

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
PEORIA FIRE  
DEPARTMENT  
**2022**



## Message from Chief Sollberger



It is with great honor that I have been given the position to lead this outstanding fire department. This is one of the most rewarding professions in the world. I'm proud to serve the residents in the community where I grew up and still call home.

Throughout our rich history, the Peoria Fire Department has constantly evolved to meet our community's growing, ever-changing needs and challenges. Since 1875, the Peoria Fire Department has provided fire protection and life safety measures for the City of Peoria. Today, our 187 commissioned firefighters are sworn to protect and serve the 113,000 residents while covering 50.2 square miles that the city encompasses.

As the Fire Chief for the City of Peoria Fire Department, I am proud to release our 2022 annual report. In addition to our department overview, you will also find our organizational structure, our mission statement, and core values. In 2022, we were faced with many challenges and successes, all met with professionalism and fortitude.

This annual report reflects the efforts, professionalism, and daily dedication of the men and women of the Peoria Fire Department. Our staff serves the community by providing the highest quality and most responsive emergency services to the Peoria area and surrounding communities. We are honored to have the support of Mayor Ali, City Manager Urich, and the Peoria City Council, yet our success hinges on the dedication and hard work of every firefighter who wears their badge with pride every day, sworn to protect and serve.

A yearly summary is necessary to reflect on our successes and bring awareness to what we can improve while we strive towards excellence. The best leaders in any profession care about the people they lead, and those being led know when the caring is genuine. The Peoria Fire Department will continue to lead by example every day with genuine compassion for the Peoria community while meeting the daily demands and providing the highest level of professional services.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sollberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Shawn Sollberger, Fire Chief

“When someone calls 911, it is their worst day. They look to us to fix their problem, whatever it may be. While harnessing the unpredictability and the unknown of their job, professional firefighters embrace the challenges thrown their way, knowing that they can significantly impact someone’s life every day.”



## Mission

**The City of Peoria Fire Department is committed to protecting the lives and property of the Peoria community. We meet this daily commitment through trust and respect by providing comprehensive fire prevention, fire suppression, and emergency medical/rescue services.**

Since 1875, the Peoria Fire Department has provided fire protection and life safety measures for the City of Peoria. Our 187 commissioned firefighters are sworn to protect and serve the 113,000 residents covering 50.2 square miles. Throughout our rich history, the Peoria Fire Department has constantly evolved to meet the growing, everchanging needs and challenges of our community.

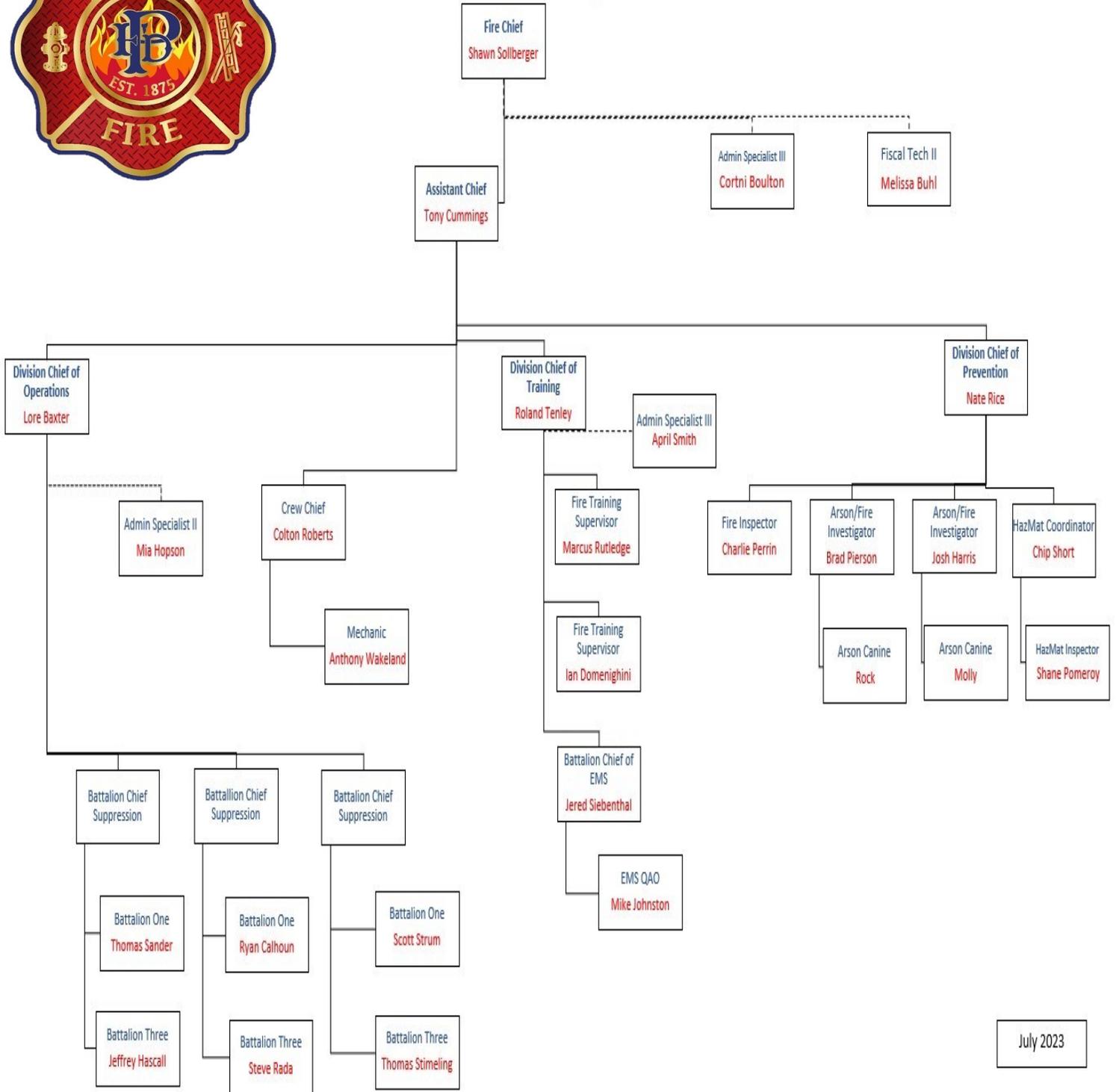


# Peoria Fire Department Organizational Chart



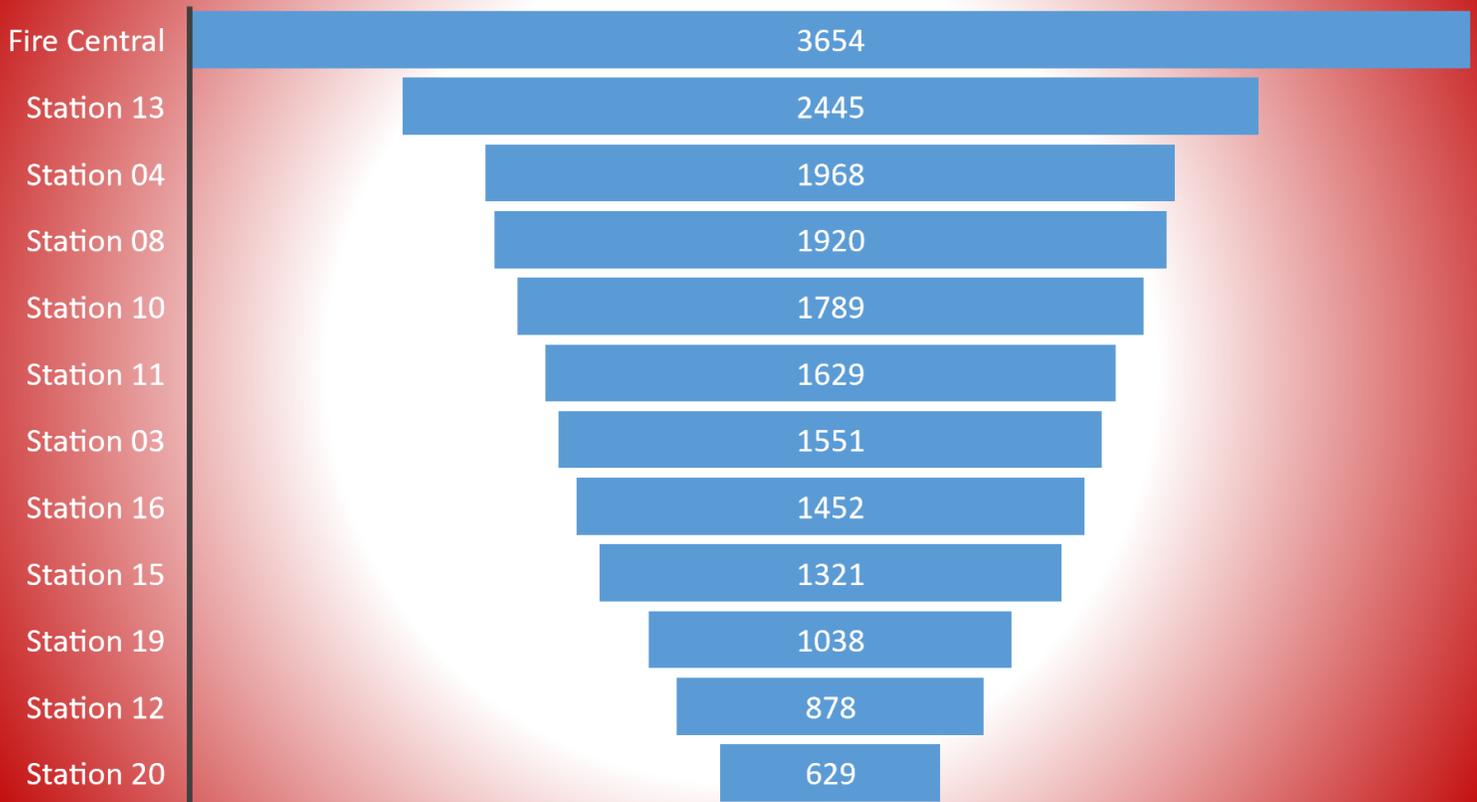
## Peoria Fire Department Organizational Chart

By title



July 2023

## Incidents per Station



## Operations

The Peoria Fire Department has 187 professional men and women that are responsible for the tasks of answering the call for service each and every day. The Peoria Fire Department operates out of 12 stations throughout the city of Peoria 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. There are no week-

ends or holidays for the professional men and women of the Peoria Fire Department. These highly trained men and women work a 24-hour shift every third day of their lives and are dedicated to performing their duties without hesitation.

The call for service can come in the form of fire suppression, emergency medical incidents, tactical and confined space rescue services, and hazardous material response. Peoria Firefighters are not only trained in extinguishing fires but are cross-trained in various disciplines. From the ability to perform high-level CPR to the ability to extricate a victim of an automobile accident, these professionals hold the life and safety of the individuals in the city of Peoria at the highest regard.

# Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The Firefighters of the Peoria Fire Department are very highly trained in multiple skills besides fighting fires. One aspect of the profession that is often overlooked is the response to emergency medical calls. The uniqueness is that medical emergencies actually account for over 80% of calls for service from the Peoria Fire Department. Henceforth, the department has realized the importance of providing a high level of medical care to individuals in need. Since 2005, the Peoria Fire Department has the capability of providing the highest level of care in the form of advanced life support, commonly known as ALS, available outside of the hospital. Today, all 12 Peoria fire stations have ALS capabilities with a staffed paramedic 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Included in this high level of care is an advance cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) system being utilized in partnership with Advanced Medical Transport of Central Illinois. With this advanced high level CPR system the Peoria Fire Department has seen a significant increase in what is known as return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC), meaning the patient's heart begins to beat again without further intervention. Out of 179 cardiac arrests in 2021, 61 achieved ROSC, resulting in a 34% success rate compared to the national average of 12%. By utilizing the firefighter/paramedics within the department, the Peoria Fire Department can provide hospital level care in any location, even on the sidewalk, if necessary, in highly critical situations.



# Division of Training



Under the direction of Division Chief of Training, Roland Tenley, the Vernon “Butch” Gudat Fire Training Academy is located on Galena Road. This high level recruit academy program is also home to several Fire Department training programs such as confined space, vehicle extrication, and many more tactical trainings for the professional men and women of the Fire Department. In 2022, the Peoria Fire Department was able to hire 20 recruits who each completed 10 weeks of extensive recruit training in 4 separate academy classes throughout the year. This rigorous training exposes the recruits to the necessary skills to successfully perform the duties of their positions and become professional firefighters.

The Training Division is also responsible for arranging and coordinating all daily, monthly, and yearly training for all members of the Peoria Fire Department. That continuous training can include practical and academic education within the department and to many participants from outside the department, including other fire departments, military installations, and private sector businesses seeking training. With two professional Training Supervisors, Captain Marcus Rutledge and Captain Ian Domenighini, the training academy is sought out by other agencies for their intense and educational training course with practical skills and hands on approach.

Plans were developed in 2022 for upgrades to the Training Academy to take place in 2023. With these much needed improvements on the horizon, the Training Academy is looking forward to the future.



*Elsburch Clarke MD Photography*

# Fire Investigation



**Rock**

Fire investigation is a field that requires a high level of skill and knowledge as well as particular attention to detail. The Peoria Fire Department performs fire investigation on all fires to determine cause and origin of the fire. This is done by a team of professionals who are experts in the scientific method of fire investigation. In 2022, 150 fires investigations were fully performed and 558 fires were reviewed as follow up.

Additionally, the Fire Investigation Division received two new tools to add to their resources. Rock and Molly are two accelerant detection canines that were purchased with the generous donation of community partners. The benefits of having these two canines provides an extremely high level of abilities in the detection of possible arson fires using flammable liquids as an accelerant.



**Molly**



# Code Inspection and Enforcement Plan Review

Building safety and code compliance is of extreme importance to the Peoria Fire Department. Because of the concern for the safety and protection of individuals in the city of Peoria, the Peoria Fire Department has full time staff dedicated to ensuring these buildings remain in compliance with International Building and Fire Codes. The inspection staff of the Peoria Fire Department has thorough knowledge of these codes and strives to maintain compliance in all construction and remodels of existing buildings in the city of Peoria. With the assistance of our NFPA Certified Plans Reviewer, construction and remodel plans are carefully examined and periodic inspections are conducted for the protection of all individuals.



# Specialty Teams

The men and women of the Peoria Fire Department are involved in more than fighting structure fires and providing elite medical care. The commitment of several members of the department extends to providing specialized services in multiple disciplines of emergency response. The four specialized teams within the Peoria Fire Department consist of:

- A regional Hazardous Material Incident Response team
- An Underwater Dive and Rescue Incident Team
- A highly specialized Technical Rescue Team
- A co-response with the Peoria Police Department of a Special Rescue Team utilizing Tactical Paramedics from the Peoria Fire Department



**Hazardous Material Incident Response team**



**Special Rescue Team**



**Underwater Dive and Rescue Team**



**Technical Rescue Team**

# Community Involvement



The men and women of the Peoria Fire Department are highly involved in community activities and place high importance on engaging with the public outside

of emergency response. The department views the community members of the city as the most important aspect of the job they perform every day. For this reason, members of the Peoria Fire Department go to great lengths to be involved in public activities and participate in events when the opportunities arise.

The department realizes the importance of having a well-involved active community when it comes to public safety, and stresses the importance of educating our neighbors on various aspects of fire safety. Whether is it participating in Fire Prevention Week presentations through all the Peoria Public School system, or simply attending a neighborhood association meeting, the Peoria Fire Department believes being involved in the community is essential to its mission.



# Statistics and Figures for 2022

Number of Calls	Average Response Time*	Average Turnout Time**
20312	4:41	1:15

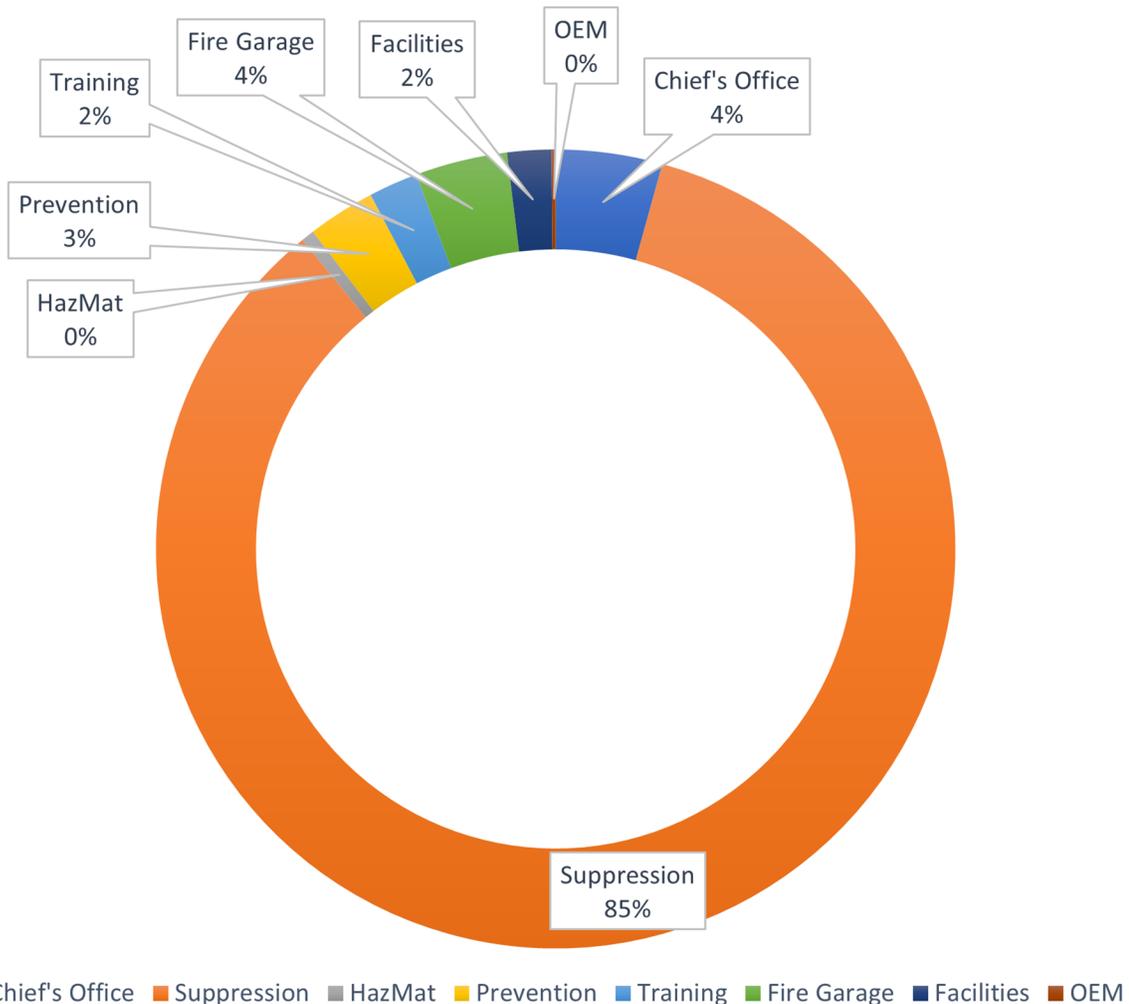
\* Response Time is the amount of time it takes for the apparatus to travel from the Fire station to the address of the incident

\*\* Turnout Time is the amount of time it takes for the firefighters to pull out of the fire station from the time of receiving the alarm

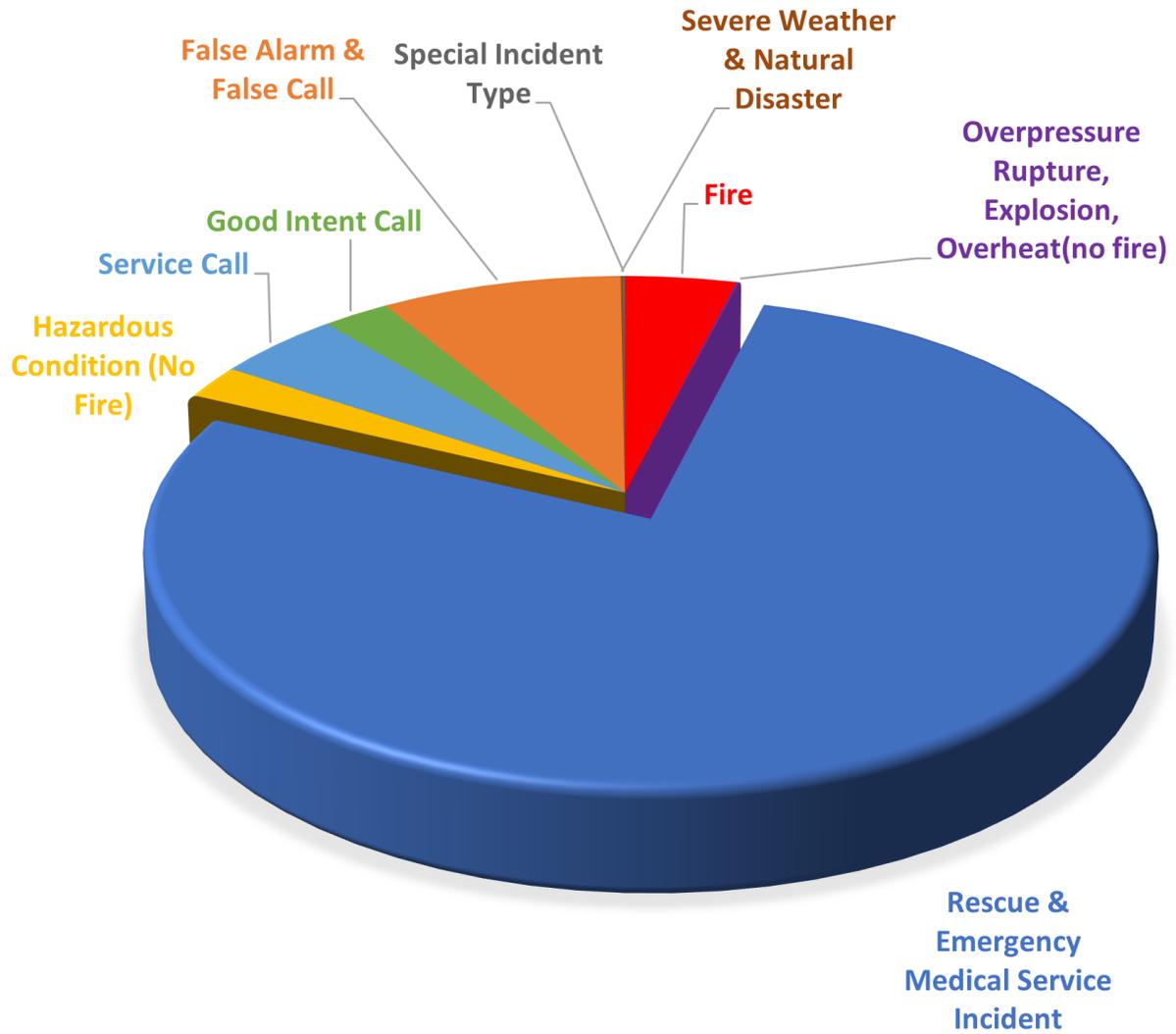
## Fire Department Training Hours for 2022

Recruit Hours	Firefighter Hours
12,682 total hours	14,252 total hours

## 2022 Fire Dept Budget



# 2022 INCIDENT BY TYPE



**Peoria Fire Department**

**505 NE Monroe Street**

**Peoria, IL 61603**

**309.494.8700**

**[peoriagov.org/fire-department/](http://peoriagov.org/fire-department/)**