

2024



# ANNUAL REPORT







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# YOUR LIFE, OUR MISSION...

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The Metro West Fire Protection District provides fire, EMS and rescue services to 57 square miles of west St. Louis County. This includes all or portions of Ballwin, Castlewood, Chesterfield, Clarkson Valley, Ellisville, Sherman, Wildwood, Winchester, and unincorporated St. Louis County. Nearly 100 firefighter/paramedics run over 9,000 calls for service a year out of five fire stations. Metro West provides a host of specialized rescue services and maintains one of the only dive rescue teams in the region.

## Core Values

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### **Professionalism**

Pride in who we are and how we do business.

### **Quality**

The finest effort, every time.

### **Reputation**

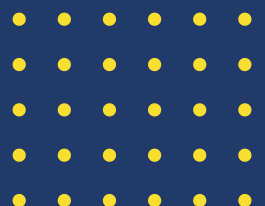
Built by those before us, grown by those with us.

### **Service**

Bound by our duty to act.

### **Trust**

Being committed to all that is entrusted to us.





# From the Chief



Dear Metro West Community,

As we reflect on the past year, I continue to be inspired by the unwavering dedication of the men and women who serve within the Metro West Fire Protection District.

Metro West has always been known for its high standards and professional service. This year, our crews responded to a record-setting 9,192 calls for service, the most in our district's history. That number is more than four times what we saw when I began my career here in 1993. It's a powerful reminder of how much our community has grown and how our responsibilities have evolved.

One of the most exciting developments in 2024 was the remodel of Station 3. This project was about more than bricks and mortar, it was an investment in the future of our service and in the safety of both our personnel and the public. The station now better supports the needs of a modern fire and EMS workforce, allowing us to operate more efficiently and remain mission-ready for the growing demands of our district.

While we welcomed new team members and celebrated the retirements of longtime colleagues in 2024, what stands out most is the consistency of our purpose: to leave people in a better position than when we found them.

It is a privilege to serve and live in this community. On behalf of the entire Metro West Fire Protection District, thank you for your continued trust and support.

G. Michael Krause III  
Chief, Fire & EMS Service

# Board of Directors

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**Tim Flora**  
Chairman



**Mark Macinski**  
Secretary



**Mike Thompson**  
Treasurer





# Command Staff

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**G. Michael Krause III**  
Chief of Fire & EMS



**John Bradley**  
Assistant Chief



**Mike Digman**  
Deputy Chief



**Joe Haefer**  
Deputy Chief



**Brad Shelton**  
Deputy Chief



**Mark Moore**  
Battalion Chief



**Dave Kupfer**  
Battalion Chief

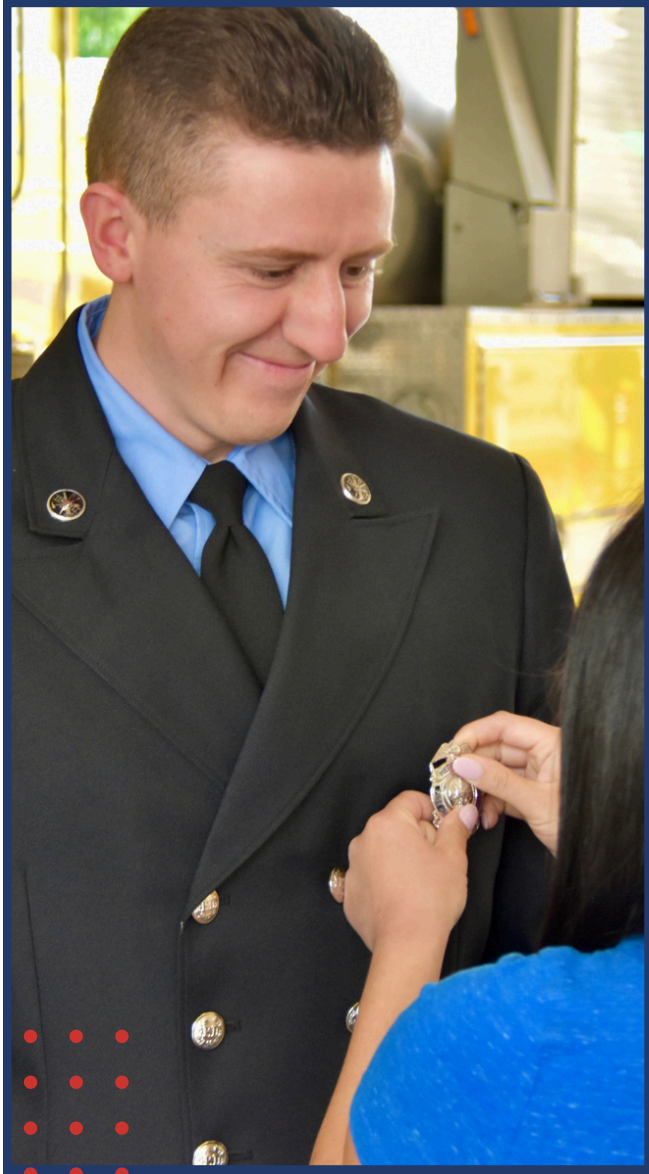


**Travis Bauer**  
Battalion Chief



**Mike Thiemann**  
Division Chief









# Promotions

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Adam Benenati, Captain  
Zak Cobb, Lieutenant  
John Godfrey, Engineer  
Jason Marren, Engineer  
Jason Schenimann, Engineer

# Retirements

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Neil Matlock, Engineer  
Steve Moats, Engineer  
Chris Zang, Engineer  
Todd Godefroid, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Bob Parr, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Kirk Whitney, Firefighter/Paramedic

# Newly Hired

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Isaiah Craft, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Nick Harre, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Justin Houdei, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Mark Lamkemeyer, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Glennon O'Leary, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Braden Starck, Firefighter/Paramedic

# Stations

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## Station 1

14835 Manchester Road, Ballwin



Ladder Company 3315  
EMS Unit 3317  
Engine Company 3310  
Marine Unit 3319

**2,423**  
TOTAL RESPONSES

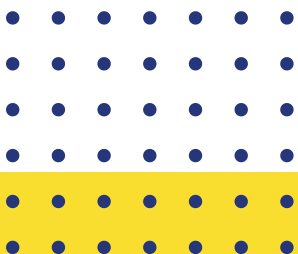
## Station 2

1000 New Ballwin Road, Ballwin



Engine Company 3320  
EMS Unit 3327  
Marine Unit 3329  
33-UTV-2

**1,169**  
TOTAL RESPONSES





## Station 3

17065 Manchester Road, Wildwood



Ladder Company 3332  
EMS Unit 3337  
Tanker 3333  
Reserve Engine 3330  
Reserve EMS Unit 3377  
Reserve EMS Unit 3397

**1,764**  
TOTAL RESPONSES

## Station 4

16060 Clayton Road, Ellisville



Engine Company 3344  
Rescue Company 3346  
EMS Unit 3347  
Dive Rescue Unit DIVE-33  
Shift Chief 3302

**3,270**  
TOTAL RESPONSES

## Station 5

18601 Starck Lane, Wildwood



Engine Company 3350  
EMS Unit 3357  
33-UTV-5

**525**  
TOTAL RESPONSES



# Station 3 Reimagined

**John Bradley, Assistant Chief**

In 2024, Metro West marked the completion of a major renovation of Station 3, the oldest facility in the district. Built in 1983, Station 3 serves a critical role as an operational fire station, maintenance facility, administrative office and home to the fire prevention bureau. It is one of two stations dedicated to protecting the Wildwood community, covering 12.7 square miles and serving more than 16,900 residents.



The renovation project was made possible by the passage of Proposition S in April, 2022. This \$25 million bond issue provided funding for critical lifesaving equipment and facility improvements across the district over a ten-year period. Station 3's renovation became one of the first major projects under this initiative.

Key improvements to Station 3 include:

- The addition of individual bedrooms and restrooms, offering enhanced comfort and privacy for fire crews during 48-hour shifts.
- New cancer prevention measures, including upgraded turnout gear storage to reduce exposure to harmful contaminants.
- Redesigned office space to increase efficiency for administrative staff.
- Updates to critical building systems such as HVAC, fire suppression, water and sewer, ensuring the facility meets modern safety and operational standards.

The upgrades of Station 3 represent a significant investment in the future of emergency services, enhancing service to the Wildwood community.







**A new lobby offers a public space for community business, including access to the board room.**



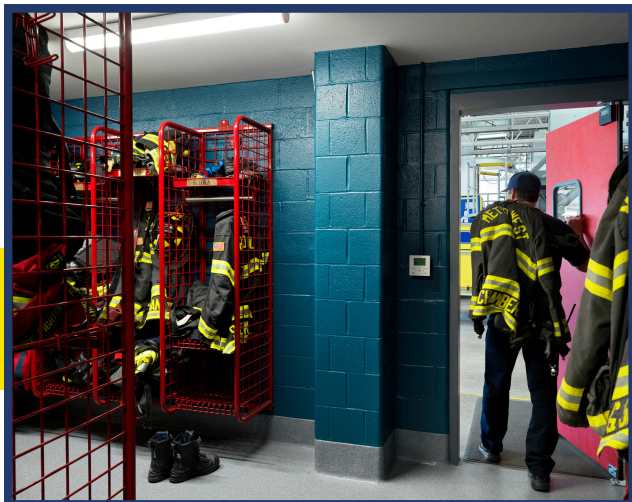
**Revamped administrative office space was designed to streamline operations and boost efficiency.**



**A modern kitchen provides functional amenities where crews can prepare meals and gather between calls.**



**Individual bunk rooms provide enhanced comfort and increased privacy during 48-hour shifts.**



**Cancer prevention initiatives include upgraded turnout gear storage to minimize exposure to contaminants.**



**Updated exterior signage and fresh paint give the building a modern look in the heart of Wildwood.**





# Fire/Rescue Operations

## Mike Digman, Deputy Chief

Metro West experienced a landmark year marked by operational excellence, major incident responses and a continued focus on professional development.



Special operations teams managed high-risk water rescues, hazardous materials incidents and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) missions with outstanding skill and adaptability. The district enhanced its operational capabilities by placing a new fire truck into service and launching a strategic apparatus management initiative to support long-term fleet readiness. Training remained a top priority, with significant investments in innovative programs to strengthen member proficiency across all disciplines.

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## WILDWOOD HOTEL

On February 14, 2024, a fire at the Wildwood Hotel was contained to a single room with minimal structural damage thanks to sprinkler activation and the quick work of responding fire crews, saving millions of dollars in property.



A light gray map of the St. Louis area serves as the background. It shows major highways like I-64, I-44, and US-40/US-61. Local roads are labeled with 'MO' numbers (e.g., MO 109, MO 340). Geographic features include the Mississippi River, various parks (Sherman Beach, Castlewood State, West Tyson County), and conservation areas (Forest 44). The city names 'Ellisville', 'Ballwin', and 'Wildwood' are also visible. Overlaid on the map are three large statistics in yellow text with blue outlines, each followed by a description in dark blue text. The first statistic is '9,192' for 'Total Calls for Service (Record High)'. The second is '52,892' for 'Total Training Hours Logged'. The third is '54' for 'Working Structure Fires'.

# 9,192

**Total Calls for Service**  
(Record High)

# 52,892

**Total Training Hours Logged**

# 54

**Working Structure Fires**



# EMS Operations

**Brad Shelton, Deputy Chief**

The Metro West emergency medical services (EMS) division demonstrated exceptional dedication and growth, responding to over 7,000 EMS calls while focusing on furthering Advanced Life Support (ALS) capabilities. Firefighter/paramedics benefited from rigorous, scenario-based training developed by EMS training officers and the medical direction of Mercy St. Louis, ensuring continuous improvement and outstanding performance.



Equipped with state-of-the-art life-saving tools and a commitment to excellence, firefighter/paramedics achieved remarkable patient outcomes, reinforcing the mission to deliver the highest standard of emergency medical care to the community.

# Advanced Tools of the Trade

Metro West remains committed to investing in the best tools available to protect the health and safety of residents. These upgrades were made possible due to the community's continued support through Proposition V (2017) and Proposition S (2022).

## Cardiac Emergencies

The Philips Tempus Pro Advanced Life Support monitor/defibrillator provides advanced cardiac monitoring, real-time vital signs, and rapid defibrillation which allows for more informed decisions during cardiac emergencies, ensuring efficient, high-quality care in the field.

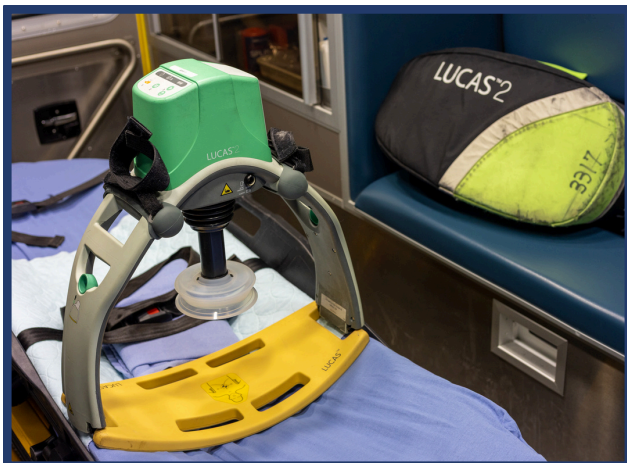


## Airway Management

The addition of McGrath video laryngoscopes improves airway management by providing clear, real-time view of the vocal cords, increasing success rates and offering a more effective delivery of care.

## Respiratory Support

ZOLL mechanical ventilators provide advanced respiratory care in critical situations by delivering precise, consistent breaths to patients in respiratory failure, cardiac arrest or severe trauma.



## CPR Compressions

The LUCAS device delivers consistent, mechanical chest compressions during cardiac arrest, ensuring uninterrupted, high-quality CPR and improving patient outcomes.



# Dive Rescue Team

**Matt Seger, Captain**



The Metro West Dive Team is a specialized unit uniquely equipped to conduct underwater rescue and recovery operations in rivers, ponds and lakes. The team is composed of highly trained professionals who respond not only within the district but across the St. Louis Region.

Due to their advanced capabilities, the team was called upon for both rescue and recovery missions in 2024. In addition, the team supported evidence recovery operations for major crime investigations, working alongside local and federal law enforcement agencies.

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# 12

Deployments

# 336

Hours of Dive Training











# Honor Guard

**Greg Shelton, Captain**

The Metro West Honor Guard is a distinguished team dedicated to upholding the highest traditions of honor, respect and service. These highly disciplined members provide ultimate honors for fallen firefighters, ensuring their sacrifices are remembered with dignity. Serving as a symbol of professionalism, the team also proudly presents the American flag at community events and represents the district at professional recognition ceremonies. With unwavering attention to detail, the honor guard embodies the time-honored values of respect and tradition in every appearance.



# 3

Funeral Honors

# 11

Community Events





Proudly Serving Since  
**1957**





# Community Health

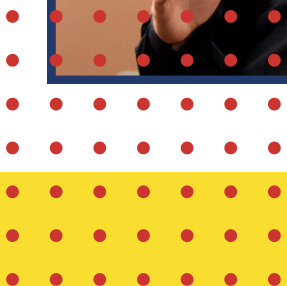
## Matt Coppin, Captain

Metro West views community health as more than emergency response, it includes proactive care, education and support. The community health program is designed to connect residents with essential healthcare resources, assist in managing chronic conditions and ensure individuals receive personalized care based on their specific needs.



Services offered include care coordination, health education, resource support, home safety assessments and fall prevention strategies. The program benefits individuals facing healthcare challenges related to aging, chronic illnesses or recent hospitalizations, as well as family members and caregivers seeking additional support.

Metro West remains dedicated to delivering these vital services to promote health and independence throughout the community.





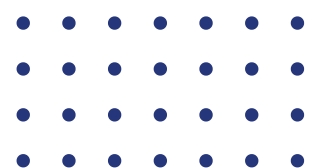
# Bureau of Fire Prevention

**Joe Haefer, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal**

The bureau helps keep the community safe by reducing fire risk and promoting public safety. Fire inspectors evaluate residential, commercial and industrial properties while enforcing fire safety codes and educating the public on fire prevention. The bureau also works closely with city building officials to promote safer construction and building practices. Through a focus on education, enforcement and prevention, the bureau of fire prevention works to protect lives and property across the community.



According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), three out of five home fire deaths occur in homes with no or inoperable smoke alarms.



# External Affairs

## Mike Thiemann, Division Chief

Metro West maintains a purposeful and professional public presence through public education, public relations, media relations and social media, which highlight dedication and professionalism. Sharing positive, educational content strengthens community engagement, respects individual privacy and keeps the public informed.



## Public Education

Firefighter/paramedics, assuming the extra role of a fire and life safety educator, deliver structured programs aimed at changing unsafe behaviors through measurable objectives, often sharing important safety education with schools, retirement communities and civic organizations.

## Public Relations

Members regularly engage with residents through community events, block parties, station tours and fire truck demonstrations, all while representing the district's image.







## School Resource Officers

Placing a great importance on public education, Metro West has adopted a school resource officer model which assigns firefighter/paramedics to each school in the district with the goal of delivering essential prevention education to staff and students, strengthening community connections and fostering a safer community.

## Media Relations

Maintaining strong relationships with media partners ensures Metro West is able to share timely and accurate information, helping to keep the community informed, prepared and connected during emergencies and public education efforts.



## Social Media

Metro West maintains a clear and intentional online presence by focusing on showcasing the professional actions of its personnel and the vital services they provide. Promoting positivity, education and community engagement while protecting individual privacy, allows for fostering community pride and connection.





# Recognitions

## Greater St. Louis Area Fire Chiefs' Association

A Class VI Unit Citation was presented to Metro West members for their quick and professional response during a trench collapse on June 19, 2024.

Mike Digman, Deputy Chief  
 Andy Hieken, Captain  
 Kyle Sanders, Captain  
 Scott Reichter, Engineer  
 Ben Burrow, Firefighter/Paramedic  
 Dan Holguin, Firefighter/Paramedic  
 Anthony Hunt, Firefighter/Paramedic  
 Glennon O'Leary, Firefighter/Paramedic  
 Jeff Wingate, Firefighter/Paramedic



## St. Louis County Fire Academy

The 123rd recruit class was dedicated to Mindy McCoy, Captain (Ret.) for a career of firsts and milestones, marked by resilience, leadership and an unwavering commitment to the community.



# The Phoenix Award

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The Metro West Phoenix Award is presented to a firefighter/paramedic who has assisted in three clinical saves—incidents where a patient in cardiac arrest achieves return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC). ROSC marks the critical moment when the heart begins beating effectively on its own after stopping, often as a result of timely CPR and skilled emergency care. This award honors the life-saving impact of first responders and their role in giving patients a second chance at life.

## First Phoenix Award

Isaiah Craft, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Anthony Hunt, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Drew Stortz, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Ben Sueoka, Firefighter/Paramedic

## Third Phoenix Award

Andrew Graddy, Engineer  
Jason Marren, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Todd McNeely, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Jason Schenimann, Engineer

## Fourth Phoenix Award

Ben Burrow, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Sean Johnson, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Mike Quinn, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Scott Reichter, Engineer

## Fifth Phoenix Award

Stephen Guilford, Lieutenant

## Sixth Phoenix Award

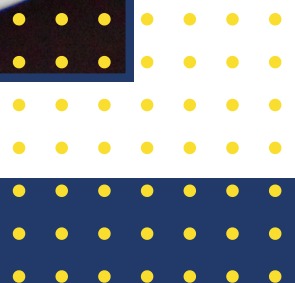
John Von Gruben, Engineer  
Andy Hieken, Captain  
Greg Shelton, Captain

## Seventh Phoenix Award

Greg Dahm, Firefighter/Paramedic  
Jeff Wingate, Firefighter/Paramedic

## Eighth Phoenix Award

Travis Bauer, Battalion Chief





# Commission on Fire Accreditation International

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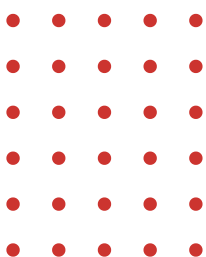
Metro West submitted a comprehensive annual compliance report to the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). The report, required to maintain active accredited status, was accepted by the commission for accreditation at the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

CFAI accreditation is an all-hazard, quality improvement model based on risk analysis and self-assessment. It promotes the establishment of community-adopted performance targets for fire and emergency service agencies.

Metro West is one of only seven fire organizations in the State of Missouri and one of only 284 in the world to receive accreditation from CFAI.



Only 11% of the  
US population is protected  
by an accredited fire agency.



# PulsePoint

PulsePoint continues to play a vital role in strengthening Metro West's chain of survival by empowering CPR-trained citizens to act during sudden cardiac emergencies. This innovative app alerts nearby responders simultaneously with fire/EMS, helping reduce the critical time between collapse and the start of life-saving interventions like CPR and defibrillation. By notifying trained bystanders already in the area, PulsePoint enhances the potential for positive outcomes when seconds count. The free PulsePoint app can be downloaded via the QR code shown.



**PulsePoint**

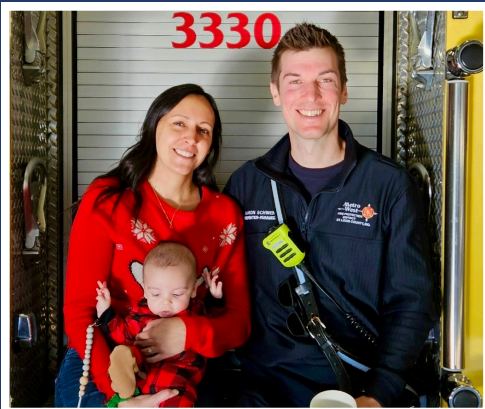
**BE A LIFE  
SAVER.**

Be alerted to sudden cardiac arrests  
in your immediate vicinity, so that you  
can start CPR in the critical minutes  
before EMS teams arrive.

Learn more at [pulsepoint.org](https://pulsepoint.org)  
Download PulsePoint Respond















**METRO WEST FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

17065 Manchester Road  
Wildwood, Missouri 63040  
636-458-2100  
[metrowest-fire.org](http://metrowest-fire.org)