

Annapolis Public Safety Committee Annapolis Fire Department

March 18, 2026



Douglas Remaley
Fire Chief

Objectives



- History of the City of Annapolis
- Evolution of the Fire Department
- The Department Today
- Challenges of Emergency Services in a Colonial Town
- Major Fires in the Historic District
- Prevention Strategies
- Moving Forward

City of Annapolis



- Colonial Town – Province of Maryland
- Severn River / Chesapeake Bay
- 25 miles from Baltimore
- 30 Miles from Washington
- Founded in 1649 – One of the Country's Oldest Cities

State Capital



- Capital of the State of Maryland
- Oldest State Capital in Continuous Legislative Use
- Constructed in 1772
- Served as the Capital of US (1783-1784)

Maryland State House



- Served as the Seat of Confederation Congress
- George Washington resigned his Commission as Commander of the Continental Army
- Congress Ratified the Treaty of Paris of 1783
- How do you Protect a Wooden Dome built in 1772?

Maryland State House



Dome Deluge System



Paul W. Gillespie/Capital Gazette

Saint Johns College



- Established 1784
- Third Oldest College in the United States
- Private Liberal Arts College
- 36 Acre Campus
- Sits on College Creek

United States Naval Academy



- Established 1845
- Second Oldest Military Academy
- 338 Acre Campus – Known as the Yard
- Bancroft Hall – Largest Dormitory in the US
- Home of over 4000 Midshipman
- Protected by Naval District Washington Fire and Emergency Services – NSA Annapolis

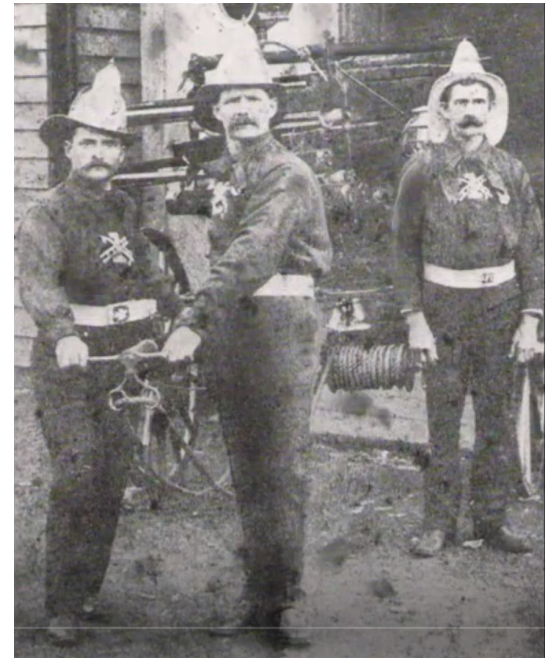
Annapolis Fire Department



Annapolis Fire Department



- 1803 – City Acquired a Hand-Pumper
- 1821 – Housed in City Hall – Engine House
- 1839 – Independent Volunteer Fire Company – Authorized by the Maryland General Assemble(Disbanded during Civil War



Annapolis Fire Department



- 1879 – Rescue Hose Company No. 1
- 1884 – Independent Fire Company No. 2
- 1885 – Waterwich Hook and Ladder
- 1886 – Eastport Fire Company
- 1911 – West Annapolis Fire and Improvement Company
- 1964 – First Career Fire Chief
- 1972 – Forest Drive Station
- 1987 – Taylor Avenue Station



Annapolis Fire Department

Line of Duty Deaths



March 6, 1910 - Firefighter William H. Brown

Water Witch Hook and Ladder Company Number 1

Firefighter Brown fell from a ladder while fighting a fire at Market Space and Fleet Street in Annapolis. His injuries were initially believed to be minor; however, he died later that night at his home from massive swelling of the brain.

July 13, 1958 - Firefighter Alexander C. Johnson

Rescue Hose Company Number 1

Firefighter Johnson died of an apparent heart attack after he responded to a kerosene stove fire on Shaw Street and went home when he complained of not feeling well.

September 7, 1964 - Firefighter John W Schwallenberg

Rescue Hose Company Number 1

Firefighter Schwallenberg, one day before his 17th birthday, died from smoke inhalation while fighting a fire in a warehouse at Virginia Avenue and Chinquapin Round Road in Annapolis. It is believed that he, along with 2 other firefighters, entered the warehouse from the opposite end where the fire started and was enveloped in smoke and although wearing breathing apparatus was still overcome in the conditions of the fire.



ISO Rating – Class 1

- Insurance Services Office (ISO)
- Independent agency that provides rating of fire protection services for insurance underwriters.
- Rating – Class 1-10 (Class 1 - being outstanding, Class 10 - being no fire protection).
- Factors considered - Water supply (fire hydrants/static water sources, fire engine & ladder truck deployment, staffing, training, fire dispatch (911), community risk reduction (fire prevention) and fire investigation (arson) program.
- We are one of only four Class 1 fire departments in the State of Maryland and 242 of 27,201 in the nation. (includes over 51,000 fire stations)

IAFF Local 1926



- The uniform personnel in the ranks from Firefighter through Captain are represented by the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 1926.
- The Fire Department Administration has a great working partnership to support the mission of the Annapolis Fire Department.





Volunteer Fire Service

- Three (3) Volunteer Fire Companies in City
 - Eastport, Independent, Rescue Hose
- City owns all City fire stations
- Supportive role:
 - Eastport (very supportive) - owns 2 fire engines, 1 medic unit, 2 ATV (gators), pick-up truck w/snow plow.
 - Independent – owns a pick-up truck w/snow plow and small rescue boat.
 - Rescue Hose – owns no vehicles or apparatus.

Mission Statement



The Annapolis Fire Department serves the residents and visitors of Annapolis by delivering prompt and professional emergency medical services, fire protection, and public safety services to safeguard life, property and the environment.

Services

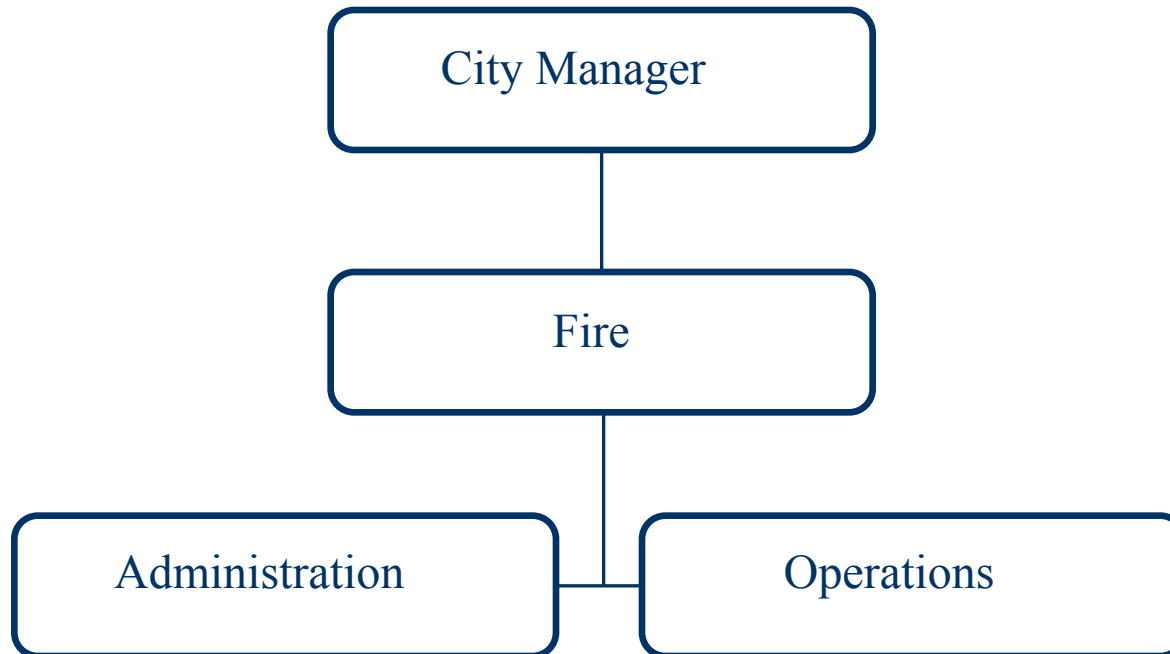


- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire / Rescue
- Hazardous Materials / Technical Rescue
- Marine Operations
- Swiftwater / Dive Rescue
- Explosive Services
- Fire / Arson Investigation
- Code Enforcement
- Public Education
- Bike Medics
- Tactical Medics
- Juvenile Fire Setters Intervention

Organizational Chart



Fire Department





Daily Staffing – Forest Drive Station

Forest Drive Station – Station 35 Current Daily Staffing: 7

- 1 - Battalion Chief – BC35
- 3 – Engine 351
- 2 – Medic 35
- 1 – Fire/Explosive Investigator





Daily Staffing – Eastport Station

Eastport Station – Marine Operations Station Current Daily Staffing: 8

3 – Engine 361/Fireboat 36
3 – Truck 36/Medic 36B/Medic 37
2 – Medic 36

Also Houses:

- Engine 362
- Medic 36B
- Special Event Gators
- Medic 37 (Bariatric Unit)
- Utility 36
- ACCU 1 – Command Vehicle





Daily Staffing – Taylor Avenue Station

Taylor Avenue Station – Special Operations
(HazMat/Rescue/Swift-Water/Confined Space/Rope Rescue)
Current Daily Staffing: 8

3 – Engine 381/Rescue Squad 38

3 – Truck 39/Technical Rescue 38

2 – Medic 39





Daily Staffing – Annapolis Neck Station

**Annapolis Neck Station – Dive Rescue Station
(Anne Arundel County Station 8/Annapolis Station 48)**

Current Daily Staffing: 3

2 – Medic 48
1 – EMS/Safety Officer

County Daily Staffing: 3

Engine 84 (Pumper Tanker)
Dive Rescue 8





Daily Staffing – Platoon 5

Fire Headquarters - Current Daily Staffing: 12

- Chief
- Deputy Chief
- EMS/Safety – Battalion Chief
- Operations – Battalion Chief
- EMS - Captain
- Training - Division Captain
- Logistic Officer – Captain
- Training Division - Lieutenant
- Fire/Explosive - Lieutenant
- Fire Administrative Specialist
- Fire Admin Support Analyst
- Office Associate

Fire Marshal's Office – Daily Staffing: 6

- Fire Marshal – Captain (Public Information Officer)
- Fire Marshal – Lieutenant (Public Information Officer)
- Fire Protection Engineer
- Civilian Fire Inspector
- Civilian Fire Inspector
- Office Associate

Special Events

Navy- Marine Corps Memorial Stadium



Capital Gazette

- Navy Football Games
- Navy Lacrosse
- Annapolis Blues FC
- Naval Academy Graduation



Capital Gazette

- Military Bowl – College Bowl Game
- Maryland High School Football Championship Games
- Annapolis Striders - Races

Special Events

United States Sailboat & Powerboat Shows



Annapolis Boat Shows



Eye On Annapolis

- Annapolis City Dock
- Largest In-Water Boat Shows
- Over 30,000 Visits
- Support Operations

Special Events

Parades - Fireworks



St. Patrick's Parade

EventHub



Annapolis Pride

- St. Patrick's Parade
- Annapolis Pride
- Juneteenth
- July 4th
- Parade of Lights
- Military Bowl



The BayNet

Special Events

State Capital Protest



No Kings Protest - Reddit



Men March – WBAL 45



George Floyd Protest – Capital Gazette

Special Events

Blue Angles Demonstration



Historic District Fires



BLAZE RAVAGES MAIN STREET



Historic District Fires



- December 9, 1997 @ 1715 Hours
- Main Street filled with Christmas Shoppers
- 186 Main Street – India Palace Restaurant
- 184 Main Street – American Spoon Foods
- 180 Main Street – The Christmas Spirit
- 5-7 State Circle – Law Offices
- Over 5 Million Dollars in Damage

Historic District Fires



Historic District Fires



Pictures from The Capital Newspaper



• City of Annapolis Resolution R-4-98

- Established a Fire Safety Commission Report
- Concerns for Public Safety and Protection of the Historic District
- Published a Report on July 27, 1998
- 21 Recommendations
- Adopt NFPA 909 (includes Historic Properties)
- Consider Parking Restrictions for Narrow and Congested Streets
- Hire a Licensed Fire Protection Engineer
- Consider Tax Credits for Monitored Fire Alarms and Sprinkler Systems
- Schedule Funding to Underground Overhead Wires
- Hire an Additional Inspector
- Fill Vacancies in the Fire Department

Historic District Fires



- Few Recommendations Adopted
- Other Fires Occur in Historic District





Historic District Fires

- November 25, 2005 – Black Friday
- Holiday Shoppers in Downtown Annapolis
- Zachary's Jewelers Prepares to Close
- Just prior to 8 p.m. – Employees Smell Smoke
- End Results – Businesses Destroyed During the Holidays
 - Zachary's Jewelers
 - AL Goodies and The Candy Factory
 - Main Street Ice Cream
 - Estimated Fire Loss \$3 Million

Historic District Fires



Historic District Fires



Historic District Fires



- Annapolis Yacht Club – Spa Creek
- Established 1886
- Services over 2000 Members
- Host the Annual Boat Parade of Lights



Hager - Annapolis

Historic District Fires



- December 15, 2015
- Preparing for the Annual Parade of Lights
- Thousands of People – Downtown Annapolis



Hager - Annapolis

Historic District Fires



WBAL-TV



Baltimore Sun



Historic District Fires



Historic District Fires



- November 25, 2019
- 04:15 Hours
- 196 Duke of Gloucester Street
- Commercial Building – Built in 1900
- Two Alarm Fire Destroys Law Offices



Ordinance O-1-22



Fire Prevention Code - Sprinkler Systems - For the purpose of requiring property owners to install sprinkler systems; encouraging property owners to solicit bids from licensed minority business enterprises; identifying loan eligibility requirements under the sprinkler assistance revolving fund; clarifying costs that may be funded; establishing a loan amount; identifying loan repayment criteria; setting a date for sprinkler installation compliance; identifying the responsibility of applicable property owners; identifying the appropriate body for appeals; and generally relating to the Fire Prevention Code.

Ordinance O-1-22



Applicability.

- All commercial, mixed-use, and residential buildings other than a single-family house located on Main Street and Francis Street in the Historic District shall install sprinkler systems.
- If the building is adjacent to existing underground lateral lines, sprinkler systems shall be installed no later than February 28, 2027.
- If the building benefits from installing adjacent underground lateral lines after February 28, 2022, sprinkler systems shall be installed no later than five years after the lateral lines are installed.

Requirement to Have Fire Sprinkler System.

- All buildings in this section shall have a fully functioning fire sprinkler system.
- When activated, the system shall immediately and automatically alert a 1 monitoring service, through a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72 compliant control panel.

CADET – Intern Program Partnership



 Maryland
Department of Service
and Civic Innovation



Annapolis Fire Department Internship Program



Do you know someone who will
be a great fit?

Requirements:

- Ages 18-24
- Attend a 9-month program
- High School Diploma or GED
- Valid Driver's License
- Pass a background check
- Pass medical physical exam

Benefits:

- Hands-on Experience
- Mentorship
- Skill Development
- Paid Internship
- Potential for Future Employment

To Apply:



Select "Apply to be a
Member of Maryland
Corps/Service Year
Option", create an
account, and follow the
steps required.

Application Deadline:
July 25, 2025

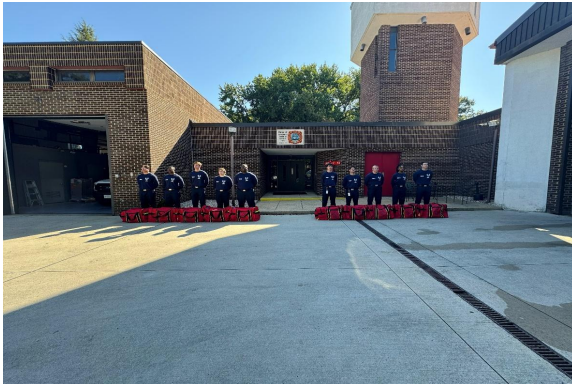


CADET – Intern Program



- Application, Vetting, Interview Process
- Background Checks
- Physicals
- Hired 10 Cadets
- Career Fire Academy
- Field Training

CADET – Intern Program



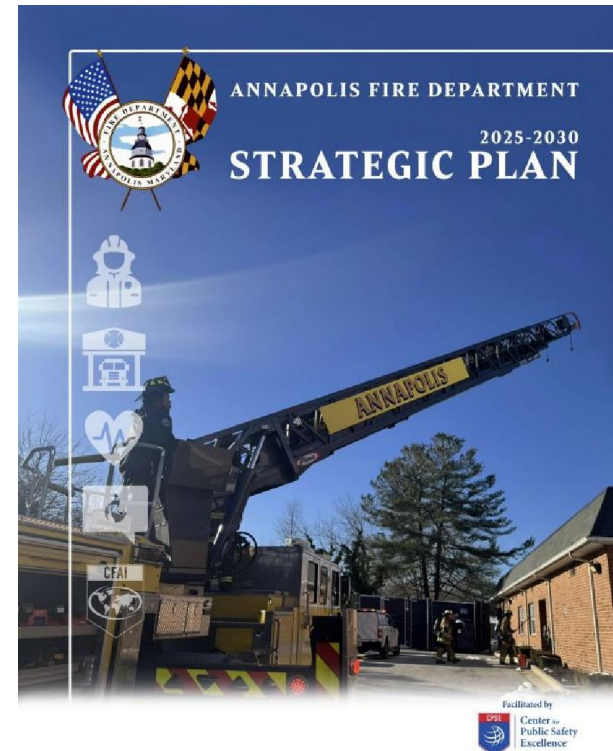
CADET – Intern Program



Moving Forward



- Peak time Medic Unit
- Hiring – Paramedics
- Staffing Levels – National Guidelines
- Fleet Maintenance



Fleet Replacement



Medic 48 – PO 2024



Medic 35 – PO 2023

Fleet Replacement



Fire Boat



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QUESTIONS ?



ANNAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT