



Burlington Fire Department



136 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont 05401-8378
(802) 864-4554 • (802) 658-2700 (TTY)
Business Fax (802) 864-5945 • Central Station Fax (802) 865-5387

Conference Room Fire Station #1 136 South Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT 05401

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 8:30 AM

PLEASE NOTE:

This meeting is will be held on zoom and in-person in the Conference Room at Fire Station #1.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98055210778?pwd=UGE5T01FbTlhcDZ5V290REJCd21IUT09>

Meeting ID: 980 5521 0778

Passcode: 302668

1. Call to Order

2. Motion to amend/adopt agenda

3. Commission Awards

4. Public Forum

5. Adopt Minutes

6. Chief's Oral Report

Subject	6.1. Chief's Commission Report December 5, 2023
Meeting	December 5, 2023 - Fire Commission - Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 8:30 AM, Conference Room Fire Station #1 136 South Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT 05401
Category	6. Chief's Oral Report
Department	Fire Department
Type	
Recommended Action	

7. Old Business

8. New Business

Subject	8.1. Approve predicted schedule for 2024 meeting dates (subject to change).
Meeting	December 5, 2023 - Fire Commission - Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 8:30 AM, Conference Room Fire Station #1 136 South Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT 05401
Category	8. New Business
Department	Fire Department
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December 05, 2023

Chief's Report to the Burlington Fire Commission

Personnel: Personnel levels to cover minimum staffing are relatively solid. We have multiple employees on long-term leave, which affects our need for overtime. Since my last report, LT Benjamin O'Brien has retired, and FF Corey Souza submitted his resignation. Corey is pursuing a career as a flight medic. We wish both Ben and Corey the best.

Currently, we hold four vacancies. We will post our entry-level firefighter/EMT job and accept applications beginning January 01, 2024. We are working with the City HR department to update our hiring process.

Responses: As of November 30, 2023, the BFD has responded to 10194 calls for service. Last year, we responded to 9065 calls for service in the same period. This shows an 11% increase in 12 months.

Gunfire incidents have increased in the city. Regularly, our staff is required to don ballistic gear when on scene. I want to caution us as a community from normalizing this behavior. Our responders face real dangers today that were not part of fire or EMS response in the past. As seen on local and national news programs, BFD responders are on scene alongside the BPD at many of these scenes. Often, these scenes are not secure with the perpetrator in custody.

Crews on the scene of a medical call had the ambulance stolen by the person they responded to. The situation ended with minimal damage to the ambulance, and the perpetrator/patient was transported by BFD and charged by the BPD. This was a situation where someone was emboldened to do something never considered in the past. This is

another facet of emergency response that our officers and firefighters must be aware of, complicating scene safety.

With the bulk of media and conversations around public safety surrounding overdose/substance abuse and violence, I don't want to lose sight of the fact that BFD responders are also responding to all manners of emergencies. They answer the bell with professionalism and skill every time it hits.



48/96 Schedule: On November 30, 2023, we completed seven months of our one-year trial of the 48/96 work schedule. The majority of the organization still embraces this schedule.

Overtime: September 30, 2023 – November 30, 2023

- Minimum Staffing Overtime: 1461.75 hrs
- Mandatory Minimum Staffing Overtime: 491 hrs

1-year Comparison September 30, 2022 – November 30, 2022

- Minimum Staffing Overtime: 2058.5 hrs
- Mandatory Minimum Staffing Overtime: 134 hrs

This is a 40.8% decrease in Minimum Staffing Overtime and a 266% increase in Mandatory Minimum Staffing Overtime during the same period last year.

Note: The above overtime burden on the staff accounts for Minimum Staffing Overtime, giving us the 22 people required to meet minimum staffing levels. This does not account for extra duty jobs, dispatch extra duty, or CRT overtime. In the same period, our staff committed to the following extra duty, dispatch extra duty, and CRT overtime:

- Extra Duty: 4.5 hrs
- Dispatch Extra Duty: 159.1 hrs
- CRT Overtime: 758.5 hrs

Dispatch: Currently, we have three of the four full-time fire desk dispatchers hired on May 22, 2023, still employed. Our dispatch-trained firefighters have re-engaged in dispatch work. They are utilizing the BPD payroll system, and ECM Larry Barbeau is managing their scheduled time. BPD continues hiring and training full-time employees for the ECC, and staffing is stabilizing. We thank the BPD dispatch team and our dispatch-trained firefighters for keeping the center functioning.

Fleet: Funding for fleet replacement continues to be a priority for the city's fleet committee. We expect delivery of three fire apparatus and one ambulance for the Fire Department in 2024. With the three-year build schedule for new ambulances, a priority should be placed on ordering our next ambulance immediately. Ambulance 2 is a model year 2017 and will be ten+ years old once replaced if not ordered immediately. There have been efforts to look into re-mount ambulance options to save time and money for ambulance replacement. With the popularity building in the re-mount market due to extended delivery times for new units, re-mount timelines have increased to 36 months as well. Finding clear funding mechanisms for the entire city fleet should be a high priority for the current and future administrations.

Buildings: Deferred maintenance on the fire station building remains a concern. Netting has been installed on the ceiling in the basement of Station 2 to catch any falling concrete. This is a stopgap until the floor replacement is complete. The shoring

recommended for the Station 1 bay under Tower One has yet to progress. The Station 2 bedroom project has been awarded. A timeline for completion has yet to be identified. The Station 3 bedroom/bathroom project is still in the planning phase. Talk of the Gateway Block has begun again. There was a visit to Station 1 by developers interested in taking on the project. We have been asked to start thinking about the needs and wants regarding the design of a new fire station. This station relocation would consider station consolidation, as studied in 2018.

Radio System Upgrade: The radio system upgrade managed by DC Libby is underway and on schedule. The dispatch center upgrade is underway. The station alerting project managed by DC Petit has been awarded to BRIX. Their proposal was chosen due to their system's flexibility in hardware, excellent software support, and a price tag lower than the others submitted. The project has received Board of Finance and City Council approvals. Contracts are being drafted with an installation start date of early January 2024.

Staffing Study: Consultants from MissionCIT made a site visit in September. They met with city leadership members, the commission, the command staff, the union, and department members. We have supplied them with the data required to complete the report. They are scheduled to complete the study with a draft report due for review in December, with a full report to be presented to the city team and City Council in February 2024.

Community Response Team Pilot: The City Council approved the CRT pilot on October 10, 2023, and began service on October 16, 2023. The total authorized budget for this pilot is \$182,598.00 for the 26-week pilot. This team responds to unresponsive/person down/overdoses calls for service. This team also performs community outreach to this high-risk group. Between October 16 and November 30, the team has been staffed by 758.5 hours of voluntary overtime by our line personnel. This is an average of 118.5 hours of overtime per week, allowing for 59.25 hours of in-service time per week for the CRT. We have received widespread support and appreciation from the community. A profound Thank You goes out to our committed responders doing this

difficult work. October and November are the only months in 2023 that show reduced overdose responses from the prior year.

	Monthly OD	Monthly OD	
	2022	2023	% change 22/23
January	19	40	111%
February	20	29	45%
March	20	28	40%
April	26	43	65%
May	26	38	46%
June	38	56	47%
July	38	39	3%
August	39	57	46%
September	24	67	179%
October	33	25	-24%
November	31	24	-23%
December	44		

BC McCombie is tracking data from the CRT deployment. Below are some metrics showing the impact of the program. This data shows how many people the team has touched, the quantity of wound care supplies handed out, Narcan leave-behind kits distributed, the number of referrals, direct phone requests, and incidents where the team went above and beyond in their duties. (I'm sure this number is under-reported by our crews)

Total:	498	1013	100	\$303.01	18	8	2
	# of Attendees	# of Wound Care Items Distributed	# of NLB Kits Distributed	Total CRT Cost (Excluding Roll Out Cost)	Total # Referrals/ Bridge to Service Providers	Total Request For CRT Members Via Phone	Total Above & Beyond Incidents

Training: The training division continues to deliver high-quality, hands-on training to our staff. We had the opportunity to spend time at the State Fire Academy conducting live fire training with our recruits, line firefighters, and officers. Firefighting and leadership skills were strengthened. During this time at the Academy, we invited members of the city leadership team and city council to join. Councilors Barlow and Magee were able to attend and enjoyed their time. We thank them for their participation.

Drills are conducted at our training site and the old Burlington Town Center, and plans are being made to drill at the City Place construction site. Our Senior Firefighter class begins on December 04. Recruit class 24-1 is scheduled to start on May 28, 2024.

BC Curtin is working with the Training Division to schedule a Lesson's Learned Seminar in the spring. They want to invite FDNY's Deputy Assistant Chief Frank Leeb on April 6, 2024—more information to come.

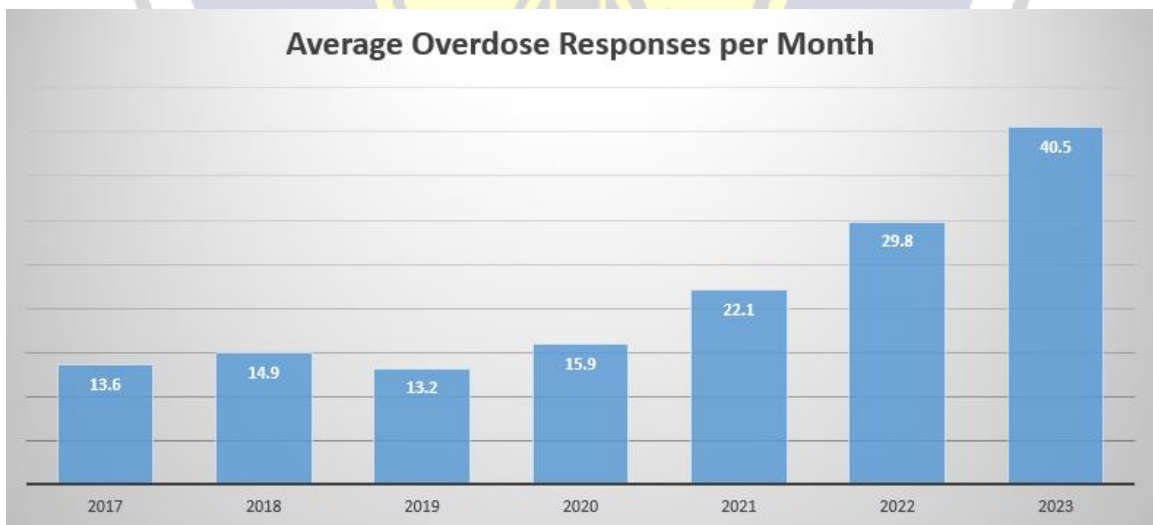
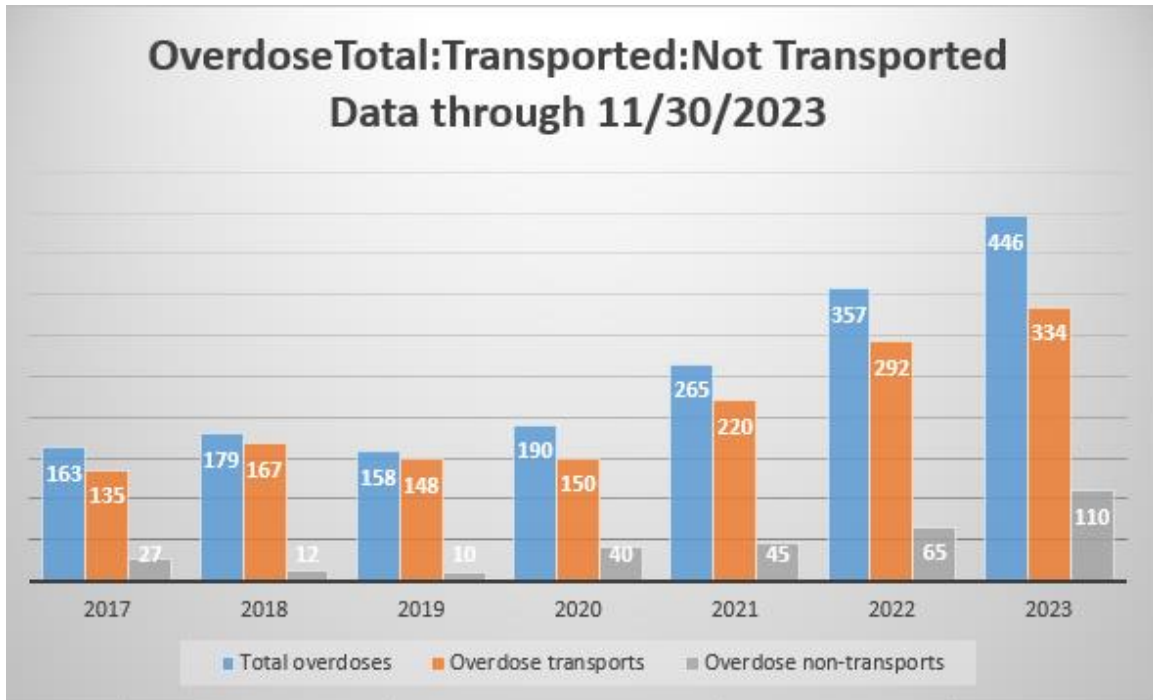
EMS: On November 17, 2023, the BFD was recognized as a Pediatric Safe Agency. An acknowledgment held by only 11% of EMS agencies in Vermont. This voluntary initiative promotes high-level pediatric emergency preparedness and care.

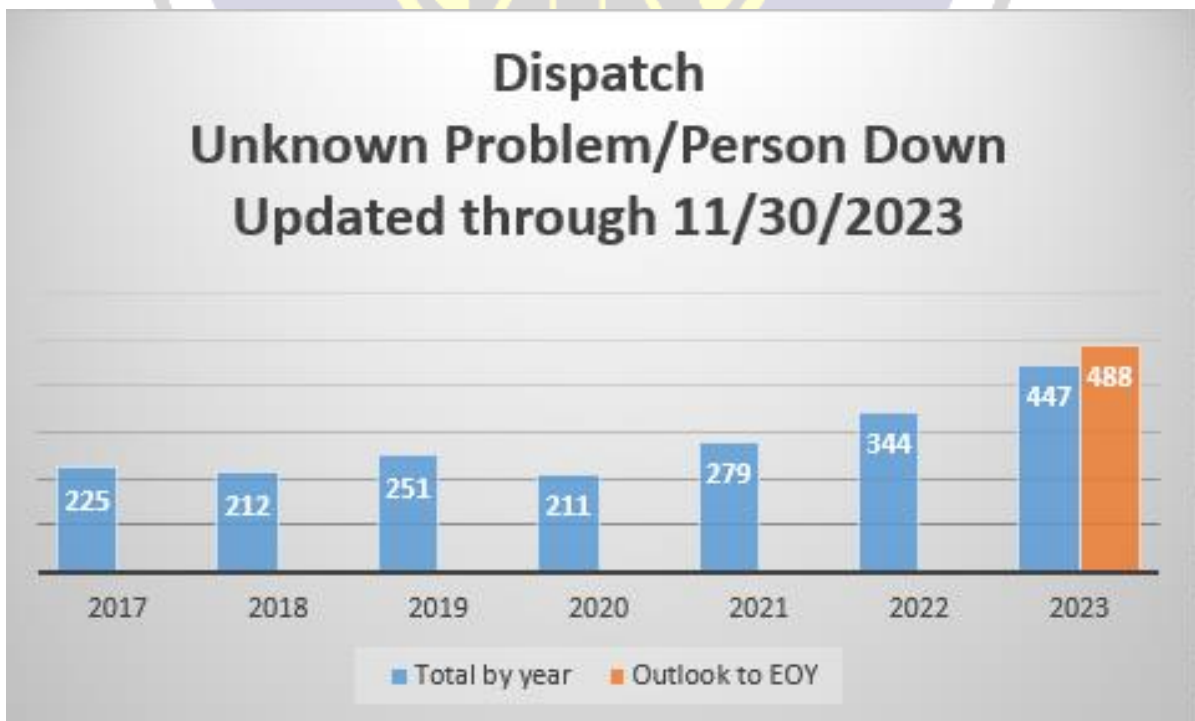
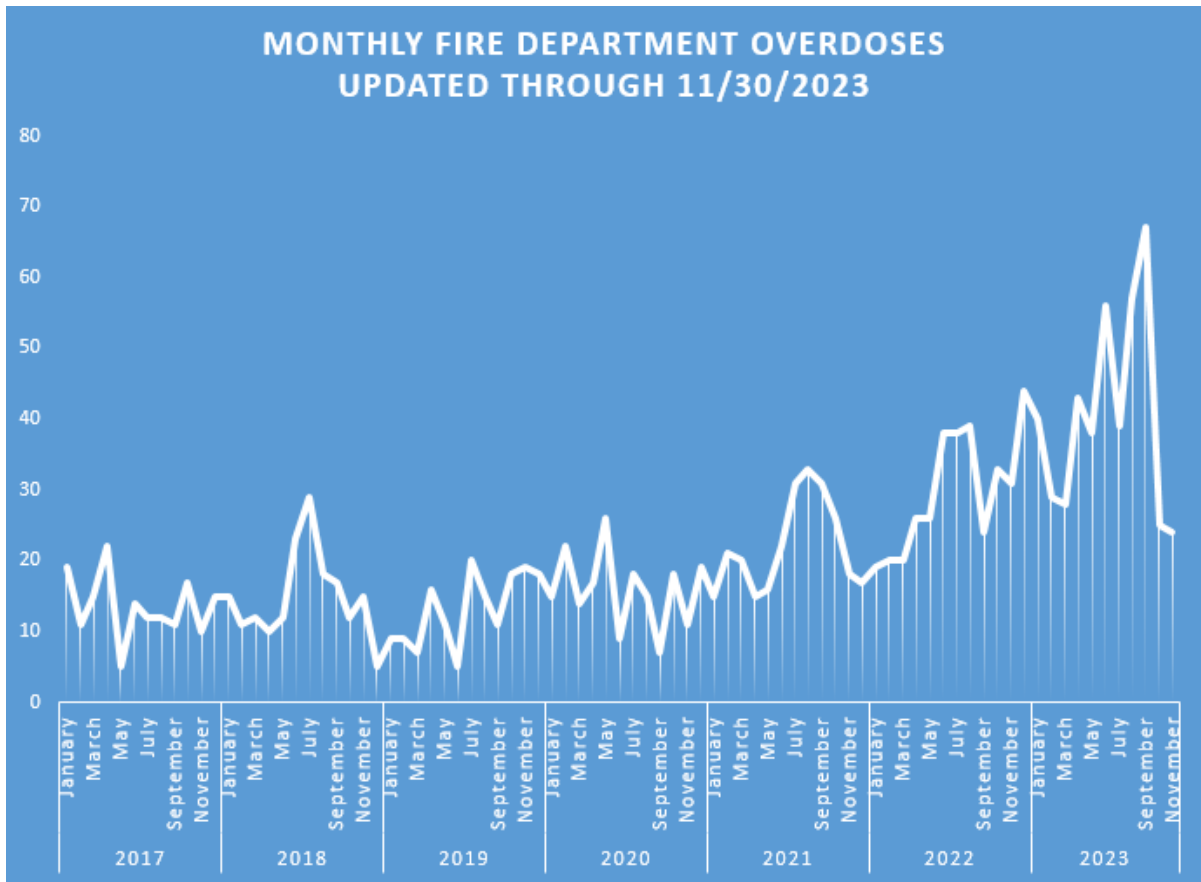
The EMS division is working on innovative training opportunities. Recently, we acquired the Sim Man from UVM for a realistic EMS skill review. There is an escape room-style training to give our people a unique training experience and will include other district partners. The 2024 EMS training schedule is under development.

Accurate data management is an essential aspect of data reporting. In working toward that goal, our cardiac monitors are now integrated to download information directly into SIREN, the state's EMS incident management system. We have also signed a contract to integrate our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) with Image Trend to allow agency-level validation in our EMS reports. This will reduce the information our responders need to enter into individual reports and allow for consistently correct data based on validated dispatch information being transferred into our reporting software.

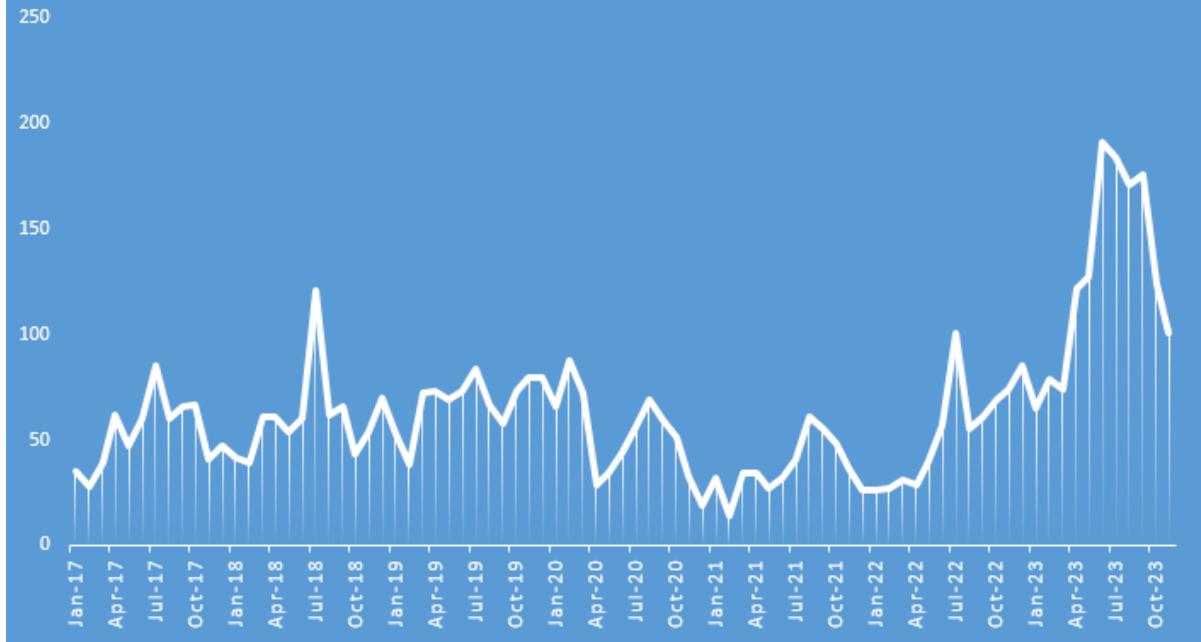
Fire Marshal's Office: The Fire Marshal's Office is keeping up with permitting and inspections. They have also been tasked with multiple investigations of incidents. In-depth discussions regarding battery and EV infrastructure are ongoing. These discussions include numerous city departments, including BED, planning and zoning, and the Department of Permitting and Inspections.

Latest EMS Response Data:





**MONTHLY FIRE DEPARTMENT EMS RESPONSES TO
HOMELESS/HOUSELESS/TRANSIENT/NO ADDRESS
POPULATION
DATA THROUGH 11/30/2023**



Burlington Fire Commission 2024 Meeting Schedule

Tuesday's – 8:30 AM

February 6th

April 2nd (Chief's Annual Review)

June 4th

August 13th

October 1st

December 3rd