



LAREDO FIRE DEPARTMENT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

As we reflect on the year 2022, we are grateful for our Fire Department's tireless work and dedication; from responding to emergencies to educating our community on fire safety, every single member has played a vital role in keeping our city safe.

Our administrative staff works tirelessly in the background to help plan and support our emergency operations department in this ever-changing environment. The emergencies we face are more dynamic and challenging than ever before.

Looking ahead to 2023, we are committed to continuing to support and improve the services provided by our Fire Department. We will work to ensure that our firefighters have the necessary resources and training to serve our community effectively. We will continue to engage with our residents to educate them on the importance of fire safety.

This past year, like others, presented itself with unique challenges that we were able to overcome as a department. Unfortunately, we also faced hardships, such as losing one of our very own. Through it all, our department remains resilient in the face of adversity and is always ready to help the community; we are always "Ready for Duty."

I am honored to lead an all-hazards department and its dedicated women and men who make up this department.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to keeping our community safe. We look forward to another successful year together.

Sincerely,

Guillermo Heard, MSN, CPM
Fire Chief/EMC

MISSION

To reduce and prevent the loss of life and property in the community due to fire, medical emergencies, and other natural or man-made disasters and catastrophes. This is accomplished through direct mitigation during these types of occurrences and through community wide prevention efforts. The Laredo Fire Department will assume command of such incidents and will staff and maintain the force with professional, highly trained personnel.

Station	Address	Zip Code	Council District	Year Built	Resources
1	100 Guadalupe St	78040	8	1972	Engine, Aerial Truck, Ambulance, Brush Truck, District Chief
2	2100 Zacatecas	78046	2	1978	Engine, Ambulance, EMS Supervisor
3	2420 San Bernardo	78040	8	1941	Engine, Ambulance
4	1919 Houston	78040	8	1990	Engine, Ambulance, Rescue Boat
5	2601 Bartlett	78043	4	1959	Engine, Ambulance, EMS Supervisor
6	4903 Maher	78041	5	1974	Engine, Hearse, Liberty Compressor (Cascade)
7	1120 W. Calton Rd	78041	7	1980	Engine, Aerial Truck, Ambulance, HazMat Trailer, District Chief
8	616 E. Del Mar	78041	6	2018	Engine, Aerial Truck, Ambulance, (2) Rescue Boats, MCU, District Chief
9	13301 Mines Rd	78045	7	1991	Engine, Ambulance, Brush Truck
10	11015 McPherson Rd	78045	6	1999	Engine, Ambulance, EMS Supervisor
11	5210 Hwy 359	78043	2	1999	Engine, Ambulance, Reserve Engine
12	9402 NE Bob Bullock Loop	78041	5	2000	Engine, Ambulance, Rescue Boat, (2) Reserve Engine, (2) Reserve Ambulance
13	26911 Pinto Valle Dr	78045	7	2001	Engine
14	309 Cielito Lindo	78046	1	2003	Engine, Aerial Truck, Ambulance, Brush Truck, Reserve Aerial Truck
15	5210 Bob Bullock Loop	78041	5	2014	1 Airport Rescue Fire Truck

LAREDO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Accomplishments and Highlights

- **PEER Support Team (Mental Health Support)**
 - Increased Face-to-Face Visits
 - Station Visits
- **Office of Emergency Management (OEM)**
 - Unified Command Brought Online
 - Flood - August 2022
 - EOC Activation
 - Assisted with Migrant Operation at Soft-Sided Facility
 - Winter Freeze
 - February 2022
 - December 2022
- **Honor Guard**
 - New members selected to the Honor Guard:
 1. FF/Paramedic Manuel Cruz
 2. FF/Paramedic Aldo Garcia
 3. FF/Paramedic Guillermo Pescador
 4. FF/Paramedic Juan Flores
- **Capital Improvement Project (CIP) 2021**
 - Spartan Emergency Response Pumper replaced 3002 and 3005
 - Total Cost: \$1,450,212.00
 - 3 Ambulances: \$465,000.00
 - 3 Emergency Response Suburbans: \$187,323.00
- **Texas Targeted Opioid Response Team**
 - Initiated aid in battle against opioid crisis.
 - Received a grant award in the amount of \$400,000 from the Texas Department of Health and Human Services through a partnership with UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing.

FIRE PREVENTION AND ARSON DIVISION

Fire Marshal Andres Jimenez, District Chief Ruben Dominguez, Jr., Captain Victor Vidaurri, and Captain Jose Arrendondo.

Duties consist of:

- Fire Inspection
- Code Development
- Planning Review
- Arson Investigation
- Community Risk Reduction

Initiatives

- Collaborated with City Attorney's Office, Police Department, and the Code Enforcement Division to amend Chapter V, Alcoholic Beverages, and introduce the "BYOB" Ordinance passed by the City Council on July 18, 2022.
- Prevention and Arson Division assisted with ongoing public safety efforts in all districts along with Laredo Police Department, Code Enforcement, Animal Care Services, and the Health Department.
- Community Risk Reduction Initiative (Smoke Detectors)
 - Total number of smoke detectors installed = 234
 - Total number of houses visited = 65

Performance Measures

- Fire & Arson Investigations 2022
 - Total number of investigations = 142
- Plan Reviews 2022
 - Total plan reviews = 1,740
 - Total number of plat reviews = 107
- Fire Inspections 2022
 - Total number of inspections = 3,006
- 311 Complaints 2022
 - Total number of complaints = 47

FIRE TRAINING DIVISION

Deputy Chief Chris Hughes, District Chief Ricardo Cedillo, Captain Daniel Bernal, Captain Charles Edwards, and Captain Gustavo Salazar.

Duties consist of:

- Certifications
- Texas Commission on Fire Protection
- NFPA 1403 - Training Field Compliance & Live Fire Training
- Cancer Initiatives
- Recruitment
- Promotions Process
- Compliancy with NFPA by TCFP
- Bunker Gear
- SCBA
- Live Fire Training

Accomplishments and Highlights

Developed a partnership with Laredo College (LC) that allows for:

- 1) Practical training with firefighter props, equipment, and apparatus for LC Fire Science students.
- 2) Local and surrounding area fire service members to pursue higher education.

- Assisted with developing the Laredo College Memorandum of Understanding
- Assisted with the development of two Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees:
 - i. AAS Fire Protection and Safety Technology
 - ii. AAS Fire Protection and Safety Management

Successfully developed two separate Fire and EMS Academies:

- 1.) Class 789 – 31 Cadets
- 2.) Class 049 – 29 Cadets

- Ensured compliance with the State of Texas regulating body, the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP).
- Developed 7 state certification classes in the following fields:
 - 1.) Instructor I
 - 2.) Driver/Operator-Pumper
 - 3.) Officer I
 - 4.) Fire Inspector
 - 5.) Fire Inspector
 - 6.) Plans Examiner
 - 7.) Instructor II
- Training staff increased the training facility certification capabilities by two:
 - 1.) Basic Wildland Firefighting
 - 2.) Incident Commander
- Training Facility Advancement and Maintenance Program
 - i. Advanced ability to conduct on-site training at fire stations with the acquisition, familiarization, and implementation of new portable training props.
 - ii. Managed, repaired and maintained a facility and equipment valued at millions of tax dollars.

FIRE TRAINING DIVISION

New Initiatives

- Developed and initiated the Rescue Operations Captain (R.O.C.) Program that allows specific officers throughout the department to provide valuable experience and knowledge to all Laredo Fire Department fire crews.
 - Conducted two train-the-trainer courses (Forcible Entry, Search and Rescue) for all R.O.C. stations.
 - Assisted R.O.C. stations with a 4-hour course on forcible entry to all none R.O.C. fire stations.
 - Assisted R.O.C. stations with a 4-hour course on search and rescue to all none R.O.C. fire stations.

Training and Certifications

- Provided Border Patrol (BORTAC), Laredo Police Department (SWAT), and the United States ARMY with a detailed class on the irons and forcible entry due to the mass shooting in Uvalde.
- Blue Card Sectoring and Advance Training for officers.
 - Officer Development for District Chiefs and Captains
- The Active Attack Integrated Response train-the-trainer course is a performance-level course designed to improve integration between law enforcement, fire, telecommunication, and emergency medical services (EMS) in active attack/shooter events.
 - 2 instructors certified in Train-the-Trainer ALLERT AAIR class.
- Recertified fifty (50) fire personnel from other Texas Fire Departments with the skills and knowledge required for recertification to Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) according to Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) 139.319 (i)(3) Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting: Operational Requirements.

1. City of Harlingen Fire Department
2. City of Brownsville Fire Department
3. City of McAllen Fire Department

EMS DIVISION

Deputy Chief Ruben Mendiola, District Chief Jaime Lopez, District Chief Ismael Cisneros, Captain Roberto Gonzalez, and Captain Yoshio Wong.

Duties consist of:

- EMS Operations
- Bike Patrol
- EMS Training - Continuing Education and Academy
- EMS Fleet
- Rescue Operations - Heavy Duty and Rescue Team

Accomplishments and Highlights

- 2022 Total EMS Call Volume
 - 29,563
- Capital Improvement Projects:
 - Purchased 3 new 2020 Dodge ambulances for station 3, 11 and 12.
 - Purchased 3 new 2022 Chevy Suburbans assigned to EMS supervisors.
- Purchased 12 automated Zoll AutoPulse Resuscitation devices to provide high-quality automated CPR to victims of sudden cardiac arrest effectively decreasing mortality rates.
- Purchased tactical gear including bulletproof vests, tactical helmets, etc.

EMS DIVISION

TOTAL AMBULANCE CALLS BY UNIT



FIRE SUPPRESSION DIVISION

Deputy Chief Christopher Perez, District Chief Manuel A. Ramon, District Chief Luis Dominguez, and Driver Jose G. Moreno

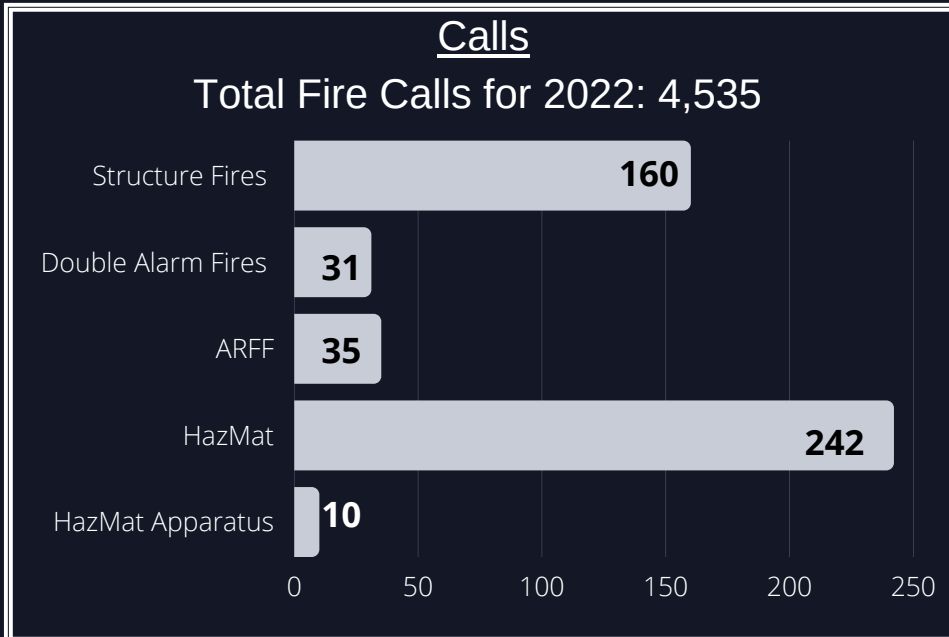
Duties consist of:

- Fire Suppression
- Communications
- Fire Fleet - Emergency and Non-Emergency
- Fire Facilities
- ARFF
- Hazmat

Accomplishments and Highlights

Fire Suppression

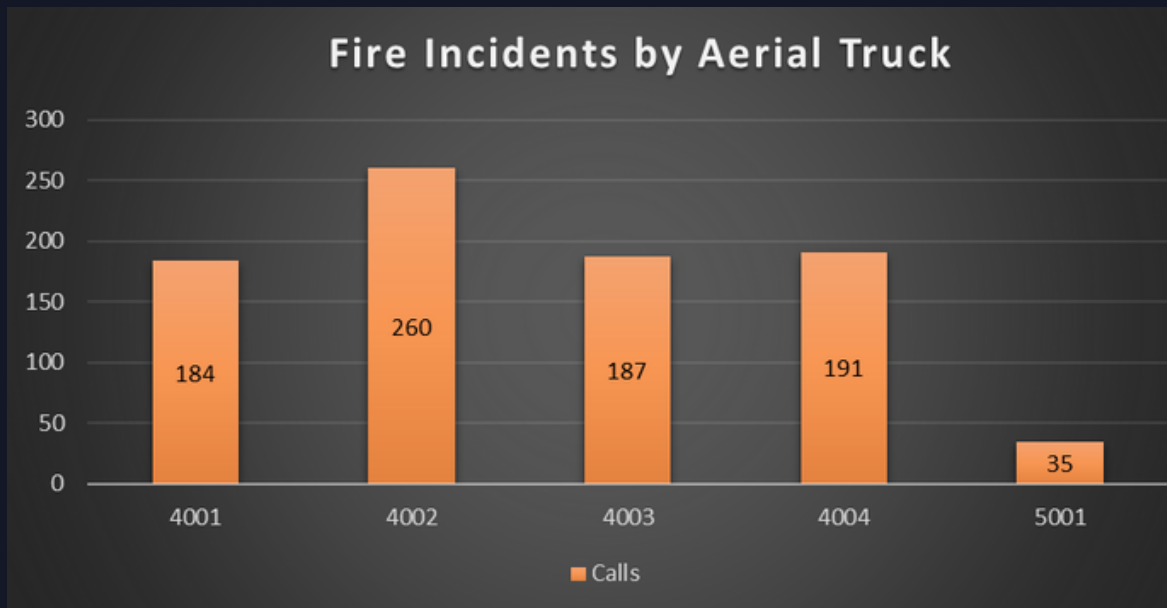
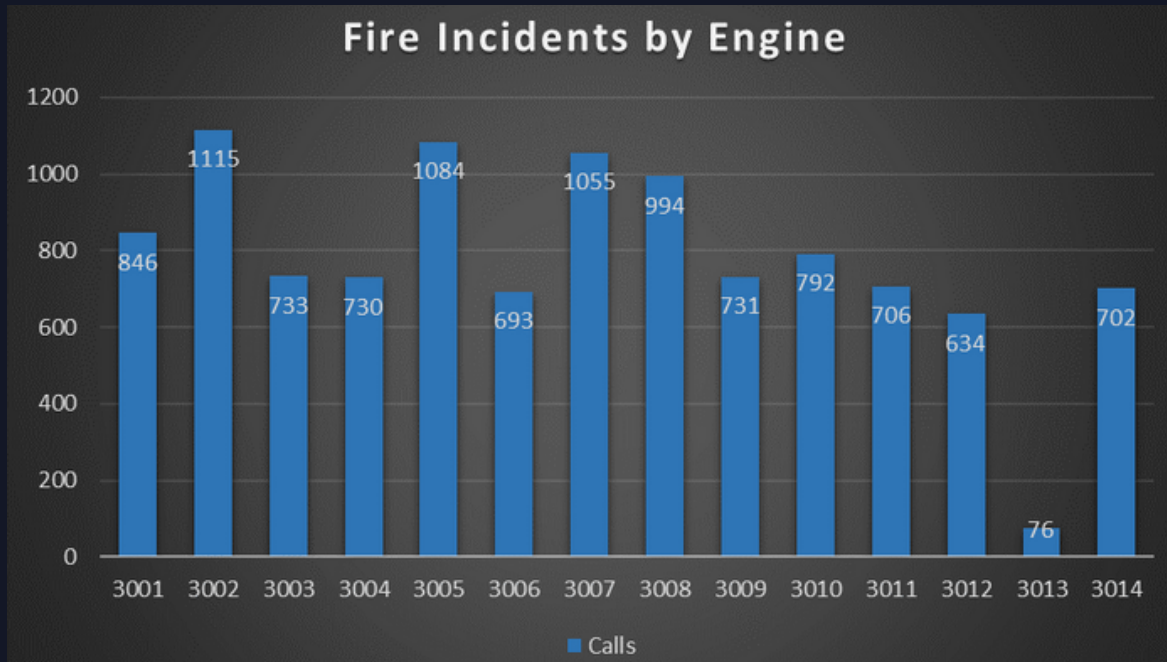
- Fire Apparatus Testing
 - Ladder Testing
 - Fire Suppression conducted ladder testing on four aerial trucks.
- Pump Testing
 - Fire Suppression successfully conducted pump testing on all fire engines.



Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF)

- Trainings & Drills
 - Annual Live Burns
 - Live Disaster Airport Drill – Complete every 3 years
 - FAA Annual Inspection – No deficiencies noted for the 2022 inspection.
 - Annual 11 Course Syllabus Curriculum Training
 - ARFF Driver Training

FIRE SUPPRESSION DIVISION



2023 OUTLOOK

General

- Reapply for International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Survey - Quarter 1, 2024
- Building Construction
 - Fire Fleet - \$1.5 million
 - Unitec Station - Bid/Design - \$1.5 million (Station #16)
- Implementation of Succession Plan
- 2023 Academy Hiring - Projected Academy #1 - October 2023
 - Hire for projected 2023-2025 vacancies and firefighters for station #16.

Fire Prevention Division

- Implementation of paperless inspection reports
- Integration of fire-related permits into the commercial plan review software known as AVOLVE.
- Fire Inspector Training
 - To train existing fire inspectors to become plan reviewers.

Fire Training Division

- 2023 Academy Hiring Process and New Minimum Standards
- New Members Certifications
 - NFPA 1851- Advanced Cleaning and Inspection
 - Structural Building Components Association (SBCA) Specialist Level

2023 OUTLOOK

Fire Training Division (continued)

- **New Certification for Training Facility**
 - **Officer III**
 - **Officer IV**
- **Future Training Opportunities**
 - **New Mexico Tech - First Responder Training**
 - **Counterterrorism Operations Support Training (CTOS)**

EMS

- **Implement a new training initiative focusing on face-to-face training.**
- **Laredo Fire Shop Mechanics will receive specialized training to improve equipment efficiency**
- **Update QA/QI Program for informatics review**
- **Development and update to terrorism SOPs, including purchasing and distributing tactical gear.**

Fire Suppression

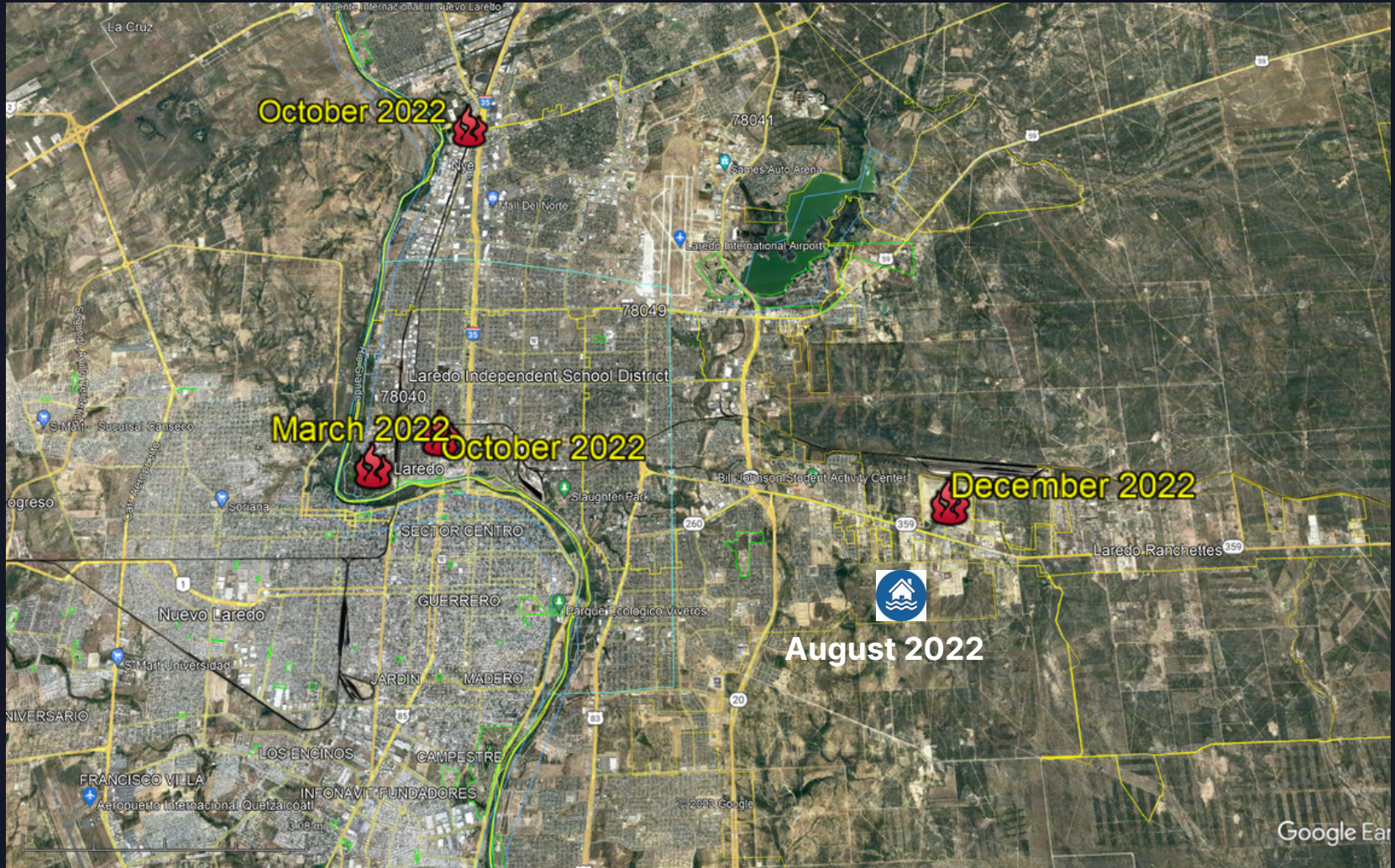
- **Create and implement a drone program**
- **Establish a new Fire Maintenance Program**
- **Implement new staffing program software**
- **Implement new building pre-planning software**

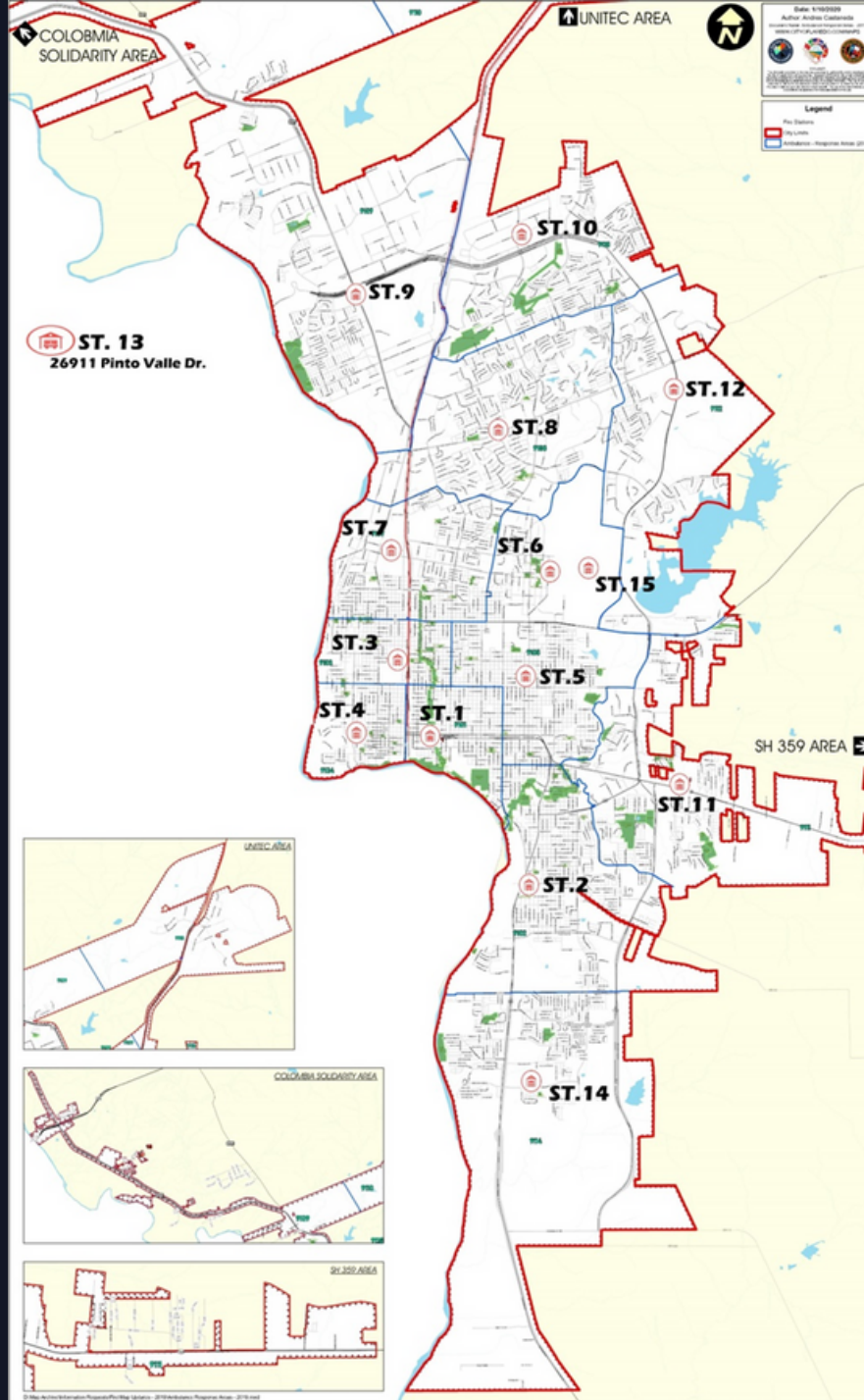
2022 HIGH PROFILE FIRES

1. MARCH 2022: LAREDO RIVERBANKS
2. OCTOBER 2022: BUSINESS ON ITURBIDE & SALINAS ST.
3. OCTOBER 2022: EVERGREEN RECYCLING CENTER
4. DECEMBER 2022: LAREDO RECYCLING CENTER

EOC ACTIVATION:

1. AUGUST 2022: FLASH FLOOD





STATION MAP

3 DISTRICTS
15 STATIONS

IN MEMORY OF ALFONSO MARTINEZ

Fire Driver/Paramedic
Station 10



Driver Martinez served the Laredo Fire Department for 20 years and 4 months. He was a loving husband, father, son and a friend to all.

CONTACT US



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www.cityoflaredo.com/Fire



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THANK YOU

