South Area Fire & Emergency Response District

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



2025 SAFER ANNUAL REPORT CONTENTS

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INTRODUCTION – JOSH FINKE, FIRE CHIEF

I am pleased to submit my report for administrative activities for the district in 2025. Since our inception in 2014, the district has experienced significant success. Both Weston and Rib Mountain have saved several million dollars in capital expenses. During that same time, we have developed our response to provide a higher level of service to both communities. Our district continues to operate efficiently; we continue to operate with a budget surplus, and through this surplus, borrowing for capital equipment has not been necessary for the past two years.

The primary focus from my office has been developing our staff at all levels. During our growth, we have had the opportunity to hire several new firefighter/paramedics. Our officer group and senior firefighters have been instrumental in developing these individuals into superior frontline firefighters and EMS providers. At the same time, we have been working with senior firefighters to develop them into the engineers and officers of our future. Multiple staff members have completed their driver operator and officer training in 2025. One of our Captains completed his master's degree in Fire Executive Leadership, and the Deputy Chief completed his Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy. One member completed his fire investigation training through the Department of Justice, and four members completed their swift water rescue training. Multiple other individuals completed other classes during the year. My intent is to continue to grow and develop our staff to ensure that we have a group of well-trained and prepared individuals to fill roles in the future.

Over the next twelve months, it is my focus to work to obtain staffing levels that have been approved by our board. These staffing levels will deliver faster and better care to our patients on medical responses and more rapid and effective fire and rescue response. In early 2026, we will work on a new contract with the union, which I am confident will result in a contract that both parties are satisfied with. Our first group of interns has successfully completed their EMT and initial firefighter training. The interns, along with multiple other firefighters, will be attending a paramedic program that will be held in the district. This program will be through NTC; however, it will also have lecture sessions led by our EMS Division Chief.

I would like to thank the Villages of Weston and Rib Mountain for their continued support. I would also like to show my appreciation to our crews who work every minute of every day to ensure our communities are safe. Please take some time to review the data and reports from our leadership staff in the remainder of the annual report.



Respectfully,

Joshua J. Finke

Joshua J. Finke
Fire Chief

PERSONNEL & STAFF REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION

Fire Chief
Joshua Finke



Deputy Fire Chief
Eric Lang



Administrative Assistant
Cher Latimer



EMS Division Chief
Cally Gordon-Haessly



Fire Marshal
Marty Christiansen



BLUE SHIFT

Battalion Chief Evan McBain



Captain Andrew Lohman



Engineer Jason Brandt



Engineer Jacob Kolb



Firefighter Stephen Haas



Firefighter Brianna Welch



Firefighter Erik Butt



Intern Abby Gran



RED SHIFT

Battalion Chief Mark Meyers



Captain Chris Klapoetke



Lieutenant Mike Zellner



Engineer Robert Schultz



Firefighter Landon Franck



Firefighter Mackenzie Cordova



Firefighter Ryan Haessly



Intern Logan Lontkoski



GREEN SHIFT

Battalion Chief Stephen Genrich



Captain Glynn Novak



Engineer Kristy Chula



Engineer Cody Ewan



Firefighter John Hanson



Firefighter Chad Allen



Firefighter Tabitha Allen



Intern Parker Braatz



PART-TIME STAFF

FF Dan Stanchik



FF ID Ukpong



FF Paul Rheinschmidt



FF Chris Passow



FF Andrea Lerch



FF Dennis Reynolds



FF Madison Wolfgram



FF McKenzie Walters



EMR Jacky Kirchner



FF Jeremy Wruck



FF Nick Dubois



FF Kian Garske



FF Brett Krueger



FF Anthony Derrico



FF Riley Wolslegel



FF Ben Nelson



Not Pictured – FF Steve Cronin, FF George Bond

INTERFACILITY TRANSFER STAFF

AEMT Darin Westover



EMT Bruce Bartus



RN/CCP Tracy Parlier



Dr. Mignon Rademan



RN Sherri Esslinger



RN Natalie Fox



RN/CCP Steve Brewster



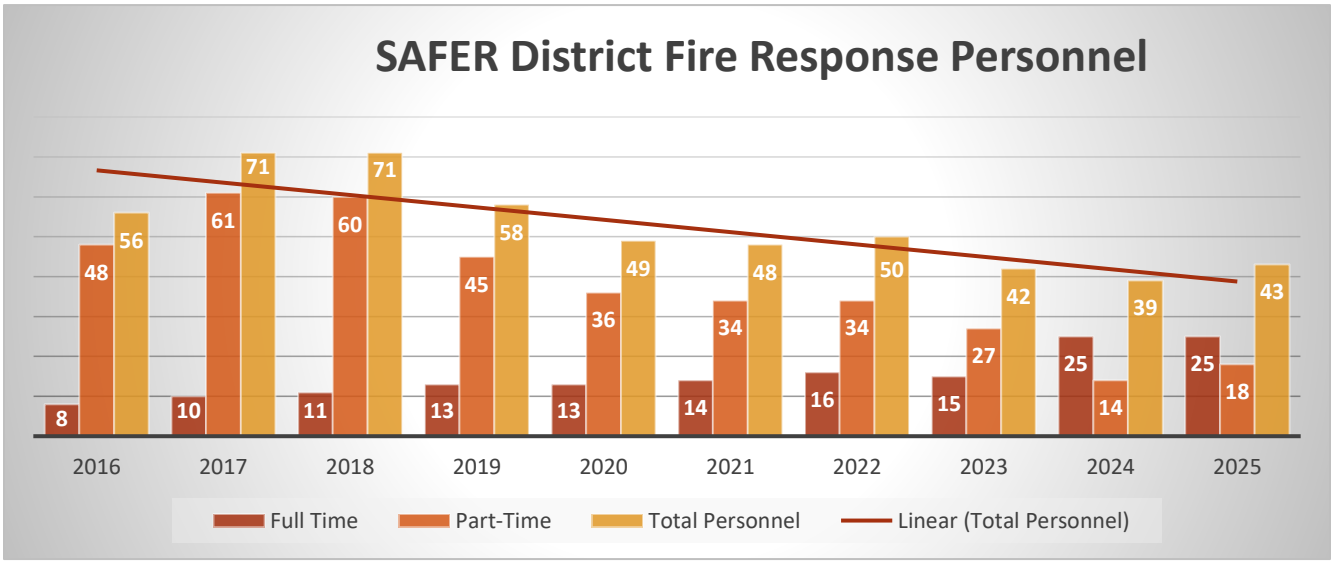


Inter-Facility Staff Not Pictured
RN Mindy Diedrich
CCP Nathaniel Arnett

STAFFING REPORT

In 2025, SAFER hired 14 employees and 3 interns, while losing 9 employees. Two of the 17 employees and interns hired in 2025 left before year-end, resulting in an 88% retention rate for 2025 hires. This resulted in our first year-end personnel increase in several years.

Station staffing in 2025 was the same as in 2024, with a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 employees per day across the two stations. Daily staffing remained at 7 full-time and 1 part-time positions. To maintain minimum staffing, shift mandates and voluntary overtime were used with full-time staff. In 2025, among the eligible 21 employees (including BCs), an average of 1.8 voluntary overtime shifts per person (ranging from 0 to 7 shifts) was recorded. Of the 18 eligible employees (excluding BCs), the average was 0.9 mandated shifts per person (ranging from 0 to 2 shifts). These continue to be extremely low numbers of shifts when compared to other area career departments, keeping our overtime budget low, and it is a testament to the work being done by part-time staff.



Staffing Hired 2025

FF Kraig Kruzan, FF Steve Cronin, FF/AEMT Jeremy Wruck, FF/EMT Nick Dubois, Intern Abby Gran, Intern Logan Lontkoski, Inter Parker Braatz, Transport CCP Nathaniel Arnett, FF/Paramedic Zach Kreklow, Transport RN Natalie Fox, FF/AEMT Kian Garske, FF/EMT Brett Krueger, FF/EMT George Bond, FF/EMT Anthony Derrico, FF/EMT Riley Wolslegel, Transport RN Steve Brewster, FF/CCP Ben Nelson

Staffing Lost in 2025

Transport EMT Destiny Amundson, FF Kraig Kruzan, FF/EMT Kyle Borchardt, Transport RN Steve Baltzell, Transport RN Jessica Baptist, FF/Paramedic Zach Kreklow, FF/Paramedic Cory Hanson, FF/EMT Derek Hart, Engineer/CCP Kristy Chula

EMPLOYEE COMMENDATION RECIPIENTS

In 2025, SAFER continued the employee recognition program. The three awards are: Firefighter Service Commendation, EMS Service Commendation, and the Leadership Award. The recipients of the two commendations are awarded commendation bars to display on their uniforms and their names on a plaque displayed at Station 1, while the recipient of the leadership award is given a glass plaque. The qualifications each award recipient are held to, and the recipients are as follows:

EMS Service Commendation
The EMS Service Commendation Bar is awarded to an individual who is nominated by their peers and chosen by the SAFER District Officers, who consistently characterizes the values of the district while operating as an Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic during responses, training, and public relations.

Firefighter Service Commendation
The Firefighter Service Commendation Bar is awarded to an individual who is nominated by their peers and chosen by the SAFER District Officers, who consistently characterizes the values of the district while operating as a Firefighter during responses, training, and public relations.

Excellence in Leadership Award
The Excellence in Leadership Award is awarded annually to an individual who is nominated by their peers and chosen by the SAFER District Officers, who shows exemplary leadership skills either on or off of emergency scenes. This award is NOT limited to those in an officer position.

Lieutenant Mike Zellner



Leadership Award

FF Ryan Haessly



FF Service Commendation

FF Mackenzie Cordova



EMS Service Commendation





An additional award was nominated and confirmed in 2025. The Administrative Commendation Bar is also displayed on the employees' uniform and is awarded for the following:

Administrative Commendation

The Administration Commendation Bar is awarded to a member of the district who has contributed considerable time to an effort that increases the operational efficiency of the district.

Firefighter/Paramedic Chad Allen was awarded the Administrative Commendation bar for his exceptional professionalism, initiative, and dedication to his work, specifically: engagement with the EMS committee above and beyond what was asked of him, taking on time-intensive administrative and logistical tasks, including conducting supply transfers, EMS supply cycle counting, improving accountability, helping with EMS supply organization, and continuity of EMS operations. Additionally, FF/Paramedic Allen has made a significant impact on paramedic students from local technical colleges as a preceptor, with several letters from students on his behalf being written to the administration.

Administrative Commendation Bar



Firefighter Chad Allen







EMS REPORT – CALLY GORDON-HAESSLY, EMS DIVISION CHIEF

The SAFER Fire District continued to deliver high-quality, progressive prehospital care to our communities throughout 2025. Our services covered our two primary response areas, the Villages of Rib Mountain and Weston, along with six contract areas. In addition to routine emergency responses, SAFER personnel provided standby and event medical coverage for numerous large-scale community events, including Hoof Beat Music Festival, Rock Fest, and the newly added Force Fields Music Festival through our continued partnership with Chippewa Valley Music Festival. Members also supported community health initiatives by assisting with the Wisconsin Dental Association Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic.

Call Volume
In 2025, the SAFER District responded to approximately 2,844 EMS incidents. This total includes 911 emergency responses, Advanced Life Support intercepts, mutual aid requests, and interfacility transports. Of these responses, 2,704 were requests for 911 service, reflecting the ongoing demand for emergency medical care within our communities. Mutual aid and interfacility transport volumes remained consistent with regional needs, underscoring SAFER's role as a reliable partner to surrounding agencies.

Airway Management and Clinical Performance
SAFER continued to demonstrate excellence in airway management and overall clinical performance throughout 2025. Building upon prior years of focused training and quality improvement, our paramedics achieved a first-pass intubation success rate of 82%, again exceeding national benchmarks. This sustained improvement reflects the District's continued emphasis on high-quality airway education, deliberate practice, and data-driven performance review. Maintaining success rates above national standards reinforces SAFER's commitment to providing advanced, evidence-based care in critical situations.

Technology and Equipment Advancements
The start of 2025 marked the full implementation of the Zoll X-Series Advanced monitors, which significantly enhanced our diagnostic capabilities, patient monitoring, and data integration. These monitors were purchased with federal grant funds and support advanced decision-making in the field, while strengthening continuity of care through improved documentation and data capture.

In Spring 2025, SAFER completed a major upgrade to its controlled substance management process with the implementation of the NarcBox and NarcTrak system. This transition brought the District into compliance with current Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) and FDA requirements, while also improving medication security, accountability, and operational efficiency.

Protocol Development and Clinical Innovation
One of the most significant accomplishments of 2025 was the comprehensive revision of SAFER's EMS protocols. This extensive effort ensured alignment with current evidence-based medicine and reinforced SAFER's position as a leader in progressive EMS practice within the State of Wisconsin.

To support this initiative, the District transitioned to the Hinckley Medical OneDose protocol application. This interactive platform enhances provider access to protocols, supports accurate medication administration, and improves workflow during high-acuity patient encounters. Together, the protocol revisions and OneDose implementation represent a major advancement in SAFER's clinical infrastructure.

Training, Education, and Professional Development
SAFER successfully completed another year of fully in-house EMS training in 2025. This approach allowed for consistent, customized education aligned with District protocols and operational expectations. Training efforts were further strengthened through joint and guest-instructor sessions with partners, including Granite Peak Ski Patrol and the Marathon County Medical Examiner's Office, providing valuable interdisciplinary perspectives and practical learning opportunities for our personnel.

The year concluded with a comprehensive overhaul of EMS-related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), ensuring that operational guidance remains current, clear, and supportive of best practices across all levels of care.

Looking Ahead to 2026
In 2026, SAFER looks forward to launching an in-house paramedic cohort composed of District members. Students will be enrolled through Northcentral Technical College's Paramedic Program, with SAFER providing supplemental in-house training to complement their formal education. This initiative represents a significant investment in workforce development and long-term organizational sustainability. While challenging, this program is expected to yield strong outcomes for both the students and the District. Educational costs for participating members will be supported through State Financial Assistance Program (FAP) funding.

Conclusion
The SAFER Fire District's accomplishments in 2025 reflect a continued commitment to high-quality, progressive emergency medical care. Through ongoing improvements in clinical performance, strategic investments in technology, and a strong emphasis on training and operational excellence, SAFER remains well-positioned to meet the needs of the communities we serve. These achievements are a direct result of the dedication and professionalism of our personnel and the continued support of District leadership and community partners. As we move forward, SAFER will continue to focus on innovation, workforce development, and evidence-based practice to support strong patient outcomes and organizational success.

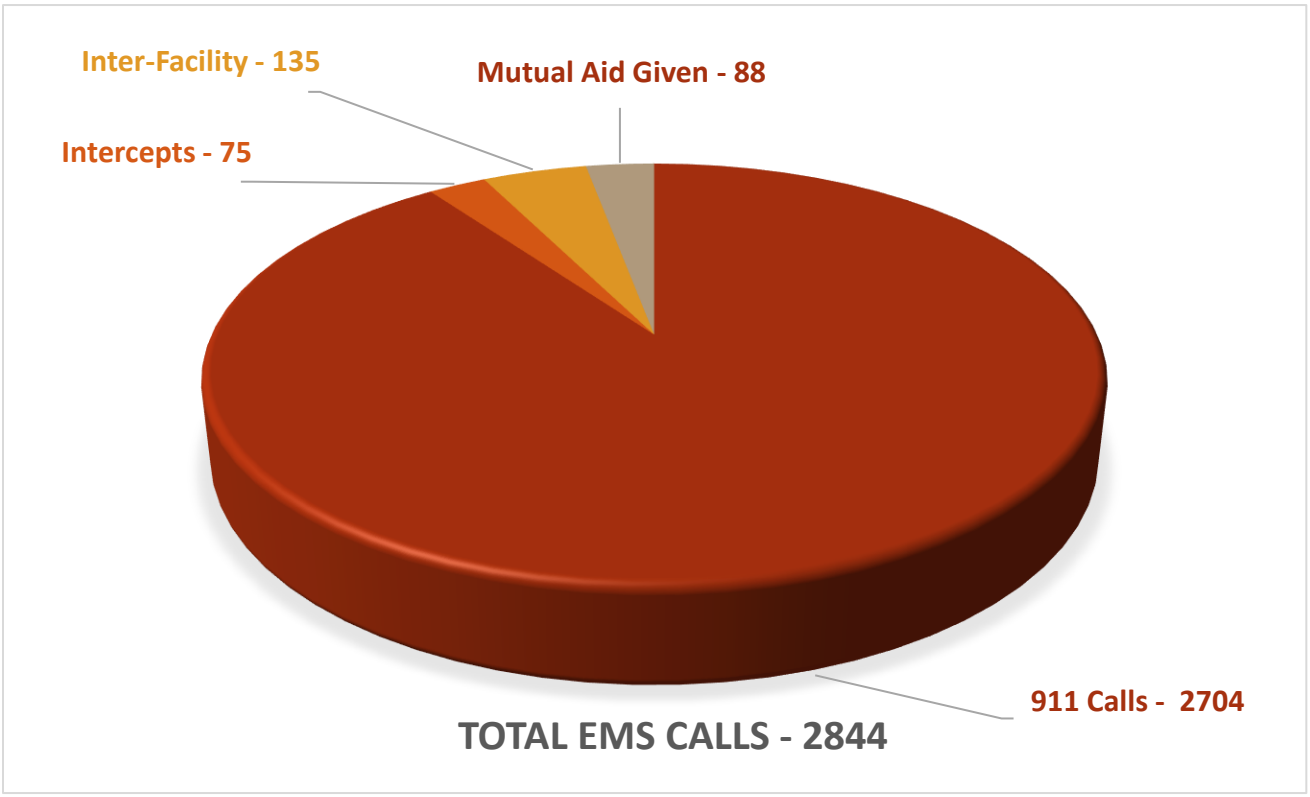


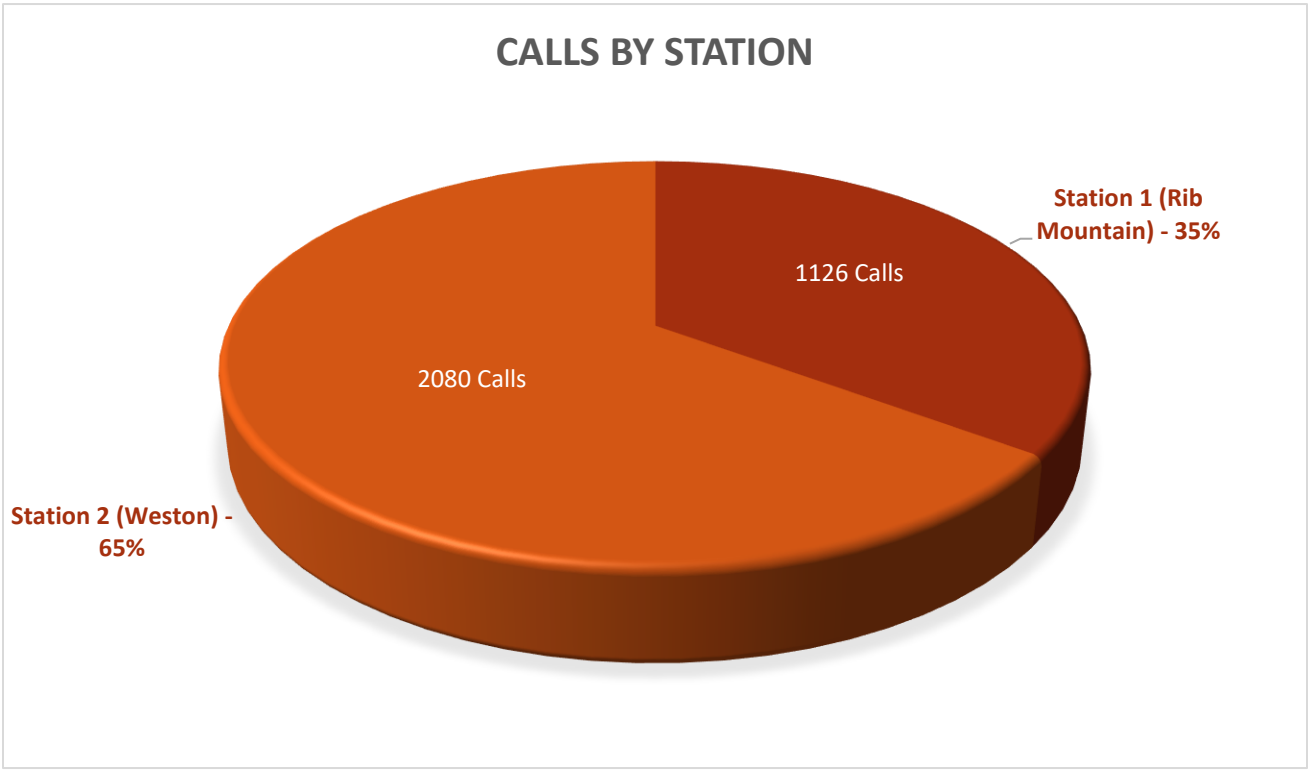
Respectfully,

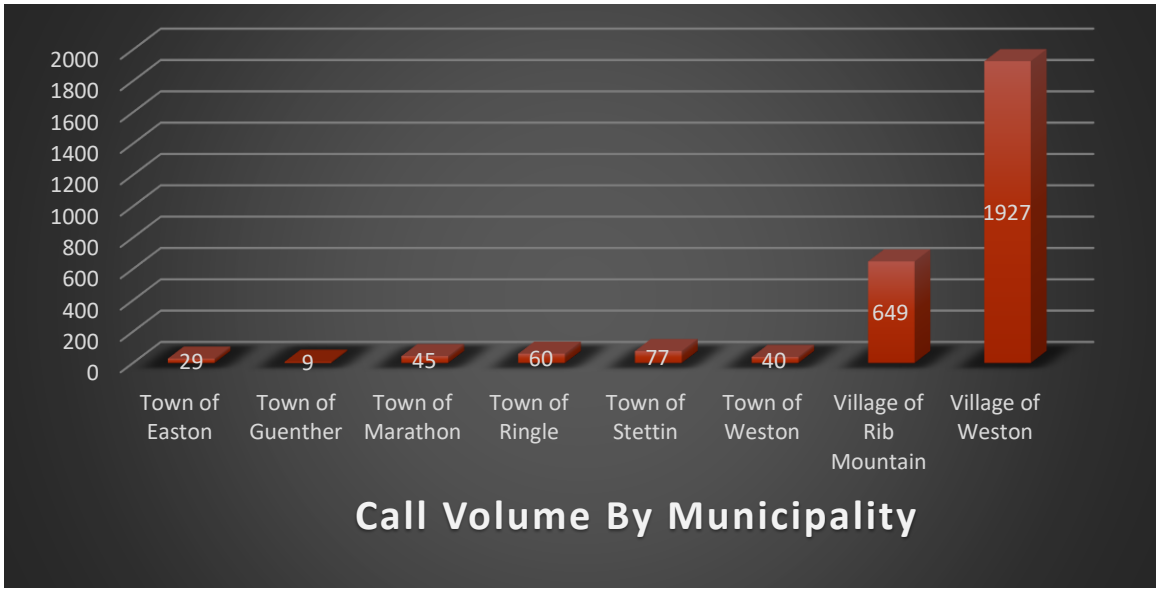
Cally Gordon-Haessly

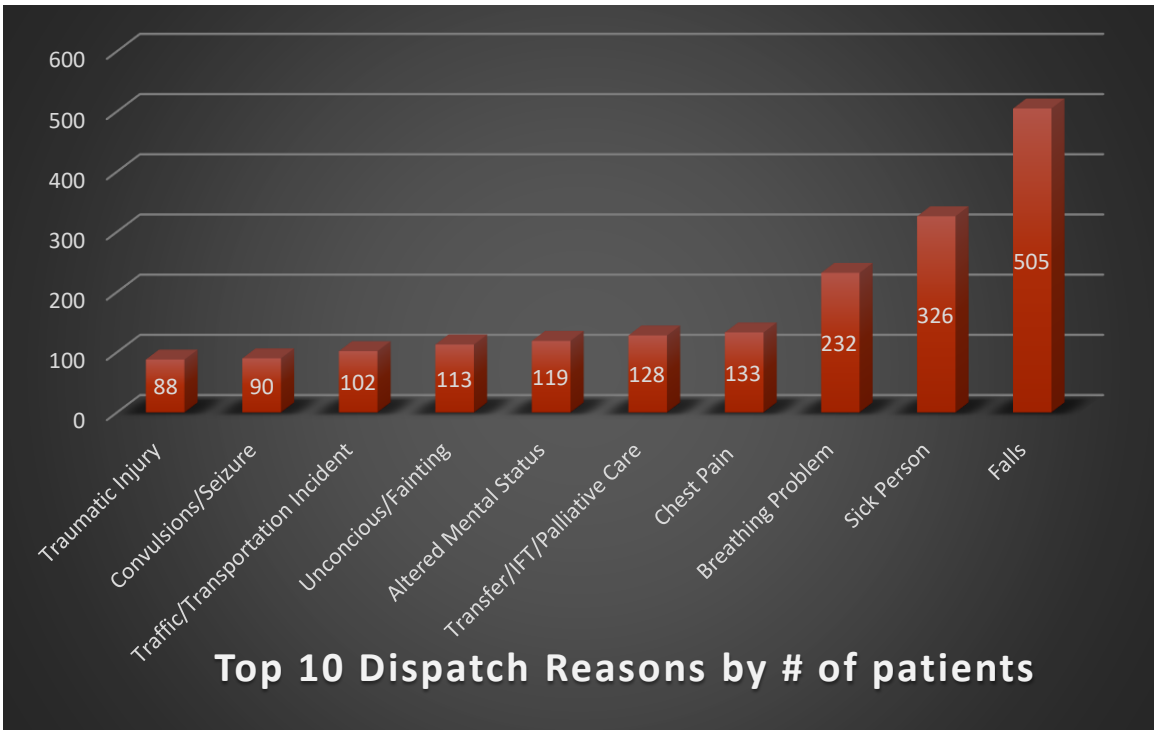
Cally Gordon-Haessly
EMS Division Chief
SAFER District

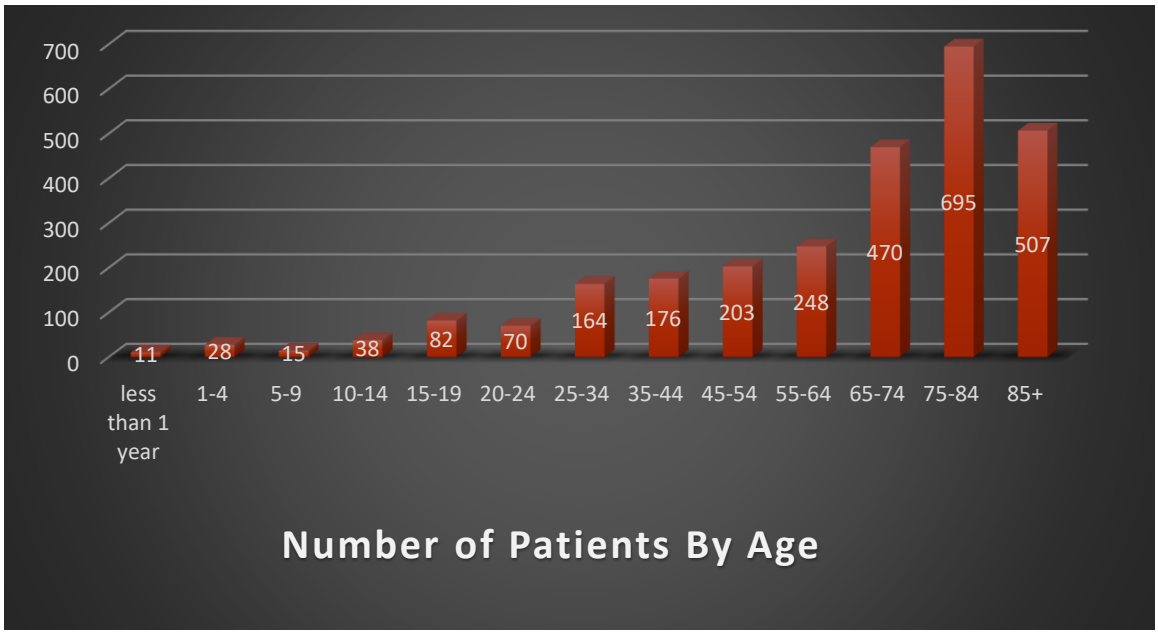
EMS RESPONSE DATA






2000
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
29
9
45
60
77
40
649
1927
Town of Easton
Town of Guenther
Town of Marathon
Town of Ringle
Town of Stettin
Town of Weston
Village of Rib Mountain
Village of Weston
Call Volume By Municipality


600
500
400
300
200
100
0
88
90
102
113
119
128
133
232
326
505
Traumatic Injury
Convulsions/Seizure
Traffic/Transportation Incident
Unconcious/Fainting
Altered Mental Status
Transfer/IFT/Palliative Care
Chest Pain
Breathing Problem
Sick Person
Falls
Top 10 Dispatch Reasons by # of patients


700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
11
28
15
38
82
70
164
176
203
248
470
695
507
less than 1 year
1-4
5-9
10-14
15-19
20-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65-74
75-84
85+
Number of Patients By Age

FIRE/RESCUE DIVISION REPORT – STEVE GENRICH, BATTALION CHIEF

The SAFER District fire and rescue division was extremely busy, with 1,113 responses in 2025, our highest-ever response total. In addition to fire suppression (structure fires, vehicle fires, and grass fires), we respond to vehicle crashes, EMS calls, technical rescue incidents, chemical incidents, smoke incidents, and fire alarms. Additionally, staff conducted 74 standby and PR events throughout the district and the state.

In 2025, an effort was made to add staffing following a 2024 fire loss and to increase service levels. A $1.687 million-dollar federal SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant was applied for to increase staff by 9 firefighters. Unfortunately, we did not receive that grant, but the Board of Directors and municipalities approved adding 3 staff in 2026. We did receive a $1,000 Kwik Trip grant for a new 3000-gallon portable water tank, a $2,422.72 50/50 match DNR grant for class A foam and chainsaw PPE, and a $2,000 WPS grant that funded 80 carbon monoxide detectors that are being installed, free of charge, in residences throughout our fire response district.

Finally, in December, Wisconsin changed over our national reporting requirements as we moved from NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) to NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System), making the most significant update to national reporting requirements in decades. The new reporting standards have been seamlessly integrated into our records management software, EPR FireWorks, making the transition easier on our staff.

Respectfully,

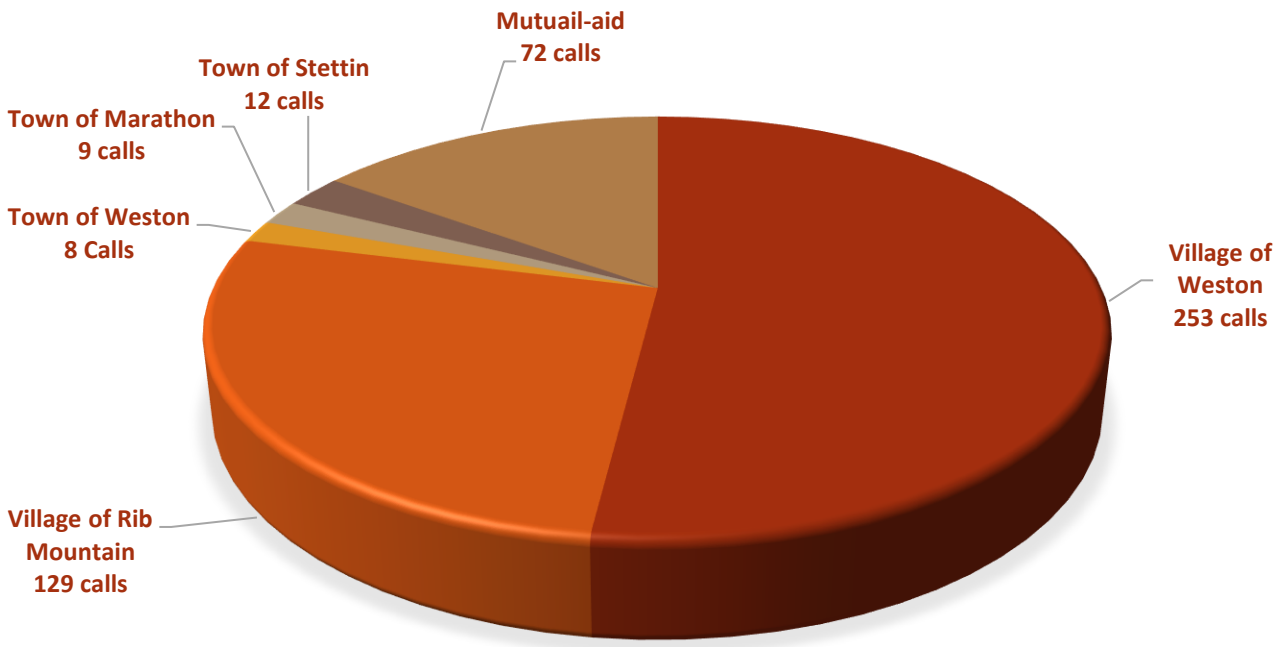
Steve Genrich

Steven Genrich
Battalion Chief – Green Shift

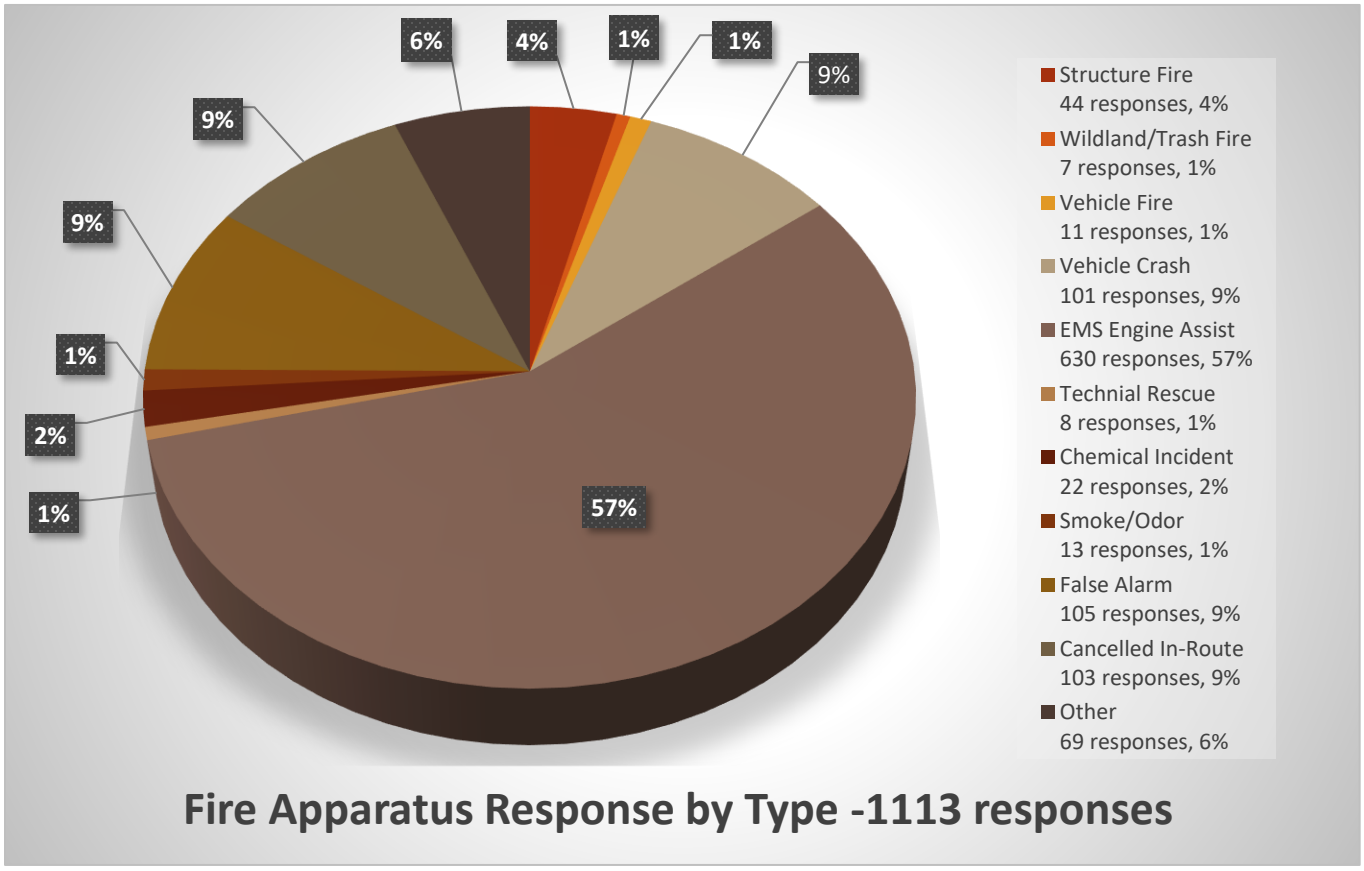




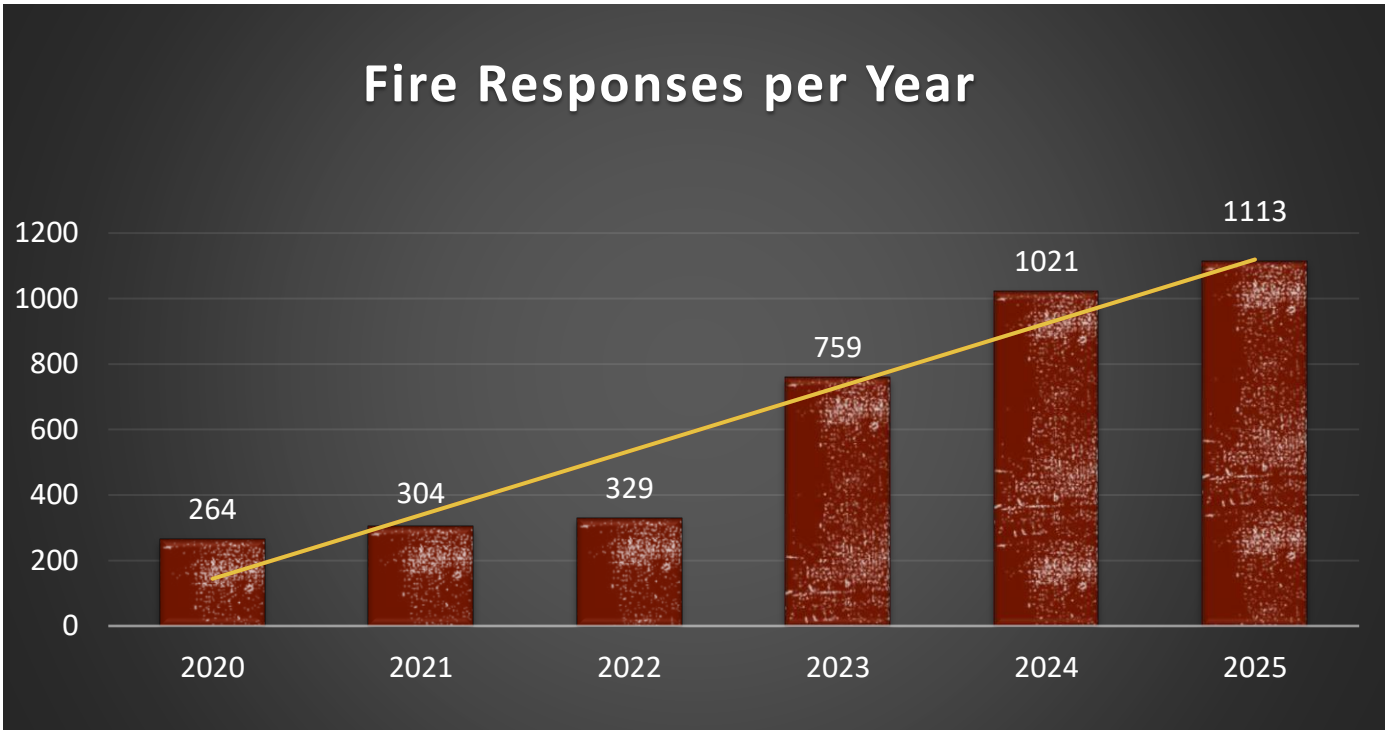
FIRE RESPONSE DATA



483 FIRE CALLS FOR SERVICE



Fire Apparatus Response by Type -1113 responses


Fire Responses per Year
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
264
304
329
759
1021
1113
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025

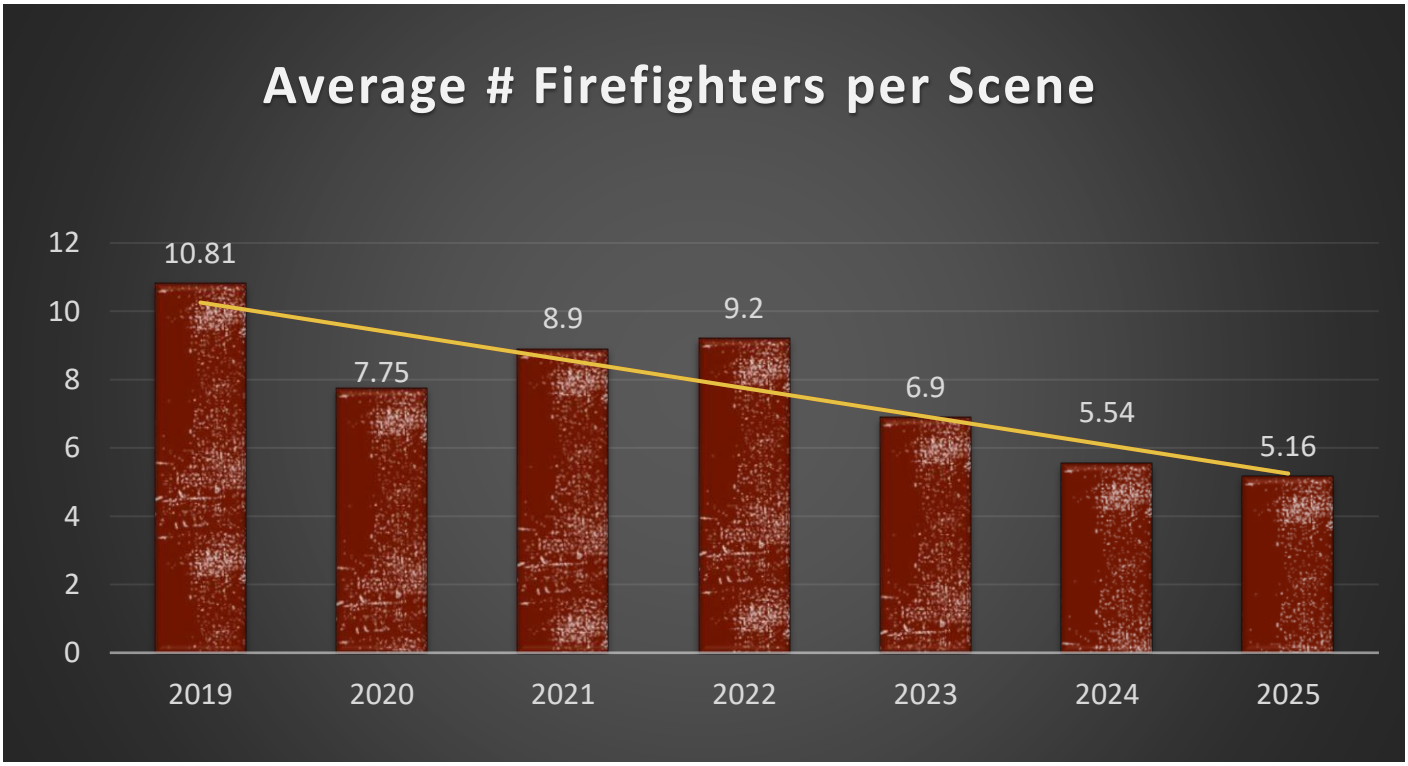




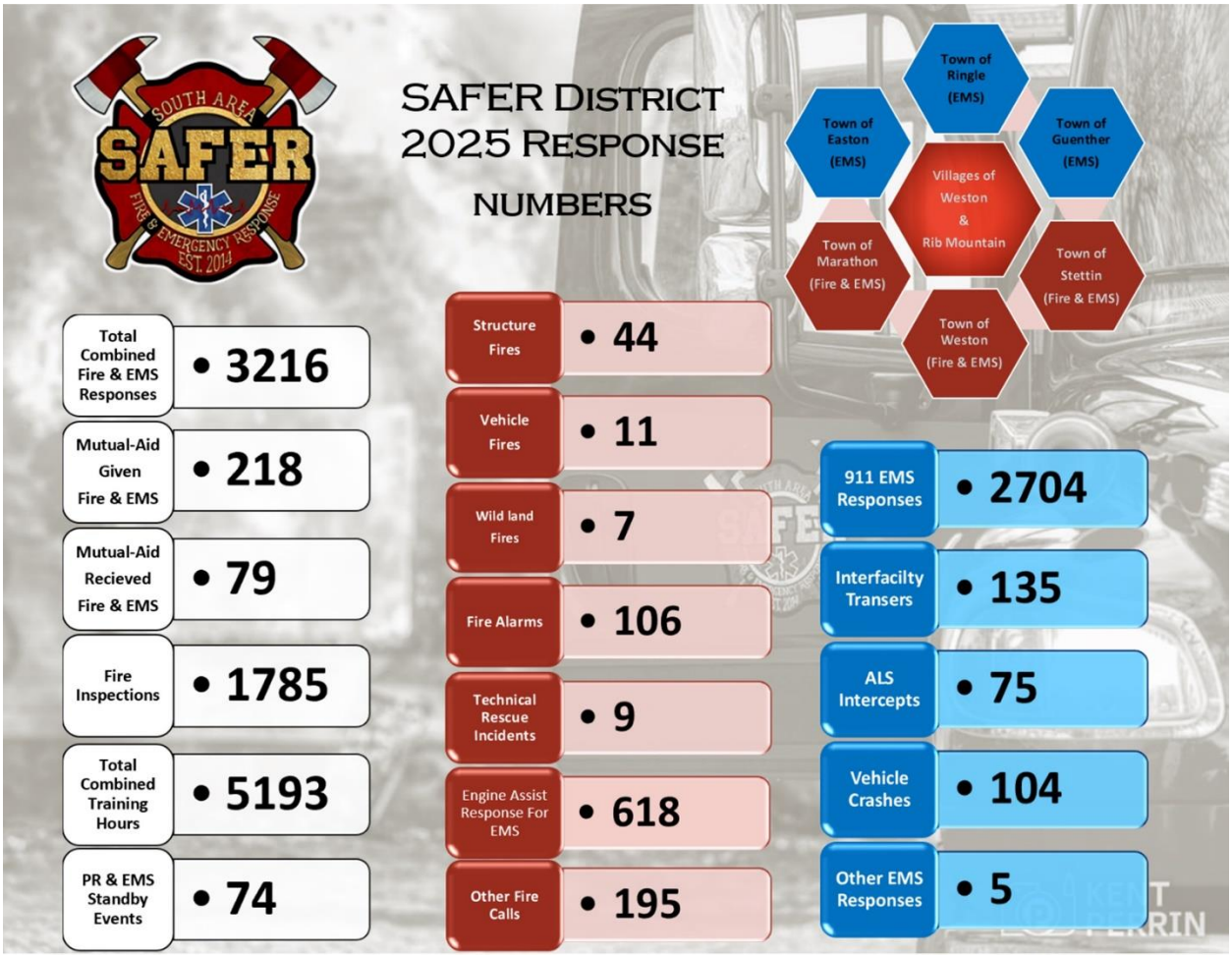
FIRE SCENE STAFFING

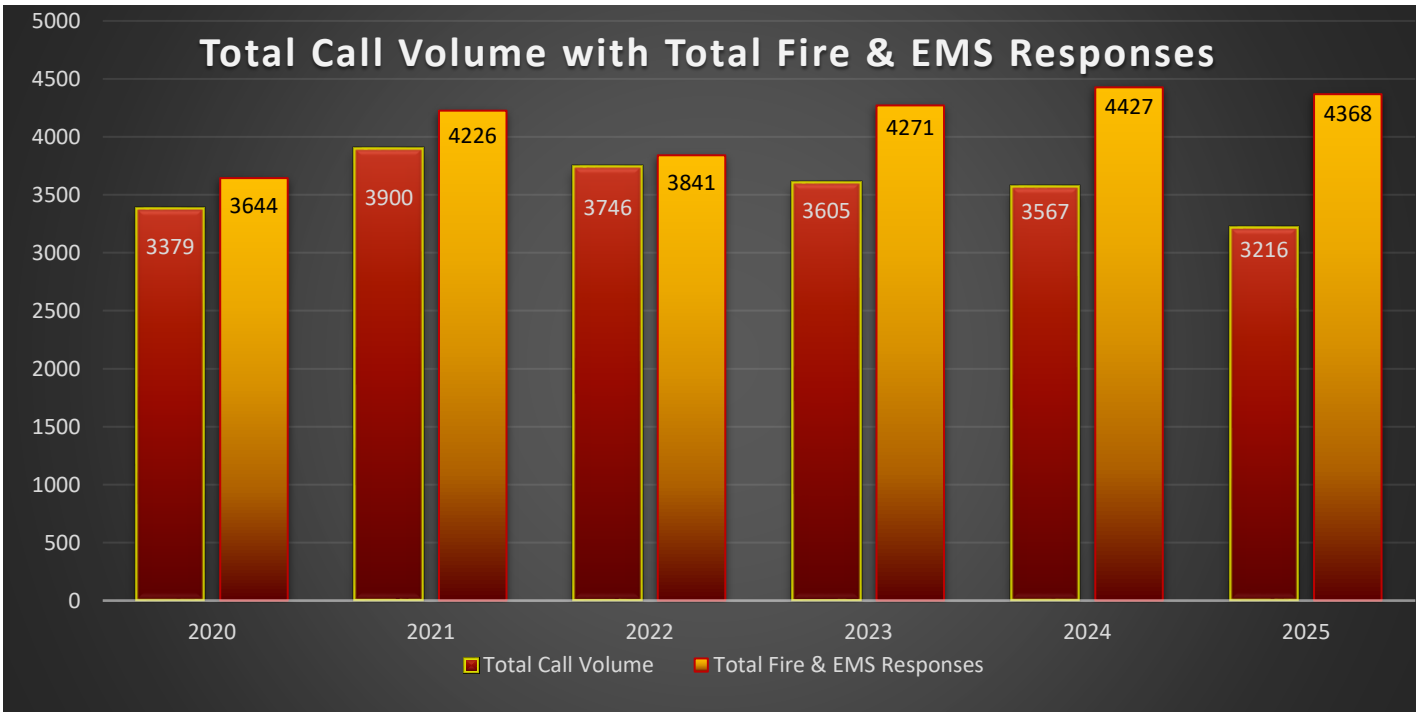
NFPA 1710: *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments*, states that we (SAFER) should have a minimum of 16 to 17 firefighters on the fire scene of a typical 2000 ft^2 single-family dwelling and 27 to 28 firefighters at strip malls and commercial properties fires. To meet this standard, we rely on off-duty response and heavily on mutual aid. Fire scenes have become more complex since 2014 as building material dimensions continue to decrease and the use of petroleum-based floor coverings, wall coverings, and furniture increases. These hazards increase the intensity and heat of a fire and decrease the time we have to operate in that structure. This makes it critical for us to have adequate staffing on fire scenes to affect a potential rescue and to limit property loss.

Because mutual aid is not guaranteed, we report the average number of SAFER firefighters at structure fires to better align with the NFPA standard. The number of SAFER firefighters on fire scenes is tracked and has been steadily falling as volunteerism has decreased, and part-time staff are not available for fire response when they're not on duty. With an average of 5.16 firefighters operating at each scene in 2025, it becomes increasingly difficult for SAFER to effectively save property and protect the public during fire events.

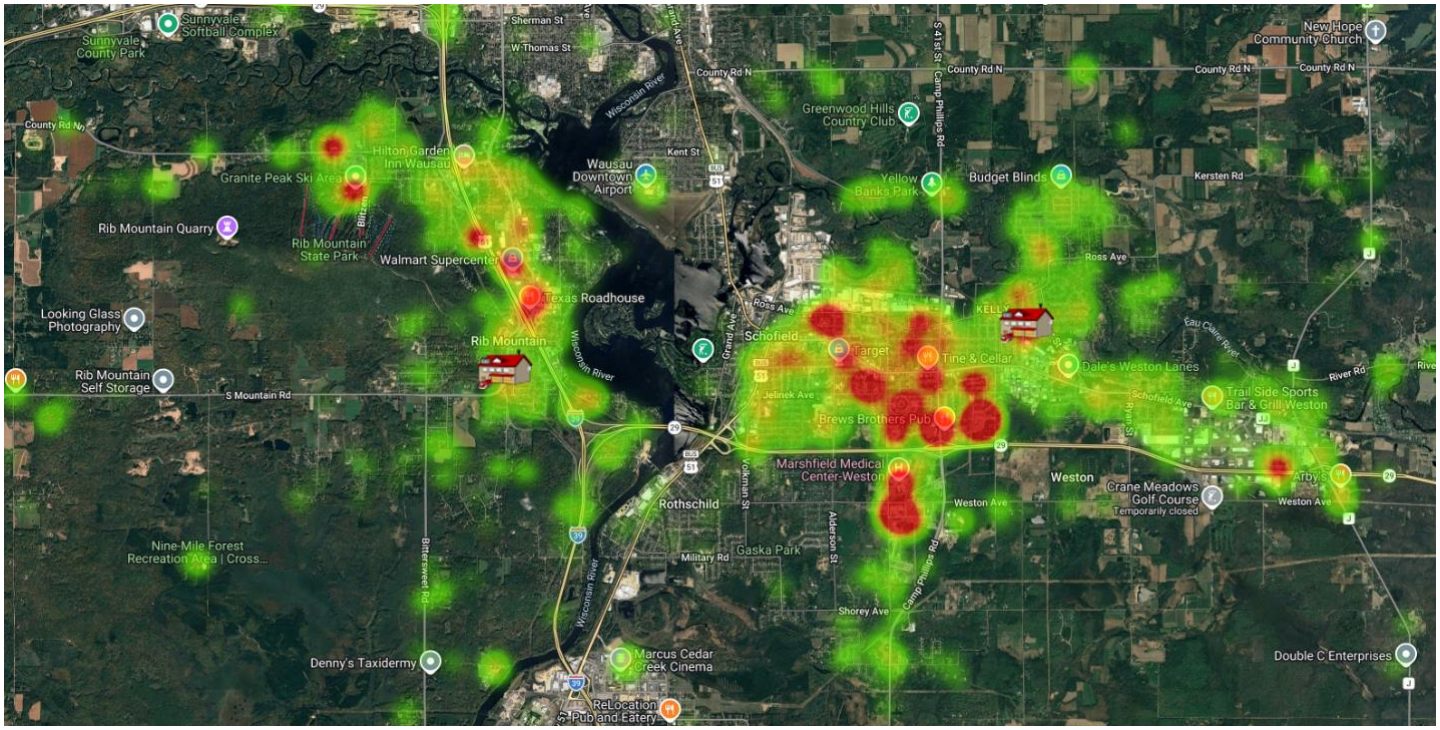


CUMULATIVE RESPONSE DATA

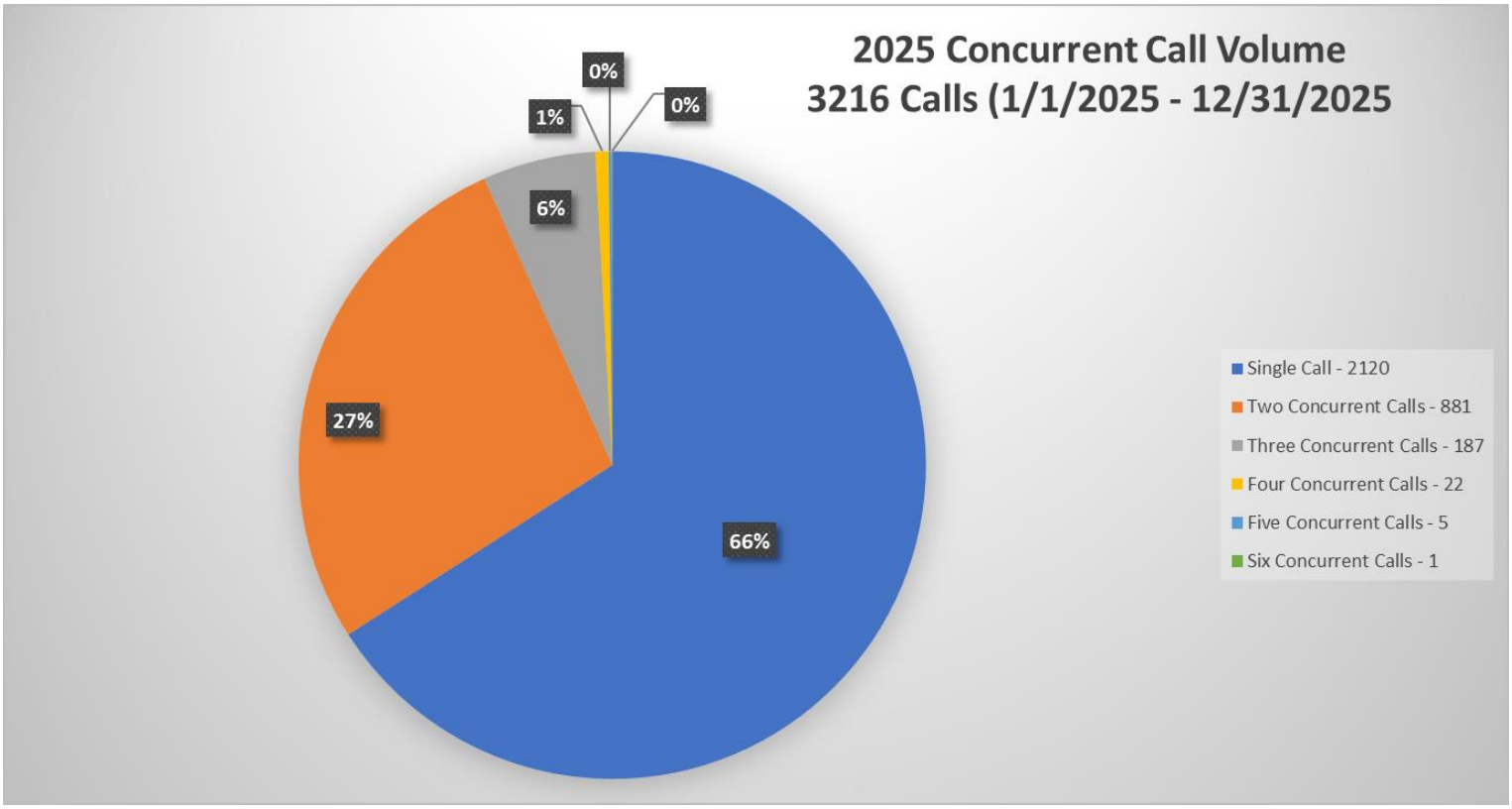




Apparatus Response Heat Map – Villages of Rib Mountain and Weston



*Note – House icons indicate fire station locations



FIRE INSPECTIONS REPORT – MARTY CHRISTIANSEN, FIRE MARSHAL

2025 Fire Inspections – Year-End Report

In 2025, we continued using our inspection software to conduct fire inspections and prepare pre-plans for each occupancy in the Fire District. Tracking all the different inspections is made easier with this software, and scheduling inspections in the software makes it all seamless. Working with the vendors to do the required witnessed inspections is also easier with this software because you can easily see scheduled inspections for the day or week ahead. Each inspection can require multiple visits to the occupancy, and we now have a good way to schedule and track them.

As we always do in the spring and fall, we did inspections with each crew on shift. We conduct this training so crews can visit some of the new and larger businesses in our district, see what each does, and get a feel for what they might encounter in an emergency.

With the addition of a part-time inspector, we have kept a more on-time schedule of inspections and re-inspections, which is going smoothly. As we get caught up, the part-time inspector can take on more of the inspections I normally handle if I need help during meetings, vendor inspections, daily paperwork, sending out reports, writing violation letters, and during vacations. Because the part-time inspector occasionally works shifts, he can do odd-hour inspections that may come up and schedule them during his shift.

Inspections

In 2025, we continue to track new occupancies, remodeling, sprinklers, fire alarms, elevators, tents, fireworks, complaints, kitchen hoods, and extinguishing systems. These inspections must be witnessed by the Fire District before going into service.

	V. Rib Mtn	V. Weston	T. Stettin	T. Marathon	Total
Annual Inspections	325	983	54	28	1390
# Violations	291	587	36	5	919
# of Reinspections	364	762	19	3	1148
Other Inspections					
Sprinkler	6	14			20
Fire Alarm	4	4			8
Elevator	2				2
Tent	2	6			8
Fire Works	1				1
Complaint	4	2			4
Kitchen Hood	2	4			6
All Inspections					2587
Inspection Building Type Distribution					
New Business	17	49	2		66
Remodeled/moved	8	23			31
New Builds	6	14			20
Business	275	722	28	14	1039
Buildings	206	684	45	59	994

We now have 159 apartment buildings: 4 in the Village of Rib Mountain and 155 in the Village of Weston. The district also added 15 Knox Boxes to new and existing buildings.

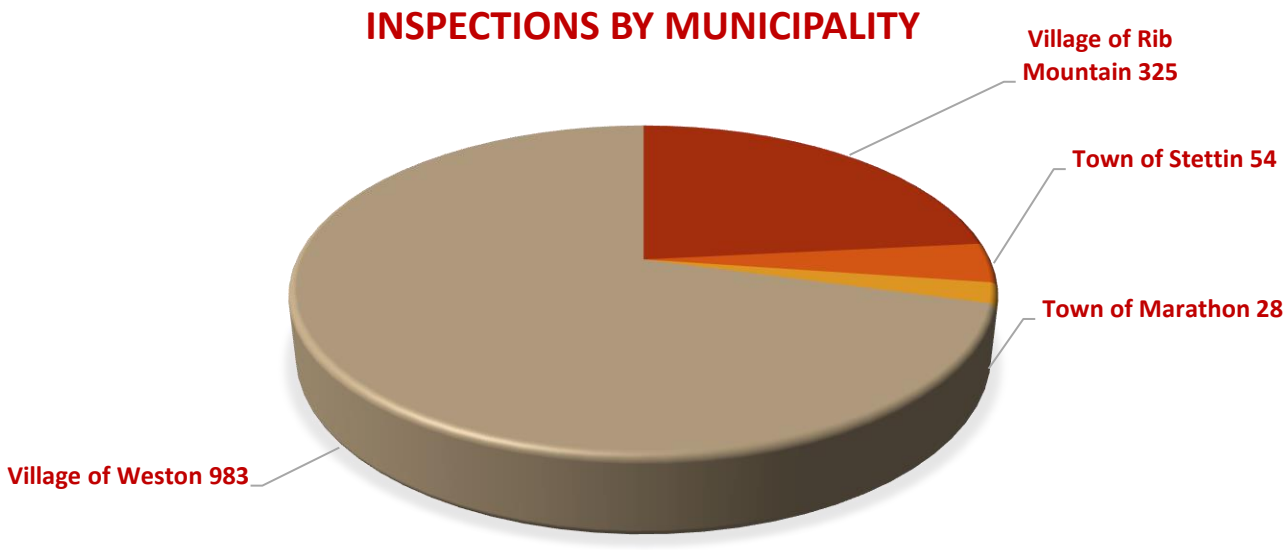
Meetings
I continue to attend the Village of Rib Mountain and Village of Weston Planning Commission meetings once a month. With the addition of new fire & EMS equipment, it is important to share what we would like to see in the design of new roads and subdivisions to accommodate our vehicles, so we don't tear up new roads or vehicles. Additionally, we have the opportunity to comment on how the planned roads may affect the fire district when responding, ensuring safe operation on the way to, at, and from emergencies. As the district grows, it is important to stay ahead of any potential challenges. Builders and businesses they represent might not consider the placement of their buildings and how it affects our response to emergencies. Before construction starts, we can address entrances and exits, water sources, and connection points for sprinkler systems, which will make the building safer.

Training
As in past years, we continued with two weeks in the spring and fall, doing company inspections of new, unusual, and larger industrial facilities in the district with the duty crews. I also continued my involvement in the Area 9 Fire Prevention Group. We meet quarterly for inspector training topics and networking. The 2025 Inspectors Conference was held in Wisconsin Dells. I attended classes for High Piled Storage, Sprinkler Plan Review, Company Level Inspections, Challenges with Wedding Barns, Migrant Housing and Commercial Farming, Single Stair Exits in Multi-Family Housing, Trends in Building, and Commercial Kitchen Hood Systems. Between classes, we had opportunities to network with industry exhibitors to learn about their unique products and services that could benefit the district, as well as with other fire marshals and inspectors.

Respectfully

Martin Christiansen

Martin Christiansen
Fire Marshal



TRAINING DIVISION REPORT – MARK MEYERS, BATTALION CHIEF

The South Area Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) District proudly serves our residents and visitors through the delivery of fire suppression, fire prevention, technical rescue, and emergency medical services by our members' dedication to being the best-trained, best-prepared emergency responders. The training division is committed to the professional and technical growth of each one of our responders. Providing them with the tools and knowledge to provide the best service to you, our cherished customer.

The training starts with the six-week recruit academy, where newly hired employees become familiar with our tools, apparatus, policies, and procedures. The training does not stop there. On-shift training is conducted every day to maintain proficiency and familiarity. Training topics include fire inspections, fire suppression, search and rescue, emergency medicine, and technical rescue operations. In some cases, subject matter experts are used to conduct the training.

For those members looking towards career advancement, the training division offers an officer development program. The program is designed to prepare our members for the duties of a ranking or relief officer. Participants move through topics such as conflict resolution, incident command, personnel management, and planning. In 2025, SAFER members participated in 337 hours of officer development training.

The training division is fortunate to have several training aids to enhance the training experience. Our training tower was constructed to resemble a two-story, single-family dwelling and is used to train on fire suppression, search and rescue, roof ventilation, and ground ladder operations. When combined with our smoke machine and space heater, we can create low visibility, high heat scenarios. Valuable training aid used during the recruit academy and daily training.

The training division continues to conduct live fire training on acquired structures in our communities. Property owners planning to have structures removed from their property provide us the opportunity to conduct live fire training within the structure. All live fire training is done in compliance with NFPA 1403, with extensive planning and preparation prior to conducting the training. In 2025, SAFER District staff participated in a total of 5449 hours of training with 196 hours of live fire training.

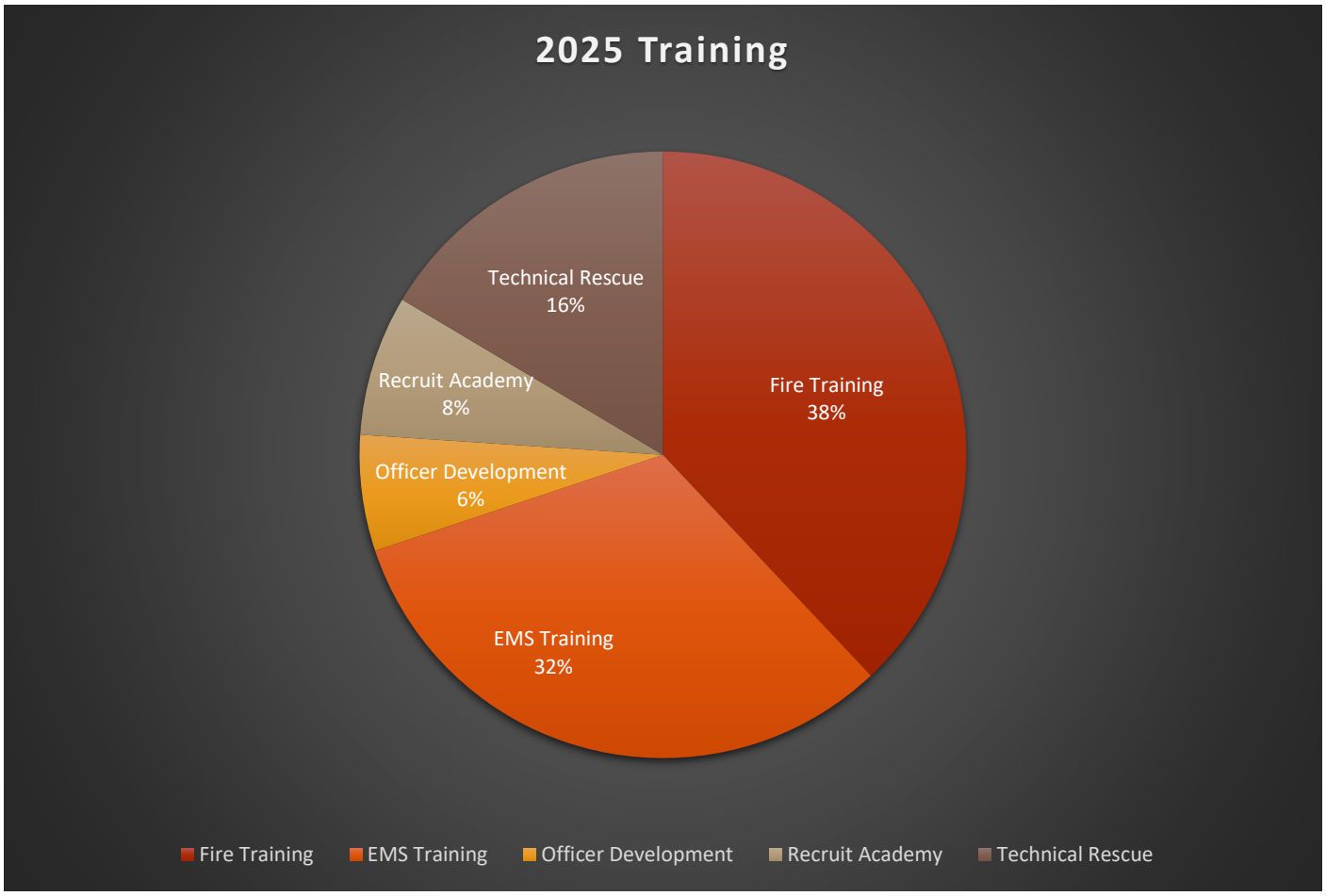
The SAFER training division is committed to the safety of our members and our community through the pursuit of education to achieve excellence in the service we provide to our customers.

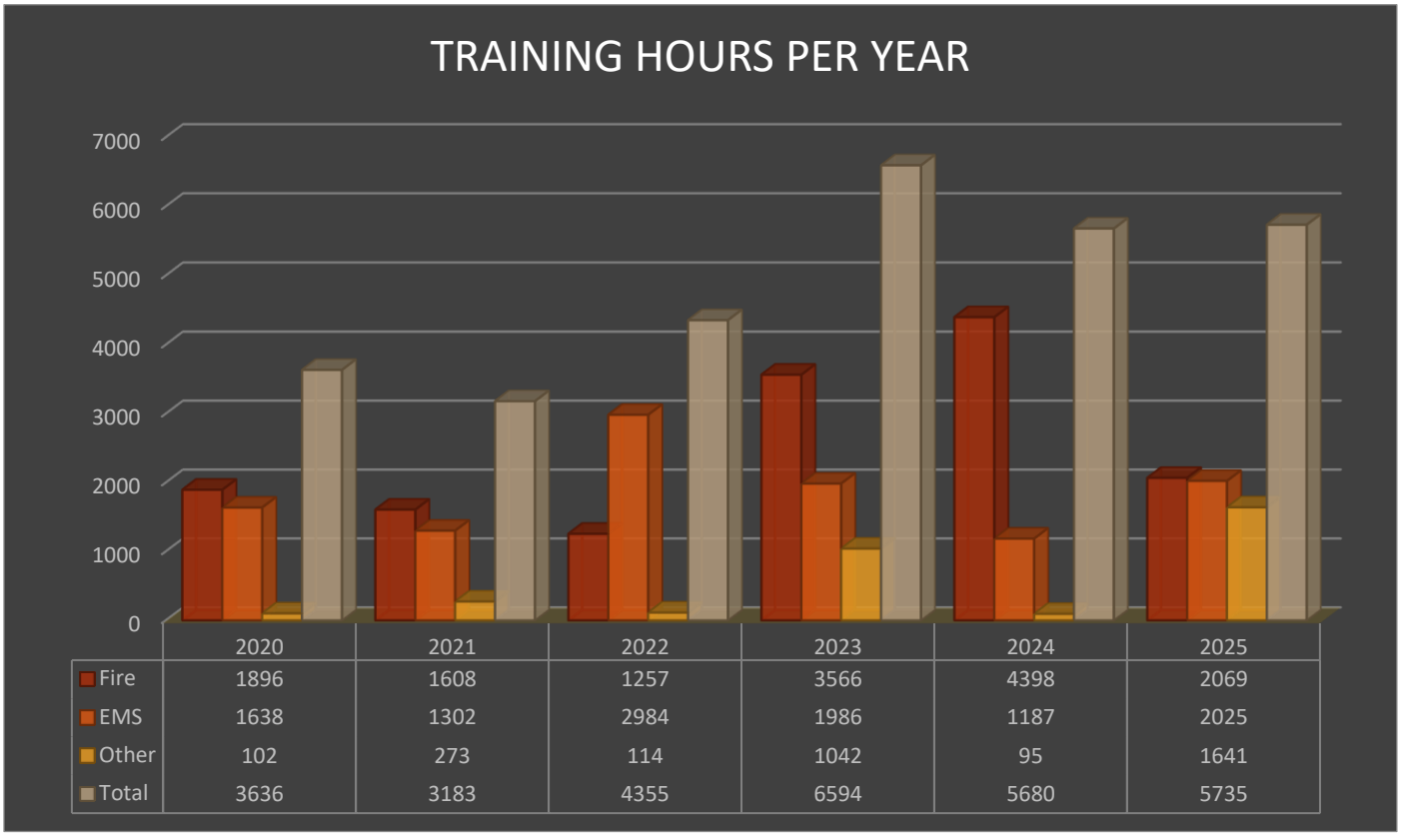
Thank you,

Mark Meyers

Mark Meyers, B.S., IAAI-FIT
Battalion Chief – Red Shift
Training Officer

TRAINING DATA & PICTURES





	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fire	1896	1608	1257	3566	4398	2069
EMS	1638	1302	2984	1986	1187	2025
Other	102	273	114	1042	95	1641
Total	3636	3183	4355	6594	5680	5735













HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT – EVAN MCBAIN, BATTALION CHIEF

Since 2000, we have seen a steady decrease in the number of reported injuries each year. In 2025, we were just below our 6-year average of 5.7 injuries, with 3 reported injuries. Over the same time, we've seen a trending increase in workers' compensation claims. This has been due to more on-duty injuries than in the past. To help alleviate the impact on the district, we have been able to offer light-duty work.

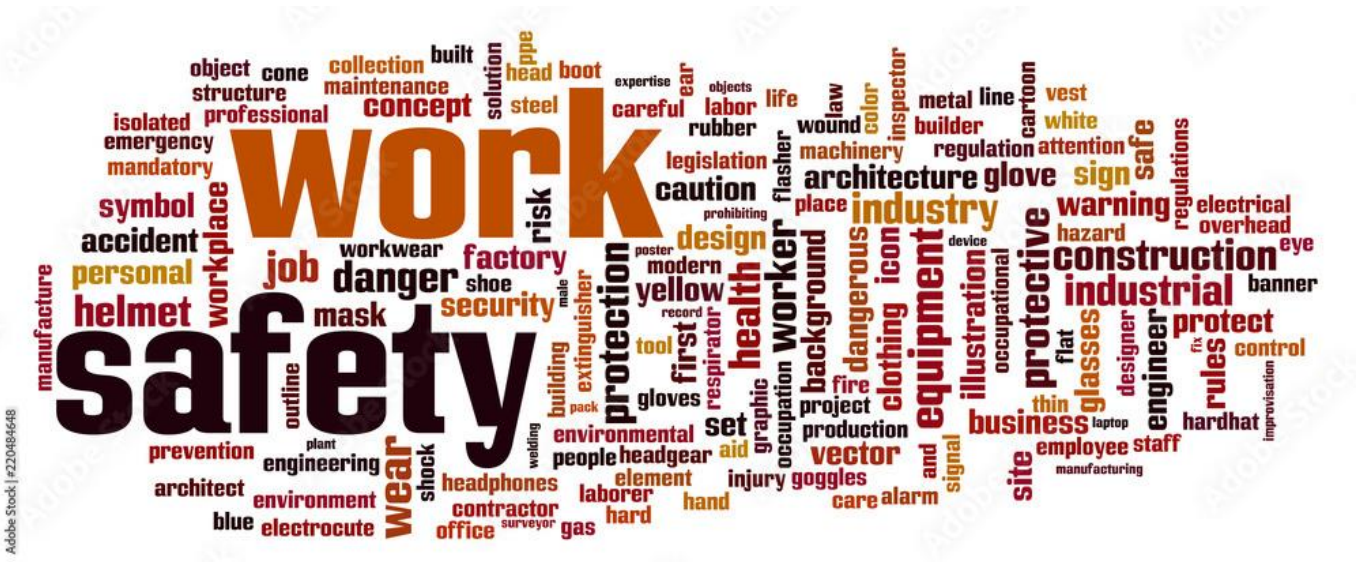
To address the rate of injuries and increasing workers' compensation claims, the fire district contracted Advanced Physical Therapy Group in 2025 for weekly on-site visits. We decided to contract Advanced Physical Therapy due to their extensive experience working with fire and police agencies and their strong local references from the City of Wausau police and fire departments, among others. The goal of this program is timely injury treatment and prevention. While not every injury may be preventable due to the physically demanding nature of the job, we are hoping to reduce the overall number of on-duty injuries and shorten recovery time when they do occur.

In the coming year, the district's health and safety committee will review and update our practices for lifting and moving ambulance patients, as this has been a significant cause of injuries in the past.

Evan McBain

Evan McBain
Battalion Chief – Blue Shift
Health and Safety Officer





INJURY AND WORKERS COMPENSATION DATA

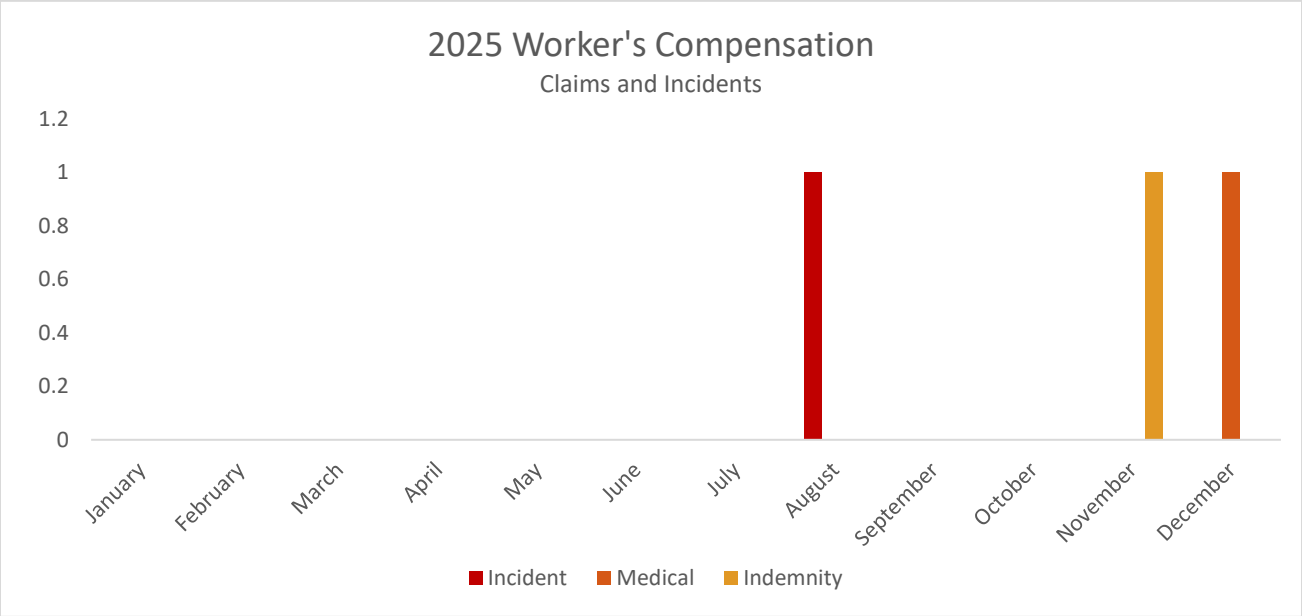
Below is the breakdown of the injury and incident reports as reported to our worker's compensation insurance company, United Heartland Insurance Agencies.

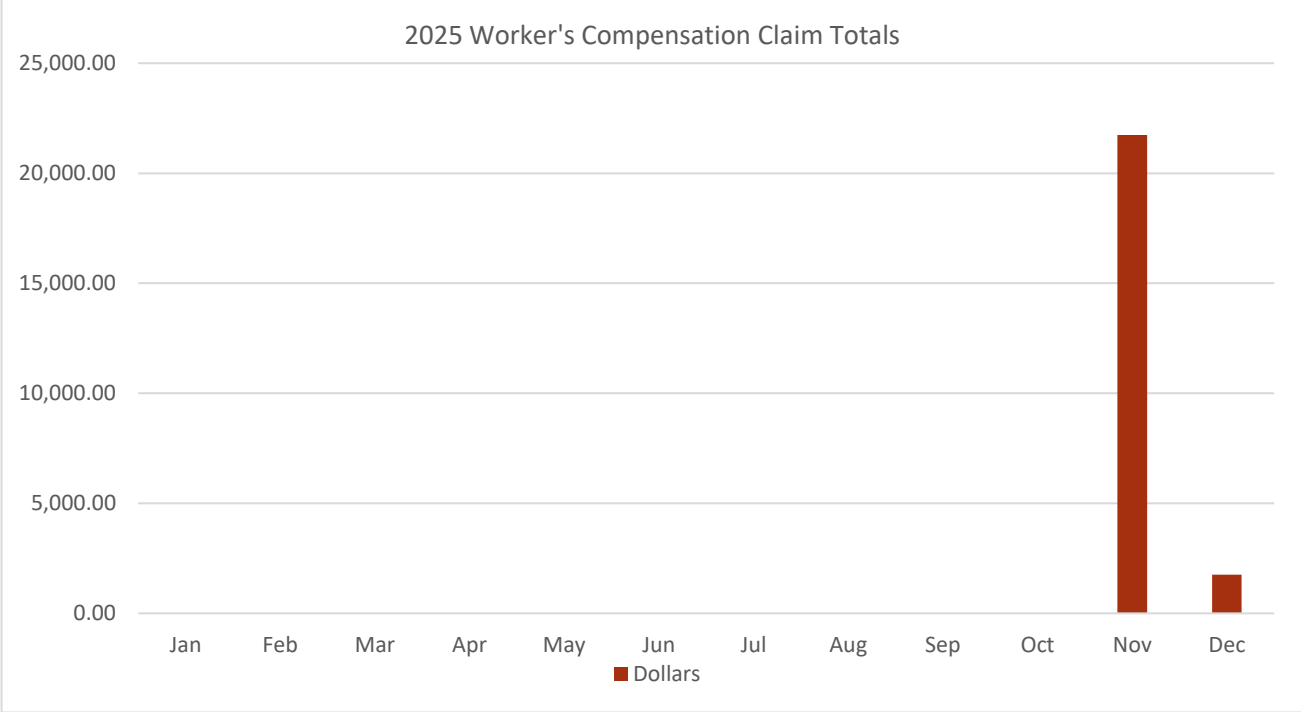
United Heartland Insurance Agencies

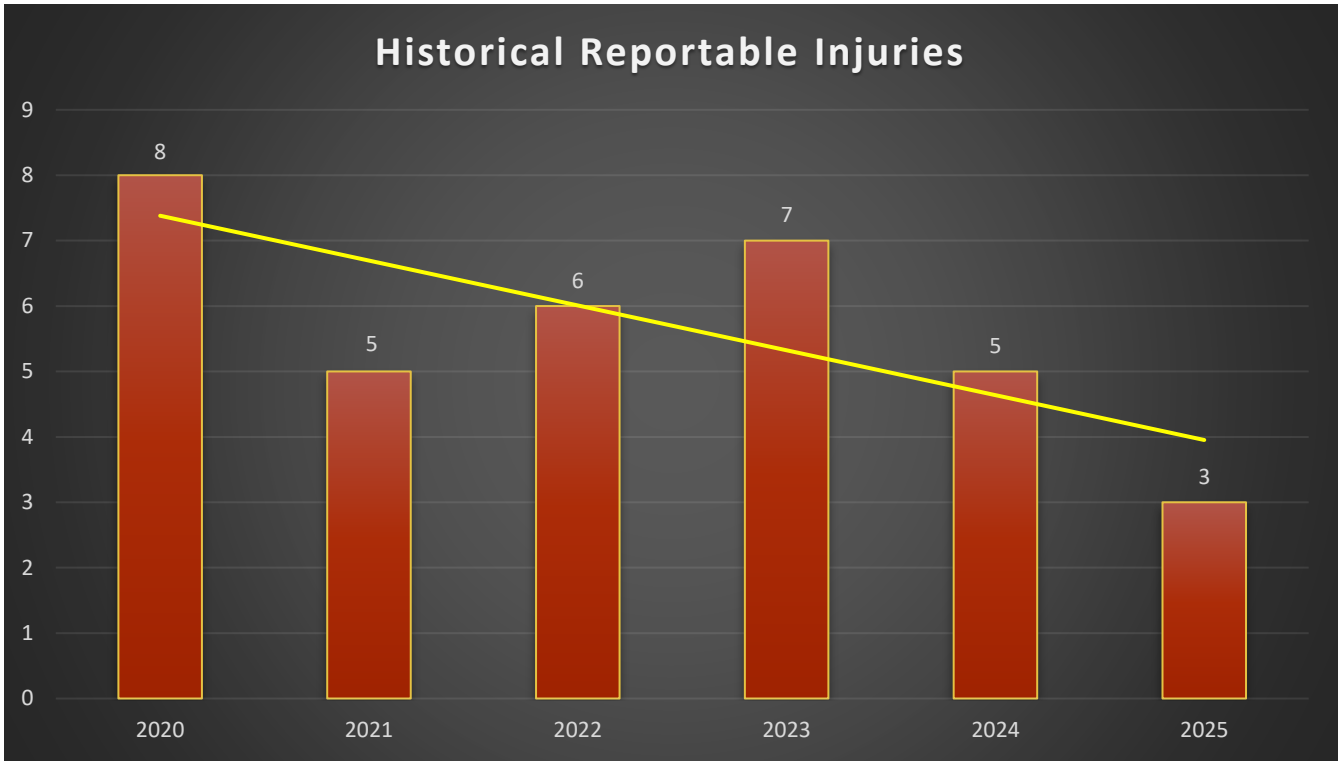
Policy Period Summary: 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025

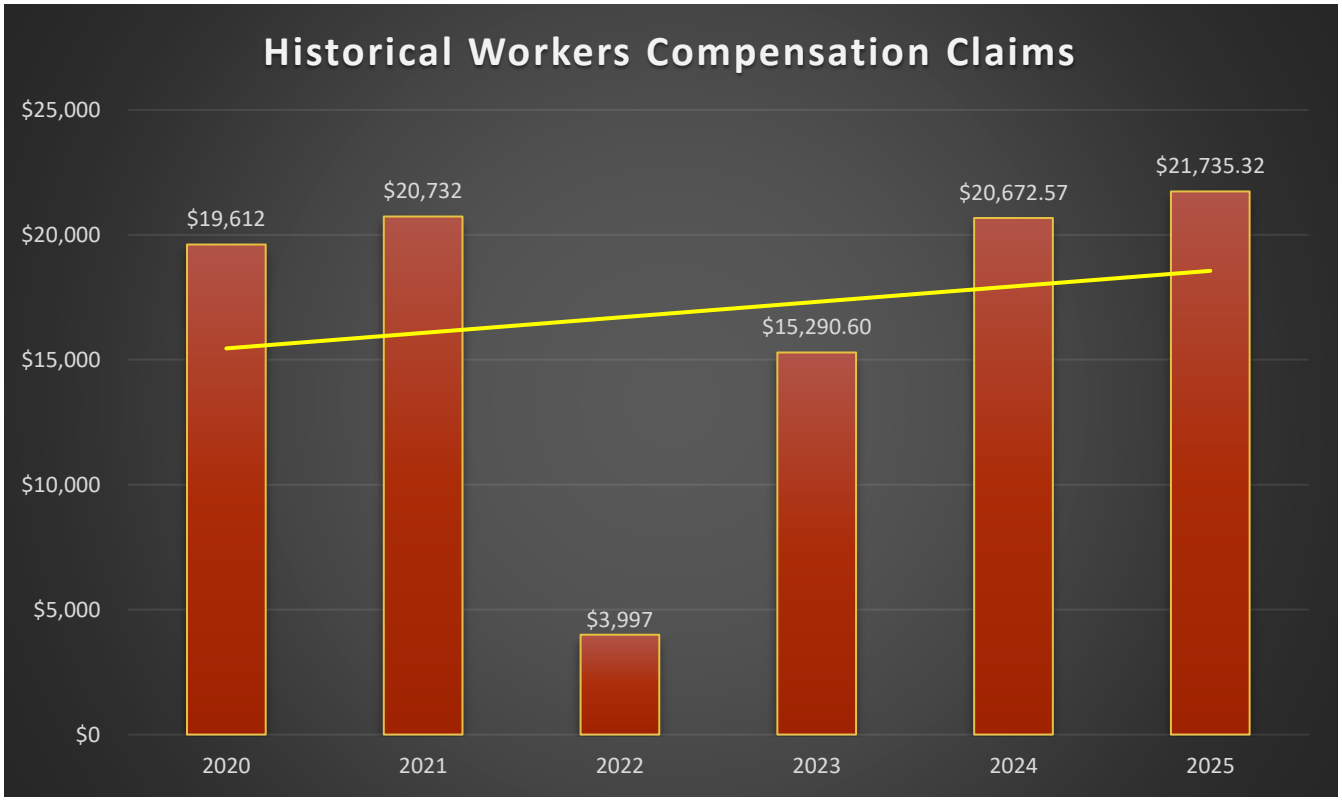
	Open	Closed	ReOpen		Paid	Reserves	Incurred
Medical Claims:	**0**	**2**	**0**	**Medical Claims:**	**$7,303.02**	**$5,907.72**	**$13,210.74**
Indemnity Claims:	**1**	**0**	**0**	**IndemnityClaims:**	**$3,343.71**	**$5,130.87**	**$8,474.58**
Total Claims:	**1**	**2**	**0**	**Total Claims:**	**$10,646.73**	**$11,088.59**	**$21,735.32**

Total Claims: 3 **Incident-Only Claims: 1** **Litigation: 0**






Historical Reportable Injuries
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
8
5
6
7
5
3
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025

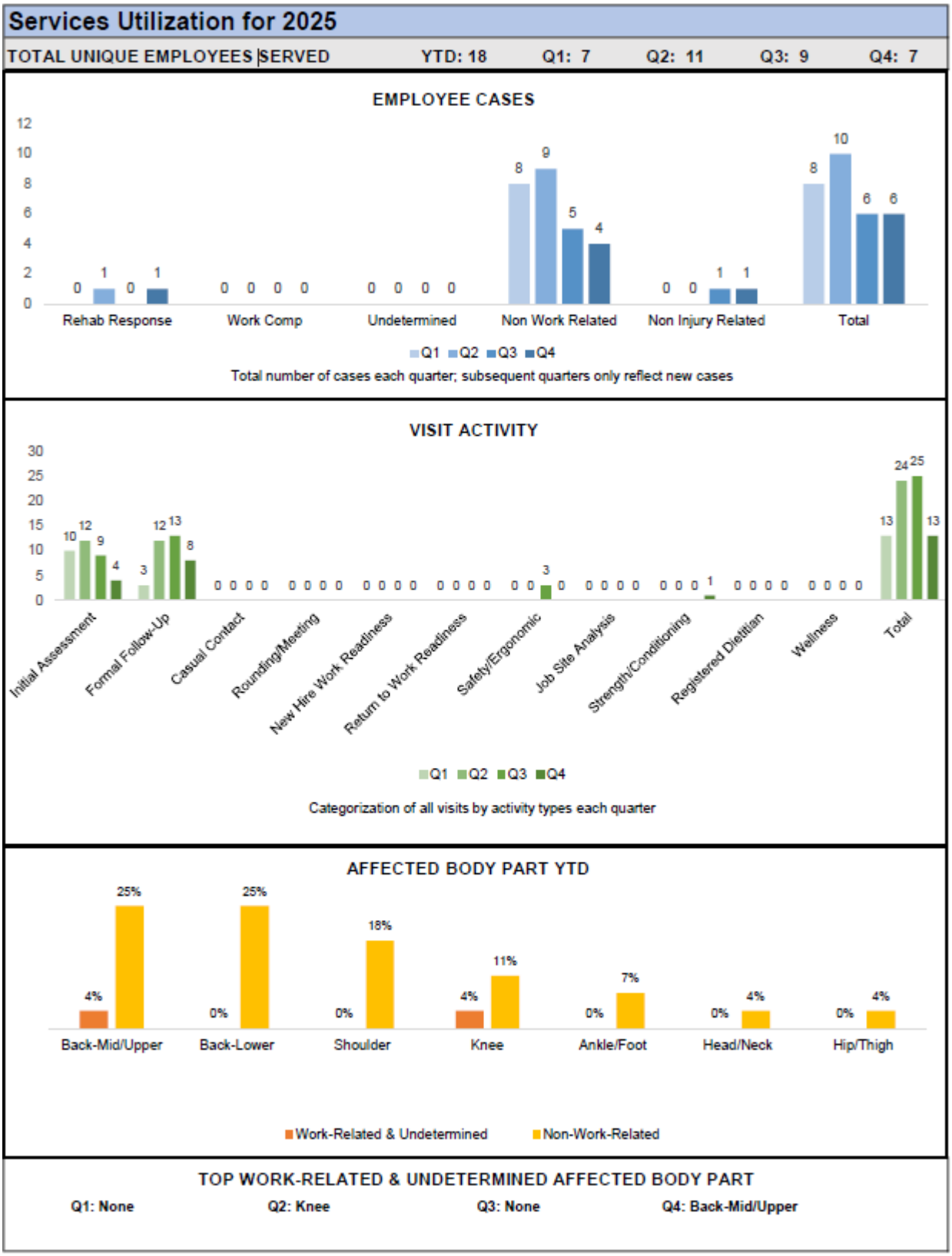

Historical Workers Compensation Claims
$25,000
$20,000
$15,000
$10,000
$5,000
$0
$19,612
$20,732
$3,997
$15,290.60
$20,672.57
$21,735.32
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025

ADVANCED PHYSICAL THERAPY DATA

2025 Summary and Therapy utilization

Year-to-Date: 18 employees served

7% work related concerns and 93% non-work related concerns – Most affected body part = Back



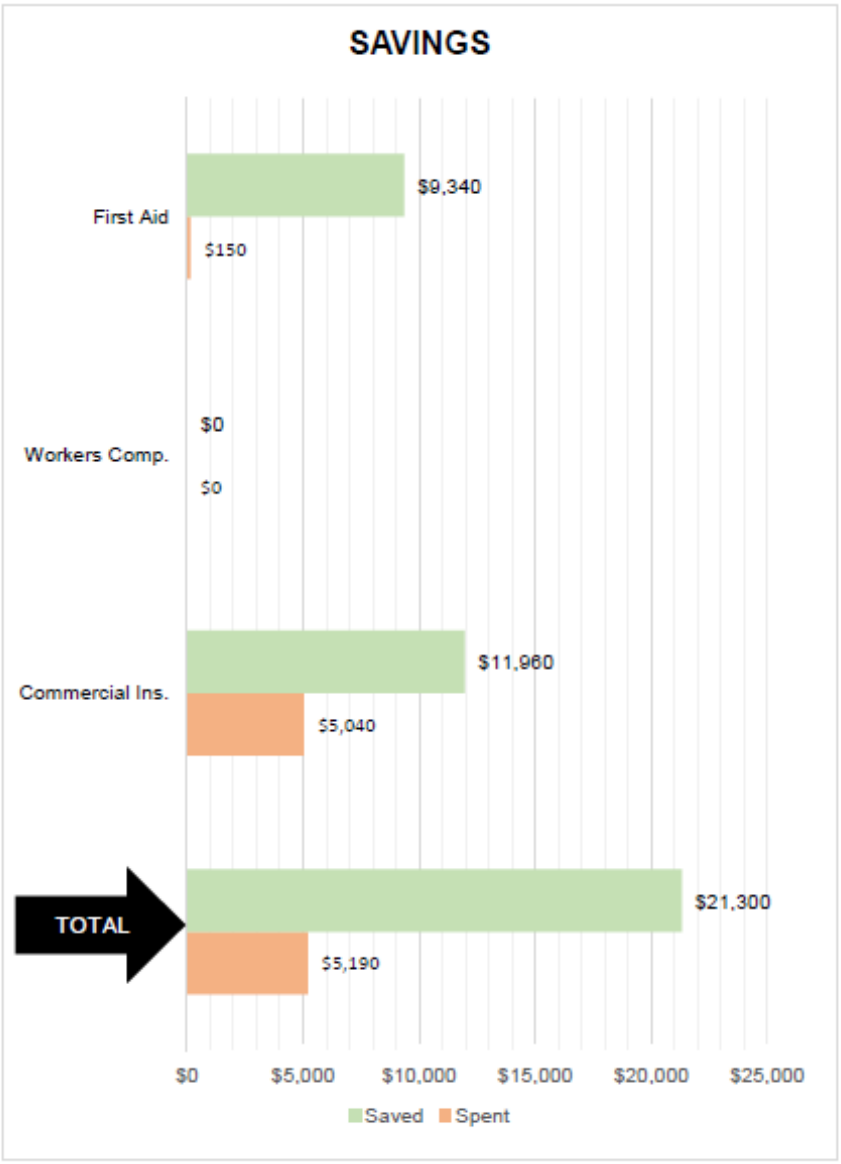
Financial analysis:	$10,080	Spent on program services for 2025

COST SAVINGS	
Rapid Response/OSHA First Aid	
Early intervention cases	2
Medical cost per claim*	$4,745
Total Cost	$9,490
Cost of Solution	$150
NET SAVINGS	**$9,340**

Workers Comp	
Work Related Visits	0
WC Cost per Visit Average	$500
WC Total Cost	$0
Cost of Solution	$0
NET SAVINGS	**$0**

Commercial Insurance	
Personal Related Visits	68
CI Cost per Visit Average	$250
CI Total Cost	$17,000
Cost of Solution	$5,040
NET SAVINGS	**$11,960**

TOTAL SAVINGS	
Total for above solutions	
Cost of Solutions	$5,190
NET SAVINGS	**$21,300**



Graph: Represents saved vs spent in each designated area

Savings above does not reflect the additional savings ($ value) for non-injury-related services

*According to OSHA's SAFETY Pays, average costs of typical MSD physician related visits, diagnostics, and 10 physical therapy visits, the average cost of MSD is $4745. https://www.osha.gov.safetypays/estimator

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT – GLYNN NOVAK, CAPTAIN

The public relations efforts for the South Area Fire and Emergency Response District (SAFER) in 2025 were busy. The main goal for this year was to strengthen our communication and relationships with the community to enhance community risk reduction. We approached this goal in several ways. First, we increased our social media activity. The digital platform enabled us to showcase what the SAFER District can offer to both internal and external stakeholders. Second, the crews participated in numerous public relations activities. Each year, we strive to be more proactive and engaged to reduce risks in the community and show what services we can offer. While there are too many to list, a few are highlighted.

- SAFER participated in the Redeemer Lutheran Weston Holy Smoke BBQ Contest. Crews had the opportunity to show the equipment to the attendees, and our service providers served as official judges.
- The crews participated in Food in the Park on September 11, 2025. This is a newer event for the Village of Rib Mountain. The district was able to set up our new ladder truck with the flag and assist in an interactive event with the public. We believe that each year we are making a stronger impact on what we provide to the community.
- This year, through creative grant writing, we secured carbon monoxide detectors for the community we serve. Community members who requested the detectors had the opportunity to have them installed in their homes by SAFER members. This program offered a way to protect our citizens and foster lasting relationships.

Finally, SAFER took ownership of a public education fire truck through donations from local businesses. The main goal is to bring the truck to local elementary schools to spread our fire prevention message. To make this truck official, we bought a firefighter teddy bear to ride in the truck. SAFER collaborated with Red Robin to host a “Name the Firefighter” contest, where local elementary school classes had a chance to win a pizza party. Each kid who participated in the contest received a free meal at Red Robin. After many creative entries, Teddy Hoseman was selected as the firefighter’s name. We are proud to have Teddy Hoseman on our team.

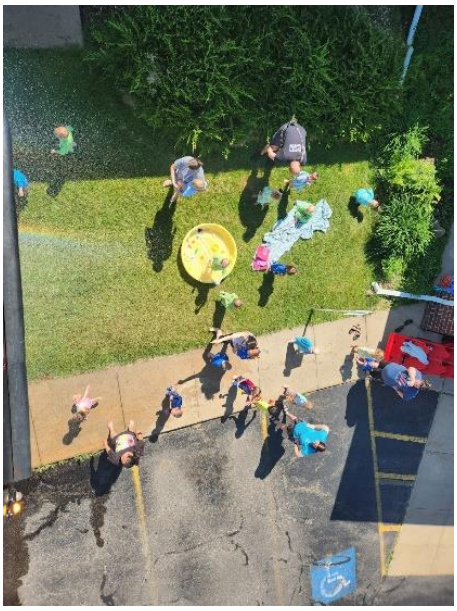
As we move forward, we look forward to sharing our message of risk reduction and strengthening public relations with the community we serve.
Respectfully,

Glynn Novak

Glynn Novak
Captain – Red Shift
Public Relations Committee Chair



PUBLIC RELATIONS & INTERN PICTURES













FLEET INFORMATION

Station 1

Engine 1 – 2020 Custom Fire Pumper
Truck 1 – 2024 Pierce 100’ Platform
Rescue 2 – 2010 Marion Heavy Rescue
Tender 1 – 2006 Pierce 3000gal Tender
Med 1 – 2021 Type 1 Braun Ambulance
Med 4 – 2014 Type 3 PL Custom Ambulance
Med 5 – 2025 Type 3 Braun Ambulance
Brush 1 – 2024 Ford F350 w/Plow
Boat 1 – 2024 Whaly 500R
UTV 1 – 2022 Intimidator
Car 1 (Chief) – 2023 GMC Sierra
Car 2 (Deputy Chief) – 2016 GMC Canyon
Car 3 (Fire Marshall) – 2022 Bronco Sport
Car 4 (Inspections) – 2019 Ford F150
Car 5 (Students) - 2016 Ford Interceptor

Station 2

Battalion 2 – 2016 Ford F150
Engine 2 – 2020 Custom Fire Pumper
Rescue 1 – 2016 Custom Fire Pumper
Med 2 – 2020 Type 1 Braun Ambulance
Med 3 – 2019 Type 3 Braun Ambulance
Brush 2 – 2020 Dodge 3500
UTV 2 – 2021 Intimidator



Pictured Med 5: 2016 Braun ambulance box remounted on 2025 Ford E350 Chassis

CLOSING REMARKS – ERIC LANG, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

Thank you for reading this report, and I encourage you to reach out with any questions. 2025 was a very successful year. We achieved the goals laid out in the 2022-2026 strategic plan, added an internship program and a part-time fire inspector, and recorded the second-highest number of fire/EMS responses to over 3,200 calls. As we close out 2025, I would like to review and highlight several goals that were achieved this year.

To receive a commendation for saving a cardiac arrest victim, the patient must fully recover from the cardiac arrest and leave the hospital neurologically intact. When SAFER crews save a life, the entire team is credited, as it takes the entire team working together to save that life. We had two cardiac arrest saves in 2025, resulting in commendations for several individuals. Included in this list, Lieutenant Zellner will be receiving his save # 5 commendation; Battalion Chief Meyers and FF/Paramedic Cordova will be receiving their save # 3 commendation; Engineer Haessly and Intern Lontkoski will be receiving their save # 2 commendation; and Fire Chief Finke, Fire Marshal Christiansen, and FF/EMT Wolfgram will receive their save # 1 commendation.

Several accomplishments related to the 2022-2026 five-year strategic plan were again realized in 2025. Employee recruitment and retention numbers increased dramatically in 2025, driven by higher compensation, the award/commendation program, through our social media presence, and as a result of the expanded benefits we offer (such as on-site physical therapy and our training budget), all areas of improvement identified in the strategic plan. Another area identified in the plan that is being addressed is staffing. In close partnership with the Villages and the SAFER Board, direction was given to add nine personnel in 2026 through a 2025 SAFER grant. Although we did not receive the grant, the Villages and SAFER Board have continued to work with us to add the nine needed personnel over the coming years, with three starting in January 2026.

The SAFER firefighter/EMT internship program began in 2025 and has been very successful. We started by interviewing 21 candidates, hired three outstanding individuals, and now have 3 functioning crew members who have completed initial EMT and firefighter training in only 6 months. As they continue to learn on the job, Abby, Logan, and Parker remain great additions to our staff, helping wherever they can and preparing to start paramedic classes in January 2026.

We want to thank the SAFER Staff, the Village of Weston, the Village of Rib Mountain, the SAFER Board of Directors, and the SAFER Fire Commission for their support. As we completed our eleventh year of operation in 2025, we look forward to a prosperous future, serving the communities by protecting lives and property.

Respectfully

Eric A. Lang

Eric A. Lang
Deputy Fire Chief