

Hudson Fire Department



Annual Report

2025

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INTRODUCTION BY CHIEF SPIELMAN



I'm excited to share the Hudson Fire Department's 2025 Annual Report with you. Our team is proud to serve the City of Hudson, the Village of North Hudson, the Town of Hudson, and the Town of Troy, providing not just fire and rescue services, but also fire prevention, code enforcement, rope rescue, and dive rescue.

While we saw a slight dip in calls this past year, one trend continues to stand out, our response times are increasing. Both the City and our fire service partners recognize that our current staffing model simply isn't keeping pace with the demand, and they're committed to finding a sustainable solution. Here's the challenge: state law limits how much we can raise the tax levy to support a larger department budget. That means the only way to fund full-time firefighter positions is through a referendum vote to approve a tax levy increase. To help with this process, the City recently brought in a consulting group. Their role is to craft a clear, unified message about why hiring full-time firefighters is critical and to help develop the referendum question that would allow us to exceed the current tax levy. As our communities grow, the calls for service aren't slowing down, and we need to make sure we're ready to respond quickly and effectively.

We've had some exciting highlights for 2025! First, we added another position to our Fire Inspection Division. This additional fire inspector has made a big difference, helping us complete inspections and re-inspections more quickly, while giving our fire marshal more time to work closely with contractors on new construction and renovations across our district. Another major development is the Town of Troy adding a new fire station and asking the City to take on the responsibility of managing and staffing it beginning in 2027. This means our service area will expand, and we're gearing up to meet that challenge. Lastly, we welcomed eight new paid-on-call firefighters to the team, three of them dedicated to the Town of Troy area.

I want to take a moment to thank every member of the Hudson Fire Department for their dedication and hard work, day and night. And just as importantly, I want to recognize their families. The sacrifices they make are significant, and we're deeply grateful for their support.

We also owe a big thank-you to our citizens and local governments. Your continued support for capital equipment requests allows us to stay efficient, modern, and ready to serve. We're fortunate to live and work in a community that truly values what we do.

Sincerely,

Drew Spielman

Fire Chief

COMMUNITIES SERVED

CITY OF HUDSON population 15,473

Mayor: Rich O' Connor

Common Council:

Mike Kennedy	Lynn Wakefield
Joy Knudson	Sarah Bruch
Randy Morrisette II	Joyce Hall

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

City Clerk: Becky Measner

VILLAGE OF N. HUDSON population 3,888

Village President: Stan Wekkin

Village Trustees:

Mary McGurran	John Porter
Kirk Nelson	Vacant position
Bryan Pike	Dustin Keller

Village Administrator: Gina Alberti

Village Deputy Clerk: Stephanie Krueger

TOWN OF HUDSON population 8,812

Town Board Chair: Robert Fowler

Town Supervisors:

David Bartizal	Rachel Lang
Susan Blank	Dan Fosterling

Town Clerk: Nick Handlos

1/3 TOWN OF TROY population 1,859

Town Board Chair: Doug Rowen

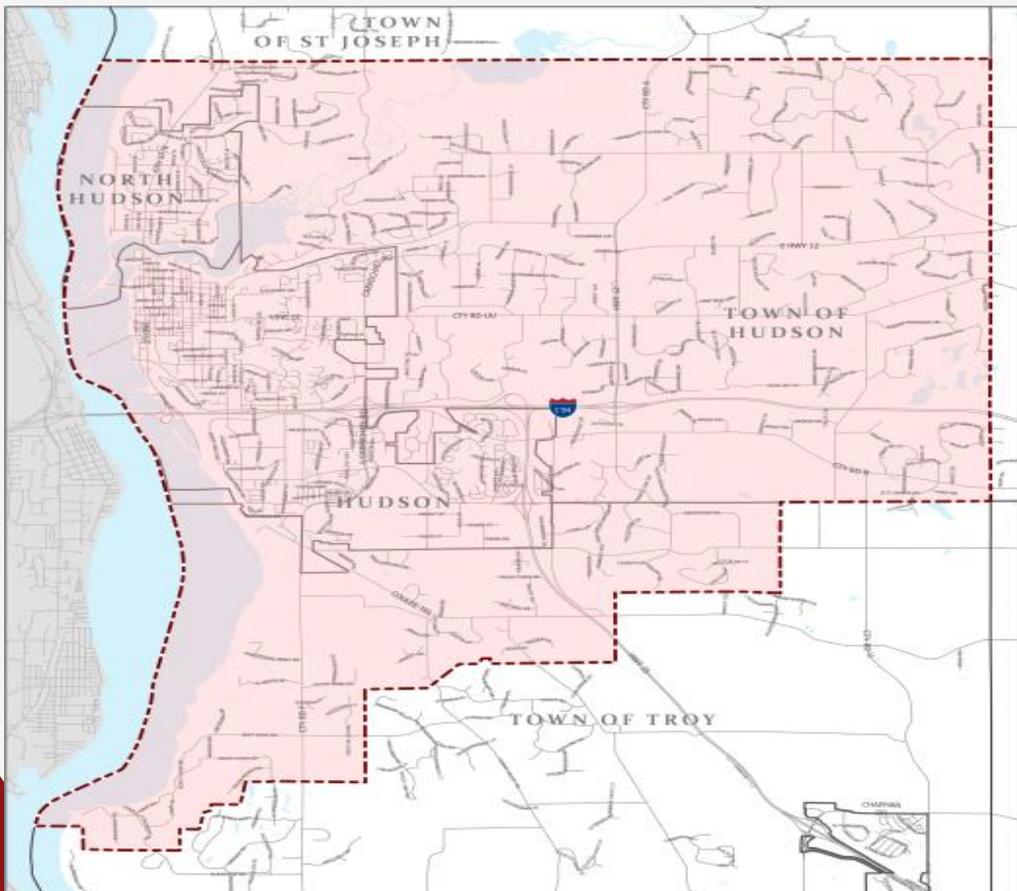
Town Supervisors:

Alicia Schneider	Daniel Pearson
Lowell Enerson	Ray Knapp

Town Administrator: David Carlson

Town Clerk: April Fredrick

Deputy Clerk: Sue Rowen





MISSION STATEMENT

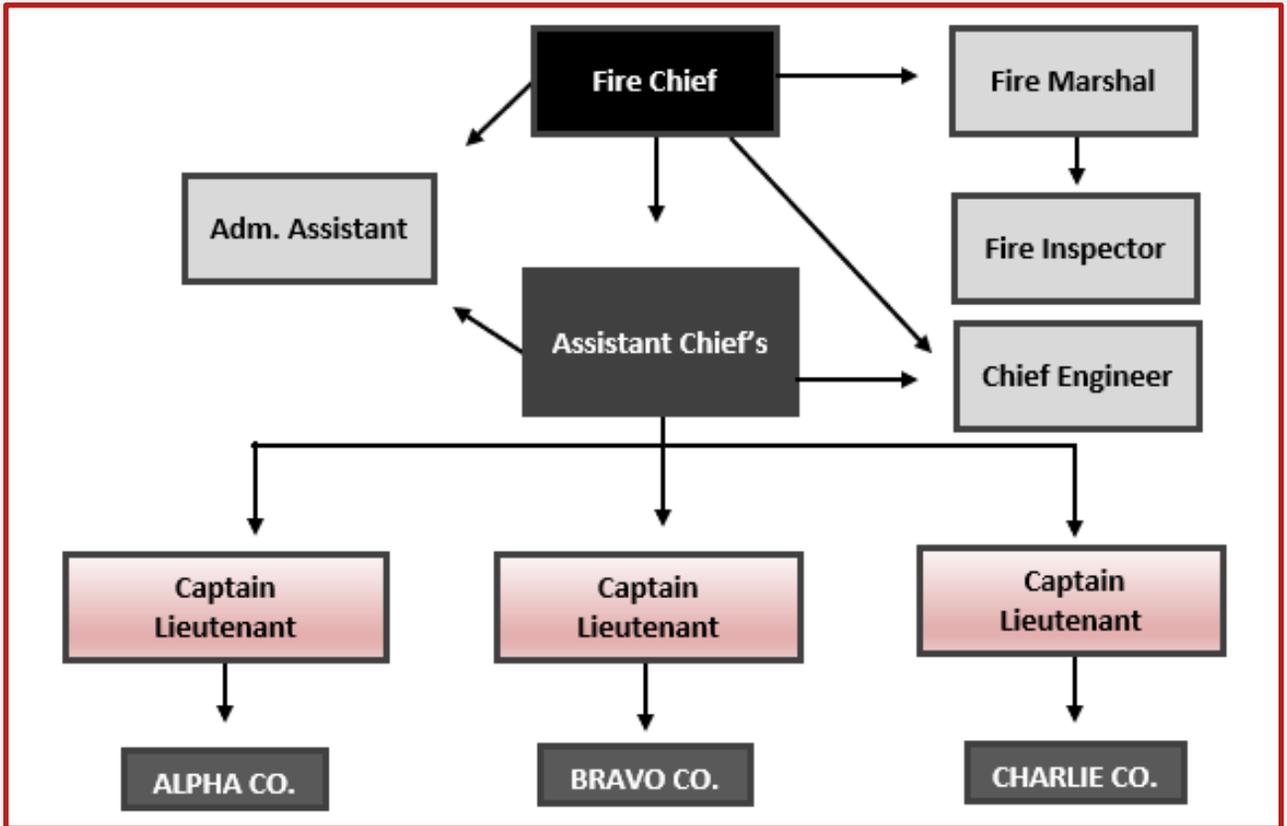
To effectively and efficiently
provide a wide range of services
to the community,
that are designed to save lives,
property and stabilize incidents.

MOTTO



"WE SERVE TO SAVE"

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Hudson Fire Department is a combination department consisting of 3 career fire personnel, 46 volunteer paid-on-call firefighters, along with a full-time administrative assistant.

PERSONNEL INFO

46 AVERAGE AGE OF OUR FFs

12.5 AVERAGE YEARS OF SERVICE

19 AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER INCIDENT

8 NEW HIRES

4 RESIGNATIONS

Sean O'Brien	Service: 2002-2025
Tom Roach	Service: 2024-2025
Tony DeRose	Service: 2016-2025
Steven Hering	Service: 2008-2025

Joe Berg
 Josh Johnson
 Matthew Pevan
 Mitch Rasmussen
 Brian Sanders
 Brandon Riley
 Todd Thoemke
 Blake Willman

AWARDS

YEARS OF SERVICE

10 years – Charlie Smith
Bradley Pettee
15 years – Reid Roebbeke
Erik Mueller
30 years – Tom Barthman
35 years - Jon Coty
Jim Perucca

TRAINING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Members who attended 100+ hours of training

Garret Nevin	Mike Englund
Mike Haas	Cody Garbe
Jason Nell	James Kulzer
Kevin Rabbers	Jared Anderson
Breyden Kaeding	Mike Perucca
Bradley Pettee	Brian Lorentson

300 CLUB AWARD

Members who attended 300+ runs

Mike Perucca	Jeff Dabruzzi
Bob Schmitz	Brian Lorentson
Chad Cichosz	Bradley Pettee
Tom Zeuli	Jim Perucca
Jason Nell	Garret Nevin
Reid Roebbeke	James Kulzer
Tom Barthman	Mike Englund
Tyrell Gaffer	

LIFE SAVING AWARD

Captain Brian Lorentson—in recognition of him responding to the Home Depot parking lot for a pulseless, non-breathing patient. He initiated CPR and continued resuscitation efforts until EMS arrived. Prior to transport, the patient regained a pulse and was stabilized for further care.

UNIT CITATION – CARDIAC ARREST WILLOW RIVER STATE PARK

Patient was a on steep bike trail with limited access where they were extricated to Life Link 3 for transport to Regions Hospital.

SQUAD 1

Lieutenant Erik Mueller
Firefighter Bradley Pettee
Inspector Jason Nell
Firefighter Kelly Klander
Firefighter Garret Nevin

BRUSH 2/UTV

Fire Marshal Mike Perucca
Firefighter Frank Halvorson

BRUSH 1

Asst. Chief Jeff Dabruzzi
Firefighter James Kulzer
Firefighter Dylan Saggese

CAPTAIN 2

Captain Tyrrell Gaffer

MERITORIOUS AWARD

Captain Brian Lorentson	Fire Marshal Mike Perucca	Inspector Jason Nell
Firefighter Joe Berg	Firefighter Breyden Kaeding	Firefighter Frank Halvorson
Firefighter Mike Englund	Firefighter Tom Barthman	

On Dec. 11th, following a residential structure fire, members returned to the scene to assist with recovery operations. The objective was to locate the deceased occupant within the heavily damaged structure. Despite working in cold temperatures and after an extended period without rest, the team methodically sifted through debris for hours, ultimately leading to a successful recovery of the occupant.

WI FIRST RESPONDER OF THE YEAR

Jeff "Skinny" Dabruzzo

To try and quantify the amount of time Jeff "Skinny" Dabruzzo has dedicated to the Hudson Fire Department would be nearly impossible. Since joining over 46 years ago, his call attendance has consistently exceeded 90% every single year. When you add in the countless hours spent attending trainings, open houses, pancake breakfasts, business meetings, and more, the total time he's given easily reaches into the thousands of hours.

Skinny is at the firehouse for everything. With the sheer number of calls he's responded to, and often commanded, there's virtually nothing he hasn't seen or experienced. His memory of past incidents is nothing short of remarkable. He can recall exactly when a fire occurred, who was on scene, which departments provided mutual aid, and countless other details that most would forget.

Because of his decades of responding to calls, Skinny is known by nearly every surrounding department. He has forged lasting, trusted relationships with fire departments across the region, including many in Minnesota, which has strengthened mutual aid and inter-agency cooperation over the years.

Beyond responding to calls, Skinny has played a key role in shaping the department's future. He's been involved in the design of department apparatus for years and continues to ensure that any new equipment ordered meets the specific needs of our department.

While he's known for his easy-going personality and sharp sense of humor, don't let that fool you, when something needs to get done, or isn't being done, Skinny has no problem stepping up and giving a firm order that gets results. Members naturally gravitate toward him, not just because of his leadership, but because of who he is. And if you've ever tried to get a picture of him, chances are it includes a certain finger, his signature pose.



YEAR IN REVIEW



643 CALLS FOR SERVICE



**7 hrs
59 min.**

Longest call duration



63 CALLS
BUSIEST MONTH
JULY



7
CALLS

Most calls in one day



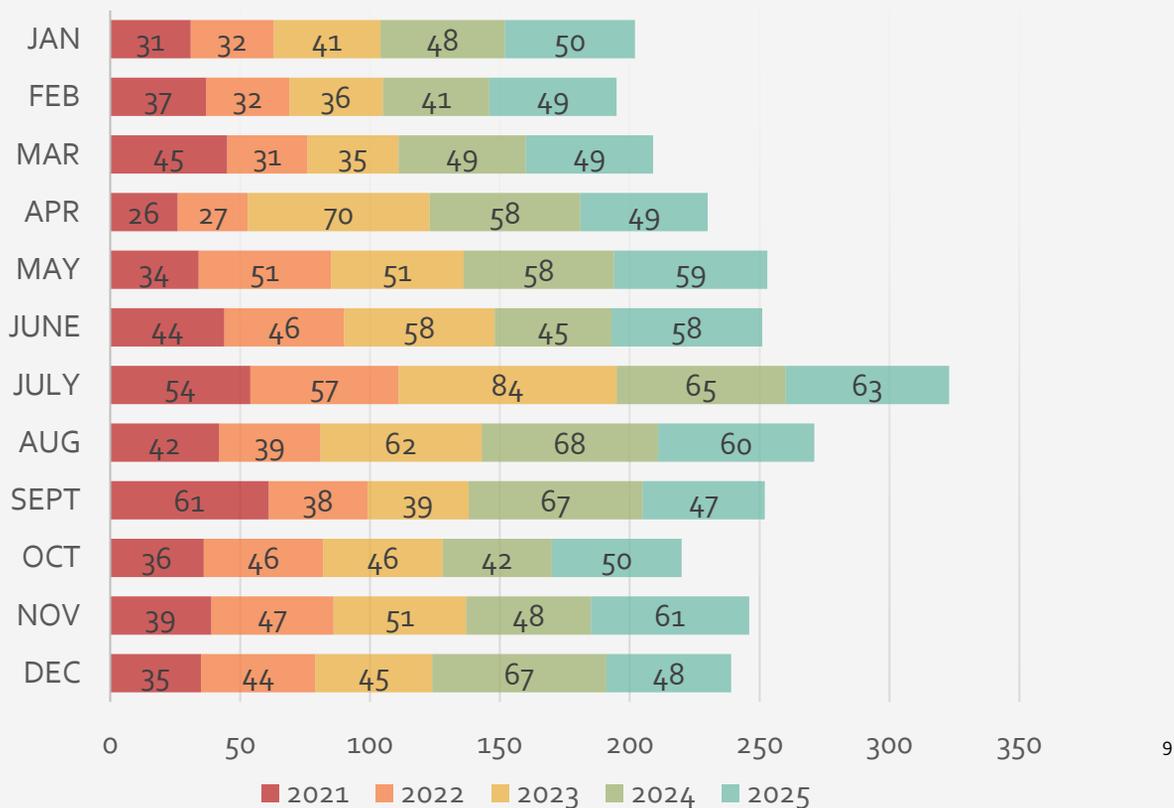
47 CALLS
SLOWEST MONTH
SEPTEMBER



48
CALLS

Calls to I-94

CALLS BY MONTH 2021-2025



FIRE CALLS



25 structure fires



7 vehicle fires



8 grass fires



INCIDENT DATA



12pm – 2 pm

Busiest time of day
131 calls



Thursday

Busiest day of the week
107 calls



Average Response Times

13 minutes 38 seconds

CITY OF HUDSON

15 minutes 34 seconds

VILLAGE OF
NORTH HUDSON

15 minutes 14 seconds

TOWN OF HUDSON

16 minutes 36 seconds

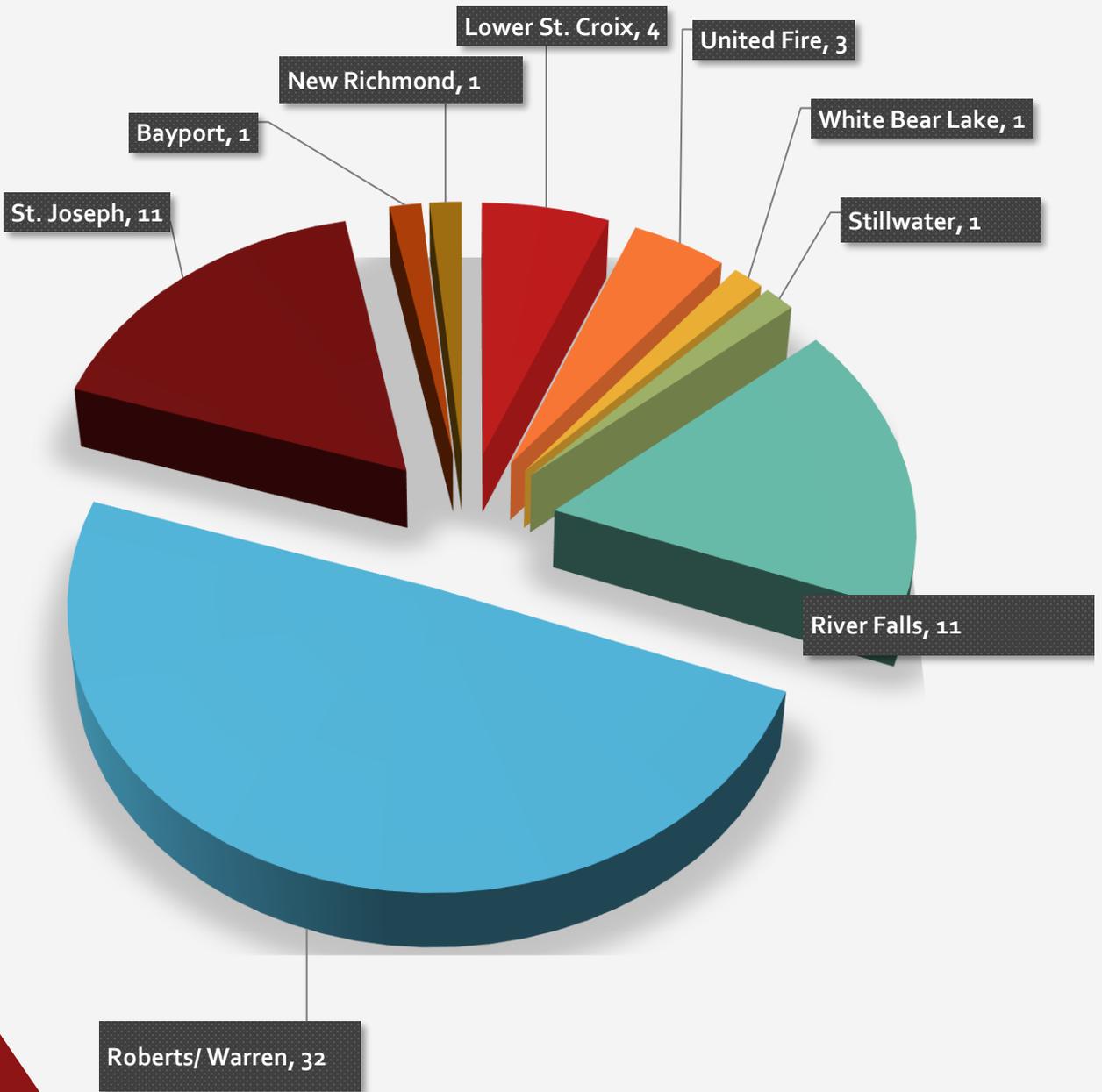
TOWN OF TROY

CALLS FOR SERVICE

TYPES OF INCIDENTS	City of Hudson	Village of North Hudson	Town of Hudson	Town of Troy	Total Fire District
Building fire	19	1	3	0	23
Cooking, trash, outside fires	7	0	0	0	7
Vehicle fires	3	0	1	3	7
Brush or brush-and-grass fire	7	0	4	1	12
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	49	5	31	3	88
Motor vehicle accidents	63	0	26	0	89
Search for person, ice rescue, elevator rescue, etc.	9	0	0	0	9
Gas leaks and flammable liquid spills	19	2	7	1	29
Carbon monoxide alarm or incident	26	0	7	1	34
Electrical problems, power lines	9	1	4	3	17
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	13	0	1	0	14
Public Assistance, good intent calls	54	11	16	5	86
Dispatched & canceled en-route	53	2	15	3	73
Alarm/sprinkler activation, smoke alarms	119	8	22	3	152
Windstorm, tornado assessment	2	0	1	0	3
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	452	30	138	23	643

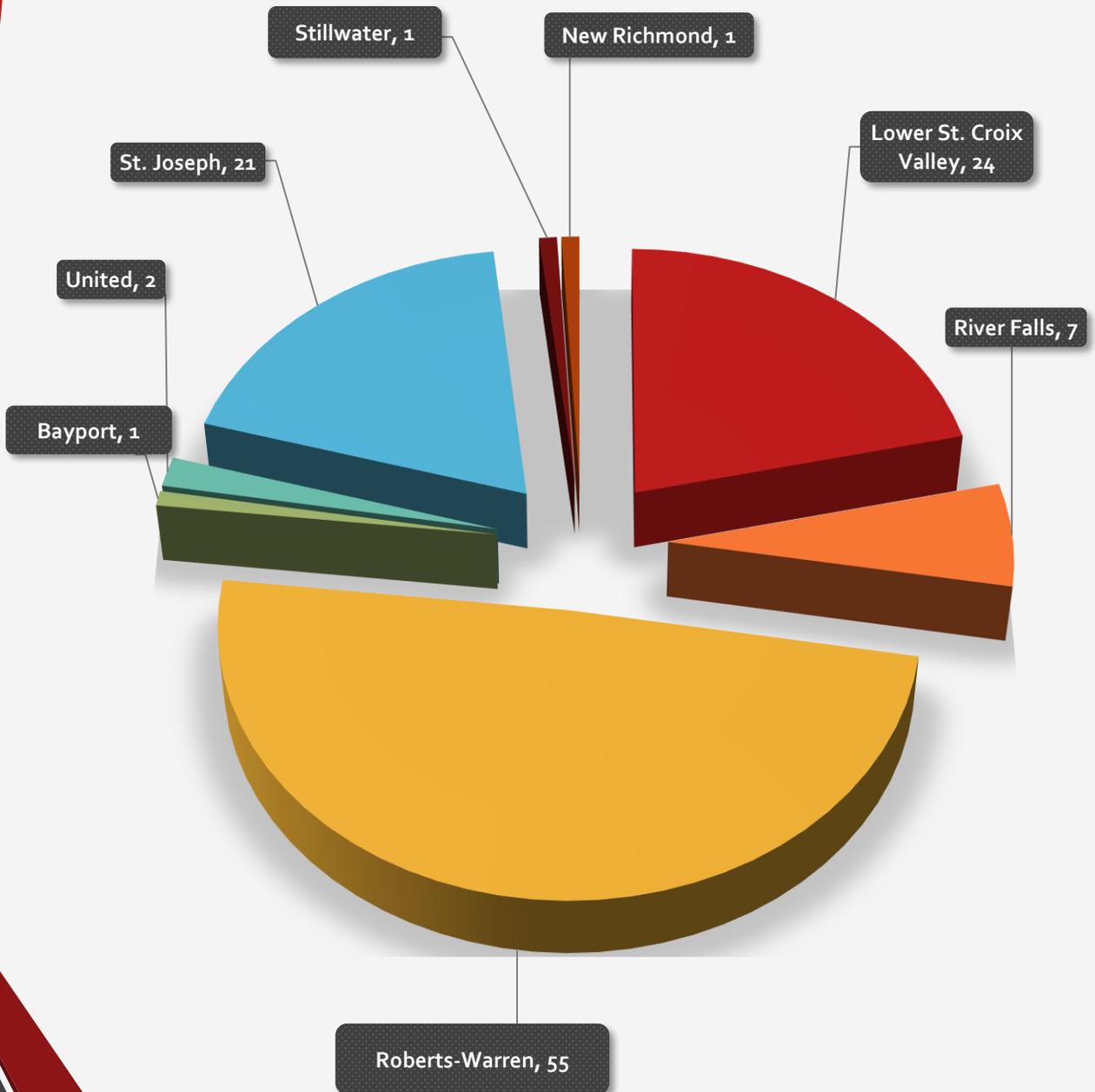
MUTUAL/AUTO AID GIVEN

2025 – Mutual/Auto Aid Given
65 incidents



MUTUAL/AUTO AID RECEIVED

2025 – Mutual/Auto Aid Received
112 incidents



YEAR IN REVIEW



452 CALLS FOR SERVICE



1,448 Inspections completed



46 CALLS
BUSIEST MONTH
AUGUST



31 FIRES
19 – structure
7 – cooking/trash
3 – vehicle
2 – grass

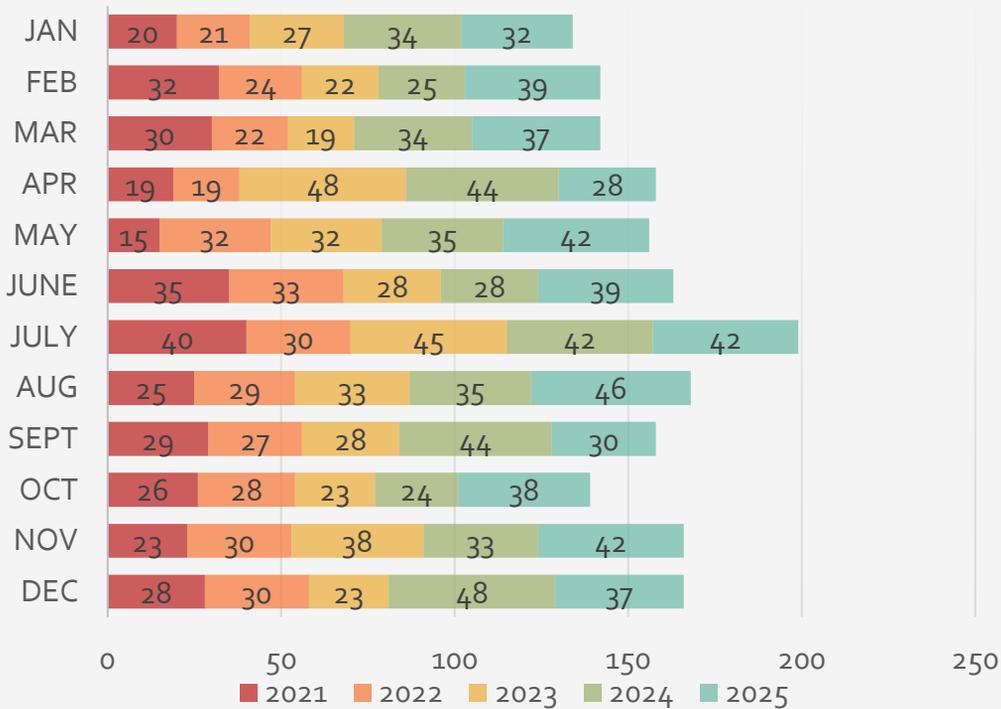


28 CALLS
SLOWEST MONTH
APRIL



58 Car accidents

CALLS BY MONTH 2021-2025





30 CALLS FOR SERVICE



139 Inspections completed



7 CALLS
BUSIEST MONTH
MAY



1 FIRE
1 – structure
0 – cooking/trash
0 – vehicle
0 – grass

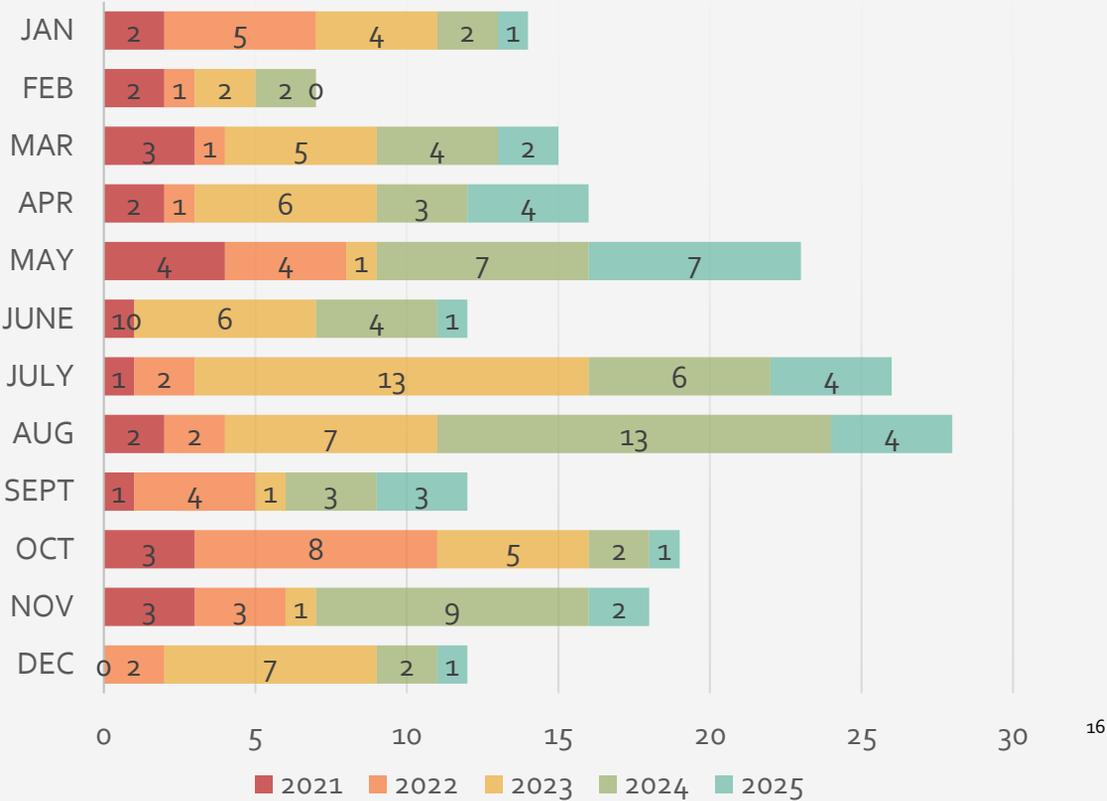


1 CALL
SLOWEST MONTH
JAN, JUN, OCT, DEC



0 Car accidents

CALLS BY MONTH 2021-2025



YEAR IN REVIEW



138 CALLS FOR SERVICE



205 Inspections completed



16 CALLS
BUSIEST MONTH
JULY



8 FIRES
3 – structure
0 – cooking/trash
1 – vehicle
4 – grass

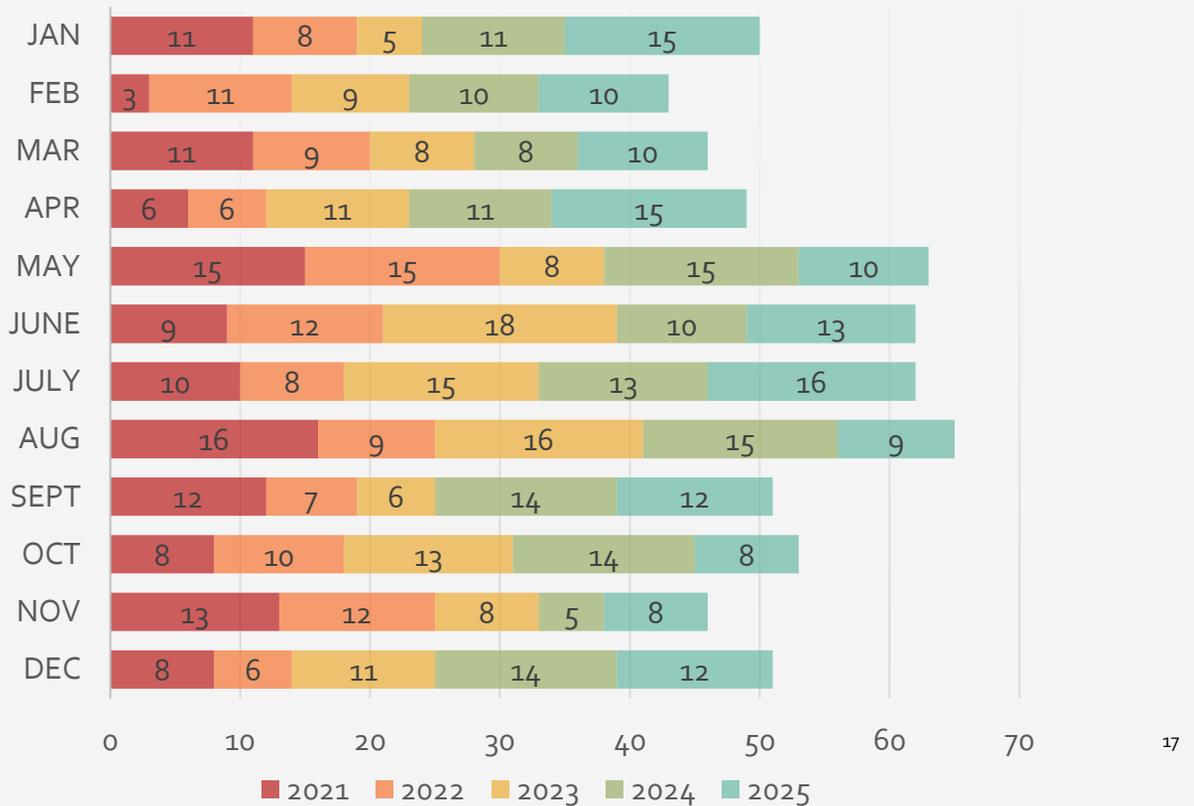


8 CALLS
SLOWEST MONTH
OCT & NOV



25 Car accidents

CALLS BY MONTH 2021-2025



YEAR IN REVIEW



23 CALLS FOR SERVICE



22 Inspections completed



6 CALLS
BUSIEST MONTH
NOVEMBER



4 FIRES
0 – structure
0 – cooking/trash
3 – vehicle
1 – grass

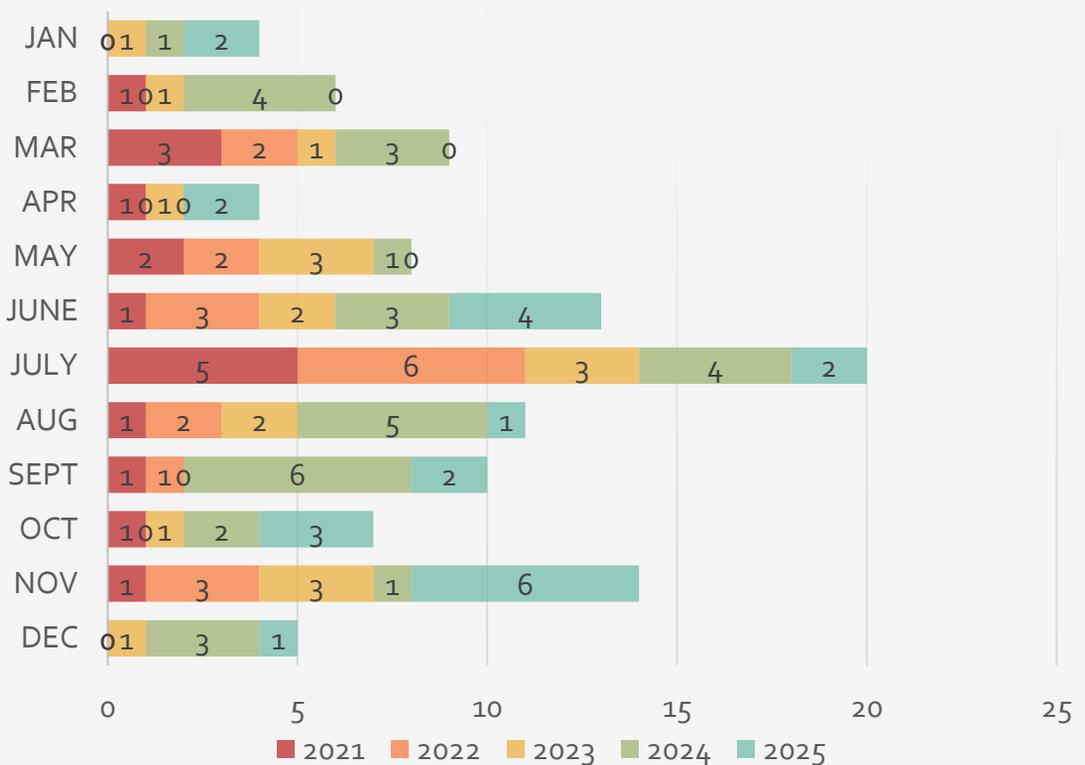


1 CALL
SLOWEST MONTH
AUG & DEC



0 Car accidents

CALLS BY MONTH 2021-2025



TRAINING

3,975.75 combined
hours of
training

80 average hours of
training per
firefighter



Areas of training include:

Fireground Operations

- Hose Lines
- Ladders
- Engine Operations
- Tender Operations
- Rapid Intervention Team
- Ventilation

Driver/Operator

- Driver/Operator- Pumper

Emergency Medical Services

- Emergency Medical First Responder
- EMS Continuing Education

Fire Officer

- Fire Officer 1
- Fire Inspector

Special Operations

- Dive Team
- Ice/Water Rescue
- Rope Rescue
- Vehicle Extrication
- Confined Space
- HazMat
- Wildland Fires

COMMUNITY OUTREACH FIRE PREVENTION



72

Public events
attended

29

Times we had a fire
prevention talk in front of
our community youth

3,071

The number of children that
participated in an event where
the fire dept was present

45

Community
events attended

National Night Out
YMCA – Healthy Kids Day
YMCA – Mess Fest
Festival Foods – Bunny Hop/Pumpkin Blowout
Fleet Farm – Touch A Truck
Veteran’s Day Ceremonies
Hudson Gun Club Youth Day
Hurrah for Booyah
Patriot’s Day
Music Fest
Hudson Seniors Group
Hudson Women’s Group



County Market – Customer Appreciation Day
Hot Air Affair
Hilltop Pumpkin Party
Pepper Fest Parade
Light Up Night
Santa and His Reindeer
Candlelight Stroll
Trunk or Treat

CODE COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS



1,098

INITIAL FIRE
INSPECTIONS



535

RE-INSPECTIONS



61

FIRE ALARM/
SPRINKLER INSPECTIONS



18

CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS



15

SHORT TERM RENTAL
INSPECTIONS



25

HOT WORKS
PERMIT INSPECTIONS



59

LIQUOR LICENSE
INSPECTIONS



2

COMPLAINTS AT INSPECTABLE PROPERTIES



1

RESIDENTIAL DAYCARE INSPECTION



1,814

TOTAL
INSPECTIONS

UPGRADES & IMPROVEMENTS

New battery extrication tools added.



Used remaining grant monies to replace supply hose.

Purchase of Motorola Radios APX 8000



Super Vac 18" battery fan with super chargers

2025 Events

