

# Independence Fire Department



## Annual Report 2025

This year, the Independence Fire Department welcomed several new members to our ranks: Anthony Schuler, Landen Hager, and Cooper McCurdy-Savago. All three bring prior fire service experience along with valuable medical backgrounds. As the Independence Fire

Department continues to expand its medical response capabilities, this added medical training is a strong asset to both the department and the community we serve.

Our Cadet Program also saw significant growth and success this past year. We currently have three cadets ranging in age from 14 to 17. These young men and women attend training and respond to emergencies alongside department members, with appropriate limitations due to age. The program provides early exposure to the fire service and public safety, helping build future firefighters while instilling responsibility, teamwork, and service at a young age.

Once again, the Independence Fire Department was fortunate to secure substantial grant funding. In 2025, the department received over \$97,000 in grant awards for critical equipment, including electric extrication tools, air bag extrication equipment, a fire extinguisher training prop, AEDs, and personal protective equipment. We are extremely grateful to the various grant organizations and boards whose support helps enhance firefighter safety and service delivery while easing the tax burden on local residents.

The department experienced a record-setting year for call volume in 2025, responding to a total of 318 calls. This represents a 16% increase from the previous year and an 81% increase over the past five years. As the community continues to grow and our response district expands, we anticipate this upward trend will continue.

To address current and future operational needs, the department has been working with architects on a station addition. Additional space is necessary to support staffing, equipment, and training demands and to ensure we can continue providing timely and effective emergency response as the community grows.

At the same time, department members have been working closely with apparatus manufacturers to design a new Rescue Truck and Ladder Truck. Due to current space limitations and aging equipment, replacing apparatus has required careful planning. Our goal is to design equipment that meets the operational demands of our growing district while remaining fiscally responsible and mindful of taxpayer investment.

Fire Chief  
Blake Hayward

## **Calls for 2025**

Alarms – 28

Car Accidents – 44

Extrications – 3



Haz Mat – 12

Medical Assist – 52

Other – 20

Search & Rescue – 4

Fires – 82

Water Rescues – 2

Carbon Monoxide – 20

Weather Related Emergency – 7

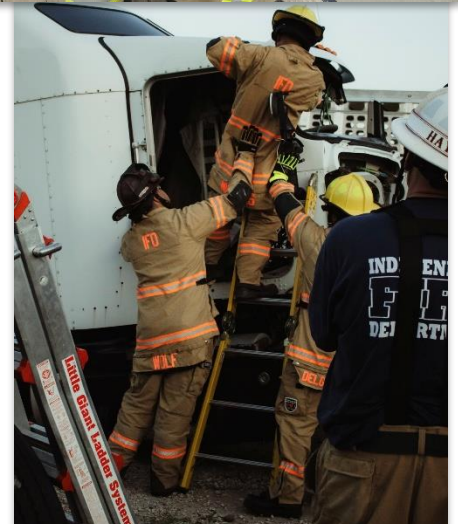
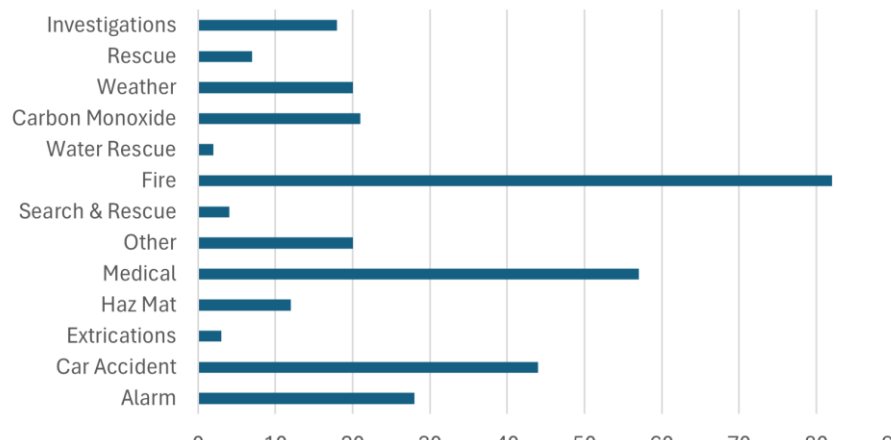
Rescue – 7

Investigations - 18

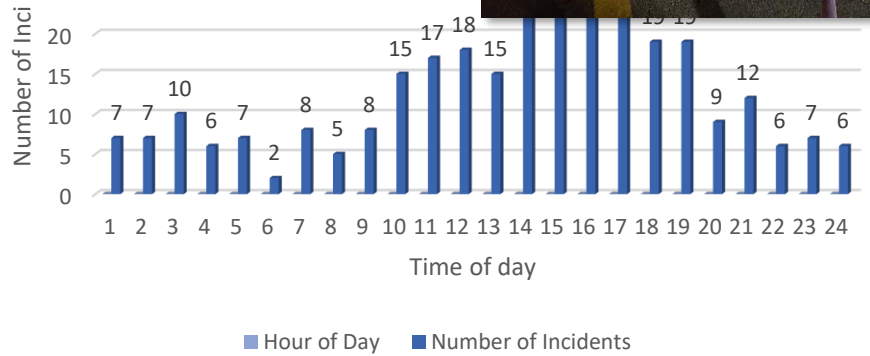
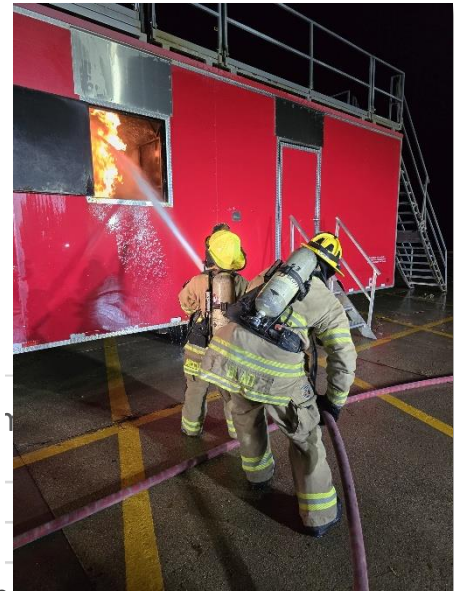
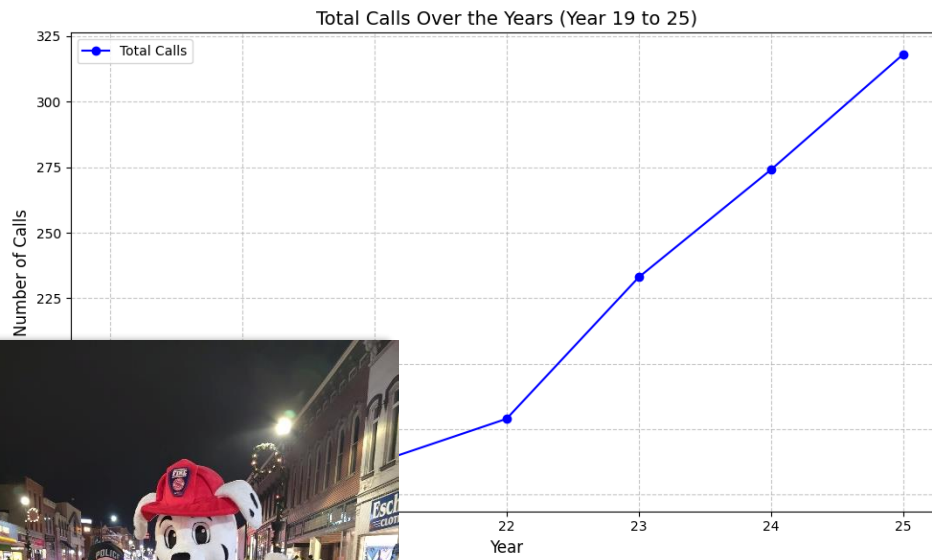
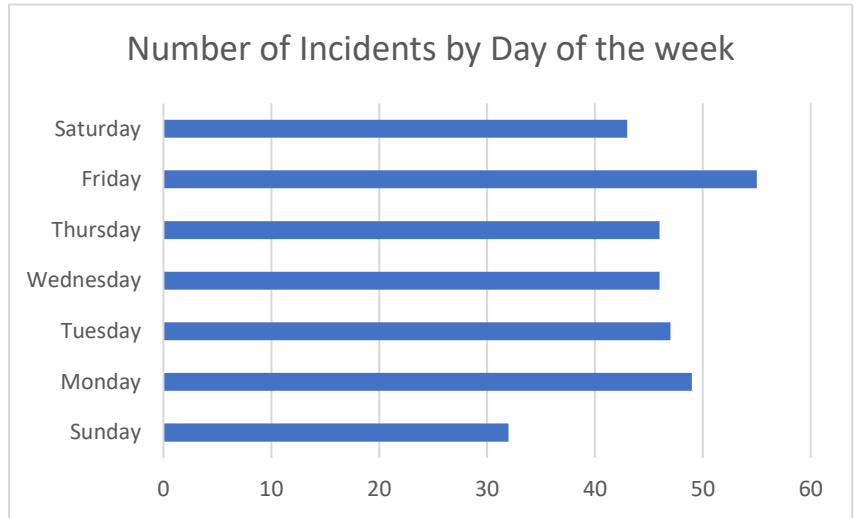
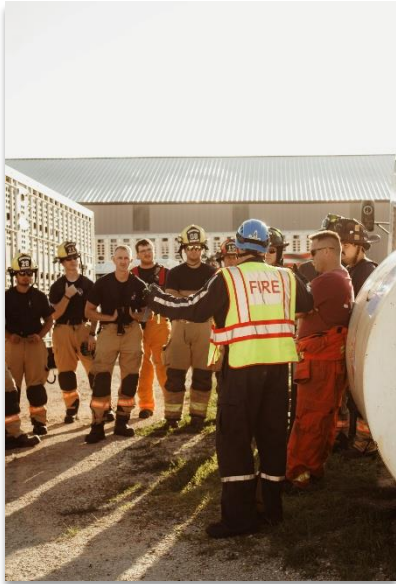
**Total Calls for Service in 2025 - 318**

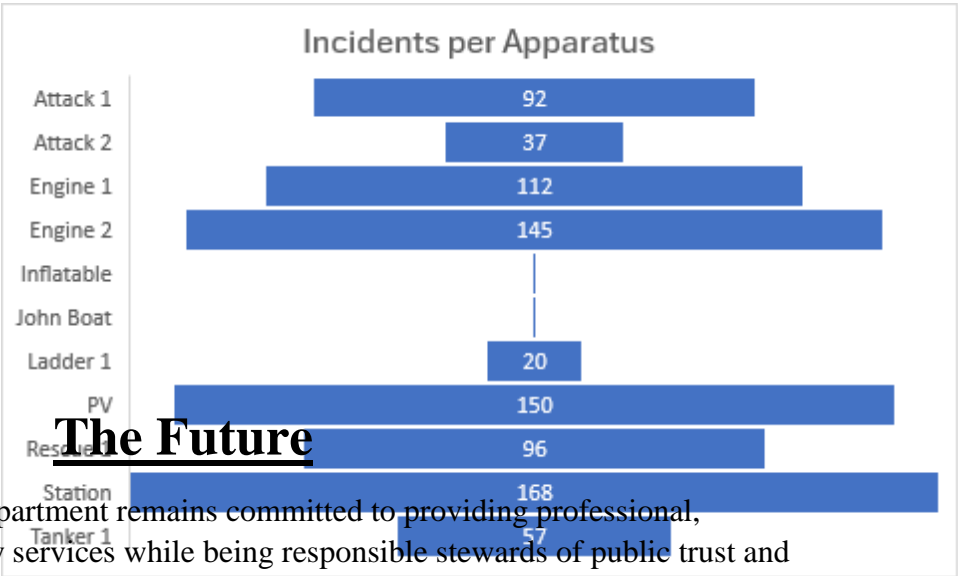
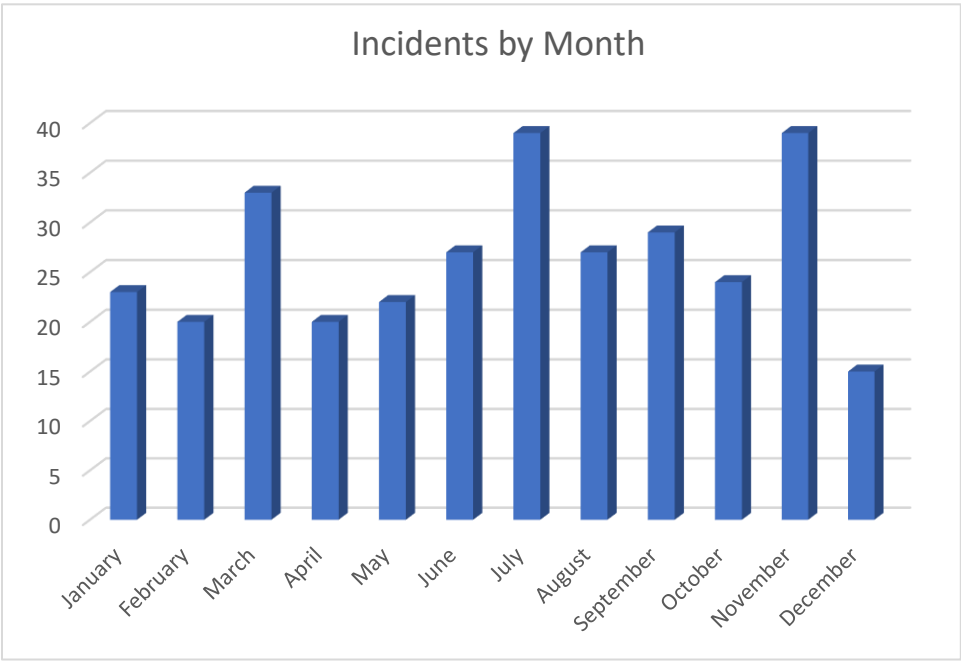


Type of Incidents









## The Future

The Independence Fire Department remains committed to providing professional, dependable, and timely emergency services while being responsible stewards of public trust and taxpayer resources. The progress outlined in this report is a direct result of the dedication and work ethic of our firefighters, officers, and support members who continue to train hard, answer the call, and serve this community with pride.

Looking ahead to 2026, the department has clear and deliberate goals. We will continue moving forward with the planned station addition to address current space limitations and better support operational, staffing, and training needs. We will also work toward the replacement of two aging apparatus, ensuring our fleet remains safe, reliable, and capable of meeting the

increasing demands placed on it. In addition, the department will begin efforts to secure and plan for future space needs, recognizing that long-term growth requires foresight and preparation well beyond immediate needs.

As our community continues to grow and call volume increases, we will remain focused on thoughtful planning, sound decision making, and responsible investment while staying rooted in the traditions and values that define the fire service. Firefighter safety, operational readiness, and service to the citizens of Independence will continue to guide every decision we make.

On behalf of the Independence Fire Department, I would like to thank the City Council, City staff, our partner agencies, and the citizens of Independence for their continued support and trust. We do not take that responsibility lightly, and we remain committed to protecting our community today while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow.

Respectfully,

Blake Hayward  
Fire Chief  
Independence Fire Department

