



2025

SONOMA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

Serving the communities of Agua Caliente, Boyes Hot Springs, City of Sonoma, Diamond-A, El Verano, Feters Hot Springs, Glen Ellen, Kenwood, Mayacamas, Temelec, and Seven Flags.



sonomavalleyfire.org



707-996-2102

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- Incident Statistics & Metrics
- Administrative Division
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- Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters Association and Community Involvement



A message from the Fire Chief



It's my privilege to share the 2025 Annual Report for the Sonoma Valley Fire District. This year reflects our continued progress, strong partnerships, and meaningful improvements in how we best serve our community.

Thanks to the support of voters through Measure H, we've been able to strengthen emergency response, improve staffing, enhance training, and invest in equipment that helps our firefighters do their jobs more safely and effectively. These improvements directly support faster response times, better service levels, and increased reliability across the district.

This year also marked an important milestone with the consolidation of the Kenwood Fire Protection District into the Sonoma Valley Fire District. This transition has improved coordination, reduced duplication, and allowed us to provide paramedic service to the Kenwood community while strengthening fire protection throughout the Valley.

From Agua Caliente and Boyes Hot Springs to Glen Ellen, Kenwood, Mayacamas and the City of Sonoma, our mission remains the same: protecting lives, property, and the places we all call home. None of this work is possible without the dedication of our firefighters and staff, and the continued trust and support of the communities we serve.

Thank you for being our partners in safety. We're proud and honored to serve you. For more information, visit sonomavalleyfire.org or call 707-996-2102.

Stay safe,

Stephen Akre, Fire Chief Sonoma Valley Fire District

Our Mission Statement

The Sonoma Valley Fire District exists to protect the quality of life for present and future generations through collaboration with our community, compassionate service, and an atmosphere that encourages innovation, professionalism, and diversity.

Our Values

Compassion: An emphasis on empathy and kindness in all interactions.

Professionalism: The competence and skills expected to ensure efficient service.

Adaptability: Innovative personnel that adapt to evolving environments to provide the highest level of service.

Loyalty: An allegiance to a diverse community, agency, and governing body.

Sustainability: The ability to maintain a competent workforce for our community and family-oriented work environment.

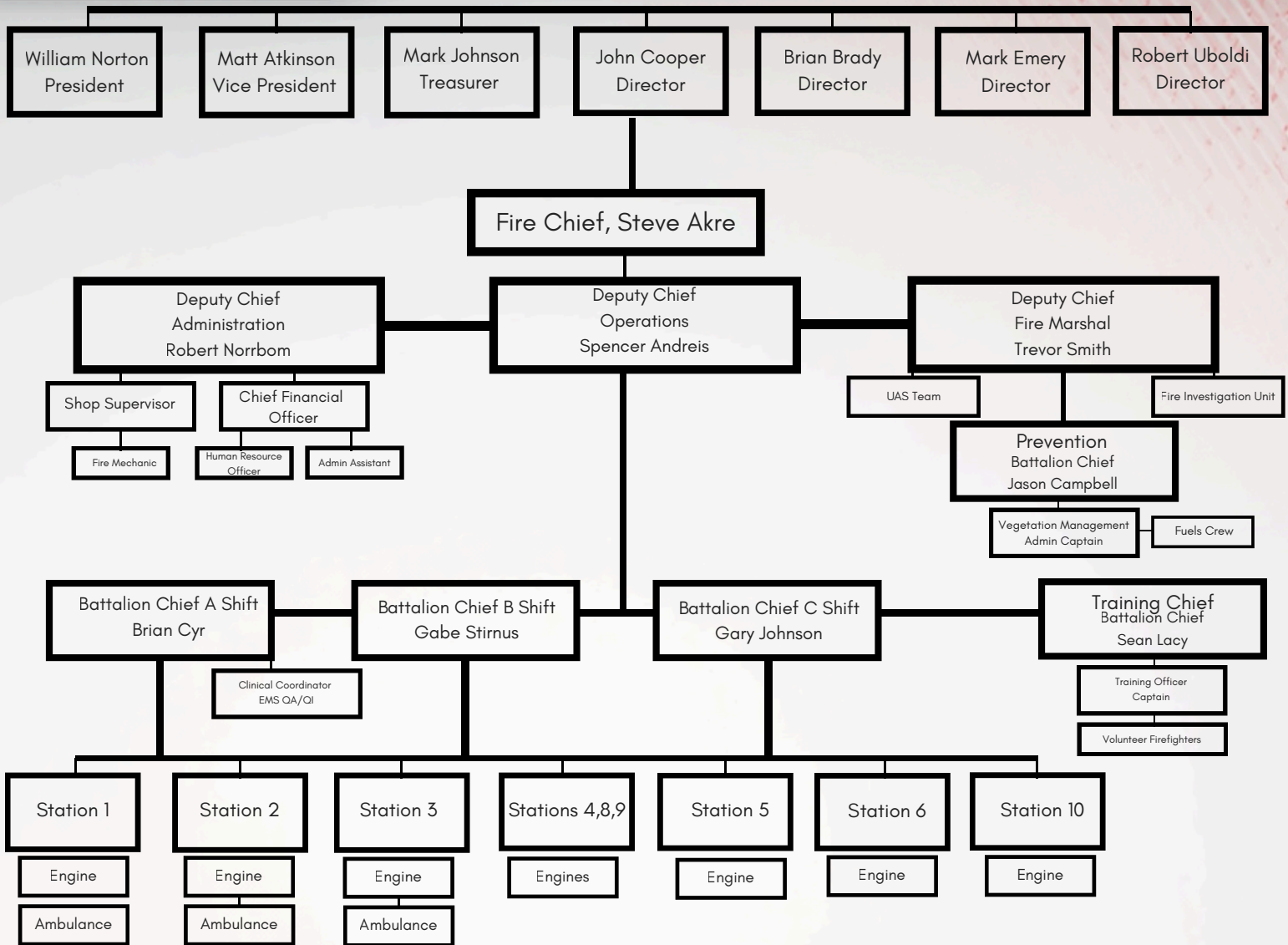
Accountability: The responsibility to meet and exceed the needs of our community and members.



SONOMA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

SVFD Board of Directors



The Sonoma Valley Fire District is an independent special district governed by a locally elected Board of Directors. The Board establishes policy, adopts the annual budget, and provides fiscal and operational oversight to ensure effective delivery of fire protection, emergency medical, and risk-reduction services.

Board Members serve staggered four-year terms and are accountable to the residents of Sonoma Valley. The Board appoints the Fire Chief, who manages the District's daily operations and implements Board policy.

The District operates in compliance with California open meeting, public records, and financial accountability laws, reflecting its commitment to transparency, ethical leadership, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

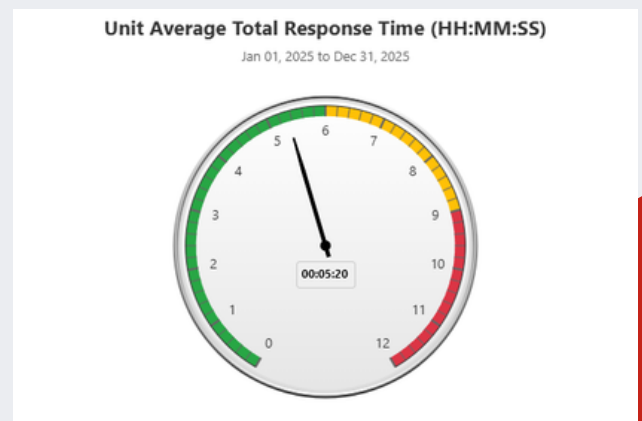
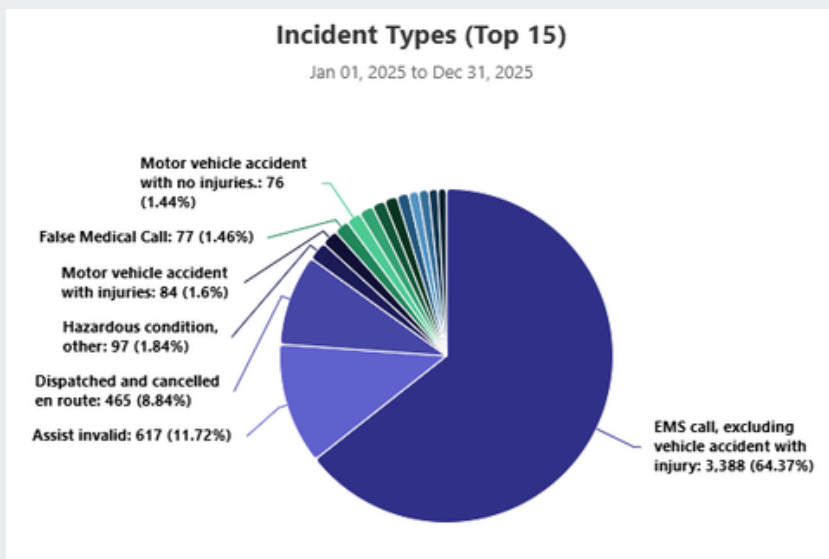
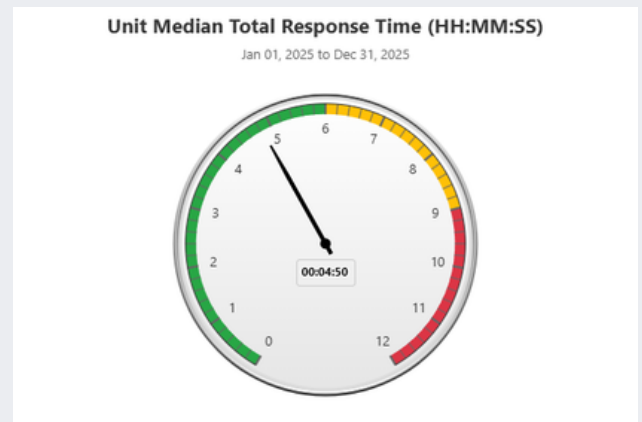
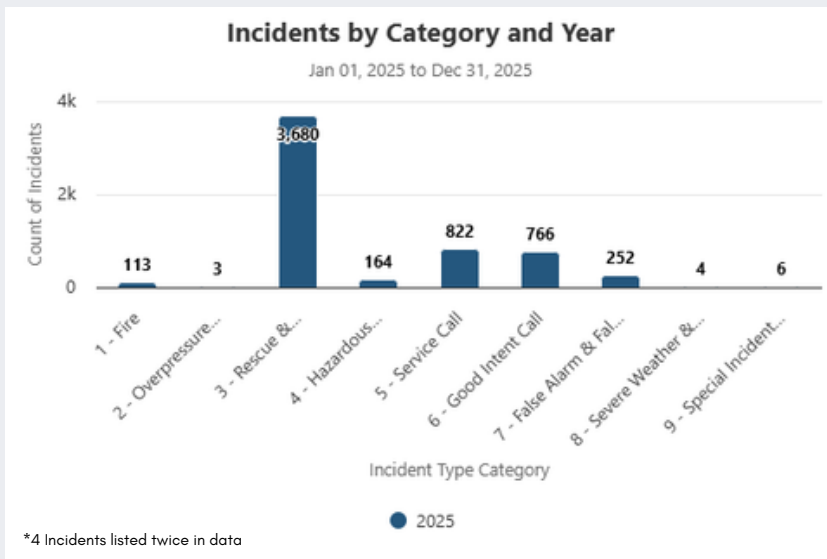


By the Numbers

Incident Statistics & Response Metrics

5806

INCIDENTS IN 2025



By the Numbers

Incident Statistics & Response Metrics

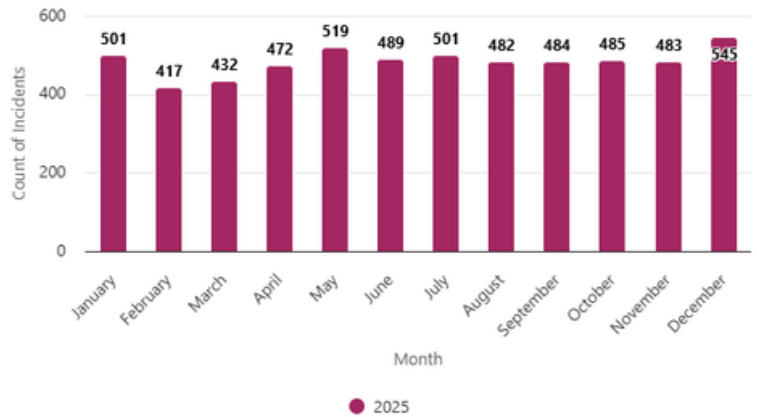
Property Losses by Month

Jan 01, 2025 to Dec 31, 2025



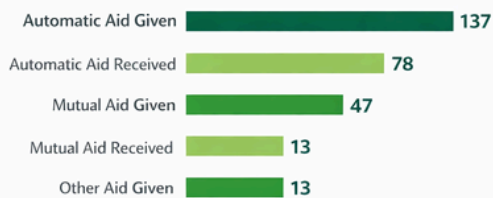
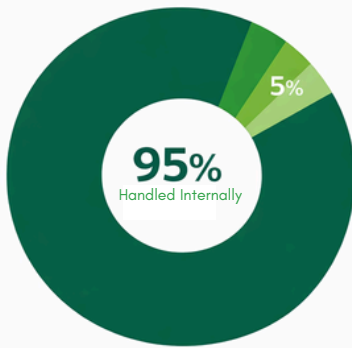
Incidents by Month

Jan 01, 2025 to Dec 31, 2025



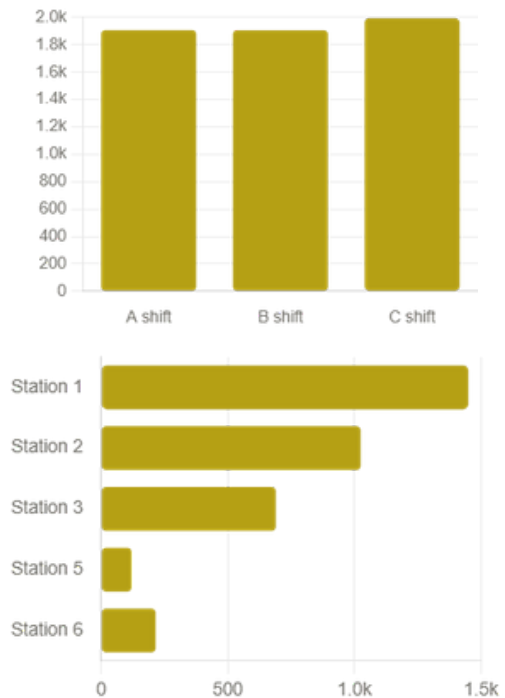
Aid Given & Received – 2025

Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025



In 2025, 95% of all incidents were handled without the need for external assistance. Aid exchanges accounted for only 5% of total activity, with Automatic Aid Given representing the largest share of interagency support.

Incidents by Station / Shift 2025



Administrative Division

- **Executive Summary**
- **Organizational Structure and Support**
- **Budget & Financial Overview**
- **Capital Projects and Facilities Development**
- **Insurance Services Office (ISO) Review**
- **Memorial and Community Projects**
- **Apparatus and Fleet Modernization**
- **District Consolidation**
- **Measure H Implementation and Organizational Growth**
- **Facilities Improvements**
- **Employee Health, Safety, and Wellness**
- **Grants and Equipment Funding**
- **Outlook for 2026**



Executive Summary

The Administrative Division of the Sonoma Valley Fire District (SVFD) continued to provide the organizational leadership, fiscal stewardship, and logistical support necessary to sustain and expand District operations in 2025.

Comprised of a Deputy Chief, Chief Financial Officer, Human Resources Officer, Administrative Assistant, Fleet Manager, and Fire Mechanic, the Division plays a central role in capital planning, workforce support, fleet and facilities management, and regional coordination.

Key accomplishments this year included advancing major capital projects, supporting district consolidation, implementing Measure H-funded organizational improvements, strengthening employee wellness programs, and modernizing fleet and apparatus resources.

Organizational Structure and Support

The Administrative Division ensures that operational personnel have the infrastructure, resources, and administrative support needed to respond effectively. Core functions include:

- Fiscal management and budgeting
- Human resources and employee support
- Facilities and capital project management
- Fleet acquisition and maintenance
- Strategic planning and interagency coordination
- Grants and external funding procurement

In 2025, the Division played a critical role in aligning organizational growth with regional needs and funding opportunities.



Budget & Financial Overview

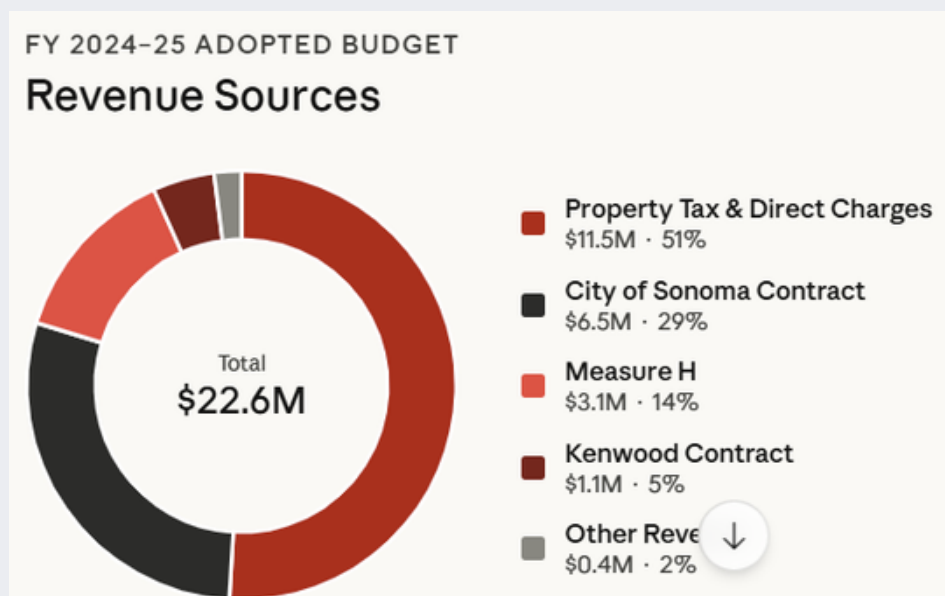
The Sonoma Valley Fire District is committed to transparent stewardship of public resources. The District's budget is adopted annually by the Board of Directors following a public review process and is posted on the District's website at sonomavalleyfire.org.

FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget Summary

The Board of Directors adopted a total budget of \$22,592,630 for Fiscal Year 2024-25, representing a \$3.4 million increase over the prior year. This growth reflects the district's expanding service responsibilities the addition of positions funded through Measure H, and a contract for service with the Kenwood Fire Protection District.

Revenue

The District's revenues are drawn from several sources. Property tax revenue remains the primary funding foundation, supported by direct charges to property owners within the District's service area. The Kenwood contract amounts to \$2,050,000, in FY2024-25. The City of Sonoma contract for fire services contributes \$6,516,433. Measure H funds -including both the District portion (\$2,496,000) and the City portion for minimum staffing and prevention (\$566,400) - represent a significant and growing share of total revenue, enabling expanded services that would not otherwise be sustainable within the base property tax structure.

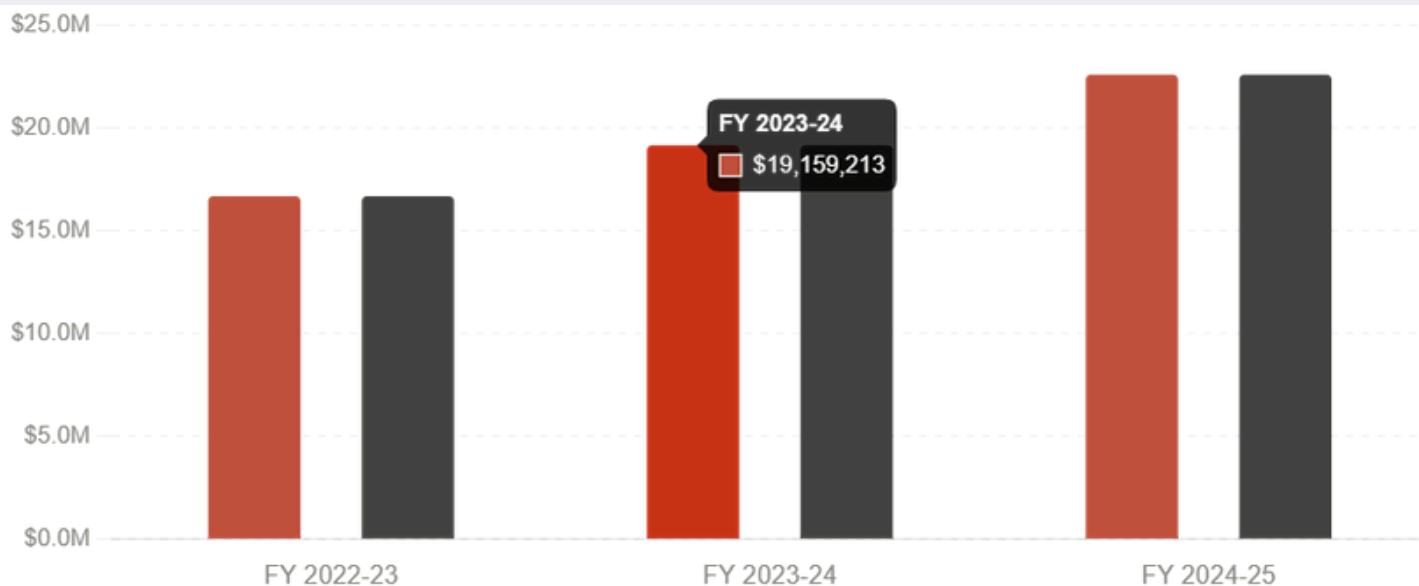


Expenditures

Personnel costs – salaries, wages, overtime, and employee benefits including CalPERS unfunded liability acquired through prior consolidations and health insurance – represent the largest share of expenditures, consistent with a labor-intensive emergency services organization. The FY2024-25 budget allocates approximately \$12,581,476 to salaries and wages and \$6,684,973 to employee benefits, together totaling roughly 85 percent of all expenditures. The remaining budget supports professional services, property maintenance, operations, supplies, fleet and equipment, technology, and reserve transfers.

The District budgets dedicated transfers to a Long Term Building Reserve (\$597,487) and an Equipment Reserve (\$497,387), reflecting a disciplined approach to capital planning and long-term asset sustainability.

Fiscal Year Comparison



The revenue/expenditure figures are identical in the posted document, which is standard for a balanced adopted budget – expenditures are set equal to projected revenues

Capital Projects and Facilities Development

Kenwood Fire Station Remodel and Expansion

The District entered into a contract with COAR Architectural Firm to design a remodel and expansion of the Kenwood Fire Station. This project will modernize facilities and support current and future operational demands.

Fire Station 2 and Training/Community Facility

The District continued progression on the development of a new Fire Station 2 and Training/Community Meeting Room. This project represents a major long-term investment in operational readiness and community resilience.

Major milestones and ongoing work include:

- Application for sewer annexation/use permit to connect the project to sewer infrastructure
- Application for and pursuit of LAFCO approval to include the site within the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's Sphere of Influence
- Completion of a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study
- Completion of an Archaeological Study
- Completion of a noise analysis
- Coordination with the Prevention Division to remove hazard trees and reduce flammable vegetation on the site
- Installation of temporary construction power



These efforts are essential to advancing the project through environmental, regulatory, and infrastructure readiness phases.

Insurance Services Office (ISO) Review

The Administrative Division coordinated and completed an ISO review for both the City of Sonoma and the Sonoma Valley Fire District.

This process evaluated:

- Staffing and deployment
- Communications and dispatch
- Water supply and infrastructure
- Training and apparatus
- Fire Prevention
- Deployment and operational readiness



ISO reviews are critical benchmarks that influence insurance ratings and provide a national standard for evaluating fire protection capabilities.

Memorial and Community Projects

The District obtained approval and permitting for a permanent “911 Memorial” at Station 1, reinforcing the organization’s commitment to honoring those lost and supporting community remembrance.



Apparatus and Fleet Modernization

New Ambulance Deployment

A new Type III ambulance was placed into service at Station 1, strengthening emergency medical response capacity.

Future Apparatus Development

The District continues to work with multiple manufacturers on the design and construction of:

- Two new Type I engines
- One new Type III engine

These apparatus will replace aging equipment and enhance response capability across the District.

Fleet Expansion

Fleet modernization efforts also included adding:

- Two Deputy Chief Tahoe command vehicles
- Prevention Battalion Toyota Highlander
- Vegetation Management Maverick utility vehicle

These additions improve command mobility, prevention operations, and vegetation management capabilities.



District Consolidation

The Administrative Division supported the successful consolidation with the Kenwood Fire Protection District, effective July 1, 2025.

This milestone strengthened regional coordination, improved service delivery consistency, and positioned the District for long-term operational efficiency and strategic growth.

Measure H Implementation and Organizational Growth

- As part of a countywide effort to strengthen fire suppression services, Measure H passed and entered its second year of funding collection. These funds enabled significant organizational investments across the District
- Addition of six (6) Firefighter Paramedic positions bringing the minimum staffing to 3 at the Kenwood and City Fire Stations. All stations now at 3 personnel minimum
- Hired six Firefighter/Paramedics to staff a third Ambulance, identified as a critical need since the 1990's
- Addition of a Regional Vegetation Management Coordinator
- Addition of one Fire Mechanic
- One Fire Mechanic reclassified to Shop Supervisor
- Addition of one Deputy Chief of Operations and one Deputy Chief of Administration
- One Administrative Battalion Chief reclassified to Training Battalion Chief
- One Administrative Captain of Prevention reclassified to Battalion Chief of Prevention

Measure H continues to play a transformative role in strengthening operational capacity, response reliability, and long-term planning.



Facilities Improvements

The District completed remodel work at Station 2, including dorm expansion to accommodate M302 personnel. This upgrade improves firefighter readiness and supports staffing needs tied to expanded EMS deployment.

Employee Health, Safety, and Wellness

Healthcare Improvements

The District secured a new healthcare provider through California Schools VEBA and Western Health Advantage, improving access to quality care and cost stability for employees.

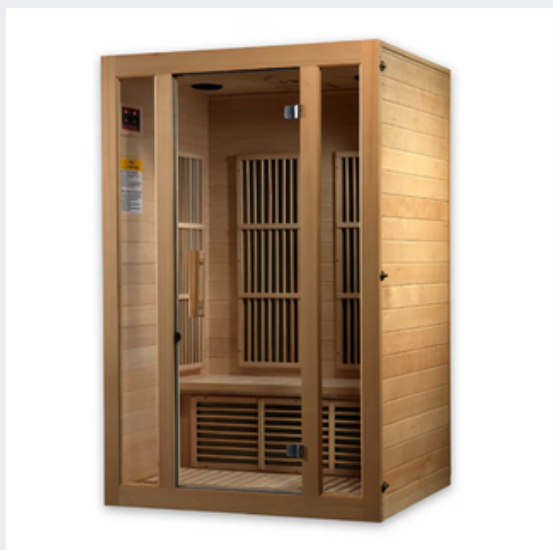
Annual Physicals and Preventive Care

The District continues to provide comprehensive annual physical examinations to personnel to support early detection and prevention of serious health conditions.

Detox and Exposure Reduction Program

SVFD maintains an annual detox program to reduce firefighter exposure to contaminants and carcinogens associated with the fire service.

These programs reinforce the District's commitment to workforce health, safety, and longevity.



Firefighters As Tactical Athletes Physiological Demands of Firefighting

- Cardiovascular**
(Increased HR and BP, Decreased Stroke Volume)
- Hematological**
(Decreased Plasma Volume, Hemoconcentration)
- Thermoregulatory**
(Elevated Core Temperature, Dehydration)
- Respiratory**
(Increased Breathing Rate and Oxygen Consumption)
- Metabolic**
(High Oxygen Cost, Increased Lactate, Fatigue)
- Immune/Endocrine**
(Increased Leukocytes and Hormones)
- Nervous**
(Sympathetic Surge and Increased Adrenaline)
- Muscular**
(Increased Oxygen Use and Heat Production)



Grants and Equipment Funding

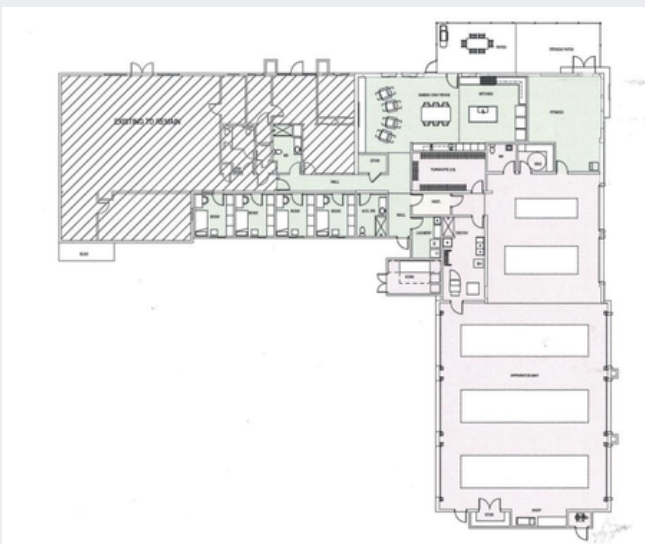
The Administrative Division continued pursuing grant opportunities to secure funding for personal protective equipment (PPE), reducing financial strain on the general fund while ensuring personnel have modern safety equipment.

Outlook for 2026

The Administrative Division remains focused on sustaining organizational growth while supporting operational excellence. Priorities moving forward include:

- Advancing Fire Station 2 development and Kenwood station improvements
- Continuing Measure H-supported staffing and resource investments
- Maintaining fleet modernization and apparatus replacement schedules
- Expanding employee wellness and exposure-reduction programs
- Strengthening financial sustainability and grant acquisition
- Supporting interagency partnerships and regional response coordination

Through strategic planning, fiscal stewardship, and organizational leadership, the Administrative Division continues to ensure the Sonoma Valley Fire District is prepared to meet the evolving needs of the community.



Fire Prevention Division

- **Executive Summary & Role**
- **Triennial Fire Code Adoption**
- **Fire Inspections & Fire Code Enforcement**
- **Permits & Development Support**
- **Community Engagement & Partnership Summary**
- **Vegetation Management & Fuels Reduction**
- **Community Risk Reduction and Property Insurance**
- **Unmanned Aircraft Fire Prevention Unit**
- **Canine Therapy & Peer Support Unit**
- **Public Education**
- **Planning, Policy, and Risk Assessment Coordination**
- **Looking Ahead**



Executive Summary & The Role of Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Division of the Sonoma Valley Fire District reduces community risk through inspections, permitting, wildfire mitigation, technology support, planning coordination, and community education. By combining regulatory enforcement with proactive risk reduction and practical safety initiatives, the Division plays a central role in protecting life, property, and the environment throughout the Sonoma Valley.

During 2025, the Division supported safe development, ongoing business operations, and community events; completed adoption of the most recent triennial fire code cycle; participated in major regional and local planning efforts; expanded the District's Unmanned Aircraft program for prevention applications; and strengthened responder and community resilience through the Canine Therapy and Peer Support Unit.

Triennial Fire Code Adoption

The Fire Prevention Division completed adoption and implementation of the most recent triennial California Fire Code cycle, including review of state code changes, evaluation of local conditions, coordination with City and County partners, and development of local amendments where appropriate. This ensures that fire and life safety regulations enforced by the District remain current, legally defensible, and aligned with best practices for public and firefighter safety.



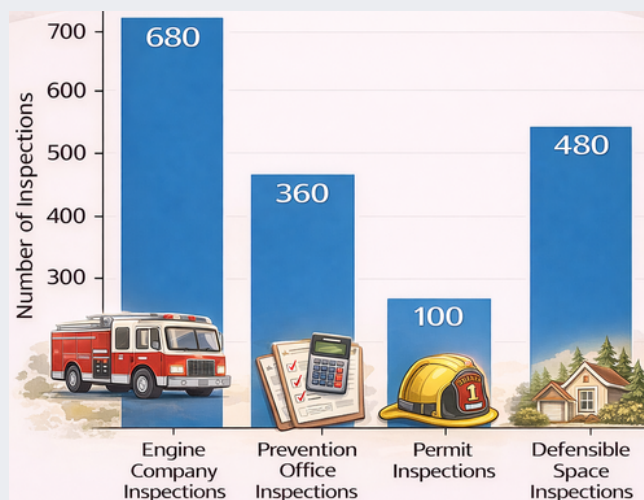
Fire Inspections and Code Enforcement

Fire inspections are a core function of the Fire Prevention Division, with responsibilities shared between Engine Companies and the Fire Prevention Office to provide broad coverage while ensuring technical oversight where required. Inspections focused on identifying and correcting hazards related to means of egress, fire protection systems, occupant loads, and operational practices, reducing risk to occupants and visitors while improving firefighter safety.

| Project Type | Count | % of Total |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|
| ● Residential Remodel & Addition | 58 | 37.7% |
| ● Fire Alarms & Suppression | 36 | 23.4% |
| ● Residential Accessory Structure | 28 | 18.2% |
| ● Solar & Battery | 12 | 7.8% |
| ● Commercial Improvement | 10 | 6.5% |
| ● New Residential | 8 | 5.2% |
| ● Commercial Development | 2 | 1.3% |

Permits and Development Support

During 2025, the Fire Prevention Office reviewed 154 fire permits supporting development, business operations, and community activities across the District. Permit types ranged from new residential and commercial construction to fire alarm and suppression system installations, accessory dwelling units, solar and battery systems, and temporary uses and special events requiring fire life safety review. Each permit issued represents proactive risk reduction by ensuring that buildings, systems, and events meet applicable fire safety requirements while supporting responsible growth and community use.




Vegetation Management and Fuels Reduction

The Fire Prevention Division supports and coordinates vegetation management and fuels reduction initiatives throughout the District, with a primary focus on Wildland Urban Interface areas. In 2025, the District established a Regional Vegetation Management Coordinator position, funded through Measure H, to provide dedicated planning, coordination, and oversight of fuels reduction and defensible space efforts.


Fire Prevention staff collaborate with a wide range of partners including the Measure H Fuels Crew, local Fire Safe Councils, Firewise communities, partner fire agencies, county departments, and nonprofit organizations. Activities during the reporting period included prescribed fire projects, residential chipping programs, manual vegetation clearance, and pile construction and burning conducted under approved permits and appropriate environmental conditions.

The District's fuels crew, established in 2022, has demonstrated significant growth since program inception. Annual chipping jobs have increased by approximately 180 percent, while total footage of brush piles chipped has grown by more than 3,300 percent, reflecting both expanded program capacity and increased community participation.



Roadside Vegetation Clearing (2022-2025)

| Metric | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------|--------|-------|
| Roadside Veg Mgmt Days of Work | 2 | 8 | 11 | 10 |
| Roadside Veg Mgmt Feet of Treatment | 900 | 4,400 | 12,905 | 8,645 |

Chipping Program Activity (2022-2025)

| Metric | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------------------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| Total Chipping Jobs | 39 | 62 | 55 | 109 |
| Feet of Brush Piles Chipped | 290 | 2,468 | 2,256 | 10,437 |



Community Risk Reduction and Property Insurance

In 2025, the Sonoma Valley Fire District was recognized on the Community Risk Reduction List, reflecting sustained district-wide efforts to reduce wildfire risk through vegetation management, defensible space programs, fuels reduction projects, emergency planning, and public education.

This work directly aligns with California's Safer From Wildfires framework, a statewide initiative developed in coordination with the California Department of Insurance. The framework emphasizes measurable, on-the-ground actions such as home hardening, defensible space, vegetation management, improved emergency response capability, and community-scale risk reduction, factors that are increasingly used to evaluate wildfire risk at both the individual property and neighborhood level.

The District also maintains strong fire protection capabilities as reflected in its ISO Public Protection Classification ratings, which evaluate staffing, training, apparatus, water supply, emergency communications, and deployment. While the Fire District does not set insurance rates or determine coverage decisions, documented risk-reduction actions, participation in recognized statewide programs, and strong emergency response capabilities all help demonstrate that the Sonoma Valley community is actively working to reduce wildfire risk. As insurers increasingly look beyond individual properties and consider community-level mitigation and response capacity, that collective commitment reflected in the work of residents, partner agencies, and the District alike is what makes Sonoma Valley a stronger, safer, and more resilient place to call home.



*City of Sonoma see website for more info



Community Engagement & Partnership Summary

In 2025, the Sonoma Valley Fire District strengthened its commitment to community engagement through active participation in key local and regional forums, including the Homelessness Action Committee, the Springs Municipal Advisory Council, and the North Valley MAC. Through these engagements, the District contributed fire-service perspectives to discussions on public safety, emergency preparedness, land use, and community resilience.

The District collaborated with partners including Fire Safe Sonoma, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Cal Fire, the Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative, Sonoma Ecology Center, and the Hanna Center to advance coordinated wildfire risk reduction, vegetation management, and community education efforts. A significant accomplishment in 2025 was the creation of two new Firewise communities within the District, empowering residents to take an active role in wildfire preparedness and home hardening.



**AG +
OPEN
SPACE**
SONOMA COUNTY



FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks



Unmanned Aircraft Fire Prevention Unit

The Unmanned Aircraft Fire Prevention Unit supports prevention, preparedness, and planning through the use of unmanned aircraft systems, improving situational awareness, data collection, and decision-making while reducing personnel exposure to hazardous conditions. The unit supports pre-incident planning, vegetation and fuels project documentation, damage and hazard assessments, evacuation planning, emergency access evaluation, and incident documentation. The program operates in compliance with applicable state and federal aviation requirements.



Canine Therapy and Peer Support Unit

The Canine Therapy and Peer Support Unit supports firefighter and responder well-being while strengthening the District's connection with the community. The program provides post-incident stress support, promotes firefighter mental health awareness, supports community engagement at public events and schools, and assists during critical incidents and recovery efforts, contributing to a healthier workforce and a more resilient organization.



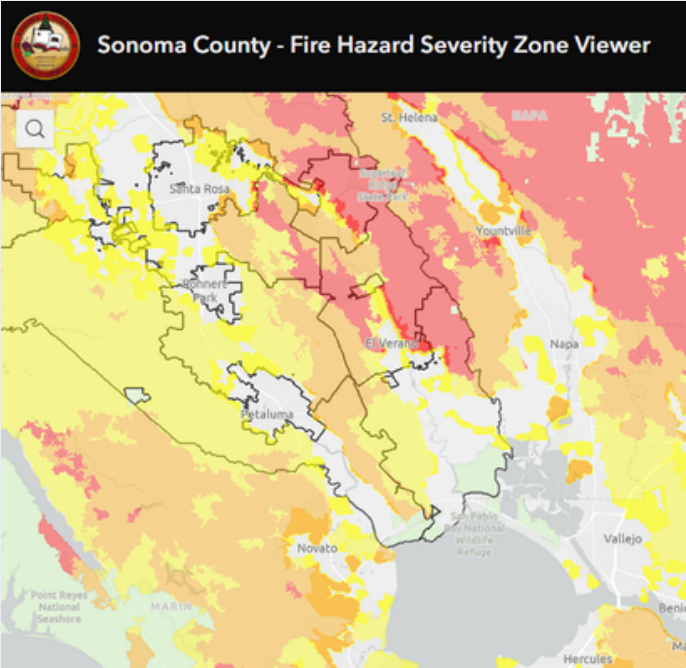
Public Education

Public education remains a key component of the Division's risk reduction strategy. Outreach efforts include online fire safety and wildfire preparedness resources, community presentations and neighborhood meetings, support for Fire Safe Council and Firewise initiatives, and youth and school-based fire safety education. In 2025, the Division added Freddie the Fire Truck to its community education program, expanding the Division's ability to engage children and families with age-appropriate fire safety and preparedness messaging at school visits, community events, and public outreach programs.



Planning, Policy, and Risk Assessment

During 2025, Fire Prevention Division staff participated in the Sonoma County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update, supported implementation of the State of California Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps within the Local Responsibility Area, and contributed subject matter input to the City of Sonoma General Plan update covering fire access, emergency response, wildfire risk, evacuation considerations, and community safety.



Looking Ahead

The Fire Prevention Division enters 2026 with a strong foundation and a clear set of priorities. Maintaining a robust inspection and permitting program, expanding vegetation management coordination, supporting updated fire codes and hazard mapping, improving UAS data integration, and strengthening responder wellness programs will remain central to the Division's work. Through inspections, permitting, wildfire mitigation coordination, planning participation, technology support, community education, and wellness-focused programs, the Division remains committed to reducing risk, supporting safe growth, and strengthening resilience throughout the Sonoma Valley.



Operations Division

- **Executive Summary**
- **Boundary Drop Implementation**
- **Communications Upgrade**
- **Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Participation**
- **Full Staffing Achievement**
- **Operational Outlook**



Executive Summary

The Operations Division of the Sonoma Valley Fire District (SVFD) made significant strides in 2025 to improve emergency response performance, firefighter safety, interagency coordination, and system-wide readiness. Key accomplishments included the implementation of countywide borderless dispatching, major communications system upgrades, participation in a national Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) task force, and achieving full operational staffing.

Together, these efforts strengthened the District's ability to deliver timely, effective, and coordinated emergency services across Sonoma Valley and the broader region.

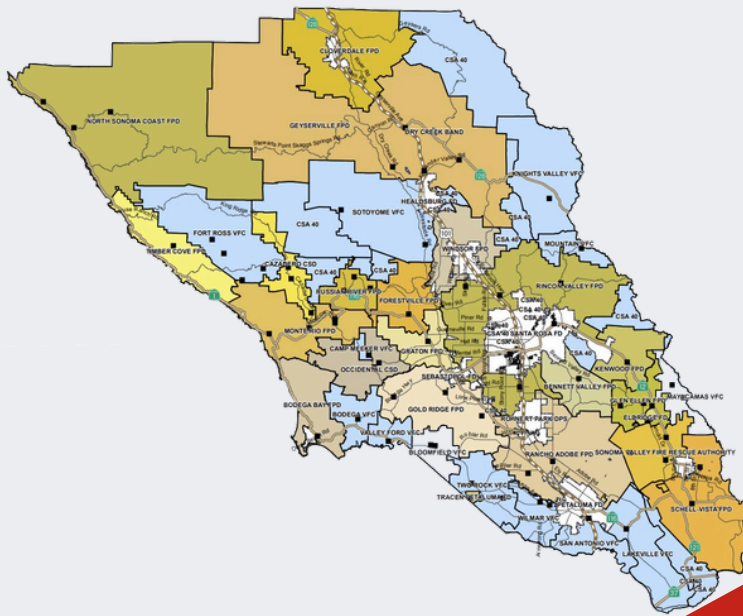
Boundary Drop Implementation

Following the passage of Measure H, Sonoma County implemented a countywide boundary drop model for emergency response. This "borderless dispatch" system assigns the closest, most appropriate resource to 911 emergencies regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

The model is now fully operational within Sonoma Valley and with regional partners, including:

- Sonoma County Fire District
- Santa Rosa Fire Department
- Schell-Vista Fire Protection District
- Gold Ridge Fire Protection District

Using Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology and shared dispatch protocols, this system improves response times, reduces duplication of effort, and enhances service delivery across the region. Residents now benefit from a more seamless and efficient emergency response system that prioritizes proximity and capability over jurisdictional lines.



Communications Upgrade

Reliable communications remain essential to firefighter safety and incident effectiveness. In 2025, the Operations Division replaced 50 portable radios, many of which were more than 20 years old and no longer supported by the manufacturer.

The previous radios:

- Did not meet FIRESCOPE minimum standards
- Had limited channel capacity
- Experienced increasing reliability issues
- Required frequent, costly repairs over the past 3–5 years

The new radios provide:

- Enhanced reliability in complex operational environments
- Expanded interoperability with regional partners
- Compliance with FIRESCOPE communications standards
- Improved safety for field personnel

This investment ensures firefighters remain connected during critical incidents and can operate safely in dynamic, high-risk conditions.



Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Participation

SVFD strengthened its technical rescue capabilities through participation in Oakland's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force #4, contributing 12 trained members.

The National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System, established under FEMA, organizes federal, state, and local responders into deployable disaster task forces capable of operating nationwide.

Key characteristics of USAR Task Forces:

- NIMS Type 1 teams composed of approximately 70 members
- Specialized disciplines including search, rescue, medicine, hazardous materials, logistics, and planning
- Technical specialists such as structural engineers, physicians, and canine teams
- Ability to split into two Type 3 teams to sustain 24-hour operations

Participation provides SVFD personnel with advanced training and real-world deployment experience, strengthening:

- Structural collapse rescue capability
- Disaster response readiness
- Regional and national interoperability
- Institutional knowledge and leadership development

These benefits directly enhance the District's preparedness for large-scale emergencies affecting Sonoma Valley and Sonoma County.



Full Staffing Achievement

As of January 1, 2026, the Operations Division reached full staffing with all positions filled by permanent personnel supporting 22 staffed line positions daily.

This milestone is particularly notable given the highly competitive national hiring environment for firefighters – especially within agencies requiring Advanced Life Support (ALS) qualifications.

Full staffing improves:

- Operational readiness
- Response reliability
- Crew safety and resilience
- Continuity of service delivery
- Training and professional development capacity

Achieving this benchmark positions SVFD to maintain consistent service levels while preparing for future operational demands.



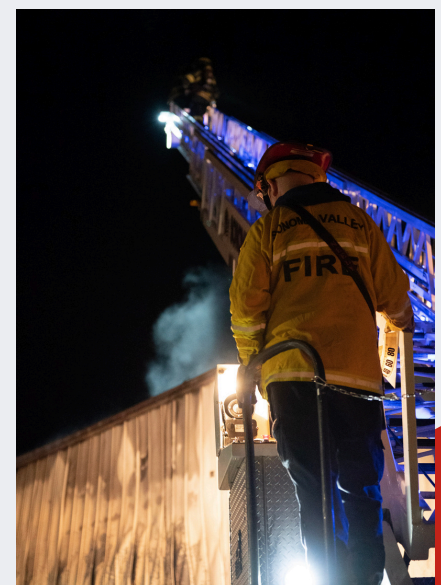
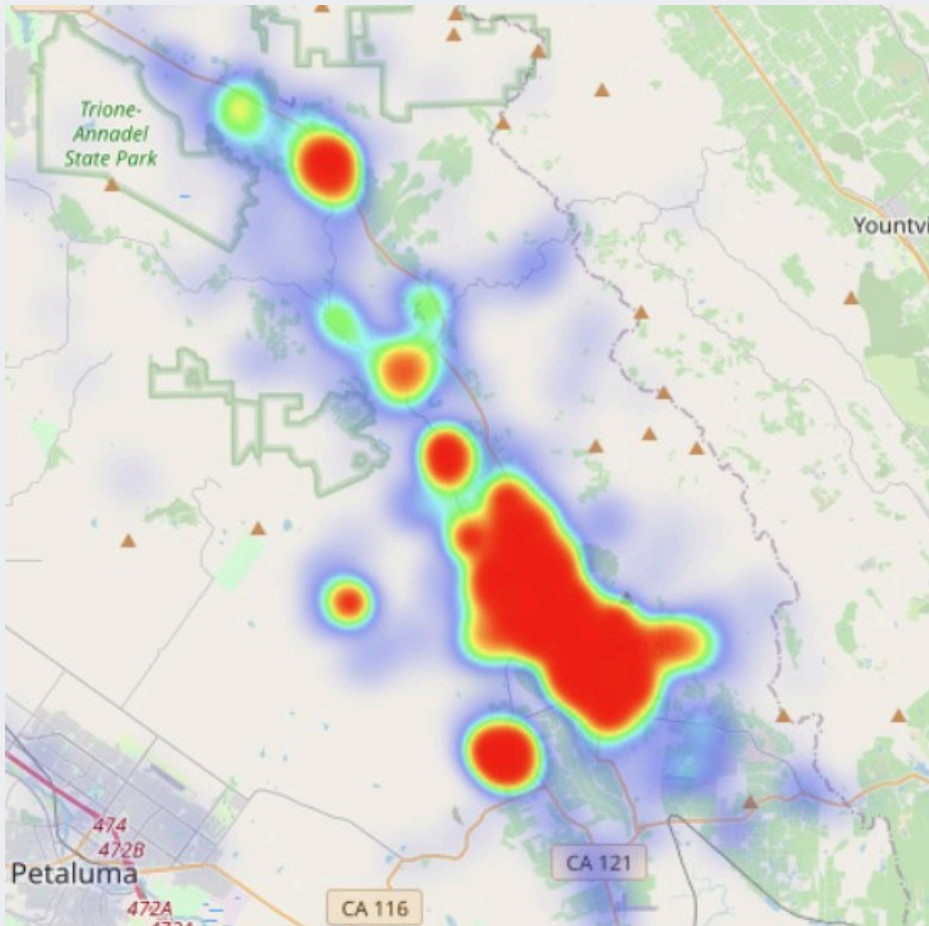
Operational Outlook

The accomplishments of 2025 reflect a continued commitment to modernization, interoperability, and workforce stability. Looking ahead, the

Operations Division will focus on:

- Maintaining and refining borderless dispatch coordination
- Continued investment in communications and operational technology
- Expanding specialized rescue capabilities and training
- Sustaining full staffing and recruitment pipelines
- Enhancing response performance and community service outcomes

These priorities ensure that SVFD remains prepared to meet evolving emergency risks while delivering high-quality, reliable fire and life safety services to the communities we serve.



EMS Division

- **Executive Summary**
- **Personnel Development and Accreditation**
- **Apparatus and Equipment Improvements**
- **Training and Quality Improvement Initiatives**
- **Community Partnerships and Educational Support**
- **Conclusion**



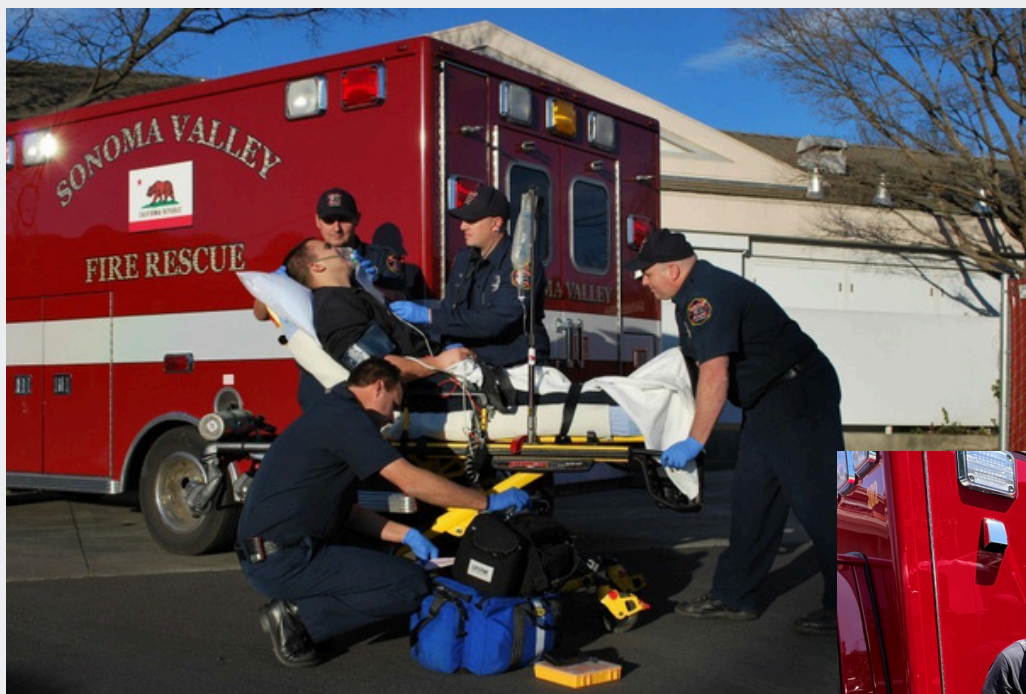
Executive Summary

The EMS Division of the Sonoma Valley Fire District achieved significant advancements in 2025, focusing on workforce development, equipment modernization, interagency collaboration, and training excellence. These initiatives have collectively strengthened patient care capabilities, enhanced responder safety, and improved integration with regional health partners.

Personnel Development and Accreditation

Paramedic Accreditation: The division successfully accredited seven new paramedics, including four internal hires who were sponsored through Paramedic School. This investment in staff development supports long-term workforce sustainability and internal growth.

These additions ensure that the department continues to meet growing service demands with highly trained, locally certified professionals ready to deliver advanced prehospital care.



Apparatus and Equipment Improvements

New Ambulance Deployment: A new Medic 301 was placed into full service in 2025. With this addition, all three first-out ambulances are now equipped with power loaders, significantly improving patient handling safety and reducing injury risk to EMS personnel.



Cardiac Monitor Upgrades: All first-line engines and ambulances received upgraded LifePak 35 cardiac monitors, providing enhanced diagnostic capabilities and ensuring consistent, high-quality cardiac care across all response units.



Training and Quality Improvement Initiatives

EMS Training Committee Formation: A new EMS Training Committee was established, led by the Quality Improvement (QI) Coordinator with representation from each shift. The committee actively identifies needs observed in the field and supports the implementation of innovative techniques and evidence-based practices.

Interagency Training with Sonoma Valley Hospital: Expanded training collaboration with Sonoma Valley Hospital enabled joint exercises on critical, low-frequency events, such as pediatric cardiac arrests. This cross-training initiative enhances coordination and mutual understanding between emergency responders and hospital staff.



Community Partnerships and Educational Support

The EMS Division continued to support local paramedic education programs at Napa Valley College and Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) through multiple field internships for paramedic students.

Additionally, Sonoma Valley Fire paramedics assisted in addressing the skills instructor shortage at SRJC, strengthening the local EMS educational pipeline and fostering future collaborations with academic institutions.

Conclusion

Throughout 2025, the Sonoma Valley Fire District's EMS Division demonstrated a strong commitment to growth, safety, and service excellence. The division's strategic investments in personnel training, equipment upgrades, and partnership development have improved operational readiness and enhanced the quality of emergency medical care provided to the community.



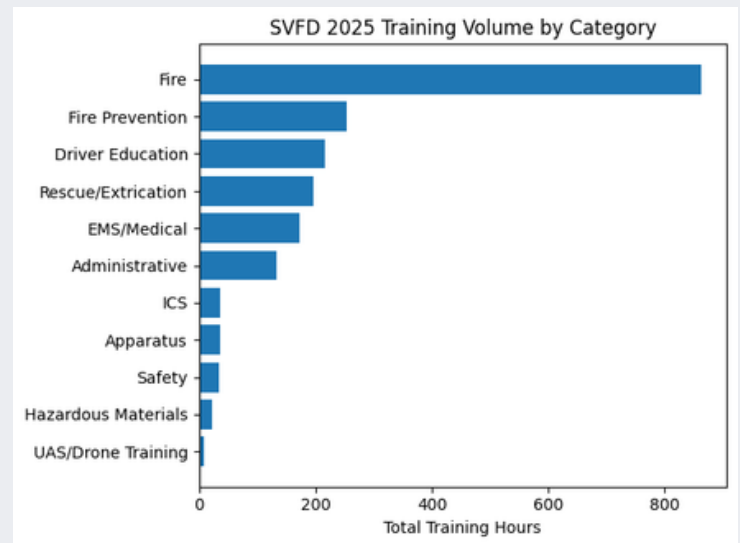
Training Division

- **Executive Summary**
- **Major Accomplishments**
- **Regional Collaboration and Interagency Training**
- **Organizational Development Initiatives**
- **Leadership and Professional Development**
- **Looking Ahead**



Executive Summary

The year 2025 represented a period of deliberate growth and structural enhancement within the Training Division. Early in the year, the District implemented a command staff reorganization that identified the need for dedicated leadership to guide training operations and long-term program development. In February, the Battalion Chief of Training position was filled, strengthening oversight, improving coordination, and expanding the Division's overall capacity to meet increasing operational demands.



Major Accomplishments

Throughout 2025, the Training Division achieved several significant milestones that reinforced readiness, professional development, and organizational resilience:

- Two New Hire Academies were successfully completed, addressing immediate staffing needs and ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality emergency services.
- Engineer Promotional Examination processes were conducted, with 16 internal candidates participating—demonstrating the depth of talent and commitment to career advancement within the organization.
- Annual Physical Examinations were provided to all full-time personnel, underscoring the District's commitment to health, wellness, and the long-term sustainability of its workforce.

Regional Collaboration and Interagency Training

Collaboration remained central to the Division's success. Personnel partnered with regional agencies in Petaluma to conduct commercial structure fire training at the former Cattleman's Restaurant site. This hands-on evolution provided realistic, scenario-based experience in commercial fireground operations within a controlled environment.

The Division also expanded instruction in Active Attacker response and Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) in partnership with Sonoma County fire agencies and the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. These coordinated efforts strengthened unified response capabilities and enhanced both firefighter and public safety during high-risk, multi-agency incidents.

Organizational Development Initiatives

In addition to operational training, the Division undertook several internal projects designed to support a growing and evolving organization:

Career Development Guide Revision – A comprehensive update clarified promotional pathways, professional benchmarks, and expectations for advancement. This effort required extensive coordination and alignment with the District's updated organizational structure.

Engine Company Evolutions Update – Operational benchmarks and performance standards were revised to reflect current service demands, organizational growth, and best practices in company-level training.

Countywide Apparatus Numbering System – The Division collaborated in the development of a standardized apparatus numbering framework for Sonoma County agencies. This initiative improves clarity on emergency scenes, reduces potential confusion during multi-agency responses, and enhances firefighter safety.



Leadership and Professional Development

Leadership development remained a strategic priority in 2025. Two District members completed the Marin Sonoma Leadership Academy, a regional program focused on fire service administration, local government operations, and interagency leadership. Participation broadened organizational perspective and strengthened future leadership capacity.

The Training Division also maintained active involvement in the Sonoma County Operations and Training Officers Group, contributing to policy discussion and coordinated planning efforts that inform the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association. This engagement ensures continued alignment with regional standards and emerging best practices.

Looking Ahead

As the District moves into 2026, the Training Division remains committed to delivering high-quality, progressive, and realistic training that strengthens operational effectiveness and firefighter safety. The variation in training hours across shifts in 2025 reflects the scheduling of new hire academies, promotional processes, and specialized training evolutions throughout the year. As these programs are normalized across the organization, training volume is expected to distribute more evenly across all shift rotations. Continued collaboration with regional partners, ongoing evaluation of training standards, and a sustained investment in leadership development will remain key priorities. The accomplishments of 2025 reflect a year of strategic advancement and position the Training Division to continue building a highly skilled, resilient, and mission-ready organization.



Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters Association and Community Involvement

- **Overview**
- **Volunteer Pathways**
- **Explorer Post**
- **A Tradition of Community Service**
- **Commitment to Community**



Overview

The Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the mission and operations of the Sonoma Valley Fire District. Through fundraising, volunteer service, and active community engagement, the Association enhances operational readiness while strengthening the District's connection to the people and neighborhoods it serves.

In addition to supporting District programs and special events, the Association provides supplemental staffing for in-service fire engines, ambulances, ladder trucks, and water tenders – directly contributing to response capacity and the quality of emergency services delivered across the Sonoma Valley.

Volunteer Pathways

The Association offers two distinct opportunities for service, allowing members to contribute based on their interests and availability.

Full Volunteer Firefighters

Full volunteers participate in regular drills and training and are integrated into engine, ambulance, and truck company operations. These members actively respond to emergencies and expand the District's overall response capability.

Support Volunteers

Support volunteers focus on community events and provide logistical assistance during large-scale incidents and public gatherings. While they do not respond on apparatus, their contributions are vital to operational success and public outreach.



Explorer Post

The Sonoma Valley Fire District is home to two active Fire Explorer Posts, providing structured youth development and career pathway programming to young men and women ages 14 to 21. Post 911, established in 1986 and formally integrated into SVFD in 2025, operates at maximum capacity with a waiting list, reflecting strong community demand for the program.

Post 31, founded in 1993 by the Kenwood Fire District, is a beloved community presence that hosts the annual Father's Day Pancake Breakfast. Both posts are supported by shared advisors and committee members, participate in community events, and will send a combined contingent to the California Fire Explorer Academy in Hemet in 2026.

Explorers receive hands-on instruction in foundational fire service skills alongside District personnel, gaining direct exposure to the discipline, teamwork, and professionalism required in emergency response. Senior Explorers mentor newer members, reinforcing leadership and personal accountability within the program. The growth and vitality of both posts reflect SVFD's commitment to investing in the next generation of fire service professionals and strengthening its connection to the Sonoma Valley community.

SONOMA VALLEY
EXPLORER POST #911



Are you up for the challenge?

About The Program:
The Sonoma Valley Fire Explorer Post 911 helps young adults prepare for a rewarding career in the fire service with classroom training and hands-on lessons on the drill ground. Explorers work with Sonoma Valley & Schell Vista Firefighters to learn both firefighting techniques and leadership skills, all while having fun and earning community service hours.

Benefits:

- Learn basic and advanced firefighting techniques
- Participate in our ride along program
- Sponsorship through the explorer academy
- Receive guidance on resume and interview skills

Eligibility:

- ✓ Must be ages 14 to 21
- ✓ Minimum GPA of 2.0 or better
- ✓ Must attend regular meetings

More Information:
@ svfd.explorers

Contact:
markb@sonomavalleyfire.org



A Tradition of Community Service

Community involvement has always been at the heart of the Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters Association. For more than five decades, the Association has proudly produced the annual Fourth of July Fireworks Show in the City of Sonoma, an event that draws thousands of visitors each year and was once recognized by Travel + Leisure as one of the top Independence Day celebrations in the nation.

The Association also organizes the Fourth of July Hometown Parade and Festival, bringing together residents and visitors alike and making Independence Day the largest annual community celebration in Sonoma.

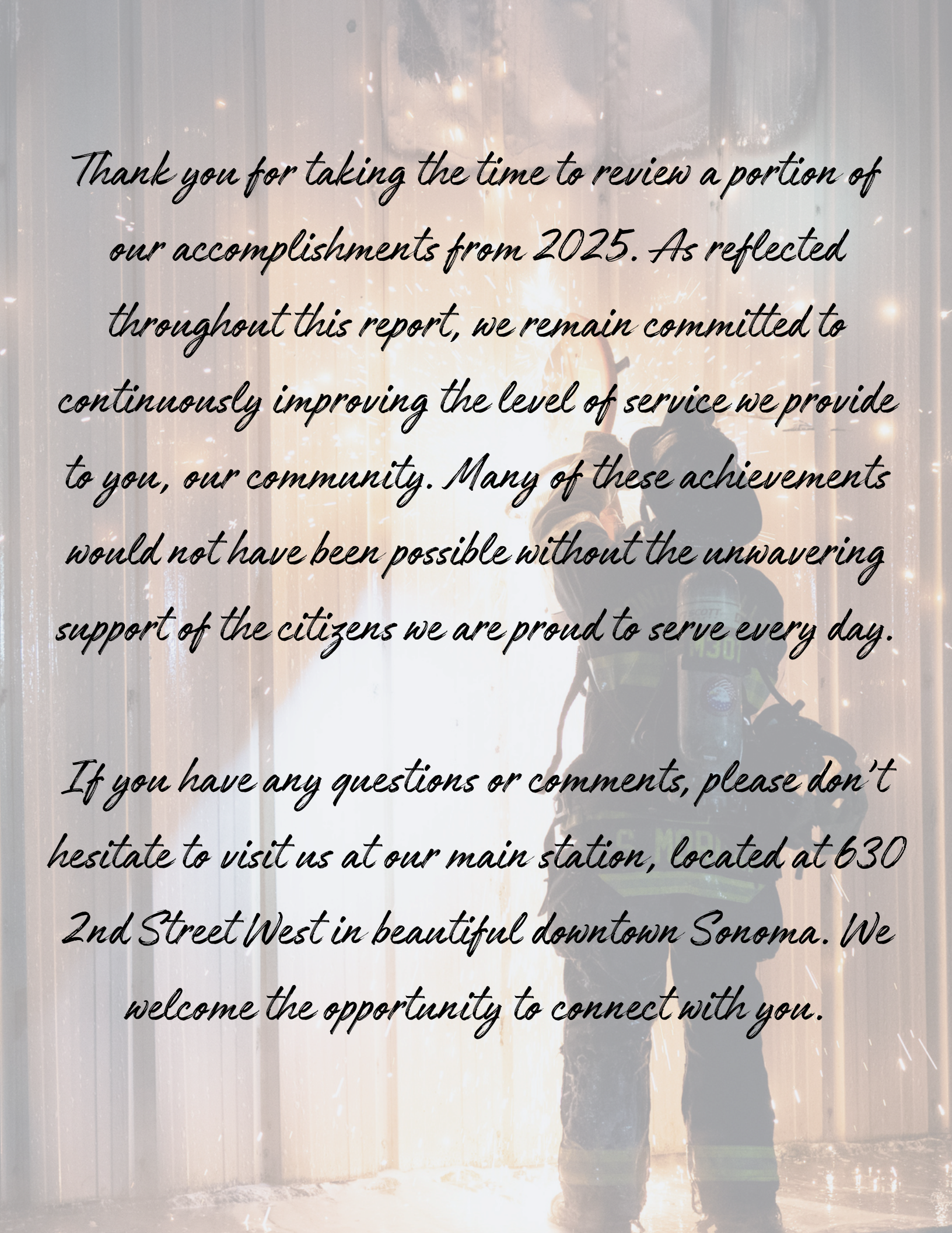
Beyond the Fourth of July, the Association sustains a calendar of beloved community traditions that reflect its enduring commitment to public engagement and neighborhood connection. These events include the Easter Egg Hunt, the Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast, the Annual Open House during Fire Prevention Week, and the cherished tradition of welcoming Santa to Sonoma each December.



Commitment to Community

The Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters Association represents the enduring connection between the Fire District and the community it serves. Through emergency response support, public events, and cherished local traditions, the Association demonstrates that fire service is about far more than emergency response alone. It is about showing up for neighbors, investing in the next generation, and building the kind of trust and resilience that makes a community stronger over time. That commitment to service, partnership, and civic pride has defined the Association for generations, and it remains as vital today as ever.





Thank you for taking the time to review a portion of our accomplishments from 2025. As reflected throughout this report, we remain committed to continuously improving the level of service we provide to you, our community. Many of these achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the citizens we are proud to serve every day.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to visit us at our main station, located at 630 2nd Street West in beautiful downtown Sonoma. We welcome the opportunity to connect with you.