



2024 Chatham Fire Department Year in Review



MISSION STATEMENT

The Chatham Fire Department exists to provide exceptional fire protection, emergency medical care and protection from other disasters to the citizens of the Chatham Fire Protection District. We will accomplish this through training, prevention, and dedication to our customers.

VISION STATEMENT

We shall provide a high level of customer service by protecting life, property, and the environment through the delivery of compassionate, innovative, fiscally responsible firefighting, rescue, fire prevention, and emergency medical services. As the core service of the district, we are committed to protecting our customers, families, and our colleagues, from all hazards known and unknown.

VALUES

We will always protect life and property with these core values

Honesty: Trust from our customers is never taken for granted. We will always strive to maintain that trust.

Innovation: We will use the latest techniques and technology to provide the best possible outcome for our customers.

Leadership: Leading through the courage to act when needed to protect life and property. Leading with professionalism, dedication, and competence always

Teamwork: We will work together to accomplish our mission and protect those we serve

Compassion: We will always treat as we want treated. Always be nice.

Department History

Organized in 1928, the Chatham Fireman's' Association, followed by the Chatham Fire Department has provided continuous firefighting service to the citizens of the Village of Chatham and the Chatham Community Fire Protection District.

2024 Highlights

- Several valuable members transitioned to retirement
- CFD was able to hire 4 new firefighters
- A new ambulance was put in service
- The training program instituted several hands-on and live fire programs
- Many members celebrated milestones and lifesaving awards



A Message from the Chief

To the Trustees and citizens of the Chatham Community Fire Protection District:

I respectfully present the Annual report for the Chatham Fire Department for 2024. Like every year before, 2024 was a year of change. Additions and retirements affected our department greatly. Retirements continue to cause the department to pivot and restructure.

Call volume for the year was slightly down from 2023, we served our constituents 2,743 times compared to 2,811. This averages 7.5 calls for service per day. Emergency Medical Response is the largest percentage of our calls, averaging over 70% of our total responses. Every EMS call takes 60-90 minutes to complete, meaning our ambulances are serving the public almost half of every day. This leaves little time to complete our other duties, training, station and apparatus maintenance, and exercise.

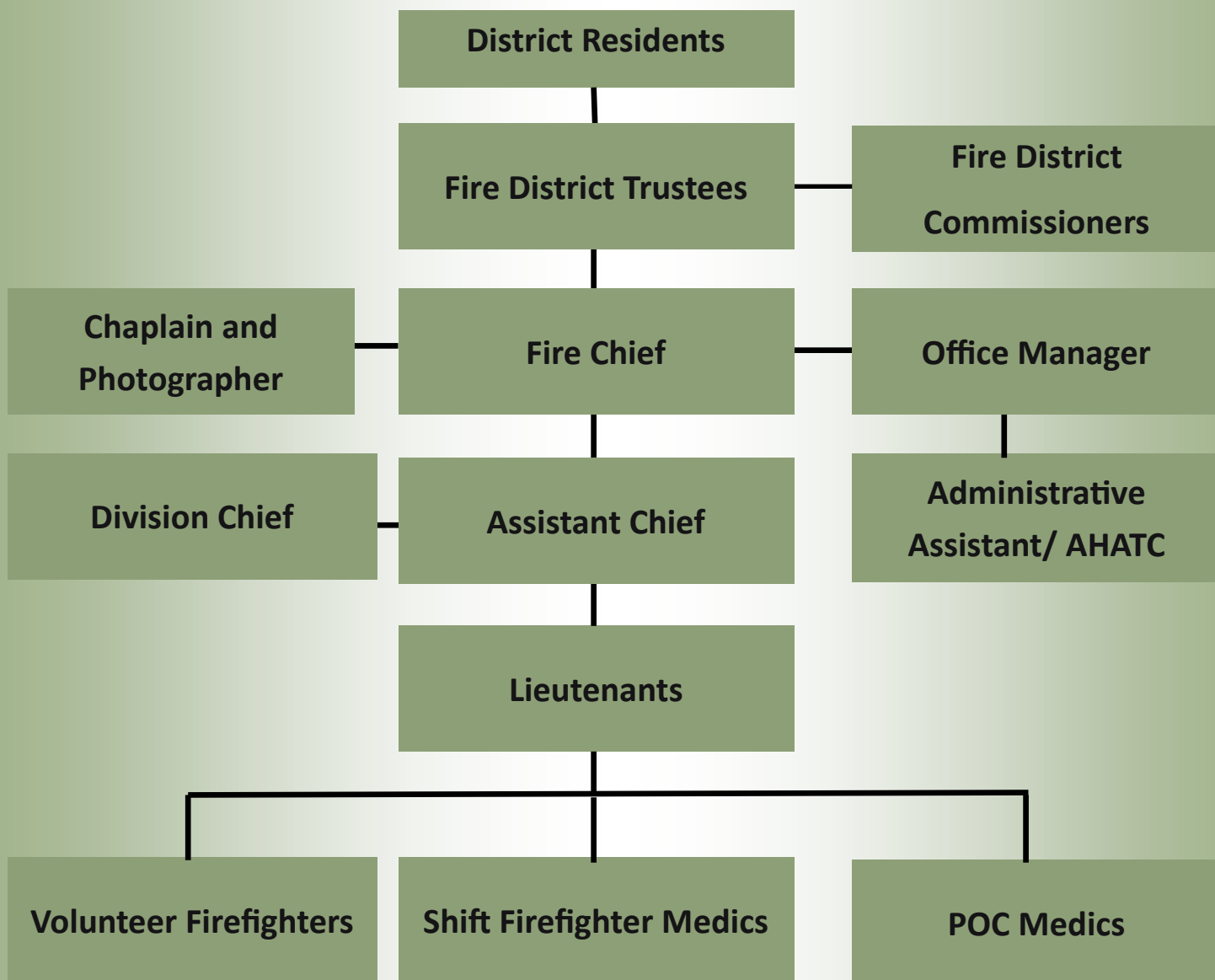
We, like every other small department depend on and provide aid to our neighboring districts. Our ambulance transport area runs from the south county line to Interstate 72, and from old Rt. 66 to the Morgan County line. We do this with five firefighter/paramedics working each day, and thirteen dedicated volunteers. In 2025 we will begin the process of better serving our customers on the eastern side of our district by asking our voters to approve an increase in our levy and extension to eventually build and staff a new station near Palm Road. This station will be built with the Southern and Eastern expansion of the Village of Chatham in mind. This vision is in line with the comprehensive plan presented in 2024.

We expect delivery of our new pumper in 2025, this will replace a 34 year old pumper that has drastically outlived its useful life. Our fleet of vehicles are rapidly aging, we have a pumper and ladder truck that are 25 years old and maintenance costs are beginning to outpace their value. We will look into refurbishing the ladder truck to extend its life another 5-8 years before replacement. We will need to replace the pumper by 2029, with supply chain issues and the post covid apparatus build times we need to order it by 2026. Apparatus replacement costs have far outpaced revenues, the cost for a pumper will be almost 1 million dollars and the ladder truck replacement price will be over 2 million dollars.

Fire department training is important and mandated by several outside agencies. We provide fire, rescue, and medical services to our customers and the combined training requirements are well over 200 hours per year for each member. Our training division works daily to help our firefighters maintain their licenses and certifications.

As always, we will continue to be good stewards of the money our constituents graciously give us. We will always strive to give great customer service through training, response, and education. "Our Team Makes a Difference!"

Fire District Organizational Chart



Fire Department Executive Staff



**District President
George Perkins**



**District Treasurer
Gary Mueller**



**District Secretary
Kevin Bell**



**Commissioner
Shane Hill**



**Commissioner
Dan Holden**



**Commissioner
JW Hoskinson**



**Fire Chief
Gary Self**

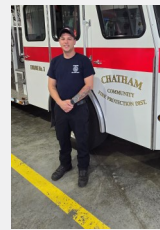
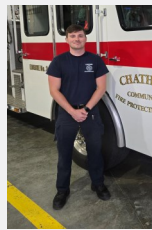


**Assistant Chief
Joe Bolletta**



**Division Chief
Ryan Bramley**

Fire Department Staff



CFD STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



James Follis was promoted to Lieutenant in July 2023. Lt. Follis joined the Chatham Fire Department in September 2008. Lt. Follis oversees Shift 1. Lt. Follis is the EMS Coordinator for the Chatham Fire Department. Lt. Follis is active with the apparatus committee, pension board, Sangamon County Ambulance Ordinance, and safety working group.

James was born and raised in South Jacksonville, IL, before relocating to Bloomington, IL, in 2002. He joined the Bloomington Township Fire Department in 2003, starting his fire service journey.

Lt. Follis has lived in Chatham since 2009 and is married to his beautiful wife, Noel. They have two French bulldogs and one Dalmatian. James is an avid St. Louis Blues fan.



Lieutenant Jeremy Jacobs was promoted to Lieutenant in July of 2022. Lt. Jacobs joined the fire department as a volunteer in 2001 and as a career firefighter in 2008. Lt Jacobs has been active on many boards and committees during his tenure including the Foreign Fire Insurance Board and the apparatus committee. Lt. Jacobs serves as the department curator, coordinator of the Knox Box program, and serves as the department Fire Prevention Officer and as a juvenile fire setter interventionist.

Jeremy is a lifelong resident of Chatham, fourth generation. He is and always will be “old Chatham”. As a kid, Jeremy followed the fire department on his bike to watch them as they responded to emergencies around town. Jeremy is a 1995 graduate of Glenwood schools, and along with his lovely wife Teresa they are raising the fifth generation of Jacobs, two boys.



Lieutenant Ryan Damhoff was promoted to Lieutenant in 2024 and oversees shift 2. Lt. Damhoff has served with the Chatham Fire Department since 2017 as a firefighter/paramedic. He currently serves as the Fire Training Coordinator for the Chatham Fire Department and is active in many boards and committees including the apparatus committee and both the pension and foreign fire insurance boards.

Ryan was raised in Fulton Illinois and graduated from Monmouth College. He relocated to the area and served as an EMT and paramedic in Springfield prior to coming to the Chatham Fire Department.

He and his wife Haylie stay busy raising two you boys.



Lieutenant Joe Faloon joined the Chatham Fire Department in 2017 and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 2024. Lt Faloon began his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown of Rochester Illinois, where he developed a passion for the fire service.

Lt Faloon serves on multiple committees for the department including the apparatus committee and the Foreign Fire Insurance Board. In addition to serving as a Fire Training Officer for the Chatham Fire Department, Lt Faloon is an Instructor for the Illinois Fire Service Institute and enjoys traveling around the state to assist other departments and firefighters with their training and continued education. Joe and his wife Kortney have lived in Chatham since 2017 and have one daughter.

Operations

The most visible division of the fire department is operations. The operations division includes all emergency responses including EMS, Fire, and Rescue. Your Chatham Firefighters are on duty 24-hours a day, 365 days a year keeping the residents, visitors and property safe from all types of hazards. From a single firehouse on Rt. 4 we protect our fire district and provide automatic and mutual aid to the Auburn, Divernon, Loami and other neighboring fire districts.

We respond to any emergency within and outside of our district. Collectively our members had over 7500 individual emergency responses in 2024. These include Fire, rescue, EMS and any other type call.

EMS calls are the major percentage of responses we provide. Our Firefighter/Paramedics provide ALS transportation to not just our residents and visitors, but also our automatic and mutual aid partners, including a portion of the City of Springfield. Our members responded to over 1900 emergency medical calls in 2024

Fire and emergency calls, while not as numerous as EMS require our members to be ready at all times. In addition to our dedicated on-shift personnel we have thirteen civic minded volunteers that respond to fires and other emergencies any time of the day.

The Operations division is overseen by Assistant Chief Bolletta and the four Lieutenants. Together they ensure the career and volunteer members and equipment are ready to respond whenever needed.

As we face an ever increasing increase in requests for service, we must maintain an operationally ready state, both with ourselves and our equipment. This is done through training, physical fitness, and maintenance.

2024 did have a slightly lower total call volume 2743 vs. 2811, but that only represents a .18 call per day decrease. Medical calls will always be the lions share of our responses, 70 percent or more of our call volume. We had an increase in transports in 2024, 1493 compared to 1479 in 2023, a 9% increase. This is a normal occurrence as more people are using the emergency room as their primary source of medical care.

Fires were down from 2023 by almost 50%. In 2024 structures that caught fire in the district had a total value of around \$1,000,000.00 in value compared to only \$181,000.00 in loss. In 2023 we had \$1,225,000.00 in total value to \$533,440.00 in loss to fire. We pride ourselves on quick, efficient response to all emergencies, this helps save lives and property.

Call Type Descriptions

100 Series- All Fires

200 Series- Ruptures and Explosions

300 Series- All Medical calls for service

400 Series- Gas leaks and other hazardous conditions with no fire

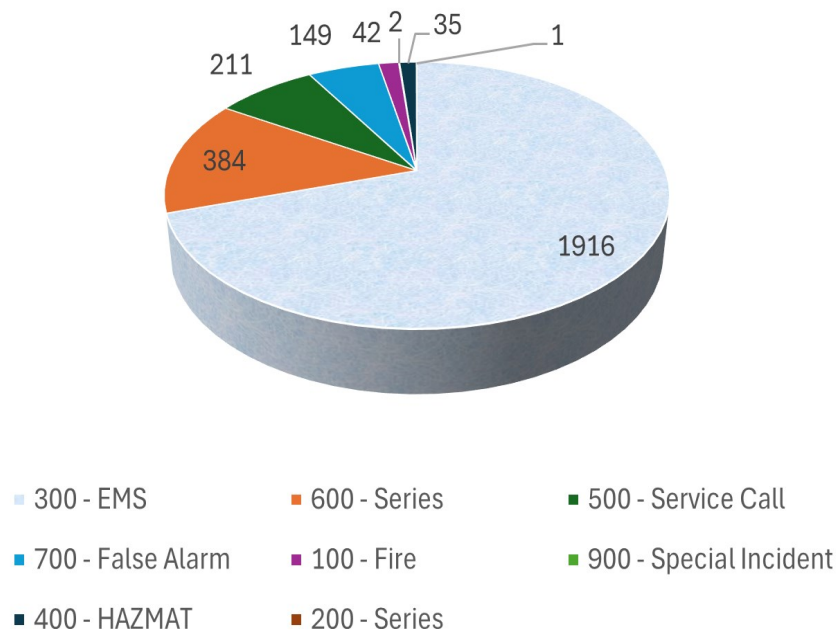
500 Series- Service calls

600 Series- Cancelled

700 Series- False alarms

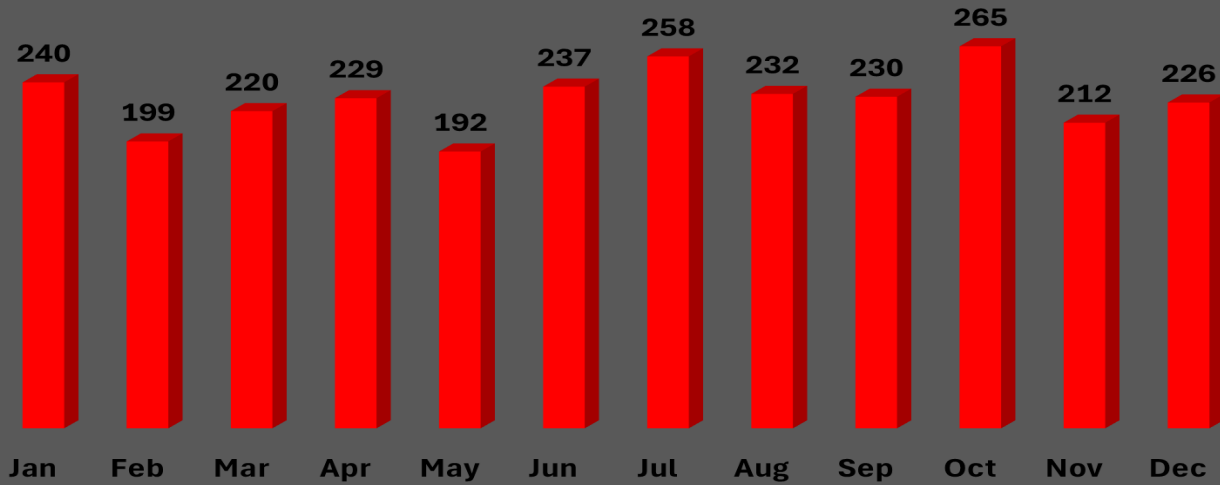
900 Series- Citizen Complaint

2024 Call Breakdown



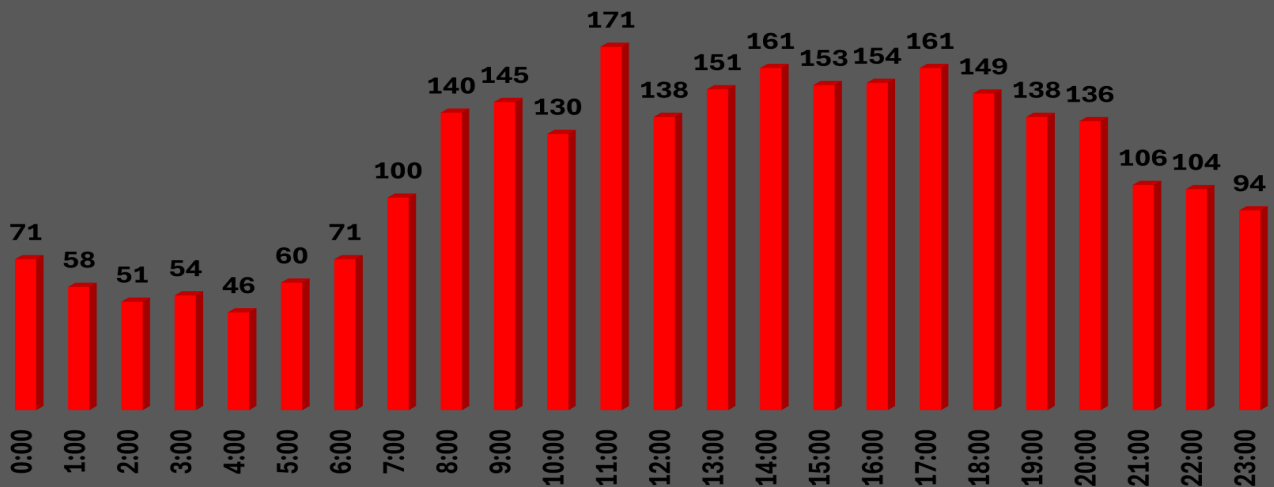
2024 Statistics

Calls by Month



Calls by Day of the Week

2024 Calls by Hour of the Day



Call Volume By Shift

Shift 1



952 Calls for Service

Shift 2



903 Calls for Service

Shift 3



885 Calls for Service



Call Volume by Unit



<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
3F26	727
3F27	958
3F28	2
3F29	922
Engine 1	2
Engine 2	23
Engine 3	314
Truck 1	19
Command 1	604
Brush 1	24
Brush 2	9
Tanker 1	20
Gator	3

Mutual Aid

All area agencies rely on and provide mutual and automatic aid to their neighboring departments. Whenever there is a fire or other large emergency in Chatham we receive aid from our partners and in return we provide aid when needed. These partnerships provide the needed services in a timely manner for ours and their citizens.

Aid Given		Aid Received	
<u>Department</u>	<u>Calls</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Calls</u>
America Ambulance	3	America Ambulance	21
Auburn Fire	374	Auburn Fire	21
Divernon Fire	142	Divernon Fire	4
Dunns Ambulance	1	Lifestar Ambulance	1
Girard Fire	1	Loami Fire	1
Lifestar Ambulance	1	Medics First Ambulance	3
Loami Fire	47	New Berlin/Island Grove Fire	2
New Belin/Island Grove Fire	2	Springfield Fire	38
Pawnee Fire	5	TOTAL	91
Sangamon County Rescue Squad	1		
Sherman Fire	1		
Springfield Fire	315		
Virden Fire	2		
TOTAL	895		

TRAINING



Your Chatham Fire Department conducts training in several subject areas to keep skills elevated and to learn new techniques and methods. 2024 was another year full of training in emergency medicine, fire and rescue. With four new members joining us, there was a lot of entry-level training given to bring them up to speed with their counterparts. Almost 2000 hours of training was directed both in house and externally for new members.

Providing exceptional service to our customers requires many hours of training. Division Chief Bramley oversees the training division, along with Lieutenants Damhoff, Follis, and Faloon. Together they plan and implement the training plan for the year. Mandated training counts for a lot of the plan, with the Illinois Department of Health, Illinois Department of Labor, and the National Fire Protection Association being the largest mandating agencies.

As an all-hazards agency, we strive to continually provide service that is second to none to our citizens and visitors to our district. We will continue working to exceed expectations with fire, rescue, and EMS training. We are introducing Rescue task Force to our department, this service allows our members to work hand-in-hand with law enforcement to protect our customers. As always, we are here for you.



PUBLIC EDUCATION and OUTREACH



We are here to serve you!

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public Education is an integral part of the Chatham Fire Department mission. Every fire or injury that does not happen can be directly tied to education. The Chatham Fire Department dedicates many hours to public education every year. Lieutenant Jacobs is in charge of our public education and outreach program, he oversees all aspects of the program. Our programs include the Knox Box program that eligible seniors can participate in, the program places a secure box on the home that allows our responders access to the home in the event of an emergency without damaging the home. We also visit many senior organizations to present fire and life safety information, these include working with the Ball-Chatham Senior Center and many events throughout the district.

We also focus on fire safety for children. We host many different civic groups for fire and life safety tours. Some groups we regularly host are Boys and Girl scout organizations. Every October for Fire Safety Week we visit every elementary school to present fire safety education to every third grader in the district. This includes fire safety messages, apparatus tours and a demonstration of the safety gear we wear.



Accomplishments

Our members take hundreds of hours of training every year, both in-house and external. Every new member goes through an on-boarding process that familiarizes them with our policies, procedures, and operations. Once they are through the on-boarding they go through either an in-person academy or the Basic Firefighter Operations course. These classes teach them the basics of fire dynamics, hose and nozzle operations, and hazardous materials. Full time members must complete their paramedic certification within twenty four months of hire, and our volunteers are offered the opportunity to take advanced medical training as well. We celebrate these and other accomplishments like promotions, retirements, and life saving awards twice per year.



American Heart Association Training Center

Chances are if you have had CPR training, it was conducted by an instructor affiliated with the Chatham Fire Department AHA training center. Our training center has over 100 instructors teaching CPR and other classes all over Illinois and as far away as Iowa and Missouri. In 2024 instructors affiliated with the CFD center conducted hundreds of classes, reaching over 3800 students. The training center is open to the public and can accommodate up to 25 students. Chatham residents and business owners receive a 50% discount, call 217-483-2121 or email AHATC@cf-d-il.com to schedule a class.



Kari Leyva

AHATC Coordinator

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(217) 483-4411 F

(217) 697-7767 C



American
Heart
Association.



Retirements



Bill Rose
Division Chief
35 Years



Jimmie Gerberding
Firefighter Paramedic
25 years



Chuck Baker
Firefighter Paramedic
20 Years

New Hires



Pacer Neisler



Anthony McKee



Ryan Maul



Chris Bierworth

Life on the fire department is continual, everyone has a beginning and an end. We celebrated three valuable members careers as they transitioned to retirement in 2024 and the beginning for four new members as they started. These new members started their careers in training to gain the skills needed to serve.

Requests For Information

Fire Report: To request a fire report, send an email to:

District.office@cf-d-il.com Please include the following information in the request:

Name of person requesting report
Address of Incident
Date of Incident
Type of Incident

Ambulance Report: To request an ambulance report, send a FOIA request to Chathamfiredept@cf-d-il.com Please include the following information:

Name of person requesting report
Address of Incident
Name of Patient
Date of Incident
Medical release form

FOIA Requests: Gary.self@cf-d-il.com

Contact Information:

Chatham Fire Protection District

1 Fireman Sq.

Chatham, Illinois 62629

Phone: 217-483-2121

Email: Chathamfiredept@cf-d-il.com

Website: www.cf-d-il.com

Chief's Email: Gary.self@cf-d-il.com

