



Spanish Fork Police Department
Annual Report 2023

Spanish Fork Police Department Annual Report

2023

Compiled by:
Jill Thorpe



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

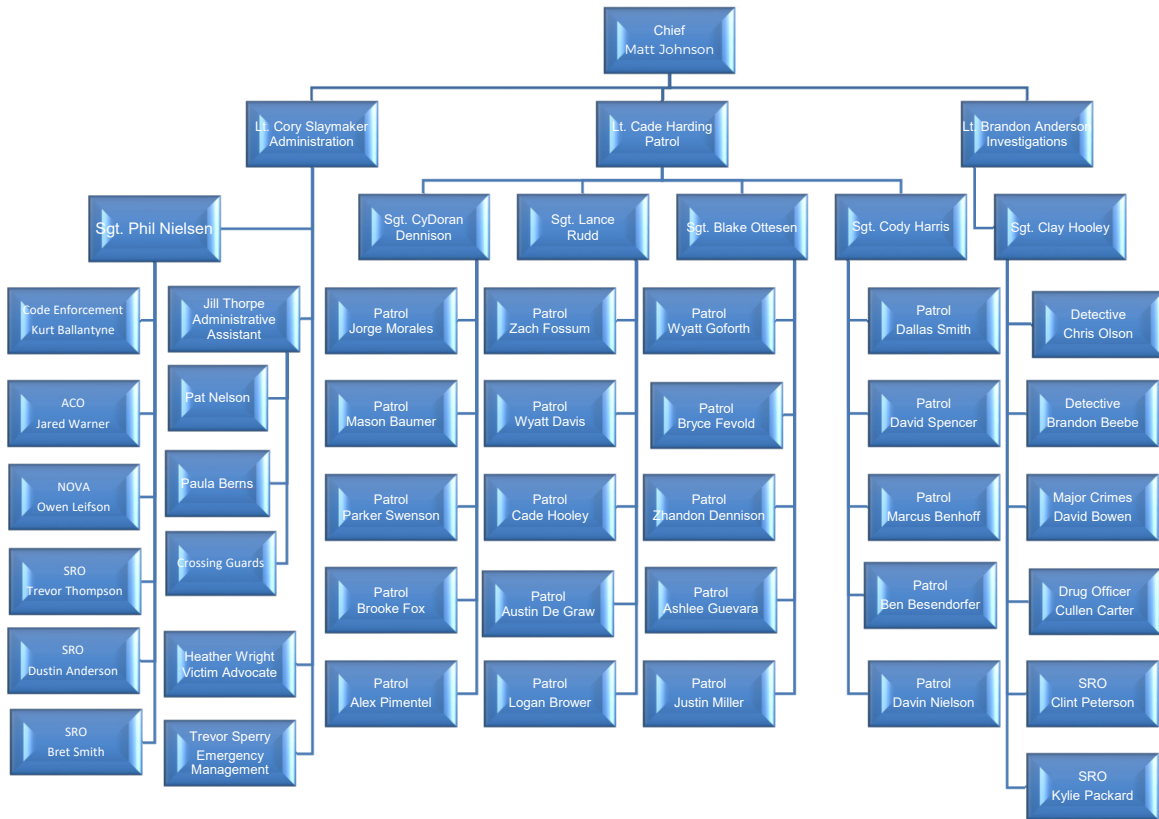
I am pleased to present you with the Spanish Fork Police Department’s Annual Report for 2023. This report contains a breakdown of staffing, crime statistics, non-crime statistics and agency accomplishments. As the city continues to grow so does the need for law enforcement services. We have a dedicated group of sworn officers and civilian employees who are committed to safeguarding the lives and property of our citizens. I am incredibly proud of the men and women of the Spanish Fork Police Department who strive to provide the highest quality of police services to our residents and business owners. Our community enjoys a high quality of life and a low crime rate as a result of our philosophy of common sense and compassionate policing.

We have a great partnership with our citizens and business owners of the community. Working together, we have sought to make life better in Spanish Fork. The department appreciates the tremendous support from the community, our elected officials and city administration. It is my commitment that we will strive daily to provide the highest level of police services and ensure that Spanish Fork is a desirable city to live, work and visit.

Respectfully,
Chief Matthew R. Johnson



Organization Chart



Spanish Fork Police Department



Taken July 2023



Members of the Spanish Fork Police Department



Matthew R Johnson
Chief of Police
28 years service



Brandon Anderson
Lieutenant
30 years service



Cory Slaymaker
Lieutenant
28 years service



M Cade Harding
Lieutenant
20 years service



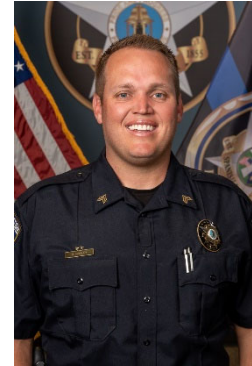
Phil Nielsen
Sergeant
25 years service



Lance Rudd
Sergeant
23 years service



Cody Harris
Sergeant
17 years service



Clay Hooley
Sergeant
13 years service



Blake Ottesen
Sergeant
16 years service



CyDoran Dennison
Sergeant
11 years service



Kurt Ballantyne
Master Officer
21 years service



Clint Peterson
Master Officer
13 years service



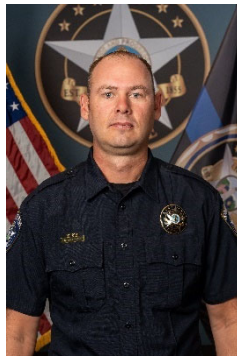
Jared Warner
Master Officer
20 years service



Dallas Smith
Master Officer
10 years service



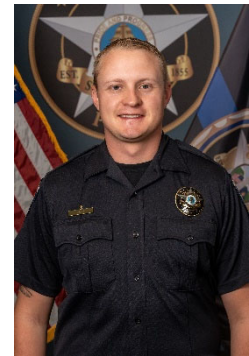
Bret Smith
Master Officer
10 years service



Dustin Anderson
Master Officer
16 years service



Chris Olson
Officer II
6 years service



Wyatt Davis
Officer II
6 years service



Owen Leifson
Officer II
6 years service



David Bowen
Master Officer
10 years service



David Spencer
Officer II
12 years service



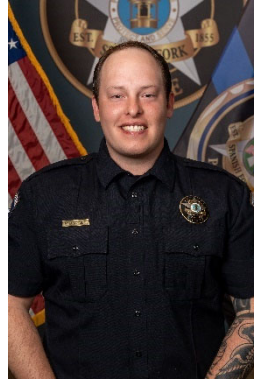
Kylie Packard
Officer II
5 years service



Jorge Morales
Officer II
5 years service



Zach Fossum
Master Officer
13 years service



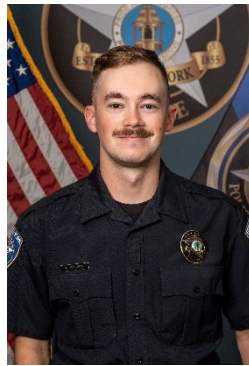
Mason Baumer
Officer I
5 years service



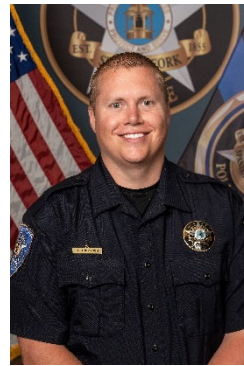
Marcus Benhoff
Officer I
5 years service



Cullen Carter
Master Officer
15 years service



Wyatt Goforth
Officer I
3 years service



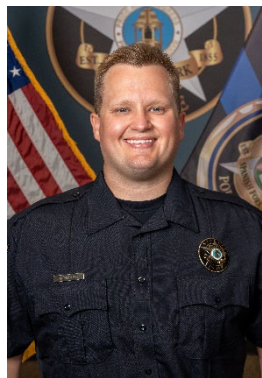
Trevor Thompson
Officer II
5 years service



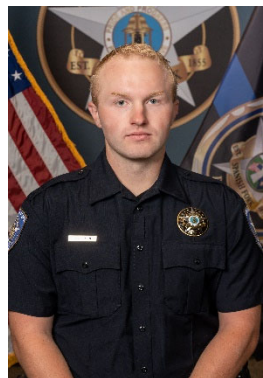
Brandon Beebe
Officer I
5 years service



Benjamin Besendorfer
Officer I
6 years service



Cade Hooley
Officer I
5 years service



Davin Nielson
Officer I
1 year service



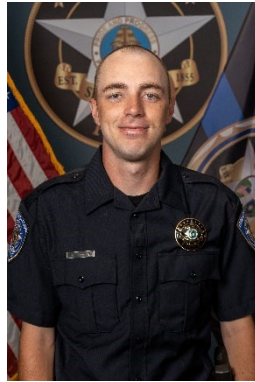
Bryce Fevold
Officer I
1 year service



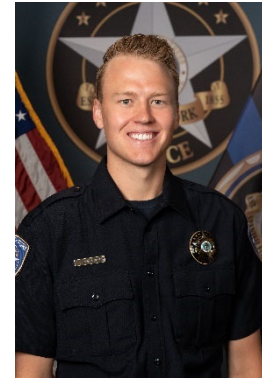
Zhandon Dennison
Officer I
1 year service



Austin De Graw
Officer I
1 year service



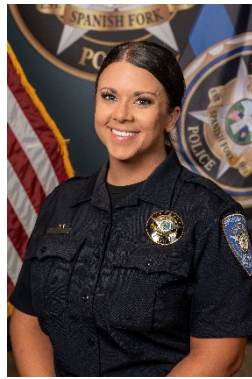
Logan Brower
Officer I
5 years service



Parker Swenson
Officer I
1 year service



Ashlee Guevara
Officer II
10 years service



Brooke Fox
Officer II
10 years service



Justin Miller
Officer I
5 years service



Alex Pimentel
Officer I

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES



Jill Thorpe
Administrative Assistant
37 years service



Heather Wright
Victim Advocate
22 years service



Pat Nelson
Support Staff
7 years service



Paula Berns
Support Staff
7 years service

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administrative Division provides services to the public as well as to other Divisions within the Police Department. Our goal is to serve the citizens and officers. When citizens respond to the Police Department for assistance, the Administrative Division is the initial contact and our members guide the citizens to the appropriate personnel.



Lt. Cory Slaymaker

The Administrative Division consists of the administrative sergeant, support staff, victim advocate, animal control officer, code enforcement officer, emergency preparedness manager and numerous school crossing guards. The Division is responsible for the maintenance and dissemination of public records, training, cataloging and custody of evidence, computer systems, new recruit hiring, policy review and implementation and fire and ambulance billing.

Administrative Sergeant	Phil Nielsen		
Code Enforcement Officer	Kurt Ballantyne		
Animal Control Officer	Jared Warner		
NOVA Instructor	Owen Leifson		
Administrative Assistant	Jill Thorpe		
Support Staff	Pat Nelson		
	Paula Berns		
Victim Advocate	Heather Wright		
Emergency Preparedness	Trevor Sperry		
Crossing Guards	Patricia Nichols	Shalyn Bills	Emilee Binkerd
	Kelly Averett	Chris Hansen	Shannon Sharp
	Ashley Bailey	Kellie Koyle	Amanda Heap
	Tori Anderson	Paige Hurst	George Brinkerhoff
	Veronica Whitby	Nikya Connelly	Kortni Jessup
	Rachel Arnold		

Victim Advocate

Spanish Fork City's Victim Services Program strives to ensure victims of crime receive assistance, information, resources and support to help them through a very difficult time while protecting their constitutional rights.

Victim Rights

Utah Constitution declares victims of crime have the following rights:

- To be treated with fairness and dignity and respect.
- To be informed of, be present at and to be heard at important criminal justice hearings.
- To have a sentencing judge, for the purpose of imposing an appropriate sentence, receive and consider, without evidentiary limitation, reliable information concerning the background, character, and conduct of a person convicted of an offense.

Services Provided to Victims

Safety Planning	Protective Orders
Criminal Justice Updates	Emotional Support
Resources	U Visa
Restitution	Crime Victim Reparations
Prosecutorial Meetings	Victim Impact Statements
Information to Survivors of Sudden/Unexpected Death	

Funding

The Victims of Crime Act, passed in 1984 under President Ronald Reagan, created the Victims of Crime Act Fund, or VOCA Fund, to be a protected and dedicated source of funding for crime victim programs. The VOCA Fund does not depend on taxpayer dollars - it is derived from fines and penalties on offenders at the federal level. Spanish Fork City applied for VOCA funding, the Utah Office for Victims of Crime reviewed and approved the applications and awarded the following amounts to serve victims of crime in Spanish Fork City.

2021-2023	VOCA Grant	\$ 89,210.92 (two year grant)
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INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

The investigative division plays a crucial role in upholding the law and ensuring public safety. They utilize a variety of techniques, including surveillance, interviews, forensic analysis, and collaboration with other agencies, to gather evidence and solve cases. Their work is essential in bringing justice to victims and maintaining order within Spanish Fork City.



Lt. Brandon Anderson

The investigations Division is responsible for general investigations as well as numerous special investigative responsibilities. Some of the detective assignments are general investigator, city drug enforcement officer, Utah County Major Crimes Task Force, and school resource officers.

The Investigations division has the responsibility of investigating both criminal and non-criminal cases such as: arson, burglary, robbery, theft, forgery, fraud, identity theft, homicide, assault, kidnapping, sex, offenses, public health, and safety crimes such as weapons offenses, illegal drug use, drug trafficking and pornography violations. Some of the non-criminal cases are runaways and death investigations.

The Lieutenant directly supervises the sergeant and plays a crucial role in managing the investigative team, ensuring that investigations are conducted effectively and efficiently, and providing leadership and strategic direction to the division. His role is a blend of administrative duties, supervisory responsibilities and active participation in investigations.

The Sergeant directly supervises eight detectives in the investigative division. He plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth operation of the investigative team, offering both supervision and direct investigative expertise. He is pivotal in guiding the team through complex cases while also managing his own investigative responsibilities.

Sergeant	Clay Hooley		
Investigators	Chris Olson	Brandon Beebe	
School Resource Officers	Clint Peterson	Dustin Anderson	Bret Smith
	Kylie Packard	Trevor Thompson	
Drug Officers	David Bowen	Cullen Carter	



Drug Officer Reporting

Major Crimes Drug Officer

Arrests:
Felony Arrests: 220
Misdemeanor Arrests: 161
Federal Indictments: 56

Seizures:
Cash: \$633,664
Guns: 133
Cocaine: 49.34 lbs
Heroin: 70.05 lbs
Marijuana/DAB: 208.67 lbs
THC Cartridges: 94,446 dosages
Meth: 106.14 lbs
Fentanyl:
 Pills 779,454 dosages
 Powder 1.49 lbs
Pharmaceuticals: 3,870 dosages

City Drug Officer

Arrests:
Arrested Suspects: 36
Felony Arrests: 20
Misdemeanor Arrests: 14
DUI Arrests: 2
Search Warrants:
 Residential: 6
 Vehicles: 1
 Other (phone/blood/urine, etc): 9

Seizures:
Guns: 5
Cocaine: 0 gm
Heroin: 4.09 gm
Marijuana: 11.3 gm
Meth: 344.4 gm
Fentanyl:
 Powder 114.6 gm
Psilocybin Mushrooms: 4 gm
Prescription Drugs: 3 doses

** City Drug statistics are from
January through June.

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is comprised of one Lieutenant, four Sergeants and 20 officers. The primary responsibility of the Patrol Division is to provide 24 hour a day police response. Officers respond to calls for service in both emergency and non-emergency situations.



Lt. Cade Harding

Aside from responding to dispatched calls, officers are responsible for patrolling neighborhoods, enforcing traffic laws, enforcing city and state codes and ordinances, investigating traffic accidents, providing traffic control, investigating cases, providing presentations to citizens of the community, and other duties as assigned.

The patrol officers are most likely to be in direct contact with the public. We strive to provide the best possible customer service to the public. Our patrol officers are of the highest integrity and bring honor to the uniform and to the City of Spanish Fork.

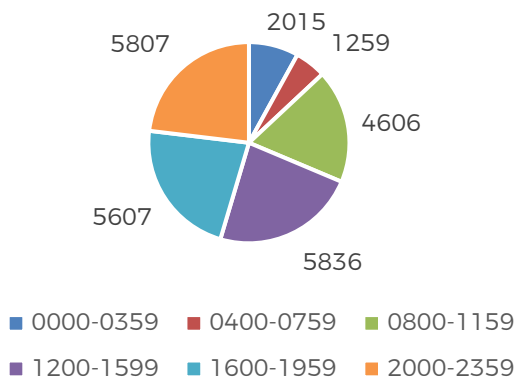
Sergeants	Lance Rudd	Cody Harris	
	Blake Ottesen	CyDoran Dennison	
Patrol Officers	Dallas Smith	Jorge Morales	Zach Fossum
	Mason Baumer	Marcus Benhoff	Ben Besendorfer
	Cade Hooley	Davin Nielson	Bryce Fevold
	Zhandon Dennison	Austin De Graw	Logan Brower
	Parker Swenson	Ashlee Guevara	Brooke Fox
	Justin Miller	Alex Pimentel	
K9 Officers	Wyatt Davis / Partner Iceman		
	David Spencer / Partner Maverick		
	Wyatt Goforth / Partner Rooster		

DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

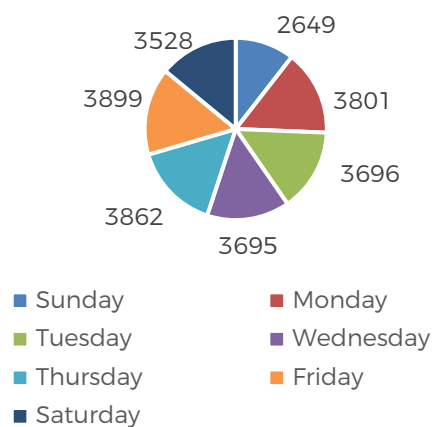
Calls for Service

A call for service is a request for assistance from someone in the community. There was a total of 25,130 calls for service in 2023. Most calls handled by the department are calls for service as opposed to calls reporting a crime. These may include someone calling for help in opening a locked car, a traffic accident, public presentation requests, etc. The majority of a patrol officer's time is spent on these types of calls.

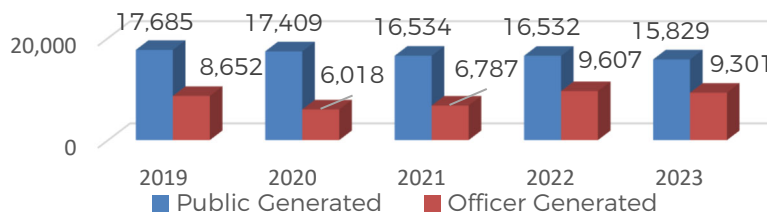
Calls by Hour of the Day



Calls by Day of Week



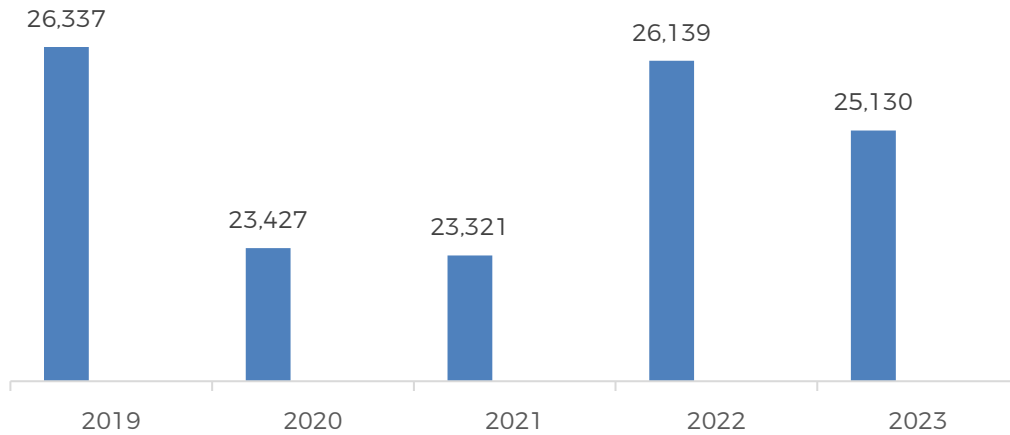
How Calls for Service Were Received



Public generated calls are dispatched by our dispatch center. Officer generated calls are calls initiated by an officer.

Calls for Service Comparison

Yearly Comparison

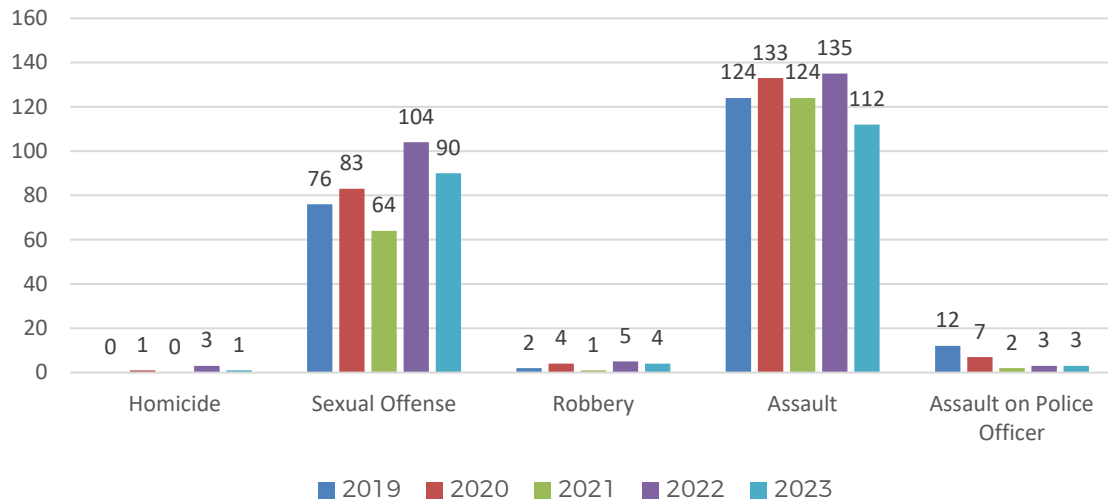


An average of 69 calls were service were responded to each day.

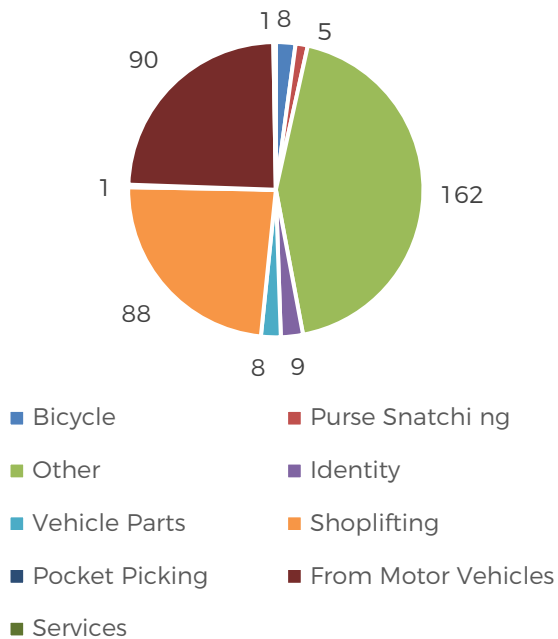
Event Clock

Rape	Occurred every	73 days
Robbery	Occurred every	91 days
Aggravated Assault	Occurred every	24 days
Child Abuse	Occurred every	52 days
Vehicle Theft	Occurred every	17 days
Sex Offense	Occurred every	4 days
Domestic Violence	Occurred every	7 days
Simple Assault	Occurred every	4 days
Burglary	Occurred every	14 days
Vandalism	Occurred every	2 days
Family Problem/No Violence	Occurred every	1 day
Traffic Accident	Occurred every	8 hours
Theft	Occurred every	1 day
Call for Service	Occurred every	21 minutes

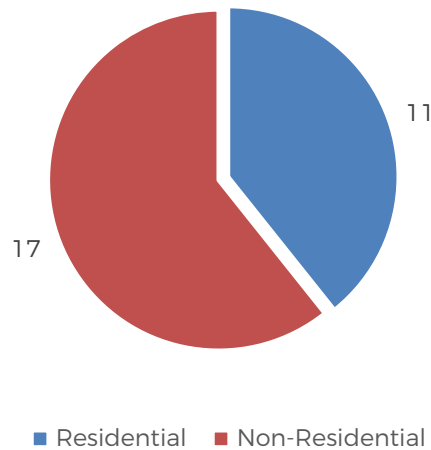
Crimes Against Persons Comparison



Theft Reports By Type of Theft

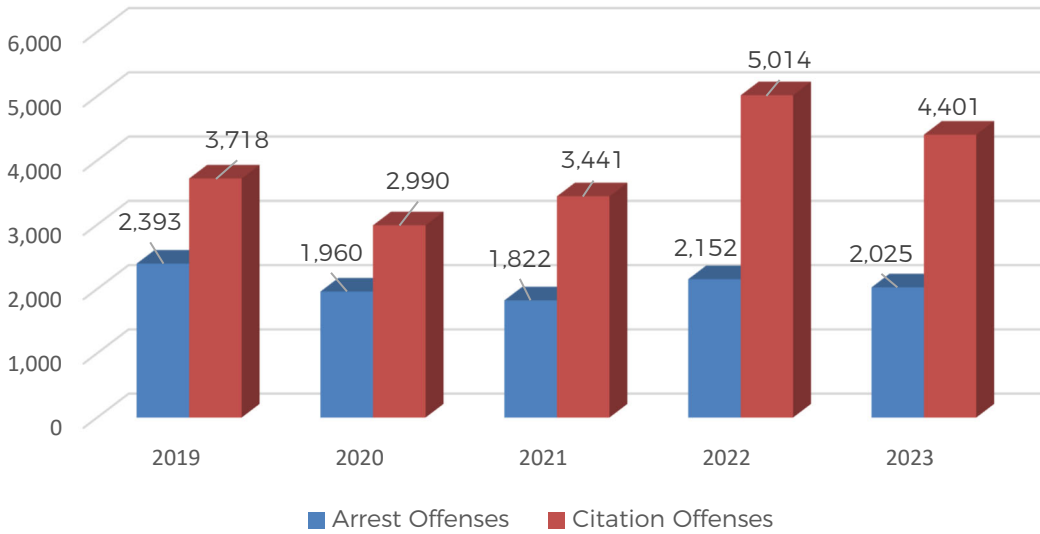


Burglary Reports by Type of Burglary



Arrest Comparison

Yearly Comparison

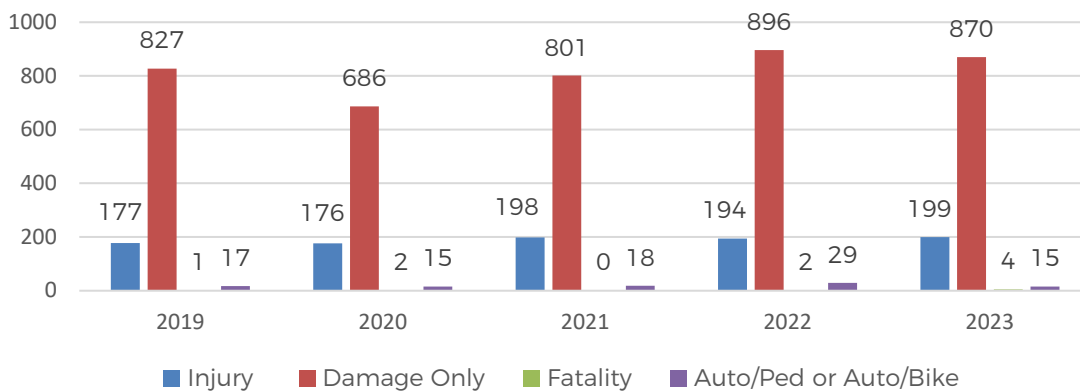


This comparison is the total arrests made by issuing a citation or by an arrest by issuing a summons or physical arrest. Citations include violations such as speeding, registration offenses, etc. Arrests include violations such as shoplifting, theft, assault, etc.

Traffic Accidents

Spanish Fork Police Department takes traffic enforcement very seriously. Nationally, more people are injured and die from motor vehicle accidents than all crimes combined. The following information is taken from actual traffic accident reports written by Spanish Fork Police Officers. There were 1,073 traffic accidents investigated.

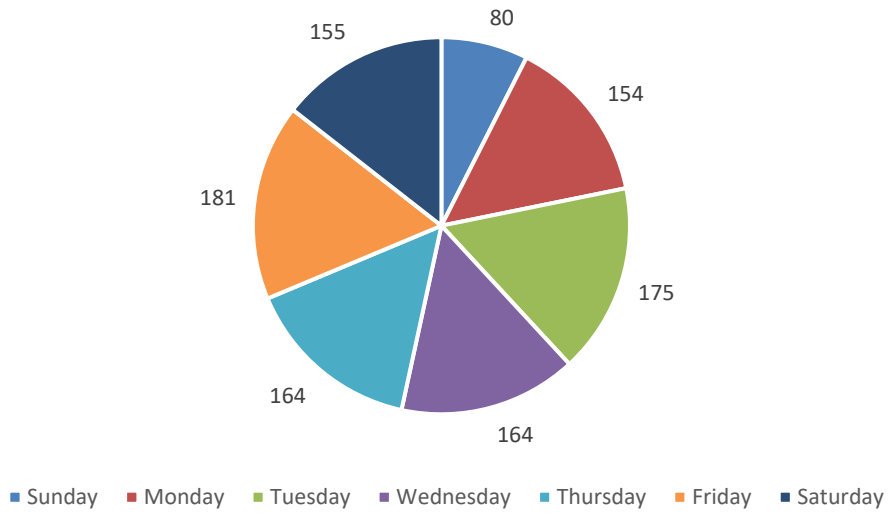
Accident Comparison



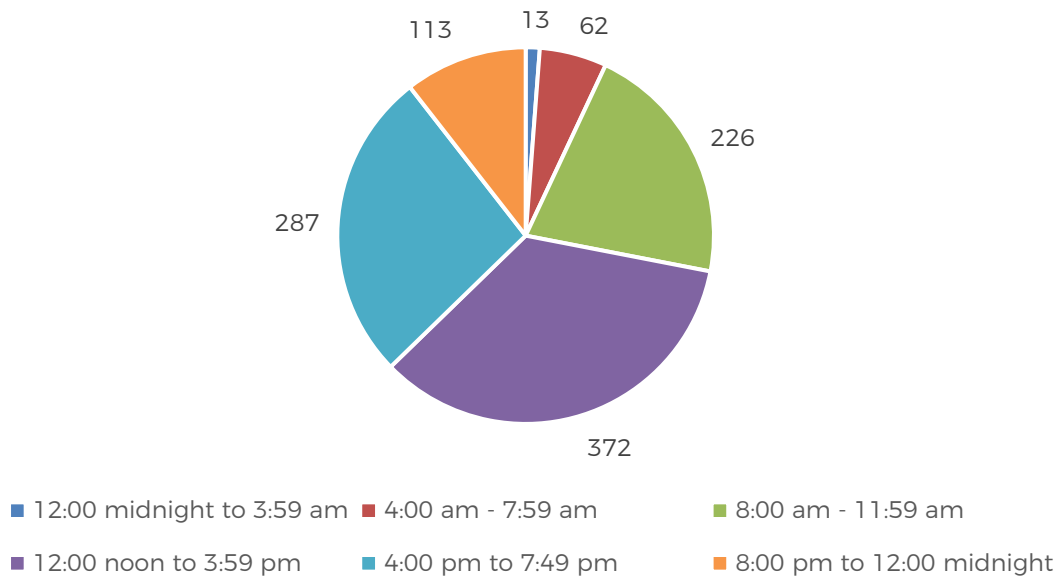
Top Accident Locations	Injury Accidents	Damage Accidents	TOTAL Accidents
Hwy 6 1000 N/Canyon Creek Pkwy	6	27	33
Hwy 6 Center	8	22	30
Hwy 6 Expressway Lane	6	21	27
1000 N Main	4	16	20
300 S Main	8	10	18
800 E 400 N	2	15	17
Center Main	8	7	15
700 N Main	2	9	11
400 N Main	5	6	11
600 N Main	1	9	10
Woodland Hills Drive Main	3	7	10



Accidents by Day of the Week



Accidents by Time of Day



DEPARTMENT HISTORY

Retirees

Master Officer Zack Adams

Officer Zack Adams retired from the department in September after serving 20 years as a police officer. He came to work with Spanish Fork in 2004 after working one year with Lone Peak PD. Master Officer Adams served in many capacities while employed with the City. He was a DARE Officer, Field Training Officer, School Resource Officer, Detective, SWAT member, Honor Guard member and Code Enforcement Officer.

Zack retired and continued his employment with Westland Construction.

Zack was a great asset to the community.



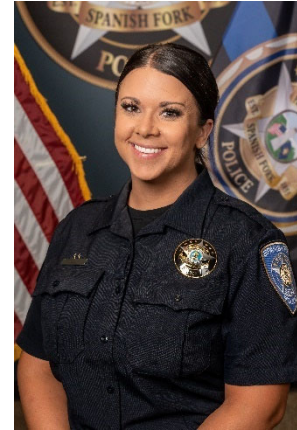
New Hires

The Department hired three individuals this year.

Brooke Fox

Officer Fox started her career in law enforcement in 2013 with Provo PD. She went to school working to become an elementary school teacher but after teaching preschool for a few weeks she quickly realized that wasn't for her. She has experience working with Community Policing, Bike Patrol, Field Training Officer, Drone Operator and an Investigator.

She wanted to be closer to home she in May she hired on with Spanish Fork. "I love Spanish Fork and I've been happy working and service the people in the community."



Justin Miller



Officer Justin Miller joined the department in September of 2023. He graduated from Payson High School in 2014. He joined law enforcement in 2019. He began his career with Salem PD and served there for one year. He then worked for Santaquin PD for three years. He transferred to Spanish Fork to excel his career and further better his skills. He comes to our department with experience as a Field Training Officer and a Less Lethal Instructor. He spends his free time with family, hunting and enjoying sports.

Alex Pimentel

Officer Alex Pimental joined our department freshly out of the Police Academy. He was born in California and has lived in Orem Utah for the last 20 years. His parents are from El Salvador and Guatemala. He has delivered FedEx packages in Spanish Fork for the last seven and a half years. He graduated from Mt. View High School. He attended the UVU Police Academy and graduated in August 2023. He enjoys being active, watching movies, sports, paddleboarding and traveling to El Salvador to visit family.



Awards Banquet

Welcome

Chief Matt Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance

SFPD Honor Guard

Prayer

Officer Cade Hooley

Toast to Fallen Comrades

Lt. Cory Slaymaker

Dinner

Awards

Remarks

Mayor Mike Mendenhall



Toast to Our Fallen Comrades



You may have noticed the small table set for one that is off on its own. It is reserved to honor our fallen brothers and sisters in arms. This symbolizes that they are with us here in spirit. We should never forget the brave men and women who answered our nations call to serve and served the cause of freedom in a special way.

We are ever mindful that the sweetness and enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures there are others who have endured the agonies of pain, deprivation and death.

I would like to explain the meaning of the items on the special table.

The table is small showing our everlasting concern for our fallen brothers and sisters. The tablecloth is white symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call of duty.

The single rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the life of each of our fallen brothers and sisters and the loved ones and friends of these comrades who keep the faith.

The vase is tied with a red ribbon a symbol of our continued determination to remember our fallen comrades.

A slice of lemon on the bread plate reminds us of the bitter fate of those who will never return.

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by the families of those who have sacrificed all. Scriptures represent the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country.

The glass is inverted. They cannot toast with us at this time.

The chair is empty because they are no longer with us.

Let us remember and never forget their sacrifice.
May they and their families ever be watched over and protected.

Definition of Awards:

The **Life Saving Medal** will be awarded to any department member for saving a human life. This award is intended for all members directly responsible for saving a human life. Documentation and supporting evidence must be included, such as statements from witnesses, physicians or supervisors. This award may also be made upon evidence that the member's actions prolonged a human life, permitting the victim to be treated by medical personnel, even though the victim may have died later.

The **Unit Citation** may be awarded to any sworn or civilian employee for exceptional work based upon one act or upon an extended series of exemplary service. This award does not rise to the level of the higher requirements of a Medal of Distinction but is greater than a Letter of Commendation.

A **Citizen's Award of Appreciation** will be presented to a citizen who provides outstanding assistance to the department in preventing crime; or providing a great service; or apprehending criminals; or renders an outstanding heroic act at considerable personal danger to him/herself, which culminated in saving a life.

Department Commendation Award. In addition to the above listed Meritorious Service and Commendation awards sworn officers and department employees may also be recognized and receive a certificate, plaque and/or ribbon pin award. These awards include but are not limited to:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Drug Recognition Expert | (b) Field Training Officer | (c) Instructor (NOVA, |
| (d) SWAT | (e) Excellent Physical Fitness | Firearms, Emergency |
| (f) Superior Physical Fitness | (g) Honor Guard | Vehicle Operations) |
| (h) Emergency Medical Technician | (i) School Resource Officer | (j) Bachelor's Degree |
| (k) Master's Degree | (l) Public Information Officer | (m) K9 Officer |
| (n) Master Officer | (o) Patrolman II | (p) Detective |

Officer of the Year Qualifications

1. **Performance of Duty:** The officer consistently performs his or her duties in a professionally acceptable manner. He/She is familiar with statutory requirements and offense elements of the Criminal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Juvenile Court Act, and Vehicle Code. Further, the officer is familiar and complies with department policies, procedures, rules and regulations and performs his/her duty without close supervision.
2. **Organizational Philosophy:** Consistently adheres to and practices the Mission Statement of the Spanish Fork Police Department.
3. **Demeanor:** Is favorably distinguished from his or her peers in the manner in which he or she interacts with others; and whose conduct reflects favorably on himself or herself, this department, and the City of Spanish Fork.
4. **Self-Improvement Efforts:** Strives continually to be better informed, seeks self-improvement opportunities, encourages others, and takes advantage of every opportunity to improve his or her ability to be more professionally competent.
5. **Personnel File:** The Chief of Police will provide the Selection Committee any letters of recognition/awards. No officer will be eligible for this award if a letter of reprimand (or greater form of discipline) was received during this selection year.



Awards

Citizens Award of Appreciation

Awarded to Utah County Evidence Team

Awarded to Jeff Swain

Awarded to Chad Argyle

Awarded to Ranees Snow

Awarded to City Attorneys Ana Burgi and Tanner Preece

Years of Service

Sgt. Phil Nielsen - 25 years

Lt. Cade Harding – 20 years

Jared Warner – 20 years

Dallas Smith – 10 years

Bret Smith – 10 years

David Bowen - 10 years

Mason Baumer – 5 years

Marcus Benhoff – 5 years

Brandon Beebe – 5 years

Cade Hooley – 5 years

Logan Brower – 5 years

Justin Miller – 5 years

Department Commendation Awards

<p>Officer II Jorge Morales Kylie Packard Wyatt Davis Chris Olson David Spencer</p>	<p>Firearms Awards Lt. Cory Slaymaker - Marksman & Expert Mason Baumer - Marksman & Expert Marcus Benhoff - Marksman & Expert Zhandon Dennison – Marksman & Expert Logan Brower – Marksman & Expert</p>
<p>Physical Fitness Sgt. CyDoran Dennison – Superior</p>	<p>Special Assignments Logan Brower - Firearms Bret Smith - Firearms Marcus Benhoff - Accident Reconstruction Cade Hooley - Accident Reconstruction Dustin Anderson - SRO Lt. Cade Harding - PIO Sgt. Clay Hooley - PIO Sgt. Blake Ottesen - PIO Brandon Beebe - Detective Wyatt Goforth - K9 Sgt. CyDoran Dennison - PIO</p>

Life Saving Awards

Nominated by: Sgt. CyDoran Dennison Mason Baumer David Spencer	Nominated by: Sgt. CyDoran Dennison Brooke Fox Austin De Graw Mason Baumer
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Unit Citations

Nominated by: Sgt. Cody Harris Ashlee Guevara Cade Hooley Austin De Graw David Spencer Zhandon Dennison Parker Swenson Brandon Beebe Marcus Benhoff Owen Leifson Kurt Ballantyne Cory Lewis Sgt Cody Harris Sgt. CyDoran Dennison	Nominated by: Lt. Brandon Anderson Jared Warner Cory Lewis Owen Leifson Davin Nielson Bryce Fevold Zhandon Dennison Austin De Graw Logan Brower Parker Swenson Ashlee Guevara Clint Peterson David Bowen Bret Smith Dustin Anderson Chris Olson Kylie Packard Zach Fossum Trevor Thompson Sgt Phil Nielsen Sgt Clay Hooley Sgt Blake Ottesen Sgt Cody Harris Lt Brandon Anderson Lt Cade Harding Lt Cory Slaymaker Chief Matt Johnson
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Officer of the Year

Awarded to Officer Chris Olson



Officer of the Year

The Officer of the Year award was given to Officer Chris Olson. Officer Olson joined the department in 2017 fresh out of the Police Academy. He serves on the Peer Support Team and well as being a Detective. He was nominated for this award by Sgt. Clay Hooley.



The following is an excerpt from his nomination form:

For the past year, I have had the opportunity to supervise Detective Olson in investigations and have personally witnessed the effort he has put forth in serving our community. Working investigations comes with a new set of burdens that are often daunting tasks. As Detective Olson has been faced with these challenges, he has done so with a positive attitude and willingness to see cases through to the end.

I would like to highlight a case that was assigned to Detective Olson earlier in the year. This case was a double homicide case. Regardless of circumstances surrounding a homicide case, they are never easy. This case required Detective Olson to travel beyond the borders of our state, required countless affidavits to be submitted in hopes of obtaining warrants, involved working with the Federal Bureau of Investigations to analyze data, and he worked with the governor's office to bring the arrested suspect back to Utah. There was never a time during this case that Detective Olson faltered.

But it is not only the big cases such as the one referenced above that makes Detective Olson a commendable police officer. Even with cases that may seem insignificant, Detective Olson has taken the same approach, with willingness and sense of duty to see that our community members are properly served in this area of policing. Another case that I can recall involved a multi hundred-thousand dollar business embezzlement case. This was a case where multiple victims were seeking justice for many years in regard to a local businessman who had defrauded many out of their hard earned money. Detective Olson went above and beyond in this case, learning new techniques and collaborating with other departments to ensure this suspect was brought to justice.

Outside of Detective Olson's thorough case work, he has dedicated himself to learning cutting edge techniques and technology to help strengthen our investigations unit. He has become well known in drafting and implementing warrants to obtain evidence. He understands how to treat those who have suffered unimaginable crimes as victims and has the ability to build trust with these people. He will help them to the best of his abilities.

Awards Banquet Photos



Chief Matthew Johnson

Spanish Fork Police Department Honor Guard



Citizen's Award of Appreciation



Utah County Evidence Team for their support and expertise in helping with our cases



Citizen Ranee Snow for her never-ending support of the Police Department over several years



Former Councilman Chad Argyle for the support given to the Police Department during his tenure as Councilman



Assistant City Attorney Ana Burgi and City Prosecutor Tanner Preece for handling the prosecution of our cases

Life Saving Awards



Officers Mason Baumer and David Spencer



Officers Mason Baumer and Brooke Fox

Unit Citations



Awarded for the professionalism in which they handled four fatal traffic accidents during the year.

Sgt Cody Harris, Chief Matthew Johnson, Officers Marcus Benhoff, Ashlee Guevara, Sgt. CyDoran Dennison, Officers Bryce Fevold, Cade Hooley, David Spencer, Zhandon Dennison, Parker Swenson, Brandon Beebe and Lt. Cory Slaymaker

Awarded for the work performed during the investigation of a double homicide which occurred during the year.



Lt. Brandon Anderson, Lt. Cory Slaymaker, Chief Matthew Johnson, Officers Logan Brower, Clint Peterson, Sgt. Phil Nielsen, Officer Trevor Thompson, Sgt. Cody Harris, Officers Dustin Anderson, Kylie Packard, Parker Swenson, Ashlee Guevara, Chris Olson, David Bowen, Lt. Cade Harding, Officers Bret Smith, Cullen Carter, Zhandon Dennison, Bryce Fevold, Sgt. Clay Hooley and Officer Davin Nielson

Officer of the Year



Sgt. Clay Hooley, Chief Matthew Johnson, Officer Chris Olson, Lt. Cory Slaymaker

MAJOR CASES

Double Homicide

On March 15th officers responded to a local residence for a welfare check. It was reported that a married couple had missed several days of work and would not respond to phone calls. Upon checking the residence, officers found the couple inside the home deceased. The circumstances around the discovery of the dead bodies, suggested the case was a homicide. Detectives were called to the scene and a full-fledged homicide investigation was initiated. A suspect, the couple's troubled adult son, was identified as a suspect. Efforts were made to locate the suspect. The suspect was located in a neighboring state in what appeared to be an attempt to get away from Utah.



The suspect was taken into custody and later brought back to Utah. The suspect was ultimately arrested based off of physical and forensic evidence discovered on the scene. The suspect has been charged with a double-homicide and his trial is pending in the court.

House Fire

On March 28th first responders responded to a house fire at a local residence. The



owner and sole occupant of the residence was an older female. At the time the fire was called in, there was no sign of the homeowner. The fire brought total devastation to the home and the home ended up collapsing, leaving a large pile of debris. Officers worked with the missing female's family

to try and find her. At first, it appeared that the female was likely not home at the time of the fire however after gathering further information officers could not confirm whether or not the female was in the house debris as a result of the fire or

not. Officers spent several days sifting through the house debris. On the second day of sifting, was when the Spanish Fork High School swatting call came out, to which all officers on this scene responded to the swatting call. Once the high school incident was over, detectives returned to the house



fire detail the same day and continued sifting. As the evening approached, the missing homeowner's body was found buried in the debris.

Swatting

On March 29th officers were called to Spanish Fork High School for an active shooter. It was reported that a student had shot multiple students in a bathroom in the school. Officers quickly arrived on scene and initiated an active shooter response and protocol. The school



was cleared with no signs of the shooter. The response from first responders was overwhelming. Officers later learned that the call was a swatting call and the incident was a hoax. The incident funneled through the media. The police response was highlighted as being swift and courageous. Regarding the caller in this case, it was determined that the call was made from overseas and the information surrounding the call was submitted to the FBI. As a result of this swatting call, police, fire, EMS, the school, and the city in general was able to implement training and carried the call out as if it was real.



Department Accreditation

The Spanish Fork Police Department is an accredited agency through the Utah Chief's Accreditation Alliance and the Utah Chiefs of Police Association. This accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies calculate and improve their overall performances. The Spanish Fork Police Department was first accredited in November of 2018. The accreditation cycle is five years with yearly self-evaluations to determine continued accreditation compliance. The Spanish Fork Police Department just completed its five-year accreditation and was re-assessed for another five-year cycle. The department went through an assessment by outside trained assessors who verified that applicable standards have been in compliance with new and updated accreditation standards. This accreditation shows that the department is following best-practice policies and procedures for law enforcement. Accreditation status represents a significant professional achievement. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2023 was a great year for our Emergency Management program. Our plans, processes and efforts were challenged as we faced a number of real-life events. On the very same day, our Community Emergency Response Team was deployed to help search the rubble of a house fire to search for a missing person. Shortly into that project, our public safety departments were alerted of an active shooter at Spanish Fork High School. Fortunately, it turned out to be a state-wide hoax. Nevertheless, we learned of our response capabilities and it was amazing to see, along with a few improvements to be made. Finally, that evening we held a public meeting to prepare for the spring runoff, after a record year of snow. We have learned a lot through this year, and our plans moving forward have gotten even better. Our Spring run-off was a long process to plan, prepare for, respond to, and recover from. It was amazing to see city crews, community members and partners throughout the state come together to mitigate the flooding the best we could. Spanish Fork experienced great success and was recognized across the County and State. Real-life events cannot postpone our training and exercises, as we continue doing each year. We held an active shooter full-scale exercise with our hospital, and many tabletop exercises with our city departments. Mitigation projects and public outreach and education programs are always a priority for us. We will continue into next year building our capabilities and partnerships, to increase our resiliency and to continue with the motto, “Home of Pride and Progress.”



Trevor Sperry
Emergency Manager

Notable activities completed

- Created Incident Action Plans (IAP’s) for large city events including Fiesta Days, Wings & Wheels and others
- Held 2 CERT classes with 18 graduates
- Trained city employees in active shooter response, CPR, First Aid, Stop the Bleed, departmental disaster response, and running an emergency shelter for residents



- Worked with Utah County to submit expense report for FEMA reimbursement from the flood
- Obtained AEDs, Med-sleds and Stop the Bleed kits for Library Hall, Trauma kits for our School Resource Officers, and Narcan kits for the Police Department.
- Purchased HAZMAT trailer to serve Spanish Fork and surrounding agencies