



# Maple Plain Fire Department

## Fire Chief's Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025

Maple Plain Fire Department – Chief Rick Denneson

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### **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 Year to Date June 30<sup>th</sup> – report #857 & #553**

In the second quarter of 2025, we responded to 90 calls for service. That is up 6 calls from the same time last year. We are at 205 total calls for service in 2025 compared to 177 at this time last year.

- 70 EMS & Rescue calls
- 2 Alarm calls
- 9 Fire calls including mutual aid to our neighboring departments
- 2 Good intent or service calls – Smoke in the area, burn permit, gas purge
- 7 Hazardous calls – no fire – Gas leak, gas spill, wire down

### **Where these calls are occurring – report #384**

Independence – 33 calls for service

Maple Plain – 52 calls for service

Three Rivers Parks – 0 calls

Mutual Aid Given – 5 calls for service

Mutual Aid Received – 3 calls

### **Training Update**

As the weather starts to get nicer this time of year, we can do more training outside. We can do more dynamic types of training such as car fires, vehicle extrication and stabilization, and fire response using dump tanks and pumper relay practice. We also had an instructor come in from Hennepin Vo Tech to give us an in depth look at each of our pumper trucks – which include the ladder truck and Tanker 11 as they both pump water also and show us some techniques for both efficient pumping strategies and in station periodic maintenance we can do with our pumps to keep things operational.

### **Equipment Update**

I am still waiting on the Tahoe from Minnetonka Fire Department. There has been a delay in the outfitter that Minnetonka and MPFD use for setting up vehicles. They have been short-handed and unable to keep up with the workload. This is not unusual for this industry as other departments with other outfitters are waiting 6-8 months for getting a vehicle set up.

### **Personnel**

We currently have 19 fire fighters on our department. In April, we received the resignation of 10-year member Kevin Kolkind. Kevin was a strong asset to our department and was our treasurer for the relief association. Kevin was also very active with our steak fry fundraiser and

silent auction that we used to host. Kevin's full-time employment has changed, demanding more of his time, leaving less for the FD. Kevin will be missed.

We have recently completed application and background checks on 2 applicants that we have been working on, and they will go for council approval for hiring in July.

### **Merger / Taxing District**

On Monday April 7<sup>th</sup>, we invited WSFD Chief Leuer and several members of his department to come over and meet with our department to answer questions and get everyone caught up with the status of the merger.

Since that meeting, we have gotten together twice in May and twice in June with what we call our "transition teams". This is a group of 6 of us from our department, meeting with their board members at their station office. We have divided up a list of operational and administrative tasks, assigning them to firefighters to look at what it will take to combine these in a merger. This has been effective in making large strides forward. At the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, both departments agreed that January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, is our target date to be merged. At the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, both departments got together to go over the progress that the transition teams have made, to air out any concerns and have questions answered. As part of our discussions with our transition teams, notes from the discussions have been taken and have been attached to this report.

Our 2 departments have started working together on community events such as Party in the Park and the Hamel Rodeo. We also have other events this summer that we will be working together such as the Polo Classic and Tour De Tonka.

Training schedules have been exchanged, and we are signing up to have members come to each other's training sessions.

MPFD is working towards supplementing the WSFD duty crews that currently work Friday and Saturday evenings later this summer / fall.

### **Significant Events**

#### **Awards banquet**

On Friday May 9<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual MPFD awards banquet at the Independence City Hall. At the banquet, we recognized several members of our department for their continued dedication to our communities through their service. Recognitions for most training hours, the highest call percentage response and years of service pins were given. We also recognized Mayor Emeritus Marvin Johnson and retired West Hennepin Public Safety Director Gary Kroells as "friends of the Maple Plain Fire Department" for their years of support and working relationship with the fire department. This award is something that we give to an individual or business annually.

#### **Grass Fires**

Earlier this spring, things were dry. We responded to several grass fires both in our area and assisting the WSFD. 2 fires in our area were significant swamp fires – one of which required the assistance of the DNR helicopter to help extinguish the fire. Luckily there was no property damage, or anyone injured in these fires.