



# Carrboro Fire Rescue Monthly Report

## MARCH 2022

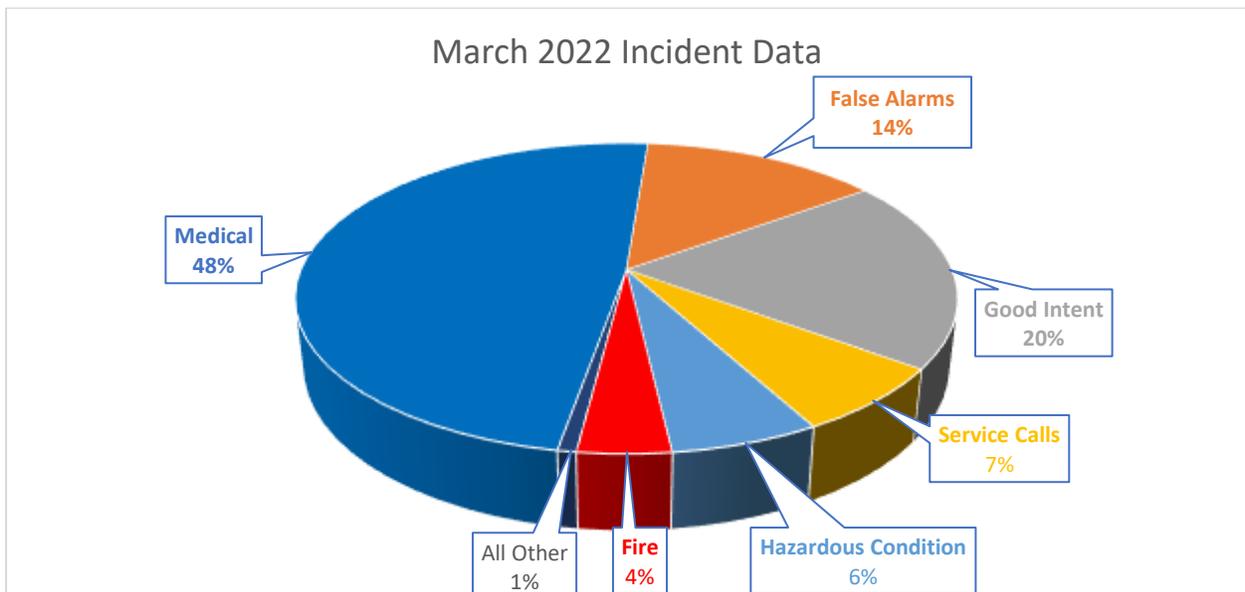


### Purpose:

The purpose of this monthly report is to keep the Town of Carrboro Council Members informed on the activities of the Fire Rescue Department. As this format has changed from previous tabular data reports, the format of this report will undergo changes as we seek to find the ideal format to communicate our information. It is also envisioned that sections in this report may change each month, based on the significance of events occurring within the Fire Rescue Department. The volume of the information will also likely change as the level of detail may be able to decrease as the Council becomes more aware of items and the need may switch to more of an update. Input will also be key into what information is deemed valuable. Information such as incident data will likely remain in each month as it demonstrates metrics about the Fire Rescue Department.

### Operations:

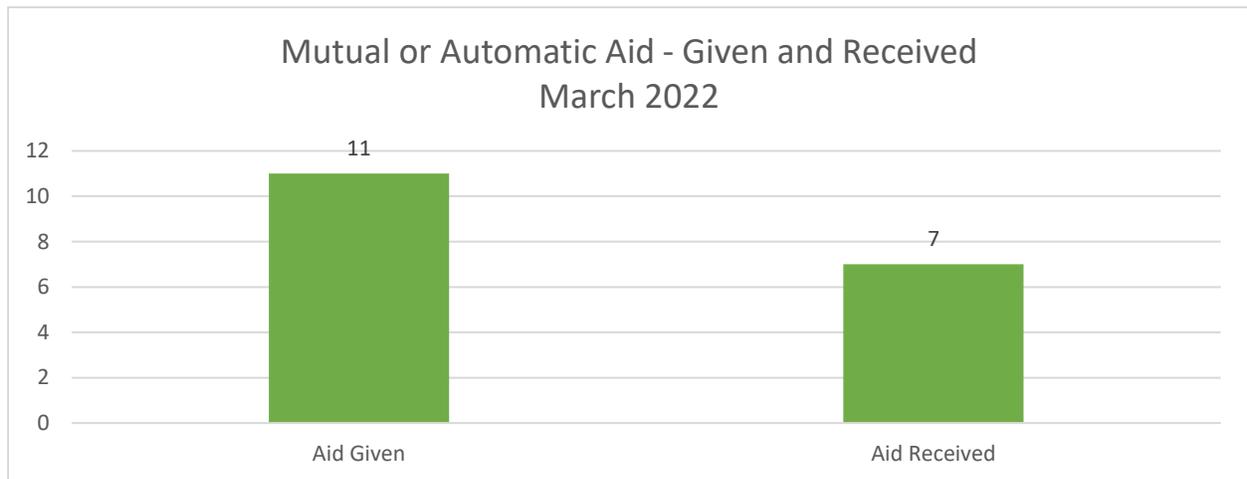
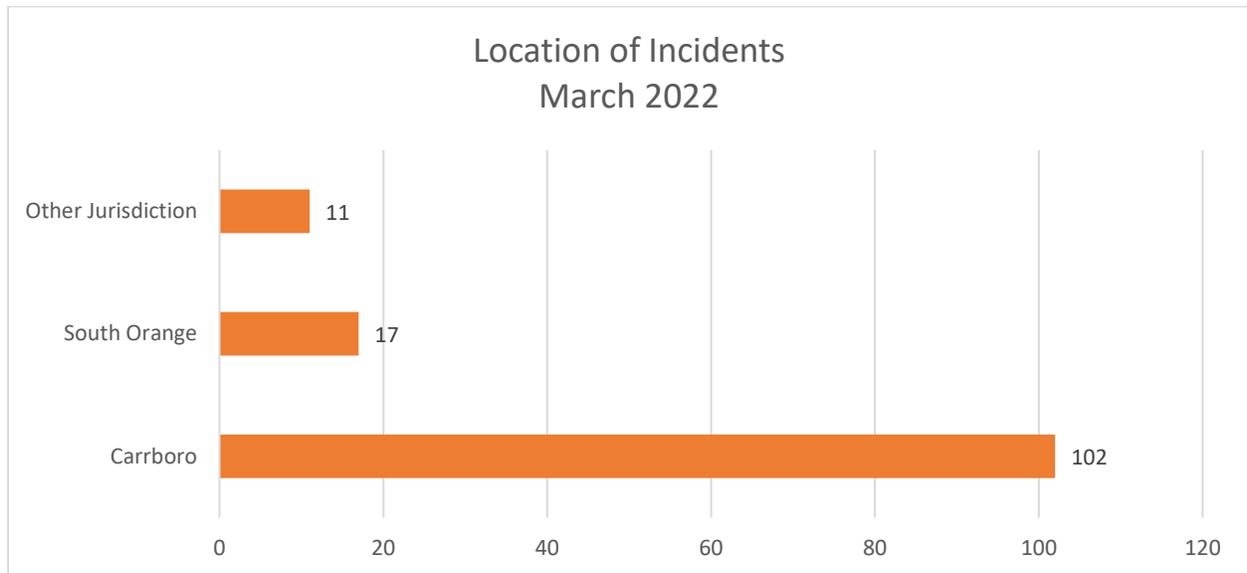
The Fire-Rescue Department responded to 130 calls for service in March, which was a 9.2% increase over March 2021. This amount of the increase continues to be due to the impact on COVID and calls for service during 2021. The following charts depict a breakdown in our types of calls as well as the amount of time we provided aid to a neighboring fire department and the amount of time we received the aid.





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### Operations / Health & Safety:

Currently Carrboro firefighters need to carry a portable radio and pager around the station so they can be alerted for incoming calls. The first problem with this arrangement is that their portable radio battery is depleted and may stop working during an emergency incident. The second problem is the documented impact on health and safety of firefighters being startled by loud alarm tones (notification for a call). There are numerous documented short and long-term negative health effects on firefighters that are exposed to this type of loud notification. These include cardiac related issues as well as autonomic nervous system issues related to cortisol levels.



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The department began to address the first issue (portable radios) by the installation of ceiling speakers in both stations. This will allow firefighters to hear radio traffic via the base radio and not have to use portable radios. The second issue has been partially addressed by reducing the decibels of the current alert tones to notify us of a call. We are working to implement a ramped or crescendo tone as well as installing colored LED lighting in multiple rooms in both stations. The LED lights will help get firefighters attention that there is an incoming call and will help reduce the overall audio level because of the visual indicators provided by the lights. We anticipate wrapping up the project in April as we still have a few technological hurdles to overcome.

### **Budget/Finance:**

As inflation continues to impact all our medical supplies, an opportunity presented itself to discuss and update the pricing we pay for oxygen. After confirming pricing with a competitor, we were able to reduce our costs with our current vendor by approximately \$2,000 per year.

We currently pay for several different medical supplies, including medication, but do not have the opportunity to recover costs when they're utilized on a medical incident. After discussing options, we are working with Orange County on the rollout of a program called Operative IQ. The program is utilized to track and replace medical supplies and is only utilized by Orange County EMS, so we will be the first fire department to operate in their inventory system. Based on the results of the rollout, Orange County may offer it to other fire departments in the County. This program has resulted in changing the forms of supplies we carry, so that Orange County can replace them. One final item we addressed was the inventory carried in our medical bags. After reviewing data over the last several years, we are making modifications to what we carry. This will result in lower costs due to not carrying as much as well not having to dispose of as many things due to expiration.

### **Training:**

Personnel continue working on training as we completed nearly 1000 hours (991 ½) of training during March with more than several hundred training instances. A large portion of the hours continues to come from the probationary firefighter task book that our seven probationary firefighters are working on.

In-person training opportunities are beginning to open up which will help broaden the firefighters experience level. There will be an in-person car seat technician class in April, a mandatory job requirement that we have not been able to send firefighters to for more than two years. We are also in the planning phases of our lesson plans for training with our new Tanker, which will arrive in April.



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### Fire Prevention / Public Education:

COVID continues to limit our public education and fire prevention activities. However, we were able to host a couple station tours by staying outside the building. While this is not ideal, it still enables us to interact with community. As the curve in the COVID trend continues to flatten, we look forward for the opportunity to conduct in person public education as well as open up our Saturday morning car seat clinic again.

