



MERIDIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 Annual Report

Compassion | Professionalism | Honesty | Ownership | Trust

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2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report for 2023 on behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Meridian Fire Department. Despite the challenges and complexities of the Fire Service, our unwavering commitment to serving the community with compassion, professionalism, honesty, ownership, and trust remains steadfast. Our team responded to over 11,000 total apparatus requests in 2023, reflecting a persistent demand for our services. We have been working diligently to expand our capabilities in an effort to fulfill the community's needs. We are excited to announce the opening of Fire Stations 7 and 8, as well as the addition of 35 new members to our agency, ranging from recruit firefighters to Deputy Chief positions. Furthermore, the City has acquired a second ladder truck to improve our emergency response capabilities.

While emergency medical responses remained the most common type of incident we handled, fire and other emergency-related losses were significant. Our team of skilled professionals in all areas of the Meridian Fire Department work tirelessly to serve the community, and I could not be prouder of their efforts. Their passion for serving and commitment to our mission are what sets us apart, and we are honored to have earned the respect and support of our community. This report showcases our achievements and performance over the past year, and I am confident it will provide a sense of pride and honor to all those who read it. As Fire Chief, I am deeply committed to our mission and values, and I hope this report conveys the same passion that our team brings to their work each day.

KRIS BLUME

8

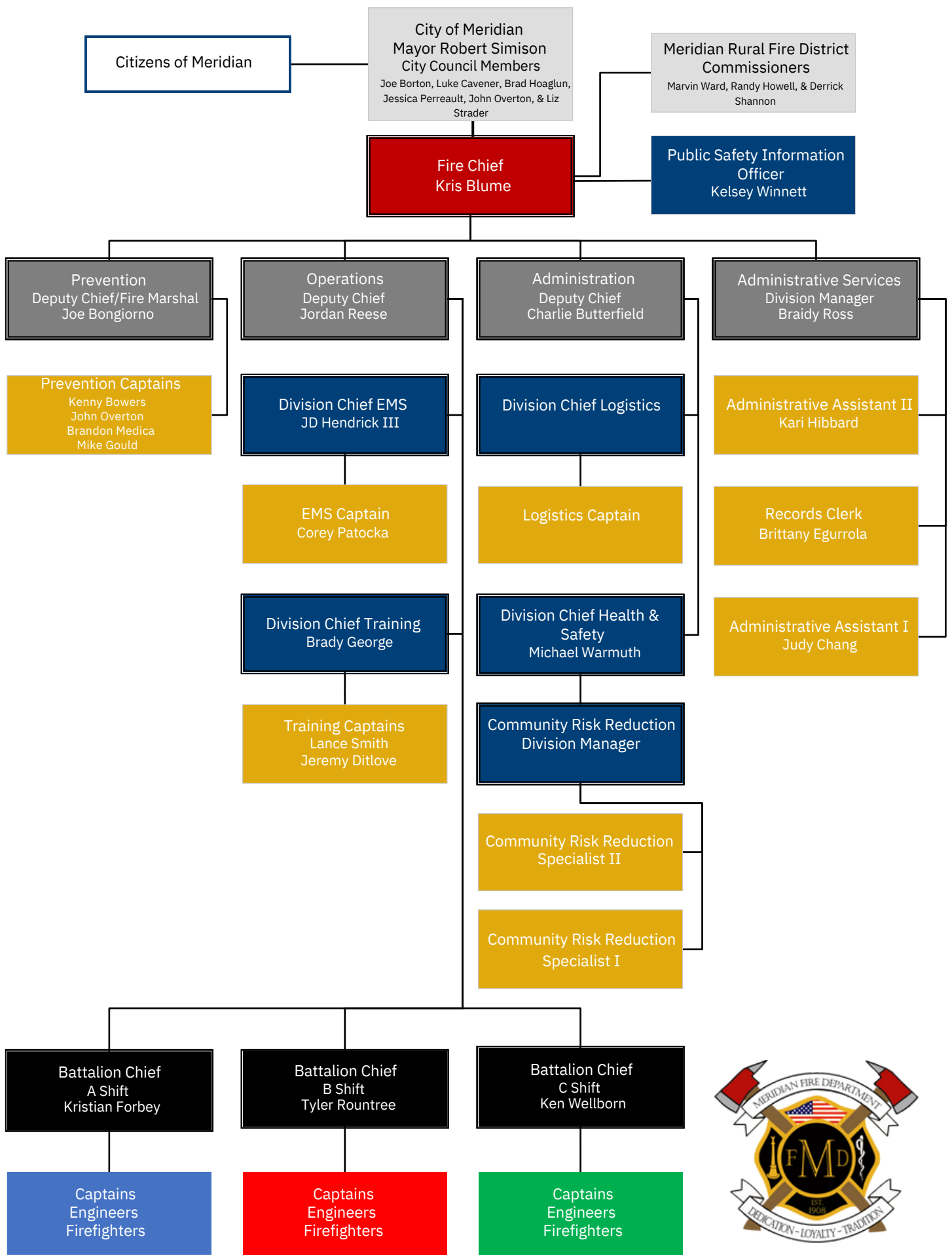
FIRE STATIONS

22

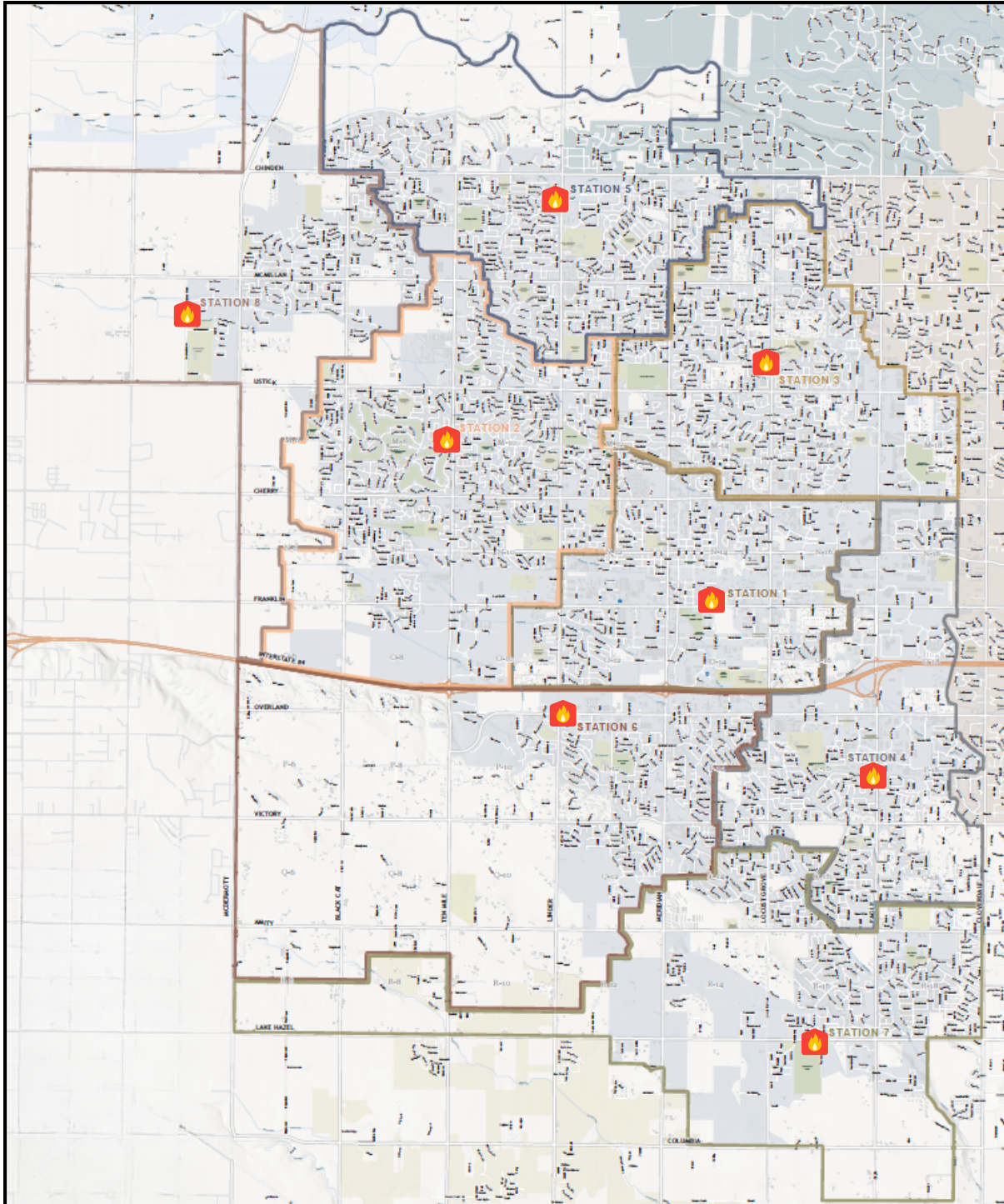
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

107

FIREFIGHTERS



FIRE STATION LOCATIONS



Station #1
540 E Franklin Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642

Station #2
2401 N Ten Mile Rd.
Meridian, ID 83646

Station #3
3545 N Locust Grove Rd.
Meridian, ID 83646

Station #4
2515 S Eagle Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642

Station #5
6001 N Linder Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642

Station #6
1435 W Overland Rd.
Meridian, ID 83642

Station #7
6343 S Recreation Ave.
Meridian, ID 83646

Station #8
4250 N Owyhee Storm Ave.
Meridian, ID 83646

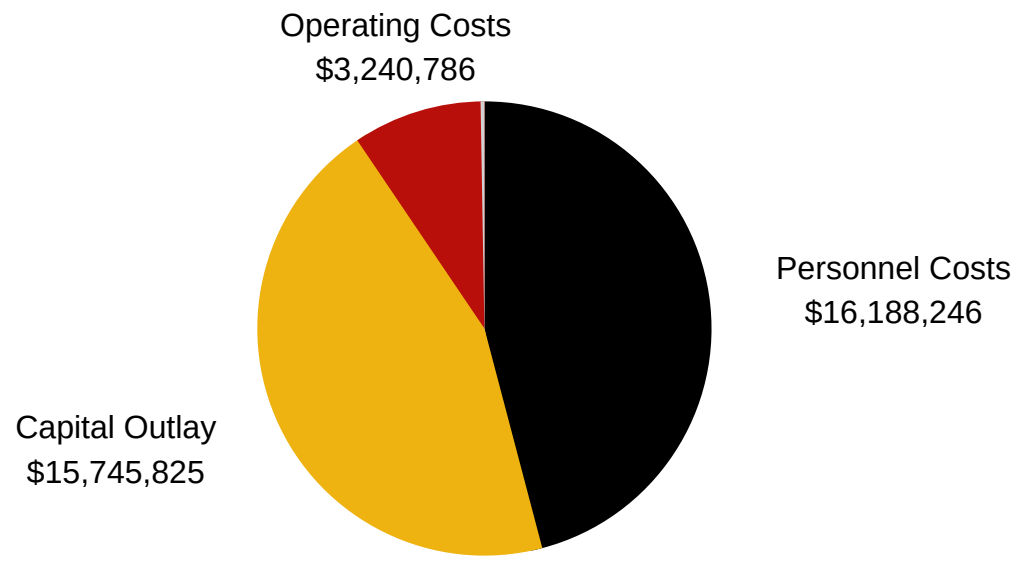
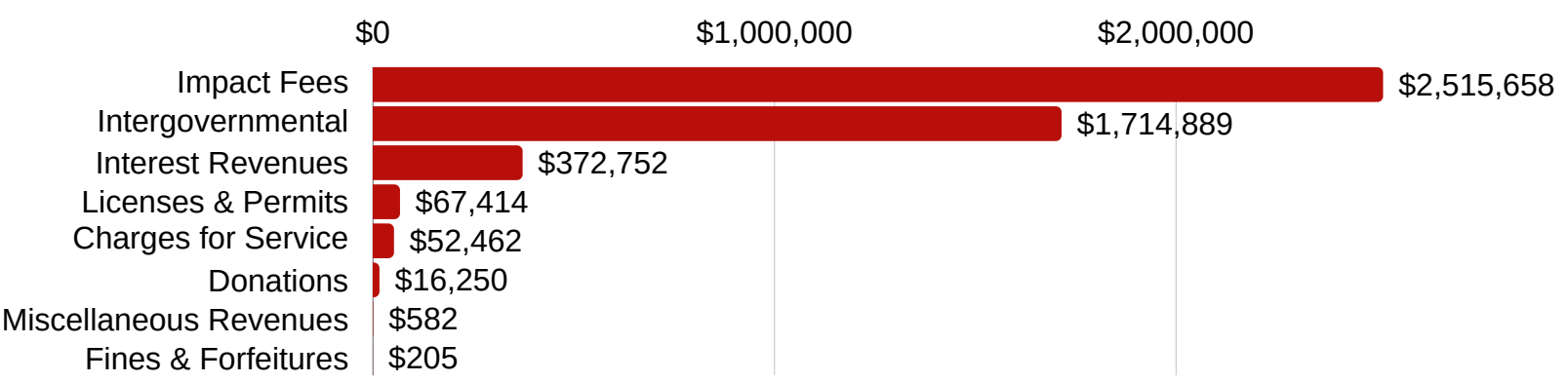
FINANCIAL REPORT

In fiscal year 2023 we saw an increase to our budget due to the carry-forward costs for the completion of Station 7 and 8 along with the hiring of 30 new firefighters and 5 new administrative staff positions.

Revenue received was largely due to impact fees and funds received from the Meridian Rural Fire District which was association with the hiring of 30 new firefighters.

Meridian Fire’s continued focus is to provide the highest level of service for the citizens of Meridian while keeping costs as low as possible. We would like to thank all members of the Department that contributed to the preparation of the 2023 budget including the City’s Finance Department, the Mayor, our City Council and our Rural Fire Protection District Commissioners.

FY23 EXPENSES	FY23 REVENUES
\$35,270,437 (88.2%)	\$4,740,220 (11.8%)

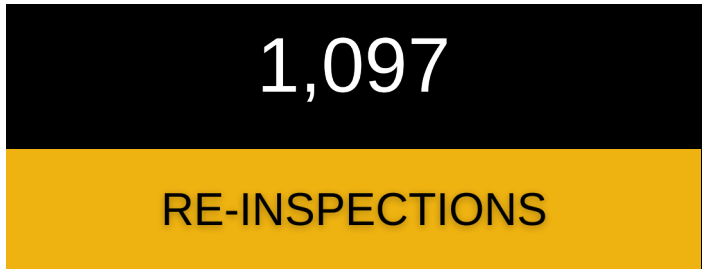


DEPARTMENT STATS

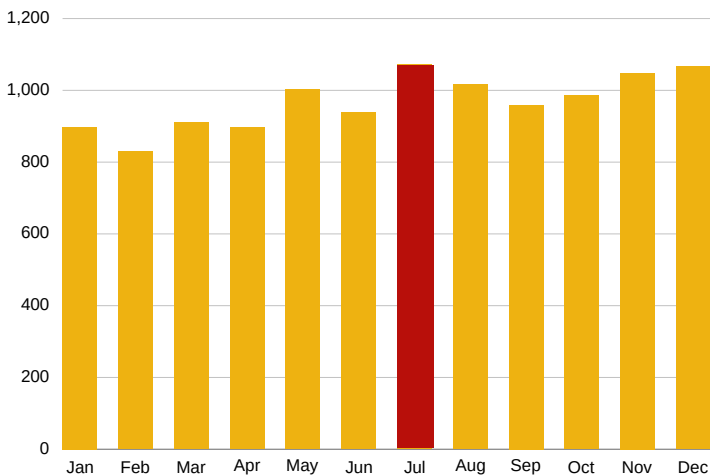
Meridian Fire has recorded a steady call volume for both Fire and EMS incidents. The majority of these calls (57%) are classified as emergency medical services incidents. In terms of fire-related calls, 49% were reported structure fires, followed by natural vegetation fires at 22% and outside rubbish fires at 13%.

Column volume continues to be busiest during summer and winter months.

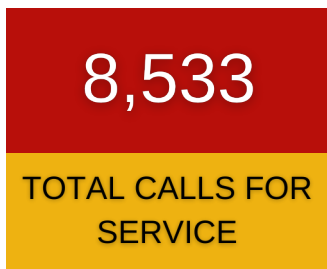
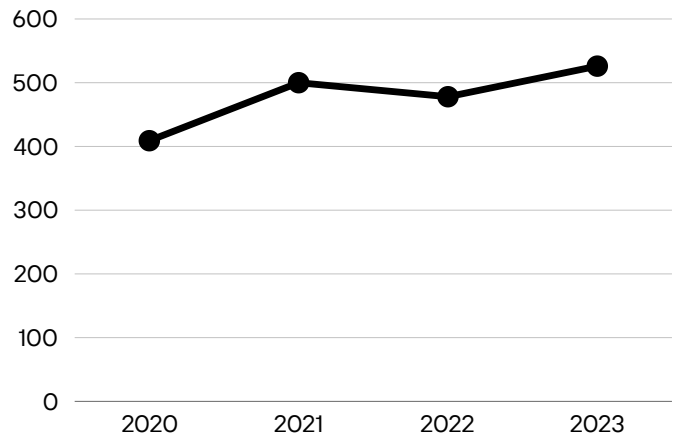
With the recent additions of stations 7 and 8, the department's service level has improved to cover more ground within the city, enabling the teams to quickly respond and manage emergencies within their response district.



MONTHLY CALL VOLUME



REPORTED MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS



IMPROVED RESPONSE CAPABILITIES: WELCOME TRUCK 35



Members of the community were invited to participate in the Push-In Ceremony for Meridian's newest ladder fire truck: Truck-35 this summer. Meridian's new truck is what's known as a Quint Fire Truck. Unique to the fleet, this apparatus combines the equipment capabilities of a ladder truck and the water-pumping ability of a fire engine. It is named a "Quint" because of its five components: water pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device/ladder, and ground ladders.

The tradition of a fire apparatus push-in ceremony dates back to the late 1800's, when fire departments used horses to pull steamer engines to a fire. After fighting the fire, crews would wash and ready the horses and the engines in preparation for the next call. Because it is very difficult for horses to walk backwards with a load attached to them, firefighters would manually push the apparatus back into the station's bay. Meridian Fire has honored this tradition each time a new apparatus has been brought into service.



GRAND OPENING OF MERIDIAN FIRE STATIONS 7 & 8

Meridian Fire Department celebrated the grand openings of its seventh (7th) and eighth (8th) fire stations this year; improving response times in Southeast and Northwest Meridian.

Fire Station Seven (7) was built on land provided by the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District. The longstanding relationship between Meridian Fire Department and the Meridian Rural Fire District ensures both incorporated and unincorporated parts of Meridian receive vital emergency services. Memorializing the tragic events of September 11th, honoring those who lost their lives that day was a theme of today's grand opening. The address, 6343 S. Recreation Ave., was chosen for this fire station to honor the 343 firefighters who tragically lost their lives that day.

Fire Station Eight (8) has been co-located with the new Meridian Police Department North Station. Additionally, Ada County Paramedics will be renting out a portion of both stations to co-locate a paramedic unit, allowing for faster response times for medical calls.

Following the innovative design of Meridian Fire Station 6, both fire stations were built with the goal of reducing firefighter's carcinogenic exposure. Because Meridian Fire Department is an all-hazards response organization, it is imperative that extra thought is put into the design of fire stations for the health and safety of Meridian's first responders. The layout of the fire station allows for better ventilation, isolated areas for contaminated gear, easy access to the fire engine, and solid clean surfaces.



33 FIREFIGHTERS HIRED ADDITIONAL 18 TO BEGIN IN 2024



With the approval of Fiscal Year 2023 budget, the Meridian Fire Department began the hiring and training of thirty-three (33) new firefighters in October 2022 to help staff this expansion of services into North and South Meridian. This represents a 35% increase in Meridian Firefighter Staffing.

Additionally, The Meridian Fire Department was awarded eight (8) million dollars from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This money will be utilized to hire and onboard eighteen (18) new recruit firefighters, allowing the department to move to a four (4) person engine staffing model.

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The Meridian Fire Department was one of three hundred (300) award recipients out of an applicant pool of three thousand (3,000). This is the largest SAFER grant ever awarded in the State of Idaho.

Under the existing three person staffing model, engines arriving to house fires must wait until a second engine arrives in order to begin search and rescue. Adding the fourth person will allow Meridian Fire Department to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards established by the NFPA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720).

The 18 additional positions will be hired in 2024.



IMPROVED RESPONSE TIMES WITH NEW OPTICOM SYSTEM

With a mid-year request from MFD, the Mayor and City Council approved an update to the current Opticom system, in collaboration with the Ada County Highway District. This new technology will ensure that crews are alerted as soon as a call comes through dispatch, giving them a head start on their journey to the scene.

Additionally, the system will improve the communication capabilities of fire response vehicles, allowing them to navigate busy streets with greater ease. Thanks to a cloud-based platform, the Opticom system integrates with traffic signals, which means emergency vehicles can pass through intersections quickly and safely. It is estimated that this new system will reduce the fire department's response time by up to 20%, which could make all the difference in an emergency situation.



MERIDIAN FIRE PARTNERS WITH BOISE STATE

Meridian Fire has teamed up with fourth-year nursing students from Boise State School of Nursing to assess potential risks in our community.

This joint effort is part of our Community Risk Reduction program, which aims to identify and prioritize risks, threats, and hazards in order to implement and evaluate strategies that can mitigate their impact.

Our goal is to raise awareness among the public and maintain the safety of our rapidly growing city. The findings will help us determine and develop programs that offer knowledge and educational opportunities to benefit our community.

We are eagerly anticipating the positive outcomes of this project and partnership.



AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS



50 Years of Service

Kenny Bowers

25 Years of Service

John Overton

20 Years of Service

Joe Bongiorno, Luke Smillie, Marty McSherry, Darby Hill, Chad Coltrin, Justin Winkler, Coit Souza, Brandon Media, Lance Witt

15 Years of Service

Dylan Anderson, Tyler Bryner, Tony Chance, Brock Clapp, Dan Cole, Kristian Forbey, Garrett Hirsch, Derek Nelson, Bill Schuler, Granville Stark, Jason Waits

10 Years of service

Dan Krenz

5 Years of Service

Ryan Baker, Brycyn Campbell
Jared Carlisle, Chase Christopher
Christopher Goodnight, Herb Griffin, Aaron Howell,
Travis Krahn, Jay Mentzer, Ben Paradis, Paul
Schepper, Jermain Smith, Andrew Taghdiri, Ryan
Wallace, Talin Wardein

New Hires

Aaron Huisman, Chad Beatty, Brad DeCastro, Ed
Walters, Fernando Ruiz, Tyler Ashton, Matt Caldwell,
Danny Downen, Luke Gustafson, Jacob Hallmark, Ian
Harrington, Cameron Jacobs, Scott Mansell, Kyle
Plaugher, Luke Smillie, Jacob Storie, Jacob Watkins,
Sheldon Wilkinson, Danny Wing, Cameron Zucchetto

New Admin

Heather Griffin, Michael Warmuth, Brady George



Awards

Distinguished Service

Brandon Medica, Jordan Reese

Unit Citation

Brock Clapp, Kristian Forbey, Steve Hayes,
Benjamin Sletmoe, Mike Zumwalt

Chief's Award of Excellence

Brycyn Campbell
Steve Hayes

Suppression Employee of the Year

Benjamin Sletmoe

Non-Suppression Employee of the Year

Kari Hibbard

Promotions

Deputy Chief of Operations

Jordan Reese

Captain

Jeremy Ditlove, Jerin Jones, Dan Krenz, Sean
Stear, Ryan Wallace, Jermain Smith, Rustin Hood,
Jonathan Hoffman, Bill Schuler

Engineer

Brycyn Campbell, Jared Carlisle, Christopher
Goodnight, Aaron Howell, Paul Schepper, Corey
Simmons, Anja Sundali, Andrew Taghdiri, Jill
Targos, Brennan Maloney, Chad Thompson, Bryan
Wells, Joey Bush, Travis Krajnik



