



Southfield Fire Department Annual Report

Submitted by
Chief Joey Thorington
Office of the Chief

2025

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MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE SOUTHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT IS TO PROVIDE THE CITIZENS AND VISITORS OF SOUTHFIELD WITH THE HIGHEST QUALITY FIRE PREVENTION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE, AND FIRE PROTECTION AVAILABLE. WE ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION BY INTENSE TRAINING, THROUGH PREPARATION, PROMPT RESPONSE, AND A POSITIVE, CARING ATTITUDE TOWARD THOSE WHO ARE SWORN TO SERVE AND PROTECT.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



It is my honor to present the Southfield Fire Department's (SFD) Annual Report, reflecting a year of dedicated service, professional growth, and continued commitment to the residents, businesses, and visitors of the City of Southfield.

2025 marked the busiest year in Southfield Fire Department history, with crews responding to a record-setting 16,480 incidents in service to the community.

I was appointed Fire Chief on May 19, 2025, and quickly learned that SFD is comprised of highly educated, exceptionally trained, and professional men and women. It became immediately clear that the potential of this department is extremely high.

Upon my arrival, we moved quickly to strengthen accountability, efficiency, and operational readiness. Administrative policies were rewritten to improve personnel accountability and productivity, and the daily staffing model was restructured to place an additional firefighter on an apparatus, putting more boots on the ground when and where they are needed most.

To better match staffing with call demand, we implemented a dynamic deployment model. During daytime hours, when EMS call volume is highest, existing personnel were used to place a sixth Life Unit (ambulance) in service. During nighttime hours, when fire incidents tend to be larger and more dangerous, staffing is reassigned to a fire engine to enhance fire suppression capabilities. This approach has reduced reliance on mutual aid and improved EMS response times while strengthening nighttime fire response.

Significant investments were also made in safety and equipment. SFD purchased and installed a secure KNOX Box system within our apparatuses to safely manage business access keys during emergencies. Additionally, all major EMS equipment across Life Units was replaced, including Stryker power-load stretchers, power stair chairs, CPR compression devices, and





LifePak heart monitors. These investments reflect the City's strong commitment to providing SFD with the tools necessary to deliver the highest level of service.

At the end of 2025, SFD further enhanced its EMS capabilities by acquiring six additional LifePak heart monitors, valued at \$416,306, through Michigan's Opioid Settlement funding. Once technology integration and training are completed in early 2026, all SFD fire engines and aerials

will be capable of providing Advanced Life Support, ensuring ALS care remains available even when all Life Units are committed to other emergencies.

Throughout the year, SFD continued to strengthen its culture, improve readiness, and adapt to increasing call volume and the growing complexity of fire and EMS operations. I am proud of how our members met these challenges with professionalism, teamwork, and a continued focus on safety and service excellence.

None of this progress would be possible without the support of the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, and our partner departments. Their collaboration and investment in public safety allow SFD to continue moving forward.

As Fire Chief, I am grateful for the trust placed in me and remain fully committed to leading the Southfield Fire Department with integrity, transparency, and a clear focus on the future. This report highlights the progress made over the past year and reinforces our mission to protect lives, property, and the well-being of those we serve.

Joey Thorington
FIRE CHIEF
Southfield Fire Department

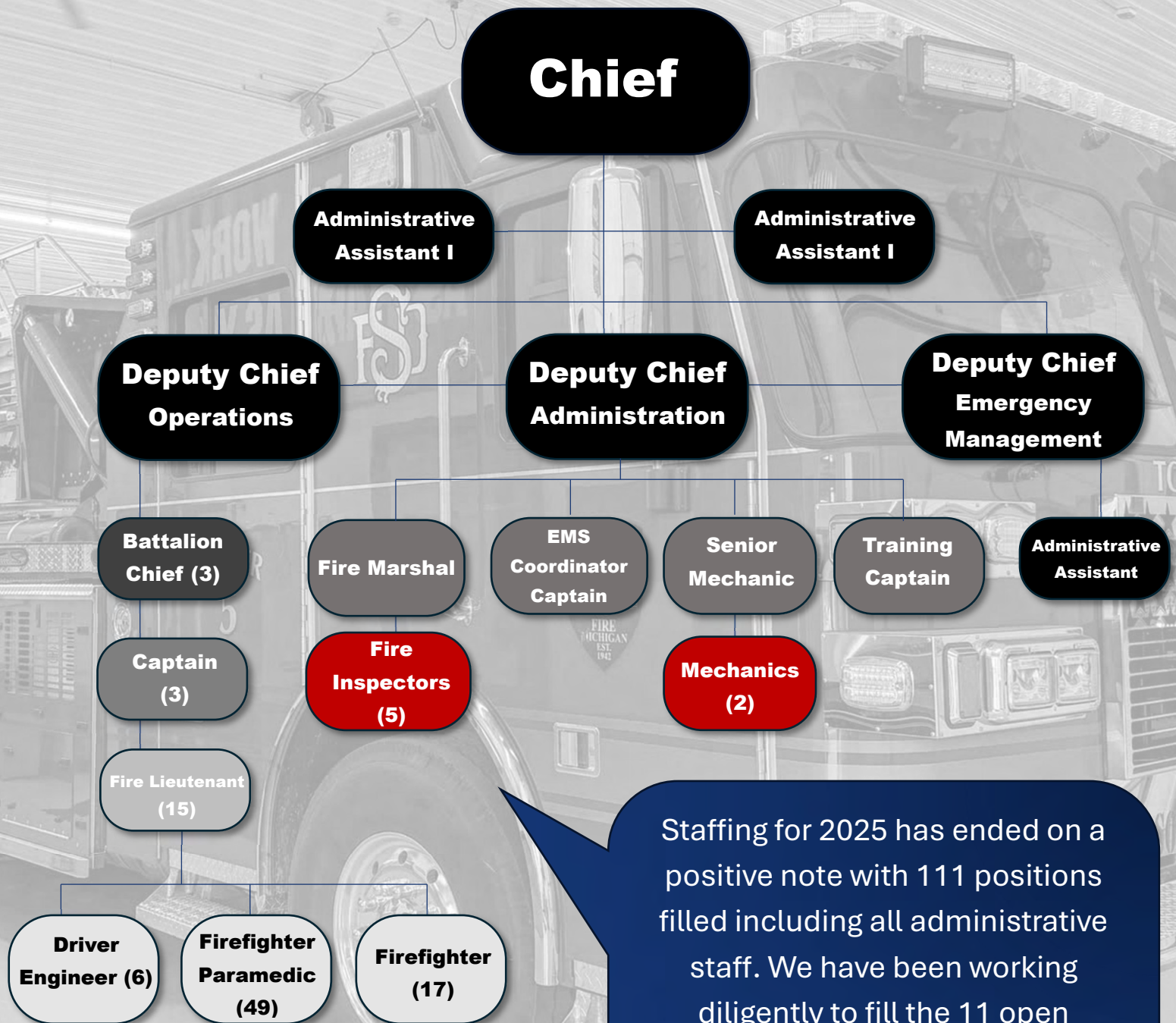


Station Locations



- Station #1 – Fire Prevention
18400 W. 9 Mile Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
- Station 2
25753 W. 9 Mile Rd.
Southfield, MI 48033
- Station 3
20135 W. 12 Mile Rd.
Southfield, MI 48076
- Station 4
25120 W. 12 Mile Rd.
Southfield, MI 48075
- Station 5 – Fire Headquarters
24477 Lahser Rd.
Southfield, MI 48033

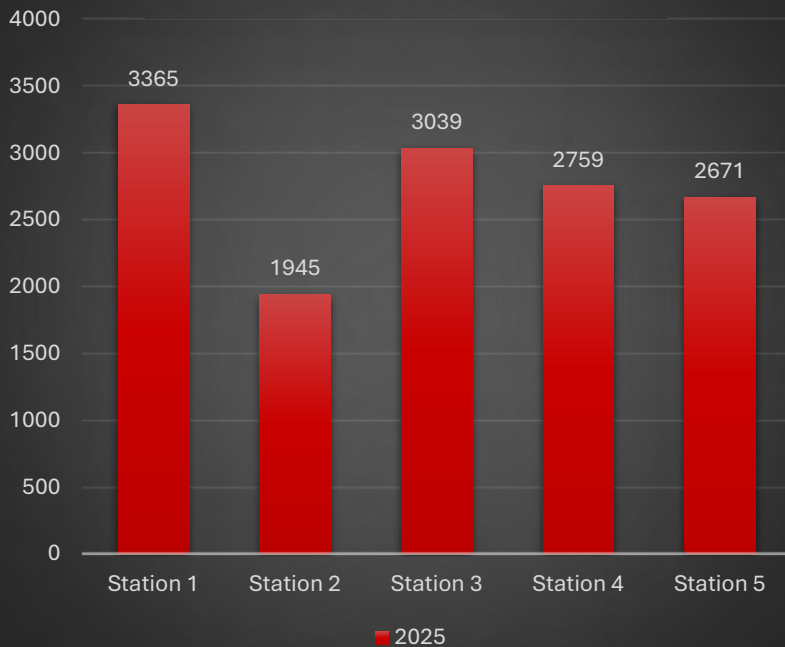
Organization Chart & Staffing



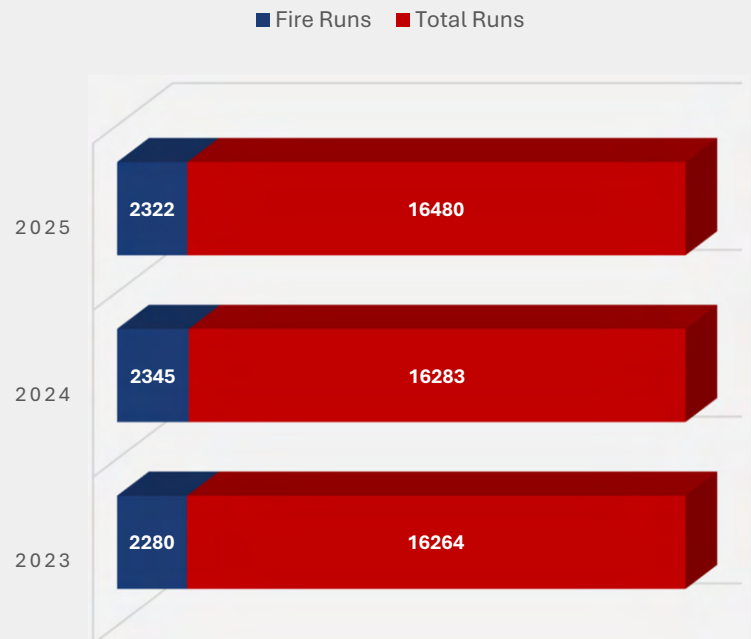
Staffing for 2025 has ended on a positive note with 111 positions filled including all administrative staff. We have been working diligently to fill the 11 open positions with hard-working individuals with a passion for helping their community.

2025 At-A-Glance

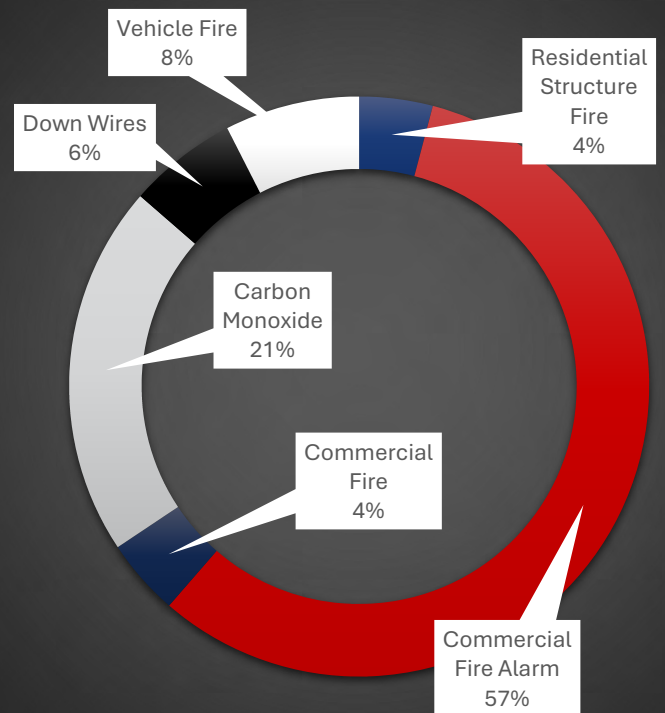
Incidents Per Station



TOTAL RUNS



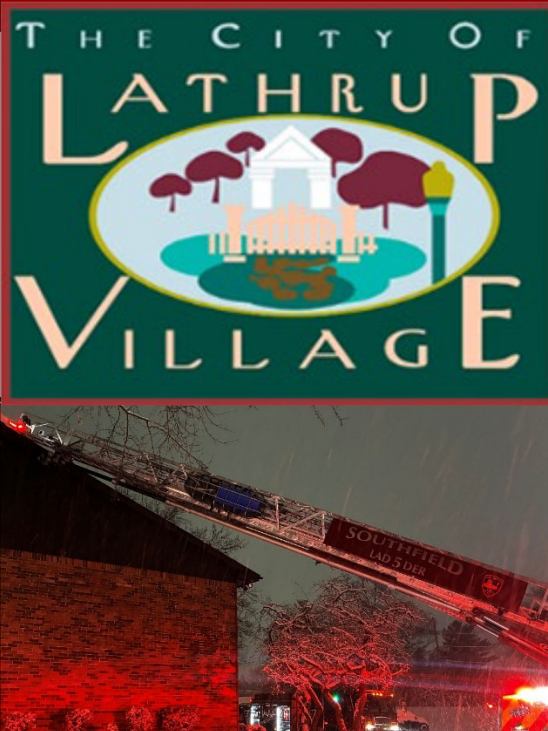
Fire Incident Types* 2025



*INCIDENT TYPES DO NOT REFLECT ALL RUNS

Lathrup Village

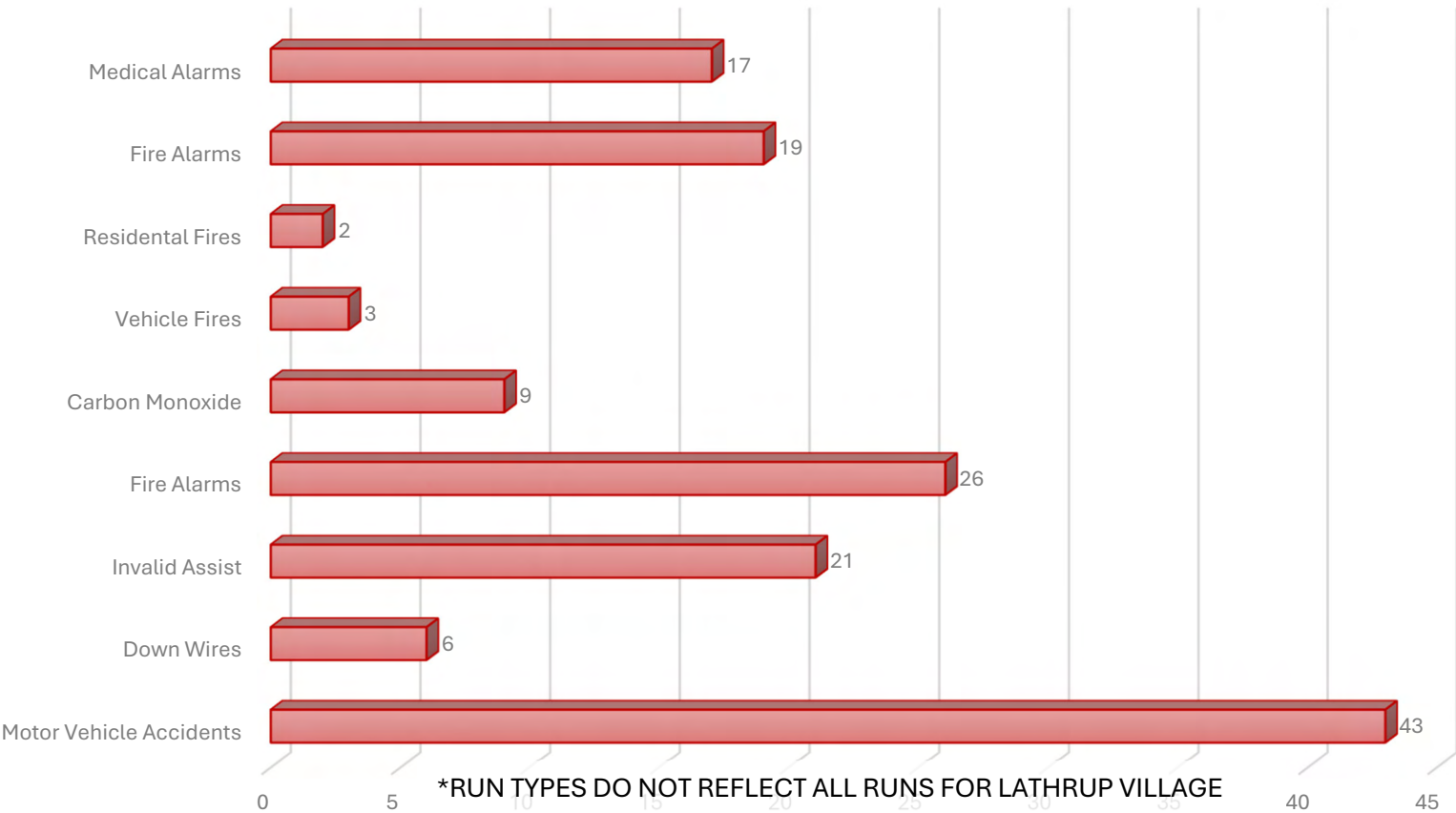
The Southfield Fire Department proudly provides comprehensive fire suppression, emergency medical services, and technical rescue coverage to the City of Lathrup Village. Through this partnership, SFD ensures rapid, professional response to emergencies, delivering highly trained personnel, advanced equipment, and a strong commitment to public safety. This collaborative service model allows Lathrup Village residents and visitors to receive dependable, high-quality emergency services around the clock.



Lathrup Village Runs 2025

Total	433
Fire Runs	80
EMS Runs	353

Run Types* 2025



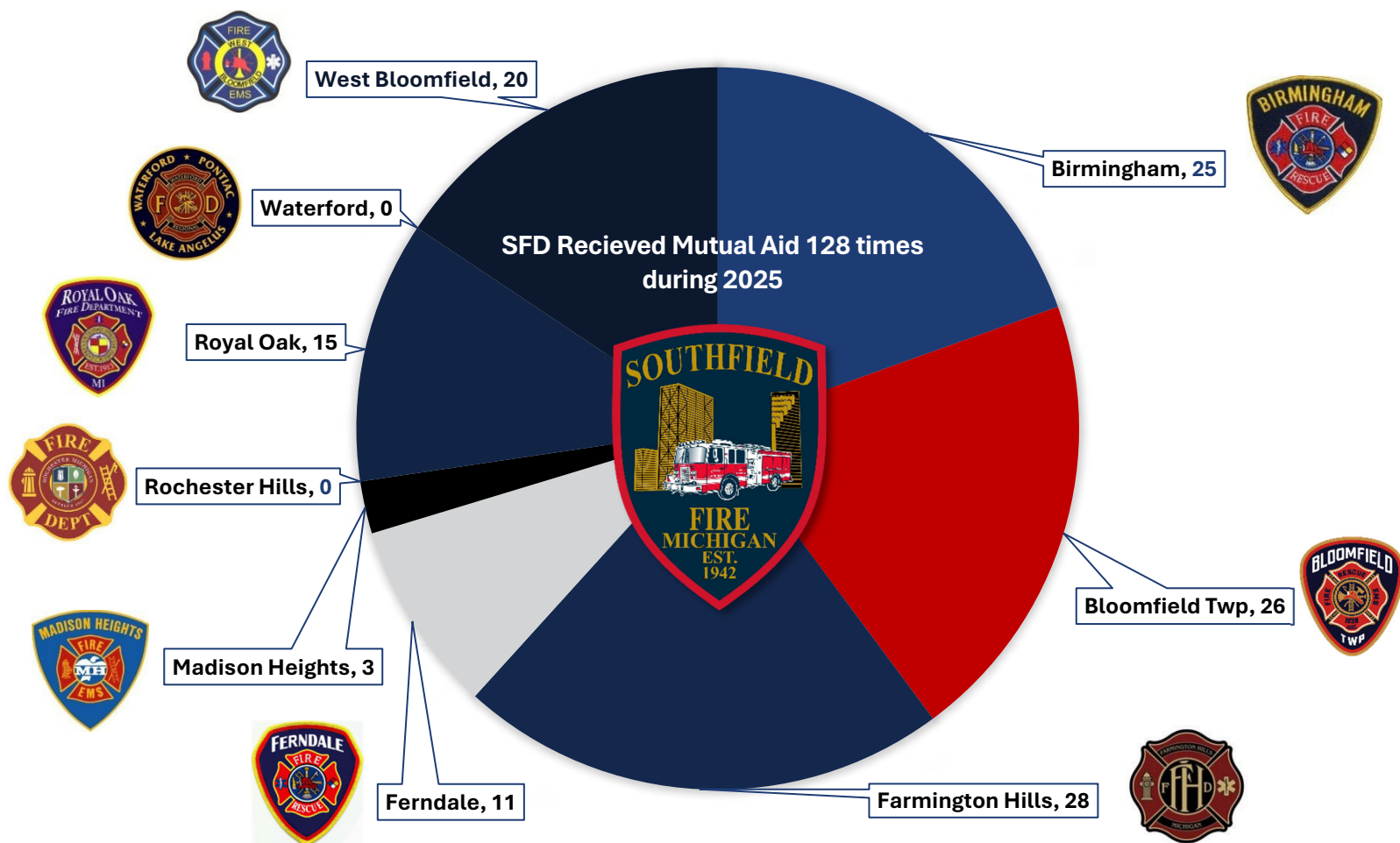


Oakway Mutual Aid



The Southfield Fire Department works collaboratively with the OAKWAY Mutual Aid Association to strengthen regional emergency response and ensure seamless operations during large or complex incidents. Through OAKWAY, SFD partners with neighboring fire departments including Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Ferndale, Madison Heights, Royal Oak, Southfield, Waterford Regional, and West Bloomfield. Over 600 firefighters are represented in these eight communities. Nearly 460,000 residents and approximately 174 square miles are protected locally. This cooperation allows departments to share resources, personnel, and expertise, ensuring a coordinated, efficient response that enhances firefighter safety and delivers the highest level of service to the communities they protect. In 2025 Southfield Fire Department provided mutual aid to Oakway Departments sixteen (16) times.

MUTUAL AID RECIVED FROM OAKWAY 2025



2025 EMS Totals

- EMS Runs
14,135
- Transports
9,880
- Invalid Assist
744
- Vehicle Accidents
608
- Elevator Rescues
175



EMS

Stryker 360 Program

The Southfield Fire Department utilizes emergency medical service (EMS) equipment manufactured by Stryker, an industry leader in pre-hospital medical equipment. This top-of-the-line equipment enables SFD firefighter/paramedics to deliver high-quality medical care to the residents and visitors of Southfield in the most efficient and safest manner possible. In 2025 SFD entered the Stryker 360 Program Agreement. This agreement allows the department to purchase, maintain, and replace capital EMS equipment over a 7-year period ensuring that all equipment is regularly inspected, repaired, and maintained.

The Southfield Fire Department responds to a high volume of EMS calls, which results in significant wear and tear on capital EMS equipment. Due to this frequent use, equipment must be properly maintained and periodically replaced to ensure reliability, safety, and optimal patient care.

This approach ensures that the equipment used to provide patient care remains in optimal working condition, meets manufacturer guidelines, and supports the continued delivery of high-quality emergency medical services to the Southfield community.



Paramedic School

The Southfield Fire Department (SFD) is an Advanced Life Support (ALS) agency. This designation means the department responds to emergency medical service (EMS) calls with the highest level of pre-hospital care provided by state-licensed paramedics.

To maintain ALS-level service delivery, SFD sends Firefighter Basic EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) to paramedic school to obtain the education and clinical training required to advance to the paramedic level. Upon completion of the paramedic education program, students are required to take the National Registry Paramedic examination. With the successful completion of both the program and the examination, students are awarded their State of Michigan Paramedic license.

Currently, four SFD fire personnel are attending the Macomb Community College Paramedic Academy. This program began in August 2025 and is scheduled to conclude in early March 2026.



In November, the City of Southfield hosted a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) training exercise designed to test and strengthen multi-agency emergency response capabilities.

In the event of an actual MCI, the scale of such an emergency would quickly overwhelm the Southfield Fire Department's (SFD) resources. To prepare for these scenarios, SFD participates in Oakway a mutual aid agreement with 11 neighboring fire departments, allowing agencies to rely on one another to effectively mitigate large-scale emergencies.

This MCI exercise simulated a multi-story apartment building fire with numerous victims and focused on the following objectives:

- Resource sharing
- Interagency response coordination
- Communication
- Command and control
- Actual "patient/victim" transport to Henry Ford Providence Hospital – Southfield

Eight Oakway Fire Departments participated in the exercise, contributing approximately 41 Fire/EMS personnel.

Henry Ford Providence Hospital – Southfield Emergency Room staff actively participated, with approximately 51 personnel training to receive and manage a large influx of simulated patients.

Both Oakland University and the University of Detroit Mercy contributed approximately 40 nursing students, who were dressed in moulage (simulated wounds and injuries) and acted as patients/victims throughout the exercise.

The MCI exercise also included participation from Southfield Public Schools, which provided a school bus for transportation between Henry Ford Providence Hospital and the Southfield Fire Department Training Center, the location of the event.

In total, approximately 147 participants took part in this Mass Casualty Incident training event. The exercise was highly successful in reinforcing coordinated response efforts, strengthening interagency partnerships, and enhancing preparedness for future large-scale emergency incidents.

MCI Training Exercise 2025



Individual Training Reports Submitted: 11,449

Training Hours: 14,295.60

Paramedic School Training: 5,453.50

Total Training Hours: 19,749.10

Average Hours per Member: 173.24

2025 was another record-breaking year for the Southfield Fire Department Training Division. We successfully on-boarded 14 new firefighters into the department and helped welcome 2 new Chief officers and an administrative assistant as well. Onboarding, or new hire orientation, is where we help prepare the new recruits for their jobs as Firefighters serving the residents and visitors of Southfield and Lathrup Village. Our orientation process explains the Fire Department's role within City operations, gives them a foundation of city layout (streets, neighborhoods, schools, etc.), familiarizes them with our equipment, and teaches them our emergency response tactics and policy. After they meet our minimum requirements and competencies, they are assigned to one of our 3 shifts. Their first (6) 24-hour shifts they don't count towards our minimum staffing level so they can complete their remaining requirements such as 10 hours of evaluated road time operating one of our Life Support Units to become a certified driver. This also gives them (and their family) a chance to become fully acclimated to what working a 24-hour shift feels like. New recruits, now known as Probationary Firefighters, will complete a 1-year evaluation process to ensure they meet the many demands that will be placed on them working for the Southfield Fire Department. During this process, they complete over 280 hours of recruit training. Our onboarding process will continue to evolve as recruits come to us with varying levels of both fire service and overall life experiences which requires us to tailor their orientation specifically to their needs.



TRAINING

The Training Division was responsible for managing \$81,350 in State Fireworks Funding to offset the cost of various training opportunities. Annually, the State of Michigan Bureau of Fire Services Firefighter Training Division offers funding for local fire departments to conduct various, pre-approved, training opportunities for their members. This funding is made possible through a tax placed on the sale of fireworks products throughout the state. These funds are used to provide various training opportunities for both our members and members of surrounding fire departments. Some of the training we provided with these funds included:

- Flashover training – Live Fire (15 students)
- Rapid Intervention Team training (19 students)
- Elevator Rescue (8 students)
- Fire Instructor 1 (15 students)
- Fire Officer 1 (15 students)
- MUSAR Trench Rescue Operations (11 students)
- MUSAR Confined Space Rescue Technician (8 students)
- High Rise Fire Operations – Live Fire (30 students)
- Great Lakes HOT (31 students)

Total students reached for 2025 Fireworks Funded Training: 152

GREAT LAKES H.O.T.

In June 2025, the Training Division again hosted Great Lakes HOT (Hands on Training) which is Michigan's premier fire conference. This is a 4-day event with the first two days being lectures followed by an additional 2 days of hands-on skill training with live fire scenarios for select tracks. They cover topics like engine company and truck company operations, mayday and firefighter survival, officer development, thermal imaging training, two-day search school and vehicle extrication to name a few. This is some of the most realistic fire training firefighters can attend taught by instructors who are industry experts and collectively have over 100 years of experience in the fire service. In our second-year hosting, our Training Center saw over 130 firefighters from around the Great Lakes region, as far away as Texas, and even firefighters from Canada and Australia attended the various programs we had. Feedback from students and instructors gave the facility rave reviews and many expressed an interest in attending in future years. One of the instructors, who has been to hundreds of facilities across the United States, even commented on how our facility sets the bar for what a live fire training facility should look like. Several of those in attendance also inquired about our hiring process as they were interested in working for a department that took training to the “next level.”



HazMat

The Southfield Fire Department HazMat Team is comprised of 15 members from across SFD's 3 battalions and administrative staff.

Currently the HazMat Team operates with 3 HazMat Operations personnel and 12 HazMat Technicians. HazMat Technicians are specially trained personnel in handling and mitigating a variety of hazardous materials incidents utilizing specialized knowledge, specialized protective gear, and advanced detection devices.

Southfield Fire utilizes the Special Response Unit for storing most of its hazmat response equipment. A small “initial action” set of equipment is in-service on Squad 5.

Southfield is 1 of 11 departments that make up the OAKWAY mutual aid group for HazMat, capable of supplying additional personnel and 2 apparatus with advanced equipment for a variety of incidents throughout participating communities in Oakland County. These departments train together monthly.

The Southfield Fire Department responded to and handled 218 incidents in 2025 that can be categorized as a hazardous materials incident. A vast majority of these incidents are related to carbon monoxide emergencies, natural gas emergencies, and fuel spills.

Southfield is home to many commercial businesses that utilize and store hazardous materials as well as many major roads and highways that are used for transport routes for these materials. The HazMat Team has also put in place response procedures and specific equipment for incidents that involve lithium-ion batteries.

The Southfield Fire Department prides itself on being capable and ready to handle a variety of emergency situations that involve hazardous materials.





Tech Rescue Team

The Southfield Fire Department Tech Rescue Team prepares for and has responded to various technical rescue events including confined space rescue, rope rescue, trench rescue, machine rescue, structure collapse, and ice / water rescue. Currently there are 37 members on the Southfield Tech Team.

The Southfield Tech Rescue Team is part of Oakway, an 11-department group that comes together to assist each other when needed. The Oakway Tech Rescue Team (MABAS 3202) meets monthly to discuss, plan, and review events that have occurred or maybe upcoming. The team responds to scenario-based trainings quarterly in Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue, Building Collapse, and Confined Space.

**Tech Rescue
Total Training
Hours 2025**

312



-The tech rescue trailer was replaced in May of 2025. The old trailer was a 2001 24' bumper pull behind. The trailer was upgraded to a 2025 36' 5th wheel. The new trailer has allowed for equipment to properly be organized and stored. Customized shelves were completed by Dunns welding. A work bench was added for storage of small tool and equipment. Trailer specs were completed by DE Charby.

-The Oakland County strike team was revalidated by MI MABAS in both trench rescue and tower rescue. The validation is good for 3 years. Southfield has 8 members that are on the county strike team.



TEMS Team



Southfield Fire is one of a few fire departments in the area that operate a Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) Team. The TEMS team is made up of 3 highly trained firefighter/paramedics who operate as part of the Southfield Police Department SWAT Team. TEMS team members provide their knowledge and skills in emergency medicine, firefighting, technical rescue, and hazardous materials for the SWAT Team during tactical operations and training exercises. The TEMS team trains monthly in addition to a week-long out of town training yearly.

In 2025, members of the Southfield Fire Department TEMS Team participated in the Counter Narcotics and Terrorism Medical Support (CONTOMS) EMT-Tactical program with other area tactical paramedics. This was a rigorous week-long course that stressed skills of providing emergency medical care in tactical situations.

In 2026, the TEMS Team will be adding 3 additional members, allowing the team to continue to better serve the operations of the Fire and Police Departments as well as the Southfield community.



FIRE PREVENTION



The Fire Prevention Bureau consists of one Fire Marshal and five Fire Inspectors/Investigators, all cross-trained in fire investigation, fire inspection, fire code enforcement, smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarm installation, and community risk reduction. Their primary role is to enhance safety in Southfield and Lathrup Village by identifying potential fire hazards before businesses open and conducting annual inspections.

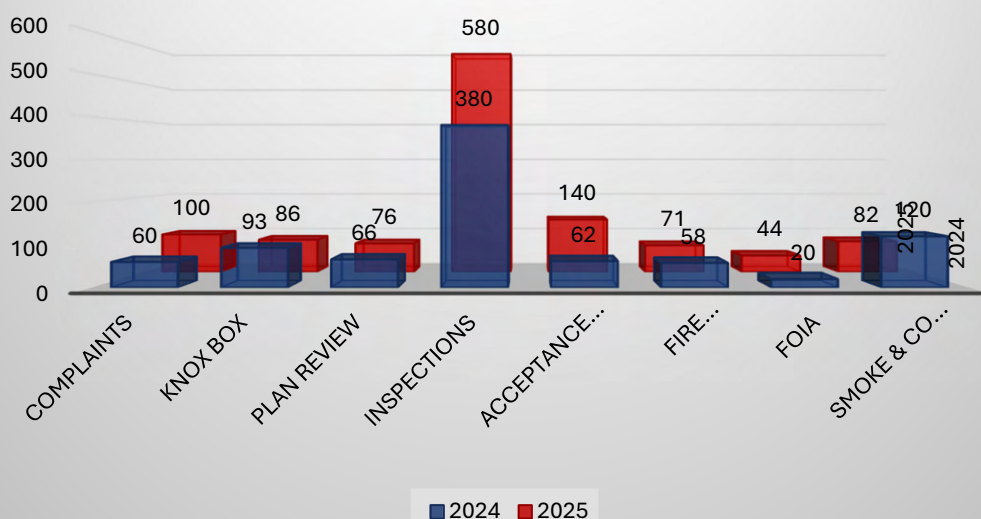
The Bureau educates citizens on the importance of evacuation plans, fire safety, cooking precautions, and proper fire extinguisher use. Children are taught about the dangers of playing with fire, the significance of knowing their address, and what to do when a smoke alarm goes off.



As Fire Investigators, the team's priority is to support residents and businesses through the difficult aftermath of a fire. They ensure affected individuals have a place to stay and, if needed, connect them with the Red Cross for assistance. Once immediate needs are met, investigators work to determine the fire's origin and cause while securing the structure to protect remaining belongings and prevent unauthorized access.

The goal of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to reduce the risk of fires and their impact on residents, visitors, and businesses.

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITY



Additional responsibilities related to fire prevention include:

- Hydrant Flow Tests
- Plan and Site Plan Reviews
- Knox Box Key Management
- Monitoring Fire Watch Services
- Handling Complaints
- High-Rise Evacuation Drills
- Fire Alarm Acceptance Testing
- FOIA Requests

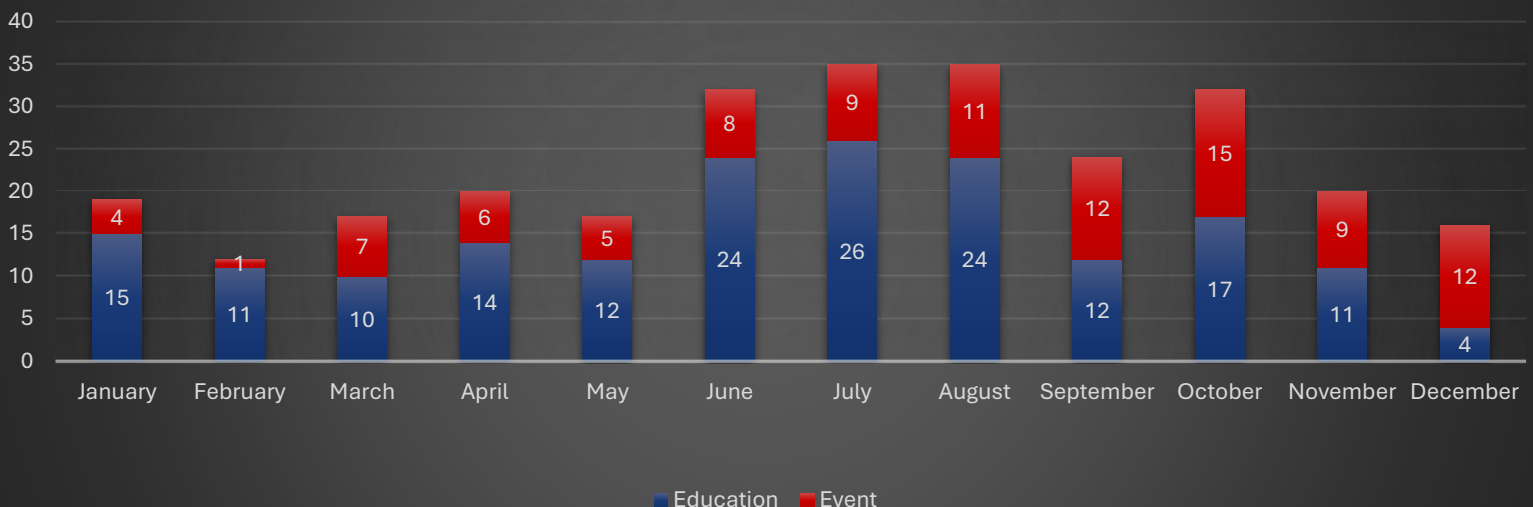
Public Education & Events

The Southfield Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau actively engages in community outreach, offering various safety initiatives. These include car seat installations and safety checks for residents and neighboring communities. Smoke and CO alarm installations are available by appointment on a first-come, first-served basis. Public safety talks are conducted for school-age children and elderly residents to raise awareness and promote fire prevention. To help citizens become comfortable using fire extinguishers, the Bureau has invested in a "live fire" extinguisher training prop, allowing hands-on practice in a controlled setting.

By prioritizing education and prevention, the Southfield Fire Department strives to create a safer community for all.



Education & Events 2025





APPARATUS

The Apparatus Division maintains and repairs the Southfield Fire Department fleet. Repairs beyond the division's capabilities are sent to the City Motor Pool or independent repair shops.

These repairs and maintenance performed by the Apparatus Division include but are not limited to:

- Oil changes and preventative maintenance on all fire department vehicles. Excluding fire prevention vehicles.
- Monitor tire and brake wear on vehicles.
- Maintain and repair fire engine pumps, waterways, gauges and fittings.
- Perform annual mandatory pump testing on all vehicles with a fire pump.
- Set up and assist with annual mandatory ladder testing.
- Repair all compartment doors.
- Repair and maintain emergency lighting and siren systems on vehicles.
- Replace alternators, starters and solenoids. We keep alternators and starters stocked for the front-line Life trucks and engines.
- Repair and maintain all small engine equipment, generators, PPV fans, chainsaws, hydrant pumps and extrication power units.

On average the Apparatus Division will make minor repairs on 2-3 vehicle daily. In addition to repairs the division is responsible for maintaining stock of replacement parts for our front-line vehicles including, starters, alternators, belts, filters, emergency lights, and electrical components to ensure vehicles are repaired and placed back in service in a timely manner.

Frontline Response Apparatuses

- Battalion Chief Car
- 6 Life Units (Ambulances)
- 5 Engines



Ambulance Fleet

SFD currently operates a fleet of 11 ambulances to provide emergency medical care and patient transport to the community. Six (6) of these ambulances are primary response units while the remaining units are reserve ambulances. Maintaining a fleet of 11 ambulances is necessary due to SFD's high EMS call volume, which places significant wear and tear on frontline vehicles. As ambulances are routinely taken out of service for maintenance or repair, it is critical that adequate reserve units are available to ensure uninterrupted EMS coverage for the community.

In March 2025, SFD placed two new Ford/Road Rescue ambulances into service. These units replaced two 2019 Ford/Road Rescue ambulances, which have since been reassigned to reserve status. SFD has also ordered two additional Ford/Road Rescue ambulances, scheduled for delivery in 2026, to begin replacing our frontline and reserve ambulances.



Fire Engines & Tower

We currently have 5 front line engine and one front line aerial.

1. Engine one is a 2020 E-ONE Typhoon with 72,300 miles and 6070 hours
2. Engine two is a 2020 E-ONE Typhoon with 78,600 miles and 5570 hours
3. Engine three is a 2020 E-ONE Typhoon with 90,400 miles and 7490 hours
4. Engine four is a 2020 E-ONE Typhoon with 80,700 miles and 7225 hours
5. Engine 5 is a 2009 Spartan Crimson with 154,075 miles and 12,800 hours
6. Ladder 5 is a 2020 E-ONE HR100 with 50,100 miles and 4275 hours.

We are expecting a new tower to be delivered in February. This will be a 2025 Sutphen SPH100 it will replace the current tower that is a 2002 Sutphen SP100. We also have 4 more engines on order that will replace 4 of the front-line engines. The new engines will all be Sutphen brand trucks. They have a delivery date of January 2027.



Emergency Management

2025 brought some big changes for our Emergency Management Team. We welcomed Deputy Chief Emergency Manager Mark W. Jackson in the Fall. Deputy Chief Jackson came to us from Detroit Fire Department where he had served for 26 years, most recently as a Fire Lieutenant. He has an extensive background in Emergency Management, and Fire Service Administration. His drive and dedication to public safety is a great asset to the city and we are looking forward to the improvements he will make in this department.

2025 Highlights

- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Program reorganization to properly educate and train volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazard that may occur where they live.
- The Southfield Office of Emergency management & Homeland Security hosted the U.S. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) for region 5, along with a representative for the Oakland County Emergency Management to conduct a comprehensive physical security assessment.
- Established an Emergency Operations Plan, an all-hazards framework for managing emergencies and disasters of natural, human, technological, or terrorist origin.
- In December Emergency Management welcomed Administrative Assistant Monica Williams to the team. Monica holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in public safety.



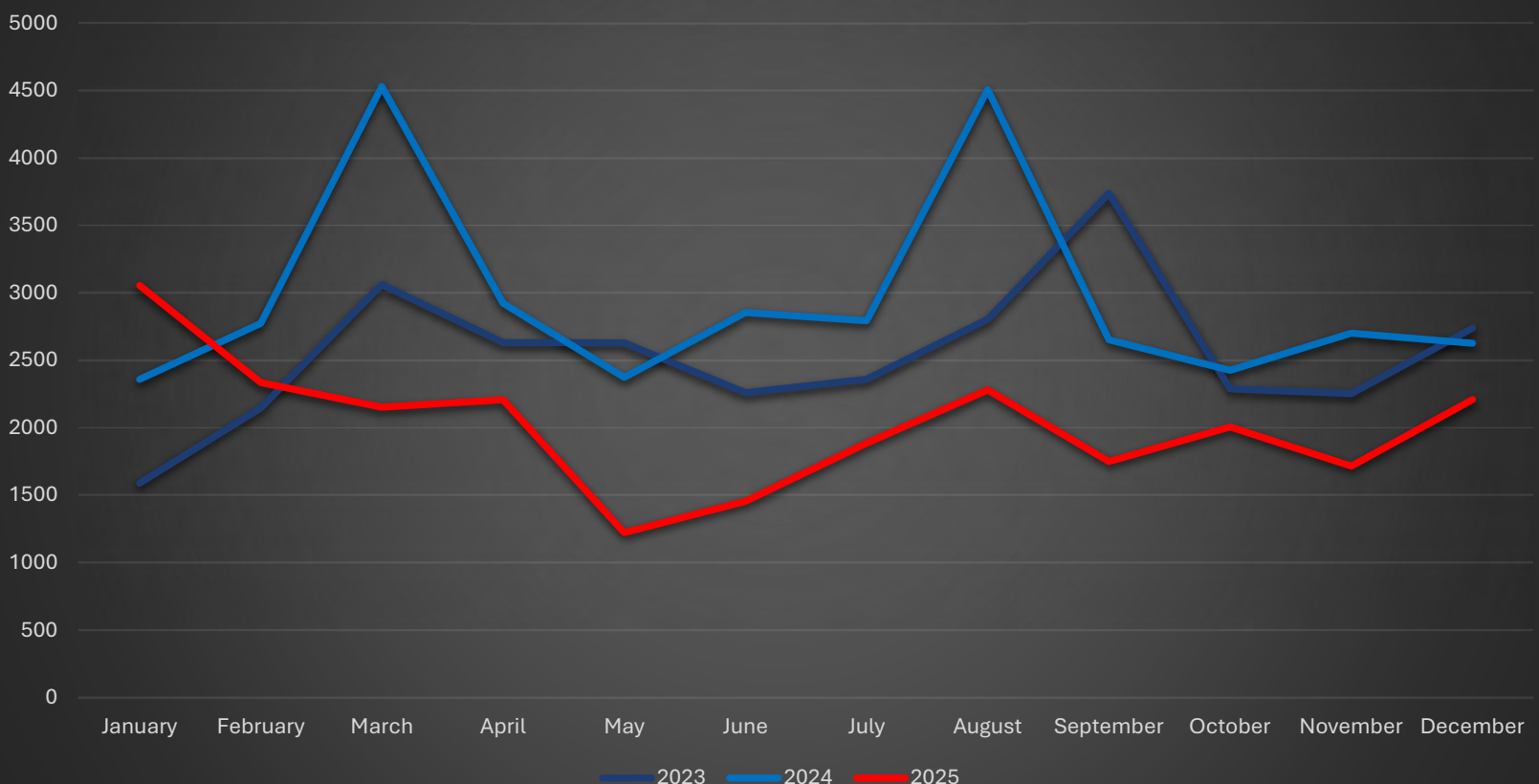
Total Overtime Hours Worked

2023	30495.5
2024	35515.4
2025	24270.75

OVERTIME

In 2025 a large focus for our department was to reduce our total overtime hours worked. Our members work 24-hour shifts running emergencies with little downtime. Because of our large demand our department has been prone to injuries and illness reducing the amount of people on shift. This can negatively affect our response times and service to the city. To remedy this Chief Thorington has increased the number of positions within the department and added another ambulance during peak hours to help mitigate the amount of daytime calls for service. This has decreased our risk for injuries due to being short staffed and overworked while subsequently reducing our overtime hours needed to reach optimal staffing. We have had a 31% decrease in the total amount of overtime hours worked from 2024 to 2025.

Overtime Hours Worked



Promotions, New Hires, & Retirements

Promotions 2025

- Captain Tim Miller Promoted to Battalion Chief
- Firefighter Paramedic Nathaniel Herr Promoted to Lieutenant Paramedic
- Firefighter Paramedic Richard Bova Promoted to Lieutenant Paramedic
- Firefighter Paramedic Christopher Siewert Promoted to Lieutenant Paramedic
- Firefighter Mechanic Michael Rickard Promoted to Senior Mechanic



New Hires 2025

- Firefighter Paramedic Erica Wendt
- Firefighter Benjamin Channels
- Firefighter Paramedic Cameron Ollila
- Firefighter Ryan Bauer
- Firefighter Christopher Leon
- Chief Joey Thorington
- Deputy Chief Mark Jackson
- Firefighter Paramedic Ryan Perkins
- Firefighter Elane Santiago
- Firefighter Dominic Soave
- Firefighter Paramedic Alexis Archibald
- Firefighter Anthony Cassar
- Paramedic Sanford Williams III
- Firefighter Jacob Pless
- Firefighter Paramedic Kaylyn Evans
- Firefighter Kevin Hanna



Retirements 2025

- Chief Johnny Meniffee – 31 Years of Service
- Firefighter Paramedic Claude Harper – 20 Years of Service
- Firefighter Thomas Rosenbergh – 26 Years of Service
- Firefighter Paramedic John Roberts – 20 Years of Service
- Battalion Chief Christopher Smith – 27 Years of Service
- Lieutenant Paramedic John Halsey – 26 Years of Service
- Senior Mechanic Brandon Phelps – 26 Years of Service



