
VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE



2024 Annual Report



Message From the Chief:

Reflecting on 2024, our organization has experienced an incredible year of growth, progress, and transformation. Not only have we strengthened our internal foundation, but we have also had the privilege of watching our community evolve and flourish alongside us. Our members have remained steadfast in their commitment to improvement, focusing on innovation and the expansion of our services. While it's easy to dwell on challenges, we have chosen to push forward, embrace new opportunities, and make a lasting impact. Through teamwork, dedication, and a shared vision, we have elevated the quality of the services we offer, ensuring that our organization continues to be a valuable asset to those we serve.

This success would not have been possible without the hard work and support of so many. To our members, who have devoted their time and energy, and to the community that has stood beside us, thank you. Your passion and belief in what we do fuel our progress. As we move into the new year, we will carry this momentum forward, striving to achieve even greater milestones. With determination and unity, we will make 2025 an even more impactful and rewarding year.

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Zachary Adkins, Chief



About Us

Valley Fire & Rescue was founded on July 23rd 1973. Originally known as Ohio Valley Volunteer Fire Department. Community members met together and decided that southern Mason County needed fire protection coverage. Their initiative & efforts have allowed us to provide Fire Protection & Rescue Services to the citizens of Southern Mason County for over 50 years! Throughout this time there have been many changes & challenges that the department has faced but has managed to overcome & prosper.

Mission Statement:

At Valley Fire & Rescue, our mission is to protect and enhance community safety through excellence in firefighting, rescue, and collaboration. We are committed to innovation, continuous improvement, and fostering a culture of respect, learning, and service.

Our Values:

Commitment to Excellence – Striving for the highest standards in service and performance.

Community Safety and Resilience – Prioritizing the well-being and security of the community.

Productivity and Performance – Continuously improving operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Collaboration and Teamwork – Fostering strong relationships within the team and the community.

Continuous Learning and Development – Encouraging ongoing education and personal growth for all members.

Innovation and Efficiency – Staying ahead of challenges through forward-thinking approaches and cutting-edge techniques.

Diversity and Inclusion – Valuing and respecting the unique strengths of every individual in the organization.

Strategic Recruitment and Onboarding – Building a team with the skills and passion to meet the mission's demands.

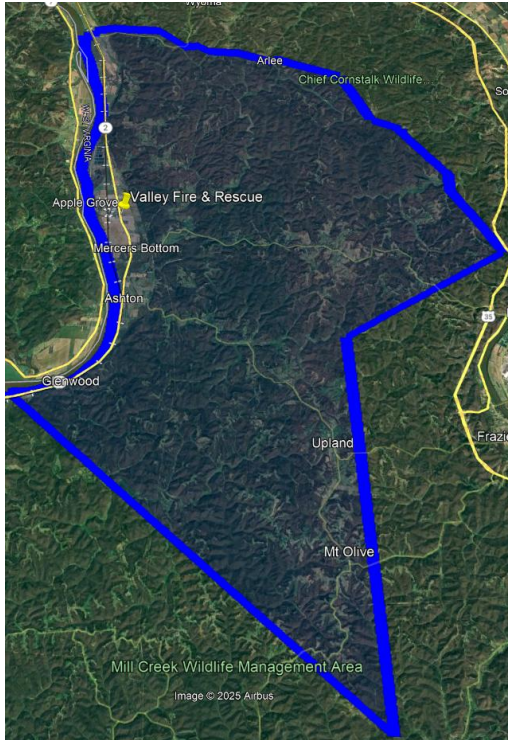
Respect and Empowerment – Ensuring all members feel valued and supported in contributing their best.

Community Engagement – Building meaningful and lasting connections with the community.

Holistic Approach to Service – Addressing safety and well-being beyond firefighting alone.

Legacy of Excellence – Creating a lasting impact for future generations

Coverage Area:



Our primary response area consists of the greater southern half of Mason County as shown above in the dark blue. We cover roughly 118 square miles. This includes the communities of Apple Grove, Glenwood, Ashton, and Upland West Virginia. This also includes sections of Milton, Pliny, Frazier's Bottom, and Gallipolis Ferry, West Virginia.

We also provide and receive aid from neighboring departments in Mason, Cabell, & Putnam counties. This ensures that there are enough personnel to assist during emergencies.

Leadership Team:

The leadership team at Valley Fire & Rescue is a dedicated group of individuals committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. The team includes our board of directors, line officers, president, secretary, & treasurer, all of whom bring diverse skills and expertise to their roles.

Together, they lead by example, fostering a culture of teamwork, excellence, and continuous improvement. The leadership team works tirelessly to coordinate emergency responses, implement training programs, and oversee departmental operations, ensuring the department remains prepared to meet any challenge. Their commitment to service, combined with a deep sense of responsibility to the community, is the driving force behind our success.

Line Officers:

Chief: Zachary Adkins

Deputy Chief: Nathan McQueen

Assistant Chief: Open

Captain: Brandon Armstrong

First Lieutenant: Tyler Bonecutter

Second Lieutenant: Open

Board of Directors:

Lacey Parsons

Bobby Plybon

Jamie Dean

Leadership:

President: John Hesson

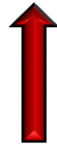
Vice President: Roger Bennett

Secretary/Public Information Officer: Luke Tilka

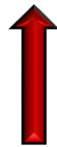
Treasurer: Steve Tilka

Officer Chain of Command

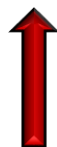
**Chief:
Zachary Adkins**



**Deputy Chief:
Nathan McQueen**



**Captain:
Brandon Armstrong**



**Lieutenant 1:
Tyler Bonecutter**

2024 Emergency Response Statistics:

Number of Calls Responded: 175

Requests for assistance: 184

Mutual Aid Received: 18

Automatic Aid Received: 6

Mutual Aid Given: 6

Average Response Time: 22.55 Minutes

Average Members per Response: 3.8

Fire:

Structure: 22

Brush: 17

Vehicle: 3

Other: 15

False Alarm: 5

Rescue:

Motor Vehicle Accident – no injuries: 20

Motor Vehicle Accident – injuries: 14

Motor Vehicle Accident – entrapment: 0

Water Rescue: 4

Hazardous Condition: 3

Power Line/Tree Down: 8

Severe Weather-Related Incidents: 3

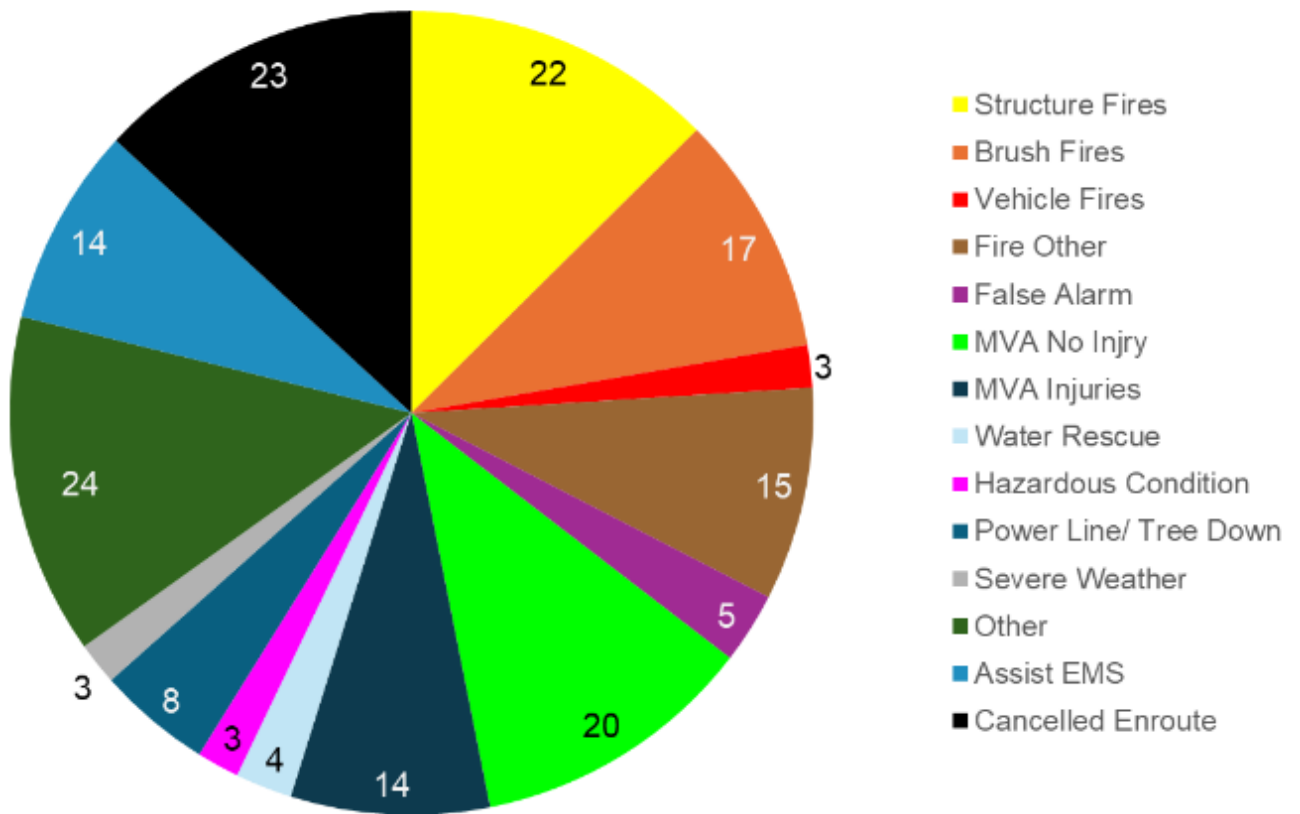
Other: 24

Assist EMS: 14

Medical Response: 0

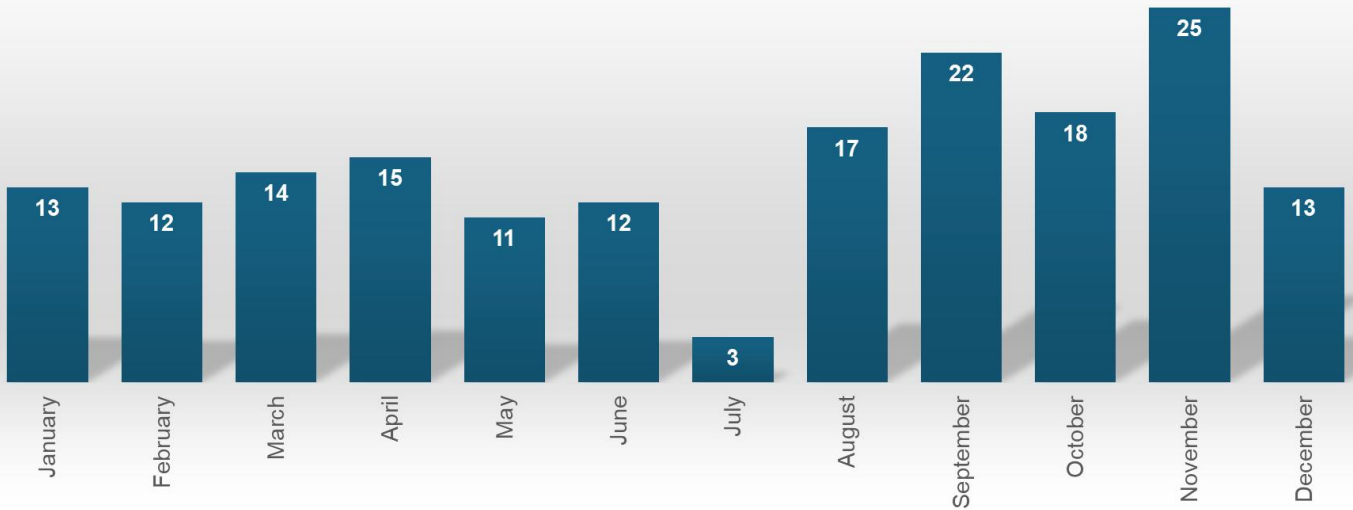
Cancelled Enroute: 23

2024 Emergency Responses By Category

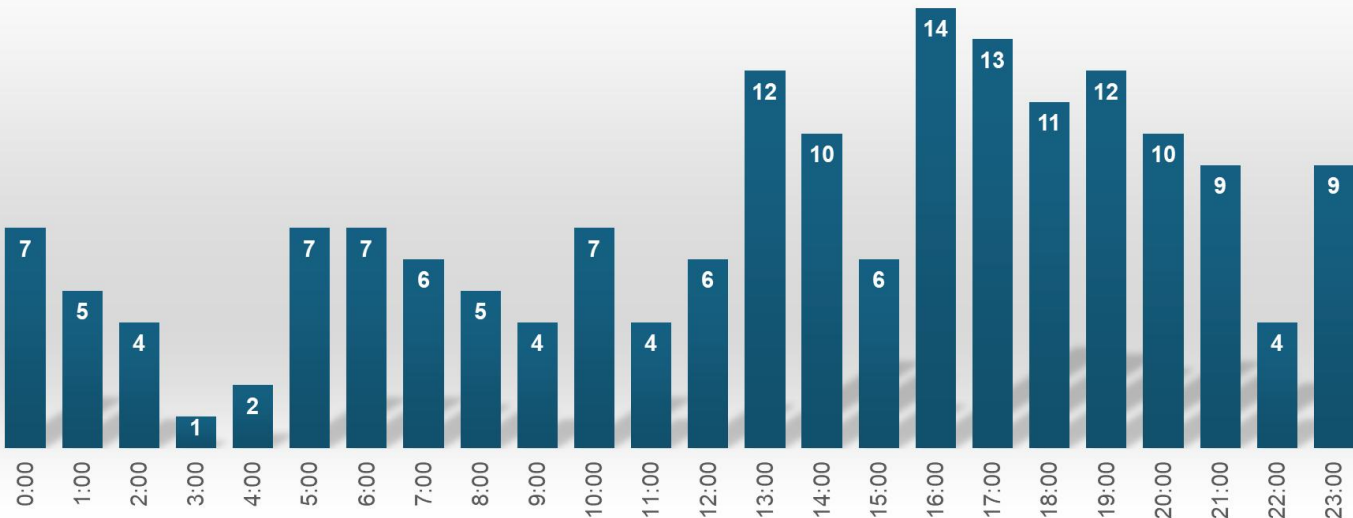


Total Emergency Responses By Month

Avg Responses Per Month: 15



Total Emergency Responses By Time of Dispatch



Membership Highlights:

2024 Top Emergency Responders:

Chief Zachary Adkins:	104 Responses
Deputy Chief Nathan McQueen:	79 Responses
Lieutenant Tyler Bonecutter:	63 Responses
Firefighter Danny Luckeydoo:	55 Responses
Firefighter William Coleman:	53 Responses

2024 Awardees:

Longstanding Member Award:	JR Holley
Firefighter of the Year 2024:	Danny Luckeydoo
Chief's Award:	Alisha Hammond
Most Improved:	John Hesson
Officer of the Year:	Nathan McQueen
Most Responses 2024:	Nathan McQueen

2024 Firefighters with over 400 Hours of Participation:

Zachary Adkins	Shane Lang
Brandon Armstrong	Danny Luckeydoo
Tyler Bonecutter	Nathan McQueen
William Coleman	Luke Tilka

2024 Auxiliary with over 100 hours of Participation:

Roger Bennett	Sierra Henry
Becky Ferrell	Emilee Wallace

Training:

In January 2024, our department had 18 members certified as NFPA 1001 Firefighter 1. By December, despite the departure of two certified firefighters, we concluded the year with 19 NFPA 1001 Firefighter 1 certified members. As of December 31, 2024, an additional six members are in training for certification.

As we released our new Standard Operating Guidelines, we increased our training requirements. Our members now have three years from the time of joining to attain Firefighter 1 & 2, Hazardous Materials Operations, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, First Aid / CPR, Incident Safety Officer, Auto Extrication Operations, and NIMS 100, 200, 700, 800. This training aligns with ISO standards. As well as we require all members to attend 16 hours of continuing education each year.

In 2024 our members attended over 1900 hours of training split between fire schools, external training, online training, and our monthly department trainings.

Required Training:

Firefighter 2:

- William Coleman
- Heather Lang

Incident Safety Officer:

- John Hesson
- Brandon Armstrong
- Christopher Connor

Specialized Certifications:

Confined Space Technician:

- Zachary Adkins

Rope Rescue Technician:

- Brandon Armstrong

Hazardous Materials Technician

- Nathan McQueen

Driver Operator Pumper:

- Luke Tilka

Emergency Medical Responder:

- John Hesson
- Nathan McQueen
- Shane Lang

Vehicle Rescue Technician:

- Rebecca Ferrell
- Nathan McQueen
- William Coleman
- John Hesson
- Brandon Armstrong

IFSAC Accredited Certifications:

Firefighter 1 & 2:

- Nathan McQueen
- Zachary Adkins

Hazmat Awareness & Operations

- Nathan McQueen
- Zachary Adkins

Fire Officer 1,2, & 3:

- Zachary Adkins

Instructor 1 & 2:

- Zachary Adkins

Hazmat Technician:

- Zachary Adkins



Completed projects:

- Grants Awarded: \$279,112.53
- Added new refrigerator and freezer for community events and station use
- Upgraded failing CPVC piping in the entire building
- West Virginia's only SAFER Grant Awardee

Emergency preparedness improvements:

- Implemented Automatic aid for all response areas on reports of fire, motor vehicle accidents with injury or entrapment, and brush fires
- Implemented a new training policy, ensuring all members will attain the ISO 240 hours of recommended training within 3 years of joining.
- Installed Cascade and Compressor from AFG FY2021
- New flashlights for apparatus, we now have 4 LED flashlights on each engine.
- Upgraded technical rescue equipment
- Chief Officer's Radios upgraded to become interoperable with UHF, VHF, and the West Virginia Interoperable P25 system
- Power tools on apparatus upgraded and improved.
- Portable lighting on apparatus upgraded and improved.

Community programs:

- Partnered with West Virginia State Fire Marshal for Smoke Alarm Installation Program.
- Partnered with the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots as a drop-off location and distribution center.
- Partnered with Ashton Elementary School for 2024 Fire Prevention Week.

2025, The Year Ahead:

As we reflect on the past year, we take pride in the progress we've made and the dedication of our members in serving our community. However, our mission is ongoing, and 2025 presents new opportunities for growth, improvement, and strengthened service.

Our goals for the upcoming year focus on expanding our membership, enhancing our response capabilities, increasing community outreach, and prioritizing training and development. By recruiting and training additional firefighting and auxiliary members, we can better meet the growing demands of our department. Improving response times and upgrading our equipment will ensure we continue to provide efficient and effective service. Through public education events, we will strengthen our relationship with the community and promote fire safety awareness. Finally, by increasing training opportunities and implementing a succession plan, we will continue investing in the future of our department.

With the unwavering commitment of our members and the continued support of our community, we are confident that 2025 will be a year of progress and success. Together, we will build a stronger, more resilient department—ready to meet any challenge.

Thank you to all who support our mission. We look forward to another year of growth and service

