

*Brooklyn Fire
Department
2023 Annual Report*







Fire Department Mission Statement

To provide services to our community in life and fire safety through education, innovation, commitment, and compassion.

Fire Department Vision Statement

Setting the standards of excellence; guided by principles of trust, integrity, honesty, loyalty, and respect for all.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - CORE VALUES

Professional Excellence

We believe the pursuit of excellence and demonstrated high professional standards are critical to our work. To ensure the best possible service to our community, the fire department supports continuous training and encourages professional development.

Health and Safety

We believe our health and safety are essential to fulfilling the fire department's mission. We are committed to providing the best health and safety programs for our member's well being and operational readiness.

Integrity

We understand the trust placed in us by the public and our colleagues is integral to the performance of our duties. We are committed to honest and ethical behavior and will hold ourselves accountable to these values.

Team Work and Leadership

We know well functioning teams are more effective than individuals working separately; our lives depend on it. We believe individuals have the capacity to lead and our organization values leadership at all levels.

Community Service and Involvement

We believe we have a duty to be involved in the community where we work. Our responsibility is to protect life, property, and the environment. We are committed to fulfilling our responsibility and to deepening our involvement in the community we serve. No request or inquiry will go unanswered.

Innovation

We recognize and understand that the constant change in our community and industry impacts our business daily. We are committed to seeking out and implementing innovation and progressive thinking to address change effectively and efficiently, benefiting those we serve.

January 24, 2024

Honorable Mayor Ron Van Kirk
City of Brooklyn, Ohio
8000 Memphis Avenue
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

Dear Mayor Van Kirk:

The Brooklyn Fire Department's annual report for the year 2023 is hereby respectfully submitted. The following is a compilation of statistics and reports that reflect the activities of the City of Brooklyn Fire Department during the year 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kevin Paul, Chief
Division of Fire**

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Brooklyn Fire Department strives to provide the highest standard of fire response, life safety protection, and emergency medical service in response to emergency incidents; along with the prevention of such incidents through education and awareness. The Brooklyn Fire Department is an all hazards response division with a strong emphasis on serving our customers while protecting life and property.

Across the nation injuries and deaths due to home fires are on a rise. Too many times these deaths or injuries could have been prevented had there been working smoke detectors present. We recognize a need to get out there and get as many detectors to as many residents as possible, as well as educating our residents in their importance. It has become one of our biggest priorities. Various grants have been applied for to make our campaign successful.

In 2023 the fire department responded to 879 fire alarms and 2,242 EMS calls, in which 2,266 patient run reports were generated for a combined total of 3,121 requests for services answered.

We continue to maintain a high priority on strengthening our response to severe incidents. We do this through ongoing and consistent inhouse training, as well as being a part of the Chagrin Valley Dispatch Center. The dispatch center assures that the proper resources reach the scene at the earliest possible time during fires and other severe events.

Emphasis was placed on continuing daily “drills” and training. Compliance with daily equipment checks, apparatus inspections, and preventive maintenance continue to be improved with the participations in training programs and vehicle repair requests.

We continue to strive to increase the department’s involvement in the community and build a strong awareness on “serving our customers.”

A total of \$459,454.61 was retrieved through EMS billing, and \$7,787.75 from Cost Recovery for the General Fund. Other monies retrieved, through grants applied for, included:

A total of \$3,052.39 was awarded by the State Division of EMS as a grant for medical equipment. We continue to use this grant to purchase medical equipment that we use on a regular basis. In 2023 we used this grant to pay part of the cost of new AED's in all city buildings.

In 2023, Fire loss in the City of Brooklyn totaled \$438,550.00. There were no firefighter or civilian injuries in 2023 that occurred during these fires.

The Brooklyn Fire Department for the year 2023 consisted of twenty-two (25) total full-time members. (three (3) additional full-time members were added as well as three (3) Captains positions created with the promotion of three (3) new Lieutenants) Listed below is a breakdown.

- One (1) Fire Chief
- Three (3) Captains
- Three (3) Lieutenants
- Eighteen (18) active Fire Fighters
- Beyond their regular duties and responsibilities:
 - There are three (3) shift personnel that fulfill the responsibilities of State Certified Fire Inspectors. There are three (3) Captains and three (3) Lieutenants who are responsible to oversee all activities in the fire prevention / inspection section.
- There are members who serve on the Southwest Emergency Response Team (SERT) under various disciplines:
 - 2 members serve with the technical rescue / rope rescue unit, 1 of those individuals is also trained as a Rescue Technician and is on the Five County Region 2 Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR)
 - 2 members serve with the fire investigation unit
 - 2 members serve with the Southwest Enforcement Bureau as SWAT paramedics.

PART-TIME FIRE PERSONNEL

All part-time personnel are state certified level II Firefighters and Paramedics. Part-time personnel assist the fire department by complimenting the firefighting and EMS staffing. Most of their shifts are scheduled when they meet in the previous month, (for the following month), allowing adequate minimum staffing to be maintained with alleviating overtime costs.

In case of an emergency, part-time personnel are notified by a phone text system to report for duty.

A thorough training program is completed prior to part time personnel becoming part of daily manning. They continue their training with full time personnel while on shift.

DUTIES PERFORMED

The duties a firefighter performs during their twenty-four-hour shift are many and varied. For his/her primary duties of fire and rescue, the firefighter must be well trained and must possess good judgment to cope efficiently with any emergency. Listed below are some of the duties that the firefighters perform:

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

All vehicles are checked and operated daily; oil, fuel, and water are maintained. Minor repairs and cleaning are performed daily: Waxing of all apparatus is done at specific intervals. Performance of vehicles is closely monitored.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Fuel, oil, and the operation of all power equipment - saws, generators, fans, lights, and extrication equipment is inspected on a daily basis. All hand tools are cleaned and oiled on specific days. All hose is tested and evaluated annually. All hydrants are flow tested annually.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Minor repairs are done as needed. Washing walls, floors, windows and general maintenance are performed on a daily basis. The entire building is cleaned annually.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Safety Town fire prevention classes are held yearly. Fire Prevention classes are held at all Brooklyn Schools. Talks to civic groups are given. Station tours by school groups are conducted as requested.

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS

All shifts conduct inspections and familiarization tours of all commercial, public, and industrial buildings within the City. Major facilities are pre-planned for fire and rescue response.

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Participation in Trick or Treat.
- The fire department assisted in the newly created Safety Town.
- The fire department participated in the schools touch a truck and bike rodeo.
- The fire department participated in the safe routes to school day.
- The fire department sponsored Red Cross blood drives at the Senior Center.
- Smoke detectors and batteries were installed in residents' homes and handed out to residents. We handed out (and installed) over 45 detectors as well as 53 weather radios without any cost to the city's budget or the resident. A grant from Walmart covers the cost.
- Fire Department Rescue squads stand-by at all Brooklyn High School home football games
- Home safety surveys
- CPR / AED Classes taught
- Free Blood Pressure checks are performed twice a month at the senior center
- Assist parents with child car seat installations
- Extinguisher training for city staff, as well as Brooklyn school bus drivers.

RECORDS MAINTENANCE

Run reports, I.S.O. records, personnel records, certification records and training records are maintained within the department.

Presently the Brooklyn Fire Department operates under a rating of 2 from the Insurance Services Organization. This rating was awarded in 2022 after extensive records and equipment availability checks from the ISO investigator. Less than 6% of the departments nationwide have a number two rating. Businesses and property owners see a savings in their fire insurance cost.

ALARM INFORMATION

MONTH	FIRES	AMBULANCE (Patient run reports generated)	TOTAL	FIRE LOSS
JANUARY	85	188	273	0
FEBRUARY	53	169	222	0
MARCH	81	180	261	\$173,000.00
APRIL	64	163	227	\$3,000.00
MAY	89	214	303	\$500.00
JUNE	93	180	273	\$143,00.00
JULY	68	160	228	0
AUGUST	64	185	249	\$2,000.00
SEPTEMBER	71	197	268	\$102,050.00
OCTOBER	66	208	274	0
NOVEMBER	86	207	293	\$15,000.00
DECEMBER	59	215	274	0
TOTAL:	879	2,266	3,145	\$4381,550.00

REQUESTS FOR SERVICES ANSWERED

- Total Fire Runs 879
- Total Ambulance Runs 2,242
- Total Ambulance patient reports 2,266

TOTAL RUNS 3,121

CAUSE OF FIRE ALARMS

<u>Type of Alarm</u>	<u>Count</u>
Actual Fires in Structures	22
Vehicle Fires	8
Outside Fires	17
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat	1
Rescues and EMS Assist (Extrications, motor vehicle crashes, etc)	471
Hazardous Conditions (No Fire, Lines down, gas leaks, flammable liquid Leaks, carbon monoxide incidents, etc.)	65
Service Calls (Lock outs, assist police, open burning, etc.)	42
Good Intent Calls (Smoke odor, cancelled Enroute, No cause, etc.)	101
False Alarms and False Calls	144
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	0
Special Incidents (Not classified, citizen complaints)	8
SERT Call-Outs	7
SEB Operations	7
<i>Mutual aid given for fires:</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Mutual aid received for fires:</i>	<i>6</i>

APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

FIRE VEHICLES

- Ladder #7:** 2006 E-One 2000 GPM, 100 ft. Platform, Bronto Skylift
- Engine #7** 2015 Pierce 1500 GPM engine / pumper
- Engine #7X:** 1999 E-One 1500 GPM pumper
- Car #72:** 2015 Ford F-250 Pick-up, used by Fire Prevention
- Car #71** 2014 Ford Interceptor SUV, used by the chief
- Rescue 1:** 2014 Horton, Freightliner, Diesel, full ALS equipped and in reserve
- Rescue 2:** 2021 Horton, Freightliner, Diesel, full ALS equipped and staffed
- Rescue 3:** 2009 Horton, Diesel, full ALS equipped and staffed

This year the fire department used 599 gallons of gasoline and 5,925.8 gallons of diesel fuel.

VEHICLE MILEAGES (as of 1/4/2024)

Engine #7 – 31,480 miles, engine hours = 4,469
Engine #7X – 71,181 miles
Ladder #7 – 23,033 miles, engine hours = 4,227
Car #71 – 69,089 miles
Car #72 – 15,299 miles
Rescue #1 – 105,721 miles, engine hours = 10,326
Rescue #2 – 42,468 miles, engine hours = 3,800
Rescue #3 – 87,044 miles

EQUIPMENT

As required under NFPA, OSHA, BWC, and the State Fire Marshal's guidelines the following is done:

Daily inspections of all vehicles.

All equipment is maintained on a regular basis.

All power tools used by the fire department are checked and tested daily to assure their reliability in emergency situations.

All Hydraulic Rescue Tools are serviced annually by the manufacturer's agent.

All ground ladders and the aerial ladder undergo an annual stress test conducted by a certified testing company.

All SCBA's are tested annually by a certified testing company to assure proper operation of these vital pieces of equipment. All air bottles are inspected semi-annually.

Check lists to assure operational integrity are used on a daily basis. A more intensive preventative maintenance quarterly report is completed on each vehicle.

All turnout gear is inspected annually by a third party independent certified company.

HYDRANTS

Each spring, all the hydrants (598) in the city are flow tested, greased, and repaired.

Throughout the year, any hydrant that is reported as damaged or leaking is immediately checked by the on-duty shift, and if found to be defective, is reported to the Service Director, who contracts for their repair.

A computerized Hydrant Record system is utilized in tracking each hydrants maintenance history as well as individual water flow capability throughout the city.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

The Brooklyn Fire Department provides emergency Advanced Life Support and transport for all citizens in need. Additionally, first responder Advanced Life Support is provided by our engine companies.

PARAMEDICS

In 2023 the City of Brooklyn employed twenty (23) full-time certified Paramedics (24 with the Chief). These paramedics must be recertified every three years. The present recertification program requires that all certified paramedics receive a minimum of 86 hours of continuing education over a three-year period. They must successfully complete and maintain current certification of the American Heart Association's; Advanced Cardiac Life Support Program, the Pediatric Advanced Life Support program, and the International Trauma Life Support Program. Their studies include: Defibrillation, Cardiac Monitoring, Intubation, Intravenous Therapy, Pharmacology, and the administration of Drugs. These skills are taught through University Hospitals Parma Medical Center EMS and at the fire station by state certified instructors and skilled medical personnel. These recertification programs will ensure that quality care is being maintained by the Department.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

At present, the remaining one (1) fire fighter is certified as Emergency Medical Technicians. These members are trained to assist the paramedics, while on the ambulance, attending to the injured at a fire scene or any other varied medical emergency that might arise. The present recertification program requires that all certified EMT-Basics receive a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education over a three-year period. They must successfully complete and maintain current certification of the American Heart Association's CPR.

PARAMEDIC PROTOCOLS

The Brooklyn Fire Department's Paramedic Program functions under the medical direction of University Hospitals, Parma Medical Center.

These protocols (both adult and pediatric) were updated in January, 2023 and are continuously re-evaluated and revised as needed. We must stay current with legal and medical changes in the standards of emergency care. Changes come about from; monthly meetings, training sessions, and input from the Brooklyn Paramedics and Hospital Emergency Room personnel. New laws, guidelines and standards are integrated into existing protocols through classes, seminars, and practicals. When emergency medical equipment is found to be obsolete it is retired and replaced with state-of-the-art equipment. This continuous monitoring of standards, laws and equipment assures the best possible emergency medical care for the citizens of Brooklyn.

Culmination of Ambulance Calls 2023

Cancelled Enroute:	60
Dead on scene:	21
No patient found:	31
Patient refused care:	214
Treated, transported by private vehicle:	0
Treated, Transported by EMS:	1,658
Treated, No transport (AMA):	149
Treated, No transport per protocol:	18
Assist	108
Other	7

Number of patients transported to area hospitals:

UH Parma:	555
Metro Health / Main:	659
Metro Health Parma:	169
Cleveland Clinic Lutheran:	0
Cleveland Clinic Fairview General:	273
Southwest General:	1

Mutual Aid for EMS Calls:

Given: 5

Received: 18
(Our squads busy on calls)

PUBLIC RELATIONS / PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Brooklyn Fire Department places a huge emphasis on public relations and public education. We believe the community should be familiar with what the department does and we make a strong effort to be highly visible to interact with our residents. Our 2022 accomplishments in the area of public relations and public education include:

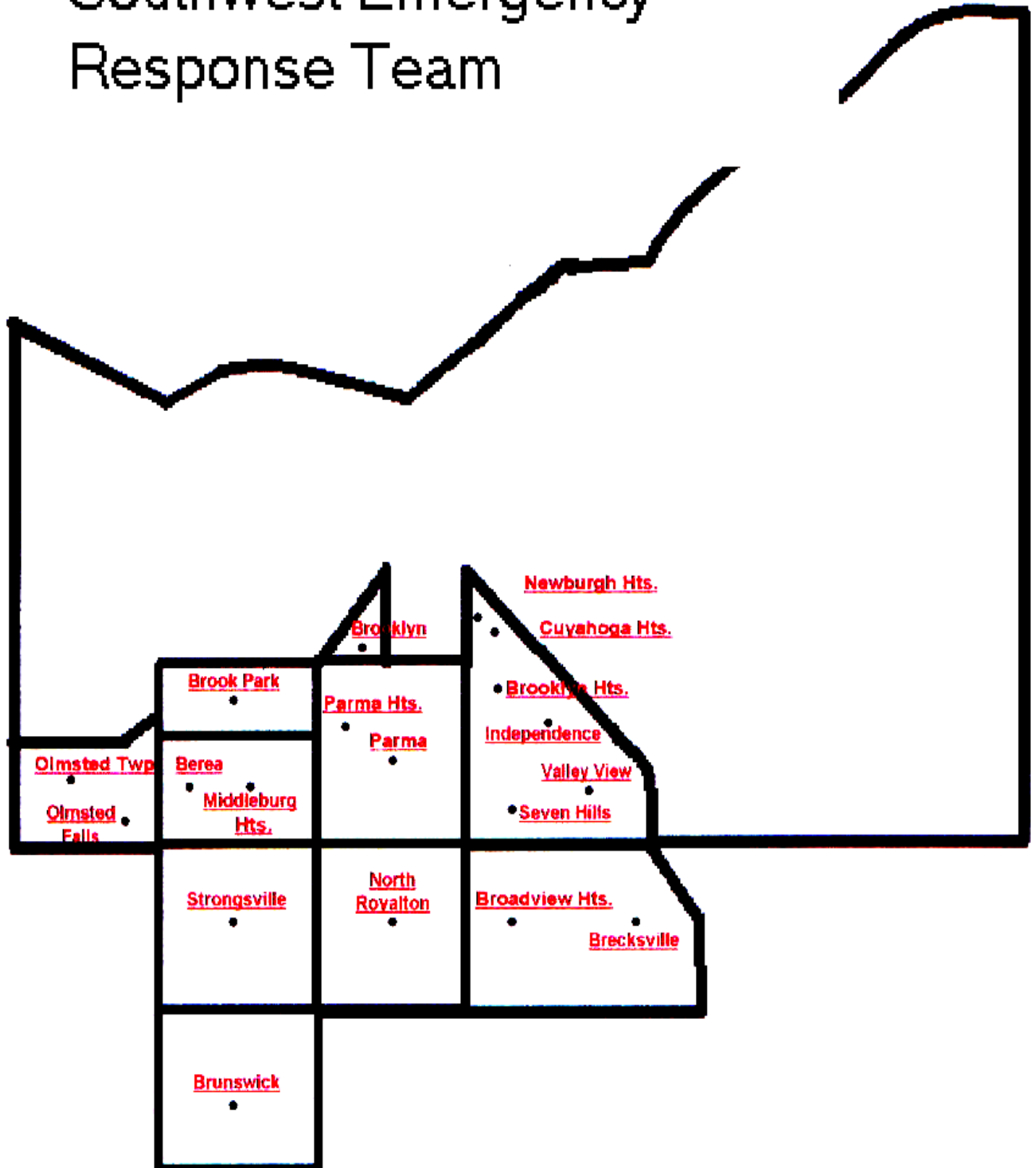
1. Blood pressure screenings were conducted at the Senior Center every third and fourth Thursday of each month.
2. Smoke detectors and replacement batteries are distributed and installed for residents.
3. Weather radios distributed to residents who qualified.
4. Attended Buddy Basketball, Buddy Baseball, Brooklyn Summer Camp, and various other activities that the Brooklyn School System has throughout the year.
5. Fire and Tornado drills conducted at all area schools.
6. Career Day lectures for fifth graders at Brookridge.
7. Reading for students at elementary school.
8. Fire Prevention demonstration held at Home Depot, Lowes, and Marcs.
9. Safety lecture conducted for children and parents regarding Halloween Safety.
10. Participation in the Brooklyn City Schools' Safe Routes to Schools, and the annual "bike rodeo and touch-a-truck".
11. Attended block parties to promote fire safety.
12. Child care, foster home, and residential inspections.
13. Fire station tours are conducted for various organizations throughout the year.
14. Members are present at all public assembly events to insure the public's safety.
15. Assist parents with child safety car seat installations.
16. The Brooklyn Fire Department sponsors a Boy Scout troop.

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The City of Brooklyn is active with 20 (Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and the Metropolitan Park Police have joined and as of 2021 Brunswick has pulled out) other neighboring cities to provide various emergency services that each city by itself cannot afford to invest the time and equipment necessary to provide adequate response. Through this partnership, the Southwest Region of Cuyahoga County has available to it, a regional hazardous material team, a regional technical rescue team, a dive rescue team, and a fire investigation unit. The Brooklyn Fire Department provides manpower to these units as well as Tactical Paramedics to support the Police SWAT unit. The Brooklyn Fire Department houses Tech Rescue 1 in our quarters and we are responsible for getting it to all SERT callouts.

The Brooklyn Fire Department's SERT members were called out on 4 separate incidents in 2023. The Brooklyn Fire Department's SEB members were involved in 2 operations in 2023.

Southwest Emergency Response Team



BUREAU OF FIRE SAFETY/PREVENTION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to decrease the occurrence and severity of uncontrolled fire, increase occupant safety, and reduce property loss. This goal is achieved through fire safety inspections, code enforcement; issuance of violation notices and citations, public education, building plans review, pre-planning, and fire cause and origin investigation.

Under Ohio Law, Chief Kevin Paul assumes the duties of the Fire Marshal with the support of three (3) shift inspectors, three (3) Captains, and the three (3) Lieutenants who have assumed the duties of overseeing the operations within the fire bureau. These dedicated inspectors perform fire safety inspections in a wide variety of business and commercial occupancies, compile preplan information, as well as maintaining their responsibilities as shift officers, firefighters, and paramedics. Our lack of responses to serious fire related issues speaks loudly of their hard work and dedication.

The FPB recognizes the importance of fire protection systems that provide detection, alarm, and notification of a fire while in the very early stage of development, and works to ensure that new constructions, as well as existing systems are operating properly. Life safety systems such as exit lighting, emergency lighting, means of egress, etc. are also inspected and tested, with Orders to Repair issued when necessary to ensure reliability. In buildings that lack a fire protection system, inspections are focused on reducing the risk of a fire accidentally starting.

Public education, especially for school age children, is also a priority. Fire and severe weather/tornado drills were held at all schools.

Through 2023; the fire prevention logged 1,380 inspections.

In 2023, 35% of fire loss involved commercial property, 36% involved residential property, and 29% involved motor vehicles. Along with our collaboration with the building department, the robust smoke detector program that the city sponsors, and the hard work of the fire inspectors we continue to strive to keep these percentages as low as possible. Again, there were no civilian or firefighter injuries at these fires.

Also, through 2023; the fire prevention bureau generated \$1,225.00 in revenue from the issuance of permits for fire alarm systems installations and hydrant usage permits.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education and Training are an important and essential part of every Brooklyn Firefighter's workday. It is through Education and Training that firefighters stay current with new techniques, skills and practices. Training enables firefighters to respond with confidence to handle emergency situations. Proper training enables firefighters to perform tasks at a high level of proficiency and competency.

Daily training sessions are conducted by the department and also by outside agencies. These drills and exercises are recorded, documented, and kept on file for future I.S.O. inspections.

In addition to the traditional in-house training program, a large emphasis is placed on additional outside training. This allows the fire department to gain additional knowledge from not only firefighting instructor's state wide but also local business and industry. All active inspectors attended mandatory monthly training throughout the year, as well as special seminars.