company this year. We plan to open this unit during the summer, just in time for the heavy demands often accompanying our dry and windy seasons.

Can you help us? We are looking for property for a more extensive training ground. Ideally, it is greater than 5 acres, has nearby access to water mains, and is away from homes. If you have a property that you would like us to consider, please get in touch with us at [info@FRFR.CO](mailto:info@FRFR.CO)









# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Darrin Rutt**  
President  
West District



**Blair Howe**  
Vice President  
East District



**Reid Hobler**  
Treasurer  
East District



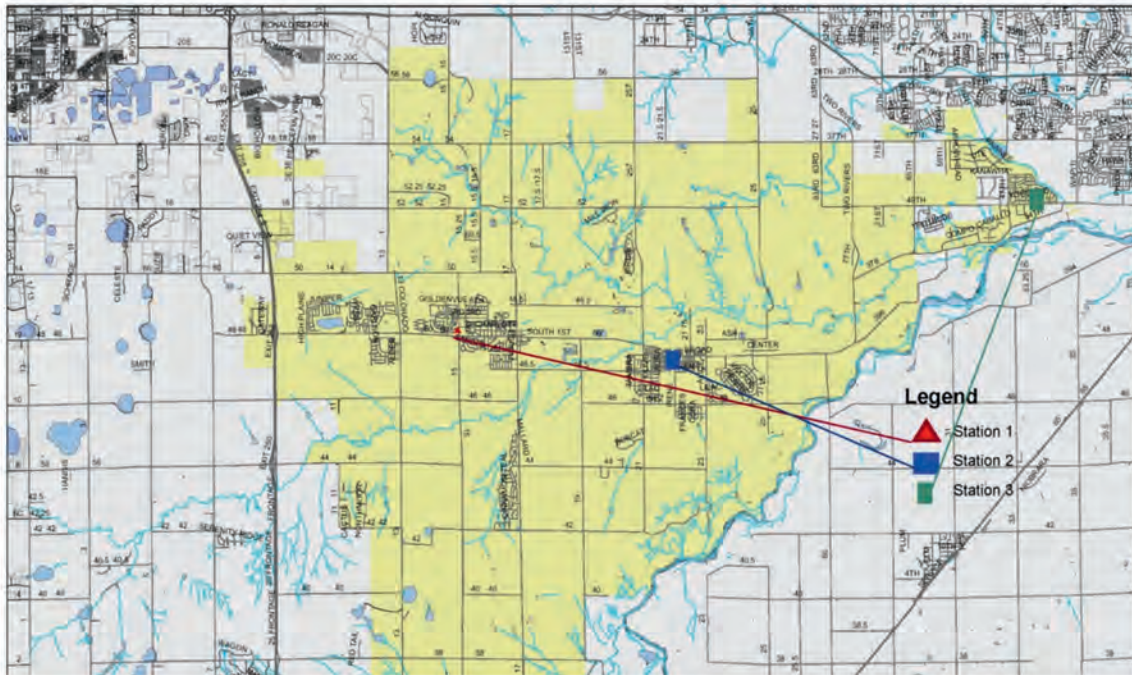
**Jim Young**  
Secretary  
West District



**Greg Freehling**  
Director  
At Large

The public is welcome to attend all regularly scheduled board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM. For more information, go to our website [frfr.colorado.gov](http://frfr.colorado.gov)

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
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