

LAREDO FIRE DEPARTMENT



2023 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments ✨



956-718-6000 | laredometrofire@ci.laredotx.us | 616 E. Del Mar Blvd.

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MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Dear Community Members,

I proudly present the 2023 Annual Report for the Laredo Fire Department. This year, we have made significant progress in our mission to protect and serve our community excellently.

Key highlights from 2023 include:

- **Emergency Response**: Improved response times and efficiency, ensuring prompt and effective emergency assistance.
- **Training and Development**: Advanced training programs have equipped our firefighters with the latest skills and knowledge.
- **Community Engagement**: Strengthened connections through outreach programs, fire safety education, and public events.
- **Technological Advancements**: Implemented cutting-edge technology to enhance our operational capabilities.
- **Resource Management**: Strategic initiatives have led to cost savings and better allocation of personnel and equipment.

We are focused on further improving our services. Our commitment to excellence, safety, and community service remains as strong as ever.

I sincerely thank our firefighters, staff, and community partners for their unwavering support. Together, we will continue to build a safer and more resilient community.

Sincerely,

Guillermo Heard, MSN, CPM
Fire Chief/Emergency Management Coordinator



MISSION, VISION, VALUES & GOALS

Mission

The Laredo Fire Department is an all-hazards department that is committed to providing the highest level of customer service to all its community. We are dedicated to protecting life, property, and the environment by providing emergency response, regulatory compliance, and community education.

Vision

We remain committed to provided a high level of customer service to our community through the delivery of innovative, fiscally responsible public service while honoring diversity and inclusion.

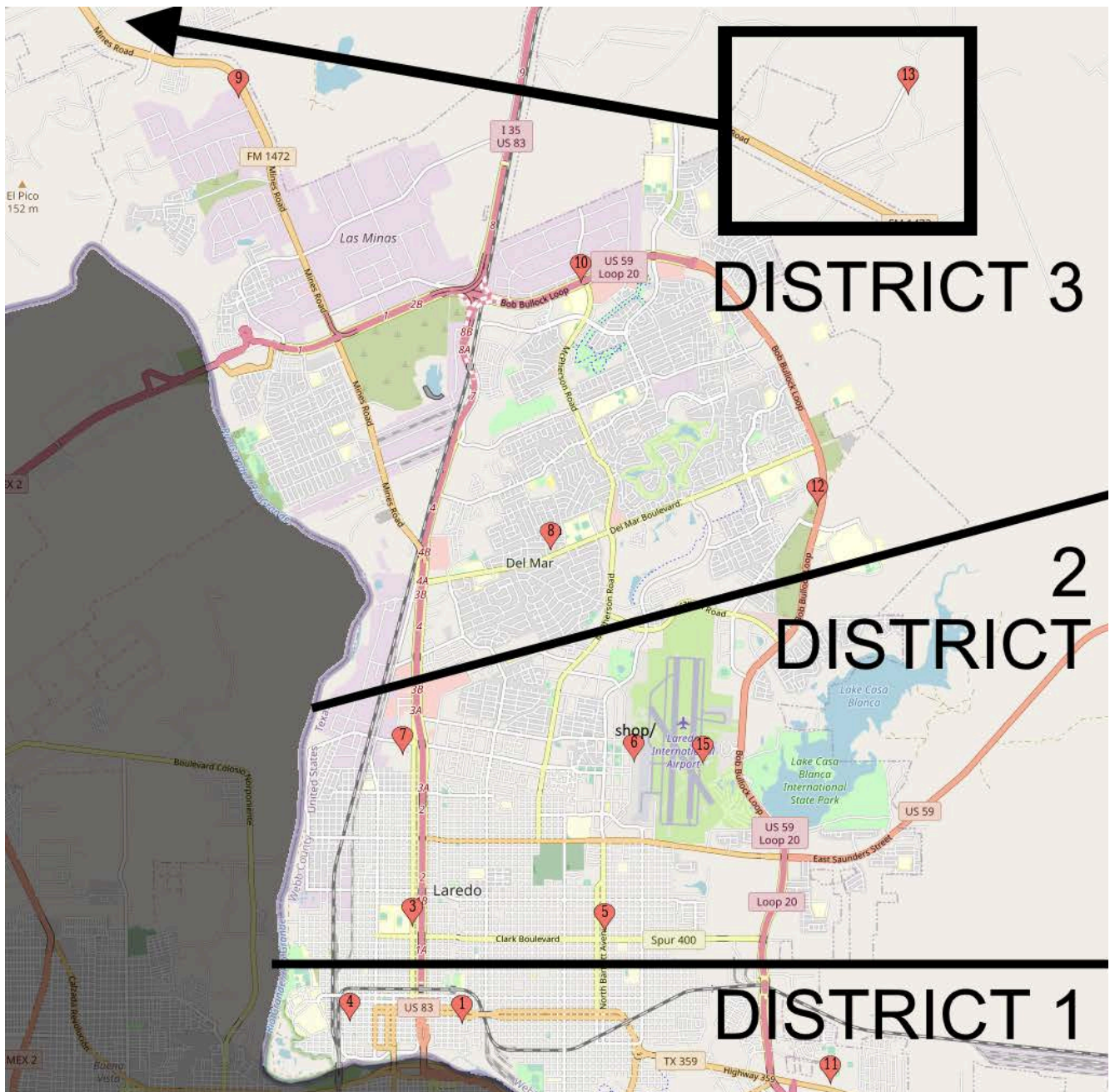
Values

- *Service to all*
- *Excellence*
- *Compassion*
- *Integrity*
- *Non-discrimination and respect for diversity*
- *Transparency and openness*

Goals

- *International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 2 to 1*
- *Utilize National Fire Academy Scholarships*
- *Implement City Council Day*
- *Pilot Projects*
 - *Type 1 RQs*
 - *Mini Pumper*
- *Communication Board*
- *Carbyne 911 Program for prevention loss of life and property*
- *Accreditation*

FIRE STATION LOCATIONS

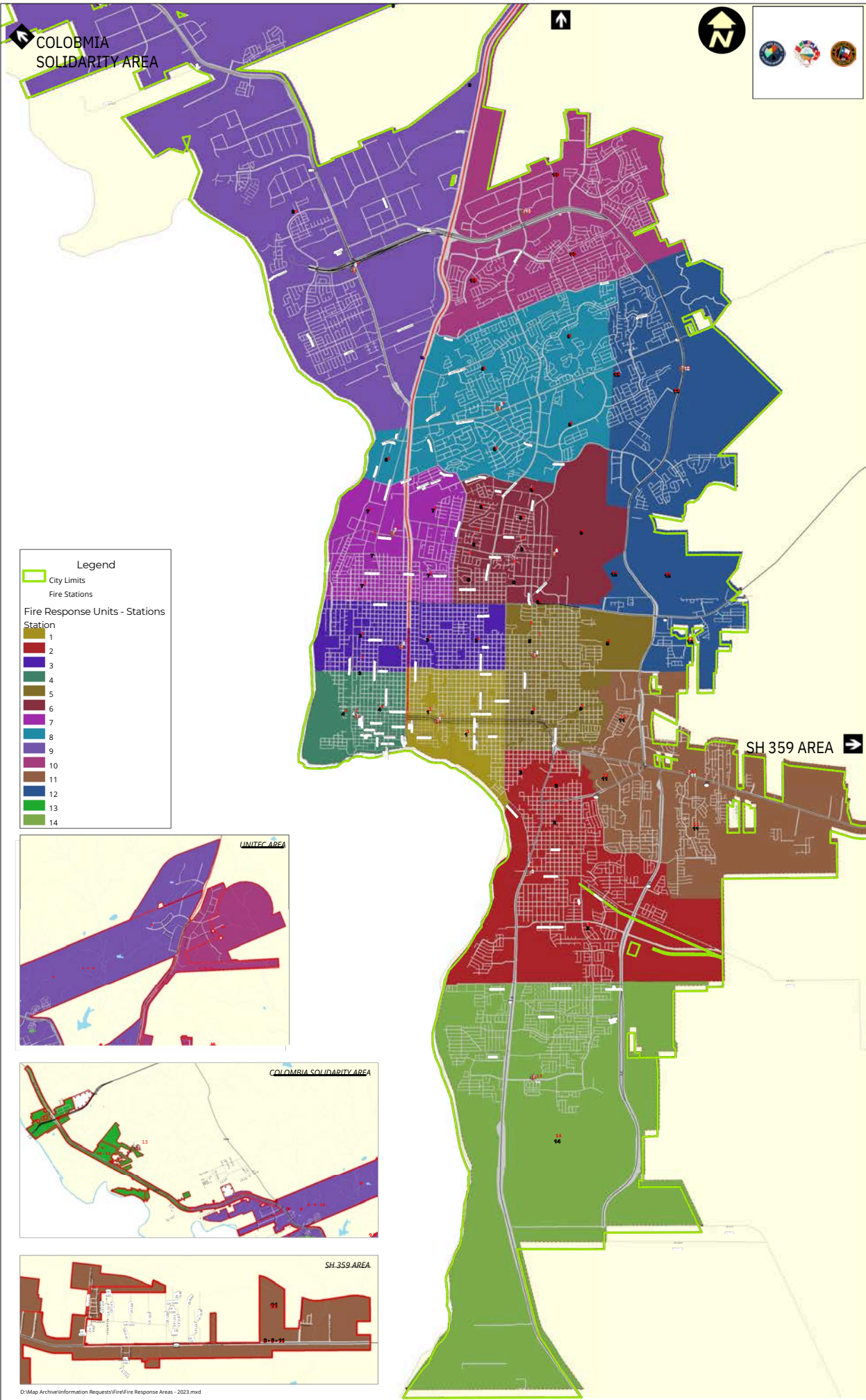


FIRE STATIONS

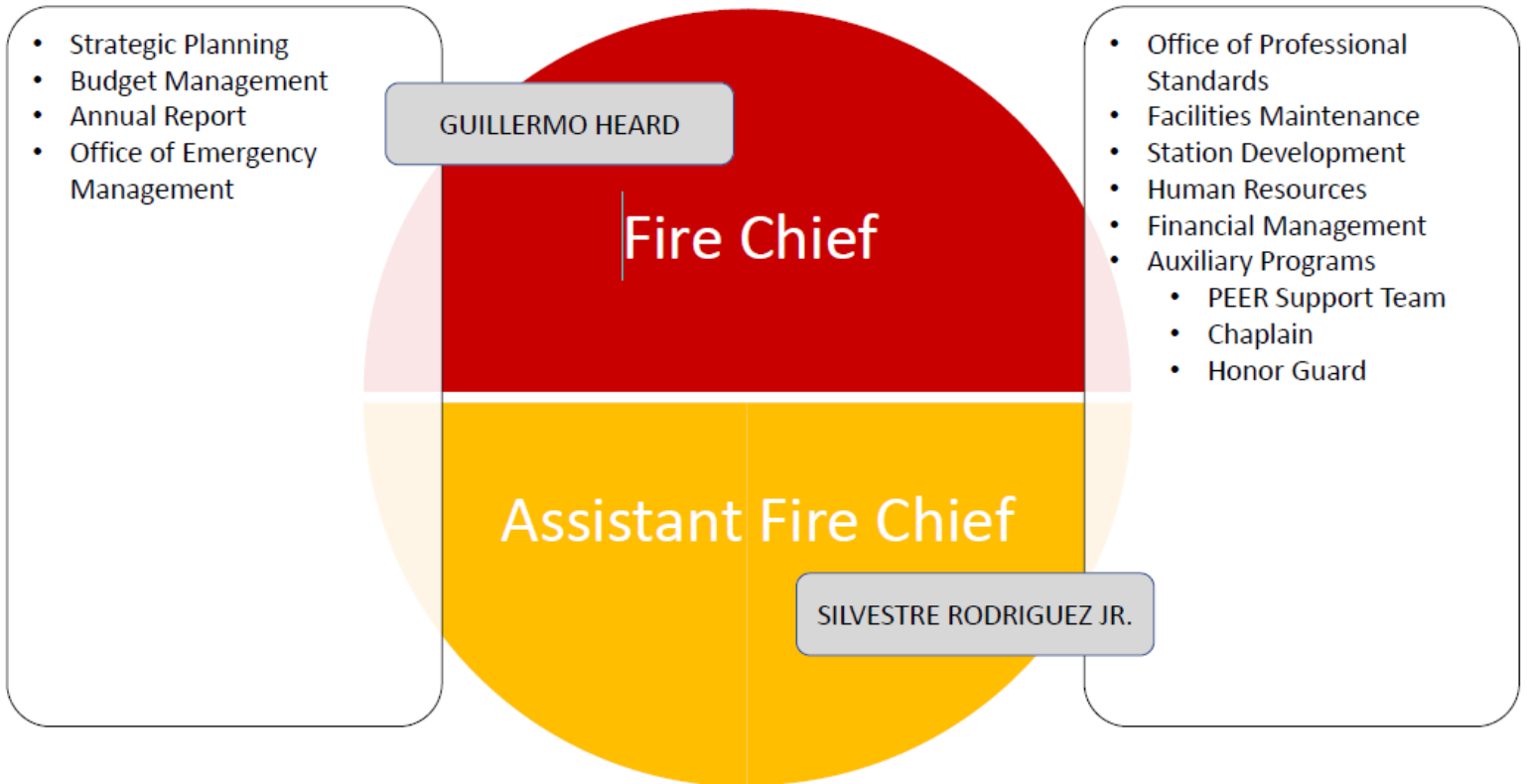
Dst	Station	Address	Phone number
1	Station #1	1 Guadalupe st	(956) 718-4018
1	Station #2	2100 Zacatecas	(956) 795-2522
2	Station #3	2420 San Bernardo Ave.	(956) 795-2523
1	Station #4	1919 Houston	(956) 795-2524
2	Station #5	2601 Bartlett	(956) 795-2525
2	Station #6	4903 Maher Ave.	(956) 795-2526
2	Fire shop		(956) 795-2156
2	Station #7	1120 W Calton Rd	(956) 795-2527
3	Station #8	616 E Del Mar Blvd.	(956) 717-5963
3	Station #9	13301 Mines Rd.	(956) 795-2529
3	Station #10	11015 McPherson Rd.	(956) 796-0870
1	Station #11	5210 Hwy 359	(956) 728-8164
3	Station #12	9402 Bob Bullock Loop	(956) 791-5598
3	Station #13	26911 Pinto Valle Dr.	(956) 718-7960
3	TRAINING	26911 Pinto Valle Dr.	(956) 417-5884
1	Station #14	309 Cielito Lindo Blvd.	(956) 790-1960
2	Station #15	5210 Bob Bullock Loop (ARFF)	(956) 718-7967

CITY OF LAREDO

Census 2010 Population: 236,091

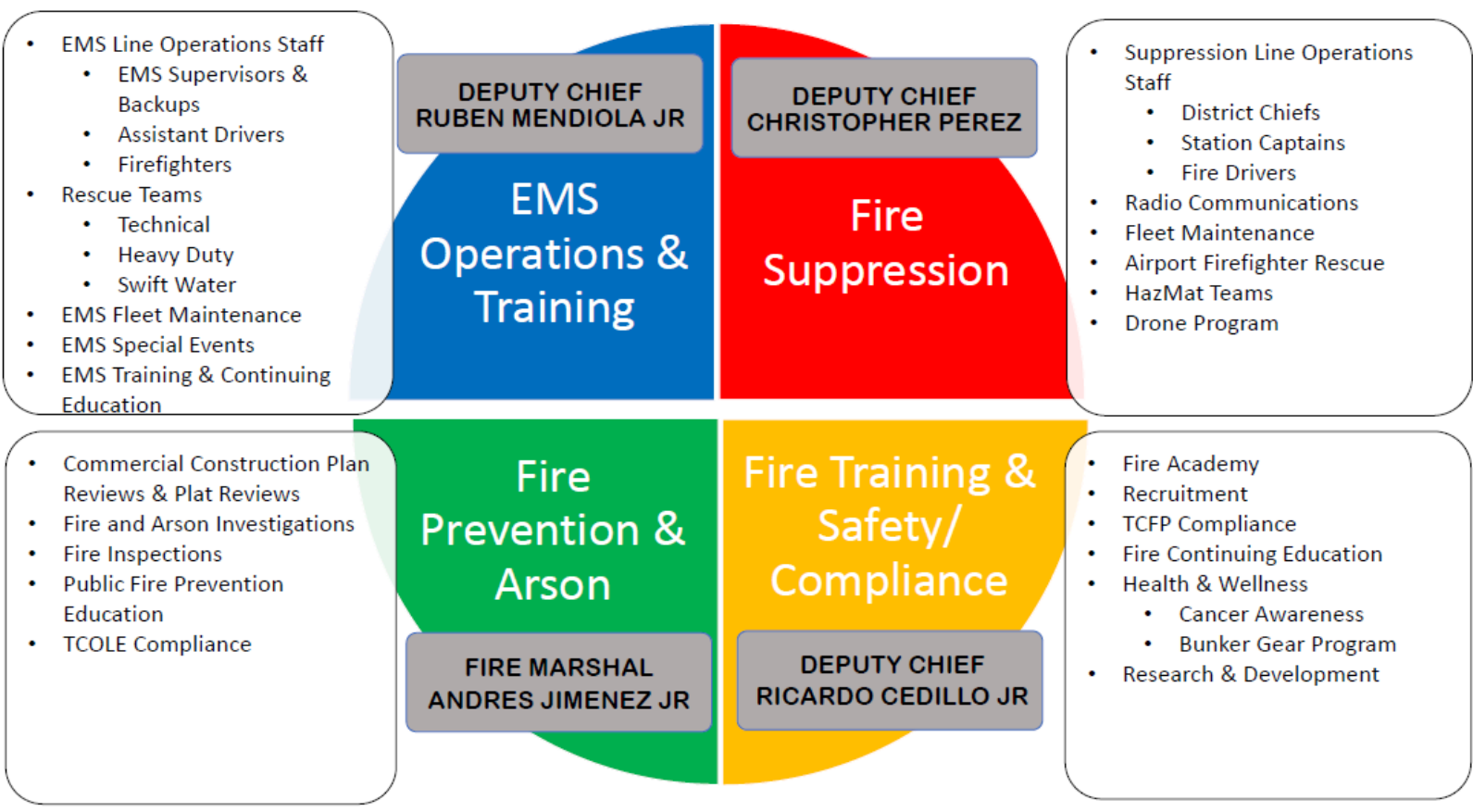


ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

The Laredo Fire Department is organized into 4 divisions: EMS Operations & Training, Fire Suppression, Fire Prevention & Arson, and Fire Training & Safety/Compliance.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Administration

- Graduated Academy #789 with 31 cadets on January 20, 2023
- Graduated Academy #049 with 29 cadets on July 7, 2023
- Consultant Policy Update with Lexipol
- Update to Best Practice Hiring (Agility & Minimum Standards) Practice for Firefighter Certification Program
- Laredo Fire Department Drone Program
- Established the Health and Wellness Team to focus on occupational and fitness exams through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program funding.
- Initiated the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Laredo.

Fire Training Division

Academy - Hiring Process

- Successfully held another hiring process. It began with updating the Entry Level Firefighter Minimum Standards adopted by the Civil Service Commission. The application process was held with over 1,200 applicants, followed by a 1.5-mile run. The fire entrance exam yielded 481 passing candidates, who proceeded to Physical Assessment Test (PAT), Background, Evaluation Day, Polygraph, Psychological, and Medical contingent on passing the previous process. A final list of over 100 eligible candidates was available to begin academy.
 - 1) Class September 2023:
 - 40 Cadets
 - 2) Projected Class April 2024:
 - 32-40 Cadets

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CERTIFICATIONS

Fire Training Division cont'd.

Texas Commission of Fire Protection

- Ensure compliance between LFD and the State of Texas regulating body (TCFP).
- All fire personnel recertified in October 2023.
- Preparing for state compliance inspection in June 2024.
- Structural Firefighting Gear (Bunkers) Advanced Inspection
- SCBAs Flow Testing
- SCBA Mask Fit Testing
- Bunker Gear Advanced Inspection - Station Loaner Gear
- Breathing Air Compressors Quality Test

Advancement Program

- The Fire Training Division developed 9 state certification classes that allowed department members to advance their understanding and application methods.
- Each course ended with a state exam that certified members in one of the following disciplines:
 - Instructor I
 - Driver/Operator-Pumper
 - Officer I & II
 - Fire Inspector
 - Fire Investigator
 - Plans Examiner
 - Instructor II
 - Basic Wildland
 - Incident Commander

Certified Training Facility

- Training staff increased the training facility certification capabilities by 2:
 - Fire Training Officer III
 - Fire Officer IV

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CERTIFICATIONS

Fire Training Division cont'd.

R.O.C. Program

- Training staff assisted the Fire Suppression division with developing and initiating the Rescue Operations Captain (R.O.C.) program that allows specific officers throughout the department to provide valuable experience and knowledge to all LFD fire crews.
 - 1. Conducted two Train-the-Trainer courses for all R.O.C. stations (#1, #7, #8, #14).
 - 2. Assisted R.O.C. stations with courses to all nine R.O.C. fire stations (#2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13, #15) on all three shifts (A, B, and C).

New Members Certifications

- New members of the training staff acquired their Instructor I certification and any other certification affiliated with the LFD Training Facility. Certifications are achieved by completing a commission-approved training program.
 - NFPA 1851 - Advanced Cleaning and Inspection
 - SCBA Specialist Level I

Law Enforcement/Military Program

- Provided Border Patrol (BORTAC), Laredo Police Department (SWAT), and the U.S. Army with a detailed Irons and Forcible Entry class.

Active Attack Integrated Response

- The Active Attack Integrated Response Train-the-Trainer Course (AAIR) is a performance-level course designed to improve integration between law enforcement, fire, telecommunication, and emergency medical services (EMS) in active attack/shooter events.
 - Two instructors certified in Train-the-Trainer ALERRT/AAIR Class.
 - Integrated Response Training with LPD in Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CERTIFICATIONS

Fire Training Division cont'd.

Federal Aviation Administration

- Recertified 80 fire personnel from LFD and other Texas Fire Departments with the skills and knowledge required for recertification to Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) according to Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) 139.319 (i)(3) ARFF: Operational Requirements.
 - 1.) City of Laredo Fire Department
 - 2.) City of Harlingen Fire Department
 - 3.) City of Brownsville Fire Department
 - 4.) City of McAllen Fire Department

Training Facility Advancement and Maintenance Program

- Advanced our ability to conduct on-site training at fire stations by acquiring, familiarizing, and implementing new portable training props.
- Managed, repaired, and maintained a facility and equipment valued at millions of tax dollars.

Fire Suppression Division

Implementation of the Flow MSP App (Pre-Incident Planning Platform)

- The app will provide a platform for fire personnel to upload pictures and pertinent information for commercial and residential structures. It provides the responding personnel with tactical advantage prior to arrival at emergency incidents.

Implementation of the Telestaff Staffing Program

- The staffing program will bring the department up to date with the staffing of personnel and will allow the district stations to account for personnel work schedules. The fire personnel will have the ability to request leave and update their work scheduling from a personal profile application.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CERTIFICATIONS

Fire Suppression Division cont'd.

Implementation of Hydrant Inspection and Maintenance Program

- The fire personnel will pre-plan designated locations using the Flow MSP app and inspect the operations of the surrounding hydrants.

Aerial Truck Relocations

- The relocation of 2 aerial truck units will provide better service and response for our community. Unit 4002 will be relocated from Fire Station #7 to Station #9, and Unit 4004 will be relocated from Fire Station #14 to Station #2.

Insurance Service Office (ISO)

- Preparation and evaluation from ISO to potentially improve the City's insurance rating. The Fire Suppression Division plays a vital role in the evaluation process by compiling records and inspecting fire apparatus and equipment. The ISO evaluation also requires the following testing to be conducted:
 - Annual aerial inspections and ground ladder testing coordination.
 - Perform annual fire apparatus pump testing.

Fire Department Drone Program

- The Fire Suppression Division has launched the Fire Department Drone Program at multiple emergency incidents throughout 2023.

Expected Arrival of New Units Ordered in 2023

1. January 2024: Engines 3003 and 3004
2. February 2024: Engine 3007
3. April 2024: Engine 3005
4. April 2024: Engine 3010
5. May 2024: Aerial 4004
6. June 2024: ARFF Truck

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CERTIFICATIONS

Fire Prevention & Arson Division

Smoke Detector Program

- Home fires claim approximately seven lives every day, but having working smoke alarms can cut the risk of death by half. This past year, the department installed 66 smoke detectors in 16 homes.

Training/Certifications

- The division certified 3 Basic Fire Investigators, 2 Plan Examiners, 1 Arson Investigator (Police Academy Graduate), and 6 Fire Instructors - Level 1.

EMS Operations Division

Training/Certifications

- Successfully recertified our EMS license with DSHS for another two years, and we had a successful site visit from TMHP (Medicaid)
- Zoll Autopulse training for the entire department. The AutoPulse Resuscitation System provides high-quality automated CPR to victims of sudden cardiac arrests.
- Zoll Cardiac monitor also for the entire department. The Zoll Cardiac Monitor continuously monitors a patient's heart rhythm, automatically detecting and recording clinical arrhythmias and patient-initiated recordings.
- Pulsara training by trained EMS captains to the ambulance rotation medics, the Pulsara platform is a HIPAA-compliant app that unites the entire care team, even if they are in different departments or organizations.
- Power Loader and Powered stretcher training for the entire department, the power loader helps boost safety by supporting the cot throughout loading and unloading reducing spinal load which will help prevent cumulative trauma injuries.
- Stations 8 & 14 participated in extrication and vehicle stabilization techniques given by a representative of Paratech equipment.
- We had a Makita battery operated power tool training on specialized equipment that would help in extrication and forcible entry.

ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Division is comprised of command staff expertise and leadership with the Administration Support Division that oversees budget and finance, ISO classification, personnel management, policies, and the overall logistics of the entire department.

Insurance Services Office (ISO)

- ISO evaluates a city’s fire protection capability based on elements of the fire department, public safety communications, and water distribution systems. ISO grading ranges from 1 (best) to 10 (lowest).
- LFD is currently at a communication classification of 2/2X as per the survey date conducted in October 2019. To improve the rating, the staff is working with a consultant to meet requirements that will allow the department to place a high value on the appropriate placement of fire stations.

Budget and Finance

LFD represents 28% of the City of Laredo’s overall budget with over \$69.8 M allocated for FY 2023-2024. The budget is largely driven by personnel costs as 93% of expenditures are personnel related funding 407 firefighter and 18 civilian positions with 15 over-hires funded for the academy. The remaining of the budget is allocated towards services, supplies, and maintenance.

Expenditures					
Laredo Fire Department	Actual 20-21	Actual 21-22	Amended 22-23	Estimated 22-23	Proposed 23-24
Personnel Services	49,253,733	61,805,153	64,923,912	61,955,856	65,264,284
Materials & Supplies	1,613,985	1,943,195	2,239,477	2,125,279	1,846,487
Contractual Services	2,412,252	2,300,189	2,611,273	2,485,160	2,686,386
Other Charges	0	10,856	891,695	4,620	0
Capital Outlay	17,519	206,110	195,450	103,448	29,310
Debt Service	193,723	193,723	192,090	193,592	0
Total	53,491,212	66,459,226	71,053,897	66,867,955	69,826,267

ADMINISTRATION

Budget and Finance

- Capital Improvement Projects:
 - \$12,474,877
 - Buena Vista Fire Station Construction
 - Industrial Mile Marker #15 Fire Station
 - Replacement of fire trucks, equipment, and vehicles.

Public Information Office

- The Public Information Officer (PIO) maintains contact with the media during emergency and non-emergency events. During a state of emergency, the PIO will continuously provide information to the media and act as a liaison between the media and the City of Laredo's PIO Department.
- The PIO provides information through a press release regarding the department's events and programs related to the Laredo Fire Department.

Peer Support

- The Laredo Fire Department's Peer Support Team is an in-house resource that assists personnel/family members who require psychological and emotional support due to life issues and/or potentially traumatic events.
- The Peer Support team members are trained in the following areas:
 - IAFF trainings & courses on suicide, grief & loss response, stress coping mechanisms, resiliency techniques & behavioral wellness.
 - ACIRT training program on Individual Crisis Intervention & peer support from the Emergency Chaplain Group.
 - ACIRT training program on Group Crisis Intervention from the Emergency Chaplain Group.
 - SCAN mental Health First Aid (3yr cert)
 - Laredo Police Department Peer Support Training
 - Texas A&M International PTSD Awareness Training

FIRE SUPPRESSION

The Fire Suppression is responsible for the day-to-day fire suppression responses, special and technical rescues, community risk-reduction, community engagement, emergency and non-emergency fire fleet, Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF), and HazMat.

2023 Response Calls	
Structure Fires	142
Still Alarms	460
Rescue 8501	88
HazMat	233
8180	12
ARFF	31

EMS OPERATIONS AND TRAINING DIVISION

EMS Operations Division

As of 12/14/23, the EMS Operations Division had received 33,407 calls this year, surpassing last year's total by about 4,000.

The following funds were used to purchase new equipment for EMS Operations:

ARPA Fund

- 18 Zoll Cardiac Monitors, 1 for each ambulance and EMS captain and 3 for the EMS training division.
- 18 Zoll AEDs, 1 for each engine company and 3 for Special Events Team
- 12 powered stretchers with power loader, 1 for each ambulance
- Currently in the process of purchasing a new Ambulance (9116)

CIP Fund

- Siddons & Martin 4500 Dodge Chassis for remounts of 3 older ambulance boxes
- New Siddons & Martin 4500 Dodge Ambulance to replace two older ambulances

CIP '22 Fund

- a. Polaris UTV 2023 for Special Events Team/ Bike Patrol Team
- b. Fifteen (15) Scott bikes to be used by Special Events Team/ Bike Patrol Team
- c. One (1) new Zodiac rescue boat to be used for water-related rescues; we have now increased our Zodiac boat fleet to three
- d. Currently in the process of acquiring a Sea-Doo jet ski to be used during water related rescues
- e. In the process of acquiring fifteen (15) med vaults to be installed in each ambulance to secure all narcotics and one larger vault for our medication room.
- f. New Paratech Vehicle stabilization equipment to be used by rescue stations.

EMS OPERATIONS AND TRAINING DIVISION

EMS Operations Division

New Initiatives

Our team consists of District Chief Roberto Gonzalez, Captain Rogelio Rodriguez, Driver Jesus Lopez, and Firefighter Ignacio Arce.

We are excited to introduce several innovative initiatives aimed at enhancing EMS operations. These initiatives focus on leveraging advanced technology through Pulsara for real-time data analytics and implementing training programs to ensure our team is equipped with the latest skills. Additionally, we emphasize community engagement alongside the EMS training division to enhance overall emergency preparedness through community CPR training. We are also researching how to implement a new initiative to improve survivability after cardiac arrest with no neurological deficiencies. The protocol is being revised and updated for new and already in use equipment. Through these strategic initiatives, we aim to elevate the efficiency and effectiveness of our EMS operations, ultimately delivering better care and service to our community.

Performance Measures

The EMS Operations Division has had 33,407 EMS calls, 75 Special Events Team, and 98 rescue calls this year as of December 14, 2023. Our Special Events Team helped out in the following events to name a few.

1. WBCA events
2. Easter Sunday family events
3. Multiple Marathons
4. Food Drives and cook offs
5. Pony League tournaments
6. Iturbide downtown detail

EMS OPERATIONS AND TRAINING DIVISION



EMS OPERATIONS AND TRAINING DIVISION

EMS Training Division

Accomplishments and Highlights

The EMS Training Division due to its history of very high passing rates was allowed to be part of a pilot program that seeks to find answers regarding the future of EMS testing requirements on a nationwide scale. The EMS division had a 93.93% pass rate in the year 2023 with Cadet Group B who was our first group in said pilot program. The EMS Training Division was also awarded SB8 funding (State) in the amount of \$ 320,000 to improve our program via training for the instructors, equipment, and software acquisition. The funding comes on the tail of years of passing rates well above the national average with the dedication and hard work of our excellent EMS Instructors.

New Initiatives

- Currently, we have a new cohort of 40 cadets that have started our second group in the pilot program for 2023. We have modified some of the curriculum via the recommendation of the instructors and the previous cadet class. This new group of cadets is also different from our previous groups in which they are starting EMS training first when traditionally all groups go through fire training course first. Given the nature of this change, we have consulted a group of fitness trainers. Daniella Reyes, Hernan Martinez, and Gino Ferrazzano are firefighters with a heavy background in the fitness industry. They have assisted EMS training in creating an exercise plan to get this group physically ready before they head out to fire training. This exercise program will serve as a foundation for how EMS training will handle physical fitness for the cadets while they are in the EMS program.

EMS OPERATIONS AND TRAINING DIVISION

EMS Training Division

Performance Measures

- National Registry Pass Rate
 - 2022 Cadet Group A: Pass rate within 3 attempts 97.30%
 - 2023 Cadet Group B: Pass rate within 3 attempts 93.93%

Training/Certifications

1. Cadaver Anatomy Class
 2. Critical Care Skills Cadaver Class
 3. ACLS Health Alliance Group training was given by Instructor Marco Martinez, and attendees included 15 physicians. ACLS is designed to improve outcomes in complex cardiovascular, respiratory, metabolic, toxicologic, and other emergencies.
 4. ASHER (Active Shooter Hostile Environment Response) Awareness Training—for all uniformed fire personnel, which entails integrated preparedness and response to hostile environments in collaboration with the Laredo Police Department.
- CPR Awareness Training Classes given for 2023:
 - i. Roots Recovery Center – 11 personnel attended class
 - ii. Department of Transportation – 30 personnel attended class

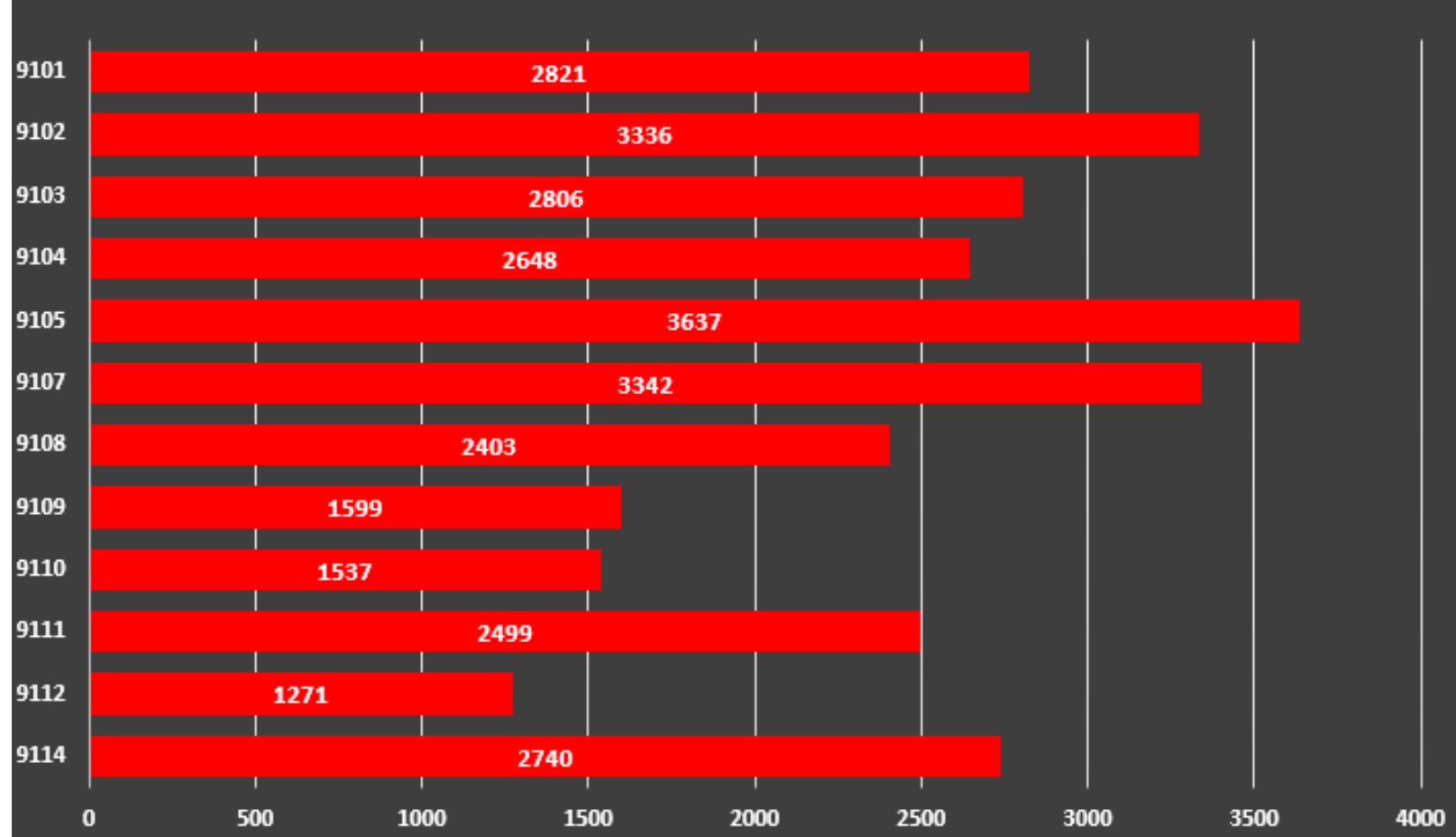
EMS OPERATIONS AND TRAINING DIVISION



EMS OPERATIONS AND TRAINING DIVISION

2023

TOTAL AMBULANCE CALLS BY UNIT



EMS OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Bethany House Pilot Program

The Laredo Fire Department, in collaboration with Bethany House of Laredo, has initiated a one-year pilot program dedicated to treating and triaging acute care illnesses and injuries among Bethany House residents. The specialized unit aims to deliver prompt and enhanced care for minor illnesses or injuries within the homeless population, aiming to alleviate the unnecessary traffic at emergency rooms for non-severe cases. This program leverages the education and expertise of paramedics to effectively categorize patients, distinguishing those in need of emergency transportation from those who do not. We aim to optimize patient care without overwhelming any specific healthcare facility, ensuring that individuals receive appropriate follow-up care for their specific needs.

The on-site paramedic's capabilities will be expanded through collaboration with our medical director. This enhancement enables the paramedic to administer over-the-counter medications. It is important to note that the on-site paramedic does not have patient transportation capabilities; therefore, if transportation is needed, an ambulance must be dispatched.

In 2022, it was recorded that the Laredo Fire Department had a total of 180 calls to the Bethany House, whereas in 2023 there was a total of 220. The Bethany House Pilot Program began in April of 2024. As of now, our paramedics have had approximately 35 encounters.



EMS OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Opioid Response Team Program

In its 2nd year of the program, the Laredo Fire Department has stepped up and continued to combat cases involving substance use disorders. With their Opioid Response Team, they continue to attend multiple community health fairs, distribute naloxone, and give lifesaving CPR lessons to the public. During the first 5 months of 2024, the fire department has utilized 195 Narcan administered by LFD ambulances. This is a 55% decrease from the first 5 months of 2023. (394 Naloxone).

The Fire Department continues to work with its local partners such as Laredo Public Health, Laredo PD, SCAN, PILLAR, and AAMA (methadone) to combat substance use disorders.

In 2024, LFD:

1. Distributed 40 overdose kits to patients or family members of 911 overdoses.
2. Attended 35 community health fairs throughout the city and distributed 530 Narcan to the community.

During fall 2023, the Opioid Response Team visited all high schools in both school districts to discuss the dangers of fentanyl and Narcan utilization. In addition, they added 2 private schools with school presentations. (United Day and New Harvest).

Below is a statistical breakdown of 2024 Narcan given.

- o 35 community events-530 Narcans distributed
- o 40 overdose kits distributed
- o 50 narcans distributed at the homeless shelters
- o 430 Narcans donated to organizations; Roots Detox Center, UISD Counseling Center, TAMIU Nursing Community Class, Laredo College Campus PD, US Marshalls Office in Laredo.
- o 1050 TOTAL NALOXONE DISTRIBUTED.
- o Summer of 2024, the Fire Department purchased 2 Narcan Cabinets to be set up at 2 fire stations to join the 8 current Narcan Cabinets that were set up by Laredo Public Health.

EMS OUTREACH PROGRAMS

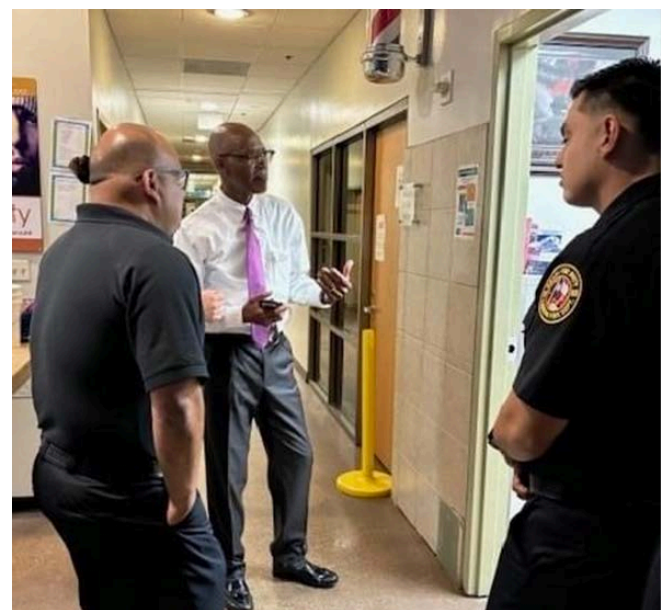
Opioid Response Team Program



EMS OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Opioid Response Team Program

The ORT Team made a visit to The Bridge, a homeless shelter in Dallas.



FIRE PREVENTION & ARSON DIVISION

The Fire Prevention & Arson Division conducts regular safety inspections of public buildings and hazardous operations, conducts fire investigations, and provides development and building plan review.

The division is also responsible for the permit process for open burning and fireworks and enforcement of TX Fire Code requirements.



Fire Prevention & Arson Division
2023 Performance Measures
Monthly Totals

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD	2022
Fires	10	11	10	15	8	14	17	7	19	12	17		140	127
Arson Fires	2	1	5	3	3	3	6	2	5	2	3		35	28
Open Records Requests	13	13	17	12	39	14	30	23	23	11	15		210	76
Inspections	227	281	327	250	341	296	289	398	350	323	296		3378	3457
Plats	36	10	10	13	8	17	20	12	15	15	20		176	85
Plans	216	262	257	205	264	231	252	367	284	293	265		2896	1724
Complaints	4	11	9	7	0	7	2	6	2	5	4		57	31
Presentation/ Events	2	1	5	8	2	3	8	2	3	48	10		92	98

FIRE PREVENTION & ARSON DIVISION

The Fire Prevention and Safety Education Presentations and Events

The Fire Prevention and Arson Division offers fire prevention and life safety education presentations, training and lessons to surrounding schools within the city limits of Laredo. During the month of October, 48 presentations were conducted in observance of Fire Prevention Month, nationally observed in the U.S. in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871.



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is responsible for enhancing local capabilities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from major emergencies and disasters. The OEM is able to accomplish this by building and strengthening strategic partnerships with local, regional, state, and federal entities both in the public and private sectors.

Grant Administration

- In FY 2023, the City of Laredo received \$8.8M in federal funding from FEMA/DHS to temporarily provide shelter, food, transportation, medical care, etc. to noncitizen migrants released from DHS custody.
- In FY 2023, the City of Laredo received \$80,155 from the Texas Division of Emergency Management for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Texas Severe Winter Storm.

Planning and Exercises

- OEM is mandated by state statute and city ordinance to develop and maintain an all-hazard Emergency Management Plan for the City of Laredo.
- OEM participated in multiple exercises consisting of “Operations Skyfall” and WBCA tabletop event exercises.
- Finalized the City’s emergency annexes to comply with TDEM requirements.
- Hosted the SKYWARN Storm Spotter Training Program for the National Weather Service.

Incident and Special Event Monitoring and EOC Activations

- Monitored the Boil Water Notice in July 2023 as a result of a 12-inch water line break. OEM assisted with water distribution to the affected areas.
- Activated EOC to manage city-wide bomb threat with state, federal and local agencies in August 2023.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



OEM Activities in 2023

- Successfully integrated the Doppler Radar into the Weather Emergency Plans of the City.
- Implementation of the Alert Media System for emergency messaging.
- Renewed the National Weather Service Storm Ready certification.

Emergency Operations Center

- The OEM maintains the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a state of readiness that conducts frequent checks to support immediate action.
- In 2024, the City of Laredo EOC will be receiving enhancements including stronger internet connections as well as interconnectivity between two separate EOC locations. In addition, EOC will receive computer upgrades, as well as an interactive video wall to display mission critical information for use by activated EOC personnel during operations.

Goals for the Future

Update and finalize the City of Laredo Hazard Mitigation Plan with the assistance of the TDEM Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The purpose of the mitigation plan is twofold: To protect people and structures and to minimize costs of disaster response and recovery.



2024 OUTLOOK

Administration

Projected Growth:

- 4 Fire Trucks
- 3 Stations
- 1 Station Remodeled
- 2 Ladder Truck
- 3 Ambulances
- 1 District Chief
- 1 EMS Supervisor
- Total Personnel: 125
 - 24 approved in November 2023 by City Council.



2024 OUTLOOK

Fire Training

- Fall 2024 Academy Hiring Process:
 - The LFD recruitment and hiring process of new personnel is an extensive and detailed process.
 - Overview of the hiring and selection process:
 - 1.) Hiring Advertisement
 - 2.) 1.5 Mile Run
 - 3.) Civil Service Exam
 - 4.) Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT)
 - 5.) Complete Background Investigation
 - 6.) Oral Board and Evaluation Day Interview
 - 7.) Polygraph Examination
 - 8.) Psychological Examination
 - 9.) Medical Examination
 - 10.) New Employee Orientation
- Implementation of New Standards:
 - The CPAT will be integrated into the LFD hiring process. The test is used to evaluate a candidate's physical fitness level using fire-related skills for the testing process. The CPAT is a national standard for entry level firefighter developed through the Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness/Fitness Initiative with support from the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)/International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). LFD will be a certified facility upon final integration.
 - Utilizing CPAT for firefighter annual physical evaluation, promotional and RTW physical.
 - A change in NFPA will require SBCAs to change from "Hanson" to Rectus" fitting. This fitting is connection from regulator hose to low pressure module. The change is to ensure compatibility of all fittings are standard throughout the fire service during any firefighter rescue operations regardless of SCBA manufacture. This fitting swap will occur concurrently with our scheduled flow testing to limit cost and down time.

2024 OUTLOOK

Fire Training

Texas Commission of Fire Protection

- Continue ongoing efforts to maintain LFD in compliance with TCFP.
 - 1.) SCBA Cylinder Hydrostatic Testing - 260 Cylinders
 - 2.) SCBA Flow Test - 125 Harnesses
 - 3.) Bunker Gear Advanced Inspection - All LFD Line Personnel
 - 4.) Bunker Gear Advanced Inspection - Station Loaner Gear
 - 5.) Breathing Air Compressors Quality Test
 - 6.) SCBA Mask Fit Test

New Certification for Training Facility

- Officer III
- Officer IV

Future Training Opportunities

- The ability to obtain and build working relationships with new sources that provide a quality education and application method is immeasurable in terms of its potential to impact the safety and effectiveness of a department and the citizens they serve.
 - 1.) FDIC - Fire Department Instructor Conference
 - 2.) New Mexico Tech - HazMat
 - 3.) CTOS - CBRN

Multi-Agency Response Training

- Increase training with other governmental and local government agencies to help establish, update, exercise, and implement response plans with associated response participants that will result in the more successful and streamlined implementation of emergency plans.

2024 OUTLOOK

Fire Prevention & Arson

- LFD will partner with the American Red Cross for the National Sound the Alarm Event. The department will assist in installing 400 smoke detectors per day. LFD and the American Red Cross want to keep the citizens of Laredo safe from the devastating effects of fire by providing a free home smoke detector inspection and replacement program.

EMS Operations

- In 2024 we will continue to improve the EMS operations division with the following progressively
- We plan on sending our ambulance mechanics to specialized training on equipment
- Implementing Pulsara App with both hospitals
- Recruit new members for Special Events Team

EMS Training

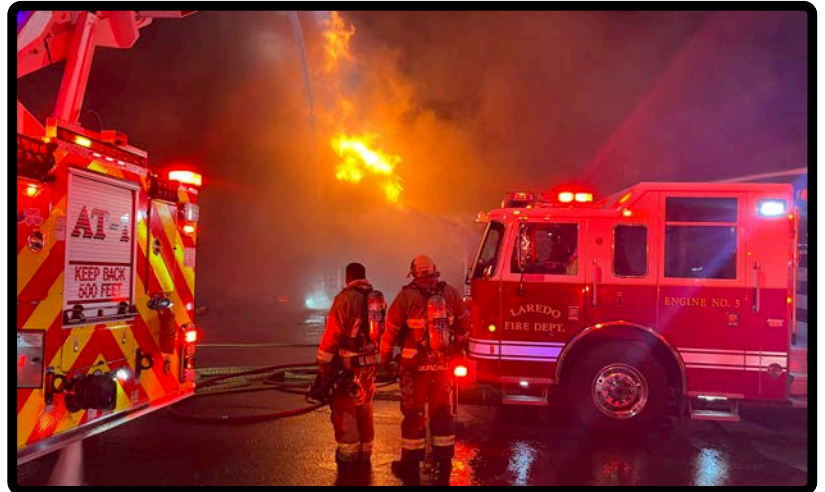
- The year 2024 will be a busy one for our division as we will have our current cadet group C finishing their paramedic program and be sent over to fire training to conclude the remainder of their studies. 2024 will also bring in another large cohort of new hires into EMS (Group D). The number of hires remains to be determined.

HIGH PROFILE FIRES



Laredo Paint Depot

- 1420 Clark
- January 16, 2023
- Reported at 9:00 p.m.
- Loss of building; succumbed to damage caused by the fire.



Johnny Carino's Restaurant

- June 23, 2023
- Reported at 3:30 a.m.
- Most of the building succumbed to damage caused by the fire.



HIGH PROFILE FIRES



Warehouse in North Laredo

- 11014 Delta Drive
- September 30, 2023
- Reported at 7:01 p.m.
- Incinerator Fire & Severe Damage



Ringo's BBQ Restaurant

- October 25, 2023
- Reported at 11:20 p.m.
- Kitchen fire due to appliance.



MAJOR FLOODING



April 23, 2023

- Severe thunderstorms caused major flooding and hail in the following areas:
 - Mines & Loop 20, Green Ranch, Pinto Valle, Rancho Viejo, Riverside and Crossroads, Jacaman Rd. Westbound Shiloh, Backwoods, Snowfalls, IH-35 (MM 8-13), Springfield/Gale, San Dario/Del Mar, Casa Verde to McPherson on Jacaman, Los Presidentes/Jaime Zapata.



August 22, 2023

- Emergency Operations Center Activated
- Early school/business closures due to flooding
- No major accidents reported.



September 15, 2023

- Storm-Related Calls: 57

Storm Related Calls 9/15/2023



CONTACT US



(956) 718-6000



laredometrofire@ci.laredo.tx.us



Fire Administration Building
616 E. Del Mar Blvd.
Laredo, TX 78041



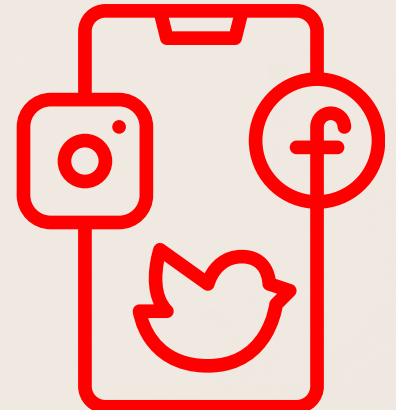
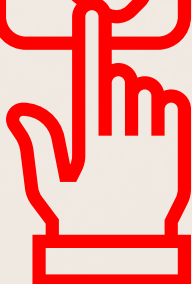
<https://www.cityoflaredo.com/departments/fire-department>



Facebook: Laredo Fire Department



Instagram: City of Laredo Fire Department





THANK YOU!

