



Maple Plain Fire Department

Fire Chief's Report

May 2025

Maple Plain Fire Department – Chief Rick Denneson

Vision as Fire Chief

To build an organizational structure that provides unity, compassion, necessary tools, equipment, training, and leadership for firefighters to be successful when in action.

Calls May 2025 – report #857 & #553

In May, we responded to 37 calls for service.

- 24 EMS & Rescue calls
- 2 Motor Vehicle Crashes
- 5 Fire calls including grass fires
- 1 Alarm call
- 5 Hazardous calls – chemical issue / wire down

Where these calls are occurring – report #384

Independence – 12 calls

Maple Plain – 21 calls

Three Rivers Parks – 0

Mutual Aid – 4 Call to assist under mutual aid

Mutual Aid Received – 2 calls – both for large swamp / grass fires

Training Update

In May, we worked on our auto extrication / stabilization training to prepare us for vehicle crashes. You probably noticed the smashed up, upside down cars behind the station. Not all crashes involve cars on their tires, so flipping them over helps us to understand the dynamics of a car that needs stabilization. We also did some first aid refresher training.

Community Events

Former retired fire fighter Rodney Grandstrand passed away. Rod retired from the MPFD several years ago and resided in the Haven Homes. I and another fire fighter took a truck to his funeral to represent the MPFD.

On May 7th, a group of about 20 kids from the Little Munchkins Daycare in Maple Plain came to the fire station for a tour and a safety talk. They received junior fire fighter hats as part of the tour.

On May 26th, Memorial Day, we had a truck and personnel at the Memorial Day remembrance program at the Lewis Cemetery.

Merger with West Suburban Fire District

Our transition teams from West Suburban and MPFD met twice in May. May 8th and May 29th. At the May 8th meeting, a list of responsibilities was given to team members, MPFD and WSFD pairing up on the responsibilities to find out what needs to be done, what costs will be and how we will merge things together. Items such as our records management system, SCBA air packs, response protocols, training records and requirements, social media platforms and outreach, etc.

By our 2nd meeting on May 29th, we were able to report back to the group on what it will take for some of these operational items to come together and an idea on costs associated with some of them. Some of the items continue to be researched and discussed as to how we will bring the two together – such as our records management system which is our database of calls and training records.

We also agreed to start working together at each other's community events, both to help out with supplementing personnel at these events and to be seen by the community as working together. It also gives the fire fighters an opportunity to start working together on more than just mutual aid fire calls. Events such as Party in the Park, Hamel Rodeo, The Polo Classic, Tour De Tonka, and Night to Unite.

We have also exchanged our training schedules so that we can attend each other's training courses. Trainings that are a little more specialized to each department. We have invited them to come to train on our confined space rescue equipment, we are hosting an electric vehicle incident response course and we will have them train with us using our ladder truck.

With the training events and community events, we are using Signup Genius, giving both departments access to sign up to each other's events and be able to see who is attending.

We have 2 meetings scheduled for June – June 12th and June 26th. Our June 26th meeting, we are bringing the 2 departments together as a whole to meet and talk about where we are at with the merger and answer any questions that anyone has of the transition group or leadership.

Calls of Interest

2625 Geggen Tina Rd - Independence

On May 25th, we were called for a grass fire that was spreading into a swamp area. The homeowner was burning some brush when an ember spread by wind, went into the swamp area behind his house. Several agencies including the DNR with a helicopter were called in to assist with extinguishing the fire. No one was injured and no real property loss occurred.

2110 McDow Ln – Independence

On May 5th, we responded to a swamp fire behind this residence. It is believed that an ember from an old brush pile (hadn't been burned on in several days) was blown by the wind into the swamp, starting the fire. No property damage or injuries occurred. WSFD assisted with the fire.