Kremmling Fire Annual Update 2022

- Details here: https://www.kremmlingfire.org/annual-statistics-2022
- Calls for service steady at 120, however alarms are up and crashes are down
- High number of calls with trapped patients
- Low number of wildland fires
- New staff plan having a positive impact on operations

Kremmling Fire's operations for 2022 could be described as *average* in most respects. That is to say that the number of calls for service for the year (120 incidents) are in line with the call volume for the last few years. However we did see some unexpected differences in the types of emergencies that we handled in 2022. Notably, the number of wildland fires was unusually low - a welcome change for the residents of Grand County. Despite having a quiet fire season, the need for our community to build resilience to wildfire remains the same. Another area where the call volume was lower than expected was roadway incidents. Specifically, the number of car crashes in 2022 was down about 40% from 2020 and 2021. This lower number of crashes for Kremmling Fire is consistent with data from C-DOT, which shows Grand County at a 20-year low for car crashes in 2022.

While the number of car crashes was lower than average, the need for quick and capable rescue was surprisingly higher than average. In 2022 we performed eight extrications of entrapped patients. Eight extrications is more than double the number in each of the previous five years. What's more, in April this year we put a full set of battery-powered extrication tools in service on our rescue truck, and then promptly put them to the test with these emergencies. Not only were we testing our tools, but also our training and practices to take life saving action for trapped people. In these types of emergencies there is always room for improvement - there is no such thing as a perfect rescue. Nevertheless, our equipment and tactics met our performance expectations in some very challenging conditions this year. While none of us want to experience life-threatening accidents, we value these emergencies for the opportunities they provide to refine our practices and make changes that result in more effective rescues.

In addition to the more frequent extrication operations, we also saw an increase in the number of alarm calls for the year. While the majority of alarm calls are false alarms, we treat all calls for service with appropriate urgency until we can confirm that no hazards are present. Thus, our volunteers still put their daily - or nightly - lives on pause in order to respond. In 2022 alarm calls were nearly 25% of our total volume, which is up from only 10% in 2021.

One final operational metric that is very important to us is the number of responders that roll out in the first truck(s). In 2022 the number of firefighters responding first-out increased to roughly four per call. This measure is a big deal for

two reasons. First, having an adequate number of firefighters responding is essential for the safety of responders and the public. Second, having a strong initial response can often make the difference between an emergency that is resolved quickly and one that proves to be more challenging and time-consuming. When trained rescuers take decisive action within the first moments of an incident it is much better for everyone. One reason we have more folks on the first truck is our successful hiring of an additional full time firefighter. Hiring this position is a critical part of the district's plan for 2022 and beyond and we were fortunate to be able to hire in April. In addition to filling the role of firefighter, this role will also be our recruiter and volunteer coordinator. This is the first stage of our plan to invest in our volunteer membership and continue providing the best service to our community.

As always, we are grateful for our community and local businesses. More importantly, we are fortunate to have a strong core of dedicated volunteers and the support of their families. Without you we could not do what we do. Thank you - Chief Tucker