

Chatham Fire Department 2025 Year in Review



**Our Team Makes
A Difference**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Chatham Fire Department exists to provide exceptional fire protection, emergency medical care and protection from other disasters to the citizens of the Chatham Fire Protection District. We will accomplish this through training, prevention, and dedication to our customers.

VISION STATEMENT

We shall provide a high level of customer service by protecting life, property, and the environment through the delivery of compassionate, innovative, fiscally responsible fire-fighting, rescue, fire prevention, and emergency medical services. As the core service of the district, we are committed to protecting our customers, families, and our colleagues, from all hazards known and unknown.

VALUES

We will always protect life and property with these core values

Honesty: Trust from our customers is never taken for granted. We will always strive to maintain that trust.

Innovation: We will use the latest techniques and technology to provide the best possible outcome for our customers.

Leadership: Leading through the courage to act when needed to protect life and property. Leading with professionalism, dedication, and competence always

Teamwork: We will work together to accomplish our mission and protect those we serve

Compassion: We will always treat as we want treated. Always be nice.

Department History

Organized in 1928, the Chatham Fireman's' Association, followed by the Chatham Fire Department has provided continuous firefighting service to the citizens of the Village of Chatham and the Chatham Community Fire Protection District.

2025 Highlights

- **CFD was able to hire 4 new firefighters along with three new volunteer members**
- **Engine one was delivered**
- **The training division continued with many hands-on and live fire programs**
- **Many members celebrated milestones and lifesaving awards**



A Message from the Chief

To the Trustees and citizens of the Chatham Community Fire Protection District:

I respectfully present the Annual report for the Chatham Fire Department for 2025. Like every year before, 2025 was a year of change. Additions and subtractions affected our department greatly.

Call volume for the year was up from 2024, we served our constituents 2,971 times compared to 2,743. This averages 8.14 calls for service per day. Emergency Medical Response is the largest percentage of our calls, averaging over 70% of our total responses. With our distance from both hospitals and the area we cover, EMS calls take 60-90 minutes to complete, meaning our ambulances are serving the public almost half of every day. This leaves little time to complete our other duties like training, station and apparatus maintenance, and exercise.

We, like every other small department depend on and provide aid to our neighboring districts. Our ambulance transport area runs from the south county line to Interstate 72, and from old Rt. 66 to the Morgan County line. We do this with five firefighter/paramedics working each day, and sixteen dedicated volunteers. In 2026 we are continuing the process of better serving our customers on the eastern side of our district after our voters approved an increase in our levy and extension to eventually build and staff a new second station near Palm Road. This station will be built with the Southern and Eastern expansion of the Village of Chatham and the anticipated growth in the district in mind. This vision is in line with the comprehensive plan presented in 2024 and updated in 2025.

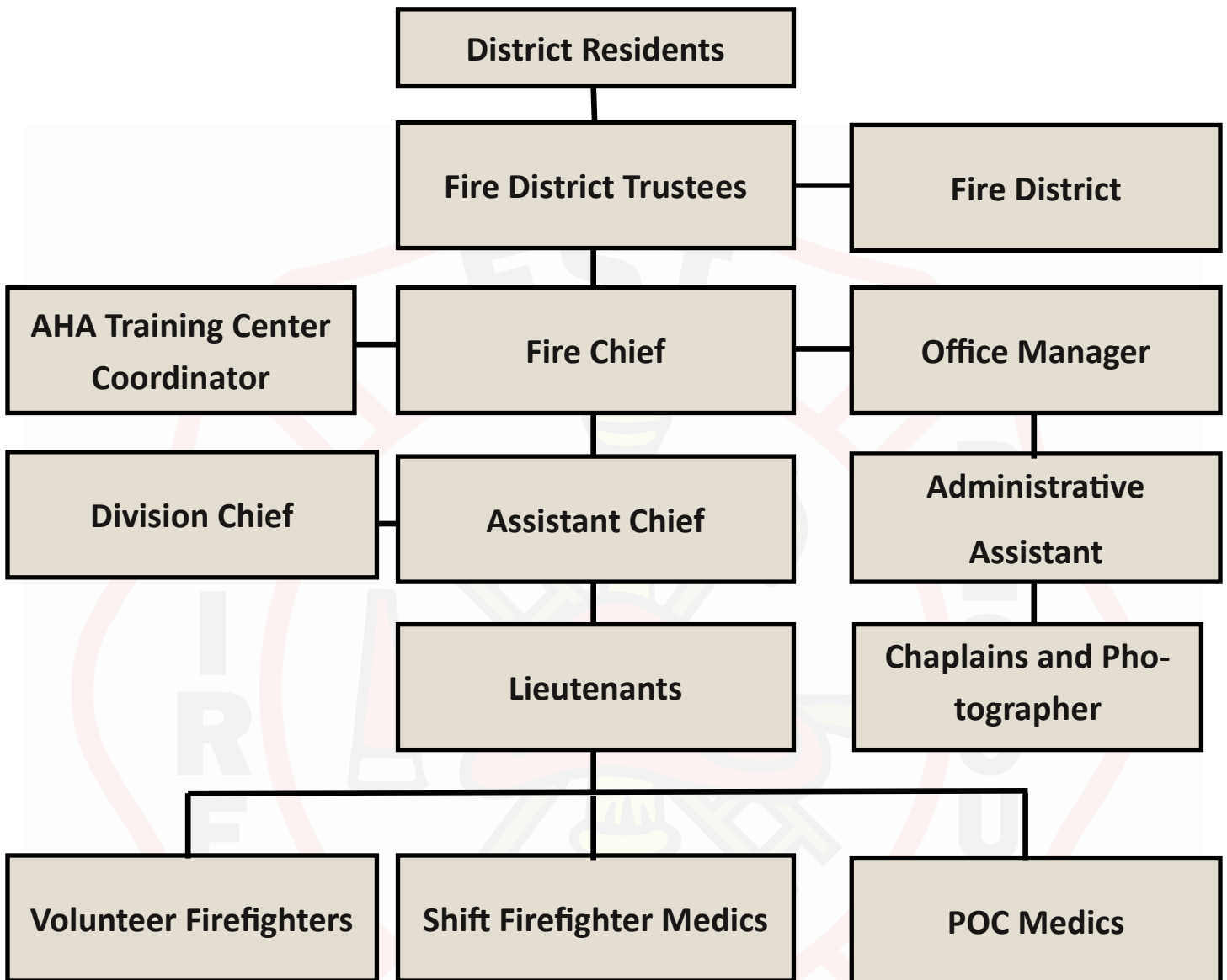
We received our new pumper in 2025, and placed it in service in February of 2026. Our fleet of vehicles continues to rapidly age, we have another pumper and ladder truck that are 25 years old and maintenance costs are beginning to outpace their value. We will look into refurbishing the ladder truck to extend its life another 5-8 years before replacement in 2030-2031. We will need to replace the pumper by 2029, with supply chain issues and the post covid apparatus build times we need to order it by 2027. Apparatus replacement costs have far outpaced revenues, the cost for a pumper will be over 1 million dollars and the ladder truck replacement price will be over 2 million dollars.

Fire department training is important and mandated by several outside agencies. We provide fire, rescue, and medical services to our customers and the combined training requirements are well over 200 hours per year for each member. Our training division works daily to help our firefighters maintain their licenses and certifications.

As always, we will continue to be good stewards of the money our constituents graciously give us. We will always strive to give great customer service through training, response, and education. "Our Team Makes a Difference!"

**Gary Self
Fire Chief**

Fire District Organizational Chart



Fire Department Executive Staff



District President
George Perkins



District Treasurer
Gary Mueller



District Secretary
Kevin Bell



Commissioner
Shane Hill



Commissioner
Dan Holden



Commissioner
JW Hoskinson



Fire Chief
Gary Self



Assistant Chief
Joe Bolletta



Division Chief
Ryan Bramley

2025 Fire Department Staff



Spotlight

This edition spotlights our three trustees. Our trustees oversee all affairs of the fire district. They are each appointed to the Board of Trustees by the Sangamon County Board for staggered three year terms. All three trustees are former active firefighters and officers on the Chatham Fire Department. The trustees appoint all three staff Chiefs and civilian employees. Their prior service with the department is very beneficial to our staff and the public.



George Perkins currently serves as the President of the Chatham Community Fire Protection Board of Trustees. Mr. Perkins served many years on the Chatham Fire Department starting in 1987 as a firefighter and retiring in 1999 as Assistant Chief. Mr. Perkins was selected to serve as a Fire District Trustee in 2009 and has served continuously ever since. Mr. Perkins works full-time at a local electrical generation plant serving as the Plant Safety Coordinator. Mr. Perkins is married with three grown children and several grandchildren.



Gary Mueller currently serves as the Treasurer of the Chatham Community Fire Protection Board of Trustees. Mr. Mueller joined the Chatham Fire Department in 1992 as a volunteer firefighter and retired as a Lieutenant in 2016 when he was selected to serve as a Fire District Trustee. Mr. Mueller works for the Havana National Bank as a Vice-President and Farm and Trust Manager. Mr. Mueller's financial background is especially helpful with the fire department and district finances. Mr. Mueller is married with seven children and several grandchildren.



Kevin Bell currently serves as the Secretary of the Chatham Community Fire Protection Board of Trustees. Mr. Bell joined the Chatham Fire Department in 1993 as a volunteer firefighter and retired as a Captain in 2019. In 2020 Mr. Bell was selected to serve as a Commissioner for the Fire district, and in 2021 transitioned to Fire District Trustee. Mr. Bell works full-time at a local power generation plant as a Technical Specialist. Mr. Bell is married with two children and several grandchildren.

Operations

The majority of community interactions with the fire department occur through the Operations Division. As the most visible and publicly engaged division, Operations is responsible for delivering all emergency services within—and often beyond—our district. Covering 75 square miles, the division responds to fire, medical, and rescue incidents, as well as providing automatic aid to three neighboring fire districts and portions of the City of Springfield.

In 2025, Operations responded to more than 2,700 service calls. Over 2,000 of these were medical emergencies, with the remainder consisting of fires, rescues, and various calls for assistance. CFD transported nearly 1,500 patients to our partner hospitals, St. John's and Memorial.

NFIRS Incident Type Categories & Descriptions

100 – Fire

This category includes all types of fires—from building fires to vehicle fires to small outdoor fires. Examples: structure fires, chimney fires, vehicle fires, grass/brush fires, cooking fires.

200 – Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)

Incidents involving explosions or ruptures without an actual fire.

Examples: steam rupture, pressure vessel failure, overheated equipment without ignition.

300 – Rescue & Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Incidents

Covers the majority of fire service calls. Includes all types of medical responses and rescue situations.

Examples: medical calls, trauma, cardiac events, vehicle extrications, water rescues, search and rescue.

400 – Hazardous Conditions (No Fire)

Situations posing a hazard but not resulting in fire. Examples: gas leaks, downed power lines, chemical spills, carbon monoxide incidents.

500 – Service Calls

Non-emergency assistance requested from the fire department. Examples: smoke detector installs, animal rescue, lockouts, pumping flooded basements, public assistance.

600 – Good Intent Calls

Calls where the caller believed something was wrong, but no actual emergency was found. Examples: smoke mistaken for steam, canceled en route, unauthorized controlled burn, alarm activation with no hazard.

700 – False Alarm & False Call

Activation of alarms or reports of emergencies where no emergency exists. Examples: system malfunctions, unintentional alarm pulls, malicious false alarms.

800 – Severe Weather & Natural Disaster

Incidents caused by weather events or natural disasters. Examples: tornado damage, flooding, windstorms, earthquakes.

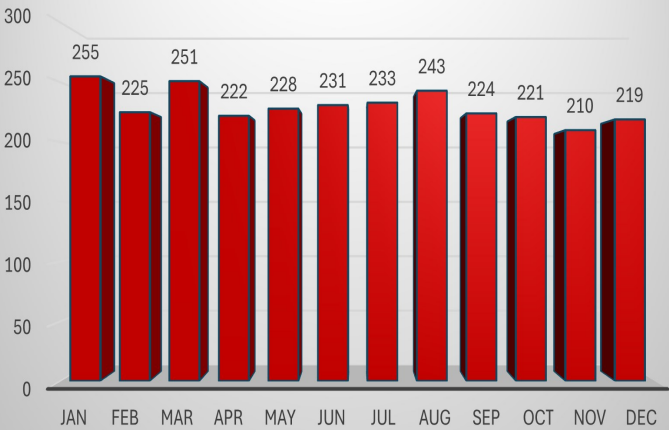
900 – Special Incident Type

Used for situations that do not fit into any of the above categories. Examples: civil disturbance, law enforcement assist, special detail or standby.

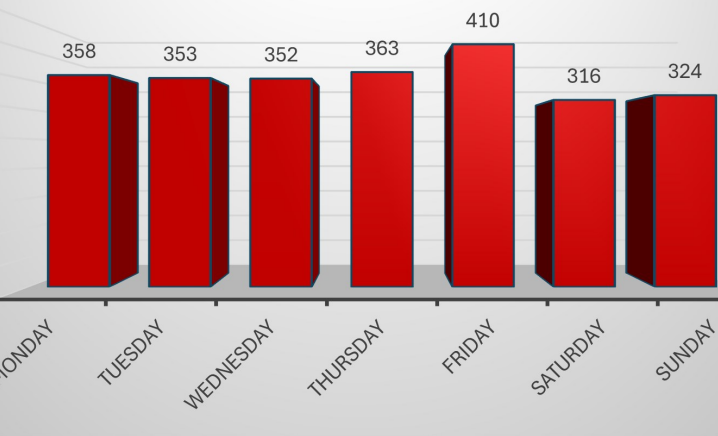
Call Breakdowns



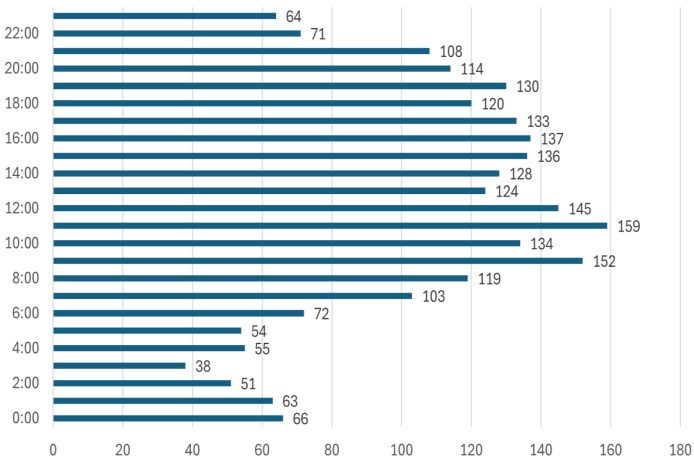
Calls by Month



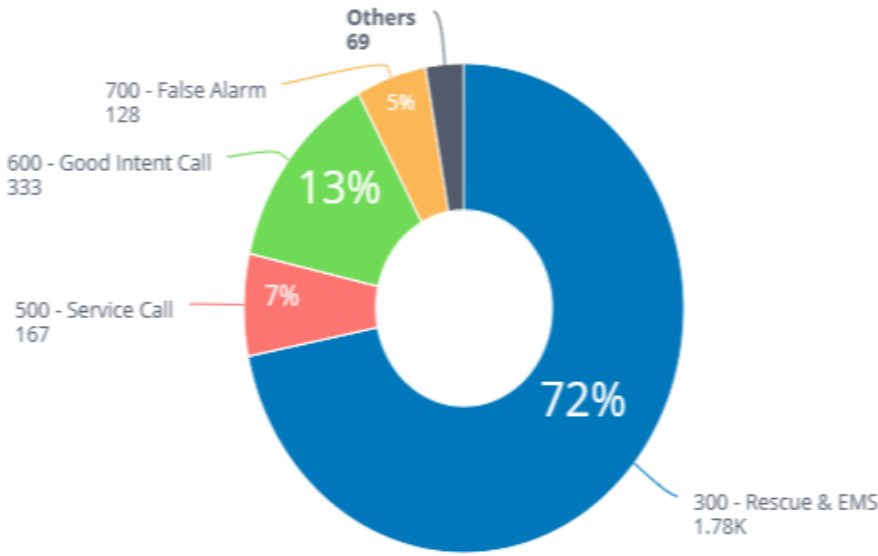
Calls by Day of Week



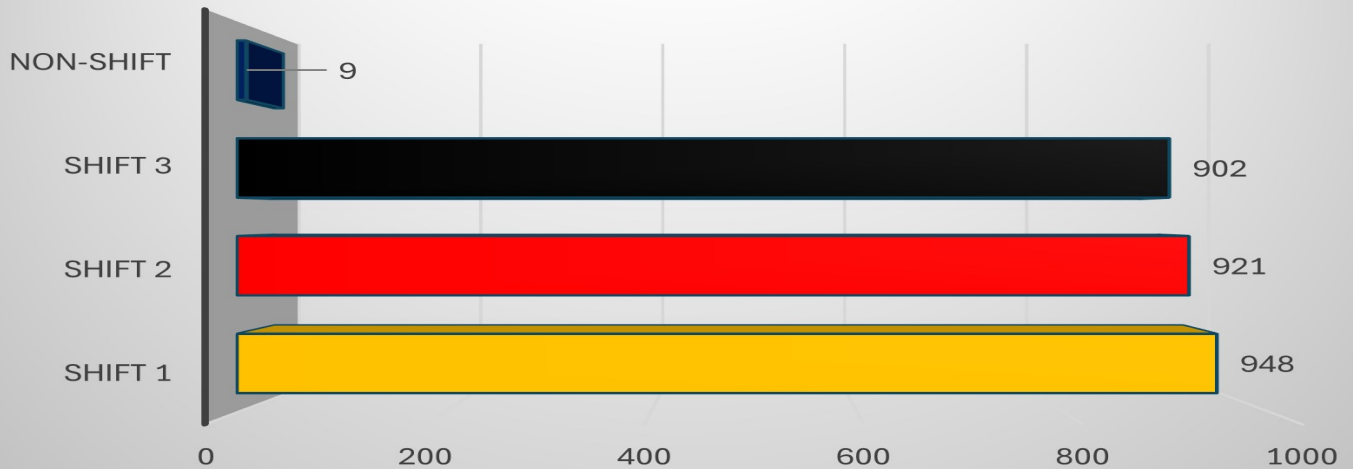
Calls by Hour



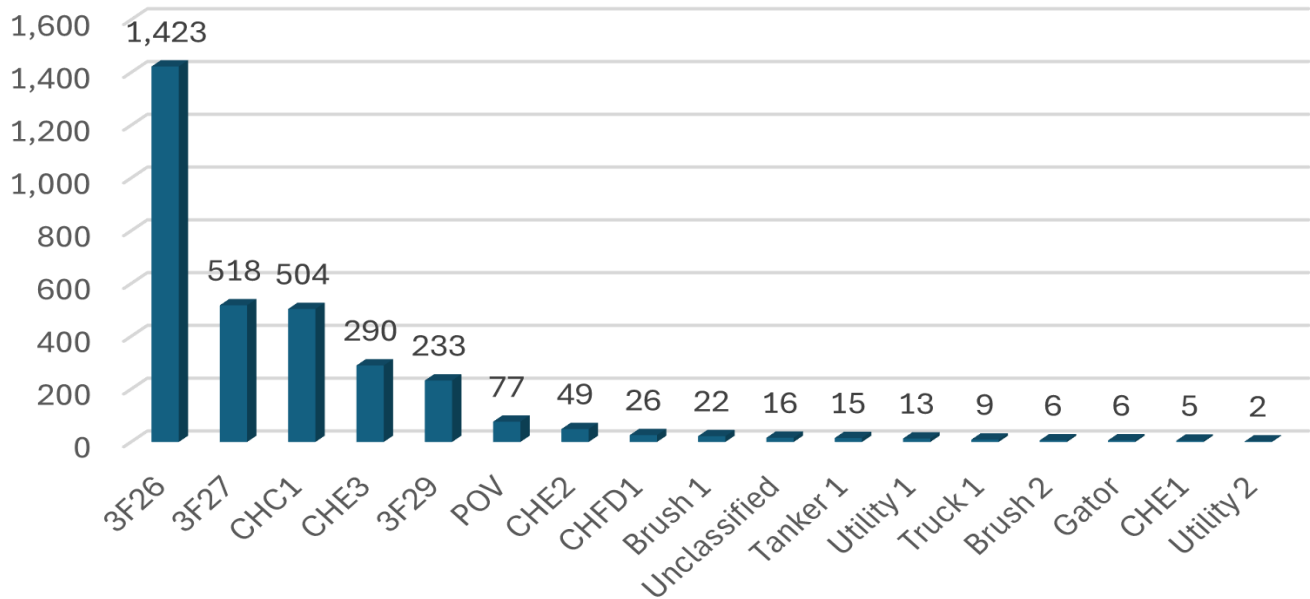
Percentage of Incident Type Groups



Calls by Shift



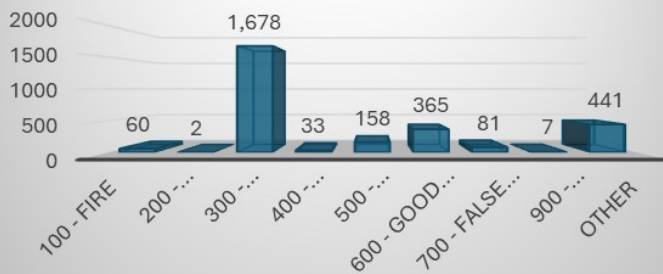
Unit Calls by Number



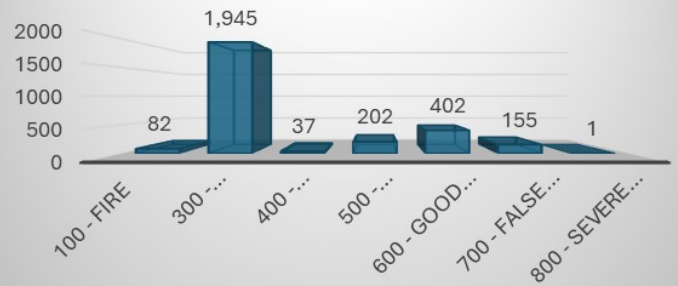
TOTAL CALL VOLUME

Your Chatham Fire Department is a very busy department. Our call volume has gone up exponentially over the years from around 650 responses in 2003 to almost 3000 today. In 2025 we averaged over eight calls per day, with each call averaging sixty to ninety minutes to complete. Our members respond on average every three hours in a 24-hour shift to assist someone compared to every 13 hours in 2003. As always, we will be here for you when you need us.

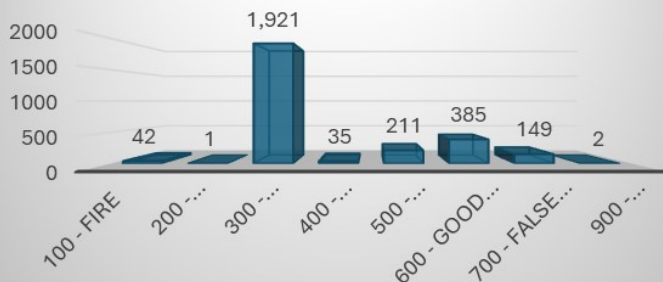
2022- 2835 Total Calls



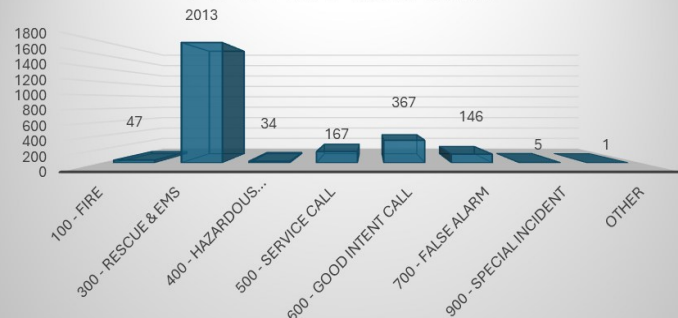
2023- 2824 Total Calls



2024- 2746 Total Calls

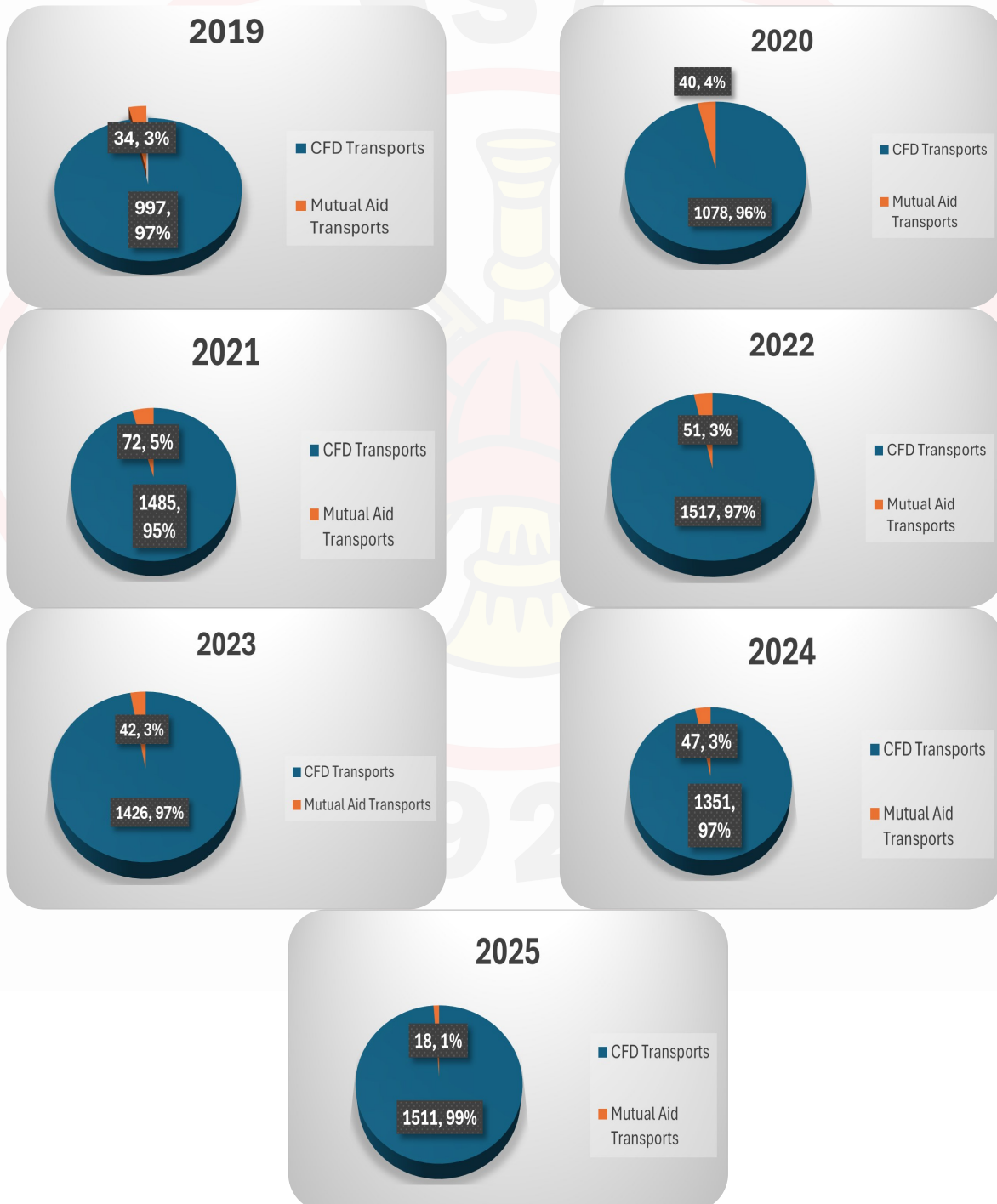


2025- 2971 Total Calls*



Ambulance Transports

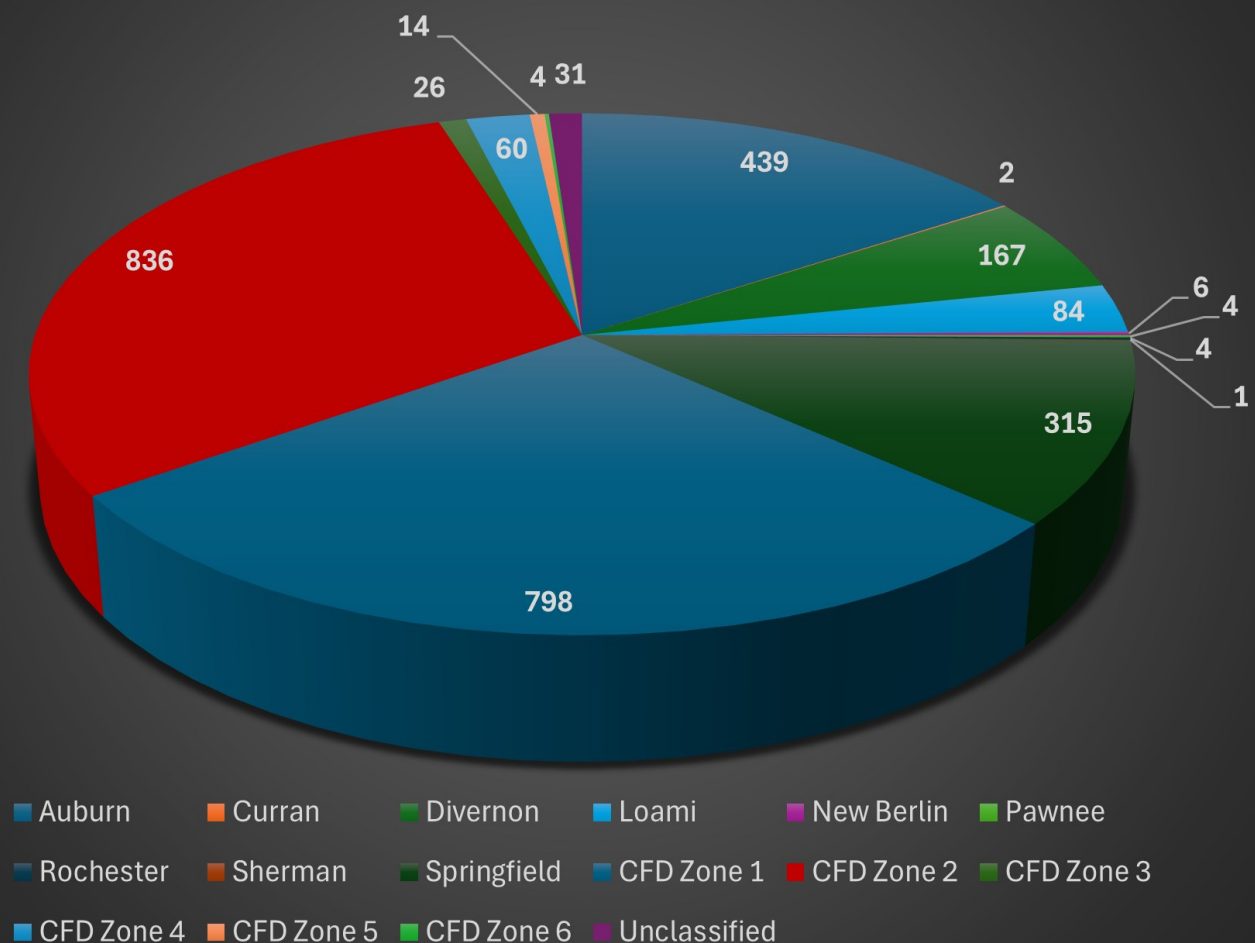
EMS is the highest percentage of emergency calls for any department. Ambulance calls comprise around seventy percent of the calls for service for the Chatham Fire Department. From 2019 to 2025 we have seen a fifty-one percent increase in ambulance runs. Many times we have concurrent ambulance runs and need to rely on our mutual aid partners to help us out. On the graphs below, blue represents CFD ambulance runs, orange is our mutual aid partners.



Areas We Serve

The Chatham Fire Department response area is seventy-five square miles but we respond where needed. All departments in Sangamon County are part of MABAS 48, this means we are willing to help anyone in the County at any time. We also provide automatic aid to the Auburn, Divernon, and Loami fire districts, and a portion of the City of Springfield. These automatic aid agreements means that we will respond to fires, medical calls, and any other emergency. We also benefit from this arrangement by having these and other neighbors assist us as needed as well. Smaller districts like ours depend on assistance from our neighbors to respond to our emergencies, without this aid we would not be able to properly protect our customers.

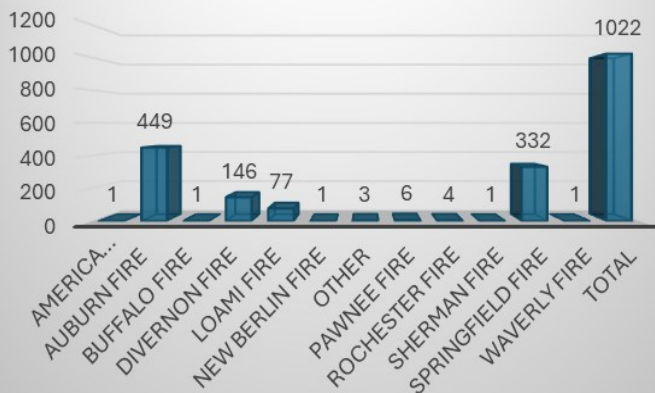
Call Distribution by District



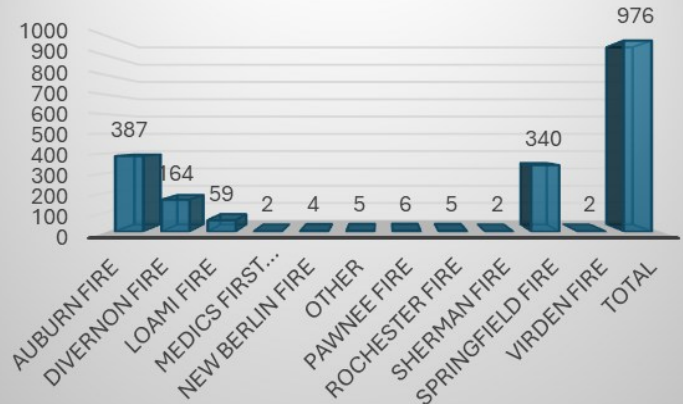
MUTUAL AID

The Chatham Fire Department is ready and willing to help our neighboring departments and private ambulance agencies when needed. Below is a four year snapshot of mutual aid given and received.

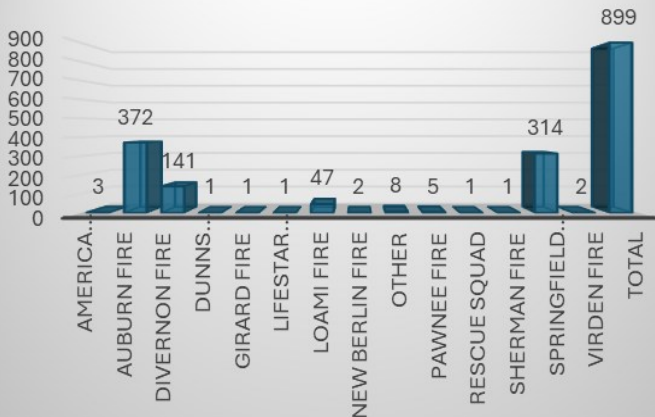
2022 Mutual Aid Given



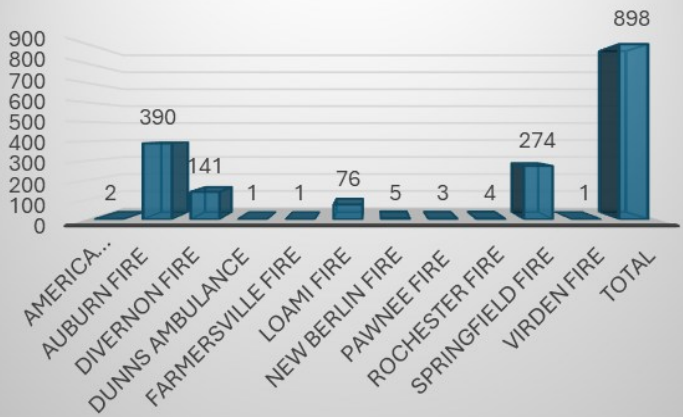
2023 Mutual Aid Given



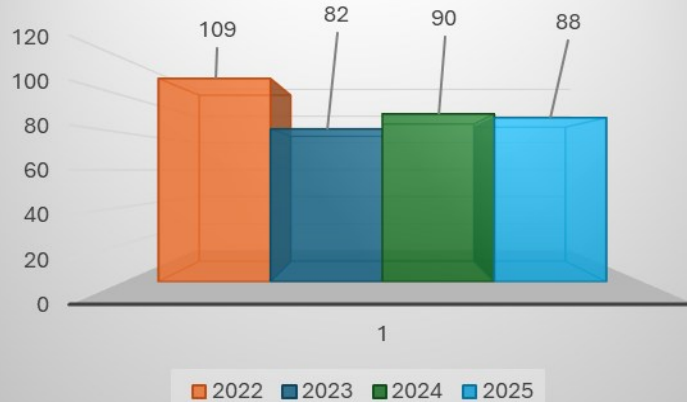
2024 Mutual Aid Given



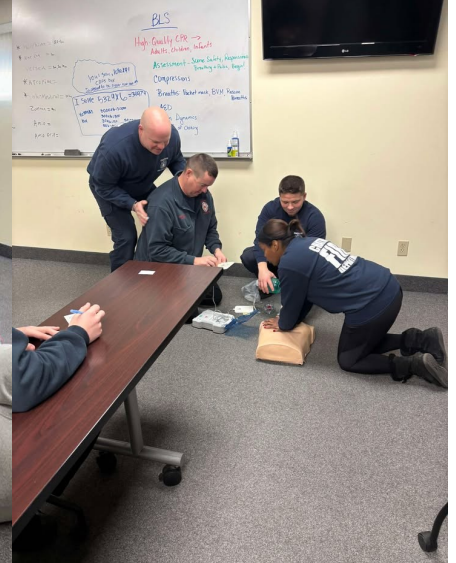
2025 Mutual Aid Given



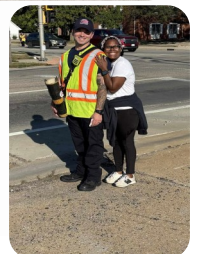
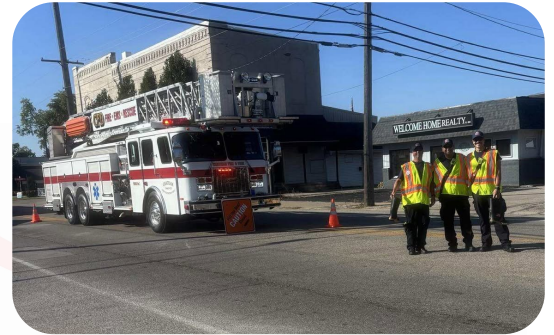
Mutual Aid Received



TRAINING



The Year in Pictures



PUBLIC EDUCATION and OUTREACH





FAMILY

The Chatham Fire Department has been family oriented since its inception. Many Chatham families have served the public and that tradition continues today. We take pride in the service our members do for the community and happiness that sons and daughters want to continue that service. Public Safety is not an occupation or hobby, it is a way of life. Thanks to all the families that have given of their time, sweat and tears for the community.



NEW ADDITIONS



Hunter Voss Firefighter/EMT-B



Kenneth Grimm Firefighter/Medic



Chelsea Fehring PHRN



Logan Poani Firefighter/EMT-B



Lucas Jacobs Firefighter



Nicole Stanfield EMT-Advanced

Life on the fire department is ever-evolving, everyone has a beginning and an end. We celebrated the beginning for six new members as they started with CFD. These new members started their careers in training to gain the skills needed to serve.



Our Team Makes A Difference



Engine 1

A fire apparatus purchase is at least a thirty year relationship for the Chatham Fire Department. A new apparatus is placed in service for around ten years before it is moved to backup status. “Old” Engine 1 has been a staple here at CFD for over thirty years. Originally purchased in 1991 it has been replaced by our new 2025 Sutphen fire engine. While we do not know what will happen to “Old” Engine 1, it has served the community with pride.





American Heart Association Training Center

Chances are if you have had CPR training, it was conducted by an instructor affiliated with the Chatham Fire Department AHA training center. Our training center has over 100 instructors teaching CPR and other classes all over Illinois and as far away as Iowa and Missouri. In 2024 instructors affiliated with the CFD center conducted hundreds of classes, reaching over 3800 students. The training center is open to the public and can accommodate up to 25 students. Chatham residents and business owners receive a 50% discount, call 217-483-2121

Kari Leyva

AHATC Coordinator

(217) 483-2121 O

(217) 483-4411 F

(217) 697-7767 C



American
Heart
Association.



Requests For Information

Fire Report: To request a fire report, send an email to:

Chathamfiredept@cfid-il.com Please include the following information in the request:

Name of person requesting report

Address of Incident

Date of Incident

Type of Incident

Ambulance Report: To request an ambulance report, send a FOIA request to Chathamfiredept@cfid-il.com Please include the following information:

Name of person requesting report

Address of Incident

Name of Patient

Date of Incident

Medical release form

FOIA Requests: Gary.self@cfid-il.com

Contact Information:

Chatham Fire Protection District

1 Fireman Sq.

Chatham, Illinois 62629

Phone: 217-483-2121

Email: Chathamfiredept@cfid-il.com

Website: www.cfid-il.com

Chief's Email: Gary.self@cfid-il.com



**CHATHAM
STRONG**

