



2024

ANNUAL REPORT



ROARINGFORKFIRE.GOV

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM CHIEF THOMPSON	3
BOARD COMMENTS	4
FACILITIES	5
FLEET	5
DEPARTMENT PROFILE	6
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	7
DISTRICT MAP	8
FINANCE	9
DEPARTMENT RESPONSES	11
TRAINING DIVISION	14
FIRE PREVENTION	15
HUMAN RESOURCES	17
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	19
CONTACT INFORMATION	21

LETTER FROM CHIEF THOMPSON

If you live or work in Basalt, El Jebel, Snowmass Village, Old Snowmass, Emma, the Frying Pan Valley, or Missouri Heights in Eagle County, you are proudly served by the Roaring Fork Fire Rescue staff. We all work together to serve you, solve problems, and save property and lives.

Again, I am proud of our staff's resilience, professionalism, and commitment this year. We saw another increase in calls for service from 2023 and numerous new buildings being constructed. Whether reviewing plans for new construction, inspecting buildings, or answering emergency calls, our staff adapts nearly every day to the increased workload and call volume; I can't be prouder of our continued accomplishments.

In 2024, we were called upon for 2,820 total incidents. On March 6th, we experienced a significant fire in the Willows complex in Snowmass Village. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured; 7 units in the C building were destroyed by fire, smoke, or water damage. All Roaring Fork stations responded to this call, as did our mutual aid partners from Aspen Fire, Aspen Ambulance, Carbondale Fire, and Glenwood Springs Fire. The support from our surrounding departments is one reason we successfully mitigate large incidents. From the Snowmass Village Police, Pitkin County Regional Emergency Dispatch Center, Snowmass Village Town staff, and Snowmass Water and Sanitation, this event exemplifies how all response agencies can collaborate for a common goal and work in concert. Our valley and communities should be proud of the response agencies' skills, knowledge, and abilities.

We ended 2024 with a groundbreaking for the planned remodel of Station 42 in El Jebel, our new vehicle maintenance facility, and a three-story training facility. The administrative staff will move out of Station 42 by April to facilitate this remodel. The fire station will continue supporting its response area with a slightly smaller crew until the remodel is complete. We are slated to move back in and utilize the new training building, vehicle maintenance building, and modernized station in 2026.

2024 was a busy but successful year. Our firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, fire prevention staff, fleet, and support staff continue demonstrating professionalism and excellence despite all they witness and deal with. I feel grateful for being supported by wonderful community members and visitors, for which we are incredibly thankful. Our community's support is necessary to accomplish what we do every day.

BOARD COMMENTS

The Roaring Fork Board of Directors experienced some significant achievements in 2024. Following in the footsteps of the Snowmass-Wildcat Fire Protection Community in 2017 bond issuance for a new station, on the November 2023 election, the Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District community approved a \$26 million bond issuance for building improvements at St 42, 1089 JW Drive El Jebel. 2024 led to the breaking ground and beginning of a 2-year project, which includes a dedicated vehicle maintenance facility, a new fire training facility with a burn tower, and the expansion and modernization of Fire Station 42. These improvements will allow RFFRA to provide an efficient and more dedicated area for our members to train as well as provide partnership with our regional partners.

During this project, a partnership was formed to centrally locate the dispatch center at the site of the fire station. Pitkin County has agreed to fund its portion of the addition, which will be completed in 2026.

The Authority also embarked on a new compensation program, benefiting our employees with livable wages and benefiting our Authority with better recruiting and retainage of our employees.

These milestones are not just for us but also a testament to our commitment to the community's safety and well-being. The goal of the Authority Board is to ensure that these achievements pave the way for the Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority's continued success.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our community for their continued support and confidence and further to thank our staff for all their hard work and dedication to our community.

Ed Van Walraven – President
Scott Arthur – Vice President
Elizabeth Striegler – Treasurer
Leroy Duroux – Board Member
Dave Heivly – Board Member
John Young – Board Member



FACILITIES

The Roaring Fork Fire facilities division consists of six firehouses and nineteen employee rental units. Three of our six firehouses are staffed 24-hours a day by full-time responders. Three of our firehouses have employee housing attached to them, totaling 13 units, some two- bedroom, one-bedroom, and studio apartments. The district also owns four two-bedroom apartments: two in Willits and two in downtown Basalt.

The 19 employee housing units enable RFFRA to provide housing to existing employees at an affordable rate. The Authority use these rental units to attract new hires as well as facilitate a hasty emergency callback of staff when needed.

FLEET

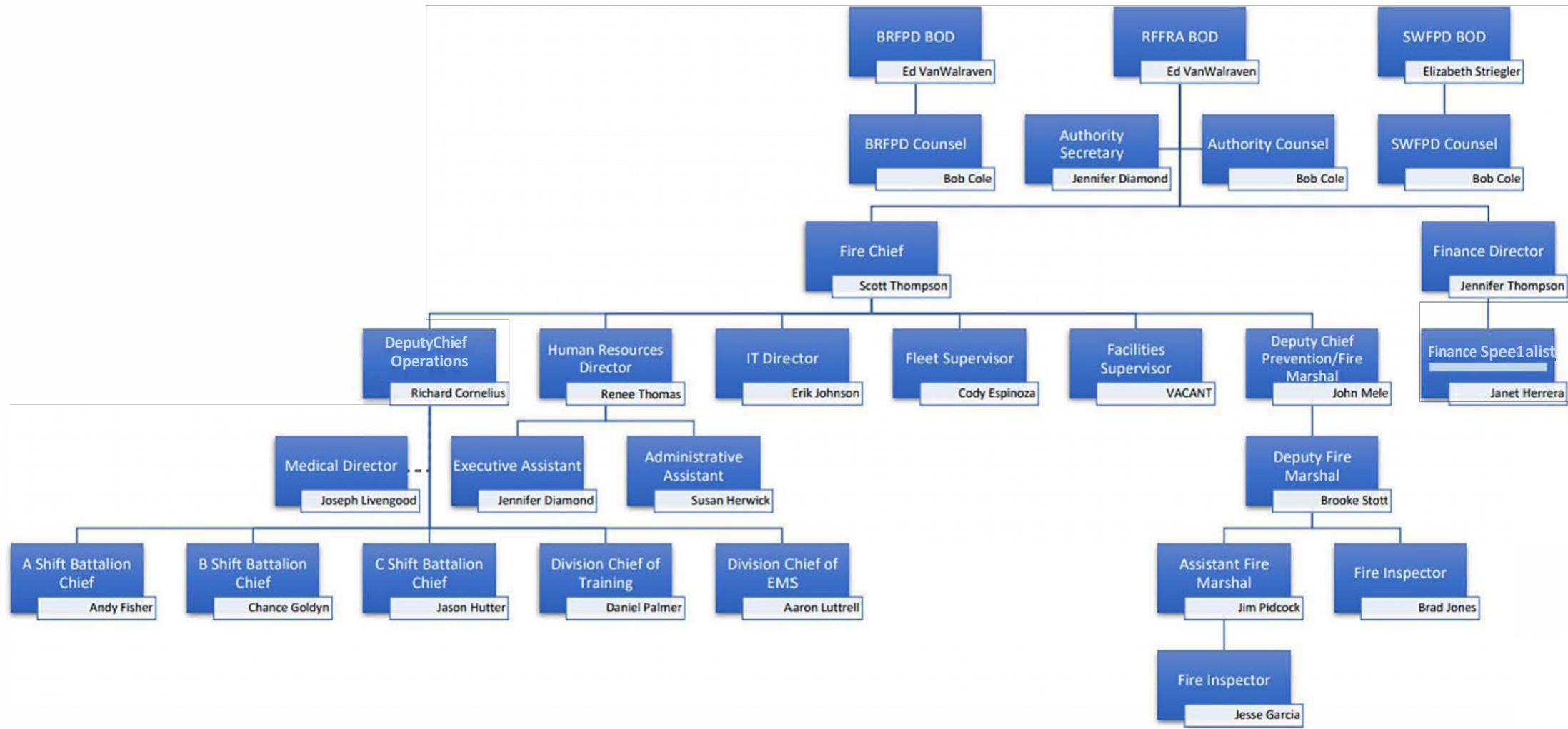
The RFFRA Fleet Division maintains all of the vehicles and small power equipment. Currently, one full-time Fleet Supervisor Master certified Emergency Vehicle Technician performs repairs and preventative maintenance on 57 vehicles. This includes Twenty-five utility vehicles, seven ambulances, seven fire engines, six wildland fire apparatus, two ladder trucks, two water hauling tankers, three off road side by sides and six trailers. In 2024, RFFRA received delivery of one new Ambulance, which was placed in service. RFFRA sold a reserve ambulance keeping the total ambulances at seven.

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

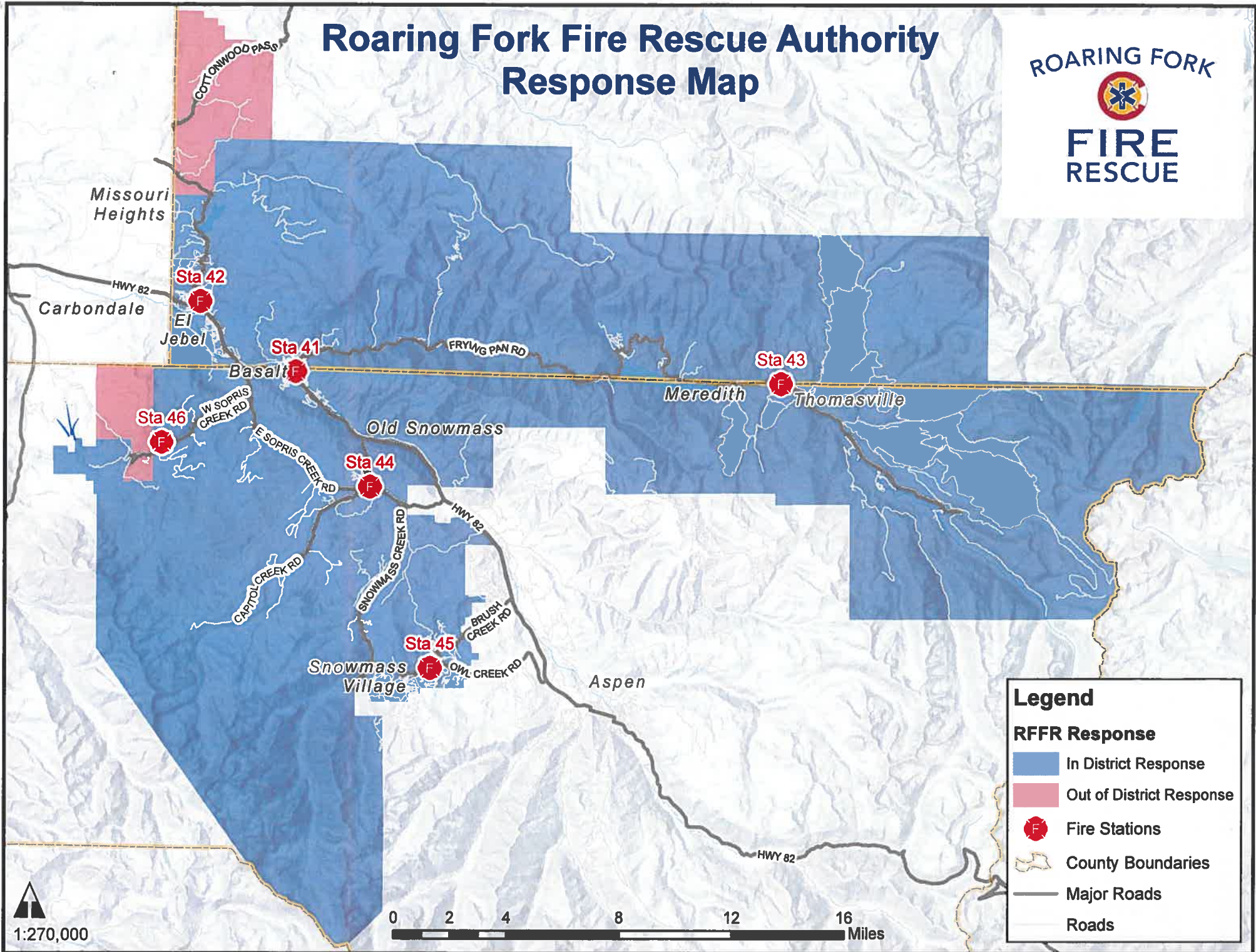
The Roaring Fork Fire and Rescue Authority is an all-hazards emergency services provider operating six fire stations with a combination of volunteer, part-time, and full-time staff. Three of our six stations are staffed. Station 41 is near the Middle and Elementary Schools in Basalt. Station 42 is in El Jebel, and Station 45 is in Snowmass Village. All three staffed stations were placed in these locations based on available property and proximity to local business districts. RFFRA also has three unstaffed stations. Station 43 is twenty-six miles up the Frying Pan River in Thomasville, Station 44 is two miles from Highway 82 on Snowmass Creek Road; Station 46 is near Sopris Mountain Ranch near mile four on West Sopris Creek Road.

A Fire Chief, two Deputy Chiefs, and two Division Chiefs lead the Authority, supported by two dedicated Administrative Assistants who work 40 hours per week. One Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal, backed by a team of four committed full-time fire prevention staff, provides for our community risk reduction, fire prevention education, plan review, and fire cause and manor investigations. Our other administrative staff in Finance, Human Resources, Fleet Management, Facilities Management, and Information Technology work tirelessly to support the organization's mission. The Deputy Chief of Operations manages a duty crew comprising three Battalion Chiefs, six Lieutenants, and thirty full-time Firefighters / Paramedics, working a 48-hour on/96-hour off rotation (Thirteen full-time members assigned per shift) supplemented with Volunteer and Part-Time Firefighters, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to the community.

The Authority, a full-service Class-3 fire and emergency medical service agency, is equipped to handle various emergencies. We deliver suppression services, EMS as advanced life support, and various rescue services, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. The Authority also provides comprehensive emergency management, fire prevention inspections, post-fire investigations, pre-plan review, and public fire and life safety education, demonstrating our commitment to proactive safety measures and community engagement.



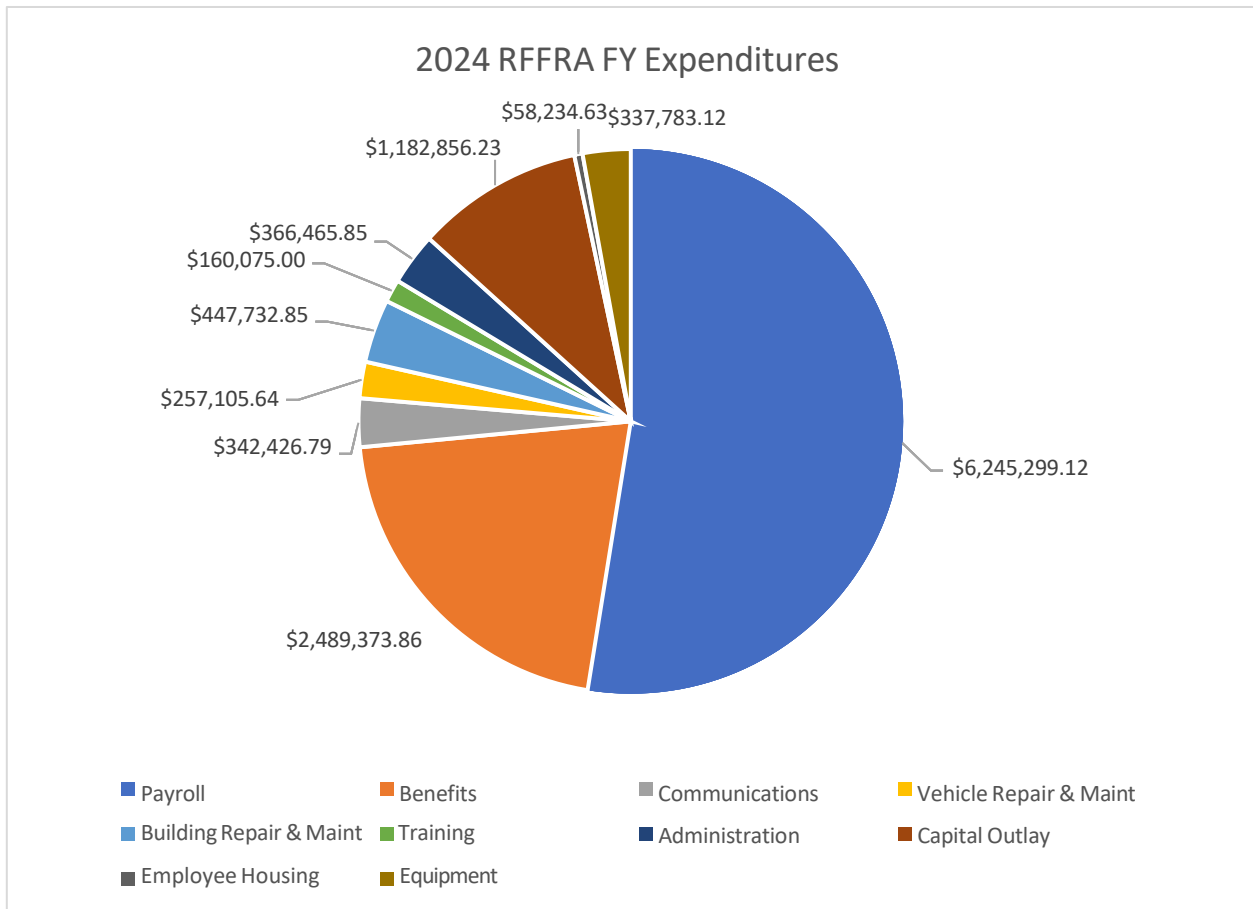
Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority Response Map



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FINANCE

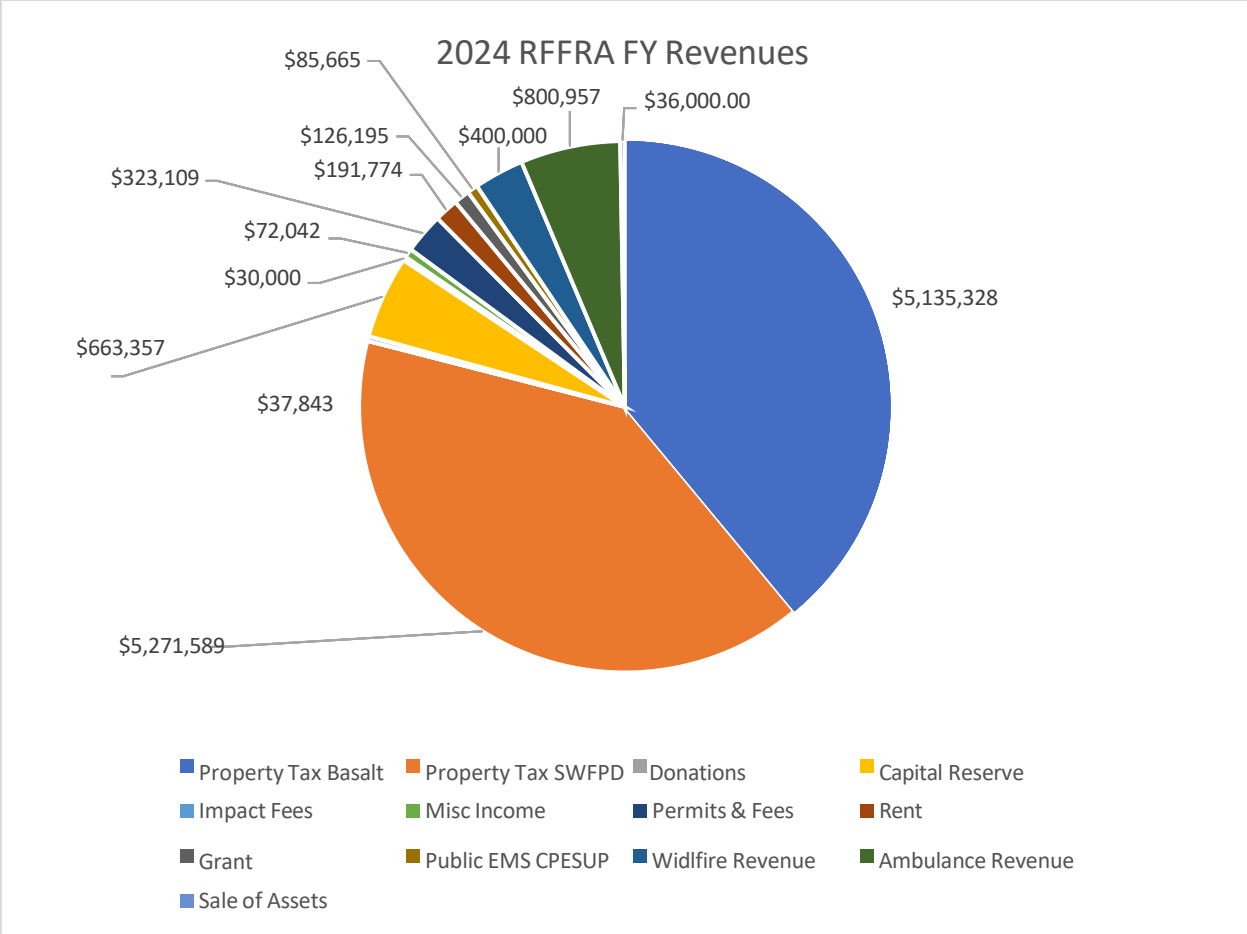


Approximately 73% of the Authority budget was spent on salary and benefits for our employees in 2024. This does not include the amount of the budget earmarked for continuous staff training and retention benefits. The largest non-personnel cost is associated with the ongoing maintenance of our growing infrastructure. The Authority is served by six fire stations. These stations are in El Jebel, Basalt, Thomasville, Old Snowmass, Snowmass Village, and West Sopris Creek. The Authority operates 19 employee housing units: 7 in Snowmass Village, 1 in Old Snowmass, 6 in the Town of Basalt, 2 in Willits, and 3 in our newest station on West Sopris Creek Road.

The voters also passed a \$26 million bond in the Basalt Fire District for the remodel of Station 42, a vehicle maintenance building and a training tower. This project is expected to finish in the fall of 2026.

Following our Capital Replacement schedule, the Authority purchase a new ambulance and pre-paid on two (2) new brush trucks that will be delivered in 2025.

FINANCE



The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority is funded by the Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District and the Snowmass Wildcat Fire Protection District property taxes. This accounts for \$10,406,916 in property tax revenue, which the Authority receives from both Districts. In 2024, the Authority, through the Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District and Snowmass Wildcat Fire Protection District, gave a temporary tax credit of 1.0 mill to the taxpayers of our Authority to offer some relief from the sudden increase in residential properties within the Authority boundaries.

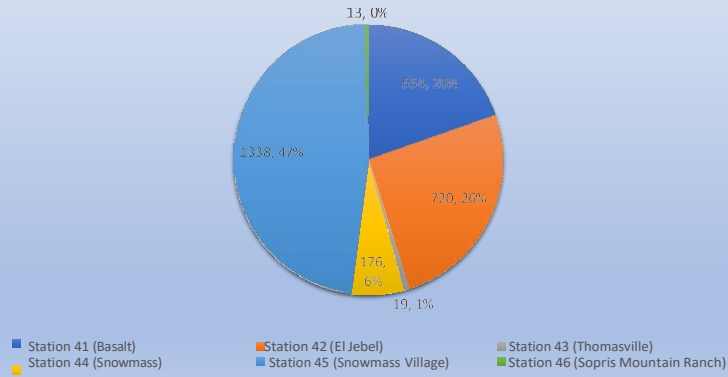
In 2022, the Authority initiated a Wildfire Severity program of 4 seasonal firefighters. The Authority has continued this program and, in 2024, sent out teams throughout the summer on several different assignments, generating \$400,000 in additional income for 2024. This program is slated to continue in 2025 due to its continuing success.

Fire Preventions' permit fees have become a staple in our revenue budget, bringing in \$323,109 in revenue this year with the completion of some large projects within the Town of Snowmass Village. Another significant source of the Authority's revenue is ambulance transport. After a complete and extensive analysis of our ambulance transport and treatment costs in 2022, the ambulance revenue continues to support the cost of our EMS service.

Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2024

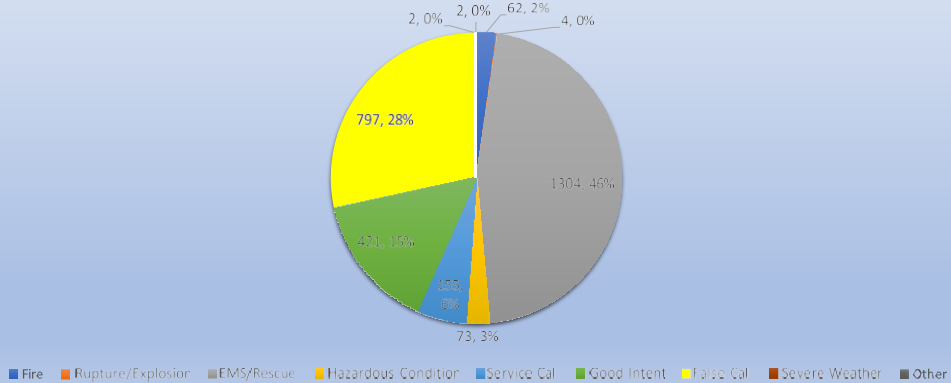
Incidents by Station, 2024



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2024

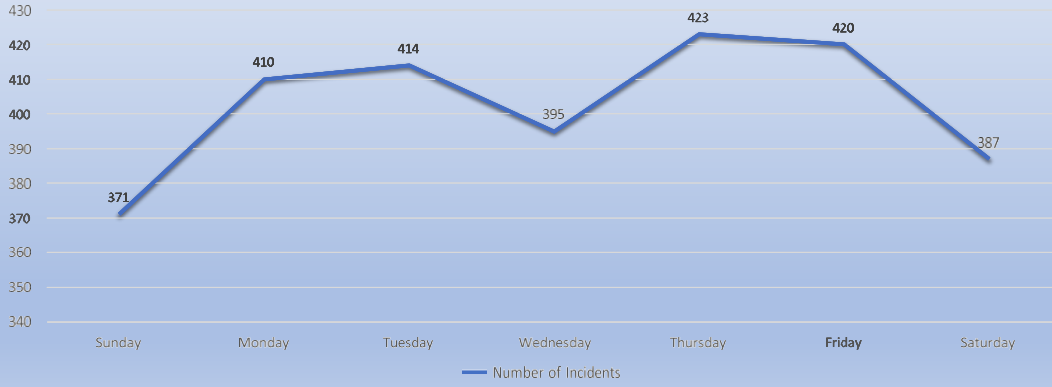
Incidents by Incident Type, 2024



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2024

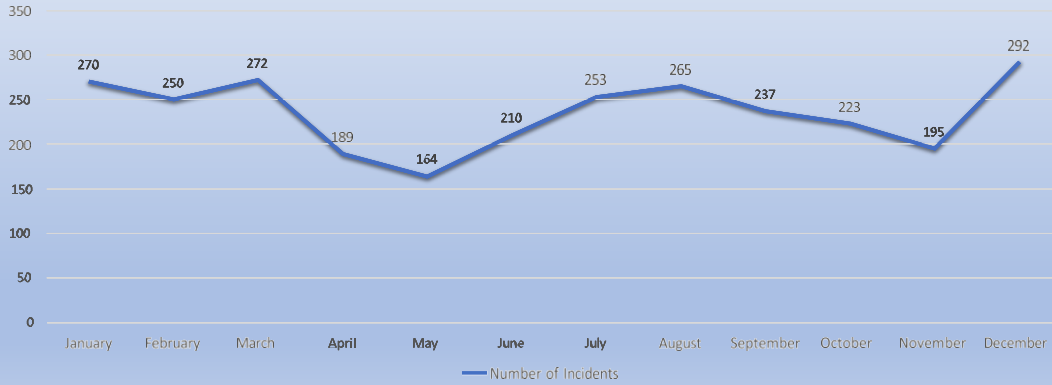
Incidents by Day of Week, 2024



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2024

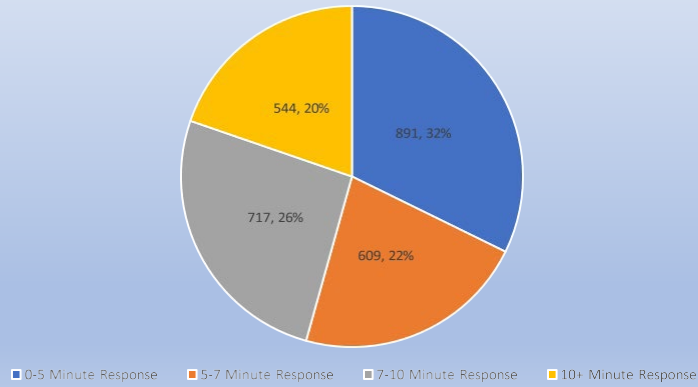
Incidents by Month, 2024



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2024

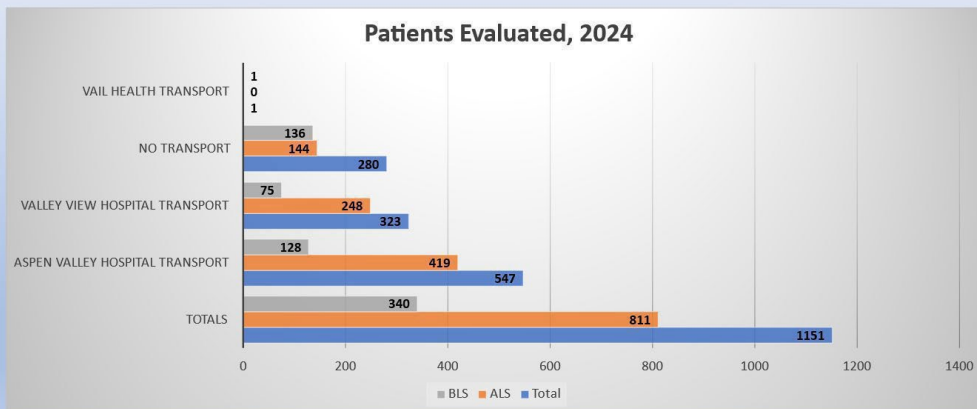
Response Times, 2024



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Patients Evaluated, 2024



TRAINING DIVISION

The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority (RFFRA) is committed to providing highly skilled firefighters, emergency medical technicians, company officers, and chief officers to serve and protect our community. Given the diverse range of emergency calls we respond to, our personnel undergo extensive cross-training in multiple disciplines, ensuring we are fully prepared to meet the evolving needs of those we serve.

Our members participate in year-round, weekly training focused on critical skills, including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), search and rescue, fire attack, ventilation, and auto extrication. To stay at the forefront of industry advancements, our personnel attend specialized training courses across Colorado and throughout the country. Additionally, RFFRA conducts joint training exercises with mutual aid partners to ensure seamless operations and effective coordination during multi-agency emergency responses.

Many of our members receive specialized training to serve on Specialized Response Teams in Pitkin and Eagle Counties. These disciplines include ice rescue, swift water rescue, rope rescue, wildland firefighting, hazardous materials response, and incident management.

RFFRA is officially recognized by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as an Education Group at multiple certification levels, including Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), EMT-Intermediate, and Paramedic. As a recognized Education Group, RFFRA provides continuing education to support Colorado and National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) certification renewal.

Each month, we offer continuing education sessions covering a wide range of medical and trauma-related topics. Our Medical Director also provides annual training and case reviews to enhance the knowledge and proficiency of our personnel. Additionally, members have access to approved online distributive education through our training platform, along with external continuing-education opportunities.

In 2024, RFFRA members collectively completed 8,887 training hours, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to maintaining the skills and expertise required to Solve, Serve, and Save our valued community.



Live Fire Training 2024

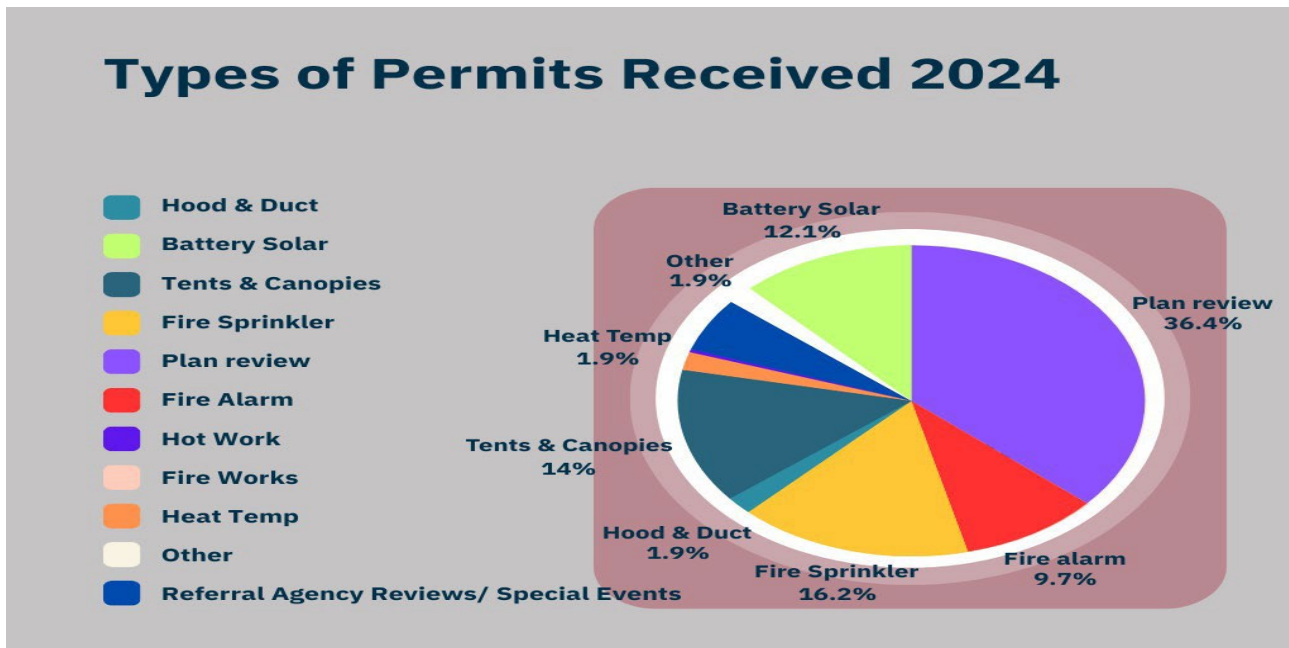
FIRE PREVENTION

Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority considers our fire prevention team to be one of the keystones in keeping our communities safer, not only from fires but also other risks to life safety and injury. Our prevention education programs within our schools and involvement in older adult safety education in our senior centers are just examples of our commitment. We work closely with our municipality's building and planning departments to make new and existing developments safer for everyone. For example, we amended our 2021 International Fire Code to increase suppression system density in underground parking garages in the event of an electric vehicle fire. We believe the increase in design may help contain a thermal runaway fire which can be extremely dangerous and deadly in an underground parking garage.

Our fire prevention team attended a number of community events like National Night Out, Aspen Snowmass Treehouse Summer Camp, Latino Conservation Week (shared with Red Cross), Shop with a Cop, and spent time with the elementary school kids for Fire Prevention Week. Our prevention bureau is also participating in the valley-wide Fire Marshal of Colorado (FMAC) Mountain Marshals. We look forward to training and working with our close constituents.

As usual, we are busy out in the field with fire inspections, pre-construction meetings, wildfire risk home assessments, fire investigations, and monitoring our wildfire mitigation projects. Our prevention effort involves individuals, businesses, communities, and governments working together to create safer environments.

Here's a look at our permits received for 2024.



Thanks for your support,

John Mele, Fire Marshal
Brooke Stott, Deputy Fire Marshal
Jim Pidcock, Assistant Fire Marshal
Brad Jones, Fire Inspector
Jesse Garcia, Fire Inspector

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT



Wildfire community fuels reduction continued throughout 2024.



Fire Inspector Garcia and Glenwood Springs Fire Inspector at Latino Conservation Week, September 17, 2024.

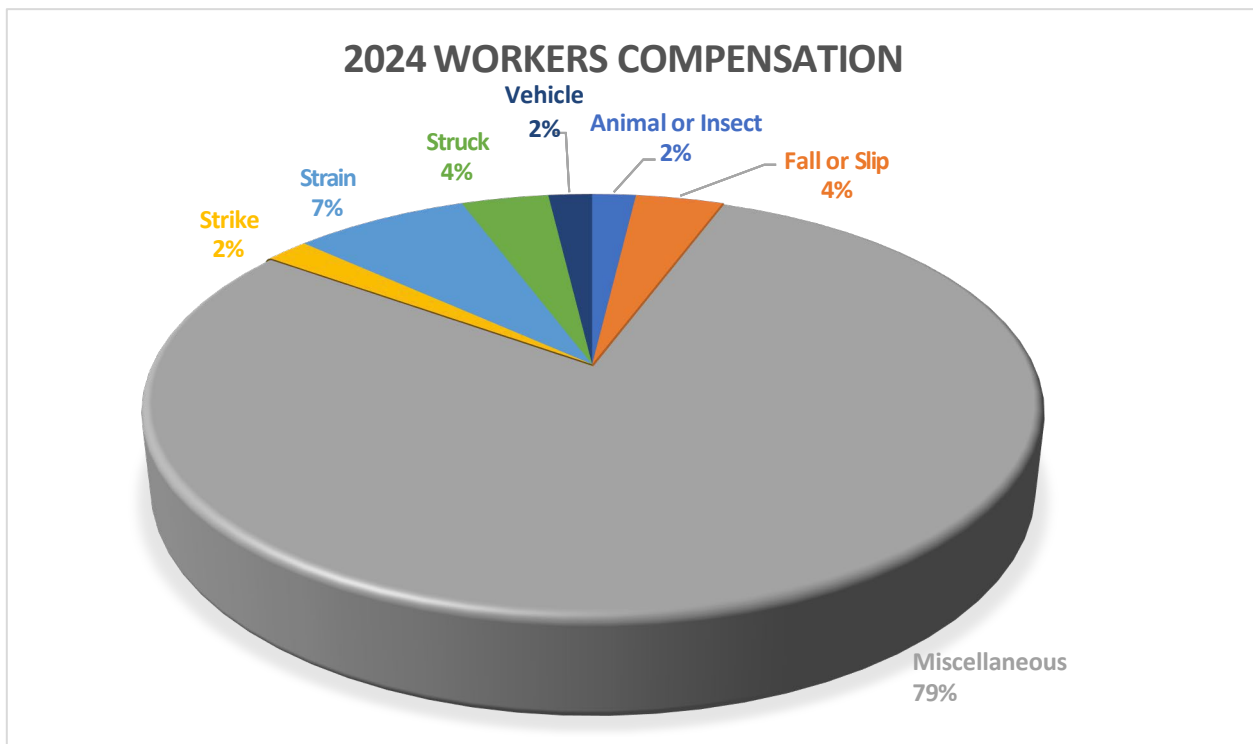


Bottom Picture: RFFR members with Red Cross volunteers for "Sound the Alarm!", May 16, 2024.

HUMAN RESOURCES

WORK RELATED INJURIES

The graph below represents the overall causes of the Authority's work-related injuries/illnesses in 2024. The Authority had 53 injuries/illnesses, the overall cost was \$977.00. Strains resulted in the largest cost totaling expenses of \$701. Miscellaneous resulted in the highest number of claims, but they were reporting only claims and there was no medical attention needed.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

In 2020 the Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority embarked on a strategic plan to create a forward-thinking cohesive roadmap for the future of the Authority. In 2024 the Compensation Team rolled out the new Step Plan pay structure and RFFRA Compensation Manual.

HUMAN RESOURCES

RECRUITMENTS

The graph below represents the Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority recruitments in 2024. The Authority held seven separate recruitments which included full-time, part-time, volunteer, and temporary positions. processed 92 applications, and hired a total of 28 people. We recruited internally and externally for these positions.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Technology is more than just a tool-it is the backbone of everything we do at Roaring Fork Fire Rescue (RFFRA). Our commitment to innovation and efficiency fuels our mission of Serving, Solving, and Saving in the community. With the rapid pace of technological change and growing cybersecurity concerns, IT is dedicated to maintaining a secure, reliable, and cutting-edge infrastructure to support our organization's objectives.

Key Highlights:

1. **Annual Report Completion:** Successfully edited and published the 2022 Annual Report, capturing our key accomplishments and strategic goals.
2. **Lifesize Meetings:** A total of 2,912 Lifesize meetings were held, clocking in 144,842 minutes, streamlining collaboration across teams.
3. **Tech Upgrades:** Completed essential hardware, software, and firmware upgrades to keep our systems secure and functional within the vendor's lifecycle.
4. **Security Efforts:** Regularly reviewing our security procedures, and tailored training to enhance cybersecurity awareness and protect our digital infrastructure.
5. **MS-ISAC Conference:** Attended the MS-ISAC Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL, strengthening knowledge and networking within the cybersecurity field.
6. **Strategic Planning:** Contributed to the ongoing development of RFFRA's Master and Strategic Plans, ensuring IT initiatives align with organizational goals.
7. **UAS Program Growth:** Expanded our Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) program, supporting both planned and emergency missions for enhanced response capabilities.
8. **National UAS Conference:** Attended the National Public Safety UAS Conference in Williamsburg, VA, learning best practices and new developments in drone technology.
9. **AI Tools:** Began using AI for notetaking and meeting minutes, laying the groundwork for developing policies around AI adoption and governance.
10. **Starlink Deployment:** Increased the use of Starlink technology across apparatus, improving communication and connectivity in remote areas.
11. **Community Collaboration:** Strengthened partnerships with local community organizations, fostering collaboration to meet shared goals.
12. **Station 42 Planning:** Actively participated in weekly planning meetings for the construction of Station 42, ensuring technology needs are integrated into the building.

Challenges:

While we have made significant strides, challenges remain in adapting to the constantly evolving tech landscape. Ensuring resources are allocated efficiently, while staying ahead of cybersecurity threats, remains a top priority.

What's Next:

1. **Ongoing Modernization:** We will continue to invest in the latest technologies to ensure RFFRA remains ahead of the curve, meeting both current and future needs.
2. **Advanced Cybersecurity:** Strengthening our cybersecurity measures with advanced tools, real-time threat detection, and continuous staff training to protect against emerging risks.
3. **Data Management:** Implementing improved data strategies to ensure information is secure, accessible, and properly maintained.
4. **Cloud Integration:** Exploring cloud solutions for better scalability, flexibility, and cost-effective infrastructure.
5. **Building Partnerships:** Strengthening relationships with vendors, community groups, and industry leaders to share knowledge, resources, and best practices.

IT remains focused on leveraging technology to drive RFFRA's success. Through innovation, security enhancements, and a commitment to continuous improvement, we are prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow while delivering the best possible service to our community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Station 41
20 School Street
Basalt, CO 81621-8247

Fire/EMS Emergency: 911

Station 42
1089 JW Drive
Carbondale, CO 81623-9587

Fire
Department:
(970) 340-7040

Station 43
24265 Frying Pan Road
Meredith, CO 81642

Chief Scott Thompson:
(970) 340-7031

Station 44
1909 Snowmass Creek
Road Snowmass, CO
81654

www.roaringforkfire.org

Station 45
5275 Owl Creek Road
Snowmass Village, CO
81615

Station 46
3705 W Sopris Creek Road
Basalt, CO 81621-9181