



*Van Wert Fire  
Department*

2025 Annual Report



# Van Wert Fire Department 2025 Annual Report

In 2025, the Van Wert Fire Department continued its mission to protect life and property with professionalism, speed, and compassion. Our crews responded to 2,057 total incidents, a number that reflects both our dedication and the vital role we play as a first response agency for the City of Van Wert and surrounding communities.

## Role in Community Health

Emergency medical services (EMS) accounted for 88% of all calls, a reminder that our department is not only a firefighting force but also a frontline partner in community health and emergency care. Whether answering a call for a structure fire, a highway accident, or a critical medical emergency, our team approached every situation with skill, urgency, and heart.

## Operations and Challenges

Operationally, VWFD maintained solid performance across all shifts, ensuring consistent turnout and fast on scene response times. However, 2025 again brought the challenge of overlapping incidents, multiple calls coming in at once that stretched our resources thin. This trend highlights the ongoing need for strategic staffing, continued cross training, and long-term investment in both personnel and equipment.

## Training, Safety, and Planning

Beyond emergency response, 2025 was a year of growth and resilience. The department reaffirmed its commitment to:

- Continuous training for all personnel, covering EMS certification, live fire evolutions, and technical rescue readiness.
- Rigorous safety protocols that protect both our crews and our citizens during high-risk events.
- Proactive planning to meet the growing demands of fire and EMS services, ensuring Van Wert stays ready for the future.

These priorities reflect our belief that a well-trained, well equipped, and forward-thinking department is the foundation of effective public safety.

## Values and Guiding Principle

As we move into 2026 and beyond, the Van Wert Fire Department remains grounded in the core values that define us: service, professionalism, accountability, and integrity. Our mission stays the same, protecting our citizens, supporting our personnel, and embracing innovation where it strengthens our ability to serve.

We continue to live by the words that unite us:

“Guarding My Every Neighbor.”

Through every challenge and every call, these words drive our purpose and keep our focus where it belongs, on the people of Van Wert.

# Total Incidents: 2,057

- EMS Calls: 1,811 (88.0%)

- Fire Calls: 51 (2.5%)

Structure Fires	15	
Vehicle Fires	11	
Cooking/Trash Fires	6	
Miscellaneous Fire Types	13	
False Alarms	70	
Hazardous Conditions	38	

- Other Calls: 195 (9.5%)

- Aid Given: 48
- Aid Received: 9



EMS responses continue to drive overall call volume, accounting for the majority of incidents handled by the department.

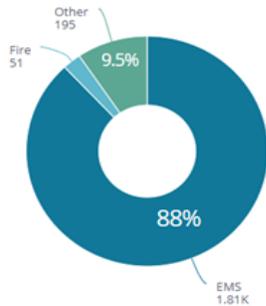
Count of Total Incidents & Exposures



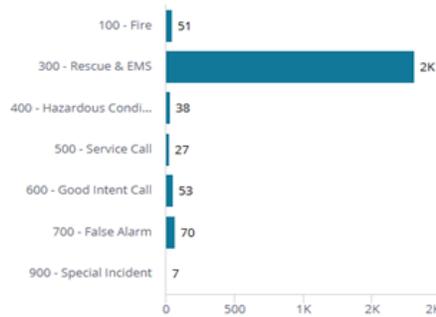
Aid Given/Received



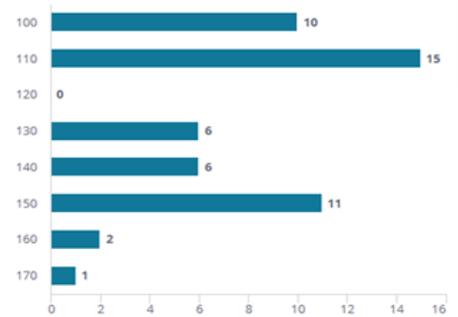
EMS/Fire Incident Breakdown



Count of Incidents by Incident Type



Count of Fire Incidents by Type



Incident Details

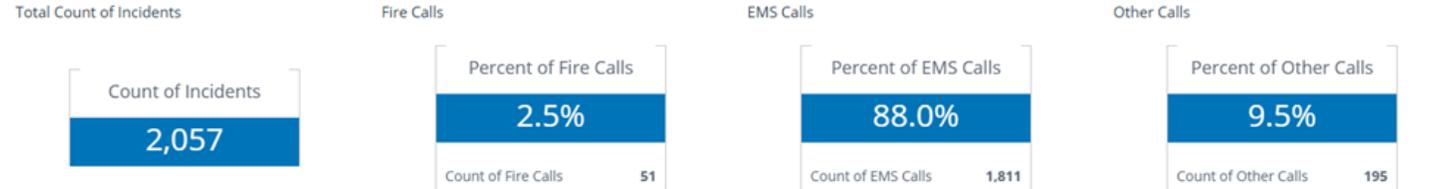


<b>Overlapping Incidents</b>	348
<b>Total Incidents</b>	2,057
<b>Percent of Calls Overlapping</b>	17%

# Call Volume & Station Activity

Call volume remained steady across all shifts throughout the year, with expected seasonal variation. Balanced distribution reinforces the need for consistent staffing and readiness department-wide.

## Station Report 2025

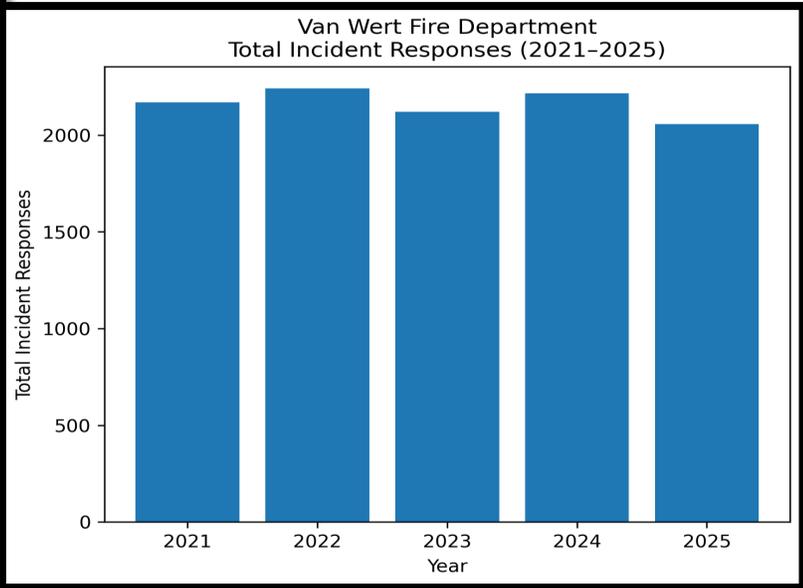
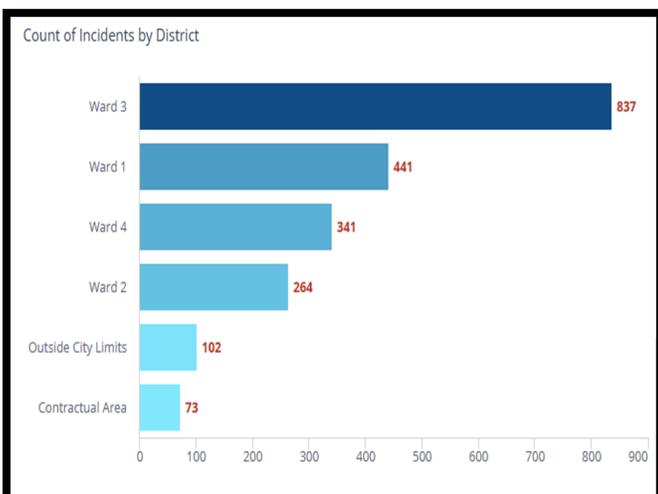
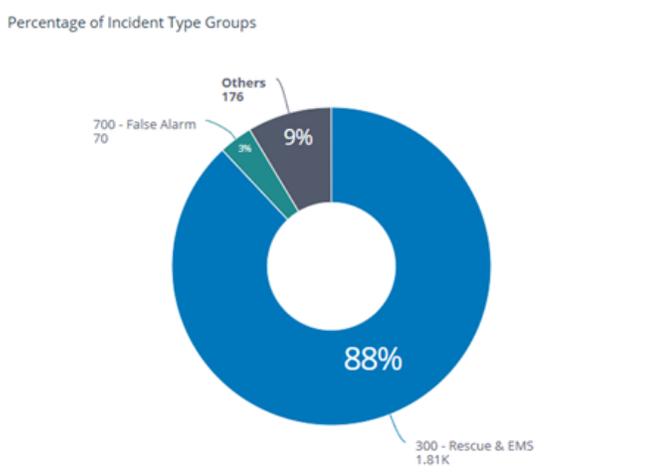


Responses by Shift

Months in Alarm DateTime	Count of Incidents		
	Shift 1	Shift 2	Shift 3
01/2025	52	59	51
02/2025	48	61	44
03/2025	49	69	58
04/2025	48	56	46
05/2025	67	59	55
06/2025	67	64	58
07/2025	44	60	49
08/2025	57	52	69
09/2025	50	70	61
10/2025	47	56	67
11/2025	57	47	55
12/2025	72	56	77

Station Report Details

Months in Alarm DateTime	Count of Incidents
1/25	162
2/25	153
3/25	176
4/25	150
5/25	181
6/25	189
7/25	153
8/25	178
9/25	181
10/25	170
11/25	159
12/25	205
Grand Total	2,057



# Turnout & Response Performance

- Incidents Analyzed: 1,826
- Incidents with Turnout Under 60 Seconds: 651
- 90th Percentile Turnout Time: 2 minutes, 40 seconds
- Average Unit Turnout Time: 1 minute, 31 seconds

Average first-unit turnout time remained under one minute and thirty-five seconds, with continued opportunity for improvement through training and operational review.

## First Apparatus Turnout Time 2025

Count of Incidents

Count of Incidents  
**1,826**

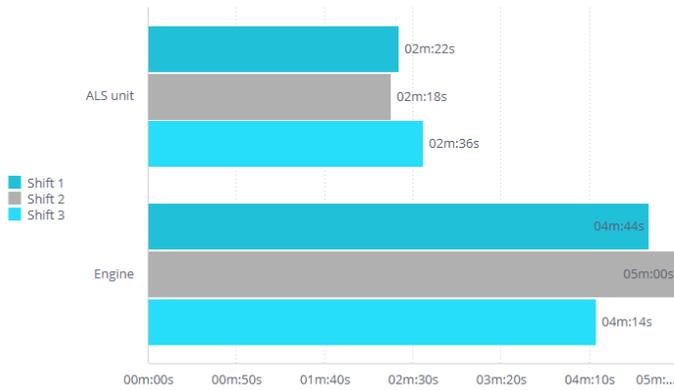
Count of Incidents with Turnout Time < 60 Second

Count of Incidents  
**651**

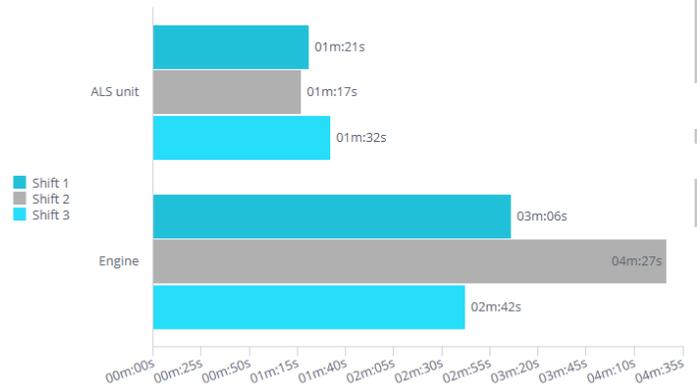
Turnout Time

90th Percentile Turnout Time  
**02m:40s**  
Average Unit Turnout Time **01m:31s**

90 Percentile Turnout time by Shift by Apparatus Type



Average Turnout Time by Apparatus



Count of Incidents by Apparatus and Turnout Time

Apparatus Type	0:00 - 0:29	0:30 - 0:59	0:60 - 1:29	1:30 - 1:59	2:00 - 2:59	3:00 - 3:59
ALS unit	224	423	478	279	237	36
Engine	3	1	9	8	36	
Grand Total	227	424	487	287	273	

Shift

Shift	# of unique Incident Number
Shift 2	624
Shift 3	610
Shift 1	586



## Community Risk Reduction

The Van Wert Fire Department continues to prioritize community risk reduction through education, outreach, and prevention activities aimed at reducing emergencies before they occur.

In 2025, the department conducted a total of 44 community risk reduction events, reaching 2,264 residents across the City of Van Wert and surrounding areas. These efforts included station tours, public events, school-based programs, and hands-on safety training.

- 9 station tours involving 365 participants
- 25 public events involving 1,433 participants
- 3 fire prevention trailer events reaching 209 students
- 7 fire extinguisher training events involving 257 participants

As part of the “No Child Sleeps Unprotected” initiative and related prevention efforts, the department distributed a total of 345 smoke detectors during the year:

- 175 smoke detectors to Van Wert City kindergarten students
- 140 smoke detectors to Van Wert County kindergarten students
- 30 smoke detectors distributed directly to the public

In addition to public education, the department completed nearly 100 life safety inspections in 2025. While this represents continued progress, it remains below the 600+ commercial occupancies within the City of Van Wert. Improving inspection coverage has been identified as an area for growth.

To address this need, the department plans to strengthen its fire prevention and inspection efforts through the addition of a Deputy Chief position and increased on-duty staffing, allowing greater support for company-level inspections while maintaining emergency response readiness.

Through education, inspections, and community partnerships, the Van Wert Fire Department continues to deliver value beyond emergency response by actively working to reduce risk and improve safety throughout the community.



## Training Summary

In 2025, the Van Wert Fire Department documented 4,829 total training and fitness hours, reflecting formal records from mid-March through the end of the year.

Personnel participated in a wide range of fire, EMS, leadership, and physical training to maintain operational readiness and professional standards. Several members achieved notable milestones:

FF Barrett and FF A. Schumm successfully completed Firefighter II (FF2) through the Ohio Fire Academy.

Lt. Gasser completed Fire Officer I (FO1) through the Ohio Fire Academy.

FF Barrett recorded the highest overall training hours at 636.5 hours.

FF Carter led the department in physical training hours with 226 hours.

Captain Ankney recorded the highest training hours without a special class, demonstrating consistent in-house and professional development participation.

In 2025, the department also expanded its training capabilities with the addition of a dedicated training burn building. This facility allows personnel to conduct realistic, hands-on fireground training in a controlled environment, improving skills in fire attack, search and rescue, ventilation, and command decision-making. The burn building enhances safety by allowing crews to train on high-risk tasks under supervision while building confidence, teamwork, and consistency across all shifts. It also supports long-term sustainability by reducing reliance on outside training facilities and keeping more training opportunities local and cost-effective.

These accomplishments reflect the department's continued commitment to training excellence, leadership development, and physical readiness in support of safe and effective service to the community.



## Conclusion and Future Outlook

The data presented reflects a busy and productive year for our emergency services. The 2,057 total incidents represent our ongoing commitment to protecting life and property in our community. The predominance of EMS calls continues to shape our operational priorities, while our preparedness for fire suppression and specialized rescue operations remains paramount.



## Historical Context and Growing Demand

Over the past five years, the Van Wert Fire Department has responded to more than 10,800 incidents, maintaining an average annual call volume of approximately 2,188 responses. Since 2020, our call volume has increased by over 20%, with consistent year-over-year demand that underscores the growing needs of our community. This sustained increase in emergency service requests, coupled with staffing levels that have remained unchanged for nearly 40 years, demonstrates an urgent need for modernization and growth.

## Strategic Investments for the Future

As we look to 2026 and beyond, the Van Wert Fire Department is positioned for significant advancement through strategic investments in apparatus, personnel, and facilities. These improvements represent a thoughtful response to decades of increasing demand and evolving community needs.

The arrival of a new KME rescue engine and two Braun ambulances will modernize our fleet, replacing aging apparatus with reliable, state-of-the-art equipment essential for safe and effective emergency response. The addition of staff vehicles will ensure command personnel have the tools necessary to fulfill their expanding responsibilities.

Organizationally, the creation of the Deputy Chief position and the addition of one firefighter per shift mark a historic milestone, our first staffing increase in approximately 40 years. These positions acknowledge the reality of drastically increased call volume and position the department to better serve our community with improved response capabilities and enhanced administrative capacity.

Planned facility improvements to the third floor living quarters demonstrate our commitment to providing appropriate accommodations for current and future personnel, including our commitment to fostering an inclusive workplace that welcomes female firefighters.

The new training facility, now operational, opens unprecedented opportunities for advanced skill development, ensuring our personnel maintain the highest levels of operational readiness and safety.

## Commitment to Excellence

Through continued focus on training, equipment planning, community risk reduction, and long-term strategic planning, the Van Wert Fire Department will meet the evolving needs of our community with professionalism, dedication, and enhanced capability. The investments we are making today, informed by clear data showing sustained growth in demand, position us to continue our 156-year legacy of service while adapting to meet tomorrow's challenges.

We remain committed to continuous improvement in service delivery, personnel development, and protecting the residents we are privileged to serve. Our dedication to excellence, combined with the support of our community and City Council, ensures that the Van Wert Fire Department will continue to be a cornerstone of public safety for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon D. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon D. Jones, Fire Chief, Van Wert Fire Department