

CITY OF CLEVELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Monthly Report – March 2026

Prepared by:

Chief Jason Bryant

Cleveland Fire Department

Chief's Leadership Note

The Cleveland Fire Department continues to focus on building a strong, professional organization capable of meeting both current and future service demands. Our efforts this month centered on strengthening leadership staffing, expanding training capabilities, improving administrative infrastructure, and continuing development of prevention programs that will enhance long-term community risk reduction. These steps reflect our commitment to responsible growth, firefighter safety, and maintaining the high level of service expected by the citizens of Cleveland.

Strategic Focus: *Staffing Stability • Training Excellence • Equipment Readiness • Community Risk Reduction*

1. Executive Summary

March 2026 was a month of continued organizational progress for the Cleveland Fire Department as the department strengthened staffing, expanded training initiatives, advanced administrative development, and maintained operational readiness while meeting increasing service demands.

During the reporting period, the department responded to **123 total incidents**, serving both the City of Cleveland and surrounding automatic aid areas. Emergency medical responses continued to represent the majority of service demand, consistent with national fire service trends.

Year-to-date call volume continues to show steady growth. Through March, the department has responded to **408 incidents in 2026 compared to 384 incidents during the same period in 2025**, representing a **6.25% increase** in call volume. This continued growth reflects increasing

demand for services and reinforces the importance of continued investment in staffing, training, and apparatus readiness.

March also marked important organizational milestones. The department successfully completed promotional processes resulting in three full-time Lieutenant positions being filled across all shifts, while two additional part-time firefighters were hired. These additions bring the department to full staffing levels and significantly strengthen supervisory coverage and operational depth.

Training remained a major focus area with personnel completing **219 documented training hours** during the month. The department also continues making substantial progress toward establishing a Fire Marshal's Office, updating department policies, and building long-term administrative infrastructure necessary to support continued growth. **Captain Stephen Sears has played a key role in advancing these initiatives, particularly in the areas of training coordination, compliance tracking, and assisting with the foundational work necessary to establish the Fire Marshal's Office.**

Overall, the department remains focused on strengthening operational capability, improving organizational structure, and preparing for future service demands.

Key Accomplishments – March 2026

- Achieved full operational staffing levels
- Promoted three full-time Lieutenants
- Completed 219 documented training hours
- Provided state-level fire service instruction through GPSTC
- Continued development of Fire Marshal Office
- Advanced department policy and SOP development
- Captain Sears leadership in training coordination and Fire Marshal program development
- Delivered fire safety education to 175 community members

2. Emergency Response Activity

The department responded to **123 total incidents during March 2026.**

Response Area Distribution

Incident distribution reflects both local emergency demand and regional response commitments:

- **City of Cleveland:** 65 incidents (52.85%)

- **Auto-Aid Outside City Limits:** 44 incidents (35.77%)
- **Surrounding District Responses:** 14 incidents (11.38%)

This distribution demonstrates the department's continued responsibility as both a municipal provider and a regional emergency response partner.

Incident Type Overview (Year-to-Date)

Incident types remain consistent with modern fire service trends:

- EMS incidents: 56.86%
- Fire incidents: 3.68%
- Hazardous materials: 5.39%
- Service calls: 22.30%
- Technical rescues: 11.76%

EMS responses continue to represent the largest portion of service demand, emphasizing the department's all-hazards response mission.

3. Mutual Aid Activity

The department continues to maintain strong cooperative relationships with surrounding agencies.

During March:

- **Mutual Aid Given:** 18 incidents
- **Mutual Aid Received:** 2 incidents
- **Handled without Mutual Aid:** 103 incidents

These numbers reflect the department's ability to independently manage the majority of incidents while continuing to support regional response partners when needed.

4. Training and Professional Development

Personnel completed **219 documented training hours** during March as part of the department's structured training program.

Training topics included:

- Driver and pump operations
- Aerial apparatus operations
- Vehicle extrication
- Building construction
- Officer development
- Hazardous materials training
- PPE and safety programs
- Administrative development

A significant professional milestone occurred during March when **Chief Bryant served as an instructor for a 32-hour Live Fire Instructor program at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC)**. This course trains fire service instructors from across the State of Georgia and represents a significant professional achievement while highlighting the Cleveland Fire Department's growing reputation for training leadership.

Captain Stephen Sears has been instrumental in coordinating department training efforts, managing training documentation, and helping develop structured programs aligned with ISO standards. He has also played a significant role in the developmental work associated with establishing the Fire Marshal's Office, assisting with training preparation, organizational groundwork, and implementation planning.

Looking ahead, the department continues expanding internal training capabilities. Planned April training includes:

- In-house hose management training
- Two National Aerial Operator Certification courses
- Continued officer development programs

These efforts strengthen internal expertise while supporting firefighter safety and operational effectiveness.

5. Apparatus and Equipment Status

The department continues proactive management of apparatus maintenance needs to ensure operational readiness.

Current apparatus updates include:

- **Rescue 21** is currently out of service awaiting repairs. Cost estimates are being evaluated and are expected to represent a significant maintenance expense.
- **Tower 21** is undergoing repairs currently covered under manufacturer warranty, minimizing financial impact.
- **Engine 21** requires repairs and estimates are being obtained.

- **Utility 21** is also being evaluated for needed maintenance.

The department continues focusing on preventative maintenance and responsible fleet management to maintain reliability while planning for future replacement needs.

6. Staffing and Organizational Development

March represented significant progress in strengthening department staffing and leadership structure.

Personnel improvements included:

- Promotion of **three full-time Lieutenants**
- Hiring of **two part-time firefighters**
- Achievement of **full staffing levels**

These improvements enhance operational supervision, response capability, and organizational stability.

Administrative development also continued with:

- Ongoing department policy manual development
- Development of SOPs and SOGs
- Continued implementation work toward establishing the Fire Marshal's Office

The department continues to benefit from strong internal leadership development, with command staff actively supporting training, administration, and program implementation. **Captain Sears' leadership in training coordination and Fire Marshal program preparation demonstrates the department's commitment to developing internal leadership capacity and building long-term organizational stability.**

7. Community Engagement and Public Safety

Community risk reduction remains a core priority.

During March, the department provided fire safety education to:

- **150 elementary school students**
- **25 special needs adult participants**

These outreach efforts support injury prevention, fire safety awareness, and strengthen community relationships.

8. Goals and Highlights for April

As the department moves into April, focus areas will include operational readiness, administrative progress, training expansion, and community engagement.

Operational Priorities

- Continued apparatus repair planning
- Continued staffing stabilization following recent hiring

Administrative Development

- Continued policy manual development
- Continued SOP and SOG implementation
- Continued Fire Marshal Office development
- Participation in upcoming City budget meetings

Training Initiatives

- In-house hose management training
- Two National Aerial Operator Certification programs
- Continued ISO-aligned training documentation
- Continued officer development initiatives

Community Engagement

- Participation in multiple scheduled community events
 - Continued public education initiatives
 - Continued fire prevention outreach
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9. Closing Statement

The Cleveland Fire Department remains committed to providing professional, dependable emergency services while continuing to strengthen the organization through responsible staffing, training, equipment management, and administrative development.

As service demand continues to increase, the department has taken proactive steps to improve leadership staffing, expand training programs, modernize policies, and develop long-term prevention capabilities through the establishment of a Fire Marshal's Office.

These efforts position the department to continue meeting growing service demands while maintaining a strong focus on firefighter safety, operational effectiveness, and service to the citizens of Cleveland.

The progress being made is the direct result of strong teamwork throughout the organization, and I would like to recognize the efforts of our command staff, particularly Captain Sears, for his leadership in training development and his work assisting with the establishment of the Fire Marshal program.

The continued progress of the Cleveland Fire Department reflects the professionalism and dedication of the entire team.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Bryant
Fire Chief
Cleveland Fire Department