

SPOKANE FIRE DEPARTMENT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



C. ROGERS



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency
Call 911

Non Emergency
509.625-7000

Website
spokanefire.org

Social Media
SpokaneFire
@SpokaneFire

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

As the Fire Chief of this incredible organization, it is my privilege to present the Spokane Fire Department 2025 Annual Report. This report reflects the dedication, professionalism, and compassion demonstrated by our firefighters, EMS professionals, and support staff throughout the past year.

For more than a century, the Spokane Fire Department has proudly served this community, grounded in a strong tradition of service and public trust. Today, the organization is navigating a generational transition as experienced members retire, and a new generation of firefighters joins our ranks. This moment presents an opportunity to honor our past while continuing to evolve.

As our workforce becomes younger, Spokane Fire is intentionally embracing culture change, balancing institutional knowledge with new perspectives, modern training approaches, and a continued focus on professionalism, inclusion, and accountability. This evolution strengthens our ability to serve a changing community while preserving the core values that have defined the department for generations.

In 2025, Spokane Fire continued to uphold its mission to enhance the quality of life by earning the trust of our community through saving lives, preventing harm, and protecting property with compassion and integrity. Serving Spokane’s 69.5-square-mile community, our department responded to a wide range of emergencies, including fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescues, hazardous materials incidents, and complex multi-unit responses.

Spokane Fire also expanded its role in addressing behavioral health emergencies within the community. Through specialized response models, such as the Behavioral Response Unit (BRU), and in partnership with the CARES Team, our crews worked alongside behavioral health professionals and other agencies to provide compassionate, appropriate care for individuals experiencing a crisis. These coordinated responses help connect people to critical services, reduce unnecessary emergency department utilization, and improve outcomes for patients, first responders, and the broader community.

The department remained focused on wildfire mitigation and preparedness, recognizing the increasing risk posed by seasonal fire conditions and the wildland-urban interface. Spokane Fire conducted extensive fuels reduction efforts, strengthened interagency coordination, and emphasized public education to reduce wildfire risk before emergencies occur.

The continued support of Spokane voters through the Community Safety Sales Tax made important investments possible in 2025. Funding from this measure supported the purchase of a new brush unit and two fire engines, enhancing firefighter safety, strengthening wildfire response capabilities, and improving emergency coverage citywide.

Our success is driven by the dedicated professionals of Spokane Fire and the strong partnerships we maintain with city leadership, regional agencies, and community organizations. As we look ahead, Spokane Fire remains committed to honoring its past while adapting for the future through prevention, preparedness, accountability, and service excellence.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.



With gratitude,

Tom Williams
Fire Chief
Spokane Fire Department

OUR CITY - SPOKANE, WA

Spokane, the largest city in Eastern Washington with approximately 230,000 residents, serves as the dynamic heart of the Inland Northwest. Situated 280 miles east of Seattle and just 18 miles west of the Idaho border, Spokane anchors a metropolitan area of nearly 750,000 people and functions as a vital economic and cultural center.

The Spokane Fire Department protects a diverse 69.5-square-mile service area, encompassing dense urban corridors, suburban neighborhoods, and regions that interface directly with wildland areas. The Spokane River, which winds through the city’s core and is renowned for its scenic falls, presents unique operational challenges and considerations for emergency responders.

Spokane’s varied landscape—from steep hills in the southern neighborhoods to expansive plains in the north—necessitates specialized emergency response strategies and equipment. In addition, the region’s climate, characterized by hot, dry summers and snowy winters, demands that firefighters be prepared to respond to a broad spectrum of emergencies, including wildland interface fires and ice rescue incidents.

The city’s strong economy, driven by healthcare, education, financial services, and advanced manufacturing, continues to attract new businesses and residents. As the region’s medical hub, Spokane is home to multiple major hospitals and specialty care facilities, that depend on sophisticated and reliable emergency medical services.

Spokane’s architectural landscape blends historic early twentieth-century structures, modern high-rise buildings, and expansive residential developments, each presenting unique fire protection and emergency response strategies. Moreover, the city’s extensive urban trail system and proximity to numerous state parks also require specialized rescue capabilities to effectively manage outdoor recreational emergencies.



ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The Spokane Fire Department (SFD) has served as a fire protection agency in Washington State since 1884. It operates as a division of the City of Spokane’s general government, under the requirements for first-class cities outlined in Chapter 35.22 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). Located near the Idaho border, Spokane is the second-largest city in Washington State. The Spokane Fire Department maintains a Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) rating of 3, equivalent to an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 3 rating. SFD’s service area covers approximately 69.5 square miles and encompasses a diverse mix of urban, suburban, industrial, and wildland environments.

Core Services Provided by the Spokane Fire Department:

- **All-Hazards Emergency Response:** This includes fire suppression, emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials (HAZMAT), and technical rescue operations.
- **Fire Prevention:** Encompasses code enforcement, public education, fire-safe engineering, economic incentives, and wildland fuel mitigation efforts.
- **Training Division:** Responsible for developing and delivering training programs that ensure personnel maintain the knowledge, skills and certifications necessary to perform their duties safely and effectively.
- **Special Operations:** Includes specialized capabilities such as swift water rescue, technical rescue, structural collapse response, and hazardous materials management.

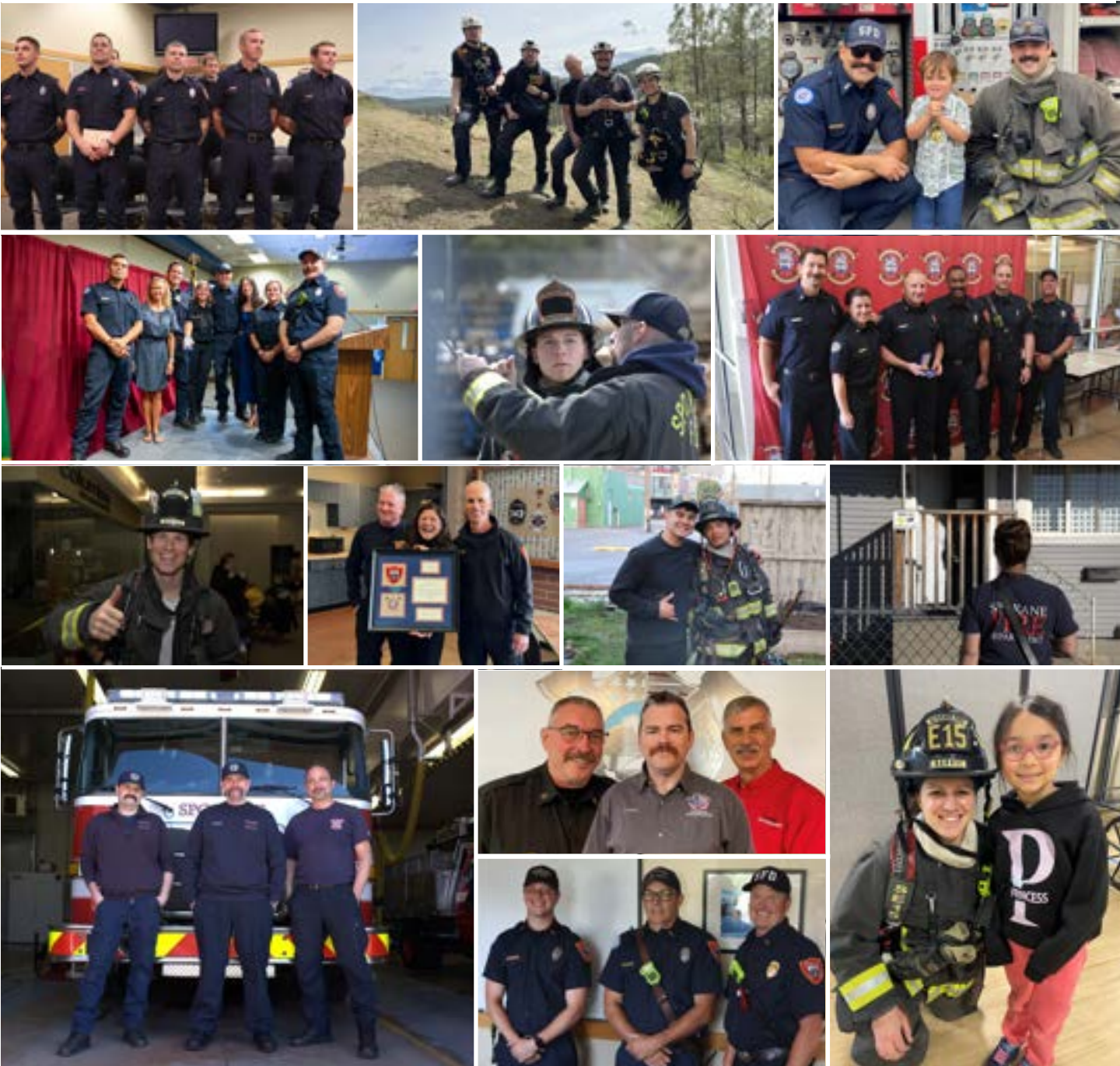
OUR VALUES

WE ENHANCE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE, ALWAYS EARNING YOUR TRUST, BY SAVING LIVES, PREVENTING HARM AND PROTECTING PROPERTY WITH COMPASSION AND INTEGRITY.



OUR PEOPLE

The Spokane Fire Department's most prized resource is our people. They respond with professionalism and compassion to make someone's worst day better. They're the kind of people you'd like living next door.



2025 BUDGETED STAFFING

Budgeted FTE Fire/EMS.....	376.3
Uniformed vs. Civilian FTEs.....	Uniform: 352
	Civilian: 28.13

2025 BUDGET

SFD Overall Budget	\$84,670,076.73
Budget Breakdown:	
• Salaries and Benefits	\$66,859,833.85
• Supplies	\$3,595,435.00
• Other Services and Charges.....	\$5,293,690.00
• Interfund Payment for Service.....	\$4,747,843.00
• Reserve for Budget Adjustment.....	\$17,779.88
• Other.....	\$4,155,495.00

COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF



Tom Williams
Fire Chief



Lance Dahl
Assistant Fire Chief



Darin Neiwert
Deputy Chief
Operations



Bill Grummons
Deputy Chief Training
& Safety



Rich Galtieri
Deputy Chief Fire
Prevention



Mike Forbes
Administrative
Battalion Chief



Kyle Chase
Administrative
Battalion Chief
Logistics



Anne Raven
Administrative
Battalion Chief
Integrated Emergency
Medical Services



Justin de Ruyter
Public Information
Officer

Greater Alarm Fires 2025

February 25

4019 E Central Ave.

Firefighters responded early that morning to a large warehouse fire at MaxAmps Lithium Batteries, arriving within minutes to find a fully involved structure and initiating a defensive, second-alarm response. The fire quickly spread through the lithium-ion battery facility, destroying much of the building and prompting evacuations and environmental monitoring due to hazardous materials. Despite challenges including an ignited gas leak, utilities were shut off, runoff was contained, and air quality remained safe. No injuries were reported, though nearby residents were temporarily displaced.



AUGUST 20

101 N Madelia St.
2nd Alarm

When firefighters arrived at Tormino's Warehouse, they discovered a well-established fire burning deep within the building and quickly shifted to defensive operations. The blaze raged for several hours before they managed to bring it under control. Firefighters faced challenges such as wind-driven embers, the proximity of other buildings, heavy contents inside, and a partial building collapse. Although the warehouse was destroyed, no injuries were reported.



MAY 17

2917 E Broad Ave.
2nd Alarm

Firefighters arrived to find a four-unit apartment building with fire in a second-floor room that had extended into the attic space and one elderly occupant with burns. Firefighters quickly knocked down the fire on the 2nd floor but due to the building construction had difficulties accessing all areas of the attic prompting the need for additional resources.



AUGUST 25

811 South Sherman St.
2nd Alarm

Firefighters responded to a duplex and discovered flames coming from a first-floor window, spreading to the second floor and attic. While searching the building, they found an unconscious elderly man on the first floor and quickly removed him from danger using a "Sill Cut" on a nearby window, rescuing him in under two minutes after arrival.

FIRE STATIONS



01 | 44 W Riverside Ave.
Engine 1
Truck 1
Medic 1
Support Unit 1



02 | 1001 E. N Foothills Dr.
Engine 2
Truck 2
Water Rescue 2



03 | 1713 W Indiana Ave
Engine 3



04 | 1515 W First Ave
Engine 4
Truck 4
Squad 4
Tech Rescue 4
Battalion 1



05 | 115 W Eagle Ridge Blvd
Attack 5
Brush 5



06 | 1615 S Spotted Rd
Engine 6
Brush 6



07 | 1901 E First Ave
Engine 7
Hazmat 7
Brush 7



08 | 1608 N Rebecca St
Engine 8
Safety 1
Brush 8



09 | 1722 S Bernard St
Engine 9
HAZMAT 9



11 | 3214 S Perry St
Engine 11
Brush 11



13 | 1118 W Wellesley Ave
Truck 13
Battalion 2



14 | 1807 S Ray St
Truck 14



15 | 2120 E Wellesley Ave
Engine 15
Brush 15



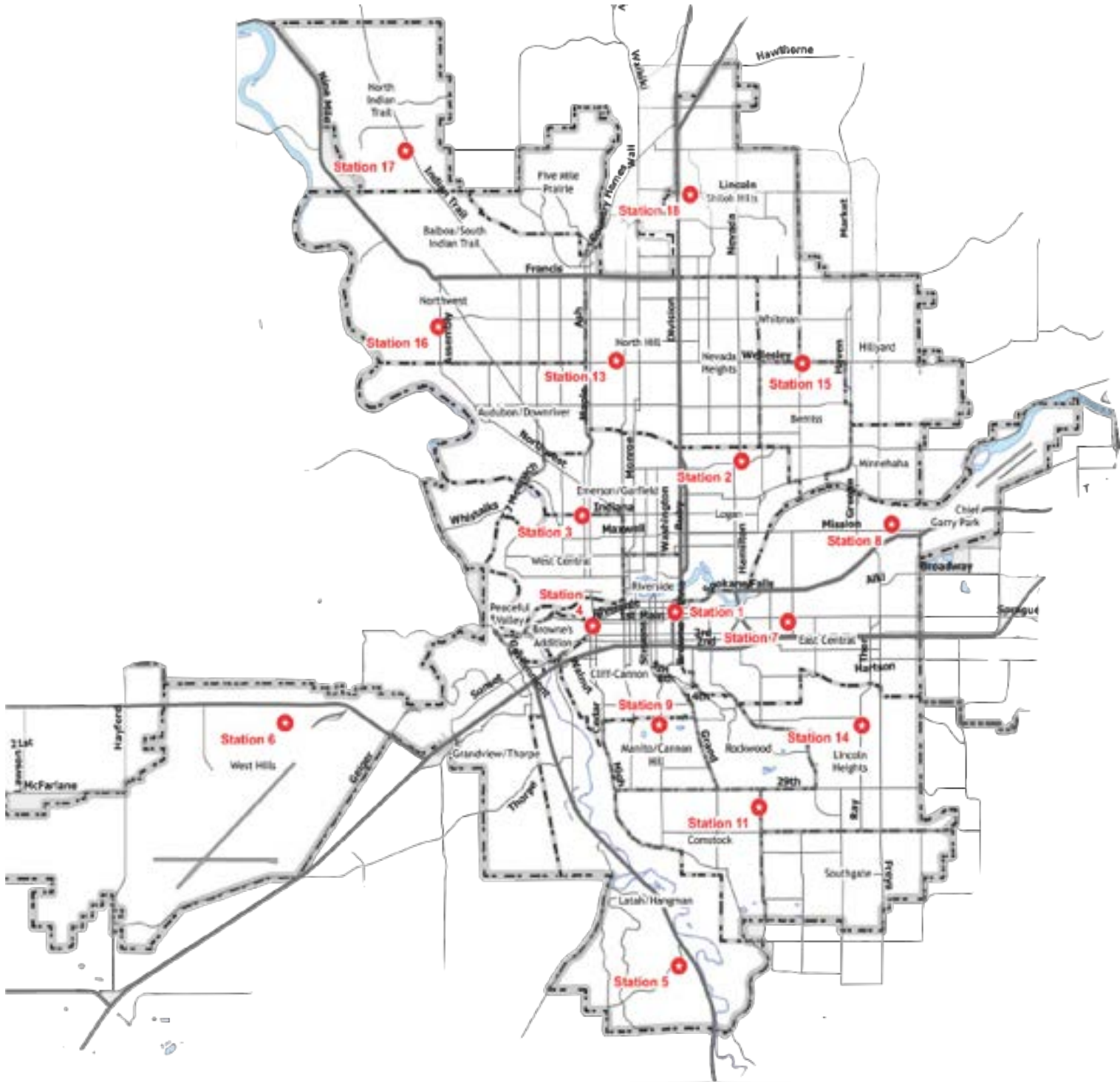
16 | 5225 N Assembly St
Engine 16
Brush 16



17 | 5121 W Lowell Rd
Engine 17
Brush 17



18 | 120 E Lincoln St.
Engine 18
Medic 18



RESPONSE TIMES

ANATOMY OF A 911 CALL



Fire Department Response Time

CALL

Community members call 911 for an emergency

DISPATCH

911 center processes the call and dispatches units

TURNOUT

Time from dispatch notification to crew dressed in required gear, aboard the apparatus, and responding en route

TRAVEL

Elapsed time between a unit going en route and arriving on scene

SFD uses the standards outlined in our Standard of Coverage for Emergency Response Document for response time reporting. These standards are listed as our objectives in the response time.

Turnout time is measured from the time of initial responder dispatch to the time the responding apparatus begins traveling towards the incident.

Travel time is measured from the time the responding apparatus begins moving to the time it arrives at the incident

Response Time is the period from notification of responders by dispatch to the arrival of the first unit at the scene of the incident.

A full alarm assignment consists of a minimum of 20 firefighters on scene.

Data was organized by call type as identified at dispatch. This may or may not correspond to what was found when a crew arrived on scene, but is the best representation of how crews prepared and responded in terms of gear and safety requirements.

FIRE RESPONSE TIMES

2024

2025

TURNOUT TIME

02:25

Objective:

90 seconds, 90% of the time

02:25

Objective:

90 seconds, 90% of the time

RESPONSE TIME - FIRST ARRIVAL

05:31

Objective:

Dispatch to Arrival, 8:30, 90% of the time

05:47

Objective:

Dispatch to Arrival, 8:30, 90% of the time

STRUCTURE FIRE - FULL ASSIGNMENT

96%

Objective:

Dispatch to Arrival of Full Alarm (14 FF), 11:00, 90% of the time

93%

Objective:

Dispatch to Arrival of Full Alarm (14 FF), 11:00, 90% of the time

TRAVEL TIME - STRUCTURE FIRE

04:03

Objective:

1st Unit in 7:00, 90% of the time

04:14

Objective:

1st Unit in 7:00, 90% of the time

EMS RESPONSE TIMES

2024

2025

TURNOUT TIME

02:09

Objective:

60 seconds, 90% of the time

02:15

Objective:

60 seconds, 90% of the time

RESPONSE TIME - BLS CALL

09:32

Objective:

Dispatch to Arrival, 11:30, 90% of the time

09:22

Objective:

Dispatch to Arrival, 11:30, 90% of the time

RESPONSE TIME - ALS CALL

06:30

Objective:

Dispatch to Arrival, 8:30, 90% of the time

06:41

Objective:

Dispatch to Arrival, 8:30, 90% of the time

TRAVEL TIME - EMS CALL

06:49

Objective:

1st Unit in 7:00, 90% of the time

06:43

Objective:

1st Unit in 7:00, 90% of the time

2025

BY THE NUMBERS

 5

SECOND ALARM FIRES

 94

TOTAL WORKING FIRES

 53,139

TOTAL ON-SCENE INCIDENTS

STATION 1
8,783 RUNS

BUSIEST STATION

ENGINE 3
3,775 RUNS

BUSIEST ENGINE COMPANY

TRUCK 13
2,925 RUNS

BUSIEST TRUCK COMPANY

SEPTEMBER 19TH
191 RUNS

BUSIEST DAY OF 2025

SPECIALTY TEAMS

TECHNICAL RESCUE

Formed in the early 1990s, the Spokane Fire Department's Technical Rescue Team responds to complex emergencies that exceed the capabilities of standard fire companies. For over thirty years, the team has served Spokane and Spokane County by managing high-risk, high-visibility incidents. Operations include structural collapses, confined space rescues, trench and excavation operations, machinery entrapments, and both high- and low-angle rope rescues.

Based at Stations 4 and 15, the team comprises 40 highly skilled personnel equipped with specialized rescue tools. Station Captains offer direct leadership, while a Battalion Chief oversees the program and reports to the Deputy Chief of Operations.

The Technical Rescue Team is a key partner in the Region 9 Technical Rescue Team, collaborating with the Spokane Valley Fire Department and the Spokane County Fire District 9. The regional team, comprising 94 members, operates under mutual aid agreements that enable rapid, seamless responses across jurisdictional boundaries in the Inland Northwest.

In 2025, Region 9 received over \$85,000 from the Homeland Security Grant Program. This funding was used to purchase rescue equipment aligned with the National Preparedness System, further strengthening community resilience and national preparedness.

The Technical Rescue Team held five multi-day regional training events involving all partner agencies, covering various rescue disciplines. Additional training included a five-day rope rescue course for new members, a five-day Structural Collapse Technician course, and a newly developed curriculum for Rescue Group Supervisors.

In 2025, the Regional Technical Rescue Team responded to 62 incidents: 32 were heavy rescues, often involving vehicles striking structures or colliding with large commercial vehicles. The team also conducted 16 rope rescues, two machinery entrapments, one trench rescue, and provided technical support or standby at ten marine rescue incidents.





HAZMAT

In 2025, the Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Team continued to strengthen regional preparedness, respond to complex incidents, and enhance Spokane's overall hazardous materials response capabilities. Below is a summary of key activities, incidents, and program developments throughout the year.

Significant Incidents

- Max Amps Lithium-Ion Battery Fire – February 26, 2025

The team responded to a large-scale lithium-ion battery facility fire in Northeast Spokane. Operations included air monitoring, suppression support, and coordination with regional partners. (See City press release: “Greater Alarm Fire Destroys Lithium-Ion Battery Facility in NE Spokane.”)

- Ammonia Leak at the Ice Ribbon – May 3, 2025

HazMat personnel assisted with containment and atmospheric monitoring during an overnight ammonia release at Riverfront Park. The incident was successfully mitigated with no reported injuries. (See City press release: “Ammonia Leak at Riverfront Contained After Overnight Response.”)

- Mutual Aid Response – Bayview, Idaho

The team deployed additional boom resources and provided technical support for a sunken vessel leaking fuel within the Bayview marina.

Operational Support and Events

- Conducted monitoring operations at major community events including Bloomsday and Hoopfest, ensuring public safety and rapid hazard detection capabilities.
- Continued active participation with the Spokane Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and strengthened coordination with regional response partners.

Training, Outreach, and Development

- Partnered with the Washington State Department of Ecology on emerging hazards associated with lithium-ion batteries, electric vehicles, and related energy systems.
- Assisted with hosting and delivering the EPA Region 10 Lithium-Ion Battery Response Training, contributing to regional readiness for high-risk battery incidents.
- Delivered a 10-person Hazardous Materials Technician class through an external instructor (insourced training).

WATER RESCUE

The Spokane Fire Department (SFD) Swiftwater Rescue Team is expertly trained to respond to a diverse range of incidents across the Spokane River and our regional waterways. The Spokane River is a remarkably dynamic environment; water flows can fluctuate significantly within days or even hours, radically altering river features. As water levels rise and velocity increases, familiar rapids may be submerged while other sections become increasingly technical and hazardous.

To maintain peak readiness, the Swiftwater Rescue Team conducted specialized training on 68 separate days last year. This rigorous schedule ensures our rescue technicians can quickly and safely perform rescues anywhere along the river, regardless of flow conditions. Beyond swift water, the team remains prepared for seasonal emergencies, including ice, flatwater, and flood rescue operations.

2025: A Landmark Mobilization

December 2025 presented an unprecedented challenge. As relentless heavy rainfall triggered catastrophic flooding in Western Washington, the State of Washington issued an emergency request for specialized resources. In a historic first, Mayor Lisa Brown and Fire Chief Tom Williams authorized the first-ever mobilization of our Swiftwater Rescue Team.

A combined strike team, featuring personnel from both the Spokane Fire Department and Spokane Valley Fire Department, deployed immediately with specialized equipment, including kayaks and the department's jet boat. During the deployment, crews operated in Snohomish and King counties, performing multiple search-and-rescue missions to bring stranded residents to safety. Following the initial rotation, a second combined team was dispatched to continue these critical life-saving operations.

• Total calls in 2025 – 25 water team responses

• Total number of team members: 40 trained Swiftwater Rescue Technicians based out of Stations 2 and 3, one supervising Battalion Chief

• Deployment Model: We respond with 2 rescues and an ALS engine. 10 people in total. 1 Rescue Group Supervisor, 1 Water Team Safety, 2-3 entry teams. We have a jet boat that responds out of Station 3.

• Equipment Upgrades:

o Rescue 3, which was previously an old ambulance body that required partially deflating the kayaks to close the doors, was replaced in 2025. The box also obstructed the view, making it difficult to back up the boat trailer. The new Rescue 3 is a former Battalion Chief pickup outfitted with a roof rack for kayaks, roll-out storage in the back for gear, scene lighting, and a backup camera for launching the boat. Our shop personnel completed the conversion in-house.

o Water 3, our 24-year-old jet boat, got a new engine installed by MotoJet in Lewiston, Idaho, ensuring it is ready to go and reliable for our rescue crews.



LOGISTICS DIVISION

The Spokane Fire Department’s Facilities and Logistics Division is led by an Administrative Battalion Chief, who oversees the maintenance, repair, and long-term management of all SFD facilities. The Logistics Chief and assigned Logistics Captain share responsibility for facility upkeep, repairs, and improvement projects, ensuring efficient operations and timely completion.

The Logistics Chief also manages the SFD Maintenance Facility and supervises its staff, including a Shop Foreman and five Heavy Equipment Mechanics/Emergency Vehicle Technicians. Although much of their work occurs behind the scenes, this dedicated team ensures that the department’s apparatus, equipment, and facilities remain operational and ready to support emergency response. Their efforts are essential to maintaining Spokane’s emergency response infrastructure and advancing the department’s mission to protect life and property.



APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

The Spokane Fire Department fleet consists of nearly 125 vehicles, including 14 frontline pumpers, five aerial trucks, four rescue vehicles, and nine Type 6 brush trucks. The reserve fleet includes nine additional pumpers and two aerial trucks. The remainder of the fleet comprises staff vehicles, specialty units, trailers, and a swift-water-capable jet boat

A key milestone in 2025 was the commissioning of a new brush truck and the specification and ordering of two new fire engines. Continued investment in heavy apparatus remains a priority, as the reserve fleet now averages over 20 years in age, with several units exceeding 200,000 miles after decades of service.

As new apparatus are placed into service, legacy units with remaining operational life are reassigned as reserve or secondary-use vehicles. The oldest vehicles are surplused or donated to other public safety agencies at the end of their service life.

Another major accomplishment in 2025 was the procurement and deployment of new fire hose across the department. The Logistics Division distributed hose to nine frontline engines, supplied wildland hose packs to all frontline engines, and issued new wildland hose for all brush trucks. In 2025, the following hose was placed into service:

- 7,900 feet of 5-inch supply hose
- 12,150 feet of 2½-inch supply/attack hose
- 11,700 feet of 1¾-inch attack hose
- 8,200 feet of 1-inch wildland attack hose
- 20,000 feet of 1½-inch wildland supply/attack hose

In addition to procurement and fleet management, the Logistics Division conducts annual pump testing for all pump-equipped apparatus and aerial testing for units with aerial devices. These measures ensure the department’s fleet remains fully operational and ready to respond to emergencies.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The SFD Information Technology Department provides hardware and software support to 364 employees located at 16 fire stations, the Fire Training Center, the MSO Office, and the vehicle maintenance shop. We assist via chat, email, phone, on-site, and remote connectivity. Our hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 0700 to 1700.

Our team of three focuses on four categories: executive projects and requests, hardware support, software support, and station support. We partner with I.T. departments located at the city including Data Center, Database Management, Enterprise Administration, Help Desk, and I.T. networking.

Our goal is to deliver reliable, secure, and innovative technology solutions that support and enhance Spokane Fire Department’s operational and strategic objectives.



EXECUTIVE PROJECTS	HARDWARE SUPPORT	SOFTWARE SUPPORT	STATION SUPPORT
<i>Executive Projects consists of directives/requests that support SFD Leadership.</i>	<i>Hardware Support consists of deploying, replacing, troubleshooting hardware.</i>	<i>Software Support consists of customer support, software updates & troubleshooting.</i>	<i>Station Support consists of email/phone support, on-site support, and remote support.</i>
>Alert media -Computer Server Update -Database Update -Reviewer Access	>Apple -iPad Deployments -iPhone Deployments -Screen Cases + Protectors	>Apple Technology -iOS Updates -Software Install (iTune) -Troubleshooting/Support	>Apple Products -Apple TV Support -iPad support -iPhone support
>ESO -Data Exporter + Insights -OD MAP Integration (api) -MDC/ESO Tablet Maintenance	>PC -Computer Deployments -Monitor Deployments -System Updates	>Microsoft Technology -Microsoft Office -Windows 10/11 -Windows Servers -Troubleshooting/Support	>Computer Products -Dell computers + laptops -Computer Peripherals -ToughBooks
>SharePoint -Cup and Flower -Fire Training Academy -Internal Media Requests -Quarter Master Updates	>Galaxy System -Badge Printer -Door and Gate Support	>On-Base (Forms/Workflows) -Fire Training Academy -PER forms -Probationary Report -Quarter Master Updates	>Enterprise Software -ESO -En Route Mobile/Infor (via SREC) -Telestaff
>Telestaff -Apparatus Updates -Roster Updates -Payroll Export -Tablet Command -Version Update (7.5.9)	>Printers -Copiers NW (Vendor) -Fuel Log - QR Codes -Royal Business Systems (Vendor)	>Telestaff -Custom Reports -Monthly Meetings -Payroll Support -Test Instance	>Internet Connectivity -City Fiber Support -Comcast Support -Networking
	>Knox Box -Hardware Support Update		>Multi-Factor Authentication -Via Phone or Text Message



TRAINING & FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

In 2025, the Training Division had a highly productive year, meeting its objectives in realistic training delivery, regulatory compliance, and operational innovation. The Division successfully graduated 26 firefighter recruits from two separate academies while maintaining a strong and consistent focus on firefighter safety—both during emergency incidents and within department facilities.

The Training Division is staffed by a Deputy Chief, two Fire Captains, and a Fire Lieutenant. Recruit academies are supported by three firefighters and one lieutenant detailed from the Operations Division for the duration of each academy.

The Training Division continues to evolve and maintains responsibility for the following programs and functions:

- Formalized training for all SFD members
- All components of Probationary Firefighter training and testing
- Firefighter hiring and recruitment, in collaboration with Civil Service
- Training records management for all SFD personnel
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) purchasing, tracking, testing, and maintenance
- Acquired Structures Program
- Health and Wellness Program
- Department-wide compliance with WAC 296-305
- Support and facilitation of the Training Center Campus for SFD, the City of Spokane, and external partner agencies

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS CONDUCTED IN 2025

- 2 weeks of RTF classroom-based training
- 2 weeks of RTF practical training at 2425 E. Magnesium'
- 1 week of Wildland RTI training – Grandview
- 1 week of Wildland RTI training – Eagle Ridge
- 2 weeks of High-Rise Fire Attack Group training
- 2 weeks of High-Rise Search and Evacuation Group training
- 2 weeks of EMS practical skills training
- 4 Water Rescue quarterly training sessions
- 5 Technical Rescue quarterly training sessions
- 4 Hazardous Materials quarterly training sessions
- 30-hour Hazardous Materials Safety Officer course
- 30-hour Hazardous Materials Incident Commander course
- 1 week of NERIS transition training
- Annual SCBA/mask fit testing



Total record-able training hours completed by SFD members:

90,855 hours, nearly doubling the total hours recorded in 2023.

PREVENTION

Throughout 2025, the Spokane Fire Department’s Fire Prevention Section continued to provide a high level of service to the community through fire and life safety inspections, construction-related inspections, operational permit inspections, plan review support, complaint response, special event oversight, and multi-family/commercial inspection activity. The section’s work remained focused on reducing fire risk, supporting safe development, maintaining code compliance, and providing clear communication to property owners, business operators, contractors, and community stakeholders.

In 2025, Fire Prevention personnel completed 16,569 fire permit inspection-related activities across multiple service categories. This included 8,132 life safety service report reviews and approvals, 3,044 multi-family and commercial inspections, 1,823 operating permit and safety inspections, 1,605 consultations and complaint-related activities, 1,052 life safety construction permit inspections, 559 tank operating permit inspections, 319 special event permit inspections, and 35 tank construction permit inspections. These numbers reflect the broad and varied workload handled by the section and demonstrate the continued demand for prevention services across the City.

A significant portion of the 2025 workload involved reviewing and approving life safety service reports. These reports are a critical part of maintaining fire protection system reliability and help ensure that required systems such as fire alarms, fire sprinklers, fire pumps, commercial cooking suppression systems, and related protection features remain functional and compliant. The volume of service report activity also reflects the section’s ongoing responsibility to monitor recurring fire protection system maintenance and follow up on deficiencies that may affect occupant safety or emergency response readiness.

The section also maintained a strong focus on multi-family and commercial occupancies. These inspections remain a priority because they directly affect large numbers of residents, employees, visitors, and vulnerable occupants. Multi-family and commercial inspection activity supports code compliance in buildings where blocked exits, impairment to fire protection systems, storage issues, fire door deficiencies, electrical hazards, and maintenance concerns can quickly create elevated risk. The 2025 data shows that this occupancy group remained one of the section’s most active inspection areas.

Construction-related fire and life safety inspections continued to support Spokane’s development activity. Fire Prevention personnel worked with contractors, design professionals, building owners, and other City departments to verify that fire protection systems, access features, life safety components, and permit-related requirements were properly installed and maintained. This work helps ensure that new construction, tenant improvements, and system modifications are completed in accordance with adopted codes and operational needs.

The section also supported safety for special events throughout the year. Special event inspections require coordination with event organizers, vendors, fire operations, city departments, and public safety partners. These inspections help address temporary structures, cooking



operations, occupant loads, emergency access, fuel use, electrical hazards, and other event-related risks. While special events are temporary, they often involve large public gatherings and require careful review to ensure a safe environment.

Operational permits and tank-related inspections also remained part of the section’s core workload. These inspection types are important because they often involve hazardous operations, fuel storage, regulated processes, or activities that may pose greater consequences if improperly managed. Fire Prevention personnel continued to evaluate these activities through inspections, consultations, permit reviews, and follow-up to ensure hazards were identified and corrected before they resulted in emergencies.

In addition to inspection activity, Fire Prevention personnel continued to provide consultation and complaint response services. These contacts are an important public service function because they allow residents, business owners, property managers, and other stakeholders to raise concerns, ask questions, and seek clarification before issues become larger enforcement problems. Complaint-based work also helps the department identify potential hazards that may not be captured through routine inspection cycles.

The Fire Prevention Section’s 2025 work demonstrates the continued importance of a proactive, risk-based fire prevention program. The section’s activity was not limited to counting inspections. Much of the work involved coordination, education, documentation, follow-up, technical review, and problem-solving with internal and external partners. Moving forward, the section will continue refining inspection priorities, improving communication with the community, strengthening consistency in enforcement practices, and supporting the City’s broader goals for public safety, responsible development, and community risk reduction.

FUEL REDUCTION



In 2025, the Spokane Fire Department’s Wildland Program accomplished 898 acres of fuel reduction and assisted with an additional 260 acres in the county. This work was completed across 14 different work units. Fuel reduction costs ranged from \$1,200 to \$1,700 per acre.

No new grants were received, but we made significant use of our 2022 Community Wildfire Defense Grant. We reapplied for the CWDG grant but were not awarded. The Spokane Fire Department benefited from substantial free labor, including hand crews and masticators, funded by the WA State Department of Natural Resources.

We continued to support the Spokane County Wildfire Mitigation Coalition (SCWMC), not only as an active partner but by taking on the chair position. This leadership role will likely increase the number of fuel-reduction projects and the acres treated in Spokane County.

Our ongoing collaboration with the SCWMC and other partners has been crucial to the City of Spokane’s success, providing additional funding, manpower, and equipment.



898
Acres of fuel reduction completed in 2025

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

In 2025, Spokane Fire Department’s Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Team continued working to keep our neighborhoods safer through prevention, education, and community partnerships.

Smoke & CO Alarm Safety:

960 smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were installed in high-risk homes across Spokane at no cost to residents.

Installations were completed through CRR staff, local fire stations, and a Smoke Alarm Installation Blitz on April 5, 2025, in the Hillyard neighborhood in partnership with American Red Cross.

During the blitz, 55 volunteers and partners visited 550 homes, installing 278 alarms in 80 households.

Community Events & Outreach:

CRR supported SFD’s presence at 40 community events, connecting residents with fire safety education, CPR awareness, and life safety resources.

Fire & Life Safety Education:

The CRR Team delivered **38 public fire and life safety presentations**, helping community members learn how to prevent emergencies and respond safely.

School Fire Safety Programs:

2,869 Spokane families in the City of Spokane were reached through SFD’s standardized elementary fire safety curriculum.

The program was taught in **196 first through fourth grade classrooms** at **19 elementary schools**, ensuring interactive, age-appropriate learning for every student.

Together with our community partners and residents, we are proud to continue building a safer Spokane—one home, one classroom, and one neighborhood at a time.



FACILITIES DIVISION

In 2025, the Facilities Division completed 325 work orders. Key workload drivers included plumbing, electrical, and general maintenance issues, with higher demand at select stations.

Workload Distribution

STA 1 (36) and STA 4 (32) had the highest activity. Training (23), STA 2 (20), STA 18 (19). Shop (1).

Maintenance Categories

Plumbing (53), Electrical (43), General (42), Appliances (30), HVAC (26), Bay Doors (27).

Key Operational Issue – Bay Doors

Bay doors (27 issues) represent a recurring operational concern and should be considered for preventative maintenance.

Facility Improvements & Initiatives

A landscaping face-lift was completed at Station 1 to improve exterior appearance and overall site conditions. In addition, a complete upgrade of the HVAC system at Station 1 was completed, significantly improving system reliability and performance. A department-wide assessment of exercise equipment was also conducted, and a proposal was submitted to the City for grant funding under the 2026 grant cycle to replace and upgrade cardio equipment across multiple stations.

Conclusion

The 2025 data reflects a consistent workload driven by core systems and high-use facilities. Strategic preventative maintenance and targeted upgrades will improve reliability and operational readiness.



SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Special Investigations Unit stayed busy in 2025 with large commercial fire incidents, serial wildland arson cases and training. As in previous years, the unit is staffed with three full-time investigators and four supplementals. SIU responded to all working fires in the city as well as numerous special requests by crews. Members of SIU are not sworn officers but rather experts in fire origin and cause. We work closely with city, state and federal law enforcement on criminal fires.

Unfortunately, we had 3 fatalities inside the city limits-

- 04/09/205 - 608 W. 27th, Lynn Zahniser - Hoarding conditions victim found near back door. Unable to determine exact cause of fire but it started in the living room.
- 08/25/25 - 811 S. Sherman, Damien Bonnet - Rescued from fire but later succumbed to his injuries. Fire caused by electrical overload on a power strip.
- 11/24/25 - 4030 W. Rowen, Jhasoni Wilson - Minor reportedly playing with a lighter /torch. Minor victim found in basement.

We worked with ISSAC Foundation to provide Special Education Students with fire safety training in schools and other venues

We assisted with instruction of a local fire investigator fundamentals course. It was attended by several members of the SFD, adding to the pool of applicants we have for future openings.

Wildland Arson took a toll on our community both inside and outside the city limits. Members of SIU worked with other investigators throughout the county and regularly got together to share intel. We worked closely with SPD on the Peoples Park serial arson case that ended in 2 arrests at the park.

SIU took a large reduction in their education and training budget in 2024 but managed to find federally funded courses to attend.

- NWCG Wildland Fire investigator
- NFA Electrical Fire Investigation
- EPA Lithium Battery Response
- New Mexico Tech Post Blast Course
- NFA remote Youth Fire Setter Program



2025	Fire Investigations
Incendiary	58
Accidental	73
Undetermined	37
Natural	0
Specials	24

COMMUNICATIONS / PUBLIC INFORMATION

Facebook

- Views: 7.25 million
- Interactions: 146,624
- Posts Published: 169

Instagram

- Views: 347,510
- Interactions: 6,526

*Views: The number of times SFD content was played or displayed.

*Interactions: The number of likes or reactions, saves, comments, shares, and replies to SFD content.

Incident Response

The Spokane Fire Information Officer responded to 48 incidents in 2025.

After-Action Review Videos Created

- February: CDA Apartments - 2nd Alarm High Rise Fire AAR
- April: MaxAmps Li Battery - 2nd Alarm Commercial Structure Fire
- May: Highway 2 - MVA Tech Rescue
- June: 27th Ave. - Fatal House Fire
- July: High Drive - Rope Rescue
- September: Havana - House Fire
- September: East Broad Ave - Fire
- November: Sherman - Rescue



Monthly Overhaul

· The Monthly Overhaul is a 30–60-minute internal video produced each month to keep employees informed on Executive Team priorities, highlight activities across department divisions, and provide a forum for employees to ask questions of department leadership outside the formal chain of command.

Volunteer Photographer Program

· This program was established in 2025 and is currently supported by one volunteer photographer credentialed to access emergency scenes under strict safety guidelines to capture images for department use. The volunteer also provides photography for crew photos, training events, and award ceremonies.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



The Emergency Medical Services Division is a cornerstone of the Spokane Fire Department’s operations, consisting of an Administrative Battalion Chief, two Medical Service Officers, and our Physician Advisor. Spokane Fire Department Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics continue to provide quality care to people suffering from life threatening conditions. This includes caring for people who suffer sudden cardiac arrest, heart attack, stroke, and major trauma. The Spokane Fire Department works collaboratively with local hospital systems (Providence and MultiCare) to provide patients experiencing these conditions with the best possible, evidence-based care.

2025 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Expanded Behavioral Response Unit (BRU) hours** through continued collaboration and support, including Spokane County behavioral health funding, increased the availability of specialized behavioral health response and improved access to care during peak demand periods.
- **Expanded Buprenorphine reach**, supporting life-saving and harm reduction efforts and strengthening linkage to treatment for individuals experiencing opioid use disorder.
- **Continued delivery of high-volume, high-acuity emergency medical services across Spokane**, with a strong focus on patient outcomes, rapid response, and community health.

BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE UNIT (BRU): SPECIALIZED CARE IN THE FIELD

The Behavioral Response Unit completed 979 total responses, focusing on behavioral health crises, substance use emergencies, and individuals with complex social and medical needs.

BRU PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Expanded operating hours**, supported in part through Spokane County behavioral health funding, allowing for increased coverage and improved access to behavioral health expertise.
- **Second Mental Health Provider hired**, our new provider is a Substance Use Disorder Professional



EMS STATISTICS

TOTAL EMS CALLS	41,475
ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT CALLS	24,792
BASIC LIFE SUPPORT CALLS	13,346
TRAUMATIC VS MEDICAL	9,143 vs 32,063
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS (MVAS)	2,799
OPIOID OVERDOSE INCIDENTS	2,785
CARDIAC ARREST CALLS	1,950

CARES TEAM

The Spokane Fire Department CARES Team is a long-standing social work program designed to support fire department personnel while helping community members access essential services. Established in 2008, the CARES Team provides critical 911 follow-up services, bridging the gap between emergency response and longer-term community care.

Many referrals to the CARES Team stem from concerns related to aging and complex health needs, including declining health, decreased mobility, chronic disease management, difficulty performing activities of daily living, and other medical or social challenges. The CARES Team works with some of the most vulnerable individuals and families across the City and County of Spokane, often serving people who face barriers to accessing traditional systems of care.

Expanding CARES: Opioid Overdose Response

In 2025, the Spokane Fire Department CARES Team implemented an opioid overdose response program that extends well beyond the initial 911 call. Leveraging opioid settlement dollars, this initiative created a comprehensive community intervention focused on follow-up, connection, and prevention.

The CARES Team now has three full-time positions dedicated to the Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Outreach Program, which launched in Fall 2025. Through this program, the CARES Team:

- Conducts outreach to every household where an opioid-related overdose occurred, with the goal of providing naloxone (Narcan), offering support, and sharing treatment information.
- Provides targeted street outreach in areas experiencing overdoses to distribute Narcan and connect individuals to available services.
- Distributed Narcan to 57 individuals through overdose-related outreach efforts.

This proactive, harm-reduction approach prioritizes safety, dignity, and access to care, recognizing that follow-up and prevention are essential components of saving lives.

Growing Demand and Community Impact

The CARES Team provides short-term, wrap-around stabilization services to support individuals and families during periods of crisis. Services include facilitating connections to primary care, mental health or substance use disorder treatment, temporary shelter, housing applications, and access to resources that meet basic needs.

Demand for CARES services continues to grow. In 2025, referrals from first responders increased by 22% compared to the previous year. Since 2022, total referrals to the CARES Team have increased by 47%, reflecting both community need and trust in the program.

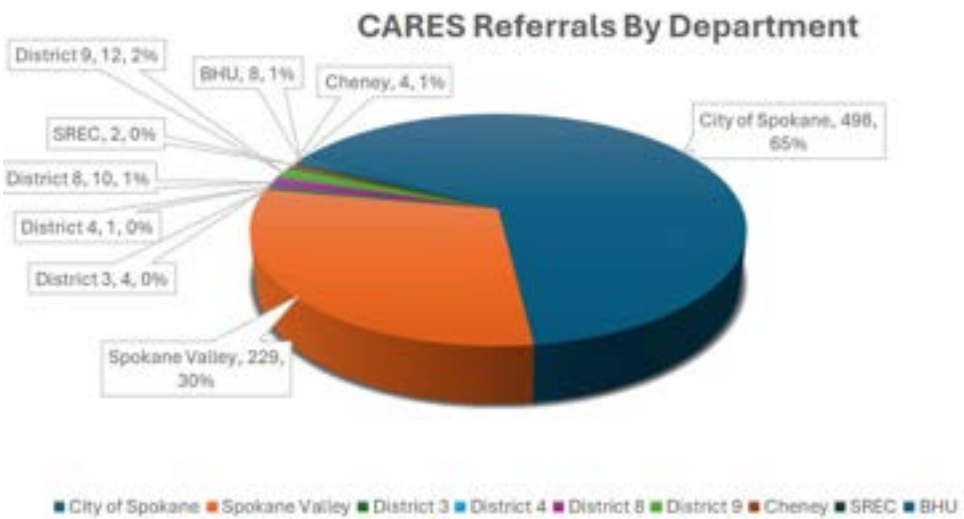


In 2025, the CARES Team:

- Received **769 referrals** from Spokane Fire Department EMS providers
- Completed **1,520 home visits**
- Worked with **422 individuals or families** to connect them to services or resources
- Provided resources that allowed vulnerable community members to remain in their homes in a stable, safe, and healthy environment
- Received **71 referrals** from the Behavioral Response Unit (BRU)
- Benefited from **4,174 volunteer hours** contributed by social work students

Measuring Effectiveness

To evaluate the effectiveness of CARES interventions, the team tracks 911 utilization for three months after a referral is closed. CARES staff compare 911 call activity from the three months prior to engagement with the three months following case closure, allowing the program to assess outcomes and continually refine its approach to community-based crisis intervention.



3 MONTH POST CLOSURE 911 CALL REDUCTIONS			
	Average 911 Calls Pre-Cares	Average 911 Calls Post-Cares Closure	Reduction in Calls
2025 Q1	4.03	1.2	70.02%
2025 Q2	3.27	.93	71.6%
2025 Q3	2.19	2.19	40.2%
2025 Q4	1.01	1.01	68.8%

SFD HISTORY

August 24, 1884- SFD was first organized as a volunteer department with the first reading of the ordinance creating the fire department for the City of Spokane Falls presented on October 1, 1884. The first companies were hose carts that weighed nearly 1500 pounds and were pushed by hand through the streets by the firefighters, Rescue Hose No. 1 and Spokane Hose No. 2.

1887- The Tiger Hook and Ladder Company was added to the volunteer fire department.

September 14, 1888- As the town's population neared 12,000, a fire destroyed 22 businesses in the town center at Howard and Main.

1888- The first fire company on the north side of the river was formed, the Washington Hose Company

August 4, 1889- The Great Fire of 1889 burned the entire business district, including two of the three hose companies' firehouses.

December 18, 1889- An ordinance establishes a full-time paid fire department, creating a force of 26 firefighters, two chief officers, and an annual budget of \$33,000. The first firefighters worked 24 hours a day, six days a week, and were allowed to be with their families on the seventh day.

December 1896- All the apparatus in the city was now horse-drawn.

1897- The first overhead and underground signal systems for both fire and police were installed, and by 1899, there were 42 fire alarm boxes in the city.

January 24, 1898- The most devastating fire in PNW history at that time occurred at the Great Eastern Building in downtown Spokane. Over 150 people were asleep in the building when the fast-moving fire erupted, killing one man, four women, and three young girls.

June 1910- The department purchases six pieces of motorized apparatus, the first of their type in the region and the first fire trucks introduced to the department.

1914- The two-platoon staffing model was developed, increasing the department's size to 192. The system was repealed by voters later that year, forcing the firefighters back to a single-platoon system in 1915.

1916-1917- Local No. 29 is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and the International Association of Firefighters, established to represent Spokane firefighters.

July 10, 1917- The end of the horse-drawn era was over, as the last horse was retired from service at Station 6. Over half of the fire autos in service during this time were hand-built by Spokane Firefighters.

1918- The firefighter's work week was changed to seven days on and two days off.

1927- A second shift platoon was established, allowing firefighters to work one day on and off.

1933 - 1940 - Monthly efficiency tests for firefighters were mandated. New fire codes authorized mandatory fire drills for downtown businesses, schools, and factories that employed people who worked above two levels or in basements.



1936- The department's Inhalator Squad saved 27 lives. Fire inspections number 22,795 buildings this year.

1948- The Inhalator Squad responded to 292 calls for service and was responsible for saving the lives of 47 children under 15. The department also began to focus on teaching fire prevention.

1955 to 1971- The department grows from 14 stations with 230 firefighters to 17 stations and 320 firefighters. The training and fire prevention programs during this time were considered top-notch. 1955

1958- A three-platoon shift schedule is implemented.

1971 to 1981—Key achievements include an accelerated training program, fire prevention efforts, a company survey, involvement in the national EMS program with paramedics, a Class 2 Fire Insurance Rating, upgraded apparatus and safety equipment, a new headquarters station and administrative office, county-wide hazardous materials plans, and the promotion of the 911 telephone system.

July 1981- The department consisted of 337 firefighters.

1989- Voters approved the largest fire bond in the city's history, totaling \$14.95 million, which provided essential funding for upgrading fire apparatus and modernizing the city's 14 fire stations. As a result, nine stations were rebuilt, eight relocated, and five remodeled. The new fire apparatus were ordered in a red and white color scheme, replacing the previous yellow. Additionally, the bond enabled the purchase of the fire training grounds and the city's first Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

September 1989- History was made when Sherryl Dodge, Tammy Tibbles, and Andrea Walters became the first women to become permanent firefighters in the department, leading the way for many others to follow.

October 1992- The Children's Fire Safety House is dedicated to teaching children basic fire safety skills.

January 1993- A four-platoon shift schedule is implemented.

January 1, 1998- The Combined Communications Center (CCC) began providing service from the SFD dispatch center for all county fire agencies.

1999- With the expiration of the 1989 bond, voters approved a new \$21.4 million measure, enabling SFD to acquire eleven fire engines, a 100' aerial ladder truck, a rescue unit, a HAZMAT unit, and several brush trucks. The funding also covered new personal protective equipment and thermal imaging cameras. To address rising call volumes, Station 18 was relocated further north, while Station 4 was moved to the entrance of Browne's Addition for better access to I-90 and to accommodate a new tillered ladder and expanding technical rescue resources.

April 1, 2000- Spokane's Insurance Rating has been downgraded from a Class 2 to a Class 3, ending 20 years with a higher rating. This change resulted from reductions in fire stations, staffed apparatus, and on-duty personnel.

Late 2003- A 16,000 sq ft training center is built for firefighters.

2004- The new Combined Communications Building (CCB) was opened as SFD took on its new role of providing fire and EMS dispatch services throughout the county. The building combined the CCC, Spokane Police dispatch, SCSO dispatch, and 9-1-1 call takers.

2004- With the previous six-year EMS levy expiring, citizens passed another levy again, saving 60 positions.

2005- Budget cuts force the layoffs of 29 firefighters, one year after losing 12 positions.

2012- Fire Station 6, which serves the West Plains, opens.

2015 - Fire and EMS service to the Latah Valley is enhanced with the opening of Station 5.

2020 - The COVID-19 pandemic presents significant challenges to the department.

2024- Julie O'Berg, who had previously served for four years as the Operations Chief, was promoted as the fire woman to lead the SFD.

October 2025- Julie O'Berg retired from the SFD. Tom Williams was promoted as the Fire Chief.

LINE OF DUTY DEATHS



Captain George T. Chapman Badge No. N/A Age: 27
Hired: May 25, 1890
Capt. Chapman tragically lost his life in a training accident at Station 2. While practicing various climbing angles on the aerial ladder, he reached the top with the ladder set at a low angle. He fell 63 feet, suffering an instantaneous fatal neck fracture. At the time of his passing, Capt. Chapman had served for four years with the SFD.



Fireman John F. Lynch Badge No. 29 Died: Age: 33
Hired: June 30, 1897 **Died: October 3, 1902**
Fireman Lynch, a member of the Spokane Fire Brigade, took part in a demonstration at the Fire Chiefs Convention in Victoria, BC. During the exercise, he was secured alongside another firefighter as they attempted to pass a pompier ladder to a window on the building's second floor. Tragically, they slipped, and Fireman Lynch was crushed upon impact, dying instantly, while the other firefighter sustained only minor injuries. He was a man of some means but liked the life of the fireman and was known for giving half his salary to charity. At the time of his passing, Fireman Lynch had served for five years with the SFD and was assigned to Wagon 3. He was unmarried and had no children.



Fireman Herman A. "Bud" Mero Badge No. 20 Age: 35
Hired: July 26, 1894 **Died: March 6, 1905**
Fireman Mero, serving as the Assistant Department Electrician, assisted the Lead Electrician with removing motors from a water tank on Cooks Hill when a chain they were using became stuck. As he bent down to free it, he slipped and fell 45 feet, landing on his head. Though he remained conscious for several hours, he later passed away at Sacred Heart Hospital. At the time of his death, Fireman Mero had served the department for eleven years and was survived by his wife and their three-year-old son.



Fireman Henry J. Maynard Badge No. N/A Age: 28
Hired: April 1909 **Died: July 25, 1909**
Fireman Maynard had been with the department for just three months when he was tragically killed while responding to a fire alarm at the Gandy Hotel, located at Sprague and Washington. On the way to the scene, Hose Wagon 5, where Maynard was assigned, followed closely behind Hook and Ladder 1. As they reached the corner of First and Lincoln, the horses pulling Ladder 1 slipped and fell. The driver of Hose Wagon 5 attempted to swerve, but there was no time or space to avoid a collision, and the wagon struck the back of Ladder 1. Maynard, riding on the side of the Hose Wagon, was crushed against the ladders. He suffered a severe gash to his side and a crushed pelvis. Despite his injuries, he remained conscious until his death an hour and a half later at the hospital. At the time of his passing, Maynard's wife was pregnant with their first child.



Truckman Everett G. Deardorf Badge No. N/A Died: Age: 32
Hired: January 1914 **Died: September 21, 1914**
Truckman Deardorf had been with the department for just nine months and was assigned to Truck 9 when he lost his life during a ladder training exercise at the Auditorium Building, located at Post and Main. While practicing with a pompier ladder alongside another firefighter, they descended the building and reached about twenty feet above the ground when the ladder suddenly tipped sideways. Unable to steady it, the other firefighter watched helplessly as Deardorf fell, striking his head on the sidewalk. He was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to a skull fracture about an hour later. His wife and their five-year-old child survived him.



Lieutenant Warren S. Willis Badge No. N/A Died: Age: 34
Hired: 1909 or 1910 **Died: January 11, 1920**
Warren Willis, a Lieutenant at Station 5 in the "new" City Hall, was on duty when Alarm Operator Thomas O'Rourke heard a loud thud around 12:30 a.m. on the apparatus floor. Upon investigating, O'Rourke discovered Lieutenant Willis lying at the bottom of the sliding pole. He was quickly rushed to the hospital located on the fourth floor of City Hall but tragically passed away just ten minutes later. Reports indicated that Willis had walked to the lavatory and accidentally stepped through the pole hole, unable to see it in the darkness. He was survived by his wife.



Fireman William A. Hutchinson Badge No. N/A Age: 26
Hired: 1920 **Died: May 3, 1924**
William Hutchinson, a four-year department veteran, was assigned to Station 4. Unmarried and living with his parents, he was called into action for the largest fire since the Great Fire of 1889, burning at the McGoldrick Lumber Yard on 903 East Broadway. The fire had escalated to a general alarm, requiring all available pumpers. Hutchinson was sent with a crew to Station 1 to retrieve an old steam pumper and bring it to the scene. Steering the steamer, which was being towed by another fire truck, Hutchinson turned onto Trent at the Schade Brewery. As they turned, the steamer's iron wheels skidded and struck the curb. The steamer wobbled for about forty feet before tipping over. Hutchinson was thrown ten feet and hit his head. He never regained consciousness and later died at Sacred Heart Hospital.



Alarm Operator Charles O. Bunnell Badge No. N/A Age: 44
Hired: 1918 **Died: October 6, 1930**
Charles Bunnell had worked on the Alarm Board before moving to Station 5. Truckman Phil Lohrey discovered Operator Bunnell in the Alarm Room in what appeared to be a dying condition. He was quickly rushed to the hospital, where he passed away. The cause of death was later determined to be a heart attack. Alarm Operator Bunnell had twelve years of service with the SFD and was survived by his wife and three children- two boys and a girl.



Fireman Thomas E. Sparrow Badge No. 93 Died: Age: 54
Hired: July 23, 1920 **Died: July 13, 1939**
Thomas Sparrow was assigned as a Hoseman on Engine 16, which had responded to a house fire at 3918 North Howard. While the crew was at the scene, Fireman Sparrow was sent a block away to make a hose connection. Upon returning, he collapsed. Despite efforts by the inhalator crew, who worked on him for half an hour, he could not be revived. It was reported that he had been exposed to heavy smoke before performing his work outside. The cause of death was later determined to be heart failure. At the time of his death, Fireman Sparrow had 19 years of service with the Spokane Fire Department and lived with his wife and two sons in North Spokane.



Alarm Operator Jesse L. Booher Badge No. 58 Age: 53
Hired: December 26, 1917 **Died: February 25, 1942**
In 1938, Fireman Booher, having been overcome by smoke during a fire, developed severe heart complications and was reassigned to the Alarm Board. On the day of his passing, four years later, he reported feeling unwell earlier in the day. Tragically, he was found deceased at his post that afternoon. He was dedicated to the department for 25 years and was survived by his wife in North Spokane and one son.



Captain Walter F. Gustafson Badge No. 75 Age: 49
Hired: November 17, 1919 **Died: December 27, 1944**
Captain Gustafson of Fire Station 7 responded with his crew to a second alarm at the Grimmer-Lomax Warehouse, located at Wall and Railroad Avenue. Amid heavy smoke, he was last seen alongside his team, advancing a hose line to the fifth floor. When the smoke finally cleared, Captain Gustafson was found near the top of the fifth-floor stairwell. He tragically succumbed to smoke inhalation. Captain Gustafson had dedicated 25 years of service to the SFD when he passed away. He was survived by his wife, who resided in Northwest Spokane, and their two sons.



Alarm Superintendent George T. Stewart Badge No. 272Hired: Age: 39
June 1, 1943 **Died: February 2, 1947**
George Stewart was responsible for maintaining and repairing the fire department's alarm system. During a severe windstorm, a power line fell at 17th and Fisk, landing across the alarm system's wiring. While working to safely reposition the power line and protect those in the area, he accidentally contacted the 2,350-volt line and tragically lost his life. Despite the inhalator crew's swift efforts, they could not revive him.

Superintendent Stewart served the Spokane Fire Department for five years. He was survived by his wife and their five children, who lived on the South Hill.



Captain Leonard W. Doyle Badge No. 204 Age: 37
Hired: December 10, 1941 **Died: June 2, 1956**
While serving as the Station 4 Captain, Captain Doyle and his crew responded to a fire at a shoe store on the street level of the Peyton Building — a blaze that eventually escalated to a third alarm. As Captain Doyle and six other firefighters advanced a hose line into the fire, the floor suddenly gave way, sending them plunging into the basement. Tragically, Captain Doyle was crushed beneath a falling safe. Seventeen firefighters were hospitalized, while twenty-five others received treatment at the scene for smoke inhalation.

Captain Doyle had served 15 years with the department at the time of his death and was survived by his wife and four children, who lived on South Hill.



Firefighter Leroy A. Mackey Badge No. 489 Age: 36
Hired: June 13, 1956 **Died: January 14, 1966**
Firefighter Mackey, assigned to Station 4, joined the department to fill the position left by Captain Doyle, who had tragically died a decade earlier. During a basement fire at Saad's Shoe Store at Main and Wall, Mackey and his crew descended into the basement, only to be met with a sudden surge of fire. As the flames intensified, two crews attempted to evacuate using ladders. Amid the thick smoke and heat, one firefighter fell, causing a chain reaction that knocked others down and left several disoriented. Despite his fellow firefighters' efforts to rescue him, Mackey could not be revived and was pronounced dead at the hospital. He had served with the department for ten years and was survived by his wife and their four daughters, all residents of Spokane.



Captain Robert G. Hanna Badge No. 538 Died: Age: 47
Hired: January 1, 1958 **Died: March 3, 1980**
Captain Hanna, assigned to Ladder 7, was among the many firefighters battling the largest fire Spokane had seen in over 30 years at the Zukor Building. While positioned in the ladder's bucket alongside Firefighter Bob Green, he worked to direct water into the smoldering ruins. Tragically, the front of the building collapsed, sending debris crashing down on both men. Captain Hanna was rushed to Sacred Heart Hospital, accompanied by his son, Firefighter Robert Hanna, but he succumbed to his head injuries. Firefighter Green was also hospitalized for his injuries. Captain Hanna dedicated 22 years of service to the SFD. His wife and three sons survived him. His son, Robert Hanna, later retired as a deputy chief.



Firefighter Paul J. Heidenreich Badge No. 878 Age: 27
Hired: January 19, 1981 **Died: September 12, 1982**
On the night of the Tri-State fire, Firefighter Heidenreich was assigned to Snorkel 1 and tasked with cutting roof ventilation holes. After his crew had opened the skylight, they discovered a large fire below them. The roof collapsed beneath them as they tried to return to their ladder. Firefighters Weldon Wolfe and Jim McNamee were able to cling to the wall for a moment before falling into the flames. Simultaneously, Heidenreich fell directly into the fire and was buried under debris. In a remarkable effort, Wolfe and McNamee, along with the assistance of other firefighters on the scene, managed to escape through a window in the wall. Meanwhile, another crew attempted to advance a hoseline into the blaze to locate Paul, but the fire was too intense, and his body remained hidden. He was found several hours later. During this time, eight other firefighters sustained injuries, with Firefighter Wolfe suffering additional burns when he returned to search for Heidenreich. At his death, Firefighter Heidenreich had served with the Spokane Fire Department for just eighteen months. He was unmarried and had no children.



Firefighter John Knighten Badge No. 1046 Age: 45
Hired: March 28, 1994 **Died: June 30, 2013**
On January 2, 2010, Firefighter John Knighten began experiencing breathing difficulties while on duty and was transported to the hospital. Doctors determined that his airway had closed due to a severe infection known as epiglottitis, leading to a seven-day stay in the ICU. Further tests revealed that John was also battling multiple my-eloma, an aggressive form of blood plasma cancer. Despite his challenges, Firefighter Knighten fought courageously against this occupationally related cancer for more than three years before passing away. At the time of his death, he had proudly served the SFD for 19 years and left behind his wife and three daughters.





Chapter 35.103 RCW: Revised Code of Washington Chapter 35.103 was passed into law during the 2005 legislative session (House Bill 1756). This law mandated certain response criteria be established and measured by fire departments across the State of Washington beginning in 2007 with an analysis of responses in 2006. The requirement was passed and is now the law for all substantially career fire departments. The purpose of this law is to report to the Governing Body of each fire jurisdiction, as well as to the residents of any given area, how the fire department is doing in meeting its established emergency response standards. These standards take into consideration a number of response types: A) Fire Suppression, B) Emergency Medical Services - Basic Life Support (BLS), C) Emergency Medical Services - Advanced Life Support (ALS), D) Special Operations (i.e. Hazardous Materials response and Technical Rescue response), E) Aircraft rescue and firefighting, F) Marine rescue and firefighting, G) Wildland firefighting.

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