

2025 GRFD Annual Report

2025 BREAK-EVEN DATE
2/12/2025
 When the total value of property and contents saved by the GRFD surpassed the department's annual budget.

Total Alarms	25,301
Alarms in Grand Rapids	25,213
Alarms Outside of Grand Rapids.....	88
Apparatus Responses	35,068
Responder Hours.....	28,472

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Year At a Glance	3
GRFD Organization & Fiscal	4
GRFD Deployment (Station) Map	5
Chief’s Letter & News Spotlights	6
Strategic Plan Update	8
RESPONSE	
Incident Hotspots Map.....	10
Incident Review & Incident Spotlights	12
Simultaneous Calls & Temporal Analysis	14
Incident Activity by District	16
Apparatus Responses	17
Apparatus Deployed Hours	18
Responder Hours.....	19
Fire Incident Hotspot Map	20
Structure Fire Incident Breakdown.....	21
Emergency Medical Services (EMS).....	22
Special Operations (Tech/Water/HazMat)	24
Training, Recruitment, Fleet & Facilities	25
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	
Critical Performance Measures (with analysis)	26
ADMINISTRATION	
Community Risk Reduction	28
Administrative Chiefs	30
Battalion Chiefs	31
Emergency Management; Information & Planning	32
Promotions, New Hires, Retirements	33
Important Contact Info	Back Page

DATA TYPE DEFINITIONS

Fire (NFIRS Incident Type 100s) - All Fires including Building Fires, Car Fires and Trash Fires

False Alarms (NFIRS Incident Type 700s) - All False Alarms/Calls including Fire or CO Alarm System malfunction

EMS/Rescue (NFIRS Incident Type 300s) - Includes Cardiac Arrests, Overdoses, Traumatic Injuries and Rescues

Other (All Remaining NFIRS Incident Types) - Includes HazMat Responses, Wire Downs, and Service Calls

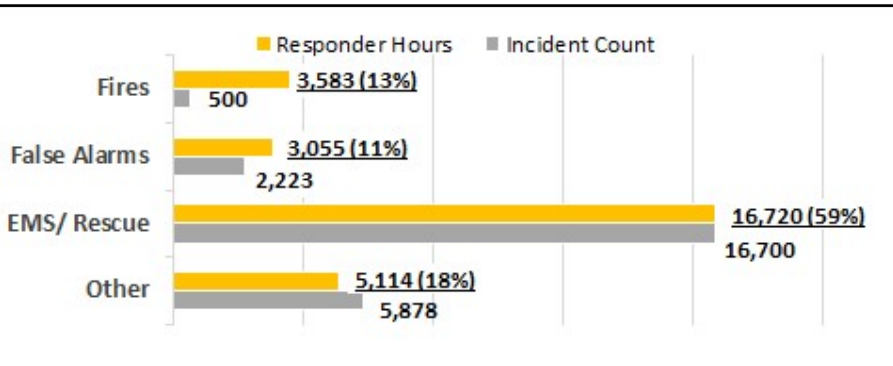
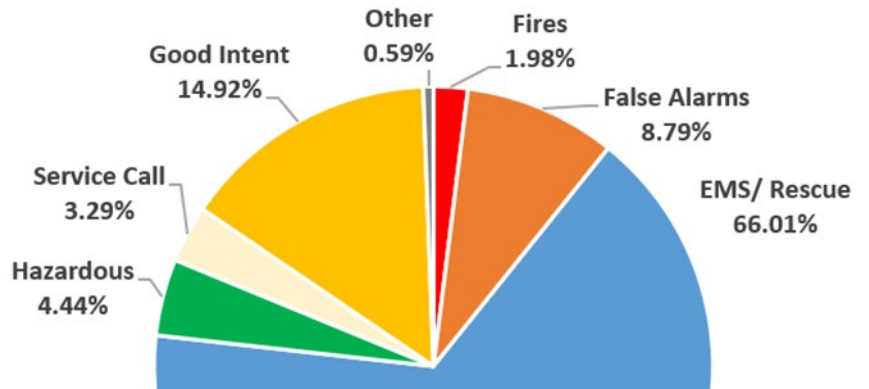
Alarm Type - What we are dispatched to

NFIRS Incident Type - What situation is actually found

2025 AT A GLANCE

Total Incidents
25,301

Incidents....
Within Grand Rapids: **25,213**
Outside Grand Rapids: **88**

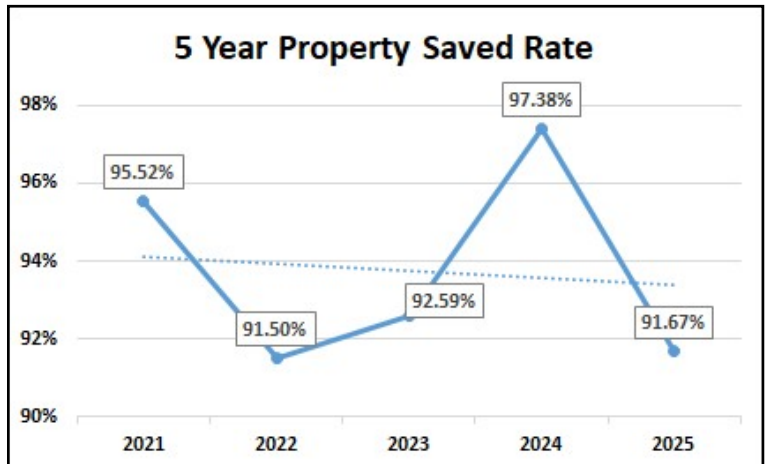


Apparatus Responses
35,068

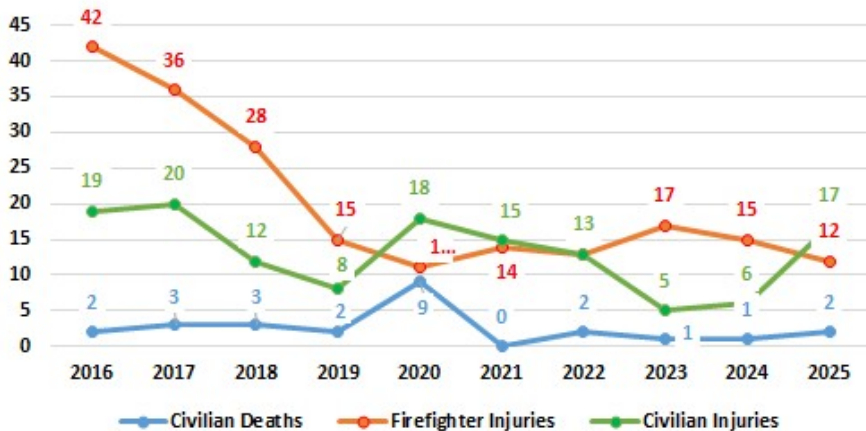
Responder Hours
28,472

Property Saved Rate..... 91.67%
Property Saved Value..... \$117,300,035
Property Loss Rate 8.33%
Property Loss Value \$6,789,872

Property Saved Rate is calculated by comparing fire property losses with the pre-incident value of the property at risk.



10 Year Fire Incident Casualties



Civilian Injuries..... 17
Civilian Deaths..... 2
Firefighter Injuries* 12
Firefighter Deaths 0

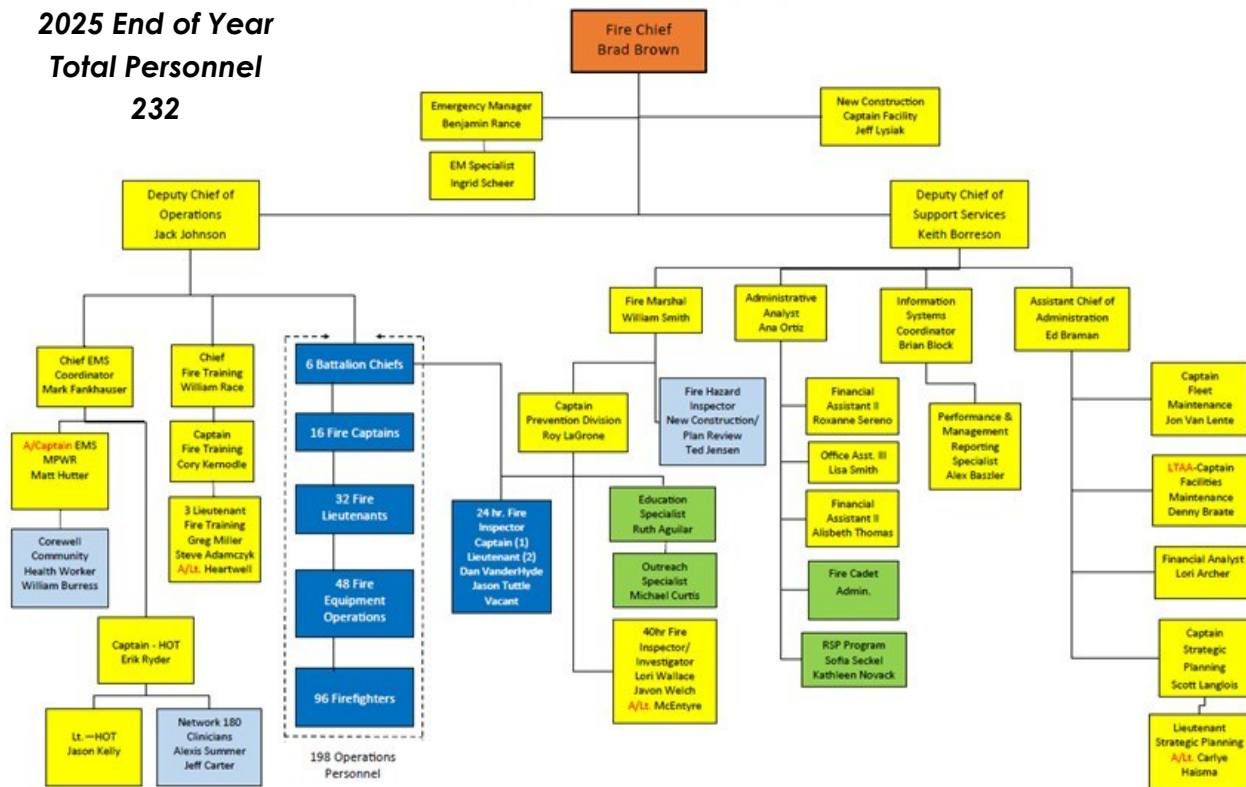
*During an active incident.

Civilian casualties are during fire incidents within Grand Rapids. Firefighter Injuries are during any active incident, including those outside of Grand Rapids. There were an additional 15 non-incident related, on-duty firefighter injuries in 2025.

GRFD ORGANIZATION & FISCAL

GRFD 2026 Organizational Chart

**2025 End of Year
Total Personnel
232**



ADMINISTRATION: **22** OPERATIONS: **198** PREVENTION: **7** TRAINING: **5**

FY 2025 CITY BUDGET \$689,974,680

CITY GENERAL OPERATING FUND \$186,233,426

GRFD ADOPTED BUDGET \$43,879,596

GRANTS (Awarded, Open, or Closed in 2025)

SAFER: Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grant AFG: Assistance to Firefighters Grant FP&S: Fire Prevention & Safety Grant RCP: Regional Catastrophic Preparedness EDA: Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration MI-LEO: MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

2024 EDA \$2,950,000 (2024 award)To construct live burn training tower at new facility

2023 SAFER \$3,178,199 (2024 award)Funds 10 firefighter positions for 3 years at Kendall station

2022 AFG \$77,000 (2023 award)Fitness equipment & health screenings (pg. 11)

2021 SAFER \$2,862,128 (2022 award)Funds 8 firefighter positions for 3 years

FEMA RCP \$603,004 (2022 award)Emergency Management hiring & reports (pg. 40)

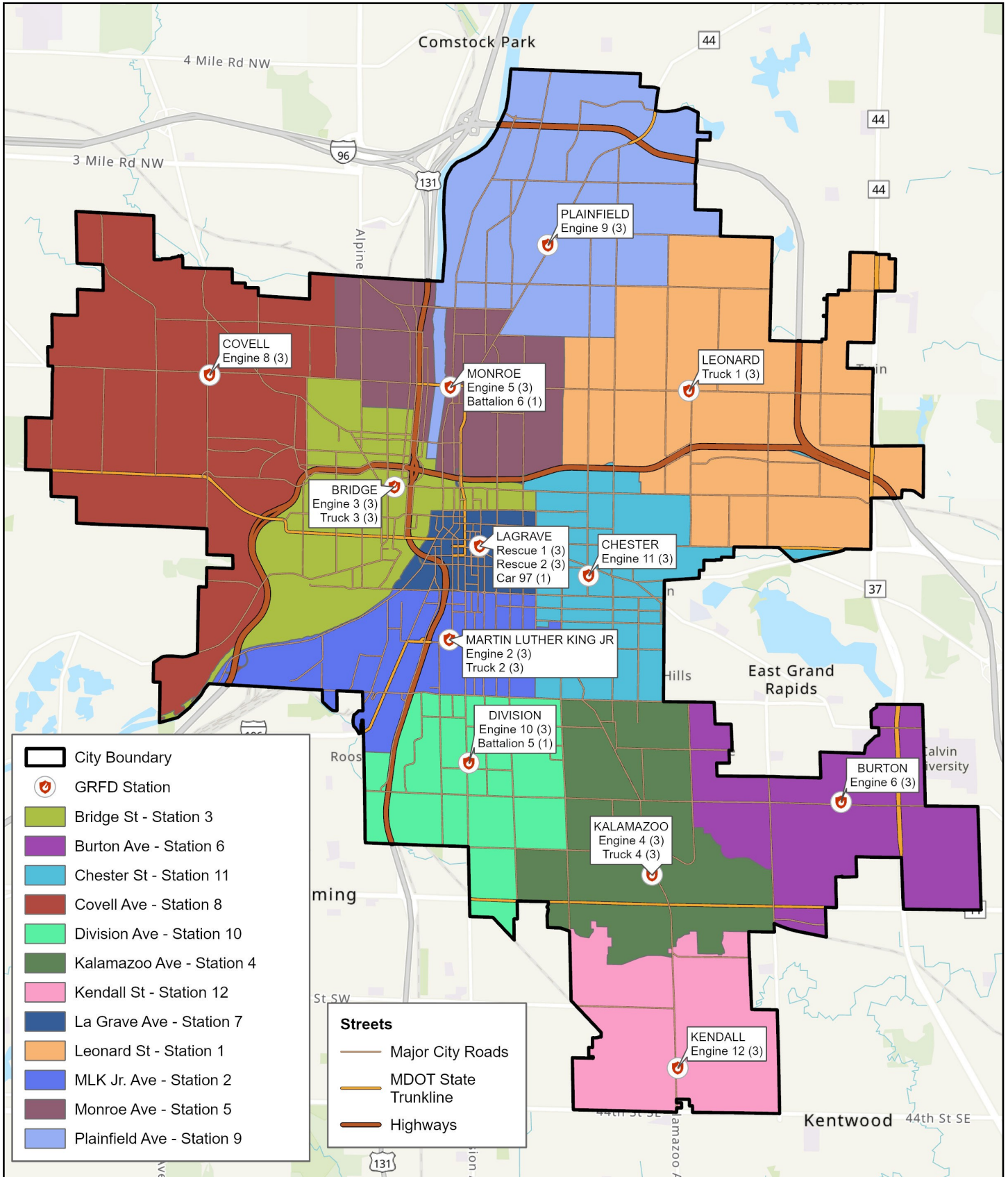
Grants closed out in 2025:

2024 MI-LEO \$640,884 (2024 award) New turnout gear for all frontline fire personnel

2021 AFG \$118,894 (2022 award) New CO2 monitors; Gas/batt. powered saws

2025 GRFD DEPLOYMENT MAP

Includes Frontline apparatus and assigned crew counts.



2025 LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

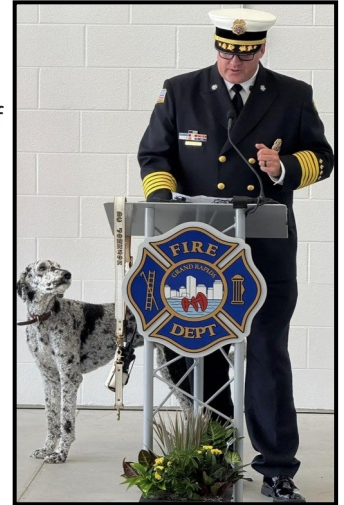


To the Mayor, City Commission, and Residents of Grand Rapids,

This year marked a truly meaningful chapter in the history of the Grand Rapids Fire Department as we proudly celebrated our 175th anniversary of service to this community. For nearly two centuries, generations of firefighters have answered the call with professionalism, courage, and dedication. As we honored that legacy, we also took significant steps to position the department for the future.

One of our most impactful accomplishments was the adoption of a new three-year strategic plan, developed with the guidance of a dedicated strategic planning team. This plan provides a clear framework for how we will continue to deliver high-quality emergency services while strengthening our workforce, infrastructure, and community partnerships.

We made historic progress in fire station development and training infrastructure. The opening of the new Kendall Fire Station—the first new fire station in nearly 40 years—was a milestone achievement and a critical investment in equitable emergency response for the



September 26, 2025—Fire Chief and Smokey at the Kendall Station dedication.



June 16, 2025—City and state officials gather to break ground on the new Division Avenue Fire Station, set to open fall of 2026.

City's Third Ward. We also broke ground on the new Division Avenue Fire Station and our new training center, both of which will support the operational readiness and long-term sustainability of the department.

Fleet improvements continued with the addition of a new Engine 12 from local manufacturer HME and a new 100-foot mid-mount Pierce ladder truck with rear steer for the Bridge Street Fire Station, enhancing our ability to serve the diverse and growing needs of the city.

Community-focused initiatives were refreshed and expanded this year. We reenergized the City's Homeless Outreach Team with a new approach and personnel, and we began the early stages of the Medical Priority and Wellness Response program in partnership with Corewell Health. This initiative is designed to reduce reliance on emergency response for frequent 911 callers while connecting individuals to appropriate care and long-term support.



Fire at Central Iron & Steel, February 18th, 2025

Operational demand remained high, with more than 25,000 alarms and 35,000 apparatus responses. This pace can take a toll, and this year reminded us of the importance of caring for our own. We engaged the services of a mental health professional and remain grateful for the dedication of our Critical Incident Stress Management team. Through collective bargaining, the IAFF also secured a reduced work week of 50.4 hours, providing much-needed rest for our members.

Finally, amid numerous retirements, promotions, and new hires, we onboarded a new Emergency Manager to keep pace with the city's continued growth. As we reflect on 175 years of service, I am confident that the Grand Rapids Fire Department remains strong, resilient, and ready for the future.

Dr. Brad Brown

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad B".

2025 NEWS SPOTLIGHTS



In 2025, the GRFD welcomed 12 babies into the family! 10 of them pictured here—Our crews just got a whole lot cuter!



Kendall Station and Engine 12 were put into service on September 26th. This was the first building to be added to the department in 37 years.



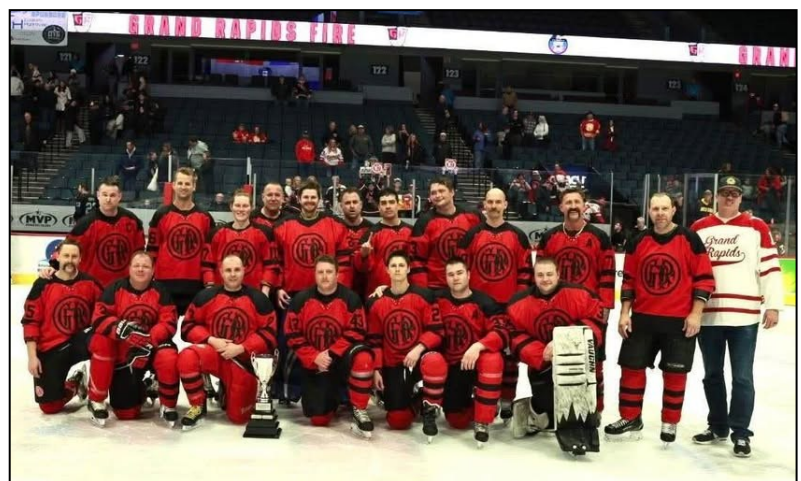
In July, the department welcomed the new Emergency Manager Benjamin Rance, who brings to the city over a decade of emergency management experience.



Crews and community members gathered for the new Division station ground breaking ceremony on June 16th.



Firefighter Ty Vanderwall completes the Georgia Smoke Diver course—one of the fire services most elite programs—in November. He was the first firefighter from Michigan to ever complete it.



GRFD takes home the trophy from GRPD in the 5th annual hockey game to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

FY26-28 STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION

The Grand Rapids Fire Department values all people by saving lives, protecting property, and responding to the needs of our entire community.

VALUES

Honesty
Integrity
Loyalty
Teamwork
Excellence

VISION

Become the safest mid-sized city in the country by developing our members to provide industry leading fire and rescue services.



	RESPONSE	TRAINING	PREVENTION	WELLNESS	SUPPORT SERVICES
	Owner: Chief Johnson Support: BC Clark 	Owner: Chief Race Support: Captain Kernodle 	Owner: Fire Marshal Smith Support: Captain LaGrone 	Owner: Chief Braman Support: Chief Noorman 	Owner: Chief Borreson Support: Chief Braman
DESIRED OUTCOMES	Increase response capabilities to meet the evolving needs of our community by achieving the 90% critical performance metric compliance	Provide the appropriate skills and education to ensure all ranks can address existing and evolving challenges	Provide risk reduction to the community by embracing education, engineering, enforcement, economic incentive, and emergency response	Cultivating a healthier department through mental and physical wellness	Ensure systems & processes meet the needs of the organization
FISCAL 2026 STRATEGIES	Identify shortcomings/gaps in response performance	Continuous Improvement of training delivery	Rebrand Fire Prevention Division to Community risk reduction (CRR)	Optimize station alerting, equipment, and mental health services	Evaluate facilities & asset management plans
FISCAL 2027 STRATEGIES	Identify how to maximize response performance	Full utilization of the new training center	Improve Communications with Internal/External Stakeholders	Improve Department Wide Wellness	Improve information flow (Bi-directional)
FISCAL 2028 STRATEGIES	Monitor and forecast effects of response model adjustments	Ensure training resources meet our training needs	Establish Regional CRR Training Curriculum	Review & summarize FY26 & FY27 initiatives to plan for the future	Optimize and communicate with human resources and purchasing departments

RESPONSE

The Response pillar made major strides in operations, staffing, and technology. A new 3 year contract agreement was successfully negotiated between the City and firefighters (IAFF) labor union that went into affect July 2025. Coordination with ambulance (ALS) partners improved on-scene operations, while updated meeting structures between ALS and the GRFD enhanced communication and strategic alignment. The dive team expanded from 10 to 30 members, eliminating overtime needs. The Hotwash application was introduced to help more efficiently and transparently capture observations and lessons learned following an event that is aimed at improving future performance. Opening Kendall Station (District 12) increased coverage in the south end of the city. The department began replacing the Dell Toughbooks, used by suppression for incident alerts and time tracking, with iPads, enabling software improvement with additional features and reducing costs.

TRAINING

The Training Division broke ground on the new training facility in 2025 which is scheduled to be operational in the fall of 2026. Among the division’s success was ensuring members had access to training resources via the Vector Solutions online training portal, as well as having current instructors review hand-on training skills. Aside from specific tasks laid out in the Operational Plan, the Training pillar also successfully wrapped up a class of 13 recruits in the spring of 2025 and completed an Equipment Operator course, a Cadet program, and a Summer Youth Academy.

PREVENTION

The Prevention Division has built upon existing community outreach, such as second grade presentations, as well as developing and providing fire extinguisher training to area businesses. The Captain of Prevention was asked to be a part of a City initiative to develop visual safety training for the deaf and hard of hearing. In July of 2025, Prevention adjusted its fire inspection districts from 5 (North, South, Central, West, HazMat) to 3 that match the City’s wards. This was mainly due to manpower limitations but it also provided a way to easily direct residents to ward specific resources as needed. The division also started working with the GRFD Planning Division to develop a risk assessment scoring method on commercial, industrial, and high residential structures.

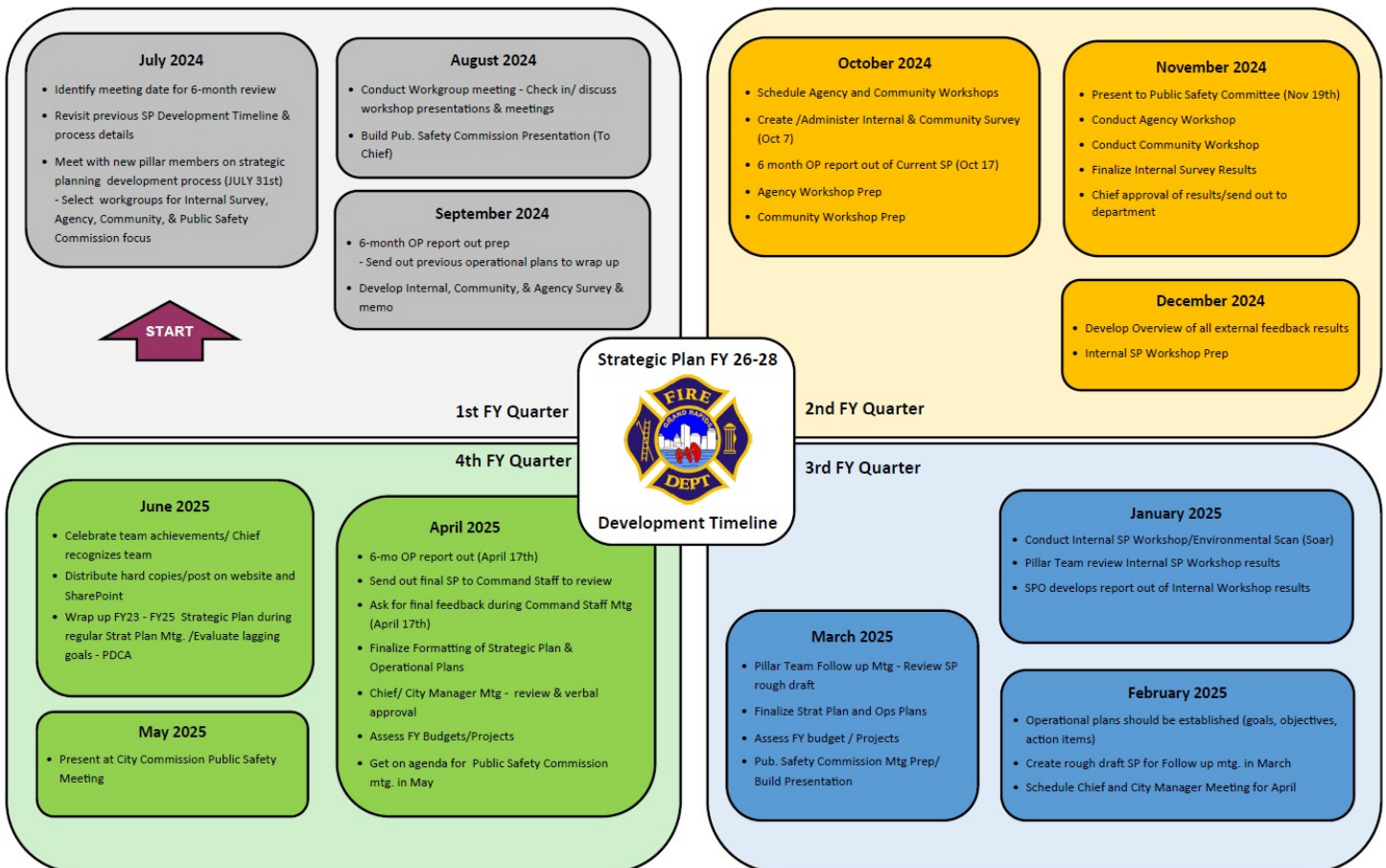
WELLNESS

The Wellness pillar completed department-wide cancer screenings, which resulted in early detection for several members and highlighted the value of proactive health initiatives. The pillar continues to evaluate additional methods for effective cancer screening. The year also marked a renewed focus on mental health awareness, supported through mental health–related training and other wellness programs. The committee assisted in bringing a preventive mental health specialist on board to provide members with expanded support resources. Additionally, a department member took over the role of Physical Fitness Manager to oversee future equipment needs and maintenance planning. Both the department and the City’s wellness program continue to offer in person and virtual workshops aimed at supporting members’ mental, physical, financial well being.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services pillar helped simplify and streamline the department supply procurement process and continued to collaborate with department communication systems, the wellness committee, and fleet maintenance to determine specific improvements and changes. The pillar also completed FY25 goal by utilizing GR Communications department to refine the media request process and reworked social media presence to engage the community more effectively. Support Services continues to work with Human Resources department to create an efficient timeline for all future hires, procured multiple fire apparatus and secured future orders from a local manufacturer.

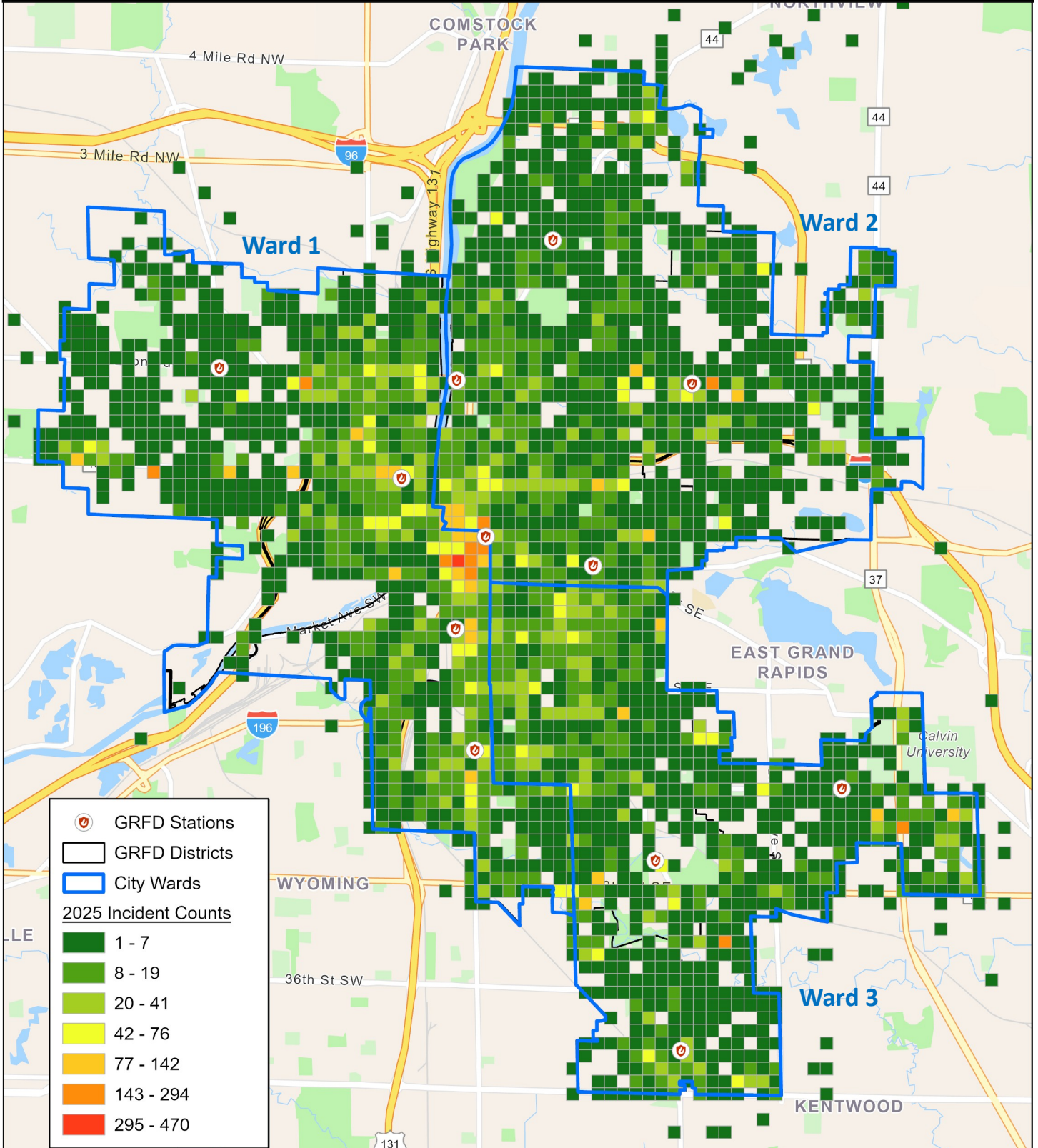
DEVELOPING THE FY26-28 PLAN



In 2025, the GRFD finalized its year-long process to develop the new Strategic Plan. FY26-28 Strategic Plan went into effect in July 2025, and the previous strategic plan was wrapped up.

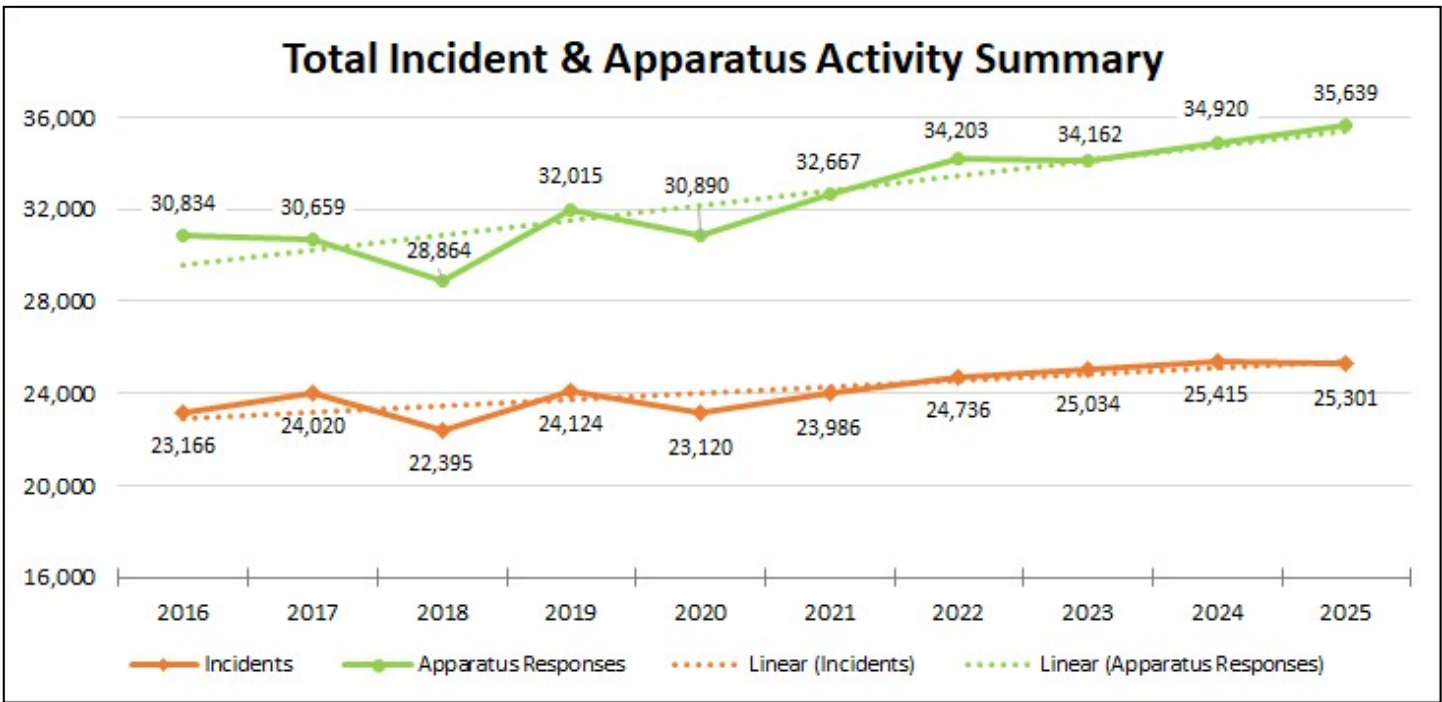
The strategic planning process began in 2024 with several project scoping meetings and workshops. During the 2024 Strategic Planning Team workshop, the vision statement was updated and the Prevention decided to begin rebranding itself as “Community Risk Reduction” due to feedback and input was gathered from GRFD members. The FY 26-28 plan was finalized in April 2025 and was presented to the city commission shortly after.

2025 INCIDENT HOTSPOTS



*Total Ward incidents do not match the total 2025 GR Incidents due to Wards GIS boundaries not exactly matching up with the City's GIS boundary.

	<u>Fire</u>	<u>False Alarms</u>	<u>EMS/ Rescue</u>	<u>Good Intent</u>	<u>Hazardous Cond.</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total*</u>
Ward 1	213	830	7,287	1,512	429	427	10,698
Ward 2	129	825	4,716	1,181	341	287	7,479
Ward 3	135	565	4,646	1,032	343	260	6,981



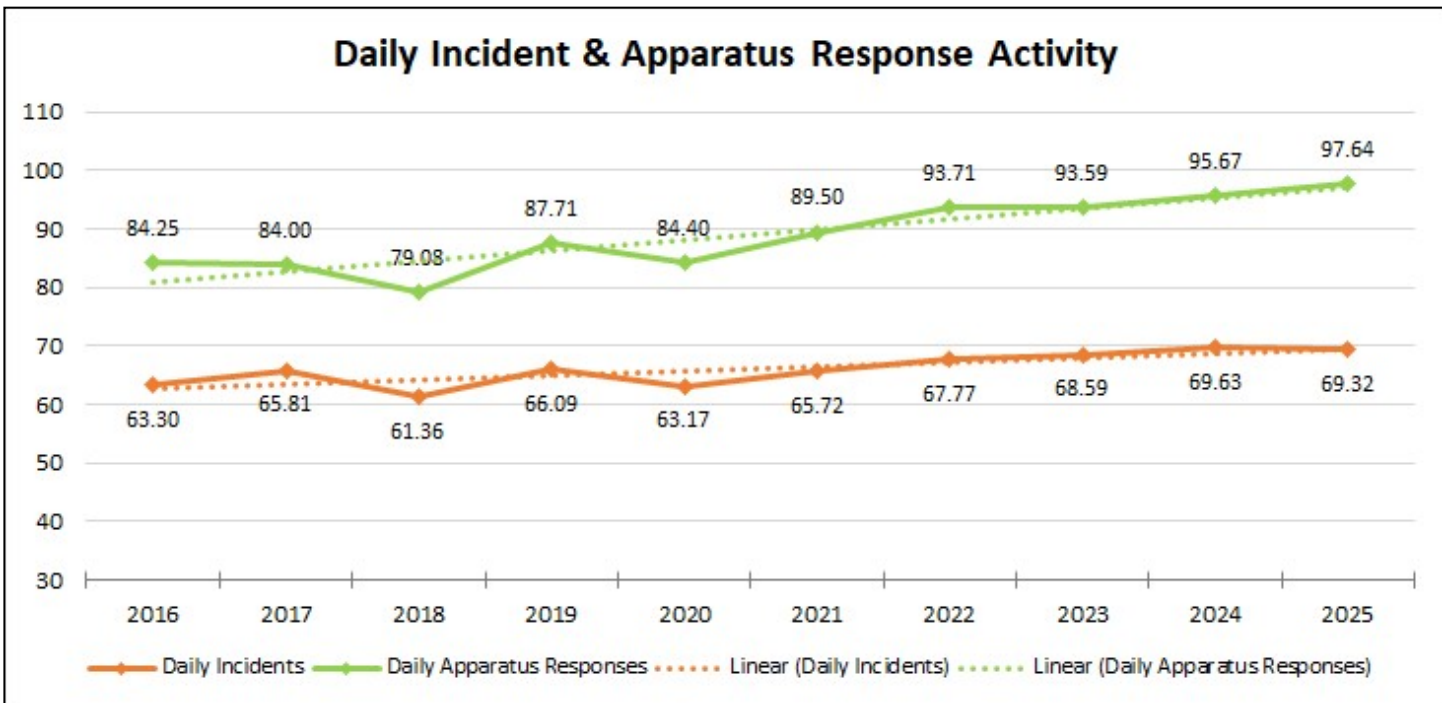
In 2025...

There were **114 less incidents** and **719 more unit responses** than in 2024.

There were **1,315 more incidents** and **2,972 more unit responses** than 5 years ago.

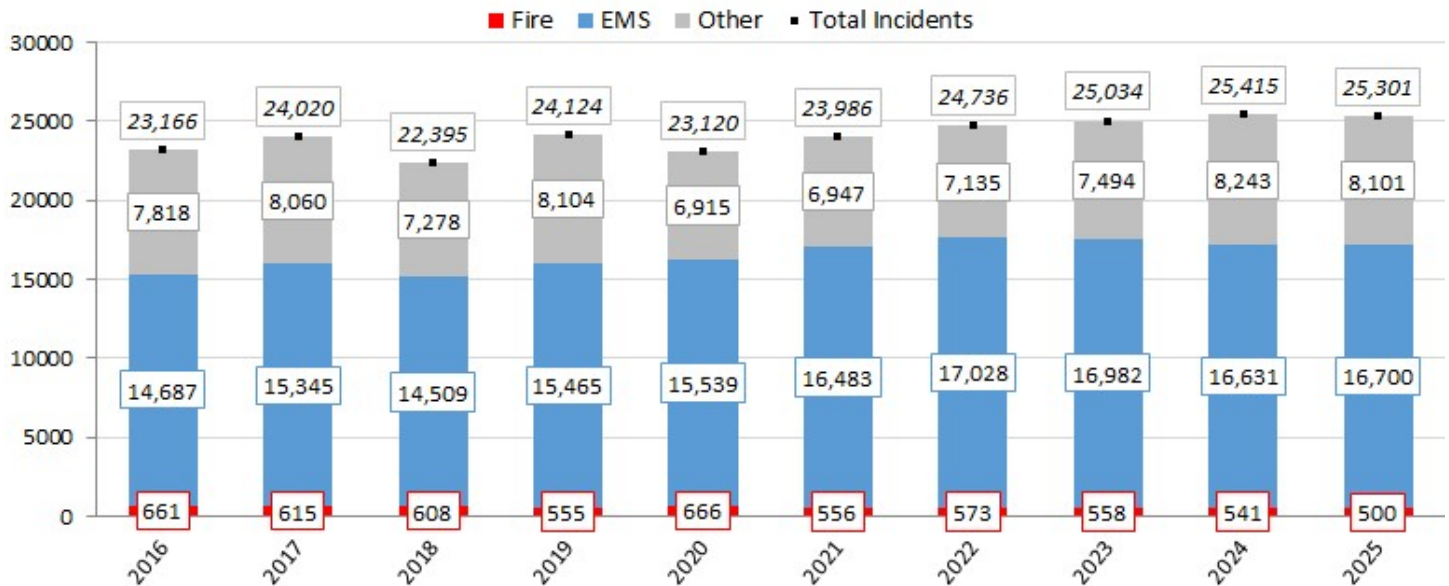
Total Incidents rose (+5.48%) over the last 5 years; (+9.22%) since 2016.

Apparatus responses rose (+9.10%) over the last 5 years; (+15.58%) since 2016.



2025 INCIDENT REVIEW

Total Incidents by Type



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fires	661	615	608	555	666	556	573	558	541	500
Overpressure	51	191	202	158	113	138	115	127	98	141
EMS/ Rescue	14,687	15,345	14,509	15,465	15,539	16,483	17,028	16,982	16,631	16,700
Hazardous Conditions	1,166	1,155	1,006	1,574	1,006	1,064	1,147	981	1,439	1,123
Service Call	1,492	1,704	1,542	1,252	1,053	876	953	925	975	832
Good Intent	3,315	3,462	3,033	3,258	3,252	3,070	2,995	3,559	3,596	3,774
False Alarm/Calls	1,774	1,537	1,487	1,849	1,488	1,783	1,909	1,890	2,130	2,223
Severe Weather	14	10	6	11	2	5	8	8	2	5
Special Incident	6	1	2	2	1	11	8	4	3	3
Total	23,166	24,020	22,395	24,124	23,120	23,986	24,736	25,034	25,415	25,301

Highlights

- **Overpressure/ Rupture** incidents had one of the largest percentage jumps with 43 more incidents in 2025 **(+43.88%)**. The majority of these were due to “excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition”.
- **Hazardous Conditions** had the largest percentage decrease **(-21.96%)** due to over 300 less “wire down” incidents.
- **Good Intent** alarms increased by 178 incidents over the previous year **(+4.95%)**.
- **False Alarms** continued to see an increase with 93 more alarms over the previous year **(+4.37%)**. This is due to the continued reporting of unintentional alarm activations caused by burnt food (with no fire), along with improvements in accurately identifying and documenting these incidents compared to previous years.

	Change 2024 to 2025	% Change 2024 to 2025	% of 2025 Incidents
Fires	-41	-7.58%	1.98%
Overpressure/Rupture	43	43.88%	0.56%
EMS/Rescue	69	0.41%	66.01%
Hazardous Conditions	-316	-21.96%	4.44%
Service Call	-143	-14.67%	3.29%
Good Intent	178	4.95%	14.92%
False Alarm/Calls	93	4.37%	8.79%
Severe Weather	3	150.00%	0.02%
Special Incident	0	0.00%	0.01%
Total	-114	-0.45%	

2025 INCIDENT SPOTLIGHTS *A glimpse of incidents our crews respond to*

February 27—Ice Rescue at Veteran’s Memorial Bridge

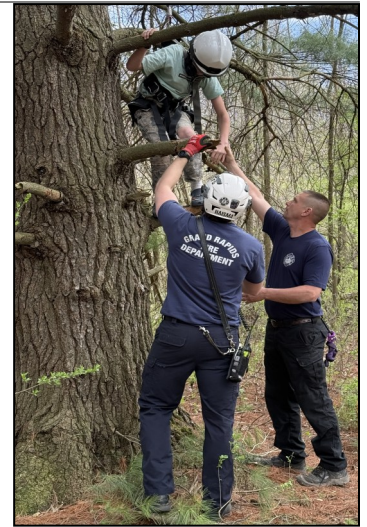
Picture on front page, middle right

Crews performed rope rescue operations to reach a patient on the ice and transfer them to the airboat using a stokes basket. After rescue, the patient was transferred to an ambulance and transported to a local hospital.



April 27—Tree top Tech Rescue

GRFD Tech Rescue team assisted Plainfield Township Fire with a juvenile stuck high in a tree; the child was safely lowered to the ground by with no injuries.



April 28 - Two Alarm Fire with water supply challenges

A two alarm structure fire in the 2800 block of Dawes Ave SE ended up involving mutual aid from Kentwood Fire Department and necessitated a water supply line being stretched from 28th Street through the woods behind the structure.



May 16 - Fire caused by charging electric scooter

Investigators believe a structure fire in the 200 block of Sligh Blvd NE was caused by a charging electric scooter. The GRFD Hazmat Team was called to setup a workstation at the scene and to ensure the lithium ion batteries were removed for safe disposal.



June 18 - Commercial Structure Fire

A fire at the 1000 block of Hall St SW required the response of numerous GR fire units and necessitated apparatus relay pumping from hydrants on Godfrey Ave SW.



November 26 - Wind Driven Fire

Strong winds and downed electrical wires complicated fire fighting at a fire near Dale St. NE and Taylor Ave NE. Numerous fire crews were on scene throughout the night to battle the blaze.



December 2 - Semi-Truck accident on southbound US-131

Grand Rapids firefighters responded to an accident involving a semi-truck on southbound US 131 at I-196. The scene required an extrication and a hazardous materials response.

SIMULTANEOUS CALLS

The occurrence of multiple calls at the same time serve as a decision point for both the distribution and concentration of resources. When multiple alarms occur in a single district, either a second unit in that district or resources from adjoining districts (or outside agencies) must be utilized for an effective response.

In 2025

- Citywide simultaneous call rate decreased less than 1%
- District 4 (Kalamazoo) has the highest simultaneous rate (11.15%).
- District 2 (MLK) has highest simultaneous call volume increase from the previous year (7.12% to 9.01%.)
- New Kendall District had a 4.63% Simultaneous rate over approx. 3 months.

City Wide Simultaneous	
2016	60.04%
2017	59.60%
2018	63.15%
2019	61.05%
2020	57.88%
2021	61.98%
2022	62.48%
2023	62.72%
2024	60.97%
2025	60.84%

In the last 5 years:

- Top (2) Stations with highest jump: **Leonard (+1.38%), La Grave (+1.88%)**
- Station with largest decrease: **Kalamazoo (-2.39%)**

Simultaneous Call Percentage by Station District										
Station	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Bridge	10.01%	11.49%	9.62%	10.62%	10.18%	10.96%	10.48%	11.93%	11.46%	9.95%
Burton	4.80%	5.50%	6.07%	6.90%	5.97%	7.33%	7.43%	6.54%	6.47%	6.41%
Chester	9.00%	11.59%	8.61%	11.80%	8.10%	8.59%	8.63%	7.17%	8.53%	8.28%
Covell	7.31%	9.39%	7.84%	13.15%	7.45%	8.07%	8.10%	8.16%	8.26%	8.62%
Division	9.53%	9.31%	8.00%	9.38%	9.91%	9.07%	10.58%	9.43%	8.91%	7.58%
Kalamazoo	12.73%	13.70%	22.65%	13.07%	10.26%	13.54%	14.05%	10.91%	11.78%	11.15%
La Grave	9.81%	10.49%	11.71%	11.22%	7.88%	9.09%	11.03%	10.61%	10.09%	10.97%
Leonard	9.23%	7.70%	7.57%	12.89%	8.79%	9.28%	10.76%	11.31%	12.41%	10.66%
MLK Jr.	6.61%	7.05%	7.35%	7.85%	7.10%	10.16%	8.06%	9.06%	7.12%	9.01%
Monroe	8.25%	6.75%	7.45%	11.69%	8.41%	9.15%	8.46%	9.00%	9.56%	7.84%
Plainfield	3.96%	5.27%	4.59%	10.40%	5.51%	6.33%	6.56%	9.69%	6.21%	4.75%

AID GIVEN OR RECEIVED

Current auto aid agreements with Plainfield, Kentwood, and Walker requires us to respond automatically to structure fire alarm types in each other's identified municipal areas. The table below shows the number of times we were involved in aid type responses, including instances where only the GRFD responded (Other). *The counts reflect all alarm types, not just structure fires.*

	AID RECEIVED			AID GIVEN			
	Auto	Mutual	Total	Auto	Mutual	Other	Total
Grand Rapids Township		0	0		3	1	4
Kentwood	6	3	9	13	2	1	16
Plainfield	3	1	4	12	3	1	16
Walker	3	4	7	10	5	0	15
Wyoming		1	1		1	1	2
			Other		1	8	9
2025 Total	12	9	21	35	15	12	62

In 2025, 26 aid type calls were cancelled enroute and are not reflected in the numbers above. This brings total non-city incident calls to 88.

TEMPORAL ANALYSIS

These tables show the number of incidents by time and day. Trends indicate the highest service demand overall is during daytime and early evening hours, when community activity is at its peak.

In 2025, the most active time of day (right) was on **Tuesdays between 4pm and 5pm**, with 247 calls for service. In 2023, the busiest time was **Wednesdays between 12pm and 1pm**, with 243 calls.

The highest peak for EMS incidents (below right) were between 4pm and 5pm. The most active times for EMS responses was **Wednesdays between 4 and 5pm** (171 calls). See page 22 for an EMS incident breakdown by dispatch reason.

The highest peak for fire incidents (below left) were **Sundays between 8pm and 9pm** and **Fridays between 11pm and 12 am**. Fire-related alarms trend higher during the evening and early morning hours, when occupants are less active or sleeping. See page 21 for a fire incident breakdown.

Temporal Analysis - All Alarms								
Hour	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total
00:00-00:59	151	103	95	105	116	105	152	827
01:00-01:59	139	70	88	100	77	98	97	669
02:00-02:59	112	78	71	100	75	84	117	637
03:00-03:59	96	66	62	75	58	72	91	520
04:00-04:59	58	57	64	87	72	59	86	483
05:00-05:59	83	71	71	80	66	66	90	527
06:00-06:59	114	99	94	108	105	95	89	704
07:00-07:59	110	121	131	131	115	106	118	832
08:00-08:59	117	174	174	165	151	167	120	1,068
09:00-09:59	148	176	204	172	170	150	159	1,179
10:00-10:59	140	164	215	200	188	176	162	1,245
11:00-11:59	153	187	195	172	199	197	171	1,274
12:00-12:59	167	184	192	198	178	189	181	1,289
13:00-13:59	182	223	222	233	185	200	202	1,447
14:00-14:59	166	233	219	194	188	212	198	1,410
15:00-15:59	148	224	215	212	219	222	201	1,441
16:00-16:59	181	190	247	230	204	207	194	1,453
17:00-17:59	182	233	187	214	226	203	202	1,447
18:00-18:59	195	161	207	195	194	158	197	1,307
19:00-19:59	191	183	169	172	174	157	176	1,222
20:00-20:59	183	171	193	198	179	170	194	1,288
21:00-21:59	157	131	167	150	172	176	170	1,123
22:00-22:59	131	136	131	125	141	163	172	999
23:00-23:59	118	119	110	114	135	167	147	910
Total	3,422	3,554	3,723	3,730	3,587	3,599	3,686	25,301

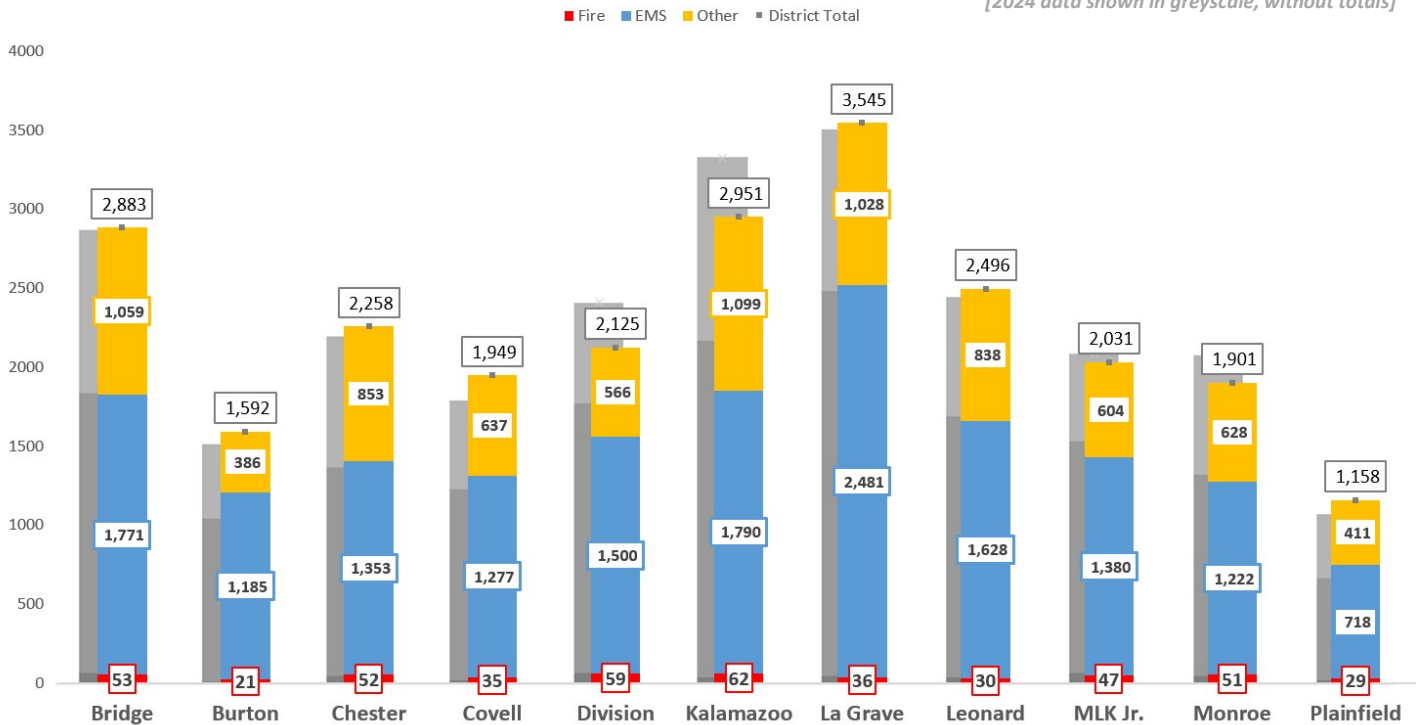
Temporal Analysis - Fires								
Hour	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total
00:00-00:59	6	1	3	2	4	2	4	22
01:00-01:59	2	2	1	3	3	2	1	14
02:00-02:59	4	2	0	1	0	2	3	12
03:00-03:59	3	2	3	3	1	0	0	12
04:00-04:59	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	6
05:00-05:59	0	3	1	1	1	2	2	10
06:00-06:59	3	1	0	1	2	1	4	12
07:00-07:59	2	1	3	1	2	2	1	12
08:00-08:59	2	2	5	3	2	2	2	18
09:00-09:59	1	2	1	4	3	2	1	14
10:00-10:59	3	2	5	2	3	3	3	21
11:00-11:59	0	3	7	3	3	1	4	21
12:00-12:59	2	3	1	2	6	0	5	19
13:00-13:59	2	5	6	1	2	3	3	22
14:00-14:59	4	5	4	3	4	4	4	28
15:00-15:59	3	5	5	2	6	3	5	29
16:00-16:59	4	3	1	3	2	4	5	22
17:00-17:59	6	7	6	5	7	4	2	37
18:00-18:59	7	6	5	4	6	7	6	41
19:00-19:59	7	3	4	3	4	2	4	27
20:00-20:59	10	5	3	3	0	2	4	27
21:00-21:59	4	2	5	4	5	2	2	24
22:00-22:59	3	2	2	3	1	7	6	24
23:00-23:59	3	0	2	2	3	10	6	26
Total	81	67	76	59	70	67	80	500

Temporal Analysis - EMS/ Rescues								
Hour	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total
00:00-00:59	94	68	65	82	77	69	101	556
01:00-01:59	97	33	62	59	49	70	68	438
02:00-02:59	72	48	51	65	49	54	66	405
03:00-03:59	65	42	36	44	40	46	66	339
04:00-04:59	42	41	44	64	47	44	55	337
05:00-05:59	65	47	48	47	44	40	50	341
06:00-06:59	81	60	55	71	75	62	59	463
07:00-07:59	68	83	89	99	67	68	86	560
08:00-08:59	71	116	121	109	104	113	79	713
09:00-09:59	107	128	121	110	113	97	103	779
10:00-10:59	87	122	146	133	130	118	109	845
11:00-11:59	95	127	128	107	125	136	115	833
12:00-12:59	113	123	139	124	116	118	120	853
13:00-13:59	122	155	126	158	120	137	127	945
14:00-14:59	102	147	137	130	118	147	125	906
15:00-15:59	93	145	150	143	142	151	135	959
16:00-16:59	115	134	164	171	137	137	125	983
17:00-17:59	126	154	124	148	149	132	146	979
18:00-18:59	130	100	129	121	129	101	133	843
19:00-19:59	134	137	110	105	126	98	120	830
20:00-20:59	115	115	119	140	118	118	111	836
21:00-21:59	107	87	110	92	108	120	105	729
22:00-22:59	92	89	80	85	78	108	114	646
23:00-23:59	72	75	80	71	86	95	103	582
Total	2,265	2,376	2,434	2,478	2,347	2,379	2,421	16,700

INCIDENT ACTIVITY BY DISTRICT

2025 Incidents by District

[2024 data shown in greyscale, without totals]

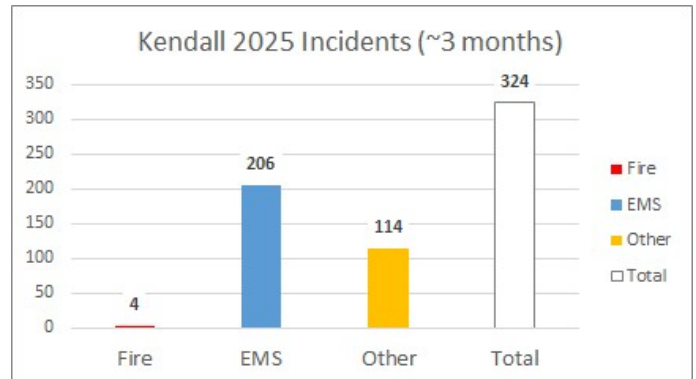


Largest 2025 overall changes

- **Covell** had **159 more calls** (+8.88%) and **Plainfield** had **79 more calls**, (+7.32%)
- **Division** had **288 less calls** (-8.21%) and **Kalamazoo** had **382 less calls** (-11.46%)

Largest 2025 Fire Incident Changes:

- **Burton** had **6 additional fires** and **Covell** had **10 additional fires** (both a +40% increase from the prior year). **Kalamazoo** had the second highest jump (+34.78%) with 16 additional fires.
- **Leonard** had **15 fewer fires** (-33.33%) than the prior year.



Largest 2025 EMS Incident Changes:

- **Burton** had **149 more medicals** (+14.38%) and **Plainfield** had **71 more medicals** (+10.36%).
- **Kalamazoo** had **332 fewer medicals** (-15.65%).

CAR 97 - 2025 STATISTICS

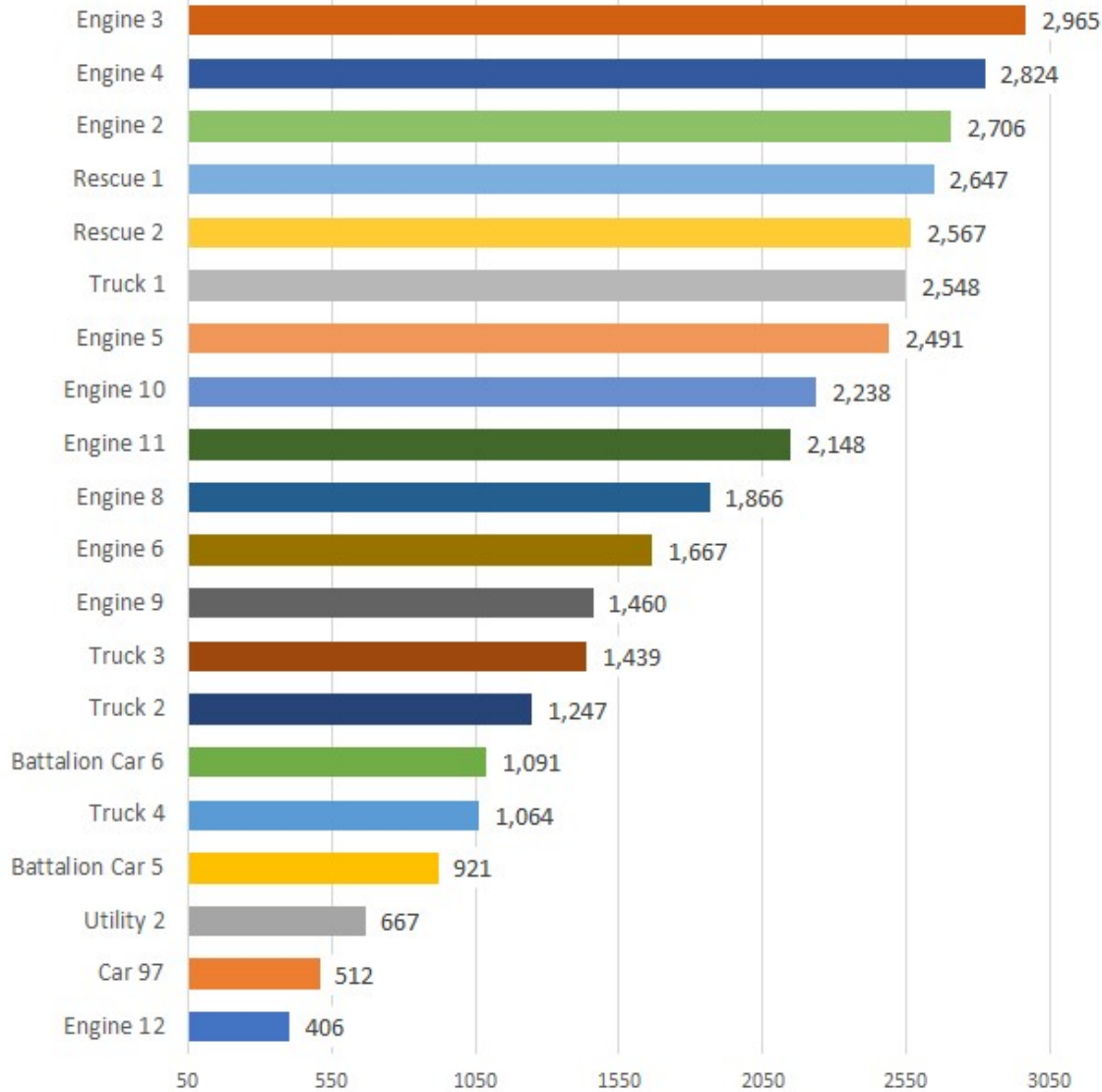
Alarms Dispatched to 512
 Deployed Hours (hh:mm:ss).... 269:19:32
 Number of CBRs addressed 299

Car 97 is staffed 24/7 by a Fire Inspector stationed at La Grave Ave Station. Its duties include acting as Safety Officer on incidents, working with companies to reset fire alarms, responding to Commercial Building Referrals (CBRs) concerning fire code violations, and providing initial fire investigation.

APPARATUS RESPONSES

2025 Frontline Apparatus Responses

See page 5 for unit locations.



Support Apparatus Responses	
Engine 1	56
HazMat 2	22
Water 3	14
Dive 3	11
HazMat 1	11
Water 5	9
Tech 1	7
Utility 1	6
B-Unit 1	6
B-Unit 4	5
B-Unit 3	5
Truck 6	4
Engine 14	4
Truck 5	2
Engine 13	1
Engine 20	1
Rescue 3	1

The largest increase and decrease lists below are pulled from the 2025 Frontline Apparatus Responses chart. Utility 2 (aka "the Blocker") is included in this list due to its daily usage but does not have dedicated staffing like the other frontline apparatus; instead a crew member from another unit is assigned as its operator when the unit is dispatched.

Largest % Increase from Previous Year

- Utility 2; 156 more responses (+30.53%)
- Truck 1; 248 more responses (+10.78%)
- Engine 8; 122 more responses (+7%)

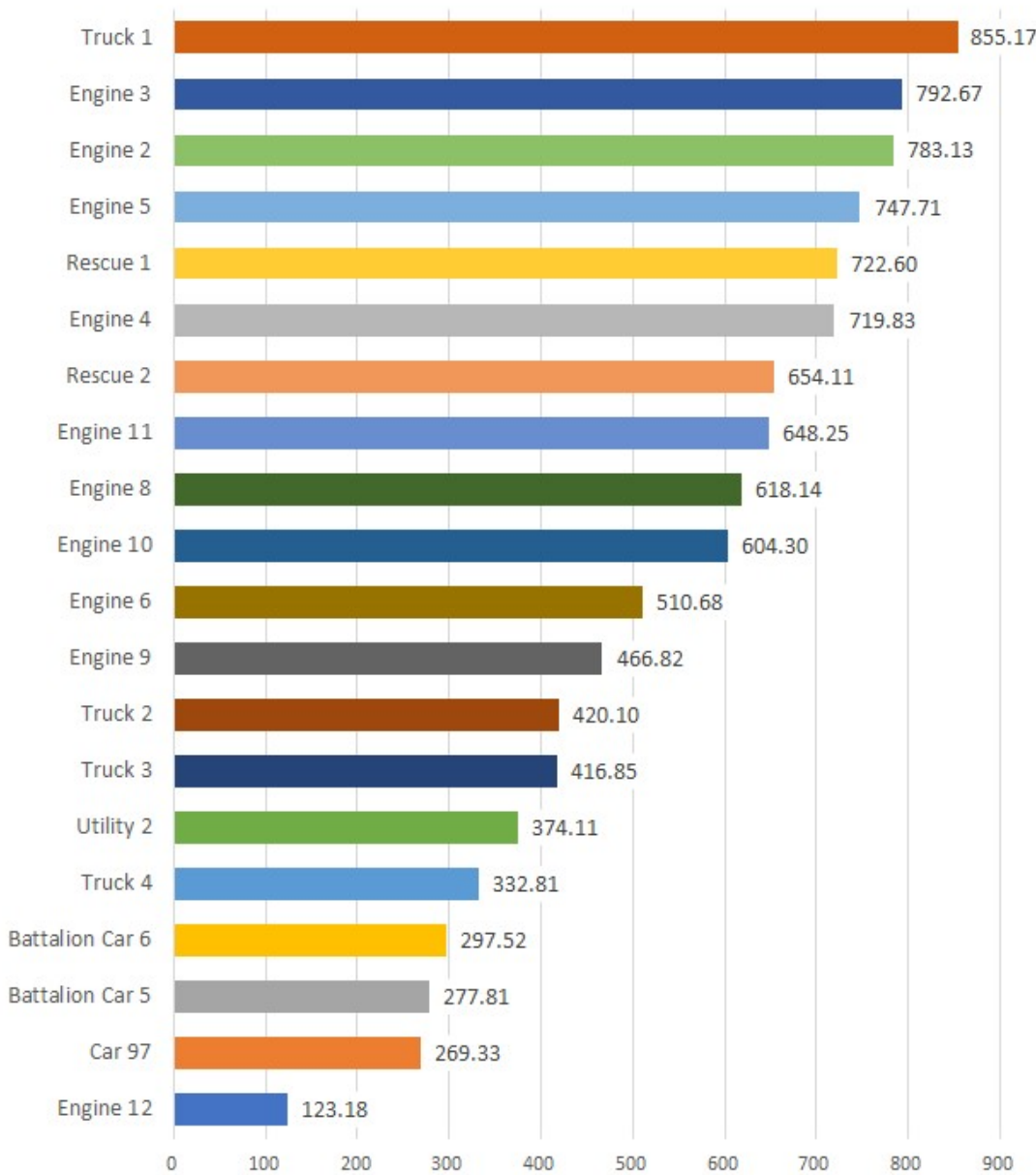
Largest % Decrease from Previous Year

- Truck 4; 164 fewer responses (-13.36%)
- Engine 4; 258 fewer responses (-8.37%)
- Engine 10; 189 fewer responses (-7.79%)

Engine 12 was placed into frontline service in late September 2025 and responded to 406 alarms during those three and a half months. **Engine 1** is still placed in service at Leonard St. Station as needed and as staffing allows; it had 108 fewer responses in 2025.

APPARATUS DEPLOYED HOURS

2025 Frontline Apparatus Deployment Hours



Support Apparatus Deployment Hours

Engine 1	21.81
HazMat 1	19.20
HazMat 2	18.65
B-Unit 1	14.61
Tech 1	13.02
B-Unit 4	10.70
Water 3	9.30
Dive 3	8.32
Water 5	6.22
Truck 6	5.59
Engine 20	5.57
B-Unit 3	4.97
Rescue 3	3.78
Utility 1	3.24
Engine 14	1.53
Truck 5	1.48
Engine 13	0.71

The largest increase and decrease lists below are pulled from the 2025 Frontline Apparatus Deployment Hours chart. Utility 2 (aka "the Blocker") is included in this list due to its daily usage but does not have dedicated staffing like the other frontline apparatus; instead a crew member from another unit is assigned as its operator when the unit is dispatched.

Largest % Increase from Previous Year

- Utility 2; 74.65 more response hours (+24.93%)
- Truck 1; 95.84 more response hours (+12.62%)
- Engine 6; 30.29 more response hours (+6.30%)

Largest % Decrease from Previous Year

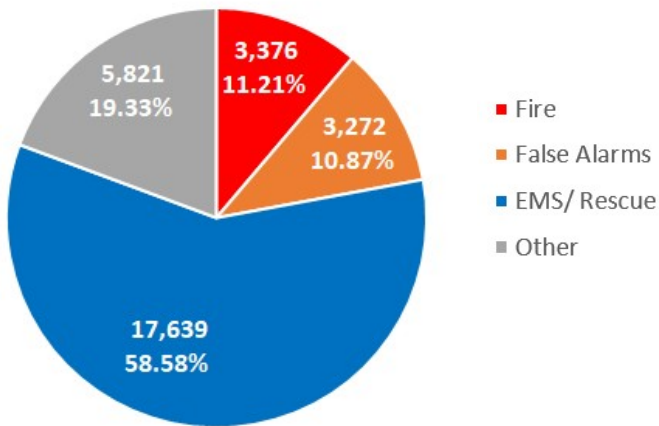
- Engine 4; 92 fewer response hours (-11.33%)
- Engine 10; 66.84 fewer response hours (-9.96%)
- Truck 4; 29.04 fewer response hours (-7.53%)

Engine 12 had a total of 123.18 response hours in the approximately 3 months it was officially in frontline service in late September 2025.

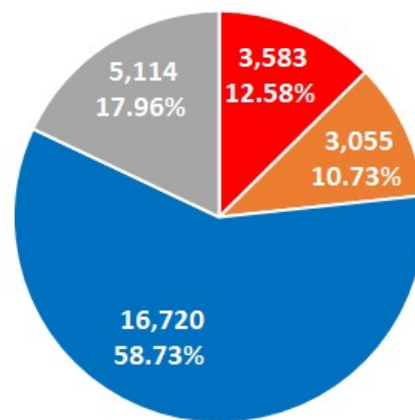
RESPONDER HOURS

The number of personnel multiplied by the amount of time responding to an incident (Notification to Cleared).

2024 Responder Hours

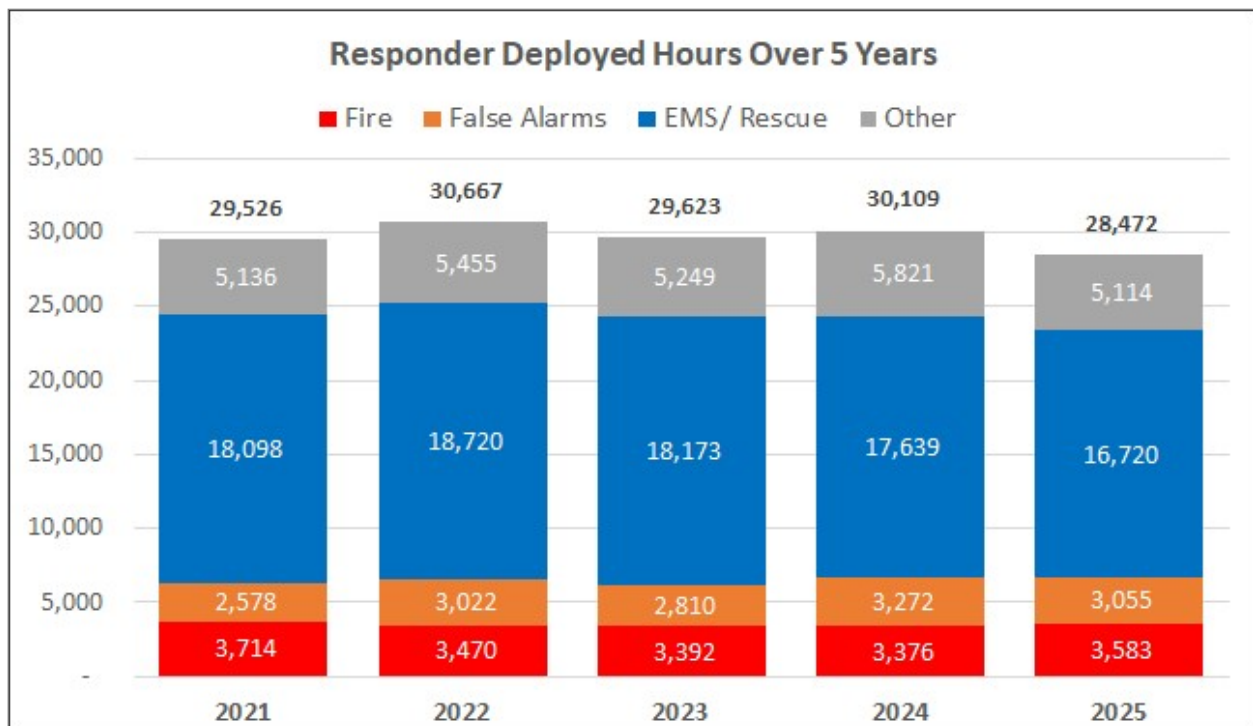


2025 Responder Hours



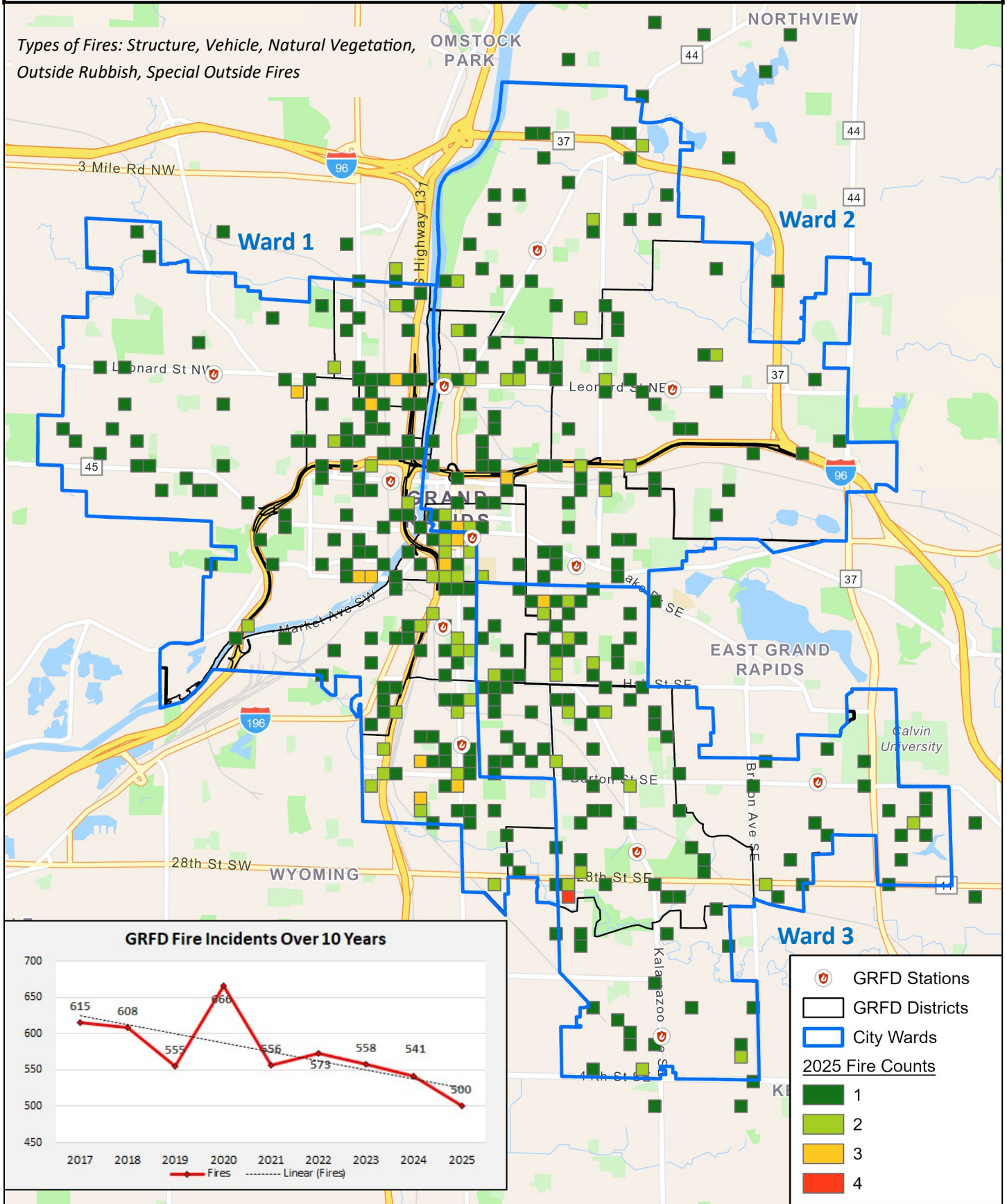
- Biggest 1 year Increase: **Fires (+6.13%, + 207 hours)**
- Biggest 5 year Increase: **False Alarms (+18.51%, + 477 hours)**
- Biggest 1 year Decrease: **Other (-12.16%, -708 hours)**
- Biggest 5 year Decrease: **EMS/ Rescue (-7.61%, -1378 hours)**

Though Fires make up only 1.97% of all incidents in 2025, they required 12.58% of our deployed time. There were 41 fewer Fire incidents in 2025, but the amount of deployed time increased by 1.37% over the previous year. EMS incidents continue to take up over half of total responder hours, though the department is seeing a downward trend when viewing over 5 years (below).



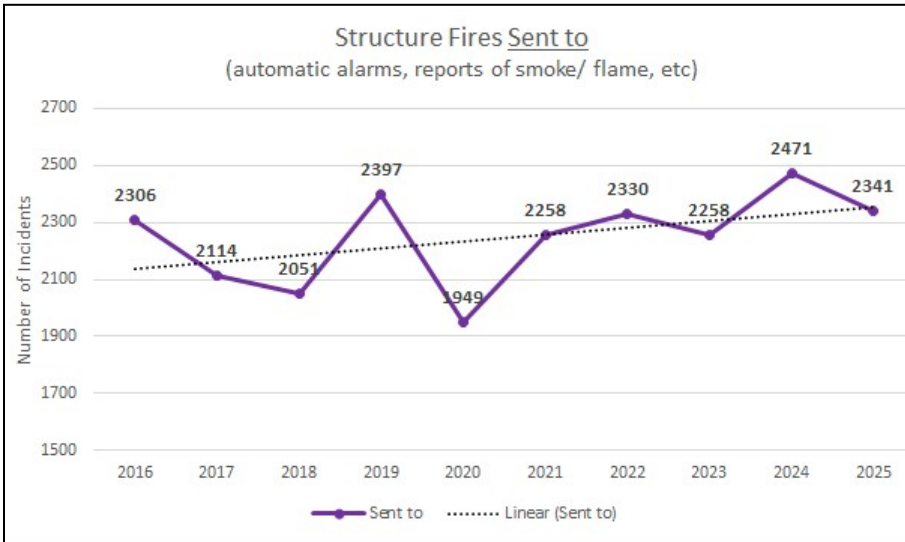
2025 FIRE INCIDENT HOTSPOTS

Types of Fires: Structure, Vehicle, Natural Vegetation, Outside Rubbish, Special Outside Fires

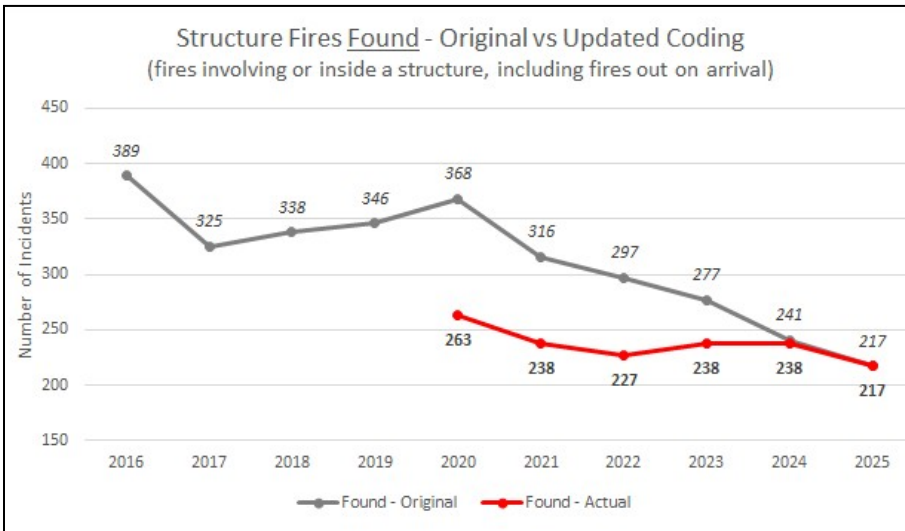


GRFD responded to **500 fires** in 2025; 22 of those outside the City.

STRUCTURE FIRE INCIDENT BREAKDOWN



The number of structure fires we are sent to continues to trend upwards (left). Structure fires found upon arrival appears to trend downward; this is actually due to an incorrect coding of cooking incidents with no fire (i.e. Smoke alarm triggered by burnt food). Since 2020, closer review and education has resulted in more accurate coding of these calls as false alarms or smoke scare/removal (lower left).

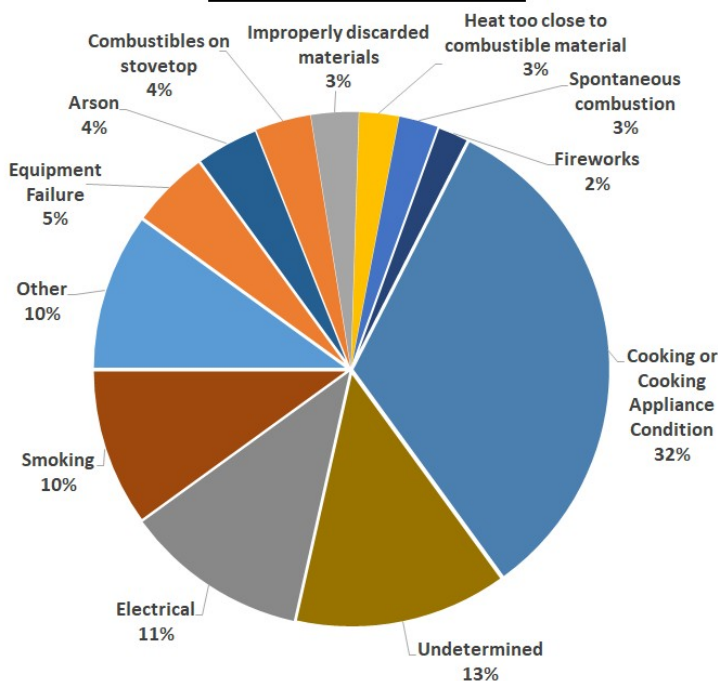


2024 Simultaneous Structure Fires			
	Description	Count	%
2	Structure Fires at the Same Time	11	3.25%

2025 Simultaneous Structure Fires			
	Description	Count	%
2	Structure Fires at the Same Time	18	5.33%

2025 Structure Fires		
# Per Day	Frequency	Total
1	107	107
2	47	94
3	4	12
4	1	4
5	0	0

2025 Structure Fire Causes



In 2025

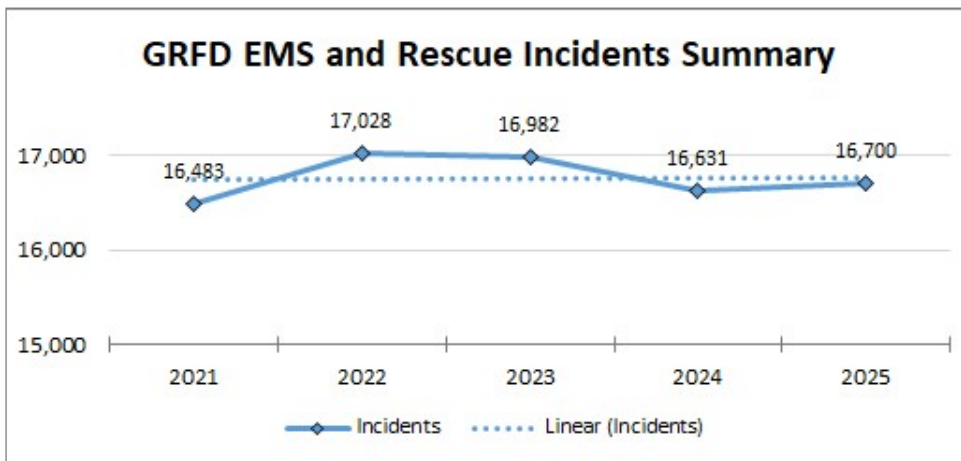
- Structure Fires decreased (-9.96%, 21 less)
- In 18 different instances, 2 Structure Fire incidents took place at the same time
- The number of days with at least 1 structure fire, decreased (-11.06%, 24 less)
- 18 fires caused \$80,000 in damage over the 4th of July weekend due to extreme dry conditions; 4 of those fires affected structures.
- 1/3 of all structure fire incidents are caused by cooking fires or a issue with a cooking appliance.

The 200 structure fires within Grand Rapids analyzed for cause.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Making a positive impact for our citizens by improving our EMS care model.

- GRFD members received multiple committee appointments, including the EMS Chief newly appointed to KCEMS Education Committee and KCEMS professional standards review organization (PSRO) Committee.
- A GRFD subject matter expert was appointed to assist with MDHHS Paramedic & IC examination development.
- The Deputy Chief of Operations was appointed as KCEMS agency representative for non-transporting BLS agencies.



GRFD Medical Licensure Levels
19 - EMS Instructor Coordinators
31 - Paramedics
3- EMT Specialist
172 - EMT Basics
6 - Medical First Responders
29- Medical Vehicles Certified
61 - Medical Licenses Reviewed

Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC):

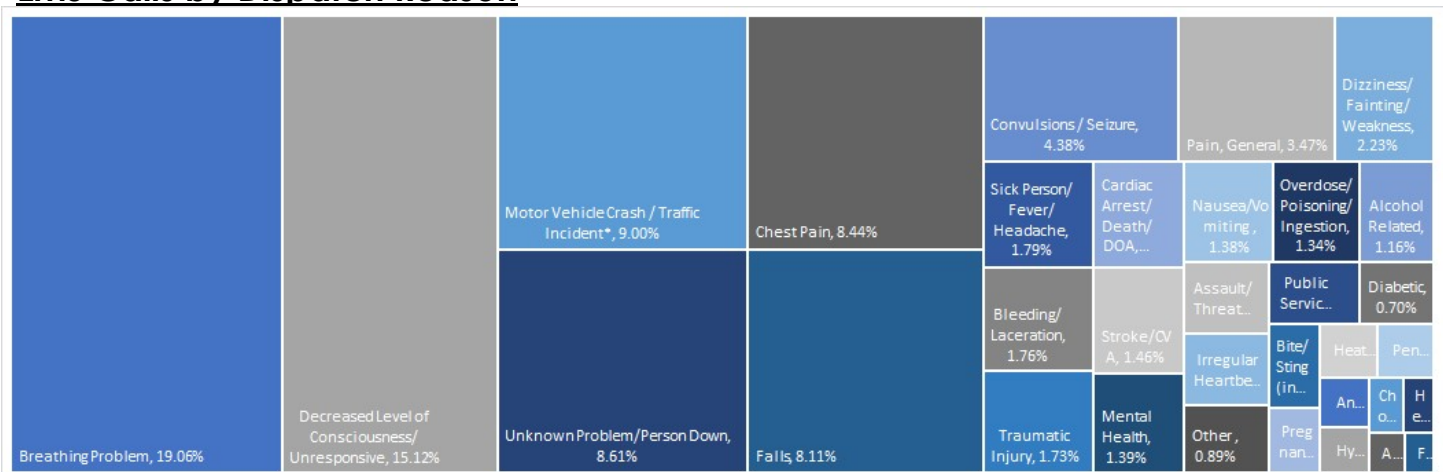
When a person's heart begins beating on its own again after suffering cardiac arrest.

Total Cardiac Arrest Events	275
Witnessed Events	108
Bystander provided CPR Events.....	121
ROSC in Witnessed Events.....	39%

Two steps to save a life:



EMS Calls by Dispatch Reason



Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)

During the 2025 fiscal year HOT underwent a re-launch, transitioning to a new model with two fire officers and two social workers from Network 180. The new model focuses on clients wishing to work with HOT to accomplish their individual specific goals such as, substance use treatment, mental health treatment, documentation of homelessness to assist in gaining housing, and referrals to other community resources. H.O.T. continues to conduct community-wide welfare checks and outreach to areas of concern.

2025 HOT Updates

- Outreach contacts (individuals experiencing homelessness) – **4,018**
- Occurrences of camping observed – **3,052 individuals**
- Mental Health Peer Support interactions - **143**
- Business/Agency contacts – **130**
- N180 Coaching interactions for substance use assistance - **127**
- Coordinated Entry (Housing) assessments completed - **84**
- Outreach medical care (provided by Catherine’s Health) – **77 clients**
- Referred individuals to other agencies – **57 times**
- Substance Use Disorder assessments completed – **41**
- Clients connected to Network180 Case Management/ACT services – **38**
- Mental Health Open Access services coordinated - **21**
- Substance Use Disorder treatment admissions - **14**
- Recovery management (substance use) coordination – **5 occurrences**

Medical Priority and Wellness Response (MPWR)

Medical Priority and Wellness Response (MPWR) is a GRFD pilot program that partners with Corewell Health in an effort to reduce the number of 911 calls and ER visits from citizens who are frequent users of the 911/ ER system. This form of medical outreach is aimed at addressing the root causes of specific medical ailments and providing patients resources to better manage their health. The team is comprised of one GRFD EMS captain and one community health worker from Corewell Health. After patients are referred to the MPWR Team, primarily by suppression officers, the team makes contact with the patient and sets up a visitation schedule.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM (36 Members)

(Rope, Confined Space, Trench/Building Collapse, Heavy Vehicle Stabilization/Extrication, Heavy Lifting/Rigging, Machine)

- 12 team trainings on various Technical Rescue subjects
- One Michigan Task Force 1- Urban Search and Rescue deployments where two department members responded to the Grayling area of the lower peninsula to assist after an ice storm.
- Two rope rescues—one to remove someone from under a bridge overpass in a stokes basket after a medical event and one to assist Plainfield in removing a child struck in a tree.
- Removed an injured person from the catwalk at the Civic Theatre utilizing a rope system with a stokes basket.
- Shoring installed at a local restaurant after a vehicle crashed into the building.
- Purchased tower rescue specific equipment and a **Firstlook 360 rescue camera** for collapse rescue.

WATER RESPONSE TEAM (36 Members)

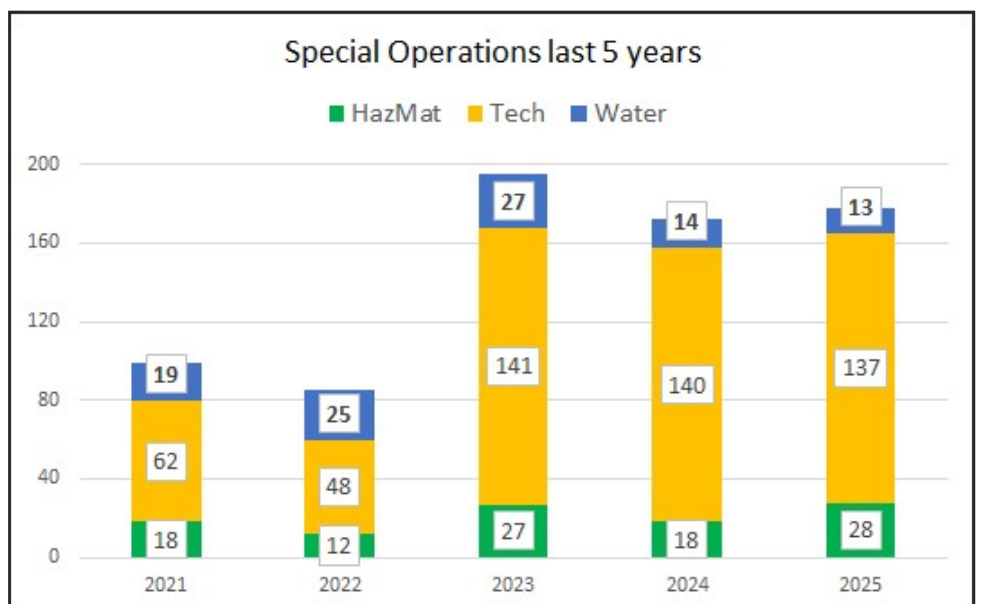
(River, Ice, and Lake Rescue + Dive Team)

- Dive team mutual aid response to Plainfield Twp.
- Developed an operational relationship with Michigan State Police for water & dive assistance and training.
- 1,132 hours of Water Rescue Training; 1,656 hours of Dive Rescue training; 1 member attended Advanced Swiftwater Technician training; 12 members completed 50 hour of Emergency Response Dive training to achieve ERD1 certification.
- 4 attendees to Swiftwater Rescue Technician class—Indiana River Rescue

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM (36 Members)

- Responded to five incidents involving leaking fuel due to an accident, including one in Grand Rapids Township.
- Responded to six incidents involving CO2 and other hazardous gas leaks, including one in the City of Walker. The team assisted with air monitoring and ventilations until incident deemed under control.
- Purchased Lion MT94 chemical protective suits, Magnaseals for leaking railcars, cargo tanks, etc, and updated/purchased Level A suits.
- Responded to nine incidents involving lithium Ion batteries.
- Responded to a caustic acid release at a chemical manufacturer.

HazMat Trainings
6 team trainings on various subjects
1 member trained to technician level
4 attended MI HazMat Responder Conf.
2 attended a three day chemistry class at EMHSTC in Lansing
7 attended the Region 6 Annual HazMat Exercise in Holland



TRAINING, RECRUITMENT, FLEET & FACILITIES

TRAINING DIVISION

The Training Division spent much of 2025 finalizing the design and plans for the new training facility scheduled to be operational in the spring of 2027. Among the successes, Training ensured that 95% of the department transitioned to the medical level of EMT-B with continued medical education. Other accomplishments include:

- Certification of annual department wide Equipment Operator and Company Officer Class completions.
- Hosted regional state Instructor 1 course and State Fire Officer 1 course.
- Graduation of 16 new firefighters to the department, each of which became a nationally registered EMT-B.



RECRUITMENT, HIRING, & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Recruitment and Hiring Lieutenant actively participates in local events, career fairs, and school outreach programs aimed at building relationships within the community, promoting fire safety, and showcasing the diverse opportunities available in the fire service. The **Cadet program** is a 16-week paid internship for individuals 18 and older designed to prepare aspiring firefighters with the essential skills and knowledge required for the role. The **Fire Youth Academy** is a one-week program for young individuals aged 15-18 to experience an extremely condensed version of the GRFD fire academy that all new hires experience. [To learn more about how to join the GRFD, visit joiningfire.com.](https://www.joiningfire.com)



FLEET MAINTENANCE

The Fleet Maintenance Division ensures the readiness, safety, and reliability of all apparatus and support vehicles. The Fleet Captain and the Emergency Vehicle Technicians (EVT) triage maintenance requests, complete minor repairs, coordinate service needs and major repairs, and manage preventative maintenance and inspections. In 2025, the Fleet Maintenance staff placed the new Engine 12, Truck 3, and Utility 2 in service as frontline apparatus and they look forward to moving their operations from the La Grave station to the new training facility in 2027.

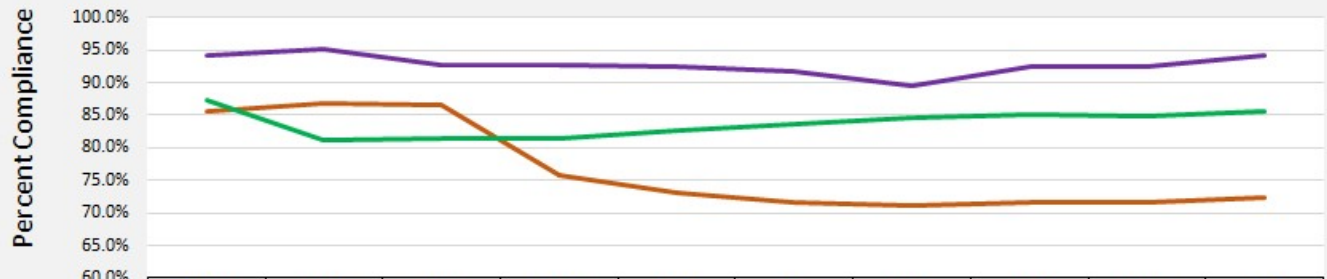


BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

The Building Captain works with the Grand Rapids City Engineering and City Facilities Department to develop and plan major GRFD facility projects. These projects include the recently opened Kendall Station, the replacement of Division Avenue Station, and the replacement of the training center where the Building Captain acts as liaison to the construction companies. Fire Station Technicians (FSTs), composed of various suppression members, continuously assist with maintaining GRFD facilities to ensure they remain fully operational.

CRITICAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Critical Performance Measures 2016 - 2025



	2016	2017	2018	2019**	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Distribution	85.6%	86.8%	86.5%	75.8%	73.2%	71.5%	71.1%	71.6%	71.7%	72.3%
Concentration*	94.2%	95.2%	92.6%	92.6%	92.4%	91.7%	89.5%	92.4%	92.5%	94.1%
Reliability Met	87.4%	81.3%	81.5%	81.5%	82.7%	83.7%	84.6%	85.1%	84.9%	85.6%

*Concentration in this first chart looks at multi-unit fire alarm types; Distribution and Reliability look at all alarm types. **In 2019, the department began using a more accurate start time when calculating these metrics.

All critical performance metrics have a 90% Compliance Rate Goal.

2025 Distribution by District- All alarms.

Distribution is the ability to get a first unit on scene within a set time. Most alarm types require a unit get on scene within 7 minutes (Fire) or 7 minutes 30 seconds (EMS) from the time the alarm report is created by Dispatch.

	Bridge	Burton	Chester	Covell	Division	Kalamazoo	Kendall	La Grave	Leonard	MLK Jr.	Monroe	Plainfield	Citywide
Pass	1604	813	1159	828	1293	1280	153	2487	1260	1269	1066	518	13730
Fail	457	503	450	569	439	851	96	381	651	286	379	317	5379
Compliance	77.83%	61.78%	72.03%	59.27%	74.65%	60.07%	61.45%	86.72%	65.93%	81.61%	73.77%	62.04%	71.85%

- **Our Citywide Distribution compliance rate rose slightly to 71.85%** from 71.7% the previous year **(+0.15%)**.
- 6 outlying districts have a compliance rate lower than 70% (Kalamazoo, Plainfield, Burton, Covell, Leonard, Kendall). The full year distribution compliance for Kendall won't be known until the end of 2026.

2025 Distribution TRAVEL TIME by District- All alarms.

Distribution Travel Time is the biggest factor in meeting the Distribution benchmark; this is the time from when the unit goes enroute to when it arrives on scene (first unit only). Looking specifically at this sub-metric, with benchmark of a 4 minute travel time, helps determine how many overall Distribution fails are due to the travel time to the incident.

	Bridge	Burton	Chester	Covell	Division	Kalamazoo	Kendall	La Grave	Leonard	MLK Jr.	Monroe	Plainfield	Citywide
Pass	1,765	807	1,251	814	1,397	1,265	168	2,669	1,205	1,373	1,184	548	14,446
Fail	296	507	358	582	334	864	80	199	705	182	261	286	4,654
Compliance	85.64%	61.42%	77.75%	58.31%	80.70%	59.42%	67.74%	93.06%	63.09%	88.30%	81.94%	65.71%	75.63%

- **Our Citywide distribution travel time compliance rate rose to 75.63%** from 74.79% the previous year **(+0.84%)**.
- Burton, Covell, Kalamazoo, and Leonard, all outlying districts, have less than 65% distribution travel time compliance.
- **Kalamazoo's** distribution travel compliance rate rose to **59.42%** from 56.2% the previous year (+3.22%), which was the largest percentage increase in compliance in 2025.

CRITICAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

2025 Concentration (ERF) by District - Multi-company Fire Alarms only.

Concentration is the ability to assemble an **effective response force (ERF)** within a set time; ERF being the number of personnel required to perform the required critical tasking per alarm type. This analysis looks at multi-company Fire responses, where a moderate response requires at least 19 crew members on scene within 11 minutes from the time the alarm report is created by Dispatch.

	Bridge	Burton	Chester	Covell	Division	Kalamazoo	Kendall	La Grave	Leonard	MLK Jr.	Monroe	Plainfield	Citywide
Pass	27	11	46	15	28	42	9	9	18	29	26	21	281
Fail	2	2	1	0	0	7	1	1	1	0	1	1	17
Compliance	93.10%	84.62%	97.87%	100.00%	100.00%	85.71%	90.00%	90.00%	94.74%	100.00%	96.30%	95.45%	94.30%

- **Our Citywide concentration compliance rate for fires rose to 94.30%** from 92.5% the previous year.
- **Burton’s** concentration compliance rate for fires was the lowest, at 84.62% in 2025 but this was a 24.62% increase from the previous year.

RELIABILITY - All alarms

The percentage of time a unit is able to answer calls in their own district. When reliability gets too low, the deployment model requires review to determine if another unit is needed in that district.

10 Year Reliability by District										
Station	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Bridge	89.88%	79.83%	78.04%	80.14%	81.57%	83.65%	84.93%	82.78%	85.06%	83.76%
Burton	86.87%	83.30%	84.24%	83.41%	84.45%	86.72%	86.43%	86.99%	87.26%	88.53%
Chester	81.17%	73.76%	72.64%	71.56%	65.89%	69.47%	73.99%	77.39%	74.02%	75.21%
Covell	85.19%	77.53%	78.43%	76.87%	79.81%	82.72%	82.65%	84.60%	83.68%	84.34%
Division	82.19%	78.91%	79.86%	76.04%	80.96%	81.53%	81.97%	81.95%	81.46%	83.89%
Kalamazoo	94.13%	86.92%	87.90%	90.93%	91.72%	91.52%	90.97%	92.35%	92.08%	92.18%
La Grave	94.13%	88.29%	85.30%	85.50%	89.10%	88.55%	89.37%	89.82%	89.95%	87.90%
Leonard	85.13%	76.36%	81.29%	78.69%	83.45%	80.50%	82.56%	83.77%	81.99%	85.97%
MLK Jr.	93.07%	81.62%	87.25%	89.02%	88.82%	89.22%	88.41%	88.99%	87.71%	89.44%
Monroe	77.77%	76.35%	74.56%	72.68%	76.42%	77.21%	79.28%	76.23%	78.36%	81.88%
Plainfield	85.38%	84.50%	82.81%	81.37%	85.16%	85.48%	84.30%	84.00%	86.73%	86.98%
CITYWIDE	87.37%	81.29%	81.48%	81.00%	82.66%	83.67%	84.64%	85.06%	84.84%	85.62%

- **Our Citywide Reliability compliance rate rose slightly to 85.62%** from 84.84% the previous year (+0.78%).
- Fire incidents had an 85.15% compliance rate (+1.8% from the previous year) while EMS calls had a 85.47% compliance rate (+0.33% from the previous year).
- Chester (Engine 11) has the lowest reliability compliance rate, but it did increase to 75.21%, (+1.19% from the previous year). In that district, fire incidents were responded to 80.41% of the time by Engine 11 and EMS incidents were responded to 75.12% of the time by Engine 11.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Protecting against loss of life and property through education and prevention efforts.

Inspections & Investigations

- The part-time fire inspector program assisted with Operational Permit Inspections (OPIs) and fire safety education for business operators/ owners. 730 OPIs were documented as complete in 2025.
- Inspection districts were reorganized to match the (3) Wards; currently one inspector is responsible for each ward, including overseeing and assigning OPIs to part-time fire inspectors.
- 299 Commercial Building Referrals concerning fire code violations were reported in 2025 by fire suppression officers. All were addressed by Car 97 staff.
- Fire Prevention investigated 26 fire incidents in 2025 with injuries, a death, high dollar losses due to fire, or where a crime was possibly committed which would require police to work with them on the investigation.
- 17 civilians were injured and 2 people lost their life in 2025 due to fire; 12 firefighters were injured during fire suppression activities.

Construction Plan Review

Inspecting new construction and renovation projects within Grand Rapids.

	Bridge	Burton	Chester	Covell	Division	MLK Jr	Kalamazoo	Kendall	La Grave	Leonard	Monroe	Plainfield	Airport	Citywide
Count	131	63	73	18	77	80	35	24	179	87	87	23	5	882
% of total	14.85%	7.14%	8.28%	2.04%	8.73%	9.07%	3.97%	2.72%	20.29%	9.86%	9.86%	2.61%	0.57%	

Fire Match Program

- With the assistance of our partnering agencies*, we made successful contact with 13 families out of 15 referrals.
- 13 children entered the program, 10 already successfully finishing their 6 months monitoring with no return to fire setting activity.

**(Kent County Probation, DHHS/ Social Services, Arbor Circle, Grand Rapids Public Schools and DA Blodgett)*

Public Education

- The public engaged in fire safety education opportunities at 187 community events last year, including community open houses, festivals, school visits, and church gatherings.
- The Prevention Division’s Public Education specialists and GRFD firefighters visited 35 schools for 2nd grade education on fire prevention and safety.



Outreach Specialist M. Curtis giving a fire safety presentation.



Fire Marshal Smith with Sparky the Fire Safety Dog at a community event.

Home Safety Assessments (HSAs) & Risk Assessments

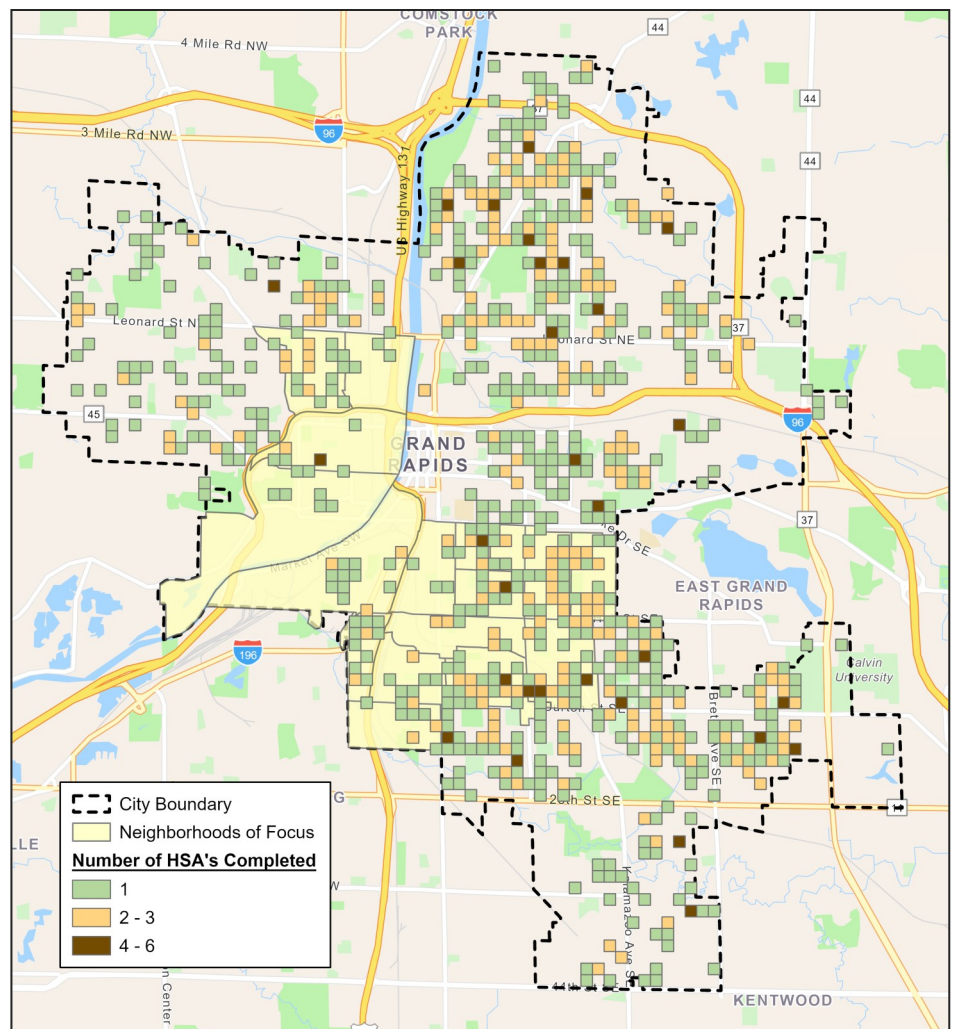
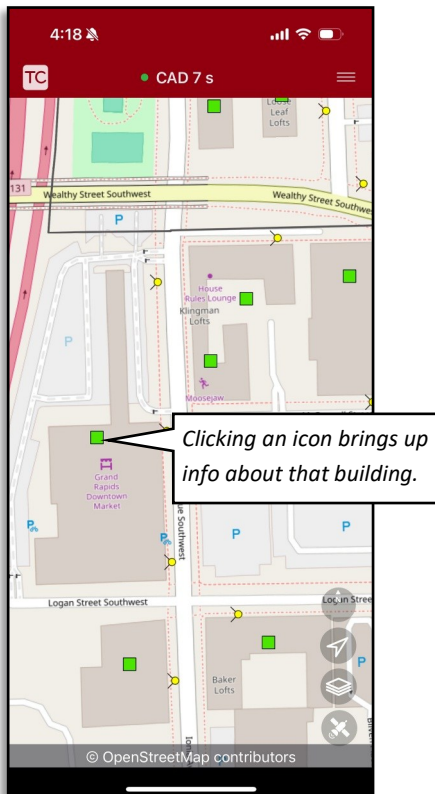
Prevention and suppression personnel work to mitigate hazards through property risk assessments and the Residential Safety Program (RSP). Additionally, when fire crews encounter residences that don't have smoke alarms as a part of an emergency response, they will offer to install the alarms for free.

	Bridge	Burton	Chester	Covell	Division	MLK	Kalamazoo	La Grave	Leonard	Monroe	Plainfield	Citywide
Home Safety Assessment	35	123	130	135	118	55	172	13	130	46	177	1134
Risk Assessment	116	58	104	49	70	86	97	89	71	115	39	894

Risk Assessments are completed currently on a 4 year cycle on commercial and industrial buildings and on residential complexes with 13 or more units (12 units and under are inspected by GR Code Compliance). Large complexes with the same building features are completed under one risk assessment. Certain buildings not normally a part of this list may be assessed, on as needed basis, if suppression members believe the information valuable during an emergency response. The collected information is available to GRFD members through map layers within Tablet Command, our incident command software (below, left).

- 7,154 smoke alarms installed
- 2,646 CO alarms installed
- 281 HSAs completed in Neighborhoods of Focus

Home Safety Assessment Hotspots



ADMINISTRATIVE CHIEFS

DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS - Jack Johnson



Strategic Plan Pillar Owner - Response

- Operations Personnel
- Radio, Gas Monitor, Drone Programs & Mask Room
- Safety Committee
- Station Alerting & Communications
- EMS Division & Special Operations
- Response Metrics Analysis



DEPUTY CHIEF OF SUPPORT SERVICES - Keith Borreson



Strategic Plan Pillar Owner - Support Services

- Personnel & Human Resources
- Evaluations & Injury Documentation
- General Management Support
- Scheduling & Leave Usage
- Promotions, Retirements, & New Hires
- Prevention & Recruitment



ASSISTANT CHIEF - Edward Braman



Strategic Plan Pillar Owner - Wellness

- Fiscal Services (Budget)
- Procurement
- Building & Fleet Maintenance
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Planning Division
- Administration Personnel



TRAINING CHIEF - William Race



Strategic Plan Pillar Owner - Training

- Multi-Company & Instructor Training
- Host state classes
- Facilitates CPR & Confined Space Training
- Academy Training



FIRE MARSHAL - William Smith



Strategic Plan Pillar Owner - Prevention

- Commercial Inspections & Plan Reviews
- Fire Investigations
- Public Education
- Residential Safety Program
- Fire Match



BATTALION CHIEFS

Battalion Chiefs, our highest ranking suppression officers, direct large-scale emergency scenes, coordinate community interaction opportunities, bring direction from administration to our crews, and tend to the needs of suppression personnel, including fostering professional development and coordinating accident/injury investigations. Daily suppression staffing is managed by the South Battalion Chiefs to assure an effective response across the city.

NORTH BATTALION

*Leonard, Bridge,
Monroe, La Grave,
Covell, Plainfield*



Matthew Keusch

Water Rescue



Michael Witteveen

Tech Rescue



Richard Clark

Extrication
External Agency Liaison

SOUTH BATTALION

*Martin Luther King Jr,
Kalamazoo, Burton,
Division, Chester,
Kendall*



Mark Noorman

Wellness



Kathleen Thompson

Hazardous Materials



Scott Stevenson

Mask Repair
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

EMS BATTALION CHIEF

Mark Fankhauser

EMS Division

Homeless Outreach Team

Medical Priority and
Wellness Response



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Working toward creating a resilient and prepared community through preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.



- Updated the Grand Rapids Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), enhancing the 2021 edition.
- Finalized the City of Grand Rapids Community Preparedness Report (CPR), Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA), and Stakeholder Preparedness Report (SPR).



- Updated and improved the Office of Special Events Action Plan (EAP) form and provided feedback on over ten external partnered Emergency Action Plans.
- Conducted an active shooter “assistance center focused” exercise in with Calvin University, Kent County, regional stakeholders, and private partners.
- Supported over 10 regional and partnered jurisdictions exercises in both participant and evaluator roles.
- Facilitated Incident Management related training courses for stakeholders, including Kent ISD school leaders.
- Regularly shared weather updates and both emergent and non-emergent awareness information, averaging five informational posts a week across META platforms, reaching over 3,850 followers. There were 14,392 signed up for GR Emergency Alerts by the end of 2025, a 6% increase from the beginning of the year.

Public Outreach Highlights

- Conducted four THIRA community preparedness workshops (50 attendees)
- Delivered 9 opportunities with partner agencies for advanced training and skills assessment, including Skywarn, Stop the Bleed, First Aid/CPR/AED, USACE Flood Fight, and Medical Countermeasures Point of Dispensing [POD] training.
- Partnered with the GR Club of the NANBPWC, Inc. for an outreach event on personal preparedness for community members. Distributed 50 emergency starter kits with NOAA weather radios along with resources to help build emergency preparedness kits.
- Partnered with three local GR farmers’ markets to deliver preparedness education and resources, with focus on the Spanish speaking community.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Update

- 59 Level 1 attendees
- 42 Level 2 graduates
- 79 trained CERT volunteers (up from 37 in 2025)
- Trained volunteers contributed more than 230 hours supporting community engagement events.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS & PLANNING



As part of the national transition from NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) to NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System), 2025 focused on preparing for the transition and officially started reporting to NERIS on December 9, 2025.

The Performance & Management Reporting Specialist became the Accreditation Manager late in the year and began assembling the resources necessary for GRFD’s third accreditation submission in 2026. The department’s Insurance Services Office (ISO) review was completed by the Planning Division, with the GRFD remaining at a Class 1 (currently the only ISO Class 1 department in Michigan).

PROMOTIONS

CHIEFS

- 06/12/2025 Keith Borreson (Deputy Chief of Support Services)
- 07/07/2025 Ed Braman (Assistant Chief)
- 07/16/2025 Mike Witteveen (Battalion Chief)

CAPTAINS

- 07/16/2025 Jason Szotko
- 09/18/2025 Abe Schneider
- 10/17/2025 Dan VanderHyde (lateral to Car 97)
- 10/23/2025 Dan Weatherwax
- 11/20/2025 Erik Ryder (Homeless Outreach Team)

LIEUTENANTS

- 07/18/2025 Tony Buerkens
- 08/22/2025 Dan Ryan
- 08/22/2025 Jacob Strasel
- 09/18/2025 Brian Meyerholtz
- 10/23/2025 Patrick Cooper

EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

- 04/3/2025 Joel Borst
- 04/3/2025 Dan MacGraw
- 04/3/2025 Ricardo Gallardo
- 04/3/2025 Tyler Meyer
- 04/3/2025 Jacob Strasel

2025 RECRUIT FIREFIGHTERS

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Connor Brecker | Casey Styles |
| James Doman | Lindsay Venhuizen |
| Jonathan Ferris | Logan Walker |
| Jason Hickey | Xavier Webster |
| James Kastelz | Shawn Westbrook |
| Abigail Reisinger | Robert Winters |
| John Shaw | Daniel Wunder |
| Matthew Sova | |

2025 Firefighter of the Year EO Kevin Milanowski



Kevin lent his decades of experience in fire apparatus service and fabrication to the department. He use this knowledge to lead in the revitalization of the GRFD Fleet Maintenance Division, eliminating maintenance backlogs, upfitting 17 trucks in two years, and building or rebuilding numerous emergency vehicles from the ground up. His leadership in transforming fleet operations has saved time and resources and also elevated the safety and readiness of the department. Kevin’s work ethic, innovation, and humility make him a role model with the GRFD and a true asset to our community.

RETIREMENTS

Thank you to our 2025 retirees for their many years of dedicated service. These men and women have served the City of Grand Rapids and fulfilled the mission of the GRFD. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

- 1/20/2025 Dawn Kulak (Residential Safety Program)
- 2/12/2025 Harold Elmore (Fire Lieutenant)
- 3/13/2025 Merl Jones (Fire Equipment Operator)
- 3/20/2025 Kristy Shepard (Fire Equipment Operator)
- 3/20/2025 Joe Dubay (Acting Fire Lieutenant– Car 97)
- 5/2/2025 Todd Wright (Building Maintenance Captain)
- 5/3/2025 Allison Farole (Emergency Manager)
- 6/26/2025 Nathan Draayer (Firefighter)
- 7/2/2025 Jim McIntyre (Fire Lieutenant)
- 8/12/2025 Dave Fountain (Fire Equipment Operator)
- 7/15/2025 Eric Freeman (Deputy Chief of Support Services)
- 9/24/2025 Peter Sarantos (Firefighter)
- 10/13/2025 Joe Bisard (Recruit Firefighter)
- 10/25/2025 Dawn Snider (Financial Analyst II)



MISSION

The Grand Rapids Fire Department values all people by saving lives, protecting property, and responding to the needs of our entire community.

VISION

Become the safest mid-sized city in the country by developing our members to provide industry leading fire and rescue services.

VALUES

*Honesty
Integrity
Loyalty
Teamwork
Excellence*

Dial 311 for Home Safety Assessment eligibility and scheduling

616.456.4240 for Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)

616.456.3900 for Grand Rapids Fire Department inquiries

Dial 911 for Emergencies



Scan to sign up for Emergency Alerts in your area.

Grand Rapids Fire Department

38 La Grave Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



Scan to visit the GRFD website or visit
www.grandrapidsmi.gov/departments/fire-department