



**Southern Ozaukee Fire &  
EMS Board  
AGENDA**

**Date:**  
Wednesday, March 11, 2026

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LOCATION: 250 Elm Street, Thiensville, WI

**Time:** 5:30 PM

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Mequon**

Mayor Andrew Nerbun

Administrator Will Jones

Alderman Gregg Bach

Alderman William Gebhardt

Citizen Lynn Streeter (Excused)

**Thiensville**

President John Rosing (Excused)

Trustee Kristina Eckert

Administrator Landisch-Hansen

Citizen Doug Chimenti

Alternate Trustee David Lange

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. January 14, 2026 (att)

**IV. PERSONAL APPEARANCES AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

A. Personal Appearances and Public Comment: Citizens wishing to address the SOFD Board on any matter not on the agenda may do so at this time. If you desire to be heard on agenda items, you may be heard when that item is considered on the agenda. The time limit is FIVE minutes.

**V. FINANCE**

**VI. OPERATIONS**

A. Review and Action Regarding Lexipol Policies Implementation (att)

B. Community EMS Program Update (att)

C. 2025 SOFD Annual Report (att)

D. Mequon Public Safety Building Assessment Report

E. Bi-Monthly Update

## **VII. NEXT MEETING**

A. May 13, 2026

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Colleen Landisch-Hansen, Village Clerk

March 6, 2026

Please advise the Thiensville Municipal Hall, 250 Elm Street (262-242-3720) at least 24 hours prior to the start of this meeting if you have disabilities and desire special accommodations.



Southern Ozaukee Fire & EMS Board  
MINUTES  
DATE: Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
LOCATION: 250 Elm Street, Thiensville,  
WI  
TIME: 5:30 PM

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nerbun called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

## II. ROLL CALL

### Mequon

Mayor Andrew Nerbun

Administrator Will Jones

Alderman Gregg Bach

Alderman William Gebhardt

Citizen Lynn Streeter

### Thiensville

President John Rosing

Trustee Kristina Eckert

Administrator Landisch-Hansen

Citizen Doug Chimenti

Alternate Trustee David Lange (Not Present)

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 12, 2025 (att)

**MOTION** to Approve by President Rosing **SECONDED** by Alderman Gebhardt **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Aye:** 7

**No:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

## IV. PERSONAL APPEARANCES AND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Personal Appearances and Public Comment: Citizens wishing to address the SOFD Board on any matter not on the agenda may do so at this time. If you desire to be heard on agenda items, you may be heard when that item is considered on the agenda. The time limit is FIVE minutes.

None.

## **V. FINANCE**

### **A. Preliminary Year End Budget Report 2025 (att)**

Chief Bialk presented the preliminary report. The department will again run a surplus, though the audit will not be ready for the March meeting. Revenue is close to 100% of expectations. There were 30 fewer calls and 120 fewer transports than in 2024, but gross charges only differed by \$10,000.

Administrator Jones asked whether the vehicle repairs mentioned by Chief Bialk would be used to improve known problem vehicles or if there were plans to retire those vehicles. Chief Bialk responded that the Department has consistent problems with the yellow ambulances, despite their low mileage. However, the Department has not yet determined whether those vehicles should be kept or retired.

Trustee Eckert asked about the reason for 120 fewer transports. Chief Bialk suggested this is the first year in several years that call volume decreased, which may indicate a plateau, but Mayor Nerbun cautioned it could be a temporary dip.

Citizen Streeter and Administrator Jones noted that the change represents only about 2% of total EMS call volume and is not considered a significant swing.

Administrator Landisch-Hansen inquired whether the estimated surplus includes what should be in Capital Reserves or is purely for operations. Chief Bialk replied that it is purely for operations.

## **VI. OPERATIONS**

### **A. Preliminary Year End Statistics (att)**

Chief Bialk summarized the preliminary statistics and again noted reduced call volume compared to 2024. The average response time is in the 90th percentile. In Thiensville, the Police unit is almost always on scene prior to arrival. Mequon has a faster response time,

largely due to Station No. 2's proximity to Lumina Assisted Living & Memory Care.

## B. Lexipol Policy & Procedure Implementation (att)

Chief Bialk explained the context of the Lexipol collaboration, noting that Mequon documentation was originally used to set policies. A new employee manual was created by the Chief Bialk and the Mequon HR director. Afterward, a consultant hired by the SOFD Board recommended using Lexipol to address gaps and inconsistencies in the handbook.

Lexipol is a policy and management training program that helps reduce legal and financial risk and ensures the department's policies align with current State and Federal laws.

Deputy Chief Boehlke reviewed the process for implementing Lexipol guidelines and standards, and several specific changes to SOFD policies have been made in parallel with Lexipol.

Citizen Chimenti inquired how often Lexipol's guidelines and standards are updated to reflect changes in law or best practices. Deputy Chief Boehlke confirmed that, once changes are made at the State or Federal level, Lexipol updates policy language appropriately. The changes are then reviewed and accepted by the Department.

Brian Sajdak, the attorney for the Department, highlighted Lexipol's efficiency and responsiveness in updating policies, noting that it was often faster than notifications from other official sources. Mr. Sajdak further explained that Lexipol is considered the current gold standard for policy and procedure management and is increasingly becoming standard within legal firms as well as municipal departments such as police and fire.

Mr. Sajdak explained that the purpose of approving Lexipol implementation at this time was to formally adopt Lexical policies and merge them with existing ones for legal clarity and coverage, which provides liability protection and allows the Department to demonstrate adherence to Board-approved policies if questions arise in the future.

Citizen Chimenti asked how these changes are tracked over time. Deputy Chief Boehlke explained that Lexipol maintains a historical record of changes and notifies Department members when changes occur.

Deputy Chief Boehlke noted that the plan is to bring the Lexipol implementation back to the March meeting for approval.

Citizen Chimenti noted the \$19,000 upfront cost and inquired about ongoing costs. Chief Boehlke confirmed that \$19,000 covers the Lexipol suite, and the ongoing cost is about \$15,000 annually.

Administrator Landisch-Hansen inquired if, once adopted, Department staff would have access. Deputy Chief Boehlke confirmed that they would.

### C. Strategic Plan Update (att)

Chief Bialk noted that there has previously been a request to track the progress of the Strategic Plan. A series of progressive steps has been added to each item in the Plan, and the Plan will be updated at the end of every month.

Citizen Streeter inquired if anything in the Plan is currently a barrier or difficult to accomplish. Chief Bialk answered that all the current items are doable without issue.

Citizen Streeter noted that Initiative #4 of the Strategic Plan includes an aggressive facilities plan and asked whether the timing currently aligns with any of the Municipalities' facilities plans. The Board discussed Citizen Streeter's question. It was noted that, although the timing of other facility plans was outside the SOFD Board's control, the Board would need to continue monitoring those projects to effectively align with the municipalities going forward.

### D. Community EMS Program (att)

Chief Bialk explained that the State of Wisconsin refers to this program as "Community EMS." Going forward, the Department will now refer to it as "Community EMS." The role addresses gaps in interventions, such as providing follow-up care for someone who needs it after being discharged from a hospital.

Deputy Chief Boehlke shared that the next steps would be determined in tandem with Dr. Jason Staszko, the program's Medical Director. Additionally, community partnerships with Ascension, Froedert, Aurora, and the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Ozaukee County have helped move the project forward.

Once medical protocols are established, the plan will be submitted to the State of Wisconsin for approval. The hope is that by March, the program will have been approved or in process.

### E. Bi-Monthly Update

Chief Bialk gave the bi-monthly update.

## VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

**MOTION** to Adjourn to Closed Session at 6:40 PM by Alderman Bach **SECONDED** by Trustee Eckert. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Aye:** 7

**No:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

A. Closed Session - Review Personnel Evaluation of the Fire Chief: The Board may convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(c), considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility and then may reconvene into open session to take such action as deemed appropriate.

### **VIII. MOTION TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION** to Reconvene in Open Session at 6:49 PM by President Rosing **SECONDED** by Citizen Chimenti. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Aye:** 7

**No:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

### **IX. NEXT MEETING**

A. March 11, 2026

### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to Adjourn at 6:50 PM by Trustee Eckert **SECONDED** by Alderman Gebhardt. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Aye:** 7

**No:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

Submitted by,

Ben Honeck  
Deputy clerk

Signed by,

Colleen Landisch-Hansen  
Village Administrator/Clerk



Southern Ozaukee Fire and  
Emergency Medical Services Department  
11300 N. Buntrock Avenue  
Mequon, WI 53092  
(262) 242-2530  
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**TO:** SOFD Board  
**FROM:** Deputy Chief Nicholas Boehlke  
**DATE:** March 11, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Lexipol Adoption

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### **Background**

In May 2024, Consultant Chris Bell recommended use of Lexipol to modernize and standardize department policies. Based on this recommendation, SOFD purchased a Lexipol subscription to serve as the department's official policy manual.

Lexipol is an online policy and training management system designed for fire departments. It provides attorney-reviewed policies that are regularly updated to reflect current state and federal law. The system functions as a centralized, authoritative policy manual, replacing locally written policies that may become outdated over time.

Lexipol also documents policy distribution and member acknowledgment, creating a clear and defensible record that policies were communicated and understood. This documentation is critical for employment matters, liability claims, audits, and legal defense. In addition, Lexipol provides brief, ongoing training bulletins that reinforce safety, operational expectations, and professional standards.

At the January Board meeting, Attorney Brian Sajdak recommended that the Board take action at the March meeting to formally adopt the Lexipol Policy Manual.

Staff shared the entire Lexipol Policy Manual with the Board members on February 18, 2026.

### **Analysis**

The Lexipol Policy Manual includes 170 policies organized across 11 operational and administrative chapters. An implementation specialist worked with Staff to tailor the manual to SOFD operations, including command structure, response models, staffing, governance, and mutual aid relationships.

Staff conducted a comparative review of Lexipol policies and the existing SOFD Employee Manual. Where similar policies existed, Lexipol policies were adopted unless doing so would alter the intent of the original policy or remove critical content. Department-specific policies, including those related to full-time and paid-on-call personnel, were incorporated into the Lexipol manual as new policies.

This process resulted in a single, integrated policy manual that reflects both national best

practices and SOFD-specific operational and employment standards. The manual provides a consistent, legally defensible framework to guide department operations and decision-making.

**Fiscal Impact**

None

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends adopting the Lexipol Policy Manual as the official and authoritative policy manual for the Southern Ozaukee Fire Department.

Deputy Chief Nicholas Boehlke

*Nicholas Boehlke*

Southern Ozaukee Fire Department



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**TO:** SOFD Board  
**FROM:** Deputy Chief Nicholas Boehlke  
**DATE:** March 11, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Community EMS Program

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### **Background**

The need for a Community EMS Program was identified while creating the SOFD Strategic Plan. The adopted Strategic Plan Strategic Initiative 3: Community, Objective 1 calls for the development of a Community EMS Program aimed at addressing gaps in preventive and reactive healthcare. The program will focus on providing in-home, follow-up care for at-risk community members who require additional medical attention. Targeted individuals include those with chronic conditions, frequent falls, or those needing post-discharge evaluations. The program aims to improve patient outcomes, enhance continuity of care, and strengthen the relationship between community members and EMS providers.

### **Analysis**

Staff contacted the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) in February, requesting SOFD be added as a Community EMS Service (CEMS) Provider. This application was approved on March 4, 2026.

Additionally, SOFD's credentialed community paramedics drafted an operational plan tailored to the needs of the residents of Thiensville and Mequon. The operational plan, along with CEMS-specific protocol, are currently undergoing revision and review by staff and the medical director. After local approval, the plan and protocol will be submitted to DHS.

Staff has also begun working with ImageTrend™, the software vendor SOFD utilizes for electronic patient care reporting, to optimize the current platform for tracking patients and documenting CEMS visits. ImageTrend™ has a significant amount of experience optimizing CEMS reporting and integrating with existing electronic patient care reporting. In addition, they are able to leverage the Health Information Hub™ (HIH) for two-way data exchange with hospitals where available.

Staff will continue to update the Board on progress towards providing CEMS services as well as highlight milestones as they are reached.

### **Fiscal Impact**

No impact at this time.

### **Recommendation**

No recommendation at this time.

Deputy Chief Nicholas Boehlke

*Nicholas Boehlke*

Southern Ozaukee Fire Department



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Emergency Medical Services Department  
11300 N. Buntrock Avenue  
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**TO:** SOFD Board  
**FROM:** Fire Chief David L Bialk  
**DATE:** March 11, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** 2025 Annual Report

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### **Background**

Every year the Southern Ozaukee Fire Department publishes an annual report listing accomplishments and statistics from the previous year.

### **Analysis**

The annual report serves as a tool for evaluating performance and guiding future planning. It analyzes trends in calls for service, including changes in total volume and types of incidents such as fire, EMS, and rescues. It also measures operational performance by tracking response times, staffing levels, equipment deployment, training hours, and certifications.

In addition, the report supports strategic planning by informing resource allocation, budgeting, and identifying emerging community risks. It promotes accountability by providing transparency, highlighting prevention and outreach programs, and documenting key accomplishments and notable incidents.

(See Attach 2025 Annual Report)

### **Fiscal Impact**

None

### **Recommendation**

None

Fire Chief David L Bialk

*David L Bialk*

Southern Ozaukee Fire Department



**Southern Ozaukee Fire and EMS Department**  
*2025 Annual Report*



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Emergency Medical Services Department  
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March 11, 2026

President Rosing  
Members of the SOFD Board

Dear President Rosing and Members of the Board,

Please find attached the Southern Ozaukee Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department 2025 Annual Report. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the Department's activities, accomplishments, and operational performance over the past year.

In 2025, the Department responded to a total of 3,396 fire and emergency medical service calls, an increase of 30 calls compared to 2024. In addition, our personnel completed 492 paramedic intercept responses to the City of Cedarburg.

Throughout the year, the Department maintained a daily staffing level of seven firefighters/paramedics through a combination of full-time and paid-on-call members. During the final two months of 2025, we successfully increased minimum daily staffing to eight personnel.

As we look ahead to 2026, the Southern Ozaukee Fire and EMS Department remains committed to delivering the highest level of service to our community while maintaining a steadfast focus on the safety of both our residents and our personnel. We will continue to emphasize operational readiness, responsible resource management, and strategic planning to meet the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to another year of collaboration and service.

Respectfully submitted,

*David L Bialk*

David Bialk, Fire Chief

# 2025 Annual Report

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## **-OUR MISSION-**

The Southern Ozaukee Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department exists to ensure the safety of our communities through fire suppression, response to medical emergencies, professional training and public education. We serve our communities to protect the people, property, and environment. We provide our citizens with reassurance, aid and comfort when they are vulnerable.

## **-OUR VISION-**

The Southern Ozaukee Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department will continuously strive to be a trusted community service that is recognized for meeting the needs of our citizens, while being good stewards of our resources. We will be known as a modern department with a professionally trained team that attains best practice standards and ensures a high level of readiness. We will innovate and continuously have an eye to the future. We will accomplish our vision of a strong combination department by investing in our people, with a workforce of committed career and volunteer team members. We will forge strong partnerships to ensure the safety of the communities we serve.

## **-OUR VALUES-**

Our culture reflects our shared values, and we have pride in all that we do.

### **Integrity**

We live in accordance with our values, demonstrating sound ethical principles and being honest with ourselves and others.

### **Trust**

We believe that reliability and the strength of our relationships is core to our being. Trust fosters respect and provides safety and earns loyalty.

### **Empathy**

We seek to understand the thoughts, feelings and perspectives of others from their point of view. We show compassion for those who feel vulnerable or suffer a loss.

### **Grit**

We exhibit courage, resolve and a selfless devotion to duty.

### **Excellence**

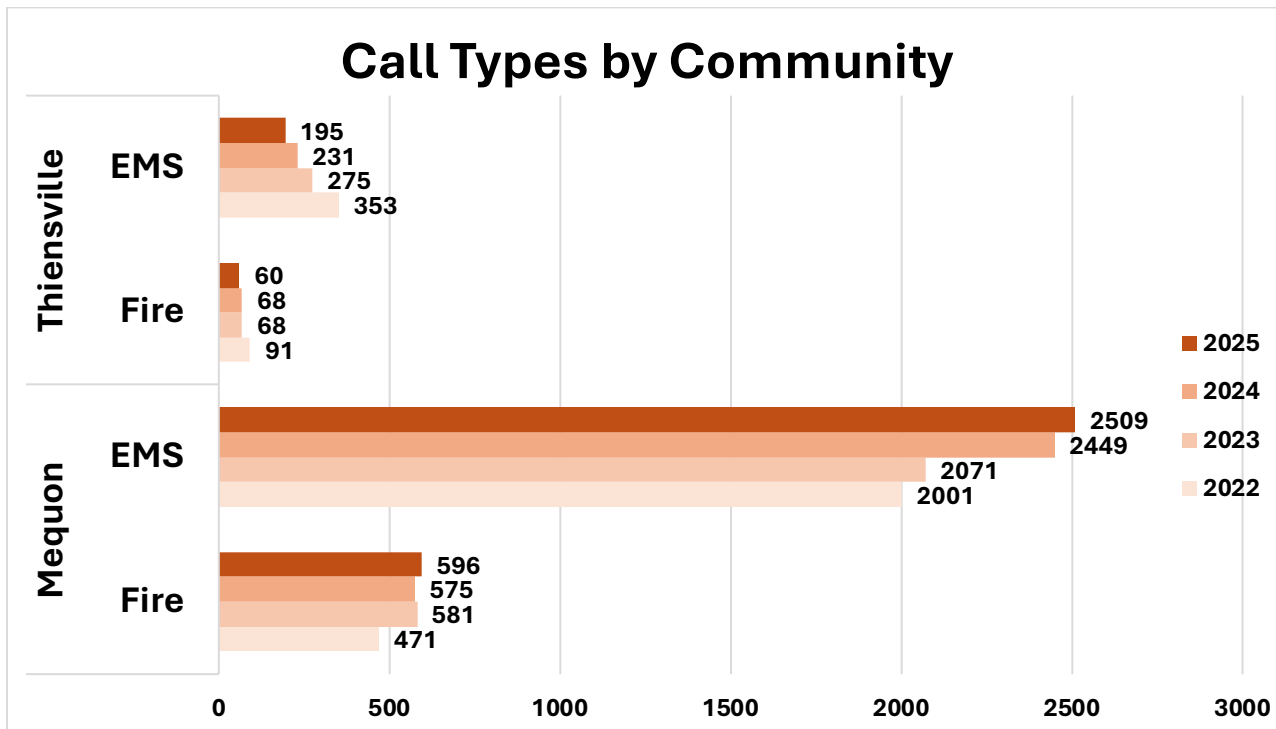
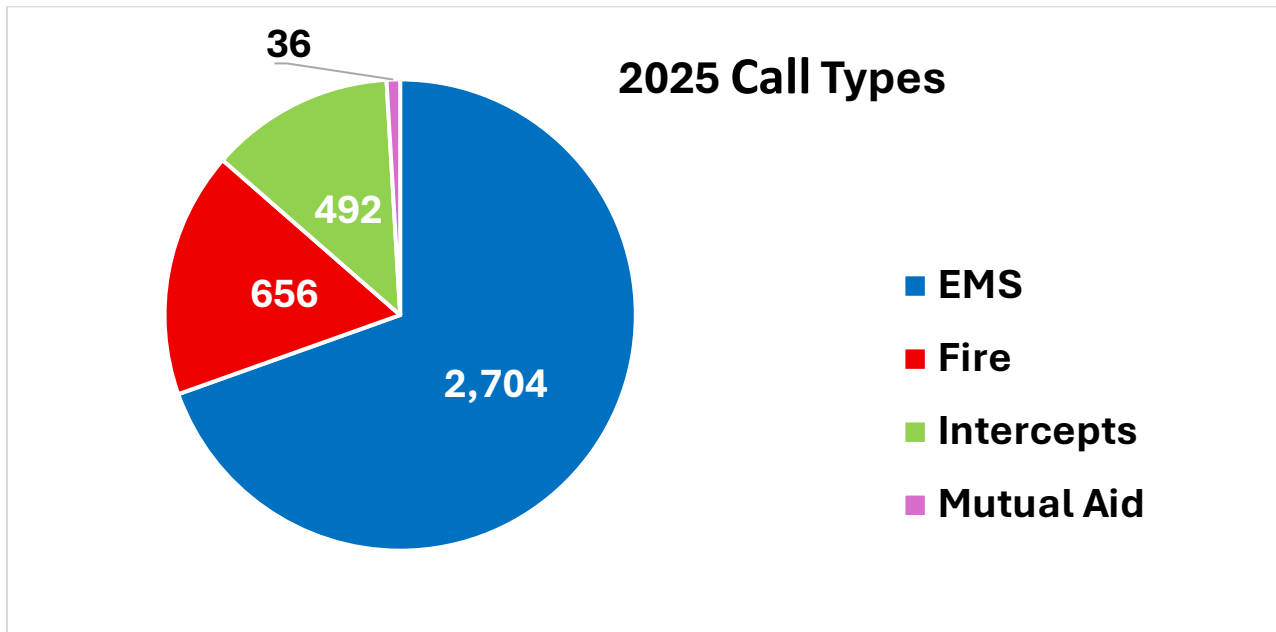
We are professional and exceptional in our skills, continuously striving to improve.

### **Stewardship**

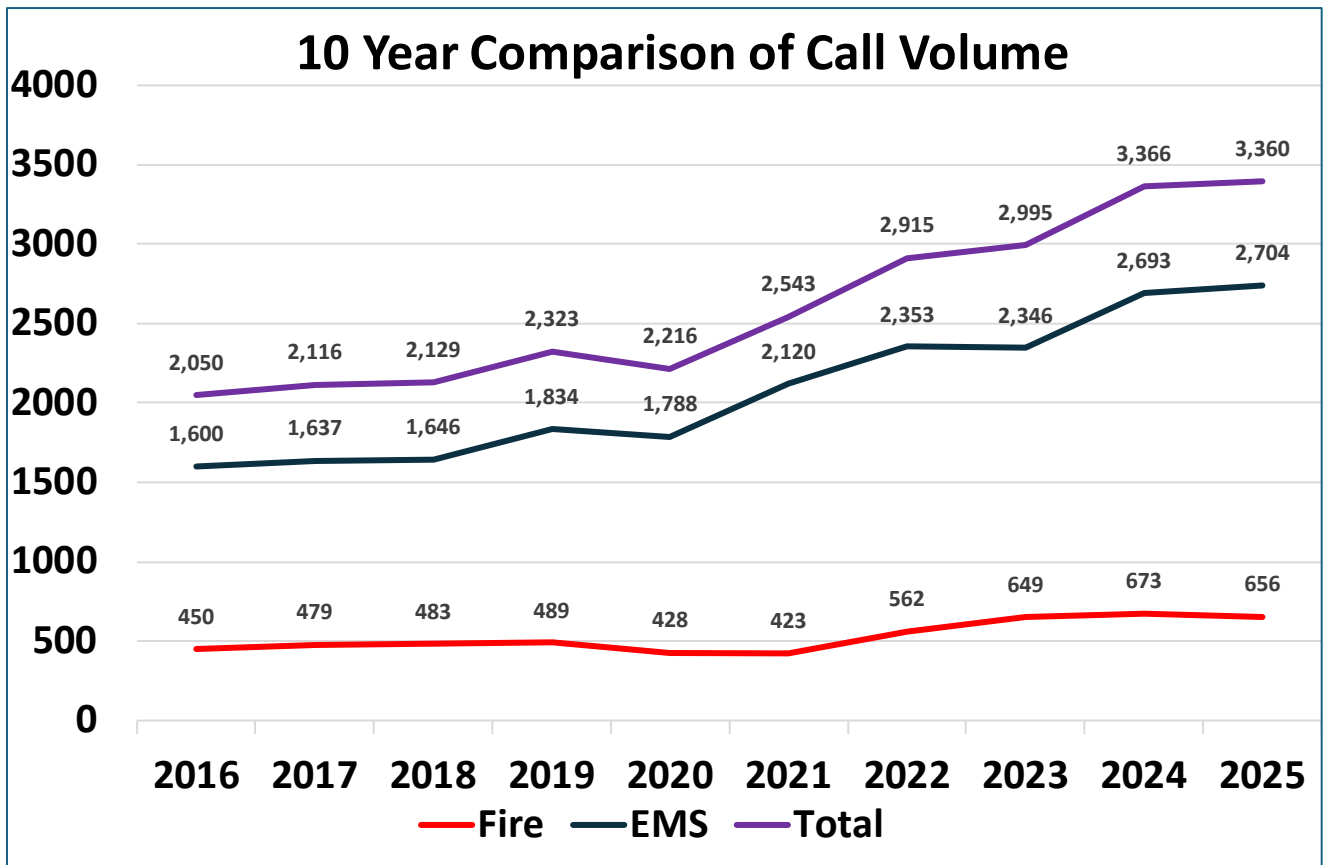
We are responsible in our use of financial and human resources.

## Response Statistics

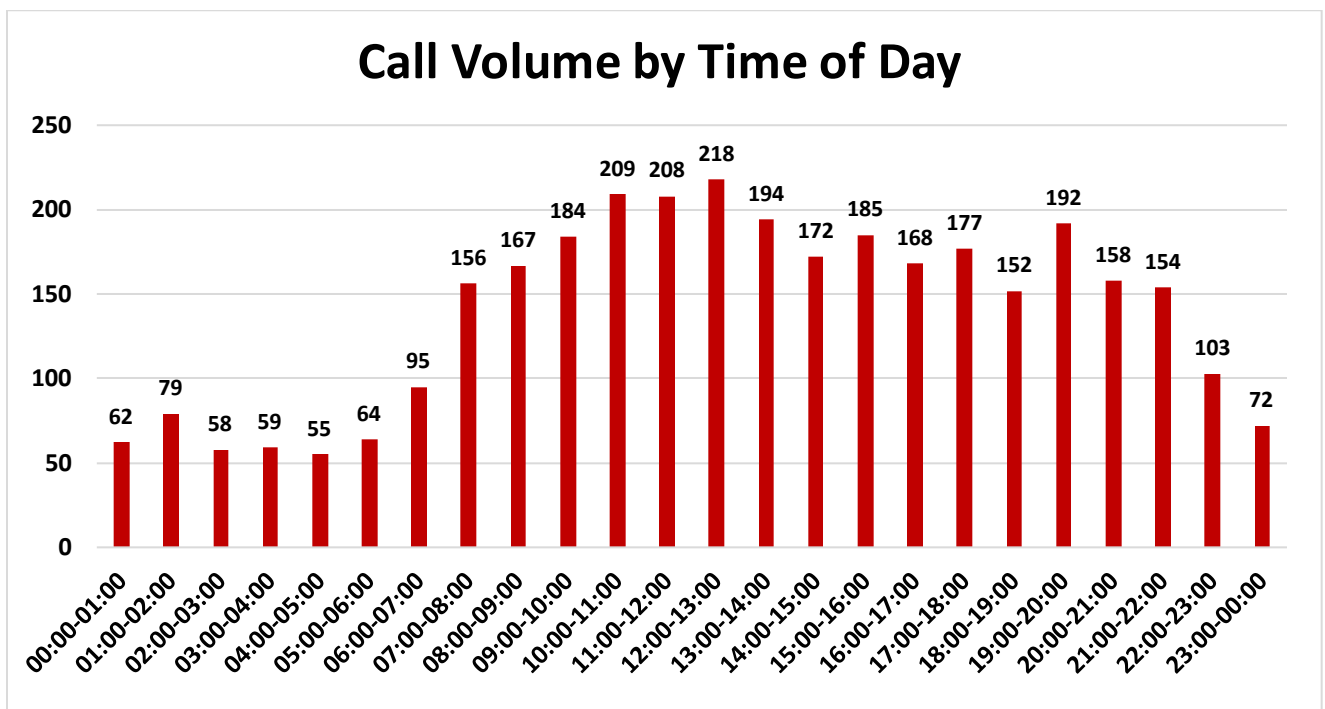
In 2025, the Southern Ozaukee Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department responded to a total of 3,888 calls for service. These responses included emergency medical incidents, fire-related emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, mutual aid requests, and paramedic intercepts.



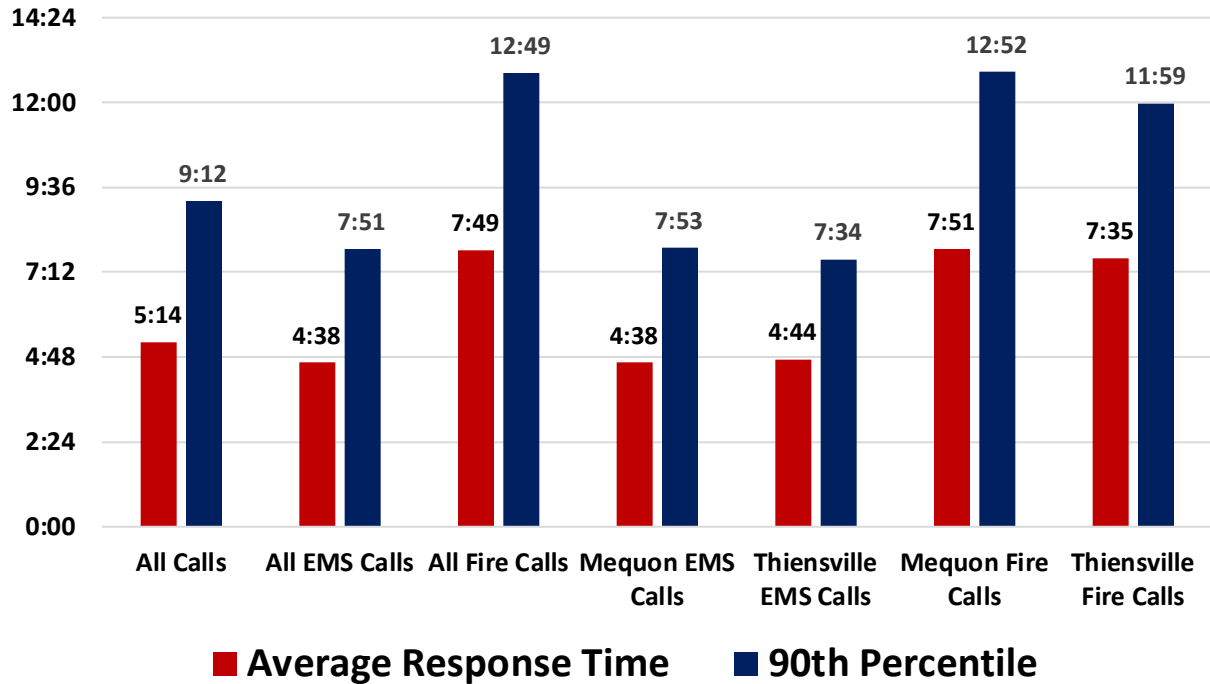
There were 3,360 Fire and EMS Call in M/T plus 492 Paramedic intercepts + 36 Mutual Aid calls



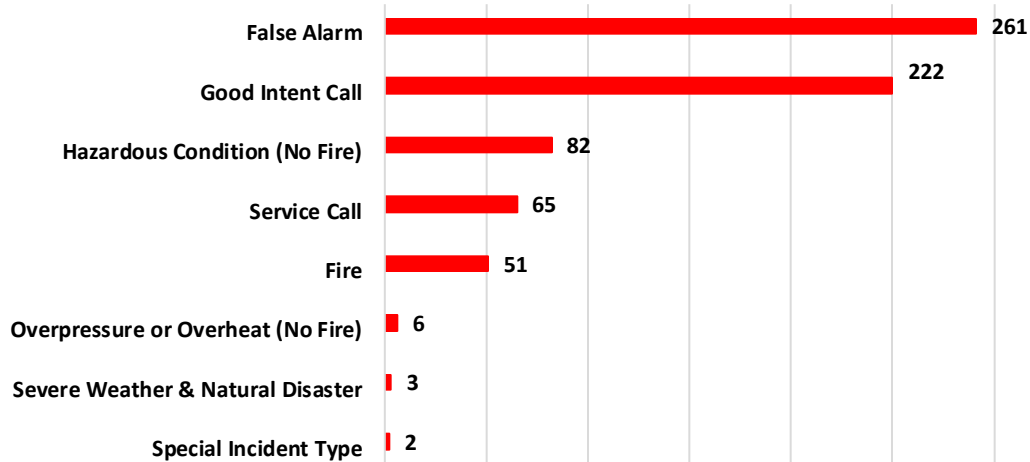
\*\* Intercepts not included in 10 Year Comparison Data.



## 2025 Response Times (Dispatch to Responder on Scene Time)



## Fire Calls by Incident Type



A **Good Intent** call includes Lockouts, Water problem, Steam, vapor, fog, or dust thought to be smoke, Assist police, Assist invalid, Defective elevator, Unauthorized burning.

<b>Mutual Aid Requests by Community</b>	
<b>Community</b>	<b>Number of Requests</b>
Germantown	8
Grafton	7
Cedarburg	6
Port Washington	5
Milwaukee	3
Saukville	3
City of Waukesha	1
Colgate	1
Fredonia	1
Northshore	1

In 2025, alongside paramedic intercepts with Cedarburg, the Southern Ozaukee Fire and EMS Department was called upon 36 times by neighboring communities to provide fire and EMS support outside of our service area. These requests were facilitated through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), which allows fire departments to request individual resources or multiple units simultaneously based on the needs of the incident. MABAS utilizes predefined resource groups tailored to specific types of emergencies, ensuring a coordinated and efficient response. Each year, all participating departments review and adjust their MABAS cards to maintain balanced and effective responses to critical and large-scale incidents.

## **Staffing**

In 2025, the Southern Ozaukee Fire and EMS Department employed a total of 81 members. The workforce included a full-time Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, and three full-time Battalion Chiefs, along with ten full-time Firefighter/Paramedics, a part-time Administrative Assistant, and 66 paid-on-call members.

The full-time Battalion Chiefs and Firefighter/Paramedics operate on 48-hour rotating shifts and work closely with paid-on-call personnel to ensure continuous staffing of two ambulances, two first responder vehicles, and a Chief Officer vehicle. In addition to maintaining daily EMS coverage, they are available to respond to fire calls, ensuring prompt and effective emergency response services throughout the City of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville.

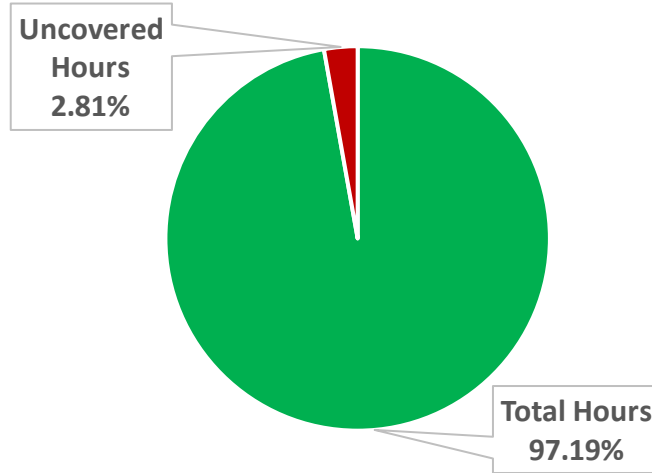
The department also takes pride in maintaining a diverse workforce, with women representing 40% of its personnel.

During the first three quarters of 2025, the department set a goal of maintaining a daily staffing level of seven firefighters and paramedics through a combination of full-time and paid-on-call personnel. Providing seven personnel 24 hours per day required 45,864 total staffing hours. Of those, only 1,327 hours—approximately 2.9% went uncovered, demonstrating a high level of reliability.

Prior to the 2023 merger of the Mequon Fire Department and the Thiensville Fire Department, each agency struggled to consistently maintain seven personnel per day. On average, Mequon covered about 85% of required hours, while Thiensville covered roughly 70%, highlighting the staffing challenges both departments faced independently.

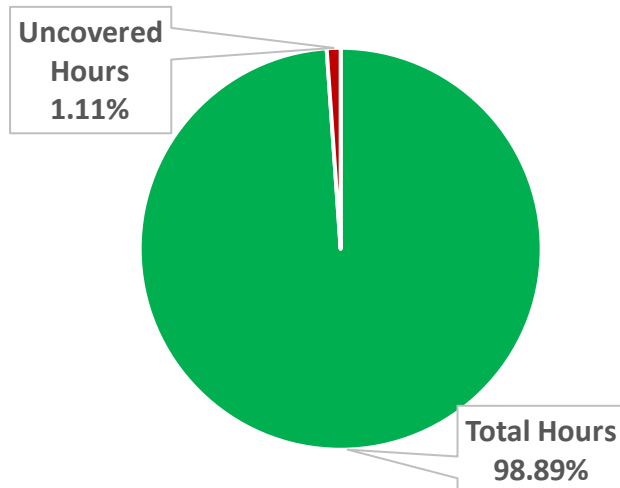
Beginning in the fourth quarter of 2025, the department increased its daily staffing target to eight firefighters and paramedics. This higher staffing level required 17,664 total hours. Of those, all but 199 hours—just 1.1%—were successfully covered. This improvement reflects enhanced staffing stability, increased operational capacity, and the overall effectiveness of the consolidated department model.

### Total EMS Hours Q1-Q3 for 2025 Seven FF/Paramedics a Day



<b>Total Hours Q1-Q3 2025</b>	<b>45,864</b>
<b>Uncovered Hours Q1-Q3 2025</b>	<b>1,327</b>

### Total EMS Hours Q4 for 2025 Eight FF/Paramedics a Day



<b>Total Hours Q4 2025</b>	<b>17,664</b>
<b>Uncovered Hours Q4 2025</b>	<b>199</b>

## Incidents

1/6/2025

The SOFD responded to a report of a strange odor at Freistadt Trinity School. Upon arrival and investigation, crews detected elevated levels of carbon monoxide inside the building. Further inspection revealed that a malfunctioning furnace in the gym was emitting 35 parts per million of carbon monoxide—an unsafe level for occupants. The furnace was shut down, and the building was ventilated to remove the carbon monoxide.

1/22/2025

An alarm was received from Zarletti's - Mequon Road reporting water flow in the building. Upon arrival, the Battalion Chief observed that the strobe lights and horn were activated, confirming the alarm. Investigation determined that a sprinkler pipe had broken due to cold weather. The extensive water damage was limited to a bathroom and the kitchen area.

1/24/2025

A home on Sunny Lane was found to have extremely high levels of carbon monoxide caused by a malfunctioning furnace. The occupants reported feeling ill and experiencing headaches. After checking the appliances, crews determined the furnace was faulty and shut it down. The homeowner was advised to contact a service company for repairs.

1/27/2025

A passing motorist reported what appeared to be a chimney fire at a home on North Wauwatosa Road. The motorist stopped and rang the doorbell to alert the occupants, who were unaware of the fire. Earlier in the evening, the residents had used the fireplace. The fire is believed to have escaped the chimney assembly and ignited the chimney chase. The residents immediately evacuated the home and called 911.

Upon arrival, crews discovered a fire in the fireplace chase that had extended into the attic. Sustained winds were driving the fire through the attic space, accelerating its spread. The department requested mutual aid through the MABAS system, bringing in additional personnel and equipment from eight neighboring communities.

Because the home was located in an area without fire hydrants, many of the responding resources were needed to establish and maintain a water supply. The residence sustained extensive damage and was ultimately razed due to the severity of the fire.

1/28/2025

The fire department responded to a grass fire along I-43 near Highland Road. Approximately one acre of grass burned before crews were able to extinguish the fire.

1/30/2025

SOFD responded to a grass fire along in the 200 block of East Mequon. About four acres of grass burned before crews were able to extinguish the fire.

2/6/2025

Fire crews responded to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Port Washington Road and Highland Road. One occupant had to be extricated from a vehicle. The individual was transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

2/9/2025

SOFD was dispatched to Donges Bay Elementary School following reports of an explosion and visible flames. Upon arrival, MPD found no active fire. Investigation revealed a burned bush in a median near the driveway, believed to have been caused by fireworks. The smoldering vegetation was extinguished, and the scene was secured.

2/9/2025

The fire department responded to a single-vehicle rollover at the intersection of Port Washington Road and Mequon Road. One occupant had to be extricated from the vehicle and was transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

2/25/2025

SOFD responded to a reported basement fire on Highland Avenue in Thiensville. Upon arrival, the homeowner, workers, and Thiensville police were on site. The TPD reported that workers were installing an epoxy floor without proper ventilation. Accumulated fumes reached a pilot light and briefly ignited but did not cause further fire. Fire crews entered the basement, detecting a strong VOC odor and elevated carbon monoxide levels, but no active fire. Ventilation was performed, and the homeowner was advised to ensure proper ventilation during flooring installation.

3/2/2025

A fire was reported in a second-floor apartment on Greenbrier Lane in Mequon, with smoke throughout the building. A MABAS Box alarm was requested immediately to bring in additional resources and later upgraded after police reported one burn victim and heavy smoke visible.

Upon arrival, crews observed smoke coming from the second floor and attic and assisted one person with burns out of the building. The first due fire company treated the burn victim and confirmed all residents had evacuated.

One person was transported to the hospital, and the fire was extinguished.

3/4/2025

The fire department responded to a motorhome fire in the 13400 block of Bonniwell. The fire, located in the engine compartment, was quickly extinguished. Investigation revealed that a mouse nest was the most likely cause of the fire.

3/10/2025

A controlled burn got out of control and extended to about a half-acre of grass in the 11700 block of Bonniwell.

4/2/2025

The fire department responded to a home on Canterbury Drive for a drone battery fire. The fire was already extinguished upon arrival, but crews ventilated the home to remove smoke and fumes.

5/7/2025

The SOFD responded to a barn fire in the 11400 block of Freistadt Road, which was upgraded to a second alarm before the arrival of the first units. Fire companies from responding from Milwaukee reported seeing the smoke from Timmermann Field. A Strong wind drove the fire, spreading flames to nearby grass and igniting the roof of an adjacent barn. Water had to be tanked because of the lack of hydrants in the area.

6/4/2025

Fire units responded to 118 South Main Street in Thiensville for a vehicle fire. Crews found a Chevrolet Tahoe with an active fire inside the vehicle and extinguished it. The fire was likely caused by an electrical failure.

7/27/2025

The fire department responded to a vehicle fire on I-43 southbound between Highland Road and Mequon Road. Upon arrival, the vehicle was fully involved. Response was delayed due to freeway construction and traffic being at a complete standstill, limiting access to the scene.

8/29/2025

The fire department responded to a semi-truck fire on northbound I-43 between Highland Road and Pioneer Road. Upon arrival, crews found a brake fire that had extended into the trailer. The fire was extinguished, but the trailer sustained significant damage and had to be towed from the scene.

10/1/2025

A collision between an SUV and a dump truck on Pioneer Road at the Milwaukee River resulted in one fatality and one injury. It took 18 minutes to extricate the SUV driver, who was then airlifted to a trauma center.

10/7/2025

SOFD responded to a semi-truck fire on southbound I-43 just north of Mequon Road. Crews found the rear of the semi on fire due to a brake issue. The fire was extinguished, with additional water supplied to the scene by a tender.

10/20/2025

SOFD responded to a five-car accident on the I-43 off-ramp to Pioneer Road. Four individuals required transport, and mutual aid was requested to assist with one patient. All involved sustained minor injuries.

These incidents showcase the dedication and professionalism of our department, as well as the collaborative efforts with neighboring agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of our community.

## Community Risk Reduction

Education and public relations are essential in strengthening community safety, increasing emergency preparedness, and reducing risk. By providing clear information, hands-on experiences, and positive engagement, fire and emergency services build trust while equipping residents with the knowledge they need to prevent emergencies and respond effectively when they occur.

The Southern Ozaukee Fire and EMS Department is committed to fostering a culture of safety throughout the community, with a special focus on children and young residents. Early education plays a critical role in developing lifelong safety habits, and SOFD recognizes that engaging youth helps create a safer future for everyone.

Through fire station tours, students gain firsthand exposure to emergency equipment, fire apparatus, and the daily responsibilities of firefighters and EMS personnel. School visits with fire trucks and demonstrations allow children to become familiar with firefighters in their protective gear—reducing fear and building confidence in emergency situations. School rides and participation in community public relations events further strengthen connections between first responders and the public.

These initiatives not only teach fire prevention and emergency response basics but also reinforce the department’s presence as a trusted, approachable community partner. By combining education with outreach, SOFD continues to enhance safety awareness, promote preparedness, and build lasting relationships within the communities it serves.

Below is a list of some of the public relations events SOFD participated in throughout 2025.

<p><b><u>Hands only CPR for 185 People in 2025 at:</u></b>          Wilson Elementary School Staff          Donges Bay School Staff          Lakeshore Middle School Staff          Orange Theory Staff          Sommers Subaru  <b><u>CPR Training for:</u></b>          Mequon Police          Village of Thiensville and City of Mequon Staff          M/T Library and Mequon Nature Perseve Staff</p>	<p><b><u>Fire Prevention/Community Outreach for:</u></b>          Ozaukee Child Care and Preschool          Kids Rule Academy          Oriole Lane Elementary School          Crossroads Presbyterian Church          Wilson Elementary School          Donges Bay Elementary          Cub Scout Tour          Fire Department Open House          Ask a Firefighter / Charter Senior Living          Mequon Jewish Preschool          In Bloom Autism Sources</p>
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<p><b><u>Participated in:</u></b>          Memorial Day Parade          Fun Before the Fourth          Freistadt Parade          Thiensville Trick or Treat          Nightmare on Elm Street          Career Fair at Lakeshore, Steffen Middle School, and MATC          Thiensville Tree Lighting          Pancake Breakfast          Kids Fest          Safety Town          Lac Du Cours Neighborhood Parade          Summer Playdate Mequon Nature Preserve</p>	<p><b><u>Standbys for:</u></b>          Special Olympics at HHS          Red Bud Fest          Homestead Varsity Football Games          Homestead Wrestling          Taste of Mequon          Winter Wonderland          Lions Fest          Blues Fest</p>
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In addition to community education and outreach, the Southern Ozaukee Fire and EMS Department takes a proactive approach to community risk reduction. A key component of this effort is the completion of annual fire inspections for all commercial businesses within its service area.

These inspections are designed to identify potential hazards, ensure compliance with fire codes, and verify that life safety systems—such as alarms, sprinklers, emergency lighting, and exit pathways—are functioning properly. By addressing concerns before they escalate into emergencies, SOFD helps protect employees, customers, property, and the broader community. In 2025 alone, SOFD completed **1,087** fire inspections, demonstrating its commitment to prevention-based fire protection. Through consistent inspections and ongoing collaboration with business owners, the department reduces risk, improves overall safety standards, and reinforces its mission of safeguarding the community through both education and prevention.

## **Training Report**

Three times each month, the SOFD conducts both EMS and fire training for all full-time and paid-on-call members, reflecting its strong commitment to continuous improvement and delivering the highest level of service to the community.

EMS training encompasses a broad range of topics, including medical and cardiovascular emergencies, airway management, trauma care, and operational procedures. By emphasizing best practices in emergency medical services, SOFD ensures its personnel are well prepared to provide exceptional care when it matters most. Four times each year, the Training Bureau delivers “911 Stations,” scenario-based simulations designed around low-frequency, high-acuity incidents. These exercises test operational readiness and build confidence among members. Scenarios have included emergency childbirth, airway management for a patient with a tracheostomy, intramuscular injection of epinephrine for anaphylactic reactions, and management of unstable airways.

SOFD also sponsors members to complete certification courses at local technical colleges. Throughout 2025, 18 members attended department-sponsored courses and earned a total of 22 certifications from the State of Wisconsin. These certifications included Emergency Medical Technician–Basic, Emergency Medical Technician–Paramedic, Community Paramedic, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Fire Inspector, Fire and EMS Instructor I, Fire and EMS Instructor II, and Rapid Intervention Team training. This ongoing professional development strengthens the department’s expertise and enhances the services provided to the community.

The department maintains two specialized operations teams: a Dive Team and a Technical Rescue Team. These teams train monthly in collaboration with the Grafton Fire Department and the Port Washington Fire Department. Their joint training ensures coordinated and effective response during complex rescue operations. These specialized teams are especially critical given the wide range of terrain within the service area, including the bluffs along Lake Michigan, the lake itself, and the Milwaukee River.

In addition to training its own personnel, SOFD serves as a certified CPR training site through the American Heart Association. Bystander CPR has been proven to save lives by maintaining circulation during cardiac arrest until advanced care arrives. Increasing the number of CPR-trained individuals in the community enhances the likelihood of immediate intervention during a critical incident.

Every two years, SOFD provides CPR training for all department members, as well as for the Mequon Police Department and City of Mequon employees. The department also offers community CPR courses for businesses, schools, churches, and other organizations committed to improving public safety. These efforts expand the network of trained responders throughout the community, strengthening the chain of survival and helping to save lives.

## Equipment Report

The Southern Ozaukee Fire and EMS Department operates a combined fleet of vehicles inherited from the former Mequon and Thiensville Fire Departments. The department members place great value on these vehicles and equipment, recognizing their essential role in effectively serving the community. To maintain readiness, weekly vehicle checks are conducted to ensure that all equipment is functional and fully stocked. Department members are assigned to check the equipment on a rotating basis, with Lieutenants overseeing the process to ensure checks are completed and any issues or deficiencies are addressed promptly. This proactive approach helps ensure that the department is always prepared to respond to emergencies with fully operational equipment.

### **Current Fire Department Vehicle Fleet**

Unit	Year	Make	Type	Age
<b>Fire</b>				
562	1997	Pierce Quantum	Fire Engine, 2000 GPM, 2500 Gal. Water	28
959	1999	Ford F-350	Brush Truck (Re-Purposed)	26
563	1999	Pierce Lance	Fire Engine, 1750 GPM, 500 Gal. Water	26
960	2006	Pierce	100' Tower Ladder, 1500 GPM	19
962	2008	Pierce Impel	Fire Engine, 1500 GPM, 1000 Gal. Water	17
966	2011	Pierce/International	3500 Gallon Tender	14
964	2015	Pierce Impel	Fire Engine, 1500 GPM, 1000 Gal. Water	10
<b>EMS</b>				
551	2004	Chevy C4500, Medtec	Ambulance	21
552	2004	Chevy C4500, Medtec	Ambulance	21
952	2014	Ford F-350	Ambulance	11
950	2016	Ford F-350	Ambulance	9
953	2024	Ford F-550	Ambulance	1
555	2019	Chevy Tahoe	Paramedic Interceptor, Med 9	6
958-A	2021	Jeep Grand Cherokee	First Responder Vehicle	4
958	2021	Jeep Grand Cherokee	First Responder	4
<b>Staff</b>				
556	2010	Chevy Tahoe	Utility Vehicle	15
554	2014	Ford Expedition	Battalion Chief's Command Vehicle	11
970	2016	Chevrolet Tahoe	Chief's Vehicle	9
971	2017	Jeep Grand Cherokee	Deputy Chief's Vehicle	8

Utility				
Boat	2010	Rescue One	16' Rigid Hull Boat, 2010 40HP Motor	15
Boat	2020	Inmar	12' Inflatable Boat, 2011 20HP Motor	5
957	2021	Chevy Silverado 2500	Utility Pick-up Truck	4
955	2016	Ford Step Van	Special Operations Equipment Truck	9
UTV	2007	Kubota RTV900	UTV	18

In 2025, the SOFD conducted a comprehensive assessment and utilization study of its capital and rolling stock equipment to ensure resources were aligned with operational needs and long-term planning.

As a result of this evaluation, the department determined that maintaining two ladder trucks was no longer necessary based on call volume, response patterns, and overall deployment strategy. SOFD subsequently sold one of its two ladder trucks—a 2006 100 foot Pierce ladder through the nation’s largest reseller of used fire apparatus, generating \$375,000 in revenue.

In addition to right-sizing its fleet, the department continued investing in frontline emergency response capabilities. SOFD replaced its second-generation mechanical CPR devices with the newest generation equipment, enhancing cardiac arrest response. The department also purchased a replacement vehicle for the on-duty shift Battalion Chief, ensuring dependable command response and operational oversight at emergency scenes.

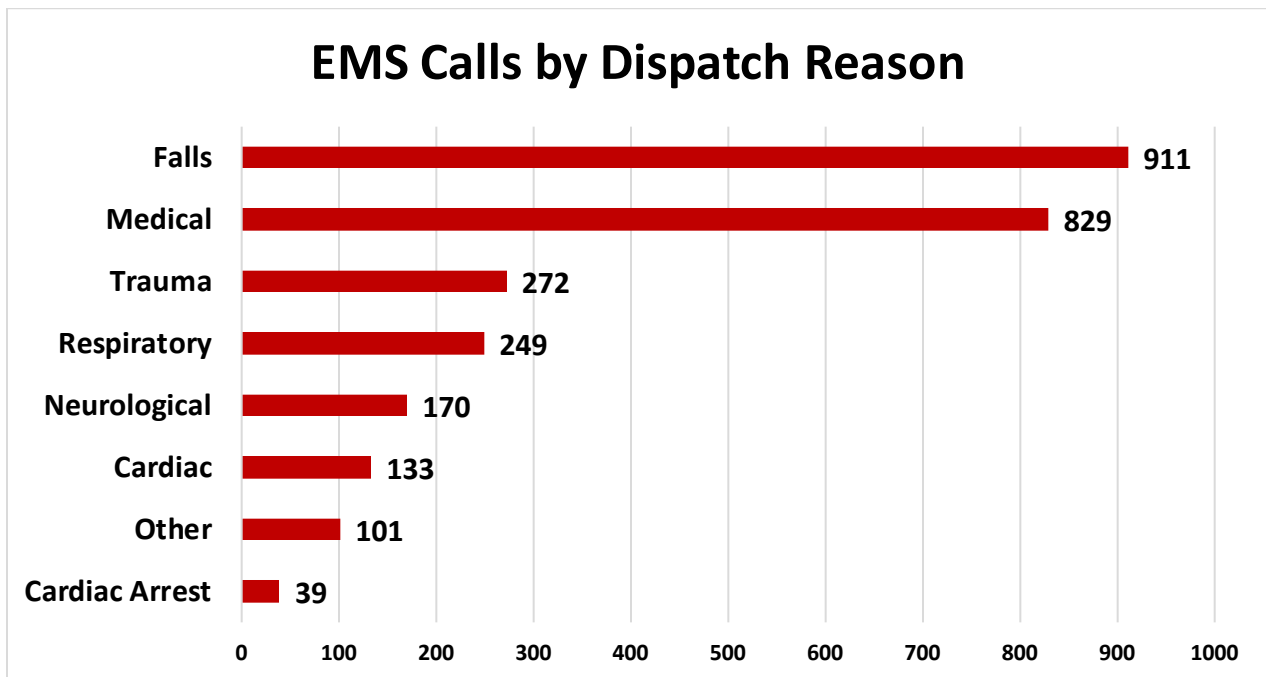
Together, these actions reflect SOFD’s commitment to fiscal responsibility, and data-driven decision-making.

## **Emergency Medical Services Report**

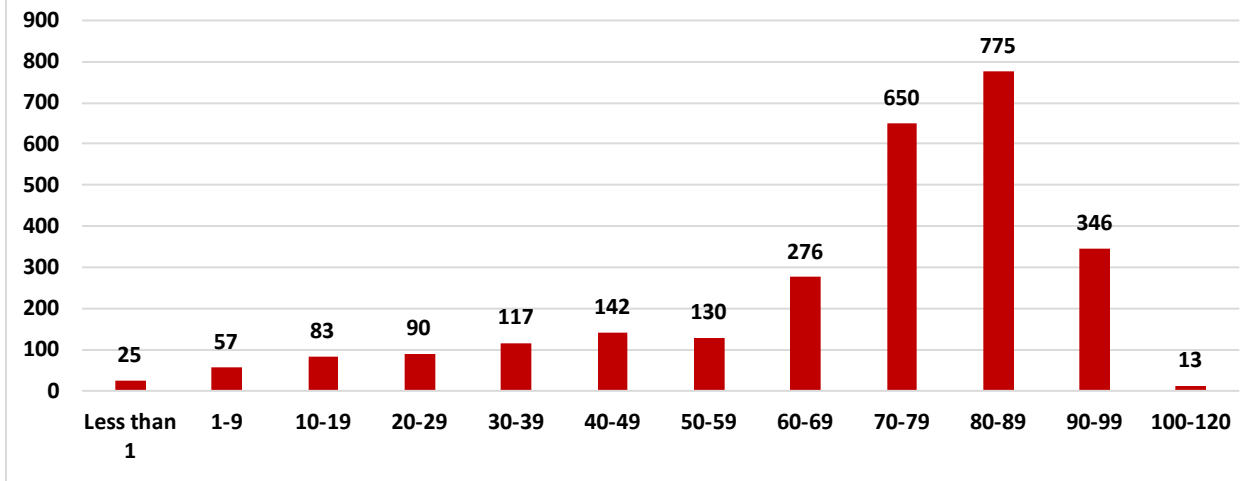
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses account for more than 80% of the total calls handled by the Southern Ozaukee Fire and EMS Department. As such, the next section of this report focuses on the largest and most critical component of the services the department provides to the community.

In 2025, SOFD responded to 2,704 EMS calls. These incidents vary significantly in severity, ranging from non-emergency lift assists to life-threatening events such as cardiac arrest. This wide range of call types requires personnel to maintain a high level of medical training, readiness, and adaptability.

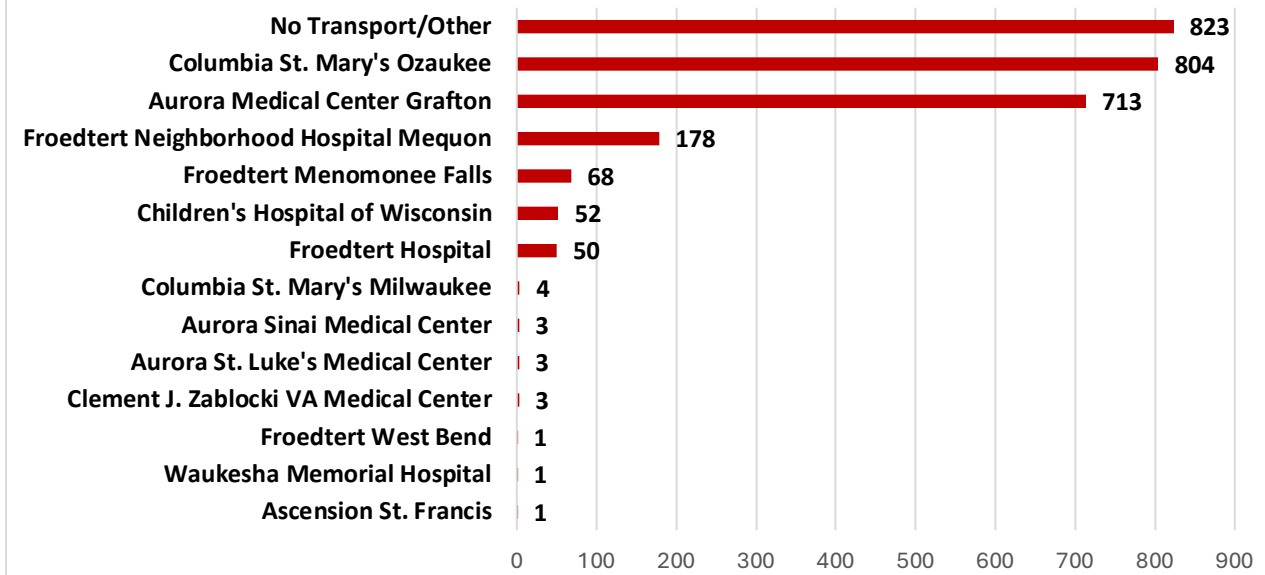
SOFD works closely with Ozaukee County Dispatch, which utilizes Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocols to ask pertinent questions and accurately assess each situation. Through this structured process, dispatchers are able to determine the appropriate level of response, ensuring that the right resources are sent quickly and efficiently. This coordinated approach enhances patient outcomes, improves scene management, and ensures that emergency resources are used effectively.



## Age of Patients



## Hospital Destinations



<b>Call Volume at Assisted Living Facilities</b>		
<b>Address</b>	<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>
12600 N Port Washington Rd	Newcastle Place Senior Living	202
11900 N Port Washington Rd	Lumia Mequon	100
10995 N Market St	Teal Shores	105
6751 W Mequon Rd	Storypoint Senior Living	115
6729 W Mequon Rd	Storypoint Senior Living-Memory Care	51
205 Green Bay Rd	Willowbrook Place	85
11340 N Cedarburg Rd	Luther Manor at River Oaks	64
10954 N Cedarburg Rd	Highlands at Riverwalk	27
11840 N Silver Ave	Silver Springs of Mequon	40
	<b>Total</b>	<b>789</b>

**Paramedic Intercepts**

In addition to responding to EMS calls within its own jurisdiction, the SOFD staffs a 24/7 paramedic intercept vehicle (Med 9), through a cooperative agreement with the Cedarburg Fire Department.

Med 9 is specifically designed to deliver Advanced Life Support (ALS) services when requested, supplementing Basic Life Support (BLS) responses and ensuring patients receive the highest level of prehospital care available. The vehicle is fully equipped with the medications, cardiac monitoring capabilities, airway management tools, and advanced diagnostic equipment necessary to perform comprehensive ALS assessments and interventions.

Notable equipment carried on Med 9 includes the Hamilton T1 Ventilator, the Zoll X Series cardiac monitor/defibrillator, and the McGrath Video Laryngoscope. These advanced tools enable paramedics to manage complex airway situations, provide ventilatory support, deliver cardiac monitoring and defibrillation, and administer critical medications during life-threatening emergencies.

In 2025, the City of Cedarburg fire department requested a paramedic intercept from Southern Ozaukee 492 times, demonstrating both the high demand for ALS-level care and the strength of the interdepartmental partnership.