



Town of Hilton Head Island

Community Services and Public Safety Committee Meeting

Monday, March 18, 2024, 10:00 AM

**1 Town Center Court, Hilton Head Island, SC
Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers**

The meeting can be viewed on the [Town's YouTube Channel](#), the [Beaufort County Channel](#), and Spectrum Channel 1304.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge to the Flag**
- 3. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 4. Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2024
 - b. Special Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2024
- 5. Appearance by Citizens:** Citizens who wish to speak on the matters being discussed during the meeting may do so by submitting the [Request to Speak form](#) no later than the day prior to the meeting.
- 6. Presentations and Recognitions**
 - a. Presentation of the Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue Annual Report - Chris Blankenship, Fire Chief
- 7. Unfinished Business**
 - a. Consideration of a Resolution to Support the Solid Waste and Recycling Analysis for Hilton Head Island - Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects and Facilities
- 8. New Business**
 - a. Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Title 9, Chapter 2, of the Municipal Code of Hilton Head Island Titled Regulations and Requirements Relating to Smoking of Tobacco Products by Adding a Definition for Electronic Smoking

9. Adjournment

FOIA Compliance: Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Town of Hilton Head Island will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities. Auditory accommodations are available. Any person requiring further accommodation should contact the Town of Hilton Head Island ADA Coordinator as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) Civility Pledge:
"I pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of my city or town."



Town of Hilton Head Island
**COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING**
Monday, February 12, 2024, 10:00 AM
Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Chair Tammy Becker, Ward 4; Alex Brown, Ward 1; Patsy Brison, Ward 2, Steve Alfred, Ward 5

Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Brison moved to approve. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2024

Ms. Brison moved to approve. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Appearance by Citizens

Gail Saukas addressed the Committee requesting that the Town not spend taxpayer dollars on chemicals.

Pamela Ovens addressed the Committee stating that when toxic chemicals are used to control the rodent population it does harm to other species. She suggested alternative methods be utilized in controlling rodents.

Kim Konte addressed the Committee regarding the use of toxic pesticides in parks and public spaces and the need to address the Town of Hilton Head Island Integrated Pest Management Program.

New Business

Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend Title 8, Chapter 3, of the Town of Hilton Head Island Code of Ordinances, to add Section 8-3-114 titled Abandoned Watercraft - Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager

Mr. Gruber provided background and a summary of the proposed amendment.

In 2021, the South Carolina General Assembly adopted Section 50-21-30 which states that if a local government wishes to regulate the operation, titling, equipment, numbering, or all other matters relating to the regulation of watercraft while on the waters of the State, it must adopt legislation that is identical to South Carolina Code of Laws Section 50-21-

190.

In recent years, the Town has observed an increase in the number of vessels, boats, and other watercraft that are abandoned, severely neglected, or even sunk, and for which it wishes to amend its code to adopt regulation specifically dealing with these types of issues. Therefore, the Town is proposing to amend the Town Code to incorporate Section 8-3-114 entitled Abandoned Watercraft as required by Section 50-21-30 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Members of the Committee had questions, comments and discussion regarding: the area that would fall under the ordinance; the need to protect our waterways; inquiry as to how long the process would take for removal; confirmation the Town would work with the State regarding cost, budgeting and the opportunity for obtaining grants; confirmation there is no cost in adopting the ordinance but it allows the Town to become more involved should a future situation arise; concern regarding how the funding would work; and confirmation that by adopting this into our code it allows the Town to invoke general provisions which says a violation of this code is punishable by a citation.

Mr. Alfred moved to forward the proposed ordinance to Town Council for review and consideration of approval. Ms. Brison seconded.

Chair Becker asked for public comment.

Pamela Owens addressed the Committee regarding her opposition to the proposed ordinance. She stated the Department of Natural Resources, or the Coast Guard should be the ones to police the waterways.

Melinda Tunner addressed the Committee inquiring as to whether the wording should be "must remove or can remove" the watercraft.

Chair Becker called for a vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Unfinished Business

Consideration of a Resolution Adopting Environmentally Friendly Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance Practices - Bryan McIlwee, Director of Public Projects and Facilities

Mr. McIlwee conducted a presentation and summary of the item. Environmental Sustainability is identified in the Town Council approved 2023-2025 Strategic Action Plan and includes Assessment and Implementation of an Environmentally Friendly Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Best Practices Program.

Town Staff assessed current Town practices along with other environmentally conscious landscaping practices relating to pest and weed control management practices and products. Staff discussed environmental best practices with certified professionals, other municipalities, local, state, and national leaders in this field, as well as our landscaping business partners to determine how to implement these strategies and best practices.

The need for an IPM program was identified as a necessary component of the Town's

Environmental Best Practices that will allow Staff and Town contractors to focus on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems with minimum impact on human health, the environment, and non-target organisms with the reduced use of pesticides in accordance with direction provided by Town Council.

IPM is a system of managing pests using careful consideration and integration of all available pest control tools and techniques. The IPM will present a balanced approach between proper biological, cultural, physical and chemical practices. The goal is to identify the appropriate method of pest management and minimize the use of chemicals on Town maintained grounds. Landscape practices at Town maintained properties will follow the principles of this Integrated Pest Management policy.

At the November 13, 2023 meeting, the Community Services and Public Safety Committee provided direction to Staff to move forward with development of an IPM policy as well as develop a trial study to assess the efficacy and cost of various herbicidal treatments.

At the December 18, 2024 meeting, the Community Services and Public Safety Committee reviewed a draft IPM policy and provided direction and recommendations to Staff to make revisions to the proposed policy. The proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy (Attachment 2) includes revisions and recommendations made by the CSPS Committee. The IPM policy sets the framework for immediate and future adjustments to the Town's landscape practices.

Additionally, Staff presented an outline, scope and schedule for a trial study conducted by Clemson University located at one or more Town facilities to test and compare the efficacy of synthetic and organic pesticides. Based on Committee feedback and lack of consensus, we are not advancing the trial study.

Next Steps are as follows:

- Recommend Town Council adoption of a Resolution to approve the IPM policy.
- March Town Council meeting – Brief from Committee chair to Town Council on this item.
- April Town Council meeting – Consideration of a Resolution to adopt IPM policy.

Members of the Committee had questions, comments and discussion regarding a detailed, edited resolution provided by Ms. Brison at 9:17 a.m. Ms. Brison explained her reasoning and referenced her edits. **After lengthy discussion by the Committee, Mr. Alfred moved to continue the resolution and address it at a later date. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion carried 3-1 (Brison opposed).**

Executive Session

Discussion of Appointment Regarding Boards, Commissions, and Committees (Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a)(1)) related to Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust and Housing Action Committee.

At 10:57 a.m. Ms. Brison moved to go into Executive Session for the reasons stated above. Mr. Alfred seconded.

Action from Executive Session

At 11:35 a.m. Council returned to the dais and Chair Becker moved to end the Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 4-0

Chair Becker stated there was no action to take as a result of Executive Session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Approved:

The recording of this Meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov



Town of Hilton Head Island
COMMUNITY SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 – 9:00 AM
Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Tamara Becker, Chair, Steve Alfred, Alex Brown, Patsy Brison and David Ames (Alternate)

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Brown moved to approve. Ms. Brison seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Executive Session

Discussion of Appointment Regarding Boards, Commissions, and Committees (Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a)(1)) related to:

1. Housing Action Committee

At 9:15 a.m. Ms. Brison moved to enter into Executive Session for the reasons cited above by Chair Becker. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

At 1:11 p.m. Ms. Brison moved to end Executive Session and returned to the regular meeting. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Action From Executive Session

No action

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm.



Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee
March 18, 2024



OPERATIONS

9560 Total Incidents			
EMS 7,032	Fire 2,284	HazMat 62	Rescue 182



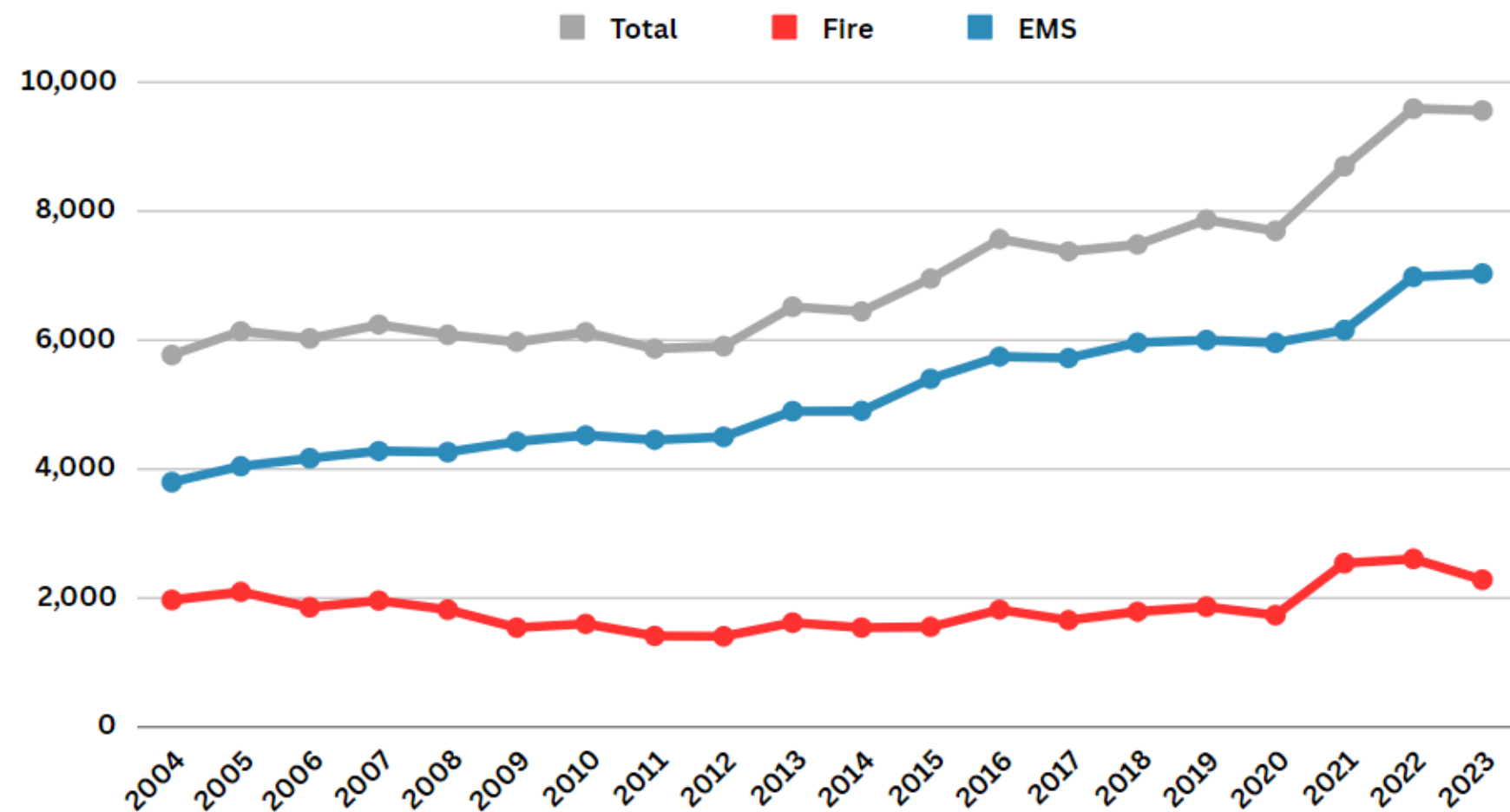
26 Average Incidents Per Day

Top 3 Busiest days		
08/19/23 55 Incidents	09/09/23 53 Incidents	01/07/23 49 Incidents



OPERATIONS

Response Statistics - 20 Year Increase of 60%

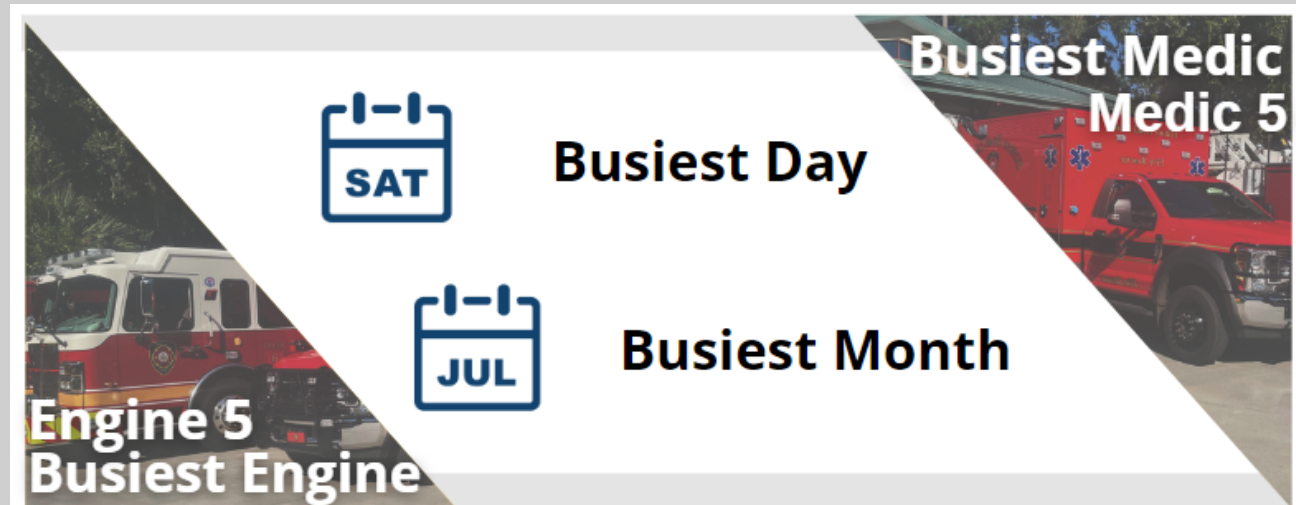


Fire Rescue Annual Report

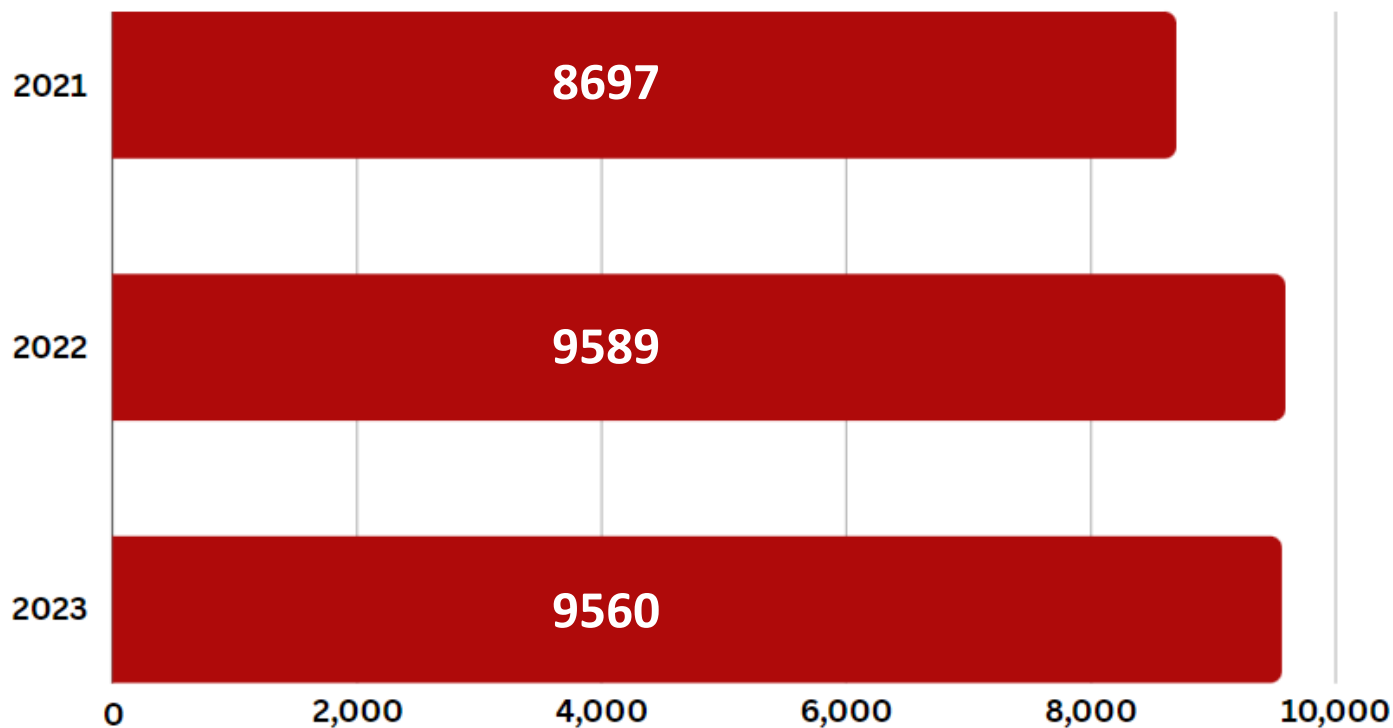
Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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OPERATIONS



Response Statistics – 3 Year Increase of 10%



Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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OPERATIONS



Structure Fires

39

Fires within a structure

20

Confined to object of origin

9

Confined to room
of origin

1

Confined to
floor of origin

9

Confined to building of
origin

74%

Fires were confined to the object
or room of origin

Total Property Saved

\$152,107,144

Total Property Lost

\$2,068,814



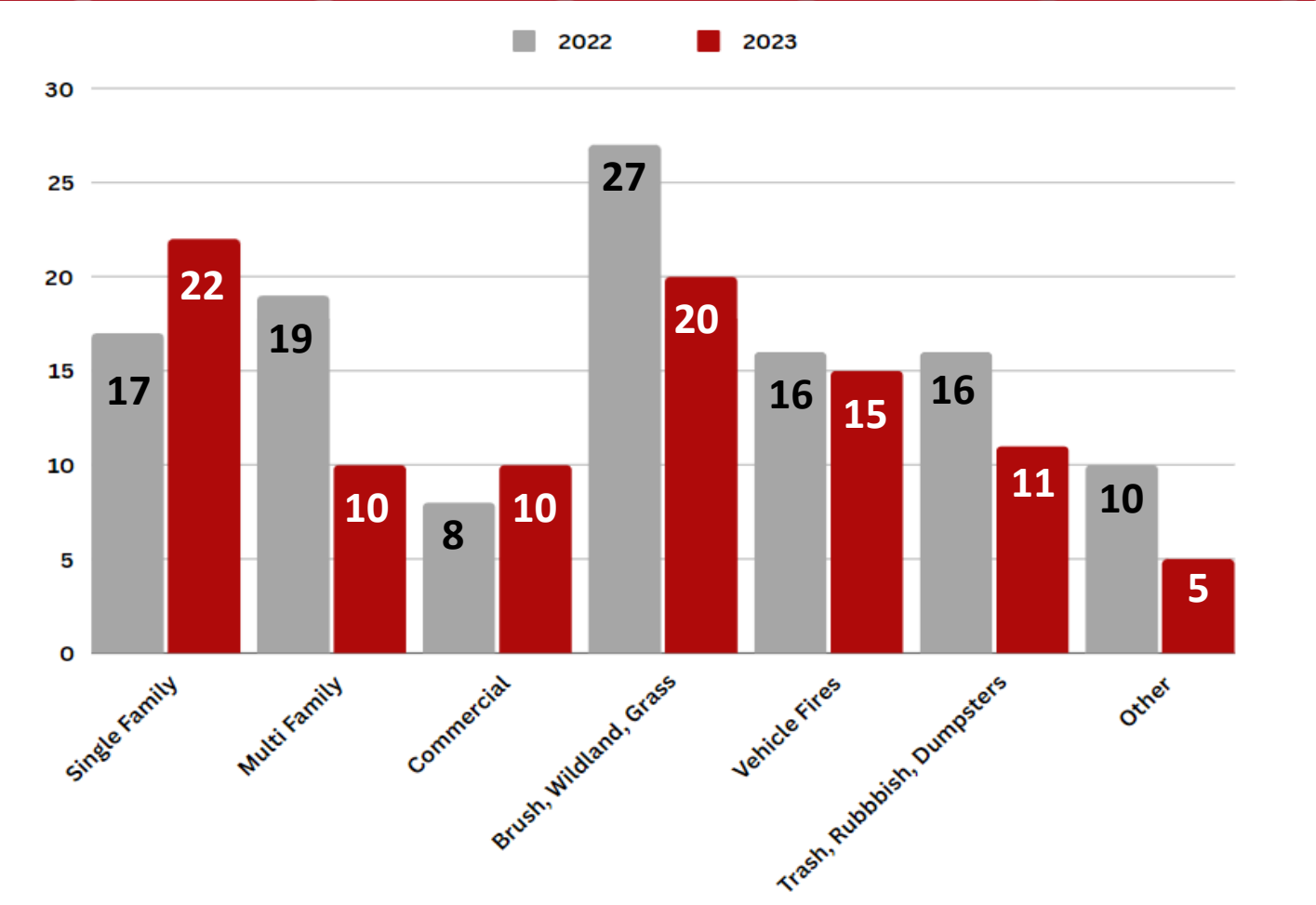
Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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OPERATIONS

Fires by Property Type



Yard Waste Burning Statistics

354
Permits
Registered on
Approved Dates

354
Completed
Compliance
Checks

11
Warnings Issued

3
Citations Issued



Fire Rescue Annual Report
Community Services & Public Safety Committee
March 18, 2024





Frequent Responses

Address	Number of Responses
1. 300 Woodhaven Drive	241
2. 421 Squire Pope Road	210
3. 110 Gardner Drive	152
4. 801 Lemon Grass Court	150
5. 120 Lamotte Drive	146



OPERATIONS

Benchmark Time		2023 Gap Analysis
Alarm Handling	01:20	00:15
Turnout Time	02:30	00:06
Travel Time	05:00	00:30
Total Response Time	08:50	00:14



Fire Incidents – 90 th Percentile Times Baseline Performance			2019-2023	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Alarm Handling	PSAP – Dispatch 1 st Unit	Urban	01:19	01:35	01:31	00:58	00:53	00:45
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1 st Unit	Urban	02:50	02:36	02:52	02:56	03:03	02:42
Travel Time	Travel Time (Enroute>Arriving) Distribution	Urban	05:21	05:30	05:13	05:26	05:27	05:09
Total Response Time	Total Response PSAP>Arriving Distribution	Urban	09:01	08:36	08:57	08:48	08:46	08:39
			n=6666	n=1332	n=1471	n=1312	n=1174	n=1211



OPERATIONS

Benchmark Time		2023 Gap Analysis
Alarm Handling	01:20	01:24
Turnout Time	01:45	00:20
Travel Time	05:00	00:26
Total Response Time	08:05	01:06



EMS Incidents – 90 th Percentile Times Baseline Performance			2019-2023	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Alarm Handling	PSAP – Dispatch 1 st Unit	Urban	01:36	02:44	01:11	00:58	01:01	00:44
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1 st Unit	Urban	02:24	02:05	02:24	02:32	02:34	02:15
Travel Time	Travel Time (Enroute>Arriving) Distribution	Urban	05:24	05:26	05:19	05:24	05:35	05:13
Total Response Time	Total Response PSAP>Arriving Distribution	Urban	08:34	09:11	08:06	08:23	08:50	07:57
			n=27,011	n=4244	n=6011	n=5983	n=5132	n=5469



Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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OPERATIONS

Fire Incidents by Station January - December 2023

**Station 1
(Shipyard) - 583**

**Station 5 (HHP -
Front Gate) - 402**

**Station 7
(Marshland Rd) -
339**

**Station 6 (PD) -
329**

**Station 3 (Port
Royal) - 317**

**Station 4 (HHP -
Back Gate) - 291**

Station 2 (Sea Pines) - 266



Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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OPERATIONS

Medical Incidents by Station January - December 2023

Station 5 (HHP - Front Gate) - 1588

Station 1 (Shipyard) - 1355

Station 4 (HHP - Back Gate) - 1095

Station 7 (Marshland Rd) - 874

Station 3 (Port Royal) - 785

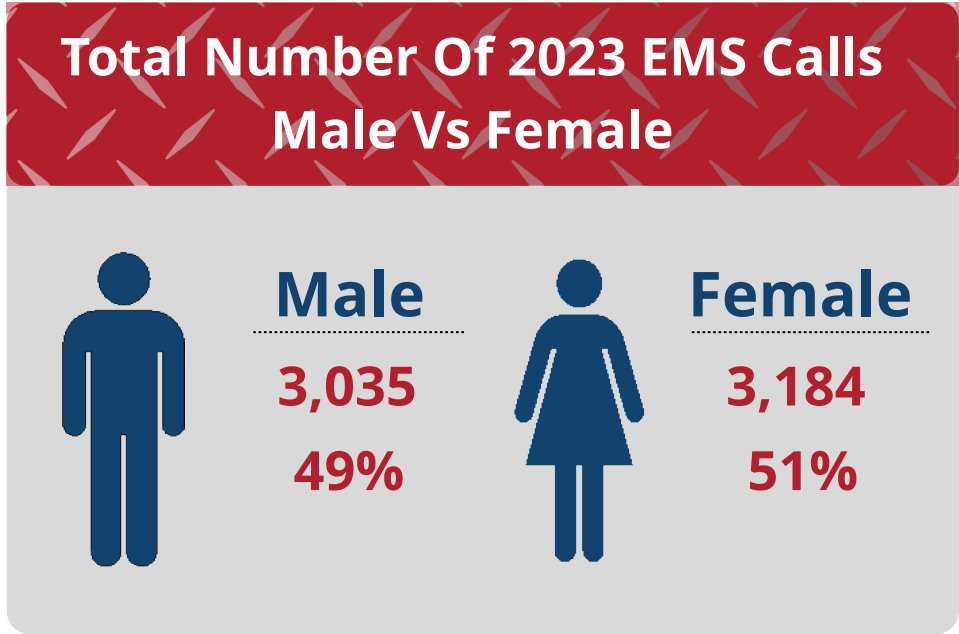
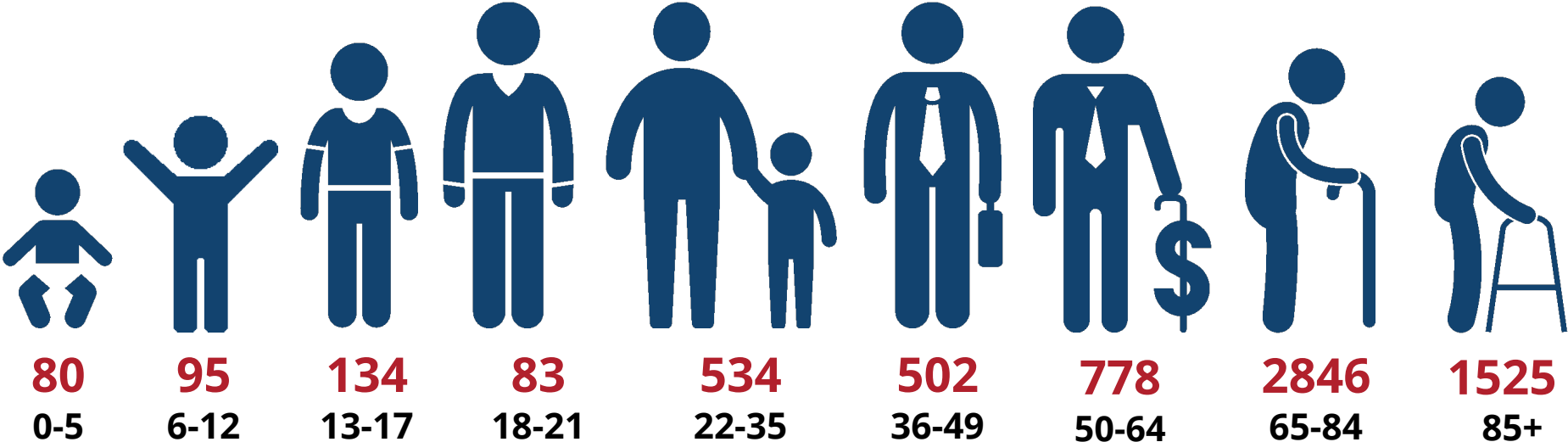
Station 6 (PD) - 704

Station 2 (Sea Pines) - 628

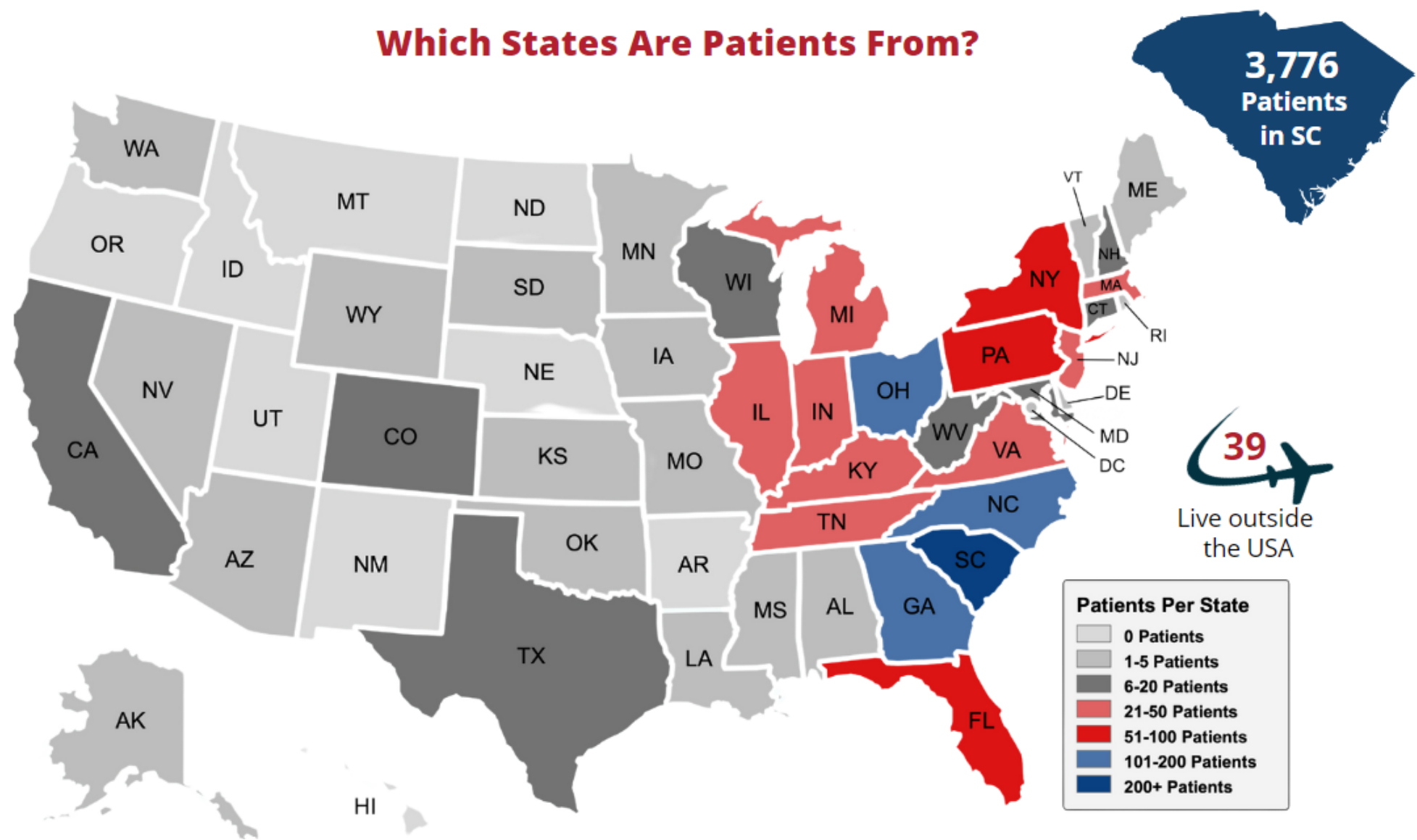


Emergency Medical Service

 EMS Patients Per Age Group



Emergency Medical Service



Fire Rescue Annual Report

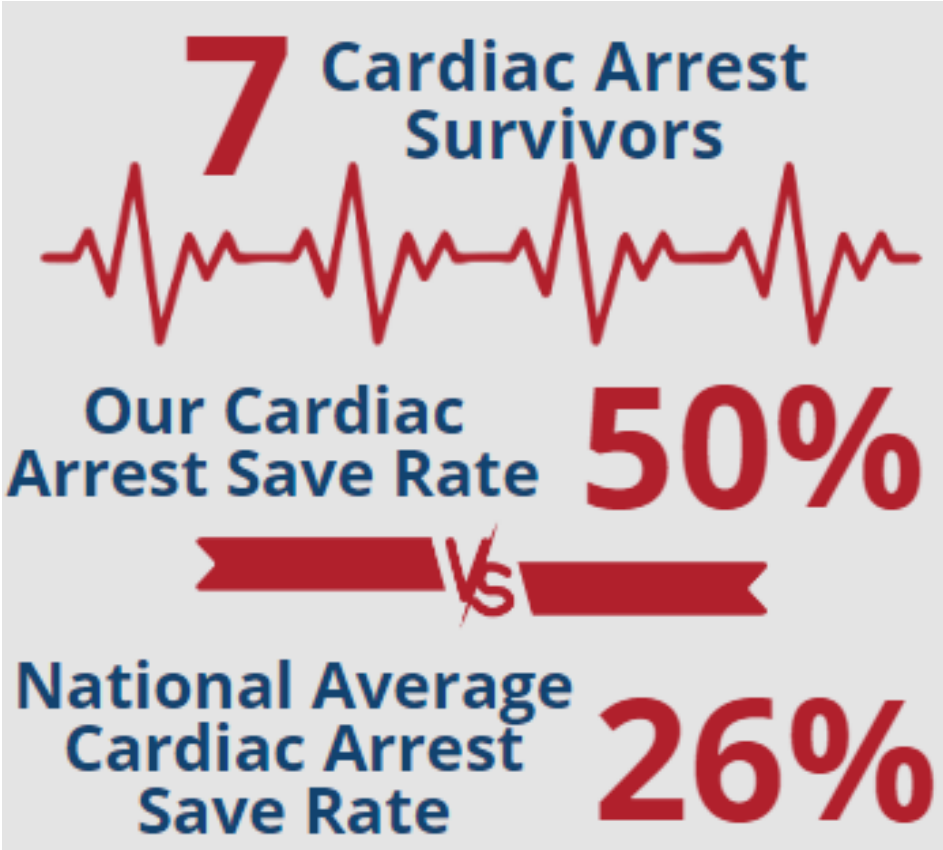
Community Services & Public Safety Committee

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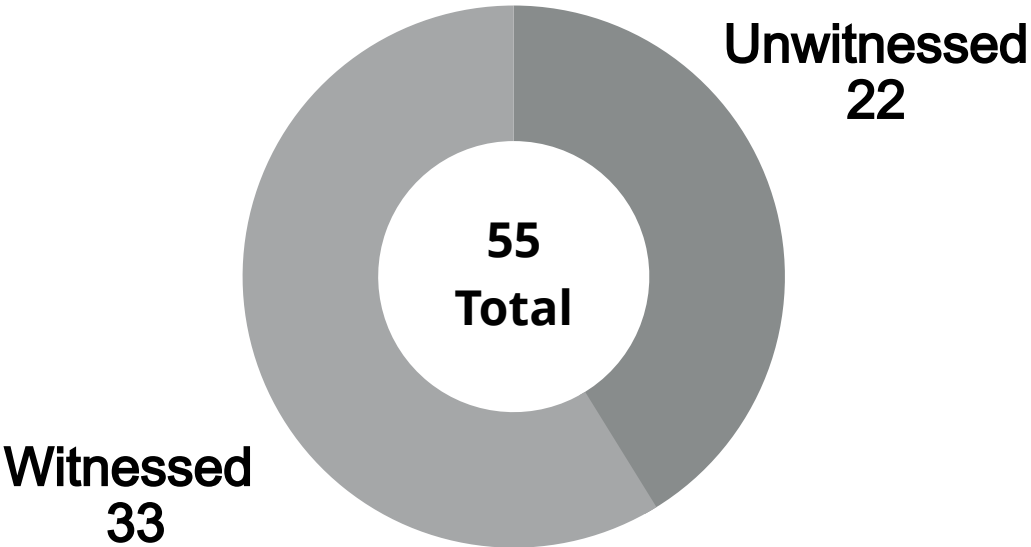
Emergency Medical Service

Cardiac Arrest Statistics



Sea Pines Cardiac Arrest Save

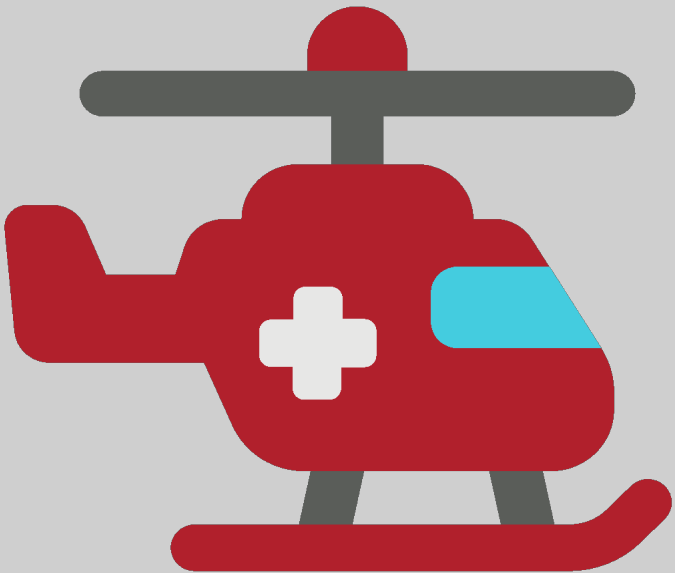
Cardiac Arrest with Attempted Resuscitation



Emergency Medical Service



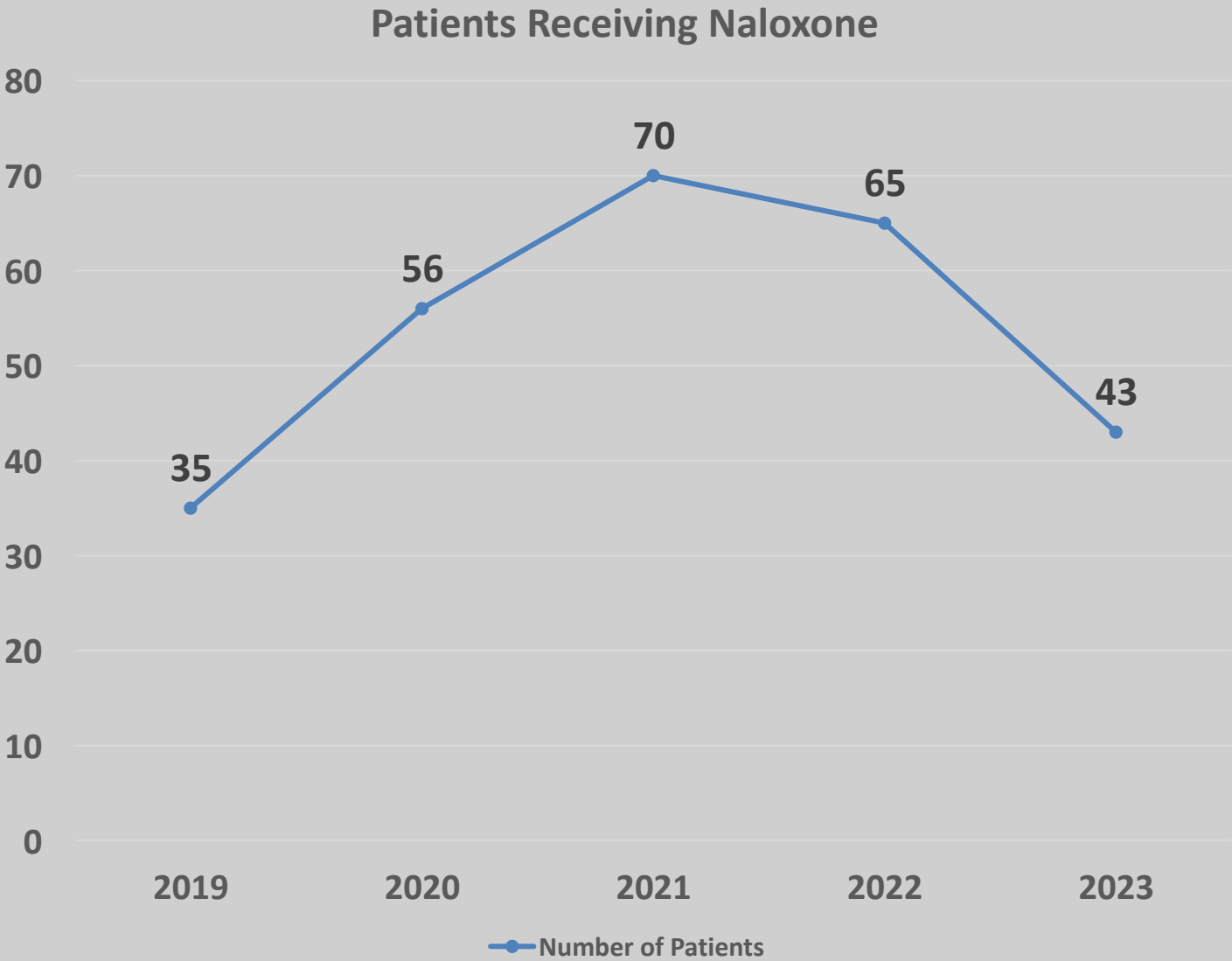
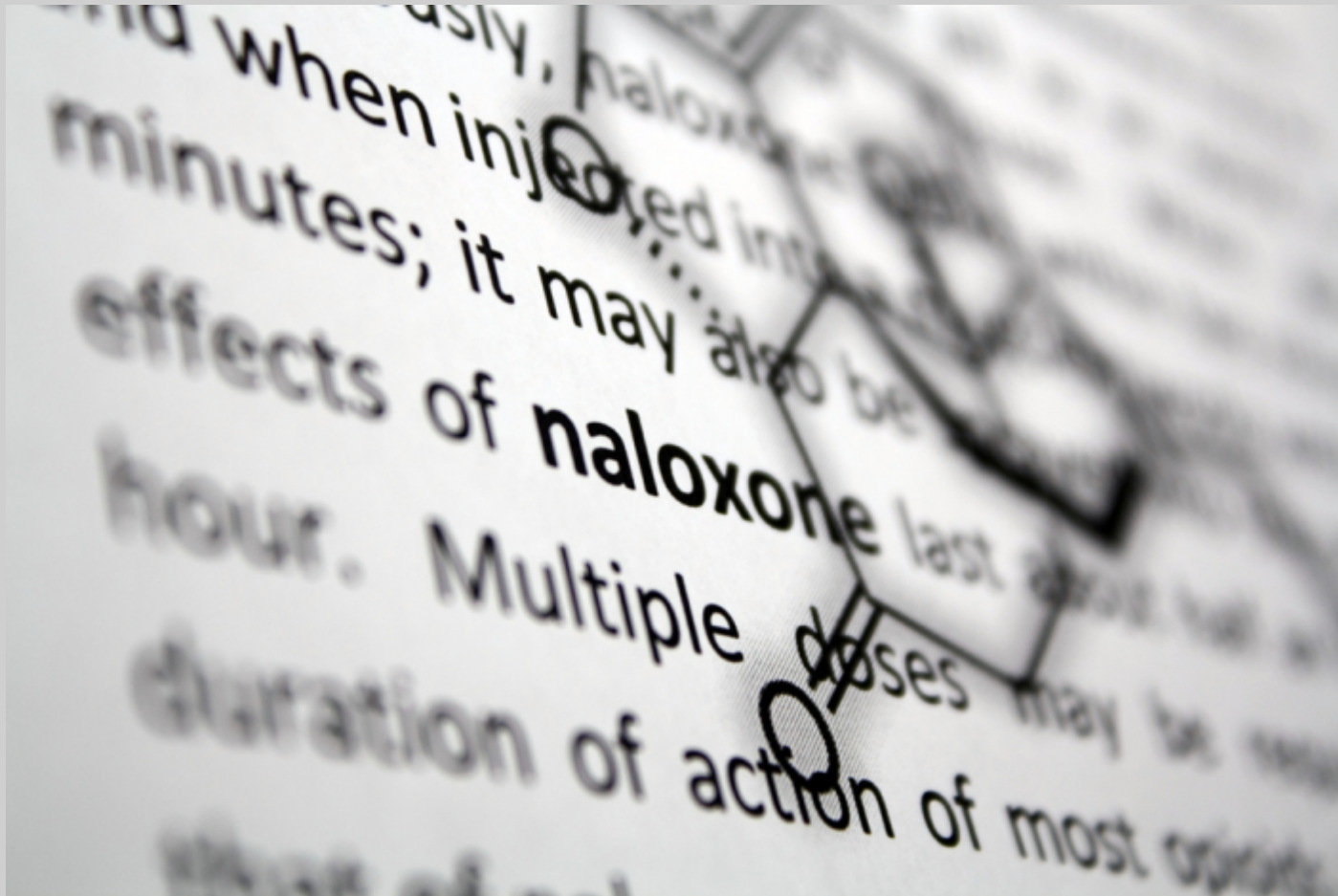
**Interfacility
Transports
Hospital to
Hospital
2022 - 25
2023 - 15**



**Interfacility
Transports
Hospital to
Airport
2022 - 25
2023 - 23**



Emergency Medical Service



Emergency Medical Service

EMS Billing

EMS Net Revenue
Collected
\$2,306,246



6,219 Total Patients
3,294 Have Hilton Head Island Billing Address

Our Revenue Collection
Rate

83.5%



National Revenue
Collection Rate

70%



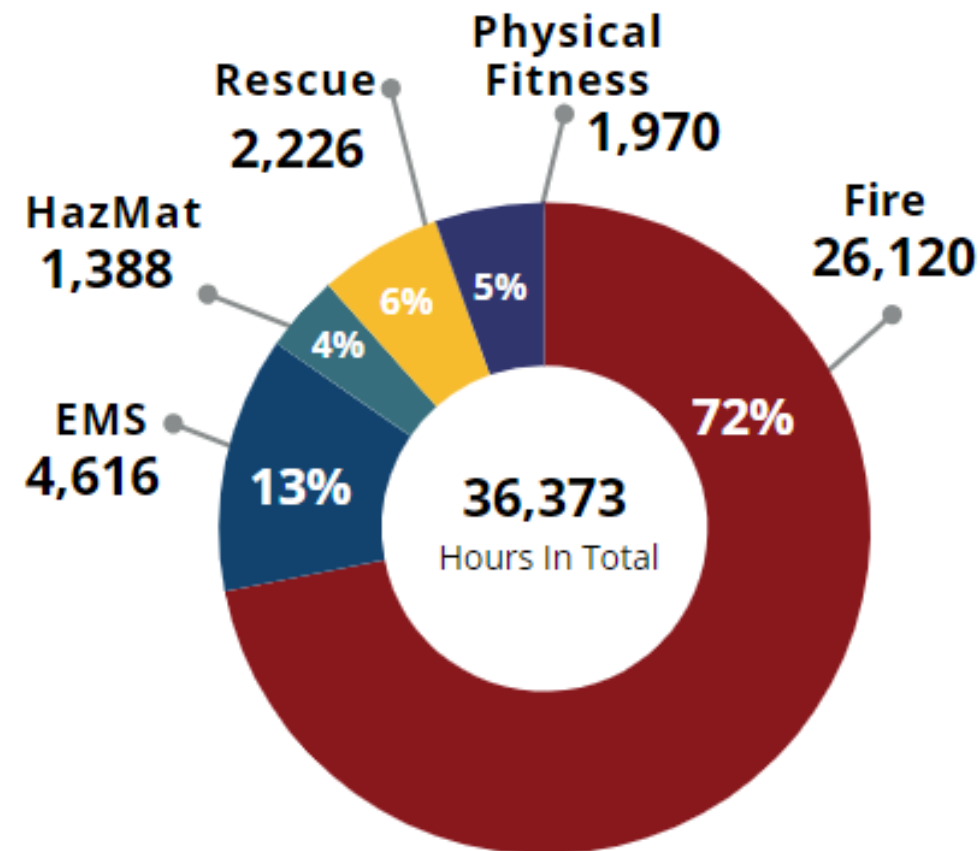
Fire Rescue Annual Report
Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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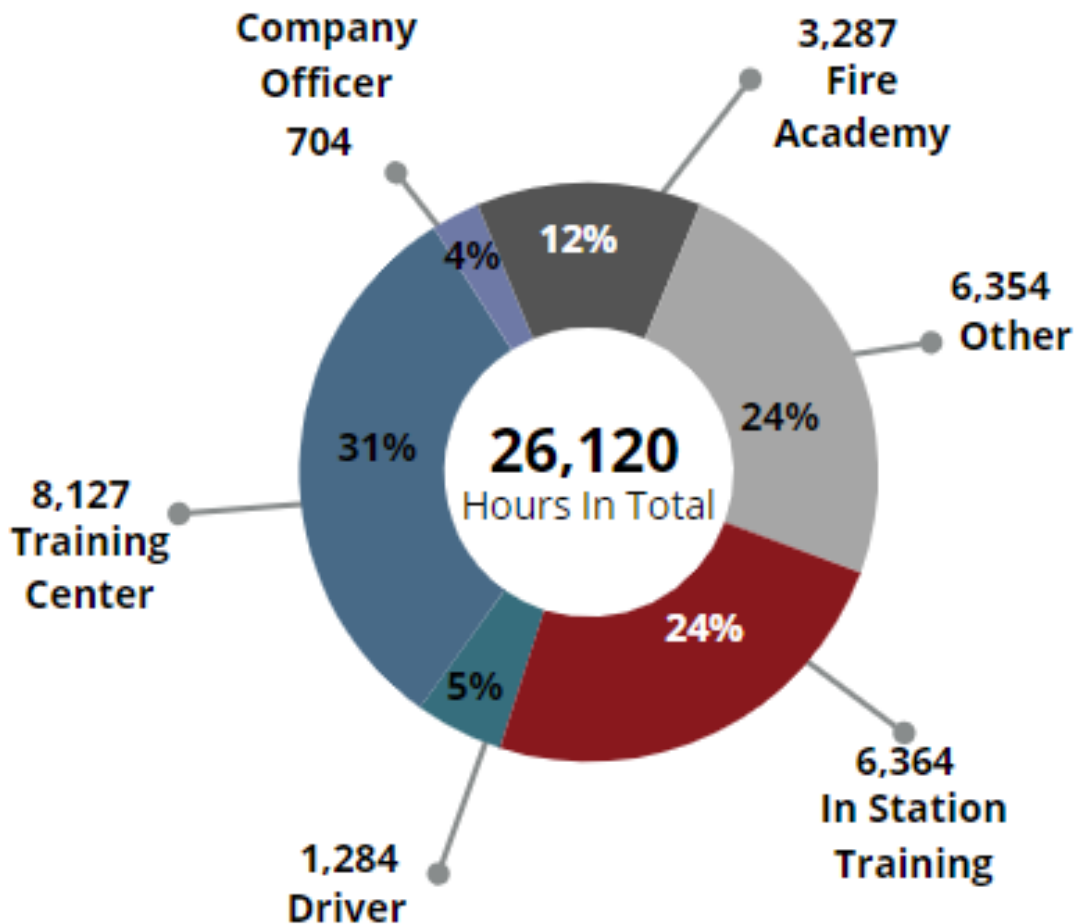
Safety & Professional Development



Total Training Hours



Total Company Training



Fire Rescue Annual Report
Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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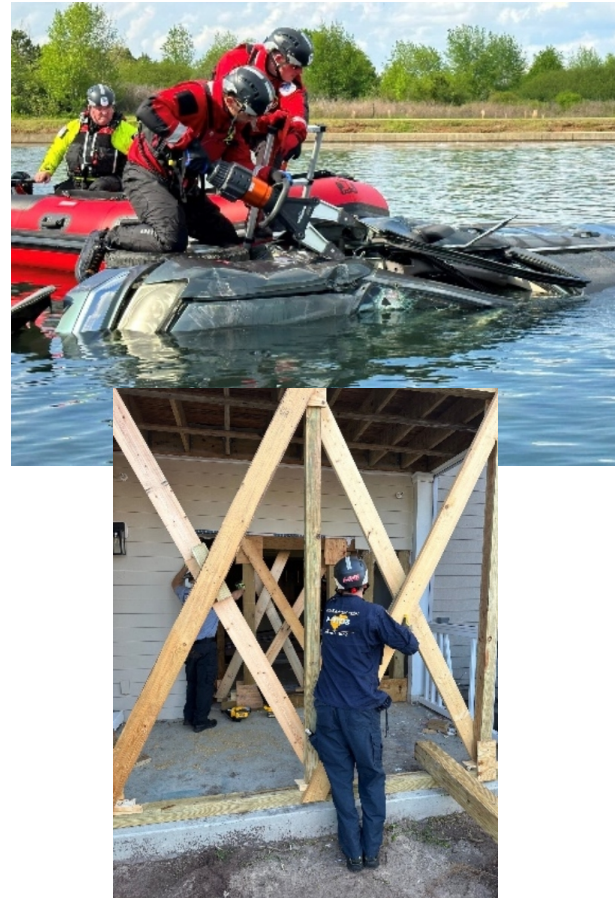
SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Technical Rescue Team



Notable Accomplishments

- Double stack boat trailer placed in service.
- Command/Logistics trailer.
- Purchased radios & satellite internet.
- Conducted EMAP accreditation site visit.



2023 Deployments & Exercises

- February 23 – Readiness exercise in Charleston, SC
- April 3-5 – Guardian Center Flood exercise in Perry, GA
- August 28 – Tropical Storm Idalia
- October 23 - Jasper County Apartment Collapse



Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Technical Rescue Team New Command/Logistics Trailer



Funds for the purchase were obtained through a grant from SC State Fire



Fire Rescue Annual Report
Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Hazardous Materials Team



Specialty Training

- DHEC lab training on evidence collection.
- DOD joint chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear characterization and mitigation course.



Other Notable Accomplishments

- HAZSIM monitoring training devices acquired.
- Updated technology for air monitoring.



Fire Rescue Annual Report
Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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Community Risk Reduction



2701

Fire
Inspections



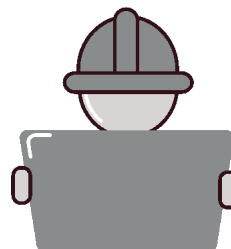
2307

Violations
Found



2210

Violations
Corrected



697

New Construction
Inspections



470

Plan
Reviews



14

Fire
Investigations



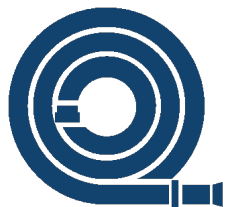
2991

Hydrant
Inspections



121

Smoke Alarm
Installs



83

Fire In The
Streets/After The Fire
Homes Visited



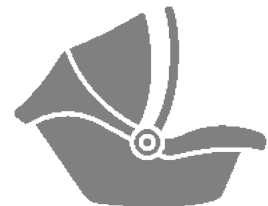
31

Risk Watch Child
Injury Prevention



826

CPR/AED
Students



71

Car Seat Installs



Fire Rescue Annual Report
Community Services & Public Safety Committee
March 18, 2024



Community Outreach & Recruitment

835 Total Community Connections

5 New programs to build awareness of Fire Rescue's programs and services



Red-Hot Readers Literacy Program



11 New partnerships to enhance events and programs



Fire Rescue & Bluffton Self Help Staff



Fire Rescue Annual Report
Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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Community Outreach & Recruitment

4

Community presentations demonstrating Fire Rescue's impact within our community



Presentation to the Gullah-Geechee Land & Cultural Preservation Task Force

19

Community events attended or hosted, inviting the community to participate in our new programs



TOHHI 360/40 Community Picnic



Fire Rescue Annual Report
Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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Communications & Marketing



Fire Rescue Facebook Page Performance

Total Facebook Followers: 2,849 

New Facebook Followers: 557 

Facebook Page Visits: 63,042 

Total Facebook Posts: 450 

Total Facebook Reach: 744,991 

45,000
Facebook Content Interactions

249%
Increase from 2022



Follow our Facebook and Instagram pages!



Top Viewed Fire Rescue Web Pages

Storm Updates: 77,353 Views 

HHI Hurricane Center: 32,973 Views 

About Us: 27,331 Views 

Fire Code Enforcement & Investigations: 26,144 Views 

Emergency Medical Services: 24,342 Views 



Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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Emergency Management



March St Patrick's Day Parade



April RBC Heritage



June Recovery Tabletop Exercise



August Tropical Storm Idalia

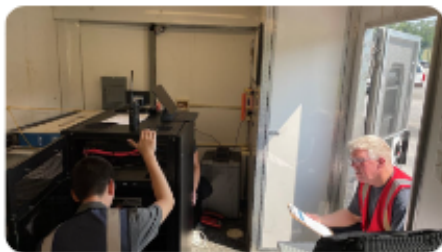
March EMAP Accreditation Received



May Wind Event



July Barnwell Communications Exercise



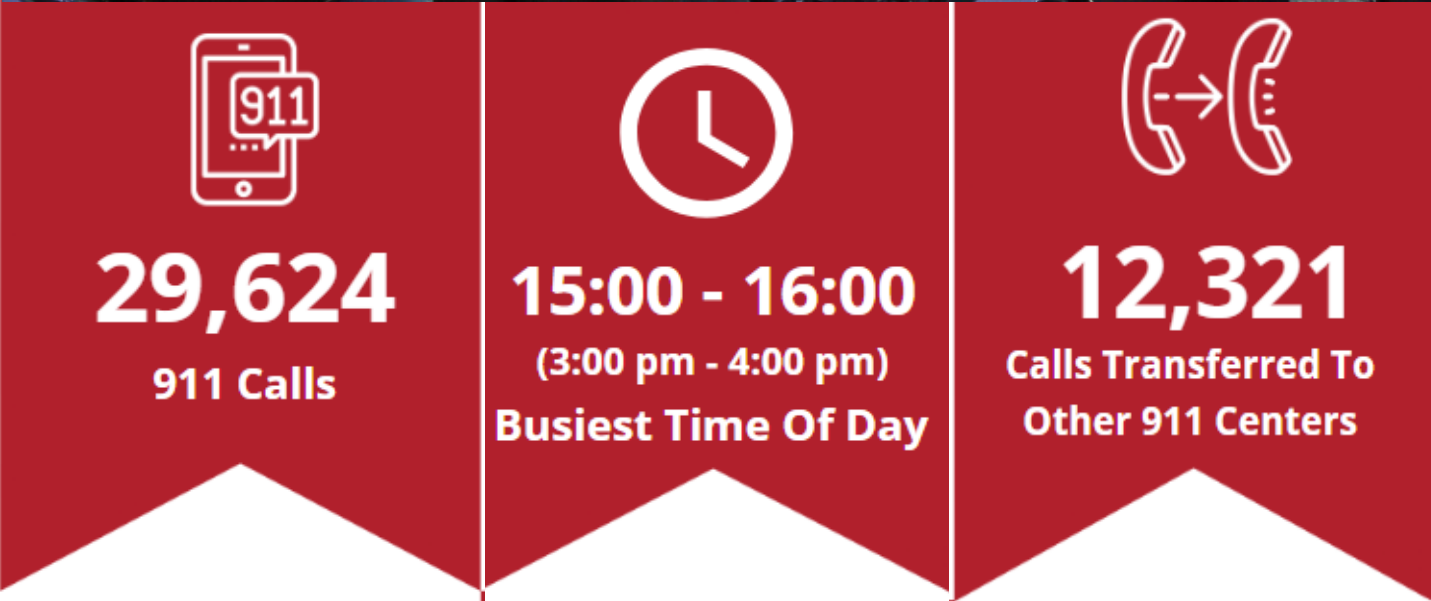
December Flooding Event



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911 Communications



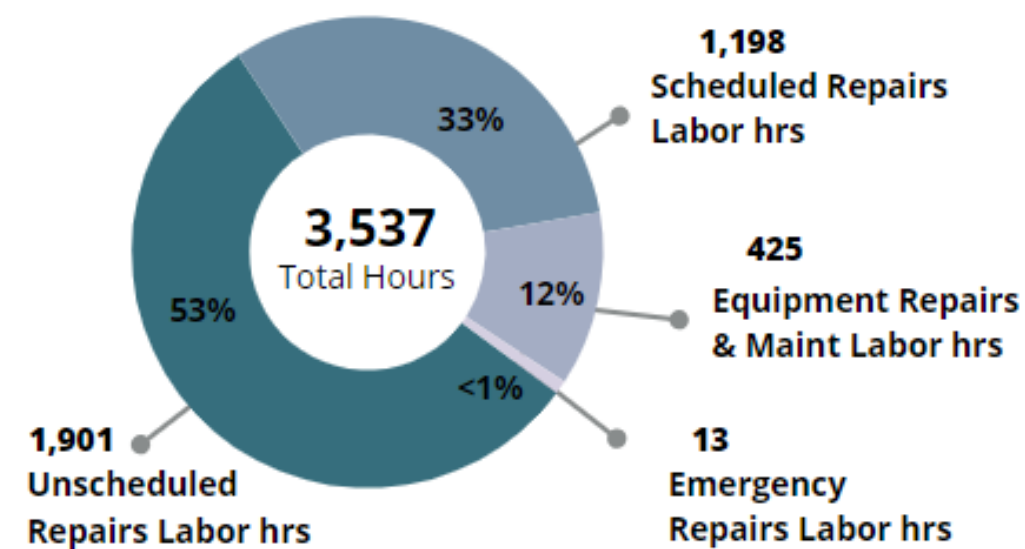
E911 Supervisor Brian Lemus was awarded the 2023 NENA/APCO Palmetto Award for professionalism.



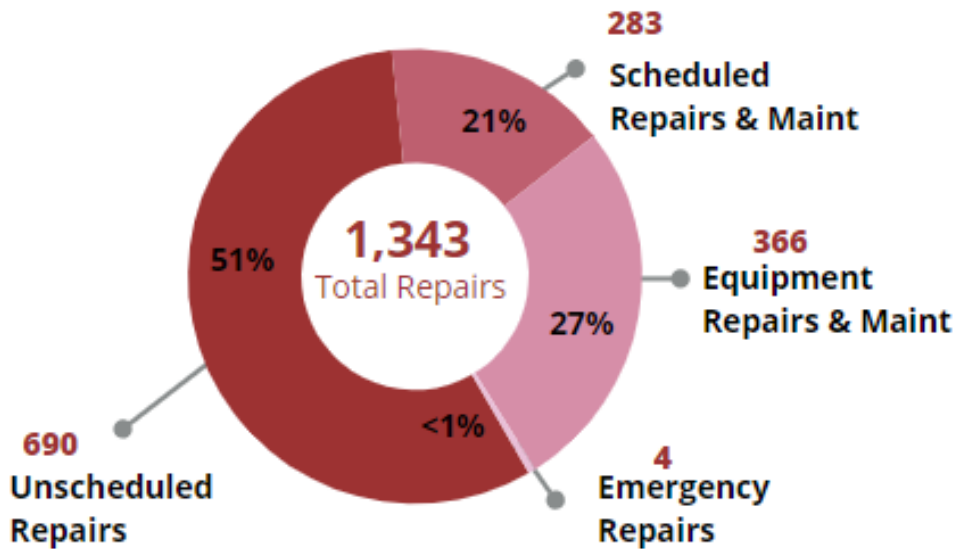
Fleet Maintenance

Town of Hilton Head Island Fleet

Fire Rescue - 56
Town Staff - 51
Other/Equip - 56



Annual Fleet Maintenance Labor Hours



Annual Fleet Maintenance Repairs



STAFFING UPDATE

- Promoted individuals internally to the following positions:
 - Battalion Chief – Strategic Planning
 - Community Outreach & Recruitment Captains (2)
 - Digital Marketing & Communications Specialist
- Hired the following new positions:
 - Emergency Management Coordinator
 - Fourth Fire Inspector
 - Third Mechanic
- Current Staffing Levels
 - Operations – Fully Staffed
 - One member is on Military Leave, and one is on extended medical leave.
 - EMS Lieutenant position was posted internally. Interviews are scheduled.
 - Community Risk Reduction – One open Fire Inspector position is currently advertised.



HILTON HEAD ISLAND FIRE RESCUE
FIREFIGHTER/EMT/PARAMEDIC
HIRING POOL NOW OPEN!

WHY CHOOSE HILTON HEAD ISLAND?
BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY LIES A REWARDING CAREER WITH THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND. HERE, YOU'LL FIND MORE THAN A JOB; YOU'LL DISCOVER A COMMUNITY THAT APPRECIATES YOUR SERVICE, A SUPPORTIVE TEAM ENVIRONMENT, AND THE CHANCE FOR CAREER GROWTH. WE OFFER COMPETITIVE BENEFITS, CONTINUOUS TRAINING, AND THE UNPARALLELED SATISFACTION OF KNOWING YOU'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY!

February 7, 2024
Firefighter Hiring Pool Online Application Available
Link in caption

February 7-May 16, 2024
National Testing Network Firefighter Exam Available
Link in caption

Saturday, March 16, 2024
PRACTICE Firefighter Candidate Physical Abilities Assessment (FCPAA) - Sign up link in caption

Saturday, April 6, 2024
PRACTICE FCPAA & Welcome Social at Fire Rescue
Sign up link in caption

Saturday, May 18, 2024
Firefighter Candidate Physical Abilities Assessment (FCPAA) & Interviews at Fire Rescue Training Center, Hilton Head Island

Firefighter/EMT(Recruit) Starting Salary: \$50,846
Firefighter/Paramedic (Recruit) Starting Salary: \$58,981
(with current National Registry Paramedic Certification)

Additional benefits include, but not limited to:
Health, Dental and Vision Coverage
Paid Time Off (Vacation, Sick Leave, Floating Holidays)
Retirement Benefits (State Pension, 457, South Carolina 1% Fund)
Sign-On Bonuses for transferrable certifications (\$2,500-\$10,000)



Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue

WE ARE HIRING

FIRE INSPECTOR

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ 3 years' experience as a Firefighter or Fire Inspector
- ✓ Certified IFSAC/ProBoard Firefighter 1 & 2
- ✓ Certified Fire Inspector I (ICC or NFPA)
- ✓ Training equivalent to Haz Mat Operations in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120

The Fire Inspector plays a crucial role in safeguarding lives and properties by conducting plan reviews and code analyses to ensure compliance. They're responsible for inspecting commercial and multi-family structures, identifying potential hazards, and mitigating risks. Inspectors are committed to 24/7 availability ensuring prompt response to emergency situations. As a part of the Community Risk Reduction division, inspectors also engage with the public through educational programs.

MORE INFORMATION

Scan for full job description, salary, benefits, and more!
Or visit
<https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/jobs/>



Follow Up on Challenges

- **Engine 1 collision**
 - Currently being repaired in Sumter, SC. The anticipated return is at the end of March or the beginning of April.
- **A/C Units for ambulances**
 - Four that were ordered have arrived. One unit has since been installed and three are available to be used when needed.
- **Delays with new apparatus**
 - New pumpers are scheduled to begin arriving in March and April.
 - Aerials are expected to arrive in October.



Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A 15-passenger van, a Chevy 5500 truck, three inflatable boats, and a double-stack boat trailer were placed in service for our Technical Rescue Team. All equipment was purchased through a grant from the State of South Carolina.
- The 2024-2026 Strategic Plan was formally adopted by Town Council in November.
- E911 Communications Center received the APCO Training Program Certification, making our dispatch center 1 of 92 certified agencies and 1 of 3 in South Carolina.
- Fire Rescue was awarded the Fire Safe South Carolina Designation for the fourth year since its inception.
- The Town of Hilton Head was designated as an Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) accredited agency for the first time in October. The Town is 1 of 91 agencies internationally and 1 of 3 in South Carolina accredited by EMAP.



Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee

March 18, 2024



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Launched the Fire Rescue Instagram page.
- Implemented the Fire Rescue Chaplaincy program, partnering with four local members of clergy to provide resources to our personnel and community members.
- Awarded a grant from Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) to send 10 Paramedics to paramedic school.
- Purchased REALTI 360 Simulator Monitors and Manikins enhancing Fire Rescue's ability to train in simulation-style scenarios
- Updated EMS Protocol Manual & Emergency Operations Plan



Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee

March 18, 2024



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CIP PROJECTS COMPLETED

- All primary fire hose was replaced in anticipation of new apparatus arriving in 2024.
- A new rotary vehicle lift and heavy-duty tire changer were installed for Fleet Maintenance. Previous equipment was outdated and maintenance was unable to perform certain maintenance tasks due to the limited capabilities of older equipment.
- Vehicles Placed in Service
 - Town Vehicles – 8 vehicles and 3 UTV's
 - Fire Rescue Vehicles – 2 staff vehicles, 1 USAR vehicle, and 1 forklift.



Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee
March 18, 2024



What's Next

Upcoming Initiatives

- Addressing Ordinance
- Training Center Upgrades
- Arrival of New Apparatus Fleet
- Installation of new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)
- Installation of new Station Alerting system in all Fire Stations



Fire Rescue Annual Report

Community Services & Public Safety Committee
March 18, 2024



QUESTIONS?



**THANK YOU TO TOWN COUNCIL FOR
YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
FIRE RESCUE**



Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue

2023 Data Report





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Significant Risk EMS	20

Incidents Overall

Red = Increase

Green = Decrease

Incidents by Response Class

2022		2023		Difference
Total	9,589	Total	9,560	-29
EMS	7,160	EMS	7,032	-128
FIRE	2,232	FIRE	2,284	+52
RESCUE	150	RESCUE	182	+32
HAZMAT	47	HAZMAT	62	+15

Incidents by Month

Month	2022	2023	Difference
January	712	706	-6
February	638	649	+11
March	782	806	+24
April	812	845	+33
May	844	839	-5
June	867	829	-38
July	922	957	+35
August	825	894	+69
September	770	871	+101
October	787	760	-27
November	801	675	-126
December	829	729	-100

Incidents by Response Class by Station Planning Zone

Station Planning Zone (SPZ) – The 1st due response area for each of Fire Rescue's 7 stations.

SPZ	EMS	FIRE	RESCUE	HAZMAT
1	1,355	455	55	20
2	628	254	6	6
3	785	237	28	6
4	1,095	179	25	6
5	1,588	349	16	14
6	704	282	40	7
7	874	166	12	3

*Burn compliance checks removed from FIRE category

Incidents by Risk

The number of incidents by risk level for each of the four response classes.

EMS

2022		2023		Difference
Low	5,633	Low	5,480	-153
Moderate	1,408	Moderate	1,464	+56
Significant	119	Significant	88	-31

FIRE

2022		2023		Difference
Low	2,113	Low	2,185	+72
Moderate	82	Moderate	67	-15
Significant	15	Significant	16	+1
Maximum	22	Maximum	16	-6

RESCUE

2022		2023		Difference
Low	137	Low	176	+39
Moderate	13	Moderate	4	-9
Significant	0	Significant	2	+2

HAZMAT

2022		2023		Difference
Low	42	Low	53	+11
Moderate	5	Moderate	9	+4
Significant	0	Significant	0	0

Incidents by Station Planning Zone

SPZ	2022	2023	Difference
1	1,959	1,938	-21
2	934	894	-40
3	1,079	1,103	+24
4	1,463	1,385	-78
5	1,939	1,990	+51
6	974	1,033	+59
7	1,234	1,213	-21
OOD	7	4	-3

Emergent vs Nonemergent Incidents by Station Planning Zone

SPZ	Emergent	Non-Emergent
1	1,249	689
2	575	319
3	671	432
4	811	574
5	1,317	673
6	687	346
7	650	563

Incidents by Incident Type

NFIRS Code	Incident Type	2023	2022
111	Building fire	29	32
112	Fires in structure other than in a building	1	0
113	Cooking fire, confined to container	2	5
114	Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	2	0
116	Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, contained	0	2
118	Trash or rubbish fire, contained	8	2
131	Passenger vehicle fire	10	13
132	Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1	1
134	Water vehicle fire	2	1
136	Self-propelled motor home or recreational vehicle fire	0	1
137	Camper or recreational vehicle (RV) fire	2	0
141	Forest, woods, or wildland fire	0	1
142	Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	18	20
143	Grass fire	0	5
151	Outside rubbish, trash, or waste fire	10	10
154	Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	1	5
162	Outside equipment fire	4	10
163	Outside gas or vapor combustion explosion	1	0
173	Cultivated trees fire	1	1
251	Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	5	6
311	Medical assist, assist EMS crew	30	29
321	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	6,445	6,507
322	Motor vehicle accident with injuries	221	231
323	Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	28	37
324	Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	86	92
331	Lock-in (if lock out , use 511)	8	0
341	Search for person on land	0	1
342	Search for person in water	2	5
353	Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	115	83
356	High-angle rescue	1	0
361	Swimming/recreational water areas rescue	1	2
364	Surf rescue	0	1
411	Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	6	3
412	Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	25	27
413	Oil or other combustible liquid spill	6	0
421	Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	0	1
422	Chemical spill or leak	5	1

423	Refrigeration leak	1	0
424	Carbon monoxide incident	8	12
441	Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	5	4
442	Overheated motor	7	5
443	Breakdown of a light ballast	1	0
444	Power line down	0	1
445	Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	19	19
461	Building or structure weakened or collapsed	1	0
463	Vehicle accident, general cleanup	8	5
511	Lock-out	17	17
512	Ring or jewelry removal	15	11
521	Water evacuation	3	1
522	Water or steam leak	14	14
531	Smoke or odor removal	10	15
542	Animal rescue	13	13
551	Assist police or other governmental agency	23	21
552	Police matter	47	30
553	Public service	162	139
554	Assist invalid	17	33
555	Defective elevator, no occupants	8	7
561	Unauthorized burning	22	23
571	Cover assignment, standby, move up	1	1
611	Dispatched & canceled en route	157	192
622	No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	207	183
631	Authorized controlled burning	360	376
651	Smoke scare, odor of smoke	41	42
652	Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	8	5
653	Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	1	2
661	EMS call where party has been transported by non-fire service agency prior to arrival.	0	2
671	HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	19	15
713	Telephone, malicious false alarm	1	3
714	Central station, malicious false alarm	11	14
715	Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	4	1
731	Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	3	32
733	Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	67	123
734	Heat detector activation due to malfunction	8	33
735	Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	343	305
736	CO detector activation due to malfunction	2	7
741	Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	6	12
743	Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	309	329
744	Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	6	27
745	Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	482	321
746	Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	26	16
813	Tornado, hurricane, or cyclone assessment	2	0
814	Lightning strike (no fire)	6	10
815	Severe weather or natural disaster standby	0	1
911	Citizen complaint	10	10

Responses by Apparatus By Shift

This table represents the number of incidents each apparatus responded to by shift. The highlighted numbers indicate the unit/shift with the most responses.

	A	B	C	Total
B1	163	181	186	530
E1	373	385	400	1,158
E2	208	177	178	563
E3	154	157	116	427
E4	245	237	256	738
E5	336	375	405	1,116
E6	132	119	90	341
E7	133	150	149	432
E8	39	43	40	122
T6	214	212	198	624
M1	429	385	456	1,270
M2	299	289	311	899
M3	327	329	305	961
M4	371	398	391	1,160
M5	491	507	527	1,525
M6	251	281	268	800
M7	328	297	328	953
M8	69	79	94	242
R1	9	8	4	21
HM2	4	2	1	7

Busiest Units

Based on the table above.

	Unit	Responses
Engine	Engine 5 (C-Shift)	405
Medic	Medic 5 (C-Shift)	527
Battalion Chief	C-Shift	186

Incidents by Time of Day

00:00 – 05:59 (12:00AM – 5:59AM)	1,020
06:00 – 11:59 (6:00AM – 11:59AM)	2,813
12:00 – 17:59 (12:00PM – 5:59PM)	3,345
18:00 – 23:59 (6:00PM – 11:59PM)	2,382

Simultaneous Incidents by Station Planning Zone

This table represents the number of times additional incidents occurred within an SPZ. For example, SPZ 1 had one incident occur, then a second before the first incident was closed 394 times in 2023.

SPZ	Number of Simultaneous Incidents	Number of Occurrences	Percentage (%)
1	1	394	20.33%
1	2	65	3.35%
1	3	13	0.67%
2	1	103	11.52%
2	2	10	1.12%
2	3	0	0.00%
3	1	116	10.52%
3	2	15	1.36%
3	3	6	0.54%
4	1	196	14.15%
4	2	33	2.38%
4	3	11	0.79%
5	1	351	17.64%
5	2	62	3.12%
5	3	9	0.45%
6	1	102	9.87%
6	2	8	0.77%
6	3	0	0.00%
7	1	157	12.94%
7	2	30	2.47%
7	3	28	2.31%

Station Planning Zone Reliability

This table shows how often units from one SPZ are responding to another. For clarification, Station 1 units (E1 or M1) responded to 102 incidents in SPZ2, 17 in SPZ3, etc.

SPZ	Apparatus Assigned to Station							Reliability
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	1,938	310	19	2	3	128	148	79%
2	102	894	7	1	1	25	32	71%
3	17	5	1,103	26	340	96	29	70%
4	9	4	40	1,385	207	5	49	77%
5	17	7	260	245	1,990	41	84	75%
6	119	9	112	4	18	1,033	12	76%
7	250	27	24	119	93	39	1,213	75%

Unit Utilization

Total time units spent on incidents in 2023.

Unit	Total Time Unavailable (Hrs.)	Time Unavailable per Incident (Min.)	Percent of Time on Incidents (%)
B1	299	56	3.43%
E1	577	50	6.61%
E2	216	38	2.48%
E3	331	77	3.79%
E4	501	68	5.74%
E5	540	48	6.19%
E6	144	42	1.65%
E7	888	48	10.16%
E8	47	38	0.54%
T6	275	44	3.15%
M1	1,294	98	14.82%
M2	849	94	9.72%
M3	881	92	10.09%
M4	1,080	93	12.37%
M5	1,363	89	15.61%
M6	703	87	8.05%
M7	887	93	10.15%
M8	215	88	2.47%

Property Loss vs Save by Station Planning Zone

Total loss value subtracted from the pre-incident property value equals the total saved value for structure fires in 2023.

SPZ	Total Pre-Incident Value	Total Loss Value	Total Save Value
1	\$14,636,000.00	\$933,675.00	\$13,702,325.00
2	\$3,867,000.000	\$40,000.00	\$3,827,000.00
3	\$114,284,487.00	\$447,594.00	\$113,836,893.00
4	\$2,951,020.00	\$133,965.00	\$2,817,055.00
5	\$2,669,320.00	\$50,800.00	\$2,618,520.00
6	\$5,248,011.00	\$355,680.00	\$4,912,331.00
7	\$10,520,120.00	\$127,100.00	\$10,393,020.00
	\$154,175,958.00	\$2,068,814.00	\$152,107,144.00

EMS Incident Data

EMS Alpha and Omega Incidents

Low acuity medical incident responses vs. how the incidents were dispatched.

2023	
Emergent	445
Non-Emergent	1,840
Emergent Incidents Dispatched Non-Emergent and Responded Emergent	133
Non-Emergent Responses Dispatched Emergent	61

Primary Patient Impressions (Top 20)

Rank	Impression	Number of Occurrences
1	Generalized Weakness	545
2	Syncope/Fainting	434
3	Injury of Head	406
4	Altered Mental Status	233
5	Abdominal Pain	216
6	Chest Pain	196
7	Shortness of Breath	194
8	Laceration	158
9	Back Pain	144
10	No Complaints or Injury	132
11	Injury of Face	124
12	Injury of Hip	123
13	Acute Respiratory Distress	121
14	Dizziness	121
15	Injury of Shoulder or Upper Arm	114
16	Anxiety Reaction	103
17	Extremity Pain	103
18	Stroke	102
19	Injury of Lower Leg	93
20	Hypertension	88

Top 5 Causes of Injury

Cause	Occurrences
Falls	1,502
Motorized Vehicle Accident	332
General (Other)	94
Assault	77
Animal/Plant Contact	65

Ambulance Patient Offload Times

Arrival to patient transfer at Hilton Head Hospital.

2023	2022
15:46	11:04

Transports by Destination

Facility	Transports
Hilton Head Hospital	4,789
Hilton Head Airport	50
Memorial Health University Medical Center	42
Coastal Carolina Hospital	33
Tidewatch	27
Beaufort Memorial	5
Medical University of South Carolina	2
St. Joseph's Hospital	1

EMS Performance Benchmarks

90th Percentile On Scene Time for Stroke

Time crews arrived “on scene” until “enroute to the hospital” for 2023.

Time	Benchmark
30:21	< 20 Min.

90th Percentile With Patient to 12-Lead

Time crews were “at patient” to the documented time for the first 12 lead electrocardiogram (ECG) for 2023.

Time	Benchmark
11:04	< 10 Min.

Critical Task Analysis

The percentage of time the identified number of needed personnel (identified in parentheses) was met or exceeded.

EMS

Risk (ERF)	% ERF is Met or Exceeded
Low (2)	100%
Moderate (4)	87%
Significant (7)	92%

FIRE

Risk (ERF)	% ERF is Met or Exceeded
Low (2)	100%
Moderate (3)	91%
Significant (14)	100%
Maximum (17)	93%

HAZMAT

Risk	% ERF is Met or Exceeded
Low (2)	100%
Moderate (9)	67%
Significant (14)	--

RESCUE

Risk	% ERF is Met or Exceeded
Low (2)	100%
Moderate (8)	50%
Significant (17)	100%

90th Percentile Turnout Times – FIRE/HAZMAT/RESCUE

Benchmark – 02:30

Turnout time for emergent incidents by unit and shift compared to the benchmark. The highlighted numbers indicate the unit/shift with the quickest turnout time.

2023 (Emergent Only)			
	A	B	C
B1	2:52	2:36	2:18
E1	2:39	2:51	2:24
E2	2:25	2:28	2:53
E3	2:54	2:54	2:40
E4	2:47	2:26	2:20
E5	2:40	2:50	2:46
E6	2:56	2:48	2:47
E7	2:14	2:39	2:44
E8	2:53	2:21	2:28
T6	3:38	2:52	2:56
M1	2:11	1:57	1:36
M2	1:29	1:43	2:04
M3	2:43	2:18	2:51
M4	2:54	2:10	1:40
M5	3:00	2:24	2:22
M6	4:15	2:44	2:59
M7	3:03	2:47	1:29
M8	2:12	1:46	0:38

Fire/HazMat/Rescue Benchmarks Met (%)

Percent of time each of the four benchmarks were accomplished. Benchmarks are identified in parentheses.

PSAP (01:20)	68%
Turnout Time (02:30)	75%
Travel Time (05:00)	80%
Total Response Time (1 st Due Unit - 08:50)	88%

90th Percentile Turnout Times – EMS

Benchmark – 01:45

Turnout time for emergent incidents by unit and shift compared to the benchmark. The highlighted numbers indicate the unit/shift with the quickest turnout time.

2023 (Emergent Only)			
	A	B	C
B1	2:47	2:32	2:16
E1	2:17	2:28	2:24
E2	2:21	2:06	2:30
E3	2:20	2:31	2:35
E4	2:08	2:15	2:00
E5	2:12	2:23	2:17
E6	2:18	2:14	1:01
E7	2:41	2:18	1:57
E8	2:00	1:28	1:47
T6	2:39	2:29	2:40
M1	2:08	2:20	2:04
M2	2:04	2:01	2:05
M3	2:15	2:21	2:21
M4	2:04	2:11	2:26
M5	2:00	2:16	1:50
M6	2:28	2:28	2:25
M7	2:20	1:58	2:15
M8	1:58	2:03	1:57

EMS Benchmarks Met (%)

Percent of time each of the four benchmarks were accomplished. Benchmarks are identified in parentheses.

PSAP (01:20)	34%
Turnout Time (01:45)	73%
Travel Time (05:00)	80%
Total Response Time (1 st Due Unit - 08:05)	91%

*New dispatching process for 2023 can be attributed to the lower percentage for PSAP.

90th Percentile Times

Individual time breakdown for each response class and risk analyzing all four benchmarks for all three shifts combined. The n= at the bottom of each column indicates the number of incidents in the data set.

Low Risk Fire

(Low Risk) Fire Suppression – 90 th Percentile Times – Baseline Performance			Benchmark (Target)	2022-2026	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Alarm Handling	Pick-up to Dispatch	Urban	01:20	01:38	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	01:33	01:29
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1 st Unit	Urban	02:30	02:45	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	02:37	02:52
Travel Time	Travel Time 1 st Unit Distribution	Urban	05:00	05:26	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	05:33	05:17
Total Response Time	Total Response Time 1 st Unit on Scene Distribution	Urban	08:50	09:02	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	08:36	08:59
				n=2659	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=1240	n=1359

Moderate Risk Fire

(Moderate Risk) Fire Suppression – 90th Percentile Times – Baseline Performance			Benchmark (Target)	2022-2026	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Alarm Handling	Pick-up to Dispatch	Urban	01:20	01:48	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	01:52	01:37
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1 st Unit	Urban	02:30	02:35	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	02:20	02:50
Travel Time	Travel Time 1 st Unit Distribution	Urban	05:00	05:10	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	05:55	05:03
	Travel Time ERF Concentration	Urban	08:10	05:55	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	05:55	05:15
Total Response Time	Total Response Time 1 st Unit on Scene Distribution	Urban	08:50	08:50	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	09:24	08:03
				n=130	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=59	n=71
	Total Response Time ERF Concentration	Urban	12:00	09:19	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	09:10	08:36
				n=122	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=53	n=67

Significant Risk Fire

(Significant Risk) Fire Suppression – 90th Percentile Times – Baseline Performance			Benchmark (Target)	2022-2026	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Alarm Handling	Pick-up to Dispatch	Urban	01:20	01:26	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	01:30	01:11
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1 st Unit	Urban	02:30	02:51	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	02:24	02:51
Travel Time	Travel Time 1 st Unit Distribution	Urban	05:00	04:56	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	04:06	04:56
	Travel Time ERF Concentration	Urban	11:10	14:41	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	15:51	11:26
Total Response Time	Total Response Time 1 st Unit on Scene Distribution	Urban	08:50	08:25	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	08:28	08:33
		Urban		n=27	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=15	n=14
	Total Response Time ERF Concentration	Urban	15:00	15:05	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	18:57	15:03
		Urban		n=19	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=10	n=10

Maximum Risk Fire

(Maximum Risk) Fire Suppression – 90th Percentile Times – Baseline Performance			Benchmark (Target)	2022-2026	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Alarm Handling	Pick-up to Dispatch	Urban	01:20	01:26	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	01:39	01:11
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1 st Unit	Urban	02:30	02:54	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	02:46	03:04
Travel Time	Travel Time 1 st Unit Distribution	Urban	05:00	04:34	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	04:26	05:15
	Travel Time ERF Concentration	Urban	16:10	12:22	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	14:17	12:11
Total Response Time	Total Response Time 1 st Unit on Scene Distribution	Urban	08:50	08:20	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	09:03	08:15
		Urban		n=35	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=16	n=21
	Total Response Time ERF Concentration	Urban	20:00	14:49	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	15:50	14:38
		Urban		n=20	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=8	n=12

Low Risk EMS

(Low Risk) EMS – 90 th Percentile Times – Baseline Performance			Benchmark (Target)	2022-2026	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Alarm Handling	Pick-up to Dispatch	Urban	01:20	02:07	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	02:48	01:10
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1 st Unit	Urban	01:45	02:18	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	02:06	02:24
Travel Time	Travel Time 1 st Unit Distribution	Urban	05:00	05:25	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	05:31	05:21
Total Response Time	Total Response Time 1 st Unit on Scene Distribution	Urban	08:05	08:41	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	09:23	08:10
				n=7316	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=2770	n=4555

Moderate Risk EMS

(Moderate Risk) EMS – 90 th Percentile Times – Baseline Performance			Benchmark (Target)	2022-2026	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Alarm Handling	Pick-up to Dispatch	Urban	01:20	02:02	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	02:23	01:09
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1 st Unit	Urban	01:45	02:13	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	02:02	02:24
Travel Time	Travel Time 1 st Unit Distribution	Urban	05:00	05:12	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	05:18	05:03
	Travel Time ERF Concentration	Urban	06:25	07:17	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	06:47	07:54
Total Response Time	Total Response Time 1 st Unit on Scene Distribution	Urban	08:05	08:20	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	08:46	07:48
				n=2719	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=1386	n=1324
	Total Response Time ERF Concentration	Urban	09:30	10:15	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	09:55	10:29
				n=2083	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=1104	n=980

Significant Risk EMS

(Significant Risk) EMS – 90 th Percentile Times – Baseline Performance			Benchmark (Target)	2022-2026	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Alarm Handling	Pick-up to Dispatch	Urban	01:20	01:27	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	01:58	01:02
Turnout Time	Turnout Time 1 st Unit	Urban	01:45	02:13	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	01:58	02:22
Travel Time	Travel Time 1 st Unit Distribution	Urban	05:00	04:45	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	04:29	04:55
	Travel Time ERF Concentration	Urban	08:55	08:59	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	08:59	08:53
Total Response Time	Total Response Time 1 st Unit on Scene Distribution	Urban	08:05	07:53	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	07:28	08:01
				n=196	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=83	n=112
	Total Response Time ERF Concentration	Urban	12:00	11:52	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	13:05	11:28
				n=137	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=XXX	n=59	n=81

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2023



ANNUAL REPORT HILTON HEAD ISLAND FIRE RESCUE





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OUR VISION

To strive for excellence in all that we do!



OUR MISSION

We are committed to serving our citizens and visitors by preserving life, protecting property, and conserving the environment.



OUR CORE VALUES

To serve our community through:

COMPASSION

INTEGRITY

PROFESSIONALISM

DIVERSITY

Message from the Chief



Thank you for taking the time to review Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue's 2023 Annual Report. Fire Rescue continues to provide the highest level of service to the residents, businesses, and visitors of our incredible island. Fire Rescue desires to make an impact in our community by preserving life, preventing harm, protecting property, and promoting excellence. We are thankful to the residents, elected officials, and town leadership for providing the resources to continue to meet the needs of our community.

2023 was another busy year as Fire Rescue responded to 9,560 calls for service. In February, the creation of the Strategic Planning Division allowed us to continually monitor and plan for the future needs of our community and develop our new 2024-2026 Fire Rescue Strategic Plan.

In July, Fire Rescue implemented two new divisions, Community Outreach and Recruitment and Communication and Marketing Divisions. Both divisions have already proven to be a huge success bolstering our presence within the community.

It is my pleasure to present Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue's 2023 Annual Report, which illustrates and reflects the hard work and tireless efforts of our team, who proudly represent the Town of Hilton Head Island.

Chris Blankenship, Fire Chief

2023

Our Department

 Total Employees 151	 Senior Chiefs 10	 Line Firefighters 108
 Coverage Crew Firefighters 3	 Administrative Captains 4	 E911 Communications 13
 Emergency Management 2	 Fleet Maintenance 4	 Fire Inspectors 4
 Life Safety Educator 1	 Business Coordinator 1	 Admin Assts. 4

Years Of Service

42% Less Than 5 Years	22% 5 - 10 Years	15% 10 - 15 years
7% 15 - 20 Years	10% 20 - 25 Years	4% 25 + Years

Retirees & New Hires



Marie Becvar - Administrative Assistant
13 Years of Service



Zachary Taylor - Fire Apparatus Operator
30 Years of Service



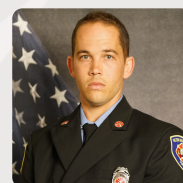
Lauren Bare
Administrative Assistant



Tim Baynton
Mechanic



Haley Becker
911 Telecommunicator



Robert Britt
Firefighter



Robert "Stretch" Brooks
Mechanic



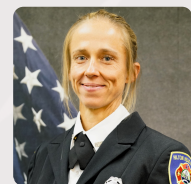
Cameron Cole
Firefighter



Jacob Cravey
Firefighter



Devan Estevez
Firefighter



Savannah Fuentes
Fire Inspector



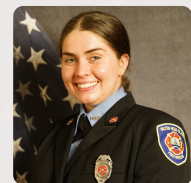
William Garigen
Firefighter



Austin Kutz
Firefighter



Pen Lee
911 Telecommunicator



Meghan Lucero
Firefighter



Daniel McGlone
Firefighter



Monique Monreal
911 Telecommunicator



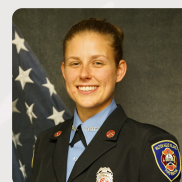
Shane Riehl
Firefighter



Skyler Sabado
Firefighter



Aaliyah Titus
911 Telecommunicator



Lindsey Watts
Firefighter



Jonas Wellan
Firefighter



Conor Wills
Firefighter



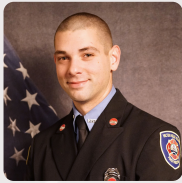
Christopher Wilshusen
911 Telecommunicator



Holden Wilson
Emergency Management
Coordinator



Promotions



Aaron Aumick
Fire Apparatus Operator to Lieutenant



Andrew Groff
Senior Firefighter to Captain - EMS



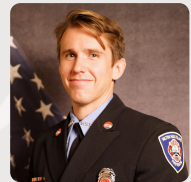
Ryan Hardy
Fire Apparatus Operator to Lieutenant



Peter Janura
Captain - EMS to Battalion Chief - EMS



Sean Kavlick
Fire Apparatus Operator to Lieutenant



Shane Marsteller
Fire Apparatus Operator to Lieutenant



Christopher Osterman
Senior Fire Inspector to
Battalion Chief - Strategic Planning



Bryan Scharver
Lieutenant to Captain



Joe Zoffoli
Lieutenant to Captain

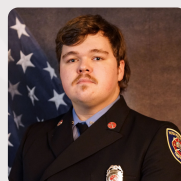
New Paramedics



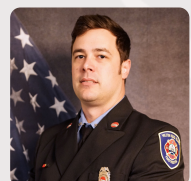
Andrew Randazzo
Senior Firefighter/Paramedic



Nicholas Ratchford
Firefighter/Paramedic



Fisher Smith
Firefighter/Paramedic



Travis Iglesia
Firefighter/Paramedic



Response Apparatus

FIRE ENGINES

PUMPERS

Provides up to 1500 gallons of water per minute (GPM).

AERIAL (QUINT)

- Fire Pump
- Water Tank
- Fire Hose
- 103-Foot Aerial Ladder
- Specified Number of Ground Ladders



TRACTOR-DRAWN AERIAL

LADDER TRUCK

With drivers at each end, the Tiller is highly maneuverable, which is important for navigating Hilton Head Island's tight road network.



MEDIC UNITS

AMBULANCE

Fire Rescue's medic units are a standardized fleet of advanced life support vehicles. All stations have a medic unit assigned with the engine company.

All 10 ambulances were replaced with a new model in 2019.





Response Apparatus

BATTALION 1

OPERATIONS COMMAND VEHICLE

2019 Ford F-250 with Incident Command Package.
The on-duty Battalion Chief is assigned to this vehicle. They respond to all fires, Motor Vehicle Crashes, Cardiac Arrests and any other significant event.



URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

SPECIALTY APPARATUS

2008 Spartan Custom Tractor Trailer Heavy Rescue
Houses equipment for Urban Search and Rescue calls for both on-island and regional response. R-1 is also part of SCTF-4 which is the SC Regional Response Team for the Low Country.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE

SPECIALTY APPARATUS

2007 E-One Custom Hazmat Truck
Houses equipment for hazardous materials calls for both on-island and regional response. HM-2 is also part of SCHM-4 which is the SC Regional Response Team for the Low Country.





Stations & Facilities



1,938
Total Incidents

Station 1

Fire Incidents 508
EMS Incidents 1,355

- One 103' Quint
- One Medic
- Urban Search & Rescue Unit
- One Company Officer
- Four Firefighters per shift

70 Cordillo Parkway - Shipyard



894
Total Incidents

Station 2

Fire Incidents 254
EMS Incidents 628

- One Engine
- One Medic
- One Company Officer
- Three Firefighters per shift

65 Lighthouse Road - Sea Pines



Stations & Facilities



1,103
Total Incidents



534 William Hilton Parkway - Port Royal

Station 3

Fire Incidents 284
EMS Incidents 785

- One Engine
- One Medic
- Brush Unit
- Utility/Air Supply Unit
- One Company Officer
- Three Firefighters per shift



1,385
Total Incidents



400 Squire Pope Road
Back Gate of Hilton Head Plantation

Station 4

Fire Incidents 259
EMS Incidents 1,095

- One Engine
- One Medic
- Reserve Engine & Medic
- One Company Officer
- Three Firefighters per shift



1,990
Total Incidents



20 Whooping Crane Way
Front Gate of Hilton Head Plantation

Station 5

Fire Incidents 372
EMS Incidents 1588

- One 103' Quint
- One Medic
- Reserve Ladder Truck
- One Company Officer
- Four Firefighters per shift



Stations & Facilities



1,033
Total Incidents

12 Dalmatian Lane - Palmetto Dunes

Station 6

Fire Incidents 282
EMS Incidents 704

- One 110' aerial TDA
- One Engine
- One Medic unit
- Hazardous Materials Response unit
- Two Company Officers
- Six Firefighters per shift



1,213
Total Incidents

1001 Marshland Road - Near Cross Island

Station 7

Fire Incidents 324
EMS Incidents 874

- One Command Vehicle
- One Engine
- One Medic
- Reserve Engine & Medic
- Battalion Chief
- One Company Officer
- Three Firefighters per shift



75 Dillon Road

Fire Rescue Training Facility

- Provides for Live Fire Operations
- Vehicle Extrication
- Water Supply Training
- Driving Skills Lessons
- Coverage Company -Weekdays
 - 1 Company Officer
 - 2 Firefighters





Operations

9,560 Total Incidents			
EMS 7,032	Fire 2,284	HazMat 62	Rescue 182



26 Average Incidents Per Day



Engine 5
Busiest Engine



SAT

Busiest Day



JUL

Busiest Month



Busiest Medic
Medic 5

Top 3 Busiest days		
08/19/23 55 Incidents	09/09/23 53 Incidents	01/07/23 49 Incidents



Frequent Responses



Address	Number of Responses
1. 300 Woodhaven Drive	241
2. 421 Squire Pope Road	210
3. 110 Gardner Drive	152
4. 801 Lemon Grass Court	150
5. 120 Lamotte Drive	146



Operations



Structure Fires

39

Fires within a structure

20

Confined to object of origin

9

Confined to room
of origin

1

Confined to floor
of origin

9

Confined to
building of origin

7

**Fire
Injuries**

1

**Fire
Deaths**



Total Property Saved

\$152,107,144

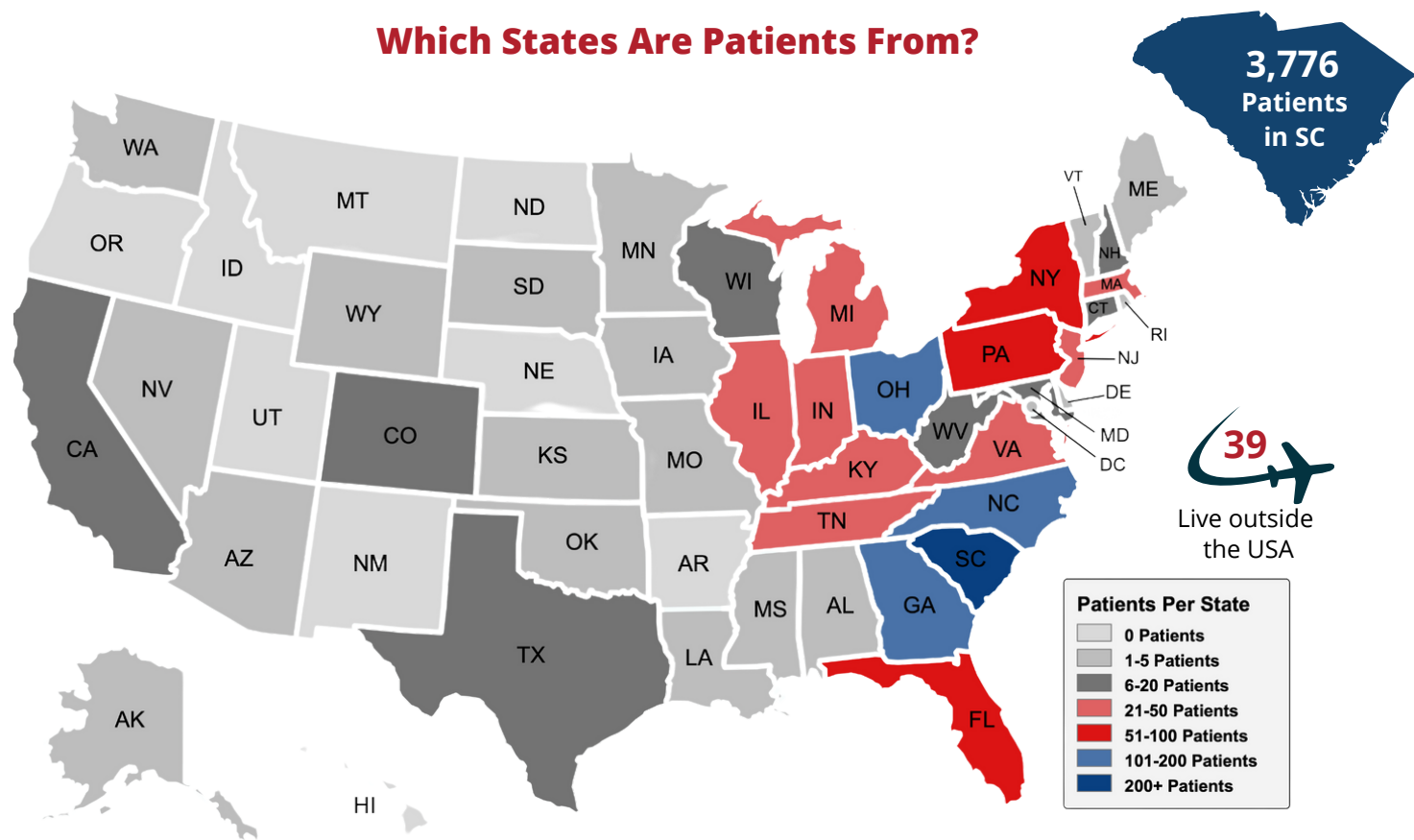
Total Property Lost

\$2,068,814

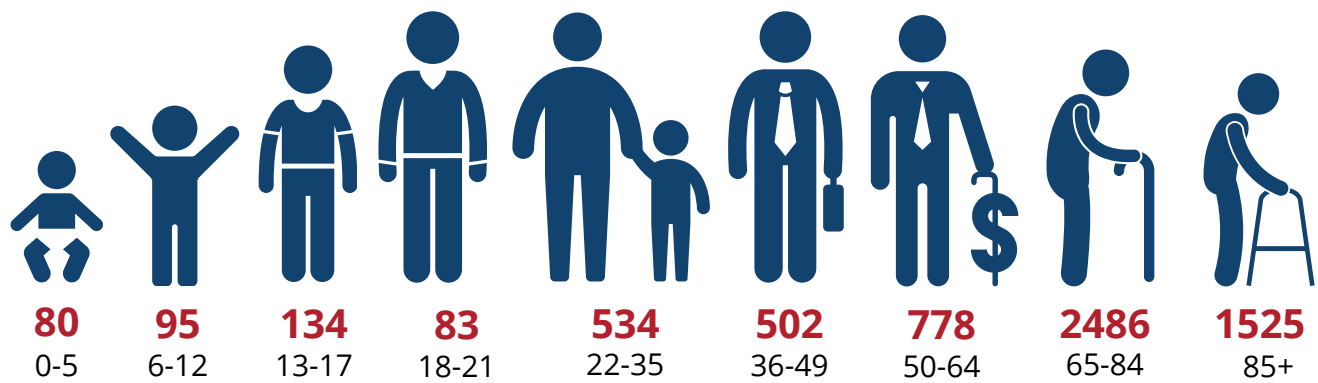


Emergency Medical Service

Which States Are Patients From?



EMS Patients Per Age Group



Total Number Of 2023 EMS Calls Male Vs Female



Male
3,035
49%



Female
3,184
51%

Top 3 Primary Impressions

545 - General Weakness
434 - Syncope/Fainting
406 - Injury of Head

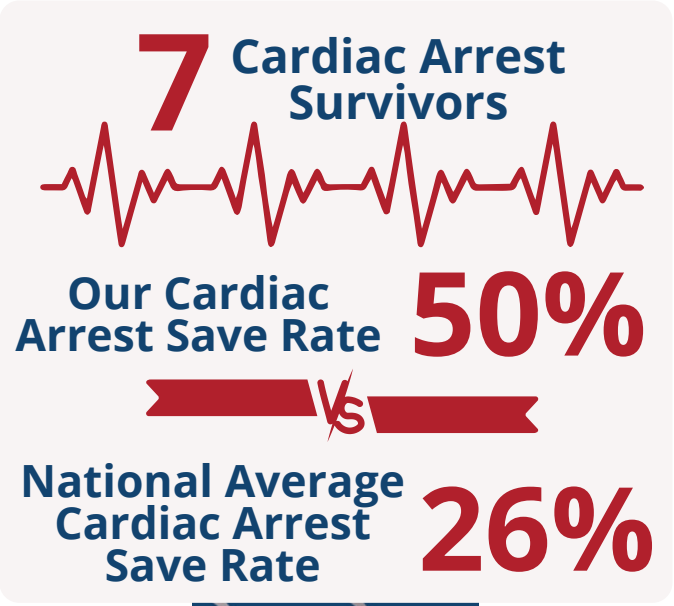


Emergency Medical Service



106

**Personnel completed
High Performance CPR
refresher**



7 Cardiac Arrest
Survivors

Our Cardiac
Arrest Save Rate **50%**

vs

National Average
Cardiac Arrest
Save Rate **26%**



9

**New Hires
completed
Basic EMT**



4

**Completed
Paramedic
School**



EMS Training

30 Paramedics
completed
Advanced Cardiac
Life Support
Refresher



Safety & Professional Development



36,373

**Total Training
Hours**



Training



26,120 **Total Fire
Training Hours**

8,127 **Hours Trained
At Our Training
Center**



4,616

**Total Medical
Training Hours**

Promotional Exams

7

**Candidates participated in
Lieutenant Promotional
Process**

9

**Candidates
participated in
Captain
Promotional Process**



**Line Personnel
Hired**



**Went To The Fire
Academy**

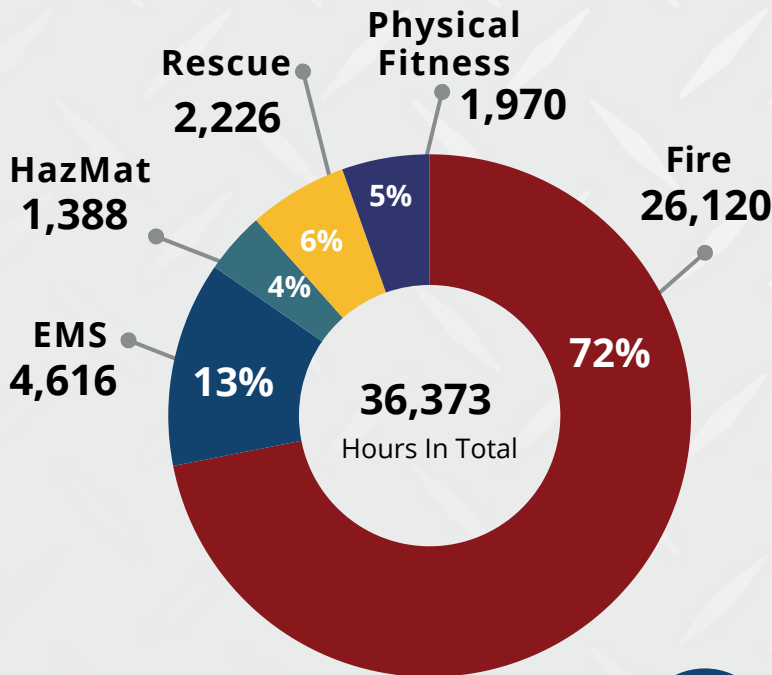


**Were Hired
Certified**

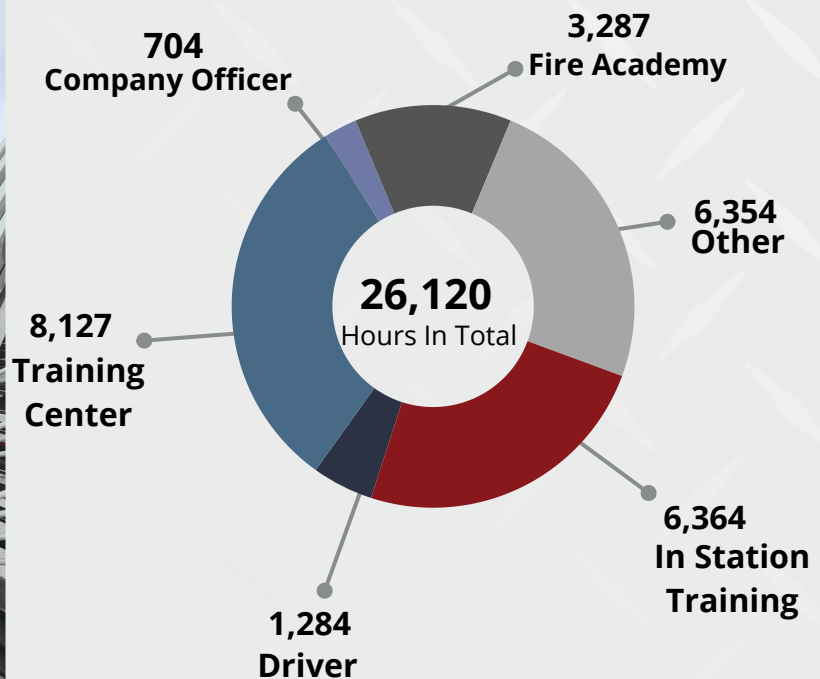
Safety & Professional Development



Total Training Hours



Total Company Training





Special Operations

Technical Rescue Team

Deployment/Exercise Timeline for 2023:

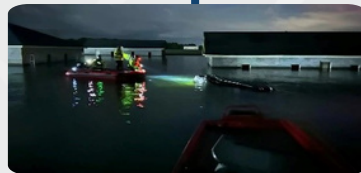
February 23

Readiness Exercise



August 28

Tropical Storm Idalia



April 3-5

Guardian Center
Flood Exercise



October 23

Jasper County
Apartment Collapse



Other Notable Accomplishments

- 15 passenger van placed in service.
- Double stack boat trailer placed in service.
- Ordered a Command/Logistics Trailer.
- Purchased radios & satellite internet.
- Conducted EMAP accreditation site visit.

42

Current
Members

10

Monthly
Training
Sessions





Special Operations

Technical Rescue Team

Specialty Training



Obtained
watercraft
rescue
certification

31



Attended FEMA
Taskforce Leader
class

2



Attended US&R
Safety Officer
class

2



Attended
Planning
Specialist Class

2



Attended Heavy
Equipment
Rigging Specialist
class

1

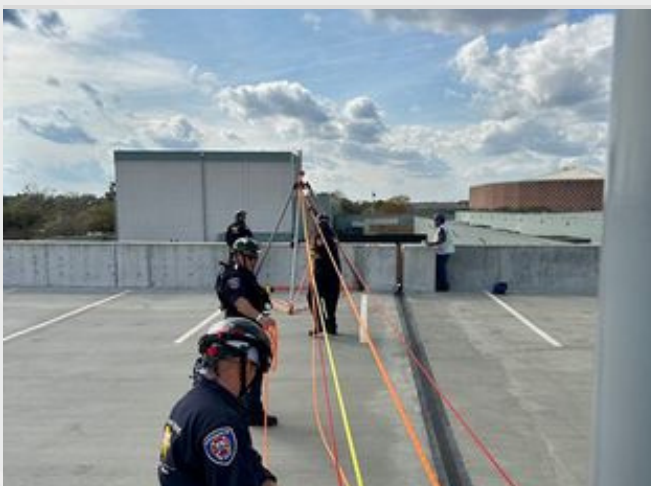
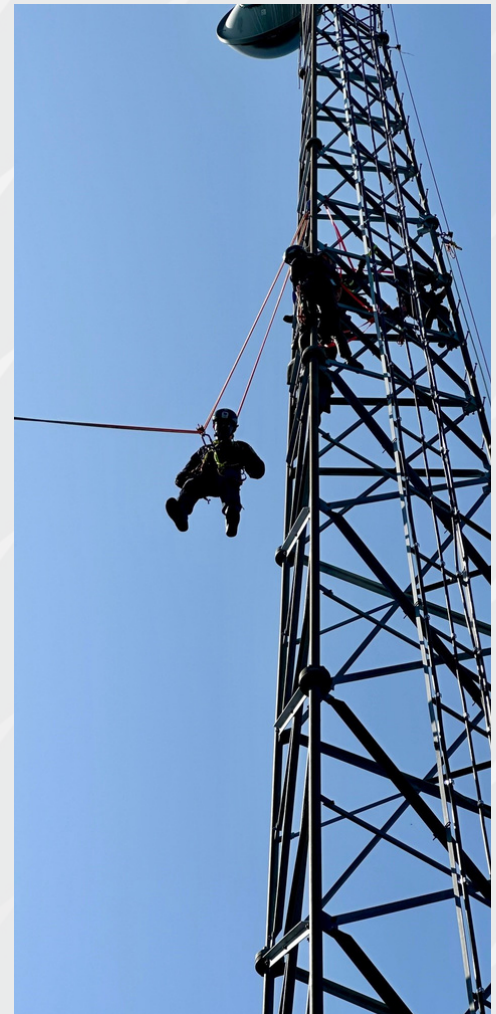


State Urban Search
& Rescue Alliance
Conference

4



Completed 2 multi-day floodwater
training sessions





Special Operations

Hazardous Materials Team

42

Current
Members

62

Hazardous Materials
Related Incidents

Handled by on duty crews at the
Hazmat Operations and Hazmat
Technician level

Hazmat 2 response
required on 6 incidents

Training Sessions



11 Monthly Training Sessions

722 Total personnel hours
of training



Specialty Training

- DHEC lab training on evidence collection.
- DOD joint chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear characterization and mitigation course.

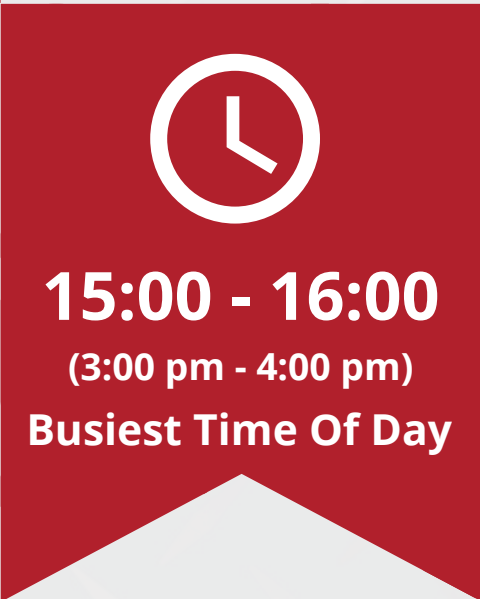
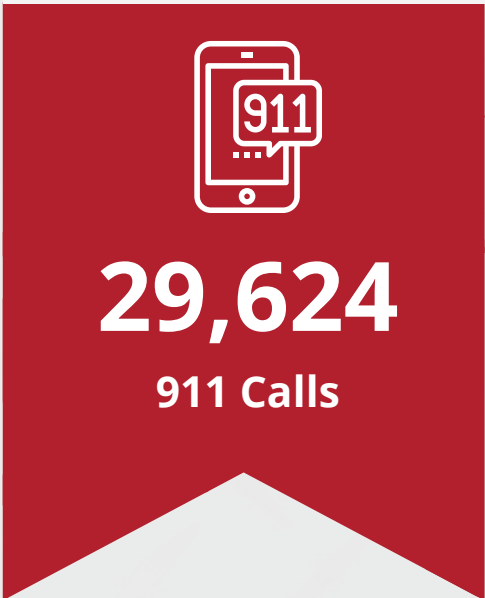


Other Notable Accomplishments

- HAZSIM monitoring training devices acquired.
- Updated technology for air monitoring.



911 Communications



Community Risk Reduction



2701

Fire Inspections



2307

Violations Found



2210

Violations Corrected



697

New Construction
Inspections



470

Plan Reviews



826

CPR/AED Students



83

Fire In The
Streets/After The Fire
Homes Visited



121

Smoke Alarm
Installs



71

Car Seat Installs



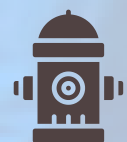
14

Fire Investigations



31

Risk Watch Child Injury
Prevention

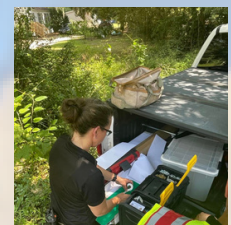


2991

Hydrant
Inspections



21







Community Outreach & Recruitment

5

New programs to build awareness of Fire Rescue's programs and services



Red-Hot Readers Literacy Program

11

New partnerships to enhance events and programs



Fire Rescue & Bluffton Self Help Staff

4

Community presentations demonstrating Fire Rescue's impact within our community



Presentation to the Gullah-Geechee Land & Cultural Preservation Task Force

19

Community events attended or hosted, inviting the community to participate in our new programs



TOHHI 360/40 Community Picnic

835

Total Community Connections



Communications & Marketing

Top Viewed Fire
Rescue Web Pages

Storm Updates:
77,353 Views



HHI Hurricane
Center:
32,973 Views



About Us:
27,331 Views



Fire Code
Enforcement &
Investigations:
26,144 Views



Emergency Medical
Services:
24,342 Views

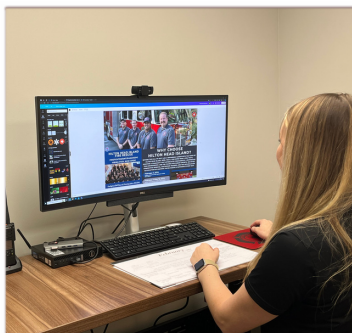


45,000

Facebook Content
Interactions

249%

Increase from 2022



Fire Rescue
Facebook Page
Performance

Total Facebook
Followers:

2,849



New Facebook
Followers:

557



Facebook Page

Visits:
63,042



Total Facebook

Posts:
450



Total Facebook

Reach:
744,991



SCAN ME



Follow our Facebook and
Instagram pages!





Emergency Management

Major Events In 2023:



March

St Patricks Day Parade



April

Heritage



June

Recovery Tabletop Exercise



August

Tropical Storm Idalia



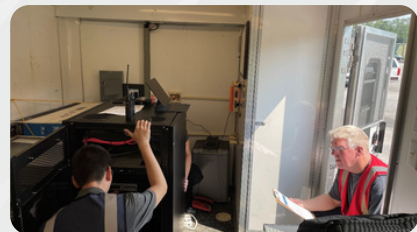
March

EMAP Accreditation Received



May

Wind Event



July

Barnwell Communications Exercise



December

Flooding Event



15 presentations with 500 participants
1,756 - Emergency Preparedness Guides distributed



Emergency Management

Throughout 2023 There Were:



Tropical

- 1 - Tropical Storm Watch
- 1 - Tropical Storm Warning
- 1 - Hurricane Watch
- 1 - Hurricane Warning
- 1 - Storm Surge Watch
- 1 - Storm Surge Warning



Coastal Hazards

- 24 - Coastal Flood Advisory
- 7 - Rip Current Statement
- 5 - High Surf Advisory
- 0 - Coastal Flood Watch
- 1 - Coastal Flood Warning
- 0 - Coastal Flood Statement



Non Precipitation

- 10 - Dense Fog Advisory
- 0 - Frost Advisory
- 9 - Heat Advisory
- 0 - Excessive Heat Watch
- 1 - Excessive Heat Warning
- 1 - Freeze Watch
- 2 - Freeze Warning
- 6 - Wind Advisory
- 0 - High Wind Watch



Convection

- 3 - Flood Advisory
- 4 - Severe T-storm Watch
- 8 - Severe T-storm Warning
- 3 - Tornado Watch
- 1 - Tornado Warning
- 0 - Flood Warning



Tsunami

- 0 - Tsunami Watch
- 0 - Tsunami Warning
- 0 - Tsunami Advisory



Rivers/Hydro/ Fire/Air Quality

- 2 - Flash Flood Watch
- 0 - Fire Weather Watch
- 0 - Red Flag Warning

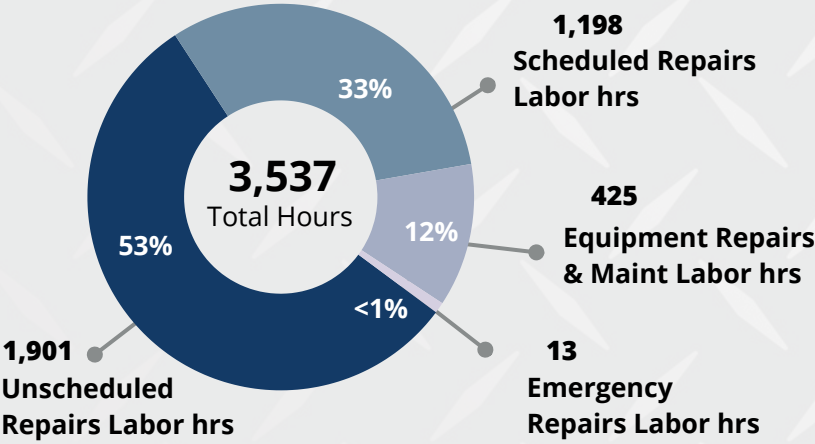


Data provided from National Weather Service.



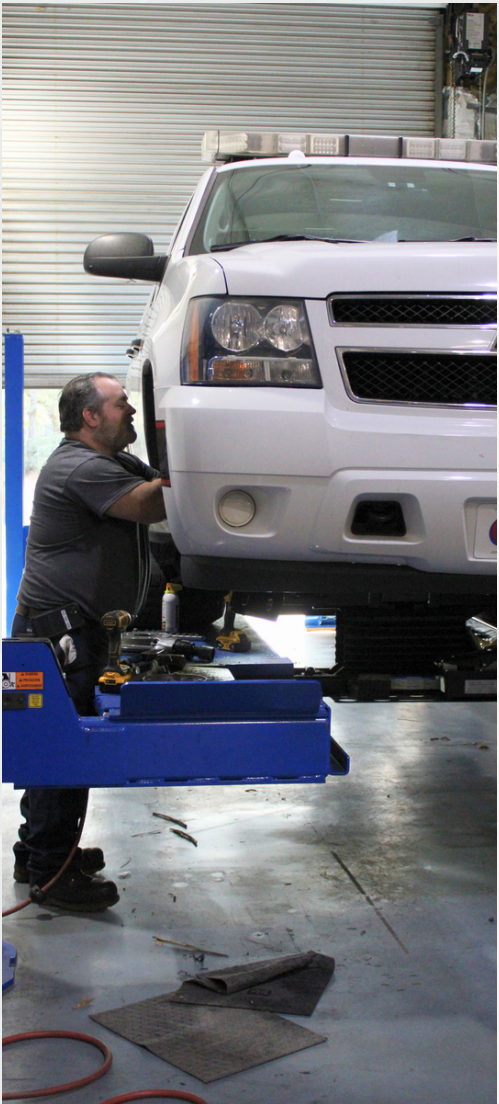
Fleet Maintenance

Annual Fleet Maintenance Labor Hours

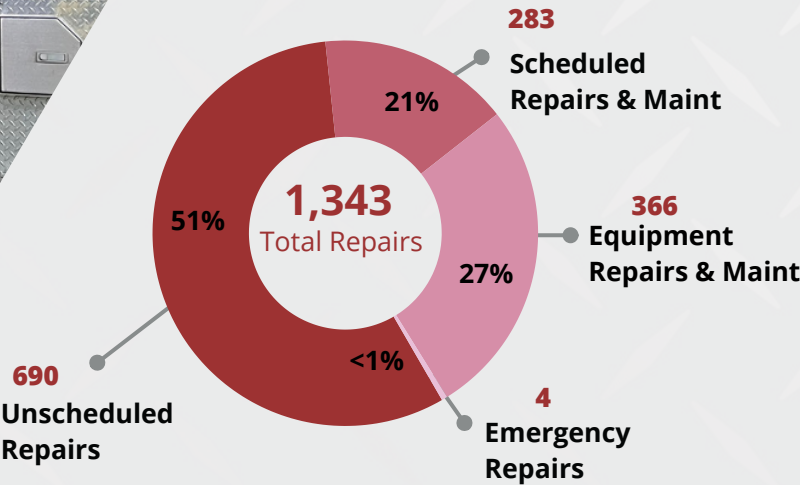


Town of Hilton Head Island Fleet

Fire Rescue - 56
Town Staff - 51
Other/Equip - 56



Annual Fleet Maintenance Repairs





2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Fire Rescue was recognized again as a Fire Safe SC Community by the SC Fire Marshal's Office for our commitment to an all-hazards Community Risk Reduction program.



Fire Rescue's 2024-2026 Strategic Plan was published.

Our Chaplains



June Wilkins
Christ Lutheran Church



Bill McCutchen
Hilton Head Presbyterian



Brad Bloom
Congregation Beth Yam



Louis Johnson
Central Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Implemented a Chaplaincy program through a partnership with four local clergy members.



Instagram

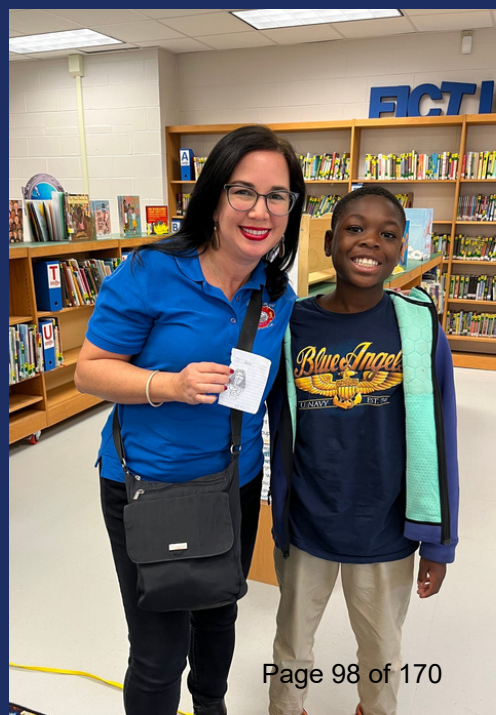
Launched the Fire Rescue Instagram Account.



Awarded an AFG grant to allow 10 members of Fire Rescue to attend Paramedic School.



Fire Rescue's E911 communications center received a training center designation, making them one of 92 certified agencies and 1 of 3 in the State.





TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Community Services & Public Safety Committee

TO: Community Services and Public Safety Committee
FROM: Bryan McIlwee, PE, Director of Public Projects & Facilities
VIA: Shawn Colin, AICP, Assistant Town Manager – Community Development
CC: Marc Orlando, Town Manager
DATE: March 18, 2024
SUBJECT: Consideration of a Resolution to Support the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Assessment for Solid Waste and Recycling for Hilton Head Island

RECOMMENDATION:

Consideration of a Resolution to support the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Assessment for Solid Waste and Recycling for Hilton Head Island (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

There is an initiative in the Town of Hilton Head Island 2023-25 Strategic Action Plan to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) of Hilton Head Island Solid Waste and Recycling (Attachment 2).

Staff procured A. Goldsmith Resources, LLC (AGR), an expert consultant in the field of solid waste and recycling, and the preparer of the recently updated Beaufort County Solid Waste Management Plan (2022-2041), to conduct this assessment.

SUMMARY:

On May 2, 2023, Town Council unanimously approved a Resolution supporting the proposed approach and scope of services outline to complete the SWOT assessment.

On January 8, 2024, the Community Services and Public Safety Committee was presented with the findings of the SWOT analysis provided by Abby Goldsmith. The committee requested explanation of select current practices and the inclusion of possible near-term actions as outlined below:

1. Describe multifamily solid waste and recycling collection.
2. Provide example of solid waste and recycling in a POA.
3. Clarify what is recyclable.
4. Include grant funding as an opportunity.
5. Add possible near-term actions.

In this regards we provide the following:

1. Describe multifamily solid waste and recycling collection:

Multifamily dwellings are generally classified as commercial establishments for the purpose of solid waste and recycling services. Town code defines commercial establishments as follows:

Sec. 9-6-10. - Definitions.

Commercial establishment: Any income-producing establishment, for profit or nonprofit, including, but not limited to, those used for retail, wholesale, industrial, manufacturing, dining, offices, professional services, automobile services, hotels, motels and restaurants. For purposes of this title pertaining to collection of solid waste and recycling only, commercial establishments shall include dumpster-based multifamily residential dwellings, and shall exclude all other residential dwellings.

2. Provide example of solid waste and recycling in a POA:

Example of POA Approach - Sea Pines

Residential collection like rest of Hilton Head Island

- Each property owner contracts for their own service.
- Most of the “regimes” arrange collection for their villa or condo complex.
- Once per week drop-off center provided by 3rd party vendor for mixed paper, plastic, glass, aluminum, tin bottles and cans, electronics, and batteries at retail area.
- CSA requires trash cans and recycling bins must be kept in service yards at all times.

CSA programs

- Work with vendors to “harvest” recyclables from commercial facilities: cardboard, glass, plastic/aluminum, food residuals, coffee, oyster shells.
- Weekly collection and drop-off of vegetative debris which is mulched and available to residents.

3. Clarify what is recyclable:

HHI Ordinance (Sec. 9-6-30) Requirement for Private Hauler Collection	County Convenience Centers
Cardboard	Corrugated cardboard
Newspapers, newspaper inserts, cardboard, pizza boxes, magazines, catalogs, phone books, residential mail, junk mail, office paper, paper bags, box board, cereal cartons, beverage cartons, gift wrapping paper, shredded office paper	Mixed paper: junk mail, newspaper, magazines, phone books, office paper, cereal boxes, soda boxes and shoeboxes, or any paper that doesn't fall into the category of corrugated cardboard
All closed-mouth plastic bottles, #1 through #7 household plastics (no styrofoam)	Plastics #1 and #2: Plastic bottles, jugs and jars
Glass containers of any color	Glass bottles and jars: Clear, brown & green glass
Milk/juice cartons and aseptic containers	
Aluminum cans, other aluminum, aluminum foil, steel cans, tin cans, aerosol cans, and other small household scrap metal	Metal food and beverage cans: Aluminum, tin, & steel cans

HHI convenience center also accepts yard waste, tires, cooking oil, motor oil, oil filters, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, construction & demolition debris, plastic film, household hazardous waste. Some of these materials are recycled.

4. Include grant funding as an opportunity:

SC DHEC Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant

- Scope: Projects that can demonstrate a positive impact on a local government's efforts to reach their recycling and waste reduction goals
- Eligibility: Counties, cities, towns, or regions within South Carolina that provide solid waste services
- Source: Funded by a \$2 fee on appliances and lead-acid batteries charged upon purchase at the retail level
- Schedule: Applications for FY25 opened in February 2024;

- \$15,000 max grant in Category 1 (General Recycling)
- \$50,000- \$100,000 grant in Category 2 (Creativity with waste reduction)

Recycling Partnership Community Grant Program

- Curbside Recycling Cart Grants
- Multifamily Recycling Program Grants
- Drop-Off Program Grants

5. Add possible near-term actions:

- Coordinate with Beaufort County to share approved SWOT and determine County's short-, mid-, and long-term plans for solid waste and recycling.
- Evaluate potential approaches and associated costs to provide curbside solid waste and recycling for all HHI residents.
- Establish a best-in-class recycling program at beach park facilities, incorporating outreach and education for residents and visitors.
- Establish a best-in-class recycling program at HHI facilities, incorporating outreach and education for residents and visitors.
- Continue to strengthen enforcement of reporting and recycling requirements for licensed haulers in Town ordinance.

Further details are found in the Solid Waste and Recycling Report (Attachment 3) and Solid Waste and Recycling Presentation (Attachment 4).

Pending Committee recommendation, next steps are as follows:

- Present findings of the Solid Waste and Recycling Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) assessment to full Town council in May.
- Council approval of a Resolution supporting the SWOT assessment.
- Implement Near-Term Actions

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. 2023-25 Strategic Action Plan – Excerpt on Solid Waste and Recycling
3. Recycling and Solid Waste Management Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, and Opportunities Report
4. Solid Waste and Recycling SWOT Presentation

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, SUPPORTING THE STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS ASSESSMENT FOR SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING FOR HILTON HEAD ISLAND

WHEREAS, the Town considers the protection of its natural environment to be one of its highest priorities as evidenced by environmental sustainability being identified as a core value within the Town's Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Strategic Action Plan includes a strategy of developing an environmental sustainability initiative to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) of Hilton Head Island Solid Waste and Recycling; and

WHEREAS, the SWOT assessment attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference will help guide the decision making process on both the immediate and future solid waste and recycling needs on Hilton Head Island.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AND IT HEREBY IS RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, THAT:

The Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island hereby endorses and adopts the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats assessment for solid waste and recycling for Hilton Head Island.

MOVED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS ____ DAY OF MAY, 2024.

Alan R. Perry, Mayor
Town of Hilton Head Island

ATTEST:

Kimberly Gammon, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Curtis L. Coltrane, Town Attorney



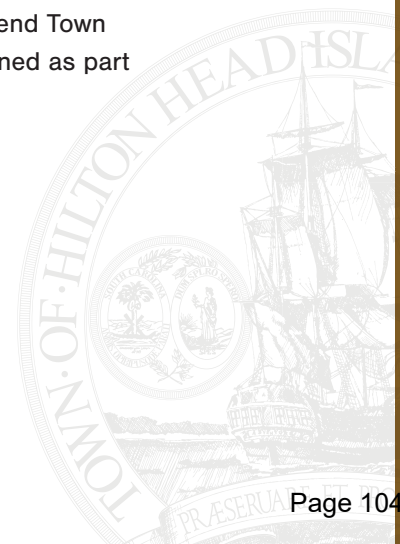
STRATEGY #9

Conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of Hilton Head Island Solid Waste and Recycling

FOCUS AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Town's Our Plan document lays out several goals related to increasing capacity for processing recyclable materials and ensuring the long-term viability of solid waste disposal for the Island. To achieve these objectives, the Town will need to work in coordination with Beaufort County as the agency responsible for household waste streams disposal for the entire county and jointly pursue opportunities that improve recycling and composting rates.

- ❑ 9.1 Engage experts in the field of solid waste to assist the Town in performing a SWOT analysis.
- ❑ 9.2 Pursue promotional and educational efforts to foster recycling, composting, and litter control.
- ❑ 9.3 Engage in dialogue with Beaufort County regarding their long-range solid waste disposal and recycle programs. If they undertake revisions or updates to their long-range plans, actively participate in such discussions in order to represent the goals of the Island in these plans.
- ❑ 9.4 Propose discussions with Beaufort County regarding the potential creation of an off-Island materials processing center that would facilitate increased recycling rates from within the Town and the greater region.
- ❑ 9.5 Examine the creation of composting models at highly visible sites around the Town.
- ❑ 9.6 Evaluate the need to amend Town Code utilizing data obtained as part of the SWOT analysis.





RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, THREATS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

DRAFT March 2024

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1 Background

1.1 Description of the Area

The Town of Hilton Head Island (Town), in Beaufort County, covers 42 square miles on a barrier island off the southeast corner of South Carolina. According to the Town's 2020 to 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Hilton Head Island is home to an estimated 40,000 people on a permanent, full-time basis. However, due to the Town's tourism-based economy, a large population of second homeowners, and influx of seasonal workers and visitors, keeps the population count in daily fluctuations.¹

1.2 South Carolina Waste Reduction and Recycling Goals

The South Carolina Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (S.C. Code of Laws 44-96-80) governs solid waste management in the State. This law established statewide waste reduction and recycling goals which have since been updated.

Currently, the state of South Carolina has a goal to recycle at least 50 percent of municipal solid waste (MSW) generated statewide by 2030 and to dispose of no more than 3.25 pounds per person per day by 2030. Each year, the counties in the State are required to report progress toward these goals. According to the South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report for FY22, Beaufort County's MSW recycling rate was 14.58 percent and the County's disposal rate was 4.37 pounds per person per day in FY22.² No data is available to determine the recycling or disposal rate specifically for the Town.



1.3 Solid Waste Management in Beaufort County

Section 44-96-80(J) of South Carolina's Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 gives the governing body of each county the responsibility and authority to provide for the management of solid waste within its borders. Chapter 62 of Beaufort County Code of Ordinances gives the County the authority to:

- establish and organize the County's solid waste and recycling facilities as necessary for useful and efficient operation;
- establish necessary procedures, policies, and guidelines for the use of the county's solid waste and recycling facilities; and

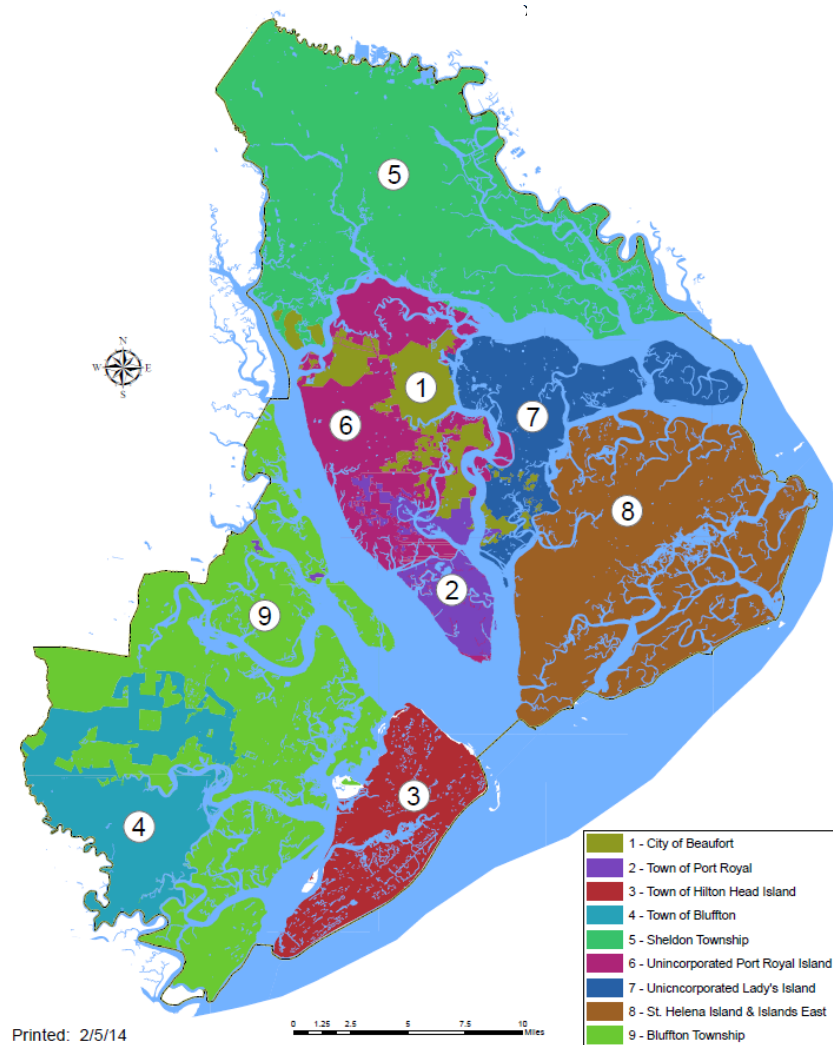
¹ Our Plan, 2020 to 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, Adopted October 2020

² South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022

- to recommend appropriate fee and rate schedules for consideration and approval by County Council.

The County is organized into nine solid waste districts with the Town of Hilton Head Island, including Jenkins and Pinckney Islands, comprising Solid Waste District 3 (see Figure 1-1). A Solid Waste and Recycling Board, with one member from each solid waste district, advises the County Council and staff in determining appropriate levels of public solid waste management services for residential, commercial, and industrial taxpayers and for governmental entities within the county.

Figure 1-1 Map of Beaufort County Solid Waste Districts



Another provision of the South Carolina Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 requires counties (or multi-county regions) to prepare and submit a solid waste management plan that identifies they will reduce and manage solid waste over the next 20 years. Beaufort

County's current Solid Waste Management Plan covers the years from 2022 through 2041 and includes the Town of Hilton Head Island and the other three municipalities in the County.³The goals and strategies in Beaufort County's most recent Solid Waste Management Plan are shown in Table 1-1.

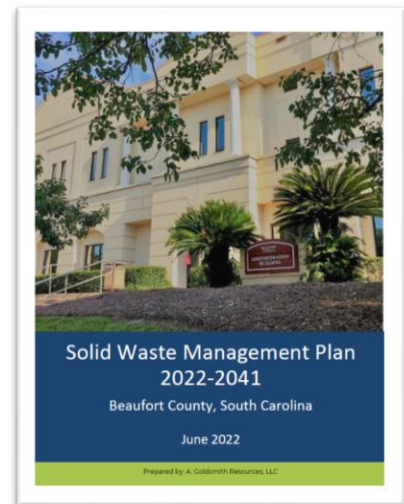
Table 1-1 Goals and Strategies in Beaufort County Solid Waste Management Plan

Goals	Strategies
Goal 1: Progress towards State MSW disposal and recycling goals	Strategy 1.1: Ensure convenient collection of recyclables from all residents. Strategy 1.2: Expand collection of recyclables from non-residential generators. Strategy 1.3: Contract for processing and marketing of recyclables collected through County programs. Strategy 1.4: <i>Process and market recyclables at new materials recycling facility.</i> Strategy 1.5: Educate residents, businesses, institutions, and visitors about opportunities to reduce waste and recycle.
Goal 2: Divert items banned from landfill	Strategy 2.1: <i>Divert organics.</i> Strategy 2.2: Divert household hazardous waste, e-waste, and other banned and hard-to-recycle materials from disposal.
Goal 3: Secure disposal capacity	Strategy 3.1: Continue to dispose of collected Class 3 solid waste at Hickory Hill. Strategy 3.2: Develop and operate transfer station.
Goal 4: Transition to curbside collection for residents	Strategy 4.1: Shift to curbside collection in more densely populated areas. Strategy 4.2: Optimize the number and operation of convenience centers. Strategy 4.3: Engage and inform residents of their collection options.
Goal 5: Consider user fees for funding certain activities	Strategy 5.1: Ensure funds are available to cover capital costs. Strategy 5.2: Consider user fees to cover some solid waste management services and facilities.
Source: Solid Waste Management Plan, 2022-2041, Beaufort County, South Carolina, June 2022	

³ Solid Waste Management Plan 2022-2041, Beaufort County, South Carolina. Prepared by A. Goldsmith Resources, LLC. Adopted June 2022

The County's Solid Waste Management Plan identifies actions to achieve these goals and implement these strategies. Some of the actions most relevant to the future of recycling and solid waste management in the Town of Hilton Head Island are listed below.

- Require residential haulers to offer recycling to their customers.
- Incorporate collection of recyclables in future residential solid waste collection contracts.
- Encourage businesses, institutions, and other non-residential generators to recycle and provide support needed.
- Maintain and update information on websites and social media, newsletters, and other printed materials.
- Make presentations to students, civic groups, and at events about the reasons and opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycling.
- Work with collection contractors to update customers on recycling and solid waste services provided.
- Evaluate the potential to contract for residential curbside collection in the Town of Hilton Head Island and implement if feasible.

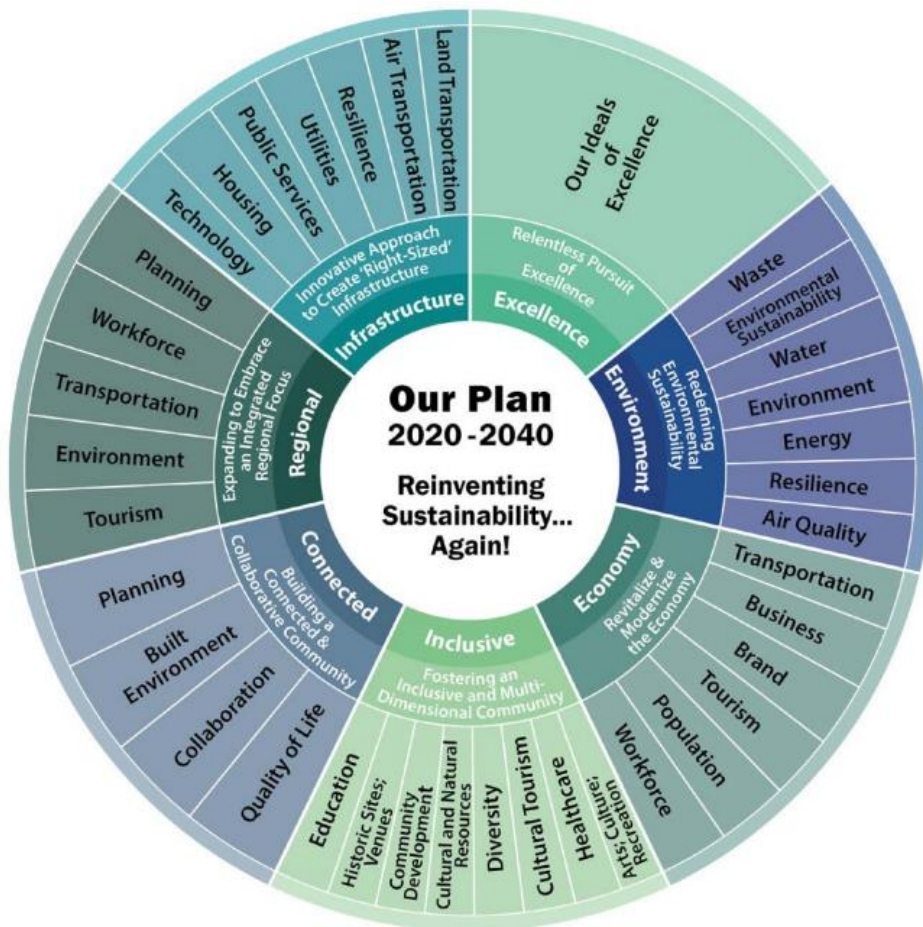


1.4 Waste Management in the Town's Comprehensive Plan

The Vision for 2020 to 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Hilton Head Island, referred to as "*Our Plan*", is "Reinventing Sustainability ... Again!."⁴ One of the core values in that Vision is "Environment" which includes waste as one of seven elements, as shown in Figure 1-2.

⁴ Our Plan, 2020 to 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, Adopted October 2020

Figure 1-2 Core Values in *Our Plan*



Source: 2020 to 2040 Comprehensive Plan for Town of Hilton Head Island, Figure 3.1

The Town’s strategy for waste, identified in *Our Plan*, is “To work toward a Town-wide zero waste model,” using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s definition of a zero waste as follows:

“Zero Waste” encompasses waste eliminated at the source through product design and producer responsibility, and waste reduction strategies further down the supply chain such as recycling, reuse, and composting.”

The actions in Table 1-2 are included under this strategy in *Our Plan*.

Table 1-2 Actions to Achieve the Town’s Goal “To Work Toward A Town-Wide Zero Waste Model”

Number	Action
1.1	Examine waste collection options that take into account the unique aspects of the Island and maximize efficient collection.
1.2	Explore methods to improve recycling and composting rates.
1.3	Encourage Beaufort County to create an off-island materials processing center and work with County leaders to identify long-term disposal and recycling capabilities for on and off island facilities, and within the region.
1.4	Pursue promotional and education efforts to foster recycling, composting, and litter control.
1.4.1	Facilitate composting models at highly visible sites, such as schools and Town facilities.
1.4.2	Pursue new ways to disseminate information on waste and recycling to residents and visitors.
1.4.3	Promote Beaufort County’s recycling and litter control programs.
1.4.4	Incorporate initiatives to reuse and up-cycle trash for art programs or with local artists.
<i>Source: 2020 to 2040 Comprehensive Plan for Town of Hilton Head Island, Chapter 2, Section 3.0.</i>	

1.5 The “SWOT” Analysis

The Town’s Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2025 prioritizes its top initiatives for the next couple of years.⁵ One of the top 15 strategies is to “Conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis of Hilton Head Island Solid Waste and Recycling”. This report presents the results of the that analysis. It goes a step further to present options for future solid waste management and recycling that address the findings of the SWOT.

This report is organized as follows:

- Section 1 is the background for this report including a brief description of the Town’s geography and demographics and the role and goals of the State, County and Town in solid waste management;
- Section 2 describes the current recycling and solid waste management system in Hilton Head Island;
- Section 3 presents the findings of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats analysis of recycling and solid waste management in the Town of Hilton Head Island;
- Section 4 identifies options for capitalizing on the strengths and opportunities and addressing the weaknesses and threats associated with recycling and solid waste management in the Town; and
- Section 5 provides overarching conclusions of the analysis and suggests next steps to achieve the Town’s goals.

⁵ Town of Hilton Head Island Strategic Action Plan 2023-2025. Adopted June 6, 2023.

2 Recycling and Solid Waste Management Today

2.1 Residential Curbside Collection

The Town of Hilton Head Island does not provide solid waste collection services directly to its residents. Residents can make arrangements with a waste hauler licensed by the Town for collection of solid waste and recyclables. In some communities, property owner associations make these arrangements on behalf of their residents.

Waste haulers licensed by the Town are required by Sec. 9-6-20 of the municipal code to provide “single-stream recycling collection service to all residential dwellings that they service at least once per week with no additional fee associated for this service”. Sec. 9-6-30 of the municipal code describes the materials that waste haulers must collect, at a minimum, as follows.

- Newspapers, newspaper inserts, cardboard, pizza boxes, magazines, catalogs, phone books, residential mail, junk mail, office paper, paper bags, box board, cereal cartons, beverage cartons, gift wrapping paper, shredded office paper.
- All closed-mouth plastic bottles, #1 through #7 household plastics (no styrofoam).
- Glass containers of any color.
- Milk/juice cartons and aseptic containers.
- Aluminum cans, other aluminum, aluminum foil, steel cans, tin cans, aerosol cans, and other small household scrap metal.

Residents are not required to participate in the recycling program. However, Sec. 9-6-40 of the municipal code prohibits residents from contaminating recyclables by placing any materials other than those collected by the waste hauler in the recyclable material receptacle provided for this purpose. The waste hauler is authorized to leave behind contaminated loads of recyclables and leave a notice for the resident explaining why the recyclables were not acceptable.

Sec. 9-6-20 (d) of the Town’s municipal code requires waste haulers to submit semi-annual reports on solid waste and recycling activity by August 1 and February 1 each year that includes the following information for the previous six months.

- Waste hauler's fee schedules and frequency of pickup for residential and commercial recycling.
- Number of residential solid waste customers and the percent using the hauler's recycling service.
- Number of commercial solid waste customers and the percent that are using the hauler's recycling service.
- Tonnage of recycling from residential customers and tonnage of recycling from commercial customers.

The Town received reports in August 2022 after sending a letter reminding waste haulers of the reporting requirement and consequences for non-compliance. Based on these reports, six companies were licensed to collect and haul solid waste and recyclables on Hilton Head Island between January 1 and July 1, 2022, with four serving residential customers. These four haulers reported a total of 28,980 residential solid waste customers from which they collected 6,409 tons of MSW and 288 tons of recyclables in the first six months of 2023. This equates to a recycling rate of 4.3 percent for the residential customers served by private haulers.

Beaufort County also requires private haulers to submit reports, monthly and with information provided for each Solid Waste District⁶. In June 2023, two of the three haulers known to serve residential customers in Solid Waste District 3, which covers Hilton Head Island, had reported.

2.2 County Convenience Centers

Residents can also deliver their solid waste and recyclables to one of nine convenience centers operated by Beaufort County. The *Resident's Guide to Recycling & Waste Disposal in Beaufort County*, provides details on the convenience centers including location, hours, and materials accepted.⁷ Residents must display a decal to use the convenience centers and can deliver solid waste up to three times each week at no charge. The cost for operating the convenience centers, including the hauling and disposal of solid waste and the hauling and processing of recyclable materials collected at the convenience centers is paid for through a millage rate on the County property tax.



One of the convenience centers is located within the Town of Hilton Head Island at 26 Summit Drive, off Dillon Road. The County recorded 306,075 visits to this convenience center in FY22, up by 5 percent from the previous year. Table 2-1 shows the County's reported tonnage of solid waste and recyclables collected at the Hilton Head Island convenience center in the past two years. These tonnages reflect a 21.8 percent recycling rate in FY23.

⁶ The Town of Hilton Head Island comprises Beaufort County's Solid Waste District 3.

⁷ Available at <https://www.beaufortcountysc.gov/solid-waste-and-recycle/convenience-centers/index.html>,

Table 2-1 Tons Received at Hilton Head Island Convenience Center

	FY22	FY23
# Visits	306,075	N/A
MSW (Tons)	4,378	4,146
Recyclables (Tons)	1,179	1,158
<i>Source: Beaufort County</i>		

It should be noted that County residents with a decal can use any convenience center in the County. Thus, residents from outside the Town may use the Hilton Head Island Convenience Center and residents of the Town may use other convenience centers so the visits and tonnages shown are not necessarily reflective of the center's usage by Town residents.

2.3 Commercial Collection

Commercial establishments, including multi-family residential buildings that use dumpsters (according to Town code) are required to contract with a private company for collection and disposal of solid waste. Waste haulers are not required to collect recyclables from commercial establishments, nor are businesses required to recycle.

As described in Section 2.1, waste haulers licensed by the Town must report semi-annually on the number of commercial customers and the tons of solid waste and recyclables collected. For the period from January 1 to July 1, 2022, all six licensed private haulers reported serving a total of 59,850 commercial customers with one hauler serving 99.5 percent of these. These haulers reported collecting a total of 4,682 tons of solid waste and 1,288 tons of recyclables in the first six months of 2023. However, one of the reporting waste haulers provided no tonnage information.

2.4 Collection from Town Facilities

The Town of Hilton Head Island contracts for collection of solid waste and recyclables from its facilities, parks, and beaches. Town buildings and parks are serviced by a licensed waste hauler. Collection of solid waste and recyclables from Town beaches, however, is incorporated into a franchise agreement for Beach Patrol Services, a five-year agreement that expires June 30, 2024.

2.5 Processing and Marketing of Recyclables

Beaufort County has a contract with a company to process recyclables collected at convenience centers. However, waste haulers collecting recyclables from residents and businesses in Hilton Head Island must pay any fees charged by the recyclable processing facility where it delivers collected materials.

2.6 Disposal

Solid waste collected from residents of Hilton Head Island, both by waste haulers and at the convenience centers, is delivered to the Hickory Hill landfill in Jasper County. Beaufort County has a contract with the landfill operator for disposal of all residential solid waste collected throughout Beaufort County, including that collected in the Town of Hilton Head Island. Waste haulers that collect solid waste from commercial generators in Hilton Head Island pay the landfill or transfer station the disposal fee directly. Beaufort County only contracts for disposal of solid waste collected from residents from the County.

The Hickory Hill landfill is the closest landfill to Hilton Head Island. According to South Carolina's Solid Waste Management Annual Report of FY22, the Hickory Hill landfill will reach its currently permitted capacity in FY26 (based on the permitted disposal rate of 302,000 tons per year). The private company that operates the landfill has applied for a permit to expand. However, according to conversations with permitting staff at the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) at the end of 2023, the application for a landfill expansion permit was still under review.

3 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

3.1 Strengths

Support for Waste Reduction and Recycling

Town officials and the public have demonstrated support for waste reduction, recycling, and integrated solid waste management. As described in Section 1, the Town's Comprehensive Plan, *Our Plan*, has a goal to “Work toward a Town-wide zero waste model” and the Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2025 identifies near-term actions to meet this goal. In addition, the Town Council has passed several resolutions supporting waste reduction, recycling, and integrated solid waste management.

Provisions in Town Code Support Recycling

The municipal code of the Town of Hilton Head Island provides a solid foundation for residential recycling. Specifically, the provisions that 1) require licensed waste haulers to collect recyclables from residential customers weekly; 2) prohibit residents from putting non-recyclables into recycling receptacles; 3) allow private haulers to leave behind contaminated loads of recyclables with education information for violators; and 4) require comprehensive reporting requirements for waste haulers have the potential to encourage recycling, minimize contamination, and provide useful information to evaluate how the residential recycling and solid waste system is performing and areas for improvement.

County Convenience Centers

The County's convenience centers, including one located on Summit Drive on Hilton Head Island, provide residents with a convenient location to deliver solid waste and a wide range of recyclables, many of which are difficult to collect at the curb. Residents can use these convenience centers in addition to, or instead of, collection by private haulers at their residence. Because the County's convenience centers accept materials for recycling that are not accepted at the residence, and because they are open six days a week, they offer residents in the Town of Hilton Head Island more options for reducing and managing their waste.



County Disposal Contract

The County arranges for disposal of all solid waste collected from residents, whether collected at the convenience centers or at residences by waste haulers. The County pays the landfill operator directly for disposal of residential solid waste from a millage on the County property

tax which also covers operation of the convenience centers and public education activities. Because the County arranges for disposal of solid waste generated by residents of the Town of Hilton Head Island, the Town can focus on waste reduction, recycling, and public education.

3.2 Weaknesses

Limited Control Over Solid Waste Management

Although the Town of Hilton Head Island has established goals to reduce, recycle, and otherwise manage solid waste, it has limited ability to achieve these goals under the current solid waste management system. Residents have the option to make arrangements with waste haulers to collect solid waste and recyclables but are not required to do so. Businesses are required by ordinance to make arrangements with private haulers for solid waste, but not recyclable, collection. Because the Town does not provide collection, disposal, or recycling services, its main ability to achieve goals is through outreach and education and enforcement of provisions in the municipal code.

Variation in Residential Collection Services

Unlike the other three municipalities in the County, the Town of Hilton Head Island does not require residential property owners to arrange for solid waste and recyclable collection. They can choose to deliver solid waste and recyclables to a County convenience center or elsewhere, potentially delivering waste to a workplace, another residence, or a public location.

For those residential properties that have arranged for collection with a waste hauler, the level of service, type of containers, set-out location, collection day, or materials collected for recycling may vary depending on the hauler and the neighborhood requirements. A single street may be served by multiple waste haulers, leading to increased truck traffic in a neighborhood. Different waste haulers may approach improperly set out solid waste or contaminated recyclables in diverse ways, making it difficult for the Town to educate the residents on how to reduce, recycle, and properly dispose of what remains.

Inconsistent Hauler Compliance with Requirements

The Town's ability to achieve its goals is primarily through provisions in the municipal code. However, currently, it is challenging to ensure all private haulers are complying with requirements to offer all residential customers recycling, recycle the materials they collect, and identify and leave behind contaminated loads with information for residents. In addition, private haulers are not consistently complying with the Town's reporting requirements. Without consistent and comprehensive reports from all licensed private haulers, it is impossible to determine progress toward goals, including estimating recycling or disposal rates.

Recyclables Identified in the Municipal Code

Although some provisions in the Town code were identified as a strength in the Town's recycling and solid waste management system, there are a couple of provisions that could be modified to strengthen recycling and solid waste management. The ordinance specifically lists recyclables that must be collected from residents by waste haulers. However, as shown in Table 3-1, this list is not aligned with those accepted at the convenience center or possibly, with those accepted by the recycling facility accepting materials from waste haulers.

Table 3-1 Recyclable Materials Listed in Town Ordinance vs Collected at County Convenience Centers

Town Ordinance (Sec. 9-6-30)	County Convenience Centers
Cardboard	Corrugated cardboard
Newspapers, newspaper inserts, cardboard, pizza boxes, magazines, catalogs, phone books, residential mail, junk mail, office paper, paper bags, box board, cereal cartons, beverage cartons, gift wrapping paper, shredded office paper	Mixed paper: junk mail, newspaper, magazines, phone books, office paper, cereal boxes, soda boxes and shoeboxes, or any paper that doesn't fall into the category of corrugated cardboard
All closed-mouth plastic bottles, #1 through #7 household plastics (no styrofoam)	Plastics #1 and #2: Plastic bottles, jugs, and jars
Glass containers of any color	Glass bottles and jars: Clear, brown & green glass
Milk/juice cartons and aseptic containers	
Aluminum cans, other aluminum, aluminum foil, steel cans, tin cans, aerosol cans, and other small household scrap metal	Metal food and beverage cans: Aluminum, tin, & steel cans

Section 9-6-40 (f) of the municipal code requires waste haulers to deliver residential recyclables to a processing facility approved by the Town. However, it appears that to date no facility has been approved by the Town.

Financial Disincentives for Haulers to Recycle

The Town requires licensed waste haulers to collect recyclables from residential customers each week but prohibits them from charging an additional fee for this service. Beaufort County pays for disposal of solid waste collected from residents, but the private hauler pays for recyclables delivered to a processing facility. As a result, it can cost a hauler significantly more to recycle, rather than dispose of, collected materials. This can present a significant financial disincentive for the private hauler to maximize the tons recycled from their residential customers.

Town Beach Collection Contracts

In recent years, solid waste and recyclable collection from Town beaches have been provided under a beach patrol contract (and secondarily a turtle protection contract) rather than a dedicated solid waste and recycling company. Exhibit 1 to the Beach Patrol franchise agreement states that "The primary purpose of the Beach Patrol is to protect the safety of beachgoers in their use of the beaches and ocean waters of the Town and to render assistance

to those in need of assistance”. However, the billable beach patrol services also include providing and maintaining 32-gallon containers for beachgoers to deposit trash and recyclables; encouraging beachgoers to use the containers provided; maintaining Town trash corral structures at beach access points; monitoring and emptying trash and recycling containers; and scheduling and monitoring collection of dumpsters with trash and recyclables. This approach has the potential to minimize the focus on waste reduction, recycling, litter prevention, and solid waste collection on the beaches, one of the most visible venues for visitors and residents alike.

Lack of Dedicated Staff and Funding

Currently, recycling and solid waste initiatives in the Town of Hilton Head Island are overseen by the Public Projects and Facilities Department, which also oversees facilities maintenance, public projects, public services, stormwater management, and transportation. The Town has no staff or budget designated specifically for recycling and solid waste management, which will make it difficult to achieve its goals.

3.3 Opportunities

Proposed County Recycling Facility

Beaufort County has included the development of a processing facility for recyclables in its Solid Waste Management Plan. The County has been exploring potential sites located south of Broad Creek for this facility which could receive recyclables collected in curbside programs as well as at convenience centers. A County recycling facility south of Broad Creek would offer waste haulers in the Town of Hilton Head Island a more convenient location for processing and marketing recyclables collected within its jurisdiction.

Local Models for Residential Collection Agreements

Should the Town of Hilton Head Island pursue additional oversight of residential collection, it has several examples of how to proceed. The Town itself contracted for residential collection in 2010 and can apply lessons learned from that experience. As part of Beaufort County pursuing its stated goal to transition to curbside collection for residents, it issued a Request for Proposals for these services in 2018 that can be used as a model. Lastly, the other three municipalities in the County – Beaufort, Bluffton, and Port Royal – all have contracts for residential collection with private haulers that could serve as a model for how to proceed.

Commercial Waste Reduction and Recycling

According to *Our Plan*, Hilton Head Island businesses employed 23,471 people in 2017, many of these in industries such as accommodations and food services, retail trade, and administration. These industries often generate relatively clean, recyclable (or compostable) material compared to residential generators. Some of these businesses have made environmental commitments and plans to achieve them that often include waste reduction and recycling. For example, Marriott International, Inc., with several locations in the Town, has a goal to reduce waste sent to landfills by 45 percent and food waste by 50 percent from a 2016 baseline. Walmart, with a supercenter on-island, has a goal to send zero waste to landfill and incineration in its U.S., Canada, and Mexico operations by 2025 and to reduce operational food waste by 50 percent between 2016 and 2030. The abundance of commercial establishments on Hilton Head Island and the commitment and experience that some have with waste diversion, recycling, and composting, present an opportunity for the Town to progress towards its zero waste goals.

Solid Waste and Recycling at Town Beaches

The Town has an opportunity to serve as a model of best-in-class recycling and solid waste management at its own facilities. In recognition of this opportunity, the Town is soliciting proposals for solid waste and recyclable collection services from beaches and other Town-owned properties with a long-term goal to increase recycling rates and decrease contamination of recyclables.

Existing Resources for Education and Technical Assistance

Beaufort County, the State of South Carolina, and trade associations and organizations have free educational and technical resources to promote waste reduction, recycling, and other approaches to solid waste management. Beaufort County's website describes how to recycle or dispose of many materials that a resident or business in Beaufort County generates using a digital guide, videos, and clickable icons. The site contains detailed information about convenience center locations and hours, and special collection events for electronics and household hazardous waste. County staff provide presentations in schools and host events and competitions to promote waste reduction and recycling throughout the year.⁸



⁸ Go to <https://www.beaufortcountysc.gov/solid-waste-and-recycle/> to access County solid waste and recycling information and resources.

DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling's website has extensive education and outreach materials available for local governments to use, specific to homes, businesses, and schools. This includes lesson plans for schoolchildren, business recycling guides, dozens of posters, activity and coloring books, and public service announcements, including many that can be customized for local government programs.⁹

Finally, local governments can utilize education and outreach resources offered by the recycling industry and by not-for-profit organizations. For example, The Recycling Partnership provides research, reports, educational materials, and grants to help local governments expand curbside recycling programs, fight contamination in recyclables, and institute multifamily recycling.¹⁰



These resources provide an opportunity to expand the education, information, and technical support available to residents, visitors, school children, and businesses of the Town, at little to no cost.

Grants

The Town of Hilton Head Island is eligible to apply for grants from the DHEC to support waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste management activities. Table 3-2 presents grant funding available from DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling.¹¹ The Office also allocates grant funds to South Carolina public and private colleges and universities that promote sustainability through recycling, reuse, composting, and waste reduction.

Other organizations, including trade organizations representing the solid waste and recycling industry or manufacturers of packaging or other materials, award grants to local governments to initiate or enhance recycling programs. For example, The Recycling Partnership awards grants to local governments to purchase curbside recycling carts, for multifamily recycling programs, and for drop-off programs.¹² The organization also has a grant program for public or private Material Recovery Facilities.

⁹ Go to <https://scdhec.gov/index.php/environment/recycling-waste-reduction> to access DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling's extensive technical assistance, education, and outreach materials.

¹⁰ www.recyclingpartnership.org

¹¹ Information about DHEC's Waste Reduction and Recycling grants can be found at <https://scdhec.gov/environment/recycling-waste-reduction/local-government-recycling/grant-funding-local-governments>

¹² Information about grants offered by The Recycling Partnership can be found at <https://recyclingpartnership.org/grants>

Table 3-2 DHEC Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Grant Programs

Name	Cycle	Eligibility	Amount	Scope
Solid Waste Grant Program	Annual	Counties, cities, towns, or regions within South Carolina that provide solid waste services.	Competitive	Projects that can demonstrate a positive impact on a local government's efforts to reach their recycling and waste reduction goals.
Used Motor Oil Grant Program	Annual	Counties, cities, towns, or regions within South Carolina that provide solid waste services.	Competitive	Establishment, expansion, and continued operation of used motor oil collection programs for do-it-yourselfer oil changers. This is to include equipment and programs related to the collection of used motor oil, oil filters, oil bottles and oil/gasoline mixtures.
Waste Tire Grant Program	Annual with mid-year application for stockpile remediation	Counties, cities, towns, or regions within South Carolina that provide solid waste services.	Competitive	Collection and recycling of waste tires as well as remediation of waste tire dump sites.

3.4 Threats

Ever-Changing Population

With a 2018 population of 39,639 and over 2.6 million visitors in the same year¹³, the Town of Hilton Head Island faces unique challenges to accomplish its waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste management goals. To be effective, waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste collection programs must be designed to reach visitors, in addition to residents, wherever they are - in hotels, rental homes, or on the beach. Outreach and educational programs must be continuous and impactful to remind part-time residents of recycling and solid waste practices in the Town.

Vacant Properties

Another outcome of the high proportion of tourists and part-time residents on island at any given time is high vacancy rates in island housing, reported at nearly 50 percent¹⁴. This makes it challenging to maintain consistent recycling and solid waste management programs. Residential collection services are typically offered year-round and are not easy to start and

¹³ Our Plan, 2020 to 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, Adopted October 2020

¹⁴ Ibid

stop. However, property owners may resist paying for recycling and solid waste services full-time when their property is only occupied part-time. It also requires re-education of part-time residents and of visitors when they return to these properties.

Time Required to Travel On and Off-Island

Given the dearth of solid waste handling facilities on the island, solid waste and recyclable material generated on Hilton Head Island must be transported off the island for disposal and processing, respectively. The increased distance to transport collected waste and recyclables after collection increases costs for recycling and solid waste management.

Potential Impact of Climate Change

As described in *Our Plan*, “as a barrier island, Hilton Head Island is particularly sensitive to the effects of sea level rise, tropical storms, hurricanes, drought, and other environmental threats.” These threats have a potential impact on recycling and solid waste management in many ways. More intense storms generate large amounts of debris requiring collection and disposal, can interfere with regular collection operations, and limit access to transport solid waste and recyclables off-island to management facilities.

Limited Disposal Options

Currently, the Hickory Hill Landfill is the only solid waste handling facility within direct haul distance of Hilton Head Island. The landfill’s current permitted capacity is expected to be full in the next couple of years and DHEC is still reviewing its permit for expansion. There are no transfer stations within direct haul proximity to Hilton Head Island. Over the years, Beaufort County has considered a transfer station to increase available and affordable disposal options. However, to date, the County has been stymied in its efforts to site such a facility.

Convenience Center Constraints

The Beaufort County convenience center on Hilton Head Island was identified as a strength for the current recycling and solid waste management system. However, the lack of space and the configuration at the site, coupled with the increasing number of visitors each year, may challenge current operations, and make it difficult to add activities at the site. In addition, the Hilton Head Island convenience center is operated by Beaufort County. In its Solid Waste Management Plan, the County has established a goal to transition to curbside collection of residential solid waste. With no current agreement between the Town and the County regarding the operation and the future of the convenience center, the Town has limited control over how the site is used now and in the future.

Siting Constraints

Several of the threats identified above point to the key issue of the lack of sites for recycling and solid waste infrastructure on the island, or in southern Beaufort County generally. As an example, the County has been working for years to site a processing facility for recyclables south of Broad Creek. Limited space and high property values make it likely that the Town of Hilton Head Island will have to rely on regional facilities for at least some of its recycling and solid waste needs, potentially increasing costs.

Markets for Recyclables

To achieve the Town's goal to "work toward a Town-wide zero waste model," it is necessary to take into account challenges presented by recycling, many beyond the control of the Town. One of those challenges is the fluctuation in markets for recyclables, often tied with issues tied to international supply and demand. For example, when oil prices are down, the demand for recovered plastics, made from petroleum products, may also go down. Fluctuations in markets for recyclable materials may not only affect the price paid (or charged) to deliver recyclable material to a processor but processors willingness to accept materials. This is especially true when collected materials include even a small amount of contamination, or unacceptable materials. When markets for recyclables materials fall, processors are more likely to reject loads that require additional sorting and cleaning before being sold to end users.

Costs of Curbside Recycling

Recycling costs more than disposal in most cases. In a single stream curbside program, a second collection route is required, and materials must be delivered to a processing facility where they are sorted, baled, and shipped to market. All of these activities can be costly, usually more than the revenue received for the sale of material to end users. And in most solid waste and recycling systems, the savings in disposal, for example, the delay in expansion or siting of a new disposal facility, is typically not recognized.

Misinformation About Recycling

The misunderstanding surrounding recycling poses a threat to Hilton Head Island's ability to achieve goals. If the recycling public does not understand why reduction and recycling is important, what is and is not recyclable, and the negative consequences of contamination, they are less likely to participate correctly, thus reducing the positive potential of recycling and increasing costs. Additionally, if the public does not understand the true costs associated with recycling and how they can reduce those costs, expectations for recycling programs are not likely to be met.

4 Options for Future Recycling and Solid Waste Management

This Section of the report presents the options for recycling and solid waste management that aim to capitalize on the strengths and opportunities and mitigate the weaknesses and threats identified in Section 3. The highlighted boxes identify how the options align with strategies in *Our Plan*.

4.1 Residential Collection

Strengthen Enforcement of Provisions in Municipal Code

Ensuring that licensed private haulers offer weekly collection of recyclables to all their residential customers and inform those customers when recyclables are contaminated would help strengthen residential recycling programs. Consistent semiannual reports from private haulers, with all of the information listed in the code, would help the Town evaluate progress toward goals and identify what other options may be needed. Section 9-6-20 (c) of the municipal code provides sufficient oversight of waste hauler compliance (“the adequacy and reasonableness of the waste and recycling collection service shall be determined by the Town manager or designee through an annual review”) and an enforcement mechanism (“In accordance with Sec. 10-1-10 et al. of the Town code, the Town Manager or designee can suspend or revoke a waste haulers’ business license for non-compliance with any of these provisions.”) Designating staff to ensure waste haulers comply with ordinance requirements and conduct annual reviews for “adequacy and reasonableness” has the potential to strengthen residential recycling in Hilton Head Island.

Alignment with Strategies from *Our Plan*

- ✓ Examine waste collection options that take into account the unique aspects of the Island and maximize efficient collection.
- ✓ Explore methods to improve recycling and composting rates.
- ✓ Pursue promotional and educational efforts to foster recycling, composting, and litter control.

Revise Municipal Code Provisions

The Town may consider a couple of minor revisions to provisions in the municipal code regarding residential recycling. Rather than identify recyclables that waste haulers must collect in the municipal code, the Town could identify them in a list provided to haulers, possibly as part of the annual business license renewal process. This would provide a more flexible mechanism for updating recyclable materials to be collected if materials accepted by processors change. The Town would want to minimize the changes to materials collected in curbside recycling programs to avoid confusing waste haulers and residents. However, the Town would want to have the flexibility to update the recyclable materials list as markets

evolve and to reduce the possibility that waste haulers deliver materials that are considered contaminated by the recyclable processing facility.

The Town may also want to reevaluate the provision that requires waste haulers to deliver residential recyclables to a processing facility approved by the Town since it is unclear that the Town has designated such a processing facility. The Town could either play a larger role in identifying and approving processing facilities, clearly letting waste haulers know where collected recyclables can go, or it can require waste haulers to identify the processing facility where residential recyclables are delivered, and possibly require records from that facility, as part of the semiannual reporting process.

Contract for Residential Collection

If the Town determines that a more hands-on approach to residential collection is required to reach its recycling and solid waste management goals, it may consider entering into a contract with one or more waste haulers to collect recyclables and solid waste from residents, taking lessons from previous experience with collection contracts in 2010. Because many residents in the Town of Hilton Head Island receive recycling and solid waste collection services through an arrangement made by their property owner association (POA) and have unique set out and collection requirements, the Town could work with POAs to incorporate these arrangements into a Town-wide collection program.

Alignment with Strategies from *Our Plan*

- ✓ Examine waste collection options that take into account the unique aspects of the Island and maximize efficient collection.
- ✓ Explore methods to improve recycling and composting rates.

Ensuring that all residents have collection from a waste hauler is consistent with Beaufort County's goal to transition toward curbside collection for residents. Hilton Head Island should collaborate with Beaufort County to determine the best arrangement for contracting for residential collection. The Town may also want to explore the potential to collaborate with the Town of Bluffton on a future collection contract.

Contract for Processing Recyclables

Removing the financial disincentive for waste haulers to deliver residential recyclables to a recyclable processing facility, instead of the landfill, is likely to go a long way to improving recycling rates in the Town. If waste haulers could deliver recyclables to a processing facility at no charge, like they deliver solid waste to the landfill at no charge, the financial disincentive would be eliminated.

One way to do this is for Beaufort County and/or the Town to enter into an agreement with a recyclable processing facility to receive residential recyclables collected by private haulers and bill the County (or Town), as is the case with solid waste. Then, the Town could identify that facility as the "approved" processing facility referenced in the municipal code. If the Town

proceeds to contract with waste haulers for residential collection, it could stipulate that solid waste be delivered to the landfill under contract to the County and recyclables be delivered to the contracted processing facility.

Expand Activities at Convenience Center

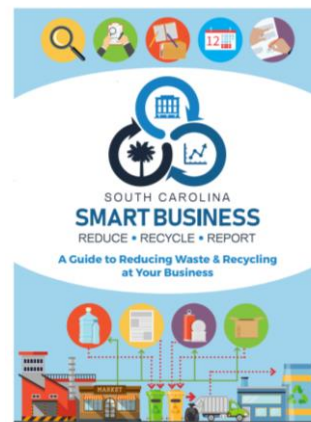
The County convenience centers were identified as a strength in the Town's recycling and solid waste management system. Such a visible resource, already associated with waste reduction and recycling, offers the potential to reduce waste and recycle even more and to serve as a venue for education and outreach. However, the potential to add activities at the Hilton Head Island convenience center is limited by its current size and configuration. The Town could work with the County to explore the potential to expand the site, adding waste reduction, recycling, and education activities, as part of the Capital Improvement Program for the area.

Alignment with Strategies from *Our Plan*

- ✓ Examine waste collection options that take into account the unique aspects of the Island and maximize efficient collection.
- ✓ Explore methods to improve recycling and composting rates.

4.2 Commercial Recycling

The potential reduction of waste from the commercial sector in Hilton Head Island was identified as an opportunity in the previous Section. However, the current scope of commercial recycling activity in the Town is not clear. A first step to determine how to improve reduction and recycling from the commercial sector in Hilton Head Island, is to survey local businesses, possibly through the Chamber of Commerce or other business associations, to determine what they are currently doing to reduce waste and recycle and what they need to achieve their environmental and business objectives as well as the Town's goals.



Expand Outreach, Education and Technical Assistance

It is likely that local businesses could benefit from technical assistance and education regarding waste reduction and recycling opportunities. The Smart Business Recycling Program, offered by DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling is an excellent starting point. This free and confidential program offers businesses in the state waste audits to identify waste reduction and recycling potential, education and outreach materials for employees and customers, training sessions, reporting tools, and recognition through an

Alignment with Strategies from *Our Plan*

- ✓ Pursue promotional and educational efforts to foster recycling, composting, and litter control.

awards program.¹⁵ The Town can help businesses access these materials and fill in the gaps with other technical assistance and educational resources as needed.

Require Haulers to Offer Commercial Recycling

Currently, the Town does not require licensed waste haulers to offer recycling services to their commercial customers like they do for residential customers. The Town could update its ordinance to require licensed waste haulers to offer recycling services to all their customers. The designated recyclables for commercial customers may be different than those for residential customers, possibly limited to cardboard and possibly office paper.

Require Businesses to Recycle

Unlike residential properties, commercial establishments in Hilton Head Island are required to contract for waste collection services. The Town could require them to arrange for the collection of designated recyclables as well. Some communities require businesses of a certain size to recycle specific materials. For example, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina requires businesses that contract for 16 cubic yards or greater of municipal solid waste collection service per week to recycle corrugated cardboard and office paper. The City of Atlanta requires multi-family property owners (classified as commercial establishments in Hilton Head Island for solid waste management purposes) to secure and manage contracts for recycling service and provide clearly marked collection bins for recycling.

Alignment with Strategies from *Our Plan*

- ✓ Examine waste collection options that take into account the unique aspects of the Island and maximize efficient collection.
- ✓ Explore methods to improve recycling and composting rates.

With either of these regulatory approaches to require recycling (placed on licensed waste haulers or on businesses), these ordinance provisions would only be effective in reducing solid waste if consistently enforced. As with residential recycling provisions, they would be even more effective if the Town could eliminate the financial disincentive to recycle, possibly by offering a convenient and cost-effective processing location for collected materials.

¹⁵ Resources available at <https://scdhec.gov/environment/recycling-waste-reduction/smart-business-recycling-program>

Arrange Drop-Off Sites for Commercial Recyclables

The Town could arrange centralized drop-off points for cardboard and other commercially generated recyclables in commercial or tourist areas. The Town could do this in collaboration with the County, which established a pilot drop-off program for cardboard in FY22. Other partners for managing commercial drop-off locations may include businesses or commercial property owners or POAs (e.g., Sea Pines already offers a recycling center in its commercial district). They could also be located at Town facilities. In any case, such sites would need to be monitored and managed, to ensure they did not become unsightly. The Town (or the County as part of their current commercial drop-off program) would need to contract for emptying, transport, and processing of recyclables, possibly as part of its recycling contract at Town facilities.

Alignment with Strategies from *Our Plan*

- ✓ Examine waste collection options that take into account the unique aspects of the Island and maximize efficient collection.
- ✓ Explore methods to improve recycling and composting rates.

Facilitate Multi-Business Collection Routes for Recyclables

Hilton Head Island could also facilitate at-the-source collection of recyclables for businesses, which would be more convenient, but likely more costly, than centralized drop-off points. Many local governments that provide commercial solid waste collection, such as Charleston County and the City of Columbia, also collect recyclables from these clients. However, since the Town does not offer commercial solid waste collection, it may facilitate these arrangements between groups of business and a contractor.

4.3 Organics Diversion

Expand Outreach, Education, and Technical Assistance

Organic materials make up a substantial portion of solid waste generated by residents and businesses and the hospitality industry, a significant contributor to the Town's economy, can be a big contributor. As with recycling, the Town may want to survey local businesses to understand current diversion programs and assess what the Town could offer to meet business objectives and contribute to the Town's waste reduction goal.

The easiest first step is always to take advantage of existing resources to encourage reduction and recycling and as with recycling, there are many existing resources available to help increase diversion of organics from Town residents and businesses. Beaufort County offers residents home composting bins and

Alignment with Strategies from *Our Plan*

- ✓ Explore methods to improve recycling and composting rates.
- ✓ Pursue promotional and educational efforts to foster recycling, composting, and litter control.

provides an instructional video, an expert composter training program, and links to related resources.¹⁶

The DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling has a guide to home composting and one to help businesses reduce food waste as part of the Office's Smart Business Program.



Establish Composting Demonstration Sites

The Town could establish small demonstration compost sites in conjunction with other organizations that might manage the site. Such sites could be used for outreach and education for both the partners managing the sites and visitors. Potential locations for compost demonstration sites include Town parks and facilities; schools, in conjunction with staff and students; in neighborhoods, in conjunction in POAs; and at community gardens.

Facilitate Commercial Scale Composting

Although waste reduction and reuse (e.g., food donations, etc.) and home composting can make a dent in the organic waste disposed, a commercial scale composting facility would likely be needed to divert organics on a large-scale basis. According to DHEC's FY22 annual report, there were two permitted composting and wood grinding facilities in Beaufort County, both in Hilton Head Island: ArborNature Composting and Wood Chipping Facility, located on Summit Drive, and Sea Pines Wood Chipping Facility. Both of these facilities are classified as Type 1 compost facilities, meaning that they can accept yard trimmings, land-clearing debris, and wood but not food residuals and other organics. Siting and permitting a facility that could accept a broader range of materials, to include food residuals, would be a significant undertaking. Charleston County has a Type 2 composting facility that processes nearly 75,000 tons per year, including all yard waste

Alignment with Strategies from *Our Plan*

- ✓ Explore methods to improve recycling and composting rates.

¹⁶ <https://www.beaufortcountysc.gov/solid-waste-and-recycle/recycle-and-compost/compost.html>.

collected at the curb and commercial food waste from participating local restaurants, grocery stores, and schools. This facility is operated by a private contractor and is located at the County landfill, a resource not available to the Town or to Beaufort County.¹⁷

4.4 Recycling at Town Facilities, Beaches, Parks, and Events

Operate Model Recycling Programs at all Town Facilities

The Town could set an example for residents, businesses, and visitors with highly visible model recycling programs at all Town facilities. Contracts for recycling at Town facilities can continue to be included as part of solid waste collection contracts or as a separate contract with a recycling company. In either case, contracts need to specify the materials that will be collected, what constitutes contamination, and the recyclable processing facility where collected materials will be delivered. Contractors should be required to report the amount and type of material collected each month that the Town could use in promotional material. For an office recycling program to be successful requires ongoing education of employees, citizens, and visitors. Staff dedicated to managing and monitoring the Town's recycling program, and educating participants on an ongoing basis is necessary for the program's success.

Alignment with Strategies from *Our Plan*

- ✓ Examine waste collection options that take into account the unique aspects of the Island and maximize efficient collection.
- ✓ Explore methods to improve recycling and composting rates.
- ✓ Pursue promotional and educational efforts to foster recycling, composting, and litter control.

Contract for Best-in-Class Recycling at Beaches and Parks

The Town is capitalizing on the opportunity to improve recycling at Town parks and beaches by soliciting proposals for best-in-class solid waste and recyclable collection services from beaches and other Town-owned properties. The final contracts should focus on increasing recycling, minimizing contamination, preventing litter, educating residents and visitors, and requiring comprehensive reports adequate to measure performance, including recycling rates.

Require Recycling at Special Events

The Town may also consider requiring a plan for recycling as a condition of issuing a special event permit. The Town could require the permittee to arrange for the recycling of certain materials, possibly in conjunction with its solid waste collection and disposal arrangements.

¹⁷www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/environmental-management/compost-commercial-info.php

Alternatively, Hilton Head Island could contract with a service provider, possibly the contractor proving recycling at Town parks and beaches, to provide recycling at special events.

4.5 Transfer and Disposal

Support County's Efforts to Develop Sustainable Disposal Options

Although the County arranges for disposal of residential waste generated on the island and waste haulers arrange for disposal of commercial waste, it is in the Town's best interest to help ensure a guaranteed long-term, convenient, and cost-effective option is available. To do this, Hilton Head Island should monitor the status of the County's contract with Hickory Hill and the status of the landfill operator's expansion permit application. The Town should also support the County's efforts to develop alternatives to the one disposal option available. Currently, the most viable option for the County is to develop or contract for the development of transfer station in the southern portion of the County, which would provide residents and businesses on the island more sustainable disposal options for the long-term.

Alignment with Strategies from *Our Plan*

- ✓ Examine waste collection options that take into account the unique aspects of the Island and maximize efficient collection.
- ✓ Encourage Beaufort County to create an off-Island materials processing center and work with County leaders to identify long-term waste disposal and recycling capabilities for on and off island facilities, and within the region.

4.6 Education and Outreach

Capitalize on Existing Resources

Previous sections of this report have referenced technical and educational resources available to the Town from the County, the State, and trade associations and organizations. The Town should draw on these resources to meet its specific requirements. To be successful, outreach and education to such a broad and ever-changing audience needs to be an ongoing effort. Thus, the Town should dedicate staff to continually educate and assist residents, businesses, citizens, and employees to participate in waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste management programs in a way that achieves recycling and waste management goals.

Alignment with Strategies from *Our Plan*

- ✓ Explore methods to improve recycling and composting rates.
- ✓ Pursue promotional and educational efforts to foster recycling, composting, and litter control.

Require Waste Haulers to Disseminate Educational Materials

The Town code requires waste haulers to affix a Town-approved sticker or tag to nonconforming recyclables stating the reason for not collecting a contaminated receptacle of

recyclables. This is one effective approach to educating residents about recycling when enforced. However, given their regular contact with residential and commercial generators, waste haulers can be an avenue to encourage customers to participate in recycling programs and educate them on how, when, and what to recycle. To make sure the message that residents and businesses receive about waste reduction and recycling is consistent, the Town may want to provide educational materials to waste haulers for distribution. The Town may need to update its code to include periodic distribution of these materials as a condition of a waste hauler's business license. If the Town proceeds with contracting for collection services, distribution of educational materials provided by the Town can be included as a term of the contract.

4.7 Staff and Funding

No matter which options are selected, the Town will need to commit additional staff to plan, implement, and operate them. Once the options are selected, the Town could draft job descriptions for staff best suited to implement them. For example, if the Town chooses to start by reviewing, modifying, and disseminating education on recycling to residents, businesses, and visitors, a job description may include experience in public relations or education.

The Town will need to dedicate funds for staff and other costs associated with implementing the options selected. The cost for some of these options could be significant so a consistent funding source is critical to success. Local governments elsewhere fund recycling and solid waste management activities with sources such as general revenue, user fees, franchise fees, revenues from the sale of recyclables, and grants and loans. On Hilton Head Island, where visitors have a significant impact on the amount of solid waste generated, the Town also may want to consider funding sources tied to tourism.

4.8 Summary of Options

Some of the options presented in this Section could be implemented with minimal time and resources while others may require significant effort. Some, such as applying for state grants or capitalizing on existing educational resources, are likely to be widely supported while some stakeholders may resist some of the other options.

Table 4-1 categorizes the relative ease of implementing each option taking into account the potential time and cost to implement, the degree of change required, and potential resistance from some stakeholders. Although this characterization is simplistic, it is intended to help decision makers understand what may be entailed in implementing each option.

Table 4-1 Relative Ease of Implementation

			OPTIONS			EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION
Residential Collection			Strengthen enforcement of provisions in municipal code			
			Revise municipal code provisions			
			Contract for residential collection			
			Contract for processing recyclables			
			Expand activities at convenience center			
Commercial Recycling			Expand outreach, education, and technical assistance			
			Require haulers to offer commercial recycling			
			Require businesses to recycle			
			Arrange drop-off sites for commercial recyclables			
			Facilitate multi-business collection routes for recyclables			
Organics Diversion			Expand outreach, education, and technical assistance			
			Establish composting demonstration sites			
			Facilitate commercial scale composting			
Recycling at Town Facilities			Operate model recycling programs at all Town facilities			
			Contract for best-in-class recycling services at beaches and parks			
			Require recycling at special events			
Transfer and Disposal			Support County's efforts to develop sustainable disposal options			
Education and Outreach			Capitalize on existing resources			
			Require licensed haulers to disseminate educational materials			
Staff and Funding			Designate staff to plan, implement, and operate selected options			
			Identify sources and dedicate funding to implement selected options			
			Apply for state (and other) grants			
		Easiest		More Challenging		Most Challenging

5 Conclusions

This analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in Section 3 and the evaluation of options to address them included in Section 4 lead to several overarching conclusions, listed below.

- The Town of Hilton Head Island will need to be proactive to achieve the goal from *Our Plan* “To work toward a Town-wide zero waste model”. Conducting this analysis and selecting options to implement is the first step.
- Ensuring waste haulers comply with existing requirements in the municipal code is a useful starting point for achieving goals. Additional ordinances may be required in the future.
- The Town has several options to make solid waste and recyclable collection from residents more efficient, more effective in reducing waste, and more consistent Town-wide, with varying degrees of oversight required.
- To reduce waste through recycling and composting, Hilton Head Island will need to ensure facilities are available to receive, process, and market material before arranging to have materials collected. Because Beaufort County is responsible for ensuring recycling and solid waste management facilities are available, the Town will need to support and collaborate with the County to ensure long-term contracts at existing facilities, or the development of new facilities move forward.
- Excellent educational resources focusing on waste reduction and recycling are available from Beaufort County, DHEC’s Office of Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling, among others. The Town can use these materials to increase waste reduction and recycling, tailoring them as needed to reflect its programs.
- Implementing any of the options presented in this report in a way that enables the Town to “work toward a Town-wide zero waste model” requires dedicated staff and funding.

The next step is for the Town of Hilton Head Island to finalize and approve the SWOT analysis, select options for implementation, and develop an action plan to implement the selected options. Based on input from staff, some of the near-term actions the Town can take first include the following:

- Coordinate with Beaufort County to share approved SWOT and determine County’s short-, mid-, and long-term plans for solid waste and recycling;
- Evaluate potential approaches and associated costs to provide curbside solid waste and recycling for all HHI residents;
- Establish a best-in-class recycling program at beach park facilities, incorporating outreach and education for residents and visitors;

- Establish a best-in-class recycling program at HHI facilities, incorporating outreach and education for residents and visitors; and
- Continue to strengthen enforcement of reporting and recycling requirements for licensed haulers in Town ordinance.

Town of Hilton Head Island

Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Presentation to:
Community Services & Public Safety Committee
Hilton Head Island Town Council
March 18, 2024

Abby Goldsmith
A. Goldsmith Resources, LLC



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Overview of Presentation

- Review of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats presented at the January 8, 2024, Community Services and Public Safety committee meeting
- Committee feedback on presentation
- Responses to committee feedback



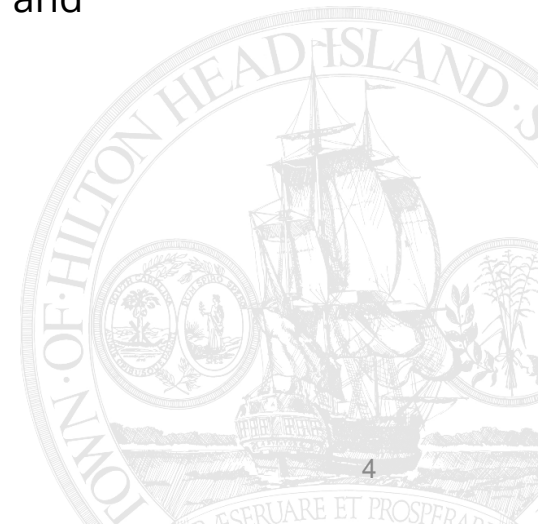
Review of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Strengths Demonstrated Support from Elected Officials and Public

- Goal in *Our Plan* to “Work toward a Town-wide zero waste model” with associated strategies and tactics
 - Actions in *Hilton Head Island Strategic Action Plan for 2023-2025* to begin to implement starting with this SWOT analysis
- Town Council resolution to work with County to develop new long-term agreement that will secure landfill and recycling needs of Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County (4/19/22)
- Existing provisions in Town ordinance (Title 9, Chapter 6) provides strong foundation for residential recycling



Solid Waste and Recycling
Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Strengths
Existing Resources

Public Education Tools



County Convenience Centers



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Weaknesses

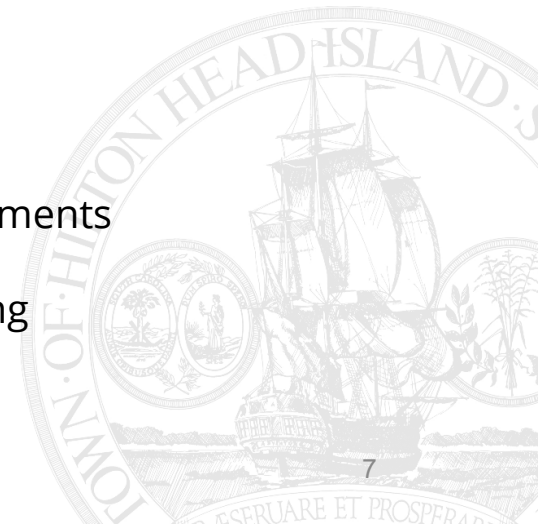
- Limited control of recycling and solid waste
 - Reliance on County for convenience center, disposal, and recyclable processing
- No consistent curbside collection
 - HHI is only municipality that does not provide curbside collection to residents
 - Consider lessons learned from previous Town contract for collection
- Haulers not always in compliance with all ordinance requirements
 - Not consistently reporting required information biannually
 - No evidence that haulers consistently offer recycling to all customers as part of base monthly fee
 - No evidence that haulers affix sticker/tag approved by HHI to contaminated recyclables left with customer



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Weaknesses

- Solid waste and recyclable collection from beaches not handled by a dedicated solid waste & recycling company
- Ordinance inconsistencies
 - List of materials private waste haulers must collect for recycling is different than County list and what processors accept
 - Not clear that Town processing facility has been identified as stated in ordinance
- Constraints at Hilton Head Island convenience center
 - Current footprint is limited
 - Over 300,000 visits in FY22
- Significant financial disincentive for haulers to recycle under current arrangements
- No dedicated Town staff or funding for solid waste management and recycling



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Opportunities

- County paying for residential disposal at Hickory Hill landfill
- County considering developing processing facility for recyclables south of Broad
- Existing framework exists for contracting for Town-wide collection
 - Previous contract in HHI
 - Precedent in other Towns
 - County policy and 2018 RFP for collection by Solid Waste District could serve as example
- Potential for diversion from commercial and public facilities
 - Relatively homogenous materials generated at many businesses
 - Interest and experience in recycling from some corporate entities, especially in hospitality industry
- Enhance solid waste and recyclable collection on beaches and beach parks
 - Incorporate outreach and education as part of enhancements



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Threats

Demographic and Geographic

- Limited access increases transport costs/time on and off island
- Large visitor population and high turnover of residents requires constant public education and outreach
- Potential impact of climate change on infrastructure, access, and debris/waste generation and management as identified in *Our Plan* (Environment Goal 6)



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Threats

Limited Facilities

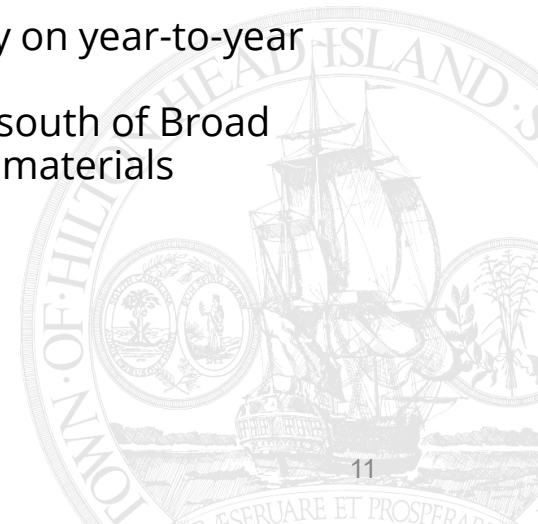
- Limited disposal options
 - Hickory Hill is only landfill within direct haul distance
 - Permit to expand Hickory Hill beyond few years capacity not yet approved
- Convenience center limitations
 - Space and configuration at HHI center makes it challenging to add activities
 - “County transitioning to curbside collection for residents” (Goal 4 of Beaufort County Solid Waste Management Plan, 2022-2041)
- Limited locations to develop or expand facilities on HHI and in southern Beaufort County



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Threats Recycling Challenges

- Markets for recyclable materials fluctuate
- Minimizing contamination of recyclables, especially in single-stream, requires constant education and monitoring, increasing costs
- Recycling often costs more than disposal depending on what materials are collected and how
- Future recyclable processing
 - County's contract for processing at Hickory Hill expired 6/30/23, currently on year-to-year extension
 - County has not identified acceptable site to develop for recycling facility south of Broad
 - Hickory Hill MRF not designed to maximize diversion from single-stream materials
- Misinformation about recycling and about past curbside collection contract



Committee Feedback



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Committee Feedback from January 8th Presentation

- Describe multifamily solid waste and recycling collection
- Provide example of solid waste and recycling in POA
- Clarify what is recyclable
- Include grant funding as an opportunity
- Add possible near-term actions



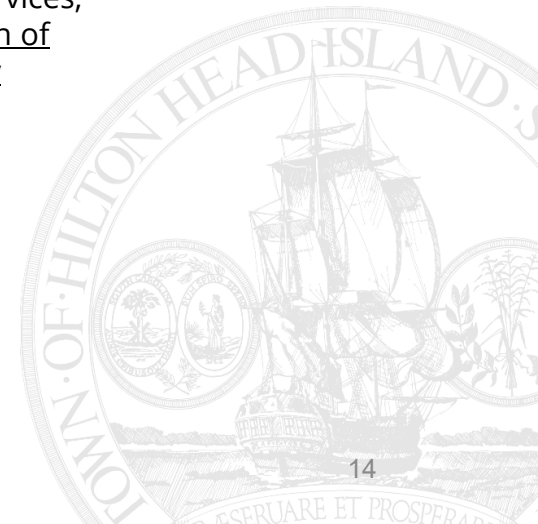
Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Multifamily Collection

Multifamily dwellings are generally classified as commercial establishments for the purpose of solid waste and recycling services. Town code defines commercial establishments as follows:

Sec. 9-6-10. - Definitions.

Commercial establishment: Any income-producing establishment, for profit or nonprofit, including, but not limited to, those used for retail, wholesale, industrial, manufacturing, dining, offices, professional services, automobile services, hotels, motels and restaurants. For purposes of this title pertaining to collection of solid waste and recycling only, commercial establishments shall include dumpster-based multifamily residential dwellings, and shall exclude all other residential dwellings.



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Example of POA Approach - Sea Pines

- Residential collection like rest of Hilton Head Island
 - Each property owner contracts for their own service
 - Most of the “regimes” arrange collection for their villa or condo complex
 - Once per week drop-off center provided by 3rd party vendor for mixed paper, plastic, glass, aluminum, tin bottles and cans, electronics, and batteries at retail area
 - CSA requires trash cans and recycling bins must be kept in service yards at all times
- CSA programs
 - Work with vendors to “harvest” recyclables from commercial facilities: cardboard, glass, plastic/aluminum, food residuals, coffee, oyster shells
 - Weekly collection and drop-off of vegetative debris which is mulched and available to residents



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

What is recyclable?

HHI Ordinance (Sec. 9-6-30) Requirement for Private Hauler Collection	County Convenience Centers
Cardboard	Corrugated cardboard
Newspapers, newspaper inserts, cardboard, pizza boxes, magazines, catalogs, phone books, residential mail, junk mail, office paper, paper bags, box board, cereal cartons, beverage cartons, gift wrapping paper, shredded office paper	Mixed paper: junk mail, newspaper, magazines, phone books, office paper, cereal boxes, soda boxes and shoeboxes, or any paper that doesn't fall into the category of corrugated cardboard
All closed-mouth plastic bottles, #1 through #7 household plastics (no styrofoam)	Plastics #1 and #2: Plastic bottles, jugs and jars
Glass containers of any color	Glass bottles and jars: Clear, brown & green glass
Milk/juice cartons and aseptic containers	
Aluminum cans, other aluminum, aluminum foil, steel cans, tin cans, aerosol cans, and other small household scrap metal	Metal food and beverage cans: Aluminum, tin, & steel cans

HHI convenience center also accepts yard waste, tires, cooking oil, motor oil, oil filters, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, construction & demolition debris, plastic film, household hazardous waste. Some of these materials are recycled.

In reality, what is recyclable depends on what specific hauler and processor accept



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Opportunities Funding

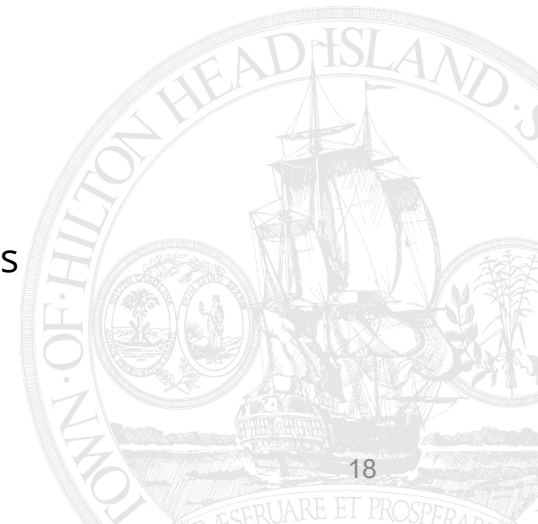
- SC DHEC Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant
 - Scope: Projects that can demonstrate a positive impact on a local government's efforts to reach their recycling and waste reduction goals
 - Eligibility: Counties, cities, towns, or regions within South Carolina that provide solid waste services
 - Source: Funded by a \$2 fee on appliances and lead-acid batteries charged upon purchase at the retail level
 - Schedule: Applications for FY25 opened in February 2024;
 - \$15,000 max grant in Category 1 (General Recycling)
 - \$50,000- \$100,000 grant in Category 2 (Creativity with waste reduction)
- Recycling Partnership Community Grant Program
 - Curbside Recycling Cart Grants
 - Multifamily Recycling Program Grants
 - Drop-Off Program Grants



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Possible Near-Term Actions

- Coordinate with Beaufort County to share approved SWOT and determine County's short-, mid-, and long-term plans for solid waste and recycling.
- Evaluate potential approaches and associated costs to provide curbside solid waste and recycling for all HHI residents.
- Establish a best-in-class recycling program at beach park facilities, incorporating outreach and education for residents and visitors.
- Establish a best-in-class recycling program at HHI facilities, incorporating outreach and education for residents and visitors.
- Continue to strengthen enforcement of reporting and recycling requirements for licensed haulers in Town ordinance.



Solid Waste and Recycling Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats



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Questions?

Abby Goldsmith, Principal
A. Goldsmith Resources, LLC
abby@agoldsmithresources.com

**Guiding
Sustainable
Materials
Management**





TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Community Services and Public Safety Committee

TO: Community Services and Public Safety Committee Members
FROM: Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager
CC: Marc Orlando, Town Manager
DATE: March 1, 2024
SUBJECT: Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Title 9, Chapter 2, of the Municipal Code of Hilton Head Island Titled Regulations and Requirements Relating to Smoking of Tobacco Products by Adding a Definition for Electronic Smoking Devices and Prohibiting Their Use Consistent with Existing Smoking Regulations

RECOMMENDATION:

The Town Council is requested to review the proposed Ordinance to amend the Town Code by adding electronic smoking devices within the definition section of the Town's existing smoking and tobacco use-related restrictions. If the Town Council supports taking such actions, it should vote to approve such changes being incorporated into the Town's code.

Summary:

In 2009, the Town of Hilton Head Island adopted regulations to its municipal code that prohibited smoking tobacco and tobacco related products indoors within publicly accessible commercial businesses or other publicly accessible buildings.

In the years since the adoption of these regulations, new types of consumer products including electronic smoking devices, commonly referred to as vaping, have been created and are now widely in use. Because of this, the Town is proposing to update the definition section of its existing smoking regulations to include electronic smoking devices within the existing smoking regulations.

On July 18, 2023, student representatives from the Lowcountry Alliance for Healthy Youth made a presentation to the Town Council on the negative effects that electronic smoking devices and vaping in general has had on teens and young adults. They requested that the Town consider amending its code to include the use of electronic smoking devices along with the Town's existing smoking regulations. Follow the receipt of this information, staff was requested to prepare this proposed amendment for the Community Services and Public Safety Committee's review and consideration.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Data from Lowcountry Alliance for Healthy Youth
2. Draft Ordinance Amending Section 9-2-10 of the Municipal Code for the Town of Hilton Head Island

Proposal Submitted to the
Mayor and Town Council of Hilton Head Island

To Include Electronic Smoking Devices in the Current Smoking Regulations of the Town Code

Proposed by
Teens for Healthy Youth/LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth



Teens for Healthy Youth



Teens for Healthy Youth is an initiative of LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth. See [LCAHY Website](#)

The mission of Teens for Healthy Youth (THY) is to promote positive teen health through: Leadership, Positive Youth Development, Peer to Peer Education, Advocacy, Community Service. See [THY Brochure](#)

THY is active in the following high schools:
Bluffton High School, Cross Schools, Heritage Academy, Hilton Head Christian Academy, Hilton Head Island High School, Hilton Head Preparatory School, May River High School

LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth (LCAHY) is a recipient of the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Grant Program Grant, awarded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and administered by the CDC. Community Foundation of the Lowcountry serves as the fiscal sponsor.



Vaping: A Public Health Epidemic

- December 2018: Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, VADM Jerome Adams, released an advisory emphasizing the importance of taking action to immediately address "the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use" (2018).
- The risks of vaping can be detrimental to youth who find themselves addicted to e-cigarettes. It's up to our community to know the risks, take action, and protect our kids.



How is Vaping Harmful?



Nicotine, a highly addictive chemical, is found at much higher concentrations in e-cigarettes than the normal cigarettes already restricted in the Town Code.



Cigarette Chemicals

All of these have been found in e-cigarette/pod-based aerosol

- Propylene glycol - Glycerin - Flavorings (many) - Nicotine - NNN - NNK - NAB - NAT - Ethylbenzene - Benzene - Xylene - Toluene - Acetaldehyde - Formaldehyde - Naphthalene - Styrene - Benzo(h)fluoranthene	- Chlorobenzene - Crotonaldehyde - Propionaldehyde - Benzaldehyde - Valeric acid - Hexanal - Fluorine - Anthracene - Pyrene - Acenaphthylene - Acenaphthene - Fluoranthene - Benzo(a)anthracene - Chrysene - Retene - Benzo(a)pyrene - Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	- Benzo(ghi)perylene - Acetone - Acrolein - Silver - Nickel - Tin - Sodium - Strontium - Barium - Aluminum - Chromium - Boron - Copper - Selenium - Arsenic - Nitrosamines - Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	- Cadmium - Silicon - Lithium - Lead - Magnesium - Manganese - Potassium - Titanium - Zinc - Zirconium - Calcium - Iron - Sulfur - Vanadium - Cobalt - Rubidium
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Compounds that are underlined are from FDA 2012: Harmful and Potentially Harmful Substances – Established List

Reference: tobaccopreventiontoolkit.stanford.edu



Secondhand Aerosol

- Secondhand aerosol, similar to secondhand smoke, is the plume of chemicals released into the environment directly from the e-cigarette/pod-based devices and from the lungs of the user.
- Common places for exposure to secondhand aerosol include restaurants, parks, vehicles, and designated smoking areas.
- Chemicals that are released include harmful substances such as nicotine, heavy metals, ultrafine particles that fall deep into the lungs, cancerous chemicals, and volatile organic compounds aka VOCs.
- Exposure can lead to cancer, respiratory infections, and make someone's asthma worse among other problems.



Reference:
tobaccopreventiontoolkit.stanford.edu



Thirdhand Aerosol

- Another way that e-cigarettes/vape pens pose a danger to people other than the user is through thirdhand aerosol.
- Thirdhand aerosol is the mixture of chemicals in e-cigarette/vape pen aerosol that remain on surfaces and in dust, even after the aerosol is gone, and react with other chemicals in the environment to form toxic chemicals.
- These potentially harmful chemicals can be exposed to other people or animals through the respiratory system, through ingestions, and through skin exposure.
- Small children are especially at risk for thirdhand aerosol exposure because they tend to put things into their mouths and they have more vulnerable skin.



Reference: tobaccopreventiontoolkit.stanford.edu



Findings on Vaping Health Consequences

USC University of Southern California

Keck School of Medicine of USC

DNA damage levels similar in vapers and smokers. study finds

February 13, 2023
By Zara Abrams

"vapers and smokers had similar levels of DNA damage—more than twice the amount found in non-users".

"DNA damage to oral epithelial cells, which line the mouth, is an early change that is associated with an increased risk for many types of chronic disease, including cancer and inflammatory diseases".

Harvard Health Publishing
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

E-cigarettes boost the risk of heart attack

January 1, 2019

"Although e-cigarettes deliver lower levels of carcinogens than conventional cigarettes, each product releases ultrafine particles and other toxins that can damage blood vessels and encourage blood clotting, both of which can promote heart attacks".



Findings on Vaping Health Consequences



Vaping May Increase Respiratory Disease Risk by More Than 40 Percent

November 12, 2020
By Michelle Samuels

"In recent years we have seen dramatic increase in e-cigarette use among youth and young adults which threatens to reverse decades of hard-fought gains," Stokes says. "This new evidence also suggests that we may see an increase in respiratory disease as youth and young adults age into midlife, including asthma, COPD, and other respiratory conditions."



Major Uptick Reported in Cannabis Vaping for All Adolescents

May 19, 2022

"This persisting prevalence of daily cannabis use... is of further alarm for several reasons", observes Keyes. "Heavy levels of cannabis use are associated with adverse cognitive and social outcomes for youth, as well as long-term trajectories of drug use that may have adverse health and other consequences."

↑
Vaping is a method for cannabis consumption



U.S. Surgeon General Advisory

In the 2018 Surgeon General Advisory, Dr. Jerome Adams made suggestions for how local governments can take action against the vaping epidemic:

Information for States, Communities, Tribes, and Territories

- You have an important role to play in addressing this public health epidemic.
- Implement evidence-based population-level strategies to reduce e-cigarette use among young people, such as including e-cigarettes in smoke-free indoor air policies, restricting young peoples' access to e-cigarettes in retail settings, licensing retailers, implementing price policies, and developing educational initiatives targeting young people.
- Implement strategies to curb e-cigarette advertising and marketing that are appealing to young people.
- Implement strategies to reduce access to flavored tobacco products by young people.

(Adams 2018)

This action could be as simple as altering the verbiage to include electronic smoking devices into current smoking regulations.



Town of Bluffton

In Summer 2019, the Town of Bluffton Town Council passed an ordinance amendment to their previous "No Smoking" Ordinance, to now include language that would include e-cigarette devices. [View Ordinance](#) with highlights to where they included e-cigarettes into their town code.

LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth played a significant role in getting the 'Vape-Free' Ordinance established. See this [News Story](#) from WTOG11 featuring Mayor Lisa Sulka's remarks on the ordinance and LCAHY.



What are the Implications of this Proposal?

As the youth and adults of our community face an issue of e-cigarette popularity, actively working to reduce electronic smoking in public areas would send a clear public health message about the health consequences of vaping nicotine and other toxic chemicals. Electronic smoking regulations would have a similar public health impact to that of the current smoking regulations when they were originally implemented.

In addition to this public health message, adding electronic smoking devices to the current smoking regulations in the Town Code would reduce non-vaping individuals' contact to secondhand and thirdhand aerosol that is spread from individuals who do use electronic smoking devices.

Teens for Healthy Youth and LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth propose that the Mayor and Hilton Head Island Town Council consider **including electronic smoking devices in current smoking regulations of the Town Code** in an effort to not only send a public health message, but also to protect the quality of life for the residents and visitors of Hilton Head Island.





**Thank you for your consideration.
For any questions or
need for any additional
information, please contact
Benjamin Vaught (benjv02@gmail.com).**

Facts about E-Cigarettes

What is an E-Cigarette?

E-cigarettes, also known as vapes resemble USB sticks and pens. They produce an aerosol by heating a liquid containing nicotine that users inhale.



WHAT MAKES E-CIGS DANGEROUS?

E-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can harm brain development, which continues until about age 25. Many young people turn to nicotine to deal with stress, anxiety and depression, but don't know it is making them worse. (CDC)



- One vape pod is equivalent to 20 cigarettes of nicotine.
- Carcinogens found in regular cigarettes are in e-cigs too.
- E-Cigarettes devices can be used to deliver marijuana and other drugs.
- E-Cigarettes are just as addictive as traditional cigarettes.
- If you vape you're 4x more likely to start smoking cigarettes.

"The nicotine in e-cigarettes and other tobacco products can prime young brains for addiction to other drugs, such as cocaine and methamphetamine."

-US Surgeon General

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

1. Educate yourself on the dangers of all types of tobacco.
2. Talk with youth, family, and friends about the health consequences of smoking cigarettes/vaping e-cigarettes.
1. Stop secondhand inhalation and thirdhand residue.
2. Advocate for comprehensive tobacco prevention policies.



Learn more about
E-cig use



lcahealthyouth.com

Visit our
Website



Datos sobre los cigarrillos electrónicos

¿Qué es un cigarrillo electrónico?

Los cigarrillos electrónicos, también conocidos como vapes, se parecen a las memorias USB y bolígrafos. Producen un aerosol al calentar un líquido que contiene nicotina que los usuarios inhalan.



¿QUÉ HACE QUE LOS CIGARRILLOS ELECTRÓNICOS SEAN PELIGROSOS?

Los cigarrillos electrónicos contienen nicotina, que es altamente adictiva y puede dañar el desarrollo del cerebro, que continúa hasta aproximadamente los 25 años. Muchos jóvenes recurren a la nicotina para lidiar con el estrés, la ansiedad y la depresión, pero no saben que los está empeorando (CDC).



- Una cápsula de vape equivale a 20 cigarrillos de nicotina.
- Los carcinógenos que se encuentran en los cigarrillos regulares también se encuentran en los cigarrillos electrónicos.
- Los dispositivos de cigarrillos electrónicos se pueden usar para entregar marihuana y otras drogas.
- Los cigarrillos electrónicos son tan adictivos como los cigarrillos tradicionales.
- Si vapeas, tienes 4 veces más probabilidades de comenzar a fumar cigarrillos.

"La nicotina en los cigarrillos electrónicos y otros productos de tabaco puede preparar a los cerebros jóvenes para la adicción a otras drogas, como la cocaína y la metanfetamina".

- Cirujano General de EE. UU.

SE PARTE DE LA SOLUCION

1. Infórmese sobre los peligros de todos los tipos de tabaco.
2. Hable con jóvenes, familiares y amigos sobre las consecuencias para la salud de fumar cigarrillos/vapear cigarrillos electrónicos.
3. Detenga la inhalación de segunda mano y los residuos de tercera mano.
4. Abogar por políticas integrales de prevención del tabaquismo.



Aprende más acerca de uso de cigarrillos electrónicos



lcahealthyouth.com



Visita nuestro Sitio web



TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 9, CHAPTER 2 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF
THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, TITLED REGULATIONS AND
REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SMOKING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS BY
ADDING A DEFINITION FOR ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES AND
PROHIBITING THEIR USE CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING SMOKING
REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Town of Hilton Head Island has regulated the smoking of tobacco and tobacco related products since 2009; and

WHEREAS, following the adoption of these regulations, the types of products available to consumers that contain tobacco, nicotine, or other similar elements has changed dramatically to include many new forms of electronic smoking devices which are generally referred to as “vaping” products; and

WHEREAS, the public health justifications for regulating the use of electronic smoking devices remains essentially the same as the justifications that existed at the time that the original smoking regulations were initially adopted; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these justifications, the Lowcountry Alliance for Healthy Youth has provided data evidencing the negative impacts that electronic smoking devices are having on teenagers and young adults and that the Town can support this organization’s efforts in reducing the number of youth who use electronic smoking devices through prohibiting the use of these devices in the same manner that other tobacco related products are currently prohibited; and

WHEREAS, the Hilton Head Island Town Council has the authority to amend its Code of Ordinances when deemed to be in the best interest of the citizens of the Town, and it now desires to do so with respect to the inclusion of electronic smoking devices within the existing smoking regulations outlined within the Town’s Code of Ordinances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Councilmembers of the Municipality of Hilton Head Island, in Council assembled, that Title 9, Chapter 2 of the of the Hilton Head Island Code of Ordinances titled Regulations and Requirements Relating to Smoking of Tobacco Products is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 1. **Amendment**. Section 9-2-10 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island related to the definition of smoking and use of tobacco related products, is hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit A to this Ordinance. Newly added language is illustrated with double underline and deleted language is illustrated with ~~striketrough~~.

Section 2. **Severability**. If any section, phrase, sentence or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS ADOPTION AT FINAL READING THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

Alan R. Perry, Mayor
Town of Hilton Head Island

ATTEST:

Kimberly Gammon, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Curtis L. Coltrane, Town Attorney

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 2 - REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SMOKING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Sec. 9-2-10. - Definitions.

(a) *Business* shall mean a sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other business entity, either for-profit or not-for-profit, including retail establishments where goods or services are offered for sale; professional corporations and other entities where legal, medical, dental, engineering, architectural, or other professional services are delivered; and private clubs.

(b) *Electronic smoking device means any electronic product that can be used to aerosolize and deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to an electronic cigarette, electronic cigarillo, or electronic pipe, and any cartridge or other component of the device or related product.*

(c ~~b~~) *Employee* shall mean a person who is employed by an employer in consideration for direct or indirect monetary wages, commission, goods or services in kind or like compensation, and it shall also mean a person who volunteers his or her services for a nonprofit entity.

(d ~~e~~) *Employer* means any person, partnership, association, corporation, trust, school, college, university or other educational institution, nonprofit entity or other organization, including any public or private employer, any manager, supervisor, and all other persons charged with control, supervision, and operation of any work place, work space, or work spaces as defined herein, that employs the services of one (1) or more persons.

(e ~~d~~) *Enclosed area* means all space between a floor and ceiling that is enclosed on all sides by walls or windows (exclusive of doorways), which extend from the floor to the ceiling, including but not limited to, offices, rooms, foyers, waiting areas and halls.

(f ~~e~~) *Place of employment* means an area under the control of a public or private employer that employees normally frequent during the course of employment, including, but not limited to, work areas, employee lounges, restrooms, conference rooms, meeting rooms, classrooms, employee cafeterias, hallways, and vehicles. A private residence is not a "place of employment" for purposes of this ordinance unless it is used as a child care, adult day care, or health care facility. A private passenger motor vehicle is not a "place of employment" when used in the performance of employment responsibilities.

(g ~~f~~) *Public place* means an area to which the public is invited or to which the public is permitted to have access, including but not limited to, banks, bars, educational facilities, health care facilities, hotel and motel lobbies, laundromats, public transportation facilities, reception areas, restaurants, retail food production and marketing establishments, retail service establishments, retail stores, shopping malls, theaters, waiting rooms, sports arena, stadiums and ball parks. A

private club is a "public place" when being used for a function to which the general public is allowed entry. A private residence is not a "public place" unless it is used as a child care, adult day care, or health care facility.

(h ~~g~~) *Restaurant* means an eating establishment, including but not limited to, coffee shops, cafeterias, sandwich stands, ice cream parlors, and private and public school cafeterias, which gives or offers for sale food to the public, guests, or employees, as well as kitchens and catering facilities in which food is prepared on the premises for serving elsewhere. The term "restaurant" shall include a bar area within the restaurant.

(i ~~h~~) *Retail tobacco store* means any establishment which is not required to possess a retail food permit whose primary purpose is to sell or offer for sale to consumers, but not for resale, tobacco products and paraphernalia, in which the sale of other products is merely incidental.

(j ~~i~~) *Secondhand smoke* is the complex mixture formed from the escaping smoke of a burning tobacco product and smoke exhaled by the smoker. Exposure to secondhand smoke is also frequently referred to as "passive smoking," "secondhand smoking" or "involuntary smoking."

(k ~~j~~) *Sheriff's office* means the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office enforcing the laws within the corporation limits of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

(l ~~k~~) *Smoking* means the inhaling, exhaling, burning, lighting, or carrying of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic smoking device, or similar device, or any other lighted tobacco product.

(m ~~l~~) *Smoking materials* includes cigars, cigarettes, electronic smoking devices, and all other manner of smoking devices intended to be used for the purpose of inhaling, burning, carrying, or exhaling lighted tobacco products.

(n ~~m~~) *Work place* means any enclosed indoor area, structure, building or facility or any portion thereof at which one (1) or more employee(s) perform services for their employer, including but not limited to: retail food stores; retail stores; restaurants; bars; cabarets, cafes; public or private clubs; pool halls and bowling alleys.

(o ~~n~~) *Work space* or *work spaces* means any enclosed area occupied by an employee during the course of his or her employment, including but not limited to: offices, customer service areas; common areas; hallways; waiting areas; restrooms; lounges and eating areas.