



Maple Plain Fire Department

Fire Chief's Report

3rd Quarter 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 Year to Date September 30th – Report #857 & #553

In the third quarter of 2025, we responded to 83 calls for service. That is down 19 calls from the same time last year. We are at 288 total calls for service in 2025 compared to 279 at this time last year.

- 63 EMS & Rescue calls
- 6 Alarm calls
- 3 Fire calls including mutual aid to our neighboring departments
- 4 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 – 31 calls for service

Maple Plain – 46 calls for service

Three Rivers Parks – 2 calls

Mutual Aid Given – 4 calls for service

Mutual Aid Received – 0 calls

Training Update

During the 3rd quarter of this year, we trained with our confined rescue ropes and harness systems, radio communications, and some air pack confidence training. We had a training vendor give us a 3-hour classroom and hands on course covering electric vehicles and how to handle fires involving EV's. We have recently purchased some specialty equipment to help us deal with EV's. This quarter we also completed our annual first aid refresher. We are required to have a minimum of 8 hours per year to keep our certification. We do this in 2 – 4-hour training sessions each year.

With our consolidation coming closer with WSFD, we have been doing more training with the 2 departments together. We have exchanged training schedules as well as public relations events.

Equipment Update

We received the long-awaited replacement Tahoe. Our purchase of the used Tahoe from the Minnetonka Fire Department was completed. This is a 2015 Chevy Tahoe with 52,000 miles on it. It came already equipped with emergency lights and sirens. It has been in service for a couple of months now. The retired Tahoe is set to go to auction.

Personnel

At the end of July, council approved 2 new applicants for hiring, bringing our numbers to 21 in total on the department. One of the 2 came with their basic firefighting and first aid training already completed.

Consolidation with WSFD

We continue to work towards our consolidation with the West Suburban Fire District with our finalization date of 12/31/2025. We continued our transition team meetings as well as Chief Leuer and I meeting separately to keep tasks on track. On August 21st, the Cities of Maple Plain and Independence held a joint council meeting where separately as cities they both passed resolutions confirming their intent to proceed with the consolidation of the Maple Plain Fire Department with the West Suburban Fire District. The Maple Plain city attorney is working with the WSFD attorney to complete the legal agreements needed for the consolidation.

In the last 2 months, our focus has been to work together more on training, calls and public events. We are pushing the 2 departments to operate more as one, getting the members to get to know each other better and solidify the working relationship.

Calls of Interest

7-10-2025 in the 2200 block of CO 92N in Independence, we responded to a house fire. The fire started outside the residence near a window. A resident was burning weeds and some hot embers got up underneath the siding, starting it on fire. We were able to quickly extinguish the fire with minimal damage to the rest of the house.

7-12-2025 myself and an engine crew responded to a call for mutual aid to Mound fire on an apartment fire at Presbyterian Homes in Spring Park. There were a couple of injuries to residents, but the fire was quickly extinguished. Our crew helped with extinguishment and overhaul.

7-24-2025, MPFD responded to the Baker Park beach for a report of a drowning. Our crews arrived and assisted with CPR on a juvenile male that was there as part of a summer school program. The child was transported by ambulance to the hospital but died from the incident. Support for our crew was provided, and they attended a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing in the following days.

8-1-2025, we responded to a vehicle crash involving a motorcycle on CO 19 and Sycamore Trail. Upon arrival, the driver was found to have serious injuries. West Suburban fire also responded and set up a landing zone for North Air Care helicopter.

8-12-2025 @ 11:57pm, we assisted the WSFD with a truck and a crew at a house fire in the 4100 block of Wild Meadows in Medina. Our crew assisted with fire control and command operations for several hours. No one was injured in the fire.

9/11/2025 in the 5600 block of Drake Drive, a long time Independence resident was working in her garden and went unconscious. We arrived and performed CPR but were unsuccessful with lifesaving efforts.

9/16/2025 MPFD was called for a crash with injuries in the 1900 block of Baker Park Road. A pickup truck rear ended a school bus. Luckily no kids on the bus were hurt and the driver of the other vehicle sustained only minor injuries. We assisted with checking the injured driver and traffic control.

Community Events

During this quarter, we have attended and helped with several community events

- Delano 4th of July Parade
- Hamel Rodeo
- Long Lake 5K Run
- Tour De Tonka
- Polo Classic
- Night to Unite
- Station Birthday Party for Orono Education Alliance
- Discovery Center Vehicle Fair
- Battle of the Badges
- Orono Homecoming Parade