CITY OF CLEVELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT – MAY 2026

Prepared by:
M. Jason Bryant
Fire Chief
Cleveland Fire Department

Chief's Leadership Note

May was another productive month for the Cleveland Fire Department as we continued to focus on operational readiness, firefighter development, community engagement, and organizational growth. While call volume remained steady, the department continues to experience significant regional response demands through automatic aid agreements, highlighting the importance of maintaining adequate staffing, equipment, and training resources.

The continued success of the department is a direct reflection of the dedication of our personnel and the strong leadership provided throughout the organization.

1. Executive Summary

The department responded to 128 incidents during May 2026, bringing the year-to-date total to 659 incidents, compared to 643 incidents during the same period in 2025, representing a 2.5% increase in call volume.

The long-term trend continues to show substantial growth. Since 2022, call volume has increased from 416 incidents to 659 incidents, representing a 58.4% increase in service demand over the past five years.

The department remains fully staffed and is actively recruiting to fill two additional part-time firefighter positions.

Operationally, the most significant concern remains the department's automatic aid commitment. During May, approximately 52% of emergency responses occurred outside the City of Cleveland, placing city resources into surrounding jurisdictions and reducing available coverage within the city.

Personnel completed 307 documented training hours during the month, continuing the department's commitment to operational readiness and professional development.

The Fire Marshal's Office continues to develop under the leadership of Captain Stephen Sears, with a focus on inspections, plan reviews, and development coordination. During May, personnel

completed approximately 20 inspections and 10 plan reviews involving new and existing construction projects.

Personnel also continued the department's annual hydrant maintenance program and have completed approximately 70% of scheduled hydrant inspections and maintenance activities for the year, helping ensure operational readiness and supporting favorable ISO outcomes.

Community outreach remained strong throughout the month, including multiple fire safety education events, support of local community gatherings, and a water safety event for approximately 100 fifth-grade students at J.P. Nix Elementary School.

Key Accomplishments – May 2026

• Responded to 128 emergency incidents

• Completed 307 documented training hours

• Conducted approximately 20 fire and life safety inspections

• Completed approximately 10 plan reviews

• Continued development of the Fire Marshal's Office

• Completed approximately 70% of annual hydrant inspection and maintenance activities

• Conducted a water safety and community engagement event for approximately 100 fifth-grade students at J.P. Nix Elementary School

• Supported multiple elementary school fire safety events

• Supported the Freedom Park business block party

• Chief Bryant served as keynote speaker for a recruit graduation ceremony

• Chief Bryant instructed a Structural Fire Control course at GPSTC

• Continued recruitment efforts for two part-time firefighter positions

2. Emergency Response Activity

Total Incidents: 128

Incident Type Distribution

• EMS Incidents: 80 (62.5%)

• Fire Incidents: 4 (3.1%)

• Hazardous Materials Incidents: 7 (5.5%)

• Other Service Calls: 37 (28.9%)

EMS incidents continue to represent the majority of the department's service demand.

Response Area Distribution

• City of Cleveland: 62 incidents (48%)

• Automatic Aid Outside City Limits: 58 incidents (45%)

• Other Areas: 8 incidents (7%)

3. Automatic Aid Activity

Automatic aid continues to be one of the most significant operational issues facing the department.

During May:

• 62 incidents occurred within the City of Cleveland

• 58 incidents occurred outside the City through automatic aid responses

When evaluated based on actual emergency responses, approximately 52% of all department responses occurred outside city limits.

While regional cooperation remains important, the current response pattern requires continued evaluation to ensure Cleveland residents receive the level of service expected from their fire department and that adequate resources remain available within the city.

As call volume continues to increase, balancing regional response obligations with local service delivery remains a critical operational priority.

4. Training and Professional Development

Department personnel completed a total of 307 training hours during May.

Training efforts focused on maintaining operational readiness, company-level competency, apparatus operations, and officer development.

Training highlights included:

• Continued development of newly certified aerial operators

• Company-level fireground operations training

• Driver/operator development

• Officer development and leadership training

• Ongoing compliance and certification maintenance

Chief Bryant instructed a Structural Fire Control course at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) and served as the keynote speaker for a Metro Atlanta recruit graduation ceremony, representing both the department and the City of Cleveland within the Georgia fire service community.

Captain Sears continued coordinating department training efforts while leading the development of the Fire Marshal's Office.

5. Fire Marshal Division

The department continues making progress in developing a comprehensive Fire Marshal's Office.

During May:

• Approximately 20 inspections were completed

• Approximately 10 plan reviews were conducted

• Continued involvement in new construction and development projects

• Ongoing implementation of prevention and code enforcement procedures

• Continued coordination with contractors, developers, and city staff

Captain Sears continues leading these efforts while balancing training coordination responsibilities.

6. Apparatus and Equipment Status

The department continues to monitor apparatus readiness and maintenance needs.

Current apparatus status:

• Rescue 21: Remains out of service awaiting repair estimates

• Engine 21: Fully operational

• Truck 21: Fully operational; warranty-related repairs continue to be addressed

• Utility 21: Fully operational

The department continues working closely with vendors and manufacturers to address maintenance concerns while maintaining operational readiness.

7. Staffing and Organizational Development

The department remains fully staffed operationally and is currently working to hire two additional part-time firefighters to strengthen staffing depth and scheduling flexibility.

Organizational initiatives currently underway include:

• Department Policy Manual development

• Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) revisions

• Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) development

• Fire Marshal Office implementation

• Continued officer development initiatives

Strong leadership continues throughout the organization from Captain Sears, Lieutenant Morris, Lieutenant Joiner, Interim Lieutenant Johnson, and Lieutenant Jarvis, who continue ensuring consistency, accountability, professionalism, and operational readiness across all shifts.

8. Community Engagement and Public Safety

Community outreach remained a priority throughout May.

Activities included:

• Multiple elementary school fire safety education events

• Conducting a water safety and community engagement event for approximately 100 fifth-grade students at J.P. Nix Elementary School

• Support of the Freedom Park business block party

• Ongoing public education initiatives

• Continued community risk reduction efforts

These programs provide opportunities for positive interaction between firefighters and the community while reinforcing important fire safety, water safety, and emergency preparedness messages.

In addition to public education activities, personnel continued the department's annual hydrant maintenance program and are currently approximately 70% complete with citywide hydrant inspections and maintenance activities. These efforts support operational readiness, water supply reliability, and ISO compliance.

9. Looking Ahead – June 2026

The department will continue focusing on:

• Recruitment of additional part-time firefighters

• Fire Marshal Office development

• Completion and review of SOPs and SOGs

• Apparatus maintenance and readiness

• Continued hydrant inspection and maintenance activities

• Evaluation of automatic aid response impacts

• Community outreach and public education programs

A major initiative scheduled for June is the department's hosting of an NPQ Fire Inspector I course. The course will include 15 students from multiple departments throughout the region and further establish Cleveland Fire Department as a regional training partner. Upon successful completion, the department will have 10 certified Fire Inspectors, significantly strengthening fire prevention, inspection, and life safety capabilities.

Budget development will remain a major focus as the department works to address growing service demands while maintaining high levels of service to the community.

10. Closing Statement

The Cleveland Fire Department remains committed to providing professional, dependable emergency services while continuing to strengthen the organization through training, prevention, community engagement, and responsible stewardship of resources.

As call volume continues to increase and regional response obligations expand, the department remains focused on ensuring that Cleveland citizens receive the highest level of service possible while preparing for future growth.

Progress continues not only in emergency response and training, but also in prevention, fire protection infrastructure, and community risk reduction efforts, including hydrant maintenance, inspections, plan reviews, public education, and development oversight.

The progress achieved this month reflects the dedication, professionalism, and commitment of every member of the Cleveland Fire Department.

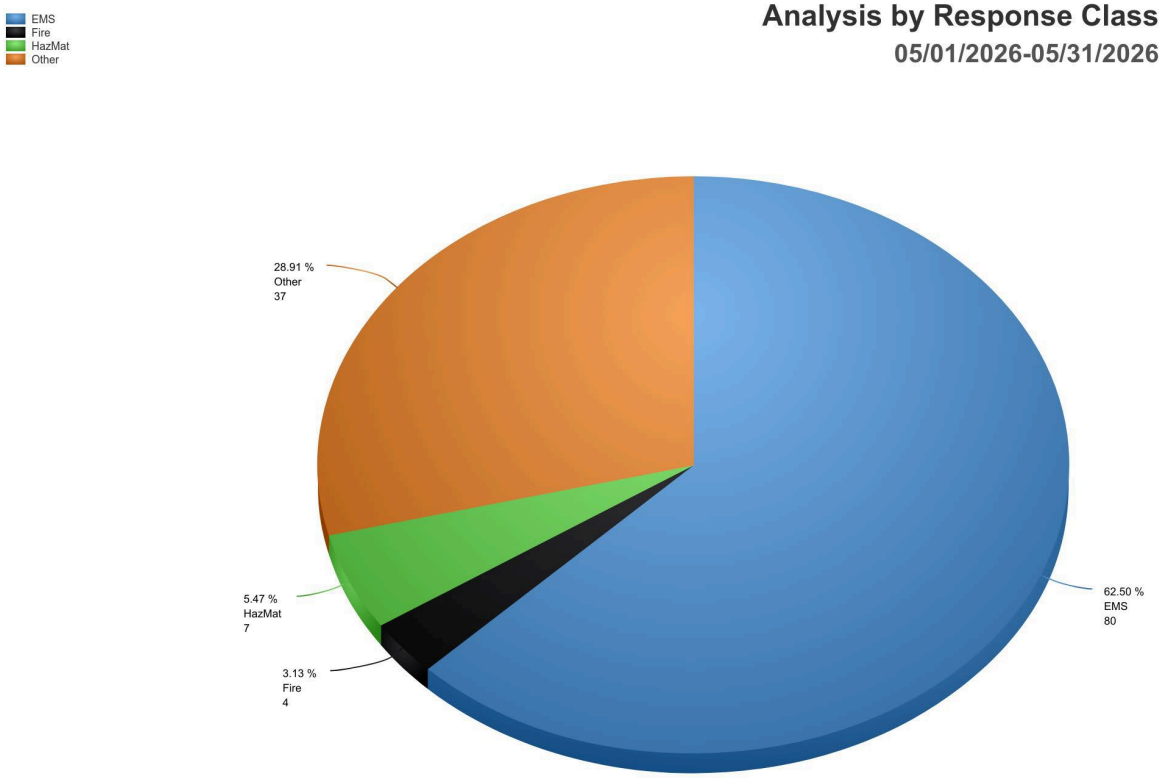
The continued success of the Cleveland Fire Department is a direct reflection of the men and women who serve this community every day with professionalism, pride, and dedication.

Respectfully Submitted,

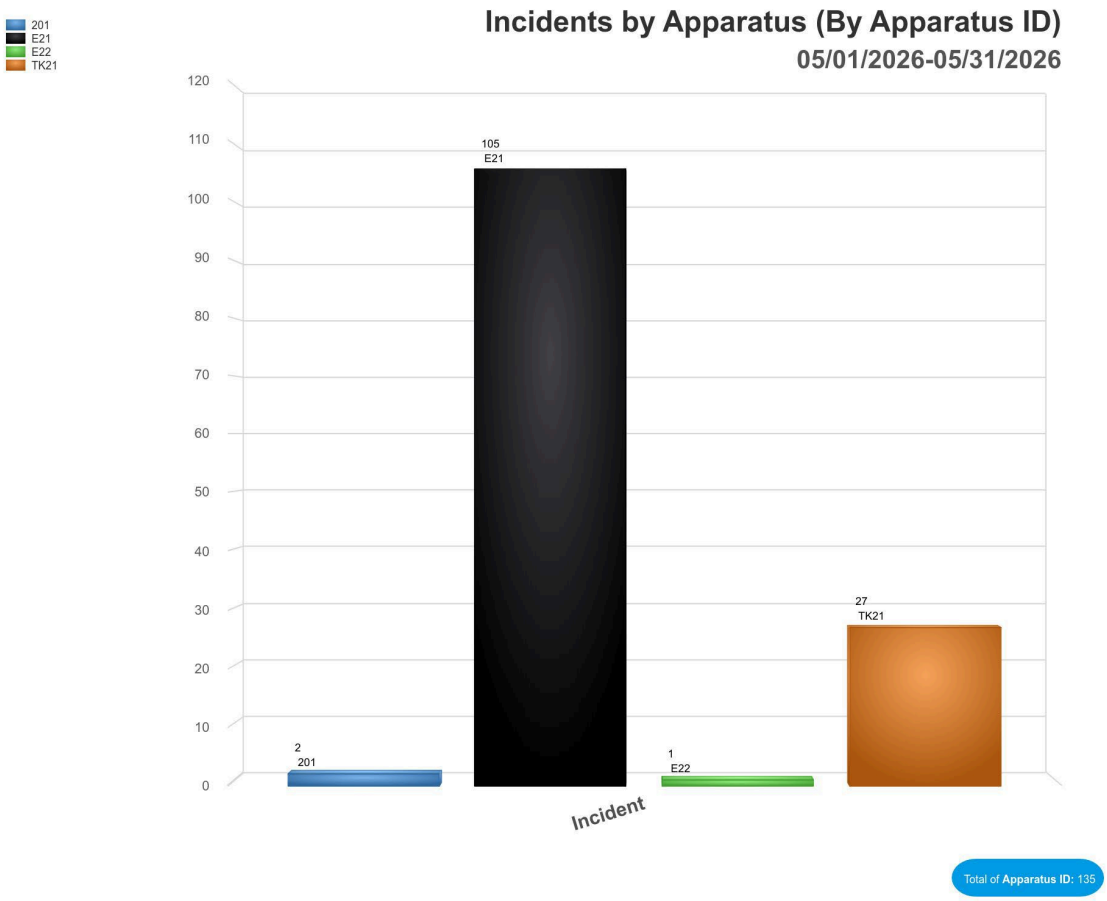
M. Jason Bryant
Fire Chief
Cleveland Fire Department
City of Cleveland, Georgia

Analysis by Response Class

05/01/2026-05/31/2026

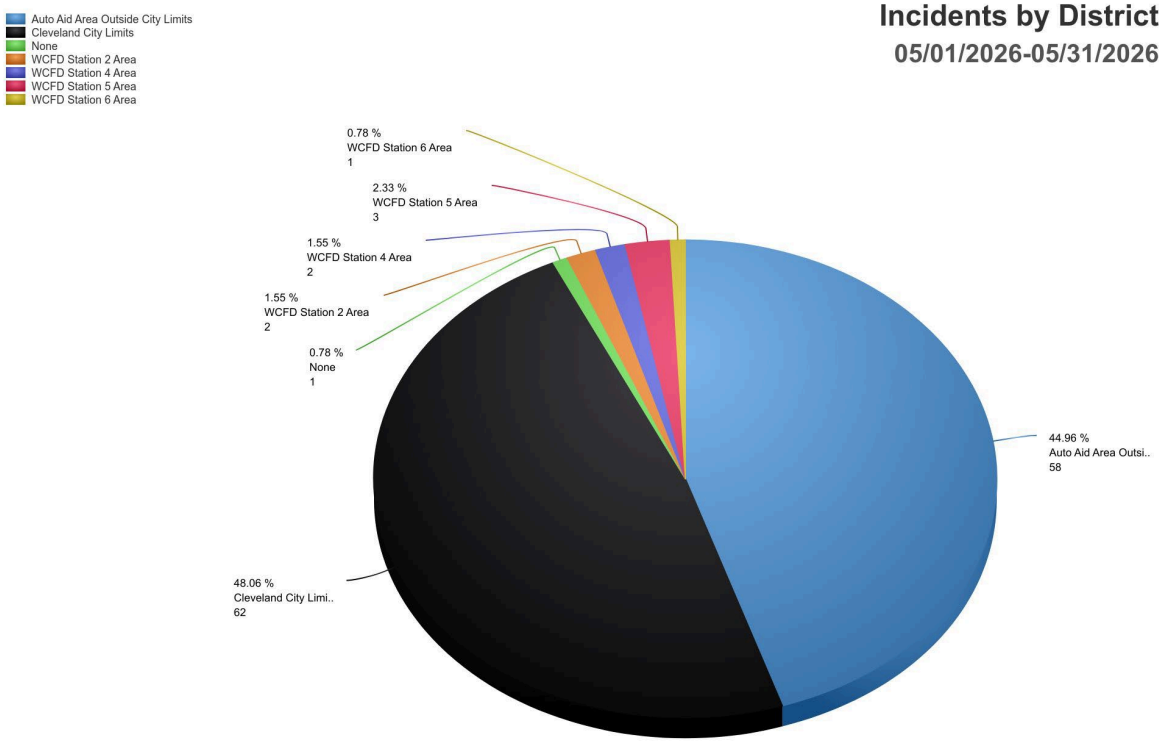


Total of **Response Class:** 128

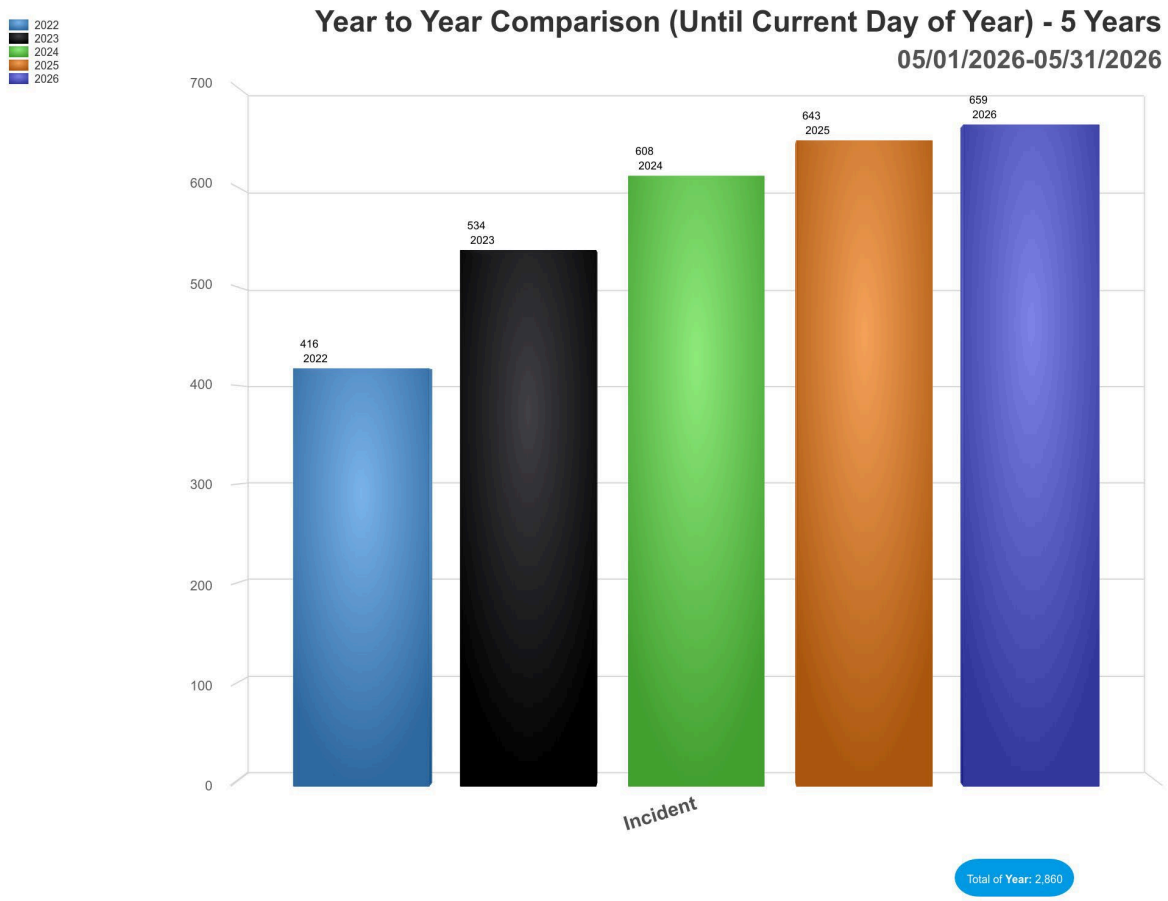

Incidents by Apparatus (By Apparatus ID)
05/01/2026-05/31/2026
201
E21
E22
TK21
120
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
2
201
105
E21
1
E22
27
TK21
Incident
Total of Apparatus ID: 135

Incidents by District

05/01/2026-05/31/2026



Total of **District:** 129


2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
Year to Year Comparison (Until Current Day of Year) - 5 Years
05/01/2026-05/31/2026
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
416
2022
534
2023
608
2024
643
2025
659
2026
Incident
Total of Year: 2,860