



Darryl E. Jones PhD, CFO, EFO
Chief, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire

PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF FIRE 2023 Annual Report

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

2023 marks another year of progress for the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire (PBF) as we continue to migrate to being an all-hazards public safety agency. Thanks to the investments made by the Gainey Administration in apparatus, equipment, human resources, and training, the PBF has emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic in a position to aggressively move forward. Although most people associate us with fire suppression, we have assumed multiple roles, and responsibilities.

Since all of our members are certified to a minimum of EMT-Basic, the PBF now responds to injuries resulting from violence including penetrating trauma (gunshot) wounds. In light of the incident which occurred in East Palestine Ohio, and the volume of railroad traffic which transits through the city, we have expanded our Hazardous Materials Response Team. The PBF has improved upon its swift water rescue capabilities by expanding from a single Type-III team to two Type-II teams.

In addition, the PBF, in collaboration with the Department of Human Resources, and Local #1 of the International Association of Fire Fighters has established a recruitment team of diverse members to meet the challenges of diversity, equity, and inclusion faced by the PBF. Further, the PBF is extending its risk reduction efforts beyond just reducing risks to firefighters, but through collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, we are working to mitigate risks to the citizens and visitors of the city.

Sincerely,

Darryl E. Jones PhD, CFO, EFO
Chief, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire



OVERVIEW

Mission

It is the mission of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire (PBF) to protect life, property, and the environment by providing effective customer and human services related to fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazard mitigation, emergency management services, and domestic preparedness.

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire encourages all personnel to take a proactive role in reducing the impact from emergencies by providing programs related to fire prevention, public education, community relations, risk reduction, disaster planning, homeland security, and operational training. All services provided to the residents and visitors of the City of Pittsburgh, the County of Allegheny, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be delivered in the most professional manner, to the best of our ability.

Personnel Stats

- 671 total firefighters in the field
- 42 recruits in the academy will graduate in February
- 2 vacancies

Incident Stats 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

- 151 structure fires
- 628 Other fires (car, trash, etc.)
- 2,230 Hazardous condition calls
- 4,448 False alarms
- 20,119 Emergency Medical Calls
- 7,730 Good intent calls
- 5,588 misc. calls
- 46,482 total calls to the dates above

Overview

The roles and responsibilities of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire as related to public safety include emergency medical care, fire investigation, code enforcement, training, logistics, and suppression. Suppression and emergency medical services are the largest functional area in terms of responsibility and resources. The suppression function is the activity of containing and extinguishing a fire. The goals of the suppression division are to protect lives, property and the environment. The Pittsburgh Fire Bureau holds an ISO Class 1 Rating. To place this in perspective, there are approximately 40,000 fire departments in the United States. Only 373 hold an ISO Class 1 Rating. The PBF expanded its emergency medical service capabilities by becoming a licensed emergency medical care provider issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Bureau provides these services through the following four divisions:



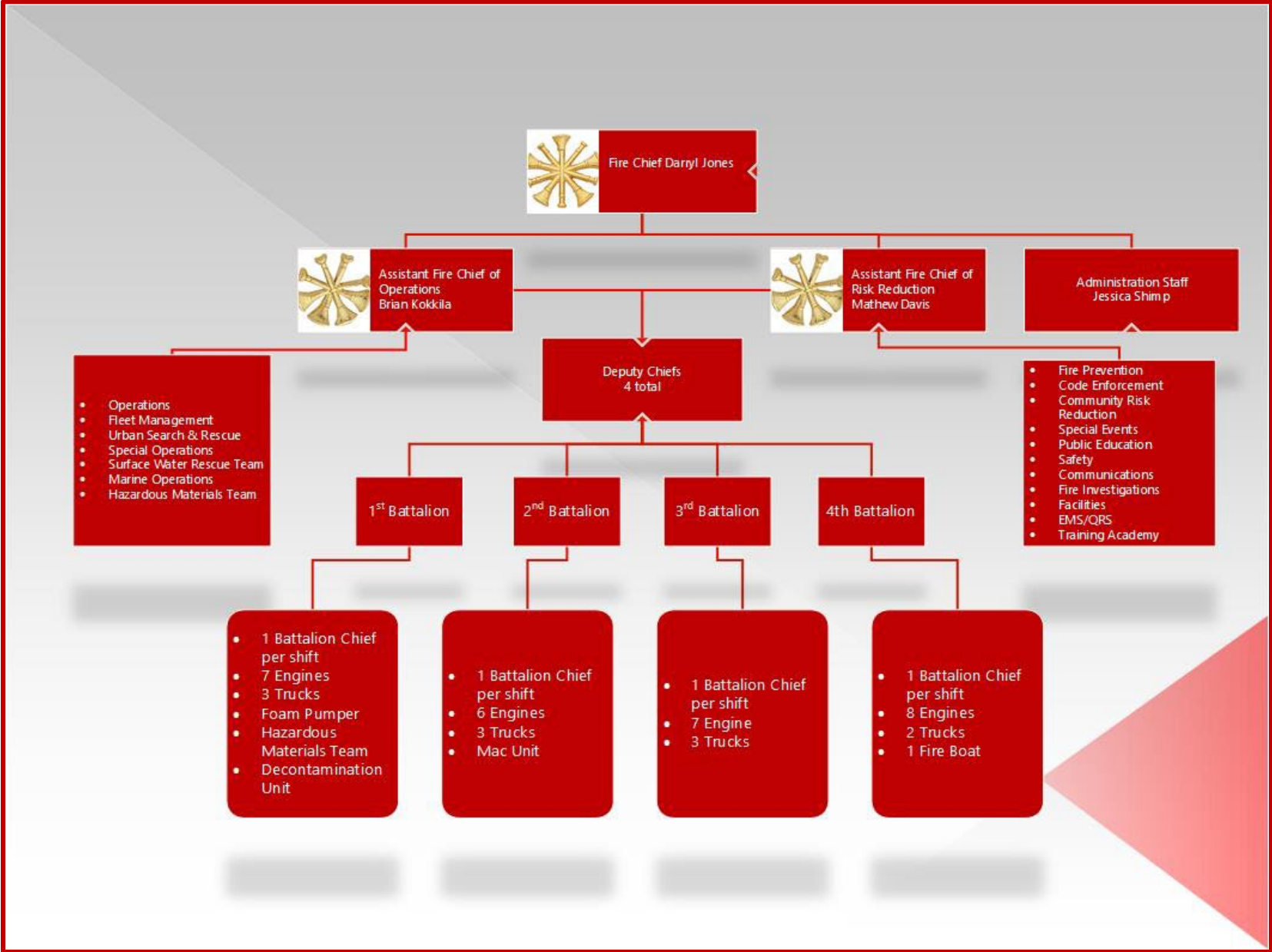
Administration - Provides managerial and administrative services for the Bureau. This activity includes but is not limited to budget and finance; payroll; employee relations, strategic planning; record and data gathering.

Operations - Provides emergency incident response to protect the lives and property of city residents and visitors. In addition to extinguishing fires, controlling hazardous material emergency incidents, flood response, and emergency management, the personnel in this service area are responsible for providing emergency medical care to sick and injured individuals. The Fire Bureau responds to approximately 20,000 emergency medical calls each year.

Planning and Training - Provides training, communications, and logistics for the Bureau of Fire. The Training Academy implements employee development programs for fire suppression personnel, including recruit firefighter, firefighters, company officers, and chief officers. The programs consist of fire suppression, apparatus driving operations, emergency medical responder, hazardous material, technical rescue, vehicle rescue, and disaster response topics. The PBF expanded its role in disaster preparedness and response, which includes increased capabilities to provide swift-water rescue, as well as taking a proactive role in planning and preparation for a disaster involving crude oil being transported by rail through the City of Pittsburgh, and other transportation emergencies. All new recruits must complete 32 weeks of basic training before being assigned to a permanent station within the PBF. In addition to recruit training, continuing education is required for all members of the PBF. The PBF provides public education to various community organizations and City programs such as the Civic Leadership Academy.

Risk Management - Enforces the City's hazardous material code, the International Fire Code, investigates complaints of life-threatening and unsafe conditions, and conducts fire investigations. It is also responsible for the health and safety of Bureau employees through preventive and corrective measures.

2023 Organization Chart



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The PBF has emerged as the lead agent in the modernization and enhancement of the City of Pittsburgh Hazardous Materials Response Team. We are working with our sister agencies while we update equipment, reimaging our response model and solve complex situations. Our Training Academy is prepared to provide Technician Level training and certification opportunity for all Department of Public Safety Bureau members. We have located and rehabilitated multiple hazardous materials response assets and equipment. We have developed and constructed identification and testing packages – standardizing the equipment across the Hazardous Materials Response Team.

We continue to prepare for the shifting threats traveling through our City by road, rail and river – preparing for the annual transportation increase of shale gas derivatives. We recognize the potential impacts and are constantly preparing to manage and mitigate complex scenarios – in the protection of citizens, infrastructure and the environment.

In the midst of a Global Pandemic we prepared and completed a multi-year certification evaluation, securing a provisional certification while we await an in-person exercise evaluation site visit from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. We have modernized the practice, administration and organization of the team, establishing the foundation for future improvements in our response readiness and response model. We continue to work cohesively with Department of Public Safety Bureaus in our efforts.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

COMMUNITY EDUCATION



Lisa Caron Epps is the Fire Inspector/Fire Prevention Instructor for the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire. With a total of 34 years on the Bureau of Fire, twelve served in her current role, Inspector Epps is the Fire Inspector for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pitt Panthers at Heinz Field, and PNC Park. She oversees all the fireworks or pyrotechnics/permits/inspection/ escorts for all concerts/plays and special events in the City of Pittsburgh. She also serves as a Fusion Liaison Officer and Community Emergency Response Team Instructor., and She is also the Smoke detector for hearing impaired Fire Prevention instructor.

With a passion for Fire Prevention and Community Risk Reduction, Instructor Epps-Cuda can Often be found attending Community events, educating youths in Private/Public Schools and certifying daycares as well as Senior Facilities in Fire Safety. Always willing to go above and beyond, Inspector Epps-Cuda serves on several Boards including: Safe Kids of Allegheny County, City of Pittsburgh Special Events, Minority Emergency Preparedness Taskforce, and the City of Pittsburgh Addressing committee.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

FLEET

Faced with a decimated fleet we continue our focus of modernizing and standardizing our fleet. Through standardization we ease the transition and education requirements for apparatus operators. We also benefit by reducing the various spare part components needed to be maintained on hand. We have made calculated adjustments to the new vehicle stock – adding requirements for corrosion resistant frames, stronger suspension systems and adding in automatic systems to keep chassis suspension components lubricated.

Preparing for consistent threats we have designed and have procured Foam Tenders to replace an aged and failing foam pumper. The design of the foam tenders capitalizes on efficiency and adaptability. Designed on all wheel drive chassis the vehicles will be able to access rugged terrain along railways.

We continue to work to modernize our fleet and maintain the assets under our purview to maximize their effective life span. The Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire is anticipating accepting delivery of two Trucks and four Engines in 2024.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

SWIFT WATER AND FLOOD RESPONSE

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire Swift-Water/Flood Response unit is one component of the swift water assets in the Department of Public Safety. Thirty-eight city firefighters are trained and certified at the technician level under the program. The Pittsburgh Fire Bureau's team has upgraded its level of certification from Type-IIIA to Type-IIA. The Type-IIA certification makes the team compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) standards for resource typing. In addition, the Type IIA certification qualifies the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau team to be a regional asset that can be deployed outside of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County for flashflood and disaster relief. Further, the team participated in a functional exercise with the Pennsylvania Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (PA-HART) in the summer of 2023. The new certification is recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Services and the Office of the State Fire Commissioner.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Not only do we protect the community, we recognize that we are an integral part of the community. As such, we want our members to represent the community which we serve. Currently, our diversity numbers, especially as they pertain to females in the bureau are dismal at best. However, the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau in collaboration with the Department of Human Resources, and Local #1 of the International Association of Firefighters has initiated a recruitment team to meet the challenge of diversity within the Fire Bureau. A program initiated, which is a huge success, and is showing much promise to bring a return on investment is the Girls Camp. The camp is for high school aged girls. The goal is to introduce them to the fire service. Hopefully, these young ladies will consider a career with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

SUMMATION

In presentation of our annual Bureau achievements, we emphasize our flexibility, resourcefulness and collaboration. We recognize the value of our partnerships, relationships and network to solve complex situations for the Bureau, the Department of Public Safety and the City of Pittsburgh.



FIRE ADMINISTRATION



Chief Darryl Jones began his career with the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau on July 9, 2007. Prior to joining the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau, He served with the Aliquippa Fire Department for 20 years. As the Fire Chief, he is responsible for the leadership of over 656 uniformed personnel and all the operations of the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau. He also serves as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Pittsburgh.

Chief Jones is committed to the safety and training of Pittsburgh firefighters, and the citizens of Pittsburgh. Under his leadership, and in cooperation with the American Red Cross, the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau has expanded its Free Smoke Detector Program. Working in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau initiated the Risk

Watch program in the schools. Risk Watch was a safety program that taught safety techniques to students grades K-6 as part of the health curriculum. The Pittsburgh Fire Bureau has 100% of its personnel certified to the Firefighter II level. Chief Jones started initiatives to modernize firefighter's personal protective equipment, and the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau's apparatus. Because of fire safety education, improved firefighter training, and the upgrading of equipment, as well as apparatus, the ISO rating for the City of Pittsburgh improved from a Class 4 fire department to a Class 1 fire department. It is Chief Jones' goal to develop the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau into an all-hazards emergency response service, thus making it the premier public safety bureau in the City of Pittsburgh.

Chief Jones earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management from Carlow University in 1991, a Masters of Public Management from Carnegie Mellon University in 1994, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Safety from Capella University in 2013. In addition, he is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, as well as the Harvard School of Public Health and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's National Preparedness Leadership Initiative. Chief Jones holds several certifications including Chief Fire Officer Designation through the Commission on Professional Credentialing, Fire Officer IV, Fire Instructor III, Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator, and Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic. Chief Jones is certified as an Advanced Emergency Management Coordinator by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). Chief Jones serves on the Regional Advisory Committee for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III, which includes Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Washington D.C., Delaware and Maryland. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fire Protection Association, and the International Codes Council.

Chief Jones is an instructor who teaches Public Administration, Emergency Management, Fire Science, and Leadership courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He teaches courses nationally and internationally, including as a contract instructor for the National Fire Academy. Chief Jones is an accomplished author and a polished lecturer.

Assistant Fire Chief of Operations



Brian Kokkila – Assistant Fire Chief, Operations

Brian Kokkila is a 28 year veteran of fire and emergency services – currently serving as Assistant Chief of the Pittsburgh (PA) Bureau of Fire. He is the former Task Force Leader of Pennsylvania Urban Search & Rescue – Strike Team 1 and a (20) year veteran (retired) of the Peters Township Fire Department. Chief Kokkila has been a paramedic since 2002. He has a Bachelor’s degree in fire science with certificates in occupational safety and emergency management and is a graduate of the National Fire Academies – Executive Fire Officer Program. He has an extensive background in fire apparatus and comprehends the challenges of fleet maintenance, apparatus design and specification development. His background includes industrial and transportation hazardous materials mitigation. He has participated in the development and execution of dynamic solutions to complex situations. Additionally he is an emergency services instructor, delivering fire, rescue, and hazardous materials courses to responders and industrial personnel.

Assitant Fire Chief of Risk Reduction



Mathew Davis – Assistant Fire Chief, Risk Reduction

Assistant Chief Davis began his career with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire in Spring 2023. A twenty-year veteran of the fire service, he previously served nineteen years with the Dormont Fire Department, including six years as the Chief of Fire. He has been a fire and emergency services instructor for the PA State Fire Academy and adjunct faculty member for the Community College of Allegheny County and Bucks County Community College. Chief Davis holds a bachelor's degree in public administration, a Master of Business Administration, and is graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Additionally, Chief Davis has achieved several certifications including Chief Fire Officer Designation through the Commission on Professional Credentialing, Fire Officer IV, Fire Instructor III, Fire Inspector III, Fire Investigator, NFPA 1041 Live Fire Instructor and Emergency Medical Technician. Chief Davis is also certified as an Advanced Emergency Management Coordinator by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA).

Jessica Shimp

Jessica's career with the City of Pittsburgh began in March of 2016 when she was hired as an Administrative Specialist for the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Fire. From 2016 to 2018 through a lot of hard work, she quickly moved up through the department. In 2018, Jessica accepted the Administrative Assistant position in the Fire Bureau.

With the retirement of the Department Business Administrator in January 2024, Jessica has stepped into the role as Acting Department Business Administrator. Her duties include making sure the day-to-day administrative operations in the Fire Bureau run smoothly.