

# CITY OF CLEVELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Monthly Report – April 2026

**Prepared by:**

Chief Jason Bryant

Cleveland Fire Department

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### Chief's Leadership Note

The Cleveland Fire Department continues to build a strong, professional organization focused on operational readiness, training excellence, and long-term community risk reduction. April's efforts centered on strengthening training capabilities, advancing prevention initiatives, and maintaining consistent service delivery while managing increasing regional response demands.

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

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### 1. Executive Summary

April 2026 reflected continued operational stability and organizational progress. The department responded to **122 total incidents**, maintaining a consistent call volume compared to March.

Year-to-date, the department has responded to **531 incidents in 2026 compared to 527 in 2025**, representing a **0.76% increase**. While monthly activity has stabilized, the long-term trend continues to show significant growth, increasing from **313 calls in 2022 to 531 calls in 2026** — a **nearly 70% increase in service demand over the past five years**.

The department remains **fully staffed**, providing improved operational reliability and supervision.

Training increased significantly, with personnel completing **326 documented training hours**. A major accomplishment included the **Aerial Operator Certification course**, producing **five new operators**.

Administrative and interagency coordination efforts also continued during April. The department participated in a **multi-agency Chiefs' meeting with Cleveland, White County, and the City of Helen**, strengthening regional communication and coordination. The department also held its **first internal officers' meeting**, focused on improving communication, consistency, and leadership alignment across all shifts.

The Fire Marshal's Office continues to develop under the leadership of **Captain Stephen Sears**, with a focus on inspections, new construction coordination, and program development.

The department also continues to pursue outside funding opportunities and recently **submitted an application to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant program** for additional personal protective equipment to improve firefighter safety.

Community outreach remained strong, with **over 400 children reached**, a **station open house attended by approximately 75 citizens**, and personnel assisting with **Special Olympics events**.

A key operational concern remains the **48% automatic aid response rate**, indicating nearly half of responses occur outside city limits. This trend will require reassessment to ensure adequate coverage for the City of Cleveland.

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## Key Accomplishments – April 2026

- Maintained full staffing levels
- Completed 326 training hours
- Certified 5 new Aerial Operators
- Advanced SOP and SOG development toward review
- Continued Fire Marshal program development under Captain Sears
- Conducted first department-wide officers' meeting
- Participated in regional Chiefs' coordination meeting
- Submitted Firehouse Subs grant application for PPE
- Supported Special Olympics event
- Reached over 400 children through fire safety education
- Hosted open house with approximately 75 attendees

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## 2. Emergency Response Activity

**Total Incidents:** 122

### Response Distribution

- **City of Cleveland:** 64 (52.46%)
- **Automatic Aid Outside City Limits:** 49 (40.16%)
- **Other Responses:** 9 (7.38%)

## Incident Type Breakdown

- EMS incidents: 57.38%
- Fire incidents: 8.20%
- Hazardous materials: 1.64%
- Service calls: 21.31%
- Technical rescues: 11.48%

EMS responses continue to represent the majority of service demand.

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## 3. Automatic Aid Activity

Approximately **48%** of the department's responses during April occurred outside the City of Cleveland through automatic aid agreements.

This level of external response represents a significant operational concern, as it increases the risk of reduced coverage within the city. The department will be evaluating current automatic aid agreements to ensure they remain balanced, sustainable, and in the best interest of Cleveland's residents.

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## 4. Training and Professional Development

Personnel completed **326 documented training hours** during April, reflecting a strong commitment to operational readiness and professional development.

Training highlights included:

- Completion of an **Aerial Operator Certification Course**
- **Five personnel certified** as new aerial operators
- Continued emphasis on apparatus operations and firefighter safety
- Ongoing officer development and structured training programs

**Captain Stephen Sears continues to play a critical leadership role in coordinating training efforts, tracking compliance, and supporting structured program development aligned with ISO standards.** He is also leading the continued development of the Fire Marshal's Office, including inspections, new construction coordination, and program implementation.

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## 5. Apparatus and Equipment Status

The department continues to manage apparatus maintenance and operational readiness:

- **Rescue 21:** Out of service pending repair estimate
- **Truck 21 (formerly Tower 21):** In service, with ongoing warranty repairs
- **Engine 21:** Primary operational workload apparatus
- **Utility 21:** Under evaluation for maintenance needs

The department remains focused on preventative maintenance and responsible fleet management.

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## 6. Staffing and Organizational Development

The department remains **fully staffed**, improving operational consistency and supervision.

Administrative progress includes:

- Continued development of department policy manual
- SOP and SOG development nearing committee review
- Continued expansion of the Fire Marshal's Office

The department continues to strengthen internal leadership and communication. During April, the department conducted its **first officers' meeting**, focused on improving communication, consistency, and operational alignment across all shifts.

The department continues to benefit from strong internal leadership, with **Captain Sears leading training coordination and Fire Marshal program development**, and **Lieutenant Morris, Lieutenant Joiner, Interim Lieutenant Johnson, and Lieutenant Jarvis providing consistent shift-level leadership, accountability, and training oversight**.

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## 7. Community Engagement and Public Safety

Community risk reduction remains a priority.

During April:

- Fire safety education provided to **over 400 children**

- Department open house attended by approximately **75 citizens**
- Personnel assisted with **Special Olympics events**

These efforts strengthen community relationships and support proactive public safety initiatives.

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## **8. Goals and Highlights for May**

### **Training & Representation**

Chief Bryant will:

- Serve as **keynote speaker** for a Metro Atlanta recruit graduation
- Instruct a **Structural Fire Control course at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC)**

### **Operational Priorities**

- Continued evaluation of apparatus repair needs
- Ongoing monitoring of automatic aid response impact

### **Administrative Development**

- SOP and SOG committee review process
- Continued Fire Marshal Office development
- Participation in City budget planning

### **Community Engagement**

- Support of **Freedom Park business block party**
- End-of-school fire safety events
- Continued outreach and prevention programs

### **Leadership and Organizational Strength**

**Lieutenant Chris Morris, Lieutenant Jared Joiner, Interim Lieutenant Johnson, and Lieutenant Jarvis continue to provide outstanding leadership across all shifts, ensuring consistency, accountability, and ongoing training development within the department.**

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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 grow, the department is proactively addressing operational challenges, including increasing regional response obligations and apparatus needs, while continuing to build long-term prevention and training capabilities.

**This sustained growth in call volume, nearly 70% over the past five years, highlights the increasing demands placed on the department and reinforces the importance of continued investment in staffing, training, and equipment.**

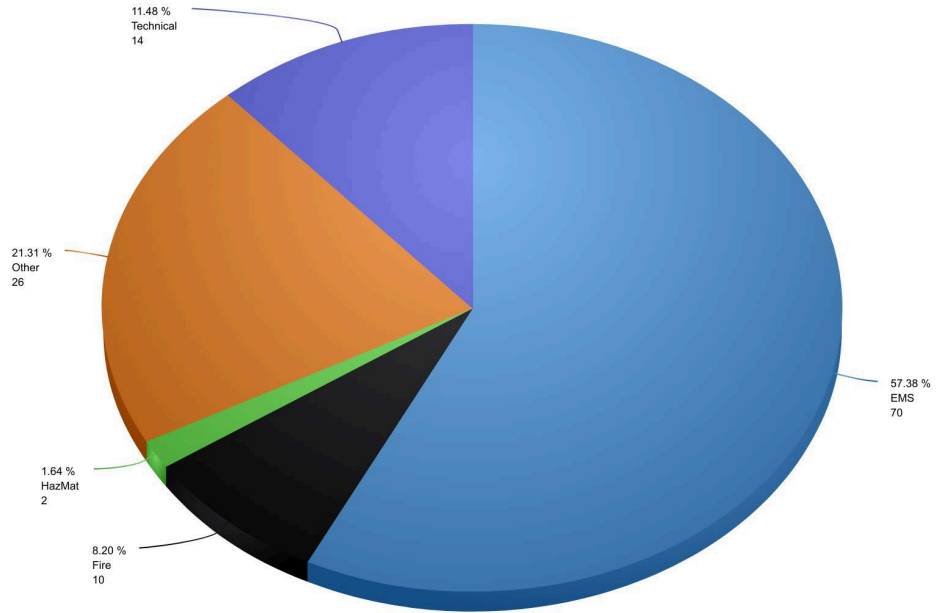
The department's continued progress is a direct result of the professionalism, leadership, and commitment demonstrated by our officers and personnel across all shifts. Their dedication to training, consistency, and operational readiness continues to move the organization forward.

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

EMS  
Fire  
HazMat  
Other  
Technical

# Analysis by Response Class

04/01/2026-04/30/2026

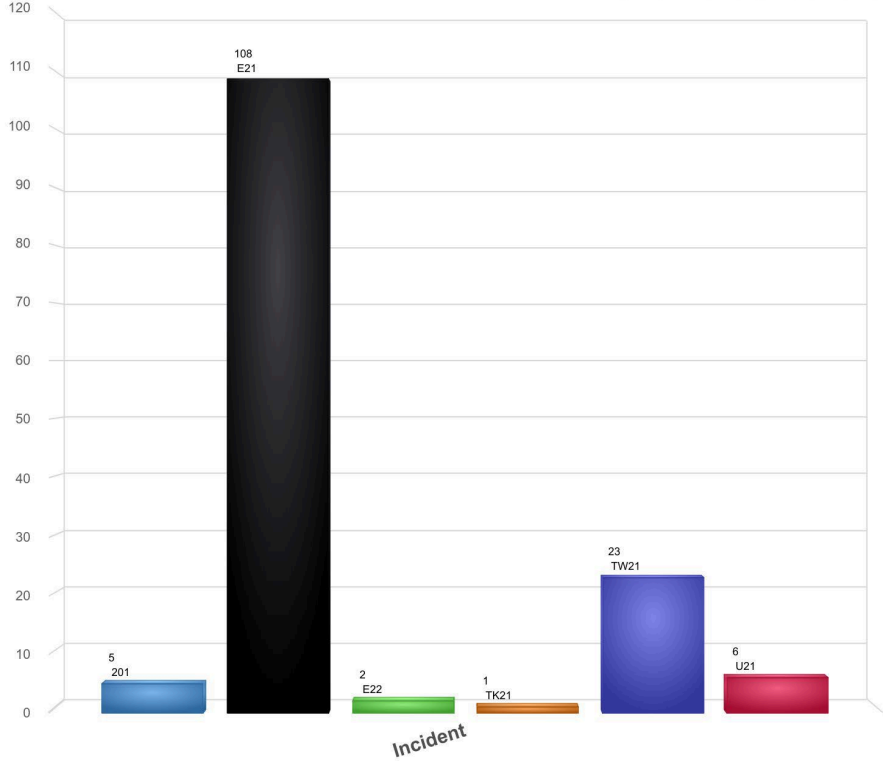


Total of Response Class: 122

# Incidents by Apparatus (By Apparatus ID)

04/01/2026-04/30/2026

- 201
- E21
- E22
- TK21
- TW21
- U21

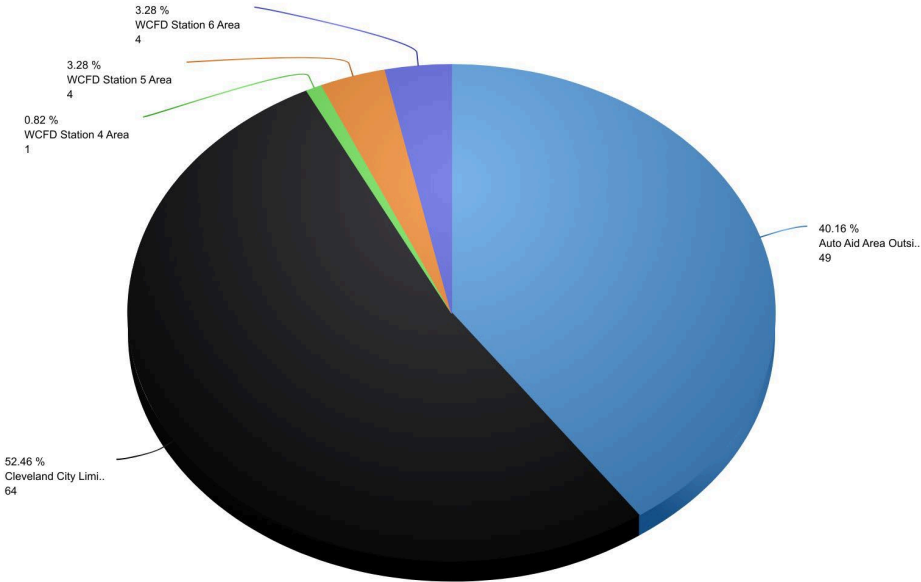


Total of Apparatus ID: 145

- Auto Aid Area Outside City Limits
- Cleveland City Limits
- WCFD Station 4 Area
- WCFD Station 5 Area
- WCFD Station 6 Area

# Incidents by District

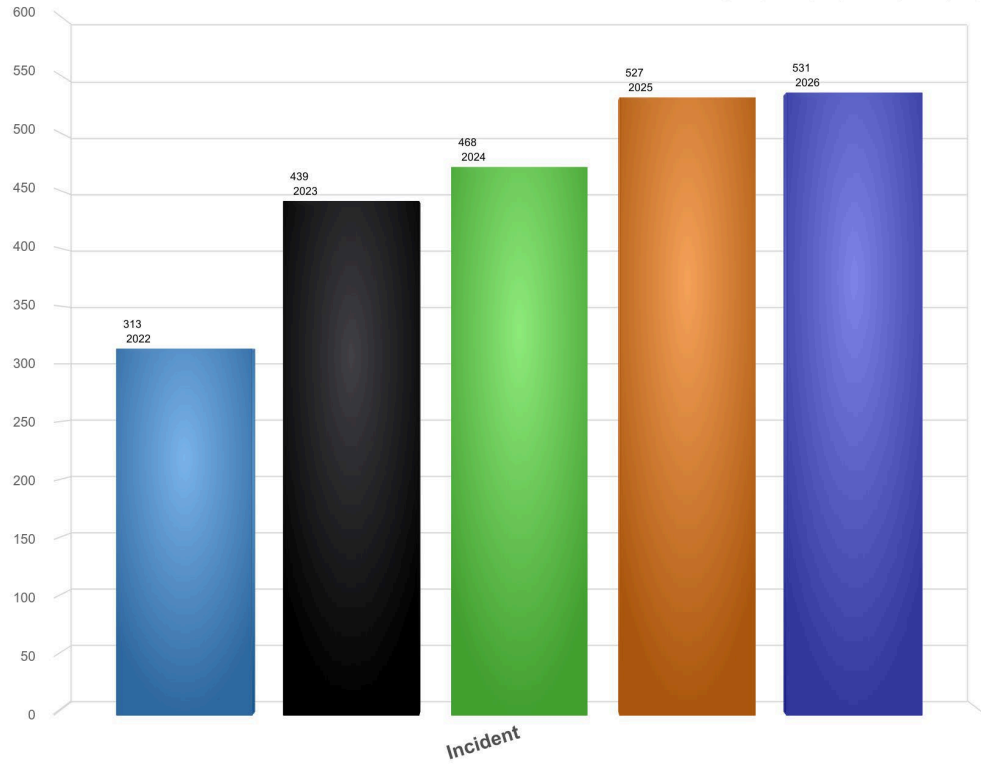
04/01/2026-04/30/2026



Total of District: 122



### Year to Year Comparison (Until Current Day of Year) - 5 Years 01/01/2026-12/31/2026



Total of Year: 2,278