



# 2023 Reflections

***ACFD1 Mission - To provide professional guidance and funding to facilitate fire protection, education, and all hazard response throughout Albany County Fire District 1.***

Reflecting back on 2023 we have had a busy year! New records in call volume, up over 56% from 2022, participation, training, recruitments, and building relationships! We have much to be proud of and a bright future ahead of us at ACFD1.

Thank you to all the volunteers who continue to strive to improve our service to our community each and every day, the hours that are put in are truly impressive and as a community we are grateful! Success comes from continuing to work together, thank you for all that you do!

## By the numbers:

- **980 Calls to Service in 2023**
- Hundreds of training hours
- Over 100 active volunteers with certifications including - FF1, FF2, Red card FFT2, FFT1, ENGB, EMT, ICT4, Hazmat, and Finance
- \*18 total wildland dispatch Fires in 11 states, including one local EFSA fire in Albany County
  - This generated approx \$307,638 in FF wages with top earners between \$36,000 - \$66,0000
  - Apparatus earned approx \$246,541 with top earner at \$77,400

<p>Positions created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● District Coordinator</li> <li>● Training Coordinator</li> <li>● Wildland Coordinator</li> <li>● Contract Grant Manager Assistance</li> <li>● Contract Human Resources Assistant</li> </ul>	<p>Items in progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Policy/SOG Revisions</li> <li>● Job Descriptions</li> <li>● ARPA Bathroom RFP</li> <li>● VFA grant submissions</li> <li>● Wind farms</li> </ul>
<p>Policies Approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Background Check</li> <li>● Fire Paperwork for Billable Fires</li> <li>● Social Media</li> <li>● Harassment</li> <li>● Investment</li> <li>● WyoLink</li> <li>● Credit Card</li> </ul>	<p>New Collaborations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Active Alert</li> <li>● Google Workspace</li> <li>● Partner with firerecovery.com</li> <li>● Laramie County District 10 MOU</li> <li>● Quickbooks Online</li> <li>● Image Trend</li> </ul>
<p>Trainings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● District wide UTV Training</li> <li>● State Budget Training</li> <li>● Trainings with LFD</li> </ul>	

### **Department Highlights:**

<p>Big Laramie:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● New two bay station at Woods Landing</li><li>● Installation of SCBA compressor and fill station</li><li>● Turned old BL7 into a plow truck for Station 1</li><li>● Installation of dry hydrant in Laramie River at Woods Landing</li><li>● Two firefighters opening ENGB task books</li><li>● Two firefighters completing FF1 JPR's</li></ul>	<p>Centennial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Well drilled</li><li>● Members going out of district to obtain training and skills for better management of local fires</li><li>● One member getting signed off for task force leader and IC4</li><li>● Building relations with other agencies and helping support the rest of the district when needed</li></ul>
<p>Central:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● New to Central type 6</li><li>● Six new recruits</li><li>● Hit new call records, just short of 400 calls</li></ul>	<p>Tie Siding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● New to TSVFD type 6 brush truck</li><li>● New to TSVFD command vehicle</li></ul>
<p>Vedauwoo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Mutual aid agreement with LCFD10</li><li>● New to VVFD pumper from LCFD10</li><li>● Upgraded heat in both buildings</li><li>● 4 apparatuses equipped with extrication equipment</li><li>● Painted upstairs</li><li>● Hose and electric ran to apparatus</li><li>● Installed base radio and antenna</li><li>● 8 firefighters through FF1</li><li>● Purchased new bunker gear for qualified members</li><li>● Purchased Auxiliary trailer</li><li>● Got over 3,000 followers on Facebook</li></ul>	<p>WyCo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Upgrade of equipment to service wildland needs in their area with the acquisition of two new Type 6 trucks</li><li>● Two additional firefighters with FFT1 wildland qualifications, two moving to ENGB for a total of 3 and one IC4</li><li>● Very well equipped and trained for wildland fires as they have encountered many times over the years</li></ul>

### **Coordinator Highlights:**

<p>District Coordinator, Ben Farber:</p> <p>Reflecting on my first ten months with the district brought many challenges to mind and some successes. I underestimated just how challenging this new position would be. With all the challenges though, there have been many successful projects and assignments, some of which are listed below-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Delivery/ordering of ERG's to departments from EMA</li><li>● Assisting EMA with radio logging and delivery to departments</li><li>● Working with Bailey Quick on grants including the 2024 AFG</li><li>● Representing ACFD1 at LSO committee meetings, and WSFCA/WRFF meetings</li><li>● Becoming dispatch liaison for ACFD1 and improving our relationship with LARC</li><li>● Resolving a temporary solution to EMS in ACFD1 with paging "fire assist medical"</li><li>● Assisting Jasmine with ACFD1 access to LFD Training Facility</li></ul>
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- Performing ACFD1 SWOT Analysis
- Work on 20+ policies and job descriptions, some of which were approved and implemented
- Attendance to nearly every Chiefs meeting I was welcomed at
- Gathering of basic department inventory lists for Bailey's access related to grants
- Assisting with locating and hiring HR for ACFD1
- 3 WARM incident reports submitted
- 2 WWC claims submitted
- Ensured VFA grants would be legally possible for all departments to pursue
- Conducted a training for ACFD1 through Jasmine
- Produced multiple Performance Improvement Plans for Board
- Conducted and proctored ProBoard test for ACFD1 members's FF1
- Assumed management of Active Alert for ACFD1 and have added +-30 accounts
- Drafted 2024 meeting schedule
- Worked with Michele for the standardized Chiefs Report
- Assumed role of representative for ACFD1 in ARPA station bathroom project

Wildland Coordinator, Bill Turner:

- Built relationships with departments, agencies, and dispatchers, including the local Forest Service, BLM, and Casper Dispatch
- Point of contact for ACFD1 regarding wildland firefighting with outside agencies
- Met with Casper Dispatch to learn how they operate, point of contact with Casper Dispatch
- Work closely with the Albany County Fire Warden
- Assisted the Forest Service with local prescribed burns
- Attended various department meetings
- Helped ENGB trainees with their training and task books
- Assisted firefighters with task books and red cards
- Point of contact for volunteer firefighters to call and ask questions and assist them in finding classes/training/dispatching to achieve their goals
- Coordinated federal fire dispatches to get District firefighters and apparatus out on federal fires by helping to combine crews from various ACFD1 volunteer fire departments for dispatch when needed
- Dispatched out on non-home department dispatch apparatus as ENGB so that department's apparatus could generate funds for that department
- Work with Wyoming State Forestry
- Learning the politics of wildland fire
- Board representative for local wildland fires

Training Coordinator, Jasmine Parten:

- Partnership with ACFD1 and LFD to use training facility
- Created training calendar for ACFD1 website, to help with communication of upcoming trainings
- Coordinated booth at the Farmer's Market and created recruitment brochure for county to help with recruitment issues
- Assisted with coordination of 15 District wide trainings
- Created signup sheets for easy registration
- Send out upcoming trainings as well as add to website
- Point of contact for training questions and finding instructors/venue for training
- Continuing to create partnerships to bring more training to county
- Work closely with EMA to continue to provide large incident training along with other trainings

## Peer Support Team:

- 9 members from ACFD1
- Team members attended 40 hours of training taught by Building Warriors (now Auxilium)
- Implementation of program and EAP for District firefighters, spouses and children
- 9 ACFD members/dependents have requested EAP letters
- So far 13 counseling visits have been paid, saving our members \$1950
- Peer Support pages has been added to the site for members to have easy access to resources
- Countless hours of one-on-one peer support has been conducted by the team to ACFD1 members
- Peer Support Team has presented to each open station to inform who the team is and why it is important
- Swag purchased to identify who is on the team
- Resource brochures, as well as magnets, have been given to the stations
- Continue to partner with Auxilium for clinical oversight, additional training and guidance

## 2023 Dispatch Fire Season – By the Numbers

TOTAL FIRES: 18 fires, including Mason Lane

TOTAL STATES: 11

TOTAL FIREFIGHTERS DEPLOYED (many deployed multiple times): 22

- California – CVVFD Single Resource Virtual (1), CVVFD Single Resource (1)
- Colorado – CVVFD Engine Crew (3), VVFD Engine Crew (3), WYCO/BLVFD/CVVFD Engine Crew (4), VVFD Engine Crew (3), WYCO/BLVFD/CVVFD/VVFD Engine Crew (4)
- Idaho – CVVFD Single Resource (1), Central Single Resource (1)
- Louisiana – Central/BLVFD Engine Crew (4), WYCO Engine Crew (3)
- New Mexico – WYCO Single Resource (1)
- North Carolina – CVVFD Single Resource (1)
- Oregon – CVVFD Single Resource (1), CVVFD Single Resource (1)
- Texas – BLVFD/CVVFD Engine Crew (3)
- Utah – CVVFD Single Resource (1)
- Wisconsin – WYCO/BLVFD/CVVFD Engine Crew (4)
- Wyoming – VVFD Single Resource (1)
  - Mason Lane – Albany County EFSA Fire
    - Total of 35 ACFD1 firefighters
    - Total of 23 ACFD1 apparatus
    - BLVFD - 11 personnel, 6 apparatus
    - Central – 3 personnel, 3 apparatus
    - CVVFD – 8 personnel, 7 apparatus, 3 pieces of equipment
    - TSVFD – 4 personnel, 1 apparatus, 1 piece of equipment
    - VVFD – 9 personnel, 2 apparatus
    - Also assisting:
      - Albany County Fire Warden has 3 personnel
      - Sybille – 4 personnel, 2 apparatus
      - LaGrange – 4 personnel, 1 apparatus
      - Yoder – 4 personnel, 2 apparatus
      - Wyoming State Forestry – 2 personnel, 1 apparatus