

Information Item

Date: August 14, 2023

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Patrice Toney, Assistant City Manager
William L. Mayo, Fire Chief

Subject: Presentation on Various Community Services provided by the Winston-Salem Fire Department

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community

Strategic Objective:

Strategic Plan Action Item:

Key Work Item:



During the fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, Winston-Salem Fire Department (WSFD) responded to 25,756 incidents, ranging from medical emergencies to high-angle rescue to fires. WSFD crews are certified Emergency Medical Technicians who perform CPR, administer Narcan, and treat traumatic injuries. The crews are often on the scene of an emergency prior to the ambulance. WSFD also has specialized crews, including a hazardous materials team and specialty rescue teams. WSFD logged 113,030 hours of training. WSFD Fire Marshal's Office completed 10,775 inspections and logged 5,933.88 hours, covering 304,334,973 square feet. WSFD crews logged 777 hours participating in community events. WSFD has 112 certified Fire and Life Safety Educators. These personnel have received specialized training in delivering programs to the community.

WSFD provides value-added services to improve the quality of life in our community that includes the following:

1. No-cost battery-operated smoke alarm program (as funding is available). In the fiscal year 2022-2023, crews installed 1,552 alarms and logged 543.05 hours.
2. Child Safety Seat Checks are hosted at one of WSFD's fire stations monthly in partnership with Safe Kids Northwest Piedmont. The events are always at either Station 8 or Station 13.
3. Fire safety programs for audiences who are differently abled.
4. Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Team provides individualized educational intervention to youth who have set a fire(s). Each member of the team is a certified Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Specialist.
5. After the Fire – Crews canvass the neighborhood after a residential structure fire, handing out fire safety information and offering to check/install smoke alarms for the residents.
6. Citizens Fire Academy – Offered in the fall with the intent of producing informed citizens and building long-lasting relationships with residents in our community.

7. Partnerships in the community include:
 - a. American Red Cross
 - b. Atrium NEST
 - c. Bed and a Book
 - d. DASH
 - e. Forsyth County Sheriff's Department
 - f. Forsyth Technical Community College
 - g. Hispanic League
 - h. Meals on Wheels
 - i. Wake Forest University
 - j. WS Parks and Recreation
 - k. WSSU
 - l. Winston-Salem Police Department
 - m. Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools