

NORTON FIRE DIVISION



NORTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

PREPARED BY: CHIEF ADAM PAPP



3380 Greenwich Rd. Norton, OH 44203

Phone: 330-825-3086

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NORTON FIRE DIVISION

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Mike Zita,

On behalf of the Norton Fire Department, I would like to extend our gratitude to you and the entire community for the continued support you have shown us. Your commitment to the safety and well-being of our residents has not gone unnoticed.

Whether through generous donations, volunteer efforts, or words of encouragement, the community's involvement has been instrumental in helping us carry out our mission of protecting lives and property. It is truly a privilege to serve alongside such caring individuals who recognize the importance of public safety.

Through the 2024 annual report, our goal is to provide clear communication to our community, highlighting key areas within the fire department that may not be widely known to the general public.

As we move forward, we remain committed to serving you with the highest level of professionalism, courage, and dedication. Thank you once again for your dedication and support. We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure a safe and thriving Norton.

Sincerely,

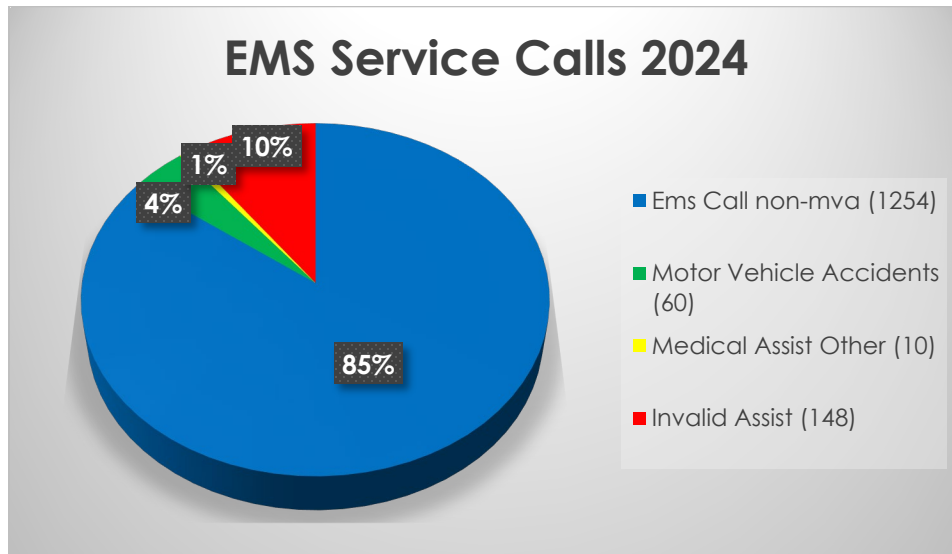
Chief Adam Papp
Norton Fire Department



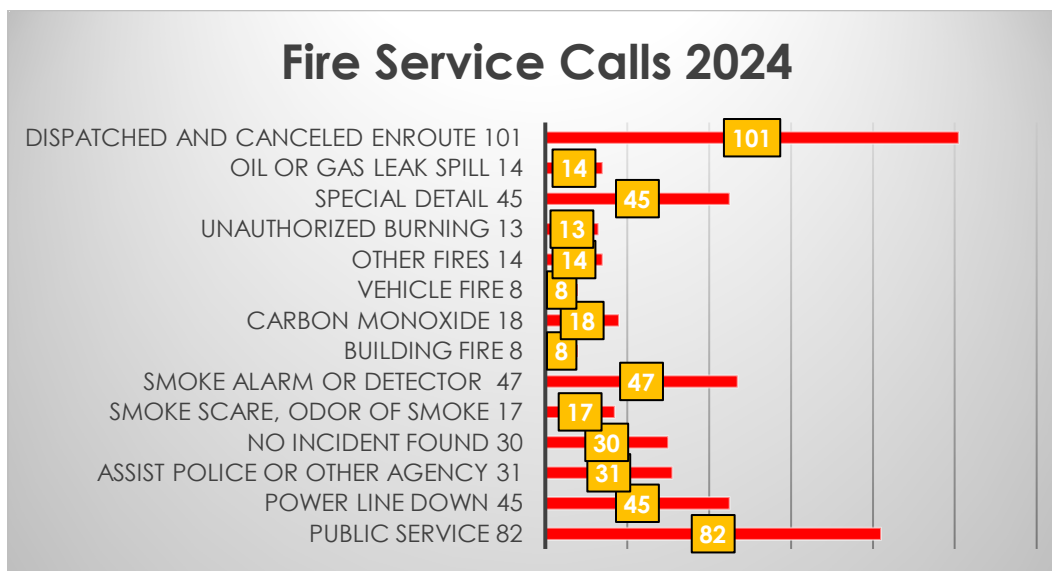
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The Norton Fire Department responded to 1936 calls for service during 2024. This is an increase of **14.55% for 2024**. The majority of the calls for service were medical. The following charts help illustrate our calls for service based on call types.



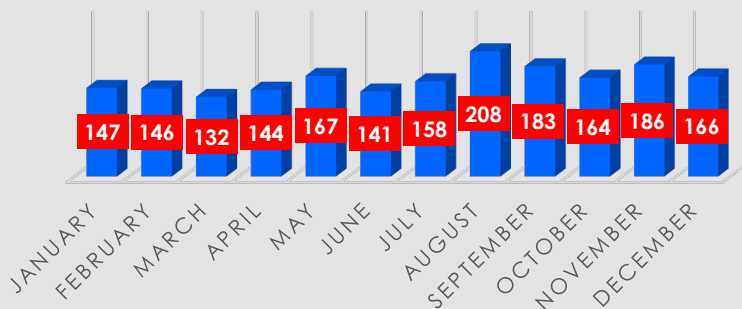
Fire Service Calls were broken down into approximately 46 different categories. The majority of these calls for service were categorized into the following incident types.



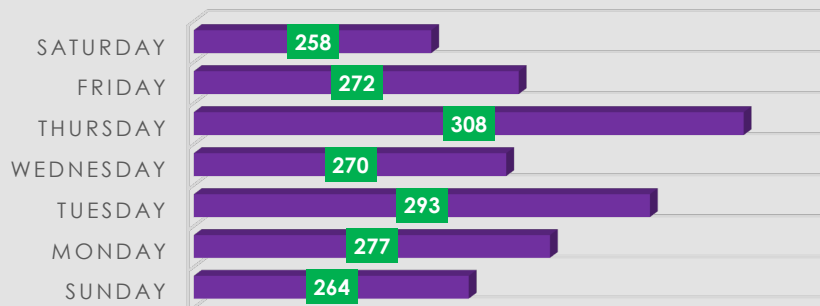
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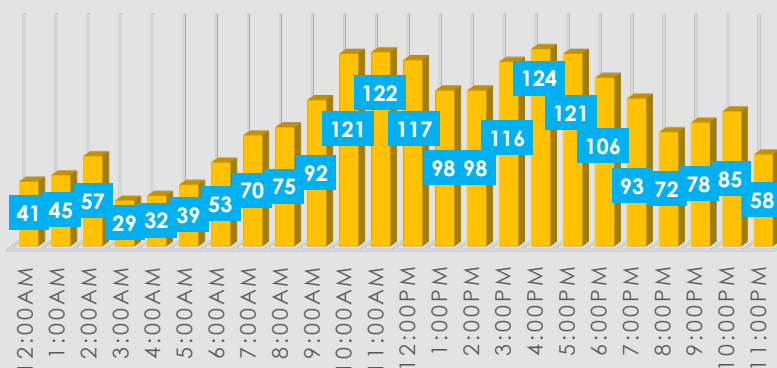
CALL VOLUME BY MONTH



CALL VOLUME BY DAY



CALL VOLUME BY TIME OF DAY



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Fire Prevention

Fire prevention is a crucial component of the fire service's responsibilities, focusing on strategies and actions that aim to prevent fires before they start. The fire service plays an active role in fire prevention by educating the public, conducting inspections, implementing fire safety regulations, and providing resources to minimize the risk of fire.

Here are some key areas of fire prevention in the fire service:

1. Public Education and Awareness

- **Fire Safety:** We often engage in public education to raise awareness about fire hazards and safe practices. This can include distribution of literature, school visits, and community outreach programs.
- **Teaching Fire Prevention Techniques:** Educating the public about safe cooking practices, the importance of smoke alarms, and keeping fire extinguishers accessible can help prevent accidents. Educating people on where to place fire extinguishers and how to use them can prevent small fires from escalating.
- **Fire Safety Education:** Fire prevention programs such as Safety Town focus on teaching children basic fire safety principles, how to prevent fires, the importance of smoke detectors, and how to react in case of a fire. They learn through role-playing, demonstrations, and interactive activities that make safety lessons memorable.

2. Building Inspections

- **Code Enforcement:** Fire departments work alongside building inspectors to ensure that buildings comply with fire codes and safety regulations, such as proper exits, fire-resistant materials, and sprinkler systems.
- **Inspection of High-Risk Areas:** Places like industrial facilities, schools, and large businesses are frequently inspected to ensure they meet fire prevention standards.

3. Fire Safety Regulations

- **Implementation of Fire Codes:** Fire departments play an essential role in enforcing fire safety codes that govern building materials, electrical systems, and fire exit routes.
- **Regulation of Hazardous Materials:** Fire departments ensure the safe storage, handling, and mitigation of flammable and hazardous materials to minimize the risk of fire.



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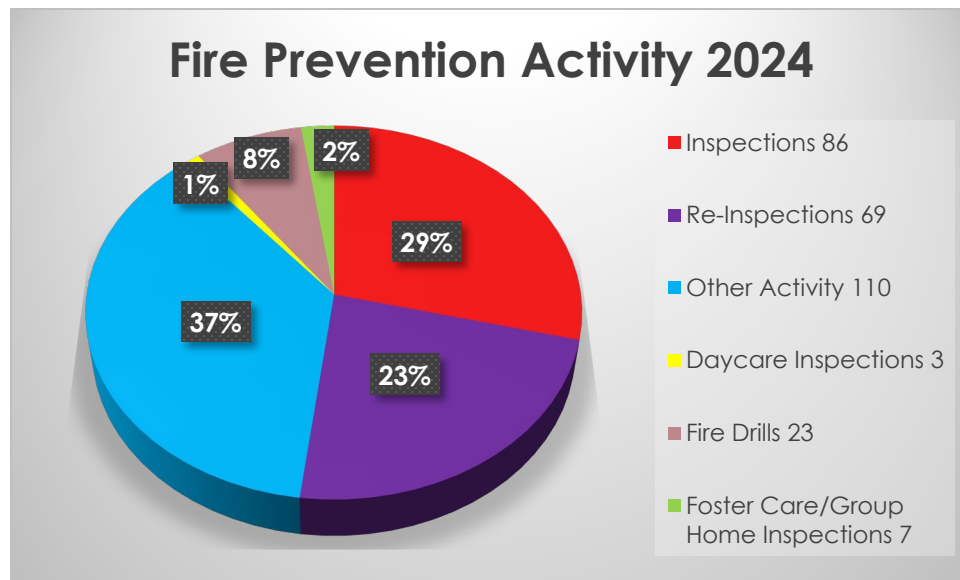
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4. Training and Drills

- **Firefighter Training:** Firefighters undergo regular training not just for firefighting, but also in fire prevention tactics. This includes knowledge of building construction, fire behavior, and safety measures.
- **Public Drills:** Fire departments may organize fire drills to ensure the public knows what to do in case of an emergency and how to prevent fires from starting.

5. Preplans (Pre-Incident Plans)

- **Role in Fire Prevention:** Fire department pre-plans are detailed, site-specific plans developed by fire departments to guide emergency responses for buildings or areas in case of a fire or other emergencies. These plans are designed to give firefighters critical information about the structure, hazards, fire protection systems, and other relevant details, allowing them to make informed decisions and act swiftly in high-pressure situations.



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Training is Important to our Team

Through training exercises, we simulate real-life situations such as fires, rescues, medical emergencies, and natural disasters. This allows our team to stay sharp, improve their skills, and work together seamlessly when responding to actual emergencies. Training helps us refine life-saving techniques, stay up-to-date with the latest firefighting equipment, and learn how to handle ever-evolving scenarios safely and efficiently.

2024 New Training Achievements

Associates Degree in Fire Services- 1 Degree Earned

Drive Team UTV Train the Trainer Course- 3 Certifications

Fire Safety Inspector- 2 Certifications

Health Safety Officer-1 Certification

HAZMAT Technician-1 Certification

Incident Safety Officer-1 Certification

Investigation for the Fire Officer- 2 Certifications

Officer I & II – 3 Certifications

Prevention of Bombing Incidents- 2 Certifications (Paid for through FEMA and DHS funding)

UAS (Drone Pilot) License- 3 Certifications



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Specialized Trainings

1. Certification for Car Seat Technicians

- A **Car Seat Installation Technician** is a trained professional who specializes in the proper installation of car seats for infants and children in vehicles. Their role is critical in ensuring the safety of young passengers by making sure the car seat is securely and correctly installed according to the manufacturer's guidelines and safety regulations.

2. Certified American Heart Association Instructors

- An **American Heart Association (AHA) Instructor** is a certified professional who is responsible for teaching CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), first aid, and other lifesaving skills. These instructors are trained and authorized by the American Heart Association to provide high-quality training in emergency situations and other first aid topics to help save lives in medical emergencies.
- Currently we have five BLS Instructors, two ACLS Instructors and one PALS Instructor.

Basic Life Support (BLS)

BLS is the foundation of emergency medical care, focused on providing immediate, basic medical assistance to individuals experiencing cardiac arrest or respiratory failure. It's designed to stabilize patients until more advanced care is available.

Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)

ACLS is a more advanced level of care than BLS and is specifically focused on treating patients who experience cardiac emergencies, such as heart attacks, arrhythmias, and cardiac arrest. ACLS includes additional techniques and medications to manage these advanced life-threatening conditions.

Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)

PALS is a specialized form of advanced life support aimed at treating children from newborns to adolescents (up to about 18 years old) who experience medical emergencies like cardiac arrest, respiratory distress, or shock.

All Paramedics are required to maintain BLS, ACLS, and PALS certifications.



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Specialized Teams

Fire departments often have specialized teams or units to handle a wide range of emergencies beyond traditional firefighting. These teams are trained to respond to specific types of incidents and are equipped with specialized tools and expertise. Below are some of the **specialized teams** in the fire service on which we currently have active members.

1. Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Team

- **Purpose:** This team is trained to handle situations involving hazardous substances, including chemicals, biological materials, radioactive substances, and environmental hazards.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Identifying and mitigating hazardous materials spills or leaks.
 - Decontaminating people and equipment exposed to harmful substances.
 - Ensuring safety in areas with potential environmental contamination.
 - Responding to industrial accidents, chemical plant emergencies, or transportation accidents involving hazardous materials.

2. SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Support Team

- **Purpose:** Some fire departments work alongside SWAT teams in emergencies that require tactical expertise and specialized equipment, such as rescues in active shooter situations or high-risk operations.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Providing support to law enforcement during dangerous tactical operations.
 - Assisting in rescue operations during criminal situations or hostage scenarios.
 - Ensuring the safety of all responders during a crisis.

3. Fire Investigation Team

- **Purpose:** This team investigates the cause and origin of fires to determine whether they were accidental, criminal, or the result of negligence.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Examining fire scenes for evidence, patterns, and possible causes.
 - Working with law enforcement to determine if arson was involved.



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- Collecting and preserving evidence to assist in legal investigations and prosecutions.

4. Dive Team

- **Purpose:** The Dive Team is trained to perform underwater search, rescue, and recovery operations in water-related emergencies.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - **Search and Rescue:** Locating and rescuing victims from submerged vehicles, drowning incidents, or people trapped in hazardous water conditions.
 - **Recovery Operations:** Recovering bodies from water, as well as submerged vehicles and evidence for investigations.
 - **HazMat Recovery:** Assisting in hazardous material incidents involving chemicals or oil spills in bodies of water.
 - **Underwater Search and Assessment:** Inspecting submerged infrastructure such as bridges or dams for damage or security concerns.
- **Equipment:** SCUBA gear, sonar, underwater cameras, communication devices, recovery tools like lifting bags and grapples.



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Highlights and Updates

We hired two full-time Firefighter/ Paramedics

- Shane Smith & Rion Ropchock

We hired five part-time Firefighters/ Paramedics

- Brian Lloyd, Stephen Baglia, Fredrick Elfrink, Briar Burgy and Brandon Burns

Chief Mike Schultz announced his retirement after nearly 33 years of service.

- Chief Schultz was a key contributor to the department's advancement

Secretary Janice Back retired after 23 years of dedicated service.

The Norton Fireman's Association donated a new 2025 Polaris UTV

- These funds were acquired through the generous donations of community members and businesses that chose to participate in fundraiser events hosted by the Norton Fireman's Association, such as the annual pancake breakfast and picture fundraiser event.

On behalf of the Norton Fire Department, we want to sincerely thank all of our community members for your continued support. Your trust and involvement make a real difference, and we are grateful to serve such an incredible community. We look forward to continuing to provide the highest level of service to our community.

Sincerely,

Chief Adam Papp



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OUR TEAM



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