Spokane Police Department

Strategic Initiatives
September 2026 Report

Excerpts of Commendations regarding the Fires

(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)

Your outstanding officers NEVER quit providing us with updates, protection, notifications, and super outstanding patrols at this time of fire disasters. I live on N. Five Mile, and your outstanding personnel were continuing to drive by, knock on my door, and stop with updates. Needless to say, I am very blessed and thankful for all of these outstanding officers!!!!!

I meant to give a positive shout out to an **Officer [Samuel] Canty** of the SPD for an amazing act of kindness earlier this week. Like so many other residents of Northwest Spokane, our family had to quickly evacuate from our home this past Saturday afternoon, while grabbing bare essentials on our way out of the house. Our daughter and friends left through the front door that we forgot to latch behind her before leaving through our garage. The darn latch doesn't catch all the way sometimes, so our front door must have blown over due to the heavy winds sometime between Saturday and Monday afternoon. Officer Canty and his partner were doing safety checks of our neighborhoods in Five Mile Prairie (and checking for any looting) and came across our house with the door wide open. They tracked down our phone numbers and called us multiple times (including my brother's number and one of our neighbors, left messages until they got a hold of us. They asked permission to enter our house, checked it all out and then called me back to tell me that everything was untouched. They even offered to grab anything we needed while they were there and then locked up the house so it was completely secure. Officer Canty even offered to meet me across town after his shift was over to get us a prescription that we left at the house in our scramble to evacuate. I just have to say this was the most amazing interaction, thoughtful and unexpected, and it helped put our minds at ease when our house was okay, when so many people we know have lost everything they owned. Huge thanks and respect for the amazing service our SPD and Officer Canty and his partner provide for our city. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I would be remiss if I did not bring to your favorable attention **Officer Will Dowsing** who was manning the checkpoint on 5 Mile Road. This fine young Officer represented the SPD and himself extremely well!! He was professional, courteous and careful to explain "why" the roadblock had been set up to residents wishing to drive through the barricade to check on their homes and retrieve items forgotten or overlooked during the chaotic Level 3 Evacuation last Sunday. His calm and thoughtful demeanor de-escalated what might have become confrontational interactions with "stressed out" residents of 5 Mile Prairie communities. He, like so many of your Officers, was doing a thankless job in the heat and smoke under the most trying of circumstances and Officer Dowsing did it … superbly.

2026 Officer-Involved Shootings

From January 1 – July 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) 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.

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 in the Community

Community Celebration
The Way to Justice's Community Celebration took place on August 8, 2026. SPD enjoyed interacting with the community.



Above, Chief Kevin Hall and Reserve Officer Balinda Kizombo pose with participants.

Unity in the Community
SPD officers and volunteers enjoyed being part of Unity in the Community on August 15, 2026.



Above, Reserve Officer Mat Allen shows a child a patrol car.



Above, officers pose with participants at the event.

SPD Youth Volunteers Recognized at Explorer Academy

SPD's young volunteers attended the Explorer Academy in August. The state Academy is held by the Washington Law Enforcement Exploring Advisors. Our volunteers represented Spokane beautifully and distinguished themselves in many ways.

Amanda Dettner (3rd time attending):
2nd place Advanced Firearms
2nd place Advanced Female Physical Agility
2nd place Advanced Overall

Knox Kolbe (2nd time attending):
2nd place Intermediate Male Physical Agility

Gema Kolbe (1st time attending):
Patrol Partner Award for her platoon



Above, SPD Volunteers Knox Kolbe, Gema Kolbe, Amanda Dettner, and Lucas Meyer at the Explorer Academy.

Spokane Police Activities League (PAL) Wrap-Up

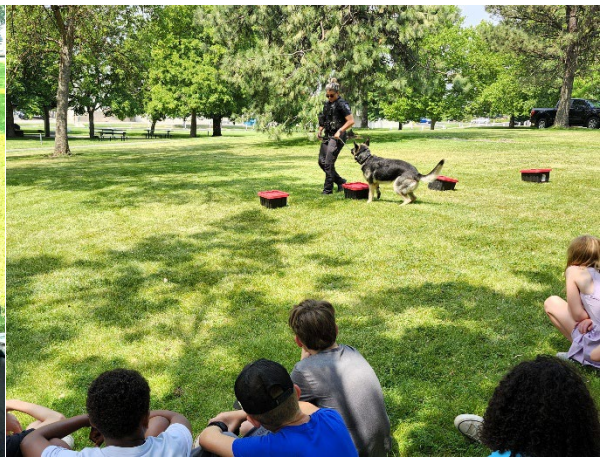
The 2026 Police Activities League (PAL) was a huge hit! PAL is an outreach program created in 2013 to help build trusting relationships between youth and local law enforcement. Each summer, the PAL program offers fun, structured activities for youth, with opportunities to make friends and memories at their local parks.

This year, 275 unduplicated youth were served, a 37.5% increase from the summer before.



Above, youth are recognized for going the extra mile to clean up and take down after activities.

This year our PAL program included activities like roller skating at the Pattison's North Skating Center, a partnership with Generation Alive, bowling at Lilac Lanes, and fun at the parks! PAL is a collaborative program of the Spokane Police Foundation, Spokane Parks Department, YMCA, local community centers, and many other organizations working together. Support from the Spokane Parks Foundation, Numerica Credit Union, RESCU Credit Union, and Baker Construction have been instrumental in PAL's success. Community volunteers from these organizations, plus Garco Construction, Providence, ESD 101, make PAL possible. SPD volunteers such as Chaplains, Cadets, and Reserve Officers also help with the program.

Above left, children learn about the Traffic Unit. Above right, Officer Tiffany Austin teaches kids about her K9 Bruin, who is an Explosive Detection dog.

The PAL program takes a holistic approach to crime prevention, focusing on reducing drug and gang involvement, as well as making positive decisions. Throughout the season, youth participants focus on five core values: honesty, integrity, leadership, sportsmanship and respect.




Above left, kids from the YMCA are recognized for their great behavior. Above right, kids from West Central Community Center are recognized.

These participants from PAL will be attending a Shop with a Cop event, thanks to the Spokane Police Foundation, Baker Construction, Dick's Sporting Goods, and Walmart. These kids showed the core values throughout the program.





Above left, various officers, SPD professional staff, an SPD Chaplain, a Foundation board member, and community volunteers celebrate the last day. Above right, three officers who helped with PAL.



Above, PAL participants with officers and volunteers on the last day of PAL.

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