Spokane Police Department

October 2026 Report

Excerpts of Commendations

(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

Dear Spokane Police Department, I wanted to send a note to say thank you for the way your officers handled themselves during the Old Trails Fire and the evacuations around Five Mile. Like a lot of people, I was displaced from my home and pretty stressed about what was going on. My main contact with law enforcement was with the Spokane Police officers working the checkpoints going up Five Mile. I was impressed with them. Whenever I asked a question, I got a straight answer. More than that, the officers seemed to understand that the people coming to those checkpoints were worried about their homes, their belongings, their pets, and what might happen next. They treated people like people. There were a lot of agencies involved in this fire, including the Spokane County Sheriff's Office and the National Guard, and I certainly appreciate everything they did as well. But my personal dealings were mostly with Spokane Police, and your officers stood out to me. They were professional, but they also showed some common sense, patience, and humanity at a time when people really needed it.

Today, after Evac Level 3 was lifted on 5 Mile, I got a chance to see just how destructive the fire was during a drive around the plateau. I would have made all the same calls, there's only 5 (no pun) ways up and down from here. And the last thing we would need is to be trapped like rats on a burning ship because we couldn't get past one another. I'm just a retired accountant who has been lucky enough to have a good place to live in Spokane, and this experience reminded me how fortunate we are to have good people serving this community.

I would like to formally recognize and commend **Officer William Dowsing**, Badge 1514, of the Spokane Police Department for his exceptional professionalism, composure, and assistance during the evacuation of the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center on August 1, 2026. As a rapidly developing wildfire emergency resulted in a regional Level 3 evacuation order, the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center was faced with an extraordinary challenge—the complete evacuation of a medical center during a fast-moving and highly complex emergency. The situation required immediate coordination, sound judgment, and an unwavering focus on the safety of Veterans, employees, and responding personnel.

During this critical period, Officer Dowsing proved to be an immeasurable asset. His calm, level-headed demeanor provided stability in an otherwise chaotic environment. He approached each challenge with professionalism, confidence, and a clear sense of purpose, assisting our team as we worked through the unprecedented task of safely evacuating the medical center. Officer Dowsing's presence and actions reflected exactly what public safety professionals should bring to a crisis: composure under pressure, sound judgment, a willingness to assist wherever needed, and a genuine commitment to protecting others. At a time when circumstances were changing

rapidly and the consequences of delay or confusion could have been significant, his steady demeanor helped bring order and reassurance to an exceptionally difficult situation.

The complete evacuation of the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center represented a historic event for the Spokane region and required close cooperation among healthcare personnel, emergency management, law enforcement, fire services, transportation partners, and numerous other agencies. Officer Dowsing distinguished himself through his contributions to that effort and demonstrated the value of strong interagency partnership during a major community emergency. His conduct reflected great credit upon himself, the Spokane Police Department, and the City of Spokane. His actions exemplified professionalism, public service, and dedication to duty, and they contributed meaningfully to the safe evacuation of our Veterans and staff.

On behalf of the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center, I extend my sincere appreciation to Officer Dowsing for his outstanding support during one of the most significant emergency events our facility has faced. His efforts will not be forgotten, and I respectfully request that his exceptional service during this incident be formally recognized.

2026 Officer-Involved Shootings

From January 1 – August 31, 2026, there were two deadly force incidents.

Incident FD26-001 / 2026-20035543:
The incident took place on February 24, 2026, in the 1800 block of West Carlisle Avenue. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response team (SIIR) conducted the investigation. The SIIR team is comprised of multiple agencies in Eastern Washington including the Spokane County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Patrol, and the Spokane Police Department. The investigation is with the Prosecutor's Office.

Incident FD26-002/ 2026-20094413:
The incident took place on May 21, 2026, in the 2000 block of North Cincinnati Street. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response team (SIIR) will conduct the investigation. The SIIR team is comprised of multiple agencies in Eastern Washington including the Spokane County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Patrol, and the Spokane Police Department.

SPD Officers and Volunteers in the Community

SPD Officers and Volunteers Help People Affected by Fires
In response to the Spokane Complex Fire, Marine Corps Toys for Tots contacted the Spokane Police Department and asked if they could send comfort bags with some supplies to the department for distribution to children impacted by the fires. Given the time of year, the Spokane

Police Foundation contributed additional school supplies to the bags. SPD was happy to hand out the bags to students affected by the fires.

Below, SPD Academy recruits prepare bags of supplies.



Lt. Steve Braun hands out bags to elementary students.



Crisis Assistance Program

Through a partnership with the Spokane Police Foundation, Spokane Police officers can access emergency funds to help individuals and families they encounter through their work. At the time of this report, the program was used 15 times so far this year.

Here are a few examples of the Crisis Assistance Fund in use. Officers purchased:

- Fuel for an older veteran who had lost everything.
- Clothing for a victim whose clothing needed to be taken as evidence.
- Bus pass for a victim to reunite with family on the other side of the state.
- Groceries for a family.
- School supplies for a child in need.
- A new key for a vehicle that had been stolen.

SPD cannot share details or stories of the individuals and families helped by officers through the program, but the details are often very humbling. One individual gave us permission to share her story. Her vehicle was stolen. She was so happy when it was recovered, as she is a single mom without another form of transportation. However, it was found in very bad condition. Officers got the car cleaned and serviced and filled her gas tank. She is pictured with her family here.



Above, a family who received help from the Crisis Assistance Program poses with Officer Austin Neale.

Spokane Police Activities League (PAL) Shop with a Cop

Spokane Police officers and volunteers enjoyed two “Shop with a Cop” events with participants from the 2026 Police Activities League (PAL) season on September 12 and 13, 2026. Thank you to Dick’s Sporting Goods (North and Valley locations) for your generosity and excellence! The Spokane Police Foundation and Baker Construction also donated funds for the participants. Children affected by the Spokane fire were also part of the shopping experience.



Above, PAL participants with Kelsey Reid from Dick’s Sporting Goods (North), Officer Jen Kerns, and Sergeant Teresa Fuller.



Above, PAL participants with Spokane Police Foundation Board member Lorraine Holokai and Chief Kevin Hall.





Above left, PAL participants with Kelsey Reid and Captain Nate Speiring. Above right, PAL participant with Assistant Chief Dave Singley.

Spokane Police Cadet and Explorer Leadership Recognized for Excellence

Captain Richards, Officer Yen and Officer Storch received the Distinguished Service Medal for outstanding sustained and exemplary performance, along with diligence and devotion to duty pertaining to the department's Explorer and Cadet Program.

Captain Richards has been involved with the program since 1987. Captain Richards has been a Washington Law Enforcement Explorer Advisors (WLEEA) advisor since 2016 and was their Secretary from 1996-2004. Captain Richards has mentored many current officers, as well as many who have retired.

Officers Yen and Storch began their careers with the department as Cadets. Officer Yen began as an Explorer Advisor in 2016 and has been a WLEEA member since 2015. He has been the Secretary since 2018. Officer Storch has been an Advisor since 2013 and has been involved with WLEEA since 2018.

Below, Officer John Yen, Captain Dave Richards, Officer Deanna Storch, and Chief Kevin Hall stand together.



The success of the program is directly related to the involvement of these three amazing and dedicated officers. A mother of one of the Cadets recently wrote, “We as parents are thankful for how the SPD is pouring into our son. We are so thankful for Officer Yen and Officer Storch for imparting their wisdom from years of service into the next generation of young people (and specifically into our son). We have seen him come alive this last year due to being part of the Cadet program… We are thankful for the SPD, especially Officer Yen and Officer Storch for running such an amazing program and pouring their hearts and lives into young people, all while still working a full-time job with SPD.”

“Serving our community with Integrity, Professionalism, and Compassion”