



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Carroll County Maryland, Department of Fire & EMS is to protect life, property, and the environment.

This will be accomplished through the provision of service excellence in a safe, efficient, and cost-effective manner.

We will always assure professionalism, integrity, compassion, and respect to all whom we serve and interact with.

It is our goal to meet the needs and expectations of the communities that we serve through effective fire, rescue, and emergency medical response.

We will proactively address community risk reduction through risk identification, public education, and proactive planning.

We recognize our human resources as being integral to our mission and will always support our members, both career and volunteer.

VISION STATEMENT

To lead by example as a progressive, innovative, and dynamic organization. Committed to excellence in the delivery of all services and provided with compassion and care.



CORE VALUES

LEADERSHIP

We will focus on goals and move forward, an example to all.

COMPETENCE

Training is our foundation, and we will constantly train to validate our knowledge, skills, and abilities.

INTEGRITY

Beyond reproach, we will be of sound character, morals, and ethics.

DEDICATION

We are committed to professionalism and will consistently provide service excellence to all. Our mission is our guide, and we will show our pride and loyalty.

TEAMWORK

We are about the mission and will work together to achieve safely.

HEALTH & SAFETY

We will maintain our physical and mental fitness and always perform with a safety focus. We will evaluate and minimize our risk.

COMPASSION

We will approach everyone with empathy and caring.

TRADITION

We will preserve and honor our past, define the present and create the future.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1

Commissioner
Joseph Vigliotti
President



District 2

Commissioner
Kenneth Kiler



District 3

Commissioner
Tom Gordon



District 4

Commissioner
Michael Guerin,
Vice President



District 5

Commissioner
Susan Krebs



GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP



Roberta Windham, Esq.
County Administrator



Deborah Effingham
Deputy County Administrator

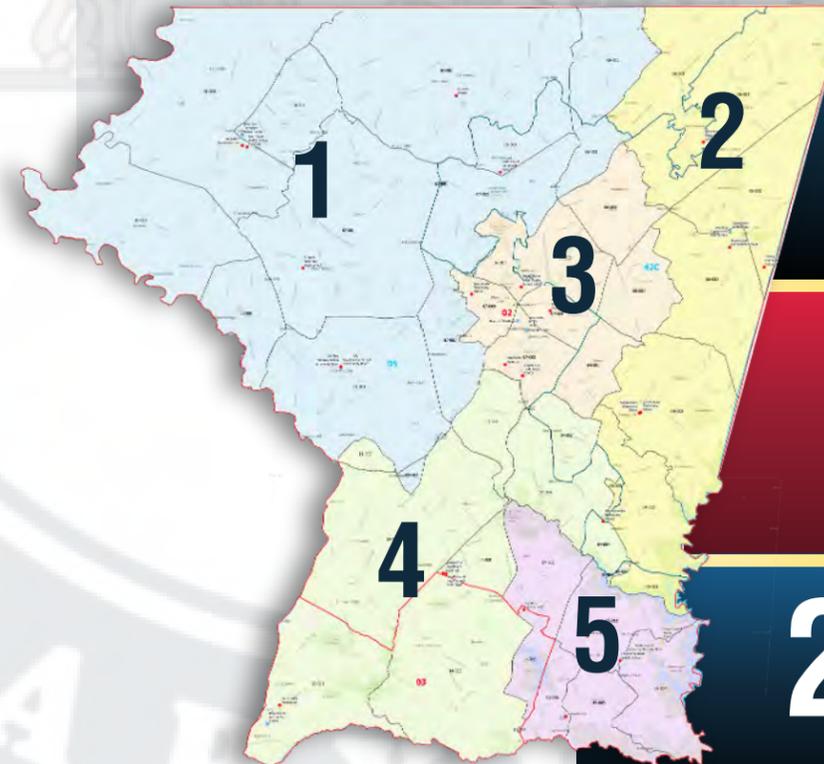
Carroll County: An Emergency Services View

Carroll County spans more than 448 square miles of rural communities, small towns, and growing suburban areas. Servicing nearly 178,000 residents, the Fire & EMS system must operate across long travel distances, varied terrain, and increasingly complex emergency needs.

Emergency services in Carroll County have changed significantly over time. What began as a locally focused, volunteer driven response model has evolved into a fully integrated countywide system. Population growth, increased medical demand, and higher call volumes have reshaped how resources are staffed, deployed, and coordinated.

In 2025, the system continued to experience rising call demand, longer unit commitment times, and more frequent periods of simultaneous incidents. These conditions require close coordination between volunteer companies, career staff, hospitals, and county leadership to maintain reliable response across the county.

Looking ahead, the focus remains on adapting to growth while strengthening system sustainability, using data, collaboration, and strategic planning to ensure emergency services keep pace with the community they serve.



County Commissioner Districts

68,564

Households & Businesses
U.S. Census Bureau

177,854

Population Served
Estimated Population Jan. 1, 2026

286,720

Acres Protected

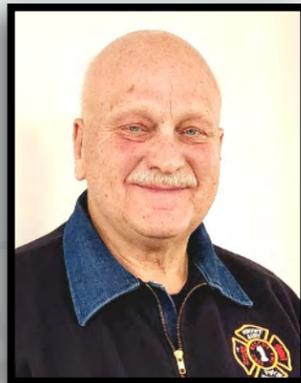
ESAC Emergency Services Advisory Council

The Emergency Services Advisory Council (ESAC) serves as the critical advisory body to ensure Carroll County's integrated, combination Fire & EMS system operates efficiently, safely, and in alignment with the community's needs.

ESAC is tasked with:

- **Providing** diverse Fire, EMS, government, and *resident* perspectives for system wide policy making.
- **Advising** on program priorities, resource allocation, and operational policies.
- **Facilitating** collaboration between volunteer and career emergency services.
- **Reviewing** the department's annual budget and strategic objectives.
- **Advising** training standards, equipment readiness, and response capabilities.

2025 ESAC Leadership



Rick Baker, Chair
Mount Airy VFD



David Coe, Co-Chair
New Windsor FD

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Advanced adoption of updated EMS and operational policies to align with the evolving best practices.
- ▶ Reviewed, commented, and advised on over 30 operational and administrative policies.
- ▶ Identified shortfalls in a multi-year ambulance/fire apparatus replacement strategy.
- ▶ Supported workforce stabilization efforts amid field vacancies and operational strain.
- ▶ Monitored progress in PSTC Phase II planning and related infrastructure improvements.

ESAC MEMBERSHIP IN 2025

11

Voting Members:

- 4 Company Representatives
- 2 Career Representatives
- 2 Operations Committee Reps
- 3 Citizen Residents

4

Advisory Members:

- County Commissioner
- Jurisdictional Medical Director
- Chief Director of DFEMS
- CCVESA President

2026 FOCUS AREAS

- Countywide Fire/EMS Coverage Study
- Apparatus Lifecycle Modernization
- Sustainable Workforce Staffing Model
- Safety Leadership and Training Expansion

ESAC 2025 Annual Overview

The Emergency Services Advisory Council (ESAC) continues to serve a vital role in advising the Carroll County Commissioners on matters related to fire suppression, emergency medical services, and special operations response throughout Carroll County. ESAC is comprised of representatives from volunteer fire departments, career personnel, the Chairs of the Fire/Rescue Operations Committee and Emergency Medical Services Operations Committee, and citizens of Carroll County. This diverse representation ensures that operational, administrative, and community perspectives are thoughtfully considered in all recommendations.

Over the past year, ESAC addressed a broad range of issues impacting the Department's long-term sustainability, operational readiness, and strategic direction. Key areas of focus included review and evaluation of apparatus acquisitions, long-term fleet replacement planning, assessment of volunteer and career staffing needs, and development of recommendations related to the department's budget.

During this reporting period, ESAC provided guidance and formal feedback on multiple County-funded apparatus purchases totaling more than \$1 million. In addition, the Council reviewed and supported volunteer replacement apparatus acquisitions totaling approximately \$7.5 million, including engines, a heavy rescue squad, and duty/utility vehicles. These investments are critical to maintaining safe, reliable, and modern emergency response capabilities across the County.

Since the establishment of the Department of Fire and EMS (DFEMS) in Carroll County, ESAC has remained an integral partner in advancing the Department's mission and strengthening service delivery.

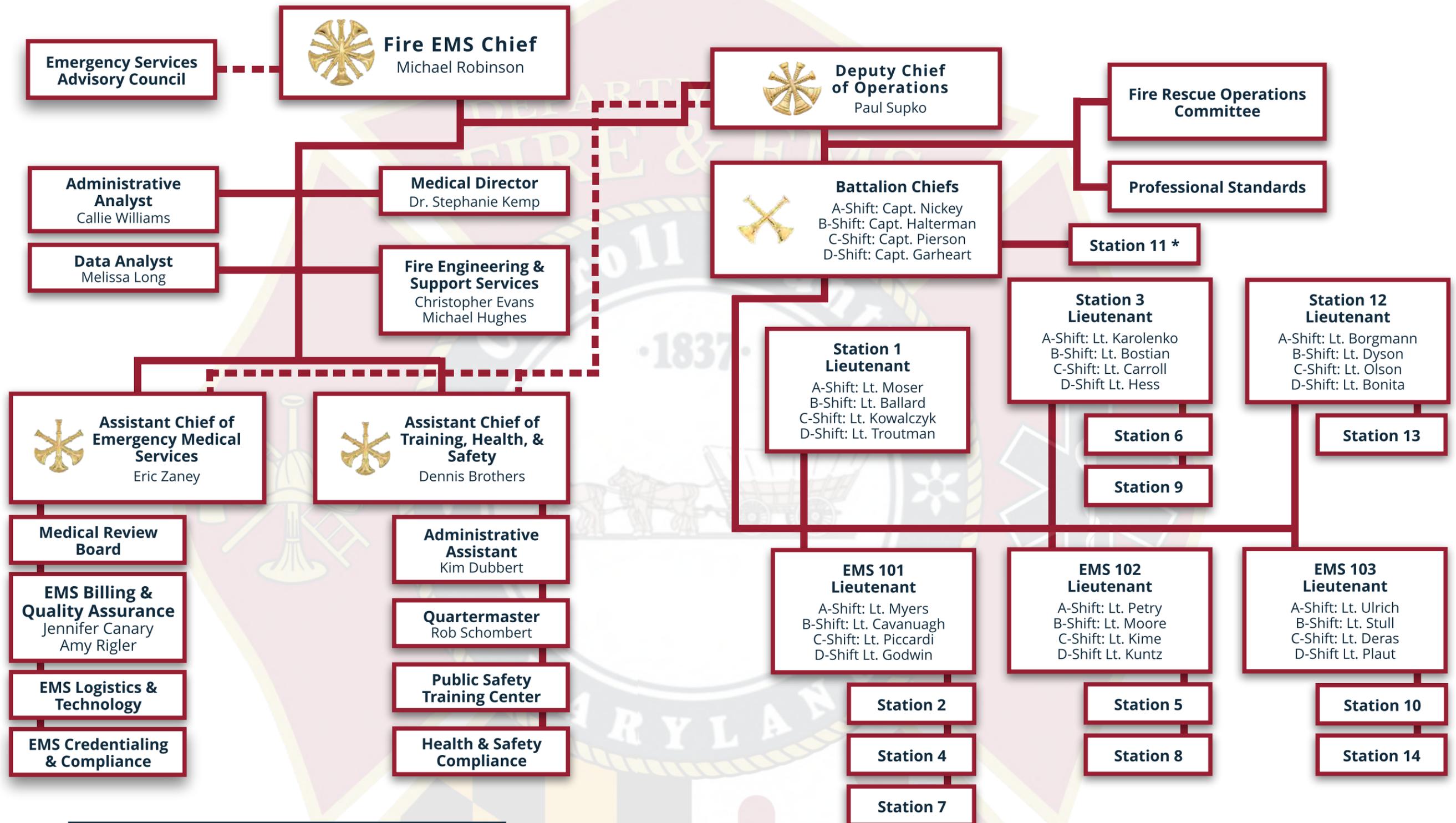


Front Row (L-R):
Eastern Region JJ Lynott,
Citizen Blane Wright,
Chief Michael Robinson,
Admin. Analyst Callie Williams,
FROPS Rep Tim Legore,
Western Region Brett Six,
Career Rep FADO Robert Ruch

Back Row (L-R):
Citizen Scott Dickson,
CCVESA President Jeff Fleming,
Chair & Southern Region Rick Baker,
Career Rep Lt. Michael Karolenko

Not Pictured:
Central Region Jim Mora,
EMSOPS & Co-Chair Dave Coe,
Citizen Joe Brown,
Commissioner Michael Guerin,
Medical Director Dr. Stephanie Kemp

2025 ORGANIZATION CHART



CAREER STAFFING PER SHIFT

STATIONS 1, 3, 12

- 1 - Station Lieutenant
- 1 - Fire Apparatus Driver Operator
- 2 - Firefighter/EMTs
- 2 - Firefighter/Paramedics or Paramedics

STATIONS 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14

- 1 - Fire Apparatus Driver Operator
- 1 - Firefighter/EMT
- 1 - Firefighter/Paramedic or Paramedic

EMS CHASE CARS

- 1 - Lieutenant Paramedic

*STATION 11

Volunteer Only,
No Career Staffing

Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company

Chief Anthony Russo
President Sue Hubble

Hampstead Volunteer Fire Engine & Hose Company No. 1

Chief Troy Hipsley
President James Dwyer

Westminster Fire Engine & Hose Company No. 1

Chief Jeff Leppert
President Dan Plunkert

Manchester Volunteer Fire Company

Chief Andrew Franklin
President Edward Paulsen

Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company

Chief Craig Austin
President Jim Haines

Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company

Chief Forrest Shaw
President James Mora

Lineboro Volunteer Fire Department

Chief John Krebs, V
President Joseph Lankford

Union Bridge Fire Company

Chief Chad Green
President Missi Green

Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company

Chief Andrew Wooden
President Lori Davidson-Bell

New Windsor Fire & Hose Company No. 1

Chief Steve Kreimer
President Marcy Munshaur

Harney Volunteer Fire Company

Chief Donald Yingling, Jr.
President Charles Blocher

Sykesville Freedom District Fire Department

Chief Glenn (Ed) Ruch, Jr.
President Kevin Shiloh

Gamber & Community Fire Company

Chief Chad Hastings
President Todd Tracey

Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department

Chief Austin Johnstone
President Carl Broussard

REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

CARROLL COUNTY VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Jeff Fleming, President
Bruce Fleming, 1st Vice President
Susan Mott, 2nd Vice President
Heather Blum, Secretary
Mary Carol Stiffler, Treasurer

CARROLL COUNTY PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS & PARAMEDICS ASSOCIATION

Michael Karolenko, President
Ryan Dyson, Vice President
Bryce Ballard, Treasurer
Michael Erdman, Secretary
Mikel Hess, Parliamentarian

BATTALION MAP

BATTALION STRUCTURE & OPERATIONAL MODEL

Three Geographic Battalions & Four Rotating Battalion Chiefs

Carroll County DFEMS is organized into three geographic battalions to reduce operational span of control and improve system efficiency.

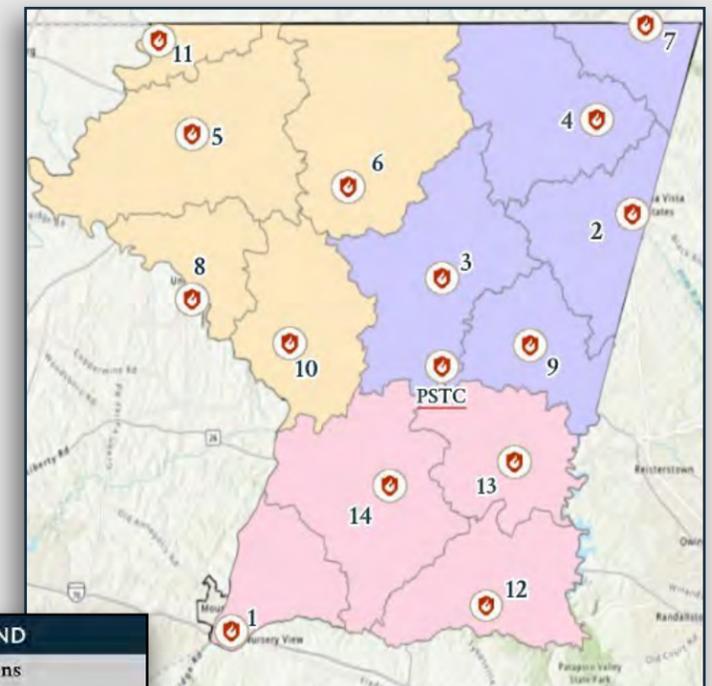
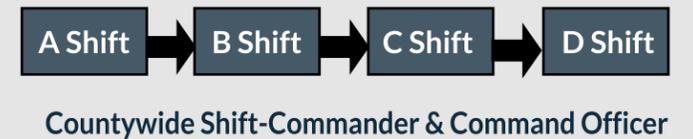
Command oversight is provided by four Battalion Chiefs assigned to A, B, C, and D shifts. One Battalion Chief is on duty at a time for a 24-hour period (0700-0700), providing countywide coverage across all three battalions.



Battalion Structure & Operational Model

- Battalion 1**
Stations: 2, 3, 4, 7, 9
Staffing Model:
 Mixed Career/Volunteer
 Lieutenant Paramedic: EMS 101
- Battalion 2**
Stations: 5, 6, 8, 10, 11
Staffing Model:
 Mixed Career/Volunteer
 Lieutenant Paramedic: EMS 102
- Battalion 3**
Stations: 1, 12, 13, 14
Staffing Model:
 Mixed Career/Volunteer
 Lieutenant Paramedic: EMS 103

Battalion Chief Rotating Shifts



LEGEND

- Fire Stations
- Battalion 1
- Battalion 2
- Battalion 3
- Fire District Boundaries

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

FIRE & EMS CHIEF



Chief Michael W. Robinson, MA, CFO, NRP

It is an honor and a privilege to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS. This document provides an overview of the statistics, activities and accomplishments of the department throughout calendar year 2025. Having completed our fourth year of operation we continue to evolve in establishing our organization as a premier Fire & EMS delivery system that assures prompt, quality and efficient care to those that require our services in their time of need. Our progress and ongoing development have been a monumental task that has required vision, resilience and commitment on many levels.

The Board of County Commissioners has provided an uncompromised level of leadership and support that has enabled us to pursue and achieve our goals and objectives. The relationship between our volunteers and our career personnel has been focused and engaging and continues to move us forward consistent to our mission, vision and core values. Our growth and development is an ongoing partnership that we value and maintain for the present and into the future. Our relationships within our Carroll County infrastructure have been productive and complementary to our success.

2025 was a year of growth and development for the Department of Fire & EMS. We completed our initial staffing plan with the transition to county staffing at New Windsor, Pleasant Valley and Union Bridge fire stations which now assures 24/7 advanced life support coverage and a driver/operator for fire suppression apparatus. In support of our staffing initiative, our hiring continued with an additional 68 new employees being recruited, selected and following a training process being deployed into our operations. We have continued in our development with a total of 224 operational and 12 administrative/support personnel for an authorized force of 236 personnel.

During the past year we also achieved two milestones with our span of control and system wide supervision and command staffing. Our shift commanders were elevated to the level of Battalion Chief which is more indicative of their duties and responsibilities both administratively and operationally.



We also initiated EMS Supervision with the creation of 12 lieutenant/paramedic positions allowing for 24/7 EMS Supervision. This is realized with the deployment of three ALS/Supervisory Units which provide medical supervision and enhanced ALS skills such as diagnostic ultrasound, portable ventilators, additional medications and life saving blood transfusions in the field. Our enhanced EMS capabilities have resulted in direct life sustaining care which impacts on the quality of life throughout Carroll County.



Chief Robinson delivers his remarks at the Department's 1st Annual Awards Ceremony.



In May of 2025, DFEMS recognized career and volunteer responders alongside cardiac arrest survivor Mr. Weaver.

As our combination Fire & EMS system evolves, our focus continues on maintaining the critical partnership with our 14 volunteer fire companies who provide facilities, apparatus and personnel. Their consistent contributions create millions of dollars in cost savings. Together, our volunteers and career personnel assure 24/7, prompt, efficient and consistent levels of service for Fire, EMS, Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue response.

Behind the scenes our command, administrative and support staff, works seamlessly to maintain operational readiness of all elements of our system.

This includes our training, safety and health division, our EMS division, our fire protection technical services and administrative services section. Each of these is elaborated within our report.

All of our employees are dedicated and focused to meet our challenges every hour of every day. Together with our volunteer responders the department handled 25,517 emergency calls in 2025 from our 14 Fire & EMS stations involving all hazards and risks. As Carroll County continues with its high quality of life and responsible governance, our system will continue to serve at the highest levels. It is in that spirit that I present to you our 2025 Annual Report. This document serves as validation of our quality and commitment to providing Fire & EMS to Carroll County. Please take some time to view our success and our progress as we move forward.

Yours in service,

Chief Michael W. Robinson

Michael W. Robinson, MA, CFO, NRP
Director, Department of Fire & EMS



2025 DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

FIRE & EMS CHIEF

The year 2025 was a year of both growth and strategic development for the Department of Fire & EMS. We made progress on multiple fronts and most notably we were able to complete the implementation of our initial staffing objectives with the transition of our remaining stations to 24/7 medic unit and fire apparatus (FADO) staffing. Significant progress has been made with operational consistency as we have expanded our standard operating procedures (SOPs), incident response profiles and deployment strategies. Our objective has been to enhance integration among the 14 volunteer fire companies as we evolve into a single focused operational platform that assures strategic and tactical consistency throughout Carroll County. Our Operations Section has taken the lead on this endeavor in partnership with our volunteer command leadership. We have further validated this direction with standards development, operational training and operational implementation. The net result has been increased incident accountability, command continuity and assurance of safety. This continues to be a work in progress as we institutionalize our standards and expectations.

"2025 was a year of growth and development for the Department of Fire & EMS"



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Calls for Service & Response Times

Carroll County Fire & EMS responded to over 25,500 calls for service including fires, EMS, Hazardous Materials and Technical rescue incidents. EMS continues to be approximately 70% of our call volume.

Response times have seen a significant improvement and with the completed transition of all stations to DFEMS staffed ALS transport units (16 total), our turnout times is now standardized at 90 seconds from the time of dispatch, transitioning from the previous 5-minute response threshold.

EMS Supervision

Has been enhanced with the upgrade of our three strategically located EMS Supervisor units now staffed by a lieutenant/paramedic position. These personnel are responsible for direct EMS supervision, augmented ALS skills including ultrasound for diagnostics, mechanical ventilators and the availability of whole blood for field transfusions of both medical and trauma patients. In addition, these personnel provide 100% quality assurance reviews for all EMS responses and are integrated into our departmental chain of command.

Command Level Supervision

At the countywide shift commander level has been enhanced with the promotion of our four shift commanders to the rank of battalion chief. This provides a command-level officer on a 24-hour shift to assure continuity of operations, staffing, countywide accountability and quality assurance. This was a necessary transition as Fire & EMS has been codified as a county government function, transitioning from the previous 5-minute response threshold.

Training and credentialing

Training is an essential function of our organization as human resources are the foundation our operations. In 2025 we became an accredited training review agency (ATRA) after an extensive review and are now authorized as an entity of the Maryland Fire Service Personnel Qualifications Board (MFSPQB) to process and validate certifications in 20+ credentialed areas consistent to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. In addition, we became a state accredited training program under the Maryland Institute for EMS Systems (MIEMSS) which allows us to validate EMS certification and licensing through our didactic and clinical training programs for over 1000 career and volunteer EMTs and paramedics.

Our Public Safety Training Center (PSTC) located in Westminster is the core location for our training programs and we continue to partner with the University of Maryland (MFRI-MD Fire Rescue Institute) the Carroll County Community College, Carroll County Public Schools and national organizations such as the American Red Cross (ARC) and others to assure a focused and functional training system. Our PSTC is in operation 7 days/week and 16 hours daily to assure a well-trained and exercised department through realistic training. Future plans will see an expansion of our facilities to meet both our growth and future training needs.



First 12 Lieutenant/Paramedics promoted in October 2025. These lieutenants act concurrently as EMS supervision and fire officers.

The Annual Carroll County Department of Fire and EMS Report is designed to provide transparency, clarity, and accountability in how emergency services are delivered across Carroll County. Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services operate as an integrated, countywide system. As such, the data presented reflects both community demand and the operational workload required to meet that demand safely and effectively.

Understanding the Distinction Between Calls and Responses

A single 911 call for Fire & EMS service may result in multiple units being dispatched. For example:

- A medical emergency may dispatch an ambulance, a fire engine, and an EMS supervisor.
- A vehicle collision may require multiple fire units, EMS units, and mutual aid partners.
- Certain incidents require simultaneous responses from more than one station.

For this reason, the total number of unit responses will always exceed the total number of unique calls for service.

To ensure clarity, this report is structured around three key data perspectives:

1. Community Demand (Calls for Service)

Calls for service represent the total number of unique emergency incidents initiated by the public. This is the foundational metric used for planning, budgeting, and concurrency management. All system performance metrics ultimately anchor back to this number.

2. Operational Workload (Unit Dispatches)

Operational workload reflects how the system responds to community demand. This includes:

- Fire units dispatched on EMS incidents
- Multiple stations responding to the same incident
- Multiple units responding to a single incident
- Mutual aid responses given and received
- Specialized resources such as EMS chase vehicles and command staff

These figures demonstrate staffing demand, resource utilization, and system strain but should not be interpreted as additional calls for service.

3. Workforce Impact (Staffing & Utilization)

Workforce metrics describe the human impact of emergency response activity, including:

- Unit hours committed
- Simultaneous call volume
- Peak demand periods
- Coverage gaps and overlap windows

These data points explain why staffing levels and deployment strategies are critical to maintaining reliable delivery service.

Staffing Context and Year-to-Year Comparisons

Calendar Year 2024 reflects a system in transition. County career staffing was implemented incrementally throughout the year, with full countywide staffing achieved in February 2025. As a result:

- Year-over-year comparisons should be interpreted with caution
- Stations entered county staffing at different points during the year
- Apparent increases in activity often reflect improved coverage rather than increased demand

Future annual reports will use 2025 as the first full baseline year for steady-state operations.

Mutual Aid Considerations

Mutual aid is an essential component of emergency response in Carroll County. This report includes both mutual aid given and received. Mutual aid responses increase operational workload but do not represent additional in-county calls for service.

Purpose of Transparency

This report intentionally distinguishes between demand, workload, and workforce impact to:

- Support data-driven decision-making
- Align with concurrency management principles
- Provide accurate public accountability
- Prevent misinterpretation of emergency response data

By clearly defining how data is counted and presented, Carroll County ensures that emergency services performance is measured honestly, consistently, and in context.



FIRE & EMS RESPONSE

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

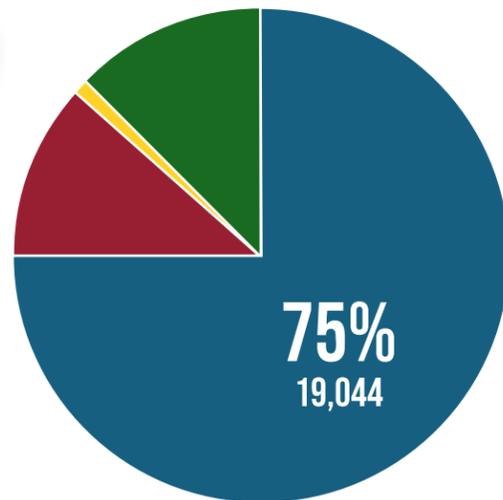
25,517

TOTAL INCIDENTS*

Total number of Fire, EMS, Rescue, and Mutual Aid incidents responded to countywide in 2025.

INCIDENT BREAKDOWN

| | |
|--|--------------|
|  EMS | 19,044 Total |
|  Fire | 3,034 Total |
|  Rescue | 230 Total |
| Mutual Aid | 3,209 Total |



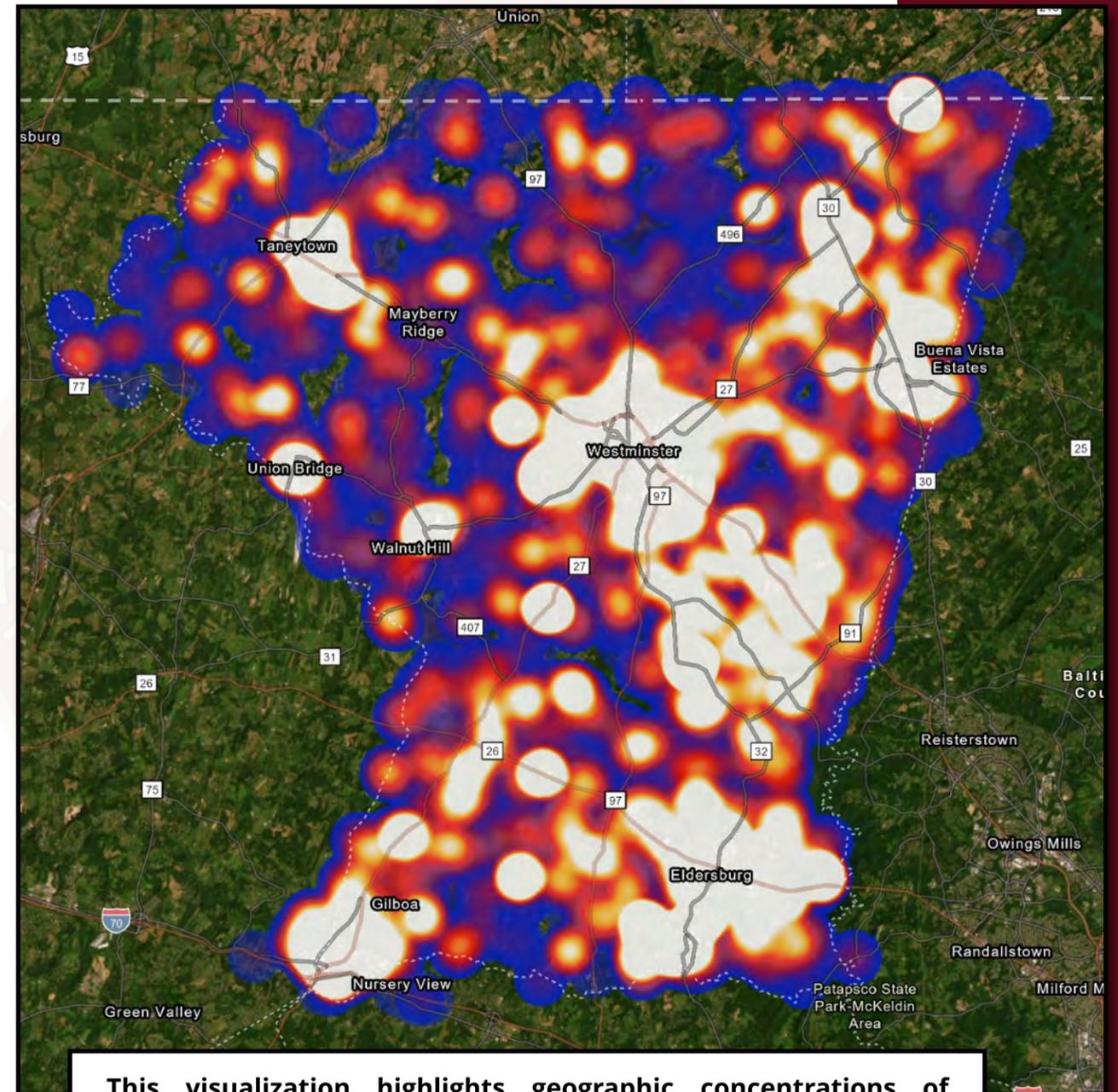
 **75%**
EMS CALLS

 **Busiest Hour**
4-5 PM
3,416 INCIDENTS

 **Busiest Month**
JANUARY
2,385 INCIDENTS

*System wide totals for informational overview and represent the individual 911 call counts for Fire and EMS services. See following pages for detailed response breakdowns.

OPERATIONAL DEMAND & SIMULTANEOUS INCIDENTS



This visualization highlights geographic concentrations of simultaneous incident activity. White "Hot zones" indicate areas where multiple incidents regularly occurred at the same time, reflecting consistent call stacking and elevated system demand.

A MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY CHIEF

FIRE RESCUE OPERATIONS



Deputy Chief Paul Supko

2025 marked a year of measurable progress for Carroll County Fire & EMS. Across our fourteen fire companies, members worked collaboratively to strengthen operational consistency, clarify expectations, and reinforce accountability on emergency scenes. What stood out the most was not a single initiative, but the steady alignment of policies, practices, and leadership expectations across the system. Even before formal county-wide training was completed, members, both career and volunteer, began applying the expectations in the field. The guidance spread quickly throughout the organization, and while questions and clarification were anticipated, the discussions were consistently positive and professional. As a result, today's incident operations show increased consistency, coordination, and accountability across the county.

Several operational changes supported this progress. The Ops 101 position was reclassified to Battalion Chief 101, increasing clearer lines of command, control, and coordination between all members and mutual aid partners. We also adjusted tactical radio channel usage to eliminate confusion and improve safety. We reinforced the use of a command team operating from a stationary command post to ensure key radio transmissions are not missed and to better track crews operating in dangerous environments. These changes strengthened incident management, improved accountability, and increased coordination across agencies operating in high-risk situations.



While our system includes both career and volunteer members, many stations, traditions, and roles, the service delivered to the public is singular. Regardless of assignment or status, our members respond together, train together, and operate side by side at emergencies every day. Because of that, I intentionally use the term "members" when referring to our personnel. It reflects how the public experiences us, as one team working toward a common purpose. The expectations for professionalism, teamwork, and operational performance are therefore shared across the organization, and our citizens can rely on a consistent level of service wherever they live in Carroll County.

Expectations for our command officers and overall incident management performance have never been higher. With the current momentum of adaptation and organizational buy-in, we are moving beyond written policy and translating it into consistent operational practice. Our objective is not simply compliance, but to set the benchmark for incident management performance among combination fire departments nationwide.

The year also provided real opportunities to test our progress. 2025 included numerous working fires and significant incidents. These events allowed members to apply the new operational policies in real conditions. Compliance occurred quickly and, once reinforced through county-wide training and post-incident review, proficiency increased rapidly. The policies moved beyond paper and became standard practice.

Operational capability expanded during the year as well. In February, we staffed our final two stations, Union Bridge and Lineboro, completing the planned countywide deployment model. During the summer, the second unit in the Mount Airy area was upgraded to Advanced Life Support (ALS) service, and later in the year, the EMS chase vehicles were upgraded to Lieutenant Paramedic units, improving field supervision and patient care coordination. The Hazardous Materials Team also grew significantly, adding new members and conducting joint training with volunteer and career personnel, strengthening our readiness for technical incidents and regional responses.



Incident command operations on Cold Springs Farm fire.

In addition to operations, I also oversee the department's Professional Standards Division. This includes managing formal workplace complaints involving both employees and volunteers to ensure that administrative policies governing those processes are applied consistently and fairly. The goal is clear expectations, professionalism, and accountability to support a healthy working environment throughout the entire system.

I also remain closely involved in staffing, budget, and organizational development matters. This includes promotional processes, acting assignments, and coordination with the Human Resources Division to create growth opportunities and career pathways. Developing people is as important as developing policy.

Operations cannot function without the Emergency Communications Center. Throughout 2025, ECC leadership and staff worked closely with field operations to improve dispatching, radio communications, and incident information flow. Their willingness to adapt and collaborate has significantly improved both call processing and on-scene communications that directly impact responder safety and operational effectiveness. Many of our most important operational improvements were made possible through coordination with the ECC.



No operational policy advances without review by the Emergency Services Advisory Council (ESAC). This group processed thirty operational and safety policies during the year and supported timely implementation when necessary. Their efforts reflect a shared commitment to improving service delivery and supporting all members of the department.

2025 was not simply a year of policy development. It was a year of organizational alignment. We clarified expectations,

strengthened leadership at every level, and improved coordination between stations, divisions, and disciplines. The result is a more predictable and reliable system of service delivery. Carroll County Fire & EMS is better positioned today to provide consistent, professional emergency services to the citizens of Carroll County. Our focus moving forward is to reinforce those standards and ensure operational competence across the organization.



FIRE RESCUE OPS

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL FIRE/RESCUE INCIDENTS

3,264

▲ 4.35% FROM 2024

Total number of Fire and Rescue incidents responded to countywide in 2025.

FIRE/RESCUE INCIDENTS

181

Structure Fires Dispatched

Multi-Alarm Incidents

47

INCIDENT BREAKDOWN



Multi-Company Responses
1,251
INCIDENTS



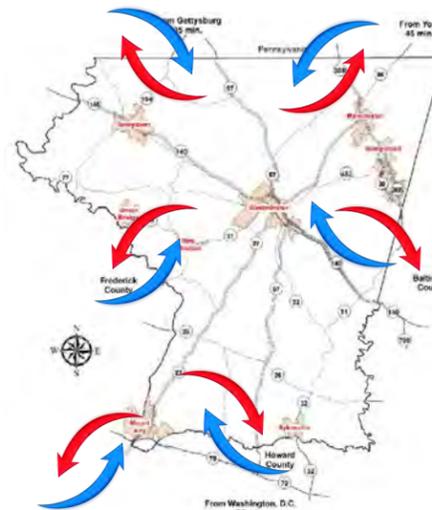
Median Response Time
8:00
MINUTES



Busiest Month
NOVEMBER

FIRE INCIDENT DISTRIBUTION & REGIONAL RESPONSE

Mutual Aid Activity



TOTAL MUTUAL AID INCIDENTS

1,226

OUTGOING MUTUAL AID RESPONSES

474

INCOMING MUTUAL AID RESPONSES

TOP FIRE INCIDENTS

- 648 Commercial Fire Alarm
- 401 Residential Fire Alarm
- 216 Public Service Call
- 207 Wires Down
- 145 Vehicle Collision w/ Rescue
- 134 CO Detector Activation
- 100 Gas Leak in Residential
- 96 House Fire
- 90 Outside Investigation
- 87 Emergency Lockout
- 85 Brush Fire
- 83 Outside Gas Leak
- 62 Electrical Hazard
- 56 Gas Leak in Commercial
- 53 Local Alarm
- 52 Vehicle Fire
- 49 Elevator Rescue
- 44 Fire Involving Exposures
- 37 Building Fire
- 34 Odor of Smoke



This incident data should be read alongside the **Combination System** and **How to Read This Report** sections to understand how the fire and EMS resources work together to deliver countywide service.

FIRE RESCUE OPERATIONS

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR



Doctor Stephanie Kemp, MD

Emergency Medical Services in Carroll County continues to evolve through a strong commitment to clinical excellence, innovation, and compassionate patient care. The complexity of modern prehospital medicine demands a system that integrates advanced clinical capability, ongoing education, and continuous quality improvement. Over the past year, our EMS clinicians have continued to demonstrate exceptional professionalism and dedication while delivering high-quality care to the residents and visitors of Carroll County. Through continued investment in clinical programs, technology, and provider education, Carroll County Department of Fire and EMS has quickly advanced to forefront of progressive prehospital medicine within the State of Maryland.

At the center of our system are the paramedics and EMTs who respond to emergencies every day. Their commitment to providing **high-quality, professional, and empathetic patient care** reflects the core mission of our department. Whether responding to life-threatening trauma, cardiac arrest, complex medical emergencies, or supporting patients and families during moments of uncertainty, our clinicians consistently demonstrate the compassion, professionalism, and clinical expertise that define Carroll County EMS.

Quality Assurance and Clinical Improvement

Our Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement (QA/QI) program remains a cornerstone of medical oversight within the department. Through structured chart review, case analysis, and direct feedback between field providers, EMS leadership, and medical direction, we ensure that patient care is continually evaluated and improved.

The program is designed to promote a culture of learning and professional development, allowing clinicians to review challenging cases and share lessons learned across the system. Key clinical areas such as airway management, cardiac arrest resuscitation, trauma care, medication administration, and documentation are routinely evaluated to ensure adherence to Maryland EMS protocols and evidence-based medicine.

Importantly, the QA/QI process also informs system-wide improvements. Trends identified through case review help guide continuing education priorities, protocol refinement, and operational changes that strengthen the consistency and quality of care delivered across the county.

Advancing Prehospital Resuscitation: Low-Titer Whole Blood

Carroll County has become a leader in advanced prehospital resuscitation through our **Low-Titer O Whole Blood (LTOWB) program**. Early access to whole blood has significantly improved our ability to treat patients experiencing life-threatening hemorrhage, allowing EMS clinicians to initiate definitive resuscitation in the field.

This program represents a strong collaborative effort between our EMS clinicians, regional blood bank partners, and receiving hospitals. Through careful protocol development, provider training, and strict quality monitoring, Carroll County has successfully integrated whole blood administration into routine prehospital care and has helped other EMS jurisdictions across the county bring this life saving intervention to their communities.

Each administration is reviewed through our quality improvement process to ensure safe practice and ongoing evaluation of outcomes. The program reflects the progressive clinical capabilities of our EMS system and Carroll County's continued commitment to advancing evidence-based prehospital trauma care.

Education, Training, and Practicing at the Peak of Scope of Practice

The strength of Carroll County EMS lies in the knowledge, experience, and dedication of its clinicians. Continued investment in **education and clinical training** ensures that our paramedics and EMTs remain prepared to manage complex medical emergencies while practicing at the highest level of their scope of practice.

Ongoing education initiatives reinforce clinical decision-making, maintain procedural proficiency, and ensure familiarity with evolving medical evidence and treatment protocols. These efforts allow our clinicians to confidently perform advanced interventions in the prehospital environment while maintaining the highest standards of patient care.

Technology Supporting Advanced Patient Care

Strategic investments in technology continue to enhance the ability of Carroll County EMS clinicians to deliver advanced medical care in the field.

Supervisor vehicles are equipped with **portable Butterfly ultrasound devices**, which provide clinicians with the ability to incorporate point-of-care ultrasound into critical clinical decision-making. In particular, ultrasound is used to help guide cardiac arrest resuscitation, allowing providers to rapidly assess cardiac activity and guide treatment decisions in real time while maintaining a high-performance resuscitation approach.

In 2026, Carroll County EMS will further expand its capabilities through the deployment of **Ventis Hero ventilators and Sapphire IV infusion pumps** across the system. These technologies will enhance the management of critically ill patients by providing more precise respiratory support and safer, more controlled medication administration.

Together, these advancements allow EMS clinicians to deliver increasingly sophisticated care in the field and ensure that providers have the tools necessary to practice at the **peak of their clinical scope**, further strengthening Carroll County's role as a leader in modern prehospital medicine.

Partnerships with Receiving Hospitals and Mutual Aid

Strong partnerships with regional healthcare institutions remain essential to delivering seamless, high-quality patient care. Carroll County EMS maintains close collaboration with several receiving hospitals, ensuring effective communication and coordination throughout the continuum of emergency care.

Our partnership with **Carroll Hospital** is particularly significant. As the county's primary hospital, Carroll Hospital serves as a critical partner in both patient care and system improvement. Through ongoing communication, collaborative case review, and shared educational initiatives, we work together to strengthen clinical practice and improve patient outcomes.

Carroll County EMS also maintains strong working relationships with surrounding jurisdictions, where collaboration through mutual aid is a routine part of EMS operations. Providers from CCDFEMS and neighboring counties regularly respond across jurisdictional boundaries to support one another during EMS incidents. These partnerships ensure that patients receive **high-quality, timely emergency medical care regardless of county borders**, reflecting a shared regional commitment to patient-centered care.

For critically injured trauma patients, coordination with the Maryland State Police Aviation Command supports rapid access to definitive trauma care through aeromedical transport when needed. Carroll County Department of Fire and EMS is helping lead the way in Maryland through **extensive helicopter utilization review and quality assurance**, ensuring that this limited and valuable resource is used appropriately and effectively. This work also strengthens operational coordination and promotes seamless transitions of care between Carroll County EMS clinicians and Maryland State Police flight crews for patients with life threatening traumatic injuries.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, Carroll County EMS will continue to focus on strengthening our clinical programs, supporting our clinicians, and investing in technologies that improve patient care. Our system's success is built upon a commitment to **clinical excellence, continuous improvement, and compassionate service to our community**.

Most importantly, the continued strength of our EMS system is made possible by the dedication of our paramedics and EMTs. Their professionalism, skill, and empathy ensure that every patient receives not only advanced medical care, but also the respect and compassion they deserve during moments of crisis.

It is an honor to support these clinicians and to serve the citizens of Carroll County alongside them as we continue our shared mission of **protecting life, improving health, and serving our community with excellence**.

Respectfully,
Stephanie Kemp, MD |Medical Director

A MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Asst. Chief Eric Zaney BS, NRP, CEMSO

Emergency Medical Services in Carroll County continues to evolve in both capability and responsibility. The complexity of medical emergencies requires a system that is clinically disciplined, operationally aligned, and continuously advancing. In 2025, our focus remained clear: expand advanced life support delivery, strengthen field-level treatment options, and reinforce clinical governance across the division. Our providers are no longer defined solely by transport time. Instead, they are increasingly delivering hospital-caliber interventions at the patient's side ensuring that definitive treatment begins at the earliest possible moment.

A defining achievement of 2025 was the full implementation of the Low-Titer O+ (LTO+) Whole Blood Program. After comprehensive research, policy development, regional collaboration, and structured training, the program was launched on May 9, 2025. Carroll County became the fourth ground-based EMS agency in Maryland to administer prehospital whole blood. In 2025, 10 units were administered to critically ill and injured patients. Continued administrations brought the total to 18 by early 2026, with an 83% survival to discharge rate. The ability to combat hemorrhagic shock and oxygen debt in real time represents a transformational advancement in trauma care. Through partnership with Innova Health System and Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, the program operates under a zero-waste exchange model that ensures fiscal responsibility while maintaining continuous product availability.



Operational modernization continued across the fleet. Three additional Lifepak 35 cardiac monitors and two LUCAS 3 mechanical CPR devices were deployed in 2025. The Lifepak 35 platform supported 14,199 12-lead ECG acquisitions, in addition to electrical therapies including synchronized cardioversion, defibrillation, and transcutaneous pacing. These devices remain central to both cardiac care and accurate clinical documentation. Mechanical CPR devices enhance the quality and consistency of resuscitative efforts while reducing provider risk during transport. Each EMS Supervisor vehicle was also equipped with Butterfly iQ portable ultrasound devices, bringing advanced diagnostic imaging to the field and allowing clinicians to make informed treatment decisions in real time.

Clinical performance metrics reflect the strength of our ALS providers. In 2025, EMS personnel performed 172 endotracheal intubations, 95 i-gel airway placements, and one surgical cricothyrotomy in a critical "can't intubate, can't ventilate" scenario. Vascular access procedures included 209 intraosseous placements and 14 external jugular insertions. Trauma interventions included 26 needle decompression and multiple hemorrhage control applications. The successful field performance of a surgical airway during a high-acuity motor vehicle collision, followed by whole blood administration and coordinated air transport, exemplifies the decisive leadership and advanced skillset maintained within our division. The patient survived to hospital discharge and returned home before the end of the year an outcome made possible by timely, coordinated, and aggressive prehospital care.

Organizational strengthening paralleled clinical advancement. Twelve Firefighter/Paramedics were promoted to Lieutenant Paramedic, expanding field supervision and reducing span of control across the County. These Lieutenants respond to high-priority incidents, provide direct clinical oversight, and support personnel development within their assigned stations. This enhanced supervisory structure has improved accountability, consistency in clinical practice, and operational alignment across the EMS system.



May 21, 2025 Press Conference for Cardiac Arrest Survivor

Specialized program development continued throughout the year. Six Ventis HeroVent ventilators and twenty Sapphire IV pumps were procured for deployment in 2026, expanding our capability to manage advanced airway and medication infusions with greater precision. SoftSack fluid warmers were deployed on all ambulances to support the treatment of hypothermia and shock. Dive medicine protocol authorization was completed through partnership training, expanding optional supplemental protocol capabilities under the Maryland Medical Protocols. Inventory standardization through Operative IQ strengthened daily readiness by ensuring consistent equipment tracking, automated supply notifications, and streamlined quartermaster coordination.

Strategic partnerships remain central to system improvement. Formalized feedback pathways with Sinai Hospital of Baltimore and the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center provide structured post-incident clinical review through the Trauma Review and Advancement Committee (TRAC). These feedback reports ensure that providers receive outcome-based learning while maintaining strict confidentiality standards. Additionally, multiple regional and national agencies have sought consultation regarding Carroll County's Whole Blood Program and clinical framework, positioning our department as a recognized leader in progressive prehospital care.



The achievements of 2025 reflect more than equipment upgrades or individual initiatives. They represent a disciplined approach to clinical governance, thoughtful innovation, and sustained investment in our people. Our EMS division continues to balance progressive advancement with structured oversight ensuring that expansion of capability is matched by accountability and training.

As we move into 2026, our focus remains steady: support our clinicians, refine our programs, and continue delivering advanced, evidence-based emergency medical care to the citizens of Carroll County. The professionalism, adaptability, and technical skill demonstrated throughout 2025 reinforce a division that is prepared not only to respond but to lead.



EMS OPERATIONS

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL EMS INCIDENTS

19,044

▲ 3.46% FROM 2024

Total number of EMS incidents responded to countywide in 2025.

TOP EMS INCIDENTS

- 2,317 Trouble Breathing
- 2,188 Injured Person from a Fall
- 2,181 Sick Person - BLS
- 1,560 Decreased Level of Consciousness (DLOC)
- 1,229 Chest Pain
- 747 Vehicle Collision
- 633 Injured Person - ALS
- 602 Cardiac Patient
- 470 Stroke
- 457 Cardiac Arrest
- 410 Hemorrhage
- 410 Unconscious Person
- 398 Injured Person - BLS
- 371 Automatic Medical Alarm
- 369 Seizure



High Acuity Interventions

- 172 Endotracheal Intubations
- 209 IV/IO Placements
- 95 i-gel Airway Placements
- 10 Whole Blood Administrations

This incident data should be read alongside the Combination System and How to Read This Report sections to understand how the fire and EMS resources work together to deliver countywide service.

0+ Whole Blood Survival Rate
83%

Median Response Time
7:15 MINUTES

Busiest Month
JANUARY

CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS & ADVANCED CARE

ADVANCED MONITORING & ELECTRICAL THERAPY

- 14,199 12- Lead ECGs
- 154 Cardioversions/Defibrillations
- 49 Transcutaneous Pacing
- 136 CPAP Uses
- 15 Point-of-Care Ultrasound



TRAUMA & CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS

- 26 Needle Decompression
- 8 Tourniquet Application
- 1 Surgical Cricothyrotomy
- 209 Intraosseous (IO) Access
- 14 External Jugular (EJ) Access
- 1 Field Obstetric Delivery



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

A MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF

TRAINING, HEALTH & SAFETY



Assistant Chief Dennis Brothers
MBA, EFO

The Training, Health and Safety Division experienced another busy and challenging year in 2025 as we continue to develop and grow as a department. The training center has been the cornerstone for much of the business of the department as well as a valuable resource for all departments in Carroll County. In 2025, the training center hosted 1,134 training sessions and meetings. Some days accommodated up to 10 events. The fall was our busiest season, with October being our busiest month, hosting 147 events. As expected, the least busy time was the summer, with August hosting 47 events. MFRI continues to utilize the training center the most.

Outside agencies are frequent visitors, including the Carroll County Board of Education, Carroll County Health Department, RACES Operators Group, Carroll County State's Attorney, and the Carroll County Sheriff's Department. We have also hosted other fire departments from Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Howard County. Despite the concerns, we continue to face limited parking availability. We continue to work with the county in preparation for Phase II of the Training Center Master Plan, which includes improvements to parking and will allow us to expand even more.

While we continue to offer an abundance of MFRI classes throughout the year, we also continue to build our own cadre of instructors. Seven personnel completed Skills training in fire and rescue. These instructors are, or will become, MICRB certified. This will allow us more flexibility in presenting classes to meet our needs. We also encourage all personnel to work toward obtaining Professional Standards Board certification as they complete classes. In 2025, we processed applications for 125 ProBoard certifications for personnel, both career and volunteer.



Carroll County Public Safety Training Center (PSTC) Home to over 1,100 training sessions and meetings in 2025

1,134 TRAINING SESSIONS & MEETINGS

125 PROBOARD CERTIFICATIONS PROCESSED

725 ANNUAL PHYSICALS CONDUCTED

2 NEW AMBULANCES ADDED TO FLEET

Under the guidance of Lt. Dave Olson and Lt. Mike Hess, the first in-house continuing education class was developed to provide SCBA compliance and RIT education. This learning session was required for all career personnel throughout the spring and was conducted at the training center. It was successful and reached 99 percent attendance, with the only non-participants being on long-term illness or injury. Volunteer personnel were invited to attend alongside career personnel or arrange individual sessions at their respective stations. Plans are already underway for next year's continuing education class.

The logistics section of DFEMS is located at the training center. Currently, logistics occupies a room within the educational building, space on the lower level of the barn, and space within the apparatus storage building. This past summer, work started to renovate the old Classroom 1 into a logistics warehouse. This was grant-funded through the State of Maryland. Once completed, this will provide logistics with over 2,000 square feet of usable storage space. This project is expected to be complete in early spring 2026. Once completed, the logical next step will be centralized inventory management. Another noteworthy achievement for logistics was the beginning of the implementation of the Operative IQ system. This system streamlines inventory management and is also used to monitor equipment readiness. Once implemented, inventory checks will be more efficient.

In 2025, we were able to add two new ambulances to our fleet. In September, Ambulance 139 was involved in a vehicle collision that resulted in irreparable damage to the unit. With the limited number of units available, the county was able to pursue a replacement immediately, and the purchase of a new ambulance was made. The unit was delivered in December within three months of the unit being damaged. Also, in December, Ambulance 128 was replaced. This was a planned replacement, and the unit replaced a 2018 ambulance that had over 220,000 miles on it. We were able to include three new ambulances in the 2026 budget. In September, we signed a contract for three new Road Rescue ambulances. These units will need to be built, with an expected delivery of January 2028.

Personnel must successfully complete an annual physical to maintain operational status. This benefit has been provided by the county to all members for over 25 years. In 2025, Carroll Occupational Health provided the department with over 725 physicals. These physicals meet NFPA standards and DOT requirements.

Supporting career and volunteer readiness across Carroll County by providing comprehensive, hands-on training that strengthens operational capability, enhances inter agency coordination, and ensures out personnel are prepared to meet the evolving demands of emergency response.



DFEMS STAFFING

Career Staffing Support Within a Combination Fire & EMS System

DFEMS Staffing

DFEMS career personnel provide consistent on duty staffing, EMS transport capability, and system wide coverage in support of volunteer fire companies, particularly during periods of limited volunteer availability.

Staffing figures reflect assigned career personnel per shift and do not represent total system staffing or volunteer availability.

CAREER STAFFING SNAPSHOT

50+ CAREER PERSONNEL PER SHIFT



Operational Experience

Career personnel often serve as on-scene mentors and training resources, helping maintain skill development and operational consistency across the combination system.

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY & DEMAND

Career staffing establishes a dependable baseline for countywide response, absorbing fluctuations in call volume and volunteer availability. Sustained growth in operational demand underscores the importance of maintaining adequate staffing levels to preserve service continuity.

This **staffing snapshot** should be read alongside the **Combination System** and **How to Read This Report** sections to understand how the career and volunteer resources work together to deliver countywide service.

COMBINATION SYSTEM Working Together to Serve

What Is a Combination Fire & EMS System?

A combination system integrates **career and volunteer personnel** to provide emergency services. In Carroll County, this model reflects a partnership in which volunteers and career staff each play distinct but complementary roles in supporting public safety.

In 2021, Carroll County Department of Fire and EMS assumed responsibility for the employment and administration of career personnel. This transition established consistent staffing, standardized oversight, and long-term operational stability while preserving the volunteer based ownership and governance of fire companies. The combination system continues to evolve to meet changing service demands, staffing realities, and **community needs**.

Partnership Is Essential to Service Delivery

Volunteer members remain a vital component of Carroll County's Fire & EMS system. Across the county, volunteers contribute time, expertise, and leadership in emergency response, training, administration, fundraising, vehicle maintenance, and community engagement.

At the same time, societal and workforce changes have impacted volunteer availability nationwide. To ensure reliable emergency response coverage, career personnel are assigned daily to support operations and maintain minimum staffing levels when volunteer turnout is limited. This approach allows the system to remain responsive while respecting the contributions of both groups. Fire stations in Carroll County are owned and governed by their respective volunteer fire companies, which also purchase their fire apparatus through independent fundraising efforts and community support.

Carroll County Fire & EMS system functions through **shared responsibility**, operational coordination, and mutual support between volunteer companies and career staff.

Staffing in a Combination System

More than 50 DFEMS career personnel are on duty daily, working alongside volunteer members across the county. Career staff provide operational continuity, specialized training, and guaranteed staffing during periods of high call volume or limited volunteer availability.

Staffing decisions are guided by call volume, risk, and operational need, using a data informed approach to ensure resources are available where and when they are needed most. Maintaining adequate staffing levels remains an ongoing priority as service demands continue to grow.

Cross-Trained Personnel

Thirteen of Carroll County's fourteen volunteer fire stations are supported by a career paramedic unit staffed 24 hours a day, ensuring consistent and advanced emergency medical coverage for our community. All Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), along with the majority of our paramedics, are cross-trained as firefighters.

This dual certification provides significant operational advantages during emergency incidents. Medic unit personnel are able to support fire suppression, rescue operations, and other critical tasks on the incident scene. This integrated staffing model enhances overall response efficiency, improves crew safety, and increases the number of trained personnel available to manage complex emergencies.

By cross-training our members, Carroll County Fire & EMS maximizes available resources, strengthens teamwork, and ensures our residents receive a coordinated, all-hazards emergency response whenever they call for help.

Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company

STATION 1

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 2876 |
| Total EMS Calls | 1761 |
| Total Fire Calls | 318 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 797 |

Operational Workload

Total **dispatches** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Dispatches | 4234 |
| Total EMS Unit Dispatches | 2639 |
| Total Fire Unit Dispatches | 1595 |

Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company

2025 Highlights

The Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company serves a uniquely complex operational area, positioned within a municipality that spans across four counties. This geographic reality places Mount Airy at the crossroads of Carroll, Frederick, Howard, and Montgomery Counties, resulting in one of the highest mutual aid demands in the County. As a result, Mount Airy consistently carries a significant share of mutual aid responses within Carroll County's system.

Despite the operational complexity of a multi-county response environment, Mount Airy remains deeply rooted in its community. The year began with the company's Annual Members Banquet, where officers were sworn in by CCVESA Past President and ESAC Chair Rick Baker. Janet Woodfield was recognized as the recipient of the first DFEMS Volunteer Administrator of the Year Award, a true reflection of the leadership and administrative strength within the organization.

Community engagement remained a cornerstone of Mount Airy's mission throughout the year. Events included our annual carnival, duck races, Heroes Ride, breakfast and BBQ chicken dinners, Santa open house, and our iconic train garden.

Fire prevention and public education efforts were extensive. Members conducted numerous school and daycare visits, participated in a well-attended Fire Prevention open house in October, and dedicated over 208 hours to prevention and life-safety visits within the community. In addition, Mr. Bill Fires worked closely with senior members of the community, checking smoke alarms and identifying safety concerns in homes.

Operational readiness remained a priority. While responding to over 2800 incidents, Mount Airy completed:

- 1,352 training hours (formal classes, excluding in-house drills)
- 152 drills, including required re-certifications

Through a combination of operational excellence, aggressive training, and sustained community outreach, the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company continues to serve as both a regional response partner and a deeply embedded community organization balancing high call volume, mutual aid commitments, and proactive public safety engagement.



Hampstead Volunteer Fire Engine & Hose Co. No. 1

STATION 2

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 2113 |
| Total EMS Calls | 1415 |
| Total Fire Calls | 310 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 388 |

Operational Workload

Total **dispatches** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Dispatches | 2799 |
| Total EMS Unit Dispatches | 1488 |
| Total Fire Unit Dispatches | 1311 |

Hampstead Volunteer Fire Engine & Hose Company No. 1

2025 Highlights

2025 was a landmark year for the Hampstead Volunteer Fire Company as we proudly celebrated 125 years of service, officially marking the anniversary on February 1. This milestone honored generations of volunteers who have protected Hampstead since 1900 and strengthened our connection with the community we serve. The celebration culminated with our 125th Anniversary Parade & Open House in October, where residents filled the streets and visited the station to celebrate our history, equipment, and membership.

Service remained at the heart of everything we did. In March, HVFC delivered Medic 28 to The Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians in North Carolina to assist with recovery efforts following Hurricane Helene extending our commitment beyond state lines. We also secured 100% grant funding (\$17,000) from the Leary Foundation to purchase 15 Seek thermal imagers, enhancing firefighter safety and operational effectiveness. Community support remained strong throughout the year during events such as Hampstead Day, our Fire Muster, Annual Carnival, the Golf Tournament, and Fire Prevention Week.

On behalf of the officers and members of the Hampstead Volunteer Fire Company, thank you for your continued support throughout this historic year. Whether you attended an event, donated, volunteered, or simply encouraged our members, you helped make 2025 a success. As we move forward beyond our 125th anniversary, we remain committed to serving Hampstead with professionalism, pride, and dedication today and for generations to come.



Westminster Fire Engine & Hose Company No. 1

STATION 3

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 7072 |
| Total EMS Calls | 6102 |
| Total Fire Calls | 952 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 18 |

Operational Workload

Total **dispatches** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Total Unit Dispatches | 10188 |
| Total EMS Unit Dispatches | 6113 |
| Total Fire Unit Dispatches | 4075 |

Westminster Fire Engine & Hose Company No. 1

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Westminster Fire Engine & Hose Co. #1 continued to demonstrate leadership in operational readiness, community engagement, and organizational excellence. Throughout the year, members remained focused while maintaining strong ties within the community they serve. Just from our location within Carroll County, we are the busiest station for emergency responses.

Our membership of volunteers is a mix of operational emergency responders as well as administrative members who provide business leadership to aid with the financial and business side of the department. Along with the emergency responses, our volunteers completed 2,371 hours of training, 5,259 hours of station duty shifts and 9,612 hours of department meetings, committee meetings and work sessions, community engagements and fund-raising events. There are opportunities for any community member that would like to join and give back to your community.

During 2025, we purchased new Rescue tools, a Paratech Strut system and replaced our aging Utility Truck. Using these new tools, Westminster personnel participated in advanced rescue and vehicle stabilization training, enhancing extrication efficiency and patient safety during complex incidents. Members also participated in live burn training evolutions and multi-company training exercises, reinforcing coordination response strategies and operational command presence. Continued emphasis on hands-on training ensured preparedness across a wide range of emergency scenarios.

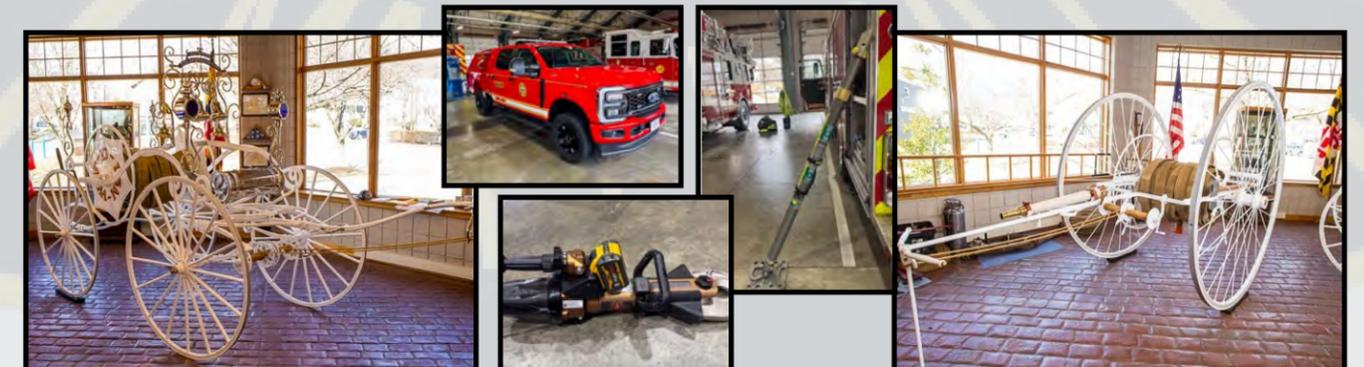
The department remained actively engaged in public outreach, hosting and participating in community events such as Fire Prevention Week activities and open houses. These initiatives provide residents with opportunities to interact directly with firefighters, learn about fire safety practices, and better understand the role of emergency services within the community. We have an active Junior Department and support their participation in the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Training Program for high school age members.

Westminster was also recognized for excellence and pride in services at the Maryland State Firefighters Association Convention Parade in 2025, earning multiple awards for apparatus appearance and presentation. These recognitions reflect not only attention to detail, but also the professionalism and commitment of the department's membership. Westminster was one of the twelve founding members of the Maryland State Firefighters Association. The current President of the MSFA is a life member of our department as well as Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company.

We celebrated our 200th anniversary in 2023. Our museum hosts a collection of many years of antique tools, apparatus, hose reels and other memorabilia that serve to depict the evolution of the emergency services in Carroll County.

Apparatus costs continue to rise due to enhanced safety standards, technological advancements, and rising manufacturing costs. Our members, through fund raising events, are actively working to maintain our fleet of firefighting apparatus. These events include the department's Annual Big Money Drawing, Weekly Bingo, 3 of Diamonds, Maryland 50/50, Annual Fund Drive campaigns and other similar events to support operational improvements and long-term sustainability.

Through training, community involvement, and collaborative response efforts, the Westminster Fire Engine & Hose Co. 1 continues to reinforce its commitment to delivering high quality emergency services while strengthening partnerships across the region.



Manchester Volunteer Fire Company

STATION 4

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 1968 |
| Total EMS Calls | 1520 |
| Total Fire Calls | 332 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 116 |

Operational Workload

Total **dispatches** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Dispatches | 2846 |
| Total EMS Unit Dispatches | 1394 |
| Total Fire Unit Dispatches | 1452 |

Manchester Volunteer Fire Company

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department focused on training, community engagement, and strengthening partnerships to better serve the community.

Members and DFEMS personnel participated in ice rescue training in January, ensuring continued preparedness for cold water and winter rescue situations. Throughout the year, the department also conducted multiple hands on rescue training sessions, utilizing newly acquired rescue tools made possible through generous community donations.

The department hosted and participated in community outreach events, including National Night Out, providing residents an opportunity to connect with firefighters and learn more about local emergency services. Manchester also worked closely with neighboring fire companies during live burn training exercises, completing multiple evolutions under varying scenarios to reinforce coordination and operational readiness.

These efforts reflect the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department's ongoing commitment to training, teamwork, and maintaining strong connections within the community.



Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company

STATIONS 5

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 2009 |
| Total EMS Calls | 1557 |
| Total Fire Calls | 257 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 195 |

Operational Workload

Total **dispatches** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Dispatches | 2598 |
| Total EMS Unit Dispatches | 1487 |
| Total Fire Unit Dispatches | 1111 |

Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company

2025 Highlights

The Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company remained highly active throughout 2025, responding to a broad range of emergency incidents while continuing to invest in training, apparatus, and community engagement. Serving the Town of Taneytown and surrounding rural areas, the company plays a critical role in protecting the northern portion of Carroll County with volunteers dedicating over 4,700 volunteer hours.

Members responded to multiple working fires during the year, including incidents on Bert Koontz Road and Old Taneytown Road, as well as smaller but potentially dangerous events involving discarded fireworks and improperly discarded smoking materials. Crews also helped contain a multi alarm barn fire, demonstrating professionalism and preparedness even when heightened incidents occur.

Training remained a cornerstone of operations. Taneytown members participated in extensive vehicle extrication training, including joint evolutions with the Harney Volunteer Fire Company. The department incorporated new Holmatro battery-powered hydraulic equipment, expanding extrication capabilities and enhancing scene efficiency and firefighter safety.

In November, representatives traveled to Seagrave for the final inspection of a new 2025 Seagrave Capital pumper. The apparatus, equipped with a 1,500 GPM pump and 2,000-gallon water tank, is scheduled for delivery in February 2026 and reflects the company's continued commitment to operational readiness and long-term fleet sustainability.

Community support continues to drive the company's success. Events such as Breakfast with Santa, carnival, pit beef sales, oyster roasts, raffles, toy auctions, sportsman's drawings, Hero's Day at the Taneytown History Museum in collaboration with Taneytown Police, and our fire prevention event "Lunch with Marshall" provided strong engagement and essential fundraising revenue. These efforts directly support station operations and apparatus purchases, reinforcing the volunteer company's ownership and stewardship of its facilities and equipment.

Through emergency response, continuous training, capital investment, and sustained community involvement, the Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company remains a vital component of Carroll County's combination Fire & EMS system.



Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company

STATION 6

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 1404 |
| Total EMS Calls | 1083 |
| Total Fire Calls | 306 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 15 |

Operational Workload

Total **dispatches** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Dispatches | 2100 |
| Total EMS Unit Dispatches | 1030 |
| Total Fire Unit Dispatches | 1070 |

Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company

2025 Highlights

The Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company has served the community for 94 years and continues to stand as a cornerstone of public safety within its district and beyond. In 2025, the company remained focused on readiness, reliability, and delivering comprehensive emergency response services across one of the largest geographic areas in Carroll County.

Pleasant Valley owns and operates two Class A engines, an all-wheel drive source pumper, built to support water supply operations in areas where hydrants are limited or nonexistent. The company also operates a heavy rescue squad, a large capacity tanker, two Type 1 ambulances, a Fire/Command vehicle and multiple utility vehicles, ensuring versatility across fire suppression, rescue, and rural water operations.

The company maintains a membership roster of 187 members, with 79 active emergency service providers delivering 24 hours, seven-day-a-week volunteer coverage. This volunteer force is supplemented by the Carroll County Department of Fire and EMS personnel, who provide continuous staffing of emergency medical services and a fire apparatus driver/operator at the station 24 hours a day. This partnership ensures consistent response capability and operational reliability throughout the 72 square miles of Pleasant Valley's large district.

Beyond emergency response operations, Pleasant Valley members remained active throughout 2025 in both the administrative and fundraising efforts that sustain the organization. Company members responded to numerous incidents across the district while simultaneously managing the day-to-day operational responsibilities required to support a volunteer fire company. The Junior Company continues to serve as a critical pipeline for future membership, providing young members with structured training and hands-on experience. In 2025, junior members completed CPR training, hose evolutions, and foundational skill development as they progress toward becoming senior members of the company.

The company's Auxiliary remains one of the strongest in the county, providing essential support during fundraising events and operational responses. Pleasant Valley maintains an extensive fundraising calendar, including weekly bingo, an annual bike ride, three all day bingos, gun raffles, gun bingos, crab feeds, the Christmas in the Valley event, strawberry social, and community dinners. In 2025 alone, members contributed 16,320 hours dedicated specifically to fundraising activities; a significant investment of time that directly supports the company's operational readiness and long term sustainability.

For nearly a century, the Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company has adapted to the changing demands of emergency service while preserving the volunteer spirit that built it. In 2025, that legacy remains evident in its operational readiness, its cross jurisdictional response capability, and the thousands of hours invested by members in service to their community.



Lineboro Volunteer Fire Department

STATION 7

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 1019 |
| Total EMS Calls | 432 |
| Total Fire Calls | 123 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 464 |

Operational Workload

Total **dispatches** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Dispatches | 1466 |
| Total EMS Unit Dispatches | 746 |
| Total Fire Unit Dispatches | 720 |

Lineboro Volunteer Fire Department

2025 Highlights

The year 2025 proved to be one of steady progress, operational success, and forward-thinking investment for the Lineboro Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD). Our members remained committed to providing professional and effective emergency services while continuing to strengthen the department's long-term sustainability.

Throughout 2025, the department took meaningful steps to enhance and modernize our fleet. We began the refurbishment of our 2010 Spartan Rosenbauer Engine, a project that will extend the apparatus' service life and ensure it remains a dependable and capable frontline unit. Anticipated for completion in mid 2026, this refurbishment reflects a fiscally responsible commitment to maintaining reliable emergency apparatus for our community.

LVFD placed a new 2025 Ford F-250 into service as Utility 7. This unit replaced a 2009 Chevy Tahoe and improves our operational flexibility by supporting fire-ground operations as well as community functions. Additionally, our former Life Support Vehicle, a 2019 Chevy Tahoe, was transitioned into a Duty Officer vehicle. This move enhances command response capabilities while maximizing the long-term value of department assets.

Operationally, 2025 was highlighted by three working structure fires within our first-due area. Each incident was staffed with an average of 15 volunteers alongside assigned DFEMS personnel, demonstrating strong volunteer participation in coordination with our career members. Through disciplined fireground tactics, coordinated command, and effective mutual aid cooperation, all three incidents were successfully contained. Most importantly, there were no injuries to fire service personnel or members of the public — a testament to the training, teamwork, and professionalism consistently demonstrated by all Volunteer and Career DFEMS personnel.

Overall, 2025 was a year marked by preparedness, responsible planning, and operational effectiveness. Through strong membership participation, successful emergency responses, and continued apparatus investment, the Lineboro Volunteer Fire Department remains well-positioned to serve our community with professionalism and pride in the years ahead.



Union Bridge Fire Company

STATION 8

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Total Incidents | 944 |
| Total EMS Calls | 620 |
| Total Fire Calls | 157 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 167 |

Operational Workload

Total **dispatches** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Dispatches | 1304 |
| Total EMS Unit Dispatches | 730 |
| Total Fire Unit Dispatches | 574 |

Union Bridge Fire Company

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Union Bridge Fire Company continued its longstanding commitment to operational excellence, regional cooperation, and community engagement. Strategically positioned to protect the Town of Union Bridge and surrounding rural communities, including the Heidelberg Materials (aka Lehigh Cement) quarry and industrial complex, the company maintained consistent emergency response coverage while strengthening partnerships across Carroll County.

A significant highlight of the year was Union Bridge's successful hosting of a three day Big Rig Rescue training program, which brought together approximately 50 volunteer and career firefighters from Carroll and surrounding counties. This intensive, hands-on training focused on heavy vehicle extrication and complex rescue scenarios, enhancing technical rescue capabilities throughout the region. The event demonstrated Union Bridge's leadership in regional training initiatives and its commitment to advancing firefighter safety and proficiency.

Support from DFEMS personnel assigned to the station played a valuable role in both daily operations and training efforts throughout the year, reinforcing the collaborative model that continues to strengthen service delivery countywide.

Through sustained operational readiness, meaningful regional training, and active community involvement, Union Bridge Fire Company remains a dependable and a forward focused provider of fire and rescue services in 2025 and beyond.



Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company

STATION 9

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 2478 |
| Total EMS Calls | 1747 |
| Total Fire Calls | 481 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 250 |

Operational Workload

Total **dispatches** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Dispatches | 3503 |
| Total EMS Unit Dispatches | 1760 |
| Total Fire Unit Dispatches | 1743 |

Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company

2025 Highlights

In 2025, Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company continued to serve as a high-demand station within Carroll County's system. Located along Maryland Route 140, a 49-mile corridor connecting Baltimore to Pennsylvania, the company manages a steady volume of motor vehicle collisions and roadway emergencies in addition to structural and EMS incidents.

Reese responded to 1,061 incidents within its first due area, including 865 within Westminster's first due, and handled 45 structure fires during the year. Volunteer commitment remained strong, with the top responder answering 777 incidents and the top ten volunteers responding more than 3,000 times collectively.

Thirteen new operational members joined in 2025 are well into their training, strengthening the company's future workforce. The station invested over \$150,000 in facility improvements and secured a \$1.3 million contract with Sutphen for a new engine-tanker 94 (2000 Gallons, 1500 GPM) to support long-term operational readiness. The new engine-tanker is planned for a June 2028 delivery.

Community outreach remained a priority, with more than 95 community residents receiving free CPR training and members hosting a large-scale mass casualty exercise to reinforce inter agency coordination.

Through heavy roadway demand, consistent volunteer response, capital investment, and training advancement, Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company continues to play a vital role in protecting residents and travelers along one of Carroll County's busiest corridors.



New Windsor Fire & Hose Company No. 1

STATION 10

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 1210 |
| Total EMS Calls | 815 |
| Total Fire Calls | 317 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 78 |

Operational Workload

Total **response** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Responses | 1534 |
| Total EMS Unit Responses | 824 |
| Total Fire Unit Responses | 710 |

New Windsor Fire & Hose Company No. 1

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the New Windsor Fire Company completed several key initiatives aimed at strengthening daily operations, improving emergency response capabilities, and supporting long-term service to the community.

The station successfully transitioned to three DFEMS employees expanding on-site staffing and enhancing coverage for emergency and non-emergency operations. This transition included station modifications and IT upgrades to ensure personnel had the tools and infrastructure needed to operate efficiently and safely.

Apparatus and equipment improvements were also a focus throughout 2025. Engine 102 received a new rescue tool mounting system, allowing rescue equipment to be stored more securely and accessed more quickly during emergency responses. The company also purchased a new Seagrave pumper to replace Engine 101, continuing its commitment to maintaining a reliable and modern fleet equipped with updated safety and operational features.

To support brush fire and rural water supply operations, the company ordered a new brush and water supply unit to replace Brush 105. The new unit will feature increased water capacity and improved off road capability, enhancing response in areas not immediately accessible by larger apparatus. Delivery of the unit is anticipated in 2027.

In addition to operational improvements, the New Windsor Fire Company reached a significant financial milestone by paying off the remaining mortgages on the fire hall. This achievement strengthens the station's financial position and allows for greater flexibility in future capital planning and facility improvements.

Together, these investments reflect the New Windsor Fire Company's continued commitment to providing safe, reliable, and professional emergency services to the New Windsor community.



Harney Volunteer Fire Company

STATION 11

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Total Incidents | 307 |
| Total EMS Calls | 89 |
| Total Fire Calls | 98 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 120 |

Operational Workload

Total **response** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Total Unit Responses | 508 |
| Total EMS Unit Responses | 0 |
| Total Fire Unit Responses | 508 |

Harney Volunteer Fire Company

2025 Highlights

The Harney Volunteer Fire Company had a busy and productive year in 2025, continuing to serve the community as a **100% volunteer company** while advancing key operational, facility, and community initiatives.

In partnership with the University of Maryland, Harney installed a Maryland Mesonet weather station, now fully operational and providing real-time, high quality weather monitoring to support emergency response and public access. Members also completed significant station improvements, including renovations to the main meeting hall, kitchen equipment upgrades, and critical maintenance to onsite well systems.

Harney proudly hosted the CCVESA Convention, welcoming attendees from across the region, and partnered with the New Windsor Fire Company to host the 6th Annual Big Money Bonanza fundraiser. During the event, members demonstrated their training and preparedness by responding to a weather related emergency, resulting in a full recovery for the patient.

Operationally, 2025 was one of Harney's busiest years in recent history, with over 300 calls for service. The company also received ESAC approval to move forward with plans to replace Special Utility 11 and Brush Truck 115 with a single consolidated vehicle as part of future apparatus planning.



Sykesville Freedom District Fire Department

STATION 12

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 4422 |
| Total EMS Calls | 3302 |
| Total Fire Calls | 635 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 485 |

Operational Workload

Total **response** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Responses | 6496 |
| Total EMS Unit Responses | 3756 |
| Total Fire Unit Responses | 2740 |

Sykesville Freedom District Fire Department

2025 Highlights

The Sykesville Freedom District Fire Department (SFD) remained the second busiest fire company in Carroll County during 2025, providing fire, rescue, and EMS response throughout Sykesville, Eldersburg, and multiple surrounding jurisdictions. Operating within the County's combination system, volunteer members and DFEMS career personnel worked side-by-side remaining "Always Ready" to maintain consistent service delivery during a year of sustained operational tempo.

Early in the year, crews responded to a rope rescue on Macbeth Way, successfully utilizing specialized techniques to safely extricate an injured teenager from a steep hillside, highlighting the department's technical rescue training. In March, personnel performed a life-saving rescue that incurred multiple medical emergencies during the Circle Drive fire, reflecting the department's continued focus on cross training and situation readiness.

The full integration of Rescue Squad 12 enhanced the station's technical rescue capabilities, expanding service capacity for both local and mutual aid incidents. SFD also continued to serve as a reliable mutual aid partner to surrounding jurisdictions, including Howard, Baltimore, and Frederick counties, as well as Baltimore City.

In support of long-term planning for our community, the department finalized a contract for a new 2028 E-One Typhoon pumper, to be designated Engine 121. Community engagement remained a number one top priority throughout the year, including Santa Routes, Fire Prevention Month activities, Legacy Hall events, and 8 wonderful nights of celebration at our annual carnival.

SFD closes 2025 with a strong operational foundation, continued volunteer-career integration, and a very active Junior Firefighter Program supporting future membership development for generations to come.



Gamber & Community Fire Company

STATION 13

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 1710 |
| Total EMS Calls | 1041 |
| Total Fire Calls | 306 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 363 |

Operational Workload

Total **response** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Responses | 2191 |
| Total EMS Unit Responses | 1288 |
| Total Fire Unit Responses | 903 |

Gamber & Community Fire Company

2025 Highlights

Gamber & Community Fire Company remained active in both emergency response and community engagement throughout 2025. Crews handled a vast variety of incidents including working fires during Red Flag conditions, and mutual aid responses throughout the County.

Fire Prevention and Education Programs were restored in 2025, including a Fire Prevention Poster Contest with Mechanicsville Elementary School. Members also participated in National Fire Prevention Week activities and community outreach events such as "Touch-A-Truck" and CPR/AED opportunities.

Training remained a focus, with members participating in equine rescue, maritime training, junior firefighter training days, ice rescue practice, and auto extrication drills. Gamber also hosted hose and ladder testing and a dive team training class during the year.

Apparatus improvements included the Carroll County Department of Fire/EMS placing a new medic (M139) unit in service at Gamber to replace the previous corporation owned unit. Work continued on the build of new Tanker 13, which will enhance water supply operations upon delivery.

Through emergency response, training, fleet upgrades, and continued community involvement, Gamber & Community Fire Company maintained its strong presence within the County's combination system in 2025.



Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department

STATION 14

As of **2025**

Community Call Demand

Total **incidents** represents 911 calls. This figure reflects the volume of emergency service requests generated by the community served by the station.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Incidents | 1817 |
| Total EMS Calls | 1376 |
| Total Fire Calls | 374 |
| Total Mutual Aid Given | 67 |

Operational Workload

Total **response** represents the total number of times apparatus from this station was dispatched to incidents throughout Carroll County and surrounding jurisdictions.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Unit Responses | 2596 |
| Total EMS Unit Responses | 1326 |
| Total Fire Unit Responses | 1270 |

Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department

2025 Highlights

The Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department (WCVFD) celebrated our 60th year of service in 2025. It proved to be one of our busiest years yet, as we continued our long-standing mission of responding to emergencies throughout southern Carroll County. WCVFD continued to build on the relationship with Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS (CCDFEMS) and other neighboring departments to ensure the citizens of Carroll County receive the highest level of Fire & EMS services, from both volunteer and career personnel.

Our department consists of members who are trained to respond to emergencies, as well as administrative and fundraising members. While emergency calls are always the number one priority, we also love interacting with our community members, whether that be at one of our large fundraisers or through our very active Community Risk Reduction Program. Our Junior Fire Department continues to support the department and introduces teenagers to the fire service. 2025 saw many Junior Members promote to the department and begin to take classes, so they can support us with responding to emergencies.

Winfield placed two new pieces of apparatus into service this year. First is a new Tanker 14; this unit replaced the original Tanker 14, which was 25 years old. We also placed in service a new Command Vehicle, Duty 14, which replaced an older Command Vehicle. A committee was formed in 2024 to begin the process of replacing Engine 142. We will be signing a new contract with E-One for a 2029 E-One Cyclone Pumper in 2026.

We are also extremely fortunate to have such an active Ladies Auxiliary. Our Ladies Auxiliary dedicates hours to support the department. They host fundraising events, including their Food Truck Thursdays (April through October), respond to fire aid during large incidents, awarded two scholarships, among countless other things.

As a department, we celebrated our late friend, WCVFD Captain Keith Phillips, as he was inducted into the Maryland Fire & Rescue Memorial in Annapolis. We mourned as we lost Ladies Auxiliary Charter Member Janet Barnes, who was a dedicated member for the past 60 years. We also celebrated marriages and childbirths, as our membership continues to grow.

In 2026, Winfield looks forward to continuing to support the Winfield and surrounding communities with emergency response and being a place where people can gather and share good times. As emergency responses increase, the public's support through fundraising is ever-important. If you have ever been interested in joining your local Volunteer Fire Department, there has never been a better time.



Dept. of Fire & EMS Commendations Board

CREATION OF THE COMMENDATIONS BOARD

In 2025, Chief Robinson authorized the creation of a Department-wide Commendations Board to recognize the exemplary actions and contributions to the fire & EMS service of Carroll County. The Board, made up of equal parts career and volunteer members, is charged with the validation and recommendation for citation of the nominations submitted for recognition.

Awards Given in 2025 By Incident or Group

- 3 UNIT CITATION
- 3 MERITORIOUS SERVICE
- 11 LIFE SAVING RIBBON
- 7 PEOPLE OF THE YEAR



65 PERSONNEL RECOGNIZED

2025 COMMENDATION BOARD MEMBERS

Lt. Michael Karolenko - DFEMS
*Career Co-Chair
Career Association Rep.*

President Todd Tracey - Co. 13
*Volunteer Co-Chair
Volunteer Association Rep.*

Asst. Chief Marques Price - Co. 3
FROPS Representative

FF/EMT Cole Cleckner - DFEMS
DFEMS At-Large Career Rep.

Mr. Scott Dickson
ESAC Representative



The Board's mission is simple: **recognize merit and protect the prestige of the award.** Working intentionally to be fair and judicious, the Commendations Board ensures that ribbons aren't just uniform decorations - they are earned symbols of excellence that reflect respect.

1st Annual Awards Ceremony



On April 29, 2025, volunteer, career, and administrative members gathered at Flood Zone Brewery in Union Bridge for our Department's 1st Annual Awards Ceremony. An evening of great food and fellowship surrounded a ceremony dedicated to the exemplary actions of our members in service to Carroll County's public safety.

We were honored to have Dr. Tim Chizmar, Medical Director of MIEMSS, serve as our Master of Ceremonies. It was a privilege to welcome the County Commissioners, our governmental partners, law enforcement, and our loved ones to celebrate with us. This inaugural event set a high bar for the years to follow and established a precedent for recognizing the merit and contributions of every member of our combination system.

2025 People of the Year

Firefighter of the Year

Career: FADO Kyle Stull
Volunteer: Lt. Chris Petry (Co. 3)

EMS Clinician of the Year

Career: FF/PM Eddie Godwin

Officer of the Year

Career: Lt. Michael Karolenko
Volunteer: Chief Andrew Wooden (Co. 9)

Administrator of the Year

Career: Admin. Analyst Callie Williams
Volunteer: Mrs. Janet Woodfield (Co. 1)



CARROLL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

DFEMS is proud to continue its partnership with the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce in recognizing the vital contributions to public safety throughout our county. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Chamber for their dedication to honoring our members' hard work and their commitment to the communities we serve.

**Preserving Tradition. Honoring Service.
Representing Commitment.**



Carroll County Dept. of Fire & EMS
Honor Guard

The Carroll County Honor Guard Unit serves as a visible symbol of respect, tradition, and unwavering commitment to the fire and emergency medical services profession. Honor Guard members stand as guardians of ceremony and remembrance, entrusted with representing the department during moments of both solemn reflection and community celebration. Whether presenting the colors, supporting departmental ceremonies, honoring fallen members, or participating in memorial and public events the Honor Guard reflects the dignity, discipline, and professionalism that defines Carroll County Fire & EMS. Established to provide official ceremonial representation of the department, the unit brings together career and volunteer personnel who share a commitment to preserving fire service traditions while honoring those who have served, sacrificed, and continue to protect the communities of Carroll County.

2025 Service and Representation

Carroll County Fire & EMS Promotional and Pinning Ceremony

- County memorial and remembrance observances
- Public Safety recognition events
- Community ceremonies supporting regional partners and neighboring jurisdictions



"Standing watch in honor of those who serve, those who served, and those never forgotten."

2025 PINNING & PROMOTION CEREMONY

RECOGNIZING DEDICATION AND SERVICE

Continuing a core tradition, the Department of Fire & EMS held its annual Pinning & Promotion Ceremony in November to honor the career progression of our personnel. The ceremony recognizes both our newest members and those assuming leadership roles. It remains a privilege for the Department to host the families and friends of our members as we celebrate their commitment to the service.



2025 PROMOTIONS

Battalion Chief

- BC Guy Garheart
- BC Russel Halterman
- BC Max Nickey
- BC Joshua Pierson

Station Lieutenant

Lt. Christopher Troutman

Lieutenant / Paramedic

- Lt. Anthony Cavanaugh
- Lt. Julio Deras
- Lt. Eddie Godwin IV
- Lt. Hunter Kime
- Lt. William Kuntz
- Lt. Jason Moore
- Lt. Joshua Myers
- Lt. Christopher Petry
- Lt. Corrine Piccardi
- Lt. Madeline Plaut
- Lt. Briana Stull
- Lt. James Ulrich



ENHANCING CONTINUITY OF CARE

A collaborative effort between Carroll County DFEMS and LifeBridge Carroll Hospital



The Department of Fire and EMS (DFEMS), in coordination with Carroll Hospital's Emergency Department and Learning Center, maintains a structured and collaborative approach to continuity of care. This partnership supports standardized communication, streamlined patient handoffs, and alignment of prehospital and hospital clinical practices to ensure consistent, high-quality emergency care across the continuum.

In addition to operational coordination, both agencies participate in ongoing joint education and performance improvement initiatives. These efforts include protocol review, case analysis, simulation-based training, and updates to evidence-based practices. By maintaining clinical alignment and reinforcing shared standards, EMS and hospital personnel enhance system reliability and readiness for time-sensitive emergencies.

This coordinated model reduces fragmentation between prehospital and hospital phases of care and supports measurable improvements in response, treatment initiation, and patient outcomes. Through structured communication, shared training environments, and continuous quality oversight, the system functions as an integrated network focused on delivering effective, accountable, and clinically sound emergency services to the community.



EMS BILLING

Accuracy. Compliance. Financial Stewardship.

EMS BILLING REVIEW - CY2025

In 2025, the EMS Billing team continued to demonstrate exceptional professionalism, accuracy, and fiscal responsibility in support of the Department's emergency medical services operations. Over the course of the year, the team processed **17,871 EMS claims**, ensuring each report was thoroughly reviewed, accurately coded, and submitted in compliance with all applicable billing regulations.

The department maintains close coordination with the Emergency Service Transporter Supplemental Payment Program (ESPP) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure adherence to evolving state and federal requirements. In partnership with the Department's HIPAA Compliance Officer, the billing team safeguards patient information while maintaining strict regulatory compliance.

Beyond internal operations, the EMS Billing Division actively engaged with the community in 2025 to improve transparency and understanding of EMS billing practices. Staff participated in the County's "Aging Your Way" Health & Wellness Expo and the County Employee Wellness Expo, providing educational materials, QR-code informational sheets, and direct one-on-one assistance to residents. Through fliers, outreach materials, and community conversations, the team worked to ensure citizens better understand how EMS billing works and what resources are available to them.

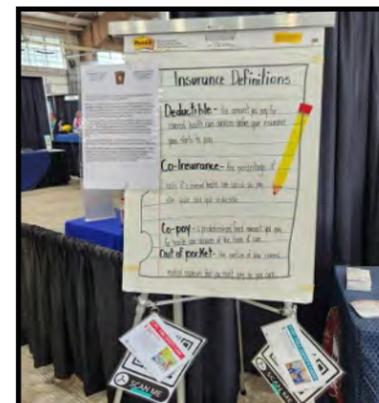


Jennifer Canary
EMS Billing Specialist



Amy Rigler-Bloom
EMS Billing Specialist

17,871 Claims Processed in 2025



Operational Readiness & Care

- Ambulance crews are highly trained to respond to emergencies, even if none occur.
- The vehicle and equipment are always ready to save lives.
- A single call might involve multiple responders, backboards, or other tools for safety.
- You're paying for availability and preparedness, not just a ride.

What You're Paying For

- Base rate: The cost of transporting a fully equipped unit.
- Mileage: Distance from your location to the hospital.
- Patient Assist Fee: Covers skilled transport or life care if no transport occurs.
- Standby care: Just having medics ready during a call incurs liability and labor costs.
- Even if no treatment is given, your safety is paramount.

Billing is managed by:
Digitel Computer, LLC
(an authorized provider of Carroll County fire & EMS)

OFFICE OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Operational Readiness Through Infrastructure & Equipment Support

The Office of Support Services operating from the Public Safety Training Center (PSTC) and staffed by Support Services Technician Michael Hughes, provides essential logistical and technical support programs that sustain fire and EMS readiness across Carroll County. The office supports both career and volunteer operations through equipment certification, rural water supply coordination, and public life-safety initiatives.



Rural Water Supply & Infrastructure

Support Services continues to enhance rural water supply capabilities across Carroll County through maintenance, repair, and expansion of drafting sites and firefighting water systems. Following completion of the **30,000 gallon tank replacement at Krimgold Park** in early 2025, multiple countywide projects restored and improved critical water supply locations.

Work completed during the year included repairs to damaged underground tanks and drafting connections, installation of satellite improvements at sites in **New Windsor, Finksburg, Mt Airy, Winfield, and surrounding response areas**. Several locations returned to full operational status, with additional infrastructure improvements continuing into 2026.

DFEMS is currently advancing one of its most significant rural water supply initiatives with the installation of a new **30,000 gallon regional firefighting water tank at Carroll Luthern School in Westminster**. This project will strengthen water availability and fire suppression capabilities. Completion is anticipated in summer 2026.

Countywide Life Safety Programs

Support Services maintains oversight of Carroll County's Public Access AED Program, managing **73** Automated External Defibrillators located throughout county facilities and public buildings to ensure immediate availability during cardiac emergencies.

Annual Equipment Testing & Certification

2025 Testing Totals:

- ▶ **6** Aerial Ladder Apparatus
- ▶ **167** Ground Ladders
- ▶ **42** Pumping Apparatus
- ▶ **138,000+** Feet of Fire Hose Tested

Operational Support

Support Services also assists fire and EMS companies by coordinating apparatus readiness, equipment repairs, and deployment logistics, ensuring frontline resources remain available for emergency response.



Michael Hughes

FIRE PREVENTION & CODE ENFORCEMENT

Proactive Risk Reduction Through Inspection, Plan Review & Code Compliance

Overview

The Fire Prevention & Code Enforcement Division serves as the department's primary risk reduction arm, working proactively to ensure new construction, renovations, and life safety systems comply with adopted fire and building codes. Through plan review, permitting oversight, and inspection activity, the division reduces hazards before emergencies occur.

In 2025 the division processed a total of **734 plans received** and completed **751 reviews**, closing the year with only **13 plans pending**.

This sustained throughput reflects a high volume operational tempo while maintaining review integrity and code compliance standards across the county.

288 Building Permits
Total building permit plans received

301 Total Building Permit
Reviews completed

271 Automatic Suppression
Reviews completed

45 Specialty Systems Reviews
Fire Alarm system reviews

24 Commercial Hood & Suppression
Reviews completed

83 Site Plan Reviews

SERVICE MILESTONE



Thank you, Brian

Congratulations to Brian Van Fossen on his well earned retirement after 30 years of dedicated service to Carroll County. Throughout his career, Brian played a critical role in fire prevention, plan review, and code enforcement, helping ensure that development across the county met life safety standards designed to protect our residents and first responders.

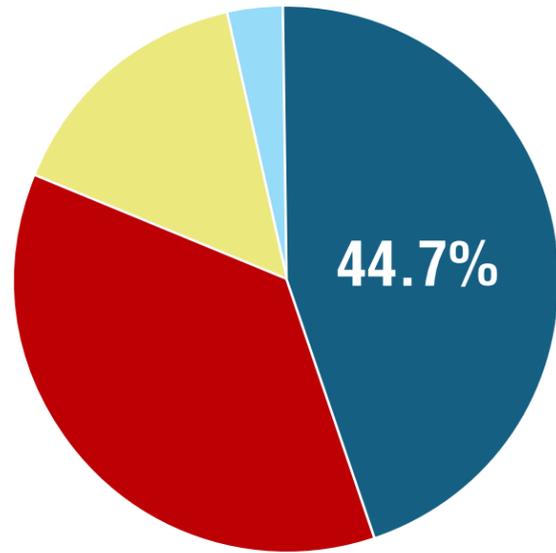
Following the creation of the Department of Fire & EMS, Brian continued his service under the unified DFEMS structure, providing experience, continuity, and steady leadership during a periods of organizational transition. His professionalism and long standing commitment to public safety have left a meaningful and lasting impact on the department and the community we serve.

We thank Brian for three decades of service and wish him the very best in retirement.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP & BUDGET OVERVIEW

Supporting Operational Excellence Through Responsible Resource Management

BUDGET ALLOCATION



| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Personnel | \$13,268,390 |
| Benefits | \$ 4,521,490 |
| Operating | \$10,835,010 |
| Capital | \$ 1,039,030 |

DFEMS continues to operate within adopted county appropriations while supporting increasing service demands across a growing combination system.

\$35,209,640
Total Operating Budget

\$14,067,020
Fire & EMS Administration

\$11,075,020
Emergency Medical Services

\$4,521,880
Fire Services

\$4,885,720
VESA Funding

\$660,000
LOSAP Funding

Source: Carroll Count FY2026 Adopted Budget, Fire and EMS(pp.151-153)

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Governance, Coordination, & Organizational Support

CORE FUNCTIONS

Budget & Fiscal Oversight

Managing the department's budget planning execution, and fiscal analysis to ensure responsible and efficient use of resources.

Policy & Compliance Coordination

Supports the development, documentation, & administrative tracking of departmental policies & procedures. Ensures compliance with county, state, & federal requirements while maintaining organized records and SOPs.

HR & Personnel Administration

Facilitates personnel related admin processes, including on boarding coordination, documentation management, and internal personnel support. Assist in maintaining accurate records and consistent administrative practices across career operations.

Interagency-County Coordination

Serves as a liaison between DFEMS and county departments, advisory councils, and external partners. Supports meeting coordination, agenda development, and cross agency communication to ensure alignment and operational continuity.

Records & Doc Governance

Maintains oversight of departmental records, internal communications platforms, and official documentation workflows. Promotes consistency, accessibility, and organizational integrity.



**Carolyn
"Callie"
Williams**

Callie serves as the department's Administrative Analyst, providing critical coordination between DFEMS and the County Budget Office while supporting operational fiscal oversight. In 2025, she managed grant administration, served as Executive Secretary to ESAC, and ensured timely processing of over 100 monthly utility transactions across all 14 fire companies. Callie also oversees internal communications, documentation systems, recruitment media platforms, social media management, and procurement support strengthening organizational efficiency across the department.



**Kim
Dubbert**

Kim serves as an Administrative Assistant supporting operational coordination across the department. In 2025, she assisted with PSTC scheduling, supported hiring and promotional processes, and provided administrative coordination for special projects and command staff initiatives. Kim also coordinated logistics for department blood drives, worked closely with vendors to ensure operational needs were met, and collaborated with Facilities and IT to maintain functional work environments. Her attention to detail and behind the scenes support contributes to the smooth daily operations of DFEMS.

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT & PEER SUPPORT

A Combination Approach

The Department of Fire & EMS (DFEMS) continues to prioritize the well-being of its personnel through the dedicated work of the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team. Comprised of both career and volunteer members from across the organization, the team provides specialized support following exposure to particularly traumatic or high-stress emergency calls.

Throughout 2025, the CISM Team remained active, responding to multiple significant incidents across Carroll County. By integrating this essential resource into our operational framework, DFEMS reaffirms its commitment to personnel emotional health and readiness.



PEER SUPPORT TRAINING

In January 2025, the Department of Fire & EMS marked a significant advancement in personnel wellness by hosting its inaugural IAFF Peer Support Training. Attended by both career and volunteer members, this initiative established a unified approach to behavioral health across the department. The program was made possible through the sponsorship of IAFF Local 5184 (Carroll County Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics Association) and the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland Training Fund.

The IAFF Peer Support Program equips responders to identify and assist colleagues facing mental health challenges such as PTSD or chronic stress. By utilizing a peer-to-peer model, the program breaks traditional stigmas and ensures support is provided by those who understand the unique demands of the fire service. This investment in mental resilience is critical to the long-term health of our personnel, ensuring our members remain operationally ready and supported throughout their careers of service to Carroll County.



STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP-RECOGNITION

Maryland State Firefighters Association *President*

Statewide Leadership Recognition

In June 2025, Carroll County's fire and emergency services community received statewide recognition when Charles J. Simpson, Jr. was elected President of the Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA) during the Association's annual convention in Ocean City, Maryland.

Founded in 1893, the MSFA serves as the unified voice for Maryland's volunteer fire, rescue, and EMS organizations, representing more than 350 volunteer companies and approximately 28,000 members statewide. Through legislative advocacy, training advancement, safety initiatives, and statewide coordination, the Association plays a critical role in shaping emergency services policy, operational standards, and volunteer sustainability across Maryland.

President Simpson's election reflects decades of distinguished service and leadership within Carroll County and beyond. A Life Member at both the Pleasant Valley Community Fire Co. and the Westminster Volunteer Fire Department, he has dedicated more than 54 years to serving the citizens of Carroll County as both a firefighter and paramedic. Throughout his career, he has held numerous leadership roles within county and state fire and EMS organizations and previously served as the inaugural Chief/Director of Dorchester County EMS and Emergency Services.

In addition to his operational leadership, President Simpson has devoted more than 40 years as an instructor with the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, helping educate and mentor generations of emergency responders. He also remains the longest serving Advanced Life Support (ALS) clinician in Maryland, representing over five decades of continuous service to the profession.

His election to lead the Maryland State Firefighters Association highlights not only individual achievement, President Simpson's career embodies the commitment, professionalism, and service before self values that define Maryland's fire and EMS community.



Charles J. Simpson Jr.

President, Maryland State Firefighters Association
 Life Member - Pleasant Valley Community Fire Co.
 Life Member- Westminster Volunteer Fire Department





Closing Remarks from Department of Fire & EMS Data Analyst

The 2025 Annual Report reflects a pivotal year for the Department's data systems and reporting infrastructure. As of December 31, 2025, DFEMS completed implementation of a unified Records Management System (ESO), establishing a countywide platform that supports consistent documentation, enhanced visibility, and long-term reporting integrity.

This implementation advanced our collective understanding of operational data and strengthened the depth and reliability of the reporting presented in this year's report. While standardization across a combination system remains an ongoing process, the progress achieved in 2025 enables more comprehensive analysis, improved consistency, and clearer system wide performance insight than in previous years.

With the foundation now in place, the focus shifts to refinement and strengthening governance practices, aligning documentation standards, and leveraging data to inform strategic decisions. Our objective remains clear: to sustain a transparent, defensible, and unified reporting framework that advances operational excellence and accountability for the citizens of Carroll County.

As we move into 2026, our priority is to transform a unified reporting platform into a mature, data informed operating model that supports clarity, accountability, and continuous improvement across the entire department.



Melissa Long
Data Analyst



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