

Independence Fire Department



Annual Report 2024

We welcomed 2 new members this year at Independence Fire. Andrew Roman & Jacob Kurt both come to us with the desire to learn as much as they can and a willingness to help serve the community they live in. Both members have hit the ground running and jumped in both feet with our training and working on gaining their Firefighter 1 status. This is a very time-consuming task as the fire fighter 1 certification is 150+ hours of classroom and hands on training in their 1st year. On top of working on their firefighter 1, these members also train with the rest of the members on Tuesday nights as the fire service is ever changing and requiring our members to stay up to date with training techniques and skills. Our members take a lot of pride in making sure we are trained in several disciplines such as firefighting, hazmat, water rescue, rope rescue, agriculture rescue, and so much more!

We have been very fortunate about being awarded local grants this year as well. We were able to purchase Dual-Purpose Gear for all our firefighters thanks to a grant from Buchanan County Health Trust. This gear is a lighter weight gear that can be used for Field Fires, Car Accidents, CO Calls, etc. This gear is designed to keep firefighters safe but reduce heat fatigue and reduce heat stress. We were also able to purchase Extrication/Rescue Gloves thanks to a matching grant from Buchanan County Health Trust. In total we received over \$26,000 in grant funding for the purchase of personal protective equipment.

We set another record for 2024 for call volume here at Independence Fire. We have seen an increase of just over 17% of calls from last year. Over the past 3 years we have seen an overall increase of calls by just over 53%. As our community continues to grow and our district expands, we feel like this trend will continue. With that being said, we are continuing to work with Architects, the City Council, and members of the department to look at the future growth of the department and the possibility of a future building expansion.

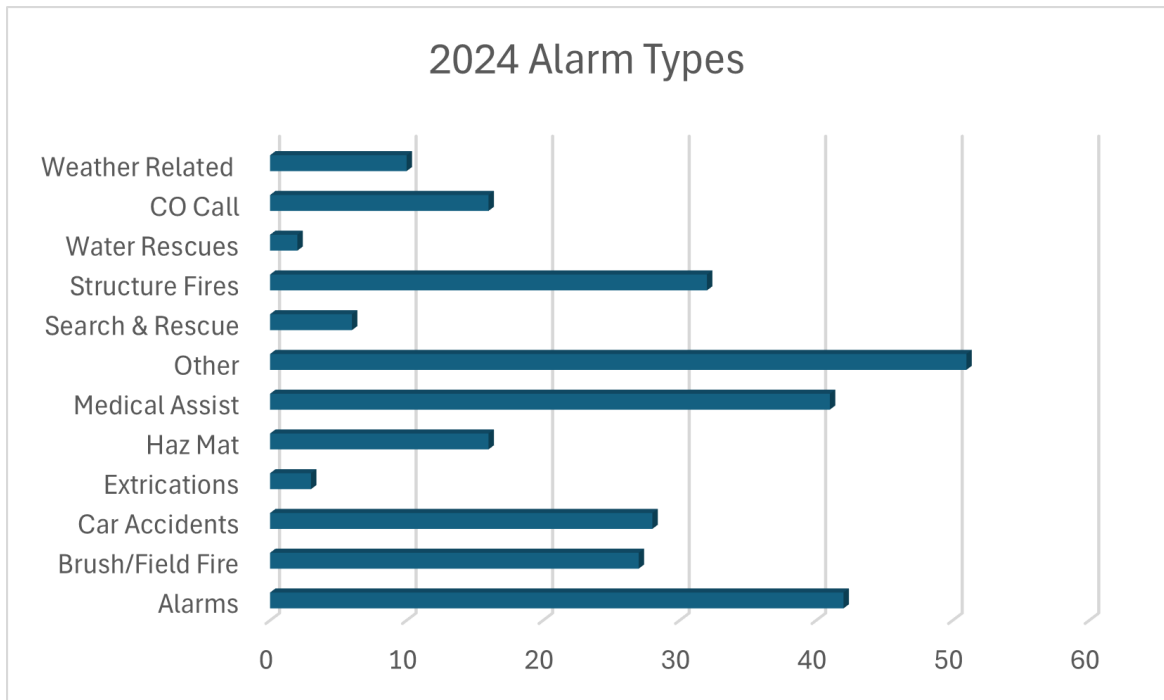
Fire Chief
Blake Hayward

Annual Training Hours Per Member

**Probationary Firefighter*

Last Name	First Name	Training Hours
Beenblossom	Nathan	113.5
Blad	Christian	189.5
Bowman	Richard	14.5
Burns	Jeff	71
Butler	John	83
Decker	Jason	53.5
Delgado-Connor	Tony	69.5
Erickson-Dale	Tanner	74
Fangman	Ty	132.5
Fenner	Gordy	35.5
Hayward	Blake	95.5
Hookom	Wesley	66.5
Jacobs	Morgan	56
*Kurt	Jacob	26
Loveless	Mike	115
Newton	Richard	162.5
Nicolas	Roy	60
Ratchford	Daniel	49
Reicks	Drew	149.5
*Roman	Andrew	176.5
Simmons	Jen	73.5
Simmons	Taylor	33
Taylor	Judd	75
Till	Brody	92
Wolf	Jacob	118.5
Wulfekuhle	Jordon	48
Zimmerly	Mike	13





Calls for 2024

Alarms – 42

Brush/Field Fires – 27

Car Accidents – 28

Extrications – 3

Haz Mat – 16

Medical Assist – 41

Other – 51

Search & Rescue – 6

Structure Fires – 32

Water Rescues – 2

CO Call – 16

Weather Related Emergency – 10

Total Calls for Service in 2024 – 274

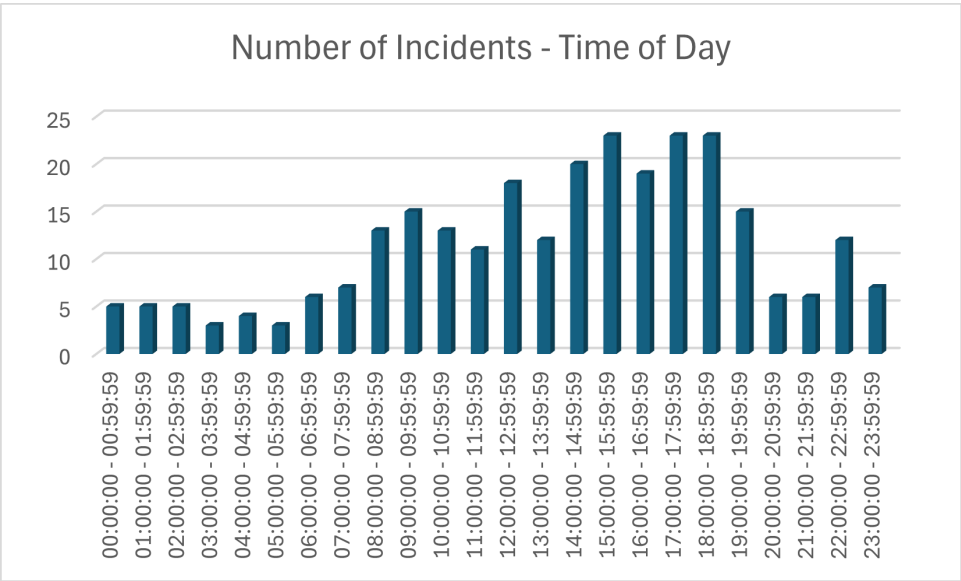
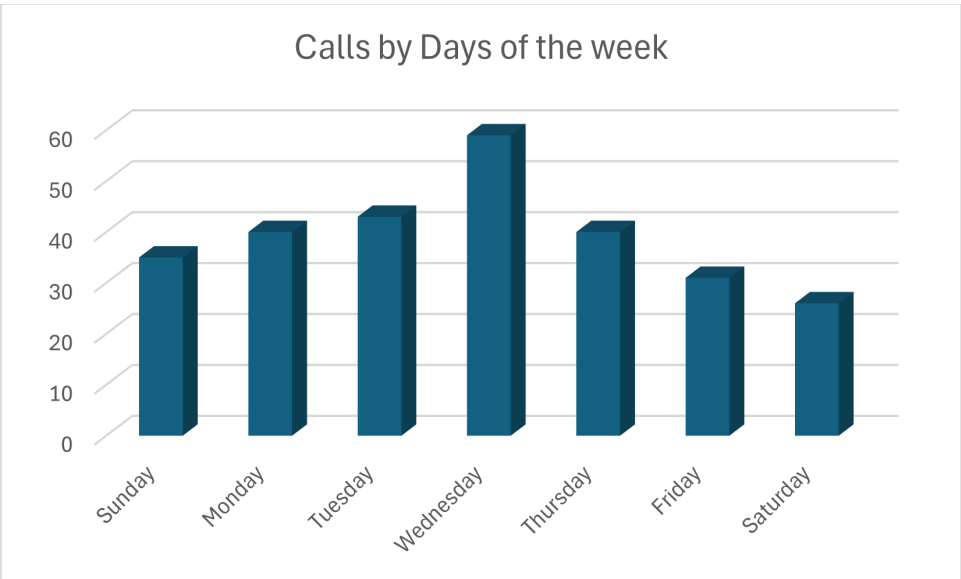
Number of calls per personnel

*** Probationary Member**

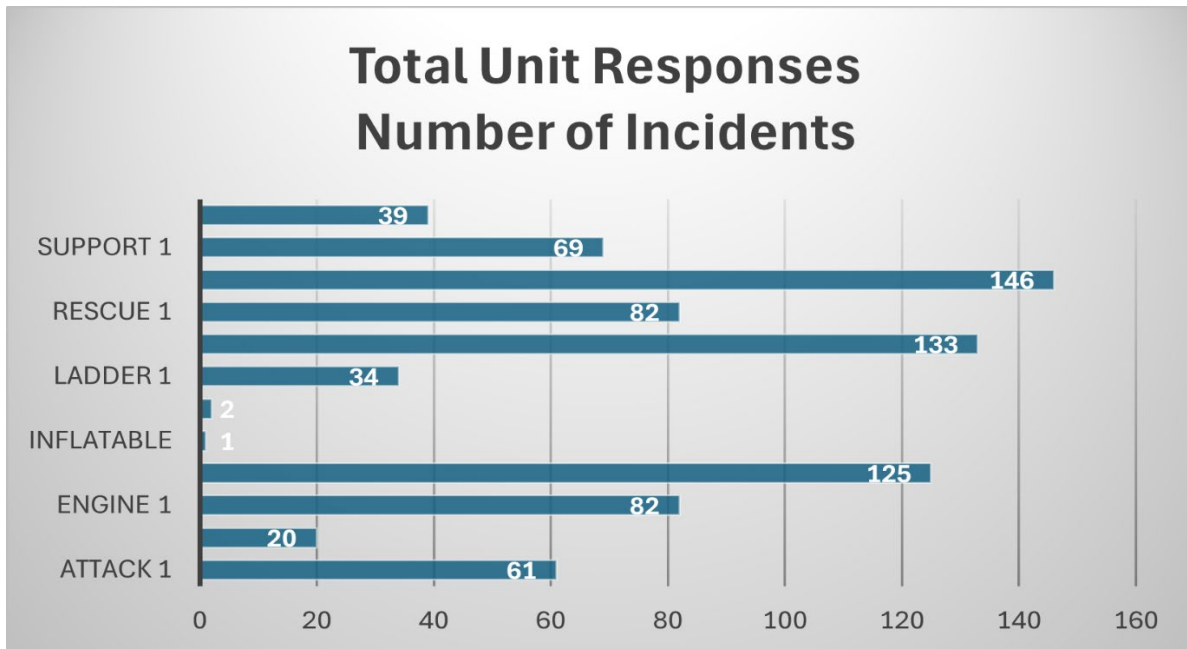
<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Total Runs</i>
Beenblossom	Nathan	71
Blad	Christian	174
Bowman	Richard	40
Burns	Jeff	85
Butler	John	133
Decker	Jason	43
Delgado-Connor	Tony	57
Erickson-Dale	Tanner	93
Fangman	Ty	67
Fenner	Gordy	24
Hayward	Blake	125
Hookom	Wesley	55
Jacobs	Morgan	58
*Kurt	Jacob	21
Loveless	Mike	162
Newton	Richard	178
Nicolas	Roy	53
Ratchford	Daniel	78
Reicks	Drew	94
*Roman	Andrew	169
Simmons	Jen	26
Simmons	Taylor	28
Taylor	Judd	45
Till	Brody	30
Wolf	Jacob	131
Wulfekuhle	Jordon	35
Zimmerly	Mike	9



Calls by Hours of the Day and Day of the week



Incident Response per Apparatus



Attack 1 is our Brush Truck. When we designed this truck, we wanted to be able to make it a multipurpose piece of equipment. This truck is used for field fires, car accidents, and to help transport personnel to calls when needed. This truck continues to get used more and more each year.

Attack 2 is our Polaris Ranger. Our Ranger has been a great asset to our department so far and has big a very big help, despite its size, during field fires.

Engine 1 and Engine 2 are our main Engines or Pumpers. They go as the first truck out the door and carry up to 6 firefighters to the call. Engine 1 is primarily used for City calls and medical assists. Engine 2 is primarily used for rural calls and car accidents.

Inflatable & John Boat We utilize 2 different types of boats at IFD. The inflatable is a smaller, quick boat, able to get around fast and during swift water. Our John Boat is an 18 ft flat bottom boat that is equipped with lights to be able to help day or night.

Ladder 1 is our 2nd out truck for all City Calls. We also respond to other communities when requested. It can be used for Rescues, Fire Attack, and can pump water like an Engine as well.

PV is Personnel Vehicle. When a call comes in, members respond to the station as well as to the scene depending on their rank. Some members will go direct and give a size up and direct responding units in and where to go.

Rescue 1 is our garage on wheels. It can't pump water and doesn't carry any water on it. Instead, it carries tools and equipment used on emergency scenes.

Station is when we have personnel staged at the station and available to bring extra equipment or apparatus to an incident if needed.

Tanker 1 is used mainly in the rural areas where fire hydrants aren't available. It's a support vehicle with its main task to provide 2000 gallons of water to a scene and return to town to fill up and return to the scene.

Support 1 This is a chevy 2500 pickup that will be used as a Support Vehicle for our department. This is used for inspections, hauling equipment to and from scenes, pulling equipment, personnel transport to and from scenes, etc.

The Future

The future of the Independence Fire Department is focused on growth and modernization to better serve our community. A key goal is the expansion of our current station to enhance operational efficiency and provide the space needed for improved training and equipment storage. We are actively pursuing funding opportunities to ensure the timely replacement of aging equipment and trucks, as well as to add new vehicles to our fleet, enhancing our ability to respond effectively to emergencies. These initiatives will help us preserve our proud legacy while meeting the evolving needs of the community and ensuring the safety and preparedness of our dedicated firefighters.

