



Message from Fire Chief Brant Yochum

On behalf of all the members of the Effingham Fire Department, I am honored to present our 2022 annual report.

It has been my privilege to serve as the Fire Chief and work with the dedicated men and women of the Effingham Fire Department as well as the City of Effingham Council Members: Mayor Mike Schutzbach, City Administrator Steve Miller, Commissioners Merv Gillenwater, Hank Stephens, Libby Moeller, and Larry Micenheimer.

This 2022 annual report illustrates our department's commitment to the citizens of our community. The members of the Effingham Fire Department are proud to serve the citizens and visitors of Effingham.

The year 2022 offered some unpredictable challenges for the EFD and our staff. We were faced with staff shortages due to a work-related injury, resulting in multiple overtime hours for our duty crew. With these challenges, we accomplished our goals and provided a seamless service to our community.

We are returning to normal after the COVID pandemic, which has been a relief. The allowed us to get back to regular station tours, community training, and our open house event.

With our continued partnership with MABAS 54, we saw many opportunities to provide mutual aid to our outlining communities and receive much-needed support during our calls for services throughout the year. Because of the level of risk during calls for service, our mutual aid support systems with our neighboring communities remain vital to our emergency operations. Last year we added Teutopolis Fire Protection District on automatic aid for all working fires in our district.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of this department and their families for their dedication to this organization and our community. We are fortunate to have an Administration and City Council supporting our mission to deliver the highest level of emergency service possible to the City of Effingham.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Fire Chief of the Effingham Fire Department. It has been an honor to serve this fantastic community.

Sincerely,

Brant A Yochum

Brant Yochum
Fire Chief

Fire Department Highlights:

2022 was a busy year for the Effingham Fire Department in terms of both call volume and overall operations. We were able to get back to normal after the past few years of COVID restrictions.

Station tours were able to resume after all the COVID restrictions were lifted. We were able to continue our Annual Open House and were able to team up with the Kasey Dog program for the open house and Fire Prevention Week. The program was available for two days during Fire Prevention week for local schools to attend.

Last year was our first year for our Santa Run. We drove Santa around all the neighborhoods of Effingham. It was a big success, and we plan on doing that again in December 2023.

Effingham City EMA had a transition. Dave Budde retired, and former paid-on-call firefighter Larry Thies took his position. Larry has been doing an outstanding job.

Our department's Facebook page had 530 new followers, which we strive to continually improve in reaching out to our community. To date, we have 6,933 followers on Facebook.

Our department provides various community training, including fire extinguisher training and all city employee CPR and Stop the Bleed training.

We added three new paid-on-call firefighters who began their firefighter training in the fall of 2022.

We received our new truck (575) in December, and members have been working hard to get it ready for service in early 2023. We also received new Scott SCBAs in December, and crews have been training with them to get them in service in the first part of 2023.

Calls for Service in 2022 totaled 687, an increase of 100 calls from the previous year. The call response summary for 2022 is as follows:

<u>Building Fires</u>	<u>Vehicle Crashes</u>	<u>Vehicle Fires</u>	<u>Brush Fires</u>
23	130	14	9

Total Dollar Saved Estimate: \$5,810,700

Total Dollar Loss Estimate: \$588,200

In our continued effort to maintain and improve the Fire Department Insurance Services Organization (ISO) Rating (ISO-2) and NFPA standards for equipment.



Department Training Summary:

The Training Division is responsible for the Training and Education of the Fire Department personnel. The Department follows the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal's certification and training requirements. Personnel complete many of their training at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign-Urbana, with various classes offered off-campus. Some of the highlights:

Personnel completed: 3,160.2 hours

Certifications Obtained:

Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist

Advanced Fire Officer

Fire Service Instructor I

Notable Classes/Conferences Attended by members:

Instructor I

National Fire Academy Leadership in Supervision

Water of the Fire Conference

FAST

IFA Weekend

Winter Fire School

Engine Company Operations

Vehicle Machinery Technician

Bus and Heavy Truck Extrication

Fire Department Instructor's Conference

Illinois Fire Service Instructor's Conference

International Association Fire Chiefs Fire-Rescue International

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Conference

In 2023, we look forward to getting back to a full regular training schedule with multiple outside classes already being planned. This upcoming year brings new requirements, and we look forward to tackling these while advancing the Effingham Fire Department through training and Education.



Fire Prevention Bureau Summary - Assistant Chief Matt Kulesza:



Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) over saw many projects in 2022 throughout the City of Effingham. FPB was involved with numerous new constructions as well as remodeling of existing businesses. Assistant Chief Kulesza worked hand in hand with newly appointed Chief Brant Yochum.

2022 was a successful year for FPB construction projects in Effingham. New construction and remodeling projects moved at a record pace for the 3rd continuous year. FPB worked with all business owners located along Fayette Ave. to relocate to new locations for the Fayette Ave. Road construction project.

FPB made changes to the department operations by assigning pre-plan inspections of commercial properties to the department duty crew. Each day, duty crew personnel were assigned business locations to visit and record the square footage of buildings, fire alarm locations, fire sprinkler locations, electrical and gas shut off, and building construction (wood-metal, etc.). Business owners and employees were able to recognize the importance of building pre-plans as a pro-active measure in the event of an emergency at their location.

There were over 48 projects reviewed/facilitated in 2022.

Some of the major projects were:

- CDI office building.
- Jansen Heating and Air building.
- Dominos/Jersey Mikes building.
- IHOP building at Petro.
- Sarah Bush MOB.
- Human Bean coffee shop.
- Probst Refrigeration building.
- Maria's Taco house.
- New Vintage barber shop.
- Tap-Out lounge.
- Firefly addition.

The Prevention Bureau also completed the following:

- Fire Life /Safety Inspections – 748
- Plan Reviews – 85
- Mobile Food Vendor Inspections – 18
- Occupancy Permits – 18
- Legal Actions – 16
- Property Use Inspections – 1,118
- Pre-plans - 370

Emergency Management Overview - Coordinator Larry Thies:



The City Emergency Management Agency plays a pivotal role in preparing the City for emergencies and coordinating the responses of State and Federal resources in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

During 2022, EMA Coordinator Larry Thies oversees the movement of the Emergency Operations Center to a secure location within the City and will continue to work with City Staff to get the EOC fully operational during 2023. The primary goal is to make this space cohesive for all City Emergency Services and Departments to continue to operate for the betterment of our citizens when normal, everyday services that may be interrupted due to an unplanned event. The overall design will accommodate for interagency coordination and executive decision making that will play a critical role of the on-scene response.

EMA Thies will continue to respond to the scene directly serving as the primary liaison with homeowners that may need assistance from The American Red Cross and/or The Salvation Army. His other responsibilities will be providing and overseeing firefighter personnel support with any assistance they may need during a physically demanding structure fire.

Below is an overview of City EMA's annual activities:

- Oversaw inventory of PPE from IEMA.
- Met with American Red Cross Shelter Coordinators to secure emergency sheltering.
- Hosted quarterly EMA meetings with City and County Emergency Services.
- Oversee smoke detector program with the American Red Cross.
- Updated 2022 Emergency Operating Procedure Plan for the City of Effingham to IEMA.
- Submitted quarterly reports to IEMA for EMA grant reimbursement.
- Participated as a member of the Effingham County 911 monthly meeting.
- Serve on the 911 EMS Committee
- Serve on the Effingham County Crime Stoppers Committee
- Serve as an Effingham County Deputy Coroner
- Attending County EMA Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings.
- Starcom Radio and Tornado Siren Warning Monthly Testing
- Met with Salvation Army coordinators to secure resources for Shelter Victims.
- Attended Public Works EMA monthly meetings.
- Submitted Effingham City Flood Assessment to Region 9 IEMA
- Submitted State of Illinois Rapid Visual Screening Earthquake Assessment Project
- Presented Fire Fighters On Scene Rehab Training
- Attended MABAS Chaplains quarterly meetings.
- Participated in the IEMA Region 9 THIRA AAR / IP Exercise
- Attended NWS Severe Weather Conference Calls

