



South Area Fire & Emergency Response District OFFICIAL MEETING AGENDA OF THE FIRE COMMISSION

This regular meeting of the SAFER Fire Commission, composed of a Quorum of members, will convene at **SAFER Station #1, 224225 Hummingbird Rd., Rib Mountain, WI** on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 16:00.

A. Opening of Session.

1. Meeting to be called to order by President Harlan Hebbe at 16:00.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Administrative Assistant will take attendance and roll call.

B. Correspondence/Comments from the public on issues or matters which the SAFER Fire Commission has oversight over.

C. Consent Items

(The Consent agenda contains routine items and will be enacted by one motion without separate discussion unless a body member requests an item be removed for separate consideration and vote.)

4. Approval of prior meeting minutes – January 14, 2025.

D. Ceremony

5. Badge Pinning and Awards Ceremony.

E. Business Items

6. Staffing Update.
7. Internship Update.

F. Reports from Staff

8. Report from Fire Chief.
9. Report from Deputy Fire Chief.

G. Remarks from the Fire Commission Members to set the next meeting date as well as discuss items for the next meeting agenda.

H. Adjourn

This notice is posted at the Rib Mountain and Weston Municipal Centers, and on SAFER District's website at www.saferfd.com, and was emailed to local media outlets at least 24 hours prior to above scheduled meeting. A quorum of members from other SAFER District, Village of Rib Mountain, and Village of Weston governmental bodies (boards, commissions, and committees) may attend the above noticed meeting to gather information. No actions will be taken by any other board, commission, or committee of SAFER / Village / Village, aside from the SAFER Fire Commission. Should a quorum of other government bodies be present, this would constitute a meeting pursuant to State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Bd., 173 Wis.2d 553,494 N.W.2d 408 (1993). Wisconsin State Statutes require all agendas for public meetings be posted in final form, 24 hours prior to the meeting. Any posted agenda is subject to change up until 24 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting. Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that meeting or material to be in accessible location or format must contact South Area Fire & Emergency Response District at 715-355-6763 ext. 107, at least 12 hours prior to the meeting so any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request. **All items listed above are for discussion and possible action by the body.**



OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH AREA FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE DISTRICT
Fire Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 @ 16:30

A. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the South Area Fire and Emergency Response Fire Commission was called to order at 16:30 by SAFER Fire Commission Vice President Jean Jackan.

Members Present

Campbell, Jackan, Phelps, and Tatro were all present, Hebbe was absent and excused. Also present: SAFER – Fire Chief Finke, Deputy Fire Chief Lang, EMS Division Chief Gordon-Haessly, Fire Marshal Christiansen, Battalion Chief McBain, Captain Klapoetke, Lieutenant Bartus, Lieutenant Zellner, Engineer Brandt, Engineer Kolb, Firefighter Pound, and Administrative Assistant Latimer. There was one guest present.

B. Correspondence/Comments from the public on issues related to the SAFER District

None

C. Consent Items

Approval of prior meeting minutes from July 9, 2024.

Motioned by Campbell to approve prior meeting minutes from July 9, 2024. Second by Tatro.

Motion carried 4:0.

D. Business Items

Staffing Updates.

- Chief Finke said Director of Medical Services Gordon-Haessly's position has changed slightly and her title is now EMS Division Chief. She was working three days a week and is now working four days a week. We took one day a week from our Fire Inspector Rheinschmidt who was helping Fire Marshal Christiansen two days a week.
- At our last Board meeting we were given the approval to apply for a SAFER Grant, which is a Federal Grant for funding of additional firefighters or retaining current firefighters. We plan to recruit and hire nine additional firefighters, an extra three on each crew. We are hoping to apply for that grant in the next several weeks, we are just waiting for it to open. When it does open, it's only open for thirty days, so Deputy Chief Lang and I are gathering some of the work so we're ready as soon as it opens.
- Campbell said you can only use it for personnel.
- Chief Finke said it is only used for fire personnel.
- Jackan asked what is the time frame of the grant.
- Chief Finke said we apply for the grant, and they pay for the wages and benefits for three years, and then in year four, it goes back to the municipalities to make up that difference.
- Campbell said can I ask what that amount is.
- Chief Finke said each firefighter is approximately \$105,000.00 with wages and benefits. We actually applied for and were awarded the grant about six years ago, and the Board at that time their plan was to get rid of them once the grant ran out, so we chose not to pursue it any further. This time the Board is on board with it.

- Deputy Chief Lang said Firefighter Kolb was recently promoted to Engineer, and we hired a couple of full-time Firefighters, Tabitha Allen, and Erik Butt. Engineer Ewan completed paramedic and passed his test, he is currently going through the phases and is almost to phase three. Full-time Firefighter Massa passed her paramedic, and full-time Firefighter Welch just completed paramedic and will be testing in the next week or two. We have a union contract with Local 5452 that goes through the end of 2026, which added an additional six full-time staff.

Action: No action was taken.

E. Staff Reports

Report from Fire Chief

- Fire Chief Finke said we had a structure fire at the top of the hill a mile and a half straight south of here. When the fire call came out, we had no one in the district available to respond. The crew from this station was in the Town of Guenther for an EMS call, and there was a multi victim crash in Weston that we already had Riverside and Wausau bringing extra ambulances, and then the structure fire came in. It was about 20 minutes before the first truck got to that individual's home, although he was very nice about it, he certainly wasn't happy. The whole neighborhood attended the November Board meeting, and certainly spoke their minds. That spurred some of the additional staffing that is going on.

Report from Deputy Fire Chief

- Deputy Fire Chief Lang said there are a couple of reports in your packet and I'll give you the highlights.
- **Personnel Report:** Discussed prior.
- **EMS & Fire Incidents:** Our EMS responses with 911 calls is up for the year over 200 calls. Our fire responses where up a bit for the year.
- **Training:** Listed.
- **Apparatus:** Listed.
- **Fire Prevention/Public Education:** We will be adding one big event in 2025, with Country Fest and Rock Fest in Cadott we will be at Force Fields Festival.
- **Grants/Projects:** EMS Division Chief Gordon-Haessly secured over \$20,000.00 in grants for new laryngoscopes.

F. Business Items

Presentation of Awards for Retirements of Firefighter Robert Pound and Lieutenant Bruce Bartus.

- Deputy Chief Lang said what we try to do is anyone who retires from the department with 10 or more years in good standing, we give them an axe award. Lieutenant Bartus started with Rib Mountain in 1994, in 2000 he was promoted to Lieutenant for Rib Mountain Fire, in 2014 he was promoted to Captain, in 2022 we reorganized the department and command staff with Captains being full-time, and he became a Lieutenant.
- Firefighter Pound was the interim Fire Chief in 2002 for Rib Mountain Fire Department, in 2013 he was hired at Weston Fire, in 2014 at SAFER as a firefighter till now, and that is just a fraction of his service. He was a Captain with Maine for 20 years, he taught for the Tech.
- Chief Finke said the fire service has changed a lot especially over the last decade, as some of you know that many years ago things have changed between volunteers, full-time, call volume, expectations, there has been a lot of change in a really short amount of time. The number of the people in the state and in the country that are willing to volunteer for fire departments or volunteer for anything has really dwindled. Both of these guys have volunteered a lot to their community, and expecting nothing in return. The number of guys that are around willing to do that anymore are pretty minimal.

G. Remarks from the Fire Commission to set the next meeting date as well as discuss items for the next meeting agenda.

- Next meeting TBD.
- Campbell has nothing.
- Phelps has nothing.
- Tatro has nothing.
- Jackan has nothing.

H. Adjourn

***Motion by Tatro to adjourn. Second by Phelps. Motion carried 4:0.
Jackan adjourned at 17:00.***

Respectfully submitted by Cher Latimer, SAFER District Administrative Assistant.

Deputy Chief Report – January 2025

Personnel report:

- Nothing to report

EMS Response:

- 284 total EMS calls
 - 276 calls for EMS service
 - 1 call in the Town of Weston
 - 8 Inter-facility Transports

Fire Response:

- 101 total fire responses
 - 59 EMS assist responses
 - 1/7/24 – Structure fire, Merrill Ave, Mutual Aid to the City of Wausau
 - 1/10/25 – Structure fire, Indianhead Dr, Mutual Aid to Mosinee FD
 - 1/11/25 – Structure fire, Compass Circle, Village of Weston
 - 1/17/25 – Vehicle fire, Rib Mountain Dr, Village of Rib Mountain
 - 1/20/25 – Structure fire, W. Raybelle Dr, Village of Weston

Concurrent Call Data

- January
 - 320 total calls for service
 - 199 single call (62%)
 - 97 two concurrent calls (30%)
 - 24 three or more concurrent calls (8%)
- Year-to-Date
 - 320 total calls for service
 - 199 single call (62%)
 - 97 two concurrent calls (30%)
 - 24 three or more concurrent calls (8%)

Training:

- 369 total combined hours of training
 - 155 combined hours of fire training
 - Topics: Incident Command, HazMat Operations, FF CPR, Ropes & Systems, and Search & Rescue
 - 214 combined hours of EMS training
 - Topics: Zoll Monitor training, CPR refresher, ACLS-EP refresher, TEMS Swat Training, and three members attended WEMSA EMS conference

Apparatus:

- Nothing to report

Fire Prevention/Public Education/Events:

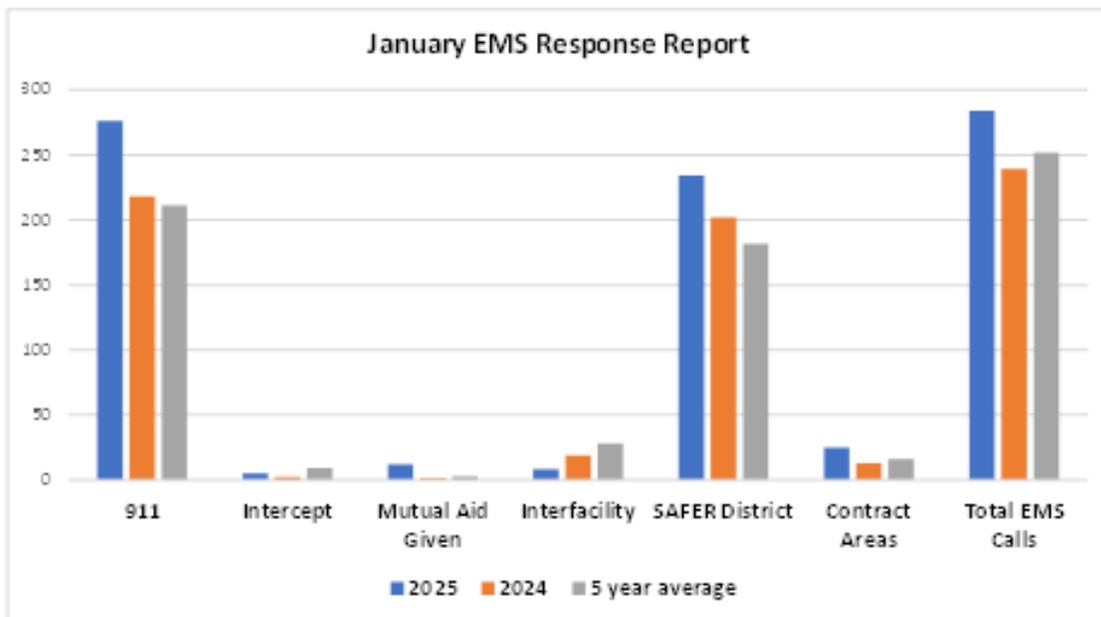
- 1/4 – hosted Northern WI Puppy raisers
- 1/25 & 1/26 – EMS Standby at 525 track for snowmobile races
- 1/28 – CPR & First Aid class for Rib Mountain Metro Sewage (8 people)
- 1/30 – Car seat check and instillation x 2

Grants/Projects:

- We were denied the Firehouse Subs grant
- Getting ready to apply for the SAFER grant for additional 2026 staff

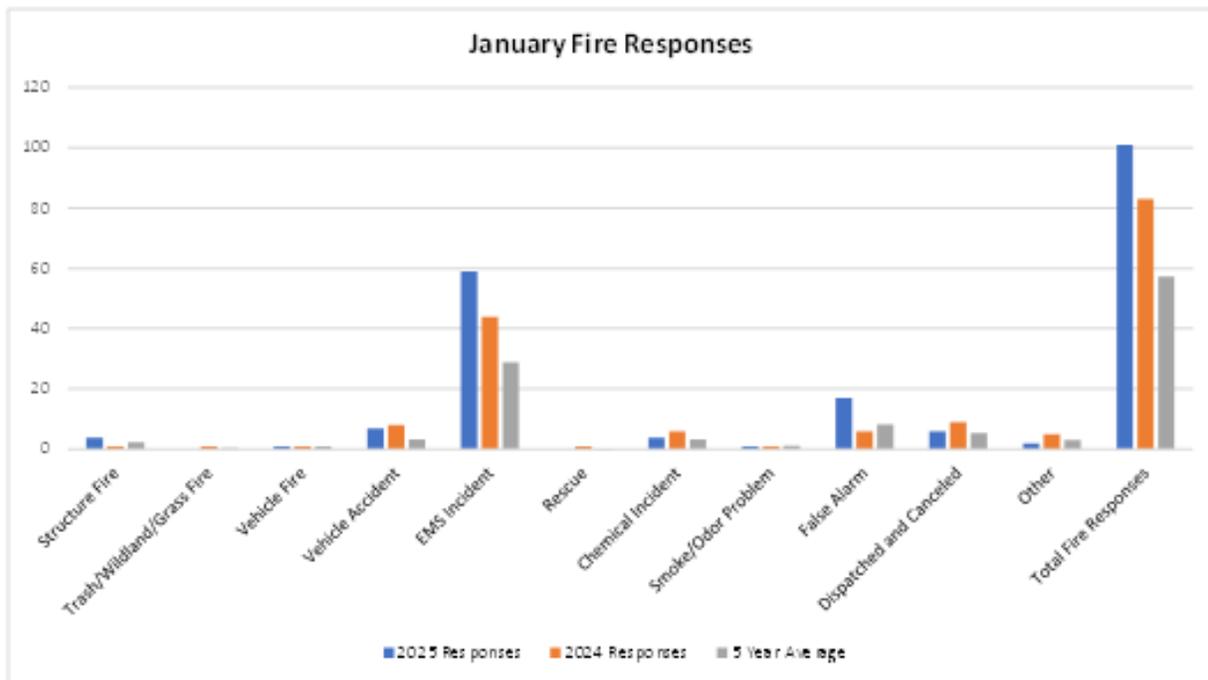
January EMS Response Report

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>5-Year Average</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 911 | 276 | 218 | 211.2 |
| Intercept | 5 | 2 | 9.2 |
| Mutual Aid Given | 12 | 1 | 2.4 |
| Interfacility | 8 | 19 | 28.2 |
| SAFER District | 234 | 202 | 181.4 |
| Contract Areas | 25 | 13 | 16.0 |
| Total EMS Calls | 284 | 239 | 251.6 |



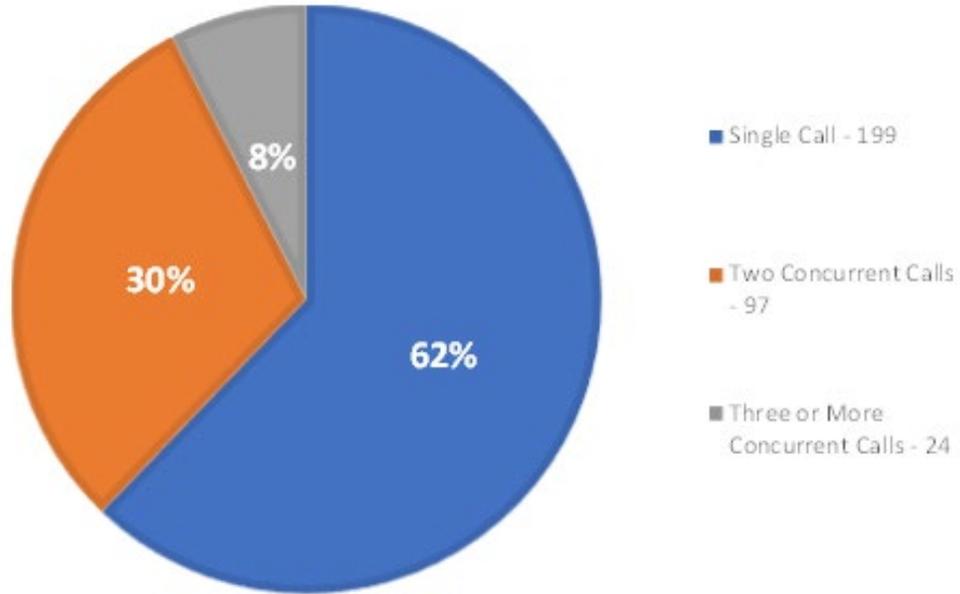
January Fire Response Report

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>5 year Average</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Structure Fire | 4 | 1 | 2.4 |
| Trash/Wildland/Grass Fire | 0 | 1 | 0.4 |
| Vehicle Fire | 1 | 1 | 1.0 |
| Vehicle Accident | 7 | 8 | 3.2 |
| EMS Incident | 59 | 44 | 28.8 |
| Rescue | 0 | 1 | 0.2 |
| Chemical Incident | 4 | 6 | 3.4 |
| Smoke/Odor Problem | 1 | 1 | 1.2 |
| False Alarm | 17 | 6 | 8.2 |
| Dispatched and Canceled | 6 | 9 | 5.4 |
| Other | 2 | 5 | 3.0 |
| Total Fire Responses | 101 | 83 | 57.2 |

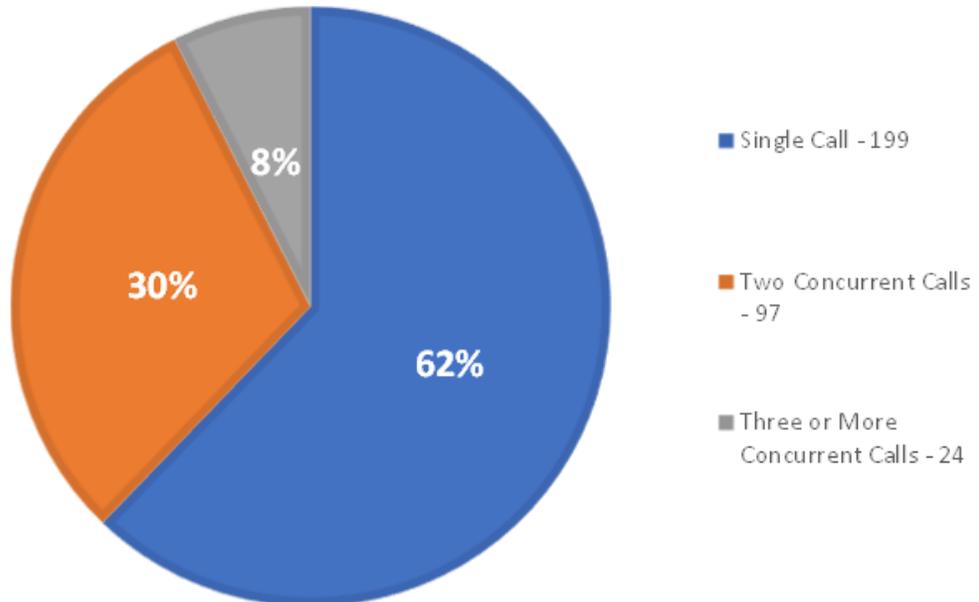


Concurrent Call Data

JANUARY CONCURRENT CALL VOLUME
320 TOTAL CALLS (1/1/2025 - 1/31/2025)



YEAR-TO-DATE CONCURRENT CALL VOLUME
320 TOTAL CALLS (1/1/2025 - 1/31/2025)



Deputy Chief Report – February 2025

Personnel report:

- Nothing to report.

EMS Response:

- total EMS calls 234
 - 226 calls for EMS service
 - 3 calls in the Town of Weston
 - 8 Inter-facility Transports

Fire Response:

- 91 total fire responses
 - 56 EMS assist responses
 - 02/05/25 – Propane tank fire, Little Brook Ct, Town of Stettin
 - 02/10/25 – Structure fire, 14th Ave, Auto-Aide City of Wausau
 - 02/16/25 – Structure fire, Stewart Ave, Auto-Aide City of Wausau
 - 02/26/25 – Commercial Fire, Mesker St, Village of Weston

Concurrent Call Data

- February
 - 216 total calls for service
 - 161 times there were Single calls
 - 79 times there were two concurrent calls
 - 21 times there were more than two concurrent calls
- Year-to-Date
 - 581 total calls for service
 - 360 times there were single calls
 - 178 times there were two concurrent calls
 - 43 times there were more than two concurrent calls

Training:

- 289.5 total combined hours of training
 - 146.5 combined hours of fire training
 - Topics: Mayday/RIT, Forcible Entry, Search & Rescue, NFFF presentation on Boyd Street fire, SCBA Grinder, and Engine Operations.
 - 143 combined hours of EMS training
 - Topics: PALS Refresher, Cardiac Arrest, Mass Casualty Incidents, and neurological injuries

Apparatus:

- Re-chassis Ambulance 103 arrived and will be put into service soon.

Fire Prevention/Public Education/Events:

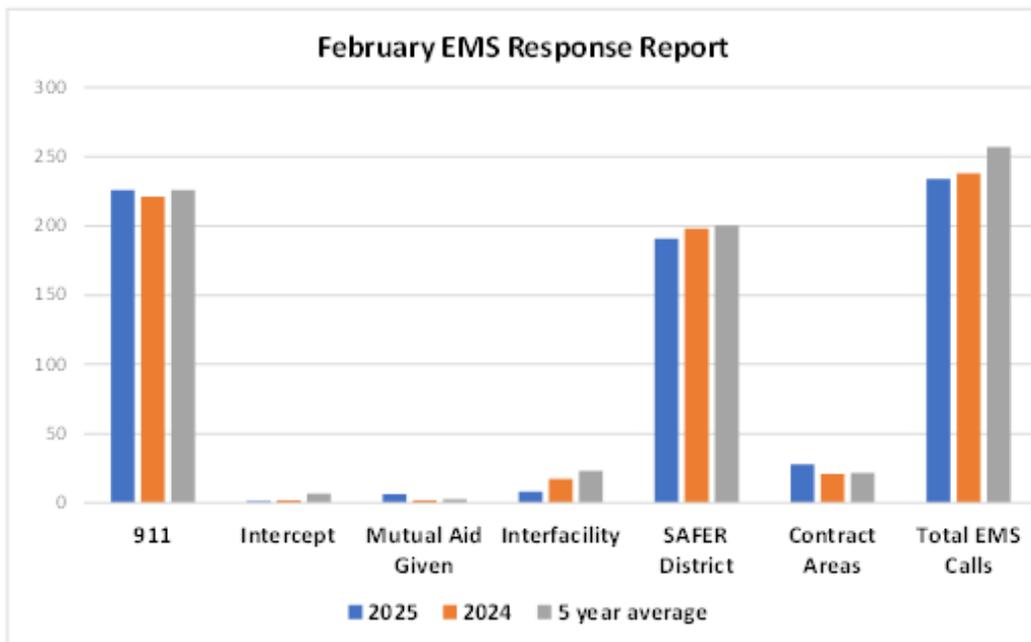
- 02/01/25 – standby for snowmobile races at 525 track
- 02/02/25 – Hosted Northern WI puppy trainers' group at station 1
- 02/16/25 – Hosted Northern WI puppy trainers' group at station 1

Grants/Projects:

- No current Grants.

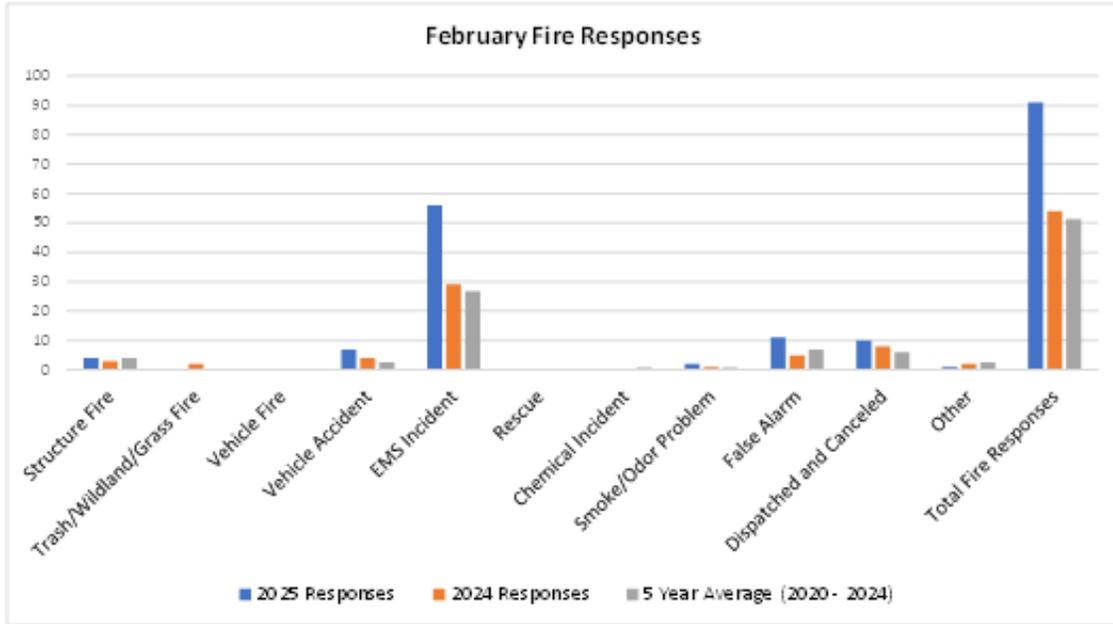
February EMS Response Report

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>5-Year Average</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 911 | 226 | 221 | 226.0 |
| Intercept | 1 | 2 | 6.6 |
| Mutual Aid Given | 6 | 2 | 2.6 |
| Interfacility | 8 | 17 | 23.2 |
| SAFER District | 191 | 198 | 200.4 |
| Contract Areas | 28 | 21 | 21.6 |
| Total EMS Calls | 234 | 238 | 256.8 |



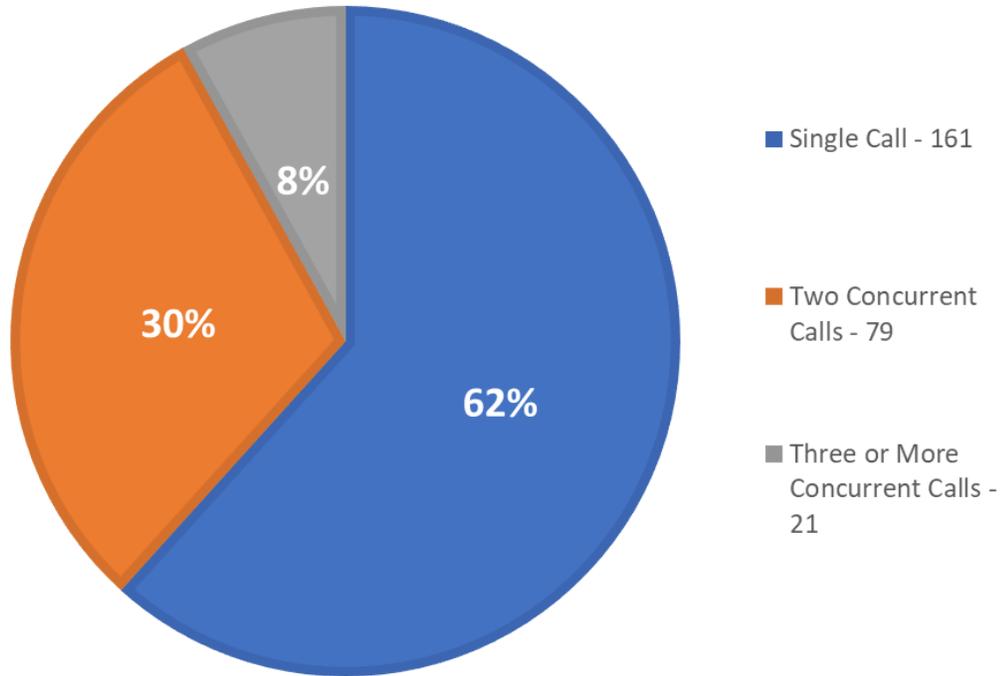
February Fire Response Report

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>5 year Average</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Structure Fire | 4 | 3 | 4.0 |
| Trash/Wildland/Grass Fire | 0 | 2 | 0.4 |
| Vehicle Fire | 0 | 0 | 0.4 |
| Vehicle Accident | 7 | 4 | 2.6 |
| EMS Incident | 56 | 29 | 26.8 |
| Rescue | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Chemical Incident | 0 | 0 | 0.8 |
| Smoke/Odor Problem | 2 | 1 | 0.8 |
| False Alarm | 11 | 5 | 7.0 |
| Dispatched and Canceled | 10 | 8 | 6.0 |
| Other | 1 | 2 | 2.6 |
| Total Fire Responses | 91 | 54 | 51.4 |

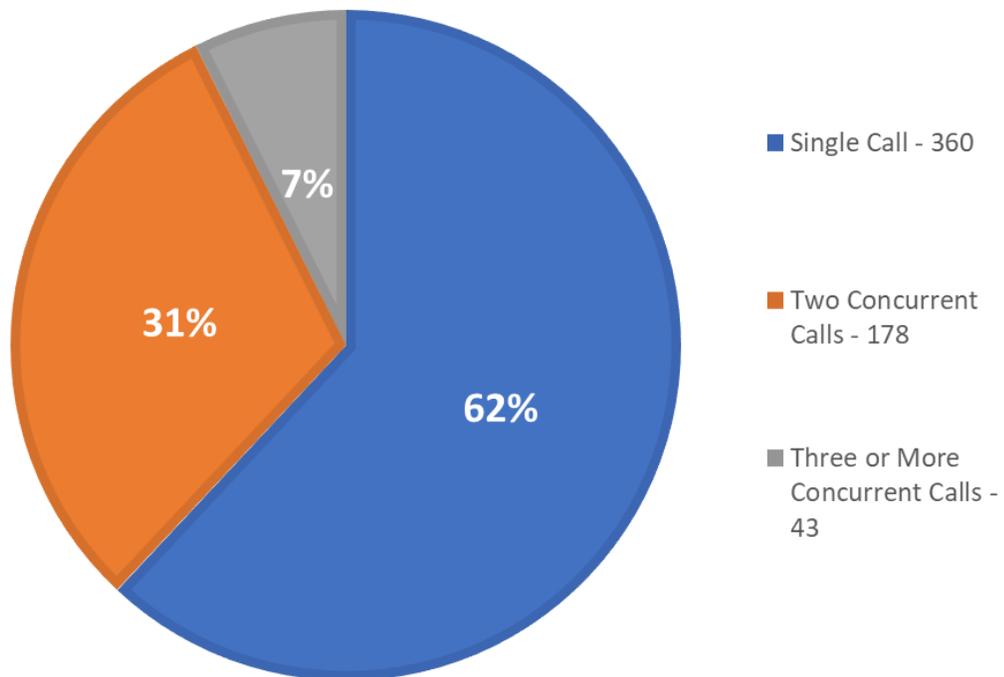


Concurrent Call Data

FEBRUARY CONCURRENT CALL VOLUME
261 TOTAL CALLS (2/1/2025 - 2/28/2025)



YEAR-TO-DATE CONCURRENT CALL VOLUME
581 TOTAL CALLS (1/1/2025 - 2/28/2025)



SAFER District Operations Report – March 2025

Personnel report:

- PPC firefighter update
- Firefighter Internship update

EMS Response:

- 219 EMS calls for service
 - 212 emergency 911 calls
 - 3 calls in the Town Weston
 - 7 Inter-facility transports

Fire Response:

- 91 Fire Responses
 - 54 EMS assistance responses
 - 3/04/25 – Structure fire, E. Thomas Ave, City of Wausau, Auto-aid City of Wausau FD
 - 3/15/25 – Structure fire, N. 17th Ave, City of Wausau, Auto-aid City of Wausau FD
 - 3/17/25 – Structure fire, Old Highway 51, Town of Knowlton, Auto-aid Mosinee FD
 - 3/22/25 – Cooking fire, Birch St, Village of Weston
 - 3/25/25 – Structure fire, County Rd O, Town of Stettin
 - 3/23/25 – Structure fire (coal silo), Old Highway 51, Village of Kronenwetter, Mutual-aid Kronenwetter FD
 - 3/26/25 – gas leak, Rib Mountain Drive, Village of Rib Mountain
 - 3/28/25 – Structure fire, Konkol Rd, Town of Ringle (EMS Contract)
 - 3/27/25 – Ice Rescue, Pintail Ln, Village of Weston
 - 3/29/25 – Structure fire, Callon Ave, Village of Weston

Concurrent Call Data

- March
 - 329 calls for service
 - 249 times there was a single call
 - 64 times there were two concurrent calls
 - 16 times there were three or more concurrent calls
- Year-to-Date
 - 830 calls for service
 - 527 times there was a single call
 - 244 times there were two concurrent calls
 - 59 times there were three or more concurrent calls

Training:

- 375.5 total combined hours of training
 - 259.5 combined hours of fire training
 - Topics: Hazardous Materials Operations, Officer Development, EVOG, Wildland Pumping Operations, Aerial Truck Operations,
 - 115 combined hours of EMS training
 - Topics: AutoPulse CPR, Assessment/Trauma Triage, Imaging/Ultrasound

Apparatus:

- Osage ambulance sold via Wisconsin Surplus Auction

Fire Prevention/Public Education/Events:

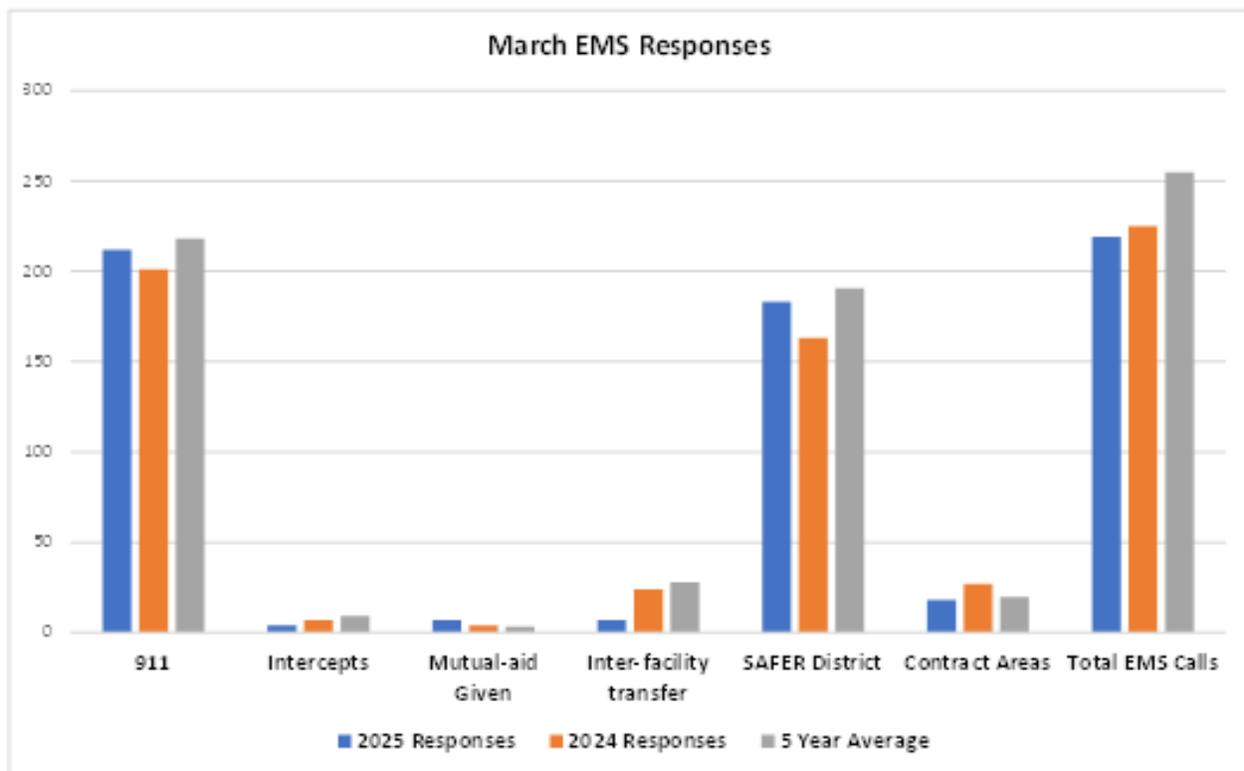
- 3/06/25 – Read Across America at South Mountain Elementary School
- 3/13/25 – Car seat instillation

Grants/Projects:

- Starting to work on GEMT statistics for reimbursement

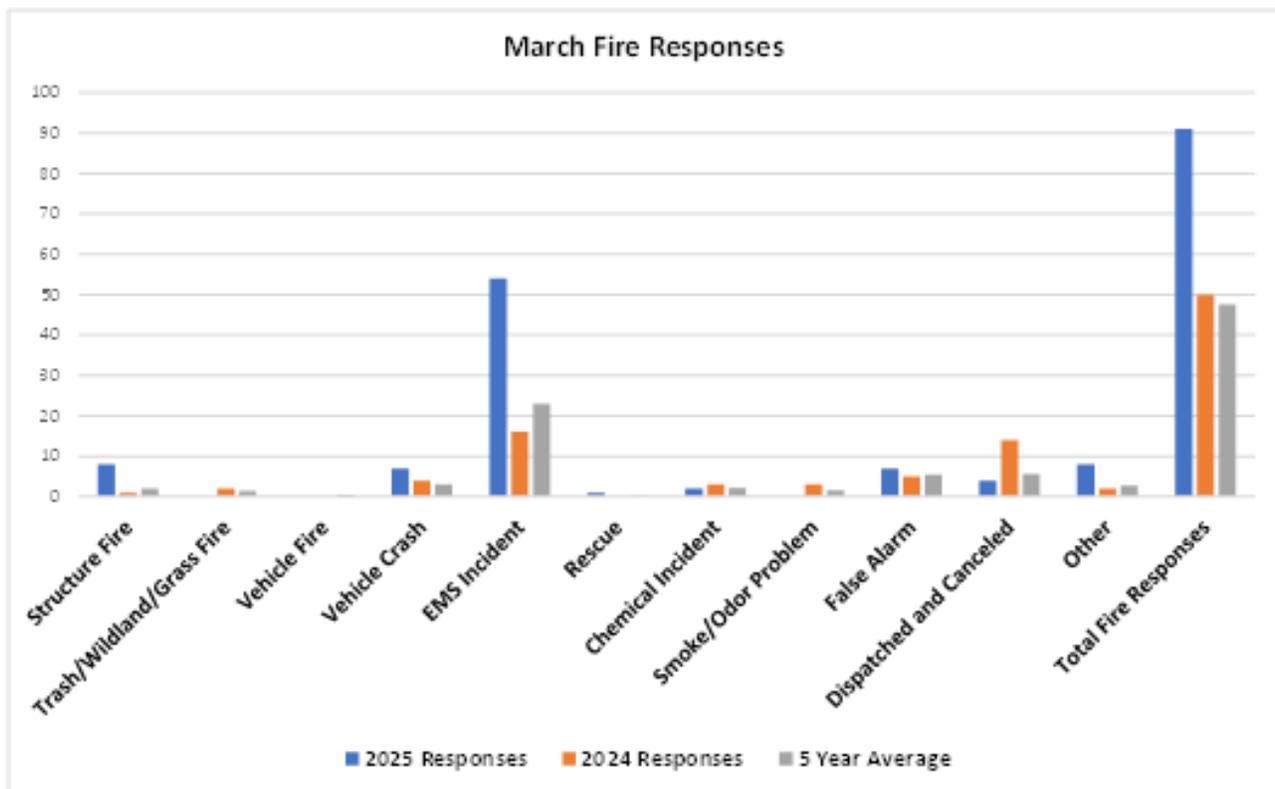
March EMS Response Report

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>5 year Average</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 911 | 212 | 201 | 218.0 |
| Intercepts | 4 | 7 | 9.4 |
| Mutual-aid Given | 7 | 4 | 3.4 |
| Inter-facility transfer | 7 | 24 | 27.8 |
| SAFER District | 183 | 163 | 190.6 |
| Contract Areas | 18 | 27 | 19.6 |
| Total EMS Calls | 219 | 225 | 254.8 |



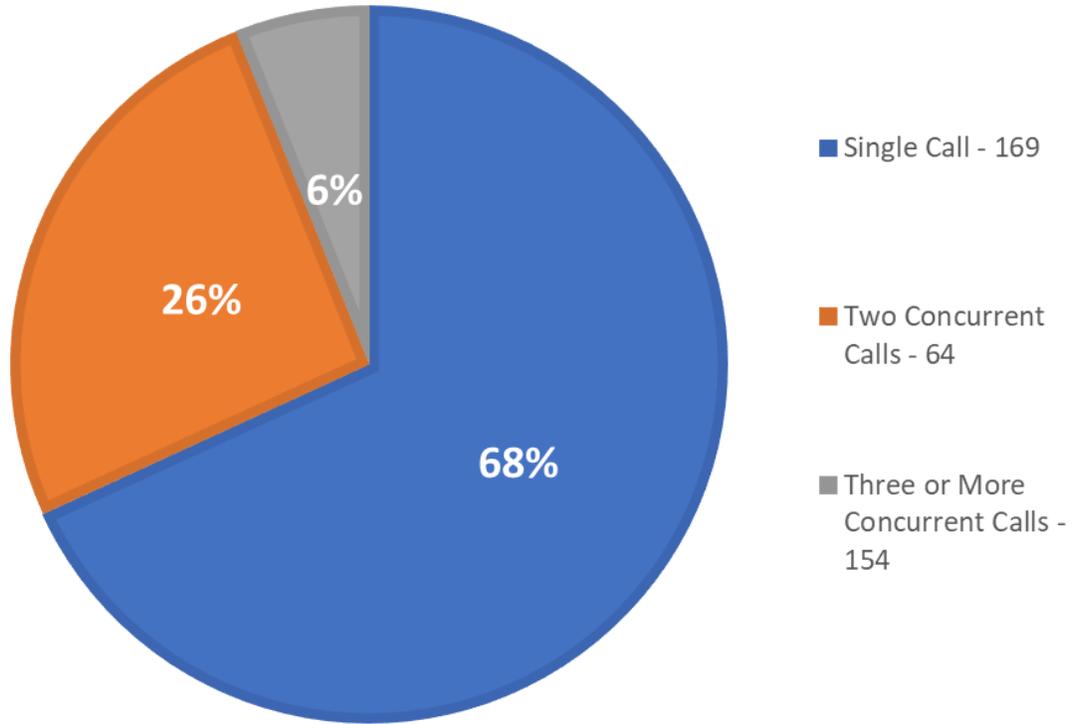
March Fire Response Report

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>5 year Average</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Structure Fire | 8 | 1 | 2.0 |
| Trash/Wildland/Grass Fire | 0 | 2 | 1.4 |
| Vehicle Fire | 0 | 0 | 0.4 |
| Vehicle Crash | 7 | 4 | 3.0 |
| EMS Incident | 54 | 16 | 23.0 |
| Rescue | 1 | 0 | 0.2 |
| Chemical Incident | 2 | 3 | 2.2 |
| Smoke/Odor Problem | 0 | 3 | 1.6 |
| False Alarm | 7 | 5 | 5.4 |
| Dispatched and Canceled | 4 | 14 | 5.6 |
| Other | 8 | 2 | 2.8 |
| Total Fire Responses | 91 | 50 | 47.6 |



Concurrent Call Data

MARCH CONCURRENT CALL VOLUME
248 TOTAL CALLS (3/1/2025 - 3/31/2025)



YEAR-TO-DATE CONCURRENT CALL VOLUME
829 TOTAL CALLS (1/1/2025 - 3/31/2025)

