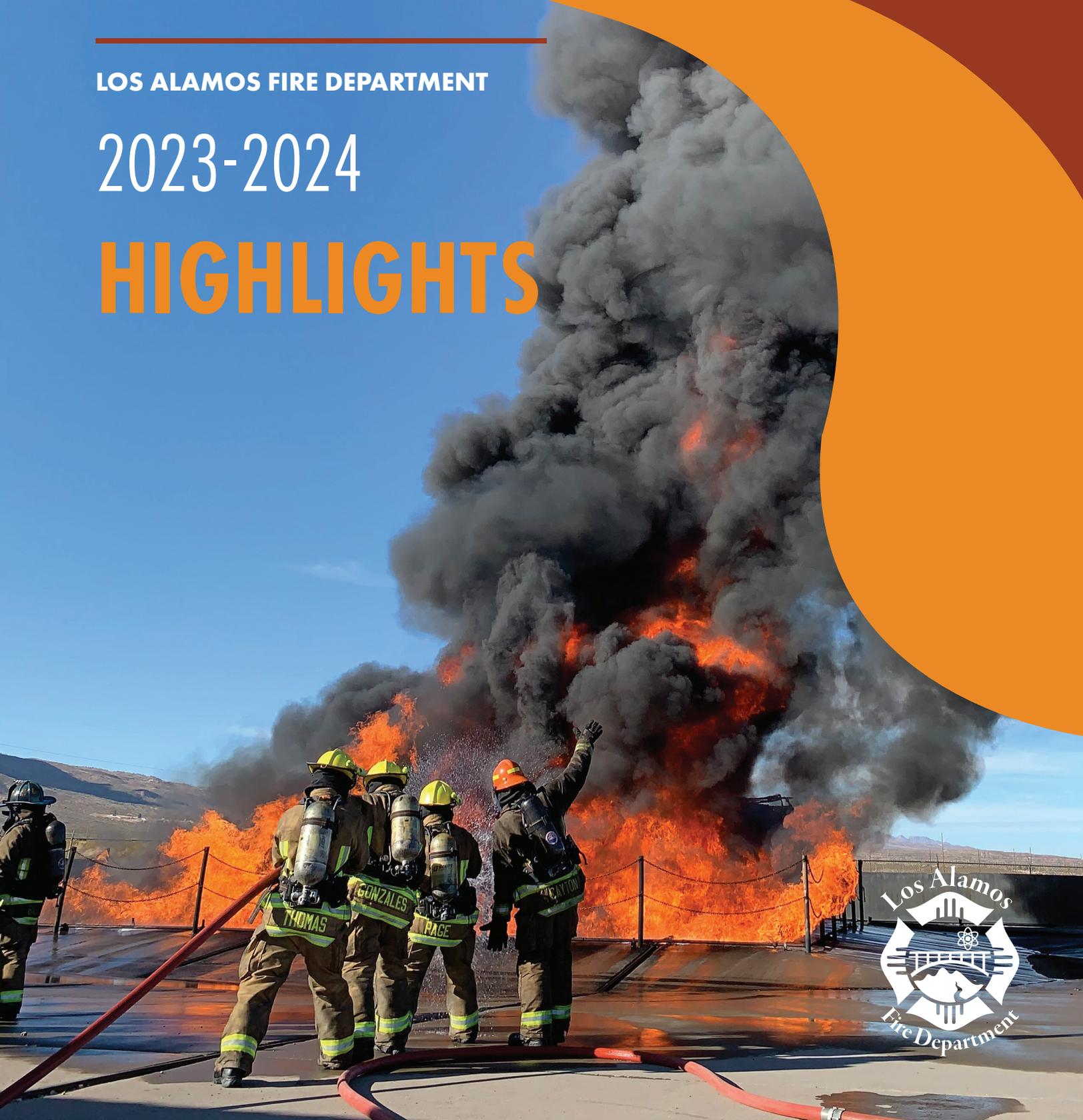


LOS ALAMOS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023-2024

# HIGHLIGHTS





## Proudly Serving Los Alamos County Since 1943

LOS ALAMOS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
999 CENTRAL AVE, SUITE 200  
LOS ALAMOS, NM 87544

505.662.8301  
LAFD@LOSALAMOSNM.GOV  
WWW.LOSALAMOSFD.ORG



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# FROM THE DEPUTY CHIEF

## On behalf of the Los Alamos Fire Department, I am proud to present our 2023–2024 Highlights.

The demands on an all-hazards fire department such as Los Alamos Fire Department (LAFD) are ever-increasing. While we are often asked to do more with less, this review reflects the areas where we have intentionally focused our efforts to strengthen services and meet community needs.

In 2023–2024 combined, our firefighters responded to a total of 5,241 incidents, which consisted of 69 structural fires, 40 wildland fires, 162 hazardous materials incidents and 178 technical rescue calls. As with any fire department, a significant percentage (62%) of our calls, totalling 3,249 incidents, were for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). In many cases, a call turned out to be less serious. However, it's worth mentioning the effort that a firefighter must put forth with each call, including donning the correct gear, mentally preparing themselves and riding in the fire engine to that location. We thank the citizens' diligence in ensuring everyone's safety through early notification.

In 2023–2024, we enhanced our capabilities in aircraft firefighting and rescue, improved our active assailant response, and expanded opportunities for our personnel to engage with the community. While not every initiative is highlighted here, each remains a priority.



**WENDY SERVEY**  
DEPUTY CHIEF 2022-2024

We continue to address emerging challenges, such as risks associated with lithium-ion batteries, and the increasing operational demands of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). At the same time, we are working diligently to maintain staffing levels amid retirements. We are equally committed to the health and safety of our personnel, with initiatives such as cancer screening and the introduction of “forever chemical”-free firefighting foam.

In October 2024, Los Alamos County and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Department of Energy (DOE) signed a 10-year cooperative agreement to fund enhanced fire protection services for LANL. In fall 2024, the County also began negotiations with International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3279 regarding salary and working conditions.

We extend our sincere gratitude to retirees EMS Division Chief Chris Bartlett, Captain Ernst Agnew, & Training Division Chief Ben Stone for their exceptional contributions. Their leadership and dedication to LAFD and the community leave a lasting impact.

Finally, I want to recognize and thank our entire LAFD family, both uniformed and administrative staff, for their commitment to serving the residents, visitors, and workers of Los Alamos County. We also appreciate the continued support of LANL. Together, we carry out our mission to deliver all-hazards service and make the community a safer place for all.

Sincerely,

*Wendy Servey*  
2022-2024 Deputy Fire Chief

# A BRIEF HISTORY

---

LAFD was originally organized under the Manhattan Project in April 1943. At that time, it consisted of seven civilian firefighters and 25 volunteer firefighters. In September 1943, the firefighter functions were taken over by the military and was operated under the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and DOE who employed federal government employees for this service until 1988. On October 25, 2024, DOE awarded an agreement to Los Alamos County to hire personnel and provide fire and EMS for LANL and the community.

LAFD is currently the third-largest career fire department in the state of New Mexico, with an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 1. The department provides fire, rescue, emergency medical, technical rescue, wildland, fire investigation and inspections, public education and community risk-reduction services to the residents, visitors and workers of the community.

LAFD has five operational fire stations, one training station, and a fire administration office. In October 2023, Los Alamos County entered its second and unprecedented ten-year cost-sharing cooperative agreement with DOE and NNSA.

As stated in the statement of objectives in the cooperative agreement, “The general objective of the cooperative agreement is to provide financial support for staff, response vehicles, specialized tours, and training, and the use of fire station facilities to the Incorporated County of Los Alamos to all the County to provide enhanced level of fire department services, including advanced nuclear facility capable, industrial fire suppression, advanced emergency medical rescue, hazardous materials response, and other services (“fire department services”) through its municipal fire department.”



CERRO GRANDE FIRE, MAY 2000.



LA MESA FIRE,  
JUNE 6, 1977.

# YOUR COUNTY, **YOUR LAFD**

---

## Mission

The Los Alamos Fire Department is honored to be entrusted with the safety and welfare of our members and community.

We are dedicated and proud to provide exceptional services for the preservation of life, the environment, and property.

## Vision

The Los Alamos Fire Department's vision is to serve the unique needs of our community. We strive to exceed expectations with Professionalism, Accountability, and Respect.

## Values

### Professionalism

We carry our missions with honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior.

### Accountability

We maintain accountability by taking responsibility for our actions and as part of a team.

### Respect

We treat all individuals with dignity and courtesy regardless of their background, rank, or role.



# PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY



**ESTIMATED  
\$41.5 BILLION  
IN PROPERTY  
PROTECTED**



**26 YEARS  
COMMISSION ON FIRE ACCREDITATION  
INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITED**



**7 YEARS  
ISO CLASS 1 RATED**



**6 STATIONS**

**6 ENGINES**

**6 AMBULANCES**



**2 LADDER TRUCKS**

**6 WILDLAND BRUSH  
ENGINES**



**6 WILDLAND TENDERS**

**1 BATTALION CHIEF UNIT**

**1 HAZMAT UNIT**

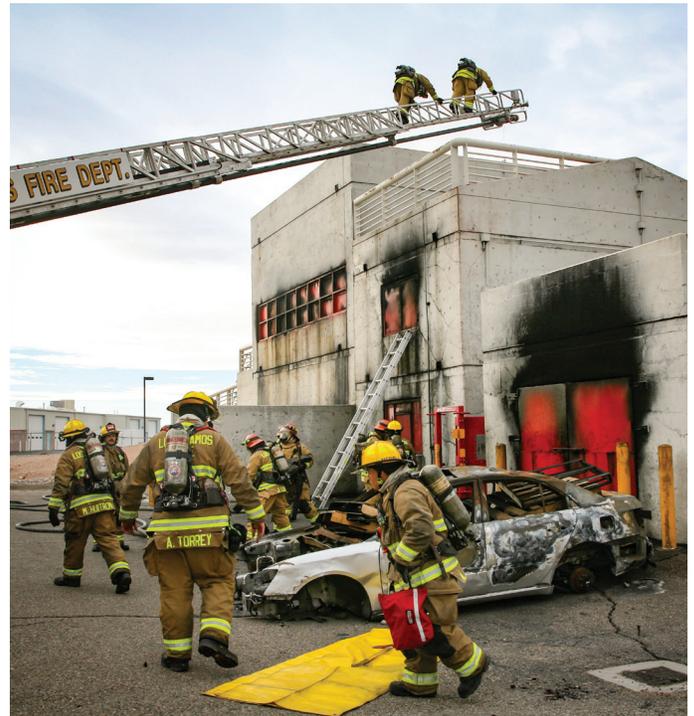


**1 HEAVY RESCUE UNIT**

**1 LIGHT RESCUE UNIT**



**1 MOBILE COMMAND UNIT**



LAFD provides services to 109 square miles and a population of over 19,419\* residents, which increases by over 10,000 daily during the week due to the commuting workforce that supports the mission of LANL. Los Alamos remains a densely populated County with 164.4\* people per square mile due to factors that include mountainous terrain, with the town located on high-elevation mesas surrounded by sheer cliffs throughout the community. LAFD provides protection to 9,482 properties within the County's jurisdiction.

\*U.S. CENSUS 2020

# SERVING THE COMMUNITY

---

LAFD employs over 165 professionals and is the largest department within Los Alamos County government. The department provides special services such as wildland, aircraft and structural fire fighting, as well as vehicle, technical high-angle rope, collapse, trench, confined space and trail rescue. We prioritize public safety through high-quality training and certifications, education, fire prevention programs and partnerships with community organizations.



## IN 2024

**176 TOTAL PERSONNEL COUNT**



**11 CHIEF OFFICERS/COMMAND STAFF**



**11 FIRE ADMINISTRATIVE CIVILIAN STAFF**



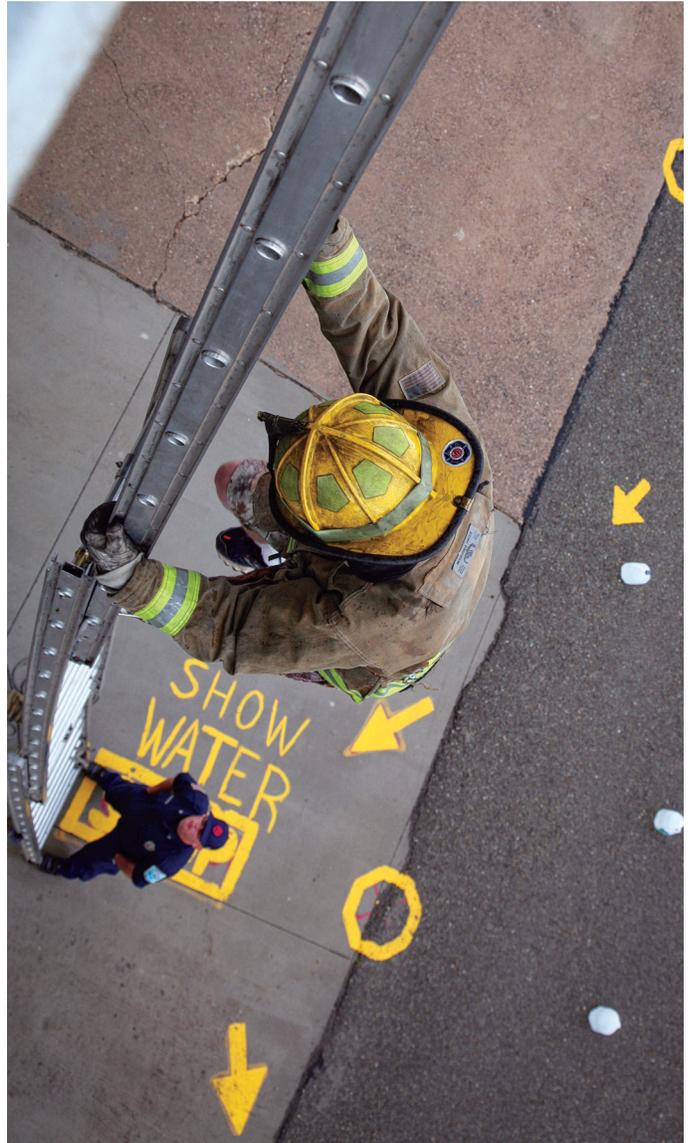
**148 UNIFORMED FIELD OPERATIONS STAFF**



**2 FIRE MARSHAL OFFICE STAFF**

**3 FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TRAINING LEADERS**

**1 SAFETY LEADER**





# WHO WE ARE

---

## 2023-24 Organization

The Los Alamos Fire Department is honored to have the responsibility of safeguarding the well-being of our community. We are committed to and take pride in delivering outstanding services to ensure the protection of life, the environment, and property.



Guided by Fire Chief Troy Hughes and Deputy Chief Wendy Servey, each division is led by a Division Chief or Administrative Services Manager who supervises designated programs.



**TROY  
HUGHES**



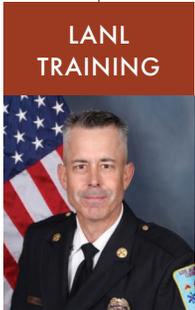
**WENDY  
SERVEY**



**JEFF SAIZ,  
A-SHIFT**



**MANUEL  
PACHECO**



**JAMES  
THWAITS**



**TIMOTHY  
JOHNSON**



**TODD  
FORSYTHE**



**STEVE SAIZ,  
B-SHIFT**



**MICAH BRITELLE,  
C-SHIFT**

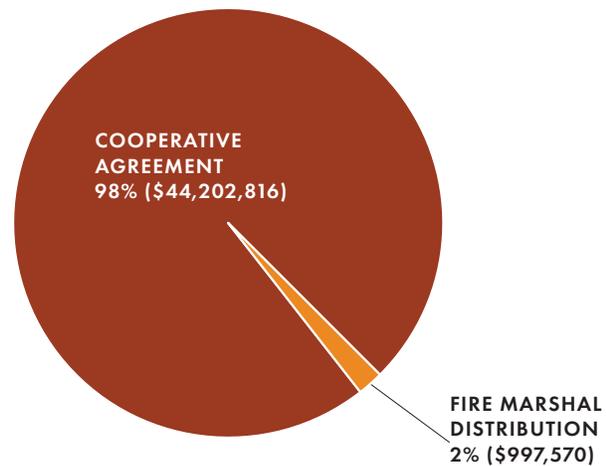
# BUDGET OVERVIEW

The largest projected expenditure that the department plans for is capital projects. Fire Station 4 is at the end of its service life at over 50 years old. The Replacement Project Site Location Study encompassing community and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings, as well as architectural concept drawings, was completed in 2023-2024.

LAFD is subject to audits from the County, State and Federal officials due to 74% of the fire department budget being federally funded by DOE and NNSA.

Being committed to the health and safety of our staff and community and providing excellent service is our priority. LAFD is routinely evaluated by agencies such as: the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, Insurance Services Office (ISO), National Defense Board, and LANL Drills.

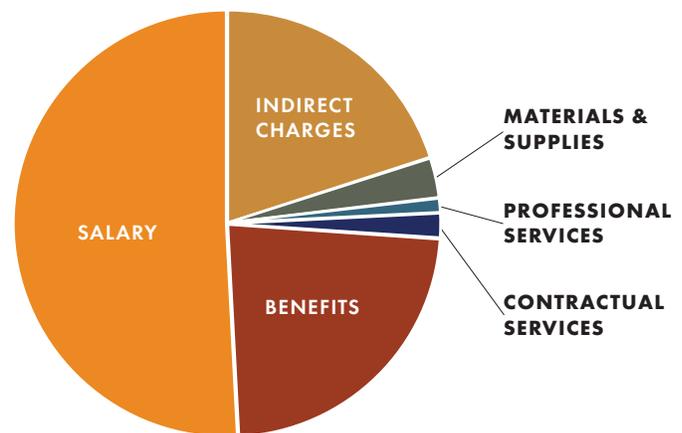
## FY2024 Sources of Fire Department Funding



## FY2024 Cooperative Agreement

### Budget Categories

	<b>SALARY</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>\$22,682,548</b>
	<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>\$10,336,732</b>
	<b>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>\$682,876</b>
	<b>MATERIALS &amp; SUPPLIES</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>\$1,140,420</b>
	<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>\$449,534</b>
	<b>INDIRECT CHARGES</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>\$8,910,706</b>



# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

**2,610**

CALLS FOR SERVICE



**9:06 MIN**

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIME  
(DISPATCH PROCESSING +  
TURNOUT TIME + TRAVEL)



**94%**

IMPROVEMENT IN FIRE RATE/  
COMPLIANCE WITH FULL  
TIME FIRE INSPECTOR



**94**

FALL CALLS



**5,497**

APPARATUS RESPONSES



**369**

RESPONSES TO FALSE  
ALARMS



**14**

OVERDOSE/POISONING  
CALLS



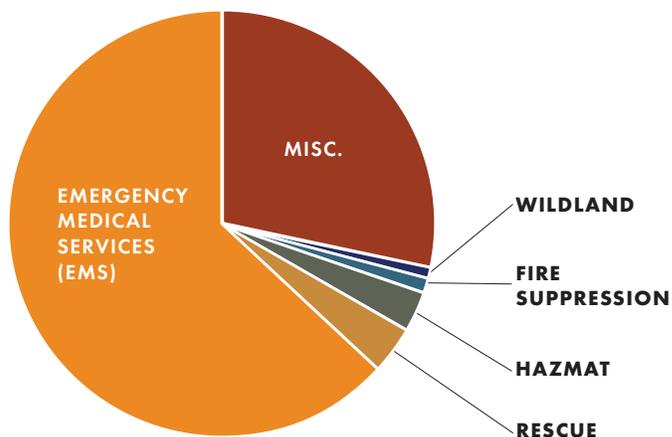
**14**

POTENTIAL OR ACTUAL  
CARDIAC ARRESTS



## Calls by Category

EMS	1,652
MISCELLANEOUS	739
RESCUE	89
HAZMAT	82
FIRE SUPPRESSION	32
WILDLAND	16



# TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS

2

COMPLETED ADVANCED FIRE OFFICER CERTIFICATIONS



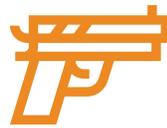
3

NEW PARAMEDICS TRAINED



489

ACTIVE ASSAILANT TRAINING HOURS COMPLETED



1,253

TECHNICAL HIGH-ANGLE ROPE RESCUE TRAINING HOURS COMPLETED



155

MEMBERS RECEIVED DRIVER TRAINING



2,000

ADDITIONAL TRAINING HOURS COMPLETED BY EACH OF THE 56 PARAMEDICS



1,860

WILDLAND TRAINING HOURS COMPLETED



1,253

CONFINED SPACE AND TRENCH TRAINING HOURS COMPLETED



155

MEMBERS RECEIVED LIVE FIRE TRAINING



97

EMS PROVIDERS RELICENSED WITH OVER 3,201 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION



2,506

HAZMAT TRAINING HOURS COMPLETED



1,395

AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) TRAINING HOURS COMPLETED



96.6%

OFFICERS, DRIVER ENGINEERS & FIREFIGHTERS IN THE DEPARTMENT MEET ISO-REQUIRED TRAINING HOURS

1,213

HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION COMPLETED FOR FIRE INSPECTORS, INVESTIGATORS AND FIRE MARSHAL

9

NEW FIRE RECRUITS TRAINED WITH OVER 1,000 HOURS PER RECRUIT OF INITIAL TRAINING

4,495

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY-SPECIFIC HOURS COMPLETED



# ACTIVE ASSAILANT TRAINING



In July 2023, LAFD sent six staff members to the DOE Hanford Site in Washington to train alongside DOE Protective Forces and fire departments from across the nation. The focus of this training was to collaborate and refine the latest response tactics for active assailant incidents.

Following this training, LAFD began the procurement process for essential equipment to enhance operational readiness. This included securing 38 ballistic vests, 38 ballistic helmets, and 10 Multi-Casualty Incident Emergency Medical Services bags. These resources support the department-wide rollout of Rescue Task Force (RTF) training—a concept where a small team of EMS providers is escorted by law enforcement into a secured “warm zone” to evaluate, stabilize, triage, and extricate viable patients during an active assailant incident.

These trainings have been conducted in collaboration with the Los Alamos Police Department (LAPD) and LANL-Pro Force Security.

Looking ahead, LAFD plans to update existing policies and procedures and begin incorporating command staff into a variety of tabletop exercises. The exercises will focus on integrating the Blue Card Incident Command Training framework with RTF-specific incident command strategies to ensure a comprehensive and unified response to active assailant incidents in Los Alamos County.



# FEATURED TEAMS



LOCAL 244 ANNUAL FIRE MUSTER IN OCTOBER 2024. ZANE FRETHERWAY, RUBEN MARTINEZ, CAMERON CONWAY, DAVID APODACA AND MICAH HUITRON TOOK 1ST PLACE FOR TEAM RELAY.



**SOUTHWEST REGIONAL FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE JUNE 2024. DIEGO CASILLAS, CAMERON CONWAY, ZANE FRENTHWAY AND DAVID APODACA TOOK 3RD PLACE IN THE REGIONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT SHOWDOWN AND 5TH PLACE OVERALL.**

## Combat Challenge Team

The “Atomic City Challengers” team was established to promote firefighter fitness and expertise through participation in the prestigious Combat Challenge competitions. The competitions consist of timed firefighter skills in an obstacle course format. Teams of firefighters from across the USA gather annually to compete against each other.



**THE HONOR GUARD UPHOLDS A POSITIVE IMAGE AND SUPPORTS RECRUITMENT THROUGH ITS PROFESSIONALISM, PRIDE, & COMMITMENT TO SERVICE. JAMES PEPE AND NICHOLAS BEVER STOOD WATCH AT THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL IN EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND.**

## Honor Guard Team

The Los Alamos Honor Guard is a ceremonial team of sworn LAFD members dedicated to honoring fallen firefighters. They also serve as “guardians of the colors,” presenting the flag at official events upon request.

In 2023–2024, the department formalized the team by adding a budget line item and including it in the accreditation process. The Honor Guard participated in academy graduations and memorials for former LAFD members.

# WILDLAND AND HAZMAT

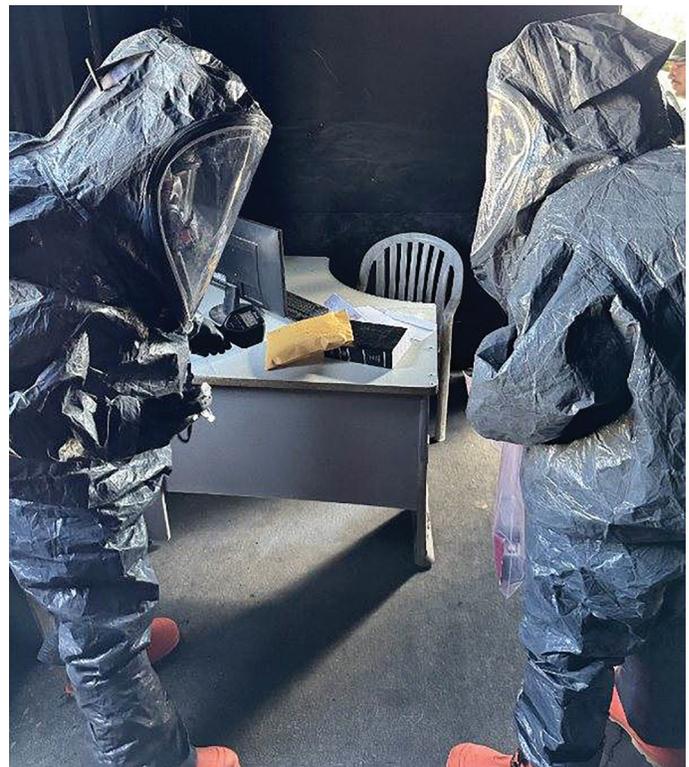
## Wildland

2023 and 2024 were influenced by climate patterns, including drought conditions and the transition between La Niña and El Niño phases that impacted fire activity across different regions. Los Alamos County experienced a decrease in wildland fires compared to previous years. Locally, LAFD assisted external partners with small wildland fires. LAFD also sent personnel to Oregon to assist with its most severe wildland fire season in many years.



## Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Response Team

LAFD continues to uphold its commitment to excellence with its Hazmat Response Team. The team is comprised of 48 trained technicians, adhering to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and National Fire Protection Association standards, ensuring effective response to hazardous materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction incidents. The Hazmat Response Team maintains full daily staffing of seven technicians and often works jointly with the LANL Hazardous Materials Response Team. In 2023-24, Hazmat 1 responded to 162 incidents and participated in the LANL Hazardous Materials Challenge at Tech Area 48.



# ARFF TRAINING

## Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training

In November 2023, LAFD sent six members to the South Carolina Fire Academy, and a year later sent six additional team members to Florida State College in Jacksonville, Florida for the 40-hour training certification for aircraft fires. LAFD currently has 12 members with ARFF training who assist with training others in the department. These members must attend recertification courses and obtain continuing education hours of related training each year.

In April 2024, LAFD held helicopter safety training, which was conducted with our local helicopter service Classic Air. Members also attended Air Card certification training, which allows personnel to ride as a passenger with Classic to assist in reconnaissance missions for incidents such as trail searches or rescues, or wildland events.

Also in April, Crash Fire Rescue (CFR6) conducted driver training that simulated an aircraft crash landing with fire. The training allowed the team to practice extinguishing fires while in motion and communicating with pilots via radios as needed. CFR6 is currently housed at Station 6 and responds to all aircraft type emergencies.

In November 2024, specifications for a new CFR6 truck were developed to replace the current ARFF truck after more than 20 years of service for Los Alamos County.



# TRAINING & RECRUITMENT



## IN 2023 & 2024...

- **351 APPLICANTS**
- **44 FIRE RECRUITS HIRED**
- **32 FIRE RECRUITS GRADUATED**
- **2 FIRE ACADEMIES**
- **2 PROMOTIONAL PROCESSES**

LAFD Training Division continues to drive efforts in self-development, operational preparedness and industry-standard compliance. The implementation of structured training programs and expansion of instructor certification opportunities have enhanced the department's ability to meet evolving emergency response demands.

# FIRE ACADEMIES

## 2023: Academy #32



Michael Abeyta  
Luke Aragon  
Peter Bernard  
Cody Brahs  
Diego Casillas  
Rico Gonzales

Gabriel Herrera  
Mycah Huitron  
Charles Lueth  
Jeffrey Maestas  
Tyler McDonald  
Adrian Medina

Christopher Montoya  
Benjamin Nichols  
Thomas Norton  
Marco Orozco  
Nicolas Santistevan  
Carlin Spung

Austin Torrey  
Angelo Valencia-Lucero  
Adrian Vigil  
Lorenzo Vigil  
Amadeo Zeidan

## 2024: Academy #33



Josiah Chavez  
Alejandro Gutierrez  
Joshua Leak  
Nicholas Lopez  
Isaiah Martinez  
Andrew McKay  
Fabian Nevarez  
Ryan Rochford  
Steven Tenorio

# RETIREMENTS & PROMOTIONS



## 2023

### Retirements

Ben Stone  
TRAINING DIVISION CHIEF  
Ernest Agnew  
CAPTAIN B-SHIFT ST#6

### Promotions

Timothy Johnson  
TRAINING DIVISION CHIEF

Daniel Gandara  
CAPTAIN

Robert Fuselier  
CAPTAIN

Jaden Eads  
CAPTAIN

Zane Frentheway  
DRIVER ENGINEER

Shane Grano  
DRIVER ENGINEER

Eric Gonzales  
DRIVER ENGINEER

## 2024

### Retirements

Christopher Bartlett  
EMS DIVISION CHIEF

### Promotions

Manuel Pacheco  
EMS DIVISION CHIEF

Kevin Kamplain  
EMS TRAINING CAPTAIN

Daniel Sanchez  
DRIVER ENGINEER

Brett Henry  
DRIVER ENGINEER

# FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

LAFD's Fire Marshal's Office has made significant strides in enhancing fire safety and code compliance throughout the community.

## Enhanced Inspection Capabilities in 2024

The addition of one full-time inspector has benefited the division's inspection and re-inspection rate. As a result, compliance within Los Alamos County has improved substantially, reaching nearly 94%.

## Technology-Driven Efficiency in 2023-2024

Implementing First Due software with tablets has streamlined inspections, and improved data collection, real time reporting, and overall efficiency. Inspectors can enter data, capture images, and access critical information seamlessly in the field, enhancing decision making, and improving overall operational efficiency.

## Comprehensive Plan Reviews and Fire Code Adoption.

The department ensures fire safety by reviewing new and existing construction, as well as fire sprinkler and alarm plans for compliance with the 2021 International Fire Code.

The Fire Marshal's Office remains dedicated to staff supporting certifications and continuing education opportunities, modernizing operations, and fostering strong community partnerships to enhance safety for residents and firefighters alike.

## Top 3 Fire Code Violations in 2024

- 242 FIRE EXTINGUISHER VIOLATIONS
- 189 EXIT SIGNS OR EXIT LIGHTING
- 110 FIRE-RATED WALL PENETRATIONS

By the Numbers	2023	2024
FIRE INSPECTIONS	549	811
FIRE PLAN REVIEWS	37	50
BUSINESS LICENSE REVIEWS	108	164
COMMERCIAL REMODEL PERMITS ISSUED	35	28
FIRE CODE COMPLIANCE/ CONCERNS INVESTIGATED	59	31
VIOLATIONS DOCUMENTED	64	1065
OPERATIONAL PERMITS ISSUED	25	22
SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS ISSUED	93	164
FIRE WATCHES INITIATED/ COMPLETED	0	4
FIRE INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED	60	47

# FIRE TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



In 2023, Joshua Sammons was hired to establish Fire Technology Services specifically for LAFD. This new focus of the fire administration team was identified to support the maintenance and troubleshooting of critical equipment and software programs that provide vital information and resources to the department. Fire technology staff serve as liaisons between the County Information Management division and LAFD.



In 2024, Molly Fischer joined the team, bringing expertise in science, design, and data analysis to support the mission of this specialized division.



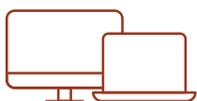
The primary responsibilities of Fire Technology Services include maintaining station hardware—such as laptops, desktops, and mobile data terminals—as well as administering the Fire Watch and SharePoint platforms. These tools ensure that firefighters have access to essential information, forms, applications, and mapping resources.



Additionally, Fire Technology Services support specialized response software and hydrant testing software, station alerting systems, the mobile command unit, communication and technology, ID card printing, door access control, video surveillance for stations and fire administration, and assistance with computer-aided design (CAD) configurations, as well as supporting drone operations.



By combining their technical expertise and diverse skill sets, the team helps provide emerging technologies directly into the hands of firefighters—enhancing safety, situational awareness, and operational efficiency on every call.



# VEHICLES AND STATIONS

## Vehicles

LAFD follows a vehicle replacement plan approved by the NNSA-DOE Cooperative Agreement, which governs most LAFD apparatus acquisitions, with a few exceptions.

Vehicle specifications are developed by a committee of fire department personnel and aligned with fiscal guidance. The specifications outline the requirements for new apparatus to meet current operational demands, address emerging hazards, and comply with applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. Once finalized, the specifications are distributed to vendors for bidding as part of a Request for Proposal process.

### 2023

Specifications for three engines were developed and awarded to Pierce. Vehicles were ordered and should arrive in 2026.

**DELIVERED:** Two command response vehicles for Battalions/Chiefs were added to the fleet.

### 2024

Specifications for an engine were developed and awarded to Pierce. Specifications for a Crash Aircraft Fire Rescue vehicle and a passenger van were also developed and awarded to Rosenbauer. Both vehicles are in process.

**DELIVERED:** Two utility terrain vehicles and one Fire Marshal pick-up truck were added to the fleet.

## Stations

In July of 2024, Vega Architecture was awarded the contract for site selection and conceptual design of the Fire Station 4 replacement. The old Fire Station 4 (4401 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos) was originally constructed in 1964 and underwent renovation in 2002. The facility includes five apparatus bays, living quarters, and work areas along with a basement storage area to store ancillary equipment.

Despite the upgrades made in 2002, the station no longer meets operational demands or health and safety standards, and has served the community beyond the recommended service life for a fire station—50 years per NFPA standards. In the second half of 2024, Los Alamos County and Vega engaged the public with three meetings to evaluate three potential new sites for the replacement station. The selected site is immediately west of the current Station 4. This location agrees with public input, maintains current response times, utilizes existing services and infrastructure, and allows for no disruption in service for fire or EMS response for the community during construction. The Los Alamos County Council formally approved this location on November 12, 2024.



FIRE STATION 4, 1964

# IN THE COMMUNITY

---



**304 COMMUNITY EVENTS ATTENDED**

**32 CPR CLASSES**

**29 STOP THE BLEED SESSIONS**

**3,432 FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK**

**1,164 FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM**

ABOVE: FUTURE FIREFIGHTERS TOUR STATION 6.

OPPOSITE: SPARKY THE FIRE DOG AND LAFD ENJOY WILDFIRE DAY WITH THE LOS ALAMOS COMMUNITY.

LAFD remains steadfast in its mission to educate and engage the community through outreach and public education. The department continues to identify public safety initiatives to increase outreach efforts and strengthen partnerships, enhancing fire prevention and emergency preparedness.

In 2023-2024, the department increased the number of certified Car Seat Technicians ensuring families have access to vital child passenger safety resources.

## Wildfire Day

**April 8, 2023 & March 30, 2024**

LAFD holds its annual Wildfire Day each spring in partnership with the Elks Lodge Easter Egg Hunt. The event creates a fun, family-friendly day centered around public safety, wildfire preparedness and education, featuring the “Ready, Set, Go!” program and multiple emergency agencies. The event also provides opportunity to connect with the community.

Safer NM conducted a car seat fitting clinic, ensuring child passenger seats were properly installed, and the Governor’s Commission on Disability participated by fitting children with bicycle helmets. LAFD wildland apparatus, the Police Department’s bomb truck, U.S. Forest Service vehicles, and a Classic Air helicopter were on display and available to explore. Smokey Bear, Sparky the Fire Dog and the Easter Bunny greeted children and posed for photos. Wildfire Day continues to be a favorite activity in Los Alamos for locals and surrounding communities.





## Firefighter For A Day

**May 4, 2024**

Participants spent the day with LAFD learning about and experiencing a wide range of emergency response activities, including structural and wildland firefighting, emergency medicine, hazardous materials response and technical rescue. Dressed in full protective gear, participants engaged in hands-on exercises in each of these disciplines.

This event is physically demanding but incredibly rewarding, offering participants a safe and controlled opportunity to experience the challenging environments firefighters encounter on a daily basis, and serving as a powerful way to connect with citizens, counselors, legislative staff, LANL and Department of Energy representatives, and intradepartment partners.

LAFD coordinates the event in partnership with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local #3279. This immersive, 8-hour experience underscores the department's commitment to maintaining strong relationships with the community it serves.

PARTICIPANTS AND LAFD GATHERED TOGETHER FOR A PHOTOGRAPH AT THE END OF FIREFIGHTER FOR A DAY.



PARTICIPANT SAVINA GARCIA REPELS DOWN A BUILDING DURING FIREFIGHTER FOR A DAY.

# SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

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## Structure Fire

### District 4, Los Alamos, July 2023

Fire crews were dispatched for a structure fire in the midday. On arrival, crews found a working structure fire in the incipient stage, with smoke showing from the exterior eaves of the house. Residents had evacuated the home prior and reported that the residence was struck by lightning and shortly after they smelled smoke from the inside. LAFD's quick response found a small fire in the attic space which was extinguished. Crews remained on scene to ensure the fire was out and did not extend beyond the area of origin. A fire investigation was initiated, and no injuries were reported.

## High Angle Rope Rescue

### District 3, White Rock, July 2024

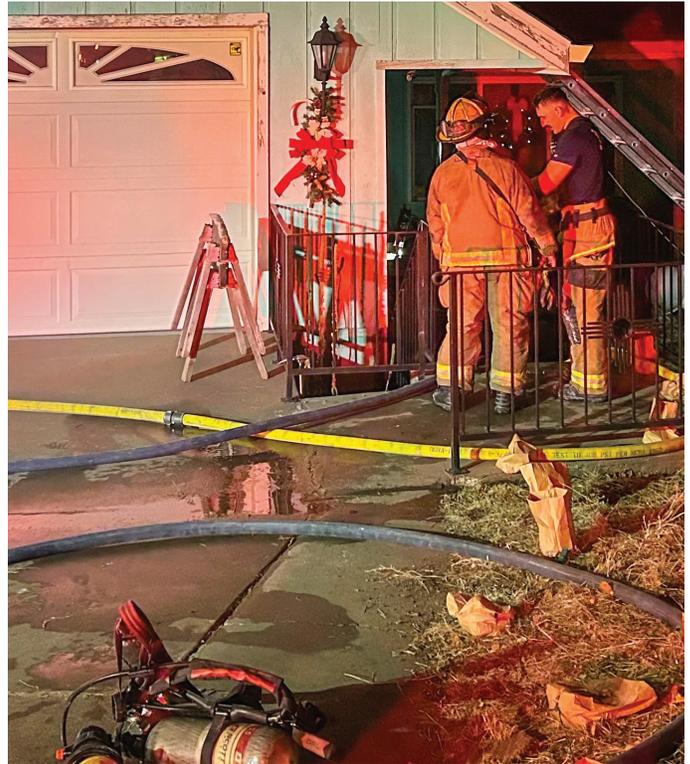
In one of the most challenging of recent operations, fire crews were dispatched to the local area known as "Hell's Hole" to recover a body, which involved a nighttime rescue over steep, hazardous terrain. This technical rescue operation required precise expertise and coordination under limited visibility conditions, along with a heightened level of compassion for the family of the individual recovered.



# Structure Fire

## District 1, Los Alamos, December 2024

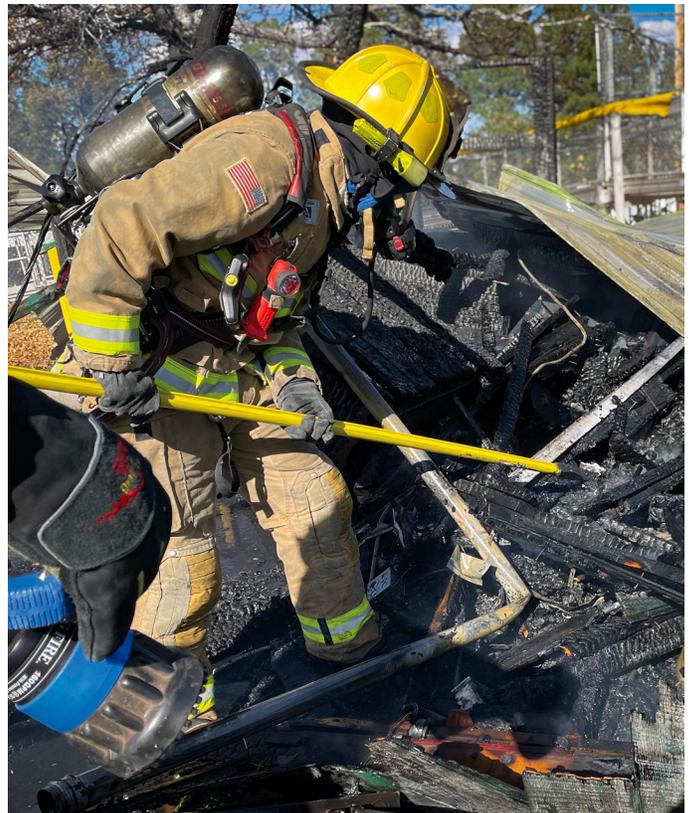
Station 1 fire crews and others were dispatched to a structure fire in the early evening hours. On arrival, Engine 1 crews found nothing showing from the exterior, however upon further investigation of the interior, black smoke and heat was detected. Fire crews found the origin to be near the furnace/floor area and extinguished the fire. Crews started overhaul and salvage operations to ensure that the fire had not extended into void spaces. One resident had evacuated prior to arrival. No civilian or firefighter injuries were reported.



# Small Aircraft Crash

## District 6, Los Alamos Airport, Los Alamos, December 2024

Station 6 fire crews and others responded in the afternoon to a report of an airplane crash off of the Los Alamos Airport runway. On arrival, crews found no heavy smoke or fire, with one occupant (the pilot) able to self-extricate prior to crews arriving on-scene. No injuries were reported. The investigation found that the plane had experienced a wind event and landed just off the runway area unexpectedly, in turn clipping another parked plane. The plane was leaking fuel from one wing, so safety zones and perimeters were established, and the plane was stabilized. The Federal Aviation Administration, Los Alamos Airport Manager, Public Works and Los Alamos Police Department assisted with the incident and notifications as necessary.



# Structure Fire

## District 5, Bandelier National Monument, Los Alamos, December 2024

Fire crews were dispatched to a structure fire in the mid-morning due to a report of smoke coming from a building. On arrival, crews began to investigate the light smoke emitting from the eaves of a structure. The origin of the smoke was investigated and no active fire was located. Heat and any smoke were controlled once electrical power was disconnected. No life safety concerns or injuries were found and the structure was not occupied. Fire investigators remained on scene to determine the origin of the heat and smoke. The building was secured and turned over to appropriate the authorities at Bandelier once the investigation was completed.



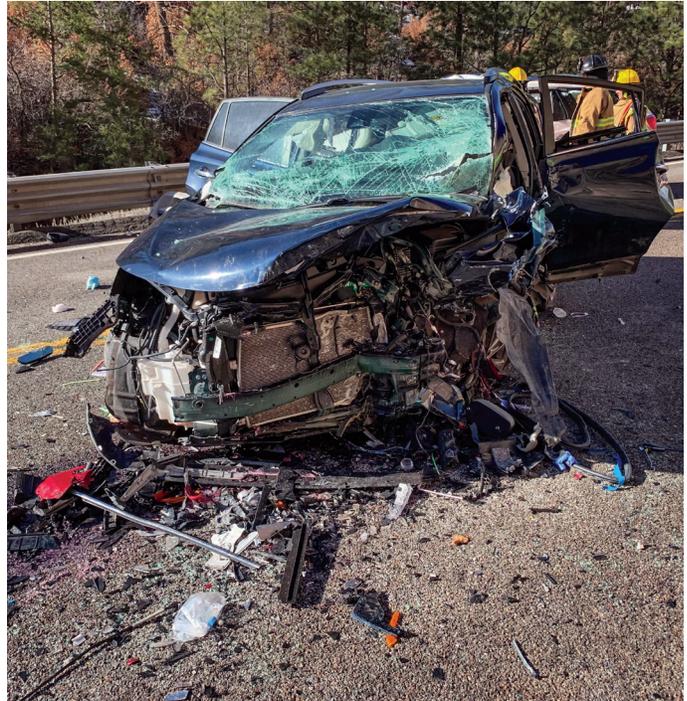
# Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVAs) & Extrications

## District 1, February 2024

Fire crews who also double as EMTs, advanced EMTs, or Paramedics, and who may be technical rescue technicians, responded to several high-risk MVAs requiring specialized extrication.

### Multi-Vehicle Collision on NM-501

Initial dispatch underestimated the complexity, requiring additional Heavy Rescue resources to assist the individuals involved.



### High-Profile Crash on NM-502

Advanced Hurst e-draulic tools were deployed to safely extract a trapped victim.

### Española Mutual Aid Response

LAFD Technical Rescue Team was called to assist with a high-speed crash requiring use of Paratech struts and hydraulic tools to stabilize and extricate the individuals involved.

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL

## Providers of the Year

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers of the Year are selected based on recommendations from their peers, recognizing those who consistently demonstrate a commitment to excellence. Honorees exemplify qualities such as compassionate patient care, thorough and accurate documentation, contributions to EMS protocol improvements, mentorship of colleagues, and active involvement in EMS education.

### 2023

Brian Palmer  
A-SHIFT

Ruben Padilla  
B-SHIFT

Eric Gonzales  
C-SHIFT

### 2024

Aaron Matthew Ortega  
A-SHIFT

Ryan Wolf  
B-SHIFT

Ruban Martinez  
C-SHIFT



## Paramedic Graduates

Currently, LAFD has nearly 60 paramedics among its 165 sworn uniformed personnel of various ranks. We are pleased to welcome our newest Advanced Life Support care providers.

### 2023

Michael Crockett  
SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Randall Robles  
SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ryan Wolf  
SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

August Young  
SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### 2024

Lorenzo Chavez  
SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Justin King  
SCHOOL OF EMS FLORIDA GRADUATE

Zach Klose  
SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Brian Thomas  
SCHOOL OF EMS FLORIDA GRADUATE

Dwight Williams  
SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Challenges We're Facing...

### Staffing and Workforce Planning

It is estimated that over 40% of the LAFD workforce will be eligible for retirement within the next 2–3 years and within that percentage - 70% of the Captains and 50% of the Driver Engineers may leave creating a significant challenge in maintaining adequate staffing levels and institutional knowledge.

### Training Demands

Increased training needs are driven by workforce attrition, promotions, and the integration of emerging technologies and evolving operational environments. These include lithium-ion battery incidents, active shooter responses, persistent wildland fire threats, and changes in LANL operational processes, all of which require updates to training curricula.

### Aging Infrastructure

Many fire stations are over 50 years old and in need of replacement. Economic conditions may impact the prioritization, funding, and construction of new facilities. Additionally, repair and maintenance costs for aging facilities continue to rise.

### Fleet and Equipment Delays

Apparatus procurement is increasingly delayed due to supply chain disruptions and limited availability of parts, leading to extended vehicle downtime and higher repair demands for an aging fleet.



### Technology Transitions

The retirement of the current electronic reporting system, combined with anticipated changes in the National Fire Incident Reporting System, will necessitate comprehensive retraining for all personnel.

### Labor Relations

Negotiations related to the collective bargaining agreement for wages and working conditions of sworn uniformed personnel remain ongoing and will continue into 2025.

# JOIN OUR TEAM

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## Now Accepting Applications for Recruit Academy #34

As a member of LAFD, your duties include performing firefighting, emergency medical services, and/or assisting with rescue tasks, mitigation of hazardous materials emergencies, and firefighter prevention - pre-plans, inspections, etc. All firefighters are required to become Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and may become Paramedics.

### First Year Starting Salary

- \$63,900 Fire Recruit (+ \$7,500 Hiring Bonus)
- \$69,360 Fire Recruit/Licensed Paramedic (+ \$10,000 Hiring Bonus)

### Minimum Qualifications

- Must be 18 at time of application and a U.S. citizen
- High school diploma or GED
- Must possess, or ability to obtain within first 30 days of employment, and maintain a valid NM CDL-E driver's license
- Must have proof of New Mexico residency prior to the end of the first year probation
- EMT license not required to apply
- No experience necessary

### Fire Schedule After Academy

- 48-hour shift, then four days off
- 144–240 hours vacation accrual annually

Visit [LACNM.COM/APPLY](https://www.lacnm.com/apply) to learn more about working for LAFD and Los Alamos County.









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LAFDNM



LOSALAMOS\_FIREDEPARTMENT