

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Detroit Fire Department



Letter from Executive Fire Commissioner Chuck Simms

It is my honor to present this year's annual report on behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Detroit Fire Department. Every day, our firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, dispatchers, inspectors, investigators, and support personnel work tirelessly to protect the lives, property, and well-being of the residents and visitors of Detroit.



Our mission is simple but profound: to serve our community through rapid emergency response, fire prevention, public education, and an unwavering commitment to safety. Across our divisions—including Fire Operations, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Marshal, Fire Investigation, Training, Communications, and Community Relations—we operate as one team focused on saving lives and reducing risk throughout our city.

This year, our department continued to build on a proud tradition of service while embracing innovation and improvement. From responding to thousands of calls for service each month to strengthening prevention and education efforts across Detroit's neighborhoods, our members demonstrate courage, professionalism, and integrity in everything they do. With 36 strategically located fire stations and more than a twelve hundred sworn personnel, the Detroit Fire Department remains prepared to answer the call whenever our community needs us most.

We also remain committed to continuous improvement—investing in training, modern equipment, and programs that enhance safety for residents, businesses, and visitors alike. Through partnerships with city departments, community organizations, and our residents, we are building a stronger, safer Detroit together.

I am incredibly proud of the work our members perform every day and grateful for the trust placed in us by the people we serve.

Respectfully,

Chuck Simms
Executive Fire Commissioner

<https://detroitmi.gov/fire>

HEARTSAFE communitySM

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Organization

Executive Fire Commissioner Chuck Simms and his team oversee the operations of the seven divisions of the Detroit Fire Department:

Communications

The Communications Division is a team of licensed EMS and Fire Dispatchers. They coordinate the emergency response by sending Fire and EMS crews to scenes and provide radio support.

Community Relations

The Community Relations Division connects the Detroit Fire Department with the neighborhoods. They provide fire safety education, CPR training, and engage with the community.

Emergency Medical Services

Detroit's EMS Division provides professional emergency care and response throughout the City of Detroit. They manage over 160,000 calls annually, including 911 responses. The team is instrumental in special events and disaster preparedness planning.

Fire Operations

Detroit's Fire Operations Division is the city's front line defense, protecting life and property throughout the city's 138 square miles. The team handles almost 6,000 calls a month, including fires, hazardous material situations, accidents, and also responds to Code 1 medical emergencies.

Fire Marshal

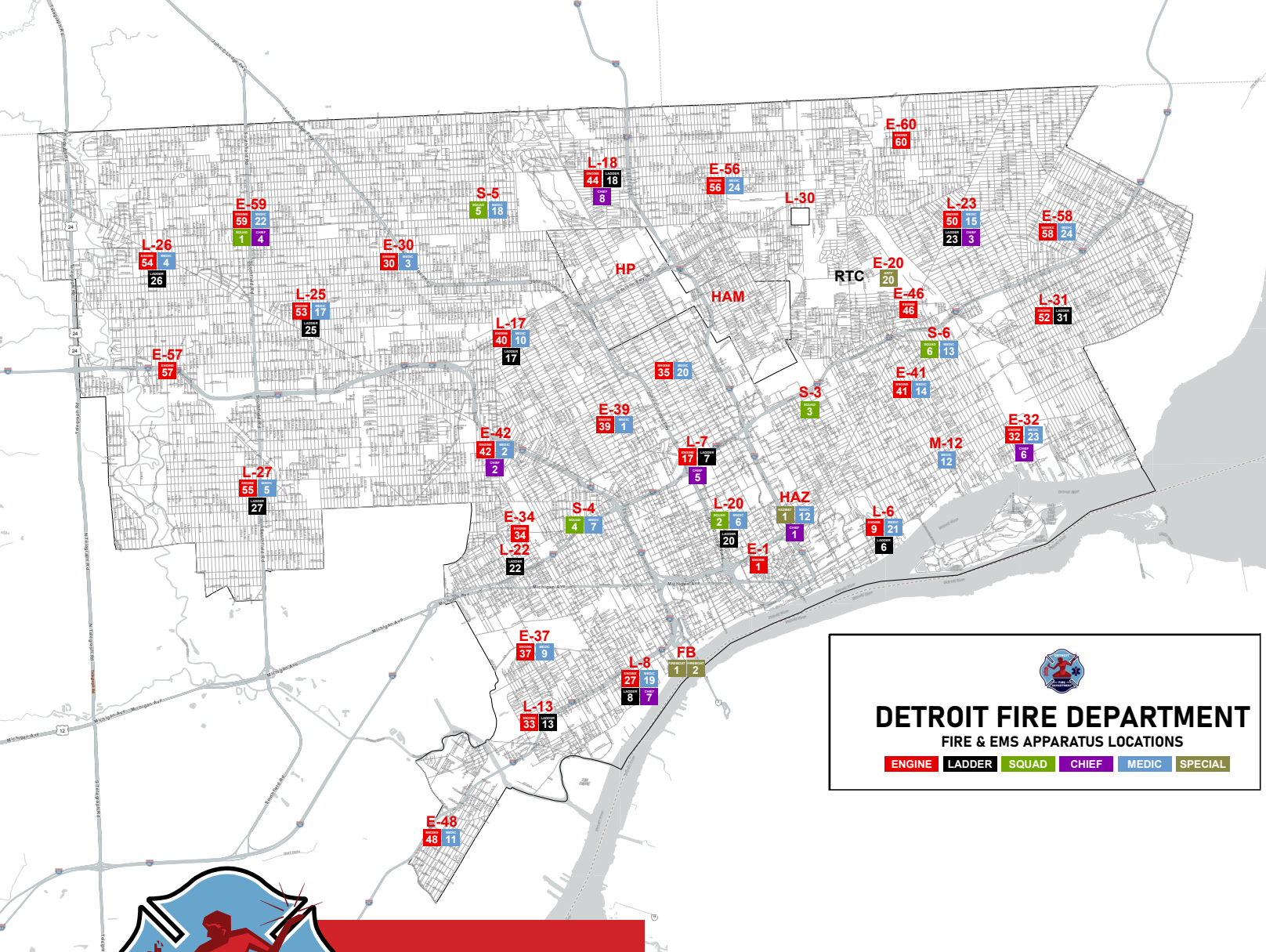
The Fire Marshal Division ensures fire and life safety through high-level fire prevention and engineering. This team enforces local and state safety codes through inspections, building plan reviews, and fire investigations.

Fire Investigation

The Detroit Fire Investigation Division determines the cause and origin of fires in the city of Detroit. The division is comprised of police-certified firefighters, detectives, and federal partners, who work to reduce fire frequency and bring arsonists within the city to justice.

Training

The Training Division's mission is to ignite the potential within every firefighter, EMS professional and emergency responder. With a state-of-the-art training facility and top-notch instructors, the team at DFD's Walter P. Harris Regional Training Center works to train new and current members of the Detroit Fire Department, as well as partners throughout the region, in the latest firefighting tactics and techniques.




DETROIT FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE & EMS APPARATUS LOCATIONS

ENGINE LADDER SQUAD CHIEF MEDIC SPECIAL



DETROIT
Fire Department

2025 Quick Facts

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Employees | 1,200+ |
| Firehouses | 36 |
| Engines | 27 |
| Ladder Companies | 13 |
| Squads | 6 |
| Total dispatches | 234,123 |
| Fire dispatches | 70,742 |
| Average Structure Fire Response Time | 5 min, 36 sec |
| EMS dispatches | 163,381 |
| Average Code 1 Medical response time | 7 min, 26 sec |

Fire Operations

The Fire Operations Division of the Detroit Fire Department is the city's front line defense—dedicated to protecting life, property, and the community around the clock. Every month, DFD teams respond to close to 6,000 emergency calls, ranging from structural fires and hazardous material incidents to auto accidents and critical medical emergencies. DFD is committed to safeguarding Detroit by delivering fast, effective fire suppression and rescues. Highly trained personnel, state-of-the-art equipment, and comprehensive training programs ensure that every call is answered with precision and care.

The Fire Operations division is staffed with over 1,200 sworn firefighters and emergency responders. In 2025, DFD was dispatched to over 70,000 runs and the average structure fire response time was five minutes and 36 seconds from dispatch to on the scene. Since 2015, DFD's Engines and Squads are also dispatched to priority 1 calls for medical service.

Emergency Medical Services



The Detroit Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services Division provides Detroit residents and visitors with compassionate and professional emergency care. The Detroit Fire Department responds to more than 160,000 emergency medical calls for service each year.

Detroit Fire Department personnel are cross-trained with more than 1,100 licensed individuals providing care at the Medical First Responder, Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic level. Detroit's EMS Division has played a key role in bringing Code 1 emergency response times down to an average of 7 minutes and 30 seconds in 2025, which exceeds national standards.

Fleet, Apparatus, and Equipment

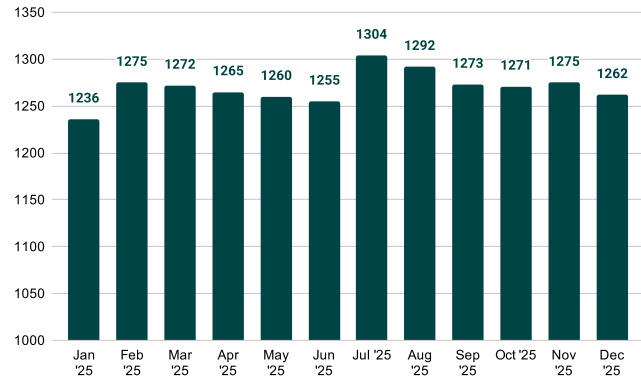
| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Members | 1,200+ |
| Fire stations | 37 |
| Engines | 27 |
| Ladder companies | 13 |
| Tactical mobile squads | 6 |
| Fire boats | 2 |
| Battalions | 8 |
| Hazmat units | 2 |
| Avg. Daily Ambulances* | 25 |

*With an average of 18 additional units per day through contract with private ambulance companies.

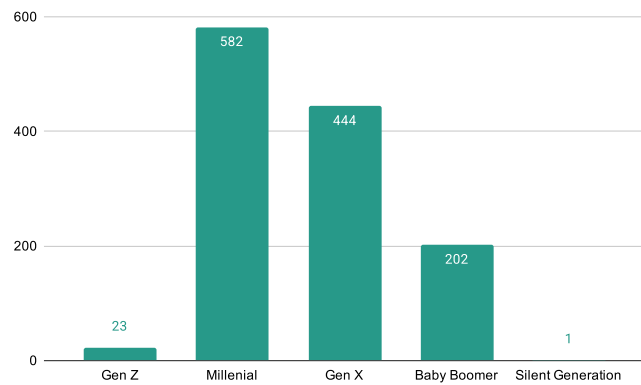
Engine 20 staffed at Coleman A. Young International Airport.



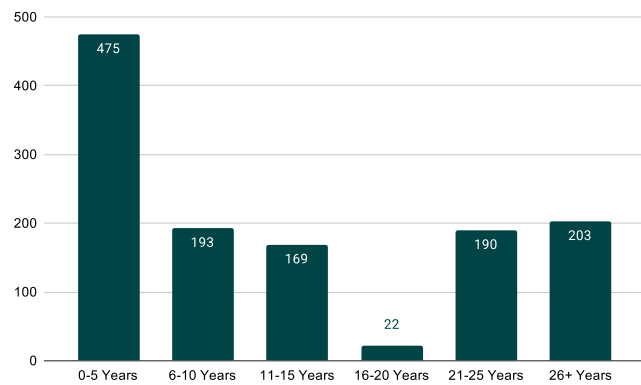
Personnel and Demographics of Employees



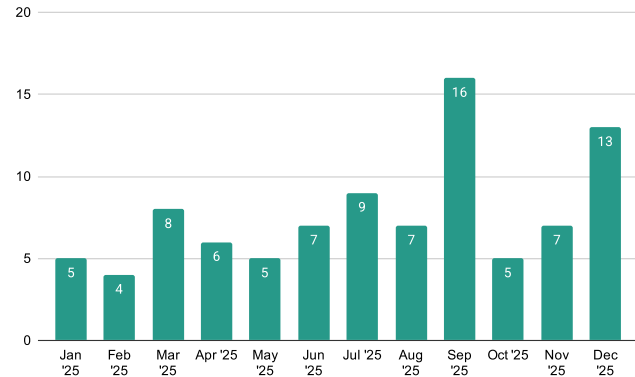
Average Employee Headcount: 1,270



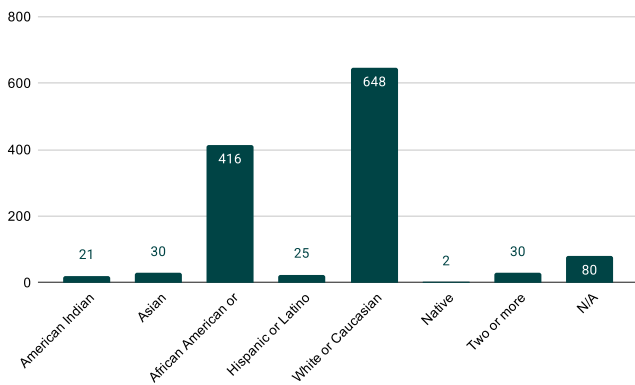
Total Employees by Age



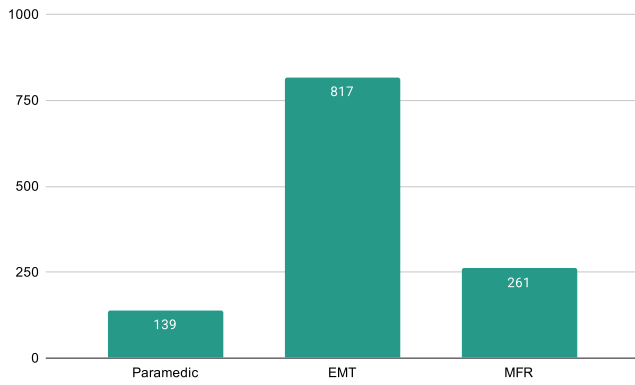
Total Employees by Seniority



2025 Employee Attrition



Total Employees by Ethnicity



Total Employees by Medical License



HEARTSafe Community

Detroit is the largest municipality to achieve a HEARTSafe community designation.

The Community Relations Division works alongside the EMS Training Division to lead the city's efforts in training citizens on Hands-only CPR. Ensuring Detroiters are trained in CPR is one of the requirements to ensure the City of Detroit retains its HEARTSafe Community designation. In 2025, DFD trained over 3,000 people in hands-on CPR.

KRONK Gym

As the team at the brand new KRONK Gym, located inside the Brewster-Wheeler Recreation Center, prepared to open its doors, they asked DFD to train them to handle cardiac emergencies should they happen. Lt. Caitlin Mercer of DFD's Training Division certified their staff in CPR and AED use.



Awards & Recognition

In 2025, the Detroit Fire Department honored more than 200 employees, and highlighted several of these outstanding incidents in the media.

Celest's Second Birthday

Celest Cole celebrated coming back to life on Feb. 7, 2025. After suffering Sudden Cardiac Arrest exactly a year before, Cole died. Her mother called 911 and in four and a half minutes, a team of six DFD members were working to bring her back. She left the hospital healthy ten days later. The joy-filled mother of two took the chance to address those who helped her beat the odds, celebrating her "second birthday" at Squad 4/Medic 7's quarters. Celeste was joined by her family, the crew who saved her life and the team at Henry Ford Hospital who heralded the pre-hospital care she received as truly lifesaving.

DEMCA Kim L. Life-saver of the Year



We honored paramedic Christopher Photiades and EMT Samuel Lemire with the Kim L. Lifesaver of the Year award on Tuesday, May 20. The pair responded to a cardiac arrest patient who collapsed on a scaffolding three stories in the air. They were presented this award at the DIA, by the Detroit East Medical Control Authority.

Littlefield Apartment Explosion

The Fire and EMS personnel who responded to an apartment explosion on Detroit's West side were honored by the city for their hard work. The crews rescued and provided emergency care and transport to 13 individuals—six of them children—following the devastating explosion in March of 2025. The families – some whose lives were saved – were in attendance to thank their heroes and share their stories.



DEMCA Honors DFD Members

In September, members of DFD were honored by the Detroit East Medical Control Authority (DEMCA) for their heroic efforts in providing pre-hospital care for citizens during a number of emergency calls over the past several months, including multiple cardiac arrest incidents.



Wisconsin Fire Save

On May 9th, DFD honored members of Engine 40, Engine 30, Engine 53, Squad 5, Ladder 17, and Medic 10 for saving a trapped resident on Detroit's west side from a house fire. The crews coordinated fire suppression, search, and rescue operations under heavy smoke and active fire. The resident, Mr. Wynford Johnson, was able to make a full recovery. His three daughters were on hand with a huge thank you!



EMTs Reunited with Twins They Helped Deliver

On the first of July, 2025, Jessica Johnson's water broke at just 32 weeks, and there was no time to get to a hospital. Bacarri Stanley and Michael Bache, two DFD EMTs, responded within minutes. Despite it being both of their first times helping to deliver babies, they supported Johnson to deliver healthy twins. The EMTs returned to Johnson's home to meet the twins and deliver some gifts on behalf of DFD.

DFD Collaborates

The Detroit Fire Department engages in mutual aid through local agreements, such as with nearby cities like Hamtramck and the Grosse Pointes.

DFD also participates in broader state-level systems like the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), which is Michigan's only statewide fire service mutual aid agreement. Through mutual aid, MI-MABAS has the capability to provide emergency response locally or statewide when requested by the host/stricken community.

GEMT Program

In February of 2025, Governor Whitmer signed HB5695, approving Michigan's participation in the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program. This initiative will provide federal reimbursement for emergency medical transport services to Medicaid recipients, ensuring stable funding for DFD's EMS operations and enhancing emergency medical care for Detroit residents.



DFD Professional Development Conference

With 2025 came the second annual DFD Professional Development Conference (PDC). The PDC is designed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and leadership capabilities of fire service professionals and draws attendees from across the region and Canada. The 2025 PDC featured a lineup of expert speakers, interactive workshops, and networking opportunities aimed at fostering professional growth and innovation in fire service. Attendees gained valuable insights into emerging industry trends, leadership strategies, and critical safety protocols. We're looking forward to the 2026 PDC.



Fire Leadership Roundtable

The Detroit Fire Department (DFD) hosted two Fire Leadership Roundtables in 2025. These roundtables bring together fire service leaders, emergency response professionals, and public safety officials from across Metro Detroit and Windsor. Participants from West Bloomfield Township to Wyandotte and municipalities in between engage in in-depth discussions on fire service innovation, emergency management, and interagency collaboration.



Detroit Public Safety Foundation

The Detroit Public Safety Foundation (DPSF) is a non-profit organization supporting the Detroit Fire Department with needs not covered in the City of Detroit budget. In addition to supporting DFD for special events around the year – DFD is proud to partner with DPSF for Women in Blue, honoring the city's female first responders and Above and Beyond Awards, lifting up those who have truly gone beyond the call of duty.



Budget

Budget Breakdown

Over the course of 2025, the Detroit Fire Department utilized a \$165,855,061 budget. The majority of the funds were allotted to salaries.

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| FY25 Total DFD Budget | \$ 165,855,061 |
| FY25 DFD Revenue | \$ 23,464,000 |
| <u>FY25 Operational Expenses</u> | |
| Salaries | \$ 97,098,253 |
| Benefits | \$ 31,746,852 |
| Overtime (total) | \$ 19,831,401 |
| Training | \$ 460,117 |
| Special Events | \$ 319,911 |
| Professional & Contracts | \$ 12,615,216 |
| Supplies & Services | \$ 4,113,700 |
| Apparatus Investment | \$ 9,613,981 |
| Firehouse Upgrades | \$ 5,625,101 |
| Technology Investments | \$ 1,205,635 |

ISO Property Protection Classification - ISO Class 2

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) provides appropriate fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties. Insurance companies need reliable, that The Public Protection Classification (PPC®) program collects up-to-date information about a community's fire-protection services and analyzes the relevant data using its Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). Then the PPC assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet our minimum criteria.

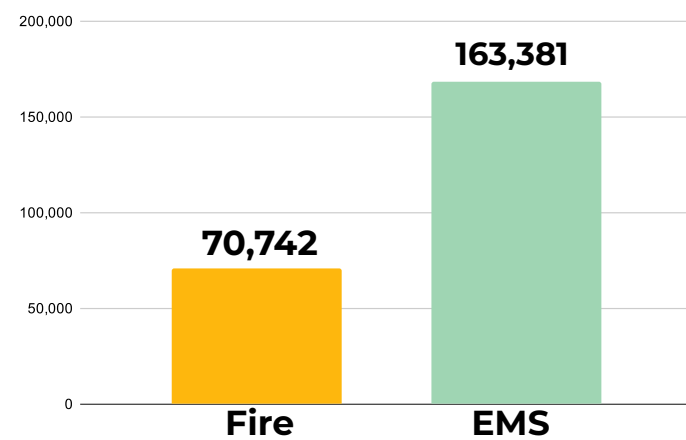
The City of Detroit has an ISO class 2 rating, meaning DFD is in the top 2% of fire departments in Michigan and within the top 5% of fire departments across the country. Detroit has a highly effective fire protection system that serves Detroit residents and leads to lower home insurance costs.

Communications Division



Detroit Fire Department's Communications Division is a team of highly trained licensed Public Safety Emergency Medical Technicians and Medical First Responder Fire/EMS Dispatchers who operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is their job to dispatch Fire and EMS apparatus and crews to emergencies and to communicate with crews regarding any additional needs.

In 2025, DFD had 234,123 total dispatches.



Total Number of Dispatches in 2025



Fire Marshal Division

The Detroit Fire Marshal Division provides the highest level of fire prevention methods and fire protection engineering using standards and codes set forth by the Detroit Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance, NFPA and the Michigan Building Code. The Fire Marshal Division is rooted in fire prevention through inspections, code enforcement, plan review, investigation and public education.



The Plans and Exams Section of the Detroit Fire Department is responsible for analyzing all life safety and fire protection aspects of new construction, change of use and major renovation of commercial building projects. The section works with various other departments to identify solutions to fire and life safety through planning and design.



The Fire Prevention Section of the Detroit Fire Department is responsible for performing life safety inspections in all occupied buildings to ensure compliance is met. This section also performs acceptance testing of required fire protection and life safety systems that are installed in new and existing buildings.

In 2025 DFD launched the Small Business Self Re-Inspection program, which offers small business owners (businesses under 2,000 square feet) the opportunity to address and clear minor code violations independently.

DFD Fire Marshal 2025 Metrics

- 4,476 Annual Inspections
- 4,418 Re-Inspections
- 12,938 Violations Issued
- 6,499 Violations Cleared
- 374 Fire Alarm Tests
- 345 Suppression System Tests
- 175 Evacuation Plans/Drills

DFD Supports Special Events

The Fire Marshal Division oversees special events to ensure residents and visitors alike stay safe and have fun. DFD spends months planning for large-scale events, creating emergency operation plans, and reviewing medical plans. The Fire Marshal Division then formulates Incident Action Plans for events in alignment with FEMA National Incident Prevention Management System.

During events, the Fire Marshal Division monitors crowd conditions and ensures exits and entrances are clear and accessible. DFD works with local, state, federal partners, and community organizations to ensure guests are safe.



Apr 25-27, 2024 2024 NFL Draft

The 2024 NFL draft attendance record set with over 775,000 fans attending the event in Detroit.



May 24-26, 2025 Movement Festival

Movement celebrates the birthplace of techno—Detroit, by hosting electronic dance music artists downtown. There was an estimated attendance of 90,000 people over the three-day festival for 2025.



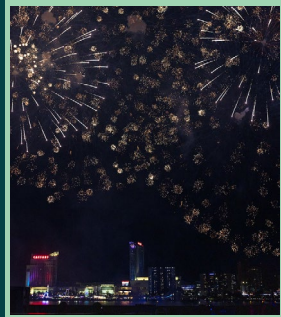
Jan 10-20, 2025 Detroit Auto Show

The Detroit Auto Show is among the largest auto shows in North America, drawing 275,000 attendees in 2025.



Jun 23, 2025 Ford Fireworks

The 2025 Ford Fireworks lit up the Detroit skyline with a spectacular display. The show was broadcast live on WDIV Local 4, with thousands of attendees present along the riverfront.



Jun 1, 2025 2025 Grand Prix

The 2025 Grand Prix attracted approximately 156,000 people to Downtown Detroit over the three-day weekend.



Aug 29-Sep 1, 2025 Jazz Festival

Detroit International Jazz Festival is the largest free jazz festival in the U.S. There were more than 300,000 in-person attendees during the weekend event in 2025.



Nov 27, 2025 Thanksgiving Day Parade

The 2025 America's Thanksgiving Parade® drew thousands to the streets and even more watched on TV.



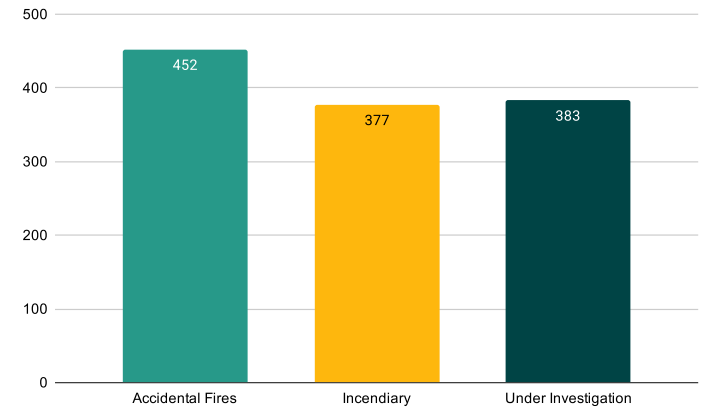
Fire Investigations

The Fire Investigations Division determines the cause and origin of fires in the city. The team uses the latest technology, such as portable x-ray machines, 360-degree cameras, 3-D cameras, two accelerant detective canines, paired with traditional resources to investigate fires. The Fire Investigation Division is a joint task force with the Detroit Police Department.

All members are sworn officers. DFD's Fire Investigation Division often partners with the local bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Michigan State Police, and external partners in this important work. Once a fire is determined to have been an arson, it is the responsibility of this division to locate suspects, and ensure they're brought to justice.

K-9 Unit

DFD's Fire Investigation Division would not be complete without its canine unit. Our canine teams receive certified training by the ATF (U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms) and the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers. Division canines are trained to sniff out tiny traces of substances that may have been used to start a fire.



2025 Total Fire Determinations

What's Causing Fires In Our Community?

In 2025, these were the top accidental fire causes in Detroit.

- Electrical Fires — 35.1%**
- Cooking Fires — 14.14%**
- Improper Use of a Product or Appliance — 11.11%**



- **K9 "Campbell" is a female Labrador Retriever trained and ATF-certified in accelerant detection and has been assigned to active duty with the Detroit Fire Investigation Division since 2019. Her handler is Captain Omar Davidson.**
- **Cody is the newest canine team member, started serving DFD at the end of 2025. Her handler is Lieutenant Alex Dunn.**

In October, DFD offered one of only two programs of Michigan's Hands-On Fire Investigation Courses. It's the only one offered by a municipality and provides immersive, hands-on fire investigation training. Offered twice each year, this nationally recognized course combines classroom learning with field experience in Detroit neighborhoods, helping participants master the science and skill of determining how and why fires start.

Training Division

DFD's Training Division operates out of the Walter P. Harris Regional Training center, a state-of-the-art facility on Detroit's east side.

The facility is equipped with 11 classrooms, an EMS Skills Lab, an outdoor training area with two live fire training facilities, and a cafeteria. Classrooms have the latest electronic audio-visual equipment and training aids.

In the Outdoor Training Section, firefighters gain invaluable experience in firefighting and rescue operations in a safe, supervised setting. Thanks to DFD's three-story burn tower, firefighters can do Class A and Class B simulated fires. It can also help firefighters train with ladders, practice search and rescue, demolition, and complete advanced ropes officer courses. It is the only Burn Tower that can do Class A and B simultaneously in the Midwest.

DFD's regional training center staff leads training department-wide. From new cadets to EMTs, Paramedics, to CPR training for the public and special skills courses, and fire instructor in training, it all happens at the RTC.

Municipalities from across the region are often able to train at this facility to gain valuable hands-on experience, thanks in part to grant funding.

- **281 courses offered**
- **CPR students certified 1566**
- **Managed Firefighter I & II training for 110 members, achieving 94% certification**
- **Executed department-wide refresher training for 851 members, including Elevator Rescue Awareness.**

In 2025, DFD started the first firefighter paramedic course in department history. The course is a rigorous 10-month program, packing what would usually be two years of study into a shorter time span. The 28-member class graduated in January 2026. The course consisted of 500 classroom hours, 600 clinical hours, and a national exam.





Community Relations Division

The Community Relations Division acts as a liaison between the community and the Fire Department. Whether they're hosting fire prevention and safety presentations, hands-only CPR training, or participating in large-scale community events such as Fire Prevention Week and Halloween in the D, the Community Relations Division is here to engage with the residents of Detroit.

"Giving Flowers" Senior Outreach

Each year around Valentine's Day, members of DFD and the Detroit Public Safety Foundation go to senior living homes to pass out flowers and educate residents about fire safety. In 2025 they went to Hartford Village senior home.



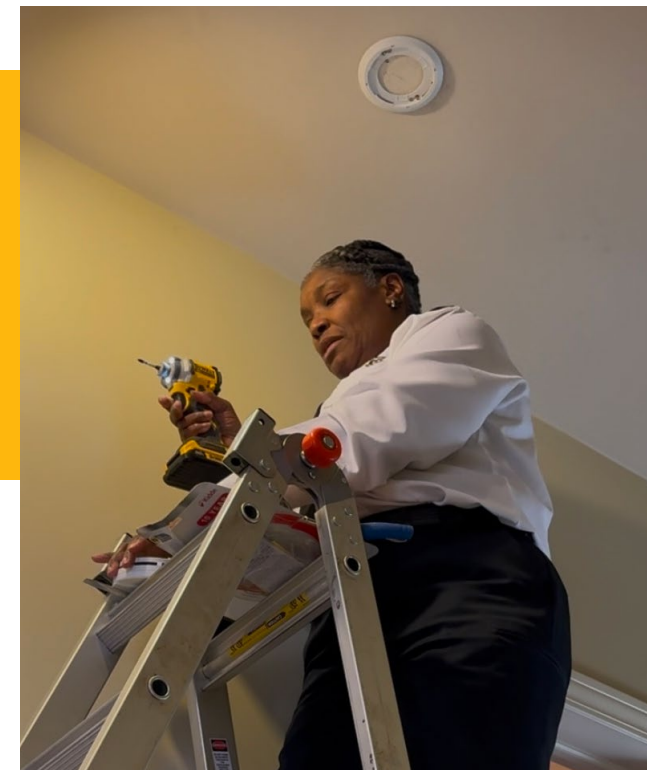
Fire Prevention Week

In October, DFD partnered with the NFPA® for Fire Prevention Week to promote this year's theme, "Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries." This week involves every DFD unit and draws hundreds of guests for hands-on training and family activities.



Halloween in the D

Each year the City of Detroit celebrates Halloween in the D. This family-friendly celebration includes a host of Halloween activities at police precincts, recreation centers and fire stations. Over 30,000 Detroit youth and their families take part in activities with over 1 million pieces of candy distributed.



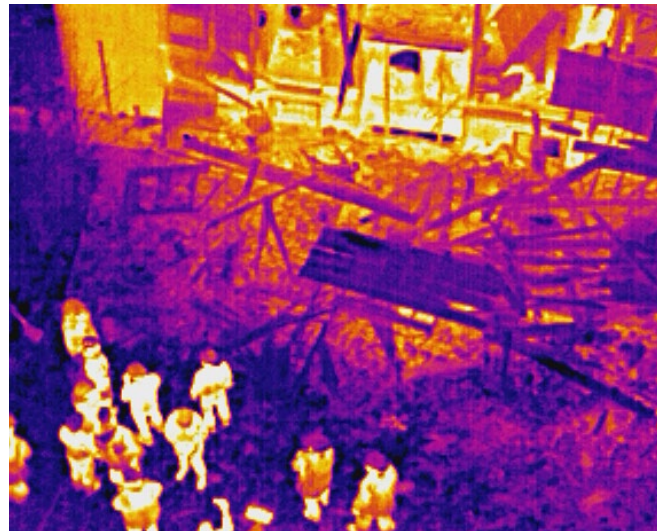
DSAP

The Community Relations Division worked hard this year on the Detroit Smoke Alarm Program (DSAP), a program to install smoke alarms citywide. During 2025, DFD installed smoke alarms in over 1,000 Detroit homes, with 3,204 smoke alarms installed in total.

DFD's Technology Use

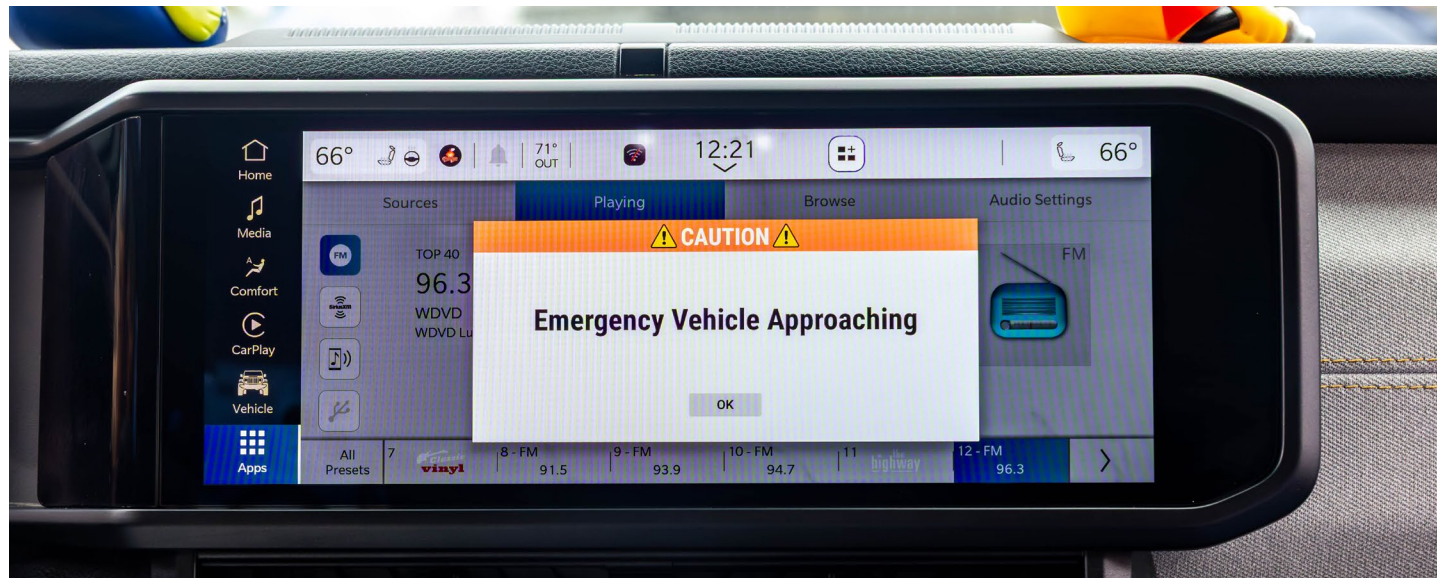
Drones Aid Large-Scale Events

The 14 Skydio X2E drones in the department's fleet are equipped with live streaming capability, thermal imaging, and night vision. This technology helps to minimize exposure and gain perspective at large-scale incidents.



HAAS Alert System Cloud

In 2025, the City of Detroit became first in the nation to go all-in on HAAS Alert Safety Cloud for First Responders. This historic partnership advances safety and innovation, making Detroit a national model for public safety technology adoption. During the 10-month pilot program, 108,531 alerts were sent to drivers through the system, notifying them of an approaching emergency vehicle. The tech is now installed on all frontline apparatus.



Detroit Fire Department Employee Assistance Programs

DFD Chaplain Corps

The Detroit Fire Department's Chaplain Corps provides compassionate spiritual and emotional support to members of the department and their families during times of crisis, grief, injury, or personal hardship. Chaplains regularly visit firehouses, build relationships with personnel, and are available when members need someone to talk to after difficult calls or life events. They also offer support following line-of-duty incidents, deaths, and other traumatic situations. The Chaplain Corps is an important part of DFD's commitment to caring for the people who serve the city each day. After more than 30 years of service to DFD, Chief Chaplain George Aren retired at the end of 2025.



DFD Personal Guidance Unit and Peer Support Team

The Detroit Fire Department's Personal Guidance Unit (PGU) and Peer Support Team provide confidential counseling, resources, and direct support to employees and their families 24 hours a day. The PGU is staffed by licensed professionals who help members navigate personal challenges, stress, grief, substance misuse, and mental health concerns. The Peer Support Team is made up of trained DFD members who volunteer their time to support coworkers through shared understanding and lived experience. Together, these programs create a strong internal safety net focused on wellness, resilience, and recovery.



DFD Health and Wellness Initiatives

The Detroit Fire Department's Health and Wellness initiatives are designed to help members stay physically and mentally fit throughout their careers. These efforts include health screenings, preventive care resources, wellness education, and access to support services that encourage early intervention. By promoting regular screenings and healthy habits, DFD helps identify potential health concerns before they become serious issues. These initiatives reflect the department's belief that a healthy workforce is essential to delivering world-class service to Detroit residents.





Detroit Fire Department 2025 Annual Report

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